



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



Department of **Biodiversity,**
Conservation and Attractions



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared by the Public Information and Corporate Affairs branch of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (the department).

The department respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners of the land and waters it manages, and recognises their continuing connection to land, water and community.

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LETTER TO THE MINISTER

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Minister for the Environment

In accordance with section 63 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, I have pleasure in submitting for presentation to Parliament the Annual Report of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

This report has been prepared in accordance with provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.



Stuart Smith
Director General
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
October 2025

 **Front cover images:**
Top: Graduates, Cape Range National Park
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA
Bottom: Francois Peron National Park
This page: Lights Beach, William Bay National Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia

CONTENTS

LETTER TO THE MINISTER	1
CONTENTS	2
FOREWORD	4
SERVICE 4	14
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT	15
HIGHLIGHTS	15
LOOKING AHEAD	21
SERVICE 5	22
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT	23
HIGHLIGHTS	23
IN FOCUS: South Coast Marine Park	28
LOOKING AHEAD	37
SERVICE 6	38
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT	39
HIGHLIGHTS	39
LOOKING AHEAD	47
IN FOCUS: On call for the coast	48
SERVICE 7	50
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT	51
HIGHLIGHTS	51
LOOKING AHEAD	59
IN FOCUS: Young voices for turtle conservation	60
SERVICE 8	62
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT	63
HIGHLIGHTS	63
LOOKING AHEAD	67
SERVICE 9	68
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT	69
HIGHLIGHTS	69
LOOKING AHEAD	73
IN FOCUS: Kick-starting careers in conservation	74
SERVICE 10	76
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT	79
LOOKING AHEAD	79

 Dirk Hartog Island National Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA



 Numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*)

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY	80	GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS	96	DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE	110
SUPPORTING OUR DEPARTMENT	82	WA Multicultural Policy Framework	97	Independent auditor's report	111
Science, Strategy and Governance	82	Workplace health, safety and wellbeing	97	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	114
Finance Branch	84	Health and safety performance indicators	98	Notes to the financial statements	120
Office of Information Management	84	Operational training	98	Audited key performance indicators	176
People and Culture Branch	85	Board and committee remuneration	100	Key performance indicators	177
Policy and Legislation	86	OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS	104	Outcomes and key effectiveness indicators	178
Public Information and Corporate Affairs	87	Unauthorised use of credit cards	105	Key efficiency indicators	181
Parks and Wildlife Service managed land and waters	88	Act of grace payments	105		
Marine reserves	92	Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail	105		
Carbon farming	93	Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes	106		
Legal matters	93	Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes	108		
Ministerial directives	93	Recordkeeping plans	108		
Conservation land acquisitions	94	Agency Capability Review requirements	109		
Joint management	95	Workforce Diversification and Inclusion Strategy	109		



FOREWORD

The department's work continues to shape the future of Western Australia's natural heritage, delivering on ambitious State Government goals and forging stronger partnerships with Traditional Owners and communities across the State.

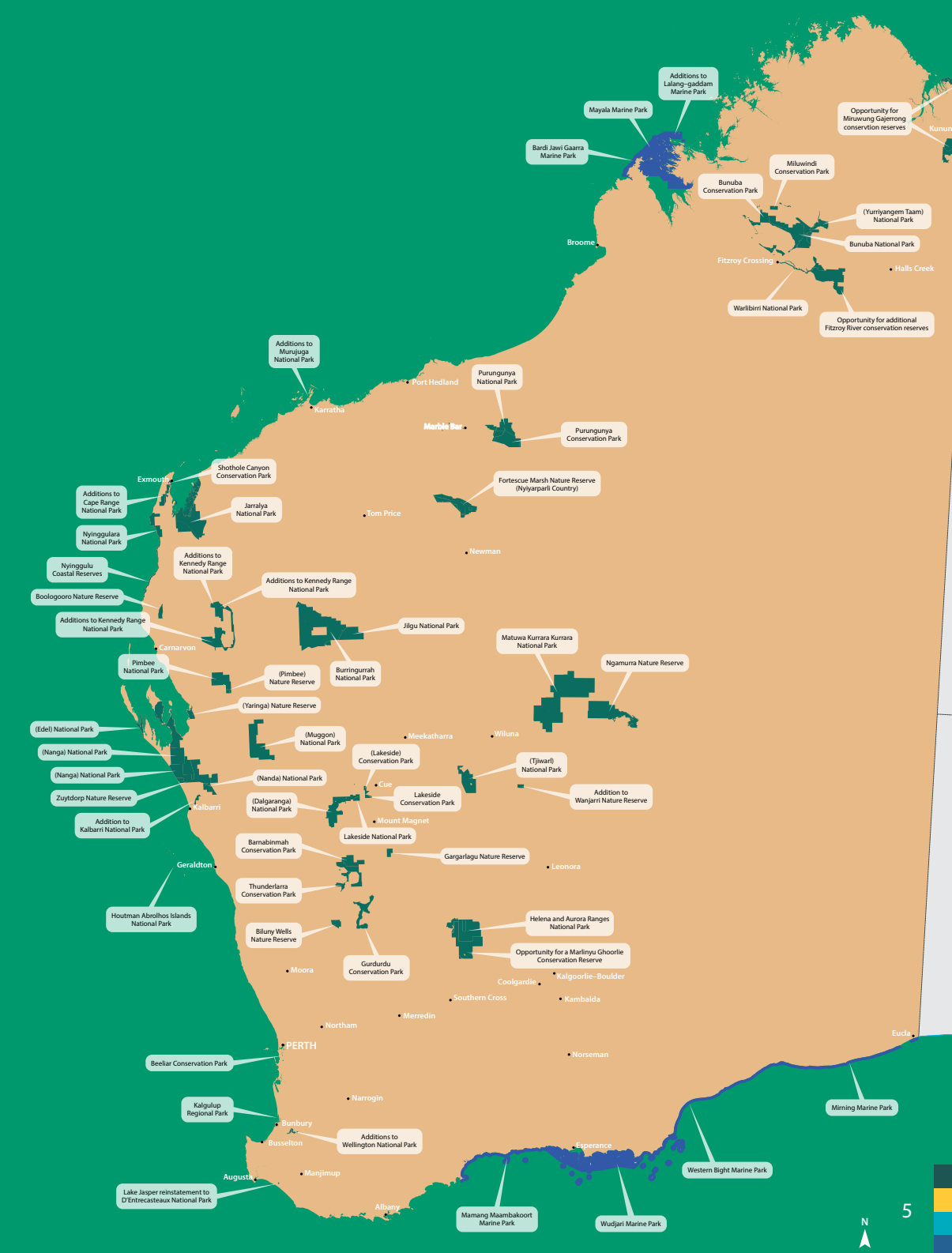


Back in 2019, the State Government set us a bold target: to create five million hectares of new conservation estate in five years, a 20 per cent increase to our parks and reserves across WA.

Today, we celebrate the creation of 6.5 million hectares of new national parks, marine parks, and other conservation reserves—an extraordinary outcome that not only surpasses the government's original goal but secures vital habitat for threatened flora and fauna across the State.

This achievement is more than a conservation milestone. It marks the beginning of a new era in land and sea management, built on deep collaboration with Traditional Owners.

To support this transformation, we updated our [Corporate Policy No. 87](#), strengthening our commitment to joint and cooperative management. This update reflects the significant growth in joint management since the policy's inception in 2015 and ensures that Traditional Owner partnerships are embedded across all departmental functions. Complementing this, we are finalising a Cultural Knowledge Protocol, co-designed with Traditional Owner groups. This pioneering framework will guide how we manage, handle, and store cultural knowledge, ensuring respectful and enduring collaboration.





Karijini National Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia

Recognising the growing importance of sustainable tourism, and as the largest provider of nature-based tourism in WA, we established a new Nature-based Tourism division to support responsible, culturally rich visitor experiences. This new division serves as a vital link between departmental staff and the tourism industry.

The Forest Management Plan 2024–2033 (FMP), now in its second year, continues to deliver meaningful progress across its foundational pillars. Over 13,000 hectares of new conservation reserves have been created, contributing to the FMP’s commitment to reserve 400,000 hectares by 2033. Expanded forest health monitoring and adaptive management trials have commenced, reflecting our commitment to evidence-based, climate-resilient forest stewardship.

Indeed, resilience of ecosystems and communities across the State is a major priority, particularly in a bushfire-prone landscape. Hundreds of DBCA fire personnel work tirelessly, often in challenging conditions, to protect lives, property and our precious natural environment. Their dedication extends beyond our borders, contributing to national and international firefighting efforts. I am grateful to those who bring resilience and professionalism to a career in fire service, and to partner agencies from interstate who have assisted in major incidents.

It takes a large community to care for a State as vast as WA, and our achievements would not be possible without the incredible contribution of our volunteers. Last year, around 6700 volunteers dedicated more than 778,000 hours to projects ranging from wildlife rehabilitation to trail maintenance. Their passion and generosity are deeply appreciated and remain central to our success.

This year brought changes in leadership, with the appointment of Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC as Minister for the Environment. We are grateful for the progress made under his predecessor, Hon Reece Whitby MLA, and look forward to continuing our strong relationship with Minister Whitby in his new Tourism portfolio.

I’d also like to acknowledge the support and continued commitment of the Chairs and board members of the statutory authorities associated with the department—the Rottnest Island Authority, Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Conservation and Parks Commission, and Swan River Trust.

Looking internally, we have strengthened the connection between science and strategy by transitioning Biodiversity and Conservation Science into the newly formed Science, Strategy and Governance group. This integration elevates the importance of science in strategic decision making, enhances our ability to deliver evidence-based policy and long-term planning, and builds agency capacity for the future.



Kylie Ireland (DBCA), Minister for the Environment
Hon Matthew Swinbourn and Minister MLC for
Youth Hon Hannah Beazley MLA with a dieback detector dog
Photo - DBCA

Sharing knowledge on the department’s
fire management responsibilities
Photo - DBCA



And, looking ahead, the recent launch of our Biodiversity and Conservation Framework reinforces that conservation is not just a part of our work, rather, it is the foundation of it, from fire to forest management.

The sum of these achievements reflects a department that is not only delivering results but leading with purpose and continually learning and improving. I extend my sincere thanks to our staff, partners and volunteers for their dedication and vision. The future of Western Australia’s natural environment is brighter because of our shared efforts.

Stuart Smith
Director General
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
October 2025

WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE WORK

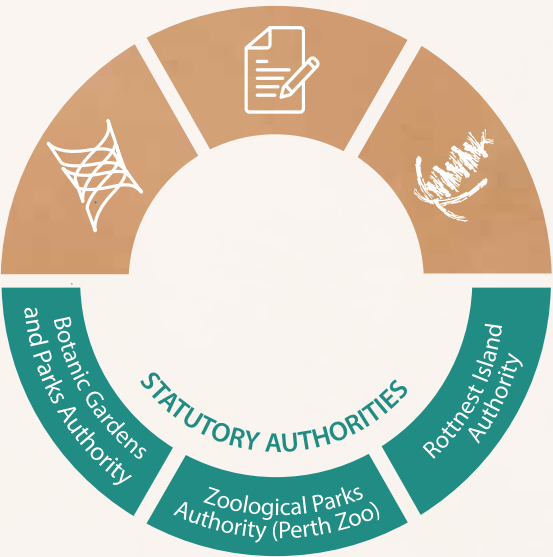
The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions works with the community to ensure that Western Australia’s environment is valued, protected and conserved.

We promote biodiversity and conservation and enrich people’s lives through sustainable management of Western Australia’s species, ecosystems, land and the attractions in our care.

The department is organised into Science, Strategy and Governance; the Parks and Wildlife Service; and three statutory authorities — Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Zoological Parks Authority (Perth Zoo), and Rottnest Island Authority.

OUR STRUCTURE

The department’s Science, Strategy and Governance group provides strategic and corporate support, policies and programs, financial management, information management, legal advice, human resources management, communications and education programs. It also coordinates and delivers science, providing biodiversity and science knowledge to support the work of the department.



- ACRONYMS**
- BGPA** Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
 - CPC** Conservation and Parks Commission
 - DBCA** Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
 - PVS** Parks and Visitor Services
 - RIA** Rottnest Island Authority
 - SRT** Swan River Trust
 - ZPA** Zoological Parks Authority

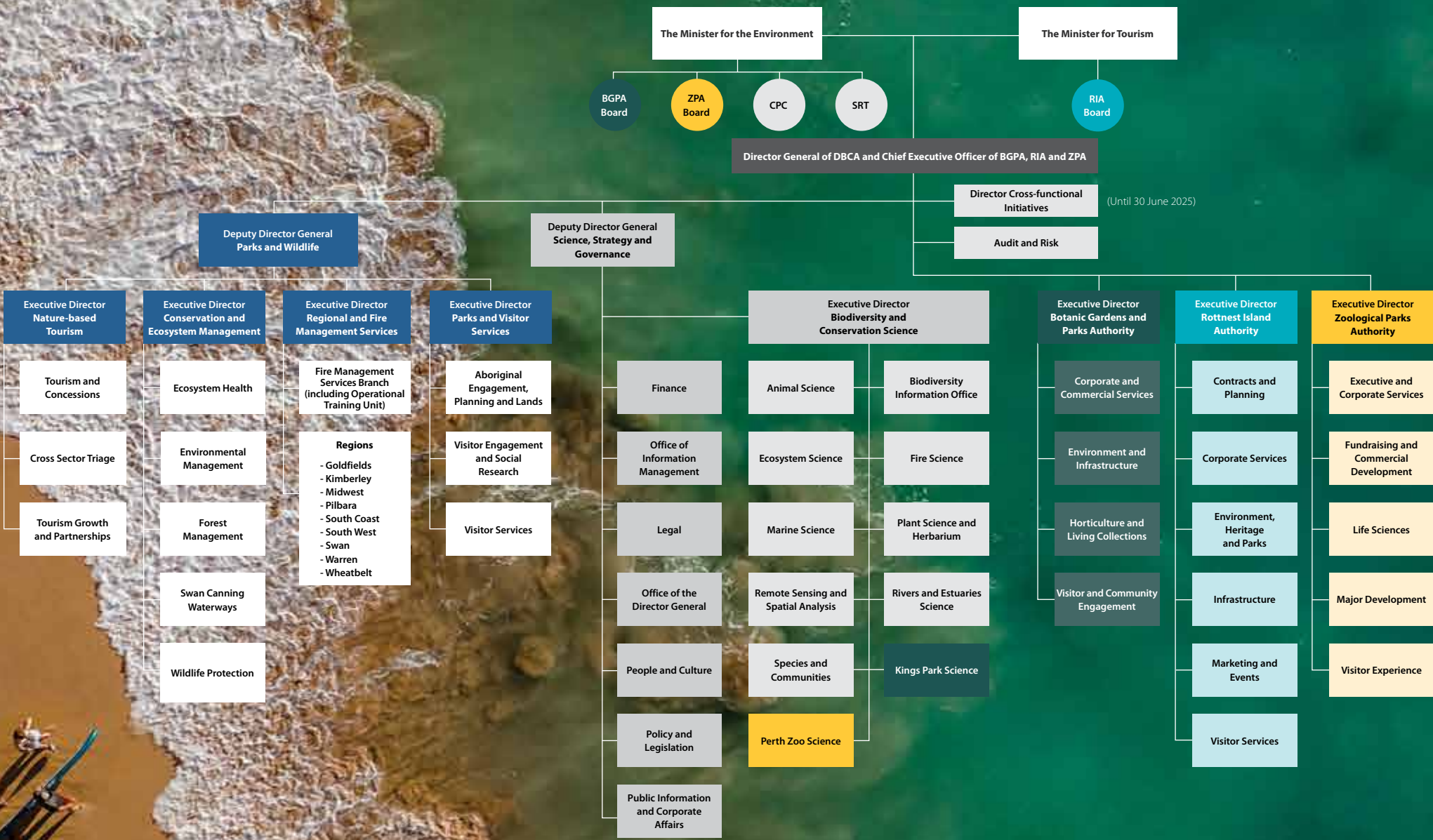
In the Parks and Wildlife Service group, work is delivered across four divisions.

Conservation and Ecosystem Management works across the department to develop and deliver strategies and programs contributing to the management of healthy and resilient ecosystems.

Nature-based Tourism promotes and facilitates sustainable, nature and culture-based commercial tourism and attractions on national, marine and conservation parks and reserves managed by the department.

Parks and Visitor Services connects people with Western Australia’s unique natural and cultural landscapes. Through partnerships with communities, volunteers, and Traditional Owners, the division promotes inclusive access, joint management, and meaningful engagement. By blending cultural knowledge with modern practices, the division delivers quality visitor experiences and strong conservation outcomes for the land and waters it manages.

Regional and Fire Management Services works with joint management partners, the community and its stakeholders in leading the operational delivery of land, marine and fire management, conservation, nature-based tourism and visitor services across 34 million hectares of land and waters under the department’s care. The division is also responsible for managing fire preparedness, feral animals and declared weeds on a further 91 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves.





AGENCY PERFORMANCE

The department supports State Government goals with specific desired outcomes, achieved via delivery across 10 services.

SERVICE 1	STATUTORY AUTHORITIES	Visitor services and public programs provided at Kings Park and Bold Park (reported separately)	Funding is provided by the department to these three statutory authorities, for the delivery of visitor services and public programs respectively.
SERVICE 2		Visitor services and public programs provided at Rottnest Island (reported separately)	
SERVICE 3		Visitor services and public programs provided at Perth Zoo (reported separately)	
SERVICE 4	Visitor services and public programs provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark*		
SERVICE 5	Visitor services and public programs provided in national parks and other lands and waters		
SERVICE 6	Conserving habitats, species and ecological communities		
SERVICE 7	Research and conservation partnerships		
SERVICE 8	Implementation of the Forest Management Plan		
SERVICE 9	Prescribed burning and fire management		
SERVICE 10	Bushfire suppression		

*For the purpose of reporting against the Outcome-Based Management Structure and for consistency with Budget Papers, Service 4 refers to the 'Swan and Canning Riverpark'. However, the legal name of the area that was established under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (SCRM Act) is the 'Swan Canning Riverpark'.

Four separate annual reports are produced across the department: one for the department and one for each of the statutory authorities.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2022-25

The Strategic Directions 2022-25 provided focused strategies for aligning and planning our work over the previous three years.

Thank you to everyone involved; our partners, stakeholders, staff and volunteers, whose collective efforts enabled the delivery of numerous initiatives.

The Strategic Directions 2025-29 is currently under development and will be released in late 2025.

OUR VISION

Biodiversity and natural places are valued by the community and conserved for the future.

OUR CORE VALUES

Integrity | Collaboration | Accountability | Respect | Excellence

Our organisational values drive the way we make decisions, interact with each other, and work together to achieve results.

Our five core values represent our commitment to a professional and inclusive workplace culture we can all enjoy.

OUR PURPOSE

INSPIRE

- Engage with the community and connect people with nature to inspire a passion for conservation.
- Provide innovative and exciting visitor experiences connecting people to nature and cultural heritage.
- Progress meaningful and productive joint management arrangements.
- Promote and support volunteer engagement in the delivery of our vision and purpose.
- Foster a valued, collaborative and respectful workforce that is connected and inspired by our work.

DISCOVER

- Use world-recognised science to build and share biodiversity knowledge to support evidence-based management.
- Collate, manage and share data to support effective decision making and conservation.
- Develop adaptive management tools to promote ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change and other threats.
- Deliver contemporary services through digital transformation of our business processes.
- Enhance our knowledge programs through partnerships with education, science and conservation organisations.

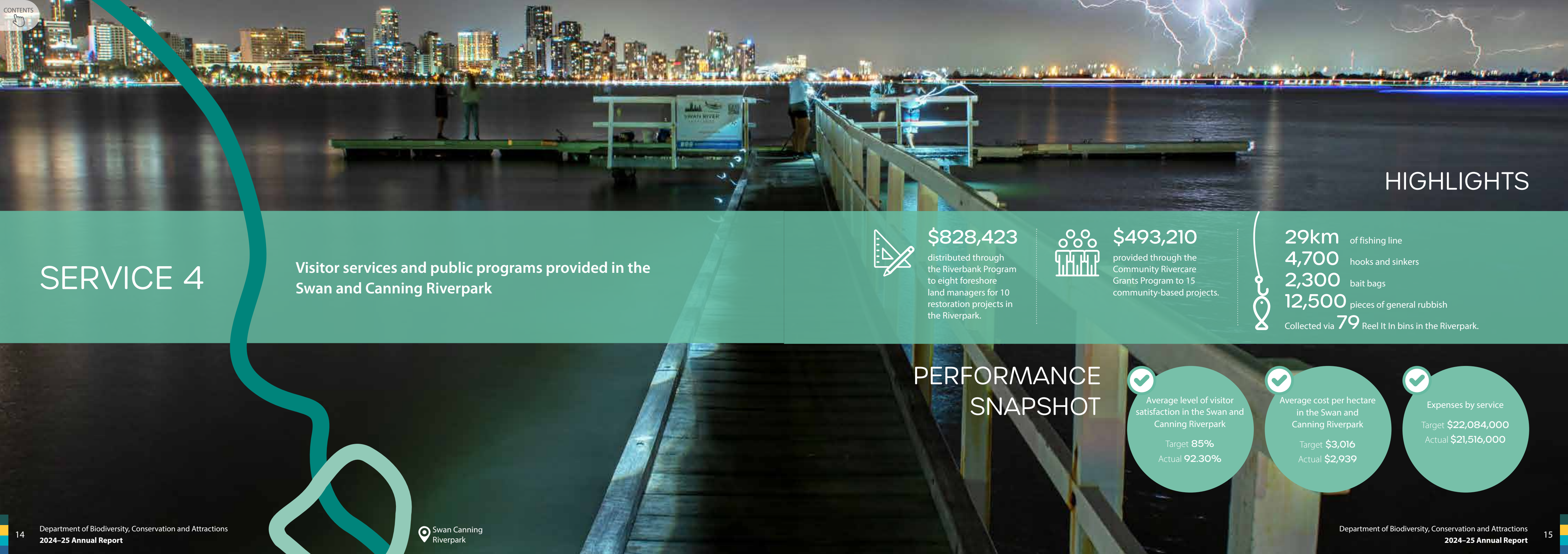
PROTECT

- Respond to pressures to maintain and enhance ecosystem function.
- Protect communities and natural values from bushfires through a commitment to prescribed burning.
- Share responsibility for bushfire management, mitigation and response with fire and emergency service organisations, volunteer bushfire brigades and private landholders.
- Collaborate and partner across government and with community, industry and other stakeholders.
- Support education and compliance activities in relation to administered legislation.

CONSERVE

- Expand Western Australia's protected area system to conserve significant landscapes and values.
- Conserve, restore and manage plants and animals, ecosystems and landscapes using world-recognised science and best practice management.
- Manage threats to maintain and enhance biodiversity and cultural values.
- Develop local, national and international partnerships to deliver conservation programs
- Partner with Aboriginal people to care for the natural, cultural and heritage values of Country.
- Maintain and enhance sense of place and associated natural, cultural, heritage and landscape values.





SERVICE 4

Visitor services and public programs provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

HIGHLIGHTS



\$828,423
distributed through the Riverbank Program to eight foreshore land managers for 10 restoration projects in the Riverpark.



\$493,210
provided through the Community Rivercare Grants Program to 15 community-based projects.



29km of fishing line
4,700 hooks and sinkers
2,300 bait bags
12,500 pieces of general rubbish
Collected via **79** Reel It In bins in the Riverpark.

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

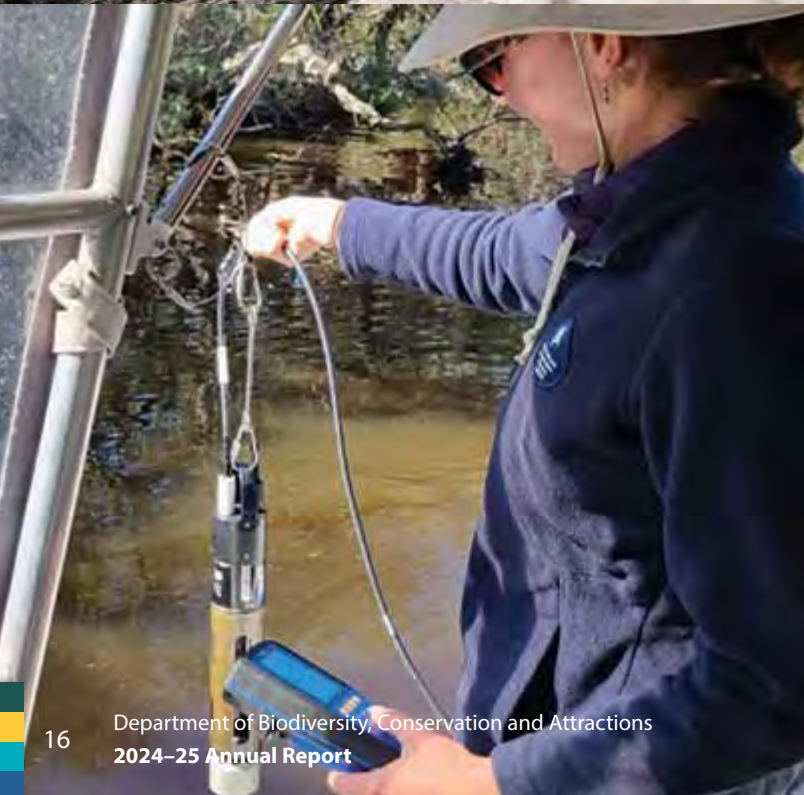
Target **85%**
Actual **92.30%**

Average cost per hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

Target **\$3,016**
Actual **\$2,939**

Expenses by service

Target **\$22,084,000**
Actual **\$21,516,000**



Healthy catchments

- The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program distributed \$280,000 to 26 community groups to implement catchment restoration projects throughout the Swan Canning catchment. This is the 27th year of the grants program, which is administered by Perth NRM and jointly funded by the Burswood Park Board, Alcoa of Australia and the department.
- Shared funding of \$655,000 among the four NRM sub-regions to support natural resources management delivery and coordination of a range of community catchment restoration projects to improve the quality of water entering the river system.
- Provided \$493,210 through the Community Rivercare Grants Program to 15 community-based projects, progressed significant projects in the NRM sub-regions and engaged with relevant stakeholders in the four NRM sub-regions.
- Ongoing administration, planning and advice guided the implementation of \$15.12 million in funding through Round 1 of the Commonwealth Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program. The City of Bayswater, The Nature Conservancy and Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group, South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare and the South East Corridor Councils Alliance are working with DBCA to deliver 19 sub-projects aimed at improving riparian and aquatic habitat, water quality and connectivity to benefit native and threatened species by mid-2028.

River health improvement

- Continued operating four oxygenation plants to support the health of the Swan and Canning rivers by improving dissolved oxygen levels, reducing nutrient release, and maintaining habitat for aquatic life.
- Installed a new fish monitoring system—a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag reader—on the Kent Street Weir to track native species and guide adaptive management. Manual gate operations over summer helped reduce harmful algal blooms and flush saline water that entered the weir pool during extreme high tides.

Riverbank

- Distributed a total of \$828,423 to eight foreshore land managers for 10 restoration projects in the Riverpark. Outcomes from this investment will include foreshore planning, erosion control, revegetation, weed control, river wall construction, enhanced foreshore and river access, widening of vegetation corridors and creation of native animal habitat. This includes funding to the City of South Perth's Coode Street Foreshore Riverbank Restoration project, which was also supported by Round Two of the Commonwealth Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.
- Continued to progress the Swan Canning Riverpark Foreshore Risk Mapping project to understand and communicate the potential impacts of climate change, erosion and inundation during the next 100 years. The project is due to be completed in December 2025.
- Delivered the final year of the first phase of the Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest program, which supported public land managers with \$3 million investment across 20 projects resulting in approximately 41 hectares of weed control and 27 hectares of revegetation with the installation of more than 500,000 native plants.



Bicton Baths boating jetty
Photo - Leuan Hook

Incidents and compliance activities

- Multiple prolonged *Karlodinium* blooms occurred in the upper Swan and Canning (below Kent Street Weir) rivers contributing to the death of around 500 fish in the upper Swan and around 100 fish in the Canning. Although *Alexandrium* was also present in the system at certain times of year, it did not reach levels of concern. Incident management teams met through the algal season to inform actions and keep other agencies, relevant stakeholders and the community informed.
- Recorded 132 incidents and complaints requiring further investigation on the department's incidents and complaints management system (ICMS). A significant number of proactive compliance patrols and audits were also undertaken throughout the year, using a combination of vehicles and vessels to access all areas of the Swan Canning Riverpark.

Maintaining the Riverpark's amenity

Ministerial approval for development of the Swan Yacht Club provides for improved community access and circulation around the river by setting back all proposed infrastructure approximately 20 metres from the high watermark of the river. This ensures ongoing public access and significant additional opportunities for movement and recreation within the East Fremantle foreshore.

River Journeys project

This project utilises the extensive network of walking trails in the Swan Canning Riverpark to develop nodes or rest points at key sites of environmental, historical and Aboriginal cultural significance. Two new River Journey nodes were delivered this year; Warndoolier node at Warndoolier Reserve (formerly Banks Reserve) in the City of Vincent, and the Joorolup node on the Burswood Park foreshore.



Visitor satisfaction

- A face-to-face visitor satisfaction survey, consisting of 350 interviews at 25 foreshores, parks and reserves around the Riverpark, showed average satisfaction levels were 92.3 per cent, exceeding the target of 85 per cent.



New Riverpark bridge crossings

- Worked closely with Main Roads WA on bridge crossings over the Swan River. This included the construction of Boorloo Bridge (Causeway pedestrian and cyclist bridge), leading to its successful completion in December 2024.
- Following the department's assessment of the Fremantle Traffic Bridge development application (DA) and subsequent approval by the Western Australian Planning Commission, works commenced in mid-2024 with the first temporary piling occurring shortly thereafter in October. To date, all in-river works, aside from the riverbed scour protection, are complete, with all environmental controls proving effective with no significant incidents recorded.
- Engaged in discussions with the Public Transport Authority (PTA) and Department of Transport regarding the Swan River ferry expansion project. The first stage is intended to include new terminals at Applecross and a location near the University of Western Australia. Five new locally manufactured electric ferries will be delivered to support the expansion. The department has been working closely with the PTA during project development.

Statutory assessments

Issued 146 approvals for works or activities in the Swan Canning development control area and provided advice on 153 development applications, eight structure plans and 38 subdivision applications that were in, next to, or affecting the Swan Canning development control area. Five development applications were assessed, and recommendations made to the Minister for the Environment under Part 5 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (SCRM Act).

Granted 20 permits to commercial operators, increasing the variety and number of tourism activities in the Riverpark. This included social river cruises as well as water-based operations such as equipment hire and on-water tours.



Canning River
Photo - Rhiannon Bartley



Joorolup (Burswood)

Strategic activities

- Worked with the Swan River Trust throughout 2024 to prepare a new River Protection Strategy (RPS) following a five-year review of the original RPS (as legislatively required by the SCRM Act). The RPS provides a coordinated whole-of-government approach to protect and enhance the ecological and community benefit and amenity of the Derbal Yirragan Djarlgarro (Swan Canning river system). The department has worked with the community and stakeholders across State Government, local government, NRM groups and the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation to draft the new RPS, which includes the identification of key river system values, with objectives and strategies aimed at protecting these values, as well as targets to help measure progress throughout its implementation. The department will look to commence implementation of the RPS in the coming year following its endorsement and finalisation.
- Continued to deliver actions as a partner in the State Government's Kep Katitjin – Gabi Kaadadjan: Waterwise Perth Action Plan 2 until September 2024. The department then collaborated with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and other partner agencies to develop Kep Katitjin – Gabi Kaadadjan: Waterwise Action Plan 3, which was released in October 2024. The department is leading or partnering in the delivery of seven actions.

- Continued to support the New Water Ways (NWW) capacity building program, which provides water sensitive urban design information and support to State and local governments and the urban development industry. This support included funding provision, NWW board membership, and the review and approval of NWW publications. Support was also continued for the implementation of a water sensitive urban design for Perth and Peel through membership of the Water Sensitive Transition Network and delivering actions from the Vision and Transition Strategy for a Water Sensitive Greater Perth - Implementation Plan (2022-2024).
- Reviewed the Water Corporation's waterwise plants directory to check for environmentally problematic species, recommending the removal of 66 plants from the directory mostly due to their environmental weed status, and requested warnings about not planting near bushland be added to the notes for another 19 plants in the directory. The department will be involved in annual reviews of the waterwise plants directory.



River Guardians festival



Community engagement and behaviour change

- The Plastic Free Riverpark (PFR) program was a four-year State Government commitment from 2021 to 2025. The program worked with riverfront food and beverage businesses, sporting organisations, charter boat operators and event organisers to help reduce single use packaging in and around the Swan and Canning rivers through the provision of grant funding. Across the life of the program, more than \$180,000 was awarded via 87 grants, and more than three million single use packaging items were eliminated from use. In 2024–25, the program awarded more than \$40,000 in small grants to eight riverfront business and eight event organisers/venues to establish plastic reduction projects and behaviour change initiatives, including reusable cup libraries, water refill stations and community education. The program also supported the provision of event consultations with five local governments, conducted by Boomerang Alliance.
- The River Guardians program reached 2737 subscribers and provided RiverWise training, volunteering opportunities, and presentations from scientists and behaviour change experts addressing key issues impacting the Swan Canning river system. Seven training and/or clean-up events were delivered, attracting 362 participants.
- Installed a new four-panel sign featuring information on the Swan Canning Riverpark at Dyoondalup Point Walter Reserve, Bicton.
- Held three 'Our gardens with Josh Byrne' RiverWise gardening workshops in spring 2024, attracting 246 participants. An online poll found 99 per cent of respondents had a better understanding of the impacts that fertilisers can have on our waterways and 82 per cent were very likely to use less fertiliser, less often and at more appropriate times.
- Held the highly successful River Guardians Festival on the banks of the Swan River in South Perth in April and attracted 742 attendees. The event was delivered in partnership with ABC Radio Perth, City of South Perth, Josh Byrne and Associates and 16 stall holders consisting of non-government organisations, community and conservation groups, educators, and State and local government organisations.
- Delivered 49 incursions and excursions through the River Guardians school education program, reaching 988 students. Another 11 river-related activities were held over the school holidays, attracting 240 attendees.
- The Reel It In project has 79 dedicated fishing line bins at popular jetties, fishing platforms, traffic bridges and foreshores throughout the Riverpark. Project participation included 13 riverfront local governments and 68 volunteers who have adopted fishing line bin sites within the Riverpark. In 2024–25, the bins collected more than 29 kilometres of fishing line, 4700 hooks and sinkers, 2300 bait bags and more than 12,500 pieces of general rubbish in the Riverpark.

Riverpark information reported in other services

Information on the department's ongoing response to algal issues, as well as science projects supporting the understanding and mitigation of threats to the Swan and Canning rivers, can be found in Service 6: Conserving habitats, species and ecological communities and Service 7: Research and conservation partnerships.



LOOKING AHEAD

- Ensuring land use planning protects and enhances Riverpark values and meets community demands.
- Delivering environmental programs to improve the health of the river system, its foreshores and the associated Swan Canning catchment and their resilience to environmental and community pressures.
- Delivering operational and compliance activities and facilitating recreation and commercial activities in the Riverpark to enhance community benefit and amenity.
- Establishing and implementing a planning and policy framework to achieve collaborative, coordinated Riverpark management.
- Enhancing community social responsibility to engage more citizens of Perth to help look after the Swan Canning Riverpark.



Revegetation at Lightning Swamp Reserve
Photo - DBCA

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
2024–25 Annual Report



SERVICE 5

Visitor services and public programs provided in national parks and other land and waters

The Aboriginal Ranger Program moved into Phase 2 which is supporting **77 projects** across 55 Aboriginal organisations throughout Western Australia.



The department is now in joint management with 30 Traditional Owner groups, equating to over **42%** of the conservation estate.

PLAN FOR OUR PARKS
6.5 million hectares of land and waters has been conserved through Plan for Our Parks.

HIGHLIGHTS

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT



Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other land and waters

Target **91%**
Actual **93.71%**

Average cost per hectare in national parks and other land and waters

Target **\$6.12**
Actual **\$6.63**

Expenses by service

Target **\$224,504,000**
Actual **\$228,017,000**

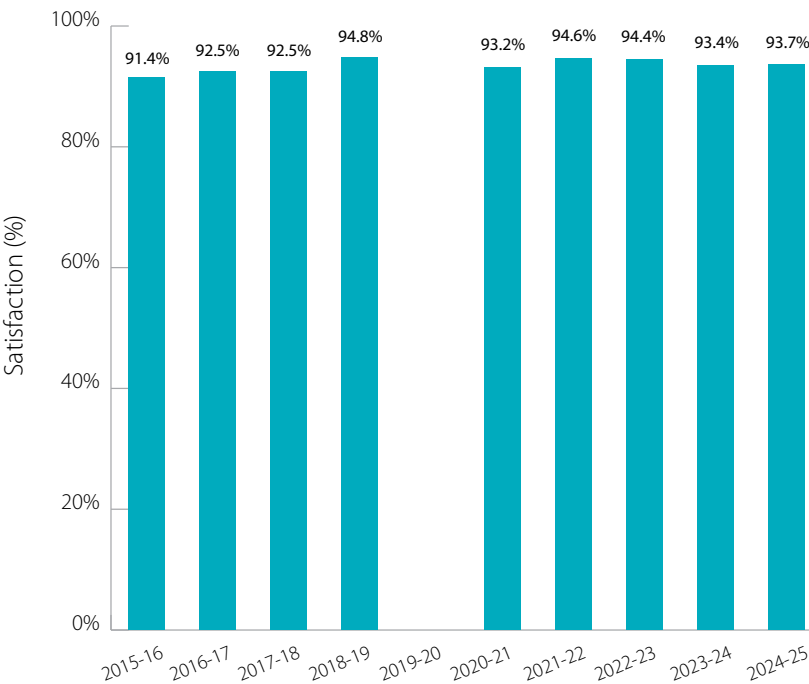
Park visitor statistics

The 2024-25 visitor satisfaction index, averaged from visitor responses to surveys at 54 parks, reserves and forest areas across the State was, 93.7 per cent. This outcome, with results from previous years of the survey program, is illustrated in Figure 1.

During 2024-25, there were 25.03 million visits to Parks and Wildlife Service-managed land and waters, an increase of three per cent from the previous year (Figure 2). Most regions saw stable visitation, with DBCA's South Coast region seeing the largest proportional increase throughout the year.



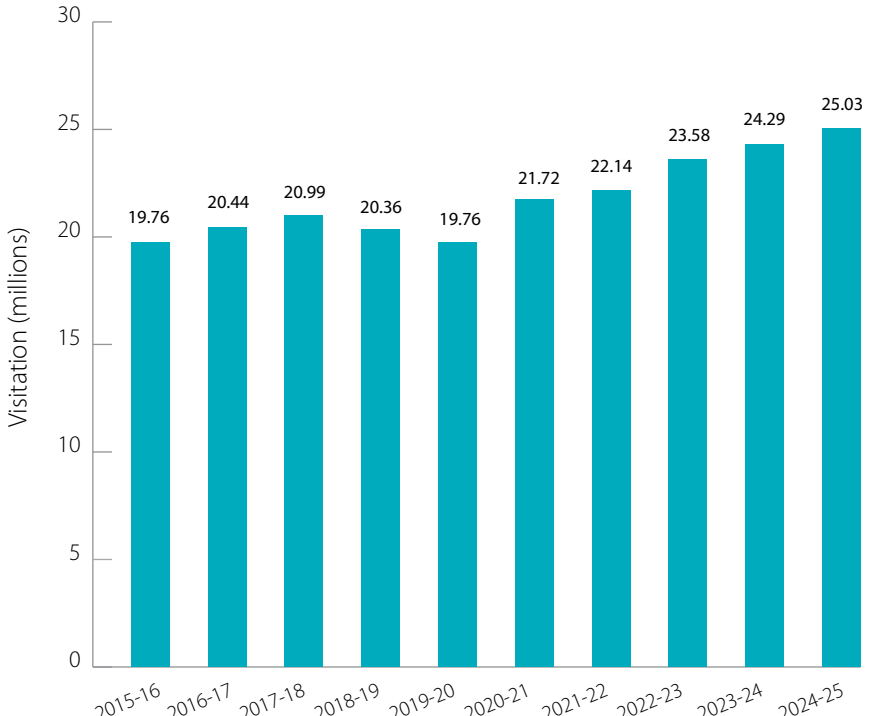
Figure 1: Visitor satisfaction levels within Parks and Wildlife Service-managed land and waters



Note: In 2019-20 an exemption from reporting 'Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other land and waters' was granted due to the impact of COVID-19.



Figure 2: Total visits to Parks and Wildlife Service-managed land and waters



Note: Data in this graph is taken from the department's visitor statistics (VISTAT) database and is a true and correct record of best available data at the time of reporting. As VISTAT is a live database, corrections and amendments are made on an ongoing basis meaning figures presented here may differ from those in previous reports.

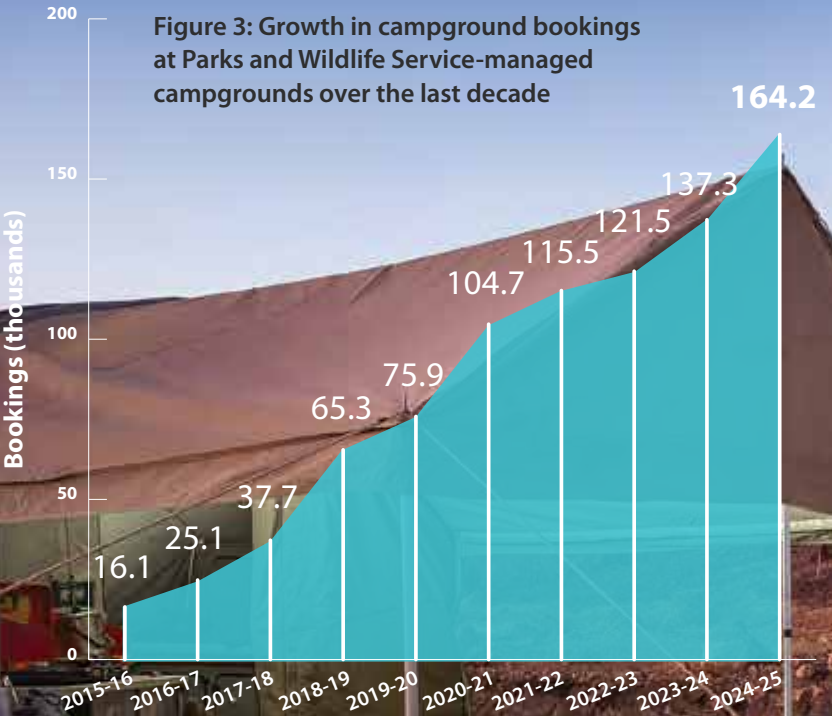


Figure 3: Growth in campground bookings at Parks and Wildlife Service-managed campgrounds over the last decade

Note: Figures presented here may differ from those in previous reports due to coming from a live booking system.

During 2024-25, there were 164,200 online bookings for campsites managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service, an increase from 137,300 last year.

The increase is likely due to the continuing trend of Western Australians exploring their own State, with more than 50 per cent of campers indicating they are likely to go camping in one of our national parks or other conservation areas again within the next 12 months.



Plan for Our Parks event
Photos - DBCA



Purungunya Conservation Estate
Photo - DBCA



Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park
Photo - Peter Nicholas/DBCA



Kennedy Range National Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia



Plan for Our Parks

The department exceeded the State Government's goal of creating five million hectares of new national parks, marine parks and other conservation reserves over five years under the Plan for Our Parks initiative. By the end of 2024, 6.5 million hectares of Western Australian land and waters had been conserved through Plan for Our Parks. This is an unprecedented conservation achievement for the State.

"This stands as one of our Cook Government's most important legacies for WA and is an important gift to all Western Australians in perpetuity".

*Hon Reece Whitby MLA
Minister for Tourism (and former Minister for the Environment)*



PLAY
Plan for our Parks

South Coast Marine Park
Photo - DBCA



[+] IN FOCUS:

South Coast Marine Park

Creation of the marine park added approximately 1.3 million hectares to WA's marine park network, making it the first oceanic marine park on the south coast. It also was the single largest addition to Plan for Our Parks—the State Government initiative which set out to create five million additional hectares of conservation reserve over five years across Western Australia—propelling it to a grand total of 6.5 million hectares.

The marine park is comprised of four adjoining parks, the boundaries of which align with the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar, Esperance Tjaltjraak, Ngadju and WA Mirning Native Title determination areas. Joint management of the parks is commencing with Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar (pictured below), Esperance Tjaltjraak and WA Mirning Native Title holders. Joint management with Ngadju Native Title holders will be enabled through the Western Bight Management Plan.

The four parks collectively protect the incredible marine biodiversity of the south coast of WA and maintain its cultural heritage, while allowing sustainable fishing and activities such as diving, boating and tourism, and will bring visitors and economic benefits to the area.



PLAY
Ancient ancestral beauty of
Western Australia's south coast



**PLAN FOR
OUR PARKS**

6.5 million hectares
of land and waters has been
conserved through Plan for
Our Parks.



While conservation was a key driver in rezoning the area, DBCA acknowledged the south coast community and industry's need to still access the coast for recreation and commercial use. The department held meetings with fishers, community groups, and local authorities to gather valuable feedback, and further outreach included a nine-week information station in Esperance, market stalls, and participation in the Condingup Fair. Public consultation culminated in a four-month public submission period, which garnered over 20,000 responses. All feedback and submissions were carefully considered, and helped inform the final zoning for the South Coast Marine Park, which reaches from Bremer Bay to the South Australian border.





Yindjibarndi and Midwest rangers, Millstream Chichester National Park
Photo - DBCA

Partnerships

- Implemented existing joint management and cooperative management agreements with Traditional Owners, and developed and implemented management plans and departmental programs and negotiated new joint management agreements.
- Continued collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on operational planning and integrating service delivery in marine parks.
- Continued to partner with the Commonwealth Government for the delivery of services in Commonwealth marine parks adjacent to WA marine reserves. Activities included mooring maintenance and management in Mermaid Reef Marine Park, marker buoy maintenance in Geographe Marine Park, visitor communication and education services for Ningaloo Marine Park, and annual joint planning activity.

Creation of other conservation areas

- In September 2024, Barong Conservation Park (63,974 hectares) was created and jointly vested with Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation.
- In November 2024, Barong National Park (69,567 hectares) was created and jointly vested with Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation.
- In April 2025, Karara Conservation Park (74,553 hectares) was created and jointly vested with Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation.
- The department is working with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to progress the omnibus Reserves Bill 2025 which will amend Class A and other conservation reserves across Western Australia. This Bill amends the tenure of 11 department-managed reserves and completes long-held community aspirations, including creating a 3211-hectare conservation park in the Shire of Wandering.



The department also completed the creation of three new nature reserves (total 301 hectares), two new conservation parks (75 hectares) and an addition to Pigaring Nature Reserve (14 hectares). These reserves are located in the Swan, South West, South Coast and Wheatbelt regions.

Management planning and implementation

- Four management plans for the South Coast Marine Park were gazetted on 17 December 2024. The Mamang Maambakoort, Wudjari, and Mirning marine parks will be jointly managed with the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar, Wudjari, and Mirning Traditional Owners, respectively. The Western Bight Marine Park management plan 2024 enables joint management with Ngadju Traditional Owners. Together, these marine parks form the South Coast Marine Park, which covers approximately 1,293,050 hectares of Western Australian waters.
- The draft joint management plan for the Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve was prepared in consultation with Nyiyaparli Traditional Owners, represented by the Karlka Nyiyaparli Aboriginal Corporation. The plan was released for public comment from 16 December 2024 to 21 February 2025. Six submissions were received from conservation groups, mining and industry stakeholders, and government.
- The Badimia parks and reserves draft joint management plan, located across the Midwest, Murchison, and Wheatbelt, was developed in consultation with Badimia Traditional Owners, represented by the Badimia Bandi Barna Aboriginal Corporation. The draft plan was released for public comment from 6 September to 8 November 2024. A total of 12 submissions were received, and the department and joint management partners are currently evaluating the proposed changes.

Elevating nature-based tourism

- Created a new division dedicated to nature-based tourism in August 2024. This new division brings a strengthened focus to nature-based tourism and reflects the importance that it has to Western Australia, its tourism industry, regional communities and economy.
- Delivered new initiatives to support businesses operating in parks to promote high industry standards that respond to consumer demands and strengthen WA's reputation as a sustainable, inclusive and accessible destination of choice, including increasing commercial operations licence terms from 10 to up to 20 years to provide operators with the confidence to invest in their business, and driving performance through accessibility and emissions reduction industry standards.
- Liaised with new and established businesses to look for new opportunities and further increase experiences and services. DBCA is aiming to broaden the range of visitor experiences and accommodation in partnership with the tourism industry, providing bookable tourism experiences through licensed tourism operators and tourism lessees.
- Enhanced the tourism offering and visitor experience in Coral Bay by conducting a publicly advertised competitive process to grant additional restricted licences for vessel-based tour operations from Coral Bay. As a result, two new tours successfully progressed through the process: a multi-day live-aboard experience and a new snorkelling tour.
- Continued to work closely with joint management partner Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation to implement outcomes from visitor planning for Lalang-gaddam Marine Park. This includes engagement with tourism operators and other stakeholders to transition visitor experiences in and around Garaan-ngaddim Horizontal Falls to new, culturally appropriate tourism offerings.
- Involved in producing the next iteration of Jina: Aboriginal tourism action plan 2025-2030 with the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council and Tourism WA, whilst implementing the 2021-2025 Jina plan.



Managed almost 500 commercial operations licences for tourism, assessed and granted 54 commercial event applications, granted or renewed 25 leases or access licences, and managed 4219 apiary sites.



Shark Bay, Francois Peron National Park
Photo - Tourism Australia



Coral Bay, Cape Range National Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia

Recreation, trails and facilities

- Upgraded or replaced visitor facilities in a range of parks and reserves across the State. This included improvements to visitor access and facilities at Little Beach in Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, an upgraded lookout and path at the Rabbit Hill day-use area in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, and construction of a new staircase to improve access to Shelley Beach, near Walpole.
- 2024-25 was the final year of funding of the WA Recovery Plan, with carparking, trails and visitor facility improvement works completed at Misery Beach/Bald Head and Stony Hill sites in Torndirrup National Park. A new mountain bike trail network, trailheads and signage have been completed in Walpole-Nornalup National Park as well as a stage two mountain bike trail in John Forrest National Park. Building improvements have been completed at Serpentine National Park near Perth and Milyering Discovery Centre near Exmouth.
- Progressed the Cape to Cape Track improvement project and made significant progress on the installation of new steps, stairs and boardwalks, as well as the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park sign improvement project. The establishment of new trailhead features has commenced at the two lighthouses.
- Completed upgrades to visitor access and facilities in Kalgulup Regional Park in Bunbury including a new boardwalk at Mangrove Cove.
- Advanced the Collie Adventure (Wambenger) Trails project in Wellington National Park to improve visitor access and facilities. Key achievements include the widening and upgrade of River Road to enhance southern access to the national park, the construction of new walkways and lookouts for viewing the Reflections mural, and the installation of automatic pedestrian gates on Wellington Dam. Upgrades to the Wellington Dam kiosk precinct will commence in 2025, including the construction of a new kiosk, landscaping works, and improvements to power and water infrastructure.
- The Dwellingup Adventure Trails project is nearing completion, which aims to provide new and improved hiking and mountain bike trails in Dwellingup/Lane Poole Reserve. Recent works include the construction of new river access structures to support canoe launching on the Murray River, a 16-kilometre expansion of the Dwellingup mountain bike trail network, and upgrades to the Nanga Brook and Marrinup Falls walk trails.
- Completed remaining National Heritage grant projects at Reddel Beach, including the construction of visitor facilities such as carparks and beach access upgrades. Trail design for the Miluwindi Lennard Gorge trail has been finalised, and construction is underway.
- Continued to partner with the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, Munda Biddi Trail Foundation and Friends of the Cape to Cape Track to maintain and enhance three of the State’s most iconic long-distance attractions.



 Giants Trails, Walpole-Nornalup National Park
Photo - Bron Anderson/DBCA



 Mangrove Cove boardwalk, Kalgulup Regional Park
Photo - DBCA

- As part of 2021 election commitments, upgrades to existing visitor access and facilities in 2024–25 included:
 - Nearing completion of the \$21.2 million transformation of Karijini National Park. Key works completed include the sealing of Weano Road, Knox Road, Banjima Drive, and carparks at Weano, Knox, and Fortescue Falls, as well as road shoulder improvements on Dales Gorge Road. Additional upgrades include the installation of a new, larger lookout at Knox Gorge, shade sails at Weano Gorge, and new interpretive panels throughout the park. Construction of new toilet facilities at Knox Gorge has also commenced.
 - In Yellagonga Regional Park, works included the completion of the Yalbunullup Mountain Bike Park with a new carpark and shelter, commencement of a new boardwalk at Lake Goollelal, and final planning and design for improved access and parking at Perry’s Paddock.
 - Commenced improvements to North Lake within the Beeliar Regional Park, with the completion of a new carpark and dual use pathways.
 - Completion of new visitor facilities and services at Penguin Island Conservation Park, including boardwalks, gathering and picnic areas, an upgraded solar power supply, and refurbished volunteer and staff facilities, to support visitation and minimise impacts on the island’s little penguin colony.
 - Completion of road and carpark upgrades at The Gap and Cable Beach sites in Torndirrup National Park as part of Stage 2 improvement works. A new toilet

complex at The Gap is nearing completion, and design has commenced for upgrades to the Cable Beach lookout, beach access, and trail connection to The Gap and lighthouse.

- Completion of new West Ridge access road and carpark, with construction underway on an elevated walkway over Jane Brook, as part of the John Forrest National Park improvement project.
- During the year, the department commenced implementation of the \$32.85 million Outdoor Adventure Tourism (OAT) program, which included:
 - Initiation of the planning and design phase for campground projects, completion of road and access upgrades at Conto Campground, and commencement of toilet construction and site improvements at Green Island (west of Manjimup) and Nanga Mill in Lane Poole Reserve.
 - Progress on trails projects, with site assessments and approvals underway at Red Gorge in Karijini National Park and the Kalamunda Trail in the Perth Hills. Construction of new trails is well advanced at both John Forrest National Park and the Pemberton Arboretum.
 - Ongoing improvements to climbing tree infrastructure in Pemberton, including contractor engagement for a new lookout at Gloucester Tree and commencement of design work for the Bicentennial Tree, which remains open to the public.



 Valley of the Giants
Photo - Nic Quinn



Kalbarri National Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

Aboriginal engagement

- In May 2024, the department launched its new [Reconciliation Action Plan 2024–27](#).
- The department continued to focus on developing successful and ongoing joint management partnerships with Traditional Owners and engaging with Aboriginal people to facilitate opportunities to access and care for Country to protect, promote and conserve Aboriginal cultural heritage. The department is currently in joint management partnerships with 30 Traditional Owner groups across the State.
- Under the South West Native Title Settlement, the department has now entered into cooperative management agreements with all six regional corporations. Cooperative management committees (CMCs) have been established with:
 - Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation
 - Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation
 - Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation
 - Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation
 - Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation
 - Yued Aboriginal Corporation.
- A significant milestone for three of the Noongar CMCs was the nomination of their first priority areas that will be jointly managed as a part of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) commitments.
- An online cultural learning program developed by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is being implemented to help employees gain a better understanding of Aboriginal history, culture and contemporary social issues, while DBCA’s mandatory Aboriginal cultural awareness training was completed by 176 employees in 2024-25.

- Entered into six new ILUAs and two other agreements with Traditional Owners to create and manage new parks. These agreements provide Aboriginal employment, training and funds for capacity building, contributing to Closing the Gap outcomes 8, 14, 15 and 16.
- Convened a State Government interagency working group designed to contribute to Closing the Gap outcomes 15 and 16.

Aboriginal Ranger Program

Continued to administer the Aboriginal Ranger Program (ARP) delivering jobs, training and community development opportunities for Aboriginal people across a range of tenures mostly in regional and remote communities in WA. Since 2017, \$103 million has been allocated to the ARP, predominately funded by Royalties for Regions.

Phase Two of the ARP is an \$83 million investment supporting 77 projects across 55 Aboriginal organisations throughout WA.

ARP has created on-Country jobs for 1400 Aboriginal people since its launch in 2017.

Volunteer and community engagement

- At 30 June 2025, 11,970 volunteers were registered with the Parks and Wildlife Service. Of these, 6753 volunteers contributed 778,000 hours to 224 volunteer projects across the State including campground hosting, seed collecting, weed clearing, wildlife rehabilitation, WA Herbarium, animal surveys, terrestrial and marine plant surveys, and track, trail, and park maintenance.
- In 2024-25, the Volunteer Coordination Unit registered 1967 new volunteers and created three new volunteer projects, including the Friends of Maidens Reserve and the Forest Health Monitoring project.
- Continued to work closely with many ‘Friends of’ and four-wheel-drive groups, major wildlife rehabilitation centres and other community-based organisations, supporting local communities in conservation and environmental projects.

The Campground Host Program had 323 volunteers contributing 145,166 hours across 58 sites, providing a vital role in visitor management and campground maintenance.

- Facilitated more than 800 training placements for volunteers to increase knowledge, skill levels and personal development. Training included first aid and mental health first aid, weed identification, wildlife and snake awareness, and seed collection.
- Recognised 17 individual volunteers for their outstanding work supporting the department, with 11 recognised for more than 20 years of service, at the annual volunteer awards in December 2024. Three community groups also received outstanding service certificates.
- Presented 90 long serving volunteers with lifetime parks passes to recognise more than 20 years of continual volunteer service for DBCA at an event in May 2025.
- Held three events in partnership with Nature Play WA through the Every Kid in a Park program, with a focus on accessibility for the disability sector and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. Consultation was undertaken to ensure appropriate parks, activities, resources and communities were chosen.
- Registered more than 1.7 million visits to the [Explore Parks WA](#) website, while the Explore Parks WA social media pages also experienced an organic growth in their followings, with a six per cent increase in followers on Facebook and a 1.4 per cent increase on Instagram.



Photo - Katinka Ruthrof /DBCA





Murujuga National Park
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

World and National Heritage management

- Worked collaboratively with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation and the Commonwealth Government to facilitate formal UNESCO assessment of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape World Heritage nomination.
- The State Government signed a Statement of Intent to guide an agreement on the management, protection, and conservation of Murujuga Country, and the department continued work to support the Strategic Agreement Making Project, which is aligned with the World Heritage nomination.
- Continued to manage three natural World Heritage areas: Ningaloo Coast, Shark Bay and Purnululu National Park, and administer the biannual meetings of the three property-specific advisory committees.

Visitor risk management

The department has a responsibility to consider the personal safety and welfare of visitors to department-managed land and waters. It aims to manage the potential for misadventure and injuries to visitors in a manner that does not unnecessarily diminish visitor use and enjoyment through a statewide visitor risk management program, led by the Regional and Fire Management Services division.

- Sadly, nine visitors died in the extensive areas managed by the department during the reporting period. Six of these occurred from drownings, including one rock

fishing-related drowning. One death occurred due to a motor vehicle accident, one due to dehydration and one a pre-existing medical condition.

- Established and filled a Visitor Risk Management Project Officer position during 2024-25 to provide support and additional capacity in the visitor risk management program.
- In response to an increase in drownings, the department has commenced a project to review existing risk mitigation strategies at locations with a history of water-related safety incidents.
- Worked on a range of issues regarding visitor safety including heat stress management, remote camping, walk trail classifications and redevelopments, and improvements to recreational sites and facilities.
- Seventy-two frontline employees completed a nationally accredited visitor risk management course provided by the department.
- Continued to support DPIRD with the Beach Emergency Number sign system (BEN), with BEN signs installed in the Murchison, Pilbara and Kimberley areas during 2024-25.
- There were no public liability legal matters during 2024-25. Six public liability insurance claims were submitted to the department's insurers during the year; all were assessed and declined in accordance with the insurers' evaluation processes.

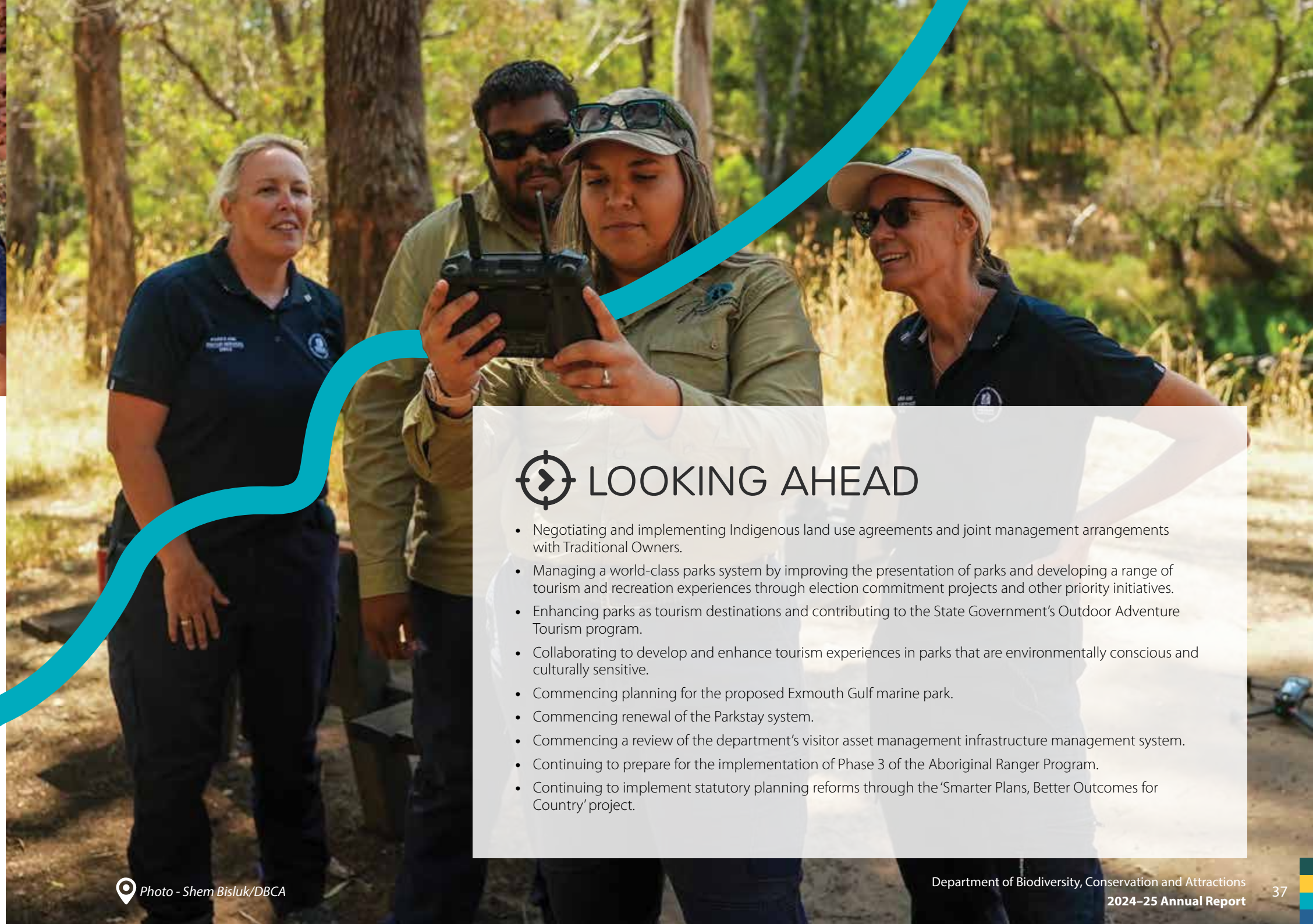
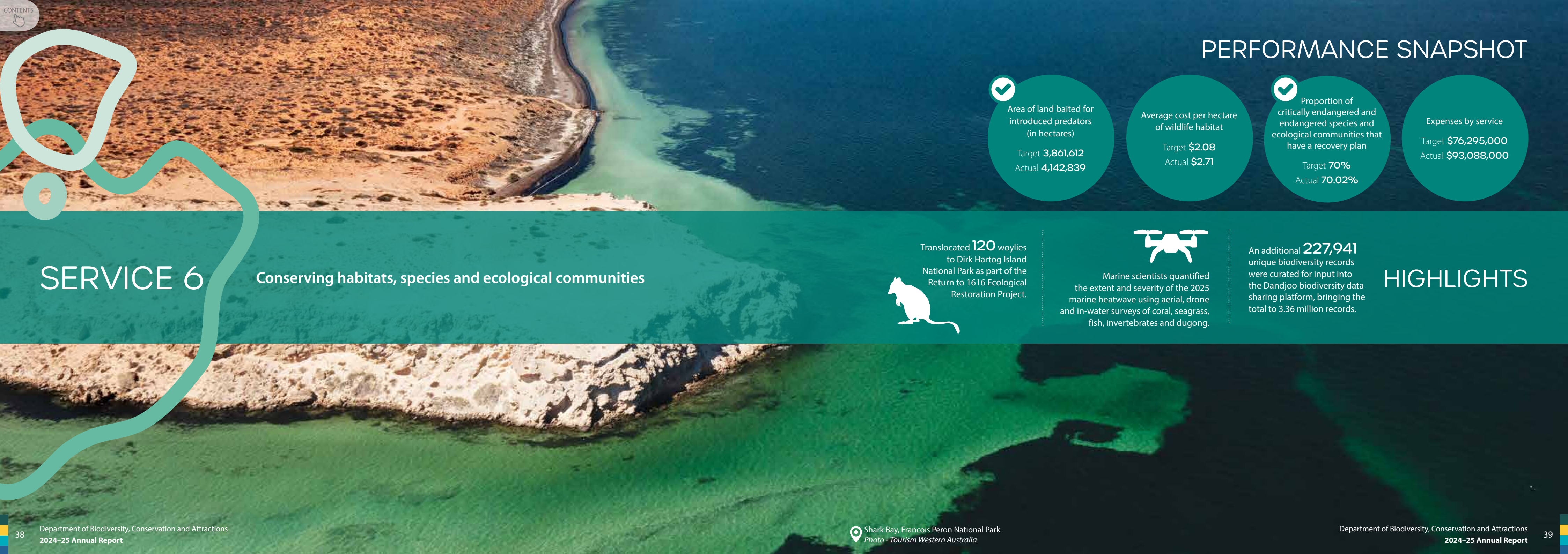


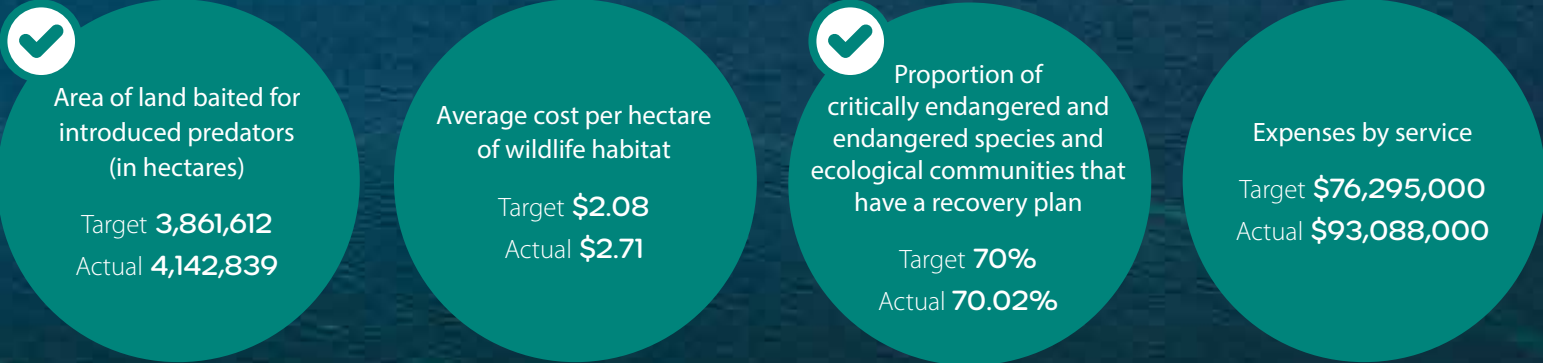
Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA

LOOKING AHEAD

- Negotiating and implementing Indigenous land use agreements and joint management arrangements with Traditional Owners.
- Managing a world-class parks system by improving the presentation of parks and developing a range of tourism and recreation experiences through election commitment projects and other priority initiatives.
- Enhancing parks as tourism destinations and contributing to the State Government's Outdoor Adventure Tourism program.
- Collaborating to develop and enhance tourism experiences in parks that are environmentally conscious and culturally sensitive.
- Commencing planning for the proposed Exmouth Gulf marine park.
- Commencing renewal of the Parkstay system.
- Commencing a review of the department's visitor asset management infrastructure management system.
- Continuing to prepare for the implementation of Phase 3 of the Aboriginal Ranger Program.
- Continuing to implement statutory planning reforms through the 'Smarter Plans, Better Outcomes for Country' project.



PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT



SERVICE 6

Conserving habitats, species and ecological communities



Translocated **120** woylies to Dirk Hartog Island National Park as part of the Return to 1616 Ecological Restoration Project.



Marine scientists quantified the extent and severity of the 2025 marine heatwave using aerial, drone and in-water surveys of coral, seagrass, fish, invertebrates and dugong.

An additional **227,941** unique biodiversity records were curated for input into the Dandjoo biodiversity data sharing platform, bringing the total to 3.36 million records.

HIGHLIGHTS



Western Australian Herbarium
Photo - Soco Studios

Biodiversity conservation legislation, policy and strategic programs

- Provided advice on environmental values and the conservation reserve system to inform regulatory processes for key State Government initiatives and major resource developments of economic importance to Western Australia. These included bauxite and iron ore mining expansion, critical mineral exploration and mining, salt and potash mining, hydrogen and renewable energy, oil and gas, port developments, and major infrastructure including Metronet, Mitchell Freeway and Tonkin Highway extensions, Bunbury outer and Albany ring roads, East Keralup Regional Development, the State Football Centre and Kemerton Industrial Estate.
- The Biodiversity Information Office made the State's biodiversity data more discoverable, accessible and useable. An additional 227,941 unique biodiversity records were curated for input into the Dandjoo biodiversity data sharing platform, bringing the total to 3.36 million records.

- The climate adaptation research program for biodiversity under the Western Australian Climate Adaptation Strategy continued to address knowledge gaps and identify on-ground actions to enhance climate resilience of threatened species and ecological communities in the south-west of the State.
- Provided advice to help guide Penguin Island infrastructure upgrades to minimise potential impacts on the island's little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) colony and supported the newly established Little Penguin Advisory Group which will provide advice to DBCA on potential conservation actions, key knowledge gaps, priority research and monitoring activities, and areas for collaboration.
- Commenced species and site disease risk assessments to inform the State's preparedness for H5 avian influenza.
- Commenced a program to undertake biological surveys across the Perth and Peel regions to provide data necessary for assessing housing development proposals and enhance the capacity of the Western Australian Herbarium and Western Australian Museum to provide biodiversity information to inform land use decision making.



Photo - DBCA

Threatened and important animals

- Over the 12 months of the reporting period, there was no change to the number of animal species listed as threatened or extinct.
- Records of 53,590 sightings, captures or evidence of threatened and priority animals were added to the Threatened and Priority Fauna database.
- Continued investigation of the influence of fire on the vulnerable quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) in the northern jarrah forest, and research into population changes of threatened mammals and feral cats in response to prescribed burning commenced in south-west forests to inform fire management.
- Continued monitoring at Lake Magenta Nature Reserve in the Wheatbelt to better understand the status of the vulnerable heath mouse (*Pseudomys shortridgei*) and other animal species such as the vulnerable chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroyi*), following feral cat control in the reserve.
- Development continued of a non-invasive monitoring approach using genotyping methods for more rapid, cost-effective and reproducible screening of faecal DNA samples for several threatened species, including the endangered northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), and vulnerable rufous hare-wallaby (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*), chuditch, Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*) and greater stick-nest rat (*Leporillus conditor*). Application of this approach will enable more effective monitoring of trap-shy and cryptic species.
- Undertook investigation of potential translocation sites for captive-bred Margaret River hairy marron (*Cherax tenuimanus*) to assess options for ex situ conservation of the species.
- Studied potential barriers to gene flow and mechanistic species distribution models under climate change to inform ongoing translocations of the threatened frogs *Anstisia alba* and *A. vitellina* in the south-west of the State.
- Developed and implemented a robust survey design using cameras to monitor endangered Gilbert's potoroo (*Potorous gilbertii*) and sandhill dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*) populations to support adaptive management.
- Targeted chuditch surveys have improved knowledge of current distribution and assisted with understanding population size, trajectory and connectivity across the species' range.
- Continued monitoring of critical weight range mammals and native vegetation condition across the network of long-term monitoring sites in Kimberley conservation areas to guide fire management and large feral herbivore control.



Vets triaged 436 injured black cockatoos that were taken to Perth Zoo for treatment, in many cases with assistance from the public, wildlife carers and wildlife officers. These included 32 endangered Baudin's black cockatoos (*Zanda baudinii*), 204 endangered Carnaby's black cockatoos (*Zanda latirostris*) and 200 vulnerable forest red-tailed black cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus banksia naso*).

- Invasive predator management using trapping and Felixer® grooming traps helped protect founder and translocated populations of critically endangered Gilbert's potoroo, critically endangered western ground parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus flaviventris*) and endangered noisy scrub-bird (*Atrichornis clamosus*) in the South Coast region.
- Continued camera monitoring of malleefowl nests and mounds and DNA analysis of egg fragments throughout the Helena and Aurora Ranges and expanded to include Wanjarri Nature Reserve and the unnamed national park in the Tjiwarl conservation estate.
- Monitoring of critical weight range mammals such as the western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), chuditch, quokka and numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) continued across the Warren region and in collaboration with the invasive predator management and prescribed burning programs.
- As part of the Rangelands Restoration Project, boodies (*Bettongia lesueur*) are now naturally dispersing outside their predator-proof enclosure at Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara National Park via purpose-built two-way tunnels (pipes), and occupying relic warrens.
- Commenced surveys for the endangered sandhill dunnart in Queen Victoria Springs Nature Reserve to determine presence and activity levels, gather DNA material and trial detection methods.
- Commenced trials using innovative eDNA sampling techniques to detect hard to survey threatened fauna such as native bees in the Swan region including Forrestdale Lake, heath mouse (*Pseudomys shortridgei*) at Lake Magenta Nature Reserve, and dibblers (*Parantechinus apicalis*) at Dirk Hartog Island, to evaluate their potential as more effective population monitoring tools.

Whales and dolphins

- Whale disentanglement and carcass management was a key focus for conservation, animal welfare, shark risk and public health management.
- This year, the department enhanced its response capabilities by providing further large whale disentanglement training and specialist equipment to staff. Technical advice was also extended to external agencies and industry stakeholders, supporting broader efforts to mitigate whale entanglement risks and manage carcass-related incidents.
- Responded to a mass stranding event of 10 melon headed whales (*Peponocephala electra*) at Crab Creek, Broome in January 2025.
- Defined biologically important areas for humpback (*Sousa sahalensis*) and snubfin (*Orcaella heinsohni*) dolphins to inform decision making and recovery planning. Bi-annual and three-yearly dolphin census surveys were conducted with Yawuru and Dambimangari in their Kimberley sea countries.

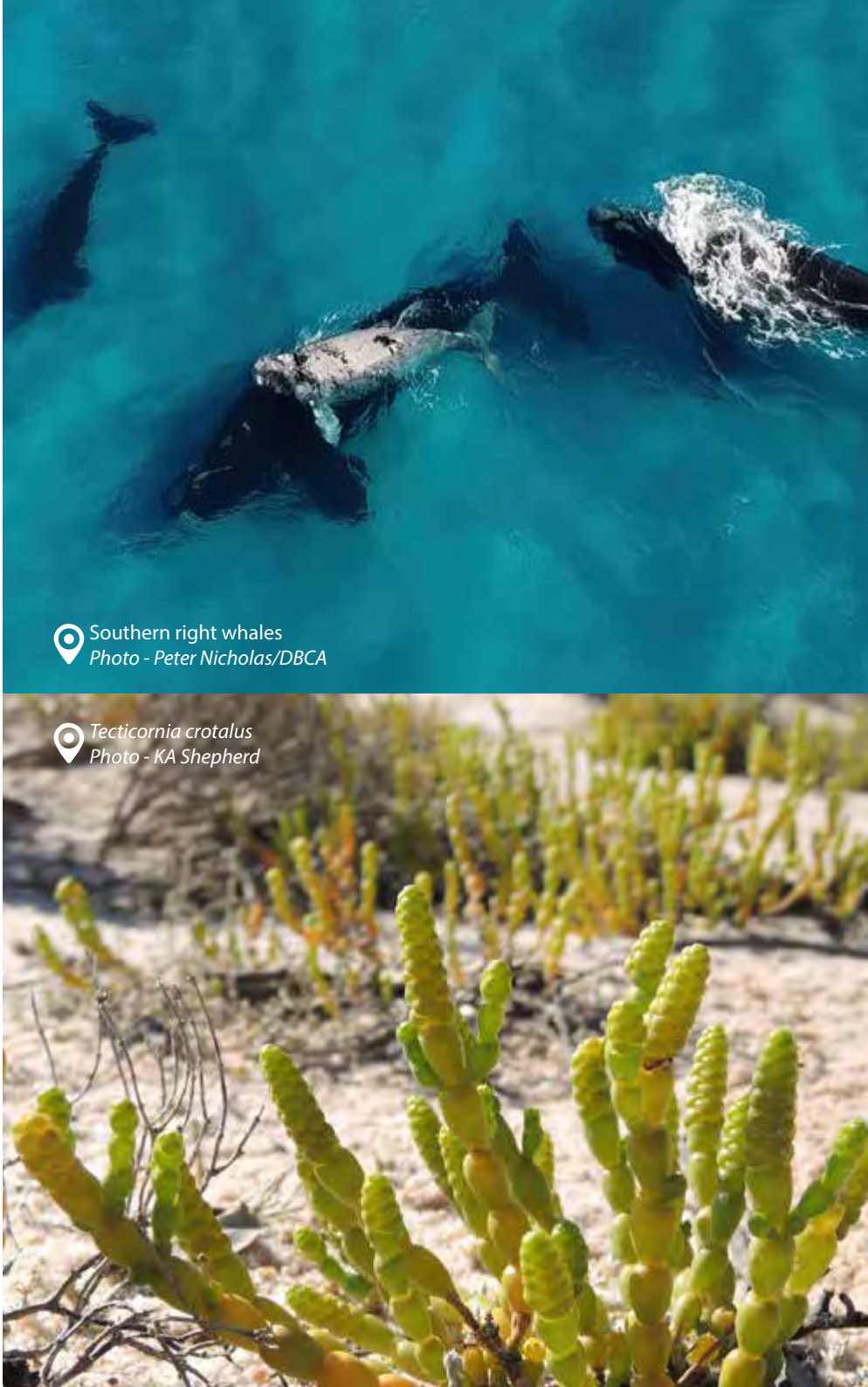
Threatened and important plants

- As of June 2025, 444 plant species were listed as threatened under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act)—174 critically endangered, 151 endangered, 119 vulnerable. Sixteen were listed as extinct. Another 3507 taxa were on the department’s priority flora list.
- A total of 1878 records were added or modified in the Threatened and Priority Flora database; of this there were 1082 records for threatened flora (321 critically endangered, 442 endangered, 319 vulnerable), 792 records for priority flora, and four records for extinct flora.



- Increased the WA Herbarium collection by 9830 specimens, bringing the total number of specimens held to 863,388. A total of 280 names were added to the Plant Census.

- Publications in Nuytsia, the journal of the WA Herbarium, named and described 36 new plants and fungi. Of these, 24 species are conservation listed including two short-range endemic samphires from the Goldfields.
- Continued survey work on priority flora in the Kimberley region. Twelve new populations for 10 priority species were found in Prince Regent National Park and Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges Conservation Park.
- Banked a total of 93 seed collections of threatened flora at the WA Seed Centre Kensington, representing 26 critically endangered, 12 endangered and six vulnerable species. In addition, 27 accessions of priority plants were incorporated, representing 18 species. Seed for 14 species was germinated for use in translocations. The department continued to provide technical advice and assistance for projects involving seed collection and use.
- Genomic research helped to clarify the taxonomic and conservation status of threatened plant species such as *Adenanthos eyrie* and the mulga group of *Acacia*.



Southern right whales
Photo - Peter Nicholas/DBCA

Tecticornia crotalus
Photo - KA Shepherd

- Orchid research supported the development of an innovative propagation protocol for the rare orchid *Thelymitra variegata* to support ex situ conservation activities. DBCA undertook translocation activities for *Caladenia lodgeana* to increase its population size.
- Translocated populations of the critically endangered *Daviesia euphorbioides* and *Lysiosepalum abollatum* were infilled with new seedlings to improve their genetic diversity and increase their population sizes.
- Completed a prescribed burn to regenerate a population of the vulnerable *Conostylis rogeri* and *senescent kwongan* habitat in Hopkins Nature Reserve.
- Rediscovered the presumed extinct *Myriocephalus nudus*. The taxonomy of the species is now being updated and a nomination prepared to change its listing classification from extinct to threatened.
- Provided advice to guide applications for research projects focused on seagrass restoration in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area.

Threatened ecological communities

- As of June 2025, 65 ecological communities were listed as threatened under the BC Act: 20 critically endangered, 17 endangered and 28 vulnerable. Three ecological communities were listed as collapsed and 390 were on the department’s priority ecological communities (PECs) list.
- Contributed to the Auditor General’s report into DBCA’s management of threatened ecological communities (TECs), which was tabled in State Parliament on 26 June 2025.
- Completed management actions including fencing, weed and pest animal control, revegetation, phosphite spraying, fire management and hydrological infrastructure maintenance, benefiting TECs and PECs across the State.
- Description of revised floristic communities of the southern Swan Coastal Plain is continuing. This will better define some TECs and assist with assessing development proposals.
- Analysis of flora survey data has confirmed a new occurrence of the *Melaleuca huegelii* – *Melaleuca systena* shrublands on limestone ridges ecological community (floristic community type 26a).

Managing threats

- In cooperation with neighbouring landowners, ongoing management was undertaken across the State to conserve significant animal and plant populations and ecological communities and to maintain and protect the cultural and natural values of parks and reserves. This included fencing, signage, feral and pest animal control, weed mapping and control, hydrological investigations, monitoring, revegetation, dieback control, rubbish removal and fire management.

Invasive animals

- Delivered landscape scale predator management across approximately 4.2 million hectares of department-managed and partner lands under the feral cat and Western Shield programs. This includes continued predator control at Calvert Range, Durba Hills, Matuwa Kurrara and Fortescue Marsh with monitoring showing a significant decline in feral cat occurrence. Eradicat® baiting was extended to Millstream Chichester National Park.



- Continued regular monitoring to track the recovery of native species and reduction of predators in baited areas.

- Commenced a research program under the Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy 2023–2028 to refine feral cat control strategies and improve monitoring approaches. The integration of Eradicat® to seven sites in the South Coast and Wheatbelt regions continued to provide significant benefits to native species susceptible to feral cat predation. Grants worth \$500,000 were allocated to three community-driven projects focused on controlling feral cats and protecting native wildlife.
- Continued to implement the Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2021–2026. This included implementation of taste aversion training for goannas (*Varanus* species) and isolated freshwater crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) populations.
- Undertook ongoing feral pig monitoring and control across the Warren region, targeting high conservation value areas including peat wetlands and sunset frog (*Spicospina flammocaerulea*) habitats.
- Collaborated with key stakeholders to undertake fox control and predation rate monitoring at three flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*) rookeries in Mundabullangana, Onslow and Ashburton Delta. There was no recorded predation of nests at Mundabullangana this breeding season, down from 26 per cent in 2014.

Plant diseases

- Surveillance for myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) in the east Kimberley has continued since initial detection of the pathogen in 2022. Climate suitability modelling for the pathogen continued, including under future climate scenarios.
- Applied phosphite to 172 hectares of Montane Heath and Thicket TEC, Montane Mallee Thicket PEC, Kwongkan TEC, *Banksia coccinea* shrubland, *Melaleuca striata* and *Leucopogon flavescens* Heath PEC and occurrences of 15 threatened flora (including 11 critically endangered) species. Backpack application of phosphite for dieback control was undertaken on highly susceptible species such as the critically endangered *Lambertia echinata* subsp. *occidentalis* and the endangered *Banksia nivea* subsp. *uliginosa* and *Banksia biterax* in the critically endangered shrublands on the Southern Swan Coastal Plain Ironstones TEC.
- Continued to administer the system for registering dieback interpreters and monitoring standards of interpretation. In 2024–25 there were 35 registered interpreters (18 employed by the department and 17 in the private sector). The 2024 annual review of the system for auditing dieback assessments found that of the 268 assessments audited, 257 were low risk, four were moderate risk and seven were high risk, demonstrating high standards of interpretation. Thirteen field checks were undertaken and only one improvement notice was issued.
- Desktop checks of 80 activities and seven field checks monitored dieback management of disturbance activities.
- The Vegetation Health Services laboratory processed more than 2000 samples to support dieback mapping and management around the State.
- The green card course in dieback and plant biosecurity awareness and basic management was completed by 111 people and the dieback management planning course was delivered to 60 people.

Climate change impacts

- Burn severity modelling for the south-west forests was applied during prescribed burning seasons. Indicative severity maps have assisted to assess the effects of prescribed burning on a range of forest and vegetation types and inform the development of operational applications in future years. The models have also been applied to historical fires as a basis for analysis of burn history.
- Continued to investigate and monitor the impacts of vegetation die-off in the south-west during the summer of 2023-24. Understanding regional, site-based and management contributions to die-off vulnerability will enable ecologists and land managers to anticipate future events, target research and identify adaptive management strategies that could help reduce the risk of die-off.
- Work continued to examine the value of maintaining jarrah forest fire dams as a source of water for native fauna in a drying climate using eco-acoustics, eDNA and camera traps.

- Quantified the extent and severity of a major marine heatwave from December 2024 to May 2025 through aircraft, drone and in-water surveys of coral, seagrass, fish, invertebrates and dugong (*Dugong dugon*) along the Pilbara, Gascoyne and Kimberley coast.

Weeds

- Flupropanate herbicide was demonstrated to be effective in management of African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) to protect threatened flora populations on the Swan Coastal Plain.
- Continued the *Mimosa pigra* eradication program on the eastern shores of Lake Argyle, managed by the department’s Aboriginal Rangers for Reserve 31165 project.



- Delivered the weed management course to 39 students, with 14 students progressing to weed champions (trained to deliver the course), and the weed management basics course was completed by 11 students.

- Continued Parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) control upstream of Fortescue Marsh. Since 2012, 67,500 hectares has been treated, removing more than 210,000 Parkinsonia plants.
- Continued long term monitoring and planning for regular treatment rotations for a research project on the interactive effects of fire and weed management in urban bushlands at Kings Park and Bold Park. Analyses of weed cover, fuel dynamics and *Banksia* woodland composition and condition are underway.

Herbivore management

- A network of kangaroo exclosures in *Banksia* woodlands on the Swan Coastal Plain continued to be monitored to assess the impacts of browsing on vegetation community composition and structure to inform sustainable kangaroo management and interactions with drought.
- Continued management of large feral animals in the Kimberley with 3952 animals (feral cattle, donkeys, camels and pigs) removed from Mitchell River, Prince Regent and Purnululu national parks, and Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges Conservation Park in 2024-25. The number of animals removed has been decreasing over time and fences have been constructed at strategic locations in several conservation reserves to reduce the incidence of straying stock from neighbouring pastoral leases.
- The Pilbara regional large feral animal program continued with 1398 animals removed from Karlamilyi, Millstream Chichester and Karijini national parks and Barlee Range Nature Reserve.

Wildlife translocations

- Genetic analyses continued to support selection of source sites for translocations of threatened mammals including chuditch, the endangered black-flanked rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis lateralis*) and the Margaret River hairy marron with the aim of maximising genetic diversity to increase the likelihood of future translocation success and to inform captive breeding programs.
- The wild release of 13 endangered numbats into Secret Rocks Reserve South Australia and 20 critically endangered western swamp tortoises (*Pseudemydura umbrina*) to Moore River National Park from breeding programs at Perth Zoo is improving conservation of these species. Three numbats were translocated from the Upper Warren area to Perth Zoo to provide genetically representative founders for the zoo breeding program.
- A program to rear vulnerable orange-bellied frogs (*Anstisia vitellina*) and critically endangered white-bellied frogs (*Anstisia alba*) led to the release of 120 white-bellied frogs to supplement wild populations near Margaret River.
- Bred critically endangered Margaret River hairy marron at Perth Zoo for the third consecutive year, with research continuing to optimise husbandry practices for this species.
- Translocated two critically endangered woylies (*Bettongia penicillata* subsp. *ogilbyi*) from the Kingston area into Perup Sanctuary to supplement the genetic diversity of the havened population.
- Translocated critically endangered woylies from the Upper Warren area and Dryandra Woodland National Park to Dirk Hartog Island National Park, as part of the Return to 1616 Ecological Restoration Project.

Marine science

- Collected and reported data on the condition of and pressures on key ecological values in WA’s marine reserves. Surveys were conducted at the following marine parks: Montebello and Barrow islands, Mayala, Ningaloo, Exmouth Gulf, Bardi Jawi Garra, Lalang-gaddam, North Kimberley, Ngari Capes, Shoalwater, Marmion and Jurien Bay. Macroalgae was surveyed across Jurien Bay, Marmion and Shoalwater Islands marine parks. Over 12,000 new and historical images have been analysed to build an understanding of changes in macroalgae cover and community composition on temperate reefs over the last 14 years.
- Aerially assessed 53 sites for coral bleaching in the Kimberley and assessed 66 sites at Ningaloo Reef and Exmouth Gulf. Reef flat, crest and slope habitats were assessed at most sites, providing a detailed understanding of status of corals during the 2024-25 marine heatwave event.
- Conducted 33 underwater remote operated vehicle surveys in Exmouth Gulf, Muiron Islands and Ningaloo Reef investigating multiple benthic habitats including coral reef, clam beds and macroalgal sites to obtain baseline data and determine long-term monitoring sites. These surveys also assisted with in-water assessment of coral bleaching.



Marine Science Program
Photo - DBCA



Western swamp tortoise release,
Moore River Nature Reserve
Photo - DBCA



Black-flanked rock wallaby release,
Kalbarri National Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

Rivers and estuaries science

- Collected data to report on water quality and the condition of, and pressures on, key ecological values through the River Protection Strategy, which defines approaches for future management of the Swan Canning Riverpark.
- Produced seagrass distribution and habitat maps and evaluated novel approaches to improving and protecting habitat. The maps improve the information available for development planning in the Riverpark.
- Undertook tracking and reporting of harmful algal blooms, and reported weekly to inform incident response. Research has improved genetic identification, toxin characterisation and control of harmful species and will be used better guide management responses.
- Research expanded understandings of risks associated with PFAs and other contaminants in biota and created an inventory of plastic infrastructure in the Riverpark. The latter documented the degree of degradation in this infrastructure to inform policy development.

Wetlands

- A program to better characterise and monitor key values and habitat variables at the State's Ramsar wetlands continued. This included developing surveys of waterbirds at the Lake Argyle and Lake Kununurra Ramsar site.
- Commenced a biological survey of wetlands in the Badimia joint management area and samples of flora and aquatic invertebrates are being processed, with one new species of aquatic earthworm discovered to date.
- Undertook a study of habitat suitability of Bengier Swamp, south of Harvey, for the endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), with a focus on food resources and detection of residual agrochemicals. The wetland was found to support abundant invertebrates, native fish and amphibian species, indicating food resources are likely not a limiting factor.
- New analyses of wetland depth and salinity data from south-west wetlands have provided a framework for understanding dynamics of shallow semi-arid wetlands. This enabled analyses to distinguish salinisation caused by rising groundwater as opposed to declining rainfall with implications for informing where to apply effective salinisation mitigation measures.

Forest science

- Studied the response and effectiveness of ecological thinning to enhance and maintain forest health at the Munro State forest block demonstration plot near Balingup, including the use of eco-acoustics to monitor effects on vocalising fauna and the collection of sap flow and soil moisture data to monitor the effects of thinning on plant water use and tree health.
- Studied the effects of thinning on tree water use, soil moisture, evapotranspiration and micrometeorology at the Yarrigil 4L experimental thinning trial at Yarragil State forest block and at an un-thinned reference area at Amphion block.

- Undertook laboratory work to study the hydraulic traits of jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) trees. Preliminary results indicate the capacity of these species to adjust their hydraulic traits to cope with different soil conditions and growth environments and some of the mechanisms that enable marri to be more drought tolerant than jarrah.
- Continued monitoring of fauna, vegetation and fire regimes in two adaptive management research sites, focusing on application of fine-grained mosaics fire in forests near Collie and Nannup.

Science activities related to the Forest Management Plan 2024–2033 (FMP) are reported in Service 8: Implementation of the Forest Management Plan.

Off-reserve conservation



- The Land for Wildlife program registered eight new properties, bringing the total area of registered sites managed privately for conservation to 1,246,114 hectares over 2056 properties.

- The Nature Conservation Covenant Program registered 11 new covenants (nine conditional and two voluntary) and is currently negotiating six voluntary and four conditional covenants. Conservation covenants have been established on 415 titles and protect a total area of 31,103 hectares of habitat, including habitat for threatened species and ecological communities, a Ramsar-listed wetland and registered Aboriginal heritage sites.

Sustainable use of natural resources

- Monitoring of established sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) plots was undertaken, including the installation of new monitoring plots in areas lacking population status information, to inform the implementation of the Sandalwood Biodiversity Management Programme and the review of the Sandalwood (Limitation of Removal of Sandalwood) Order (No. 2) 2015.

Licensing and Ministerial authorisation

- Issued a total of 4346 licences under the BC Act for the use of native animals, 690 for use of native plants, and 90 to address dangerous wildlife and wildlife causing damage.
- Under the BC Act, Ministerial authorisation is required to take and disturb threatened species (plants and animals) and to modify TECs. There were 295 fauna authorisations and 157 flora and four TEC authorisations granted.



LOOKING AHEAD

- Ongoing management actions for conservation of Western Australia's marine and terrestrial parks and reserves.
- Implementing forest health monitoring, forest science and fire research programs.
- Implementing the Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy.
- Finalising and implementing regional conservation plans.

 Seabird scientists Dr Chris Surman and Lisa Nicholson
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA



📍 Cheynes Beach pilot whale stranding
Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA



📍 Bremer Bay within Mamang Maambakoort Marine Park
Photo - DBCA



📍 Turquoise Bay, Ningaloo Marine Park
Photo - Peter Nicholas/DBCA

[+] IN FOCUS:

On call for the coast

When whales drift toward the shore, the department steps in with swift, coordinated action, taking vital steps to free entangled whales or to manage marine wildlife carcasses. These efforts support key conservation goals, are valued by the community, partner agencies and industry, and help protect animal welfare and reduce shark risk.

A total of 24 large whale entanglements were reported across the year. Of these, eight whales were successfully disentangled, one was partially disentangled, and 15 whales evaded intervention. Each response required careful planning and execution, often under challenging conditions.



8 successfully disentangled
1 partially disentangled
15 evaded intervention



📍 Cheynes Beach pilot whale stranding
Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA

Disentanglement and stranding responses are often complex, multi-day operations that require specialist equipment, training and planning to ensure safety and animal welfare outcomes. The department's continued leadership in this area reflects its commitment to marine wildlife conservation and interagency collaboration.



DBCA also led responses to two significant mass stranding events. In January 2025, 10 melon headed whales stranded at Crab Creek near Broome. In May 2025, seven false killer whales were found at Doubtful Islands Peninsula, Albany. The response to both events involved multiple staff over several days, and a resulting collection of biological samples are currently under analysis to improve understanding of the species and the circumstances surrounding the strandings.

SERVICE 7

Research and conservation partnerships



Commenced research under the Pilbara Conservation Project to improve vegetation mapping, guide fire management, and identify high conservation value areas.



Tested the use of detector dogs for Phytophthora dieback.



Digitised over **20,000** WA Herbarium specimens to enhance accessibility and ensure long-term safeguarding of valuable botanical data.

HIGHLIGHTS

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT



Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat

Target	\$0.59
Actual	\$0.58



Expenses by service

Target	\$21,718,000
Actual	\$19,935,000



Strategic partnerships

- A partnership between the department and the National Environmental Science Program continued development of a strategic landscape-scale prioritisation strategy to guide future on-ground actions and monitoring to enhance resilience and biodiversity of the Canning River.
- The Rangelands Restoration project continued at Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara National Park in partnership with the Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation (TMPAC) and the Matuwa Kurarra Kurarra rangers. Reintroduced populations of rufous hare-wallaby (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*), golden bandicoot (*Isoodon auratus*) and boodie (*Bettongia lesueur lesueur*) continued to be monitored. A trial to allow boodies to freely move in and out of the introduced predator-proof enclosure via purpose-built tunnels commenced.
- The North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program, which is funded by the Gorgon Joint Venture participants, continued to partner with local Aboriginal groups to monitor and study flatback turtles (*Natator depressus*) in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.
- Research associated with environmental offset programs from the Pluto gas development continued to improve understanding of the factors influencing coral growth rates and resilience to heat stress, seascape and environmental effects on fish communities and spatial variation in macroalgal productivity in inshore turbid waters.

- With funding from Rio Tinto, and working with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal ranger groups, the Pilbara Conservation Project commenced with the aims of improving vegetation mapping, undertaking research to guide landscape-scale management through burning regimes and identifying areas of high conservation significance in Millstream Chichester and Karijini national parks. This project is being run in conjunction with an offset from Australian Premium Iron Management to extend vegetation mapping to additional areas of the Hamersley Range and provide a fire risk assessment.
- Established the Fire Research Collaboration (FRC) program as an initiative of the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 (FMP) to investigate the effects of bushfire and fire management on forest ecosystems and biodiversity across the area and lifetime of the FMP. The FRC has developed research priorities through extensive consultation with the research community and established four-year research collaboration programs with Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University (ECU) to commence research on these priorities as the first phase of the program.
- Continued as a contributing partner in the international LifePlan project, which aims to develop and upscale advanced monitoring tools including metabarcoding and machine learning for audio and camera trap data. The project is funded by the European Research Council and is surveying biodiversity at 200 sites globally. After completing a second year at Kings Park, the project returned for its final year at Lowlands Nature Reserve in 2025.

Dr John Huisman, Principal Research Scientist and Curator of the Western Australian Herbarium, DBCA; Warren Fish, Director Approvals, Communities and Environment, Fortescue; and Nick Page, Deputy Director General Science, Strategy and Governance DBCA. Photo - SoCo Studios

Biological and environmental surveys

- Undertook waterbird monitoring at the Muir-Byenup Ramsar sites with funding from South West NRM, and a survey of waterbirds at the Lake Gore Ramsar wetlands was co-funded by South Coast NRM under the Commonwealth's Regional Land Partnerships Program. Data will contribute to the Commonwealth Government's reporting obligations under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- Extended the WA Herbarium Pilbara plant identification program in partnership with Rio Tinto and continued to provide an authoritative identification, specimen curation and taxonomic research service for industry. The WA Herbarium also commenced a new research partnership with Fortescue to support taxonomic resolution of poorly-known Pilbara flora.
- WA Herbarium staff participated in a Bush Blitz project on Nanda Country in Kalbarri National Park and surrounds, along with members of the community, Traditional Owners and non-government organisations. Bush Blitz is run in association with the Commonwealth Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Australian Biological Resources Study. More than 530 flora specimens were collected for addition to the WA Herbarium and to improve the State's flora knowledge.



Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

- Commenced collaboration with CSIRO to process and analyse ant and soil samples collected over three years from the WA transects of the national Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Network initiative (*Banksia* woodland, wandoo woodland and Great Western Woodlands) to better detect and interpret change in biodiversity and soil characteristics, including responses to climate change and fire.
- Department scientists worked with The Nature Conservancy to survey the constructed limestone reefs installed in the Swan Canning Riverpark as part of the shellfish restoration project, with data showing a wide range of fish species utilising the reefs and the settlement of flat oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) and other invertebrate species on the reefs.
- Examined the dynamics of fish recruitment and tropical macroalgae in the Ningaloo and Exmouth Gulf region through a long-term project in association with the Australian Institute of Marine Science. Recent findings have further highlighted the decoupling of fish recruitment patterns between Exmouth Gulf and Ningaloo Marine Park, providing important information for planning the proposed Exmouth Gulf marine park.
- Through a research collaboration with ECU, surveys of dugong (*Dugong dugon*) and assessments of marine heatwave impacts on seagrass condition were conducted in Exmouth Gulf. Outcomes will help to predict the impacts of heatwave events on tropical seagrass species and flow on effects to associated marine fauna and inform marine park planning.
- Worked with Global Finprint to incorporate data from WA's marine parks into a global assessment of conservation of sharks and rays in marine protected areas.
- As part of the department's research into the design and effectiveness of ecological thinning as a forest management tool, an Alcoa Forest Enhancement Fund (FEF) grant supported the department's continued monitoring of groundwater, streamflow and tree water use responses to a 2019 forest thinning project in the Yarragil experimental catchments south-east of Dwellingup. The associated ephemeral stream monitoring network collected data for its first full winter and has been expanded to improve understanding of how forest management affects forest health. A separate FEF project, focused on Hamilton State forest block, is investigating aspects of forest thinning, including soil compaction, ecological responses and social licence to build adaptive capacity in forest management.
- In collaboration with the Forest Products Commission, geophysics, aircraft imaging and on-ground ecological surveys were conducted across forest sites variously impacted by the 2023-24 drought event to inform a vulnerability assessment for ecological thinning and forest management.
- In partnership with Curtin University, The University of Adelaide, ECU and The University of Western Australia (UWA), the department is coordinating research to better understand paleo-historic patterns in wetland conditions and biodiversity to provide context for current conditions and threats.



Red-capped plover
Photo - Mark Davidson

Threatened and important animals

- Continued reconstruction of native fauna through the Dirk Hartog Island National Park Return to 1616 Ecological Restoration Project, with nine species released on the island to date. In early 2025, woylies (*Bettongia penicillata*) from Dryandra, Perup and Kingston national parks were released on the island.
- Cooperation between Southern Ports and the department resulted in approximately 350 pairs of fairy terns (*Sternula nereis nereis*) attempting breeding, but routine monitoring found that the majority of nests had been lost and young chicks succumbed to predation or exposure.
- Continued a collaboration with Birdlife Australia where a further 14 hooded plovers (*Thinornis cucullatus*) from Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park were banded and leg flagged to better understand their habitat use and ecology.
- Improved introduced predator control in fragmented ecosystems in the Fitz-Stirling landscape by integrating feral cat control into conservation reserve management and testing the efficacy of Felixer® grooming traps for fox control, in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Bush Heritage Australia.

- Continued monitoring of translocated western ground parrots (*Pezoporus wallicus flaviventris*) at a remote location east of Albany in partnership with South Coast NRM.
- Industry funding continued to support research on threatened fauna in the Pilbara, including bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), ghost bat (*Macroderma gigas*), Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (*Rhinonictis aurantia*) and Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*).



- Genomic studies of Carnaby's (*Zanda latirostris*) and Baudin's (*Zanda baudinii*) cockatoos was supported by Bioplatforms Australia through the Australian Avian Genomics Initiative and the Oxford Nanopore ORG.one program in collaboration with ECU, Curtin University and UWA.

- Together with UWA and TMPAC rangers, geophysics surveys were undertaken to characterise the extensive boodie warrens within Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara National Park.
- Conducted an investigation in collaboration with UWA into the morphology and locomotive performance of western swamp tortoises (*Pseudemydura umbrina*) hatching from artificially incubated eggs at Perth Zoo.
- In partnership with South West NRM, an investigation on the viability of assisted colonisation as a climate adaptation strategy for western swamp tortoises commenced by assessing the success of a population translocated to Scott National Park. Genomic analyses of the species will be undertaken under the national Threatened Species Initiative partnership.
- Conducted research examining the impact of heatwaves on the persistence of western ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) on the Swan Coastal Plain, supported by the New South Wales Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service, to help inform mitigation strategies under a changing climate.
- With funding from South32, the department commenced a monitoring program in the northern jarrah forest to investigate the interactive effects of climate change and fire on habitat suitability for a range of threatened and priority fauna to inform conservation management.
- Commenced a study to improve understanding of the role of habitat connectivity in enhancing genetic dispersal, adaptive capacity and population resilience in a changing climate, with a specific focus on small vertebrate taxa within the mega-diverse Fitz-Stirling corridor, in collaboration with the Resilient Landscapes Hub and the University of Southern Queensland.

- Commenced ecological studies on trapdoor spiders of the genus *Idiosoma* in the northern jarrah forest to guide management strategies, supported by FEF and the Threatened Species Initiative, in collaboration with the WA Museum, Queensland Museum, Alcoa, Flinders University, and UWA.
- Progressed an investigation on the effect of drying climatic conditions on the diversity, connectivity and movement of south-west freshwater fauna populations and the capacity of species to survive through low-flow seasons in collaboration with Murdoch University, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), UWA, ECU, WA Museum and the Threatened Species Initiative.
- Examined the influence of climate variables on gene flow and adaptive genetic variation of chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) across landscapes by genomic sequencing undertaken in partnership with the Threatened Species Initiative.
- Examined the suitability of a dam in the South West region to support captive bred Margaret River hairy marron (*Cherax tenuimanus*) by testing in situ enclosures with hybrid and pure marron, in collaboration with DPIRD.
- Commenced surveys of central Australian rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis centralis*), including a genetic survey, to determine population status in the Townsend Ridges in central Australia in collaboration with local Aboriginal communities.
- Continued annual North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program monitoring of the flatback turtle at nesting beaches on Thevenard and Delambre islands in collaboration with Rio Tinto and Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation. Population assessments indicated the Delambre Island population has been decreasing since 2017 despite relatively high hatching success.
- Investigated the impact of native predators on loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) at several rookeries in partnership with Woodside, and flatback, hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), loggerhead and green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) were monitored in collaboration with local Aboriginal groups.
- As part of the WA Marine Science Institution Westport Science program, the department collaborated with ECU to develop a better understanding of Australian sea lion (*Neophoca cinerea*) diets in Perth waters and offshore islands through stable isotope analysis of sea lion whiskers. This information helps in identification of sea lions' foraging habitat in the area and informs management of these habitats and resources.
- Continued a collaborative project with Murdoch University, Nyamba Buru Yawuru, UWA, ECU and the University of Notre Dame Australia to identify and map important areas for dugong and marine turtles in Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park and explored the impacts of customary harvest and other human activities in the bay.



Turtle program volunteer
Photo - DBCA



Houtman Abrolhos Islands
Photo - Peter Nicholas/DBCA



Brennan's triggerplant
(*Stylidium brennanianum*)
Photo - Steve Dillon



Clandestine triggerplant (*Stylidium incognitum*)
Photo - Juliet Wege

Threatened and important plants

- Partnerships with Hamersley Iron, Leichardt Salt and environmental consultancy GHD addressed genetic diversity, population structure and taxonomic status of key Pilbara plants to inform conservation management.
- Continued major conservation genomics and phylogenomics programs with Bioplatforms Australia with new projects focused on Australian grasses.
- Research continued with Rio Tinto to help inform management actions for threatened flora on banded ironstone formations in the Pilbara. New research investigating plant function in groundwater dependent ecosystems has commenced to inform species requirements in response to hydrological gradients, as well as depositional dust impacts on Mulga woodland flora near mining operations.
- Continued an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage project to support horticultural development of native species in conjunction with Macquarie University, UWA, University of Queensland, Australian Genome Research Facility and Friends of Kings Park. New kangaroo paw colour varieties are being developed in combination with variants exhibiting improved disease resistance and adaptability to different environments.
- An ARC Linkage project with Curtin University, Plant Bank and the University of Queensland continues to develop tissue culture and cryopreservation approaches to conserve species at risk from myrtle rust and assist in conservation of threatened plant species.



• Continued to contribute to the Australian virtual seed bank in collaboration with the Atlas of Living Australia, as an online platform for aggregated data on banked seed collections of the Australian Seed Bank Partnership.

- In partnership with the Atlas of Living Australia, over 20,000 WA Herbarium specimens of weed species have been digitised and made publicly available to support invasive species management activities, with 18 naturalised taxa added to the WA Plant Census.
- A collaboration with UWA and BHP continued to develop and deploy seed technologies and mechanised seeding machinery for mine site restoration, improving the cost effectiveness of biodiverse rehabilitation programs.
- Established a collaboration with BHP to explore options for restoring trees (*Melaleuca argentea*) under altered groundwater scenarios in the Pilbara.
- Established a research partnership with Alcoa to initiate new plant material into tissue culture for species of interest in Alcoa's jarrah forest rehabilitation plans.
- Fortescue continued to support research into the population biology and ecology of the rare species *Quoya zonalis*. A reliable method of seed propagation has been determined and the contribution of nectar-feeding birds, in particular brown honeyeaters, to pollination has been identified.

- Continued with several collaborative projects with Australia's mining and university sectors through the Cooperative Research Centre for Transformations in Mining Economies, linking with the department's seed and restoration science capabilities.
- A partnership with the Max Planck Queensland Centre continued research into the biomechanics of seed protection and dispersal in Banksia. Findings show how the tissue arrangement of the seed-bearing cones ensures seeds remain protected from high temperatures during fire by delaying seed release until after fire has passed.
- Continued to study seed longevity to inform conservation seed banking practices through an ARC Linkage project with UWA and Aarhus University in Denmark.
- Completed a project with the Australian Seed Bank Partnership and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew establishing fungal isolates in cryostorage, seed production and pollinator surveys to support future translocation of the threatened orchid *Caladenia viridescens*.
- Commenced work with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, DWER and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to improve vegetation mapping on the Swan Coastal Plain. This will provide more appropriate scale information for identifying threatened ecological communities, making planning decisions and mapping bushfire prone areas.

Managing threats

- Two projects are ongoing with DCCEEW and other partners (including TATE Animals, the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Envirodynamics and Dieback Working Group) funded through the Saving Native Species (Threat Innovations) program addressing the threat of Phytophthora dieback through use of detector dogs and treatment of basic raw materials with metham sodium.
- The Alcoa Foundation continued to support the Western Shield program in enhancing fox and feral cat management in the northern jarrah forest.
- Continued trials of Felixer® feral cat grooming traps with South West NRM, demonstrating they are an effective complementary tool for managing feral cats.
- Progressed an investigation into the movement and activity patterns of feral cats in the northern jarrah forest and Wheatbelt with support from the Commonwealth Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Results will help inform more targeted management by directing control efforts to areas where cats are most active.
- Continued to implement Eradicat® baiting to control feral cats and protect local bilby populations in the Pilbara in partnership with Roy Hill, Biologic Environmental Survey and the local Warralong community.



- Investigated bait uptake by foxes and wild dogs in the South Coast and Wheatbelt regions to improve their management approaches, with funding from the Commonwealth Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program. Further investigations into the range and habitat preferences of feral cats in the Midwest, South Coast and Wheatbelt are underway to improve feral cat management effectiveness.
- Continued to investigate cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) in arid landscapes and alternative genetic control methods through research partnerships with Macquarie University and the Mindereroo Foundation. Environmental DNA (eDNA) detection methods have been further refined and incorporated into the monitoring program, improving detectability of cane toads at the migration front.
- In partnership with Aboriginal corporations, the department surveyed and mapped important goanna (*Varanus panoptes*) populations and delivered cane toad threat mitigation to protect them as the migration front arrives. Goanna taste aversion training was delivered to four sites on Nyikina Mangala Country.
- Expeditions to Browse Island Nature Reserve with Monash University assessed Asian house mouse (*Mus musculus castaneus*) impacts and the status of sea bird breeding colonies, including species listed as migratory under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Satellite tracking of bridled terns (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) showed extensive movements between Pilbara, Kimberley regions and northern Arafura Sea. Eradication operations for Asian house mouse are planned for late 2025.



• Collaborated with DPIRD, biosecurity groups and land managers to manage threats to department-managed land and underpin effective environmental biosecurity for WA, focusing on rubbervine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*), gamba grass (*Adropogon gayanus*), myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*), polyphagous shot-hole borer (*Euwallacea fornicatus*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), rusa deer (*Rusa timorensis*) and H5 avian influenza.

- In partnership with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, RMIT University and University of New South Wales, department data from airborne geophysics, remote sensing and hydrogeochemical analyses is being synthesised to investigate the hydrology of springs supporting a TEC at the 80 Mile Beach Ramsar site. This work will help aquifer management in the region.
- Continued to investigate the hydrological responses of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste caves to rainfall, and a bushfire above the caves, in partnership with UWA and the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association. This will assist with balancing the management of surface and subterranean ecosystems and will identify sources of groundwater to support a TEC associated with the caves.



- Provided advice to inform appropriate monitoring and mitigation measures for development approvals and activities in the Swan Canning development control area. Advice was provided for major State Government infrastructure projects such as Boorloo Bridge, the new Fremantle Traffic Bridge, proposed ferry terminals and routes and maintenance dredging at Fremantle Port.
- Commenced work to sample plastics in the Swan Canning and Peel Harvey estuaries in partnership with DWER. The project will help to assess the ongoing effectiveness of the Plan for Plastics, inform policy development, support enhanced management of plastic pollution and act as a baseline for future mitigation programs.
- Collaborated with TNC and UWA, as part of a Commonwealth Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program project, focusing on nature-based solutions for foreshore protection and remediation in the Swan Canning Estuary. The project will develop maps and an estuarine model to underpin creation of a restoration suitability framework and pilot remediation approaches.
- Continued collaboration with DPIRD to investigate bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*) movement in the Swan Canning Riverpark. Data will improve understanding of juvenile sharks' residency time, habitat association and movement in the Riverpark and their responses to changes in environmental conditions.
- Concluded a project with UWA to examine wind-wave and boat wake impacts on foreshores at Point Walter to inform management of the fairy tern nesting site. The project identified wind-wave action on the eastern foreshore of the spit as a major driver of erosion.
- Mapped the distribution and biological and hydro-geomorphological attributes of peat systems in the Walpole Wilderness in partnership with UWA, ECU, the Western Australian Museum, local community groups and Traditional Owners, with funding from the Ian Potter Foundation. This project will provide information to improve management of these ecosystems.
- Led a Commonwealth Disaster Ready Fund project investigating forest fuel dynamics in relation to time since last fire and fire severity involving remote sensing of severity mapping for heathland ecosystems and mapping of fire severity across the south-west. The project will derive high resolution fire history and advanced fire regime mapping products from 1988 to present to support fire management, biodiversity conservation and associated research projects.
- Continued collaboration and support for the Dampier Peninsula fire working group, which has succeeded in positively shifting the fire regime of the peninsula. The success of this collaboration was recognised by two Landcare Australia awards for First Nations Landcare and nomination for the National Landcare Awards to be determined in September 2025.
- Concluded a study led by the University of New South Wales and funded by the ARC which examined fire impacts on plant demographics, publishing several papers and nearing completion of a three-year understorey recruitment analysis.
- In partnership with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, the department is supporting the DPIRD biosecurity response to eradicate a red dwarf honeybee (*Apis florea*) incursion discovered on the Burrup Peninsula.
- The department is working with the Town of Port Hedland and Care for Hedland to reduce the impact of artificial light pollution on flatback turtle hatchlings.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Ongoing partnerships with a range of research providers to advance and implement conservation science and management, including effects of ecological thinning and fire management in forest ecosystems.
- Continuing implementation of major programs such as the North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program, the Dirk Hartog Island National Park Return to 1616 Ecological Restoration Project and Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.
- Continuing partnerships to control invasive species, including feral cats and pigs, and manage biosecurity threats, focusing on rubbervine, gamba grass, myrtle rush, polyphagous shot-hole borer and H5 avian influenza.



Fire science in the Pilbra
Photo - Miles Brotherson



Waalitj Foundation and Onslow School, Thevenard Island
Photo - DBCA



Roebourne District High School collaboration
Photo - Tristan Simpson/DBCA

[+] IN FOCUS:

Young voices for turtle conservation

Dozens of children from across the Pilbara have been contributing to the conservation of turtles each year since 2017, through partnerships between the North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program, West Pilbara Turtle Program, local schools, and community organisations.

These collaborations have created meaningful opportunities for young Aboriginal people to connect with sea Country and actively participate in monitoring flatback turtle populations.

One of the most impactful elements of the program is the annual ‘turtle camp’ on Thevenard Island, which DBCA and the Waalitj Foundation have been running since 2019. It brings Aboriginal families from Onslow together on Country, allowing them to reconnect with significant places and marine life.

The initiative also complements education at regional schools in Onslow, Roebourne and Karratha.

Onslow School Year 7 and 8 students have participated in turtle camp at Thevenard Island each year since 2017, building on an in-school ‘Turtle Science Program’ delivered by the North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program.



Flatback Turtle Conservation with Pilbara and Kimberley schools



Volunteers on Delambre Island
Photo - Tristan Simpson/DBCA



Waalitj Foundation
Photo - DBCA

Annual flatback turtle monitoring, involving over 50 volunteers, occurs at Thevenard and Delambre islands

Thevenard Island
137 individual turtles identified
173 nests recorded in turtle tagging area



Delambre Island
583 individual turtles identified (through tagging)
615 nests recorded in turtle tagging area

At Roebourne District High School, students engage in monitoring activities on Delambre Island alongside staff from Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation. This hands-on learning allows them to participate in real scientific processes, reinforcing their roles as custodians of ngurra (Country) and building skills that support aspirations in conservation science and joint management.

The program’s success lies in its ability to blend community role-modelling, environmental stewardship, and education. By cultivating engagement pathways for Aboriginal and local youth, it supports both long-term conservation goals and the health and wellbeing of young people.



Delambre Island volunteers receiving their training
Photo - Tristan Simpson/DBCA

SERVICE 8

Implementation of the Forest Management Plan



5519 hectares of forest have been transitioned to higher conservation tenure classifications.

1590 hectares of ecological thinning has been completed since the program commenced in March 2024.



Published the 2025 Indicative Ecological Thinning Plan to guide strategic and operational activities.

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT



Average cost per hectare of forest
Target \$14.50
Actual \$12.23



Expenses by service
Target \$35,296,000
Actual \$29,848,000

HIGHLIGHTS



Pemberton
Photo - Frances Andrijich,
Tourism Western Australia



Retained habitat tree, Munro ecological thinning demonstration site 2
Photo - Alan Gill/DBCA

Plan implementation, assessment and adaptive management

- The Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 (FMP) provides the framework for managing approximately 2.4 million hectares of land in the south-west vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission. The plan has a focus on Noongar partnerships and prioritises forest health and biodiversity conservation to meet socio-economic and cultural aspirations for current and future generations.
- The implementation of the FMP continues with a focus on ecological thinning for forest health and resilience, implementation of forest health monitoring and related research programs, planning for reserve creation, and stakeholder engagement and participation.
- Implemented the Forest Health Monitoring Program to support the FMP. This program will contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the management targets and performance goals outlined in the FMP, focusing on maintaining biodiversity, and conserving ecosystem health and resilience. An implementation plan has been developed and a suite of monitoring sites have been established. Monitoring has commenced using flora surveys, eco-acoustics, eDNA and remote sensing technologies.

Noongar cultural heritage and management partnerships

- Continued discussions with five of the six Noongar regional corporations on FMP implementation through cooperative management committees and other forums to explore options to support forest management, employment and economic development.
- Submitted activity notices for a range of FMP activities subject to the Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement.

Biodiversity conservation

- Transitioned a total of 5519 hectares to higher conservation tenure classifications.



- Finalised the location of three new fauna habitat zones totalling 174 hectares. The number of fauna habitat zones has increased to 166, comprising a gross area of 40,892 hectares providing habitat to remain undisturbed in State forest.

- Assessed 154 proposals within the FMP area using the Disturbance Approval System (DAS), aimed at avoiding or minimising the environmental impacts of disturbance activities on department-managed lands. These proposals covered a wide range of permitted activities including installing fencing to protect reserves, ecological thinning, firebreak preparation, managing plantations, developing recreation sites, installing research infrastructure, and upgrading essential infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and utilities. A new and improved DAS phase 2 is launching soon, featuring pre-filled proposals using corporately available GIS data, a more intuitive interface, time saving updates, improved accuracy, and enhanced user experience.
- Completed regulatory compliance inspections on a sample of public firewood collection, mining, and infrastructure establishment operations.
- Assessed formal nominations of areas of potential old-growth forest, and refined reference datasets including Phytophthora dieback occurrence mapping, updated the current old-growth forest extent to 337,440 hectares (to December 2024) of jarrah, karri and wandoo old-growth forests and woodlands.



Boranup Karri Forest, Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia

Forest health and climate resilience

Climate mitigation: carbon storage

- Expanded stand-level models for jarrah and karri regrowth forests to simulate their growth and forest carbon trajectory. Complementary work on inventory projection models will provide the basis for estimation of total forest carbon storage in the FMP area.

Climate adaption: active forest management and ecological thinning

- Published the 2025 Indicative Ecological Thinning Plan of candidate forest enhancement areas (FEA) which can be modified in response to consultation and ongoing assessment of FEAs.
- Completed 1590 hectares of ecological thinning since the program commenced in March 2024.
- Completed the detailed pre-planning of 10 FEAs for ecological thinning. These processes continue to be refined through new techniques and applications of remote sensing and field survey.
- Measured 248 strategic inventory plots in regrowth jarrah, regrowth karri and mining rehabilitation areas to inform carbon stock estimation, preparation of silvicultural plans, and monitoring of outcomes from ecological thinning.
- Conducted adaptive management through operational trials in several FEAs to provide operational guidance in best practice.



- Gathered high resolution digital aerial imagery across approximately 150,000 hectares of forest and plantations to monitor and measure areas for silvicultural outcomes, bushfire recovery and prescribed fire outcomes. The 2023–24 summer die-off event was also extensively mapped.

- Extended the range of airborne and land-based sensors to acquire forest health and condition datasets to plan and monitor outcomes from ecological thinning and the assessment of forest landscapes for vulnerability to climate change.
- Updated the National State of the Forests Report data.
- Continued implementation of the Regional Forest Agreement for the south-west forest region.

Diseases

- Completed 19,740 hectares of Phytophthora dieback assessment to protect native forest and ecosystems from disease across various tenures.

Social and economic benefits and opportunities

- Launched ForestCraft, an engaging and educational online game, to help young audiences understand forest management principles and the importance of maintaining forest health.
- Delivered field-based learning experiences, including site visits and tailored presentations, to internal and external stakeholders to demonstrate the role of silvicultural practices such as ecological thinning in enhancing forest resilience and biodiversity.
- Continued planning to support the delivery of the key commitment under the FMP to create at least 400,000 hectares of new conservation reserves by 2033. This includes reserve design, Traditional Owner engagement and stakeholder consultation.

Forest Management Plan information reported in other services

- Information on science projects supporting the FMP, together with activities to manage pressures on south-west forests such as weeds, pest animals, disease, unauthorised activities and soil degradation, can be found in Service 6: Conserving habitats, species and ecological communities and Service 7: Research and conservation partnerships.
- Nature-based tourism and recreation activities relevant to the FMP are reported in Service 5: Visitor services and public programs; and fire management activities are reported in Service 9: Prescribed burning and fire management and Service 10: Bushfire suppression.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Continuing consultation with our Noongar partners in designing new conservation reserves.
- Ecological thinning will continue, incorporating learnings from the 2024 program and research into the 2024 forest die-off event, hydrology, herbicide efficacy, and forest response to treatment.
- Consulting with forest stakeholders through active processes such as forums, engagement on ecological thinning, consultation on reserve design, as well as other forms of information sharing including newsletters, social media and website updates.
- Continuing to explore and develop new technologies to improve the understanding and management of our forests and the complex interplay of biodiversity within.

SERVICE 9

Prescribed burning and fire management

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT



Continued improvement in gender diversity across the fire management workforce:

Five women attended the Women in Fire training exchange in Queensland.

Endorsed DBCA's first female Level 3 incident controller, the most senior rostered role in responding to complex emergency situations.

♀
24 per cent of senior fire management positions are held by women in permanent positions.

An additional \$5.5 million of funding through the Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program enabled prescribed burning of 115,962 hectares in the State's south-west forest regions.



HIGHLIGHTS

Prescribed burning performance measures

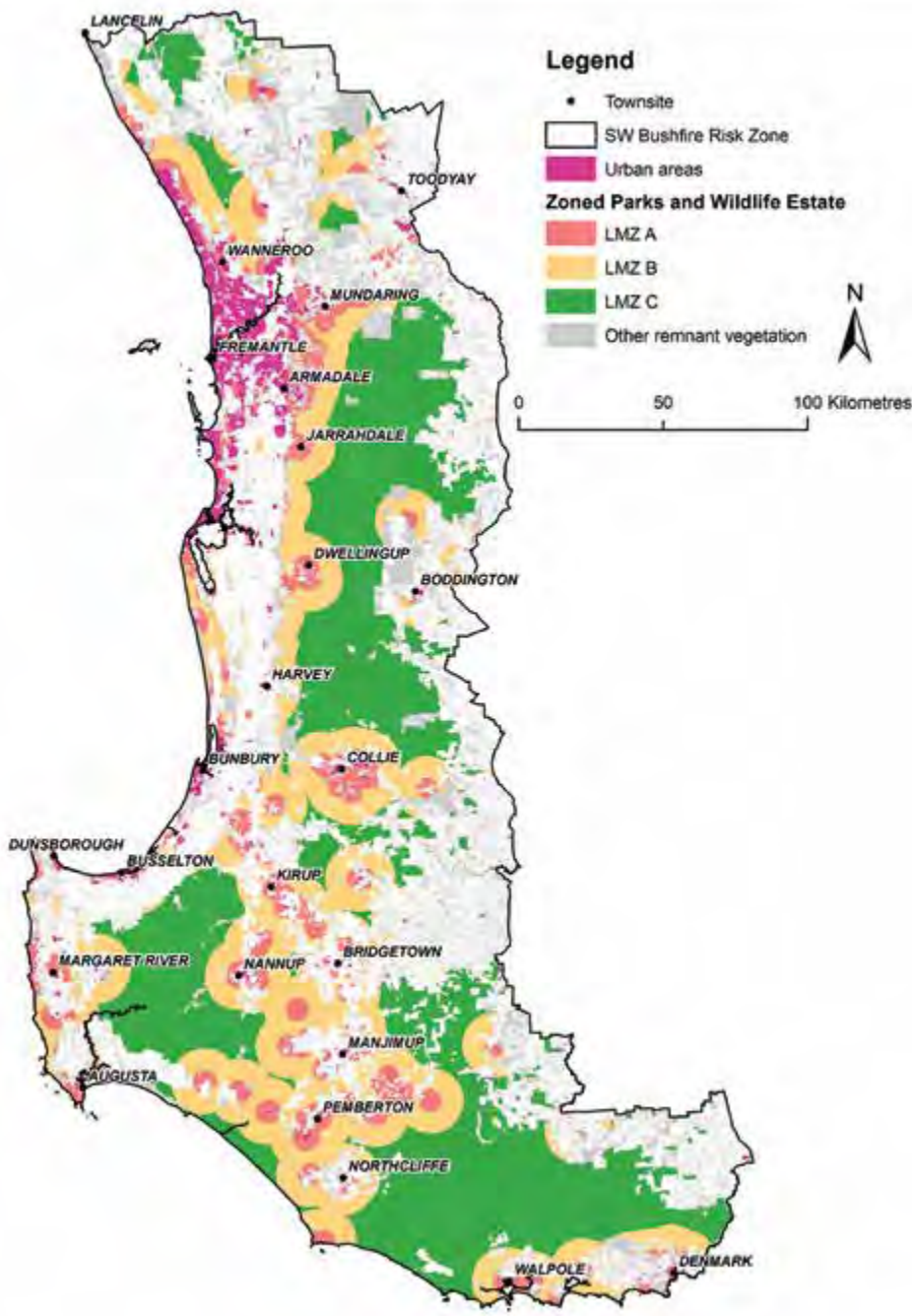
The department applies three performance measures when assessing effectiveness of the annual prescribed burning program for its three south-west forest regions.

- i. **To maintain a fuel age of less than six years since last burnt in at least 45 per cent of the landscape across the department’s three south-west forest regions.** Peer reviewed scientific research has determined that prescribed fire treatments have a significant effect on reducing the frequency, intensity and size of bushfire up to six years after treatment. ‘The proportion of department-managed land in the south-west forest regions that is less than six years since last burnt’ is therefore used as an annual indicator of the effectiveness of the department’s prescribed burning program in mitigating bushfire risk. At 30 June 2025, 34.8 per cent of the landscape had a fuel age of less than six years, compared to 35.2 per cent one year earlier.
- ii. **Annual prescribed burning achievement for special land management zones (LMZs) in the department’s three south-west forest regions.** The zones (shown in Figure 4) are at the interface of populated areas and natural lands. Zoning is determined by distance from the urban interface. LMZ A extends 3.5km from a populated area. LMZ B extends a further 7.5km. LMZ C comprises the remainder of the department-managed landscape. LMZ C is further from populated areas but is traversed by infrastructure corridors of economic and public safety significance (for example powerlines and highways) and contains important biodiversity, recreational, timber production, water catchment and other values.

2024–25 LMZ prescribed burning achievements		
LMZ	Distance from populated area	Achieved (ha)
A	within 3.5km	6,251
B	3.5–11km	41,629
C	beyond 11km	60,989

Note: Figures in this table only include department-managed land. The department’s prescribed burning achievement reported elsewhere in the annual report may include other tenures including Crown land and private property, and may differ to these figures.

Figure 4 : Land management zones



- iii. **Ratio of CALM Act tenure land affected by bushfire (where the department was the initial attack agency), to prescribed burn area.** This is one of a suite of national reporting measures on the state of Australian forests. There is no specific target for this measure. The assumption underlying this measure is that environmental integrity and functionality will be greater where prescribed fire comprises a greater proportion of the total fire load. The ratio for 2024–25 was 1:0.5 (prescribed burning hectares : bushfire hectares). Note: Areas used to calculate the bushfire to prescribed burn ratio relate to CALM Act tenure only. The respective figures are therefore less than the total figures for bushfires and prescribed burns used elsewhere in the annual report, which include other tenures.

Performance highlights

- Achieved 115,962 hectares of prescribed burning in its three south-west forest regions with assistance from additional State Government funding of \$5.5 million via the Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program.
- Treated a further 4,940,407 hectares under prescribed burning conditions in the department’s other six regions: the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest, Wheatbelt and South Coast. These prescribed burns were done on department-managed land, unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves, often in conjunction with other land managers, including Traditional Owner groups.
- Continued to improve gender diversity across the fire management workforce through its Women in Fire Management Action Plan, with increases in four key target areas being:
 - 10 per cent of frontline firefighter positions are held by women (previously nine per cent)
 - 26 per cent of all duty officers are women (previously 22 per cent)
 - 24 per cent of fire management positions at a PSA/PSGA level four or above are held permanently by women (previously 19 per cent)
 - Seven per cent of permanent level three and above AWU positions, including overseer roles, are held by women (previously three per cent).
- Continued collaboration with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and other emergency services organisations, local government, Forest Products Commission (FPC), plantation owners, volunteer bushfire brigades, Traditional Owners and private landholders on integrating shared responsibilities for fire management, mitigation and bushfire response activities.



Midwest staff practise fire drills in Geraldton
Photos - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

Prescribed fire planning and risk management

- Continued implementing the Bushfire Risk Management Framework.
- Continued to work closely with DFES and local government authorities to elevate standards of prescribed burning practice across the sector and to achieve more effective, tenure-blind bushfire risk management, particularly in the more densely populated areas of the south-west.
- Achieved a balance in the delivery of prescribed burning programs and minimising negative outcomes such as smoke accumulation for stakeholders and the broader community.
- Coordination of fire management across the Kimberley region continued to achieve nature conservation and land management outcomes in an environment of tenure complexity, Native Title determinations and multiple landowners and organisations delivering planned fire to the landscape.

Bushfire risk management on unallocated Crown land

- The department is responsible for the coordination and on-ground management of bushfire risk through targeted bushfire mitigation on 91 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves outside the Perth metropolitan area and townsites.
- Significant on-ground bushfire mitigation work was made possible through the continued strategic investment of funding from the State Government’s mitigation activity fund to protect communities, economies, infrastructure and the environment through planned and targeted bushfire risk management.
- Completed prescribed burning across a total of 41.9km (407 hectares) of modified vegetation buffers, 1132km of fire access tracks and 1,104,178 hectares complementing DFES and local government activities.
- Continued to engage and build partnerships with stakeholders including Aboriginal groups and communities and neighbouring farmers and pastoralists, particularly in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest, Wheatbelt, South Coast and Goldfields regions.

Fire Management Development Program

- The department’s Fire Management Development Program (FMDP) is a contemporary model for succession planning for current and emerging capability needs in fire management.
- Five former participants secured permanent positions with DBCA in the 2024–25 financial year.
- At 30 June 2025, there were three employees completing their two-year opportunity in the FMDP Expansion Program, and three employees finishing 12-month contracts, both designed to fast-track enhanced knowledge and skills development of existing employees without requiring location transfers.
- The FMDP funded and supported professional development opportunities for staff across the 2024–25 financial year including five women attending the Women in Fire training exchange in Queensland and 10 regional deployments to the Pilbara, Midwest and the East Kimberley.
- The FMDP currently has one full-time participant working within Fire Management Services branch and across several districts assisting with fire rosters.



LOOKING AHEAD

- Planning and implementing fuel management programs, primarily through prescribed burning, on land for which the department has legislative management responsibility and on unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves outside the Perth metropolitan area and townsites, in accordance with the outcomes identified by the Bushfire Risk Management Framework.
- Ensuring socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental factors are given appropriate consideration during the planning and implementation of prescribed burning and other fuel management programs, to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency
- Engaging with Traditional Owners, stakeholders, visitors, and the broader community about the benefits of fuel management, particularly prescribed burning.
- Supporting research to determine appropriate fuel management objectives for key fuel types outside of the south-west forests.



 All photos from the Graduate Development Program



IN FOCUS:

Kick-starting careers in conservation

A revitalised Graduate Development Program has launched at DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service, welcoming the next generation of conservation managers. Over the next two years, 14 graduates will live and work across regional Western Australia, gaining hands-on experience in a variety of operational areas to build their skills and capabilities.

The program began with a week-long orientation in Exmouth and the nearby Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, setting the stage for their journey. From Albany to Kununurra, the graduates will be based in regional and district offices, rotating through key areas such as fire management, joint management with Traditional Owners, marine and land conservation, and visitor services.

Many of the participants hail from regional communities in Western Australia, reinforcing the program's strong local focus. This marks the first regionally focused graduate initiative by the Parks and Wildlife Service since 2013, designed to attract talented individuals and equip them with the practical and specialised skills needed to launch successful careers in conservation.



These graduates bring diverse academic backgrounds, holding degrees in wildlife conservation science, environmental science, marine biology, freshwater science, zoology, physics, and environment and heritage.

The selection process was as dynamic as the program itself, featuring video submissions, interviews, and a residential selection school in Dwellingup.



SERVICE 10

Bushfire suppression

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT



Proportion of south-west bushfires contained to less than two hectares

Target **75%**
Actual **85%**

Average cost per hectare burnt

Target **\$18.01**
Actual **\$62.60**

Expenses by service

Target **\$45,030,000**
Actual **\$69,543,000**



Management of the Chesapeake fire near Northcliffe, part of the Donnelly complex of bushfires, included

38,000 hectare
total fire size

1000 staff from
DBCA and partner
agencies deployed

32 person interstate
team that assisted from
New South Wales and the
Northern Territory

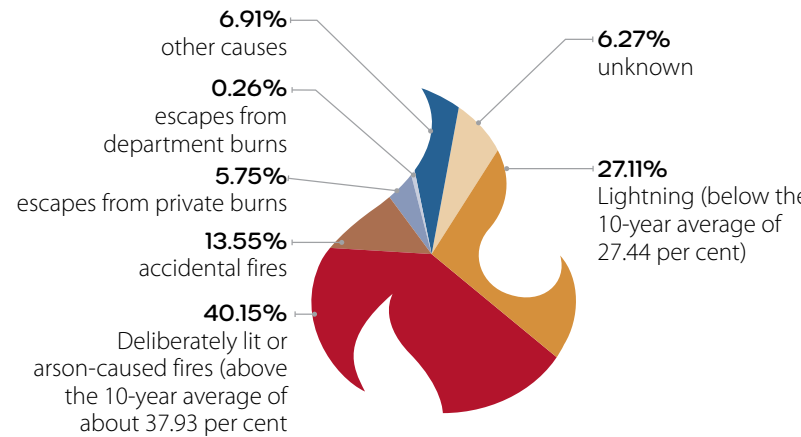
HIGHLIGHTS

Bushfire management

- In 2024–25, the department fought and/or monitored bushfires that burnt about 1,110,970 hectares, including:

Region	Hectares
South-west forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren)	52,348
Wheatbelt	58,526
Midwest	111,312
South Coast	25,439
Kimberley	798,088
Goldfields	10,215
Pilbara	55,042

- The causes of these bushfires were:



- In conjunction with DFES and local governments, four interagency bushfire pre-formed incident management teams (PFTs) were rostered for deployment to large bushfires around the State.
- Deployment of full or partial PFTs and interagency incident management teams to significant bushfire incidents occurred at Jurien Bay (November 2024), Dongara (December 2024), Manjimup/ Northcliffe (February 2025) and Exmouth (February 2025).

- The Chesapeake fire near Northcliffe (part of the Donnelly complex of bushfires) was notable due to a 34-day sustained suppression effort commencing on 9 February 2025 after isolated thunderstorms caused multiple lightning strike ignitions. Suppression efforts saw five separate deployments of the PFTs to oversee management of the incident, with over 1000 staff from DBCA, DFES, local government and volunteer bushfire brigades assisting. In addition, a 32-person interstate team from New South Wales and the Northern Territory was deployed to assist with incident management and on-ground suppression efforts. This support was invaluable to give local DBCA crews and staff an opportunity to manage fatigue safely.

Bushfire detection

- Provided an effective bushfire-detection system in the high bushfire risk zones of the south-west forest regions using a fleet of single-engine aircraft and nine fixed lookout towers. The department’s fleet of spotter aircraft flew 4253 hours of aerial surveillance in pre-determined circuits. Flight schedules varied according to bushfire danger levels and fire activity.
- Detection aircraft also flew 242 hours in support of bushfire suppression operations, flown by seven pilots.

Aerial bushfire suppression operations

- Contracted 10 fixed-wing 802 air tractor water bombers from November 2024 to late April 2025. The aircraft provided rapid aerial bushfire suppression capability in the department’s Midwest, Wheatbelt, South Coast, Goldfields, Warren, South West and Swan regions, including the Perth outer-metropolitan area, delivering valuable assistance to ground crews during the initial attack on bushfires.
- Collectively, these aircraft flew 1654 operational hours in attending 176 bushfires and dropped 2201 loads, delivering 6,603,000 litres of suppressant.

Bushfire training and development

- Fire training course participants included DBCA employees, volunteers and personnel from FPC, DFES, local governments and Aboriginal ranger groups from across the State.
- Together with DFES, jointly conducted six training sessions for Level 2 incidents and five training sessions for various courses, including fire weather 1 and fireline leadership.
- Developed online training courses (AIIMS 2017, AIIMS awareness, basic wildfire awareness, and map reading), and conducted 52 formal fire training sessions including aviation training involving 851 participants. In addition, there were 39 water bomber reloader courses delivered to 455 participants.
- Conducted annual mandatory pre-season safety training in preparation for the 2024–25 bushfire season, both online and through face-to-face sessions, with more than 165 people completing the online version and 956 DBCA and FPC staff attending 50 face-to-face sessions.
- Endorsed DBCA’s first female Level 3 incident controller, the most senior rostered role in responding to complex emergency situations.



Fire tower
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

LOOKING AHEAD

- Maintaining a well-resourced and effective capability and readiness to suppress bushfires when they occur on lands for which the department has legislated management responsibility.
- Coordinating and managing bushfire response in collaboration with other organisations that have fire management responsibilities.
- Maintaining early detection capabilities including fire towers, spotter aircraft, access to remote sensing technologies and community bushfire reporting.
- Maintaining a suitable network of strategic access roads and tracks, burn boundaries and water sources on lands for which the department has legislated management responsibility.
- Ensuring, where appropriate, bushfire suppression operations consider the potential long-term impacts on environmental and cultural heritage values and undertake appropriate recovery and rehabilitation actions following bushfires on land for which the department has legislated management responsibility.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

	2025		Variation ⁽²⁾ (\$000)	Stat Auth ⁽³⁾ (\$000)	Variation ⁽⁴⁾ (\$000)
	Target ⁽¹⁾ (\$000)	Actual (\$000)			
Financial targets					
Total cost of services (expense limit) (Statement of Comprehensive Income)	488,476	563,961	75,485	(41,679) ^(a)	33,806 ^(a)
Net cost of services (Statement of Comprehensive Income)	424,063	478,858	54,795	(41,679)	13,116 ^(a)
Total equity (Statement of Financial Position)	4,118,972	4,824,709	705,737 ^(a)	0	705,737
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held (Statement of Cash Flows)	(2,122)	11,558	13,680 ^(b)	0	13,680
Approved salary expense level	210,900	216,539	5,639 ^(c)	0	5,639
Executive salary expense level	2,510	2,553	43	0	43
Working cash limit	22,864	25,699	2,835	(2,084)	751

(1) The target refers to the Department’s (excluding Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority) budget estimates. Net cost of services has been adjusted to reflect the re-categorisation of transactions with State Government entities to ‘Income from State Government’ in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(2) Actuals contains transactions with statutory authorities within the DBCA reporting group that aren’t reflected in target figures. Those variances are displayed with the removal of those transactions.

a. Total equity is higher than target due to the gain on revaluation of land as assessed by the Valuer General. The changes in asset revaluation surplus was \$315.66 million in 2024-25 and \$361.82 million in 2023-24.

b. Net increase in cash held is partly due to underspends in the department’s capital program.

c. Approved salary expense is higher than target partly due to bushfire suppression efforts during the 2024-25 fire season that required supplementary funding.

(3) Mainly service appropriation for the statutory authorities that is expensed as a grant.

(4) Total cost of service and net cost of services was higher than estimates partly due to bushfire suppression efforts during the 2024-25 fire season that required supplementary funding.

SUPPORTING OUR DEPARTMENT

Science, Strategy and Governance

As of 12 May 2025, the Biodiversity and Conservation Science division and the Strategy and Governance group were formally amalgamated to form the new Science, Strategy and Governance (SSG) group. This integration strengthens the connection between our scientific research and strategic policy development functions and elevates the role of science in corporate decision making.

For science-related developments and achievements, please refer to Services 6 and 7 in this report. The SSG group also encompasses the areas of:

- Finance
- Office of Information Management
- People and Culture
- Public Information and Corporate Affairs
- Legal
- Policy and Legislation
- Office of the Director General

The SSG portfolio leads the strategic planning, policy and legislation development, governance, integrity, risk and assurance, organisational reform, data management, corporate and business services and legal functions for the department, its statutory authorities, and the Conservation and Parks Commission. A bureau of service is also provided to the Forest Products Commission.

Finance Branch

The Finance Branch manages essential financial management systems to deliver internal and external reporting requirements. In addition, the branch provides advice on financial management and compliance, procurement, contract management and fleet management, coordinates remote area housing, and facility management at the department's Kensington headquarters.

Key achievements in 2024–25:

- Implemented changes in procurement processes to address control weaknesses which resulted in the removal of the audit qualification.
- Undertook a comprehensive rewrite of the Financial Management Manual to reflect new Treasurer instructions.
- Expanded the suite of PowerBI-generated dashboards, to assist with departmental financial decision making.

Office of Information Management

The Office of Information Management (OIM) leads and coordinates digital transformation across the department. It improves service delivery and provides the IT common operating environment that supports the department's geographically distributed and diverse marine, aerial and terrestrial services across WA.

OIM partners with business units to deliver strategic IT initiatives that support digitalisation of business services and optimisation of IT systems, helping progress departmental and State Government goals.

Key achievements in 2024–25:

- Continued to strengthen the department's cybersecurity capabilities in alignment with the Government of Western Australia's Cyber Security Policy by commencing both the Windows 11 Standard Operating Environment project and the migration of legacy systems to more modern platforms to address four outstanding Essential 8 controls.
- Submitted the 2024 Recordkeeping Plan to the State Records Office, which was approved by the State Records Commission on 10 April 2025.
- Made significant progress towards replacing all old radio base sites with new modernised buildings and upgraded radio equipment.

People and Culture Branch

The People and Culture Branch (PCB) is committed to providing a comprehensive range of people management services that effectively cater to the business objectives of the department.

PCB's administrative and advisory services cover a range of functions including recruitment management, employee benefits, work health, safety and wellbeing, employee relations, industrial relations and corporate learning and development. Additionally, PCB offers consultancy and advice to management on people management issues, including disciplinary and workplace grievance matters.

Key achievements in 2024–25:

- Strengthened workplace culture and conduct through the implementation of the Managing Workplace Concerns Framework, including clearer procedures, targeted learning resources, and the introduction of the anonymous reporting channel (Safe2Say), supporting a safer and more accountable organisational environment.
- Improved diversity and inclusion outcomes, with Aboriginal employment representation reaching eight per cent, exceeding the Public Sector Commission's target of seven per cent. Inclusion was further supported through strengthened internal governance of the Diversity, Access and Inclusion Committee and the adoption of more inclusive recruitment practices.
- Enhanced leadership capability through the rollout of a new training program focused on managing workplace behaviours and psychosocial risks, in alignment with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (WA).
- Embedded principles from the Building Leadership Impact – Leadership Expectations into the agency's recruitment management processes to foster consistent and values-driven leadership across the department.
- Successfully coordinated multiple enterprise bargaining processes, including finalisation of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority General Agreement, Rangers General Agreement, and Australian Workers Union Fire Agreement, ensuring fair and operationally sound outcomes.
- Strengthened integrity and misconduct response systems by streamlining protocols and case management procedures to support timely, consistent, and fair handling of grievances, misconduct, and integrity matters.



 Black swans
Photo - Mark Davidson



 Rottnest Island Class A Reserve
Photo - Tourism Western Australia

Policy and Legislation

Policy and Legislation leads the review and reform of departmental legislation and works with other business areas to develop and implement key strategic projects and policy initiatives.

Key achievements in 2024–25:

- Developed, instructed and advised on the following legislative amendments:
 - Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2024/25
 - Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Regulations (No.2) 2024
 - Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Regulations 2025.
- Provided advice on amendments to be made to statutes not administered by the department.
- Provided advice, support and assistance to other government departments on legislative amendments, including the making of consequential amendments to legislation administered by the department.
- Provided policy and project leadership support and advice to a range of business areas within the department regarding government and corporate policy matters.
- Continued to coordinate key strategic projects and policy initiatives with other business areas, including the Plan for Our Parks initiative and the department's response to climate change.

Minister for the Environment Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC at the Bush Rangers Cadet conference
Photo - DBCA



Plan for Our Parks on the big screen
Photo - DBCA

Public Information and Corporate Affairs

Public Information and Corporate Affairs delivers strategic communications support to the department's programs and delivery areas, as well as to Traditional Owners, partners, and the Environment Minister's office, helping build strong community connections through modern and engaging communication and education initiatives.

Key achievements in 2024–25:

- Promoted the Plan for Our Parks program's landmark joint management partnerships and environmental, cultural and tourism outcomes through public education campaigns, audiovisual productions, graphic design, media opportunities, and multiple events with Traditional Owners and major stakeholders across the State.
- Provided real-time and often round-the-clock public safety information for all DBCA-managed bushfires, including the unprecedented 34-day Donnelly complex of bushfires. Delivered the spring 2024 and autumn 2025 prescribed burning public education campaigns across the department's three south-west forest regions.



Last printed edition of LANDSCOPE
Photo - DBCA



Opening of the Yalbunullup mountain bike trail
Photo - DBCA



- Designed and delivered new digital experiences including signage and interactive kiosks at key visitor locations across the State, including the Shark Bay World Heritage Area and Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, to promote conservation awareness and communicate visitor safety messages.
- Delivered outstanding experiences across the Perth metropolitan area to students and teachers through more than 300 environmental education and community engagement activities. The branch successfully coordinated and delivered the 2025 River Guardians Festival in partnership with the City of South Perth and ABC local radio, promoting better garden practises and wildlife awareness across the Swan Canning Riverpark, and to celebrate the opening of WA's first urban mountain bike complex, the branch worked closely with the Regional Parks Unit to plan and deliver a major community event at Yalbunullup near Lake Joondalup, attracting more than 1000 riders.



Parks and Wildlife Service managed land and waters

Total estate

At 30 June 2025, the total area under the department’s care was 34,397,860 hectares. The department now relies solely on Landgate’s statistical data and information systems for terrestrial tenure areas. This step was taken to ensure the areas reported are consistent with the information systems used by Landgate as the State’s land tenure information custodian.

Cape Le Grand National Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

2024–25 Legislated land and waters

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total (ha)
National park	1,022,027	1,620,847	2,367,534	2,651,223	851,791	151,834	122,311	562,028	17,794	9,367,389
Conservation park	183,984	620,964	394,605	333,754	752	19,202	22,235	709	26,736	1,602,941
Nature reserve	6,270,212	175,149	978,698	473,387	1,580,980	14,718	54,888	90,934	1,098,189	10,737,155
State forest	782	-	-	-	4,052	526,174	473,971	265,324	9,502	1,279,805
Timber reserve	28,392	-	26,277	-	5,158	26,278	28,730	8,313	-	123,148
Section 5(1)(g) & 5(1)(h) reserves	81,549	827,115	66,078	52,268	4,415	31,531	35,363	1,464	2,980	1,102,763
Marine park	-	3,765,778	869,492	343,505	1,280,000	123,000	16,248	1,446	-	6,399,469
Marine nature reserve	-	-	132,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,000
Marine management area	-	-	-	143,385	-	-	-	-	-	143,385
Section 34A freehold	-	-	1,549	-	91	19,443	50	4,657	-	25,790
UCL - Section 33(2)	28,560	-	1,567	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,127
Crown freehold – department managed	-	-	4	-	-	-	6,791	-	-	6,795
SCRM Act - river reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,597	-	-	3,597
Totals	7,615,506	7,009,853	4,837,804	3,997,522	3,727,239	912,180	764,184	934,875	1,155,201	30,954,364

2024–25 Management interest in lands

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total (ha)
Crown freehold – department interest	-	-	13,764	-	4,439	6,675	15,969	654	5,832	47,333
Crown reserve - department interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	509	141	-	650
Unallocated Crown land - department interest	1,245,887	137,472	1,376,955	575,002	16,885	5	30	134	43,143	3,395,513
Totals	1,245,887	137,472	1,390,719	575,002	21,324	6,680	16,508	929	48,975	3,443,496

Total (ha)	34,397,860
Terrestrial	27,723,006
Waters	6,674,854

Notes:

1. Areas are from Landgate cadastral/tenure information systems dated 31 March 2025. Land area of Western Australia is 252,987,500 hectares.
2. Marine areas provided by Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands branch. Areas are approximate only as quality of mapping of marine reserve boundaries is variable. Improved mapping of watermark and historical boundaries may result in revised area figures in the future.

Provisional area of national parks vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2025

Name	Area (ha)
Alexander Morrison	8,499
Avon Valley	4,456
Badgingarra	13,105
Bandilngan	2,573
Barnong	69,404
Beelu	4,648
Benwenerup (Stokes)	10,027
Blackwood River	20,470
Boorabbin	28,182
Boorara-Gardner	11,012
Boyndaminup	5,439
Brockman	51
Bunuba	160,505
Burringurrah	482,170
Cape Arid	277,542
Cape Le Grand	31,189
Chapman Brook	1,571
Collier Range (Gulali)	235,227
D'Entrecasteaux	119,485
Dalgaranga	135,682
Dalgarup	2,377
Danggu	2,797
Dimalurru	91

Name	Area (ha)
Dirk Hartog Island	62,664
Dordagup	6,403
Drovers Cave	2,565
Dryandra Woodland	16,536
Drysdale River	447,675
Easter	2,975
Edel	19,437
Eucla	3,810
Fitzgerald River	290,589
Fitzroy River (Yurriyangem Taam)	24,543
Forest Grove	1,379
Francois Peron	53,145
Frank Hann	68,709
Giralia (Jarralya)	240,620
Gloucester	874
Goldfields Woodlands	66,159
Goongarrie	59,999
Gooseberry Hill	107
Greater Beedelup	19,277
Greenmount	202
Gull Rock	2,105
Hassell	1,090
Hawke	14,010

Name	Area (ha)
Helena	12,261
Helena and Aurora Ranges	149,158
Hilliger	16,979
Houtman Abrolhos Islands	1,564
Jane	6,864
Jilgu	101,969
John Forrest	2,698
Kalamunda	397
Kalbarri	183,516
Karijini	624,222
Karlamilyi	1,282,595
Kennedy Range	332,298
Kingston	21,098
Korung	6,352
Lake Muir	9,629
Lakeside	8,465
Lane Poole	3,061
Lawley River	17,347
Leeuwin-Naturaliste	21,599
Lesmurdie Falls	57
Lesueur	27,232
Matuwa Kurarra Kurarra	609155
Meentheena (Purungunya)	163,483

Name	Area (ha)
Midgegooroo	2,483
Millstream Chichester	238,252
Milyeannup	18,690
Mirima	2,066
Mitchell River	115,186
Moore River	17,228
Mount Augustus	9,156
Mount Frankland	37,101
Mount Frankland North	22,052
Mount Frankland South	42,266
Mount Lindesay	39,541
Mount Roe	127,968
Muggon	191,520
Mungada Ridge	1,031
Murujuga*	5,397
Nambung	19,388
Nanda	36,308
Nanga	230,656
Neerabup	971
Niiwalarra Islands	3,352
Nyinggulara	27,083
Peak Charles	39,953

Name	Area (ha)
Pimbee	93,748
Porongurup	2,686
Preston	12,660
Prince Regent	585,292
Purnululu	243,546
Scott	3,322
Serpentine	4,283
Shannon	52,596
Sir James Mitchell	173
Stirling Range	113,541
Tathra	4,322
Tjiwarl	109,374
Torndirrup	4,020
Tuart Forest	2,080
Walpole-Nornalup	18,540
Walyunga	2,801
Wandoo	46,334
Warlibirri	15,874
Warnangura (Cape Range)	69,571
Warren	3,121
Watheroo	44,465
Waychinicup	4,063

Name	Area (ha)
Wellington	24,788
West Cape Howe	3,701
Whicher	6,352
William Bay	1,761
Wiltshire-Butler	11,645
Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater	1,455
Wooditjup	3,891
Yalgorup	14,175
Yanchep	2,912
Yelverton	728

* Freehold land managed as national park under Section 8A CALM Act 1984

- Notes:**
- Areas are from Landgate cadastral/tenure information systems dated 31 March 2025.
 - Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater is managed as a national park.

Marine reserves

The total area of marine reserves vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2025 was approximately 6.67 million hectares.

At 30 June 2025:

- the area of marine parks was approximately 6.4 million hectares
- the area of marine nature reserves was approximately 132,000 hectares
- the area of marine management areas was approximately 143,000 hectares.

Marine reserves vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2025

Note: Area figures are approximate only. Quality of mapping of marine reserve boundaries is variable. Improved mapping of watermark and historical boundaries may result in revised area figures in the future.

Name	Area (ha)
Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park	204,000
Barrow Island Marine Management Area	116,616
Barrow Island Marine Park	4,169
Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park	200,000
Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve	132,000
Jurien Bay Marine Park	82,376
Mamang Maambakoort Marine Park	93,000
Marmion Marine Park	9,357
Mayala Marine Park	313,000
Mirning Marine Park	192,000
Montebello Islands Marine Park	58,375
Muiron Islands Marine Management Area	26,769
Ngari Capes Marine Park	123,000
Ningaloo Marine Park	263,313
North Kimberley Marine Park	1,670,000
Rowley Shoals Marine Park	87,807
Shark Bay Marine Park	748,735
Shoalwater Islands Marine Park	6,545
Swan Estuary Marine Park	346
Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park	1,446
Western Bight Marine Park	199,000
Wudjari Marine Park	796,000
Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park	78,000
Total	6,674,854

 Jurien Bay Marine Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia

Carbon farming

The department supported State Government action to mitigate climate change, leading several collaborative carbon farming initiatives:

- Carbon for Conservation is an initiative under the WA Climate Policy. It provides opportunities for carbon farming service providers to work with the State Government via the department to maximise the environmental and economic benefits of carbon farming on the conservation estate. The State Government continued to evaluate Carbon for Conservation proposals under the market-led proposals policy problem and opportunity statement process.
- Pursued carbon farming opportunities across the conservation estate including progressing carbon farming feasibility assessments and undertaking carbon farming projects in collaboration with Traditional Owners.
- Implemented savannah burning projects in the Kimberley region by undertaking early dry season prescribed burning, in turn reducing greenhouse gas emissions from late dry season bushfires. In 2024, the savannah burning project in Prince Regent National Park generated 10,361 Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs) while the savannah burning project in Drysdale River National Park generated 15,113 ACCUs. Traditional Owners were employed in both projects and the department seeks to expand this engagement.

Legal matters

Freedom of Information

The Office of the Director General managed processes for the department under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. The department’s information statement is available on its website and describes the nature of the information held by the department and its related agencies, and the type of information that is made available to the public.

The department received 36 valid applications for access to information, with five applicants requesting an internal review of the department’s decision, one proceeding to external review by the Office of the Information Commissioner and one concluded external review by the Office of the Information Commissioner.

Litigation

Information regarding litigation in progress is available in the Notes to the financial statements under Litigation and arbitration in progress.

Prosecutions

Finalised prosecutions for 2024–25

DBCA successfully finalised four prosecutions in the Magistrates Court:

- A 32-year-old man was convicted of four charges in relation to the possession of fauna without lawful authority. He was fined a total of \$11,000 and ordered to pay costs of \$350.
- A 29-year-old man was convicted of six charges of exporting fauna without a licence. The charges relate to the discovery of 67 animals that were being sent out of Western Australia via air freight. He was fined \$15,000 and ordered to pay costs of \$189. A spent conviction order was made.
- A 27-year-old man was convicted of one charge of exporting fauna without a licence. The charge related to the discovery of six bobtails that were being sent out of Western Australia via post. The animals had been sourced from the pet trade and not the wild. The man was fined \$2,500 and ordered to pay costs of \$300.50. A spent conviction order was made.
- A 61-year-old man was issued with a \$200 infringement notice for cutting firewood for campfire in a nature reserve. He elected to have the infringement notice determined by a magistrate and was convicted of cutting forest produce without lawful authority. He was fined \$500 and ordered to pay \$300.50 costs.

Prosecutions currently before the courts

As of 30 June 2025, there is currently one prosecution before the courts.

Total reported offences

During the reporting year* department officers issued 626 cautions and 530 infringements for offences detected. Of these, 149 were issued for offences under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and its regulations, 937 were issued for offences under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and its regulations, and five were issued for offences under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* and its regulations.

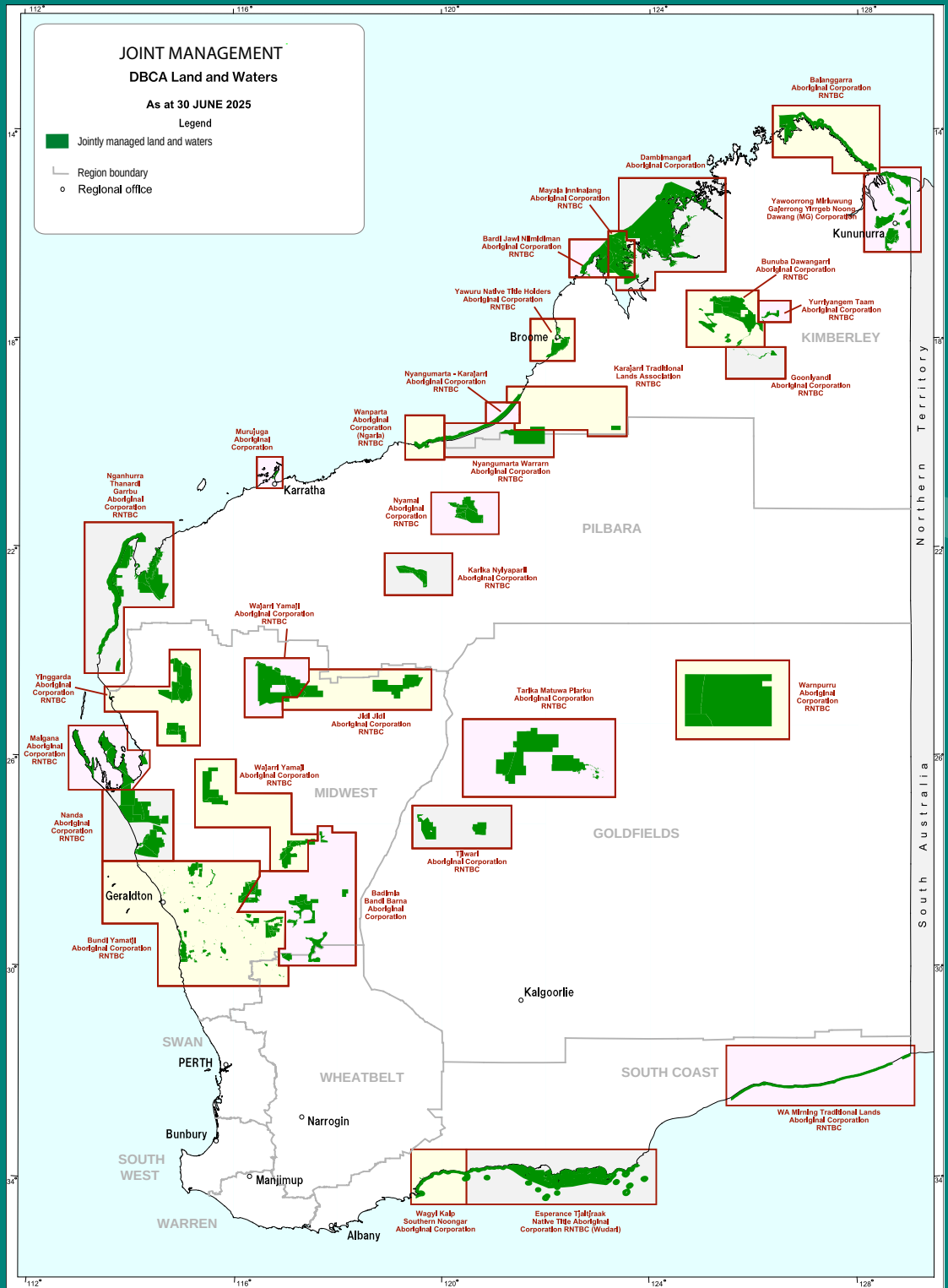
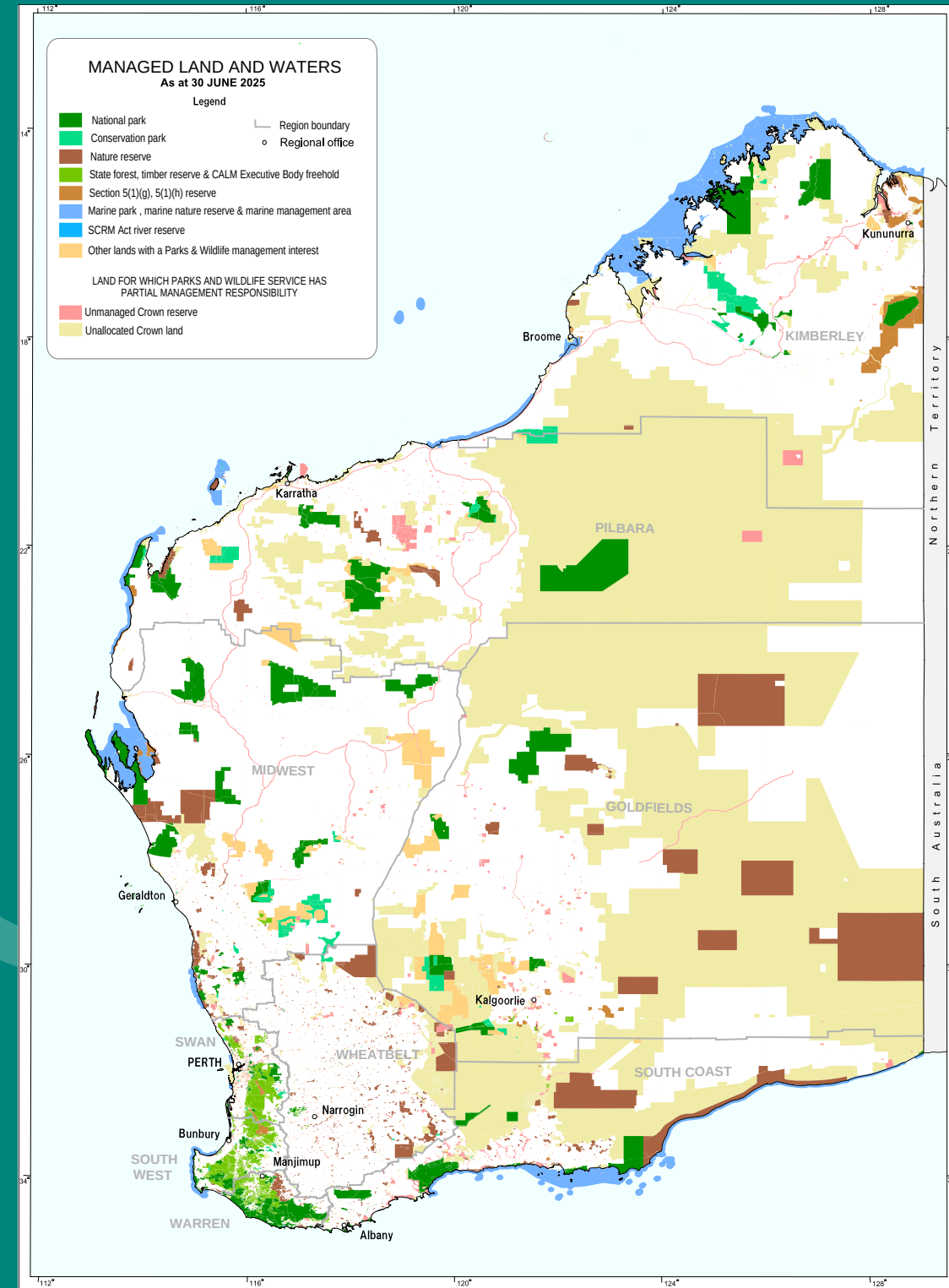
*Figures include infringements and cautions received by Wildlife Protection branch and processed into IBIS up to and including 30 June 2025.

Ministerial directives

No Ministerial directives were received during the financial year.

Conservation land acquisitions

The department's Parks and Wildlife Service acquired five land parcels (including two transfers) of noted conservation value, covering a combined area of about 423 hectares for future addition to the State's conservation reserve system.



Joint management

Joint management is a partnership between the State Government and other parties to manage land or waters in Western Australia. It often involves Aboriginal people who have a cultural connection with a park or reserve and wish to be involved in park management. This partnership is based on recognition, trust, mutual respect and shared goals.

At 30 June 2025, 30 joint management arrangements were in place covering 13.2 million hectares of parks and reserves, which equates to 42.8 per cent of Parks and Wildlife Service managed estate.

GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Red Bluff, Kalbarri National Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia

WA Multicultural Policy Framework

The department is committed to the principles of the WA Multicultural Policy Framework, which promotes equitable access to public sector employment, services, and decision making for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

As part of this commitment, the department continues to implement strategies that improve workforce representation, promote inclusion, and eliminate discrimination.

Key achievements in 2024–25 include:

- Promoted cultural inclusion through Harmony Week celebrations across the department.
- Reinforced respectful workplace behaviour by ensuring staff maintain up-to-date training through the department’s workplace discrimination and harassment course, required to be completed by all employees every three years.
- Supported inclusive employment practices and opportunities through broader diversity and inclusion initiatives, including culturally responsive recruitment and leadership expectations in line with the Building Leadership Impact initiative.

These efforts form part of DBCA’s broader approach to creating a workplace culture that values diversity, supports equity, and upholds the dignity and contributions of all employees.

Workplace health, safety and wellbeing

The department continues to prioritise the health, safety and wellbeing of its workforce, recognising the importance of meaningful engagement and collaboration across all levels of the organisation.

This year we focused on:

- Development and implementation of the Workplace Issue Resolution Framework to manage workplace behaviours and psychosocial risks, aligned with the Western Australian *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*. Three pilot workshops on managing workplace behaviours were delivered to support leaders in identifying and addressing concerns effectively.
- The department maintained its skilled workplace recognition for mental health first aid, ensuring continued representation and networking across the peer support and critical incident peer responder programs. A highlight of the year was a two-day wellbeing conference, fostering knowledge-sharing and resilience-building.
- Progress was made in procuring a comprehensive work health and safety (WHS) IT system to serve as the central repository for all WHS risk-related information. This system will enhance data management, improve visibility of workplace hazards and support informed decision making, strengthening the department’s overall risk management framework.
- Following an external audit of the department’s health, safety and wellbeing framework against the WorkSafe Plan, an action management plan has been progressed. Key focus areas in implementation include strengthening management commitment, clarifying accountabilities and responsibilities, and enhancing planning processes.

These initiatives reflect the department’s ongoing commitment to fostering a safe, supportive and proactive workplace culture.

IN MEMORIAM

This year DBCA sadly lost a member of its regional team with the sudden passing of senior ranger Neil O’Shaughnessy (1984-2025). Neil was an experienced and dedicated senior ranger who worked in numerous national parks across Australia. He passed away following a medical event within Purnululu National Park. Our condolences go out to his family, friends, and work colleagues.

Health and safety performance indicators

Measure		Results – prior years		Current reporting year	Targets	Comment on targets
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25		
Number of fatalities		0	0	0	0	Target met
Lost time injury and/or disease incidence rate		2.68	3.2	3.0	0 or 10% reduction	Target not met
Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate		17.7	41.07	60.34	0 or 10% reduction	Target not met
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:	(i) within 13 weeks	85%	86%	85.70%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Target met
	(ii) within 26 weeks	86%	96%	89.6%		Target met
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities		11%	18%	77%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Target not met

*These figures do not include employees at the Rottnest Island Authority, Zoological Parks Authority and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority. Employee numbers at the statutory authorities are reported in their respective annual report



Graduate Development Program
Photo - DBCA

Operational training

Maintaining a safe and healthy workplace includes a rigorous operational training program that takes into account unique circumstances faced by staff across the State.

The department’s Operational Training Unit had



769 active enrolments in accredited training courses and qualifications

28 certificates of qualification issued

595 statements of attainment to department employees and partnering agencies

1098 certificates of attendance for non-accredited training products.



Nanda rangers in Kalbarri National Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

Key achievements in 2024-25 included:

- A total of 41 courses are now hosted on the department’s learning management system.
- Developed three new courses: telehandler operations, skid steer operations, side by side vehicles.
- Replaced and redeveloped 23 units of competencies to support the transition to the new Certificates II, III and IV in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.
- Delivered four firearms safety courses, with information included on how the new *Firearms Act and Regulations 2024* must be applied operationally within the department’s scope of work.
- Ongoing review of the department’s dive program to ensure compliance with new workplace health and safety legislation.
- Delivered six dive coordinator courses, two PADI scientific diver courses, seven freediving safety awareness courses and two snorkel coordinator courses.

There was also increased interest in the Conservation Employee Development Program, with seven participants completing a conservation and ecosystems management qualification, six working towards a qualification, and 31 waitlisted. There are 29 trainees participating in the Mentored Aboriginal Training Employment Scheme (MATES) and 19 completed certificates in conservation and ecosystem management. Trainee numbers continue to increase due to joint management arrangements across the State, providing employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal people in Certificates II, III and IV in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

New initiatives:

A four-year pilot Graduate Development Program commenced across the State, which will consist of two consecutive two-year intakes, with a focus on supporting and progressing graduates through experiential learning opportunities where they will develop multiple competencies and skills across a range of services. This will be supplemented with learning and development opportunities over each two-year program.

The program commenced on 28 April 2025 with 14 graduate officers hosted across the regions on two-year fixed term contracts. Ninety-three per cent of our graduate officers were within our youth targets and there is a 50/50 gender split.

An additional 24 graduates were placed in a pool that will remain open for two years. The intent of the pool is to allow regions to fill employment opportunities of a similar level, pay rate and scope of the graduate officer roles.

The pilot program aims to address the gap in succession planning, and consequent loss of experience, through structured learning and development opportunities and to provide a steady flow of highly trained staff to meet the department’s future operational requirements.

Board and committee remuneration

The remuneration rates for boards and committees that assist the department are provided below.

Animal Ethics Committee (Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions)

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Jacqui Richards	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Category A	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	1,400
Member	Category A	Sessional	01/07/24 to 20/2/2025	1,050
Member	Category A	Sessional	20/2/25 to 30/06/25	700
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 20/2/25	Nil
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Category C	Sessional	01/07/24 to 20/2/25	2,100
Member	Category C	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	1,750
Member	Category D	Sessional	01/07/24 to 20/2/25	1,750
Member	Category D	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	1,750
Total				10,500

Categories: A Veterinarian, B Scientist, C Animal Welfare, D Independent community representative, E Other.

Members not identified by name due to privacy reasons.

Conservation and Parks Commission

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair (current)	Jo-anne Lanagan	Fortnightly	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	40,461
Member	Matthew Tonts	Fortnightly	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	20,321
Member	Tahn Donovan	Fortnightly	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	20,479
Member	Rodney Clark	Fortnightly	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	20,321
Member	Kim Eckert	Fortnightly	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	20,479
Member	Mark Webb	Fortnightly	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	26,325
Member	John Keesing	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Total				148,386

Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Regina Flugge	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	1,208
Member	Rachael Cooyou	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	429
Member	Russell Babcock	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	785
Member	George Kailis	Sessional	01/07/24 to 31/10/24	Nil
Member	James Florisson	Sessional	01/07/24 to 31/10/24	785
Member	Jacqeline Hine	Sessional	01/07/24 to 31/10/24	785
Member	Vicki Long	Sessional	01/07/24 to 31/10/24	Nil
Member	William Humphreys	Sessional	01/07/24 to 05/12/24	785
Member	Hazel Walgar	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	429
Member	Russell Brooks	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	785
Member	Christopher Simpson	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Total				5,991

North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program Advisory Committee and Scientific Panel

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Kateryna Longley	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	1,726
Member	Rory McAuley	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Narelle Montgomery	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Blair Hardman	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Total				1,726

Purnululu World Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Glen Chidlow	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Paul Butters	Sessional	01/07/24 to 02/08/24	712
Member	Sarah Legge	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	715
Member	Cherylene Nocketta	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	712
Member	Josephine Drill	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	712
Member	Vincent Edwards	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	712
Member	Bonnie Edwards	Sessional	01/07/24 to 22/11/24	712
Member	Peter Backshall	Sessional	01/07/24 to 31/08/24	712
Member	Cr Patricia McKay	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Total				4,987

Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
A/Chair	Juliane Bush	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Anthony Bellottie	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	1,261
Member	David Newsome	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	1,261
Member	Laura Gray	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Jane Blennerhassett	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	1,261
Member	Eleanor Ridley	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Gary Kendrick	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	1,261
Member	Gary Jackson	Sessional	29/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Stacey Blane	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	1,261
Total				6,305

Swan River Trust Board

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	David McFerran	Fortnightly	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	18,245
Deputy Chair	Peter King	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	11,859
Member	Marenée Provost	Sessional	01/07/24 to 09/05/25	2,973
Member	Cr Sara Saberi	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Member	Tracy Shea	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	2,497
Member	Michael Voros	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	2,806
Member	Rosemary Walley	Sessional	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	2,188
Member	Jacquie Stone	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/24 to 30/06/25	Nil
Total				40,568

OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Other legal requirements

Unauthorised use of credit cards

There were 226 personal transactions charged to departmental credit cards by 159 different cardholders to 30 June 2025. The majority of these occurred due to the cardholder inadvertently using their departmental credit card instead of a personal credit card for small transactions where a PIN was not required, or a merchant’s online payment facilities defaulting to the departmental credit card details that were provided on a previous occasion. In each case the cardholder provided written advice to their cost centre manager, the chief finance officer, and the notifiable authority, of the personal use of a departmental credit card, consistent with the requirements of Treasurer’s Instruction 5.2.7.

Financial year	2024–25
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure for the reporting period	\$15,003.26
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled by the due date (within five working days)	\$15,003.26
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled after five working days	N/A
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure outstanding at balance date	\$0

Act of grace payments

No act of grace payment was made by the department in 2024–25.

Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail

In accordance with section 175ZE of the Western Australian *Electoral Act 1907*, the department incurred the following expenditures in advertising.

Total expenditure 2024–25 was:	\$546,566.18
Expenditure has occurred in the following areas:	
Advertising agencies – recruitment	
Initiative Media Australia Pty Ltd	\$125,726.07
Direct mail organisations	NIL
Market research organisations	NIL
Media advertising organisations	\$420,840.11
Andimaps	\$1,374.55
Augusta Margaret River Mail	\$492.18
Carat Australia Media	\$353,145.64
City of Albany	\$81.82
City of Swan	\$991.92
Collie Chamber of Commerce	\$2,545.45
Countrywide Publications	\$590.91
Denmark Chamber of Commerce	\$545.45
Executive Media	\$863.64
Initiative Media Australia	\$55,009.23
Jurien Bay Community Resource Centre	\$584.11
Premium Publishers	\$716.00
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	\$201.64
State Law Publisher	\$1,101.22
The West Australian Newspaper	\$2,567.26
Walpole Community Resource Centre	\$29.09

Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes

The department’s Diversity, Access and Inclusion Committee monitors the implementation of the [Disability, Access and Inclusion Plan 2021–2025 \(DAIP\)](#) and works to ensure people with disability have the same opportunities as others to access services, information, facilities and employment.

During 2024–25, planning for accessible visitor infrastructure progressed in these areas:

- A visitor plan, including new visitor infrastructure, at Serpentine Falls in Serpentine National Park.
- Redesign of Wagyl’s Noorook Thrombolites recreation site and boardwalk.
- Designs for John Forrest Park Hub building and landscape were finalised, including accessible landscape spaces, buildings and toilets.
- Plans were prepared for an upgrade to Moses Rock in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park with an improved car park and accessible gathering area with views over Ngari Capes Marine Park.

- Accessible trailheads at Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin for the Cape to Cape Track, providing information for visitors and encouraging the use of the all-access section of the Cape to Cape Track from Cape Naturaliste lighthouse to Sugarloaf Rock.
- An accessible lookout at Minyirr (Gantheaume) Point in Broome.
- Replacement of the Hamelin Pool boardwalk in Shark Bay, damaged by cyclone Seroja.

Construction work commenced in 2024-25 on the following projects:

- Luisini Boardwalk in Yellagonga Regional Park.
- Construction continues at The Gap in Torndirrup National Park including improved parking, gathering spaces and an accessible toilet.
- Construction commenced of a 300m-long accessible bridge in John Forrest National Park, linking the newly constructed car park to the proposed Park Hub.
- New paths, interpretation and shelters on Penguin Island, providing access through the existing recreation site. Assisted access on and off the ferry is required to gain access to Penguin Island.

The following projects were completed in 2024-25:

- Mangrove Cove boardwalk in Kalgulup Regional Park, a 200m accessible boardwalk through the mangroves, linking to the accessible playground, Koombana Bay lookout and car park.
- Rabbit Hill lookout and car park in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.
- Yalbunullup mountain bike park visitor infrastructure, with end of ride visitor facilities including accessible toilets and shelter.
- Visitor infrastructure at Weano Gorge and Knox Gorge in Karijini National Park, including accessible toilets, accessible paths and a new lookout.
- Visitor infrastructure at Misery Beach, with a car park with views overlooking Frenchman Bay, an accessible pathway to a lookout with 360-degree views of the park at Stony Hill, and a new accessible toilet at Bald Head.
- Day use facilities, accessible toilet, and trail to the Tree in the Rock in Porongurup National Park.
- Improvements to access pathways in and around Milyering Visitor Centre in Cape Range National Park.
- Development of an e-book for Kalgulup Regional Park which uses photos, audiovisual content, and interactive timelines to explore the park’s natural and cultural values. The e-book provides a resource to view and understand the regional park for those with limited mobility or limited access to the park.

The department continued to implement numerous initiatives and activities in line with the DAIP. These included:

- Continued recognition as a Disability Confident Recruiter for 2024-25 for our commitment to inclusive hiring practices.
- Employment of people with disability on fee-for-service contracts through Western Australian Disability Enterprises, which currently include Workpower and Intelife.
- Utilised a range of disability recruitment specialists and continuing to email all advertised positions to these recruitment agencies.
- Ensured department-hosted events, building reception areas and parking facilities are accessible to people with disability and monitoring and addressing complaints about access.
- Ensured the department’s website continues to meet contemporary best practice and applicable legislative requirements for access for people with disability, and that departmental information is available in alternative formats.
- Celebrated the achievements and contribution people with disability make to the department at the annual barbecue recognising International Day of People with Disability, which also included guest speakers from Intelife and Workpower.
- For Neurodiversity Celebration Week, staff were invited to attend Altius’s online webinar ‘Building bridges, not barriers: fostering neurodiversity at work’. The session provided participants with insights and strategies to better understand, integrate, and support neurodiverse talent in the workplace.



Cape Le Grand National Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia



Accessibility inspection by DBCA and the City of Bunbury’s co-design access panel
Photo - DBCA

Yellagonga Regional Park
Photo - DBCA



Collier Range National Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

- The department is committed to upholding the Public Sector Standards, Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and Commissioner’s Instruction 40 – Ethical Foundations. It prioritises ethics and integrity, which are fundamental to the department’s values and Code of Conduct, and its goal is to foster a professional, equitable, transparent and positive work environment.
- The department’s mandatory induction training includes the Code of Conduct, accountable and ethical decision making, workplace discrimination and harassment (including specific training for leaders), information security, and records management, with the aim of having employees maintain the highest standards of conduct and integrity.
- In 2024-25 there was one alleged breach of the Public Sector Standards in Human Resources regarding recruitment and this was resolved.

Recordkeeping plans

As required under section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000* (the Act), the department has a recordkeeping plan that was approved by the State Records Commission on 10 April 2025. The department’s recordkeeping plan is supported by policy, procedures and training to ensure compliance with the Act. Completion of an e-learning course covering the legislative and policy framework for recordkeeping is a mandatory induction requirement for all new employees, including temporary employees and contractors. In addition, employees who have successfully completed the recordkeeping awareness induction training are required to complete the e-learning module every five years, ensuring the program continues to be effective.

Agency Capability Review requirements

The department was one of the first three agencies to participate in the Public Sector Commission’s Agency Capability Review program (the review), which commenced in September 2021 and ran to June 2022.

The executive summary report was published in September 2022. The department recognises the valuable insights and observations provided through the review and continues to progress strategies to ensure the department remains a high performing public sector agency into the future.

In 2024–25, the department progressed a number of initiatives including:

- the implementation of a new corporate structure to strengthen horizontal connections, improve governance, and enable a more strategic approach to decision making within the department
- the development of a Communities of Practice framework to support collaboration and information sharing for common areas of activity among business areas
- the development of a Strategic Workforce Planning framework to inform and support effective workforce planning.

Workforce Diversification and Inclusion Strategy

The department is committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and respectful workplace that reflects the Western Australian community we serve. We are committed to strengthening workplace cultures where all employees feel safe, valued, and supported to thrive, regardless of background, identity, or lived experience.

Over the past year, we have made strong progress in advancing workplace inclusion, integrity, and representation across all diversity groups. Key achievements include:

- Inclusive recruitment and early-career pathways: the department launched a tailored Graduate Development Program with a specific focus on Regional and Fire Management Services, designed to attract, support, and develop a diverse pipeline of early-career talent.
- Celebration and recognition of diversity: through a range of agency-wide events and cultural observances, we have significantly enhanced awareness, respect, and celebration of diverse identities and experiences across the organisation.
- Accessible equity and diversity resources: a dedicated suite of intranet pages focused on equity, diversity and inclusion was developed to provide staff with meaningful supports, inspiring stories from colleagues, and easy access to key resources and information.

As we continue to grow, our strategies will remain responsive to emerging needs and aligned with best practice across the public sector.



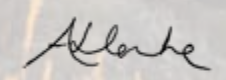
DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Certification of Financial statements
For the reporting period 30 June 2025

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 and the financial position as at 30 June 2025.

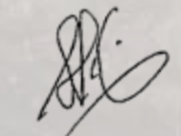
At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.

Amanda Klenke
Chief Finance Officer



23 September 2025

Stuart Smith
Accountable Authority



23 September 2025



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

2025

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Karijini National Park
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

To the Parliament of Western Australia

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Department) which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- administered schedules comprising the administered assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2025 and administered income and expenses by service for the year then ended
- notes comprising a summary of material accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements are:

- based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of the Department for the year ended 30 June 2025 and the financial position as at the end of that period
- in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Director General for the financial statements

The Director General is responsible for:

- keeping proper accounts
- preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director General is responsible for:

- assessing the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern
- disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Western Australian Government has made policy or funding decisions affecting the continued existence of the Department.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website. This description forms part of my auditor’s report and can be found at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

Report on the audit of controls

Basis for Qualified Opinion

I identified significant weaknesses in the procurement controls designed and implemented by the Department, specifically in the use of purchase orders, authorisation limits of expenditure, use of procurement contracts and potential splitting of invoices for payment. The combined weaknesses increase the risk of erroneous or fraudulent payments and ordering of inappropriate or unnecessary goods or services.

Qualified Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Department. The controls exercised by the Department are those policies and procedures established to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State’s financial reporting framework (the overall control objectives). In my opinion, in all material respects, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the controls exercised by the Department are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the controls within the system were suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives identified as at 30 June 2025, and that the controls were implemented as designed as at 30 June 2025.

The Director General’s responsibilities

The Director General is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining controls to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the Treasurer’s Instructions and other relevant written law.

Auditor General’s responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of the controls as designed. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and were implemented as designed.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the controls design to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of those controls. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including an assessment of the risks that controls are not suitably designed or implemented as designed. My procedures included testing the implementation of those controls that I consider necessary to achieve the overall control objectives.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Limitations of controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure, it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and implemented as designed, once in operation, the overall control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of the suitability of the design of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become unsuitable because of changes in conditions.

Report on the audit of the key performance indicators

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of the Department for the year ended 30 June 2025 reported in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer’s Instructions (legislative requirements). The key performance indicators are the Under Treasurer-approved key effectiveness indicators and key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the key performance indicators report of the Department for the year ended 30 June 2025 is in accordance with the legislative requirements, and the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Department’s performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Matter of Significance

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions reported “N/A” for its only key effectiveness indicator 3.1 ‘Cumulative removal of jarrah and karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan’ for Outcome 3 ‘Sustainable use of forest resources’ for the year ended 30 June 2025 as large-scale commercial harvesting and the need to set sustained yields of jarrah and karri sawlogs ceased on 31 December 2023 with the expiry of the Forest Management Plan 2014-2023. No target or actual information was set for the indicator in the approved budget statements for 2024-25. The Department obtained approval under TI 3 from the Under Treasurer which was granted prior to 30 June 2025. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

The Director General’s responsibilities for the key performance indicators

The Director General is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer’s Instructions and for such internal controls as the Director General determines necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the key performance indicators, the Director General is responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate, having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer’s Instruction 3 Financial Sustainability – Requirement 5: Key Performance Indicators.

Auditor General’s responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators. The objectives of my engagement are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the entity’s performance and whether the key performance indicators are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes my opinion. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the key performance indicators. It also involves evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators against the criteria and guidance in Treasurer’s Instruction 3 Financial Sustainability - Requirement 5 for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and the efficiency of service delivery. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments, I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the engagement in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

My independence and quality management relating to the report on financial statements, controls and key performance indicators

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQM 1 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Other information

The Director General is responsible for the other information. The other information is the information in the entity’s annual report for the year ended 30 June 2025, but not the financial statements, key performance indicators and my auditor’s report.

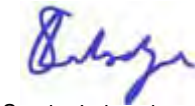
My opinions on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators do not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and key performance indicators, or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor’s report. When I do receive it, I will read it and if I conclude that there is a material misstatement in this information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request them to correct the misstated information. If the misstated information is not corrected, I may need to retract this auditor’s report and re-issue an amended report.

Matters relating to the electronic publication of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators

This auditor’s report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the year ended 30 June 2025 included in the annual report on the Department’s website. The Department’s management is responsible for the integrity of the Department’s website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Department’s website. The auditor’s report refers only to the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the annual report. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to contact the entity to confirm the information contained in the website version.



Sandra Labuschagne
Deputy Auditor General
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
24 September 2025



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

 Dirt Hartog Island National Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	3.1(a)	243,147	222,503
Supplies and services	3.3	125,579	107,952
Depreciation expense	5.1.1,5.2	41,707	38,572
Accommodation expenses	3.3	3,457	3,985
Grants and subsidies	3.2	80,722	56,002
Other expenses	3.3	67,357	48,054
Finance costs	7.2	1,992	953
Total cost of services		563,961	478,021
Income			
User charges and fees	4.2	43,496	40,894
Commonwealth grants	4.4	6,544	8,737
Other grants	4.5	13,842	11,154
Interest income		6,073	3,640
Other income	4.3	14,882	11,750
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	266	781
Total income		85,103	76,956
Net cost of services		478,858	401,065
Income from State Government			
Service appropriation	4.1	398,726	368,756
Income from other public sector entities		33,375	37,728
Resources received		1,741	1,409
Royalties for Regions Fund		39,590	26,565
Total income from State Government		473,432	434,458

	Note	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Surplus/(deficit) for the period			
		(5,426)	33,393
Other comprehensive income			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit and loss			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		315,662	361,818
Total other comprehensive income		315,662	361,818
Total comprehensive income for the period		310,236	395,211

See also the ‘Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service’.
The Statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION | For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)		Note	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Assets				Non-Current Liabilities			
Current Assets				Lease liabilities	7.1	13,776	9,183
Cash and cash equivalents	7.3	19,433	16,437	Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	5,284	5,436
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.3	126,924	118,362	Other non-current liabilities	6.6	37,316	16,553
Inventories	6.1	6,414	2,700	Total Non-Current Liabilities		56,376	31,172
Receivables	6.2	23,441	24,883				
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	11,300	11,300	TOTAL LIABILITIES		162,333	136,324
Other current assets	6.4	2,235	2,230				
Non-current assets classified as held for sale		27	12	NET ASSETS		4,824,709	4,429,425
Total Current Assets		189,774	175,924				
Non-Current Assets				EQUITY	9.8		
Receivables	6.2	6,348	8,713	Contributed equity		3,388,933	3,303,885
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	326,396	302,019	Reserves		1,301,642	985,980
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1	4,442,971	4,063,776	Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		134,134	139,560
Right-of-use assets	5.2	21,553	15,317	TOTAL EQUITY		4,824,709	4,429,425
Total Non-Current Assets		4,797,268	4,389,825				
				See also the ‘Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service’.			
Total assets		4,987,042	4,565,749	The Statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.			
Liabilities							
Current Liabilities							
Payables	6.5	25,927	28,441				
Lease liabilities	7.1	7,832	6,156				
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	49,570	49,291				
Other current liabilities	6.6	22,628	21,264				
Total Current Liabilities		105,957	105,152				

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY | For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	Contributed equity \$’000	Reserves \$’000	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$’000	Total equity \$’000
Balance at 1 July 2023		3,233,967	624,162	106,167	3,964,296
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	33,393	33,393
Other comprehensive income		0	361,818	0	361,818
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	361,818	33,393	395,211
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		61,201	0	0	61,201
Other contributions by owners		31,718	0	0	31,718
Distributions to owners		(23,001)	0	0	(23,001)
Total		69,918	0	0	69,918
Balance at 30 June 2024	9.8	3,303,885	985,980	139,560	4,429,425
Balance at 1 July 2024		3,303,885	985,980	139,560	4,429,425
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	(5,426)	(5,426)
Other comprehensive income		0	315,662	0	315,662
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	315,662	(5,426)	310,236
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		105,959	0	0	105,959
Other contributions by owners		33,181	0	0	33,181
Distributions to owners		(54,092)	0	0	(54,092)
Total		85,048	0	0	85,048
Balance at 30 June 2025	9.8	3,388,933	1,301,642	134,134	4,824,709

The Statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS | For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Cash flows from the State Government			
Service appropriation		363,049	333,570
Capital appropriation		105,959	61,201
Holding account drawdowns		11,300	11,300
Non-retained revenue distributed to owner		(54,092)	(23,001)
Funds from other public sector entities		30,972	37,728
Royalties for Regions Fund		49,824	47,160
Net cash provided by the State Government		507,012	467,958
<i>Utilised as follows:</i>			
Cash flows from operating activities			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(241,305)	(217,103)
Supplies and services		(123,494)	(100,719)
Accommodation		(3,457)	(3,985)
Grants and subsidies		(80,722)	(56,002)
GST payments on purchases		(26,770)	(22,912)
Other payments		(48,879)	(35,238)
Finance costs		(1,992)	(952)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		36,939	40,058
Commonwealth grants		8,605	1,023
Interest received		5,623	3,089
GST receipts on sales		5,984	6,328
GST receipts from taxation authority		19,582	16,569
Other receipts		36,012	19,798
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	7.3.2	(413,874)	(350,046)

	Note	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current assets		(73,149)	(72,289)
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets		1,155	1,129
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(71,994)	(71,160)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Payments			
Principal repayment of lease liabilities		(8,710)	(7,228)
Payment to accrued salaries account		(876)	(765)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(9,586)	(7,993)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		11,558	38,759
Change in classification of cash and cash equivalents		0	(4,284)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		134,799	100,324
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	7.3	146,357	134,799

The statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ADMINISTERED SCHEDULES

Administered income and expenses by service

	CONSERVING HABITATS, SPECIES AND ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES		IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN		TOTAL	
	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS						
Income						
For transfer:						
Regulatory fees and other charges	65	81	0	0	65	81
Total administered income	65	81	0	0	65	81
Expenses						
Transfer payments ^(a)	65	81	0	0	65	81
Loss on valuation of biological assets ^(b)	0	0	524	2,313	524	2,313
Total administered expenses	65	81	524	2,313	589	2,394

- a) Transfer payments represent the transfer of non-retainable regulatory fees to the Consolidated Account.
- b) Biological assets represents wild sandalwood.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ADMINISTERED SCHEDULES

Administered assets and liabilities

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Current assets		
Biological assets:		
Sandalwood	364	454
Total administered current assets	364	454
Non-current assets		
Biological assets:		
Sandalwood	1,755	2,189
Total administered non-current assets	1,755	2,189
TOTAL ADMINISTERED ASSETS	2,119	2,643

Sandalwood assets refers to wild sandalwood that grows on Department land. The licensing for the harvest of sandalwood is managed by the Department with the annual harvest limit for wild sandalwood determined by the Sandalwood (Limitation of Removal) Sandalwood Order 2015.

1. Basis of preparation

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is a WA Government entity controlled by the State of Western Australia, which is the ultimate parent. The Department is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective).

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities have been included in the ‘Overview’ which does not form part of these financial statements.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Accountable Authority of the Department on 23 September 2025.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements constitute general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statement of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by Treasurer’s instructions. Several of these are modified by Treasurer’s instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The *Financial Management Act 2006* and Treasurer’s instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statement of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. Where modification is required and has had a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars applying the accrual basis of accounting and using the historical cost convention. Certain

balances will apply a different measurement basis (such as the fair value basis). Where this is the case the different measurement basis is disclosed in the associated note. All values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$’000).

Judgements and estimates

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements and estimates made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements and/or estimates are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Accounting for Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except that the:

- (a) amount of GST incurred by the Department as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is recognised as part of an asset’s cost of acquisition or as part of an item of expense; and
- (b) receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of cash flows on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

Contributed equity

Interpretation 1038 Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, to be designated as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior, to transfer)

before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 8 – Requirement 8.1(i) and will be credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Administered items

The Department administers, but does not control, certain activities and functions for and on behalf of Government that do not contribute to the Department’s services or objectives. It does not have discretion over how it utilises the transactions in pursuing its own objectives.

Transactions relating to the administered activities are not recognised as the Department’s income, expenses, assets and liabilities, but are disclosed in the accompanying schedules as 'Administered income and expenses', and 'Administered assets and liabilities'.

The accrual basis of accounting and applicable Australian Accounting Standards has been adopted.

2. Department outputs

How the Department operates

This section includes information regarding the nature of funding the Department receives and how this funding is utilised to achieve the Department’s objectives. This note also provides the distinction between controlled funding and administered funding:

	Notes
Department objectives	2.1
Schedule of Income and Expenses by Services	2.2
Schedule of Assets and Liability by Service	2.3

2.1 Department objectives

Mission

The Department works with the community to ensure that Western Australia’s environment is valued, protected and conserved, for its intrinsic value, and for the appreciation and benefit of present and future generations.

Funding is predominantly provided by State parliamentary appropriations supplemented by fees received for the provision of services to the public. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the Department controls resources to carry on its functions.

Services

The Department provides the following services:

Service 1: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park

The Department provides an annual grant to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority to provide visitor services and public programs to the community for this service.

Service 2: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island

The Department provides an annual grant to the Rottnest Island Authority to provide visitor services and public programs to the community for this service.

Service 3: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo

The Department provides an annual grant to the Zoological Parks Authority to provide visitor services and public programs to the community for this service.

Service 4: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

Provide facilities, experiences and programs to visitors to the Swan and Canning

Riverpark for their enjoyment and appreciation of natural, cultural and heritage values and to strengthen community understanding and support for conservation of plants, animals and habitats.

Service 5: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters

Provide facilities, experiences and programs to visitors to national parks and other lands and waters for their enjoyment and appreciation of natural, cultural and heritage values and to strengthen community understanding and support for conservation of plants and animals.

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

Develop and implement programs for the conservation of biodiversity.

Service 7: Research and Conservation Partnerships

Work with the community, industry, traditional owners and other stakeholders to deliver research and conservation outcomes.

Service 8: Implementation of the Forest Management Plan

Manage State forests in accordance with the approved Forest Management Plan and provide services that support forest production activities.

Service 9: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management

Deliver prescribed burning and fire management to protect the community and enhance natural values.

Service 10: Bushfire Suppression

Suppress bushfires that threaten or occur on lands managed by the Department.

Consolidation:

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority are separate legal entities governed by their respective boards appointed under Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998, Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987 and Zoological Parks Authority Act 2001 respectively and consequently, their financial results are presented separately and not consolidated into these financial statements.

The financial statements of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions will include Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority only to the extent it has provided direct funding to each of the statutory authorities.

To facilitate interpretation of the financial reports of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, funding provided to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority are disclosed as Service 1 – “Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park”, Service 2 – “Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island” and Service 3 – “Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo”. These disclosures do not represent the full and comprehensive financial results and financial position of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority. For full disclosure of the financial results and financial position of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority, refer to the annual report and financial statements of the individual statutory authority.

Administered Items

The agency administers assets, liabilities, income and expenses on behalf of Government which are not controlled by, nor integral to, the function of the agency. These administered balances and transactions are not recognised in the principal financial statements of the Department but schedules are prepared using the same basis as the financial statements and are presented at Administered Schedules note 10.2 ‘Explanatory statement for administered items’.

2.2 Schedule of income and expenses by service
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters		Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities		Research and Conservation Partnerships		Implementation of the Forest Management Plan		Prescribed Burning and Fire Management		Bushfire Suppression		Total	
	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES																						
Expenses																						
Employee benefits expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,138	8,711	83,772	74,348	63,056	56,707	10,102	9,623	18,086	16,646	40,943	36,657	18,050	19,811	243,147	222,503
Supplies and services	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,370	2,677	55,733	52,736	20,172	16,104	7,225	4,882	8,052	4,952	12,591	11,578	18,436	15,023	125,579	107,952
Depreciation expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	702	873	24,220	22,738	4,234	3,290	732	646	1,343	1,343	5,180	5,225	5,296	4,457	41,707	38,572
Accommodation expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	392	215	1,666	1,297	843	1,316	144	105	130	116	113	868	169	68	3,457	3,985
Grants and subsidies	17,846	15,835	9,264	8,622	14,119	10,567	7,601	4,491	30,288	16,046	497	144	1,039	297	68	0	0	0	0	0	80,722	56,002
Other expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	281	287	30,944	14,089	4,086	3,344	657	539	2,104	1,905	1,808	1,067	27,477	26,823	67,357	48,054
Finance costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	31	1,394	601	200	112	36	19	65	35	150	98	115	57	1,992	953
Total cost of services	17,846	15,835	9,264	8,622	14,119	10,567	21,516	17,285	228,017	181,855	93,088	81,017	19,935	16,111	29,848	24,997	60,785	55,493	69,543	66,239	563,961	478,021
Income																						
User charges and fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	6	38,000	33,952	529	2,463	2,168	1,634	331	78	1,945	2,761	421	0	43,496	40,894
Commonwealth grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,063	5,185	1,082	907	1	0	1,023	2,645	0	0	3,375	0	0	0	6,544	8,737
Other grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	780	289	976	508	37	3	11,954	10,060	14	291	35	1	46	2	13,842	11,154
Interest income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	471	66	571	86	4,686	3,386	299	42	46	60	0	0	6,073	3,640
Other income	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	7	7,531	8,409	3,592	1,129	459	143	1,955	472	1,170	925	149	665	14,882	11,750
Gains/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	21	167	29	39	29	9	9	0	49	18	286	3	358	266	781
Total income	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,001	5,508	48,227	43,871	4,769	3,710	20,299	17,877	2,599	932	6,589	4,033	619	1,025	85,103	76,956
NET COST OF SERVICES																						
	17,846	15,835	9,264	8,622	14,119	10,567	19,515	11,777	179,790	137,984	88,319	77,307	(364)	(1,766)	27,249	24,065	54,196	51,460	68,924	65,214	478,858	401,065
Income from State Government																						
Service appropriation	17,846	15,835	9,264	8,622	14,119	10,567	11,779	13,665	130,013	118,924	81,599	76,883	0	0	24,425	22,109	49,989	45,526	59,692	56,625	398,726	368,756
Income from other public sector entities	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,798	4,068	10,886	5,963	4,126	3,926	2,689	9,672	1,728	2,859	2,783	2,827	7,365	8,413	33,375	37,728
Resources received	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	766	642	222	170	45	28	67	51	298	230	336	285	1,741	1,409
Royalties for Regions Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36,409	20,685	306	380	0	0	0	0	2,875	5,500	0	0	39,590	26,565
Total income from State Government	17,846	15,835	9,264	8,622	14,119	10,567	15,584	17,736	178,074	146,214	86,253	81,359	2,734	9,700	26,220	25,019	55,945	54,083	67,393	65,323	473,432	434,458
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the period																						
	0	0	0	0	0	0	(3,931)	5,959	(1,716)	8,230	(2,066)	4,052	3,098	11,466	(1,029)	954	1,749	2,623	(1,531)	109	(5,426)	33,393

The Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
(a) Note: The service includes transactions only to the extent that the Department has provided direct funding to the statutory authority. These disclosures do not represent the financial result and financial position of the Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority. For a full disclosure of the financial result and financial position of each statutory authority, refer to the annual report and financial statements of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority respectively.

2.3 Schedule of assets and liabilities by service
As at 30 June 2025

	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters		Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities		Research and Conservation Partnerships		Implementation of the Forest Management Plan		Prescribed Burning and Fire Management		Bushfire Suppression		Total	
	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
ASSETS																						
Current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	370	503	72,550	53,812	7,629	9,541	89,211	91,776	2,120	3,858	8,657	9,285	9,237	7,149	189,774	175,924
Non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	45,350	37,330	1,821,428	1,564,307	1,128,809	998,255	15,253	19,796	1,619,236	1,612,576	79,899	81,828	87,293	75,733	4,797,268	4,389,825
Total assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	45,720	37,833	1,893,978	1,618,119	1,136,438	1,007,796	104,464	111,572	1,621,356	1,616,434	88,556	91,113	96,530	82,882	4,987,042	4,565,749
LIABILITIES																						
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,059	3,844	45,963	42,201	26,408	23,218	4,201	4,496	7,730	4,906	12,865	13,035	4,731	13,452	105,957	105,152
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,511	1,381	22,653	12,466	10,928	6,593	2,238	1,363	3,520	1,600	7,089	4,566	7,437	3,203	56,376	31,172
Total liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,570	5,225	68,616	54,667	37,336	29,811	6,439	5,859	11,250	6,506	19,954	17,601	12,168	16,655	162,333	136,324
NET ASSETS	0	0	0	0	0	0	39,150	32,608	1,825,362	1,563,452	1,099,102	977,985	98,025	105,713	1,610,106	1,609,928	68,602	73,512	84,362	66,227	4,824,709	4,429,425

The Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
(a) Note: The service includes transactions only to the extent that the Department has provided direct funding to the statutory authority. These disclosures do not represent the financial result and financial position of the Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority. For a full disclosure of the financial results and financial position of each statutory authority, refer to the annual report and financial statements of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority respectively.

3. Use of our funding

Expenses incurred in the delivery of services

This section provides additional information about how the Department's funding is applied and the accounting policies that are relevant for an understanding of the items recognised in the financial statements. The primary expenses incurred by the Department in achieving its objectives and the relevant notes are:

	Notes
Employee benefits expense	3.1(a)
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)
Grants and subsidies	3.2
Other expenses	3.3

3.1a) Employee benefits expense

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Employee benefits	219,278	201,878
Termination benefits	127	244
Superannuation – defined contribution plans	23,742	20,381
Total employee benefits expense	243,147	222,503
Add: AASB 16 non-monetary benefits (not included in employee benefits expense)	4,013	3,000
Less: Employee contributions (per the statement of comprehensive income)	(2,086)	(1,891)
Net employee benefits	245,074	223,613

Employee benefits: Includes wages, salaries and social contributions, accrued and paid annual leave entitlements and paid sick leave and non-monetary benefits recognised under accounting standards other than AASB 16 (such as medical care, housing, cars and free or subsidised goods or services) for employees.

Termination benefits: Payable when employment is terminated before normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. Termination benefits are recognised when the Department is demonstrably committed to terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Benefits falling due more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period are discounted to present value.

Superannuation: The amount recognised in profit or loss of the Statement of Comprehensive Income comprises employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the WSS, other GESB schemes or other superannuation funds.

AASB 16 non-monetary benefits: Non-monetary employee benefits predominantly relating to the provision of vehicle and housing benefits that are recognised under AASB 16 which are excluded from the employee benefits expense.

Employee contributions: Contributions made to the Department by employees towards employee benefits that have been provided by the Department. This includes both AASB 16 and non-AASB 16 employee contributions.

3.1b) Employee related provisions

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Annual leave	21,952	22,152
Long service leave	27,004	26,531
	48,956	48,683

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs	614	608
Total current employee related provisions	49,570	49,291
Non-current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Long service leave	5,216	5,366
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs	68	70
Total non-current employee related provisions	5,284	5,436
Total employee related provisions	54,854	54,727

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave for services rendered up to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

Annual leave liabilities: Classified as current as there is no right at the end of the reporting period to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	20,146	20,311
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	1,806	1,841
	21,952	22,152

The provision for annual leave is calculated at the present value of expected payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Long service leave liabilities: Unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the Department does not have the right at the end of the reporting period to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period.

Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because the Department has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	6,669	5,229
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	25,551	26,668
	32,220	31,897

The provision for long service leave is calculated at present value as the Department does not expect to wholly settle the amounts within 12 months. The present value is measured taking into account the present value of expected future payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date. These payments are estimated using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement and discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Employment on-costs: The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers’ compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments.

Employment on-costs, including workers’ compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of ‘Other expenses’, Note 3.3 (apart from the unwinding of

the discount (finance cost)) and are not included as part of the Department’s ‘employee benefits expense’. The related liability is included in ‘Employment on-costs provision’.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Employment on-costs provision		
Carrying amount at start of period	678	563
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	290	391
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefits	(249)	(280)
Unwinding of the discount	(37)	4
Carrying amount at end of period	682	678

Key sources of estimation uncertainty – long service leave

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Several estimates and assumptions are used in calculating the Department’s long service leave provision. These include:

- Expected future salary rates;
- Discount rates;
- Employee retention rates; and
- Expected future payments.

Changes in these estimations and assumptions may impact on the carrying amount of the long service leave provision. Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of long service leave liabilities is recognised as employee benefits expense.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
3.2 Grants and subsidies		
Recurrent		
State Government ^(a)	42,450	35,620
Private organisations	5,574	4,344
Royalties for Regions Fund – Aboriginal Ranger Program	29,419	11,696
Local Government	2,526	4,091
Federal Government	753	251
Total grants and subsidies	80,722	56,002

(a) State Government entities with significant total grants provided by the Department:

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	17,846	15,845
Zoological Parks Authority	14,440	10,567
Rottnest Island Authority	9,264	8,622
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	316	319
Burswood Park Board	74	0
Department of Justice	0	75
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	0	188
WA Museum	410	0
Department of Transport	100	4

Transactions in which the Department provides goods, services, assets (or extinguishes a liability) or labour to another party without receiving approximately equal value in return are categorised as ‘Grant expenses’. Grants can either be operating or capital in nature.

Grants can be paid as general purpose grants which refer to grants that are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Alternatively, they may be paid as specific purpose grants which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

Grants and other transfers to third parties (other than contribution to owners) are recognised as an expense at fair value in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable. They include transactions such as: grants, subsidies, personal benefit payments made in cash to individuals and other transfer payments made to public sector agencies, local government, non-government schools, and community groups.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
3.3 Other expenditure		
Supplies and services		
Communications	3,298	3,036
Consultants and contractors	11,987	10,648
Services and contracts	57,795	50,417
Materials	29,244	24,632
Repairs and maintenance	7,320	6,376
Travel	8,513	6,868
Staff costs (including uniforms & protective clothing)	7,182	5,921
Other	240	54
Total supplies and services expenses	125,579	107,952
Accommodation expenses		
Lease rentals	848	1,566
Electricity, power and water	2,609	2,419
	3,457	3,985

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Other expenses		
Employment on-costs	3,786	3,123
Light fleet management costs	6,818	6,083
Other lease, rental and hire expenses	29,554	28,112
Software maintenance	719	1,119
Financial Liability recognition	26,415	9,617
Other	65	0
Total other expenses	67,357	48,054
Total other expenditure	196,393	159,991

Supplies and services: Recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. The carrying amounts of any materials held for distributions are expensed when the materials are distributed.

During the year the Department’s transactions with government related entities on supplies and services amount to \$10.71 million (2024: \$10.62 million).

Accommodation expenses: Short-term and low-value leases are recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term, except where another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern of the benefits derived from the use of the leased asset. Accommodation expense includes Government Office Accommodation that falls outside the scope of AASB 16 Leases. Office lease expenses, organised through the Department of Finance, are expensed as incurred as Memorandum of Understanding Agreements between the Department and the Department of Finance contain significant substitution rights.

During the year the Department’s transactions with government related entities on accommodation amount to \$1.60 million (2024: \$1.79 million).

Other expenses: Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations.

Employee on-costs: Includes workers’ compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liabilities is included at Noe 3.1(b) Employee related provisions. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

Light fleet management costs: Maintenance and running costs for the leased light vehicle fleet.

Lease rentals and other lease, rental and hire expenses include:
i) Short-term leases with a lease term of 12 months or less;
ii) Low-value leases with an underlying value of \$5,000 or less; and
iii) Variable lease payments, recognised in the period in which the event or condition that triggers those payments occurs.

This excludes leases with another wholly-owned public sector entity lessor agency. Refer to note 5.2 right of use assets.

During the year the Department’s transactions with government related entities on other expenses amount to \$9.46 million (2024: \$7.57 million).

The Department holds short-term and low-value aircraft, plant and equipment and other leases. Payments are recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term, except where another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern of the benefits derived from the use of the leased asset.

Software maintenance: Software licence assurance, upgrade and support costs incurred by the Department.

Financial Liability recognition: Recognition of monetary obligation to external parties as part of contractual agreements. The monetary obligations are related to indigenous land use agreements. Recognised as an expense in the reporting period the obligation is established and measured at fair value upon recognition, being the discounted present value of future cash flows. Interest expense on unwinding of financial liability is presented at 7.2.

4. Our funding sources

How we obtain our funding
This section provides additional information about how the Department obtains its funding and the relevant accounting policy notes that govern the recognition and measurement of this funding. The primary income received by the Department and the relevant notes are:

	Notes
Income from State Government	4.1
User charges and fees	4.2
Other income	4.3
Commonwealth grants	4.4
Other grants	4.5
Gains/loss on disposal of non-current assets	4.6

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
4.1 Income from State Government		
Appropriation received during the period:		
Service appropriation	398,726	368,756
Total service appropriation received	398,726	368,756
Resources received from other public sector entities during the period:		
Services received free of charge	1,741	1,409
Total resources received	1,741	1,409

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Income received from other public sector entities during the period:		
Recurrent grants	11,787	14,822
Capital grants	3,324	5,158
Fees	18,264	17,748
Total income from other public sector entities	33,375	37,728
Royalties for Regions Fund:		
Regional Community Services Account	39,590	26,565
Total income from State Government	473,432	434,458

Service appropriation: Recognised as income at the fair value of consideration received in the period in which the Department gains control of the appropriated funds. The Department gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited in the bank account or credited to the ‘Amounts receivable for services’ (holding account) held at Treasury.

Resources received from other public sector entities: Recognised as income equivalent to the fair value of assets received or the fair value of services received that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated.

Income from other public sector entities: Recognised as income when the Department has satisfied its performance obligations under the funding agreement. If there is no performance obligation, income will be recognised when the Department is entitled to the funds.

Recurrent grants: Revenue from grant contracts that contain sufficiently specific performance obligations are recognised over time or at a point in time when performance obligations are satisfied in line with AASB 15 Contracts with Customers. Where revenue is recognised over time revenue will be recognised in accordance with costs expended on the grant. Revenue and costs are allocated to specific purpose accounts that track the account balance of grants.

Where grant contracts do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations revenue is recognised when the Department is entitled to funding under AASB 1058.

Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if not donated.

Capital grants: Income from grants to acquire/construct a recognisable asset to be controlled by the Department are recognised at the fair value of the consideration received to the extent the obligations for asset acquisition or construction specified in the grant are satisfied. Unfulfilled obligations are carried as unearned revenue. Capital grants for land purchases are recognised at a point in time when the land is purchased. For assets acquired or constructed over time income is recognised in line with the capitalisation of costs. See note 6.6b) for the Department’s non-financial asset construction and acquisition liability.

Fees: Revenue is recognised in accordance with the satisfaction of performance obligations in accordance with the specific contract for service. Depending on the contract fees are recognised at a point in time or over time with reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

Regional Community Services Account: A sub-fund within the over-arching ‘Royalties for Regions Fund’. The recurrent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas and are recognised as income when the Department receives the funds. The Department has assessed Royalties for Regions agreements and concludes that they are not within the scope of AASB 15 as they do not meet the ‘sufficiently specific’ criterion.

Summary of consolidated account appropriations
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025 Budget ¹ \$'000	2025 Section 25 Transfers \$'000	2025 Additional funding ² \$'000	2025 Amendments to Acts \$'000	2025 Revised Budget \$'000	2025 Actual \$'000	2025 Variance \$'000
<u>Delivery of Services</u>							
Item 91 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	390,622	6,549	7,097	0	404,268	404,268	0
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes -Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	615	0	0	242	857	857	0
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	391,237	6,549	7,097	242	405,125	405,125	0
<u>Capital</u>							
Item 159 Capital appropriations	150,098	12,312	0	0	162,410	105,525	(56,885)
Grand Total	541,335	18,861	7,097	242	567,535	510,650	(56,885)

¹The combination of the Department and the statutory authorities Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority are presented as the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions as a single division in the Consolidated Account Expenditure Estimates.

²Additional funding includes supplementary funding and new funding authorised under section 27 of the Act and amendments to standing appropriations.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
4.2 User charges and fees		
User charges	36,427	33,538
Fees	7,069	7,356
	43,496	40,894
4.2a) User charges		
Entry fees	12,840	11,297
Camping	10,379	8,871
Park passes	4,032	4,258
Merchandise	3,967	3,603
Leases	2,944	3,098
Commercial operation licences	1,696	1,826
Other	569	585
	36,427	33,538

Revenue is recognised in line with the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Department expects to be entitled in exchange for goods or services. Revenue is recorded and recognised in the accounting period in which the relevant performance obligations have been satisfied.

Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Entry fees: Admission charges for national parks and attractions. Revenue is recognised at a point in time.

Camping: Hire fees for camp sites in national parks. Revenue is recognised over time with unearned revenue adjusted at year-end.

Park passes: Park passes sold by the Department entitle customers to entry to national parks over a designated time. Revenue is recognised over time with unearned revenue adjusted at year-end.

Merchandise: Revenue is recognised from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets when the significant risks and rewards of ownership transfer to the purchaser and can be measured reliably.

Leases: Lease income from rental of land or facilities is recognised over the period of use under AASB 16 Leases.

Commercial operation licences: Includes T class licence revenue and E class licence revenue. T class licences represent fees to conduct commercial operations within parks managed under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984. The licences are considered low-value and the fees are recognised at a point in time. E class licence revenue are issued to commercial providers to operate in national park and are variable. E class licence revenue is recognised over time.

Other User Charges: Includes tour fees and other recreation income with revenue recognised at a point in time.

Fees: Revenue is recognised in accordance with the satisfaction of performance obligations in accordance with the specific contract for service. Depending on the contract fees are recognised at a point in time or over time with reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
4.2b) User charges by location/business unit		
Goldfields	5	7
Kimberley	2,614	2,421
Midwest	7,153	6,589
Parks and Visitor Services(a)	1,290	1,604
Nature Based Tourism(a)	179	0
Pilbara	7,204	6,951
South Coast	3,553	3,184
South West	2,603	2,462
Swan	7,042	6,159
Warren	4,633	4,037
Wheatbelt	151	124
	36,427	33,538

(a) Parks and Visitor Services and Nature Based Tourism are divisions that are primarily centrally located and operate from Kensington, WA.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
4.2c) Fees by sector		
Private organisations	6,934	7,221
Federal Government	104	71
Local Government	31	64
	7,069	7,356

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
4.3 Other income		
Mining compensation	5,634	677
Insurance refunds(a)	475	3,459
Forest and beach shack leases	1,492	1,494
Other	632	709
Communication sites	908	928
Employee contributions	2,086	1,891
Publications	228	253
Apiary sites	653	187
Diesel fuel rebate	470	545
Sale of minor assets	36	44
Carbon credit sales	960	0
Assets found during the period:		
-Buildings	910	53
-Infrastructure & Plant & Equip	398	1,510
	14,882	11,750

(a)Recoup of damage and repair costs from the Insurance Commission and Riskcover fund.

Mining compensation: Compensation for land cleared to conduct mining activities on Department land. Revenue is variable consideration under AASB 16 Leases. Compensation provided to the Department is based on the expected hectares of land to be cleared with adjustment for actual land cleared. Revenue is recognised on a systematic basis with revenue received in advance held in unearned revenue.

Forest and beach shack leases, communication sites and apiary sites: Lease income from the rental of accommodation, telecommunication towers and land sites are recognised over a period of time on a systematic basis.

Employee contributions: Income received by the Department from subleasing right-of-use assets relates to lease payments received from operating leases. The Department has leased a number of right-of-use assets from the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH), which it subleases out to

employees at a subsidised rate. Information on the Department’s leasing arrangements with GROH can be found in note 3.1 a). Employees also provide contribution for leased vehicle.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
4.4 Commonwealth grants		
Recurrent	2,403	8,296
Capital	766	441
Carbon Credits	3,375	0
	6,544	8,737

Revenue recognition policies for Commonwealth grants is consistent with the policies stated at note 4.1d) for income from other public sector entities.

The Department receives Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) from the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) based on the calculated carbon abated from its carbon farming operation. The credits were previously recognised at the average ACCU contract price per government auction and held as inventory. For the 2024-25 period carbon credits are recognised at the end of month spot market price in which the credits are granted to the Department.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
4.5 Other grants		
Capital	1,258	673
Recurrent	12,584	10,481
	13,842	11,154

The Department received revenue from a range of private and state granting (note 4.1) entities in 2025. Revenue recognition policies for other grants is consistent with the policies stated at note 4.1 for income from other public sector entities.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
4.6 Gains/loss on disposal of non-current assets		
Net proceeds from disposal of non-current assets		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	1,155	1,129
Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	(799)	(416)
Buildings	0	(18)
Retirement of lease assets and liabilities		
Net gain/(loss) on retirement of lease asset and liabilities	(90)	86
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets	266	781

Realised and unrealised gains are usually recognised on a net basis. These include gains arising on the disposal of non-current assets and some revaluations of non-current assets.

Gains and losses on the disposal of non-current assets are presented by deducting from the proceeds on disposal the carrying amount of the asset and related selling expenses. Gains and losses are recognised as profit or loss in the statement of comprehensive income (from the proceeds of sale).

5. Key Assets

This section includes information regarding the key assets the Department utilises to gain economic benefits or provide service potential. The section sets out both the key accounting policies and financial information about the performance of these assets:

	Notes
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1
Right-of-use assets	5.2
Depreciation and impairment	5.1.1

5.1(a) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

	Land	Buildings	Assets under construction	Plant, equipment	Vehicles	Infrastructure	Works of art	Total
	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
Year ended 30 June 2025								
1 July 2024								
Gross carrying amount	3,592,017	186,701	80,880	222,576	59,965	153,881	662	4,296,682
Accumulated depreciation	0	0	0	(121,193)	(35,053)	(76,660)	0	(232,906)
Accumulated impairment loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrying amount at start of period	3,592,017	186,701	80,880	101,383	24,912	77,221	662	4,063,776
Additions	759	1,424	48,126	5,217	12,809	5,140	0	73,475
Transfers(a)	22,946	5,765	(32,134)	13,513	751	11,777	0	22,618
Transfers between categories	0	0	0	(4,671)	0	4,671	0	0
Assets not previously identified	0	911	0	398	0	0	0	1,309
Assets classified as held for sale	0	0	0	0	(15)	0	0	(15)
Disposals	0	0	0	(458)	(341)	0	0	(799)
Revaluation	305,558	10,104	0	0	0	0	0	315,662
increments/(decrements)(c)								
Impairment losses(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	(6,784)	0	(12,211)	(6,726)	(7,334)	0	(33,055)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2025	3,921,280	198,121	96,872	103,171	31,390	91,475	662	4,442,971
Gross carrying amount	3,921,280	198,121	96,872	233,261	70,386	175,285	662	4,695,867
Accumulated depreciation	0	0	0	(130,090)	(38,996)	(83,810)	0	(252,896)
Accumulated Impairment loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- (a) The Department received \$22.95 million land assets in 2024-25 and \$11.12 million of land assets in 2023-24 from other agencies which has been accounted as contributed equity. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is the only Department with the power to sell Crown land. The Land is transferred to DPLH for sale and the Department accounts for the transfer as a distribution to owner.
- (b) Recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Where an asset measured at cost is written down to recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit and loss. Where a previously revalued asset is written down to recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement in other comprehensive income.
- (c) Information on fair value measurement is provided in Note 8.3. Of this amount, \$26.08 million relates to costs to restore third-party assets, disruption, site preparation costs and professional and project management fees, which are now included in the value of current use building assets under the current replacement cost basis as required by the prospective application of AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities*.

5.1(a) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

	Land	Buildings	Assets under construction	Plant, equipment	Vehicles	Infrastructure	Works of art	Total
	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
Year ended 30 June 2024								
1 July 2023								
Gross carrying amount	3,251,699	138,295	70,425	210,871	54,738	139,140	662	3,865,830
Accumulated depreciation	0	0	0	(115,101)	(31,494)	(70,679)	0	(217,274)
Accumulated impairment loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrying amount at start of period	3,251,699	138,295	70,425	95,770	23,244	68,461	662	3,648,556
Additions	4,170	6,173	44,479	8,569	6,407	3,014	0	72,812
Transfers(a)	11,122	13,783	(34,024)	6,607	1,193	11,923	0	10,604
Transfers between categories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assets not previously identified	0	53	0	1,510	0	0	0	1,563
Assets classified as held for sale	0	0	0		12	0	0	12
Disposals	0	(18)	0	(327)	(89)	0	0	(434)
Revaluation	325,026	36,792	0	0	0	0	0	361,818
increments/(decrements)(c)								
Impairment losses(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	(8,377)	0	(10,746)	(5,855)	(6,177)	0	(31,155)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2024	3,592,017	186,701	80,880	101,383	24,912	77,221	662	4,063,776

- (a) The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is the only Department with the power to sell Crown land. The Land is transferred to DPLH for sale and the Department accounts for the transfer as a distribution to owner.
- (b) Recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Where an asset measured at cost is written down to recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit and loss. Where a previously revalued asset is written down to recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement in other comprehensive income.
- (c) Information on fair value measurement is provided in Note 8.3.

Initial recognition

Items of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment, costing \$5,000 or more are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is valued at its fair value at the date of acquisition.

Items of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and infrastructure costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Asset transferred as part of a machinery of government change are transferred at their fair value.

Subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition of an asset, the revaluation model is used for the measurement of:

- land; and
- buildings.

Land is carried at fair value.

Buildings are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

All other infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Land and buildings are independently valued annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate). The effective date was at 1 July 2024, with valuations performed during the year ended 30 June 2025 and recognised at 30 June 2025.

In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$353,575,100 (2024: \$302,464,650) and buildings: \$5,783,100 (2024: \$5,361,000). For the remaining balance, fair value of buildings was determined on the basis of current replacement cost and fair value of land was determined on the basis of comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility (high restricted use land).

In addition, for buildings under the current replacement cost basis costs to restore third-party assets, other disruption costs, site preparation costs, professional and project management fees are included in the valuation of current use assets as required by AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities*.

These valuations are undertaken annually to ensure that the carrying amount of assets does not differ materially from their fair value at the end of the reporting period.

Revaluation model:

1. Fair value where market-based evidence is available:

The fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of current market values determined by reference to recent market transactions. When buildings are revalued by reference to recent market transactions the accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

2. Fair value in the absence of market-based evidence:

Buildings are specialised or, where land is restricted: Fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of existing use.

Existing use buildings: Fair value is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. the current replacement cost. Where the fair value of buildings is determined on the current replacement cost basis, the accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

Restricted use land: Fair value is determined by comparison with market evidence for land with similar approximate utility (high restricted use land) or market value of comparable unrestricted land (low restricted use land).

The most significant assumptions and adjustments in estimating fair value are made in assessing whether to apply the existing use basis to asset in determining estimated economic life. Professional judgment by the valuer is required where the evidence does not provide a clear distinction between market type assets and existing use assets.

Non-current assets classified as held for sale

Non-current assets (or disposal groups) held for sale are recognised at the lower of carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell and are disclosed separately from other assets in the Statement of Financial Position. Assets classified as held for sale are not depreciated or amortised.

Most Crown land holdings are vested in Conservation and Parks Commission by the Government. Crown land holdings vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission are included as assets of the Department as they are under the operational control of the Department. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is the only Department with the power to sell Crown land. The Conservation and Parks Commission transfers Crown land and any attaching buildings to DPLH when the land becomes available for sale.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
5.1.1 Depreciation and impairment		
Property, plant and equipment		
Plant, equipment	12,211	10,746
Vehicles	6,726	5,855
Buildings	6,784	8,377
Infrastructure	7,334	6,177
Total depreciation for the period	33,055	31,155

As at 30 June 2025, there were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment or infrastructure.

All surplus assets at 30 June 2025 have either been classified as assets held for sale or have been written-off.

Useful lives

All infrastructure, property, plant and equipment having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits. The exceptions to this rule include items under operating leases, assets held for sale, land and investment properties.

Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight-line basis, at rates that allocate the asset’s value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful life: years
Buildings	18-20
Plant and equipment, office equipment, furniture, communication, fire protection equipment, aircraft, vessels and computer equipment	4-20
Vehicles	5-14
Infrastructure and recreation and tourism facilities	10-33

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

Land and works of art, which are considered to have an indefinite life, are not depreciated. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of these assets because their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

Impairment

Non-financial assets, including items of property, plant and equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised

Where an asset measured at cost is written down to its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised through profit or loss.

Where a previously revalued asset is written down to its recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement through other comprehensive income.

As the Department is a not-for-profit entity, the recoverable amount of regularly revalued specialised assets is anticipated to be materially the same as fair value.

If there is an indication that there has been a reversal in impairment, the carrying amount shall be increased to its recoverable amount. However, this reversal shall not increase the asset’s carrying amount above what would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised in prior years.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset’s depreciation is materially understated, where the replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in useful life. Each relevant class of assets is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation/amortisation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of the asset’s future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from declining replacement costs.

5.2 Right-of-use assets (cont.)

Year ended 30 June 2025	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)	Accommodation ^(b) (\$000)	Plant, equipment (\$000)	Vehicles ^(a) (\$000)	Total (\$000)
At 1 July 2024						
Gross carrying amount	26	312	6,427	1,671	23,913	32,349
Accumulated depreciation	(8)	(249)	(2,278)	(1,038)	(13,459)	(17,032)
Carrying amount at start of period	18	63	4,149	633	10,454	15,317
Additions	0	0	6,654	9	8,900	15,563
Disposals	0	0	(591)	0	(84)	(675)
Depreciation	(2)	(51)	(3,349)	(363)	(4,887)	(8,652)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2025	16	12	6,863	279	14,383	21,553
Gross carrying amount	26	312	10,492	1,624	28,015	40,469
Accumulated depreciation	(10)	(300)	(3,629)	(1,345)	(13,632)	(18,916)

(a) Right of use assets represent leases with State Fleet.

(b) In 2025 \$3.29 million (carrying amount) of right of use assets were transferred from Department of Communities.

5.2 Right-of-use assets

Year ended 30 June 2024	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)	Accommodation ^(b) (\$000)	Plant, equipment (\$000)	Vehicles ^(a) (\$000)	Total (\$000)
At 1 July 2023						
Gross carrying amount	25	312	5,628	1,697	19,996	27,658
Accumulated depreciation	(6)	(198)	(2,543)	(754)	(11,306)	(14,807)
Carrying amount at start of period	19	114	3,085	943	8,690	12,851
Additions	1	0	4,400	89	6,085	10,575
Disposals	0	0	(632)	(42)	(18)	(692)
Depreciation	(2)	(51)	(2,704)	(357)	(4,303)	(7,417)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2024	18	63	4,149	633	10,454	15,317
Gross carrying amount	26	312	6,427	1,671	23,913	32,349
Accumulated depreciation	(8)	(249)	(2,278)	(1,038)	(13,459)	(17,032)

(a) Right of use assets represent leases with State Fleet.

(b) In 2024 \$1.98 million (carrying amount) of right of use assets were transferred from Department of Communities.

Initial recognition

At the commencement date of the lease, the Department recognises right-of-use assets are measured at cost comprising of:

- The amount of initial measurement of lease liability;
- Any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received;
- Any initial direct costs; and
- Restoration costs, including dismantling and removing the underlying asset.

This includes all leased assets other than investment property ROU assets, which are measured in accordance with AASB 140 Investment Property.

The corresponding lease liabilities in relation to these right-of-use assets have been disclosed in note 7.1 Lease liabilities.

The Department has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases (with a lease term of 12 months or less) and low value leases (with an underlying value of \$5,000 or less). Lease payments associated with these leases are expensed over a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Subsequent measurement

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets, requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liability.

Depreciation and impairment of right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the underlying assets.

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the Department at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

Right-of-use assets are tested for impairment when an indication of impairment is identified. The policy in connection with testing for impairment is outlined in note 5.1.1.

The following amounts relating to leases have been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income:

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
5.2.1 Lease disclosures		
Depreciation expenses of right-of-use assets	8,652	7,417
Lease interest expense	1,165	723
Short-term leases (included in other expenditure and employee benefits expenditure)(b)	33,632	31,370
Low-value leases (included in other expenditure)	69	79
Income from subleasing right-of-use assets	(1,369)	(1,199)
Total amount recognised in the statement of comprehensive income (net)	42,149	38,390
Total lease cash outflow(a)	52,025	46,340

(a) Total lease cash outflow includes short-term leases, low-value leases and leases that meet the AASB 16 Leases criteria.

(b) Low-value leases included in employee benefits expenditure relates to periodic Government Regional Officer Housing accommodation utilised by Department staff. \$26.92 million (2024: \$25.14 million) in short-term leases relate to aircraft hire and aircraft standby charges.

As at 30 June 2025 there were no indications of impairment to right-of-use assets.

The Department’s leasing activities and how these are accounted for:

The Department has leases for vehicles, office and residential accommodation.

The Department has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding Agreements (MOU) with the Department of Finance for the leasing of office accommodation. These are not recognised under AASB 16 because of substitution rights held by the Department of Finance and are accounted for as an expense as incurred.

The Department recognises leases as right-of-use assets and associated lease liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position.

The corresponding lease liabilities in relation to these right-of-use assets have been disclosed in note 7.1.

6. Other assets and liabilities

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Department’s controlled operations and includes other assets utilised for economic benefits and liabilities incurred during normal operations:

	Notes
Inventories	6.1
Receivables	6.2
Amounts receivables for services	6.3
Other assets	6.4
Payables	6.5
Other liabilities	6.6

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
6.1 Inventories		
Inventories held for resale:		
Souvenirs	782	439
Inventories held for distribution:		
Publications	452	390
Carbon Credits	5,180	1,871
Total inventories at end of period	6,414	2,700

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned by the method most appropriate for each particular class of inventory, with the majority being measured on a first in first out basis.

Publications held for distribution are measured at cost.

Carbon credits are internally generated from carbon farming projects, registered with the Clean Energy Regulator and valued at the end of month spot market price for Australian Carbon Credit Units. Previously credits were measured at the average Australian Carbon Credit Unit auction price, in the absence of any committed contractual arrangement. Carbon credits are measured at net realisable value at the end of each reporting period if the end of period spot price drops below the recognition price. In the event the credits are sold cost of goods sold is recognised on a first in first out basis.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
6.2 Receivables		
Current		
Trade receivables	16,039	9,259
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(405)	(182)
GST receivable	3,433	2,229
Accrued revenue	4,374	13,577
Total current receivables	23,441	24,883
Non-current		
Accrued revenue	423	3,664
Accrued salaries account(a)	5,925	5,049
Total non-current receivables	6,348	8,713
Total receivables at end of period	29,789	33,596

(a)Funds transferred to Treasury for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a reporting period that generally occurs every 11 years. This account is classified as non-current except for the year before the 27th pay year.

Trade receivables are initially recognised at their transaction price or, for those receivables that contain a significant financing component, at fair value. The Department holds the receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for impairment.

The Department recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses (ECLs) on a receivable not held at fair value through profit or loss. The ECLs based on the difference between the contractual cash flows and the cash flows that the entity expects to receive, discounted at the original effective interest rate. Individual receivables are written off when the Department has no reasonable expectations of recovering the contractual cash flows.

For trade receivables, the Department recognises an allowance for expected credit losses (ECLs) measured at the lifetime expected credit losses at each reporting date. The Department has established a provision matrix that is based

on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

Accrued revenue current and non-current includes financial assets linked to capital grant liabilities disclosed in other current liabilities at note 6.6b).

As at 30 June 2025 receivables from other government related entities amounted to \$10.171 million (2024: \$4.71 million).

Accrued salaries account contains amounts paid annually into the Treasurer’s special purpose account. It is restricted for meeting the additional cash outflow for employee salary payments in reporting periods with 27 pay days instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
6.2.1 Movement in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables		
Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables:		
Opening balance	182	211
Expected credit losses expense	0	0
Expected credit losses adjustment	240	26
Amounts written off during the period	(17)	(55)
Allowance for impairment at end of period	405	182

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period for trade receivables is the carrying amount of the asset inclusive of any allowance for impairment as shown in the table at Note 8.1(c) ‘Financial instruments disclosures’.

The Department does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements for trade receivables.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
6.3 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)		
Current	11,300	11,300
Non-current	326,396	302,019
Total amounts receivable for services at end of period	337,696	313,319

Amounts receivable for services represent the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

The amounts receivable for services are financial assets at amortised cost, and are not considered impaired (i.e. there is no expected credit loss of the holding accounts).

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
6.4 Other assets		
Current		
Prepayments	2,235	2,230
Total current	2,235	2,230

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
6.5 Payables		
Current		
Trade payables	16,729	15,983
Accrued expenses	2,858	7,833
Accrued salaries	5,606	4,086
Accrued superannuation	636	442
Parental payment	98	97
Total current	25,927	28,441

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Department becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as settlement is generally within 15-20 days.

Accrued salaries represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the reporting period end. The Department considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its fair value.

		2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
6.6 Other liabilities			
Current			
Unearned revenue	6.6a)	14,136	10,706
Capital grant liabilities	6.6b)	3,710	8,165
Financial liability	6.6c)	4,782	2,393
Total current		22,628	21,264
Non-current			
Unearned revenue	6.6a)	5,010	5,135
Capital grant liabilities	6.6b)	0	443
Financial liability	6.6c)	32,306	10,975
Total non-current		37,316	16,553
Total other liabilities at end of period		59,944	37,817

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
6.6a) Unearned revenue		
Opening balance	15,841	17,035
Additions	14,038	10,285
Income recognised during the current financial year	(10,733)	(11,479)
Unearned revenue at end of period	19,146	15,841

Unearned revenue includes performance obligations that are yet to be satisfied as at the end of the reporting period under *AASB 15 Contracts with Customers*. For the Department this includes grant or funding agreements that are non-capital in nature which feature performance obligations that impact the recognition and timing of revenue. Unearned revenue also includes mining compensation for land cleared as variable consideration under *AASB 16 Leases*.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
6.6b) Capital grant liabilities		
Opening balance	8,608	3,905
Additions	1,760	6,303
Adjustments(b)	(2,335)	0
Income recognised during the current financial year(a)	(4,323)	(1,600)
Capital grant liabilities at end of period	3,710	8,608

- (a) Income is disclosed as part of capital grants at note 4.1, 4.4 and 4.5.
- (b) Adjustments against capital grant liabilities are against accrued revenue at 6.2.

Capital grant liabilities represent the Department’s obligation to acquire or construct non-financial assets that are transferred to the Department through grant or funding agreements. The obligation is satisfied as the asset is constructed or as it is purchased, depending on the asset type. For assets constructed over a period of time income is recognised and the obligation is reduced in line with the capitalisation of costs assigned to the specific job for the

grant agreement. Job codes have been historically setup by the Department for specific purpose accounts and utilised to track costs and income. Obligations satisfied at a point in time, for the Department, typically relate to land purchases and it is assumed there is no remaining obligation after purchase.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
6.6c) Financial Liabilities		
Opening balance	13,368	5,444
Additions	26,416	9,633
Interest	827	230
Payments	(3,523)	(1,939)
Financial liabilities at end of period	37,088	13,368

Financial liabilities represents the Department’s obligation to make monetary payments to an external party. They are related to indigenous land use agreements. The liability is recognised at fair value at initial recognition, being the discounted present value of future cash flow. Subsequently, the financial liability is classified and measured at amortised cost.

7. Financing

This section sets out the material balances and disclosures associated with the financing and cashflows of the Department.

	Notes
Lease liabilities	7.1
Finance costs	7.2
Cash and cash equivalents	7.3
Reconciliation of cash	7.3.1
Reconciliation of operating activities	7.3.2
Commitments	7.4
Capital commitments	7.4.1

	(\$000)	(\$000)
7.1 Lease liabilities		
Current	7,832	6,156
Non-current	13,776	9,183
	21,608	15,339

Initial measurement

At the commencement date of the lease, the entity recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the Department uses the incremental borrowing rate provided by Western Australia Treasury Corporation.

- Lease payments included by the Department as part of the present value calculation of lease liability include:
- Fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable;
 - Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
 - Amounts expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
 - The exercise price of purchase options (where these are reasonably certain to be exercised);
 - Payments for penalties for terminating a lease, where the lease term reflects the Department exercising an option to terminate the lease.

The interest on the lease liability is recognised in profit or loss over the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period. Lease liabilities do not include any future changes in variable lease payments (that depend on an index or rate) until they take effect, in which case the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset.

Periods covered by extension or termination options are only included in the lease term by the Department if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated).

Variable lease payments, not included in the measurement of lease liability, that are dependent on sales are recognised by the Department in profit or loss in the period in which the condition that triggers those payment occurs.

When a lease contract contains a lease component and a non-lease component, and if the non-lease component is material, the Department accounts for the amount of the non-lease component separately, where practicable, from the lease amount by applying other applicable Standards. Immaterial non-lease component(s) may be included in the lease amount, and accounted for as a single lease, by asset class.

This section should be read in conjunction with note 5.2.

Subsequent measurement

Lease liabilities are measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liabilities; reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made; and remeasuring the carrying amount at amortised cost, subject to adjustments to reflect any reassessment or lease modifications. The Department’s leasing activities

The Department’s light vehicle fleet is leased through the Department of Finance and represents a liability of \$14.69 million in 2025 (2024: \$10.63 million). Accommodation for regional staff is leased through a mixture of private realtors and Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) properties leased from private real estate agencies. Accommodation leased through GROH represented a liability of \$3.41 million in 2025 (2024: \$2 million). Leases are also arranged for office space, computer equipment and other plant and equipment.

Short-term and low-value leases

Payments associated with short-term and low-value leases are recognised as an expense in the statement of comprehensive income. Short-term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less. Low-value assets are assets that are individually valued less than \$5,000 at cost. This excludes leases with another wholly-owned public sector entity lessor agency. These expenses are included within note 3.3 Other Expenditure.

Potential future cash outflow exposure for leases

The Department’s material lease liabilities are with the Department of Finance for light fleet vehicles. The potential exposure for future cash outflows for extension options and termination options not taken into account for lease liabilities is minimal.

Leases with below market terms and conditions

The Department has elected to measure leases at below market terms and conditions at cost. Qualitative information is provided for the Department peppercorn leases as the leases individually do not meet the material threshold for disclosure.

Below Market Leases – Land
The Department has a below market lease for land as part of a joint management arrangement.

Below Market Leases – Airport Hangars
The Department has several below market leases for land and premises for aircraft and operations typically used for firefighting.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
7.2 Finance costs		
Financial liability interest expense	827	230
Lease interest expense	1,165	723
Finance costs expended	1,992	953

‘Finance costs’ includes the interest component of lease liability repayments and the increase in financial liabilities due to the unwinding of discounts to reflect the passage of time.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
7.3 Cash and cash equivalents		
7.3.1 Reconciliation of cash		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	19,433	16,437
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
– Cash amounts in Special Purpose account ^(a)	126,924	118,362
Balance at end of period	146,357	134,799

(a) Cash held in the account is to fund the three special purpose accounts disclosed at note 9.6 ‘Special Purpose Accounts’ and a range of specific purpose accounts.

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalent (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

	Notes	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
7.3.2 Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities			
Net cost of services		(478,858)	(401,065)
Non-cash items			
Depreciation expense	5.1.1,5.2	41,707	38,572
Resourced received	4.1	1,741	1,409
Finance costs – unwinding of discounts	7.2	827	230
Adjustments for other non-cash items		(1,308)	(1,563)
Loss/(Gain) on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	(266)	(781)
(Increase)/decrease in assets			
Receivables(a)		4,961	(13,007)
Inventories		(3,713)	42
Other current assets		511	(1,189)
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities			
Payables and other liabilities ^(a)		21,601	22,168
Provisions		127	5,153
Net GST receipts/(payments) ^(b)		(1,204)	(15)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(413,874)	(350,046)

- (a)

Note that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) receivable/payable in respect of GST and the receivable/payable in respect of the sale/purchase of non-current assets are not included in these items as they do not form part of the reconciling items.
- (b)

This is the net GST paid/received, i.e. cash transactions.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
7.4 Commitments		
7.4.1 Capital commitments		
Capital expenditure commitments, being contracted capital expenditure additional to the amounts reported in the financial statements, are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	25,289	25,325
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	3,803	1,179
	29,092	26,504
The totals presented for capital commitments are GST inclusive.		

8. Risks and contingencies

This note sets out the key risk management policies and measurement techniques of the Department.

	Notes
Financial risk management	8.1
Contingent assets and liabilities	8.2
Contingent liabilities	8.2.1
Fair value measurements	8.3

8.1 Financial risk management

Financial instruments held by the Department are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, receivables and payables. The Department has limited exposure to financial risks. The Department’s overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

(a) Summary of risks and risk management

Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Department’s receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Department.

Credit risk associated with the Department’s financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amounts receivable for services (holding account). For receivables other than Government, the Department trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. The Department has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the Department’s exposure to bad debts is minimal. Debt will be written-off against the allowance account when it is improbable or uneconomical to recover the debt. At the end of the reporting period there were no significant concentrations of credit risk.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises when the Department is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

The Department is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business.

The Department has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including drawdown of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates will affect the Department’s income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The Department does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks (for example, equity securities or commodity prices changes). The Department’s exposure to market

risk for changes in interest rates relate primarily to the short-term deposits and cash and cash equivalents.

Other than as detailed in the interest rate sensitivity analysis table at Note 8.1(e), the Department is not exposed to interest rate risk as it has no borrowings.

(b) Categories of financial instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	19,433	16,437
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	126,924	118,362
Financial assets at amortised cost(a)	364,052	344,685
Total financial assets	510,409	479,484
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost(b)	84,624	57,148
Total financial liability	84,624	57,148

(a) The amount of financial assets at amortised cost excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(b) The amount of financial liabilities at amortised cost excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory payable).

(c) Credit risk exposure

The following table details the credit risk exposure on the Department’s trade receivables using a provision matrix.

	Days past due					
	Total	Current	<30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	>91 days
	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
30 June 2025						
Expected credit loss rate		1.56%	4.50%	5.36%	8.40%	12.65%
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	16,039	12,762	2,208	364	53	653
Expected credit losses	(405)	(199)	(99)	(20)	(4)	(83)
30 June 2024						
Expected credit loss rate		1.56%	2.00%	2.11%	3.75%	10.42%
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	9,259	7,779	1,067	28	28	358
Expected credit losses	(182)	(121)	(21)	(1)	(1)	(37)

(d) Liquidity risk and interest rate exposure

The following table details the Department’s interest rate exposure and the contractual maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities. The maturity analysis section includes interest and principal cash flows. The interest rate exposure section analyses only the carrying amounts of each item.

	Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities										
	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount (\$000)	Interest rate exposure			Nominal amount (\$000)	Maturity dates				
			Fixed interest rate (\$000)	Variable interest rate (\$000)	Non-interest bearing (\$000)		Up to 1 month (\$000)	1-3 months (\$000)	3 months to 1 year (\$000)	1-5 years (\$000)	More than 5 years (\$000)
2025											
Financial assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	4.55	19,433	0	19,433	0	19,433	19,433	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	4.55	126,924	0	126,924	0	126,924	126,924	0	0	0	0
Receivables ^(a)		26,356	0	0	26,356	26,356	17,415	1,840	753	6,348	
Amounts receivable for services		337,696	0	0	337,696	337,696	1,428	1,428	8,444	45,200	281,196
		510,409	0	146,357	364,052	510,409	165,200	3,268	9,197	51,548	281,196
Financial liabilities											
Payables		25,928	0	0	25,928	25,928	25,928	0	0	0	0
Lease liabilities ^(b)	6.38	21,608	21,608	0	0	21,608	757	1,456	5,624	13,350	421
Other financial liabilities	4.02	37,088	37,088	0	0	37,088	3,380	226	1,176	14,112	18,194
		84,624	58,696	0	25,928	84,624	30,065	1,682	6,800	27,462	18,615

(a) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(b) The amount of lease liabilities includes \$3.41 m from leased buildings with Department of Communities as part of the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) program and \$14.69 m from leased vehicles.

(d) Liquidity risk and interest rate exposure (cont.)

	Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities									
	Interest rate exposure					Maturity dates				
	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount (\$000)	Fixed interest rate (\$000)	Variable interest rate (\$000)	Non-interest bearing (\$000)	Nominal amount (\$000)	Up to 1 month (\$000)	1-3 months (\$000)	3 months to 1 year (\$000)	More than 5 years (\$000)
2024										
Financial assets										
Cash and cash equivalents	3.99	16,437	0	16,437	0	16,437	16,437	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	3.99	118,362	0	118,362	0	118,362	118,362	0	0	0
Receivables ^(a)		31,366	0	0	31,366	31,366	10,408	1,187	11,058	8,713
Amounts receivable for services		313,319	0	0	313,319	313,319	1,071	1,785	8,444	256,819
		479,484	0	134,799	344,685	479,484	146,278	2,972	19,502	53,913
Financial liabilities										
Payables		28,442	0	0	28,442	28,442	28,442	0	0	0
Lease liabilities ^(b)	5.60	15,339	15,339	0	0	15,339	582	1147	4,430	8,886
Other financial liabilities	3.79	13,367	13,367	0	0	13,367	1,310	0	1,105	4,695
		57,148	28,706	0	28,442	57,148	30,334	1,147	5,535	13,581

(a) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(b) The amount of lease liabilities includes \$2 m from leased buildings with Department of Communities as part of the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) program and \$10.63 m from leased vehicles.

e) Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of the Department’s financial assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting period on the surplus for the period and equity for a 1% change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

	Carrying amount (\$000)	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)	Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)
2025					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	19,433	(194.33)	(194.33)	194.33	194.33
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	126,924	(1,269.24)	(1,269.24)	1,269.24	1,269.24
Total increase/(decrease)		(1,463.57)	(1,463.57)	1,463.57	1,463.57
	Carrying amount (\$000)	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)	Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)
2024					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	16,437	(164.37)	(164.37)	164.37	164.37
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	118,362	(1,183.62)	(1,183.62)	1,183.62	1,183.62
Total increase/(decrease)		(1,347.99)	(1,347.99)	1,347.99	1,347.99

8.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at the best estimate.

Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively. Estimated contingent asset is nil (2024: nil).

8.2.1 Contingent liabilities

The following contingent liabilities are excluded from the liabilities included in the financial statements:

Litigation and arbitration in progress

The Department has two claims against it with estimated value of \$3 million and \$15 - \$20 million related to alleged damage to properties from prescribed burns. The Department also has 17 litigation claims against it amounting to \$11,682,139 covered by the Department’s general liability insurance policy. The Department has denied liability and any legal claim will be defended.

Native title determinations

The Department’s land is subject to a number of native title determinations. The financial effect of these native title determinations and any contingent compensation liability has not been determined and cannot be estimated at this time. Financial liabilities linked to monetary payments under indigenous land use agreements and joint management agreements have been disclosed at 6.6c.

Contaminated sites

Under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003, the Department is required to report known and suspected contaminated sites to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). In accordance with the Act, DWER classifies these sites based on the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values. Where sites are classified as contaminated – remediation required or possibly contaminated – investigation required, the Department may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

The Department has 2 sites classified as contaminated – remediation required, 4 sites classified as contaminated – restricted use and 96 sites classified as possibly contaminated - investigation required. It is not practicable to estimate the potential financial effect or to identify the uncertainties relating to the

amount or timing of any outflows in relation to these sites. Whilst there is no possibility of reimbursement of any future expenses that may be incurred in the remediation of these sites, the Department may apply for funding from the Contaminated Sites Management Account to undertake further investigative work or to meet remediation costs that may be required.

8.3 Fair value measurement

Assets measured at fair value: 2025	Level 1 (\$000)	Level 2 (\$000)	Level 3 (\$000)	Fair value at end of period (\$000)
Land (Note 5.1)	0	353,575	3,567,705	3,921,280
Buildings (Note 5.1)	0	5,783	192,338	198,121
	0	359,358	3,760,043	4,119,401

Assets measured at fair value: 2024	Level 1 (\$000)	Level 2 (\$000)	Level 3 (\$000)	Fair value at end of period (\$000)
Land (Note 5.1)	0	302,465	3,289,552	3,592,017
Buildings (Note 5.1)	0	5,361	181,340	186,701
	0	307,826	3,470,892	3,778,718

There were no transfers between Levels 1, 2 or 3 during the previous period.

Valuation techniques to derive Level 2 fair values

Level 2 fair values of land and buildings (office accommodation) are derived using the market approach. Market evidence of sales prices of comparable land

and buildings (office accommodation) in close proximity is used to determine price per square metre. Non-current assets held for sale have been written down to fair value less costs to sell. Fair value has been determined by reference to market evidence of sales prices of comparable assets.

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)

2025	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)
Fair value at start of period	3,289,552	181,340
Additions	759	1,425
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Profit or Loss	0	0
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	277,394	14,606
Transfers from/(to) Level 2	0	0
Disposals	0	0
Depreciation expense	0	(5,033)
Fair value at end of period	3,567,705	192,338

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) cont'd

2024	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)
Fair value at start of period	2,975,414	135,255
Additions	4,170	2,340
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Profit or Loss	0	0
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	309,968	51,762
Transfers from/(to) Level 2	0	0
Disposals	0	(18)
Depreciation expense	0	(7,999)
Fair value at end of period	3,289,552	181,340

Valuation processes

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.

Transfers in and out of a fair value level are recognised on the date of the event or change in circumstances that caused the transfer. Transfers are generally limited to assets newly classified as non-current assets held for sale as Treasurer's instructions require valuations of land and buildings to be

categorised within Level 3 where the valuations will utilise significant Level 3 inputs on a recurring basis.

Land (Level 3 fair values)

Fair value for restricted use land is based on comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility (high restricted use land). The relevant comparators of land with low level utility is selected by Landgate and represents the application of a significant Level 3 input in this valuation methodology. The fair value measurement is sensitive to values of comparator land, with higher values of comparator land correlating with higher estimated fair values of land.

Buildings (Level 3 fair values)

Fair value for existing use specialised buildings is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. the current replacement cost. Current replacement cost is generally determined by reference to the market observable replacement cost of a substitute asset of comparable utility and the gross project size specifications, adjusted for obsolescence. Obsolescence encompasses physical deterioration, functional (technological) obsolescence and economic (external) obsolescence.

Valuation using current replacement cost utilises the significant Level 3 input, consumed economic benefit/obsolescence of asset which is estimated by Landgate. The fair value measurement is sensitive to the estimate of consumption/obsolescence, with higher values of the estimate correlating with lower estimated fair values of buildings.

In addition, costs to restore third-party assets, other disruption costs, site preparation costs and professional and project management fees have been estimated and added to the current replacement costs provided by Landgate for current use buildings. These costs represent significant Level 3 inputs used in the valuation process. The fair value of these assets will increase with a higher level of professional and project management fees.

Basis of valuation

In the absence of market-based evidence, due to the specialised nature of some non-financial assets, these assets are valued at Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy on an existing use basis. The existing use basis recognises that restrictions or limitations have been placed on their use and disposal when they are not determined to be surplus to requirements. These restrictions are imposed by virtue of the assets being held to deliver a specific community service.

9. Other disclosures

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or other pronouncements, for the understanding of this financial report.

	Notes
Changes in accounting policy	9.1
Impact of Australian standards	9.2
Future impact of Australian standards issued not yet operative	9.2.1
Key management personnel	9.3
Related party transactions	9.4
Affiliated bodies	9.5
Special purpose accounts	9.6
Remuneration of auditors	9.7
Equity	9.8
Supplementary financial information	9.9

9.1 Changes in accounting policy

AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurements of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities was operative for reporting periods ending 30 June 2025. Costs to restore third-party assets, other disruption costs, site preparation costs and other professional and project management costs have been estimated based on the

type of asset the department has that is subject to revaluation and is revalued under the depreciated replacement cost method. This estimated index of costs per asset type was applied to the department’s revalued assets against the revaluation figures provided by Landgate. The overall impact of the adjustment was \$26.08 million which has been added to the balance of buildings and is part of the revaluation line in note 5.1a). \$10.63 million of the adjustment links to project management costs and \$15.45 million links to once-only costs such as design and formation works. Third-party assets, other disruption costs and site preparation costs were determined to be negligible according to the profile of the department’s assets.

9.2 Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards issued not yet operative

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 9 – Requirement 4 *Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements* or by an exemption from TI9. Where applicable, the Department plans to apply the following Australian Accounting Standards from their application date.

Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after 1 Jan 2025	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 2023-5 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Lack of Exchangeability</i> This Standard amends AASB 121 and AASB 1 to require entities to apply a consistent approach to determining whether a currency is exchangeable into another currency and the spot exchange rate to use when it is not exchangeable.	1 Jan 2025

The Standard also amends AASB 121 to extend the exemption from complying with the disclosure requirements for entities that apply AASB 1060 to ensure Tier 2 entities are not required to comply with the new disclosure requirements in AASB 121 when preparing their Tier 2 financial statements. There is no financial impact.	
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Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after 1 Jan 2026	
AASB 2024-2 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments</i> This Standard amends AASB 7 and AASB 9 as a consequence of the issuance of Amendments to the Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments (Amendments to IFRS 9 and IFRS 7) by the International Accounting Standards Board in May 2024. The Department has not assessed the impact of the Standard	1 Jan 2026
AASB 2024-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements Volume 11 This Standard amends AASB 1, AASB 7, AASB 9, AASB 10 and AASB 107 as a consequence of the issuance of Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards – Volume 11 by the International Accounting Standards Board in July 2024. The Department has not assessed the impact of the Standard.	1 Jan 2026

Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after 1 Jan 2027

AASB 18(FP) This Standard replaces AASB 101 with respect to the presentation and disclosure requirements in financial statements applicable to for-profit entities. This Standard is a consequence of the issuance of International Financial Reporting Standard 18 Presentation and Disclosure in financial Statements by the International Accounting Standards Board in April 2024. This Standard also makes amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards set out in Appendix D of this Standard. The Department has not assessed the impact of the Standard	1 Jan 2027
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Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after 1 Jan 2028

AASB 2014-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture This Standard amends AASB 10 and AASB 128 to address an inconsistency between the requirements in AASB 10 and those in AASB 128 (August 2011), in dealing with the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. There is no financial impact.	1 Jan 2028
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AASB 2024-4b Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 [deferred AASB 10 and AASB 128 amendments in AASB 2014-10 apply] This Standard defers (to 1 January 2028) the amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 relating to the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. The Standard also includes editorial corrections. There is no financial impact.	1 Jan 2028
AASB 18(NFP/super) Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements (Appendix D) [for not-for-profit and superannuation entities] This Standard replaces AASB 101 with respect to the presentation and disclosure requirements in financial statements applicable to not-for-profit and superannuation entities This Standard is a consequence of the issuance of IFRS 18 Presentation and Disclosure in financial Statements by the International Accounting Standards Board in April 2024. This Standard also makes amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards set out in Appendix D of this Standard. The Department has not assessed the impact of the Standard.	1 Jan 2028

9.3 Key management personnel

The Department has determined key management personnel to include Cabinet Ministers and senior officers of the Department. The Department does not incur expenditures to compensate Ministers and those disclosures may be found in the Annual Report on State Finances.

The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for senior officers of the Department for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

	2025	2024
Compensation band (\$)		
450,001 – 500,000	1	0
400,001 – 450,000	0	1
300,001 – 350,000	1	1
250,001 – 300,000	4	1
200,001 – 250,000	6	5
150,001 – 200,000	2	4
100,001 – 150,000	1	1
50,001 – 100,000	0	1
	2025	2024
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Short-term employee benefits	2,988	2,516
Post-employment benefits	360	292
Other long-term benefits	342	283
Termination benefits	0	0
Total compensation of senior officers	3,690	3,091

Total compensation includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Department in respect of senior officers.

9.4 Related party transactions

The Department is a wholly owned public sector entity that is controlled by the State of Western Australia.

Related parties of the Department include:

- all cabinet ministers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;

- all senior officers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;

- other Departments and statutory authorities, including related bodies that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements (i.e. wholly-owned public sector entities);

- associates and joint ventures, of a wholly-owned public sector entity; and

- the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

Significant transactions with Government-related entities

In conducting its activities, the Department is required to transact with the State and entities related to the State. These transactions are generally based on the standard terms and conditions that apply to all Departments. Such transactions include:

- superannuation payments to GESB (Note 3.1(a));

- grants and subsidies to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Burswood Park Board, Zoological Park Authority, Rottnest Island Authority, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australian Museum and Department of Transport (Note 3.2);

- supplies and services transactions with government related entities (Note 3.3);

- operating leases on motor vehicles, other lease, rental and hire expense transactions with State Fleet and Department of Fire and Emergency (Note 3.3);

- accommodation expense transactions with the Department of Finance and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Note 3.3);

- income from State Government (Note 4.1);

- services received free of charge from other State government agencies (Note 4.1);

- services rendered and user fees charged by the Department to other government agencies (Note 4.1);

- insurance payments from the Insurance Commission and Riskcover fund (Note 4.3);

- other grants and contributions received from other state government agencies (Note 4.5);

- right-of-use assets representing State Fleet leases for motor vehicles and accommodation leased through the Department of Communities (Note 5.2);

- lease liabilities with Department of Communities and State Fleet (Note 7.1);

- equity contribution (Note 9.8);

- Royalties for Regions Fund (Note 4.1) and equity injections from Royalties for Regions Funds (Note 9.8); and

- remuneration for services provided by the Auditor General (Note 9.7).

Significant outstanding balances with government related entities

Significant balances include:

- receivables from government related entities (Note 6.2);

Material transactions with other related parties

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Department, there were no other related party transactions that involved key management personnel and/or their close family members and/or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities.

9.5 Affiliated bodies

The following government affiliated body received more than half its funding and resources from the Department but is not subject to operational control by the Department.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Conservation and Parks Commission	187	172
Balance at end of period	187	172

9.6 Special purpose accounts

Biodiversity Conservation Account (a)

The purpose of the account is to fund scientific research relating to flora and fauna.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Balance at start of period	850	775
Receipts	80	75
Payments	0	0
Balance at end of period	930	850

Barrow Island Net Conservation Benefit Account (b)

The purpose of the account is to fund ongoing programs that will provide demonstrable and sustainable additions to or improvements in biodiversity conservation values of Western Australia targeting, where possible, the biodiversity conservation values affected or occurring in similar bioregions to Barrow Island.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Balance at start of period	3,689	2,854
Receipts	3,143	2,929
Payments	(3,039)	(2,094)
Balance at end of period	3,793	3,689

Gorgon Northwest Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program Account (c)

The purpose of the account is to fund ongoing programs that aim to conserve and protect the Northwest Shelf Flatback turtle population in areas away from Barrow Island. The population of turtles refers to the turtles of the summer breeding Northwest Shelf Management Unit that nest along the Pilbara and south west Kimberley coasts.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Balance at start of period	7,281	6,963
Receipts	1,895	1,766
Payments	(1,562)	(1,448)
Balance at end of period	7,614	7,281

Gorgon Threatened and Priority Species Translocation and Reintroduction Program Account(d)

The purpose of the account is to fund ongoing programs that aim to translocate and reintroduce selected threatened species of fauna from Barrow Island to other suitable habitat within Australia including monitoring and management of such fauna population and habitats.

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Balance at start of period	681	1,071
Receipts	29	37
Payments	(311)	(427)
Balance at end of period	399	681

National Parks Essential Works Account (e)

The purpose of this account is to hold net proceeds in respect of forest produce taken or reviewed under section 99A Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 and from which moneys shall be applied only for the purposes of land to which Division 2 of VIII of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 applies.

There were no transactions through the account for the reporting period. The account had a zero balance at the end of the reporting period.

(a) to (d) Established under section 16(1)(d) of Financial Management Act 2006 pursuant to section 69(1) of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

(c) to (d) Disclosed in 2023-24 following a review of special purpose accounts for the department.

(e) Established under section 16(1)(d) of Financial Management Act 2006 pursuant to section 69(2) of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

9.7 Remuneration of auditors

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Auditing the accounts, financial statements, controls, and key performance indicators	492	449

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
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9.8 Equity

Contributed equity

Balance at start of period	3,303,885	3,233,967
<i>Contributions by owners</i>		
Capital appropriation	105,959	58,014
Climate Action Funding	0	3,187

Other contributions by owners

Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account	10,234	20,595
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Transfer of net assets from other agencies

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	22,947	11,123
Total contributions by owners	3,443,025	3,326,886

Distributions to owners

Transfer of net assets to other agencies:

Treasury	(434)	0
Rottnest Island Authority	(37,469)	(10,102)
Zoological Parks Authority	(16,090)	(12,802)
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	(99)	(97)

Total distributions to owners	(54,092)	(23,001)
Total contributed equity at end of period	3,388,933	3,303,885

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
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Asset revaluation surplus

Balance at the start of period	985,980	624,162
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	305,558	325,026
Buildings	10,104	36,792

Total asset revaluation surplus at end of period	1,301,642	985,980
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	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Accumulated surplus		
Balance at the start of period	139,560	106,167
Result for the period	(5,426)	33,393
Total accumulated surplus at end of period	134,134	139,560

9.9 Supplementary financial information

(a) Write-offs

During the financial year, \$16,928 (2024: \$55,151) was written off as bad debts and \$125,871 (2024: \$43,323) of the Department’s asset and public property register under the authority of:

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
The Accountable Authority	143	98
The Minister	0	0
The Treasurer	0	0
Balance at end of period	143	98

The amount approved for write off during the year of \$133,507.21 (2024: \$43,322) relates to losses through theft, defaults and other causes disclosed at note 9.9(b) below.

(b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

	2025 (\$000)	2024 (\$000)
Losses of public money and other property through theft or default	134	43
Amounts recovered	0	0
Balance at end of period	134	43

10. Other disclosures

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or other pronouncements, for the understanding of this financial report.

	Notes
Explanatory statement for controlled operations	10.1
Explanatory statement for administered items	10.2

10.1 Explanatory statement for controlled operations

This explanatory section explains variations in the financial performance of the Department undertaking transactions under its own control, as represented by the primary financial statements.

All variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2025, and between the actual results for 2025 and 2024 are shown below. “2025 Estimate” refers to the Department’s (excluding Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority) budget estimates. Narratives are provided for key major variances which are also more than 10% of the comparative and which are also more than 1% of the following (as appropriate):

- Estimate and actual results for the current year:
 - Total Cost of Services of the 2025 Estimate for the Statements of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Cash Flows; and
 - Total Assets of the annual estimates for the Statement of Financial Position.
- Actual results between the current year and the previous year:
 - Total Cost of Services of the previous year for the Statements of Comprehensive Income and Statements of Cash Flows, and
 - Total Assets of the previous year for the Statement of Financial Position.

10.1.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income					Variance between actual and estimate (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2025 and 2024 (\$000)
Variances	Variance note	Estimate 2025 ¹ (\$000)	Actual 2025 (\$000)	Actual 2024 (\$000)		
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense		241,280	243,147	222,503	1,867	20,644
Supplies and services	A	117,202	125,579	107,952	8,377	17,627
Depreciation expense	1	35,357	41,707	38,572	6,350	3,135
Accommodation expenses		3,355	3,457	3,985	102	(528)
Grants and subsidies	2,B	57,077	80,722	56,002	23,645	24,720
Other expenses	3,C	32,727	67,357	48,054	34,630	19,303
Finance costs		1,478	1,992	953	514	1,039
Total cost of services		488,476	563,961	478,021	75,485	85,940

	Variance note	Estimate 2025 ¹ (\$000)	Actual 2025 (\$000)	Actual 2024 (\$000)	Variance between actual and estimate (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2025 and 2024 (\$000)
Income						
Revenue						
User charges and fees	4	34,686	43,496	40,894	8,810	2,602
Commonwealth grants	5,D	749	6,544	8,737	5,795	(2,193)
Other grants		15,804	13,842	11,154	(1,962)	2,688
Interest income		1,960	6,073	3,640	4,113	2,433
Other income		11,214	14,882	11,750	3,668	3,132
Gain on disposal of non-current assets		0	266	781	266	(515)
Total Income		64,413	85,103	76,956	20,690	8,147
NET COST OF SERVICES						
		424,063	478,858	401,065	54,795	77,793
Income from State Government						
Service appropriation	6	353,299	398,726	368,756	45,427	29,970
Income from other public sector entities	7	27,400	33,375	37,728	5,975	(4,353)
Resources received		1,493	1,741	1,409	248	332
Royalties for Regions Fund	E	43,067	39,590	26,565	(3,477)	13,025
Total income from State Government		425,259	473,432	434,458	48,173	38,974
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD						
		1,196	(5,426)	33,393	(6,622)	(38,819)

	Variance note	Estimate 2025 ¹ (\$000)	Actual 2025 (\$000)	Actual 2024 (\$000)	Variance between actual and estimate (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2025 and 2024 (\$000)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss						
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		0	315,662	361,818	315,662	(46,156)
Total other comprehensive income		0	315,662	361,818	315,662	(46,156)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		1,196	310,236	395,211	309,040	(84,975)

Major Estimate and Actual (2025) Variance Narratives

1. Depreciation and amortization expense exceeded estimates by \$6.35 million (17.96%) mainly due to increased tourism infrastructure brought online in previous financial years.
2. Grants and subsidies exceeded estimates by \$23.65 million (41.43%) mainly due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority which is not factored in the budget.
3. Other expenses exceeded estimates by \$34.63 million (105.81%) mainly due to the recognition of financial liabilities linked to the department’s obligation to make monetary payments to external parties as part of indigenous land use agreements and an increase in aviation and fuel costs linked to bushfire suppression in the 2024-25 fire season.
4. User charges and fees exceeded estimates by \$8.81 million (25.40%) mainly due to increased park passes and camping activity.
5. Commonwealth grants exceeded estimates by \$5.80 million (773.70%) mainly due to funding recognised under the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program. Australian Carbon Credits generated by savannah burning projects are recognised as grants.
6. Service appropriation exceeded estimates by \$45.43 million (12.86%) mainly due to the receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority that the department receives and distributes to the statutory authorities.
7. Income from other public sector entities exceeds estimates by \$5.98 million (21.81%) mainly due to recoup of bushfire suppression costs. Corporate service costs charged to statutory authorities within the DBCA group are not factored in the budget.

Major Actual (2025) and Comparative (2024) Variance Narratives

- A. Supplies and services expense increased by \$17.63 million (16.33%) due to the new Forest Management Plan being in place for a full financial year, the Commonwealth Urban Rivers and Catchment funding, the expansion of the Plan for Our Parks program in line with additional Indigenous Land Use Agreements and additional funding for regional bushfire management.
- B. Grants and subsidies increased by \$24.72 million (44.14%) partly due to additional payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority and increased payments under the Aboriginal Ranger program.
- C. Other expenses increased by \$19.30 million (40.17%) mainly due to the recognition of financial liabilities linked to the department’s obligation to make monetary payments to external parties as part of indigenous land use agreements.
- D. Royalties for Regions Fund increased by \$13.03 million (49.03%) partly due to increased funding directed towards the Aboriginal Ranger program.

10.1.2 Statement of Financial Position Variances	Variance note	Estimate 2025' (\$000)	Actual 2025 (\$000)	Actual 2024 (\$000)	Variance between actual and estimate (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2025 and 2024 (\$000)
<u>ASSETS</u>						
<u>Current Assets</u>						
Cash and cash equivalents		9,841	19,433	16,437	9,592	2,996
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		61,369	126,924	118,362	65,555	8,562
Inventories		2,736	6,414	2,700	3,678	3,714
Receivables		11,522	23,441	24,883	11,919	(1,442)
Amounts receivable for services		11,300	11,300	11,300	0	0
Other current assets		3,699	2,235	2,230	(1,464)	5
Non-current assets held for sale		16	27	12	11	15
Total Current Assets		100,483	189,774	175,924	89,291	13,850

10.1.2 Statement of Financial Position Variances	Variance note	Estimate 2025' (\$000)	Actual 2025 (\$000)	Actual 2024 (\$000)	Variance between actual and estimate (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2025 and 2024 (\$000)
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		4,284	0	0	(4,284)	0
Receivables		100	6,348	8,713	6,248	(2,365)
Amounts receivable for services		326,075	326,396	302,019	321	24,377
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	1,A	3,802,871	4,442,971	4,063,776	640,100	379,195
Right-of-use assets		17,335	21,553	15,317	4,218	6,236
Total Non-Current Assets		4,150,665	4,797,268	4,389,825	646,603	407,443
TOTAL ASSETS		4,251,148	4,987,042	4,565,749	735,894	421,293
<u>LIABILITIES</u>						
<u>Current Liabilities</u>						
Payables		11,878	25,927	28,441	14,049	(2,514)
Lease liabilities		7,355	7,832	6,156	477	1,676
Employee related provisions		46,313	49,570	49,291	3,257	279
Other current liabilities		18,223	22,628	21,264	4,405	1,364
Total Current Liabilities		83,769	105,957	105,152	22,188	805
<u>Non-Current Liabilities</u>						
Lease liabilities		10,462	13,776	9,183	3,314	4,593
Employee related provisions		8,085	5,284	5,436	(2,801)	(152)
Other non-current liabilities		29,860	37,316	16,553	7,456	20,763
Total Non-Current Liabilities		48,407	56,376	31,172	7,969	25,204

10.1.2 Statement of Financial Position Variances cont'd	Variance note	Estimate 2025 ¹	Actual 2025	Actual 2024	Variance between actual and estimate	Variance between actual results for 2025 and 2024
		(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		132,176	162,333	136,324	30,157	26,009
NET ASSETS		4,118,972	4,824,709	4,429,425	705,737	395,284
EQUITY						
Contributed equity		3,412,620	3,388,933	3,303,885	(23,687)	85,048
Reserves	2,B	624,162	1,301,642	985,980	677,480	315,662
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		82,190	134,134	139,560	51,944	(5,426)
TOTAL EQUITY		4,118,972	4,824,709	4,429,425	705,737	395,284

Major Estimate and Actual (2025) Variance Narratives

1,A. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment exceeded estimates by \$640.10 million (16.83%) million and increased by \$379.20 million (9.33%) when compared to the prior year due to the gain on revaluation in the value of land assessed by the Valuer General. Movements in property, plant and equipment against prior year and estimates include \$26.08 million for buildings linked to the adoption of AASB 2022-10 that incorporates project management costs and once-only costs into the valuation of buildings. \$22.95 million in land assets were transferred from Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. Additions of \$73.48 million and \$33.06 million of depreciation occurred in the 2024-25 reporting period and partly explains the movement from the prior year.

2,B. Reserves exceeded estimates by \$677.48 million (108.54%) and increased by \$315.66 million (32.02%) when compared to the prior year due to the gain on revaluation in the value of land assessed by the Valuer General.

10.1.3 Statement of Cash Flows Variance	Variance note	Estimate 2025 ¹	Actual 2025	Actual 2024	Variance between actual and estimate	Variance between actual results for 2025 and 2024
		(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation	1	321,183	363,049	333,570	41,866	29,479
Capital appropriations	2,A	92,807	105,959	61,201	13,152	44,758
Holding account drawdown		11,300	11,300	11,300	0	0
Non-retained revenue distributed to owner	3,B	0	(54,092)	(23,001)	(54,092)	(31,091)
Funds from other public sector entities	4,C	27,400	30,972	37,728	3,572	(6,756)
Royalties for Regions Fund	5	64,521	49,824	47,160	(14,697)	2,664
Net cash provided by State Government		517,211	507,012	467,958	(10,199)	39,054
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Employee benefits	D	(241,008)	(241,305)	(217,103)	(297)	(24,202)
Supplies and services	6, E	(114,356)	(123,494)	(100,719)	(9,138)	(22,775)
Accommodation		(3,600)	(3,457)	(3,985)	143	528
Grants and subsidies	7, F	(58,225)	(80,722)	(56,002)	(22,497)	(24,720)
GST payments on purchases	8	(13,322)	(26,770)	(22,912)	(13,448)	(3,858)
Other payments	9,G	(32,692)	(48,879)	(35,238)	(16,187)	(13,641)
Finance costs		(1,478)	(1,992)	(952)	(514)	(1,040)
Receipts						
User charges and fees		34,686	36,939	40,058	2,253	(3,119)
Commonwealth grants	10, H	749	8,605	1,023	7,856	7,582

10.1.3 Statement of Cash Flows	Variance note	Estimate 2025 ¹ (\$000)	Actual 2025 (\$000)	Actual 2024 (\$000)	Variance between actual and estimate (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2025 and 2024 (\$000)
Interest received		1,960	5,623	3,089	3,663	2,534
GST receipts on sales		7,827	5,984	6,328	(1,843)	(344)
GST receipts from taxation authority	11	5,500	19,582	16,569	14,082	3,013
Other receipts	12,I	27,785	36,012	19,798	8,227	16,214
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(386,174)	(413,874)	(350,046)	(27,700)	(63,828)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	13	(127,735)	(73,149)	(72,289)	54,586	(860)
Receipts						
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		500	1,155	1,129	655	26
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(127,235)	(71,994)	(71,160)	55,241	(834)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Principal repayments of lease liabilities		(5,924)	(8,710)	(7,228)	(2,786)	(1,482)
Payment to accrued salaries account		0	(876)	(765)	(1,325)	0
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(5,924)	(9,586)	(7,993)	(3,662)	(1,593)

10.1.3 Statement of Cash Flows	Variance note	Estimate 2025 ¹ (\$000)	Actual 2025 (\$000)	Actual 2024 (\$000)	Variance between actual and estimate (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2025 and 2024 (\$000)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(2,122)	11,558	38,759	13,680	(27,201)
Change in classification of cash and cash equivalents		0	0	(4,284)	0	4,284
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		77,616	134,799	100,324	57,183	34,475
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD		75,494	146,357	134,799	70,863	11,558

Major Estimate and Actual (2025) Variance Narratives

1. Service appropriation exceeded estimates by \$41.87 million (13.03%) due to receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
2. Capital appropriations exceeded estimates by \$13.15 million (14.17%) due to receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
3. Non-retained revenue distributed to owner exceeded estimates by \$54.10 million due to distribution of capital appropriation to statutory authorities.
4. Funds from other public entities exceeded estimates by \$3.57 million (13.04%) mainly due to recoup of bushfire suppression costs.
5. Royalties for Regions Fund is under estimates by \$14.70 million (22.78%) due to lower drawdowns than expected.
6. Supplies and services is over estimates by \$9.14 million (7.99%) mainly due to bushfire suppression costs incurred during the 2024-25 bushfire season.
7. Grants and subsidies exceeded estimates by \$22.50 million (38.64%) due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
8. GST payments on purchases exceeded estimates by \$13.45 million (100.95%) due to higher expenditure on operations such as Plan for Our Parks Initiatives and joint management arrangements related to conservation estate that have raised the typical GST credits above the department’s baseline in estimates.
9. Other payments exceeded estimates by \$16.19 million (49.51%) mainly due to bushfire suppression costs incurred during the 2024-25 fire season.
10. Commonwealth grants exceeded estimates by \$7.86 million (1,049%) mainly due to Commonwealth Urban Rivers and Catchment funding.
11. GST receipts from taxation authority exceeded estimates by \$14.08 million (256.04%) due to increases in camping and park passes revenue that hasn’t been factored into the GST baseline in the department’s estimates.

12. Other receipts exceeded estimates by \$8.23 million (29.61%) partly due to higher mining compensation than estimated.
13. Purchase of non-current physical assets is under estimates by \$54.59 million (42.73%) due to underspends in the department’s capital assets program.

Major Actual (2025) and Comparative (2024) Variance Narratives

- A. Capital appropriations increased by \$44.76 million (73.13%) due to increased capital appropriation transferred to Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority for infrastructure upgrades.
- B. Non-retained revenue distributed to owners increased by \$31.09 million (135.17%) partly due to decreased capital appropriation transferred to Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
- C. Funds from other public entities decreased by \$6.76 million (17.91%) mainly due to decreased reimbursement of land acquisition for environmental offsets.
- D. Employee benefits increased by \$24.20 million (11.15%) partly due to Plan for Our Parks, additional staff for the Forest Management Plan and additional staff for regional fire management.
- E. Supplies and services increased by \$22.78 million (22.61%) partly due to the new Forest Management Plan being in place for a full financial year, the Commonwealth Urban Rivers and Catchment funding, the expansion of the Plan for Our Parks program in line with additional Indigenous Land Use Agreements and additional funding for regional bushfire management.
- F. Grants and subsidies increased by \$24.72 million (44.14%) partly due to additional appropriation transferred to the statutory authorities and additional Aboriginal Ranger grants provided.
- G. Other payments increased by \$13.64 million (38.71%) due to bushfire suppression costs in 2024-25.
- H. Commonwealth grants has increased by \$7.58 million (741.15%) partly due to receipt of funding from the Urban Rivers and Catchments program.
- I. Other receipts increased by \$16.21 million (81.90%) partly due to an increase in mining compensation received for the clearance of forest.

10.2 Explanatory statement for administered items

This explanatory section explains variations in the financial performance of the Department undertaking transactions as an agent of the government, as detailed in the administered schedules.

All variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2025, and between the actual results for 2025 and 2024 are shown below. Narratives are provided for key major variances which vary by more than 10% from their comparative and that the variation is more than 1% of the dollar aggregate of total Administered Income in the comparative.

	Variance note	Estimate 2025 ⁽¹⁾ (\$000)	Actual 2025 (\$000)	Actual 2024 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2025 and 2024 (\$000)
INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS						
Income						
For transfer:						
Regulatory fees and other charges	1),A	30	65	81	35	(16)
Total administered income		30	65	81	35	(16)
Expenses						
Loss on valuation of biological assets ^(a)	2),B	0	524	2,313	524	(1,789)
Transfer payments ^(b)	1) ,A	30	65	81	35	(16)
Total administered expenses		30	589	2,394	559	(1,805)
Net income from Administered Items		0	(524)	(2,313)	524	(1,789)

⁽¹⁾ These estimates are published in the State Budget 2024-25, Budget Papers No.2 ‘Budget Statements’.

^(a) Biological assets represent native forest and wild sandalwood.

^(b) Transfer payments represent the transfer of non retainable regulatory fees to the Consolidated Account.

Major estimate and actual (2025) variance narratives

- 1) Regulatory fees are \$35k (147%) higher than estimates partly due to more infringement notices issued than estimated.
- 2) Sandalwood biological assets are measured at fair value in accordance with AASB 141 Agriculture with a valuation conducted at the end of the reporting period.

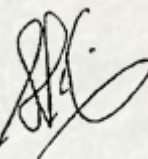
Major actual (2025) and comparative (2024) variance narratives

- A) Regulatory fees and other charges decreased by \$16k (19.75%) due to less infringement notices being issued.
- B) Sandalwood biological assets are measured at fair value in accordance with AASB 141 Agriculture with a valuation conducted at the end of the reporting period resulting in a decrement of \$524k (2024: \$2,313k). The sandalwood valuation decrease is partly due to the exclusion of one year across the forecast period.

AUDITED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Certification of key performance indicators

I hereby certify that the key performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.



Stuart Smith
Accountable Authority
23 September 2025

Beacon Island, Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	DESIRED OUTCOMES	SERVICES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS*	
GOVERNMENT GOAL Investing in WA's Future: Tackling climate action and supporting the arts, culture and sporting sectors to promote vibrant communities.	1. Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care.	4. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	
		Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	Key efficiency indicator KPI 4.1 Average cost per hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark
		5. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters	
		Key effectiveness indicator: 2. Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters	Key efficiency indicator KPI 5.1 Average cost per hectare in national parks and other lands and waters
	2. Plants and animals, and the landscapes they occupy, are conserved through evidence-based conservation actions.	6. Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	
		Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Proportion of critically endangered and endangered species and ecological communities that have a recovery plan 2. Area of land baited for introduced predators	Key efficiency indicator KPI 6.1 Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat
		7. Research and Conservation Partnerships	
		Key efficiency indicator KPI 7.1 Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat	
	3. Sustainable use of forest resources.	8. Implementation of the Forest Management Plan	
		Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Cumulative removal of jarrah and karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan	Key efficiency indicator 8.1 Average cost per hectare of forest
	4. Lands under the Department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.	9. Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	
		Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved	Key efficiency indicator 9.1 Average cost per hectare burnt
		10. Bushfire Suppression	
		Key effectiveness indicator: 2. Proportion of South West bushfires contained to less than two hectares	Key efficiency indicator 10.1 Average cost per hectare burnt

*The Key Performance Indicators for 1. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park, 2. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island and 3. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo, as listed in the department's OBM structure in budget papers, are reported in the annual reports of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority respectively.

OUTCOMES AND KEY EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS

Outcome 1: Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department’s care:

1. Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%
Actual	82.20%	82.20%	80.90%	85.40%	92.30%

Note to indicator: Visitor satisfaction is surveyed annually for the Swan Canning Riverpark and adjoining foreshore parks and involves a survey of park visitors recording expectations, level of satisfaction, visitor expectations and patterns of use and behaviour.

The surveys were conducted at 25 different river foreshore parks with a total of 350 intercept surveys undertaken. All the surveys are conducted on site using a questionnaire, through a face-to-face structured interview at selected sites along the Swan Canning Riverpark. The survey again applied the Yardstick User Survey platform as its basis. Interviews are voluntary and contact details are collected where possible. All respondents receive the same set of questions, asked in the same order, and typically completed in a timeframe of 5 to 8 minutes.

The survey was based on a quantitative scoring system measuring satisfaction/dissatisfaction. The satisfaction level of respondents was measured by asking them to rate their overall satisfaction with the park on a scale of 1-7; from extremely dissatisfied to extremely satisfied. Overall satisfaction percentage is calculated from the total numbers of respondents that gave a score of five, six or seven (i.e., above the mid-point of four) to the specific question on overall satisfaction with the park in which the survey was conducted. Respondents that scored overall satisfaction with their visit to the park as four or less are excluded as these respondents are not satisfied. Overall satisfaction is therefore the percentage of satisfied respondent’s vs not satisfied respondents.

From these, it was possible to determine the average satisfaction score by adding the total of all scores (Including those that were not satisfied) and dividing by the total number of respondents. The average satisfaction score was 6.46. This score is converted to a percentage (92.30%) to enable comparison with the target of 85%. The confidence level was 95% with a margin of error being 5%.

The average level of visitor satisfaction surpasses this year’s target by 7.30%, compared to 1.40% last year. Survey results across the years do not display a significant correlation between satisfaction and whether the survey is conducted partially during school holidays. The increase in average satisfaction may have been attributable to the following factors; Asking the satisfaction question first in the survey, collecting survey responses in the morning and afternoon thereby broadening the range of visitors or increasing survey responses from visitor’s undertaking water-based activities, an area of which DBCA has greater management influence. In the 2023-24 survey the lower average satisfaction score is a result of respondents being more likely to be satisfied overall but less likely to be extremely satisfied (i.e, more scores of five and six for overall satisfaction than scores of seven for extremely satisfied).

OUTCOMES AND KEY EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS

2. Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters

The average level of customer satisfaction with their visit is a key indicator of the department’s effectiveness in delivering parks and other natural areas that allow the community to understand, enjoy and appreciate the natural environment. Visitor satisfaction levels are consistently high.

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	90.00%	90.00%	90.00%	90.00%	91.00%
Actual	93.20%	94.57%	94.42%	93.40%	93.71%

*NR = Not reported. Exemption provided by the Under Treasurer.

Note to indicator: A benchmark visitor satisfaction index has been adopted to compare visitor satisfaction levels each year. The index is averaged from visitor responses (1,132 in 2024-25; confidence level 95%; margin of error 0.68%) to the state-wide visitor survey conducted at selected parks, reserves and forest areas around the state. The survey sample is stratified across the state by visitation distribution and collected in both peak and off-peak periods that includes weekday, weekends, public holidays and school holidays.

Visitor surveys are predominantly conducted on-site by a departmental officer or volunteer at major recreation areas within parks such as picnic areas and campgrounds. The target population are members of the general public who visit Parks and Wildlife managed land and waters for purposes mandated for the area. The state-wide surveys are administered via a structured interview by department staff and volunteers. Respondents contact details are collected for audit purposes on an opt-in basis. The interview is voluntary. All intercepted respondents receive the same set of questions, asked in the same order or sequence by the interviewer who has been instructed to treat every interview situation in a like manner and ensuring they are playing a neutral role.

The level of satisfaction for 2024-25 remained consistent with previous years.

Outcome 2: Plants and animals, and the landscapes they occupy, are conserved through evidence-based conservation actions:

Biodiversity refers to the variety of plant and animal life in our world and the ecosystems they inhabit. Conservation of plants, animals and ecosystems is implemented through a range of scientifically informed actions to ensure it is evidence based and effective. Protection of threatened species and ecological communities, and management of threats at a landscape scale are key representative approaches to conservation. The measures identified represent key indicators of the department’s effectiveness in conservation of biodiversity in the natural environment.

1. Proportion of critically endangered and endangered species and ecological communities that have a recovery plan

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	72.00%	72.00%	72.00%	72.00%	70.00%
Actual	73.70%	74.60%	72.50%	70.02%	70.02%

Note to indicator: Species and ecological communities listed as critically endangered and endangered are those most at risk of extinction and are a focus for conservation actions in the department. Recovery plans provide guidance for conservation of threatened plants, animals and ecological communities, and are a basis for delivery of conservation actions. The proportion of critically endangered and endangered species and ecological communities that have a recovery plan is representative of the department’s effectiveness in conservation of threatened plants, animals and ecological communities, and is a key performance indicator for biodiversity conservation.

The number of critically endangered and endangered plants, animals and ecological communities may vary each year due to addition or removal of species and ecological communities on the threatened list, as well as changes in categories. The outcome for the KPI is contingent on the number of plans prepared and the change in species and ecological communities on the threatened list.

There was no change to the lists of threatened species and ecological communities, and there were no new recovery plans published in the current reporting period.

2. Area of land baited for introduced predators

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	3,923,517 ha	4,012,681 ha	3,822,539 ha	3,875,015 ha	3,861,612 ha
Actual	3,808,368 ha	3,875,015 ha	3,880,798 ha	3,923,225 ha	4,142,839 ha

Note to indicator: Introduced predators have greatly contributed to the extinction and decline of many native animal species across Australia. Scientific research and monitoring have demonstrated that control management of introduced predators, through baiting and other actions, is a key factor in protecting native animal populations. Broadscale baiting is conducted by DBCA on a routine basis to reduce the threat of foxes and feral cats to Western Australia’s native animals and is representative of the department’s effectiveness in conserving these species. The area baited by DBCA is a key performance indicator for biodiversity conservation.

The annual baiting program occurs between 1 September and 31 August of a given year (i.e., spring baiting round through to the end of the winter baiting round). The area baited is calculated to the boundary of a parcel of land noting that non-baiting buffers are in place for all baiting cells to comply with State legislative requirements for use of 1080.

Area of land baited for introduced predators’ for 2024-25, includes existing baited areas under the Western Shield program, with some expansion of cells like Boddington (1,509 ha) and an additional cell on the South Coast, Boyatup (42,748ha) coming on line. Government funding to the Feral Cat Strategy, has allowed for expansion of predator management in the Pilbara in collaboration with stakeholders to include additional cells; (16560 ha) Eurardy, (59,268 ha) Coongan, (4760 ha) Soloman, (7913 ha) Iron bridge, (66,830 ha) Mt Gibson, (50,000ha) Millstream.

Outcome 3: Sustainable use of forest resources:

1. Cumulative removal of jarrah and karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	1,337,000 m³	1,528,000 m³	1,719,000 m³	1,910,000 m³	n.a.
Actual	879,707 m³	1,072,540 m³	1,166,569 m³	1,230,523 m³	n.a.

Note to indicator: The indicator has no target set or information to be reported as large-scale commercial harvesting and the need to set sustained yields of jarrah and karri sawlogs ceased on 31 December 2023 with the expiry of the Forest Management Plan 2014-2023. No target or actual information was set for the indicator in the approved budget statements. The Department obtained approval under TI 3 from the Under Treasurer which was granted prior to 30 June 2025.

Direction under section 61(1)b of the Financial Management Act will be sought from the Treasurer to not report a key effectiveness indicator for outcome 3 for 2025-26 and a new indicator for outcome 3 will be included in the 2026-27 annual report. A direction has not been sought for the 2024-25 period as the key performance indicator status is still valid through the reporting period.

Outcome 4: Lands under the Department’s care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives:

1. Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	55%	55%	55%	55%	55%
Actual	39%	*	*	*	*
Actual - ArcMap	46%	37%	49%	37%	48%

Note to indicator: Priority 1 prescribed burns cannot constitute more than one third of planned prescribed burns to ensure there is enough flexibility in the burn program to allow the department to take advantage of suitable opportunities. Priorities are assigned to the department's Burn Options Program to reflect the department's land management responsibilities for mitigation of bushfire risk to communities and conservation values through strategic management of fuel loads. Providing enhanced criteria for prioritisation decisions results in a balanced representation of Priority 1 prescribed burns as a proportion of the total Burn Options Program.

A lower proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns was achieved due to more drier conditions than expected and a reduction in the number of prescribed burns undertaken in autumn 2025. Less prescribed burns were undertaken in autumn 2025 due to industrial action carried out by Australian Workers’ Union staff that limited overtime work for non-emergency response and non-bushfire suppression duties. Despite the constraints associated with industrial action, drought related constraints were less severe across the State and that enabled an 11 per cent increase of Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved compared to 2023-24.

KEY EFFICIENCY INDICATORS

* In 2020-21 a change was made to the method used to calculate the actual area of prescribed burning achieved. The department has demonstrated through the application of the ArcMap platform that a greater degree of accuracy can be achieved in reporting against this KPI.

2. Proportion of South West bushfires contained to less than two hectares

The department is a land manager and has a responsibility under legislation (e.g., *Bushfire Act 1954*) to manage bushfires occurring on *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* land. In the South West, the department manages the largest proportion of remaining bushland in a fragmented landscape, sharing boundaries with a range of other tenures, including substantial areas of private property and rural communities. If bushfires can be contained to areas less than two hectares, suppression costs and potential impacts on other land tenures and communities are significantly reduced.

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
Actual	76%	79%	86%	76%	85%

Note to indicator: This indicator relates to bushfires in the South West where the department is the initial attack agency. Compared to 2023-24, there was a nine per cent increase in the number of fires contained to less than two hectares where the department was the initial attack agency. The fire season was relatively stable, and conditions were generally conducive to the success of rapid initial attack methods, particularly in areas that were recently prescribed burnt as part of previous years successful delivery of the Burn Options Program as this assisted containment of fires at smaller sizes across portions of the landscape.

KEY EFFICIENCY INDICATORS

Key Efficiency Indicators

Service 4: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

4.1 Average cost per hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

Managing the Swan Canning Riverpark including assessing development proposals and delivering environmental management programs. The Swan Canning Riverpark consists of the area (hectares) for which the department is responsible under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management (SCRM) Act 2006*, comprising the Swan Canning waterway (vested with the Swan River Trust) and the adjoining public lands (vested with State and Local Authorities) reserved as Regional Open Space under the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	\$2,209	\$2,323	\$2,455	\$3,016
Actual	\$2,239	\$2,313	\$2,361	\$2,939

Note to indicator: The actual average cost per hectare is consistent with the 2024-25 target with the difference being 2.64 per cent. Actual average cost per hectare is higher than the prior year due to new funding from Commonwealth Government for Urban Rivers and Catchments Program that is used for programs such as Cleaning up the Canning that improve the health of waterways.

Service 5: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters

5.1 Average cost per hectare in national parks and other lands and waters

Management of lands and waters; dealing with public involvement, visitation, and appreciation of the natural environment on lands and waters managed by the department. Average cost is calculated by dividing service expenditure by the total land and waters under the department’s care and management (hectares). Areas are extracted from the Landgate cadastral/tenure information system with adjustment to marine areas provided by Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands Branch. Marine areas are approximate as the quality of mapping of marine reserve boundaries is variable. Improvement of watermark and historical boundaries may result in revised area figures.

The Parks and Visitor Services (PVS) division connects people with Western Australia’s unique natural and cultural landscapes. Through partnerships with communities, volunteers, and Traditional Owners, the division promotes inclusive access, joint management, and meaningful engagement. By blending cultural knowledge with modern practices, PVS delivers quality visitor experiences and strong conservation outcomes for the lands and waters it manages.

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	\$4.60	\$4.56	\$4.85	\$6.12
Actual	\$4.13	\$5.05	\$5.53	\$6.63

Note to indicator: The actual average cost per hectare to manage national parks and other lands and waters is higher than the prior year actual due to higher expenditure on the state-wide Aboriginal Ranger Program. In 2024-25, higher financial liabilities were recognised than budgeted to represent the present value of direct monetary payments promised to external parties under indigenous land use agreements.

KEY EFFICIENCY INDICATORS

Total land and waters under the department’s care and management (hectares) utilised in the key efficiency indicator calculation for the 2024-25 reporting period was 34,397,860 hectares.

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

6.1 Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat

Relates to costs associated with the development and implementation of programs for the conservation of biodiversity, including the variety of life forms: the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form. Average cost is calculated by dividing service expenditure by the total land and waters under the department’s care and management (hectares). Areas are extracted from the Landgate cadastral/tenure information system with adjustment to marine areas provided by Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands Branch. Marine areas are approximate as the quality of mapping of marine reserve boundaries is variable. Improvement of watermark and historical boundaries may result in revised area figures.

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	\$2.03	\$2.05	\$1.91	\$2.08
Actual	\$2.02	\$2.25	\$2.46	\$2.71

Note to indicator: The actual average cost per hectare of conserving wildlife habitat, species and ecological communities has increased due to the increased conservation activity linked to additional indigenous land use agreements and joint management agreements the department is involved with. Total land and waters under the department’s care and management (hectares) utilised in the key efficiency indicator calculation for the 2024-25 reporting period was 34,397,860 hectares.

Service 7: Research and Conservation Partnerships

7.1 Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat

Development and implementation of programs to conserve and improve the management of the State’s biodiversity, based on best-practice science, by working with the community, industry, traditional owners and other stakeholders to deliver conservation outcomes. Average cost is calculated by dividing service expenditure by the total land and waters under the department’s care and management (hectares). Areas are extracted from the Landgate cadastral/tenure information system with adjustment to marine areas provided by Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands Branch. Marine areas are approximate as the quality of mapping of marine reserve boundaries is variable. Improvement of watermark and historical boundaries may result in revised area figures.

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	\$0.67	\$0.64	\$0.56	\$0.59
Actual	\$0.54	\$0.55	\$0.49	\$0.58

Note to indicator: This measure is in line with the 2024-25 target and is higher than the prior year measure due to increased expenditure linked to research grants. Total land and waters under the department’s care and management (hectares) utilised in the key efficiency indicator calculation for the 2024-25 reporting period was 34,397,860 hectares.

KEY EFFICIENCY INDICATORS

Service 8: Implementation of the Forest Management Plan

8.1 Average cost per hectare of forest

The figure used is the accrual basis average gross cost per hectare of managing tenure vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission (CPC) in accordance with the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 (FMP). Due to changes in forest policy described in the FMP, the area reported has changed from the managed area of State forest and timber reserves to all CPC tenures as published in the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033.

	2022–23	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	\$16.90	\$16.54	\$45.13	\$14.50
Actual	\$15.65	\$16.91	\$19.78	\$12.23

Note to indicator: The actual average cost per hectare of forest is lower than the target and prior year due to deferrals in system improvements and commencement of consultation on expansion of the conservation reserve system consistent with the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033. The area covered by the Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 has increased from the previous plan to approximately 2.4 million hectares and partly explains the reduction in the average cost per hectare against the prior year.

Service 9: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management

9.1 Average cost per hectare burnt

Delivering prescribed burning and fire management to protect the community and enhance natural values. Lands under the department’s care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	\$14.49	\$14.62	\$13.80	\$15.89
Actual	\$10.61	\$11.05	\$9.12	\$12.02

Note to indicator: The department treated 5,056,369 hectares of land through its prescribed burning program compared to 6,083,482 hectares in the prior year. Key efficiency indicator is lower compared to target due to delays with recruitment processes as a result of regional housing supply issues and lack of experienced applicants, for newly funded positions associated with the additional Bushfire Mitigation and Response Resourcing funding, and also a reduction in prescribed burns in autumn 2025 as a result of industrial action carried out by Australian Workers’ Union staff that limited overtime work for non-emergency response and non-bushfire suppression duties. Key efficiency indicator is higher than prior year as additional funding was acquired in 2024-25 for additional regional bushfire management.

Service 10: Bushfire Suppression

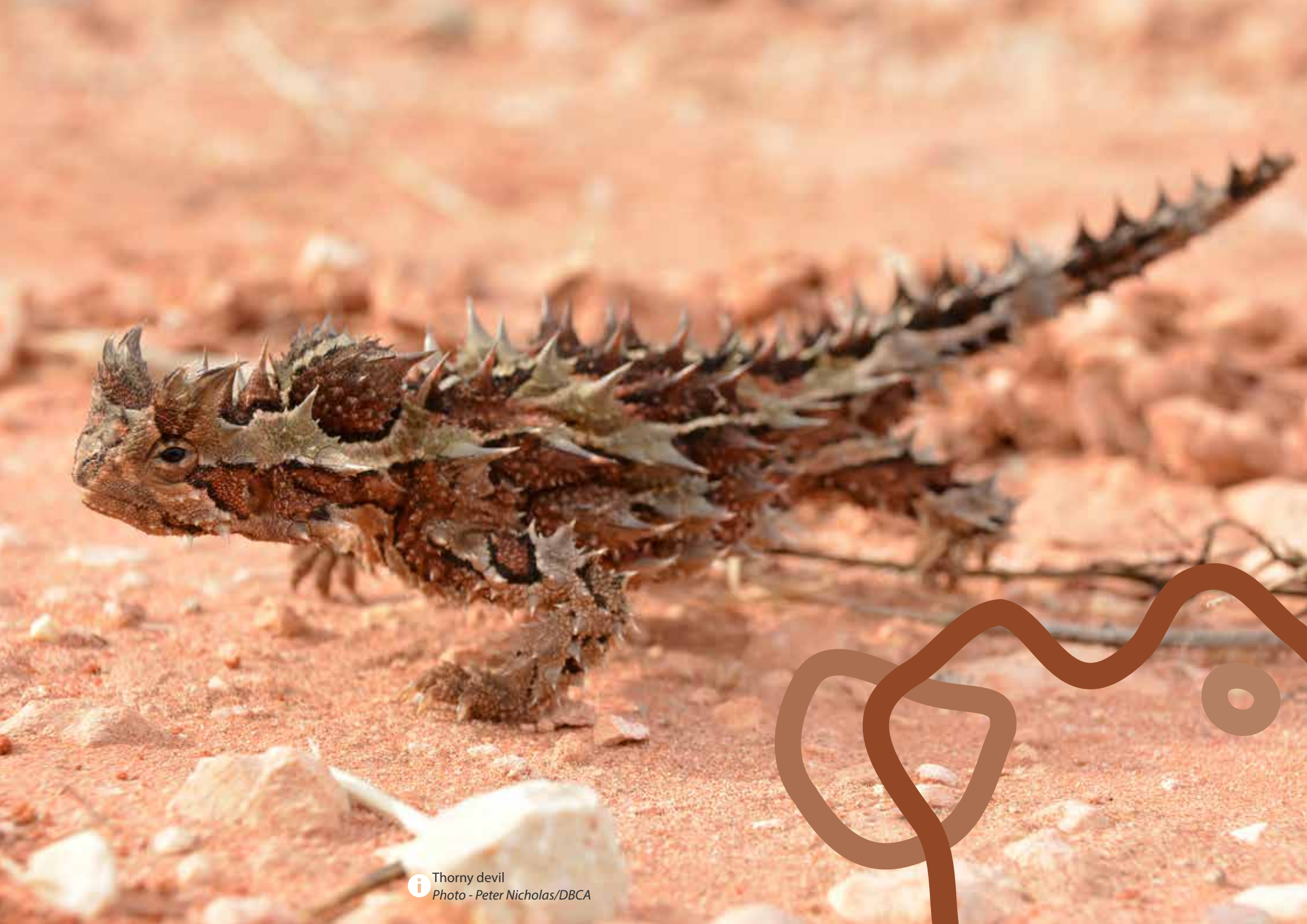
10.1 Average cost per hectare burnt

Suppressing bushfires that threaten or occur on lands managed by the Department.

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Target	\$13.27	\$13.26	\$17.81	\$18.01
Actual	\$25.81	\$59.54	\$14.46	\$62.60

Note to indicator: The total area burnt by bushfires to which the department contributed a suppression response in 2024-25 was 1,110,970 hectares. This compares to 4,581,790 hectares for the 2023-24 period.

The department sought supplementary funding during the 2024-25 year to cover costs linked to significant fires in the Donnelly district in February and March, with the Chesapeake Complex running for 34 days and involving five separate deployments of Interagency Bushfire Pre-Formed Teams, an inbound deployment of fire crews and incident management staff from the eastern states and extensive use of aerial suppression aircraft. The department also provided support to multi-agency bush fire responses in Meadows Road Fire (November 2024 - Cervantes), Drummond Road (January 2025 – Fitzgerald River National Park and Hill River Nature Reserve (April 2025 – Jurien Bay).



 Thorny devil
Photo - Peter Nicholas/DBCA



Goldfields Woodlands National Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



Railway Reserves Heritage Trail,
John Forrest National Park