

# Introduction and Overview

## Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

The 2005-06 year saw the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE) split into two departments – Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) and the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts. I am proud to provide the first Annual Report for the newly formed DPI.

DPI comprises Lands and Planning, Transport (including Darwin Bus Service), Infrastructure, Waterfront and Construction Division from DIPE and Indigenous Infrastructure, Housing and Essential Services from the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs. It brings together all infrastructure functions to maximise resources and improve delivery of the Northern Territory's infrastructure programs.

We have approximately 800 staff, compared with the 1 400 employed in DIPE and the transition has been smooth, primarily because of the obvious synergies between the old and new departments. The new department wasted no time in creating a list of achievements in its first financial year.

The Indigenous Infrastructure Unit has made real headway in project managing community based housing for Indigenous communities on behalf of the Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport. The associated Indigenous construction training program has a strong focus on employment and skills transfer in an industry which has shortages, particularly in remote locations.

Work on the Darwin City Waterfront progressed during the year with the construction of Stage 1 well underway, including the start of construction of the Convention Centre and sea wall components.

Implementation of the new *Building Act* is reforming the construction industry and will provide for more robust development of the industry and greater consumer protection.

The Transport Group has continued to work on road safety reforms which will bring the Northern Territory in line with other states and territories. A special Road Safety Taskforce was established with stakeholders from across government and the community involved in preparing a report for government on key initiatives aimed at improving safety on our roads.

The introduction of new procurement reforms for government has helped to facilitate major change in the Construction Division, which itself has undergone business process reengineering to provide for more efficient and effective delivery of construction services. The department has taken a proactive role in working with the Department of Corporate and Information Services to ensure that the procurement reforms are workable for DPI and its stakeholders.

The Motor Vehicle Registry continued to develop more flexible ways for customers to make payments through online services and the use of telephone payment technologies.

The department also played a major role in recent months in restoring roads and communities in the aftermath of this year's Katherine floods and Cyclone Monica.

We have also undertaken considerable work in scoping the replacement for our asset management system, which will be implemented later in 2006.

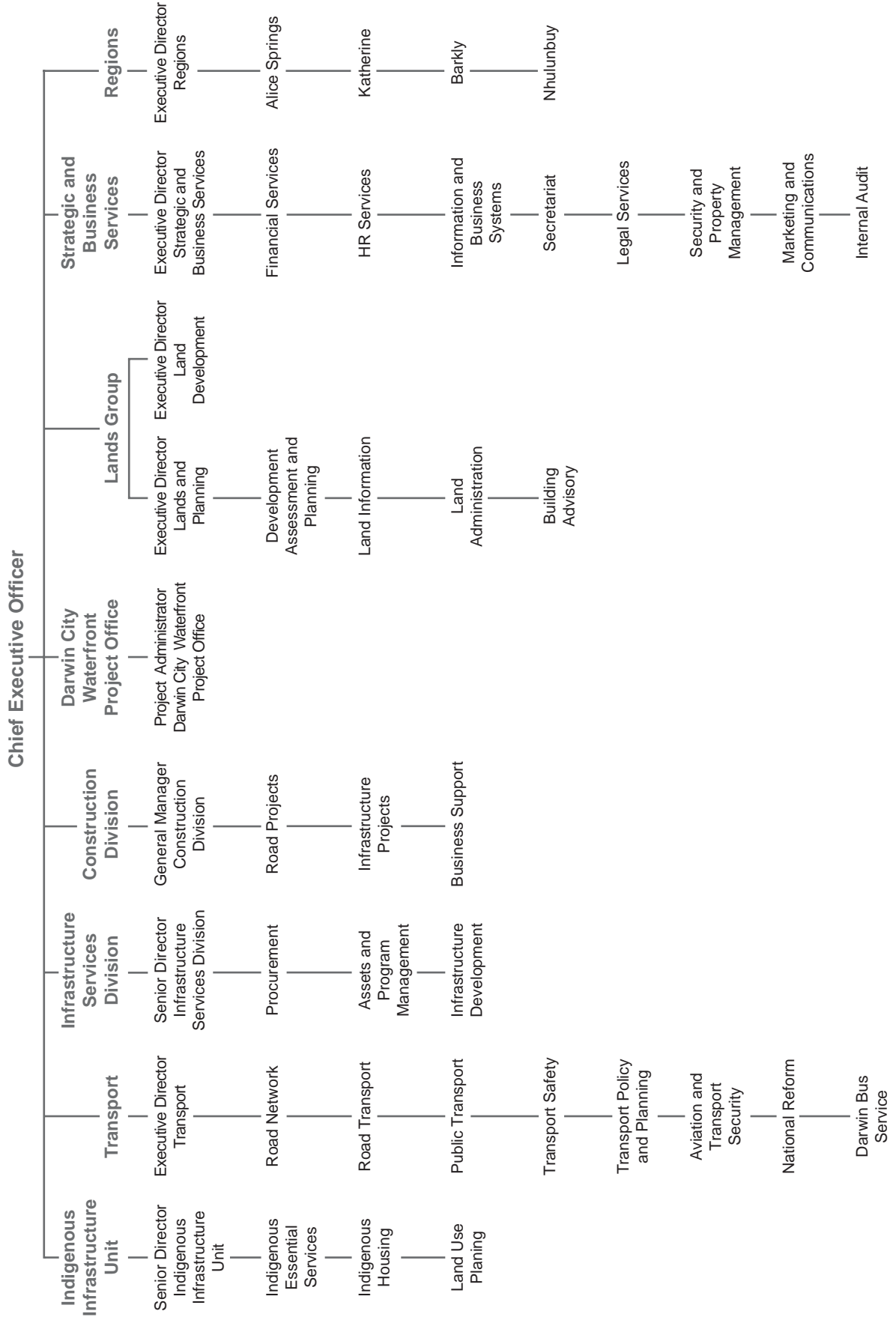
It has been a challenging and productive year and I look forward to my department's involvement in shaping some of the exciting Northern Territory Government projects that lie ahead.



SARAH BUTTERWORTH  
Chief Executive Officer  
September 2006

# Introduction and Overview

## Organisational Chart



# Introduction and Overview

## Summary of Outcomes and Outputs

### Output Groups

Indigenous Infrastructure	Land Planning, Development and Management	Transport	Infrastructure Development	Territory Roads
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### Outcomes

Appropriate housing and essential services for the Territory's Indigenous population	Land and related information that is available and used to support the sustainable economic development of the Territory	Effective transport systems and services that meet community and government needs	Government infrastructure meets community needs	Safe and efficient roads
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### Outputs

Indigenous Essential Services	Land Information Infrastructure	Transport Policy and Planning	Road Network Management
Indigenous Land Use Planning	Land Use Planning and Regulation	Transport Safety	Road Transport
Indigenous Housing Construction	Building Regulation	Public Transport	
	Land Management	Transport Assets	
	Land Development		
	Darwin City Waterfront Redevelopment		

## Expenditure by Output Group

Output Groups	2005-06 Actual \$000
Indigenous Infrastructure	75 889
Land Planning, Development and Management	34 413
Transport	34 670
Infrastructure Development	34 552
Territory Roads	141 281
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>320 805</b>

# Introduction and Overview

## Regional Highlights

The department implements planning and delivery of land, transport and infrastructure for the sustainable development of the Territory on a Territory-wide basis. There are a range of projects which the department undertakes that cross regional boundaries, but there are also projects which have a specifically regional focus and these are highlighted in the following section.

### Alice Springs and Surrounds

- Constructed a new health clinic and carried out additional security works at Yuendumu.
- Provided housing construction training to 22 Indigenous trainees in six Central Australian communities.
- Constructed eight serviced lots for new housing developments at Hermannsburg, Irrultja and Irrerlirre.
- Completed a demand management case study on electricity and water consumption at Santa Teresa.
- Completed full pavement reconstruction of the runway and runway strip at Ampilatwatja Aerodrome.
- Completed construction of the Palmer River Bridge on the Stuart Highway, which was the final project in the flood immunity bridge upgrading between Alice Springs and the South Australian border.
- Completed widening of 27 kilometres of narrow seal between Namatjira Drive and Hermannsburg on Larapinta Drive and completed 14 kilometres of new seal on Larapinta Drive as part of the West MacDonnell Tourist Loop Road upgrade.
- Completed a trunk stormwater drainage and development masterplan for the Ti Tree township area to identify areas suitable for development and infrastructure costs.
- Captured or updated topographic mapping for Ti Tree, Hermannsburg and Ampilatwatja.
- Commissioned and managed surveys for Emily and Jessie Gaps, Finke Gorge, West MacDonnell Ranges, Trepkina Gorge and N'Dhala Gorge under the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act*.
- Assisted the Alice Springs Town Council in developing the Alice Springs Solar Cities funding bid.

### Katherine and Surrounds

- Reconstructed and sealed the Minyerri and Bulman aerodromes.
- Constructed 28 serviced lots for new housing developments at Binjari and Beswick.
- Captured aerial photography of Katherine and Daly following the 2006 floods.
- Commissioned and managed surveys for Gregory National Park under the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act*.
- Captured or updated topographic mapping for Katherine, Daly Waters, Larrimah, Beswick, Amanbidji and Ngukurr.
- Prepared and submitted a Public Environmental Report for the Victoria Highway upgrade for bridges over the Victoria River, Lost Creek, Sandy Creek and Joe Creek and associated road works to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposal.

### Tennant Creek and the Barkly

- Constructed the Tennant Creek Hospital Renal Clinic which was entered into the Royal Australian Institute of Architects 2006 National Architecture Awards. The project attained a commendation in the Public Buildings category.
- Commissioned and managed surveys for Davenport Range and Devil's Marbles under the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act*.
- Captured or updated topographic mapping for Elliott, Newcastle Waters, Canteen Creek and Mara Camp.
- Developed resources for school presentations such as dummy crash vehicles (model cars) to demonstrate to children in the Tennant Creek region the benefits of wearing seatbelts.
- Produced the Barkly Regional Schools Road Safety 18 month calendar featuring students' drawings from 16 schools about how they perceive road safety in their communities.

- Completed the Tennant Creek Main Street Landscape Master Plan.
- Completed full pavement reconstruction of the runway and runway strip at Robinson River Aerodrome.

## Darwin, the Gove Peninsula and East Arnhem Land

- Constructed the palliative care unit at Royal Darwin Hospital which was entered into the Royal Australian Institute of Architects 2006 National Architecture Awards. The project won two awards in the Public Buildings category and People's Choice Award.
- Refurbished the Royal Darwin Hospital medical records area.
- Completed the fit-out of Old Admiralty House for the Department of Justice.
- Commenced headworks, environment and remediation works to prepare the Darwin Waterfront and Convention Centre precinct site for construction of the \$1.1 billion project.
- Commenced Stage One works for the Darwin Waterfront and Convention Centre including the planning, design and commencement of construction for the Darwin Convention Centre, community infrastructure and residential/hospitality developments.
- Constructed a new classroom block at Alawa Primary School.
- Provided land in the Palmerston City Centre for development of the Palmerston Library and Palmerston Recreation Centre.
- Completed construction of a rural school bus interchange at Humpty Doo to improve services and safety for rural students.
- Completed the Stuart Highway duplication from Noonamah to Cox Peninsula Road.
- Constructed 21 new houses at Alyangula.
- Constructed a new health clinic at Minjilang, Croker Island.
- Constructed a new Police Station at Numbulwar.
- Constructed a new learning centre at Emu Point.
- Constructed a new health clinic at Daly River.
- Constructed new classrooms at Sheperdson College, Elcho Island.
- Commenced sealing of the Cox Peninsula Road to Belyuen.
- Completed construction of the final stage of the Wooliana Road power line.
- Constructed 45 serviced lots for new housing developments at Ramingining, Gunbalanya, Nauiyu, Amangal and Acacia Larrakia.
- Extended the Ramingining barge landing and in the aftermath of Cyclone Ingrid, reconstructed the Warruwi barge landing.
- Completed a 20 lot subdivision layout plan for new housing at Wadeye.
- Completed the upgrade of fuel bunding and bulk fuel storage at Peppimenarti and Palumpa.
- Undertook an extensive weed management program to control Gamba grass covering various areas of Crown Land across the Darwin and Coomalie region totalling 1 100 hectares in conjunction with the Weeds Branch, Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts.
- Captured or updated topographic mapping for Jabiru, Maningrida, Gunbalanya, Warruwi, Minjilang in the Darwin region and Ramingining, Ngangalala, Yathalamarra, Wandawuy, Galiwinku, Mapurru, Numbulwar, Umbakumba, Angurugu, Milyakburra, Gapuwiyak and Yirrkala in the East Arnhem region.

# Introduction and Overview

## Community Consultation

The department places a high priority on engaging with the community.

- Held an extensive program of public and industry consultation which underpinned the introduction of construction industry reforms, particularly in relation to builders' registration and home warranty insurance.
- Conducted 37 public hearings on the proposed Northern Territory Planning Scheme.
- Established a Central Business District Connection steering committee to ensure stakeholders have appropriate input to the design of the link between the Waterfront precinct and Darwin City.
- Held an awareness campaign about the relocation of the East Arm Boat ramp. The campaign was launched at the Boat, Motor and Leisure Show in August 2005 and extended through to October. The campaign sought public comment on the conceptual design and location of the new ramp.
- Consulted with parents, local residents, local businesses, schools and bus service providers about the development of the Humpty Doo rural school bus interchange to ensure all issues were addressed satisfactorily before construction commenced in November 2005.
- Held forums at the Leanyer Seniors' Village to seek input to the new bus service that started in December 2005 from residents.
- Sought comment from rural residents and businesses on the proposed expansion of bus services to the rural area, culminating in an improved and expanded service that commenced in November 2005.
- Met quarterly with the NT Road Transport Committee which is made up of representatives from the department, the Australian Trucking Association NT and the private and public sector.
- Established NT Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts community working group in February 2006 to seek input into the review of the current concessional registration scheme for Vintage, Veteran and Classic Motor Vehicles.
- Consulted with Indigenous stakeholders and construction industry peak bodies on development of a strategy to expand Indigenous participation in the government works program.
- Consulted and negotiated with remote Indigenous communities about the implementation of the Indigenous Housing Construction Program 2006-2010.
- Attended local council meetings in East Arnhem, Darwin and Katherine regions regarding the 2005-2006 housing construction Capital Works Agreements.
- Negotiated with the Department of Family, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Aboriginal Urban Living Areas governing bodies in Borroloola and Alice Springs for implementation of the Connecting Neighbours program to upgrade town camp utilities infrastructure.
- Consulted with Maningrida, Numbulwar, Galiwinku, Areyonga, Umbakumba, Willowra and Ampilatwatja communities in relation to future land development.
- Consulted with Emu Point outstation residents about future developments and the identification of suitable development sites.
- Consulted with community leaders at Alpururulam to identify an appropriate site for the new aerodrome.
- Undertook demand management studies at Gunbalanya and Santa Teresa to assist the development of options for the better management of community electricity and water consumption.
- Visited the Nguiu and Pirlangimpi communities with the Australian Government's National Water Commission regarding potential water projects.
- Consulted with the Yuelamu community regarding the implementation of construction works to overcome chronic water supply shortages.

- Assisted the Place Names Committee undertake community consultation on the *Place Names Amendment Bill* and Place Names Register.
- Consulted sections of the property industry on the design and implementation of the new interface to the Integrated Land Information System.
- The community was consulted during development of the following projects:
  - Myilly Point Masterplan;
  - Arafura Park Project – Parap Residents Association;
  - Rapid Creek Catchment Advisory Committee – Rapid Creek Environment Corridor.
- Drafted a copy of the Greater Darwin Area Arterial Road Landscape Masterplan and the Tennant Creek Mainstreet Landscape Master Plan from February to April 2006.
- Briefed local members on issues of concern in their electorate.
- Attended the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association general meetings, conferences, Annual General Meeting and Executive Council Meetings.
- Attended meetings with the Stuart Park Residents' Association regarding improvements to the Stuart Highway and Duke Street Intersection.
- Established and commenced stakeholder meetings in March 2006 relating to the AusLink Corridor Studies for Darwin to Adelaide, Darwin to Brisbane and Darwin to Perth.
- Attended Arterial Roads Working Group meetings with Palmerston, and Darwin City Councils.
- Attended meetings with Civil Contractors Federation and Australian Trucking Association of the Northern Territory regarding Wishart and Tivendale Roads.
- Consulted with the respective Traditional Owners regarding realignment of the road corridor.

# Introduction and Overview

## Building Safer Communities

The Northern Territory Government's vision is to create an environment where all Territorians feel safe in public spaces, in their homes and in their workplaces. The government's Building Safer Communities Framework is a blueprint to create the vision.

This year the Department of Planning and Infrastructure contributed to a number of building blocks within the framework.

### Partners in Crime Prevention - People, Places and Systems

- The *Northern Territory Planning Act* and the *Northern Territory Planning Scheme* were amended to require that community safety be considered as an integral component of the development assessment process.
- Produced a guide for the community that demonstrates how the application of design principles for community safety in the built environment can reduce the opportunity and incidence of crime.
- Increased public safety on the urban bus fleet by completing the installation of closed circuit television systems on board buses and at interchanges.
- Funded a variety of Urban Enhancement Program projects, including:
  - Stage one of a two phase project to build a new fitness track alongside Abala Road (Marrara Sports Complex).
  - Lighting upgrades to a number of laneways running off Bagot Road and the lighting of the park off Lee Point Road.
  - Lighting the laneway behind Barkly House in Tennant Creek.
  - Upgrading disabled access, new planting and a review of lighting requirements at the Nightcliff Shopping Centre.
  - Upgrading disabled access, installation of an isolation fence, a review of lighting and new planting at the Tiwi Shopping Centre.

- The design and construction of the new Arafura Park in Parap.
- Installation of new play equipment and shade structure at the Borroloola Community Government Council sports ground.
- Installation of new play equipment and sealed access to the Marlinja Community at Elliott.
- Installation of a new shade structure over the skate park at Humpty Doo Village Green in the Litchfield Shire.
- Installation of new play equipment, landscaping and shade structures to five parks in Tennant Creek.
- Upgrade of play equipment in Cornwallis Park and fitting out of Sanctuary Park as a regional community park in Palmerston.
- Installation of new play equipment and shade structures to five Darwin parks.
- Coordinated a review of road safety as part of the Road Safety Taskforce to address the Northern Territory's poor road safety record.

### Protecting Your Home and Business - Preventing Property Crime

DPI worked with Northern Territory Police to reduce the incidence of car theft by diminishing the opportunities to register stolen and re-birthed vehicles. The Motor Vehicle Registry manages the Northern Territory's Written-Off Vehicle Register, which interfaces with the National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System, allowing the cross checking of all recorded stolen, wrecked and written-off vehicles around Australia and preventing their re-registration. Vehicle theft numbers in the Northern Territory remain static compared with the previous year, with the March quarter indicating a theft rate of 1.5 vehicles per 1 000 vehicle registrations.

# Information and Privacy

DPI has a small unit to manage the application for information under the *Information Act*. The unit also provides an internal advisory service about Freedom of Information and privacy matters.

During the year, the department finalised 12 applications for information. Ten of the applications were related to access to government information, whilst two were related to access to personal information. During the period there was one request for internal review of a decision under the *Information Act*.

# Marketing and Communications

A great deal of emphasis is placed on communication in DPI. The department has a unit which provides a wide range of services to achieve effective internal and external communications. Services include:

- media liaison and coordination;
- marketing and communication strategies;
- facilitation of special events, launches, shows and displays;
- publications;
- writing;
- photographic shoots;
- collateral production;
- sponsorship management; and
- campaign management.

## Intranet

The department's Intranet site (DpiNet) is a central location for staff to access all relevant documentation relating to DPI business including policies, procedures, guidelines and forms. The site provides the necessary infrastructure for electronic business interactions within the department including requests and authorisation for services. The site's ongoing development is driven by directions received from the Strategic and Business Services Web Reference Group and from general feedback from staff across the department.

## Internet

The department's Internet site is the electronic interface between the public and the department and provides a broad range of information on departmental services, products and responsibilities. It also provides the opportunity for the public to give feedback on the department's services. During the year there were 224 enquiries via the department's online feedback form relating to requests for information and/or services or suggestions on how to improve the department's website. A number of these suggestions have been used to improve the website's many services and navigational features.

The department is proactive in seeking community input through the website's 'Have Your Say' feature. Items for 2005-2006 inviting public comments included:

- proposal for a new East Arm boat ramp;
- improvement options for the Duke Street/Stuart Highway intersection;
- expressions of interest to develop a Tropical Tourist Resort in the Mindil Beach/Gardens locality;
- proposed bicycle enclosure at Mandorah;
- input into the draft Main Street Landscape Masterplan for Tennant Creek; and
- proposed series of amendments to update the Australian Road Rules.



# Introduction and Overview

## Marketing and Communication

### CEO's Newsletter

Marketing and Communications continued to produce a weekly newsletter from the CEO. It is distributed to all staff via email and is accessible on the department's Intranet site. As well as providing staff with updates on corporate initiatives and developments, it acknowledges staff contributions and achievements across the agency.

### Friday Round-Up

The unit also produces a weekly wrap-up of local media coverage involving the department. Entitled Friday Round-Up, it is distributed via email at the end of each week and is also accessible through the department's Intranet site.

### Communications Network

This is a network meeting which is held several times throughout the year to bring together staff across the agency who play a lead role in education or communications activities. The forum aims to share information, resources and ideas and build on the communications and marketing capacity across the department.