

Corporate Governance

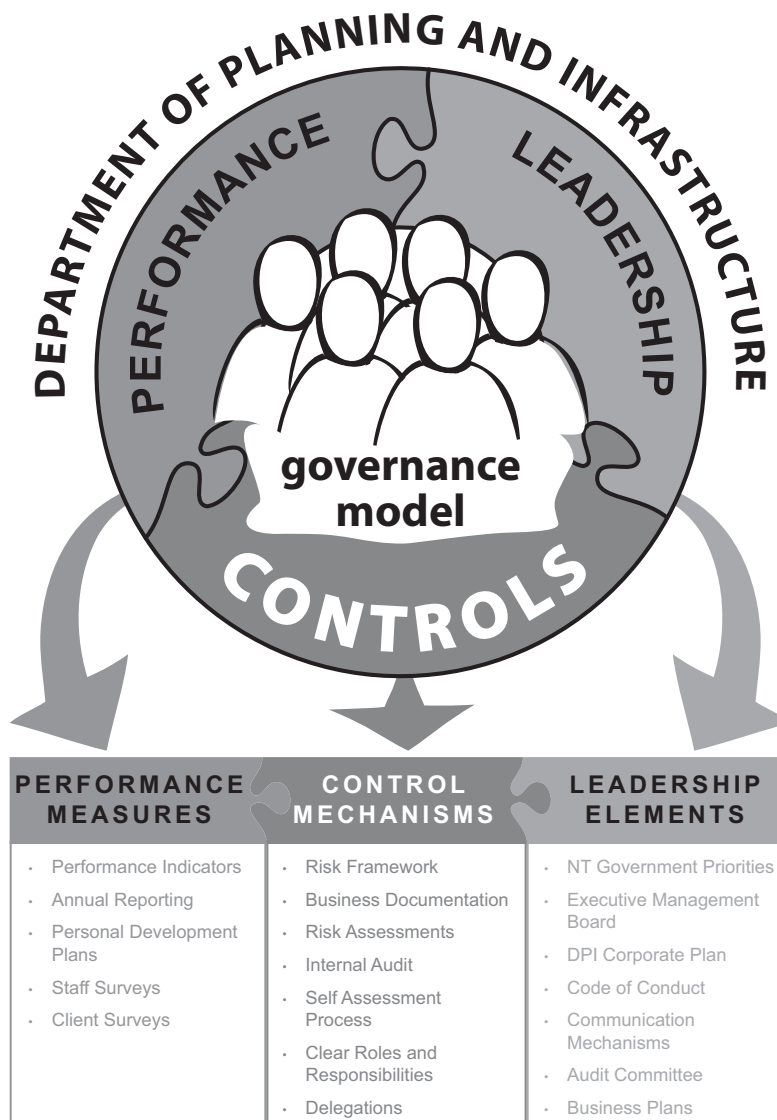
Overview

DPI worked extensively during the reporting year on the development of its Governance Framework which is becoming an integral part of the way the department operates. The framework comprises three key principles:

- **Leadership** – which is about having clear corporate directions and effective management structures. It is about how all staff in DPI conduct themselves, how we work together and support each other to work ethically and effectively to serve the government of the day.
- **Performance** – this is about how we achieve our departmental goals and objectives. It is about being accountable for our successes and failures and seeking to continuously improve our business practises.
- **Control** – this is about us knowing what process and procedures we have to follow, being aware of and accountable for risk and control in our spheres of operation and being clear about our roles and responsibilities.

The framework now underpins the DPI Staff Survey so that we can monitor our performance as an agency against our Governance Framework.

The following diagram illustrates the DPI Governance Framework and outlines some of the elements under each of the key Governance principles.



In July 2005, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's Corporate Directions 2005-2008 was developed.

Our vision statement "*Working together on the planning and delivery of land, transport and infrastructure for the sustainable development of the Territory*" is central to the department's directions. Our vision statement succinctly reflects government objectives for DPI's areas of responsibility. We work together with all our stakeholders: community, industry and other government agencies, as well as internally.

All staff have the responsibility of considering sustainable development in the planning and delivery of their everyday work.

Our Corporate Directions

The Corporate Directions is divided into three sections.

The first section outlines the delivery of land, transport and infrastructure business outcomes.

Land, transport and infrastructure are all primary economic drivers, which enable the Territory economy to diversify and grow. The government has a significant role to play in these areas and increasingly, this is in partnership with the private sector and the community. We will work together with our partners to deliver integrated and sustainable land, transport and infrastructure systems.

The second section comprises our core corporate outcomes that underpin our business outcomes (integrated planning, effective legislation, community alignment and high performing organisation). These outcomes apply to all business units and are fundamental to our business success.

The third and final section is the annual priorities that the Executive Management Board set for the coming year in accordance with the government's priorities.

Business Planning

DPI's Corporate Directions became the framework for the divisional and Government Business Division (GBD) Business Plans. Business planning workshops were held across DPI and involved extensive staff consultation. This planning process enabled development of a clear vision of the strategic issues the department will focus on in the future.

The Business Planning process:

- provided an overview of the strategic directions of the agency; and
- facilitated an understanding of how divisional and regional service delivery fits in with the agency's objectives.

Staff participation created an opportunity for input and ownership of projects and outcomes. The success of this process was evident in the recent staff survey which indicated a high level of agreement (80 per cent), with the statement "*I understand DPI's goals and future directions*".

Procurement

During the reporting period the department had a strong emphasis on procurement and implementing the whole of government procurement reforms. In June 2006 the department launched its Agency Procurement Management Plan. The DPI plan is the first, but will be reviewed annually and in future the department will be able to report on the achievements of the past year, ascertain whether some, if not all, the key performance indicators have been met and to propose improvements and innovation and in the process attain a continuous improvement mentality within the organisation.

The procurement plan is designed to outline existing and proposed processes, practices and performance standards in respect of the department's procurement function. It is generally intended to:

- Set out the strategies for improving the management of the Agency's procurement function and related expenditure
- Provide a whole of agency view of procurement and addresses the management of all key aspects ensuring it adds value to the agency's service delivery and procurement priorities
- Aim to plan for the purchase of works, goods and services across the department
- Form an integral part the department's Corporate/Budget/Service delivery cycle

The specific aims of the procurement plan are to:

- Align procurement strategies across the agency
- Optimise purchasing advantage
- Continually improve value for money outcomes
- Improve planning and risk management
- Provide efficient and effective procurement strategies
- Allow innovations in tendering and support contract management regimes
- Facilitate opportunities through procurement to achieve Government's economic, social and environmental objectives
- Encourage partnerships between agencies and service providers
- Ensure compliance with Government Legislation and Procurement Directions

Implementation of the procurement plan will shift procurement in the department from a peripheral support activity to an important management function. It will assist DPI achieve efficiencies and enhance accountabilities in the intended purchase of works, goods and services. Implementation of the plan will be monitored by the Procurement Planning Group.



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Governance Committees

Executive Management Board

The Executive Management Board includes the Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Directors, the General Manager Construction Division and the Senior Director Indigenous Infrastructure Unit. The Board meets monthly, with some meetings held in the regions.

DPI has a number of sub-committees which report to the Executive Management Board providing an increased focus on the critical areas of the agency's activities.

In addition to these, regular reviews are conducted of the agency's performance in delivering the government's Capital Works, Minor New Works and Repairs and Maintenance programs.

DPI is responsible for administering a range of Statutory Authorities. These are listed on page 29.

These actions and committees provide a strong and relevant governance framework which will receive further emphasis during 2006-2007.

Executive Management Board Membership

Sarah Butterworth – Chief Executive Officer

Sarah was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the former Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment in July 2004 after 32 years of service in the public sector in the Northern Territory. She has a Graduate Diploma in Public Sector Executive Management and is a member of the Institute of Company Directors. Before moving to the department, Sarah was Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Corporate and Information Services, a position she held from its inception in October 1998. She is a former Chief Executive Officer of the Work Health Authority and Deputy Secretary of the Department of Asian Relations, Trade and Industry; the then Power and Water Authority; and the Department of the Chief Minister. She has also served as 'alternate' Commissioner for Public Employment and acted in the role for extensive periods.

Chris Bigg – Executive Director Transport

Chris joined the department in 2003 from the Department of the Chief Minister where he was Deputy Chief Executive. He has a wide transport and policy background, with two years in the former Department of Transport and Works (culminating in Deputy Secretary Transport) and 10 years in the airline industry. Chris is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and has a Masters in Transport Economics.

Rod Applegate – Executive Director Lands and Planning

Rod graduated in 1978 from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Hons). He started his career as a Soil Conservation Officer in 1979 with the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission overseeing the development of the two uranium mines in the Alligator Rivers Region and the rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site. He has extensive experience in natural resource management, planning and policy development. Rod has also been instrumental in developing satellite based monitoring systems to track change in the condition of the Territory's landscapes. He has overseen the successful delivery of Commonwealth Natural Heritage Trust funding for natural resource management projects across the Territory for the past nine years. Rod has a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration (Executive) from Mt Eliza Business School and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Neville Jones – Executive Director Land Development

Neville has worked in broad-ranging Northern Territory public sector roles for more than 30 years. He transferred to the department from his position as Deputy Secretary (Projects) with the former Department of Lands, Planning and Environment and continued with responsibilities for the land aspects of major industry development projects. He worked as the Department of Lands Alice Springs based Assistant Director, Planning and Development in the 1980s and was later the Director of Land Excision Branch. Neville spent three years working for two Chief Ministers before becoming the Senior Policy Advisor with Lands and Housing in 1989. A graduate of the Australian School of Pacific Administration, he also headed the Department of the Chief Minister's Policy and Coordination Division and Office of Aboriginal Development during the 1990s.



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Paul Jones – General Manager Construction Division

Paul has been General Manager Construction Division since October 2005. Prior to this Paul worked for the NSW Department of Public Works Service as a Regional Project Coordinator for nearly four years. Paul has also been responsible for construction and asset management for local government. Prior to working for the public sector, Paul worked in private sector as a Construction Project Manager and also undertook his undergraduate building degree while working full time for a large commercial construction company. Paul also holds a Master of Business Administration through Wollongong University and a Master Project Director award through Australian Institute of Project Management.

John Tobin – Acting Senior Director Indigenous Infrastructure Unit

John joined the department in September 2005 as Acting Senior Director of the newly created Indigenous Infrastructure Unit. From 2001 to 2005, John was Chief of Staff for several Northern Territory Ministers with a diverse range of portfolios including infrastructure, housing and essential services. John has previously worked as an industry and economic adviser for the Papua New Guinea Government, Power and Water Corporation and a number of Northern Territory departments servicing primary and secondary industries. John has a Bachelor in Agricultural Science and a Masters in Economics.

Fiona Williams – Executive Director Strategic and Business Services

Fiona has been with the Northern Territory Government for the past two and a half years and has been with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure since January 2006. Fiona was previously Director Executive Services with the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development and prior to that, Director Corporate Governance with the former Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development. Before coming to the Territory, Fiona worked for IP Australia as the Director of Audit and Quality Assurance. Her Commonwealth Public Service career spans 20 years and has included working in government department's such as the Department of Defence, HIC and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. Fiona holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Canberra.

John Baskerville – Executive Director Regions

John is the Northern Territory Government's senior representative in the Southern Region and oversees the whole of government business activities. John is responsible for a wide geographical area from Nhulunbuy to the arid lands of Central Australia and extending to the South Australian border. John has an electrical engineering background and has worked on major World Bank projects in Australia and the Pacific region. He was the Project Manager for the Darwin City electricity supply undergrounding project and transmission line projects until transferring to Alice Springs to work with the Northern Territory Electricity Commission. In his current role, John participates in many boards, including being Chairperson of the whole of government Regional Coordination Committee. One of his responsibilities as Chairman is the Alice in 10 Project. He is the visionary behind this successful initiative designed to encourage the community, business and government to work together in a coordinated fashion to plan for future development of Central Australia during the next decade and beyond.

Executive Management Board Sub-Committees

Audit Committee

The DPI Audit Committee met six times during the reporting period. The frequency of meetings reflected the emphasis on strengthening governance. The group is made up of members of the Executive Management Board and includes the Director Risk Management Services from the Department of the Chief Minister as an expert external member.

Membership of the Audit Committee was reviewed during the year as part of the re-development of the Audit Committee Charter and the members are:

Position	Name
Chairperson	
Chief Executive Officer	Sarah Butterworth
Members	
Executive Director Transport	Chris Bigg
Executive Director Lands and Planning	Rod Applegate
Executive Director Strategic and Business Services	Fiona Williams
Chief Financial Officer	Ken Tinkham
Manager Internal Audit	Tony Simons
Director Risk Management Services, Department of the Chief Minister	Leigh Eldridge

Key Outcomes

- Reviewed and updated the Audit Committee Charter and membership to include an independent external member.
- Endorsed the new Governance Framework and approved new policies in relation to:
 - corporate governance;
 - risk management;
 - internal audit;
 - control self assessment; and
 - business process documentation.

- Approved the Manager Internal Audit to lead and facilitate a major project documenting and reviewing business processes, incorporating an identification and analysis of risk and control for individual branches.
- Oversaw the undertaking of a strategic risk assessment for the department.
- Approved a forward Audit program.

Risk Management and Security Committee

As a response to changing environments at local and national levels, the Committee has reviewed its role and membership to achieve a more appropriate alignment with the department's normal business operations. Rather than being directly responsible for all Risk Management and Security activity across the department, the Committee keeps the Executive Management Board briefed on important and topical issues and works towards maintaining an adequate level of staff awareness in the context of day to day operations. The Committee is chaired by the Executive Director Transport and includes representatives from across DPI.

Key Outcomes

- The department is reviewing and refining its Counter Disaster procedures following Cyclone Monica which occurred towards the end of April 2006.
- The department participates in the National Transport Security Working Group and its role in developing policy in support of national transport security.
- The department continues to be responsible for chairing the Northern Territory Transport Security Committee. The Committee comprises representation from key Northern Territory and Federal Government agencies and is responsible for implementing national measures for the security of surface transport.
- Workplace security upgrades commenced in Cavenagh House, Darwin and the Greatorex Building, Alice Springs.

Information Management Committee

The Information Management Committee is a cross agency group which provides a strategic focus to the development of information and business systems in DPI. The group is chaired by the Executive Director Strategic and Business Services and includes membership from Lands, Transport, Infrastructure and the Construction divisions.

Key Outcomes

- Facilitated progress on a range of business system projects including:
 - road conditions reporting system;
 - asset management systems scoping project;
 - marine safety system;
 - consultant services panel contract management system; and
 - electronic Fee Offer System (eFOS) enhancements.
- Continued improving the department's records management practices.
- Implemented electronic document and records management processes for some business functions.

Procurement Planning Committee

The Committee oversees and provides input into the department's procurement processes, directions and policies to ensure all acquisitions are performed in accordance with the Northern Territory Procurement Directions with the highest degree of integrity and probity. The Group is chaired by the Chief Executive Officer.

Key Outcomes

- Implemented the policy of 'Value for Money' concepts and introduced tender evaluation processes for a more structured and consistent approach governing to tender selection.
- Participated in the consolidation of the Northern Territory Government Procurement Framework with an active role in staff and industry presentations Territory wide.
- Considered a number of procurement initiatives within the department with the objective of conveying to DPI personnel a clearer understanding of the procurement requirements.
- Finalisation of the department's levels of delegation covering officers involved in any procurement activity and the preparation of the Agency Procurement Management Plan.

Internal Audit

Audits are considered to be a key component of the department's governance framework.

Legislation and Treasurer's Directions specify that there must be an adequate internal audit function, including an independent, objective and qualified auditor with the capacity, qualifications and authority to take action. The agency employed a Manager Internal Audit during the reporting period and the capacity of this position was supplemented by Risk Management Services, Department of the Chief Minister.

The primary role of Internal Audit is to provide the department with assurances in the following areas:

- systems and operations comply with appropriate, accepted and documented governance policies, standards and procedures and legislative and other regulatory requirements;
- systems and business processes are being conducted efficiently and effectively;
- management and business information is high quality;
- controls over the technological environment are operational and effective; and
- physical security over assets and personnel is of an acceptable standard.

The function of Internal Audit is structured to ensure that it is:

- an effective aid in meeting the governance objectives of the Executive Management Board and the Audit Committee;
- focused upon key business and strategic risks and recognises the importance of appropriate levels of internal control;
- independent of operational management;
- committed to risk based audit techniques;
- demonstrating good understanding of the values, goals and business objectives of DPI;
- objective in its opinions and recommendations for process improvement;
- operating in a manner which provides confidence in its findings and reports; and
- committed to effective and ongoing communication with all levels of staff.

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Audits and Reviews

During the reporting period a number of audits were conducted across the department. Details included in the following tables.

Audits Conducted by the Auditor General

Audit	Audit Outcome	Action
Construction Division Financial Statements 2004-2005	<p>Unqualified audit.</p> <p>The division contravened the <i>Financial Management Act</i> in not having financial statements prepared within two months immediately after the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Issues exist with the billing system relating to the timeliness of invoicing and management of the billing system.</p>	<p>There were appropriate timelines in place to manage the end of year processes, however, this was hindered by staff illness and transfers. Support was provided but the situation was further impacted when resources were utilised to prepare financial information in relation to the split of the former DIPE into DPI and NRETA.</p> <p>Management recognised that the billing system required improvement. A working group has been formed to put in place appropriate controls to ensure the accuracy and frequency of billings.</p>
Darwin Bus Service Financial Statements 2004-2005	<p>Unqualified audit.</p> <p>There was no signed contract evidencing the agreement reached between the Public Transport Branch and Darwin Bus Service concerning rate applicable to the year ended 30 June 2005.</p>	<p>The contract was signed on 20 September 2005.</p>
End of Year 2005-2006 review to support the Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement	<p>No significant matters were raised in relation to aspects of end of year reporting and controls over accounting and material financial transactions.</p>	
Roads to Recovery Act	<p>Qualified audit – the department did not comply with the requirement to submit an annual report to the Department of Transport and Regional Services by the due date of 30 September 2005.</p> <p>Instances noted where progress certificates did not have a certifying signature of the Superintendent's Representative.</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted – responsible officers were reminded of their responsibilities.</p>
Australian Land Transport Development Act	<p>Unqualified audit.</p> <p>Instances noted where progress certificates did not have a certifying signature of the Superintendent's Representative.</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted – responsible officers were reminded of their responsibilities.</p>
Interstate Road Transport Act	<p>Unqualified audit.</p>	<p>No matters arose from the report.</p>
Construction Division	<p>Audit of A-IFRS Conversion of 2004-2005 Financial Statements to support the audit of 2005-2006 statements.</p>	<p>No matters arose from the report.</p>
Darwin Bus Service	<p>Audit of A-IFRS Conversion of 2004-2005 Financial Statements to support the audit of 2005-2006 statements.</p>	<p>No matters arose from the report.</p>

Audits Conducted by Internal Audit

Audit	Audit Outcome	Action
Management of Risks Relating to Man Made Shafts	Conducted by Risk Management Services (Department of the Chief Minister).	Issue assigned to Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts following the split of the former DIPE.
Variations to Contracts let by Construction Division	Conducted by Risk Management Services (Department of the Chief Minister) Found: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties in locating records and files may warrant an audit of the division's compliance with Northern Territory Government Records Management Standards. • Instances of breaches of Procurement Guidelines. 	Recommendations have been addressed and issues have been flagged for review in 2006-2007 Forward Audit Plan.

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Other Internal Audit Activity

Activity	Outcomes	Action
Development of Governance Framework	Facilitated by Executive Director of Strategic and Business Services in conjunction with the Manager Internal Audit.	<p>Policies and supporting standards have been developed and approved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• corporate governance;• risk management;• fraud and corruption;• internal audit;• control self assessment; and• business documentation. <p>Charters have been developed and approved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Audit Committee; and• Internal Audit. <p>Forward Audit Program developed and approved for 2006-2007.</p>
Review of Business Documentation	<p>Facilitated by Manager Internal Audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conduct exercises in various branches of the department to review, analyse and document business processes, document and assess risk and controls.	<p>Work is in various stages of progress in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• all branches of Strategic and Business Services;• Land Administration;• Road Network; and• Construction Division.
Review of Corporate Credit Cards	<p>Conducted by Manager Internal Audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Found that variations existed between registers of credit cards maintained by DCIS and DPI. Cards on issue to NRETA staff were being charged against DPI cost centres.	<p>Reconciliation resulted in cards being cancelled for staff of the former DIPE now working with NRETA.</p>

Legislation and Administrative Responsibilities

The department administers a range of legislation with the responsible Minister being Dr Chris Burns, MLA. The following table provides detail on which Acts are administered by DPI.

Ministerial Role	Legislation Administered
Minister for Planning and Lands	<i>Aboriginal Land Act</i>
	<i>Architects Act</i>
	<i>Building Act</i>
	<i>Crown Lands Act</i>
	<i>Crown Lands Freehold (Conversion from Crown Leasehold) Act</i>
	<i>Electrical Workers and Contractors Act</i>
	<i>Lands Acquisition Act</i>
	<i>Lands Acquisition (Pastoral Leases) Act</i>
	<i>Licensed Surveyors Act</i>
	<i>Miscellaneous Acts Amendment (Aboriginal Community Living Areas) Act</i>
	<i>Northern Territory Land Corporation Act</i>
	<i>Palmerston Development Authority Act Repeal Act</i>
	<i>Pastoral Land Act (part 8 only)</i>
	<i>Place Names Act</i>
	<i>Planning Act</i>
	<i>Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act</i>
	<i>Plumbers and Drainers Licensing (Validation) Act</i>
	<i>Special Purposes Lease Act</i>
<i>Validation of Land Act</i>	
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport	<i>Aerodromes Act Repeal Act 2002</i>
	<i>Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act</i>
	<i>Control of Roads Act (except part 4)</i>
	<i>Marine Act</i>
	<i>Marine Pollution Act</i>
	<i>Motor Vehicles Act</i>
	<i>Northern Territory Rail Safety Act</i>
	<i>Petroleum Products Subsidy Act</i>
	<i>Road Safety Council Act</i>
	<i>Traffic Act</i>



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New or Amended Legislation for 2005-2006

The department's legislation activity during the reporting period was focussed on the Infrastructure and Transport Portfolio.

Motor Vehicles Amendment Act

The purpose of the amendments was to implement a more independent and transparent process for determining motor accident compensation scheme contributions by appointing a Compensation Contribution Commissioner as an independent statutory officer, responsible for determining motor accidents compensation scheme contribution amounts.

The Bill was introduced on 29 March 2006 and was passed on 2 May 2006 during the tenth sittings of the Legislative Assembly. The Act was accented to on 18 May 2006.

Commercial Passenger Vehicles Legislation Amendment Act

The amendments to the Act compel the Director appointed under the *Commercial (Roads) Transport Act* or the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to cancel or not grant or renew licences of drivers and accreditations of operators found guilty of a prescribed disqualifying offence. The amendment also compels operators and licence holders to immediately advise in writing if charged or found guilty of a disqualifying offence.

The purpose of the amendments will strengthen the existing discretionary mechanism for the consideration of the fit and proper status of persons operating or driving in the commercial passenger vehicle industry. It also empowers the Director or Registrar to review the 'fit and proper' status of existing holders of a drivers licence or operator accreditation.

The Bill was introduced on 14 February 2006 was passed on 23 February 2006 during the tenth sittings of the Legislative Assembly. The Act was accented to on 8 March 2006.

Statutory Boards and Authorities

A statutory board is a board (whether incorporated or not) established by a law of the Northern Territory for a purpose. The Act governing how the remuneration and other entitlements of members of statutory boards is determined, is the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act*.

Building Advisory Committee

The Building Advisory Committee is a statutory body under section 9(1) of the *Building Act*. The Committee advises the Minister on appropriate technical standards and matters arising from administration of the Act. The Committee is also responsible for the accreditation of building products, construction methods, design and component systems.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr Colin Pascoe

Deputy Chairman: Mr Stephen Ehrlich

Members: Mr George Curran
Mr Fabio Finocchiaro
Mr Paul Nowland
Mr Bevan Pratt

Registrar: Ms Anne Hammond

Building Appeals Board

The Building Appeals Board was established under section 17(1) of the *Building Act* to determine and decide on:

- modifications to the applications of building regulations with regard to specific building work;
- appeals by owners or their agents against decisions of a building certificate;
- appeals by the director against the decision of a building certifier; and
- appeals against decisions of the director.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr John Brears

Deputy Chairman: Mr Col Brown

Members: Mr Daniel Bree
Mr Peter Johnson
Mr Craig Leslie
Mr Roger Perfrement
Mr Bevan Pratt

Registrar: Ms Anne Hammond

Building Practitioners Board

The Building Practitioners Board was established under the *Building Act* to ensure that the qualifications and performance of building practitioners are commensurate with their responsibilities under the Act. The Northern Territory's building control system is supported by private sector certification. Building practitioners are responsible for certifying, within their respective level of registration, that building works are designed and constructed in accordance with the Northern Territory *Building Act*, the Building Code of Australia and associated Australian Standards. Building practitioners also must be registered with the Building Practitioners Board.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr Barry Chambers

Deputy Chairman: Ms Penny Whinney-Houghton

Members: Mr Robert Cox
Mr Greg Macdonald
Mr Brendan Menev
Mr Gary Nielsen
Mr Paul Nowland
Mr John Scott
Mr Bede Rodeghiero (alternate)

Registrar: Ms Anne Hammond

Commercial Passenger Vehicle Board

The Commercial Passenger Vehicle Board is a statutory body under the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act*. The Board provides advice to the Minister on all matters relating to commercial passenger vehicles.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr John Pinney AM

Members: Mr Ken Armstrong
Mr David Fleming
Mrs Mary Johnson
Mr Renton Kelly
Ms Monica Kraft
Ms Casey Morgan
Mr Col Newman
Mr Jason O'Brien
Mr Leigh Shacklady
Dr Siva Ram Vemuri

Registrar: Mr Jasminder Anand

Community Living Areas Tribunal

The Community Living Areas Tribunal is constituted under part 8 of the *Pastoral Land Act* as an independent body to consider and make recommendations to the Minister in relation to applications for the excision of Aboriginal community living areas from pastoral leases.

Applications are referred to the Tribunal by the Minister, who appoints two members; one selected from nominations provided by the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and the other from nominations provided by the relevant Land Council. Together, with the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman, these two comprise the Tribunal for the purpose of hearing that particular matter.

At 30 June 2006 members were:

Chairman: Mr Hugh Bradley

Deputy Chairman: Mr Stephen Southwood
(resigned 20 June 2006)

Development Consent Authority

The Development Consent Authority was established under the *Planning Act* and comprises seven divisions in the areas of Alice Springs, Batchelor, Darwin, Katherine, Litchfield, Palmerston and Tennant Creek.

Each division of the Authority is constituted by the Chairman and four members. The relevant local or community government council provides nominations to the Minister for two members and an alternate member for those two members for each division. The other members are appointed directly by the Minister and the Minister may also appoint a division member to be the Deputy Chairman for the division. Should a direct appointment of the Minister be absent from a meeting, the Chairman may appoint a member of another division to attend in their place.

The Authority determines development applications under the *Planning Act* and the NT Planning Scheme and conducts hearings into other matters as requested by the Minister under the provisions of the Act.

Under section 85(1) of the *Planning Act*, the Minister may direct the Authority generally. No directions were given under this provision in 2005-06.

Under section 85(3) of the *Planning Act*, the Minister may direct the Authority that he is the consent authority in relation to a particular development application. No directions were given under this provision during 2005-06.

The Authority met on 60 occasions during 2005-06, including conducting 24 public hearings on behalf of the Minister.

The Authority issued 498 development permits, approved 284 variations to permits and issued 27 notices of refusal in relation to development applications.

As at 30 June 2006 members were:

Chairman:	Mr John Pinney AM
Secretary:	Ms Margaret Macintyre
Alice Springs:	Mr John McBride Ms Libby Prell Alderman Melanie van Haaren Alderman David Koch Alderman Ernie Nicholls (alternate for Council nominees)
Batchelor:	Mr Bob Lee Mr Richard Luxton President Wendy Leach Councillor Bruce Jones Councillor Linda Douglas (alternate for Council nominees)
Darwin:	Mr David Hibbert Mr Steve Ward Alderman Robert Elix Alderman Garry Lambert Alderman Heather Sjoberg (alternate for Council nominees)
Katherine:	Mr Graham Cole Mr Robert Dennis Mayor Anne Shepherd Alderman Mark Gage Alderman William Daw (alternate for Council nominees)
Litchfield:	Mr Keith Aitken Mr Richard Luxton Shire President Mary Walshe Councillor Narelle Williams Councillor Michael Bowman (alternate for Council nominees)
Palmerston:	Mr Bob Lee Mr Steve Ward Alderman Ian Abbott Alderman Judy Joyce Alderman Robert Brennan (alternate for Council nominees)
Tennant Creek:	Vacant Mr William Boulter Mayor Rodney Swanson Alderman Barry Sharples Alderman Hal Ruger (alternate for Council nominees)

Land and Valuation Review Tribunal

The Land and Valuation Review Tribunal is established under section 21 of the *Valuation of Land Act*. The Tribunal reviews any decision of a Valuation Board of Review which is referred to it by an objector who is dissatisfied with the Board's decision.

Under the *Crown Lands Act*, the Tribunal has a review function in relation to a decision of the Minister or the Valuer-General on an objection to a reappraisal of lease rent; an assessment of compensation for improvements on land; or a determination to forfeit a lease of Crown Lands. The Tribunal has a similar review function under the *Special Purposes Leases Act* in relation to a decision of the Minister or the Valuer-General.

As required by the Act, the President and all members of the Tribunal are Judges of the Supreme Court.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman:	Hon Brian Martin AO, MBE, QC, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory
Members:	Hon Justice David Angel QC Hon Justice Dean Mildren QC Hon Justice Trevor Riley QC Hon Justice Sally Thomas AO Hon Justice Stephen Southwood
Registrar:	Ms Margaret Rischbieth

Northern Territory Architects Board

The Northern Territory Architects Board is constituted under the *Architects Act* to authorise or refuse the registration of an applicant (subject to conditions) as an architect, an architectural partnership, or an architectural company. Its purpose is to regulate the practice of architecture in the Northern Territory and ensure that the general community can rely on the fact that persons using the title "architect" are qualified to perform their professional role.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman:	Mr Ross Finocchiaro
Deputy Chairman:	Mr Richard Layton
Member:	Ms Lyn Bennett Mr Bertram Birk Mr Geoffrey Samuels
Registrar:	Mrs Bernadette McKirdy

Northern Territory Electrical Workers and Contractors Licensing Board

The Board is a statutory authority established under section 6 of the *Electrical Workers and Contractors Licensing Act*. It exercises powers under the Act relating to licensing electrical workers and electrical contractors to enhance electrical safety.

The Board's main objective is ensuring the safety of electrical workers, other workers, consumers and the general public by:

- ensuring electrical work is carried out by people who are competent and appropriately qualified;
- ensuring electrical workers and contractors working in the Northern Territory are properly licensed through a licensing and regulatory system that recognises local as well as equivalent licenses issued in other states and New Zealand; and
- investigating and conducting hearings into complaints relating to electrical work and taking disciplinary action where appropriate.

The Minister appoints the members and deputy members to the Board under the *Electrical Workers and Contractors Act*. Members are drawn from various representative groups within the electrical industry.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr Colin Freeman

Members: Mr Daryl Byerley
Mr Geoffrey Cowie
Mr Kenneth Kernich
Mr Alan Paton
Mr Geoff Topham
Mr Stephen Versteegh

Registrar: Ms Penny DeSouza

Northern Territory Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board

The Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board is a statutory authority established under section 5 of the *Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act*. It is responsible for issuing advanced tradesman licences, journeyman registration cards and reciprocity certificates.

The Board administers the *Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act* and ensures that only qualified persons obtain licences, registration cards and certificates. It is also responsible for assessing and maintaining standards of workmanship and protecting consumers by investigating complaints and where appropriate, taking disciplinary action.

The Board fulfils its role by functioning in conjunction with other authorities that, under their respective legislation, require authorised plumbing and drainage works to be carried out by licensed tradesmen.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Mr Stephen Say

Deputy Chairman: Mr Peter McDonald

Members: Mr Rodney Cryer
Mr Gary Neilsen

Place Names Committee for the Northern Territory

The Place Names Committee is established under section 5 of the *Place Names Act* to make recommendations to the Minister on the naming of places (streets, roads, suburbs, localities and natural features).

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman: Dr Bill Wilson

Members: Mr Des Buckerfield
Ms Pearl Ogden
Mr Garry West

Road Safety Council of the Northern Territory

The Road Safety Council is a statutory body under the *Road Safety Council Act*. The Council's primary objective is to enhance road safety for the benefit of the Northern Territory road user community.

Members at 31 December 2005 were:

Chairman:	Mr Peter Poole
Deputy Chairman:	Mr Chris Bigg
Members:	Mr Bob Bradley Mr Ray Brittingham Mr Norman Broome Mr John Naylor Mr Mark Payne Mr Michael Potts Ms Eve Somssich Mr Randall Gould Mr Justin Larkin Dr Steven Skov

Valuation Board of Review

The Valuation Board of Review is constituted under the *Valuation of Land Act* to review objections to valuations made under the provisions of the Act, usually for rating purposes. Sections 20B-20G of the *Valuation of Land Act* provide for the establishment by ministerial appointment of a Valuation Board of Review Panel.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman:	Vacant
Deputy Chairman:	Vacant
Members:	Mr Douglas Fraser Mr John George Mr Peter Moffatt Mr Peter James Four vacant positions

Surveyors Board of the Northern Territory

The Surveyors Board is a statutory body under part III of the *Licensed Surveyors Act*. The Board's purpose is to regulate the practice of land boundary surveys in the Northern Territory.

Members at 30 June 2006 were:

Chairman:	Mr Garry West
Members:	Mr Terrence Gadsby Mr Gregory Leach Mr Robert Sarib Mr Philip Verrall