

# Performance Reporting



### Output Group: Parks and Reserves

A Park or Reserve is an area of land managed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission as a Park or Reserve for the purpose of conservation and public enjoyment. Parks and Reserves are declared under Section 12 of the [Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act](#) or are managed as a Park or Reserve by agreement, lease or other legal instrument.

The objective of this Output Group is to manage the Northern Territory’s system of 87 Parks and Reserves spread across the Territory. This involves protecting its biodiversity and creating commercial, educational and recreational opportunities for visitors and the Territory community. By achieving these functions, it provides a core for regional development and economic growth.

This Output Group is attributed \$31.7 million of the Department’s \$161.5 million budget.

There are three Outputs within this Output Group:

- Parks Joint Management Programs;
- Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs; and
- Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs.

### Output: Parks Joint Management Programs

Parks Joint Management Programs establishes an equitable joint management partnership with local Traditional Owners to manage, maintain and protect the biodiversity of a Park or Reserve while at the same time serving the needs of visitors and the wider community.

#### Performance Measures: Parks Joint Management Programs

Output: Parks Joint Management Programs	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Operational Joint Management Plans <sup>1</sup>	3	5	8	7 <sup>2</sup>	11
Indigenous full-time equivalents in permanent positions, training positions and flexible employment programs <sup>3</sup>	12% <sup>4</sup>	15% <sup>4</sup>	20%	20%	22%
<b>Quality</b>					
Stakeholder satisfaction with Joint Management Plans <sup>5</sup>	N/A	N/A	85%	94%	85%

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Joint Management Plans are a legal requirement for Parks and Reserves subject to formal joint management arrangements with Traditional Owners. Statutory management plans set the direction for management of Park values generally over a ten year time frame.
2. The Chambers Pillar Conservation Reserve Joint Management Plan has been delayed pending clarification of disputed claims amongst Traditional Owners. The delay has resulted in a variation between the estimated and actual number of operational Joint Management Plans.

3. Derived from total hours for casual part time labour, number of permanent employees and training positions maintained under the joint management program expressed as a percentage of the total employees.
4. These figures were calculated on the basis of full-time permanent staff from 2008–09 and includes, temporary, part-time and casual staff.
5. This measure is derived from a survey of the Agency's Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council members as broadly representing the range of stakeholders. This is a new performance measure which can not be estimated for 2006–07 and 2007–08.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Successfully transferred the title and leased back of 11 Parks and Reserves subject to the *Parks and Reserve (Framework for the Future) Act* as listed below

#### Schedule 1 Parks:

- Arltunga Historical Reserve, east of Alice Springs;
- Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve, south of Alice Springs;
- Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve, Alice Springs;
- Davenport Ranges National Park (proposed), south-east of Tennant Creek;
- Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve, south of Tennant Creek;
- Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve, south Alice Springs;
- N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park, east of Alice Springs; and
- Trepkina Gorge Nature Park, east of Alice Springs.

#### Schedule 2 Parks:

- Kuyunba Conservation Reserve, south of Alice Springs;
- Native Gap Conservation Reserve, north of Alice Springs; and
- Dulcie Range National Park, north-east of Alice Springs.

2. Facilitated the second Joint Management Forum in May 2009, involving Traditional Owners of jointly managed Parks and Reserves from across the Northern Territory to exchange experiences, ideas and issues associated with implementing joint management in Parks and Reserves across the Territory.
3. Increased participation levels in Indigenous employment and training programs by improving partnerships with Aboriginal organisations such as;
  - Ingkerreke Outstations Reserve Centre;
  - Tjuwanpa Ranger Group, Alice Springs region;
  - Julalikari Corporation, Tennant Creek;
  - Yilli Rreung Housing Association Wetlands District; and
  - Ngali-Wurru Association, Timber Creek and Gregory National Park.
4. Completed the following Joint Management Plans;
  - Devils Marbles (Karlukarlu) Conservation Reserve. This plan is now in operation.
  - Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve Joint Management Plan. This plan is to be tabled in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly once disputed claims of Traditional Owners have been clarified.
  - Watarrka and West MacDonnell National Park Draft Joint Management Plan's were drafted and will be released for community consultation in 2009–10.
5. Amended the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* to simplify the process of declaring joint management parks.
6. Completed trials in joint management monitoring and evaluation at Flora River Nature Park, west of Katherine, as part of a three-year partnership research project with Charles Darwin University.

7. Awarded contracts to Indigenous organisations to
  - Construct walking tracks at Simpsons Gap in the West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Re-roof various shelters in Parks within the Alice Springs region; and
  - Repair and maintain the Larapinta Trail in West MacDonnell National Park, with works going to Tjuwanpa Rangers and Ingerreke Resource Centre employees.
8. Provided planning assistance and guidance, in conjunction with the Central Land Council, for the development of an Indigenous Rainbow Valley Cultural Tour to be conducted at Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve art sites, south of Alice Springs.
9. Hosted four 'back to country' Joint Management camps in the Katherine region with Traditional Owners and Agency Parks and Wildlife employees, to facilitate discussion on park management issues.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Experienced slower than expected drafting processes for joint management plans as a result of limited stakeholder knowledge on the complex management issues needed to make informed decisions about park management.
2. Faced unanticipated legislative amendments related to defining boundaries and declaring Parks and Reserves slowing the Agency's ability to grant titles for some Parks.
3. Management of alcohol on Aboriginal land due to the Australian Government's Northern Territory Intervention has added a degree of complexity and additional consultation for Traditional Owners.
4. Changes to the Community Development and Employment Program (CDEP) effected the Indigenous employment and training program.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Parks Joint Management Programs

1. Complete title transfer of the remaining six parks and reserves subject to the *Parks and Reserve (Framework for the Future) Act*. These Parks and Reserves are:
  - West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Finke Gorge National Park, south-west of Alice Springs;
  - Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Gregory National Park, west of Katherine;
  - Gregory's Tree Historical Reserve, west of Katherine; and
  - Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park, east of Alice Springs.
2. Complete an Indigenous Employment and Training Strategy and implement it to increase Indigenous employment in Parks and Reserves.
3. Complete Joint Management Plans for:
  - West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Fogg Dam Nature Park, east of Darwin;
  - Black Jungle/Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin;
  - Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve, near Darwin;
  - Melacca Swamp Conservation Area, south of Darwin; and
  - Flora River Nature Park, south-west of Katherine.
4. Continue to enhance capacity and governance arrangements for jointly managed Parks and Reserves through training programs and focussed workshops for ranger staff and Traditional Owners, particularly for Parks and Reserves with Joint Management Plans in operation.
5. Increase the number and frequency of Flexible Employment Program projects in line with the Agency's four year priorities, targeting the Traditional Owners of the 27 jointly managed Parks.

### Output: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs

Visitor management programs create commercial, educational and recreational opportunities based on sustainable use of the natural and cultural assets of the Parks estate.

#### Performance Measures: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Program

Output: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs	06-07 Actual	07-08 Actual	08-09 Estimate	08-09 Actual	09-10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Total visits to Territory parks <sup>1</sup>	2 772 633	2 830 888	2 800 000	2 600 000 <sup>2</sup>	2 575 000
Park visitors participating in ranger guided interpretation activities <sup>3</sup>	12 100	13 640	12 700	13 700 <sup>4</sup>	13 500
<b>Quality</b>					
Visitor satisfaction <sup>5</sup>	N/A <sup>6</sup>	86.8%	80%	87.3%	80%

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

- Figures were derived from a combination of calibrated traffic counters, entry permits or estimates for a select range of Parks with reliable visits data.
- Decreases in the number of visits to Northern Territory Parks correlated to the decrease in holiday visitors to the Territory as provided by Tourism Northern Territory data.
- Territory Parks Alive figures for Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs regions.
- New slide shows in Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs, created higher than expected participation in interpretation activities.

- Determined by visitor surveys conducted at Watarrka, Litchfield and West MacDonnell National Parks in the off-peak and shoulder season during 2008-09.
- Visitor surveys commenced in 2007 therefore no prior historical data is available.

#### Key Achievements in 2008-09: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs

- Completed the \$5.2 million Stage Two upgrade to Darwin’s Leanyer Recreation Park in March 2009, including installation of three waterslides, shade structures, BMX moguls, a half-pipe and new barbecue areas; improving the recreational facilities and user experience of the facility.
- Completed the Stage One upgrades to Litchfield National Park, near Darwin, in April 2009 that included upgrades to the day use and camping areas at Wangi Falls, resulting in improved traffic flow and visitor experience.
- Improved visitor safety, access and experience through upgrading facilities at the following Parks and Reserves:
  - Berry Springs Nature Park, near Darwin – Upgraded and improved the stairway access to swimming.
  - Garig Gunak Barlu National Park on the Cobourg Peninsular – Completed installation of a new cyclone shelter.
  - Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs – Upgraded walking trails.
  - Elsley National Park, near Katherine – Completed improvements to the Mataranka thermal pool board-walk and pool entry.

4. Awarded two tenders worth a total of \$1.186 million for the design and production of an extensive digital interpretation website for Stage One of the West MacDonnell Visitor Centre, near Alice Springs. This website will enhance visitor experience and appreciation of the Park's world heritage nominated natural and cultural values. Planning for the construction of the Stage Two West MacDonnell Visitor Centre also commenced in 2008–09.
5. Initiated planning for improved management of the Howard Springs Nature Park, near Darwin, which will be implemented in 2009–10 and will include the design of new and upgraded visitor facilities, implementation of a water quality monitoring and maintenance program and revision of the Park's management plan.
6. Revised and improved the visitor survey program by developing new standards to establish a more flexible program and improve the reliability of visitor use data on which to base visitor management decisions.
7. Completed visitor surveys in three high profile Parks, Watarrka, Litchfield and West MacDonnell National Park in the peak and shoulder visitor seasons as part of a \$49 500 partnership project with Charles Darwin University.
8. Conducted the Territory Parks Alive Program on a majority of Parks and Reserves during peak seasons providing free walks and talks by Rangers to enable greater visitor interaction and understanding of reserve values and conservation.

### **Challenges in 2008–09: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs**

1. Obtaining clearances and approvals through external authorities to finish Park infrastructure and visitor experience upgrades within the reporting period.

### **Future Priorities in 2009–10: Parks and Reserves Visitor Management Programs**

1. Design and complete Stage Two of upgrades to Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin, which includes works at the Cascades, Florence Falls and Buley Rockhole, to offer alternative recreation opportunities and improve the visitor experience.
2. Design the Visitor Services Centre at the Wangi Falls site in Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin, to be constructed in 2010–11. This facility will improve visitor experience in the Park and assist in managing increasing visitor numbers.
3. Design and implement a trial water quality monitoring and maintenance program for the waterhole in Howard Springs Nature Park, near Darwin.
4. Establish a local management committee for Howard Springs Nature Park, near Darwin, to improve community input into the Park's management.
5. Expand the lookout on the Ghost Gum walk at Ormiston Gorge in West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs.
6. Upgrade the car park at Berry Springs Nature Park, south of Darwin, to improve traffic flow and visitor access.
7. Complete the West MacDonnell Visitor Centre project near Alice Springs, that includes the production of an extensive digital interpretation website and two visitor centres located at the Alice Springs Desert Park Exhibition Centre and in downtown Alice Springs. These facilities will enhance visitor experience and appreciation of the Park's world heritage natural and cultural values.

## Output: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs

Conservation management programs protect the natural and cultural assets within the Northern Territory's Parks estate.

### Performance Measures: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs

Output: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Plans of Management and Joint Management Plans <sup>1</sup>	28	29	30	29 <sup>2</sup>	37
Statement of Management Intent <sup>3</sup>	7	7	11	11	15
Conservation Plans <sup>4</sup>	261	261	261	261	261
<b>Quality</b>					
Park landholdings covered by authoritative plans	77.5%	77.5%	54%	54% <sup>5</sup>	59%
Achieved critical actions/outputs from Conservation Plans	N/A <sup>6</sup>	78%	85%	83%	85%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

- Plans of Management and Joint Management Plans are statutory documents under sections 18 and 25 of the [Territory Parks and Wildlife Act](#).
- Delays in tabling the Chambers Pillar Conservation Reserve Joint Management Plan in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly due to disputed claims amongst Traditional Owners meant a reduction in the actual number of Plans for 2008–09.

- Statements of Management Intent are concise statements, key values and management directions for Parks and Reserves and are the basis of statutory Management Plans.
- All Parks and Reserves have Conservation Plans developed for weed, fire and feral animal management and they are reviewed annually.
- The area of Park landholdings covered by statutory plans and Statements of Management Intent is 2.6 million hectares, out of a total reserved area of 5 million hectares in the Northern Territory.
- This Output's Performance Measures were refined in 2006–07 and therefore no relevant historical data to compare prior to the above.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs

- Completed the [Devils Marbles \(Karlukarlu\) Conservation Reserve, near Tennant Creek, Joint Management Plan](#) which was put into operation in February 2009.
- Completed an assessment of all Parks in the Northern Territory to assess the natural cultural and tourism values; to develop a reporting framework for improved reporting on performance and programs.
- Undertook fire management protection burns on Parks and Reserves across the Northern Territory in accordance with approved Conservation Plans.
- Continued eradication of the Devils Claw weed from Gregory National Park, south-west of Katherine, and control of Belly-ache Bush in Elsey and Flora River Nature Parks, near Katherine, in order to manage the spread of weeds as part of ongoing control programs and surveys.
- Conducted feral animal removal programs to preserve the biodiversity of the various Parks and Reserves including:
  - Pigs and buffalo in Nitmiluk National Park near Katherine;
  - Camels in Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs; and
  - Cattle in West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs.

6. Removed ten saltwater crocodiles from the Parks, Reserves and management zones in the Katherine region, in accordance with crocodile management plans. A crocodile management study was also conducted at Flora River Nature Park, near Katherine, to enable the Agency to establish guidelines for risk management of crocodiles.
7. Conducted fauna surveys to monitor the health and dynamics of populations to enable better conservation and management of species and areas including;
  - Pig nose turtles in Flora River Nature Park, west of Katherine;
  - Gouldian finches and Leichhardt grasshoppers in Limmen National Park, east of Katherine;
  - Marine Turtles in Barranyi (North Island) National Park at the mouth of McArthur River, near Borroloola; and
  - General fauna surveys in Finke Gorge National Park and West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs.
8. Completed a survey recording all palm height measurements at Finke Gorge National Park, west of Alice Springs, with results to be analysed against existing data to demonstrate regeneration of species and growth of existing palms over time.
9. Continued a collaborative study to establish the impact buffel grass has on the biodiversity values of the Simpsons Gap in West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs, with Charles Darwin University students and the Agency's Alice Springs Desert Park employees.

### **Challenges in 2008–09: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs**

1. Taking a more focussed approach to conservation management in order to achieve more successful conservation outcomes.
2. Managing the re-allocation of resources to unplanned natural activities, such as fire and feral animal damage requiring urgent attention in order to maintain Parks infrastructure and conservation values.

### **Future Priorities in 2009–10: Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs**

1. Finalise a Management Effectiveness Framework using the outcomes from the Parks Assessment process and conservation standards, to provide an effective management program for all Northern Territory Parks and Reserves.
2. Standardise conservation management programs and reporting for all Parks and Reserves by June 2010 to facilitate performance reporting as a component of the Management Effectiveness Framework.
3. Complete management plans for the following Parks and Reserves:
  - West MacDonnell National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Watarrka National Park, west of Alice Springs;
  - Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin;
  - Gregory National Park, west of Katherine;
  - Flora River Nature Park, west of Katherine;
  - Gregory's Tree Historic Reserve, west of Katherine;
  - Chambers Pillar Historical Reserves south of Alice Springs;
  - Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, east of Darwin; and
  - Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve, near Darwin.
4. Complete community consultation for the development of Joint Management Plans for the following Parks and Reserves:
  - Mary River National Park, east of Darwin;
  - Finke Gorge National Park, south-west Alice Springs;
  - Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve, east of Alice Springs;
  - Trephina Gorge, east of Alice Springs; and
  - N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park, east of Alice Springs.
5. Complete Statements of Management Intent for all Northern Territory Parks and Reserves as part of the Management Effectiveness Framework.

### Output Group: Biological Parks

A Biological Park uses and integrates the public functions of zoos, botanic gardens and museums to allow the public to make connections between animals, habitats, plants, landscapes, different cultures and themselves. Biological Parks build a great range of educational and recreational outcomes through these connections and can become major tourist attractions.

The Northern Territory has four Government owned Biological Parks; the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs, the Window on the Wetlands Visitor Centre at Beatrice Hill and the Alice Springs Desert Park. The Territory Wildlife Park and the Alice Springs Desert Park form the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division, the non commercial aspects of which are facilitated through this Output Group.

This Output Group is attributed with \$10.7 million of the Department’s \$161.5 million budget.

There is one Output within this Output Group:

- Biological Parks.

### Output: Biological Parks

Biological Parks include the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, Window on the Wetlands and incorporates the Community Service Obligations (CSOs) for the Territory Wildlife Parks.

The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens is a state level facility in the Northern Territory’s capital city to conserve the Territory’s living flora collections and provide education and enjoyment to the community.

Window on the Wetlands is a visitor facility interpreting the nature and cultures of the wetlands around the Adelaide River, south-east of Darwin.

The payment of community service obligation funding to the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park supports biodiversity and educational opportunities.

### Performance Measures: Biological Parks

Output: Biological Parks	06-07 Actual	07-08 Actual	08-09 Estimate	08-09 Actual	09-10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Visitors to George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	202 470	221 045	390 000	345 800 <sup>1</sup>	350 000
Special events at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens <sup>2</sup>	3	7	4	4 <sup>2</sup>	4
Functions at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens <sup>3</sup>	97	96	80	83	90
New significant visitor experiences created at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	2	2	2	3 <sup>4</sup>	2
Visitors to Window on the Wetlands	79 673	82 736	75 000	74 194	75 000
Community service obligation payments to Territory Wildlife Parks	\$7.814M	\$7.915M	\$7.915M	\$7.915M	\$7.915M
<b>Quality</b>					
Visitor satisfaction with George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	98%	98%	95%	98%	95%
Visitor satisfaction with Window on the Wetlands <sup>5</sup>	N/A	N/A	95%	95%	95%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Actual figures are estimates collected by daily traffic counters and therefore inherently contain a margin of error.
2. Special events hosted this year included the:
  - Tropical Gardens Spectacular;
  - Festival of Darwin Star Shell, Replant Art exhibition and outdoor gallery;

- Nightcliff Orchard Show; and
  - George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens Friends plant sales.
3. Functions formally booked through the Gardens' information centre included birthdays, weddings, workshops, art exhibitions, corporate events, book launches, family fun days and memorials.
  4. Three new significant visitor experiences were completed:
    - The Eco-House Garden and establishment of the Fruit Tree Terraces;
    - Planting of a Wildlife Garden that includes seating and rocks to enhance the garden; and
    - Cycad Loop planting of cycads.
  5. Visitor satisfaction at Window on the Wetlands is measured on a scale of one (being not at all satisfied) to seven (being very satisfied) in the centres visitor comments book. Of the 2999 respondents 2844 selected six or seven on the scale of satisfaction. This was the first year formal visitor satisfaction surveys were conducted.

## Key Achievements in 2008–09: Biological Parks

### *George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens*

1. Hosted elements of the Darwin Festival in August 2008 including the Star Shell (the major event hub for the festival), Food Court held on the Flag Pole lawn, and the Replant Art exhibition and outdoor gallery were held in the Wesleyan Church and on the Coconut Lawn.
2. Developed the Eco-House and Wildlife Gardens for use by community members with ten garden plots developed, irrigated and connected with walking paths. Partnerships were established with local businesses to provide tools, including a grey water system and a rainwater tank, with the Eco-House to be developed to demonstrate low energy and green living.
3. Partially completed the Primary Loop to facilitate visitor circulation and enhance presentation of views and collections of the Gardens. The Primary Loop is to be the main visitor passageway that connects the top and bottom sections of the Gardens.
4. Removal of at risk tree species from the rainforest that were damaged by Cyclone Helen in January 2008.
5. Completed the Cycad plantings on the Cycad Loop which was opened to enhance visitor experience.
6. Hosted the Friends of the Darwin Botanic Gardens plant sales to raise revenue for Gardens' projects. Three sales were held in September 2008, February and May 2009 to raise funds for working on the potted Bromeliad Collection in the Plant Display House.
7. Commenced planting of the Gardens' heritage area as a representation of its former historic style.
8. Developed a community sponsorship scheme for trees and seating within the Gardens.

### *Window on the Wetlands*

1. Maintained high levels (80–100 per cent) of Indigenous employment at Window on the Wetlands, which is in keeping with the wishes of the Traditional Owners of the land the Limilngan-Wulna people. Window on the Wetlands continues to provide flexible employment opportunities for Indigenous people.
2. Continued to honour agreements with the Aboriginal Corporation including the Traditional Owners of Window on the Wetlands (Ludawei), by committing employment and training support and opportunities to develop business and sustainable economic and social benefits. This includes facilitating and co-hosting with the corporation 'people to people', student ambassadors from the United States of America to do a weeding and tree planting project.

## Challenges in 2008–09: Biological Parks

### *George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens*

1. Managing visitor expectations during times when maintenance is occurring around the Gardens or when areas are closed off for events.
2. Managing antisocial activities and vandalism within the Gardens.

### *Window on the Wetlands*

1. Maintaining visitor numbers in a climate of economic instability.
2. Evolving the Visitor Centre in line with changing market trends and customer needs and integrating planning and activities with regional and community aspirations and developments.

## Future Priorities in 2009–10: Biological Parks

### *George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens*

1. Further develop the following facilities to attract visitors and educate them about making environmental changes in their lives:
  - Fruit Tree Terraces;
  - Eco-House;
  - Wildlife Garden;
  - Tropical Woodland;
  - Heritage Area; and
  - Sandstone Escarpment.
2. Complete the planting of the Geranium Street entrance to create a stronger sense of arrival to the Gardens.
3. Renovate the Plant Display House potted collections and upgrade the plant house infrastructure.
4. Develop water efficient irrigation systems and adaptation of new irrigation technology.

5. Continue the upgrade of directional signage to improve visitor orientation and experience.
6. Further develop the Orientation Centre through visitor interaction with Gardens' staff, feedback and the installation of self serve tea, coffee facilities and a cold water bubbler.
7. Develop a methodology to value and stock take the living collection within the Gardens.

### *Window on the Wetlands*

1. Develop a three year plan that will review and upgrade the Visitor Centre's interpretative displays.
2. Continue the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding in line with aspirations of the Limilngan-Wulna people.
3. Expand the range of visitor experiences available at Window on the Wetlands with particular focus on Indigenous cultural activities.

### Output Group: Natural Resources

Natural Resources refers to the Territory’s unique natural assets and encompasses land, vegetation, biodiversity and water. It is the Territory’s largely pristine and natural environment that provides a key foundation to the Territory’s unique identity.

The objectives of this Output Group are to:

- a) Protect the community interest in, and help the community to care for and make the best use of, all natural assets of the Northern Territory; and
- b) Predict and mitigate threats from natural processes such as bushfires, weeds, floods, erosion and feral animals.

This Output Group is attributed with \$49.0 million of the Department’s \$161.5 million budget.

There are three Outputs within this Output Group:

- Natural Resource Management;
- Flood Forecasting; and
- Water Resources.

### Output: Natural Resource Management

This output formulates and implements assessment, monitoring and evaluation programs, with respect to land, coastlines, native vegetation and biological diversity.

The output is also responsible for identifying and mitigating risks to, and associated with, natural resources, including those surrounding the management of biodiversity, bushfires, weeds, native vegetation and land capability.

#### Performance Measures Output: Natural Resource Management – Biodiversity

Output: Natural Resource Management – Biodiversity	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Strategic assessment programs <sup>1</sup>	N/A*	1	3	3 <sup>2</sup>	3
Recovery plans for threatened species implemented <sup>3</sup>	N/A*	12	11	14 <sup>4</sup>	11
Wildlife management plans implemented <sup>5</sup>	N/A*	5	5	5 <sup>6</sup>	6
Biodiversity monitoring programs active <sup>7</sup>	N/A*	5	5	13 <sup>8</sup>	10
Regional biodiversity surveys (and/or conservation plans) undertaken <sup>9</sup>	N/A*	2	2	2 <sup>10</sup>	2
<b>Quality</b>					
Programs meeting agreed targets <sup>11</sup>	N/A*	90%	90%	90%	90%
Managed species reporting beneficial trends <sup>12</sup>	N/A*	N/A*	20	7 <sup>13</sup>	20
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Assessment project milestones met <sup>14</sup>	N/A*	90%	90%	90%	90%

\* New output for reporting in 2008–09, with no data available for this year.

## Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Strategic Assessment Programs are conservations plans, strategies or assessments on a broad scale.
2. Three strategic assessment programs were completed:
  1. Sustainable use of wildlife;
  2. Pest control; and
  3. Biodiversity, inventory, policy and planning.
3. Recovery Plans are formally declared under Commonwealth legislation the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.
4. Recovery plans for the following threatened species were implemented:
 

<p>Flora:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acacia peuce;</li> <li>2. Acacia undoolyana;</li> <li>3. Acacia pickardii;</li> <li>4. Acacia latzi;</li> <li>5. Boronia quadrilata;</li> <li>6. Boronia viridiflora; and</li> <li>7. Tiwi plants.</li> </ol>	<p>Fauna:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Marsupial mole;</li> <li>9. Slater's skink;</li> <li>10. Northern hopping mouse;</li> <li>11. Butler's dunnart;</li> <li>12. Golden bandicoot;</li> <li>13. Northern shrike-tit; and</li> <li>14. Gove crow butterfly.</li> </ol>
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The efficiency of completing several similar plans together resulted in a greater number being completed, than originally estimated.
5. Wildlife Management Plans are implemented under *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.
6. Wildlife Management Plans for the following species were implemented:
  1. Dingoes;
  2. Saltwater crocodiles;
  3. Freshwater crocodiles;
  4. Magpie geese; and
  5. Cycads.

7. Biodiversity monitoring programs formally measure changes in the status of species in terms of abundance and distribution.
8. Thirteen biodiversity monitoring programs were active:
 

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Saltwater crocodile;</li> <li>2. Freshwater crocodile;</li> <li>3. Magpie geese;</li> <li>4. Dingos;</li> <li>5. Cycads;</li> <li>6. Northern quoll;</li> <li>7. Golden bandicoot;</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Carpentarian rock-rat;</li> <li>9. Tiwi plants;</li> <li>10. Boronias;</li> <li>11. Desert acacias;</li> <li>12. Kakadu fauna; and</li> <li>13. Simpson Desert mamals.</li> </ol>
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Due to increasing accountability, more monitoring programs than originally estimated were undertaken to measure management effectiveness.
9. Regional biodiversity programs survey wildlife and identify management issues.
10. Two regional biodiversity surveys were completed:
  1. Surveyed plants, invertebrates and vertebrate fauna in the Daly Region; and
  2. Surveyed plants and animals on Northern Territory Islands including Sir Edward Pellew Islands, Victoria River Island and Groote Island.
11. Programs meeting agreed targets is a measure of the project outcomes and milestones, including acquittals for externally funded projects.
12. Beneficial trends refer to an increase in abundance for threatened species or a decrease in abundance for pest species.

13. Seven species showed improving trends in abundance or conservation status as a consequence of our management including;

1. Acacia peuce;
2. Acacia pickardii;
3. Acacia sp. Graveside Gorge;
4. Livistona mariae subsp. mariae (Palm Valley palm);
5. Gouldian finch;
6. Golden bandicoot; and
7. Desert sand-skipper.

The number of threatened species showing increasing trends was less in 2008–09 than estimated, as turning around population trends for threatened species is very challenging. The initial estimate was overly optimistic.

14. Each assessment activity was run on a project management basis with identified milestones that were tracked and reported on.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Natural Resource Management – Biodiversity

1. Completed a detailed assessment of sites of high biodiversity conservation value across the Northern Territory, in order to direct conservation management actions to the most significant sites. This study will provide information to landholders regarding their property's conservation values and how to best manage these.
2. Detected an infestation of one of the world's most invasive species, the Yellow Crazy ant, at Berrimah in Darwin and initiated the first treatment round of a three round eradication campaign as at 30 June 2009.
3. Reviewed the current saltwater crocodile management program and began developing a new draft strategy, 'Crocwise', to improve the effectiveness of management and enhance community awareness about crocodiles. 'Crocwise' will be implemented in 2009–10.
4. Revised 1080 poison bait management activities for landholders in the Northern Territory to more effectively manage pigs, wild dogs and foxes on their properties. This change in management activity has enabled landholders to undertake training and apply for a permit to use dry manufactured baits to manage pest animals, rather than rely on the Agency to perform this function.
5. Completed a major series of biodiversity monitoring at Kakadu National Park, with analysis of trends indicating an ongoing major decline of native mammals.
6. Commenced a program to undertake biodiversity surveys of main Northern Territory islands not previously sampled for biodiversity, and to comprehensively review the conservation values of, and threats to, all Northern Territory islands.
7. Successfully engaged and trained Traditional Owners in the Victoria River District, west of Katherine, and the Sir Edward Pellew Islands, near Borroloola, to undertake feral animal management activities on their lands. This has skilled the local community in how to trap and humanely euthanize damaging pest animals, such as rats and cats, which prey on native species.
8. Undertook a series of biodiversity sampling and monitoring programs in collaboration with Indigenous ranger groups in newly-established Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA). These included:
  - Biodiversity survey of Isle Woodah with the Yirralka rangers (Laynhapuy IPA);
  - Biodiversity survey of the northern Laynhapuy IPA area, with Yirralka rangers;
  - Monitoring of translocated northern quoll and golden bandicoot populations with the Marthakal rangers (proposed Marthakal IPA);
  - Biodiversity survey and search for endangered golden-backed tree-rat in the pending Wardekken IPA; and
  - Monitoring of the threatened northern Shrike-tit, with Jawoyn rangers.

- 9. Removed and relocated 197 saltwater crocodiles from Darwin Harbour and 10 saltwater crocodiles from the Katherine River.
- 10. Conducted 54 inspections for wildlife permits, to ensure the permit holder's compliance with its conditions, under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.
- 11. Completed [management programs for saltwater crocodiles](#) and [magpie geese](#), providing five-year plans for conservation of populations and maintaining sustainable use of these animals for industry.

**Future Priorities in 2009–10: Natural Resource Management – Biodiversity**

- 1. Obtain final approval from the Commonwealth Government on the draft Management program for the saltwater crocodile and implement the plan.
- 2. Develop and implement a management program for the freshwater crocodile.
- 3. Complete the Island Ark inventory program.
- 4. Develop an integrated program for biodiversity monitoring.
- 5. Develop a biodiversity strategy for the Northern Territory.

**Performance Measures Output: Natural Resource Management – Bushfires**

Output: <b>Natural Resource Management – Bushfires</b>	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Fire plans <sup>15</sup>	90	110	115	115	150
Active brigade volunteers <sup>16</sup>	400	410	435	433	450
Non-brigade volunteers <sup>17</sup>	504	500	570	722 <sup>18</sup>	570
<b>Quality</b>					
Proportion of training courses accredited to national standards	50%	50%	80%	90% <sup>19</sup>	90%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Property plans prepared prior to fire season start (properties less than eight hectares) <sup>20</sup>	80%	80%	80%	80%	90%

**Explanatory Notes to the Table**

- 15. A fire plan documents the history of fire on a property (public land) and sets out future actions to mitigate wildfire. Estimates for the 2009–10 period have significantly increased from previous years due to the increased efforts through planning workshops held for community properties to help to raise awareness of the need for fire plans.
- 16. Active brigade volunteers are paid-up members of the 22 incorporated Volunteer Bushfire Brigades in the Northern Territory.
- 17. Most of these volunteers belong to pastoral stations and Indigenous communities. Numbers will rise and fall according to the cycle of the fire seasons and economic strength of the cattle industry.
- 18. Changes in volunteer numbers were largely caused by updating Brigade volunteer registration lists.

19. The increase in training percentages is due to the implementation of a Strategic Bushfires Risk Mitigation package and roll-out of nationally accredited training.
20. Fire plans are developed in conjunction with the landholder and the Agency's Bushfires NT with most completed before the official start of the fire season.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Natural Resource Management – Bushfires

1. Implemented the Strategic Bushfires Risk Mitigation Program which included \$2 million in upgrades to volunteer support, equipment and training for fire management. Six new trucks, two loaders, a transporter, support for wildfire suppression aircraft and a nationally accredited training program were part of this program.
2. Facilitated and supported the ongoing West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement project which delivered 152,000 tonnes of carbon emissions abatement. This world first project, funded by Conoco Phillips, uses fire management by Traditional Owners to reduce savanna burning greenhouse emissions.
3. Facilitated the signing of two new Memoranda of Understanding with the Northern Land Council to develop new greenhouse abatement savanna burning projects in Central Arnhem Land and the Gulf of Carpentaria. These agreements will deliver \$2 million for project research and capacity building.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Natural Resource Management – Bushfires

1. Ensuring the Northern Territory community has a sophisticated appreciation of fire, its management and their role in it.
2. Responding effectively to recommendations from the Victorian bushfires Royal Commission and applying them to suit the Northern Territory conditions, so as not to inhibit effective fire management and community safety initiatives.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Natural Resource Management – Bushfires

1. Develop a community education and extension program to ensure the community has a sound and responsible understanding of fire management. This will require working with the Northern Territory Education Department, Aboriginal organisations, other government agencies, private beneficial organisations and the community itself.
2. Review and update the *Bushfires Act* to ensure it captures current fire management practice and deals with emerging issues such as greenhouse abatement projects.

**Performance Measures Output: Natural Resource Management – Weeds**

Output: Natural Resource Management – Weeds	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Declared plans <sup>21</sup>	0	0	1	0 <sup>22</sup>	4 <sup>23</sup>
New incursions in the Territory	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Quality</b>					
Land actively managing weed species <sup>24</sup>	14%	15%	15%	17%	17%

**Explanatory Notes to the Table**

- 21. Declared plans refers to the number of weed management plans declared in accordance with section 10 of the [Weeds Management Act 2001](#).
- 22. The preliminary consultation Draft of the Management Plan for *Andropogon gayanus* (gamba grass) was released to key stakeholders in 2009, however was not released for public comment by June 30 2009. It is scheduled for release for public comment in August 2009, as required under section 10 of the [Weeds Management Act](#).
- 23. Weed plans for 2009–10 are proposed for gamba grass, cabomba, mimosa pigra, bellyache bush.
- 24. Proportion of the Northern Territory with known weed management activity as identified through the Agency’s involvement in weed management planning with the community.

**Key Achievements in 2008–09: Natural Resource Management – Weeds**

- 1. Contained the spread of Cabomba weed in the Darwin River, with only a limited number of seedlings and juvenile plants found during the year. Since 2006 no new plants have been identified in three of the four infestation sites. The Darwin River Quarantine Zone was extended for a further three years until 2011 to prevent the weed’s spread.
- 2. Completed mapping of gamba grass infestations that provided information on the distribution and density of the grass, which was used to provide recommendations to the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage to declare the grass as a weed under the [Weeds Management Act](#).
- 3. Declared gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*) and Mexican feather grass (*Nassella tenuissima*) as weeds under the [Weeds Management Act](#).
- 4. Developed a draft Weed Management Plan for *Andropogon gayanus* (gamba grass) which was released to key stakeholders, including members of the Regional Weed Reference Groups, Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee, Northern Territory Government departments for comment prior to undertaking public consultation. This consultation is expected to commence in 2009–10.
- 5. Protected the Top End wetlands from the infestation and establishment of the weed of national significance, mimosa pigra, through facilitating management activities by Aboriginal ranger groups and undertaking surveys to limit the weed’s range.
- 6. Established the Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee, which is responsible for the development of draft weed management plans and providing advice and information to the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage on weed management activities in the Northern Territory.
- 7. Established the Darwin and Katherine Regional Weed Reference Groups. Both provide advice and information on regional weed matters to the Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee and consist of community based stakeholders.

8. Completed six weed risk assessments, using the Weed Risk Management System, which will be used to provide recommendations to the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage on the declaration of new weed species and classification amendments' of weeds currently declared under the [Weeds Management Act](#).
9. Commenced development of a compliance and inspection policy and procedure to monitor community compliance with the *Northern Territory Weeds Management Act*.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Natural Resource Management – Weeds

1. Identifying management obligations for landholders as part of the weed management planning process, that are acceptable to a range of stakeholders, while still achieving good weed management.
2. Developing innovative resource management practices suitable to Northern Australia, including refinement of best practice management techniques developed for a temperate climate.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Natural Resource Management – Weeds

1. Development and implementation of a strategic program to manage infestations of bellyache bush in the Upper Daly and gamba grass in the Coomalie region, to reduce the environmental, social and economic impacts of these weeds.
2. Conduct a five year evaluation of the effectiveness and efficacy of the Northern Territory Cabomba Eradication Program to identify opportunities for improvement in the program.
3. Commence a review of declaration classes under the [Weeds Management Act](#) for weed species assessed using the weed risk management system. This will ensure appropriate management obligations are placed on landholders in consideration of the risks posed by the weed species.

### Performance Measures Output: Natural Resource Management – Native Vegetation

Output: <b>Natural Resource Management – Native Vegetation</b>	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Clearing applications received	40	19	23	25 <sup>25</sup>	16
<b>Quality</b>					
Appeals	0	0	1	2 <sup>26</sup>	1
Clearing applications received for which supplementary information is required <sup>27</sup>	15%	20%	50%	25% <sup>28</sup>	30%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Legislative timeframes met <sup>29</sup>	40%	40%	50%	50%	75% <sup>30</sup>

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

25. Twenty five land clearing applications were received by the Agency (4 on Pastoral Land, 8 on zoned land, 13 on unzoned land) and are listed below:

#### Unzoned

- Centrefarm Aboriginal Horticulture Ltd
- Anthony Harrower
- Matthew Pheeny
- Ewan Crook
- Coomalie Enterprises
- Ahakeye Horticulture Pty Ltd
- Graham and Anne Beech
- Bonalbo Cattle Company P/L
- Nitmiluk Tours
- Hung and Tuan Dang

- Annette Phil and Chris Howie
- Great Southern Ltd
- Brett Gill

#### Pastoral

- Bloodwood Downs
- Larrizona Station
- Gorrie Station
- Neutral Junction Station

#### Zoned

- Acacia Hills Farm Pty Ltd
- Victor Carusi
- Inpex Browse Ltd
- Development 5129
- Power and Water Corporation
- Scott Wollard
- Beansville Enterprises
- Northern Territory Department of Planning and Infrastructure

26. One appeal on Agency approval to clear land was lodged in November 2008 on Section 135, Hundred of Playford (Ewan Crook) and a second applicant appealed in April 2009 on Northern Territory Portion 3634 (Joe Tapp). The outcomes of both appeals were still to be determined at 30 June 2009.
27. Additional information is determined by the sum of applicants for which supplementary information was formally sought by the Agency under s46(4) of the *Planning Act*.
28. Fewer requests for additional information in 2008–09 is a result of an increase in detail now required in land clearing applications. In 2009–10 it is anticipated to be at a level similar to 2008–09.

29. Number of applications that are determined within the statutory 12 week period. Timeframes are not being met due to the insufficient information being provided by the applicant, which requires additional information to be sought by the Agency, resulting in delays to the process.

30. The 2009–10 estimate is based on expectations that a new land clearing application processes will require applicants to provide more sufficient information to the Agency so applications can be determined more efficiently.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Natural Resource Management – Native Vegetation

1. Completed amendments to Development Control Orders in March 2009 to allow for clearing applications to be considered within the gazetted area. This resulted in four approved applications, granting a total of 782 hectares clearing of which approximately 582 hectares was promptly cleared prior to the end of the financial year. This enabled a number of small land holders in the Daly region to advance their businesses.

### Challenges 2008–09: Natural Resource Management – Native Vegetation

1. Providing readily accessible and relevant environmental information to proponents of vegetation clearing applications to enable them to develop risk reduction and management plans.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Natural Resource Management – Native Vegetation

1. Review the Agency's Rangeland Monitoring Program to ensure it is accurately reporting land condition and trends across the rangelands of the Northern Territory. This will ensure rangelands are being managed sustainably and statutory obligations are being met.

### Performance Measures Output: Natural Resource Management – Land Capability

Output: <b>Natural Resource Management – Land Capability</b>	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Soil monitoring sites monitored in the Daly River Catchment	0	12	12	12	12
Land development proposals assessed	236	199	220	224 <sup>31</sup>	270
<b>Quality</b>					
New land related information captured in corporate database (site data) <sup>32</sup>	3 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	5 000
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Annual pastoral rent notices issued on time	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Monitoring sites assessed within timeframe	93%	82%	75%	65% <sup>33</sup>	90% <sup>33</sup>

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

31. Land development proposals assessed is dependant on the number of applications received per year.
32. Information relates to the capture of individual pieces of soil data from land-related data and information from sites across the Territory. Due to reduced external funding it is anticipated that less sites will be captured in 2009–10.
33. The total number of sites to be assessed has been reduced from those in 2008–09, increasing an achievable percentage within the timeframe for 2009–10.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Natural Resource Management – Land Capability

1. Completed an acid sulphate soil survey and report for the Darwin Region that provides an inventory on acid sulphate soils and a risk assessment associated with their disturbance for use in development evaluations.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Natural Resource Management – Land Capability

1. Generate a soil landscape map of the Coomalie region, which includes Batchelor, Manton Dam and Adelaide River, to support sustainable land use, conservation and economic development of the region.

## Output: Water Resources

Measure and assess the surface and groundwater resources of the Northern Territory and undertake drilling and bore testing to enable effective planning for allocation, use, control and protection of water resources.

### Performance Measures: Water Resources

Output: Water Resources	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Operational rig days in the field <sup>1</sup>	224	200	212	210	200
New water allocation plans declared	0	1	2	0 <sup>2</sup>	2
Licences and permits issued	210	224	250	341 <sup>3</sup>	250
<b>Quality</b>					
Time series data collected at agreed standards <sup>4</sup>	65%	78%	90%	85% <sup>5</sup>	90%
Proportion of unscheduled maintenance of drilling rigs	2%	5%	5%	4%	5%
Level of compliance to water allocation plans	N/A <sup>6</sup>	N/A <sup>6</sup>	95%	95%	66%
Number of non-permitted activities	0	4	5	4 <sup>7</sup>	5
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Services delivered within agreed timeframes	90%	90%	90%	85% <sup>8</sup>	90%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Days of on-site drilling on the Agency's two drilling rigs, out of a possible 260 days, based on a five day working week.
2. No water allocation plans were completed. It was expected that the Katherine plan and the Ti Tree review would be completed during the 2008–09 financial year. However these were delayed and are now expected to be declared in 2009–10.
3. More licences and permits were issued than estimated due to an increased compliance effort by the Agency which saw an increase in the number of permits and licences issued under the [Water Act](#).
4. Agreed standards exist for the collection of time series data, measuring river level and flow, as well as groundwater level data.
5. This is measured when data collected by the Agency is compared to these standards and reported as a percentage of data which meets or exceeds them. Unexpected equipment failures reduced the actual percentage, down 5 per cent from the estimate.
6. This is a new output for 2008–09 so no historical data is available.
7. Number of reported breaches of licences and permits.
8. Services delivered within agreed timeframes was less than estimated due to new tighter timeframes being introduced via the new [Water Act 2008](#), gazetted in November 2008.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Water Resources

1. Completed the work required to facilitate the declaration of the [Katherine Water Allocation Plan](#), by the Northern Territory Minister for Natural Resources by June 2009. It is expected the Minister will formally declare the Plan in August 2009.
2. Completed Stage One of the [Water Act](#) review with the gazettal of the new Act in November 2008. This gazettal stated that all applications and consequent decisions regarding water extraction are to be advertised, and facilitate the publication of a register of water extraction licenses as required by the National Water Initiative.
3. Obtained \$300 000 in external funding over two years from the National Water Commission to commence the first Water allocation Plan in collaboration with Traditional Owners on the Tiwi Islands. This is expected to provide a blue print for future planning on Indigenous owned land where water resource based development is desirable.
4. Obtained \$1.5 million in external funding from the National Water Commission for groundwater investigation programs in the Daly region, Darwin and Central Australia.
5. Completed the major operational stages of National Water Initiative funded projects in the Gulf, Daly and Darwin regions, to investigate groundwater resources, that includes investigative drilling programs.
6. Commenced Water Allocation Plans for Mataranka, Daly and the Darwin Rural area which will result in better planning and allocation of available water resources to users in the areas. These plans will be open for community consultation once drafted.
7. Deployed new instrumentation to upgrade aging field based hydrological data collection systems including water level, condition sensing, logging systems and data modems, purchased with \$2 million in funding from the Bureau of Meteorology.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Water Resources

1. Ensuring adequate explanation to community of water allocation planning process.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Water Resources

1. Commence new externally funded projects to investigate ground water resources in Darwin, Daly and Central Australia.
2. Progress Water Allocation Plans to determine the amount of water available and equitable distribution of that amount to the users in the following areas:
  - Western Davenport (Ali Curung) south of Tennant Creek;
  - Howard East aquifer (Darwin Rural area);
  - Berry Springs aquifer (Darwin Rural area); and
  - Tiwi Islands.
3. Review of Agency drilling and bore test operations.
4. Installation of three new flood warning sites with approximately eight instrument upgrades.
5. Implement the Northern Territory Government's rainwater tank subsidy scheme, which provides rebates for purchasing materials for installing and utilising rainwater tanks.

### Output: Flood Forecasting

The Agency conducts a flood forecasting service to provide up to date advice to the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, the Northern Territory Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the Australian Government’s Bureau of Meteorology in order to minimise risk to life and property in the event of flooding.

Flood forecasting is done on the basis of using measured rainfall and river heights (including Bureau of Meteorology information) in a catchment. Using real time data, which is relayed electronically to the Agency’s flood forecasters, and knowing river characteristics, the height likely to be reached at certain points (such as towns or bridge crossings) can be estimated.

### Performance Measures: Flood Forecasting

Output: Flood Forecasting	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
New gauging station installations (river height and rainfall) <sup>1</sup>	1	2	2	1 <sup>2</sup>	2
Number of gauging station upgrades to existing sites.	1	4	2	2 <sup>3</sup>	3
<b>Quality</b>					
Proportion of days where data is available	85%	90%	95%	95%	95%
Percentage of new gauging station installations in priority areas (river height and rainfall) <sup>4</sup>	100%	100%	20%	17% <sup>5</sup>	20%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Services delivered within agreed timeframes.	95%	95%	96%	96% <sup>6</sup>	96%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Installations are based on a five year flood forecasting improvement program, which commenced in 2007–08. Gauging station installations include two types; river height and rainfall recorder; and stand alone rainfall recorders.
2. One gauging station upgrade was completed. The site clearance from Tradition Owners for another of the proposed sites was yet to be obtained as of June 30, 2009. Work on a third site commenced in 2008–09, but was not completed.
3. Two flood monitoring sites were upgraded with telemetry (transmitting data information via satellite phone or the Next G network).
4. The Daly River Basin was deemed a priority area for 2008–09. The percentage of newly constructed flood warning gauging stations in 2008–09 is against the total number of newly constructed gauging stations over the five year program.
5. There are six priority areas identified over the five year program that require gauging station installations. Two gauging station installations were planned to be completed each year at the commencement of the five year program in 2007–08. However, unavoidable delays occurred in 2008–09 (see explanatory Note 2). Due to the extra site constructed (outside original program planning) the total percentage of new gauging installations is slightly reduced.
6. Service delivered within the agreed time frames is being maintained due to reliability of retrieved data and the use of more reliable equipment and telemetry systems.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Flood Forecasting

1. Issued 137 flood forecast advices to Emergency Services with moderate to high reliability in river height prediction. These advices were issued to provide timely flood warning to communities such as Nauiyu, Beswick, Yarralin and Alice Springs. These forecasts are broken down to the following catchments:
  - Daly catchment 49
  - Upper Roper catchment 33
  - Victoria catchment 35
  - Upper Todd River catchment 20
2. Installed a new gauging station on Daly River at Theyona to collect data, increasing the Daly River flood monitoring system's ability to provide information.
3. Minimised the number of flood monitoring station network failures by introducing new and reliable instruments, which included upgrading telemetry for use on the Telstra Next G network.
4. Upgraded the Alice Springs' Todd River Flood Forecast Model to improve the efficiency of the model's usage.
5. Established a secure location in Darwin for central data collection and storage of river heights and rainfalls for data retrieval and provision, ensuring greater reliability and security for the data.
6. Improved public access to information and near real time data with increased information on river heights and rainfall in both tabular and plot form available on the Agency's website.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Flood Forecasting

1. Forecasting accurate flood heights in advance for the communities of Borroloola, Kalakrindji, Nauiyu (Daly River), Yarralin (south-west of Katherine), Djilminggan (south-east of Katherine), and Pigeon Hole (south-west of Katherine) remained a challenge due to a lack of representative data and no accurate model to predict peak flood heights.
2. Predicting flood heights for the Nitmiluk Centre (Katherine Gorge) is difficult due to the lack of useful measuring sites and catchment data, especially river heights upstream of Nitmiluk. Despite a flood forecast model existing, its reliability in terms of flood height prediction is low to moderate.
3. Accurate and timely flood predictions in the Daly, Victoria, upper Roper, lower Adelaide and McArthur River catchments were challenging due to the small number of flood monitoring sites. These challenges will be addressed as part of the five year flood forecasting improvement plan.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Flood Forecasting

1. Upgrade existing monitoring sites in the Daly River, McArthur River, and upper and lower Adelaide River catchments to deliver improvements to the Territory's flood monitoring systems.
2. Installation of new monitoring sites for both the Daly River and Upper Roper River catchments to deliver improvements to the Northern Territory's flood monitoring systems.
3. Modify and run Victoria River, Adelaide River and Daly River flood forecast models to ensure the reliability of flood height predictions.
4. Upgrade the Alice Springs' Todd River flood forecast model to improve its operational performance within a secure environment and enhance the output formats.
5. Identify areas for improvement in the Katherine Gorge flood forecast model to better predict flood heights for the Nitmiluk Centre.

### Output Group: Environment and Sustainability

Protecting the environment is a key component in conserving the Territory’s natural assets.

The role of this Output Group is to provide advice to Government, industry and the community in relation to environmental protection and sustainability issues and environmental issues arising from proposed land uses. It also advises Government on predicting and mitigating potential threats from both natural processes and human activities in order to protect our natural environment.

This Output Group is attributed with \$7.0 million of the Department’s \$161.5 million budget.

There is one Output within this Output Group:

- Environment and Sustainability.

### Output: Environment and Sustainability

This output assesses and regulates environmental impacts of development and promotes sustainable practices.

#### Performance Measures: Environment and Sustainability

Output: Environment and Sustainability	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Environmental assessment reports to Minister	7	3	16	0 <sup>1</sup>	11
Licences and approvals administered <sup>2</sup>	74	71	68	63 <sup>3</sup>	80
Capacity to assist community, industry and local government to promote environmental sustainability <sup>4</sup>	\$0.61M	\$0.57M	\$0.95M	\$1.47M <sup>5</sup>	\$1.29M
<b>Quality</b>					
Stakeholder satisfaction with advice <sup>6</sup>	82.5%	79%	85%	95%	85%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Meet statutory timeframes established under relevant legislation	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Reports anticipated for 2008–09 were withdrawn by the proponent behind the development.
2. Licences and approvals under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* and the *Water Act*.
3. Variances between estimated and actual licences and approvals administered was due to businesses not renewing licences. This decline can be attributed to several mines that were out of operational mode and under administration.

4. Includes [EnvironmeNT grants](#), Cool communities and Household [Energy Smart Rebate Scheme](#). Details of funding for organisations is listed in Key Achievements.
5. This figure includes a one off payment to Alice Springs Town Council of \$850 000 for a glass crusher.
6. Feedback is received via a survey.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Environment and Sustainability

1. Encouraged community environmental management in the Northern Territory by implementing the fifth round of the [EnvironmeNT Grants](#) Program. A new category for Wildlife Conservation was established which contributed \$100 000 in funding for schools, community and operational funding.

There are three separate categories of funding: Operational Grants; Individual Projects; and School Projects.

#### Operational Grants

A total of \$263 086 was offered to nine community environmental organisations:

Recipient	Grant \$
Environment Centre NT	\$65 000
Arid Lands Environment Centre	\$35 000
Keep Australia Beautiful Council NT	\$80 000
Australian Marine Conservation Society	\$10 000
Environmental Defenders Office	\$10 000
Wildlife Rescue	\$20 000
Wildcare Incorporated	\$11 086
Wildcare Alice Springs	\$15 000
Conservation Volunteers Australia	\$17 000

#### Individual Project Grants

A total of \$268 314 were offered to 28 projects such as:

- Re-thinking Waste in Schools Challenge (\$17 000): Territory wide
- One Step From the River: Native Food and Medicinal Plants’ project (\$12 000): Alice Springs
- Track and campsite upgrades with interpretive signs and fencing (\$16 258): East Arnhem
- Coolmob Community Service Announcements (\$13 800) Territory wide
- Monitoring Biodiversity and Cultural Values of Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Areas (\$25 554) East Arnhem

#### School Project Grants

15 Schools were funded a total of \$28 600 including projects such as;

- Friends of the Frillies (Alawa Primary School) \$1 600
- Biodiversity Platforms (Mataranka Primary School) \$2 000
- Caring for our Local Environment (Angurugu Community Education Centre) \$1 700
- Native Bush Tucker Garden (Macfarlane Primary School) \$1 800

2. Developed the [Energy Smart Rebate](#) Scheme where Territory households can improve energy efficiency and reduce electricity costs by purchasing and installing selected energy saving devices with rebates of up to \$200 per household. The scheme is due to be launched in July 2009.
3. Assisted Territorian households to reduce energy use by providing operational funding of \$100 000 to the COOLmob project, which works with the community to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions through improved home energy efficiency. Funding of \$50 000 was granted to Darwin and Alice Springs programs respectively.

4. Granted \$225 000 to the Power and Water Corporation for the Energy Efficient Hot Water Rebate (Retrofit) Scheme.
5. Pursued the Northern Territory Government's commitment to addressing climate change by:
  - contributing to the development of a new Northern Territory Climate Change Policy;
  - representing the Northern Territory on the Council of Australian Government's Climate Change and Water Working Group and related sub-groups; and
  - contributing to Northern Territory Government submissions on the Australian Government's proposed carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and Voluntary Carbon Offset Standard.
6. Provided \$30 000 in funding for the report *Risks from Climate Change to Indigenous Communities in the Tropical North of Australia*. The development of the report was led by the University of New South Wales Climate Change Research Centre and was also supported by the Australian and Western Australian Governments. A final report will be released in 2009–10.
7. Worked with Northern Territory Shires to improve waste management in remote communities, providing input in developing *Waste Management Guidelines for Small Communities in the Northern Territory - Working Towards Best Practice 2009*.
8. Provided technical advice and support to the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program for developing waste management initiatives and improved waste water treatment facilities in remote areas.
9. Progressed the establishment of a comprehensive air quality monitoring system for Darwin by tendering for the supply of two self-contained air quality monitoring stations. One will be located at the Bureau of Meteorology site in Winnellie, with a second suitable location still to be determined. The stations are expected to be operational by the end of 2009.
10. Facilitated environmental assessments for new development proposals in the Northern Territory by providing Environmental Impact Statement guidelines for the following developments:
  - BHP Billiton Olympic Dam expansion (Northern Territory transport option);
  - Redbank Mines Ltd expansion of Redbank oxide copper leaching operations;
  - Inpex Browse Ltd Ichthys gas field development project;
  - Arafura Resources Nolan's Bore rare earths phosphate mine;
  - Tenax Energy Clarence Strait tidal energy project;
  - Gorrie Station land clearing proposal; and
  - Larrizona Station land clearing proposal.
11. Provided advice to the Northern Territory Government's Cash for Container's Reference Group on a Northern Territory container deposit scheme to improve litter management and resource recovery.
12. Facilitated and supported the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee in developing the [Darwin Harbour Strategy 2009–15](#) to guide stewardship and development of the Darwin Harbour region as well as facilitating government and public consultations on the new Strategy.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Environment and Sustainability

1. Meeting the demands of a developing economy and community and industry expectations by continually reassessing the Agency's core functions of environmental assessment and regulation.
2. Balancing the ability to fulfil the Agency's regulatory function with the need to contribute to broader Agency and Government priorities, and recruiting and retaining staff with the skills and expertise required to achieve this balance.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Environment and Sustainability

1. Assess the environmental impact of major developments proposed for the Northern Territory, including the Inpex Browse Ltd Ichthys gas field development project, BHP Billiton Olympic Dam expansion (Northern Territory transport option), and the Wonarah phosphate mine project.
2. Continue to lead the development of a Northern Territory container deposit scheme.
3. Improve the understanding of air quality in the Darwin region and capacity to manage it by commencing the operation of two new air quality monitoring stations.
4. Effectively regulating industry by finalising a review of the Environment Protection Licence for the ConocoPhillips Darwin Liquefied Natural Gas plant and issuing an Environment Protection Licence for the Eni Blacktip Gas plant.
5. Assisting Territory households to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by continuing to support Darwin and Alice Springs COOLmob and administering the [Energy Smart Rebate](#) Scheme.
6. Continue to review the environmental assessment process, including contribution to the Environment Protection Authority's review of the [Environmental Assessment Act](#).
7. Support the community to achieve positive environmental outcomes by finalising the 2009–10 [EnvironmeNT grants](#) program, including the commitment to increase funding to the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory and the Arid Lands Environment Centre.
8. Finalise and report on the implementation of the Re-thinking Waste Disposal and Resource Efficiency Interim Action Plan.
9. Finalise amendments to the [Environmental Assessment Act](#) Administrative Procedures.
10. Finalise accountable risk assessment requirements and incorporate these into decision making on projects submitted under the [Environmental Assessment Act](#).

### Output Group: Heritage Conservation

Heritage Conservation relates to the preservation and conservation of cultural assets including the built environment and sites of historical significance. The Northern Territory’s identity is forged on its complex social history and an improved understanding of how that history and diversity can contribute to our capacity to care for country and seas.

This Output Group is attributed with \$3.0 million of the Department’s \$161.5 million budget.

There is one Output within this Output Group:

- Heritage Conservation.

### Output: Heritage Conservation

Heritage Conservation works to provide advice, assistance and regulatory services to protect and conserve the Northern Territory’s heritage assets. Outcomes are the protection of the community’s interest in cultural and heritage assets and helping the community, business and government to care for and make best use of these assets.

### Performance Measures: Heritage Conservation

Output: Heritage Conservation	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Assessment reports to Heritage Advisory Council	20	24	19	15 <sup>1</sup>	16
Capacity to provide assistance to private owners of heritage places	\$0.2M	\$0.2M	\$0.2M	\$0.18M <sup>2</sup>	\$0.2M
<b>Quality</b>					
Stakeholder satisfaction with advice	88%	95%	80%	95%	80%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Statutory time frames met	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Actual is less than estimated as reports due for assessment in the June 2009 Heritage Advisory Council meeting were rescheduled for the September 2009 meeting.
2. Assistance provided to private owners was reduced to \$183 662 for the 2008–09 period due to one applicant who was offered \$20 000 failing to sign a grant agreement. A full list of grants distributed to private owners of heritage places in 2008–09 can be found on page 114.

Recipient	Project	Grant \$
Alice Springs Lutheran Church Incorporated	Old Lutheran Church, Alice Springs - Interpretative Signs and Brochure Publication - Stage 4	\$3 204
Christchurch Anglican Cathedral	Christ Church Anglican Cathedral Conservation Plan Stage 1	\$20 000
Consolidated Pastoral Company Pty Ltd	Ucharonidge Station 1949 No. 1 Comet Windmill	\$8 030
Darwin City Council	Sue Wah Chin Building - Verandah Restoration	\$20 000
Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation	Purchase and install a self composting toilet - Reducing visitors' impact at Wurrwurrwuy Stone Pictures heritage site	\$18 945
Mrs Irene Hennessy	Flynn Farm - Rum Jungle Siding and Cemetery	\$4 000
Hermannsburg Historical Society Incorporated	Conservation work on Strehlow's House	\$30 000
Manbulloo Homestead	Restoration of World War II Tank Stand	\$9 000
Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Middle Arm Petroglyph Site Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Interpretive Plan	\$15 420
National Trust of Australia(NT)	Stuart Town Gaol Masonry Repairs	\$13 200
National Trust of Australia (NT)	O'Keefe House Security Fencing	\$12 360
National Trust of Australia (NT)	Conservation work to O'Keefe House	\$12 307
National Trust of Australia (NT)	Exterior Painting and associated minor repairs for Magistrates House	\$17 196
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$183 662*</b>

\* Nominal budget is \$200 000 but total budget was not expended because one applicant who was offered \$20 000 failed to sign a grant agreement.

## Key Achievements in 2008–09: Heritage Conservation

- Presented 15 heritage assessment reports to the Heritage Advisory Council over four meetings for consideration of inclusion on the Northern Territory Heritage Register which provides places with statutory protection under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.
- Declared 21 places as heritage places in 2008–09, as follows:
  - Alice Springs General Cemetery;
  - Helen Springs Quarry (Kurutiti), Tennant Creek;
  - Puritjarra Rock Shelter north-west of Alice springs;
  - Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) Conservation Reserve, west of Alice Springs;
  - Butterfly Gorge, Douglas River, near Douglas Hot Springs;
  - Fergusson River Railway Bridge and Boiler, south of Pine Creek;
  - World War II K5 Anti-Aircraft Gun Battery Site, south of Darwin;
  - Warloch Ponds Road Bridge, south of Mataranka;
  - World War II RAAF No.1 Medical Receiving Station, near Batchelor;
  - Ghan's Bore, south of Tennant Creek;
  - Pitchi Richi Sanctuary, Alice Springs;
  - Smith Street Stone Kerb and Milkwood Trees, Darwin;
  - Myrtle Villa Date Palm, Alice Springs;
  - Hope Inlet Archaeological Sites, Shoal Bay;
  - Barrow Creek Hotel, south of Tennant Creek;
  - Climbing Dune, Jessie Gap, Alice Springs;
  - Union Camp, south-west part of Newcastle Waters;
  - Olive Pink Botanic Parks, Alice Springs;
  - Ludmilla Saltpan, Darwin Harbour;
  - Betty Bomber, Cox Peninsula; and
  - Fogg Dam, south-east of Darwin.

3. Implemented the \$1 million annual Northern Territory Government Repairs and Maintenance Program to government-owned heritage places in various regions including:
  - **Darwin:** Vestey's Tank (Darwin High School Gymnasium); Stella Maris Hostel; Sandfly Steam Locomotive; and East Point Military Museum.
  - **Batchelor:** Former Batchelor Primary School.
  - **Katherine Region:** Gregory's Tree, Timber Creek; Emungalan Cemetery.
  - **Tennant Creek Region:** Bonney Well Windmill; and Barrow Creek Telegraph Station.
  - **Alice Springs Region:** Ryan's Well and Glen Maggie Homestead Araluen Homestead; The Residency.
4. Implemented the \$180 000 annual Northern Territory Government Heritage Grants Program, providing 13 grants for conserving privately owned heritage places. Grant recipients are listed in the performance measures on page 114.
5. Finalised work on the new Northern Territory Heritage Register database that will be available on the Agency's Internet in 2009–10 for public access.
6. Commenced as the delegate for the Commonwealth Government's *Historic Shipwrecks Act* which involved an expedition to the *Florence D* shipwreck, near the Tiwi Islands.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Heritage Conservation

1. Managing stakeholders' expectations for finalising the new heritage legislation under the *Heritage Act* in a timely manner.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Heritage Conservation

1. Finalise the Northern Territory's new Heritage Act.
2. Enable the newly rebuilt Northern Territory Heritage Register database for public use on the Agency's Internet.
3. Upgrade the Archaeological Site Database to a new version on the Agency's Internet.
4. Provide at least 16 assessment reports about places nominated to the Northern Territory Heritage Register for consideration by the Heritage Advisory Council.
5. Identify and promote opportunities for adaptive re-use of heritage buildings.
6. Work with Tourism NT and the Darwin Military Museum developers/designers to develop a World War II heritage park for Darwin and surrounding region.
7. Work with the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee and community to interpret and promote maritime heritage of Darwin Harbour.

### Output Group: Scientific and Cultural Collections

The Northern Territory holds a number of key cultural and scientific collections for the purposes of collection, conservation, exhibition and research into the Territory’s natural, historical and cultural heritage. It is important to record the environmental and cultural history of the Northern Territory and the surrounding region in order to increase our understanding of critical contemporary issues in science, the environment and society and create new knowledge as a basis for future understanding, enhancing opportunities to make sense of our world. These activities are conducted at the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, the Herbarium in Palmerston, Araluen Cultural Precinct in Alice Springs, Northern Territory Archives and Library Services.

This Output Group is attributed \$27.4 million of the Department’s \$161.5 million budget.

There are five Outputs within this Output Group:

- Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory;
- Archives;
- Libraries;
- Herbarium; and
- Araluen Cultural Precinct.

### Output: Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

The Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory preserve and provide access to Territory art, cultural and natural history collections in the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, the Museum of Central Australia and historic buildings in the care of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

The Strehlow Research Centre cares for and facilitates appropriate access to the Strehlow collection of ethnographic objects and materials.

### Performance Measures: Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

Output: Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Visitors	331 137	306 030	300 000	311 027	300 00
Major exhibitions	7	2	4	6 <sup>1</sup>	4
Grants and sponsorships received and managed	\$0.77M	\$0.6M	\$0.5M	\$0.5M <sup>2</sup>	\$0.4M
Number of grants and sponsorship received	24	15	10	7	10
<b>Quality</b>					
Visitor satisfaction	97%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Acquisitions fully documented and stored	N/A <sup>3</sup>	N/A <sup>3</sup>	75%	75%	75%
Collection accessible to the public	10%	25%	26%	26% <sup>4</sup>	26%
Retrievability, documentation and storage of collection	N/A <sup>3</sup>	N/A <sup>3</sup>	80%	97%	80%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Five exhibitions opened at Darwin’s Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and one exhibition was produced at Alice Springs Museum of Central Australia:
  - From the Hands of Our Ancestors, Darwin;
  - Arafura Craft Exchange, Darwin;
  - Exit Art, Darwin;
  - Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Darwin;
  - Supercrocodylians: Darwin’s Ultimate Survival Story, Darwin; and
  - Frontier Journey, Photographs of Otto Tschirn: 1915–1918, Alice Springs.

2. Grants received and managed include:

Grant	Funded by	Grant \$
Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award	Telstra	\$194 000
Visual Arts and Craft Strategy	Australian Government	\$30 570
Darwin Festival	Australian Government	\$19 361
Bio Prospecting	Coral Reef Research Foundation(CRRF) USA	\$1100
Professional Development -Timor textile research	Myer Foundation	\$23 480
Polychaete Research	Australian Government	\$31 120
Australian International Cultural Council (AICC) Disaster Preparedness	Australian Government	\$42 775
Return of Indigenous Cultural Property (RICP) Museum and Community Support	Australian Government	\$110 005
Exit Art Exhibition	Northern Territory Government Department of Education	\$24 200
From The Hands Of Our Ancestors publication	ConocoPhillips	\$67 527

3. This is a new measure for reporting in 2008–09 so no data is available for previous years.

4. Cultural sensitivity of some collection material, for example, Strehlow Research Centre, precludes public accessibility.

**Key Achievements in 2008–09: Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory**

1. Launched the exhibition *Husi Bei Ala Timor Sira Nia Liman: From the Hands of our Ancestors*, with the National Directorate of Culture, Timor-Leste. This exhibition featured significant works from the National Collection of Timor-Leste, the Agency’s Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, the Australian Museum and private loans. A full colour catalogue of the exhibition was published including four scholarly essays.
2. Successfully held the 25<sup>th</sup> *Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award* featuring the works of 117 contemporary Indigenous artists from around Australia. This exhibition also included a virtual online gallery allowing video and audio recordings of the artists and their works to be viewed on the Agency’s Internet.
3. Held two forums in Darwin and Alice Springs to increase the profile of the *Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award* within the changing context of Indigenous art practice and industry development. An online survey was conducted to consult with industry stakeholders and consider possible future developments.
4. Launched *Supercrocodilians: Darwin’s ultimate survival story*, a scholarly and popular natural science and history exhibition.
5. Showcased the artwork of 45 students for the exhibition *Exit Art: Contemporary Youth Art of Northern Territory Year 12 Students 2008*. The exhibition consisted of 47 artworks and 17 extension projects that showcased the developing visual arts practice of Territory students and facilitated their tertiary pathways into professional practice.

6. Provided support for the establishment of a Steering Committee to oversee the development of the Defence of Darwin World War II Museum. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives of Darwin City Council, Tourism NT and the Northern Territory Government's Departments of the Chief Minister (DCM), Business and Employment, Planning and Infrastructure and this Agency, to oversee the development of the project. Construction of the facility is due to begin in 2010–11. A broader Advisory Group was subsequently established to provide expert and community input into the project's developmental stages.
7. Incorporated a large number of primary type specimens of newly named species into the Natural Science Collections, including eight holotypes (Crustacea, Polychaetes, Porifera, Arachnids, and Pisces) plus 47 lots of paratypes (Crustacea, Polychaetes, Insecta, Arachnids, and Pisces).
8. Commenced a community engagement program with the Unmatjere community, near Alice Springs, to identify the rights to cultural material held at the Strehlow Research Centre. Consultation with the Western Arrente community was undertaken in regards to the repatriation of secret/sacred objects from the collections.
9. Accessioned 4318 lots of zoological specimens and 65 cultural items into Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory's collections, including a significant donation of rare Indian trade cloths and Indonesian textiles. The Trade Cloths were donated by Mary Abbott through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 2009.
10. Launched the second in the triennial series of exhibitions *Arafura Craft Exchange: trajectory of memories, tradition and modernity in ceramics* in 2008 which featured contemporary craft of three Indonesian artists and the internationally renowned guest curator Sudjud Dartanto.
11. Delivered Otto Tshirn's exhibition of Historical Photographs of Hermannsburg Mission, Central Australian Cattle Stations and Aboriginal Stockmen in the Museum of Central Australia gallery.
12. Published Volume 24 of *The Beagle*, the journal of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, which contained 13 academic papers on new plants, butterflies, beetles and fishes.
13. Progressed the development of Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory's collection management information systems. This involved upgrading the Natural Science collection data sets to a relational database platform with provision for image access and addition of a catalogue for tissue samples.
14. Received over 300 entries from around Australia for the 26<sup>th</sup> *Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award (NATSIAA)*, of which 93 were pre-selected for the Award exhibition held at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.
15. Developed a disaster management working group for collections-focused organisations in the Alice Springs region including the Northern Territory Archives, Strehlow Research Centre, Charles Darwin University, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Alice Springs Town Council, Central Land Council and St Philips Secondary School.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

1. Collection storage issues impact on space allocation for exhibitions, staff accommodation, and long-range program planning.
2. Ongoing securing of copyright licences for works acquired over 25 years of the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award* to facilitate continuous representation of works through an online gallery.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory

1. Continue to develop the *Building Our Museums Sector 10 year plan*. A range of issues and proposals will be reviewed including:
  - A Northern Territory repository to solve storage problems;
  - Better displays of the Territory's important Southeast Asian art;
  - Expansion of natural history displays, possibly involving other Agency facilities such as the George Brown Darwin Botanical Gardens; and
  - Improved displays of our social histories, for example discussions about the Defence of Darwin World War II Museum.
2. Maintain and strengthen the ability to attract travelling exhibitions and to achieve the Northern Territory's premier cultural institution mission to present excellence in national cultural programs and contribute to the reputation of the Northern Territory.
3. Increase public accessibility to the Museum of Central Australia and Strehlow Research Centre through new displays and exhibitions and digitisation and indexing of collections.

4. Review and secure sponsorship for *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award* in 2010 and onwards to ensure its future profile and viability.
5. Progress the development of the collection information systems upgrade across all collection data sets. This will provide improved mechanism for administration and reporting on the collection in support of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory's research, access and exhibition programs.
6. Develop greater collaborations with the Agency's Output Groups increasing the capacity of the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory to implement volunteer and education programs that will attract and inspire our visitors.
7. Progress the Collection Valuation Project, which sees the Northern Territory's Valuer-General assessing the value of the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory collection.
8. Continued to foster museum-to-museum relationships within the immediate Southeast Asian region.

### Output: Archives

The Northern Territory Archives Service collects, preserves and provides community access to Northern Territory Archives and facilitates historical research, through its offices in Darwin, Alice Springs and via the Internet.

### Performance Measures: Archives

Output: Archives	06-07 Actual	07-08 Actual	08-09 Estimate	08-09 Actual	09-10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Archives collections managed	2812	2 997	3 050	3 097	3 180
Archives issued to researchers	48 959	25 230	21 360	20 733 <sup>1</sup>	23 000
<b>Quality</b>					
Meet archives transfer requirements	N/A	100%	90%	70% <sup>2</sup>	60%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Research requests satisfied within one month	100%	100%	98%	98%	98%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Archival items were issued to researchers in public search rooms in Darwin and Alice Springs. This figure represents a continuing decline from previous years. Although visitation has increased, information about archives has improved to the extent that the retrieval process is more efficient and irrelevant archives are not issued to researchers.
2. Many transfers of Northern Territory Government archives were not completed due to space limitations in the Darwin repository. Alternative arrangements were negotiated for the storage of some of the larger archives acquisitions.

### Key Achievements in 2008-09: Archives

1. Transferred over 100 collections and series of archives from Northern Territory Government agencies and private sources.
2. Recorded 19 oral history interviews with individuals about their Northern Territory experiences through the Oral History Program, with nine of these interviews transcribed for community reference.
3. Provided 405 researchers with access to archives in the Darwin and Alice Springs search rooms and more than 8 600 archival items were copied for researchers.
4. Provided advice and support in the development of legislative amendments to the *Information Act* that saw the separation of archives and record services. These amendments were passed in the Legislative Assembly in May 2009.
5. Issued \$50 000 to 18 recipients as part of the Northern Territory History Grants Program to assist with research of Territory history. Such projects included:
  - Recording experiences of women in the southwest Gulf Region of the Northern Territory; and
  - Researching the work of architects who contributed to the development of Darwin from 1950.
6. Continued to implement the archives management system with the documentation and entry of 219 archives consignment lists and the documentation of over 27 000 archive items.
7. Facilitated family research and convened the Aboriginal Advisory Group to manage the Protocol for Access to Northern Territory Government Records by Aboriginal People researching their families.
8. Approved and issued 13 records retention and disposal schedules to regulate and standardise records disposal and archiving processes for Northern Territory Government agencies.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Archives

1. Planning for the separation of the archives and records service functions, which included legislative and administrative changes, resulted in some core priorities concerning the collection and preservation of archives not being achieved. This will be resolved with the completion of the separation of these functions in 2009–10.
2. Storage space limitations restricted the ability to accept larger government archives transfers. Strategies for the development of future archives repository storage space are being investigated.
3. Comprehensive Internet searches of the archives collections database by the public, has not yet been realised. This will be overcome by implementing the archives management system in the coming year.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Archives

1. Finalise a strategy to achieve long term archive storage and accommodation requirements for the Northern Territory Archives Service in Darwin.
2. Implement procedures and standards to meet the Northern Territory Archive Service's responsibility for the retention and disposal of government records under the *Information Amendment Act*.
3. Progress the archives management system to increase management efficiency and Internet accessibility of the archives collections to the public.
4. Finalise a strategy for the retention of digital archives.

### Output: Libraries

Northern Territory Library preserves and provides access to the Northern Territory’s heritage by collecting and preserving documentary heritage of the Northern Territory and providing access to information.

The Output also provides financial, policy and advocacy support for the development and promotion of public library and knowledge centres in the Northern Territory.

### Performance Measures: Libraries

Output: Libraries	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Onsite visitors <sup>1</sup>	89 324	122 775	120 000	149 287 <sup>2</sup>	130 000
Website visitors <sup>3</sup>	54 390	182 020	550 000	564 00 <sup>4</sup>	600 000
Grants distributed <sup>5</sup>	\$3.3M	\$3.3M	\$3.5M	\$3.5M	\$3.5M
<b>Quality</b>					
Visitor satisfaction <sup>6</sup>	N/A <sup>7</sup>	61% <sup>8</sup>	90%	92%	90%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
References enquiries satisfied within 48 hours	98.4%	98.69%	98%	98%	98%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Onsite visitors are tracked through the use of an electronic door count.
2. Onsite visitor numbers increased significantly in 2008–09 due to an enhanced marketing and events program and increased provision of electronic resources.
3. Website visitors are measured utilising NetTracker, a website visitation monitoring program.
4. The increase in visitation is a result of increased usability, digital content publicity and public awareness.

5. Grants distribution is governed by the Public Library Agreement and the list of grants distributed in 2008–09 are as follows:

Recipient	Grant \$
Tiwi Islands Council	\$55 595
Coomalie Community Government Council	\$44 512
East Arnhem Shire Council	\$189 320
West Arnhem Shire Council	\$95 324
Victoria River- Daly Shire Council	\$133 536
Roper Gulf Shire	\$144 808
Barkly Shire Council	\$159 308
Central Desert Shire Council	\$77 944
MacDonnell Shire Council	\$33 432
Ayers Rock Resort	\$31 500
Darwin City Council Libraries	\$1.3M
Alice Springs Town Council	\$555 273
Palmerston City Council	\$478 344
Katherine Town Council	\$229 451
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$3.5M</b>

6. Visitor satisfaction is measured through customer surveys conducted annually online and upon exit.
7. Visitor satisfaction measurement only commenced in 2007 hence no prior relevant historical data available.
8. In 2008 Customer Satisfaction methodology was employed and measures the exit surveys. Figures prior including from 2007–08 were sourced using a different methodology that is, ‘customer value rating’, accounting for the large variation between the actual figures.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Libraries

1. Launched the early years literacy strategy *The Walk to School* designed to help Indigenous parents and carers prepare young children for school by developing an understanding of text and a joy of reading and learning.
2. Worked with the Pitjantjatjara Council to design new software for the online *Our Story* database, enabling communities to store local content related to their culture and history.
3. Implemented *Territory Stories*, an online repository containing documents, images that record the history and development of the Northern Territory.
4. Delivered operational grants worth \$3.5 million to libraries across the Territory including;
5. Developed a four year Information Technology Strategic Plan to determine the Libraries' needs, facilitate improved public access and effectiveness of the Library and its administration.
6. Increased community engagement and participation through additional public events such as exhibitions, *displays, talks, lectures, and workshops* to encourage and *support learning by utilisng library collections*.
7. Launched and exhibited the *Goyder Photographic* collection as an innovative Internet exhibition in April 2009, depicting the Goyder survey expedition team which travelled from Adelaide to identify a capital for the Northern Territory from 1869–70.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Libraries

1. Designing new software for the *Our Story* database with the Pitjantjatjara Council in Central Australia was difficult due to the technical nature of the topic and the extensive consultation process required.
2. Meeting increased public demand for digital content and access to valuable collections.
3. Restricted public access to the Northern Territory Library at Parliament House due to security measures associated with unrelated functions, visiting dignitaries and Legislative Assembly events reduced visitor access opportunities.
4. Keeping up with global trends and the rapidly-changing technological environment required to deliver library services.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Libraries

1. Deliver the Remembering Territory Families initiative, a 2008 election commitment, which includes a touring exhibition to Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, and Nhulunbuy.
2. Negotiate a new Public Library Agreement with local governments.
3. Deliver Community Stories software to replace the *Our Story* database.
4. Develop the Northern Territory Library's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans for 2010 and associated public programs.
5. Implement the Early Years and Adult Literacy strategies.
6. Ensure ongoing support for preservation of cultural initiatives, including digitisation of historical material.

## Output: Herbarium

The Herbarium collects, identifies and preserves specimens of Northern Territory plants and gathers relevant information on this flora.

The specimen collection, data bases and other information are conserved in perpetuity and interpreted to provide a range of products, services, advice and assistance to a wide variety of clients.

The collection is available for use by the wider community in Palmerston, Alice Springs and through the Internet.

### Performance Measures: Herbarium

Output: Herbarium	06-07 Actual	07-08 Actual	08-09 Estimate	08-09 Actual	09-10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Specimens in the collection <sup>1</sup>	232 304	246 000	242 000	238 795 <sup>2</sup>	245 000
<b>Quality</b>					
Retrievability and condition of botanical collection <sup>3</sup>	95%	95%	90%	97% <sup>3</sup>	90%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. The Herbarium collection increases in the number of specimens daily. There is no set expected number of yearly acquisitions as the Herbarium participates in an exchange program with other herbaria and staff add to the collection through various plant surveys.
2. These activities show some variation from year to year with an estimated 4028 duplicated collections in the Herbarium identified this year. These duplications were excluded from the 2008-09 actual figure accounting for the variance between the estimate.
3. A sample of forty specimens is chosen at random from the Herbarium database using randomly generated numbers and then assessed for their retrievability from the collection, origin, correct labelling and filing, damage, quality of mounting, and whether mounted on archival paper or not.

## Key Achievements in 2008-09: Herbarium

1. Provided identification and advice on Northern Territory flora and plant species for 562 separate enquiries including 1261 plant identifications. This provision was to the general public, Charles Darwin University, interstate and international agencies, industry and consultants, and Northern Territory Government agencies.
2. Discovered seven species new to science and enhanced knowledge of the Northern Territory and Australian flora by being published in the following:
  - Albrecht, D.E. and Chinnock, R.J. (2008) A new species of *Marsilea* (Marsileaceae) from arid Australia. *J. Adelaide Bot Garden* 22:1-4.
  - Bean, A.R. and Albrecht, D.E. (2008) *Solanum succosum* A.R.Bean and Albr. (Solanaceae), a new species allied to *S. chippendalei* Symon. *Austrobaileya* 7(4):669-675.
  - Albrecht, D.E. and Lally, T.R. (in press) A reappraisal of *Ptilotus aristatus* and *P.blackii* (Amaranthaceae). *J. Adelaide Bot Garden* 23.
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3. Reorganised the Herbarium collection and Northern Territory plant checklist to the new classification published by David Mabberley (2008) and adopted by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria.
4. Developed an Internet front end for the Northern Territory Herbarium specimen data base (Holtze) to provide enhanced reporting and query facilities to a wider range of stakeholders.

5. Developed a specification document outlining system requirements for the construction of a Northern Territory Flora Database combining and enhancing the existing separate data sets into one collective database. It will consist of four modules to maintain and store:
  - the Northern Territory Checklist and other taxonomic information;
  - flora attribute information;
  - conservation and weeds status; and
  - ethno-botanical information.
6. Developed a specification document for the construction of an electronic flora website for the Northern Territory (FloraNT) which will provide public access to the Northern Territory Flora Database and Holtze.
7. Completed a report on pre-clearing assessment of species of conservation significance on the Rio Tinto Alcan Gove mine site.
8. Maintained a specimen exchange and loan program with other Australian and International Herbaria.
9. Maintained an active volunteer program including work experience student placements.
10. Provided plant distribution data to the Australian Virtual Herbarium website, a national project overseen by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria.
11. Provided plant distribution and nomenclatural data to the Australian Plant Census project. This is a national project administered by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria to align species names across the nation.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Herbarium

1. Striking a balance between maintaining the collection, datasets and other core activities, servicing client requests and progressing future priorities.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Herbarium

1. Roll-out the Internet front end for the Herbarium specimen data base to Northern Territory Government users, which will provide enhanced query and reporting functionality. This includes the ability to map plant species distributions against a variety of topographic, cadastral and biogeographic map layers within the database.
2. Develop FloraNT, a publicly available flora website for the Northern Territory that will allow the community to access and search the Herbarium's corporate plant record database. The website will generate fact sheets on plants of the Northern Territory including their conservation status, images and identification tools.
3. Reassess the conservation status of all 4300 Northern Territory plant species, over the 2010 calendar year as part of a five-year review for gazettal under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. This will incorporate recent changes in knowledge of the distribution, abundance and threats to the Northern Territory Flora, with the *International Union for Conservation of Nature* status changed accordingly.
4. Progress preparation on MacFlora; interactive flora of the MacDonnell Ranges bioregion. This tool will be published on the FloraNT website and on interactive Compact Disc to assist the community and researchers in identifying flora in this botanically diverse and significant region.

## Output: Araluen Cultural Precinct

The Araluen Cultural Precinct delivers, facilitates and promotes arts programs, cultural displays and public programs to engage local residents and visitors to Central Australia.

The attractions which make up the Araluen Cultural Precinct include the Araluen Arts Centre, incorporating the Albert Namatjira Gallery, the Museum of Central Australia, the Strehlow Research Centre, the Central Australian Aviation Museum, the Alice Springs Memorial Cemetery, Central Craft and the Yeperenye Sculpture.

### Performance Measures: The Araluen Cultural Precinct

Output: Araluen Cultural Precinct	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Visitors to visual arts exhibitions	28 179	23 949	30 000	32 862 <sup>1</sup>	30 000
• Local visitations	N/A <sup>2</sup>	N/A <sup>2</sup>	18 000	15 056 <sup>3</sup>	18 000
• Tourist visitations	N/A <sup>2</sup>	N/A <sup>2</sup>	12 000	17 806 <sup>3</sup>	12 000
Patrons to cinema and performances	23 870	28 038	30 000	20 424 <sup>4</sup>	30 000
<b>Quality</b>					
Visitor satisfaction with visual arts exhibitions <sup>5</sup>	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Patron satisfaction with cinema and performances <sup>5</sup>	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Overall annual visitation was slightly above estimate, due to increased interest in visual arts displays and the new permanent exhibition of Aboriginal Art.
2. Breakdown of local and tourist visitation is a new performance measure. This data has never been gathered before, so no historical data is available.
3. This was the first year these figures were required as a performance measure. Lower local visitation than estimated is due to theatre programming being mostly in latter half of 2009.
4. The annual visitation to cinema and theatre performances were less than projected, due to most theatre performances in 2009 being programmed into the second half of the calendar year.
5. Satisfaction was measured through visitor satisfaction surveys, direct feedback and return patronage.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Araluen Cultural Precinct

1. Developed a new permanent exhibition at the Araluen Arts Centre, *Origins to Innovation: Aboriginal Art in Central Australia*, which documents and analyses the history and development of Aboriginal Art in the region. This exhibition opened in March 2009.
2. Developed and operated Cultural Art Tours in consultation with the Arrernte Custodians, which were conducted four times a week at the Araluen Arts Centre by an Arrernte Cultural Education Officer. This was a new flexible position established to provide employment and training opportunities to local Arrernte people.
3. Completed refurbishments of the Witchetty's function space to an exhibition gallery upgrading structural, lighting and sound components that opened in March 2009.

4. Prepared the Draft Araluen Development Plan that will define and guide development of the Araluen Cultural Precinct's facilities and programs from 2009–15. The draft plan is to be released for public comment in August 2009.
5. Continued planning the development of a new solar powered air conditioning system for the Araluen Arts Centre, through a jointly funded Solar Cities program between the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments. Tendering process and headworks are due to commence in 2010 for this initiative that will be the first of its kind in Australia.
6. Presented the annual Desert Mob art exhibition and associated events which increased audiences and achieved higher financial returns to participating art centres within the Araluen Cultural Precinct.
7. Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the organisers of the annual Alice Springs Beanie Festival to continue to develop the festival and associated exhibition and sale of the beanies at the Araluen Arts Centre for the next five years.
8. Increased the number and range of activities in the Araluen Arts Centre Theatre Program through the strategic programming of events that appealed to a wider cross section of community interests.
9. Continued the beautification of the Araluen Arts Centre's grounds in partnership with the Agency's Alice Springs Desert Park, showcasing local species and improving visitor amenities.

### **Challenges in 2008–09: Araluen Cultural Precinct**

1. Continuing to develop a high quality and varied program of meaningful theatre experiences for local and visitor audiences.

### **Future Priorities in 2009–10: Araluen Cultural Precinct**

1. Finalise the Araluen Cultural Precinct Development Plan through community consultation, due to commence in August 2009.
2. Complete design and headworks of the solar powered airconditioning system for the Araluen Arts Centre by June 2010.
3. Continue to develop the grounds of the Araluen Cultural Precinct to become a desert landscape feature, in partnership with the Agency's Alice Springs Desert Park.
4. Maintain the Cultural Art Tours and develop further opportunities for Aboriginal employment and training through association with the Araluen Arts Centre Visual Arts Program and Araluen's Arrernte Custodians Reference Group.
5. Continue to present an annual program of cinema, visual arts and performing arts events and activities, and the development, care and research of the Araluen Art Collection.

## Output Group: Arts and Screen Industry Support

This Output supports the performing and visual arts, cinema and film industries for the benefit of the Northern Territory community, visitors and the economy.

The outcomes help the community make best use of its natural, cultural and artistic assets to create commercial, educational and recreational opportunities. It also supports the community in creating new understandings and expressions of Territory identity.

This Output Group is attributed \$10.1 million of the Department's \$161.5 million budget.

There is one Output within this Output Group:

- Arts and Screen Sector.

## Output: Arts and Screen Sector

The Arts and Screen Sector develops, supports and promotes the arts and creative industries sector in the Northern Territory and supports further development and growth of screen industries in the Territory.

### Performance Measures: Arts and Screen Sector

Output: Arts and Screen Sector	06-07 Actual	07-08 Actual	08-09 Estimate	08-09 Actual	09-10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Grants distributed <sup>1</sup>	\$6.2M	\$5.52M	\$5.60M	\$5.7M <sup>2</sup>	\$6.24M
Number of joint funding and program arrangements	2	3	3	4 <sup>3</sup>	3
<b>Quality</b>					
Stakeholder satisfaction	85%	85%	85%	96% <sup>4</sup>	85%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Grants paid within agreed timeframes	100%	95%	90%	84% <sup>5</sup>	90%

## Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Grants funding distributed is derived from total monies committed in 2008-09 and includes paid and accrued funds.
2. Additional grant funding of \$100 651 was allocated to Northern Territory Writers' Centre in 2008-09, of which \$76 000 was offset by additional grants funds received by the following sources:
  - Screen Australia – \$50 000
  - Screen Tasmania – \$10 000
  - South Australian Film Corporation – \$7 000
  - Fist Full of Films returned Industry and Screen Culture Development Grant (2007-08) – \$9 000

Grants Program	Grants \$
Arts Organisations (Annual, triennial, multi year and strategic)	\$2 666 039
Festivals (Regional, Remote and Arts)	\$1 295 405
Public Art	\$261 997
Scholarships	\$21 700
Project Rounds (Includes IAS)	\$259 944
Quick Response Scheme (Includes IAS)	\$42 370
Indigenous Arts Strategy (IAS) (Art form initiatives not reported elsewhere)	\$525 000
Strategic Initiatives - General	\$198 250
Strategic Initiatives - Art at the Heart	\$104 551
Industry and Screen Culture Development	\$310 000
Project Development, Production and Post Production	\$120 000
Professional Development Travel Program	\$11 897
Strategic Initiatives - IGNITE	\$161 884
Bob Plasto Screen Fellowship	\$20 000
<b>Total Grants Distributed</b>	<b>\$5 720 037</b>

3. The four joint funding and program arrangements include:
  - Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for Regional Arts funding (\$200 000);
  - Three separate program arrangements with the Australia Council for the Arts: Community and Partnership Support Services, Theatre Review implementation and Artists in Schools; and
  - Artists in Schools was a previously unannounced new Federal Government commitment.
4. A large sample survey on stakeholder satisfaction was undertaken in 2008–09 obtaining feedback from successful applicants resulting in a higher actual than previous years. Previous years have relied on estimates to determine stakeholder satisfaction.
5. A decrease in grants paid within agreed timeframes was due to delays in signing the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund Funding Deed 2008–12, resulting in a carry over of the 2008–09 Community Grants program to 2009–10 financial year.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Arts and Screen Sector

1. Successfully delivered \$6 million in grants funding through the Arts and Screen Grants Programs. \$225 000 was provided through Screen Grants, including \$80 000 for the *Yarning Up* program and \$20 000 to assist with the post production of the feature film *Samson and Delilah*.
2. Staged the sixth biennial Regional Arts Australia national conference *art at the heart* in October 2008 in Alice Springs, hosting 959 delegates, 192 conference presenters and 254 festival artists from diverse cultural backgrounds across Australia. Approximately 45 per cent of presenters were Indigenous and the Artistic Program featured a ratio of 40:60 Indigenous to non-Indigenous artists.
3. Released an independent report *Review of theatre and performance in the Northern Territory*, in conjunction with the Australia Council for the Arts, following a review of theatre across the Territory. Twenty nine recommendations were accepted by the Northern Territory Government and the Australia Council, with the recommendations being implemented in 2009.
4. Implemented a four year \$955 000 funding agreement with the Australian Government's Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, to administer and deliver the Regional Arts Fund grants program in the Northern Territory commencing on 1 July 2008.
5. Hosted the 21st meeting of the Cultural Ministers Council in Alice Springs in October 2008 where 54 Ministers, advisors and other Council attendees were invited to the *art at the heart* conference opening ceremony.
6. Led the development and production of the second series of *Yarning Up* in association with Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA), resulting in four documentaries being produced in remote communities.

7. Entered a partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts and the Northern Territory Department of Education and Training to offer new project funding for initiatives that build partnerships between arts organisations and schools. Grants of up to \$20 000 will be allocated in 2009–10.
8. Evaluated and refined the Public Art Grants Program by presenting a series of public art forums and workshops by public art experts in conjunction with Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine Town Councils.
9. Commenced development of a Territory Screen Industry Framework, including a Northern Territory Film Office Strategy 2010–13, to drive innovation and the development of the screen industry in the Territory with an Indigenous industry focus. The Steering Committee has made recommendations for Northern Territory Government consideration and key priorities and roles have been identified.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Arts and Screen Sector

1. In staging the sixth biennial Regional Arts Australia national conference *art at the heart* in October 2008 in Alice Springs, Arts Northern Territory worked within and between government agencies to respond to the changing needs of the event, when it was perceived a risk to staff and systems, and to an independent national peak body as the event organiser.
2. Continuing delivery of arts programs during a review process which included two public forums and direct feedback from the arts industry sector. This resulted in an updated Northern Territory Arts Grants Program, new policy and internal structure of Arts Northern Territory. The aim of the review was to place arts and culture at the heart of Territory lives and to foster a creative, healthy and engaged community.
3. Continuing delivery of programs while undertaking a major Screen Industry Visioning Project to invigorate the partnership between the Industry and the Agency.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Arts and Screen Sector

1. Implement the new *Living Arts* program and policies in 2009–10, focussing on arts as a central part of life long learning for the community and on supporting regional development through regional delivery of arts and cultural programs. *Living Arts* aims to ensure:
  - Arts and culture is acknowledged as being an essential part of life for all Territorians;
  - Arts and culture leads and inspires; and
  - Northern Territory arts and culture sits in the hearts and minds of all Territorians and the wider Australian community.
2. Progress Stage One of the Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct, working with Katherine Town Council, regional stakeholders and other organisations to ensure Stage One design meets their needs and that public art and sustainability are strong features of the design.
3. Implement the Screen Industry Visioning Project to include new programs and policies, while developing a framework for these programmes to be delivered to further develop the Northern Territory Screen Industry 2010–15.
4. Managed the *Building Strong Arts Business* Plan of Action 2006–09 as a whole of government strategy, by supporting positions in the non-government sector such as Indigenous arts practitioners with Music Northern Territory, Artback Northern Territory, Arts Touring and Ausdance.
5. Further the strategic leverage achieved through funding from the private and philanthropic sectors. During 2009 the strategy will integrate within the overall new *Living Arts* program.

### Output Group: Sport and Recreation

This Output Group provides sport and recreation activities for the community, optimises performance opportunities for athletes and manages sporting events. The overall outcome is to provide opportunities for Territorians to be involved in sport and recreation at what ever level they choose.

This Output Group is attributed \$21.7 million of the Department’s \$161.5 million budget.

There are three Outputs within this Output Group:

- Sports Development;
- Facilities and Events; and
- Northern Territory Institute of Sport.

### Output: Sports Development

Administers the sports and recreation grants program and provides sports development support and assistance for the delivery of quality sport and recreation programs across the community.

### Performance Measures: Sports Development

Output: Sports Development	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Value of grants distributed <sup>1</sup>	\$6.05M	\$6.87M	\$8.77M	\$12.06M <sup>2</sup>	\$8.83M
Community participation programs delivered <sup>3</sup>	250 <sup>3</sup>	35	46	46	35
<b>Quality</b>					
Stakeholder satisfaction with community participation programs delivered	90%	95%	95%	95%	95%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Specified grant time frames met	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Grants are distributed to a variety of organisations, Shires, clubs and individuals that promote sport and active recreation initiatives.

Grants Distributed*	Grant \$
Peak Sport and Recreation	\$3.30M
Active Remote Communities (ARC)	\$1.24M
Facilities Development Grant	\$0.82M
Grounds Maintenance Program	\$0.53M
National League Incentive	\$0.09M
Grass Roots Development	\$0.18M
Special Assistance	\$0.31M
Sports Infrastructure Fund – part of a two year funding initiative to support one off sporting infrastructure upgrades	\$1M
Australian Football League Northern Territory team – to provide funding to support the inaugural NT Thunder team in the Queensland Australian Football League	\$0.20M
Upgrade of Elliot Sport and Recreation Centre	\$0.1M
Closing the Gap – funding provided to support Community Sport and Recreation Officers in remote communities	\$1M
<b>Total Grants Distributed*</b>	<b>\$8.77 M</b>
*This does not include one off payment as outlined in explanatory note two.	
<b>One-off Grant Payments</b>	<b>\$3.29M</b>
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$12.06M</b>

2. Higher than anticipated grants were distributed due to commencement of upgrades to Darwin’s Marrara Cricket Ground and new initiatives (one-off grants) totalling \$3.29 million as outlined below.

One-off Grant Payments	Grant \$
Marrara Cricket Ground, Darwin – Upgrade the facilities to include an administrative building and practice facilities	\$2.02M
Darwin Golf Club – Funding for an irrigation upgrade	\$0.46M
Bagot Oval Upgrade, Darwin – Funding to support junior soccer facility	\$0.19M
Alice Springs Basketball – Funding to repair the viewing platform upgrade	\$0.1M
Nakara Oval Lights, Darwin – Funding for lights to enable junior soccer training at night	\$0.40M
Pre-season A-League Soccer Game – Funding to support the pre-season A-League match between the North Queensland Fury and Adelaide United	\$0.07M
Northern Territory Rugby League – Funding for the Under 16 and Under 18 competition	\$0.05M
<b>Total One-Off Programs</b>	<b>\$3.29M</b>

3. This Output aims to deliver a minimum of 35 programs per annum. This standard will be reviewed should the number of programs again exceed this in 2009–10. Previous figures were based on activities rather than the overarching programs. From 2007–08 reporting reflects the number of programs.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Sports Development

- Established a Shire Softball Competition that involved over 700 female participants in a Northern Territory wide competition through partnerships with Softball Northern Territory, Shires and the Indigenous Sport Unit. The following Shires and communities participated:
  - *Tiwi Island Shire*: Nguiu, Garden Point, Milikapiti;
  - *Victoria-Daily Shire*: Wadeye, Nauiyu, Palumpa, Timber Creek, Yarralin, Daguragu, Lajamanu;
  - *MacDonnell Shire*: Docker River, Mutitjulu, Imanpa, Aputula, Ntaria, Areyonga, Amoonguna, Santa Teresa, Titjikala, Kintore, Ikuntji, Mt Liebig, Papunya;
  - *Roper Gulf Shire*: Barunga, Beswick, Bulman, Kalano, Borroloola, Ngukurr, Numbalwar, Jilkimanggan;
  - *Central Desert Shire*: Nyirripi, Willowra, Yuelamu, Yuendumu, Harts Range, Engawala, Laramba, Ti Tree, Willora, Mulga Bore; and
  - *East Arnhem Shire*: Milingimbi, Ramingining, Galiwinku, Gapuwiyak, Yirrkala, Nhulunbuy, Ski Beach, Umbakumba, Angurugu, Alyangula, Milyakburra.
- Provided business planning and facility management advice through the SportsBiz Program to Netball Northern Territory to assist with its relocation to the new Marrara Netball Complex.
- Conducted a golf program in collaboration with Active After Schools Communities and Alice Springs Golf Club to help raise the profile of the sport to school aged children in the region involving the following schools:
  - Araluen Christian School;
  - Braitling Primary School; and
  - Alice Springs Steiner School.

4. Provided grants of \$12.06 million to fund a variety of sports development projects and events designed to promote and increase participation at all levels in the community, from grass roots to elite athletes in sport and active recreation including the one-off grants (see explanatory notes to the table 2 for a full list).
5. Provided support to the Football Federation on the feasibility of managing the new Larrakia Park Stadium through the Agency's SportsBiz Program, which provides sporting organisations with the opportunity to access strategic business and management advice.
6. Conducted a successful BMX program in collaboration with Jingili BMX Club and Active After Schools Program to encourage school aged children in Darwin to participate in the sport. More than 55 children participated, resulting in a program expansion from three to six schools across the Darwin region.
7. Reviewed and updated the Peak Sport and Recreation Grants Program to make the application process less complex for organisations to apply for funding.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Sports Development

1. Increase Indigenous employment, particularly in the Agency's Indigenous Sports Unit in order to successfully deliver remote Indigenous sports development programs.
2. Continue to improve the delivery of sport and recreation programs in remote areas through the transition to new local government Shires, who are responsible for the management and delivery of sport and recreation programs to these areas.
3. Ability to influence peak sporting organisations with best practice governance and sport development pathways in order to improve sustainability and performance of sports development.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Sports Development

1. Assist in implementing *SAFE Northern Territory* through the establishment of Working with Children Checks across the sporting industry, including shires, required by all persons having contact with children from sporting groups to volunteers as part of the *Care and Protection of Children Act*.
2. Deliver the Sport and Recreation Grants Program, including increases of funding to support grass roots initiatives.
3. Enhance and consolidate the SportsBiz Program to provide governance and management advice to sporting organisations and peak bodies.
4. Secure ongoing funding for the Agency's Indigenous Sport Program to ensure provision for employment of Indigenous Sport Officers and the long term delivery of ongoing sporting activities in remote Indigenous communities.
5. Enhance the Active Remote Communities Program in line with the Northern Territory Government's *Working Future* initiatives to achieve sport and recreation outcomes, and Indigenous training and employment outcomes.
6. Deliver the Australian Sports Commission Programs in accordance with existing annual agreements for programs including club development, ethics, coaching and officiating, disability education program and junior sports.

### Output: Northern Territory Institute of Sport

The Northern Territory Institute of Sport provides integrated coaching and sport enhancement support services to talented Territory athletes that assist with achieving success in sport and life. The Northern Territory Institute of Sport also provides advice to sporting organisations that support high performance strategies.

### Performance Measures: Northern Territory Institute of Sport

Output: Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS)	06-07 Actual	07-08 Actual	08-09 Estimate	08-09 Actual	09-10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
NTIS athlete scholarship holders: <sup>1</sup>	176	168	149	149	120
Major athlete coach service programs <sup>2</sup>	8	9	9	9	9
<b>Quality</b>					
Athletes achieving national squad and national league club representation <sup>3</sup>	23	35	24	24	22
<b>Timeliness</b>					
NTIS sport programs and athletes services reviewed within agreed time frames <sup>4</sup>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Scholarship holders refer to the total number of athletes on a Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) individual or squad scholarship at any time, under the individual athlete and squad scholarships programs. Individual athlete scholarships are awarded to actual or potential Australian representatives who receive direct financial support and individualised servicing. Squad scholarship holders are athletes who do not receive direct financial support but are entitled to access services on a group basis or at an individual level if appropriate.

2. Major athlete and coach service programs provided to NTIS athletes and sports on an annual basis included: coaching, high performance management, sports medicine and physiotherapy, strength and conditioning, biomechanics and skill acquisition, physiology, psychology, career and education guidance, and nutrition.
3. NTIS athletes who are selected for national teams or squads (junior and senior levels) or have been recruited by national league clubs (eg Australian Football League or National Rugby League) during 2008-09.
4. Programs are reviewed both mid-year and end-of-year for all squad programs, while athletes on individual scholarship are reviewed monthly.

### Key Achievements in 2008-09: Northern Territory Institute of Sport

1. Implemented an Individual Athlete Case Management Program. This will ensure NTIS individual athlete scholarship holders benefit from an in-house, multi-disciplined, specialist high performance servicing approach.
2. Implemented an Athlete Leadership Program aimed at increasing the participant's self-awareness of leadership concepts, with knowledge and skills to enable them to implement leadership in and outside of their sport. The program involved twelve athletes, from six different sports.
3. Implemented a Coach Mentoring Program for NTIS head coaches and assistant or representative team coaches. This provided a formal assessment and feedback of training and competition performances through techniques such as video analysis, mentoring from peers and the 'buddy system'.

4. Provided high performance advice and use of facilities to the national men's Hockey and U/23 Football (soccer) teams, along with the National Basketball League's Perth Wildcats and the Australian Football League's Port Adelaide Power.
5. Achieved national/international representation standard by 24 NTIS athletes achieved in the following sports:
  - Rugby League
  - Cycling
  - Hockey
  - Judo
  - Yachting
  - Swimming
  - Tennis
  - Tenpin Bowling
  - Touch Football
  - Wheelchair Basketball
  - Pistol Shooting
  - Weightlifting

### Challenges in 2008–09: Northern Territory Institute of Sport

1. Developing an integrated, comprehensive athlete database for multi-stakeholder usage.
2. Building stronger working relationships with the Australian Institute of Sport and National Sporting Organisations to increase the use of NTIS facilities and services for training and competition preparation.
3. Balancing broader sporting community expectations with the entertainment and promotional value of the NTIS and Northern Territory Sports Awards.
4. Attracting business interest in the potential exposure value provided by the NTIS.
5. Identifying objective, measurable performance competencies for coaches and service providers.
6. Supporting the identification and development of athlete talent in regional and remote areas of the Northern Territory.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Northern Territory Institute of Sport

1. Tier the NTIS Squad Scholarship Program servicing to ensure resources are used more effectively and efficiently.
2. Progress the proposal for a regional and remote area Talent Identification and Development Program to be supported by the NTIS.
3. Review options for further development and hosting of an online NTIS athlete database.
4. Develop a proposal for new, world class training and recovery facilities at the NTIS to attract Australian Institute of Sport and National Sporting Organisation interest in using the Northern Territory as a training and competition preparation base.
5. Finalise a report on the value of procuring NTIS sponsorship.

### Output: Facilities and Events

Develop, manage and maintain key sporting facilities and provide support for national and international sporting events in the Territory.

#### Performance Measures Output: Facilities and Events

Output: Facilities and Events	06-07 Actual	07-08 Actual	08-09 Estimate	08-09 Actual	09-10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Government-owned and managed sporting facilities <sup>1</sup>	2	2	2	2	2
Government-owned sporting facilities leased to sporting bodies <sup>2</sup>	5	5	5	5	6
National and international sporting events held in the Northern Territory <sup>3</sup>	8	12	11	10 <sup>4</sup>	9
<b>Quality</b>					
Key stakeholder satisfaction with events <sup>5</sup>	80%	80%	80%	100% <sup>6</sup>	80%
Usage of Marrara Indoor Stadium <sup>7</sup>	47.5%	50%	55%	51% <sup>8</sup>	60%
Usage of Hidden Valley Motor Sport Complex	N/A*	N/A*	66%	48% <sup>9</sup>	58%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Events on time	100%	100%	100%	100% <sup>10</sup>	100%

\* New output for reporting in 2008-09, with no data available for this year.

#### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. The Marrara Indoor Stadium and Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex in Darwin are Northern Territory Government owned and managed sporting facilities.
2. Northern Territory Government owned sporting facilities leased to sporting bodies are:

- Larrakia Park, Darwin Football Stadium: Leased to Football Federation Northern Territory;
  - TIO Stadium: Leased to Australian Football League Northern Territory;
  - Marrara Stadium Multipurpose Hall: Leased to Judo Federation Northern Territory, Gymnastics Northern Territory and Northern Territory Table Tennis;
  - Micket Creek Shooting Complex: Leased to Northern Territory Firearms Council; and
  - Marrara Netball Complex: Leased to Netball Northern Territory.
3. National and international sporting events held in the Territory in 2008-09 were:
    - Indigenous All-Stars match – All-Stars vs Adelaide Crows, Darwin, February 2009;
    - Home and Away match – Western Bulldogs vs Port Adelaide, Darwin, June 2009;
    - Masters Australian Football Carnival – Teams from all states and territories were represented by over 30 teams in multiple divisions, Darwin, September-October 2008;
    - 3 x one day international cricket matches – Australia v Bangladesh, Darwin, August and September 2008;
    - National Basketball League game – Perth Wildcats vs Melbourne Tigers, Darwin, November 2008;
    - Women’s National Basketball League game – Perth Lynx vs Adelaide Link Lightning, Darwin, November 2008;
    - National Rugby League preseason game – Cronulla Sharks vs Gold Coast Titans, Darwin, February 2009;
    - Australian Netball League games – Northern Territory, Australian Institute of Sport, Canberra Darters and Queensland, Darwin, August 2008;

- Power Cruise, Motor Sports: various local drivers competing in driving disciplines, Darwin, May 2009; and
  - National Australia Bank Challenge match – Adelaide Crows v West Coast Eagles (Alice Springs – 27 February 2009).
4. The 11<sup>th</sup> event, a National Australia Bank Cup Australian Football League match between Adelaide Crows and the West Coast Eagles, was transferred to Melbourne in order to conduct Victorian Bushfires fundraising.
  5. Stakeholder satisfaction is measured by surveying relevant sporting bodies involved in each event.
  6. All sporting bodies reported satisfaction with their event/s in 2008–09.
  7. Usage of Marrara Indoor Stadium is measured as a percentage of hours the Stadium is booked against the total number of available hours during its operating hours of 8:30am–10pm.
  8. A reduction in the percentage of usage has occurred due to booking cancellations, bookings for the full day only using a small number of hours and buffer days being included to allow for the set-up and take-down of major events such as Arafura Games. Percentage of use does not directly translate to income as some usage is supplied free of charge under agreements.
  9. Usage of Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex was down from previous year due to clubs not using the venue for executive and annual general meetings as originally estimated.
  10. All events were delivered on time.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Facilities and Events

1. Completion of the \$6.2 million Netball Complex in the Marrara Sporting Complex, Darwin.
2. Completion of the \$2.38 million Stage One Alice Springs Aquatic Centre upgrades, which included the paddle pool and learn to swim pool. Tendering for Stage Two developments have commenced, and includes heated indoor facilities and a 25 metres long, eight lane lap pool.
3. Completion of \$1.3 million upgrade and repair of the Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex electrical supply.
4. Completion of \$1.6 million VIP Lounge at Speedway, Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex.
5. Delivery of the \$880 000 Minor New Works Program on Northern Territory Government owned facilities including:
  - TIO Stadium – Replace irrigation system and billboard signs;
  - Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex – Upgrade power to drag strip;
  - Arafura Stadium – Engage consultants for analysis of track quality; and
  - Darwin Football Stadium – Construct new shade structure.
6. Delivery of the \$1.26 million Repairs and Maintenance Program on Northern Territory Government owned facilities including:

#### Marrara Indoor Stadium, Multipurpose Hall

- Replace nine wall mounted fans
- Investigate Bituminous Spills

#### Micket Creek Shooting Complex

- Protect rifle range mound areas
- Remove Trees
- External painting
- Repair damaged fence
- Repair and install irrigation

**TIO Stadium**

- Applied non-slip paint to the tunnel areas
- Repainted ticket boxes at Bonson and Ahmat Gates
- Certification of Stadium
- Assess and repair lights for Oval One

**Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex**

- Repaired Tyre Wall and fence line
- Generator works at Speedway
- Electrical repairs due to lightning damage at speedway

**Arafura Stadium Marrara**

- Remedial work to Athletics track
- Replaced lights in the light tower
- Replaced taps in hand basins
- Repair irrigation on spectator's mound

**Sports House, Fannie Bay**

- Upgraded Badminton Court lights

**Larrakia Park, Darwin**

- Repairs to pop up sprinklers

7. Delivery of significant sporting events through contractual arrangements and at managed venues such as the V8 Supercars.
8. Successful delivery of suitable venues for Arafura Games events and V8 Supercars that met users needs.
9. Commenced first stage of Drag Racing upgrade at Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex to ensure the drag strip meets international standards by improving track safety and quality for both drivers and spectators.
10. Finalised lease agreements for sporting organisations to lease the Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex including Go Karts, Mud Racing and Speedway.

**Challenges in 2008–09: Facilities and Events**

1. Maximising the potential for delivering more income generating events at Northern Territory Government owned and managed facilities while maintaining existing Government sponsorship to user groups on an in-kind basis.
2. Delivering the Capital Works, Minor New Works and Repairs and Maintenance Programs on time and within budget, to maintain quality facilities up to required standards and produce successful events.
3. Delivering a national and international Events Program with relevant National Sporting Organisations, Peak Organisations or promoters to achieve outcomes.
4. Ensuring all Northern Territory Government controlled facilities were up to relevant standards for each of the national or international events they hosted.

**Future Priorities in 2009–10: Facilities and Events**

1. Commence planning and future development of the \$33 million Palmerston International Sports Complex that includes facilities for Australian Football League, Rugby League, Football (Soccer) and Tennis.
2. Commence planning and future development of the \$5 million Palmerston Water Park project.
3. Complete upgrade of the Marrara Indoor Stadium roof project to ensure it meets cyclone standards and can be used as a cyclone shelter.
4. Deliver Year One projects totalling \$2.5 million as part of the three year \$4 million 2008 election commitment for upgrades at Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex.
5. Finalise the outsourcing of the Leanyer Recreation Park to an external vendor to run Park operations.
6. Deliver the 2009–10 Events Program including V8 Supercars, International Cricket matches, Australian Football League, National Rugby League, National Basketball League and Women's National Basketball League games.

### GBD: Territory Wildlife Parks

Territory Wildlife Parks is a Government Business Division responsible for managing the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs and the Alice Springs Desert Park. Both Parks showcase the Territory’s unique flora and fauna in a natural environment that is both inviting and interesting for visitors. These two Parks are key tourism attractions in their regions and act as a catalyst for visitors to extend their stay in the regions, with subsequent benefits for the tourism industry as a whole.

This Government Business Division has a budget of \$9.86 million.

There are two Business Lines within this Government Business Division:

- Alice Springs Desert Park; and
- Territory Wildlife Park.

### Business Line: Alice Springs Desert Park

The Alice Springs Desert Park showcases to visitors Central Australia’s unique fauna and flora in a series of natural habitats that are inviting and interesting for the visiting public. The Park is a key tourism attraction, providing economic outcomes for the region and the Territory by attracting more visitors and encouraging them to stay longer.

It contributes to conservation outcomes by breeding threatened species, delivers environmental education through interpretation and public and schools education. It also delivers social outcomes through Indigenous employment and improving cross cultural understanding.

### Performance Measures: Alice Springs Desert Park

Business Line: Alice Springs Desert Park	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Visitors	91 042	74 615	74 500	74 702	76 000
Key new visitor experiences	4	3	2	2 <sup>1</sup>	4
Threatened species breeding programs <sup>2</sup>	4	4	5	5 <sup>3</sup>	4
<b>Quality</b>					
Visitor satisfaction <sup>4</sup>	97%	94%	95%	96%	95%
Success of threatened breeding programs	100%	100%	84%	100% <sup>5</sup>	100%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Daily guide presentations commenced on time <sup>6</sup>	97%	90%	95%	97% <sup>7</sup>	95%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Key new visitor experiences included:
  - Music in the Park – September 2008 and May 2009.
  - Volunteer program for Alice Springs youth – 28 March–5 April 2009.
2. The breeding program is a success if breeding millstones are met.
3. Five threatened species programs were completed and these were:
  - Bilby – maintained animals according to Recovery Plan specified by the Australasian Species Management Program who are responsible for managing Bilby populations across Australia.
  - Mala – successfully bred four mala.
  - Red-tailed phascogale – successfully bred 130 phascogale.
  - Western quoll – successfully bred two quolls.
  - Central rock rats – program was successful in maintaining animals post breeding.

4. Visitor satisfaction was measured through visitor surveys.
5. All threatened species breeding programs were 100 per cent successful in meeting program milestones.
6. Presentations were deemed on time if they commenced within five minutes of the advertised time.
7. Ninety seven per cent of all presentations were considered to start on time.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Alice Springs Desert Park

1. Received a five year accreditation from the Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPA) certifying the Park appropriately cares for all its animals and supports species conservation through education, research and provides a quality visitor experience.
2. Increased the number of apprentice positions at the Park from four to six to include four zoo-keeping apprentices, one horticulture apprentice and one guide apprentice.
3. Developed volunteer programs aimed at 12 to 20 year olds providing opportunities for participants to experience the diverse fauna of Central Australia, while contributing to scientific research and biodiversity conservation.
4. Hosted two Indigenous Art night markets in partnership with DesArt attracting 1300 visitors, generating \$64 000 in sales to art centres.
5. Awarded with the 2008 Northern Territory Brolga Awards for Major Tourist Attraction and for Ecotourism as well as the 2008 Tourism Central Award for New Tourism Innovation for the Park's Nocturnal Tour.
6. Assisted students of the Yipirinya School with seed collection and cutting material for plant propagation to develop a bush garden.

7. Worked with Alice Springs High School students to propagate Native Pine *Callitris glaucophylla* seedlings which were then grown and sold by students as a Central Australian Christmas Tree.
8. Provided economic and logistical support to the Park's Traditional Owners to provide a Cross Cultural Program including tours on-site and in Alice Springs.
9. Managed a landscaping program in conjunction with the Agency's Araluen Art Precinct and the Northern Territory Department of Justice for Alice Springs Prison inmates, to assist with inmates' rehabilitation through local community contributions.
10. Developed Language Bird Posters in five Aboriginal dialects to increase the awareness of common names of Central Australian bird species in Indigenous communities. This involved the Central Land Council and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Studies.
11. Conducted research into the effect buffel grass has on the wider Alice Springs Desert Park site with the Agency's Parks and Wildlife Service and Charles Darwin University. As a result of the research, the paper *Impacts of controlling buffel grass on native fauna in desert Australia* will be presented at the *Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)* international 2009 conference.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Alice Springs Desert Park

1. Conducting business in a volatile business environment and evolving the Alice Springs Desert Park to meet with changing market trends, customer needs and integrating planning and activities in-line with community expectations.
2. Continuing the Alice Springs Desert Park's strong emphasis on integrating its planning and activities with regional and community developments for Alice Springs, the West MacDonnell Ranges and Visitor Centre without compromising visitor experiences, financial capabilities and community expectations.

**Future Priorities in 2009–10: Alice Springs Desert Park**

1. Partner with like-minded organisations to develop future opportunities for new visitor experiences, cultural activities and Indigenous enterprise.
2. Commence the development of a tourism product to encompass the natural and cultural assets of the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Agency’s Araluen Cultural Precinct.
3. Commence development of new interactive and immersive experiences for children, promoting key messages of sustainable conservation and social justice.

**Business Line: Territory Wildlife Park**

The Territory Wildlife Park showcases the Top End’s unique fauna and flora in a series of natural habitats and ecosystems in a way that is inviting and interesting for the visiting public.

The Park contributes to conservation outcomes by breeding threatened species and delivers environmental education through interpretation and public and schools education.

The Park’s role as a key tourism attraction provides economic outcomes for the region and the Territory by showcasing the biodiversity attracting more visitors and encouraging them to stay longer.

The Park aims to create a visitor experience that highlight the biodiversity of the Top End’s environment as well as promoting conservation initiatives to the public.

**Performance Measures: Territory Wildlife Park**

Business Line: Territory Wildlife Park	06–07 Actual	07–08 Actual	08–09 Estimate	08–09 Actual	09–10 Estimate
<b>Quantity</b>					
Visitors	70 618	76 078	72 500	69 073 <sup>1</sup>	72 500
Key new visitor experiences	3	3	4	4 <sup>2</sup>	4
Threatened species breeding programs	3	3	2	2 <sup>3</sup>	2
<b>Quality</b>					
Visitor satisfaction <sup>4</sup>	97%	98%	95%	95% <sup>5</sup>	95%
Success of threatened species breeding programs <sup>6</sup>	100%	100%	100%	100% <sup>7</sup>	100%
<b>Timeliness</b>					
Daily guide presentations commenced on time <sup>8</sup>	95%	90%	95%	95% <sup>9</sup>	95%

### Explanatory Notes to the Table

1. Visitor numbers to the Park were down from estimates for the 2008–09 period, due to the downturn in tourism to the Northern Territory as a result of the Global Financial Crisis.
2. Key new visitor experiences for 2008–09 were:
  - Oolloo Sandbar (whip ray pool);
  - Monsoon forest experience;
  - Train turnaround and new access pathways; and
  - Visitor entry at the main station.
3. Two successful breeding programs were conducted:
  - Northern Quoll; and
  - Pipistrelle Bat.
4. Visitor satisfaction levels were measured through visitor surveys.
5. Ninety five per cent of all visitors rated their experience satisfactory or above.
6. A breeding program is successful if project milestones are achieved.
7. All milestones were met for these programs which included:
  - Northern Quoll – successfully bred 150 quolls.
  - Pipistrelle Bat – using a local bat species, a husbandry program and manual were developed along with feeding techniques to successfully capture and maintain a healthy bat in captivity. This process is to translate successful techniques to capture and care for the critically endangered *Pipistrelle* species on Christmas Island.
8. Records were kept of all presentation times.
9. Throughout the year 95 per cent of all presentations commenced on time.

### Key Achievements in 2008–09: Territory Wildlife Park

1. Successful completion of the freshwater whip ray feeding pool in May 2009, where educational presentations are now held daily.
2. Successful reduction of the Park's operating costs through the handover of the admissions/entry station and café/gift shop to local a business operator in July 2008.
3. Provided advice and support to Parks Australia, on the captive and husbandry requirements for the critically endangered Christmas Island Pipistrelle Bat, to assist them with a captive breeding program.
4. Consolidated the Twilight Tours at the Park, increasing their frequency to twice a week resulting in regular attendance levels.
5. Developed a mutually beneficial agreement with the Northern Territory Government's Department of Justice for placement of low security prisoners from Darwin Prison to perform manual labour at the Park. The Park also provided advice to prisoners on producing 'live food' (eg. crickets and mice) on a commercial basis and presented lectures on animal care.

### Challenges in 2008–09: Territory Wildlife Park

1. Operating as a Government Business Division in a turbulent economic environment with a downturn in tourism.

### Future Priorities in 2009–10: Territory Wildlife Park

1. Develop and implement formal education programs with a focus on interactions within ecosystems and Top End flora and fauna.
2. Implement a broader range of guided programs to ensure visitor expectations are being met.
3. Develop a five year vision for the Park to showcase the Top End's unique flora and fauna and ensure visitor experiences remain high for both local residents and visitors to the Northern Territory.