



Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, THE ARTS AND SPORT

Annual Report 2008–2009



Navigation and Printing

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The Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport would like to advise readers that this document might contain pictures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people that may offend.

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Environment, The Arts and Sport
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Purpose of the Report

This Annual Report provides a record of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts and Sport and the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division's achievements for the 2008–09 financial year.

Pursuant to Section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, the report aims to inform Parliament, Territorians and other stakeholders of:

- The primary functions and responsibilities of the Agency;
- Significant activities undertaken during the year highlighting specific achievements against budgeted outputs; and
- The Agency's fiscal management and performance.

In the report 'the Agency' is used when referring to the Chief Executive's complete area of responsibility, including both the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts and Sport and the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division.

When referring to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts and Sport in isolation the term 'the Department' is used.

The Government Business Division, Territory Wildlife Parks, is responsible for managing the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park.

Target Audience

This Annual Report provides information to numerous target audiences on the Agency's activities and achievements for the 2008–09 financial year. It's tabled in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly as an accountability reporting mechanism for the Agency's respective Ministers and the Parliament. The Annual Report is a finalisation of the Agency's achievements, income and financial expenditure from the Northern Territory Treasurer's Budget 2008.

The Agency works in partnership with the Northern Territory community to ensure the Territory's natural and cultural heritage, and its values, are protected. The Agency also works in collaboration with our stakeholders in such areas as sport and recreation, environment protection, natural resources, wildlife management, arts, film and museums, national parks estate and tourism to achieve this protection.

For such a wide ranging stakeholder audience, this Annual Report provides a summary of the range of Agency services and activities undertaken. This Annual Report also formally acknowledges the achievements carried out by Agency employees. It also provides another source of information to Northern Territory Government employees and tax payers about the full scope of Agency programs that may not be fully appreciated from the perspective of individual workplaces.

Additionally, this Annual Report provides information for other government agencies and the wider public about the wide range of activities undertaken by the Agency – a lot of which occurs outside the main population area – the purpose of these activities, and how successful they are.



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, THE ARTS AND SPORT

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Minister for Parks and Wildlife
Minister for Sport and Recreation
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Gerry McCarthy MLA
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Dear Ministers

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport for the financial year 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

The report describes the performance and key achievements of each of the Department's Output Groups and the Territory Wildlife Parks, as required by Section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*.

With regard to my duties as Accountable Officer, pursuant to Section 13 of the *Financial Management Act*, to the best of my knowledge and belief,

the system of internal control and audit provides reasonable assurance that:

- a) proper records of all transactions affecting the Agency are kept and that employees under my control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, its regulations and applicable Treasurer's Directions;
- b) procedures within the Agency afford proper internal control and a current description of such procedures is recorded in the accounting and property manual which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act*;
- c) no indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in or omission from the accounts and records exists;
- d) under Section 15 of the *Financial Management Act* the Agency is required to have adequate internal audit capacity. As of 30 June 2009 the Agency did not have this function in place;
- e) the financial statements included in the Annual Report have been prepared from proper accounts and records and are in accordance with Treasurer's Directions; and
- f) all Employment Instructions issued by the Commissioner for Public Employment have been satisfied.

Yours sincerely

Jim Grant
Chief Executive
15 October 2009

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