

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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.

For more information contact:
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Technology Park, Western Precinct
Kensington Western Australia 6151

Locked Bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre
Western Australia 6983

Phone: (08) 9219 9000
Email: enquiries@dbca.wa.gov.au

The recommended reference for this publication is:
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2025–26 Annual Report, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2026

ISBN 978-1-925978-98-8 | ISBN 978-1-925978-99-5 (Online) October 2026
Copies of this document are available in alternative formats on request.

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 2025 to 30 June 2026.

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 2026

Front cover images:
Top: DBCA science in action
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA
Bottom: Smoking ceremony at Lalang-gaddam Marine Park

This page: Turtle release, Ningaloo Marine Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA



Lake Kununurra, Packsaddle Lagoon
Darram Conservation Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia

CONTENTS

LETTER TO THE MINISTER	1
FOREWORD	4
WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE WORK	8
OUR STRUCTURE	8
AGENCY PERFORMANCE	10
SERVICE 4	**12**
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT | HIGHLIGHTS	13
LOOKING AHEAD	19
SERVICE 5	**20**
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT | HIGHLIGHTS	21
LOOKING AHEAD	29
SERVICE 6	**30**
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT | HIGHLIGHTS	31
LOOKING AHEAD	39
SERVICE 7	**40**
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT | HIGHLIGHTS	41
LOOKING AHEAD	51
SERVICE 8	**52**
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT | HIGHLIGHTS	53
LOOKING AHEAD	57
SERVICE 9	**58**
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT | HIGHLIGHTS	59
LOOKING AHEAD	63
SERVICE 10	**64**
PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT | HIGHLIGHTS	65
LOOKING AHEAD	69



Pemberton Arboretum MTB trails
Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY	70
SUPPORTING OUR DEPARTMENT	72
SCIENCE, STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE	72
PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE-MANAGED LAND AND WATERS	76
LEGAL MATTERS	83
GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS	84
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK	85
WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AND INJURY MANAGEMENT	85
AGENCY CAPABILITY REVIEW REQUIREMENTS	88
WORKFORCE INCLUSIVENESS	88
CLOSING THE GAP REQUIREMENTS	89
BOARD AND COMMITTEE REMUNERATION	92
CONSULTANT EXPENDITURE	95
OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS	96
MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES	97
UNAUTHORISED USE OF CREDIT CARDS	97
ACT OF GRACE PAYMENTS	97
EXPENDITURE ON ADVERTISING, MARKET RESEARCH, POLLING AND DIRECT MAIL	98
DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN OUTCOMES	98
COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC SECTOR STANDARDS AND ETHICAL CODES	99
RECORDKEEPING PLANS	99
DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE	100
CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	100



Welcome to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2025–26 Annual Report.

The past year has demonstrated the strength and impact of genuine partnerships across Western Australia. From cultural heritage protection to emergency response, science, conservation and tourism, our achievements reflect the collective effort of Traditional Owners, regional communities, volunteers, industry and government working together towards shared outcomes.

FOREWORD



Murujuga National Park
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

We began the year with the inscription of Murujuga Cultural Landscape to the World Heritage List, an achievement made possible through close collaboration between Traditional Owners and the Western Australian and Australian governments.

Across the State, our new regional conservation plans introduced a more integrated approach to planning. The development of the overarching Biodiversity Conservation Framework and nine regional conservation plans will strengthen long-term conservation outcomes while supporting regional priorities and aspirations. We also continued to deliver important conservation programs, including Western Shield, one of Australia's largest wildlife recovery programs.

We began the first statutory review of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act), ensuring the legislation remains contemporary and responsive. The review will examine and report on the operation and effectiveness of the BC Act with particular attention to protecting and conserving threatened species and threatened ecological communities.

Our science capability was recognised, with the department's fauna genetics team receiving the Premier's Science Award for Government Science Project of the Year. This honour reflects the dedication of our scientists and the value of collaborative research partnerships.

In the Kimberley, the State Government committed $5 million, in partnership with Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation and commercial tourism operators, to deliver essential infrastructure to support culturally appropriate experiences at Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls). Across the State, we continued to invest in nature-based tourism experiences that connect visitors with Western Australia's unique landscapes and cultural heritage. Improvements to trails, campgrounds and visitor facilities enhanced access, safety and visitor amenity in our parks and reserves. The reopening of the Gloucester Tree near Pemberton and ongoing investment in iconic visitor destinations demonstrated our commitment to providing world-class nature-based experiences while ensuring these assets are protected for future generations.

Our emergency and incident response capability was tested and proven through multiple major events. Staff responded to bushfires around the State that burnt about 3.5 million hectares. Staff were also deployed to Canada to support international firefighting efforts. In the north of the State, the department played a crucial role in the response to Cyclone Narelle, working alongside emergency services, local governments and communities to protect infrastructure and natural assets, and allow visitors and tourism operators to return to affected areas as soon as possible. The department also worked closely with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), the wildlife care sector and other State and Australian government agencies to plan for the arrival of high pathogenicity avian influenza H5N1 (H5 bird flu).

Volunteers remain at the heart of our work. Thousands of individuals contributed their time, knowledge and passion across parks, rivers, wildlife rehabilitation and visitor services. Their commitment strengthens our capacity and deepens our connection with the community.

This year also marked our first full year working with Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC as Minister for the Environment and his office. I thank him for his leadership and support, and I look forward to continuing to build strong and productive relationships across the portfolio.

These achievements reflect a department that is collaborative, resilient and future-focused. Our progress is only possible because of the people and partners who share our commitment to Western Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

I extend my sincere thanks to our staff, Traditional Owners, volunteers, the community and stakeholders for their dedication throughout the year. Together, we are shaping a stronger, more connected future for Western Australia's environment.



Stuart Smith
Director General
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
October 2026

OUR VISION AND VALUES

Pilbara Conservation Project
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA



Murujuga National Park
Photo - DBCA

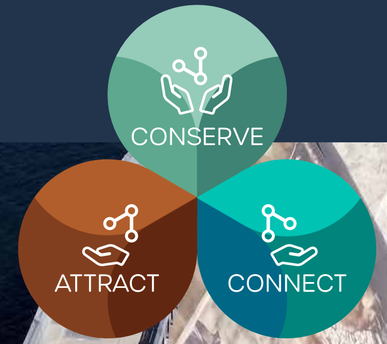


Yellagonga Regional Park
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

OUR VISION

To work with the community to ensure that WA's environment is valued, protected and conserved for its intrinsic value and for the appreciation and benefit of present and future generations.

OUR PURPOSE



OUR VALUES

Integrity
Collaboration
Accountability
Respect
Excellence

Wellington National Park
Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA

WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE WORK

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (the department) 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 the sustainable management of Western Australia's native species, ecological communities, ecosystems, land, waters 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. Within the group, the Biodiversity and Conservation Science division coordinates and delivers science, providing biodiversity and science knowledge to support the work of the department.



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

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

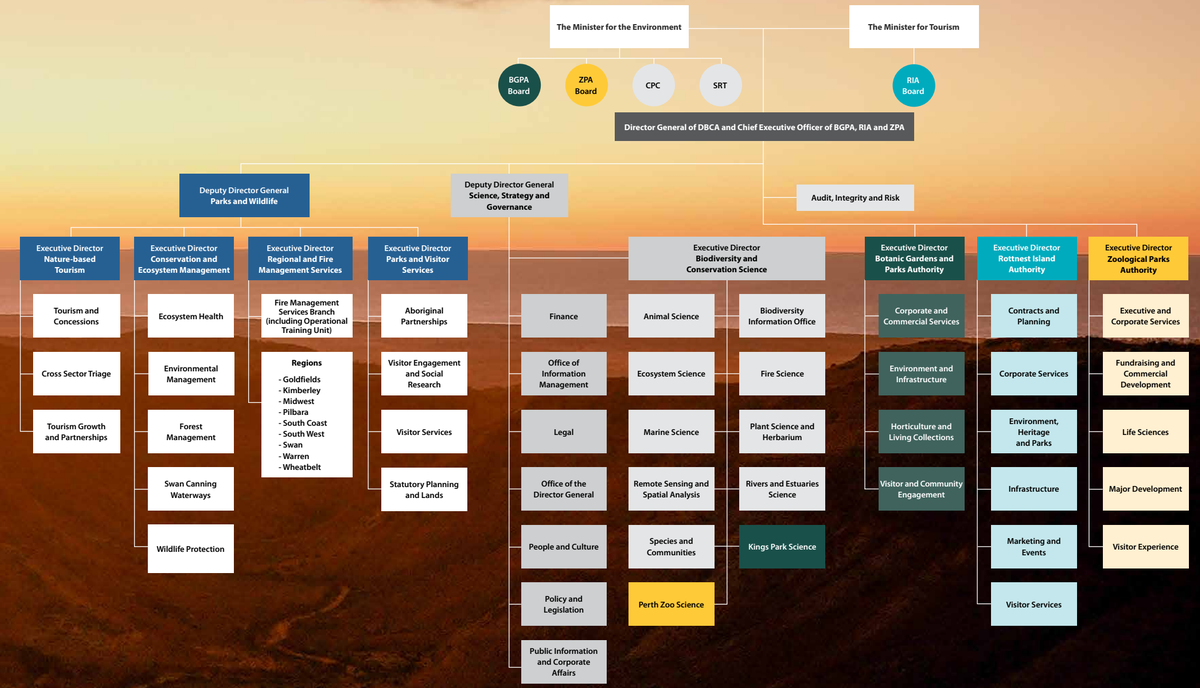
Nature-based Tourism promotes and facilitates sustainable, nature and culture-based commercial tourism and attractions in national, marine and conservation parks and reserves managed by the department.

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.

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



Charles Knife Canyon
Cape Range National Park
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

AGENCY PERFORMANCE

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

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

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* is the 'Swan Canning Riverpark'.

Cape Peron Reserve
Photo - Tourism Western Australia



PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

Target **85%**

Actual **88.8%**

Average cost per hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

Target **$2,936**

Actual **$2,931**

Expenses by service

Target **$21,499,000**

Actual **$21,461,000**

SERVICE 4

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Exceeded key performance indicators for the Swan Canning oxygenation program, protecting river areas under stress.

$655,000 awarded through the Community Rivercare Grants Program to 14 community-based waterway health projects.

Awarded more than **$200,000** in small grants to riverfront businesses, event organisers and venues to support waste reuse and avoidance through the Plastic Free Riverpark Program.



Pelican Point, Swan Estuary Marine Park
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

Healthy catchments

- Awarded $655,000 through the Community Rivercare Grants Program to 14 community-based projects to assist with the improvement of waterway health in the Swan Canning catchment.
- Distributed more than $270,000 to 21 community groups through the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program for restoration projects in the Swan Canning catchment. Now in its 28th year, the program has funded 1776 restoration projects. The program is jointly funded by the Burswood Park Board, Alcoa of Australia and the department, and administered by Perth NRM.
- Released the Djarlgarro (Canning Waterways) Restoration Plan for public comment. The plan incorporates the Canning, Southern and Wungong rivers (collectively known as Djarlgarro) and was developed in partnership with stakeholders to respond to concerns about the condition of the Djarlgarro system and the pressures it faces.
- Provided $655,000 in funding to the four natural resource management (NRM) sub-regions in the Perth region to support delivery of community driven catchment restoration, which will improve water quality entering the Swan Canning river system.





River health improvement

- Exceeded annual oxygen concentration-based key performance indicators (KPIs) for the Swan Canning oxygenation program, which helped protect river areas under significant stress during an extended high-risk period resulting from elevated water temperatures and significant algal activity.
- Refined Kent Street Weir operations including experimental trials to support submerged macrophyte recovery and collection of fish movement data through the fishway to inform adaptive weir management.
- Completed workshops and engagement with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and Water Corporation under Kep Katitjin – Gabi Kaadadjan: Waterwise Action Plan 3 to establish a collaborative framework for improved catchment and drainage management in the Swan Canning river system.

Urban Rivers and Catchments Round One

- Provided ongoing administration, planning and advice to guide the on-ground implementation of 19 sub-projects totalling $15.12 million under the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program. The projects will improve riparian and aquatic habitat, water quality and connectivity to benefit native and threatened species by mid-2028.
- Projects included:
  - Completion of the Swan River Urban Forest project in the City of Bayswater, benefiting the south-western snake-necked turtle, and Carnaby's and forest red-tailed black cockatoos.
  - Initiatives to collect data and inform education strategies for erosion and sediment control, supported by local governments and NRM organisations.
  - Planning to restore a critical habitat pool in the Canning River, informed by a significant ecological dataset compiled by the department's Rivers and Estuaries Science Program.

Urban Rivers and Catchments Round Two

- Projects included:
  - Riverbank restoration at Coode Street in the City of South Perth, a significant project which received funding from Australian, State and local government to enhance ecological and amenity values of the prominent Sir James Mitchell Park foreshore reserve, including $850,000 via Riverbank Proactive funding over four years, with $200,000 committed in 2025–26.
  - Continued support to the Town of Bassendean for implementation of the Ashfield Flats Master Plan.
  - Development of a culturally-guided restoration and monitoring plan for southern Bennett Brook in collaboration with the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation to inform implementation of the Revitalising Bennett Brook and Grogan Swamp project.

Riverbank

- Distributed $619,422 to six foreshore land managers for seven restoration projects in the Swan Canning Riverpark (Riverpark), funding foreshore planning, river wall construction, improved bank stabilisation, revegetation, weed control, widening of riparian corridors to establish habitat, and improved foreshore access.
- Finalised 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.
- Awarded $925,000 in the first round of Stage 2 of the Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest funding program, supporting public land managers to deliver urban forest restoration projects in the Riverpark and surrounding catchment. Six new projects were announced, which will result in approximately 121,000 native plants being installed over 9.85 hectares.

River reserve leasing

- Managed more than 30 River reserve leases, ensuring alignment with legislative requirements and broader environmental, community benefit and amenity outcomes for the Riverpark.

Incidents and compliance activities

- Monitored a prolonged bloom of the potentially ichthyotoxic (fish killing) alga *Karlodinium*, which occurred in the middle and upper Swan River during the summer of 2025–26. No associated fish kills were recorded.
- Led a coordinated response to the death of more than 6000 fish and invertebrates in the lower Swan estuary, downstream of Point Resolution, caused by significant rainfall in September 2025. The response resulted in swift action in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and local governments including foreshore assessments, additional water sampling and disposal of affected fauna.
- Delivered 110 proactive compliance patrols across the Riverpark, using both land- and vessel-based approaches.

River Journeys project

- Began planning for a new River Journeys node at Shelley Beach Park in the City of Canning. The River Journeys project uses the extensive network of walking trails in the Riverpark to develop nodes or rest points at key sites of environmental, historical and Aboriginal cultural significance. Construction of the new node is scheduled to start in Kambarang (spring) 2026.

Visitor satisfaction

- Completed a face-to-face visitor satisfaction survey including 350 interviews during the peak (December to January) and off peak (May to June) sampling periods at 25 foreshores, parks and reserves across the Riverpark, recording an average satisfaction level of 88.8 per cent, exceeding the target of 85 per cent.

State significant transport initiatives

- Worked closely with Main Roads WA on bridge crossings over the Swan River, including construction of the new Fremantle Traffic Bridge. All environmental controls are proving effective with no significant incidents recorded.
- Completed assessment of development applications for two proposed ferry terminals at Matilda Bay Reserve and Applecross, which has now been approved by the Western Australian Planning Commission. Further work was done with the Public Transport Authority and Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure on the operational component of the Metronet on Swan Ferry Expansion.

Statutory assessments

- Issued 146 approvals for works or activities in the Swan Canning development control area. Provided advice on 119 development applications, eight structure plans and 50 subdivision applications that were in, next to, or affecting the Swan Canning development control area. Assessed eight development applications, including four applications for variation of previous approvals, and made recommendations to the Minister for the Environment under Part 5 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*.
- Granted nine permits to commercial operators, bringing the number of commercial permits for activities within the Riverpark this financial year to 58. The permits are comprised predominantly of social river cruises (39 permits) and equipment hire (14 permits). Due to longer permit lifespans, the number of required applications has significantly reduced since 2023, resulting in less administrative burden on operators.



Swan Canning Riverpark



Alfred Cove Nature Reserve
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

Strategic activities

- Completed final consultation for the new River Protection Strategy for Derbal Yirragan Djarlgarro (Swan Canning river system).
- Updated five corporate policies including planning for wastewater, dewatering, stormwater, jetties and dredging affecting the Swan Canning development control area. Developed a new corporate policy of locality-specific statements and nine locality plans and supporting action plans which will ensure planning, development and management protects the unique qualities of the rivers.
- Continued development of the Windan-Guildford Locality Planning project, including community and Traditional Owner engagement.
- Continued delivery of the Swan River clean-up election commitment, investigating opportunities for tourism, small-craft navigation and enhanced amenity, while protecting the ecological values of the upper Swan River between Reid Highway and Maali Bridge.
- Continued to deliver actions as a partner in Kep Katitjin – Gabi Kaadadjan: Waterwise Action Plan 3. 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.



River Rangers
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

Community engagement and behaviour change

- Supported waste reuse and avoidance through the Plastic Free Riverpark Program. The program awarded more than $200,000 in small grants to 16 riverfront businesses and 11 event organisers/venues to establish single use packaging reduction projects and behaviour change initiatives, including reusable cup systems and water refill stations. This included supporting Optus Stadium as it introduced a stadium-wide reusable cup system, becoming the first stadium in Australia to do so.
- The River Guardians program reached 2651 subscribers. Four training and/or clean up events were delivered, attracting 357 participants, and three 'Our gardens with Josh Byrne' RiverWise gardening workshops, attracting 369 participants. The River Guardians Family Festival in South Perth in May 2026 attracted more than 1000 people.
- Partnered with DPIRD to build and launch the new Marine Fauna Sightings app which is used by Dolphin Watch volunteers to report dolphin observations and complete surveys as part of the Dolphin Watch project, and partnered with Murdoch and Edith Cowan universities and 25 Dolphin Watch volunteers to complete the 2025–26 Strategic Monitoring Project.

- Delivered 29 incursions and excursions through the River Guardians school education program, reaching 800 students. Another four river-related activities were held over the school holidays, attracting 176 attendees.

- Collected more than 29km of fishing line, 4650 hooks and sinkers, 2250 bait bags and more than 12,550 pieces of general rubbish through the Reel It In project, which has placed 76 dedicated fishing line bins at popular jetties, fishing platforms, traffic bridges and foreshores throughout the Riverpark. Project participation included 14 riverfront local governments and 68 volunteers who have adopted fishing line bin sites.

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. Related information can also be found in the Science, Strategy and Governance section of this report.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Ensure land use planning protects and enhances Riverpark values and meets community demands.
- Deliver environmental programs to improve the health of the river system, its foreshores and the Swan Canning catchment and their resilience to environmental and community pressures.
- Deliver operational and compliance activities and facilitate recreation and commercial activities in the Riverpark to enhance community benefit and amenity.
- Enhance community social responsibility to engage more citizens to help look after the Riverpark.

Nearer to Nature, Canning River Eco Education Centre
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

SERVICE 5

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

HIGHLIGHTS

The State Government committed $5 million in funding for culturally appropriate tourism at Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls) and strengthened Aboriginal-led tourism through the Foundations to Futures program.

Continued implementation of the $32.85 million Outdoor Adventure Tourism program, and delivered major upgrades to trails, campgrounds and visitor infrastructure across the State.

Finalised Indigenous Land Use Agreements under Plan for Our Parks, enabling ongoing joint management of 6.5 million hectares of conservation estate across Western Australia.

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

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

Target **94%**
Actual **93.09%**

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

Target **$6.39**
Actual **$6.16**

Expenses by service

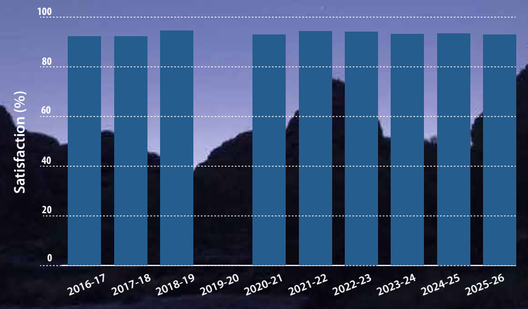
Target **$221,986,000**
Actual **$212,600,000**

Lalang-gadam Marine Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia

Park visitor statistics

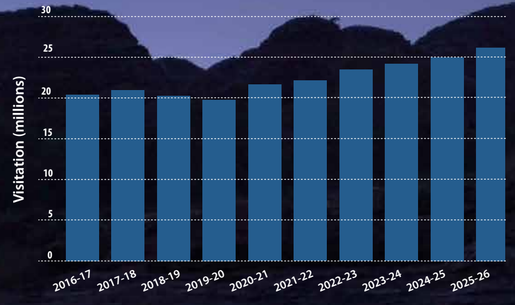
The 2025–26 visitor satisfaction index, averaged from visitor responses to surveys at 47 parks, reserves and forest areas across the State, was 93.09 per cent. This outcome, with results from previous years of the survey program, is illustrated in Figure 1. During 2025–26, there were **26.16 million visits** to Parks and Wildlife Service-managed land and waters, an increase of 5 per cent from the previous year (Figure 2). Most regions saw increases in visitation, with the department's Kimberley 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.

The Bungle Bungle Range, Purnululu National Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia

Note: Figures presented here may differ from those in previous reports due to coming from a live booking system. During 2025–26, there were 190,600 online bookings for campsites managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service, an increase from 164,200 last year. The online booking service was extended to 11 additional campgrounds during 2025–26, with 12,640 bookings recorded at these locations.

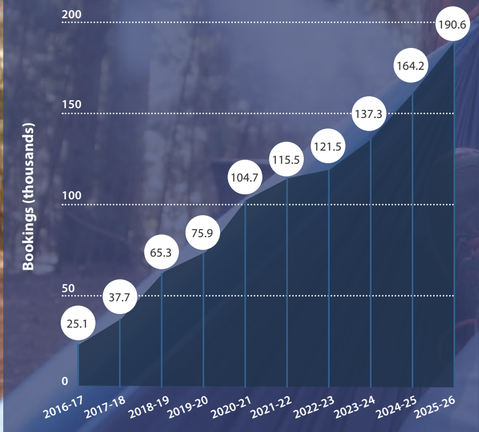


Figure 3: Growth in campground bookings at Parks and Wildlife Service-managed campgrounds over the last decade.



Jirndawurrunha (Millstream)
Millstream Chichester National Park
Photo - DBCA

Partnerships

- Implemented existing joint management and cooperative management arrangements with Traditional Owners, and worked alongside Traditional Owners to plan, develop and implement joint management plans and departmental programs, and negotiate new joint management agreements.
- Continued collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on management planning and integrating service delivery in marine parks.
- Continued to partner with the Australian Government for service delivery in Commonwealth marine parks adjacent to Western Australian 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.

Plan for Our Parks

The department finalised the negotiation of agreements for the State Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative, which has now moved into ongoing implementation. The goal of creating five million hectares of new national and marine parks and conservation reserves over five years was exceeded, with 6.5 million hectares of Western Australian lands and waters conserved through Plan for Our Parks to date.

- In August 2025, Packsaddle Springs National Park (40,074 hectares), Lake Argyle National Park (10,690 hectares), Lake Argyle Conservation Park (40,150 hectares), Spillway West Conservation Park (10,207 hectares) and Packsaddle Springs Reserve (1656 hectares) were created and jointly vested with Yawoorronong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation.
- In October 2025, Whitmore, Roberts, Dole Island and Sandalwood Landing Nature Reserve was upgraded to Class A protection and jointly vested with Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation.
- Conclusively registered the final Indigenous Land Use Agreement under Plan for Our Parks in February 2026. This agreement with Marlinyu Ghoorlie enabled tenure creation and upgrade to a Class A park in the Helena and Aurora and the Die Hardy ranges, to be known as Bungalbin National Park.

Creation of other conservation estate

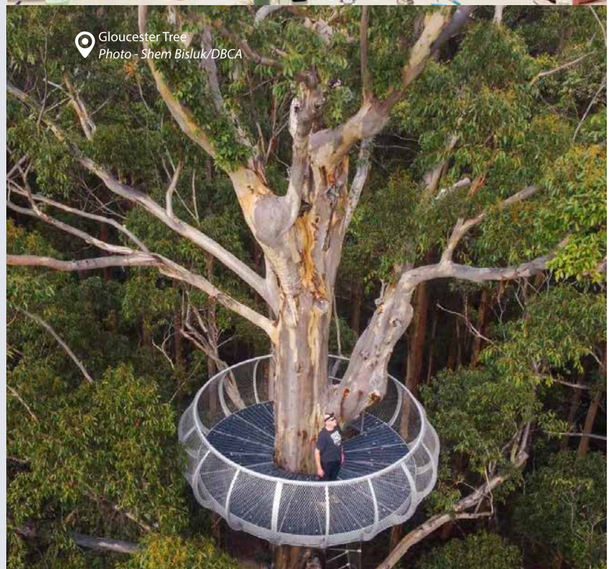
- In October 2025, Wandering Conservation Park (3211 hectares) was created through the *Reserves Act 2025* over jarrah and wandoo forest at the western edge of the Wheatbelt Region.
- In March 2026, further sections of the *Reserves Act 2025* came into operation, amending the tenure of Class A and other conservation reserves across Western Australia. This Bill amends the tenure of 12 department-managed reserves, improving management arrangements.
- Completed amendments to other conservation reserves including additions to Mount Roe National Park (75 hectares), Sir James Mitchell National Park (five hectares) and the Vasse Wonnerup Wetlands Nature Reserve (53 hectares).

Management planning and implementation

- The 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 gazetted on 19 December 2025, enabling joint management with Traditional Owners of about 107,000 hectares.
- The draft joint management plan for the Yinggarda Conservation Estate, a diverse and culturally significant landscape spanning more than 405,600 hectares in Western Australia's Midwest-Gascoyne region was released for the statutory two-month public comment period on 17 April 2026. Created in 2023 as part of the State Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative, the estate includes:
  - The expanded Mundatharrda National Park (Kennedy Range National Park), the new Bimbee National Park (Pimbee National Park), Mooka Conservation Park (Kennedy Range Conservation Park), two nature reserves within the town of Carnarvon, Jiggabiddi Nature Reserve (Chinamans Pool Nature Reserve) and Beeirdeegoorah Nature Reserve (One Tree Point Nature Reserve).



Customer experience workshop
Photo - DBCA



Gloucester Tree
Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA

Partnerships powering nature-based tourism

- The State Government committed $5 million in partnership with Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation and commercial tourism operators, to deliver essential infrastructure supporting culturally appropriate experiences at Garaan-ngaddim (Horizontal Falls). A two-year extension will enable existing licensed tour operators to continue traversing the wide gap at the falls until the end of the 2028 tourism season, providing business certainty while supporting the transition to new culturally appropriate tourism experiences.
- Piloted an Aboriginal Tourism Capacity Building Program, 'Foundations to Futures', in partnership with Gnaala Karla Booja. Through a series of practical workshops, the program strengthened tourism literacy among the department's joint management partners and supported progress towards Aboriginal-led strategic tourism planning. A statewide rollout is planned for late 2026.
- Co-designed a new approach to working with commercial tour operators through consultation with the department's regional teams. Workshops facilitated by the Cross-Sector Triage (CST) team tested current practices and informed improvements, positioning the department as a leader in customer service.
- Convened the Nature-based Tourism Industry Reference Group as a forum for regular dialogue with industry representatives, strengthening relationships and fostering a shared understanding between commercial tourism operators and the Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Progressed bushfire planning guidelines for tourism developments and visitor facilities in parks through the CST program, supporting commercial tourism applicants to better understand and manage bushfire risk on department-managed land.
- Hosted a statewide commercial tourism workshop with representatives from Regional and Fire Management Services, Parks and Visitor Services, and Conservation and Ecosystem Management divisions. The workshop identified key opportunities and priorities, forming the foundation of a new approach to tourism development on department-managed land.

- Developed a comprehensive licensing guide to improve clarity, transparency and the quality of applications from commercial tourism operators.

- Fully embedded the CST team within the division and began the pilot program. This strengthened interagency collaboration with other State Government agencies, established mechanisms that promote greater accountability and transparency, and enabled the provision of coordinated, whole-of-government advice to accelerate priority projects while maintaining high environmental standards. Improvements were supported through a case management approach and streamlined processes, in close collaboration with CST teams across multiple State Government partner agencies.
- Managed more than 600 commercial operations licences for tourism, assessed and granted 55 commercial event applications, granted or renewed 36 leases or access licences, and regulated 4199 apiary sites.

Recreation, trails and facilities

- Upgraded or replaced visitor facilities in parks and reserves across the State, including improvements to visitor access and facilities at Coalseam Yamatji cultural camp, and Ledge Beach near Albany. Pathway upgrades were completed at Big Brook Dam near Pemberton and a new accessible boardwalk installed at the Tree Top Walk in the Valley of the Giants. Miluwindi Lennard Gorge trail construction was finalised and is expected to open in late 2026.
- The Cape to Cape Track improvement project was completed with the installation of new steps, stairs and boardwalks, as well as the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park sign improvement project. New trailhead features were completed at the Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste lighthouses.
- Works continued on the Collie Adventure (Wambenger) Trails initiative, with upgrades to the Jabitji Trail in Wellington National Park for walking and cycling, and completion of widening and upgrades to Falcon Road near Wellington Dam. Redevelopment of the kiosk precinct at Wellington Dam began, with a new kiosk under construction, along with landscaping and upgrades to power, potable water and waste infrastructure.
- Works began on the final elements of the Dwellingup Adventure Trails initiative, including power provision to the new pop-up kiosk at the Dwaarlindjirraap day use area, and upgrades to the Marrinup Prisoner of War Camp Trail, Chuditch Trail and Captain Fawcett four-wheel drive track.
- 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 iconic long-distance nature-based trails.
- Delivered upgrades to visitor access and facilities as part of 2021 election commitments:
  - Completed the $21.2 million transformation of Karijini National Park, including sealing of Weano Road, Knox Road, Banjima Drive, and Weano, Knox and Fortescue Falls carparks, as well as road shoulder improvements on Dales Gorge Road. Additional upgrades included a new, larger lookout at Knox Gorge, shade sails at Weano Gorge, new interpretive panels throughout the park, and construction of new toilet facilities at Knox Gorge.
  - Completed the Lake Goollelal boardwalk and expanded the Yalbunullup Mountain Bike Park with new dedicated jump lines, trail improvements and a new birdwatching shelter in Yellagonga Regional Park near Joondalup. The new carpark development at Perry's Paddock was tendered and awarded.
  - Constructed new pathways, gathering area and Indigenous interpretation in North Lake within Beeliar Regional Park, building on the previously completed carpark and dual use paths.
  - Completed road and carpark upgrades at The Gap and Cable Beach and installed a new toilet at The Gap in Torndirrup National Park as part of Stage 2 improvements. Upgrades to the Cable Beach lookout, beach access and a new toilet are nearing completion.
  - Completed the new West Ridge elevated walkway over Jane Brook and began work on the amenities plaza and facilities as part of the John Forrest National Park improvement project.



Knox Gorge carpark, Karijini National Park
Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA



Cape to Cape Track trailhead
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

- Continued implementation of the $32.85 million Outdoor Adventure Tourism program:
  - Initiated the planning and design phase for campground projects, completed road and access upgrades at Conto Campground, and began toilet construction and site improvements at Green Island (west of Manjimup). Upgrades began to the Tonys Bend and Charlies Flat campgrounds.
  - Progressed trails projects, including site assessments and approvals at Red Gorge in Karijini National Park, improvements to trail networks in the Perth Hills with new trails under construction in Beelu National Park and new trails completed in John Forrest National Park, and issued tenders for a new carpark and facilities at Mt Gungin near Kalamunda.
  - Improved climbing tree infrastructure in Pemberton, including a new lookout and reopening at Gloucester Tree and beginning design work for the Bicentennial Tree.
- Began implementation of the $6.9 million package of 2025 election commitments:
  - Awarded contracts and began work on upgrades to sealed pathways to Elephant Rocks, replacement beach access stairs and a new boardwalk to Green's Pool at William Bay National Park.
  - Progressed the realignment of the Munda Biddi Trail off William Bay Road, with concept designs and approvals underway and improvements to sections north of the park started.

Aboriginal engagement

The department continues to work collaboratively to deliver outcomes as outlined in its Reconciliation Action Plan 2024–27.

- Continued to focus on developing successful and ongoing joint management partnerships with Traditional Owners and engaging with Aboriginal people. This will facilitate opportunities to access and care for Country and protect, promote and conserve Aboriginal cultural heritage. The department is in joint management partnerships with 31 Traditional Owner groups across the State, equating to 39 per cent of the conservation estate.
- Under the South West Native Title Settlement, the department continued to work with the six Noongar regional corporations as part of cooperative management arrangements.
- Delivered mandatory online cultural awareness training to 722 employees, or 27 per cent of all staff. This training was developed by the Public Sector Commission and assists employees to gain a better understanding of Aboriginal history, culture and contemporary social issues.



Aboriginal Ranger Program announcement
Hon Matthew Swinbourn visits Winjan Corporation
Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA

Aboriginal Ranger Program

The department continued to manage 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 Western Australia. Since 2017, $176.5 million has been allocated to the ARP through its nine rounds, predominately funded via Royalties for Regions.

- Delivered Phase 2 of the ARP, which provided $83 million to support 77 projects across 55 Aboriginal organisations. These funds established ranger teams, ranger planning and dedicated ranger innovation, climate action, youth and tourism projects. Most Phase 2 projects will be finalised by 30 June 2026, with full outcomes reporting for Phase 2 available during 2026–27.
- Phase 2 funded 256 full-time equivalent positions, almost half of which were women. More than 1400 Aboriginal people have been employed via the program since its inception.
- As part of Phase 3, completed and assessed Round 9 funding via three funds—Sustain, Activate and Prepare—to support ranger programs across a broad suite of developmental phases. These funds were developed following a review of previous rounds and extensive partner and stakeholder engagement to deliver greater impact, value for money and alignment with aspirations for Country. Up to $62 million will be allocated across the State with projects beginning 1 July 2026 and running for up to four years.

Volunteer and community engagement

- At 30 June 2026, 12,325 volunteers were registered with the Parks and Wildlife Service. Of these, 7108 volunteers contributed 787,935 hours across 216 volunteer projects statewide.

- In 2025-26, the Volunteer Coordination Unit registered 2206 new volunteers and established 16 new volunteer projects across 10 districts.

- Continued support was provided to Friends groups, four-wheel-drive clubs, wildlife rehabilitation centres, and other community organisations involved in conservation and environmental projects.
- The Campground Host Program engaged 248 volunteers across 54 sites.
- Facilitated more than 500 training placements for volunteers to build knowledge and skills and support personal development, including de-escalating conflict and aggression, first aid, wildlife and snake awareness, and diversity and inclusion awareness.
- Hosted the annual volunteer awards in December 2025, where 32 volunteers were recognised for their support of the department, including two volunteers under the age of 21. Of these, 11 were acknowledged for more than 20 years of service, and one community group received an Outstanding Service certificate and presented long-serving volunteers with lifetime parks passes to recognise more than 20 years of continual volunteer service.
- Held three events in partnership with Nature Play WA through the Every Kid in a Park program, focusing on accessibility for the disability sector and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Consultation was undertaken to ensure appropriate parks, activities, resources and communities were chosen.
- Registered more than 1.9 million visits to the Explore Parks WA website, while the Explore Parks WA Facebook page had a 300 per cent increase in post reach and a 10 per cent increase in followers.

World and National Heritage management

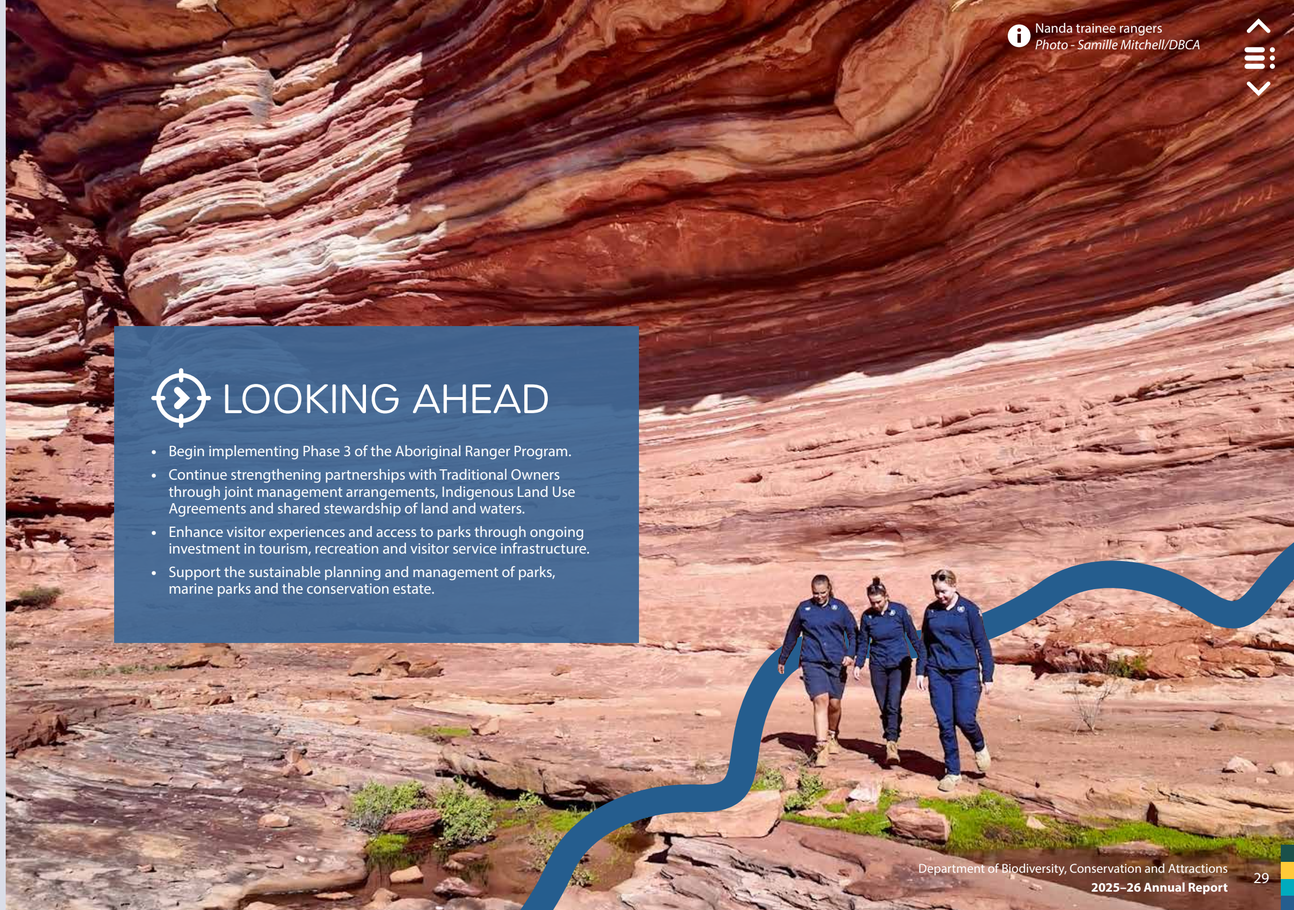
- Worked collaboratively with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation and the Australian Government to implement the new inscription of Murujuga Cultural Landscape on the World Heritage List.
- Continued to manage three natural World Heritage areas—Ningaloo Coast, Shark Bay and Purnululu National Park—and administer the biannual meetings of the three 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 (VRM) program, led by the Regional and Fire Management Services Division.
- Sadly, six visitors died in the extensive areas managed by the department during the reporting period. Four of these deaths occurred from drownings and two deaths were from pre-existing medical conditions. The department continued to review existing risk mitigation strategies at locations with a history of water-related safety incidents.
- Following Cyclone Narelle, which heavily impacted Cape Range, Nyinggulara and Jarralya national parks and Nyinggulu Coastal Reserve in the Exmouth area in early April, extensive VRM site assessments and mitigation work enabled the parks to re-open as soon as practicable. Several campsites in Nyinggulara National Park were extensively damaged and will remain closed until redevelopment works are completed.
- Worked on visitor safety issues including heat stress management, remote camping, walk trail classifications and redevelopments, and improvements to recreational sites and facilities.

- A nationally accredited visitor risk management course provided by the department was completed by 108 frontline employees, and 36 employees undertook refresher training.

- Continued to support DPIRD with the Beach Emergency Number (BEN) sign system, with BEN signs installed in the Murchison, Pilbara and Kimberley areas.
- Five public liability insurance claims were submitted to the department's insurers, with four assessed and declined in accordance with the insurers' evaluation processes and one settled with the plaintiff through the insurer.



Nanda trainee rangers
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

LOOKING AHEAD

- Begin implementing Phase 3 of the Aboriginal Ranger Program.
- Continue strengthening partnerships with Traditional Owners through joint management arrangements, Indigenous Land Use Agreements and shared stewardship of land and waters.
- Enhance visitor experiences and access to parks through ongoing investment in tourism, recreation and visitor service infrastructure.
- Support the sustainable planning and management of parks, marine parks and the conservation estate.

SERVICE 6

Conserving habitats, species and ecological communities

HIGHLIGHTS

Completed the Biodiversity Conservation Framework and nine Parks and Wildlife Service regional conservation plans.

Increased the Western Australian Herbarium collection by 7850 specimens and added 89,000 high resolution digital images.

Released 70 critically endangered white-bellied frogs near Margaret River to supplement wild populations.

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

Area of land baited for introduced predators (in hectares)
Target 4,922,061
Actual 4,764,000

Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat
Target $2.50
Actual $3.03

Proportion of critically endangered and endangered species and ecological communities that have a recovery plan or conservation advice
Target 70%
Actual 89.06%*

Expenses by service
Target $86,650,000
Actual $104,366,000

Grigson's Lookout, Wanagarren Nature Reserve

*The key effectiveness indicator was revised in the 2025–26 reporting period to include conservation advices in addition to recovery plans.

Biodiversity conservation legislation, policy and strategic programs

- Provided advice on biodiversity 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.
- The Biodiversity Information Office curated an additional 3.82 million unique biodiversity records for input into the Dandjoo biodiversity data sharing platform, bringing the total to 7.18 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.
- Undertook species and site disease risk assessments to contribute to the State's preparedness for H5N1 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza.
- Provided expert scientific advice to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on the review of the State of Environment Policy for seagrass communities in Cockburn Sound and the Environmental Protection Policy for the critically endangered western swamp tortoise (*Pseudemydura umbrina*).
- Completed a Biodiversity Conservation Framework and nine Parks and Wildlife Service regional conservation plans. These will guide prioritisation of resources to deliver conservation actions that provide the greatest benefit relative to costs and risks, using a consistent statewide approach.
- Delivered new joint management arrangements with Traditional Owners across the State under Plan for Our Parks to promote knowledge sharing, two-way science, cross-cultural exchange and improved protection of Country.

Threatened and important animals

- Over the 12 months of the reporting period, there were six additions of animals to the threatened species list and five repeals of listings.
- As of June 2026, 250 animal species were listed as threatened under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act): 61 critically endangered, 66 endangered, and 123 vulnerable. Additionally, 115 are listed as specially protected, 23 extinct and 224 are on the department's priority fauna list.

- Records of 42,725 sightings, captures or evidence of threatened and priority animals were added to the Threatened and Priority Fauna database.

Terrestrial and aquatic fauna monitoring

- Continued investigations of the influence of fire on the vulnerable quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) in the northern jarrah forest and South Coast Region, and population changes of threatened mammals and feral cats in response to prescribed burning in south-west forests.
- Monitoring continued 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 geoffroii*) following feral cat control.
- Undertook water quality monitoring at potential translocation sites for Perth Zoo-bred critically endangered Margaret River hairy marron (*Cherax tenuimanus*).
- Undertook surveys for the highly restricted short-range endemic pygmy trapdoor spiders (*Bertmainius mysticus* and *B. tingle*) in the Walpole Wilderness Area and mygalomorph spiders in the *Idiosoma nigrum* group in the Wheatbelt and Midwest regions, including the newly named *Idiosoma ganbarrga*.



Surveying mygalomorph spiders in Karara Rangeland Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA



Western ground parrot monitoring, Cape Arid National Park
Photo - DBCA

- Undertook monitoring in Kalbarri National Park which indicated successful translocation of black-flanked rock wallabies (*Petrogale lateralis*) and an expanding chuditch population.
- Undertook passive acoustic monitoring for critically endangered western ground parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*) in the South Coast Region with data also confirming records of other threatened and priority fauna including translocated endangered noisy scrub-bird (*Atrichornis clamosus*).
- Continued camera monitoring of malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) nests and mounds in the Goldfields and Midwest regions.
- Surveyed for western spiny tailed skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*) in the Murchison, recording significant new populations.
- Monitored critical weight range mammals such as the critically endangered ngwayir/western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), chuditch, quokka and endangered numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) in the Warren Region.

- Continued surveys for the endangered sandhill dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*) at Queen Victoria Springs Nature Reserve.
- Trials continued using eDNA sampling techniques to detect hard to survey threatened fauna such as native bees at Forrestdale Lake, vulnerable heath mouse (*Pseudomys shortridgei*) at Lake Magenta Nature Reserve and endangered dibblers (*Parantechinus apicalis*) at Dirk Hartog Island National Park.
- Developed and published a database of known fire regime effects on threatened fauna across the State to support conservation and fire management planning.
- Removed tammar wallabies (*Notamacropus eugenii*) and koomal (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) from the Perup Sanctuary to reduce resource competition with critically endangered woylie (*Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi*) and ngwayir/western ringtail possum. The tammar wallabies and koomal were released into the adjoining forest.
- Surveyed the occupancy and abundance of vulnerable bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) populations on Peron Peninsula in Shark Bay.
- Analysed findings of the Nanda Bush Blitz in spring 2024, resulting in new discoveries including two wasps, a bee, a fly, a spider and two pseudoscorpions.
- Shorebird surveys were undertaken in Carnarvon and Denham to contribute to East Asian-Australasian Flyway monitoring.
- Monitored endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) breeding on land adjoining Kalbarri National Park to determine breeding extent and if future management measures are required.

Zoo treatments

- Perth Zoo vets triaged 347 injured black cockatoos. These included 28 endangered Baudin's black cockatoos (*Zanda baudinii*), 122 Carnaby's black cockatoos and 197 vulnerable forest red-tailed black cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus banksia naso*). Vets also treated 259 other wild birds and animals, including 52 quokkas from Rottnest Island under a new arrangement that allows them to be returned to the island following treatment and recovery.

Feral predator control

- Invasive predator management in addition to Western Shield helped protect founder and translocated populations of critically endangered Gilbert's potoroo (*Potorous gilbertii*), western ground parrot and noisy scrub-bird in the South Coast Region.
- Introduced Felixer® grooming traps in Dryandra National Park to help reduce the impacts of feral cats on threatened fauna.



Celebrating a successful whale disentanglement
Photo - DBCA

Marine mammals and turtles

- Provided expert scientific advice regarding the review and formulation of the revised National Sea Lion Recovery Plan.
- Surveyed four species of marine turtles across 10 rookeries from Shark Bay to the northern Kimberley.
- Reviewed the large whale disentanglement program and developed guidelines, which were endorsed by the department's Animal Ethics Committee, for scientific sampling of marine mammals at strandings.
- Investigated humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) distribution and in-water tourism interactions, with no long-term (2016–25) effects on the spatial distribution of humpback whales migrating through Ningaloo Marine Park detected.

Threatened and important plants

- Over the 12 months of the reporting period, there were seven additions of plants to the threatened species list and one repeal of a listing.
- As of June 2026, 450 plant species were listed as threatened under the BC Act: 178 critically endangered, 152 endangered and 120 vulnerable. Sixteen were listed as extinct. Another 3499 taxa were on the department's priority flora list.
- A total of 2814 records were added or modified in the Threatened and Priority Flora database.

Herbarium and publications

- Increased the Western Australian Herbarium collection by 7850 specimens. A total of 89,000 high resolution digital images of collections were captured, bringing the number of specimen images available online to 181,500.
- Publications in *Nuytsia*, the journal of the Western Australian Herbarium, named and described 39 new plants and fungi. Of these, 30 species are conservation listed including four new orchids from the south-west of the State.



Eremophila subangustifolia
Photo - Andrew Crawford/DBCA

Monitoring and research

- Continued survey work on priority flora in the Kimberley Region with 24 new populations for 16 priority species found.
- Genomic research continued to aid clarification of the taxonomic and conservation status of plant species such as *Corymbia paractia*.
- Orchid research supported the development of an innovative propagation protocol for threatened *Thelymitra variegata* to support ex situ conservation activities.
- Continued long-term monitoring of tracked individuals of critically endangered *Caladenia lodgeana*, endangered *C. leucochila* and critically endangered *C. busselliana*.
- Continued ongoing monitoring of Tonebridge blood orchid (*Caladenia erythrochila*) to assess fire response and ecology.

- Post-fire surveys identified significant new populations of the critically endangered ironstone Brachyscias (*Brachyscias verecundus*) and confirmed its regeneration response to fire.

- Undertook ongoing threatened flora survey and monitoring recovery across the Midwest Region including translocation planting for critically endangered *Grevillea murex*, *G. calliantha* and *Eremophila subangustifolia*.

Collection and conservation

- Collected seed from two populations of the vulnerable Kimberley *Eucalyptus ceracea* to support conservation in the face of potential myrtle rust impacts.
- Seed of 17 threatened species were germinated at the Western Australian Seed Centre for use in translocations, producing 3002 seedlings. The department continued to provide technical advice and assistance for projects involving seed collection and use.
- Ex situ and in situ conservation actions were delivered for five of Western Australia's most threatened orchid species, generating 40 seed collections and 293 fungal isolates.
- Undertook a conservation translocation for *Caladenia lodgeana* with an additional 225 plants released to the wild.
- Fenced critically endangered *Eremophila pinnatifida* seedlings following bushfire to reduce impact of human and vehicle incursion.
- Fenced endangered population of *Reedia spathacea* to protect from ongoing impacts of feral pigs in the Chesapeake wildfire scar.

Threatened ecological communities

- During the 12-month report period, there was one addition to the threatened ecological communities list and three ecological communities were listed as collapsed ecological communities.
- As of June 2026, 66 ecological communities were listed as threatened under the BC Act: 46 critically endangered, nine endangered and 11 vulnerable. Three ecological communities were listed as collapsed and 389 were on the department's priority ecological communities (PECs) list.
- A total of 53 occurrence records were modified or added to the Threatened and Priority Ecological Community database.
- Completed management actions including fencing, weed and pest animal control, revegetation, phosphite spraying, fire management and hydrological infrastructure maintenance, benefiting threatened ecological communities (TECs) and PECs across the State.
- Revised floristic community descriptions for the southern Swan Coastal Plain. This will better define some TECs and assist with assessing development proposals.
- Analysed flora survey data, which confirmed a new occurrence of the *Melaleuca huegelii – Melaleuca systena* shrublands on limestone ridges ecological community (floristic community type 26a).

Managing threats

Invasive animals

- Western Shield delivered landscape-scale predator management across approximately 4.7 million hectares of department-managed and partner lands. This included regular monitoring to track the distribution and abundance of native species and predators in baited areas.
- A research program under the Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy 2023–2028 continued to refine feral cat control strategies and improve monitoring approaches. Grants worth $500,000 were allocated to five community-driven projects focused on managing feral cats, protecting native wildlife and education.
- Continued to implement the Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2021–2026. This included implementation of taste aversion training for goanna (*Varanus species*) 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 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.
- Thermal aerial pig and deer control was undertaken in the Warren, South Coast and Swan regions.
- Delivered aerial feral animal control programs across the Midwest, Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

Plant diseases

- Applied phosphite to 140 hectares of Montane Heath and Thicket TEC, Montane Mallee Thicket PEC, Kwongkan TEC, 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*.
- Continued to administer the system for registering dieback interpreters and monitoring standards of interpretation. In May 2026 there were 41 registered interpreters (19 employed by the department and 22 in the private sector). The 2025 annual review found high standards of interpretation.
- Monitored dieback management of disturbance activities via 149 desktop checks and nine field checks.
- The Vegetation Health Services laboratory processed 2390 samples to support dieback mapping and management around the State.
- Delivered the green card course in dieback and plant biosecurity awareness and basic management to 127 people, and the dieback management planning course to 34 people.
- A dieback management project was implemented to protect Lesueur National Park from the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

Climate change impacts

- Burn severity modelling for the south-west forests continued during prescribed burning seasons to assess the effects of prescribed burning and inform the development of operational applications in future years.
- Continued to investigate and monitor the impacts of vegetation die-off in the south-west during the summer of 2023–24.
- Continued to examine the value of jarrah forest fire dams as a water source for native fauna in a drying climate using eco-acoustics, eDNA and camera traps.
- Used hydrodynamic and catchment modelling of the Swan Canning estuary to project changes in catchment nutrient export, estuarine water quality and habitat conditions.
- Coral reef, seagrass, macroalgae and associated invertebrate communities were surveyed to document impacts of the 2024–25 marine heatwave event.

Weeds

- Completed field monitoring of alternative herbicide and fire treatments for grader grass (*Themeda quadrivalvis*) management in tropical savannas.
- 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 95 students, with 18 students progressing to weed champions (trained to deliver the course), and the weed management basics course was completed by 13 students.
- Participated in the National Weeds Working Group undertaking a technical review of weed species nominated for future Weeds of National Significance as part of the National Established Weed Priorities initiative.





Numbat release in Dryandra Woodland National Park
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

Wildlife translocations

- Genetic analyses continued to support selection of source sites for translocations of threatened species including the boodie (*Bettongia lesueur*), western swamp tortoise, critically endangered white-bellied frog (*Anstisia alba*) and Margaret River hairy marron, with the aim of maximising genetic diversity and informing captive breeding programs.
- Released four numbats into Dryandra Woodland National Park from the Perth Zoo breeding program to improve conservation of this species. A program to rear vulnerable orange-bellied frogs (*Anstisia vitellina*) and white-bellied frogs led to the release of 70 white-bellied frogs to supplement wild populations near Margaret River.
- Margaret River hairy marron were bred at Perth Zoo for the fourth consecutive year, with research continuing to optimise husbandry practices for this species.
- Translocated two woylies from the Kingston area into Perup Sanctuary.
- Began the first year of translocation of noisy scrub-bird into West Cape Howe National Park in partnership with Traditional Owners. The species was last detected in the park in the 1890s.
- Nine fauna species were reintroduced to Dirk Hartog Island National Park following the eradication of sheep, goats, cats and foxes. Planning is now underway to reintroduce boodie later in 2026.

Terrestrial monitoring, research and conservation

Forest science

- Research to determine forest hydrological and ecological responses to ecological thinning continued at the Yarrigil and Munro State forest blocks, as well as several new sites.
- 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.

Off-reserve conservation

- The Land for Wildlife program registered 12 new properties, bringing the area of registered sites managed privately for conservation to 1,246,616 hectares over 2069 properties.
- The Nature Conservation Covenant Program registered three new conditional covenants and is currently negotiating seven voluntary and 10 conditional covenants. An additional three conditional covenants have been negotiated and are awaiting registration.

Sustainable use of natural resources

- Continued the review of the *Sandalwood (Limitation of Removal of Sandalwood) Order (No. 2) 2015*, which will recommend appropriate harvest limits for wild *Santalum spicatum* and allow the Minister for the Environment to set a new Sandalwood Order under the BC Act.
- Publicly released the *Review of the Sandalwood (Limitation of Removal of Sandalwood) Order (No. 2) 2015, 2026 Draft Technical Report.*

Aquatic monitoring and research

- Began monitoring marine habitats and associated fish species in the newly created Mamang Maambakort Marine Park.
- Collected and reported data on the condition of and pressures on key ecological values in marine reserves.
- Monitored water quality and ecological health in the Swan Canning Riverpark and evaluated changes in pollutants arising from catchment sources.
- Undertook eDNA analyses to verify the six documented seagrass species in the Swan Canning estuary.
- Assessed the value of a living seawall and prepared best practice guidelines for their application in Western Australia.
- Worked with waterway managers to apply hydrodynamic and catchment models to support oxygenation decision making and water quality improvement planning.



Lake Thetis, Nambung National Park

- Continued to better characterise and monitor key values and habitat variables at the State's Ramsar wetlands.
- Began a monitoring program at Lake Thetis in the Midwest Region to understand changing conditions in the wetland in response to a fish kill in 2023 and increased benthic algal growth.
- Began a new program to survey and monitor springs and water points across Gulali National Park, including sampling of soil and water for eDNA analysis.
- Undertook spring protection works in the Gascoyne District at Kennedy Range and Burringurrah.

Licensing and Ministerial authorisation

- Issued 4545 licences under the BC Act for the use of native animals, 912 for use of native plants, and 103 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 modify TECs. There were 320 fauna, 210 flora and six TEC authorisations granted.



Department staff carrying out maintenance works on Seal Island in Shoalwater Islands Marine Park
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

LOOKING AHEAD

- Develop a Threatened Species and Threatened Ecological Communities Strategy.
- Identify on-ground actions to enhance climate resilience of threatened species and ecological communities in the south-west of the State under the Climate Adaptation Strategy.
- Ongoing monitoring and management actions to conserve Western Australia's marine and terrestrial parks and reserves.
- Continue to implement regional conservation plans and research to support their delivery.



SERVICE 7

Research and conservation partnerships

Imaged and databased
11,400 specimens
received from the former
Curtin University Herbarium.

Launched the Watheroo Region
Conservation Program in partnership
with Woodside Energy, a three-year,
$2.125 million
joint conservation initiative in
the Midwest.

Nine species released to date through
the Dirk Hartog Island National Park
Ecological Restoration Project.

HIGHLIGHTS



PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

Average cost per hectare
of wildlife habitat
Target **$0.62**
Actual **$0.70**

Expenses by service
Target **$21,356,000**
Actual **$24,046,000**

Dirk Hartog Island National Park,
Return to 1616 Ecological Restoration Project
Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA

Strategic partnerships

- Continued to develop a strategic landscape-scale prioritisation strategy to guide on-ground actions and monitoring to enhance resilience and biodiversity of the Canning River through a partnership with the National Environmental Science Program (NESP).
- Continued the Rangelands Restoration project at Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara National Park in partnership with the Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation (TMPAC) and Wiluna Martu rangers. This included monitoring reintroduced populations of vulnerable rufous hare-wallaby (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*), vulnerable golden bandicoot (*Isoodon auratus*), boodie (*Bettongia lesueur lesueur*) and vulnerable bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*).
- The North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program, funded by the Gorgon Joint Venture participants, continued to collaborate with a wide range of partners, including local Aboriginal groups, to deliver research, monitoring and threat mitigation activities for flatback turtles (*Natator depressus*) across the Kimberley and Pilbara regions. Key partners included Rio Tinto, Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation, Nyamba Buru Yawuru and Care for Hedland.
- Research associated with environmental offset programs from the Pluto gas development continued to improve understanding of 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, the Pilbara Conservation Project continued to work with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal ranger groups to improve vegetation mapping, undertake research to guide landscape-scale management through burning regimes, and identify areas of high conservation significance in Millstream Chichester and Karijini national parks. This project is run in conjunction with an offset from Australian Premium Iron Management.
- Began a voluntary partnership with Woodside Energy to deliver the Watheroo Region Conservation Program, a three-year, $2.125 million joint conservation initiative that includes targeted 1080 baiting to reduce foxes and feral cats, protection of vulnerable native fauna, and lowering the impact of feral goats on remnant vegetation.



Pilbara Conservation Project
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA



Watheroo Region Conservation Program
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

- Continued the Forest Management Plan 2024–2033 Fire Research Collaboration initiative with Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University (ECU). Five higher degree students and several researcher-led projects began or continued, investigating the effects of bushfire and fire management on south-west forest ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Completed the department's five-year contribution to the international LifePlan project, which aims to develop and upscale advanced monitoring tools including metabarcoding and machine learning for audio and camera trap data.
- Perth Zoo began a new partnership with Parks Australia to establish an additional breeding colony of Lister's gecko (*Lepidodactylus listeri*) to complement breeding facilities on Christmas Island and at Taronga Zoo.

Biological and environmental surveys

- Monitored waterbirds at the Muir-Byenup Ramsar sites with funding from South West NRM, and two surveys of waterbirds at the Lake Gore Ramsar wetlands were co-funded by South Coast NRM under the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnerships Program. Data will contribute to Australia's reporting obligations under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- Expanded the Western Australian Herbarium Pilbara plant identification program in partnership with Rio Tinto.
- Continued collaboration with CSIRO to analyse ant and soil samples collected from the Western Australian transects of the national Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Network (TERN) initiative (*Banksia* woodland, wandoo woodland and Great Western Woodlands) to detect and interpret change in biodiversity and soil characteristics, including responses to climate change and fire.
- Department scientists worked with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to complete the shellfish restoration project in the Swan Canning Riverpark.
- 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.
- Partnered with CSIRO to undertake blue carbon research in the Exmouth Gulf, identifying areas of high conservation value based on species diversity and carbon storage potential to help guide the future marine park planning process.
- Undertook shark and ray tagging and distribution research in the Exmouth Gulf in partnership with the Minderoo Foundation, Murdoch University and Baiyungu Traditional Owners.
- Partnered with the University of Western Australia (UWA) to survey benthic invertebrate communities in the Mayala Marine Park and provided survey technique training to empower joint management partners.
- Partnered with West Coast Bird Research to monitor little penguins (*Eudyptula minor*) on Penguin Island.
- Surveyed coral communities around the Muiron Islands in partnership with Woodside Energy.



Dugong,
Nyinggulu Coastal Reserve

- Groundwater, streamflow and tree water use continued to be monitored in response to a 2019 forest thinning project in the Yarragil experimental catchments south-east of Dwellingup, supported by an Alcoa Forest Enhancement Fund (FEF) grant. FEF grants also supported investigation into forest thinning in Hamilton State forest block and drought tolerance and hydraulic traits of jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) in Chandler State forest block.
- Completed a geophysics survey of the Yarrigil-4L experimental thinning site in collaboration with Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration.
- In collaboration with the Forest Products Commission, completed geophysics, aircraft imaging and on-ground ecological surveys in forest sites impacted by the 2023–24 drought event.

- Continued a NESP-funded partnership with Kimberley Traditional Owners (Indigenous Salt Water Advisory Group members) and James Cook University to conduct small drone dugong (*Dugong dugon*) surveys.
- Partnered with Curtin University to survey and map ants at Perth Zoo to better understand endemic and invasive ant populations.
- Surveyed dugong and assessed marine heatwave impacts on seagrass condition in Exmouth Gulf through a research collaboration with ECU. Outcomes will help to predict the impacts of heatwave events on tropical seagrass species and marine fauna.
- Worked with Global Finprint to incorporate data from the State's marine parks into a global assessment of sharks and ray conservation in marine protected areas.



Sea lions, Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

Threatened and important animals

- Continued reconstruction of native fauna through the Dirk Hartog Island National Park Ecological Restoration Project, with nine species released on the island to date and a boodie translocation proposed for 2026.
- Undertook collaborative research with the University of Adelaide and University of Auckland to process and analyse data from passive acoustic monitoring of critically endangered western ground parrots (*Pezoporus wallicus flaviventris*) in the South Coast Region.
- Continued development of non-invasive monitoring approaches using scat DNA analysis for the endangered northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) in partnership with API Management, and for the vulnerable ghost bat (*Macroderma gigas*) with Charles Darwin University.
- Began a long-term collaboration with Bush Heritage and Murdoch University in the Fitz-Stirling Priority Place to understand the movement of malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*).
- Researched threatened fauna in the Pilbara, including bilby, northern quoll, ghost bat, vulnerable Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (*Rhinonicteris aurantia*) and vulnerable Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*) with support from industry funding.
- Improved genomic understanding of endangered Carnaby's (*Zanda latirostris*) and endangered Baudin's (*Zanda baudinii*) black cockatoos, 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.
- Monitored newly discovered breeding sites for Carnaby's black cockatoos in the Wheatbelt including Dryandra National Park in collaboration with 5 Rivers NRM and BirdLife Australia.
- Developed and implemented eDNA assays to detect presence of critically endangered Margaret River burrowing crayfish (*Engaewa pseudoreducta*) and Margaret River hairy marron (*Cherax tenuimanus*) and endangered Dunsborough burrowing crayfish (*Engaewa reducta*) in partnership with South West NRM.
- Developed and implemented eDNA assays to detect presence of rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) in partnership with Torbay Catchment Group.
- Sampled three salt lakes near Norseman for aquatic invertebrates, co-funded by Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation.
- Analysed observations of mating and nesting behaviour in critically endangered western swamp tortoises (*Pseudemydura umbrina*) at Perth Zoo in partnership with Murdoch University. Continued to investigate the viability of assisted colonisation as a climate adaptation strategy for western swamp tortoises in partnership with South West NRM. Genomic analyses of the species were undertaken under the national Threatened Species Initiative partnership.



Male Carnaby's black cockatoo
Photo - Mark Davidson /DBCA

- Continued a monitoring program in the northern jarrah forest with funding from South32 to investigate the interactive effects of climate change and fire on habitat suitability for a range of threatened and priority fauna.
- Studied 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 Fitz-Stirling corridor, in collaboration with the Resilient Landscapes Hub and the University of Southern Queensland.
- Continued ecological studies on trapdoor spiders of the genus *Idiosoma* in the northern jarrah forest, supported by FEF and the Threatened Species Initiative, in collaboration with the Western Australian Museum, Queensland Museum, Alcoa, Flinders University and UWA.
- Continued an investigation on the effect of drying climatic conditions on the diversity, connectivity, movement and survival of south-west freshwater fauna populations in collaboration with Murdoch University, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), UWA, ECU, Western Australian Museum and the Threatened Species Initiative.
- Examined the influence of climate variables on gene flow and adaptive genetic variation of vulnerable chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) across landscapes by genomic sequencing in partnership with the Threatened Species Initiative.
- Continued surveys of vulnerable central Australian rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis centralis*) in the Townsend Ridges in central Australia in collaboration with local Aboriginal communities.
- 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 explore interactions with human activities in the bay.
- Surveyed endangered Australian sea lion (*Neophoca cinerea*) breeding islands along the south coast to monitor population abundance with regional support and in partnership with Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation.
- Partnered with the University of Queensland to investigate, classify and quantify microplastics in Australian sea lion scats.
- Partnered with UWA to investigate environmental drivers of cetacean mass stranding events.
- Partnered with Macquarie University to investigate the genetic structure of west coast Australian sea lion colonies to inform conservation of the species.



Grevillea calliantha
Photo - DBCA

Threatened and important plants

- Partnerships with Fortescue, Hamersley Iron and Leichardt Salt addressed genetic diversity, population structure and taxonomic status of key Pilbara plants.
- Continued major conservation genomics and phylogenomics programs with Bioplatforms Australia with projects focused on Australian grasses.
- Research with Rio Tinto helped to inform management actions for threatened flora on banded ironstone formations in the Pilbara.
- An Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage project continued to support horticultural development of native species in conjunction with Macquarie University, UWA, the 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.
- A study of seed longevity continued to inform conservation seed banking practices through an ARC Linkage project with UWA and Aarhus University in Denmark.
- An ARC Linkage project began with Flinders University, UWA, Murdoch University, Tronox Mining Australia, Heidelberg Materials Australia and Australian Genome Research Facility focussing on improving seed sourcing and ecosystem restoration under climate change.
- An ARC Linkage project with Curtin University, Plant Bank and the University of Queensland developed tissue culture and cryopreservation approaches to conserve species at risk from myrtle rust and assist in conservation of threatened plant species.
- Banked 91 seed collections of threatened flora at the Western Australian Seed Centre, representing 28 critically endangered, 18 endangered and nine vulnerable species, with an additional 10 accessions of eight priority species, primarily through collaborations with the Australian Seed Bank Partnership and funded through Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Saving Native Species grants.

- Produced online profiles and identification guides for 21 genera and 337 species of Myrtaceae and Malvaceae for the Flora of Australia, including 133 conservation-listed species from Western Australia, the description of a novel genus, and 41 new species, supported by the Australian Biological Resources Study.

- Established a new translocation site for the critically endangered *Grevillea calliantha*, funded under the Saving Native Species program.
- 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, 11,400 specimens received from the former Curtin University Herbarium were imaged and databased.
- 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.
- New partnerships began with Image Resources and Alcoa to study the diversity and persistence of seeds in topsoil seed banks to inform mine site rehabilitation in *Banksia* woodlands and jarrah forest vegetation communities.
- Continued a research partnership with Alcoa to initiate new plant material into tissue culture for species of interest in Alcoa's jarrah forest rehabilitation plans.
- Completed collections of seed and fungal material for the endangered *Caladenia hopperiana* with support from South 32. A seed production area is being established from this work.



Seed banking
Photo - Eugenie Aw/DBCA

- A new project began with Mineral Resources Limited to cryopreserve a key ex situ collection of the endangered *Tetratheca erubescens*.
- Began a new project with Rio Tinto and BHP to study plant function, ecology and environmental interactions relating to endangered *Synostemon hamersleyensis*.
- Completed research in collaboration with Rio Tinto to study the ecophysiology and remote sensing approaches to monitor the endangered *Tetratheca butcheriana*.
- Research continued into the population biology and ecology of the endangered *Quoya zonalis* with support from Fortescue. A reliable method of seed propagation has been determined and the contribution of nectar-feeding birds to pollination has been identified.
- Continued 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.

- Investigated unique pollination systems of threatened and priority *Banksia* species in the Wheatbelt Region in collaboration with UWA.
- Established fungal isolates in cryostorage, seed production areas and pollinator surveys to support future translocation of the threatened orchid *Caladenia viridescens* in collaboration with the Australian Seed Bank Partnership and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Seed production areas were also established for critically endangered *Caladenia elegans* and critically endangered *Pterostylis sinuata*, two species which had not been previously propagated.
- Began the Establishing Insurance Populations for WA Threatened Orchid Species project as part of DCCEEW's Saving Native Species program.
- Continued to develop the Northam seed production area to accommodate critically endangered *Acacia volubilis* and critically endangered *Grevillea gillingarra* as part of Securing the Future project funded by Australian Seed Bank Partnership.
- Improved vegetation mapping on the Swan Coastal Plain with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, DWER and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

- Began a five-year partnership with the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council that will deliver $100,000 in funding for recovery actions to conserve critically endangered *Eremophila koobabbiensis*.

Managing threats

- Completed a competitive grant process to identify and award suitable dog handlers with two Western Australian dieback detector dogs as part of DCCEEW's Saving Native Species program.
- Addressed the threat of Phytophthora dieback with detector dogs and treatment of basic raw materials with metham sodium via three projects with DCCEEW and other partners (including TATE Animals, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Envirodynamics, Dieback Working Group, Barbara Wilson Pty Ltd, University of Western Sydney and University of Southern Queensland) funded through the Saving Native Species program.
- Continued collaboration with the 5 Rivers NRM Group to improve fox and feral cat management in and around Dryandra National Park.
- Supported a submission to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to register phosphite as an on-label use for the control of Phytophthora dieback in natural ecosystems, via studies funded by DCCEEW's Saving Native Species program and undertaken by a collaboration of government authorities, tertiary institutions and private consultancies.
- With funding from DCCEEW, monitored Australian sea lions for hookworm at west coast colonies and evaluated thermal strategies such as pup shelters to mitigate pressure and build their resilience to H5N1 High Pathogenic Avian Influenza. DCCEEW also funded house mouse baiting on two Abrolhos islands (Beacon and Gun) to build resilience of seabirds on these islands to the virus.
- Eradicat® baiting to control feral cats and protect local bilby populations in the Pilbara continued in partnership with Hancock Iron Ore, Biologic Environmental Survey and the local Warralong community.
- Continued to investigate cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) in arid landscapes and alternative genetic control methods through research partnerships with Macquarie University and the Minderoo Foundation.
- Surveyed and mapped important goanna (*Varanus panoptes*) populations and delivered cane toad threat mitigation to protect them as the migration front arrives, in partnership with Aboriginal corporations.
- Participated in a NESP partnership with the University of Newcastle, Bush Heritage Australia, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and South Coast NRM to inform feral cat and fox management in the Fitz-Stirling priority place.



- Successfully delivered Australia's first aerial drone based rodenticide operation and a world first attempt at house mouse eradication at Browse Island Nature Reserve in partnership with Monash University and funded by Shell. Monitoring indicates probable eradication, with final confirmation dependent on surveys planned for 2027.
- Managed threats to department-managed land focusing on rubbervine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*), gamba grass (*Adropogon gayanus*), polyphagous shot-hole borer (*Euwallacea fornicatus*), red deer (*Cervus elsphus*), rusa deer (*Rusa timorensis*) and H5N1 High Pathogenic Avian Influenza, in collaboration with DPIRD, biosecurity groups and land managers.
- Perth Zoo improved biosecurity measures against H5N1 High Pathogenic Avian Influenza to protect priority species including western ground parrots, black cockatoos and endangered numbats (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*), with Australian Government funding from the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia.

- Investigated the hydrology of springs supporting a threatened ecological community (TEC) at the 80 Mile Beach Ramsar site using department data from airborne geophysics, remote sensing and hydrogeochemical analyses in partnership with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, RMIT University and the University of New South Wales.
- 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.
- Completed plastic sampling in the Swan Canning and Peel Harvey estuaries in partnership with DWER to help inform effectiveness of the Plan for Plastics and policy development, support enhanced plastic pollution management, and act as a baseline for future mitigation programs.
- Collaborated with TNC and UWA on nature-based solutions for foreshore protection and remediation in the Swan Canning estuary as part of an Australian Government Urban Rivers and Catchments Program project.

Browse Island Nature Reserve
Both photos - Miles Brotherson/DBCA



- Collaborated with the South East Corridor Catchment Alliance, as part of the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program 'Cleaning up the Canning' project.
- Continued to investigate bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*) movement in the Swan Canning Riverpark in collaboration with DPIRD, with 14 juveniles tagged to date.
- Researched south-west peatlands in partnership with UWA, ECU, the Western Australian Museum, local community groups and Traditional Owners with funding from the Ian Potter Foundation.
- Led an Australian Government Disaster Ready Fund project investigating forest fuel dynamics related to time since last fire and fire severity to support fire management and biodiversity conservation.
- Continued collaboration and support for the Dampier Peninsula fire working group, which has succeeded in positively shifting the fire regime of the peninsula.
- Supported DPIRD's biosecurity response to eradicate a red dwarf honeybee (*Apis florea*) incursion on the Burrup Peninsula in partnership with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation.



Diving to retrieve loggers that record shark movement data, Swan Canning Riverpark
Photo - DBCA



Dryandra Woodland National Park
Photo - DBCA

- Researched the impact of drought on ecosystem requirements for threatened fauna in Dryandra Woodland National Park, particularly the critically endangered woylie (*Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi*), in collaboration with ECU and UWA.
- Continued *Parkinsonia aculeata* control upstream of the Fortescue Marsh through a collaborative Upper Fortescue River program with Hancock Iron Ore, Fortescue, Pilbara Weeds Committee and Roy Hill Station.
- Delivered targeted weed control and improved management outcomes for priority weeds in wetlands, TECs and offshore islands across Midwest and Swan regions with funding from the Australian Government's Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program.



Pilbara Conservation Project:
Plant ID workshop with Rio Tinto staff
Photo - DBCA

LOOKING AHEAD

- Continue partnerships with research providers to advance and implement conservation science and management, including effects of ecological thinning, building climate resilience and fire management in forest ecosystems.
- Continue major program implementation such as the Northwest Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program, the Dirk Hartog Island National Park Ecological Restoration Project, and Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.
- Continue partnerships to control invasive species, including deer, foxes, feral cats and pigs, and manage biosecurity threats, focusing on rubbervine, gamba grass, myrtle rust, polyphagous shot-hole borer and H5N1 High Pathogenic Avian Influenza.



PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

Average cost per hectare of forest

Target $14.89

Actual $13.21

Expenses by service

Target $36,351,000

Actual $32,181,000

SERVICE 8

Implementation of the Forest Management Plan

HIGHLIGHTS

Completed 29,230 hectares of Phytophthora dieback assessment.

Grew the Forest Management Plan Newsletter to 1113 subscribers.

141 proposals assessed in the Forest Management Plan area using the Disturbance Approval System (DAS).



Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park
Photo - Shem Bisiak/DBCA

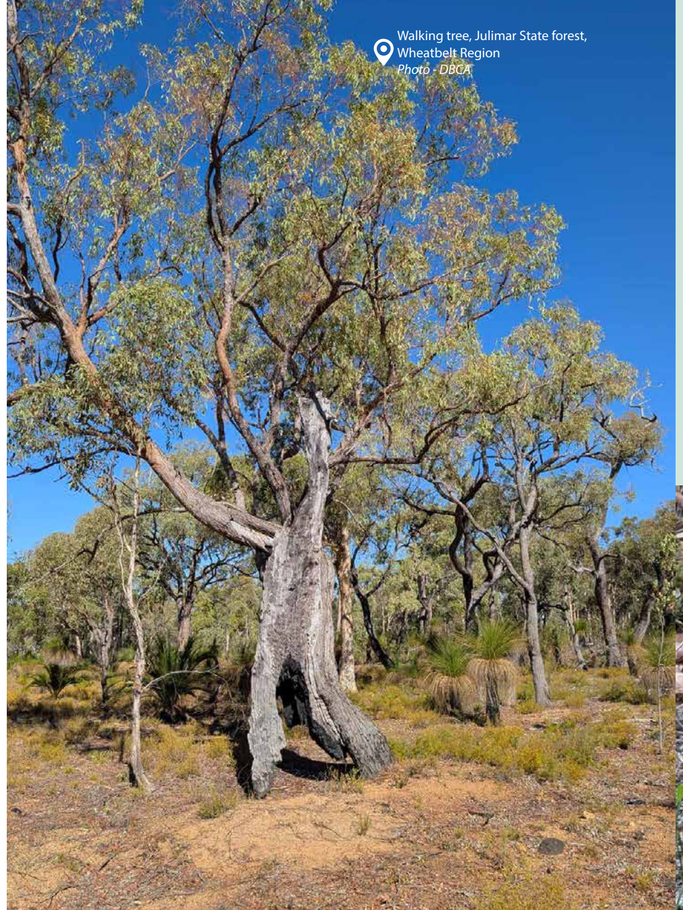
Plan implementation, assessment and adaptive management

The Forest Management Plan 2024–2033 (FMP) provides the framework for managing almost 2.5 million hectares of land in south-west Western Australia vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission. The plan prioritises Noongar partnerships, forest health and biodiversity conservation to meet socio-economic and cultural aspirations for current and future generations.

- Continued FMP implementation with a focus on ecological thinning for forest health and resilience, forest health monitoring and related research programs, planning for reserve creation, and stakeholder engagement and participation.
- Continued the Forest Health Monitoring Program, contributing to the monitoring and evaluation of FMP management targets and performance goals, focusing on maintaining biodiversity and conserving ecosystem health and resilience. An implementation plan was developed and a suite of monitoring sites established, 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 FMP activities subject to the Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement.



Walking tree, Julimar State forest, Wheatbelt Region
Photo - DBCA

Biodiversity conservation

- Transitioned 3217 hectares to higher conservation tenure classifications.
- Finalised the location of two new fauna habitat zones totalling 444 hectares. The number of finalised fauna habitat zones has increased to 164, comprising a gross area of 40,960 hectares of undisturbed habitat in State forest.
- Assessed 141 proposals within the FMP area using the DAS, aimed at avoiding or minimising environmental impacts of disturbance activities on department-managed land. These proposals included 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 was launched, featuring pre-filled proposals using 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 potential old-growth forest areas, refined reference datasets including Phytophthora dieback occurrence mapping, and updated the current old-growth forest extent to 337,420 hectares of jarrah, karri and wandoo old-growth forests and woodlands.



Dieback detector dog
Photo - DBCA

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 2026 Indicative Ecological Thinning Plan of candidate forest enhancement areas (FEA) which can be modified in response to consultation and ongoing assessment of FEAs.
- Completed 1075 hectares of ecological thinning.
- Conducted 20 inspections of ecological thinning operations to ensure compliance with operational standards and achievement of the prescribed outcomes required by FEA silviculture plans.
- Completed 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 33 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.
- Extended the range of airborne and land-based sensors to collect forest health and condition datasets. These datasets support planning and monitoring of ecological thinning outcomes and assessment of forest landscapes for vulnerability to climate change.
- Continued implementation of the Regional Forest Agreement for the south-west forest region.

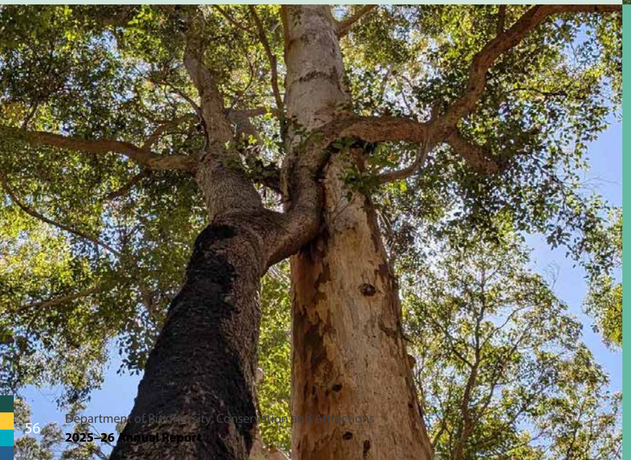
Diseases

- Completed 29,230 hectares of Phytophthora dieback assessment to protect native forest and ecosystems from disease across various tenures.

Social and economic benefits and opportunities

- Met with 24 local governments to provide briefings on the FMP and its implementation, while gaining insights into local forest issues and community interests.
- 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.

Kissing tree, Dombakup, D'Entrecasteaux National Park
Photo - DBCA

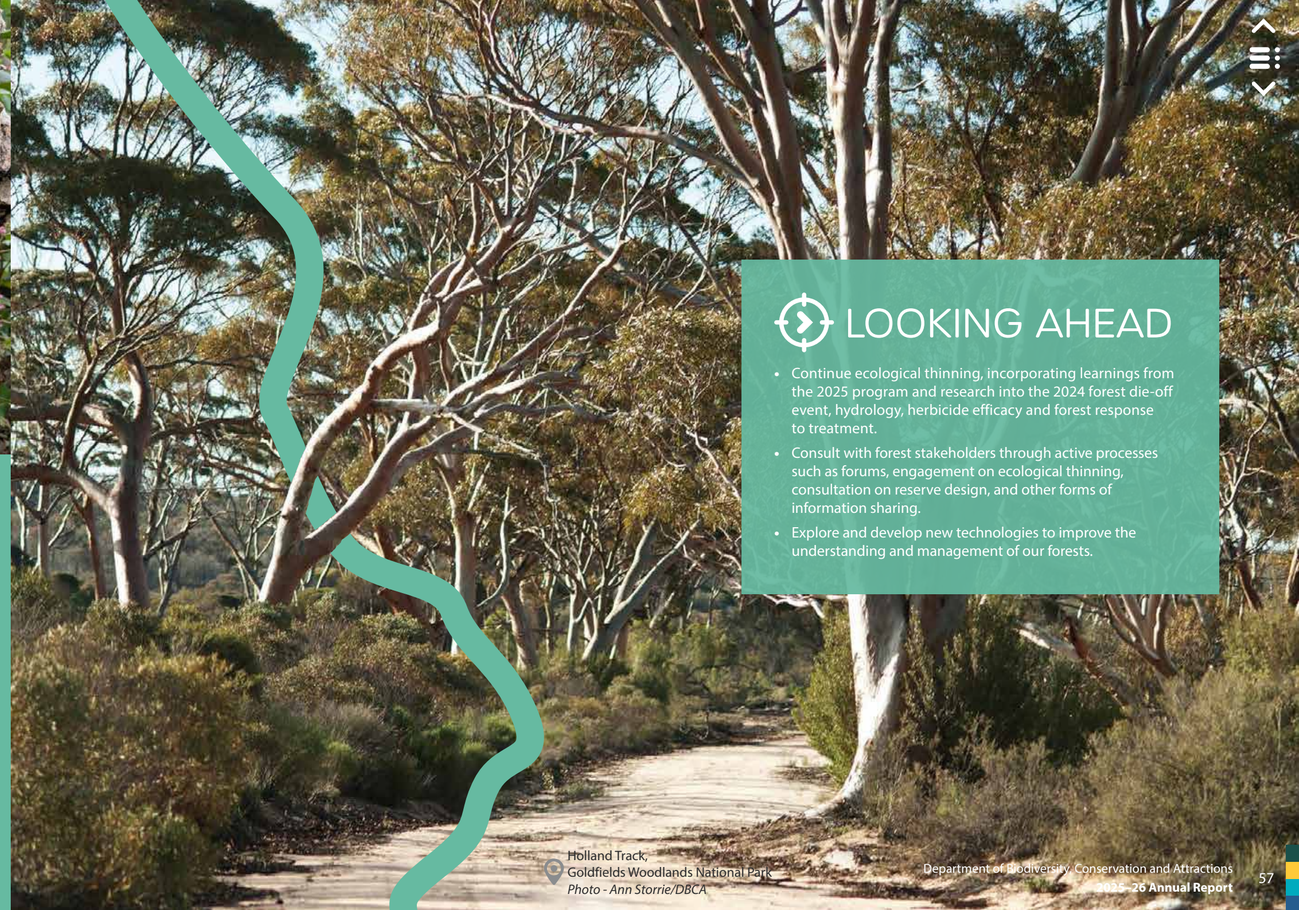




Scar tree (*Melaleuca rhaphiophylla* - paperbark) identified by Parks and Wildlife Phytophthora dieback interpreters and confirmed by Noongar Elders as cultural heritage. *Photo - DBCA*

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 provided in national parks and other lands and waters.
- Fire management activities are reported in Service 9: Prescribed burning and fire management and Service 10: Bushfire suppression.



LOOKING AHEAD

- Continue ecological thinning, incorporating learnings from the 2025 program and research into the 2024 forest die-off event, hydrology, herbicide efficacy and forest response to treatment.
- Consult with forest stakeholders through active processes such as forums, engagement on ecological thinning, consultation on reserve design, and other forms of information sharing.
- Explore and develop new technologies to improve the understanding and management of our forests.

Holland Track,
Goldfields Woodlands National Park
Photo - Ann Storrie/DBCA



SERVICE 9

Prescribed burning and fire management

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved

Target **55%**

Actual **50%**

Average cost per hectare burnt

Target **$12.10**

Actual **$6.41**

Expenses by service

Target **$64,851,000**

Actual **$73,031,000**

HIGHLIGHTS

22% ♀

of senior fire management positions are held by women in permanent positions.

Continued to prioritise gender diversity across the fire management workforce, including eight senior female leaders attending the Women in Leadership Summit in February 2026.

An additional **$5.5 million** of funding through the Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program enabled prescribed burning of 194,383 hectares in the State's south-west forest regions.



Drysdale River National Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

Prescribed burning performance measures

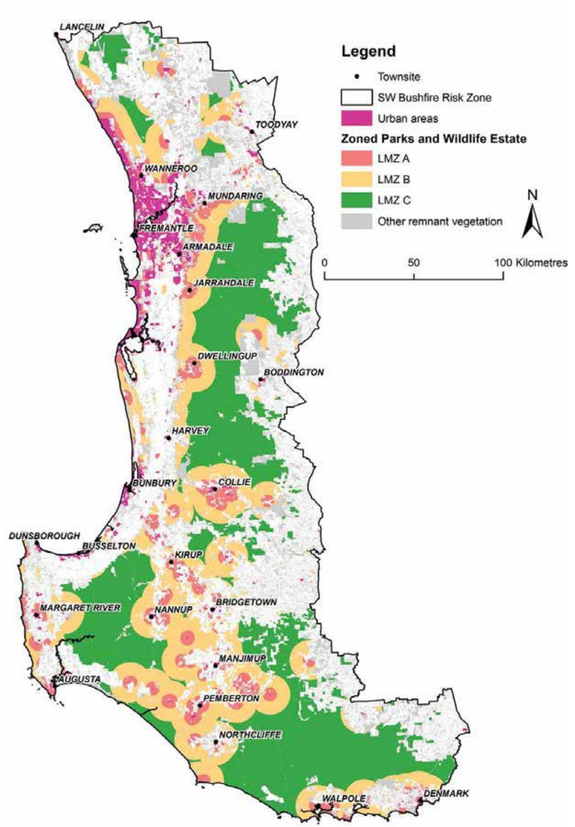
The department applies three performance measures when assessing effectiveness of the annual prescribed burning program for its three south-west forest regions.

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 2026, 34.8 per cent of the landscape had a fuel age of less than six years, remaining steady from 2024–25.

ii. Annual prescribed burning achievement for special land management zones (LMZ) in the department's three south-west forest regions. The zones (see map to the right) 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.

LMZ	Distance from populated area	Achieved (ha)
A	within 3.5km	10,550
B	3.5–11km	42,460
C	beyond 11km	132,386

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.



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 2025–26 was 1:0.20 (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 194,383 hectares of prescribed burning in the department's 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 11,201,208 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.
- Prioritised gender diversity across the fire management workforce through the Women in Fire Management Initiative. Since 2019, the initiative has contributed to progress across all key target areas. Although some figures have reduced, there are many good news stories contributing to those numbers. They include women moving from fire leadership positions to senior department leadership roles, women moving from entry level and front-line firefighter positions to officer positions, and senior regional fire leaders moving into other senior fire management roles. This changes how those women contribute to fire management and how they are represented in the data. As at 30 June 2026:
  - 8 per cent of frontline firefighter positions were held by women
  - 21 per cent of all duty officers were women
  - 22 per cent of fire management positions at a PSA/PSGA level four or above were held permanently by women
  - 1 per cent of permanent level three and above Australian Workers' Union positions, including overseer roles, were held by women.
- As of January 2025, the Fire Management Services Branch has achieved a 50/50 gender balance. Over the past five years, women's representation has increased from 31 per cent to 46 per cent in positions above Level 4, and from 15 per cent to 39 per cent in positions above Level 6.
- 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.


Fire Science, Warren Region
Photo - Shem Bishluk /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 of Western Australia.
- Achieved a balance in the delivery of prescribed burning programs and minimising negative outcomes such as smoke accumulation for stakeholders and the broader community.
- Achieved nature conservation and land management outcomes through coordination of fire management in the Kimberley Region, in an environment of tenure complexity, Native Title determinations and multiple landowners and organisations delivering planned fire to the landscape.



Camera deployment
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

Bushfire risk management on unallocated Crown land

- Coordinated 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.
- Achieved significant on-ground bushfire mitigation work to protect communities, economies, infrastructure and the environment, which was made possible through the continued strategic investment of funding from the State Government's mitigation activity fund.
- Completed prescribed burning across approximately 1,075,584 hectares, 41.9km (407 hectares) of modified vegetation buffers and 1116km of fire access tracks, 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 key mechanism for providing development opportunities aligned with succession planning and capability needs in fire management. Focus remains on the FMDP Expansion Program, which has eight participants and the largest representation of frontline conservation employees to date. Participants of the expansion program receive structured development through enhanced professional development plan meetings, fire competencies and tailored learning opportunities.

In 2025–26, the FMDP:

- supported 14 regional deployments across six regions providing 18 participants with operational exposure to different fuel types and mentoring from senior staff
- deployed a remote region group of 11 employees to the East Kimberley, providing valuable learning opportunities across diverse fuel types, supported by practical skill development in an operational setting
- funded and supported professional development opportunities for staff including eight senior female leaders attending the Women in Leadership Summit in February 2026, which aimed to develop collaboration, diversity of thought and action-driven outcomes
- held FMDP block training in October 2025, where nine employees participated in leadership and remote area first aid training, field trips and local knowledge sharing from senior fire practitioners.



National fire honours and awards ceremony
Photo - Sally Treasure/DBCA

LOOKING AHEAD

- Plan and implement 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.
- Ensure 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.
- Engage with Traditional Owners, stakeholders, visitors and the broader community about the benefits of fuel management, particularly prescribed burning.
- Support research to determine appropriate fuel management objectives for key fuel types outside the south-west forests.

SERVICE 10

Bushfire suppression

Responded to the major Telegraph Track bushfire in Fitzgerald River National Park:

169,500
hectare total fire size.

220 staff involved from the department and partner agencies.

Protected key assets including the Twertup Field Studies Centre and Kukenarup Massacre Memorial site.

HIGHLIGHTS

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

Proportion of South West bushfires contained to less than two hectares
Target 75%
Actual 86%

Average cost per hectare burnt
Target $21.30
Actual $20.46

Expenses by service
Target $48,538,000
Actual $72,235,000

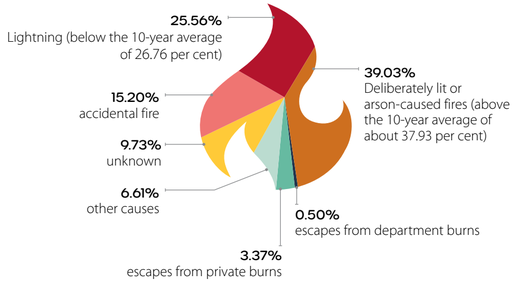
Parks and Wildlife staff briefing Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

Bushfire management

In 2025–26, the department fought and/or monitored 802 bushfires that burnt about 3,531,349 hectares, including:

Region	Hectares
South-west forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren)	21,747
Kimberley	3,009,894
Pilbara	193,543
Midwest	50,482
Goldfields	9,014
Wheatbelt	46,005
South Coast	200,664

The causes of these 802 bushfires were:



- Deployed four interagency bushfire pre-formed incident management teams (PFTs) to large bushfires around the State, in conjunction with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and local governments.
- Deployed PFTs and interagency incident management teams to significant bushfire incidents at the Eneabba/Woolmulla complex (Delta team), the Boddington bushfire (Bravo team) and the South Coast Complex (Alpha and Bravo teams).
- Responded to or monitored 802 bushfires, including several major bushfire events. These included the Nerren Nerren, Depot Hill, Woolmulla and Dongara bushfires in the Midwest Region, the Boddington, Urbrae Scott, Perth Hills Complex and Mogumber bushfires in the Swan Region, the Lake Jasper and Goonac bushfires in the South West Region, the Fitzgerald River National Park bushfires in the South Coast Region and the Dunn Rock Nature Reserve bushfire in the Wheatbelt Region.
- Responded to the major Telegraph Track bushfire, which occurred in a very remote part of Fitzgerald River National Park after lightning strikes on 16 January 2026. The fire was contained by 27 January after burning approximately 169,500 hectares. At its peak, the response involved up to 160 firefighters and 60 incident management personnel as part of an interagency response, who operated in difficult terrain and limited access conditions. Importantly, suppression efforts were effective in protecting key assets, including the Twertup Field Studies Centre and the Kukenarup Massacre Memorial site. The department is conducting detailed post-fire impact assessments across the fire area. This work will inform long-term recovery planning and future fire management approaches, developed in collaboration with partners and Traditional Owners. Ecosystem recovery is expected to take many years, and post-fire monitoring will be a key part of that ongoing effort.

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 4005 hours of aerial surveillance in pre-determined circuits. Flight schedules varied according to bushfire danger levels and fire activity.

- **Detection aircraft flew 67 hours in support of bushfire suppression operations, flown by 15 pilots.**

Aerial bushfire suppression operations

- Contracted 10 fixed-wing 802 air tractor water bombers from November 2025 to late April 2026. 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 1464 operational hours in attending 176 bushfires and dropped 1811 loads, delivering 5,433,000 litres of suppressant.

Fitzgerald River National Park
Photo - DBCA



Bushfire training and development

- Conducted fire training for department employees, volunteers and personnel from Forest Products Commission (FPC), DFES, local governments and Aboriginal ranger groups from across the State.
- In partnership with DFES, jointly delivered three training sessions on Level 2 or Level 3 Incident Management roles, along with four training sessions covering Incident Leadership, Fire weather and a pilot Intent into Action course for strategic decision-making.
- Developed new fire training products including Fundamentals of Planning, Fire Fighting Crew Member, as well as updates to Map Reading and Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) e-learning products.

- **Delivered 42 formal fire training sessions, including aviation training for 467 participants and 46 water bomber reloader courses for 569 participants.**

- Delivered online and face-to-face annual mandatory pre-season safety training in preparation for the 2025–26 bushfire season, with more than 82 people completing online training and 1070 department and FPC employees attending 36 face-to-face sessions.
- Endorsed the department's first female State Duty Officer, a critical role that supports regions and districts in large-scale department-managed incidents across the State.

Karijini National Park
Photo - Chris Curtis/DBCA

LOOKING AHEAD

- Maintain effective capability and readiness to suppress bushfires when they occur on lands for which the department has legislated management responsibility.
- Coordinate and manage bushfire response in collaboration with other organisations that have fire management responsibilities.
- Maintain early detection capabilities including fire towers, spotter aircraft, access to remote sensing technologies and community bushfire reporting.
- Maintain a suitable network of strategic access roads and tracks, burn boundaries and water sources on lands for which the department has legislated management responsibility.
- Ensure, 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.



Coalseam Conservation Park
Photo - Tourism Western Australia

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Financial targets	2026 Target[1] ($000)	2026 Actual ($000)	Variation[2] ($000)	Stat Auth[3] ($000)	Variation[4] ($000)
Total cost of services (expense limit) (Statement of Comprehensive Income)	501,231	572,233	71,002	(32,313)[a]	38,689(a)
Net cost of services (Statement of Comprehensive Income)	442,736	488,803	46,067	(32,313)[a]	13,754(a)
Total equity (Statement of Financial Position)	4,563,052	5,527,183	964,131(a)	0	964,131
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held (Statement of Cash Flows)	(3,871)	37,175	41,046(b)	0	41,046
Approved salary expense level	224,126	247,859	23,733(c)	0	23,733
Executive salary expense level	2,968	2,595	(373)	0	(373)
Working cash limit	23,502	26,706	3,204	(1,646)	1,558

(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 $628.38 million in 2025-26 and $315.66 million in 2024-25.
   b. Net increase in cash held is partly due to underspends in the department's capital programme.
   c. Approved salary expense is higher than target partly due to bushfire suppression efforts during the 2025-26 fire season that required supplementary funding and increased staff leave provisions following actuarial assessment in 2025-26.

(3) a. Mainly service appropriation for the Statutory Authorities that is expensed as a grant.

(4) a. Total cost of service and net cost of services was higher than estimates partly due to bushfire suppression efforts during the 2025-26 fire season that required supplementary funding increased staff leave provision following actuarial assessment in 2025-26. Depreciation expense is higher than estimates due to recreation and tourism infrastructure coming online in 2025-26.



SUPPORTING OUR DEPARTMENT

Science, Strategy and Governance

Following the establishment of the Strategy and Governance portfolio in 2024, on 12 May 2025, the Biodiversity and Conservation Science division and Strategy and Governance portfolio formally amalgamated becoming the Science, Strategy and Governance group. This group includes Financial Services; Office of Information Management; People and Culture; Public Information and Corporate Affairs; Legal, Policy and Legislation; and the Office of the Director General.

The Science, Strategy and Governance group leads the department's 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.



Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

Finance Branch

Finance Branch (FB) manages essential financial management systems to deliver internal and external reporting requirements. In addition, FB provides advice on financial management and compliance, procurement, contract management, fleet management, coordinates remote area housing and is responsible for facility management at State Headquarters, Kensington.

Key achievements in 2025–26:

- Undertook refinements to strengthen the procurement control environment.
- Continued to exceed Aboriginal procurement targets.
- Expanded suite of PowerBI generated dashboards, to assist with departmental financial decision-making.
- More timely asset accounting.

Office of Information Management

The Office of Information Management (OIM) leads and coordinates digital transformation across the department. It enhances service delivery and provides the common information technology (IT) operating environment that supports the department's geographically dispersed and diverse marine, aerial and terrestrial services across Western Australia. OIM also manages the department's processes for Freedom of Information, privacy and information sharing, records management for spatial and non-spatial information, and the State radio network.

OIM works with business areas to deliver strategic business-IT investment initiatives that support the digitalisation of services and the optimisation of IT systems, helping to advance departmental and State Government priorities.

Key achievements in 2025–26:

- Strengthened the department's cyber security posture in line with the State Government's Cyber Security Policy through the rollout of the Windows 11 Standard Operating Environment, the uplift of legacy systems to modern platforms, and progress in addressing four outstanding Essential Eight controls.
- Implemented artificial intelligence governance arrangements, including establishment of an AI Steering Committee.
- Upgraded network equipment and infrastructure at 27 department sites to support higher-bandwidth internet connections and improve connectivity across the department.
- Progressed the modernisation of the State radio communications network by replacing ageing radio base sites with contemporary facilities and upgraded to digital ready radio equipment, enhancing communications and service delivery across department operations.
- Advanced the department's readiness for the incoming Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing legislation.
- Progressed the Information Classification (IC) Policy initiative, delivering the first two phases of the endorsed implementation roadmap, with full implementation due by 24 August 2026. This included the rollout of mandatory IC staff training, compulsory classification and labelling within Microsoft 365.
- Undertook a functional review of the IT service model to improve service delivery alignment and effectiveness.
- Developed and implemented an IT service catalogue to provide greater clarity on available services and service expectations.

People and Culture Directorate

During 2025–26, the former People and Culture Branch underwent a structural review and transitioned to the People and Culture Directorate to strengthen its operating model, service delivery and strategic alignment with departmental priorities. This transition was informed by an independent functional review, which identified the need for a more contemporary, strategic and sustainable service delivery model aligned to evolving workforce, legislative and operational demands.

The revised structure delivers a more integrated and strategically aligned suite of people management services, structured across workforce services, people strategies and capability, and employee relations and safety. This model enhances the Directorate's capacity to support workforce planning, organisational development, leadership capability, and work health and safety, alongside core functions such as recruitment, employee benefits and industrial relations.

The Directorate plays a central role in supporting the department through the provision of consistent, high-quality advice and services on people management matters, including performance, conduct, integrity and grievance processes.

Key achievements in 2025–26:

- Established new corporate systems and infrastructure, including implementation of a Learning Management System and Performance Development Plan system, supporting a more structured and consistent approach to capability development and performance management.
- Generated new organisation-wide insights through delivery of the inaugural Employee Engagement Survey, enabling evidence-based planning and targeted actions across the organisation.
- Progressed digital and system improvements to modernise service delivery, including implementation of the ecoPortal work health and safety IT system and enhancements to human resources systems to reduce manual processes and improve data integrity and reporting capability.
- Strengthened organisational capability in managing psychosocial risks, workplace behaviour and employee wellbeing through updated policy frameworks, increased training completion rates and targeted support in high-risk environments.
- Increased support to managers, with flow-on benefits across the department, through targeted coaching, advisory services and practical tools to manage performance, conduct, psychosocial risks and organisational change, including high-risk and complex people matters.

Policy and Legislation

Policy and Legislation oversees the review and reform of legislation for the department and leads or coordinates with other business areas the development and implementation of key strategic project and policy initiatives.

Key achievements in 2025–26:

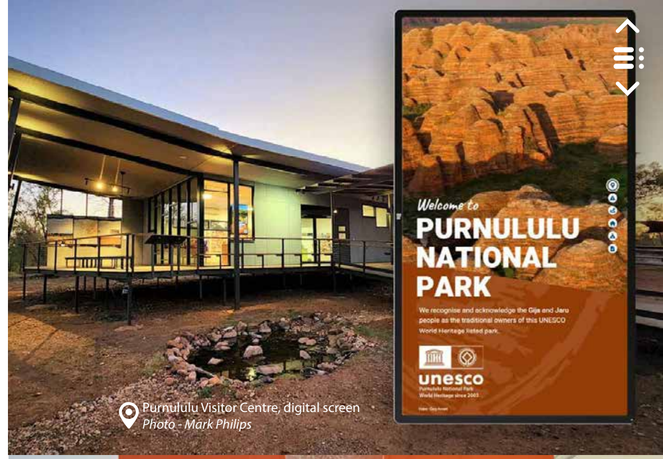
- Provided policy and project leadership support and advice to a range of business areas within the department regarding Government and Corporate policy matters.
- Continued to coordinate key strategic projects and policy initiatives with other business areas, including implementing the Streamline WA/ Approvals Reform program, implementing the Forest Management Plan 2024–2033, overseeing the department's response to climate change, and undertaking the initial review of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Public Information and Corporate Affairs

Public Information and Corporate Affairs delivers support to the department's program 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 2025–26:

- Worked closely with Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands Branch, the Warnpurru Aboriginal Corporation, and the Goldfields Region to support the installation and celebration of culturally significant glass artworks at Kensington.
- Nearer to Nature and River Guardians education programs reached more than 10,000 participants in Perth, while the Bush Ranger / River Ranger cadet programs engaged 3800 students in 72 schools across the State in conservation activities.
- Eight community events in the Swan Canning Riverpark, including the 2026 River Guardians Family Festival, attracted more than 1700 people, helping to promote better gardening practices and wildlife awareness.
- Broadened the department's digital experiences by creating digital touch-screen products for visitor centres at Karijini National Park and Monkey Mia, as well as developing immersive 360° products to support operational staff training.
- Graphic designed more than 1000 wayfinding, safety and interpretative signs for parks and regional attractions, including Calgardup and Giants caves in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park and mountain bike trails in Pemberton.
- Increased the number of posts published across the seven branch-managed social media channels by more than 40 per cent, contributing to a 10 per cent growth in followers and a 27 per cent increase in engagement rate per impression.
- Provided real-time and often round-the-clock public safety information for all department-managed bushfires, including the South Coast complex of bushfires that required continuous warnings for more than three weeks.
- Delivered a major event alongside Fire Management Services Branch for 180 staff who received national fire honours and awards. Coordinated the design, production and interactive set-up of the DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service trade display at the Australasian Fire Authorities Council 2025 annual conference.



Purnululu Visitor Centre, digital screen
Photo - Mark Philips



Warnpurru Aboriginal Corporation, with Hon Matthew Swinbourn
Photo - Sally Treasure/DBCA



Parks and Wildlife Service-managed land and waters

Total estate

At 30 June 2026, the total area under the department's care was 34,491,958 hectares. The department now relies solely on Landgate's statistical data and information systems for terrestrial tenure areas. The department has taken this step to ensure the areas reported are consistent with the information systems used by Landgate as the State's land tenure information custodian.

Lane Poole Reserve
Photo - DBCA

2025–26 Legislated land and waters

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total (ha)
National park	1,022,027	1,671,913	2,367,626	2,652,433	856,567	151,834	122,302	562,102	17,794	**9,424,598**
Conservation park	183,984	652,720	394,605	333,754	752	19,202	25,442	709	26,736	**1,637,904**
Nature reserve	6,270,237	175,148	978,697	474,219	1,581,041	14,731	54,905	90,933	1,098,144	**10,738,055**
State forest	782	-	-	-	4,053	526,153	473,928	265,325	9,502	**1,279,743**
Timber reserve	28,392	-	26,303	-	5,157	26,275	25,521	8,313	-	**119,961**
Section 5(1)(g) & 5(1)(h) reserves	81,549	828,756	65,660	52,268	4,014	31,538	35,362	1,464	2,980	**1,103,591**
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	19,442	50	4,657	-	**25,789**
UCL - Section 33(2)	28,560		2,121	-	-	-	-	-	-	**30,681**
Crown freehold – dept. managed	-	-	4	-	-	-	6,901	-	-	**6,905**
SCRM Act - river reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,596	-	-	3,596
Totals	**7,615,531**	**7,094,315**	**4,838,057**	**3,999,564**	**3,731,675**	**912,175**	**764,255**	**934,949**	**1,155,156**	**31,045,677**

2025–26 Management interest in land

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total (ha)
Crown freehold - department interest	0	0	15,386	0	4,439	6,674	17,892	605	6,016	51,012
Crown reserve - department interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	509	141	-	650
Unallocated Crown land - department interest	1,245,903	137,470	1,376,915	574,134	16,885	5	30	134	43,143	3,394,619
Totals	**1,245,903**	**137,470**	**1,392,301**	**574,134**	**21,324**	**6,679**	**18,431**	**880**	**49,159**	**3,446,281**

Notes:

1. Areas are from Landgate cadastral/tenure information systems dated 31 March 2026. Land area of Western Australia is 252,987,500 hectares
2. Marine areas provided by Statutory 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 2026

Name	Area (ha)
Alexander Morrison	8,499
Avon Valley	4,458
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	160,799
Burringurrah	482,202
Cape Arid	277,652
Cape Le Grand	31,180
Chapman Brook	1,571
Collier Range (Gulali)	235,227
D'Entrecasteaux	119,485
Dalgaranga	135,682
Dalgarup	2,377
Danggu	2,797
Dimalurru	91
Dirk Hartog Island (Wirruwana)	62,664
Dordagup	6,403
Drovers Cave	2,565
Dryandra Woodland	16,536
Drysdale River	447,682
Easter	2,975
Edel	19,420
Eucla	3,810
Fitzgerald River	294,800
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	2,571
Hassell	1,090
Hawke	14,047
Helena and Aurora Ranges	149,158
Helena	12,261
Hilliger	16,979
Houtman Abrolhos Islands	1,564
Jane	6,864
Jilgu	101,969
John Forest	2,698
Kalamunda	397
Kalbarri	183,566
Karijini	624,222
Karlamilyi	1,283,805
Kennedy Range (Mundatharrda)	316,874
Kennedy Range	15,440
Kingston	21,098
Korung	6,352
Lake Argyle	10,690
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 Kurrara Kurrara	609,155
Midgegooroo	2,483
Millstream Chichester	238,252
Milyeannup	18,690
Mirima	2,066
Mitchell River	115,186
Moore River	17,228
Mount Augustus	9,167
Mount Frankland	37,101
Mount Frankland North	22,052
Mount Frankland South	42,266
Mount Lindesay	39,541
Mount Roe	128,042
Muggon	191,520
Mungada Ridge	1,031
Murujuga	5,397
Nambung	19,388
Nanda	36,308
Nanga	230,656
Neerabup	961
Niiwalarra Islands	3,352
Nyinggulara	27,083
Packsaddle	40,074
Peak Charles	39,953
Pimbee (Bimbee)	93,748
Porongurup	2,686
Preston	12,660
Prince Regent	585,292
Purnululu	243,546
Purungunya (Meentheena)	163,483
Scott	3,322
Serpentine	4,283
Shannon	52,596
Sir James Mitchell	173
Stirling Range	113,541
Tathra	4,322
Tjiwarl	109,374
Torndirrup	4,019
Tuart Forest	2,080
Walpole-Nornalup	18,539
Walyunga	2,801
Wandoo	46,334
Warlibirri	15,874
Warnangura (Cape Range)	69,571
Warren	3,084
Watheroo	44,465
Waychinicup	4,063
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	14,174
Yanchep	2,912
Yelverton	728

* Freehold land managed as national park under Section 8A of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*

Notes:

1. Areas are from Landgate cadastral/tenure information systems dated 31 March 2026.
2. 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 2026 was approximately 6.67 million hectares.

At 30 June 2026:

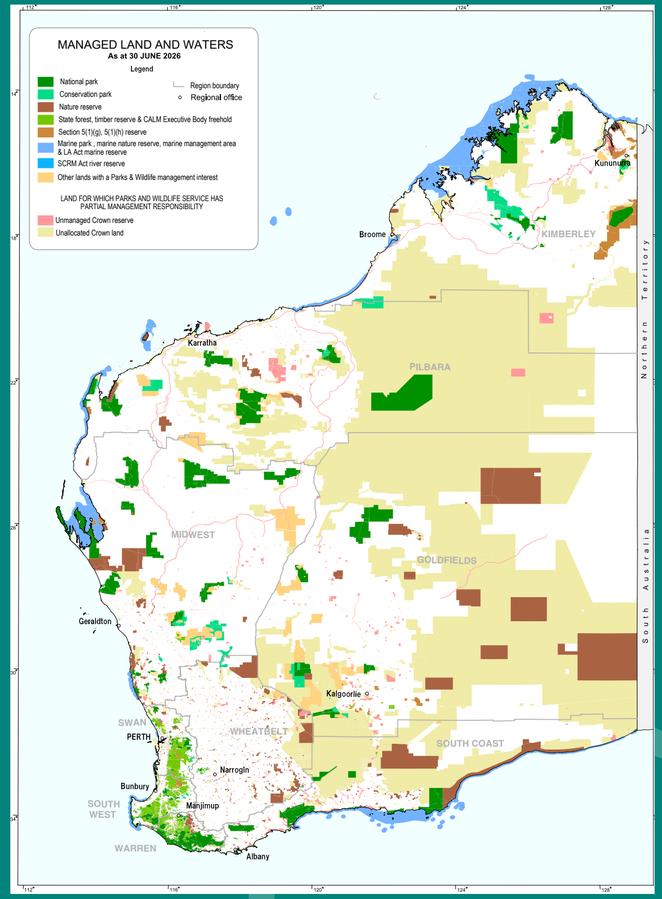
- the area of marine parks was approximately 6.4 million hectares
- the area of marine nature reserves was approximately 132,000 hectares
- the area of marine management areas was approximately 143,000 hectares.

Nyinggulu Coastal Reserve
Photo - Western Australia Tourism

Marine reserves vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2026

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
Lalang-gaddam Marine Park	1,269,000
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**

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.



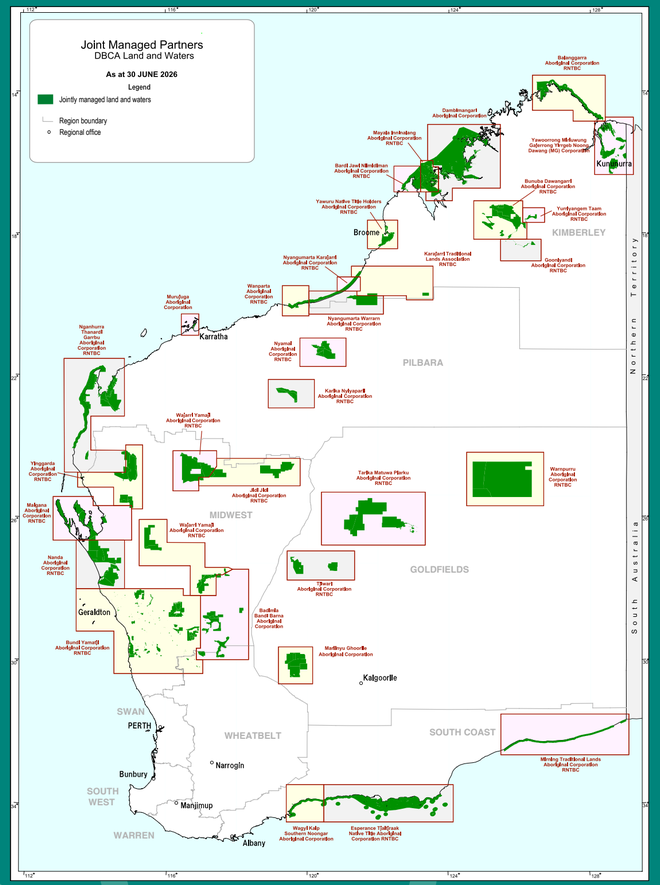
Conservation land acquisitions

The department's Parks and Wildlife Service acquired 10 land parcels (including four transfers) of noted conservation value, covering a combined area of about 3,517.96 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 and waters in Western Australia. These arrangements involve 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 2026, 31 joint management arrangements were in place covering 12 million hectares of parks and reserves, which equates to 39 per cent of Parks and Wildlife Service-managed estate. The reported scope and percentage of land under joint management has been corrected from the 2024–25 annual report following the identification of an error in the underlying data.



Legal matters

Freedom of information

The Office of Information Management 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 44 valid applications for access to information, with two applicants requesting an internal review of the department's decision, one proceeding to external review by the Office of the Information Commissioner, and zero concluded external reviews 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 2025–26

The department successfully finalised three prosecutions in the Magistrates Court:

- A 53-year-old Chittering man was convicted of five counts of possession of fauna without lawful authority. He was fined $1000 suspended for six months. A spent conviction order was made.
- A 47-year-old Kalgoorlie man was convicted of one count of dealing in flora without lawful authority and one count of processing flora without lawful authority. He was fined $7000 suspended for three months. Processing equipment with an estimated value of $14,000 was forfeited to the State.
- A 28-year-old Yanchep man was convicted of one count of failing to release or take other action in relation to fauna, one count of taking fauna without lawful authority and one count of possessing fauna without lawful authority. He was fined $6000, suspended for 15 months.

Prosecutions currently before the courts

As of 30 June 2026, there are currently two prosecutions before the Courts.

Total reported offences

Department officers issued 266 cautions and 409 infringements for offences detected during the reporting year. Of these, 104 were issued for offences under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and its regulations, 569 were issued for offences under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and its regulations, and two were issued for offences under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* and its regulations.





GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS



Kermits Pool, Karijini National Park
Photo - Western Australia Tourism

Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework

The department continues to implement the Framework through initiatives that support inclusive workplace practices and equitable access to services for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

In 2025–26, this included strengthening compliance with respectful workplace standards through the introduction of annual mandatory Workplace Discrimination and Harassment training, reinforcing expectations of a safe and inclusive work environment.

The department also progressed culturally responsive service delivery through its Language Services Protocol, which provides guidance on the appropriate use of translation and interpreter services. This is supported by a Language Register of 48 staff across 27 languages, enabling timely, basic communication assistance while arrangements are made for qualified interpreters. The protocol recognises the importance of language access for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, Aboriginal people, and people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

Inclusive workplace culture was supported through activities recognising cultural diversity, including events such as Diwali, where staff participated by sharing cultural food and attire. In addition, flexible work practices, including increased uptake of work-from-home arrangements, supported workforce participation and accessibility

These initiatives are supported by governance mechanisms including the Diversity and Access Committee and ongoing workforce diversity data collection, contributing to the department's commitment to an inclusive, accessible and equitable workplace and service delivery environment.

Work health and safety and injury management

The department is committed to providing and maintaining a safe, healthy and supportive workplace for employees, contractors, visitors and the public. This includes a focus on both physical and psychological wellbeing, supported by continuous improvement in systems, capability and risk management practices.

During 2025–26, key initiatives and outcomes included:

- Mental health capability uplift: Continued delivery of Mental Health First Aid training, including initial and refresher courses and Conversations About Suicide sessions, while maintaining Skilled Workplace Recognition to strengthen workforce capability in supporting mental health and wellbeing.
- Critical incident support: Activation of peer support arrangements in response to significant events, including targeted support for employees affected by Cyclone Narelle, providing 31 days of face-to-face assistance.
- Work health and safety (WHS) system enhancements: Continued implementation of a centralised WHS IT system (ecoPortal), with progress made in system configuration, data integration and preparation for user acceptance testing. Phase 1 is scheduled for go-live in 2026 and is expected to enhance incident reporting, hazard management and data visibility across the department.
- Targeted risk management: Continued implementation of policies, procedures and awareness initiatives addressing priority risk areas including asbestos, fatigue, fitness for work, and alcohol and other drugs, supporting compliance with legislative requirements.
- Health and wellbeing initiatives: Delivered initiatives to support employee wellbeing, including webinars on financial resilience, stress management and men's health, access to the Western Australian Influenza Immunisation Program, and the introduction of the Fitness Passport program.
- Wellbeing resources and support: Provided practical wellbeing resources and guidance to employees, including a retirement planning brochure and ongoing internal communications covering injury management processes, workers' compensation and return-to-work support.

These initiatives are supported by the department's governance framework and reflect a proactive approach to health, safety and wellbeing, supporting a safe and proactive workplace culture and enabling employees to maintain their physical and psychological health.

Health, safety and injury management performance

Measure		2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	Target	Comment on outcome
Number of fatalities		-	-	-	-	Target met
Incidence of work-related injury or illness		61.69	56.03	62.08	Reduce by 2% per year and 15% by 2033 compared with 2023	Target not met
Incidence rate of serious claims with one or more weeks' lost time		3.25	5.87	3.60	Reduce by 2.5% per year and 20% by 2033 compared with 2023	Target met
Incidence rate of claims resulting in permanent impairment		6.49	4.07	4.95	Reduce by 2% per year and 15% by 2033 compared with 2023	Target not met
Incidence rate of work-related respiratory disease		0.93	0.45	0.00	Reduce by 2.5% per year and 20% by 2033 compared with 2023	Target met
Managers and supervisors trained in WHS		18%	77%	61%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Target not met
Managers and supervisors trained in injury management		-	-	61%		
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:	(i) within 13 weeks	86%	85.70%	72%	No target	
	(ii) within 26 weeks	96%	89.6%	80%	Greater than or equal to 70%	Target met
Agency has a WHS management system independently assessed within the last five years		-	-	Yes	Yes	Target 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 reports.

Corporate training

- Successful launch of the Corporate Development Hub (CDH) on 6 October 2025, providing a centralised platform for mandatory, induction and optional learning. As of 21 May 2026, 1862 employees have accessed the system, with 5002 course completions recorded.
- Transition from a paper-based Performance Development Plan (PDP) to an online system (launched 22 October 2025), enabling integrated goal setting and capability development. As of 21 May 2026, 1072 employees have completed the planning phase, 446 are in progress, 808 have reached mid-cycle, and 539 have reached end-cycle stages.
- Delivery of the Public Sector Commission Skills Academy initiative for the department (including the three statutory authorities), launched 30 March 2026, with enrolment, cost tracking and completion monitoring integrated into the CDH.

Operational training

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

The department's Operational Training Unit had 755 active enrolments in its accredited training courses and qualifications, and issued 33 certificates of qualification and 585 Statements of Attainment to department employees and partnering agencies. There were 1597 Certificates of Attendance for department non-accredited training products.



Graduate Development Program
Photo - Miles Brotherson/DBCA

Key achievements in 2025–26 included:

- A total of 38 courses hosted on the department's Learning Management System.
- A Workplace Instructor and Observer course was developed, and extensive review and redevelopment of the Fire Fighting Crew Member training.
- Seven firearms safety courses delivered, with information included on how the *Firearms Act 2024* and Regulations can be applied operationally within the department's scope of work.
- Four Dive Coordinator courses, two PADI Scientific Diver courses, four Freediving Safety Awareness courses, three Snorkel Coordinator courses, and three Large Whale Disentanglement Fundamentals courses delivered.

The Conservation Employee Development Program had one participant complete a Conservation and Ecosystems Management qualification, with four working towards a qualification and 17 waitlisted. There are 28 trainees participating in the Mentored Aboriginal Training Employment Scheme and 10 completed certificates in Conservation and Ecosystem Management. Trainee numbers are set 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:

The pilot Graduate Development Program is 12 months into implementation, focusing on supporting and progressing graduates through experiential learning opportunities. Through these, they will develop multiple competencies and transferable skills sets. Two block training sessions were delivered this financial year focusing on soft skill and technical skill development.

The retention rate of the program remains at 100 per cent with 14 graduate officers hosted across the regions on two-year fixed term contracts. There is an even gender balance among graduate officers, and 93 per cent fall within the department's youth targets.

An additional 24 graduates were placed in a pool with 13 employed in the department. As an expansion to the Graduate Development Program, additional places at block training were extended to identified prospective leaders in the Regional and Fire Management Services division, many of whom have come from the pool. The intent of the pool is to allow regions to fill employment opportunities at a similar level, payrate and scope as the Graduate Officer roles. The pool will remain open for two years.

The Graduate Development Program aims to address the department's succession planning needs through structured learning and development opportunities, providing a steady flow of highly trained staff to meet the department's future operational requirements.

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 began 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 in the future.

In 2025–26, the department progressed initiatives including:

- The development of a new approach to strategic planning with the Strategic Directions 2025–29, released in October 2025. The strategic plan complements the ongoing actions from the review and aligns with Our Priorities for Government 2025–2029.
- Building on the new Workforce Planning framework introduced in October 2024, a comprehensive Strategic Workforce Plan 2026–29 was in preparation.

Since 2022, the department has made significant governance and structural reforms and improvements to address lines of enquiry 1 and 2, and as a result is leading with a more collegial and strategic approach to deliver outcomes. The department is also well progressed to develop and implement the strategic workforce planning to address line of enquiry 3.

Workforce inclusiveness

During 2025–26, the department continued to strengthen workforce inclusiveness through initiatives that support a diverse, respectful and inclusive workplace.

Workforce insights from the 2025 culture review survey indicate positive perceptions of diversity and inclusion, while identifying opportunities to strengthen psychological safety, inclusion, and overall workforce experience.

Initiatives to support workplace inclusiveness included:

- **Recognition and awareness activities:** Delivery of initiatives aligned to key dates of significance, including NAIDOC Week, Wear it Purple Day, International Men's Day, International Day of People with Disability, International Day of Women and Girls in Science, and Harmony Day, supporting increased awareness and understanding of diversity across the workforce.
- **Capability and accessibility improvements:** Launch of the Corporate Development Hub as a centralised learning platform, incorporating design features that reflect language, literacy, numeracy and digital literacy principles, such as simplified navigation and visual cues to improve accessibility and equitable access to training resources.
- **Strategic workforce planning:** Development of the Strategic Workforce Plan 2026–29, incorporating a Diversity, Multicultural and Inclusion Implementation Plan to embed inclusion priorities across workforce strategies and planning processes.
- **Early-career pathways and development:** The department's tailored Graduate Development Program is 12 months into its four-year pilot with a specific focus on Regional and Fire Management Services. The program is designed to attract, support, and develop a diverse pipeline of early-career talent aligned with gender and youth targets for the agency.
- **Gender diversity in fire management:** The Regional and Fire Management Services Division continued to demonstrate its commitment to diversity and inclusion by advancing initiatives that promote safe and respectful workplaces, including the Women in Fire program.

These initiatives support the department's ongoing commitment to workforce inclusiveness, with future focus on strengthening psychological safety, workforce capability and inclusive leadership. As we continue to grow, our strategies will remain responsive to emerging needs and aligned with best practice across the public sector.



Aboriginal Ranger Program
Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA

Closing the Gap requirements

The department contributes to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (CTG) across the department, particularly through joint and co-operative management of the conservation estate and the Aboriginal Ranger Program (ARP).

Implementation of the Priority Reforms

CTG is underpinned by four priority reforms developed to change the way governments work to accelerate improvements in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

- Formal partnerships and shared decision-making
- Building the community-controlled sector
- Transforming government organisations
- Shared access to data and information at a regional level.

Formal partnerships and shared decision-making are delivered through joint and co-operative management arrangements with Traditional Owners. As at 30 June 2026, there are 31 joint management partnerships covering approximately 39 per cent of the conservation estate.

Through the ARP, Aboriginal organisations are supported to undertake community-led planning, governance and Country management activities, strengthening Aboriginal participation in decision-making and delivery of land and sea management outcomes.

Building the community-controlled sector is supported through Traditional Owner agreements for the establishment of jointly managed conservation estate, which fund Aboriginal organisations to participate effectively in joint management. The ARP invests directly in Aboriginal organisations to build ranger workforce capacity, governance, planning capability, partnerships and long-term sustainability.

Transforming government organisations is progressed through strengthening cultural capability and embedding Traditional Owner perspectives and knowledge in planning, governance and decision-making. This includes reforms to workforce, planning processes and on-Country engagement.

Shared access to data and information is supported through joint management and ranger programs, where Aboriginal people contribute to and access locally relevant environmental and cultural information. The department is also finalising a Cultural Knowledge Protocol to guide engagement with cultural knowledge, including data management and respect for Traditional Owner ownership.

Contribution to socioeconomic outcomes and targets

The department contributes primarily to Target 15 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters through the expansion of jointly managed conservation estate and recognition of Aboriginal rights and interests. The Plan for Our Parks program (PfOP) has contributed significantly to this target, increasing the conservation estate by more than 6.5 million hectares over the five-year period from 2019 and establishing opportunities for Traditional Owners to participate in the management of Country through joint management arrangements.

Direct capacity development and on-Country funding provided through agreements support Aboriginal organisations to determine local priorities and deliver outcomes aligned with community aspirations. One example is Burringurrah, where funding has supported initiatives that contribute to improved food and fuel security for community members and visitors travelling through to Mount Augustus / Burringurrah National Park. Capital infrastructure projects being delivered across the State are also being co-designed with joint management partners to maximise opportunities for Aboriginal employment, business development and participation in park management.

The department also contributes to:

Targets 6 and 7 – Further education pathways and youth engagement in education or employment, through accredited and non-accredited training, on-the-job learning and career development opportunities provided through the ARP and joint management programs. The ARP supports Aboriginal rangers to obtain nationally recognised qualifications while building practical skills and pathways into ongoing employment.

Target 8 – Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and communities, through the ARP and joint management programs, which create employment, training and economic development opportunities across regional and remote Western Australia. Since its inception, more than 1400 Aboriginal people have been employed through the ARP. PfOP also supports Aboriginal employment through ranger, trainee ranger and joint management positions, as well as creating opportunities for Aboriginal businesses and service providers. In the 2025–26 financial year, the department spent $9.64 million on Aboriginal employment commitments within PfOP Traditional Owner agreements.

Target 14 – Aboriginal people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing through employment, connection to Country and participation in cultural activities, through both the ARP and joint management programs which support Aboriginal people to care for Country, strengthen community connections and maintain cultural responsibilities, contributing to improved wellbeing outcomes.

Target 16 – Aboriginal cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing through joint management and ARP-supported ranger programs that facilitate cultural knowledge transfer, intergenerational learning and maintenance of cultural practices. For example, during 2025–26, a pilot Cultural Knowledge Exchange Program was initiated through the Yamatji Nation Joint Management Body, creating opportunities for Aboriginal rangers and Elders to spend time together on Country sharing knowledge. Expansion of the program has been endorsed by neighbouring joint management partners.

Target 17 – Aboriginal people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives, through joint management governance arrangements and the active involvement of Aboriginal organisations in the design and delivery of ARP projects. In recognition of Traditional Owner cultural governance frameworks, DBCA works with joint management partners to identify cultural priorities and incorporate them into annual works programs for endorsement by Joint Management Bodies.

Tracking outcomes

The department's Aboriginal Affairs Executive Steering Group (AAESG) plays a key role in monitoring the department's contribution to CTG. AAESG considers program-level outcomes and performance information, engages with the Joint Management Working Group and Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, and provides strategic direction to support continuous improvement in the implementation of CTG commitments.

Systematic outcome-tracking processes are in place across several programs. The implementation of Traditional Owner agreements and joint management arrangements is monitored at both the individual agreement and statewide levels, with progress and outcomes reported annually to AAESG. ARP outcomes are tracked through a monitoring, evaluation and reporting system that captures environmental, cultural, employment, training, wellbeing, organisational capacity and partnership outcomes using both quantitative and qualitative measures during and at the end of each funded project and collectively at the end of each program phase. Phase 3 of the ARP has updated its objectives and outcomes to show clear alignment with CTG targets to allow for an easier flow of information.

Joint Management Bodies also provide governance oversight and monitor implementation outcomes at a local and regional level.

Assessing effectiveness

Data gathered through annual implementation tracking of Traditional Owner agreements and joint management arrangements supports assessment of the effectiveness of actions contributing to CTG. Information relating to governance, employment, training, capacity development and on-Country funding is used to evaluate progress against relevant targets and priority reforms. The department is developing a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework for joint management of the conservation estate that will strengthen the department's ability to systematically assess effectiveness and contributions to CTG.

The ARP assesses effectiveness through indicators relating to Aboriginal employment, training participation, management of Country, cultural heritage protection, cultural knowledge transfer, organisational capacity and community wellbeing outcomes. Monitoring and evaluation data support continuous program administration and management improvement and informs the design of future funding opportunities.



Students at Wanjarri Nature Reserve
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA

Board and committee remuneration

The remuneration rates for boards and committees that assist the department are disclosed 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	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	**Nil**
Member	Category A	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	**2,800**
Member	Category A	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	**2,450**
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	**Nil**
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	**Nil**
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	**Nil**
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	**Nil**
Member	Category C	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	**2,800**
Member	Category C	Sessional	07/07/25 to 13/11/25	**1,050**
Member	Category C	Sessional	18/02/26 to 30/06/26	**1,050**
Member	Category D	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	**3,150**
Member	Category D	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	**3,150**
Total				**16,450**

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

Members not identified by name due to privacy reasons.

Kooljaman, Bardi Jawi Country
Photo - Michael Higgins/DBCA

Conservation and Parks Commission

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration ($)
Chair (current)	Jo-anne Lanagan	Fortnightly	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	40,570
Member	Matthew Tonts	Fortnightly	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	20,479
Member	Tahn Donovan	Fortnightly	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	20,479
Member	Rodney Clark	Fortnightly	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	20,479
Member	Kim Eckert	Fortnightly	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	20,479
Member	Mark Webb	Fortnightly	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	26,370
Member	John Keesing	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Total				**148,856**

Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration ($)
Chair	Regina Flugge	Sessional	01/07/25 to 31/10/25	732
Member	Russell Babcock	Sessional	01/07/25 to 31/10/25	476
Member	James Florisson	Sessional	01/09/25 to 30/06/26	1,261
Member	Jacqeline Hine	Sessional	01/07/24 to 07/11/24*	476
Member	Vicki Long	Sessional	01/09/25 to 30/06/26	476
Member	Lynette Irvine	Sessional	01/09/25 to 30/06/26	785
Member	Hazel Walgar	Sessional	01/07/25 to 31/10/25	476
Member	Russell Brooks	Sessional	01/07/25 to 31/10/25	476
Member	Christopher Simpson	Sessional	01/07/25 to 31/10/25	785
Member	Bevan Buirchell	Sessional	01/09/25 to 30/06/26	785
Member	Brett Molony	Not eligible for remuneration	01/09/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member	Rachel Hicks (Cooyou)	Sessional	01/07/25 to 31/10/25	Nil
Total				**6728**

*Retrospective sitting fee paid in 2025–26 financial year

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	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	3,138
Member	Rory McAuley	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member	Narelle Montgomery	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member	Blair Hardman	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member (Scientific Panel)	Colin Limpus	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	2,301
Member (Scientific Panel)	Alex Hesp	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member (Scientific Panel)	Abbie Rogers	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member (Scientific Panel)	Kellie Pendoley	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Total				**5,439**

Purnululu World Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration ($)
Chair	Kelly Gillen	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	1,684
Member	Sarah Legge	Sessional	01/07/25 to 31/10/25	Nil
Member	Cherylene Nocketta	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	785
Member	Josephine Drill	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member	Vincent Edwards	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member	Cr Patricia McKay	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member	Angeline Bedford	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	854
Member	Benjamin Cross	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	1,570
Member	Timothy Mosquito	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	785
Member	Sven Ouzman	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	1,094
Member	Kaitlin Quin	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	1,094
Member	Kim Rogby	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	1,094
Total				**8,960**



Purnululu National Park

Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration ($)
A/Chair	Juliane Bush	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member	Anthony Bellottie	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	2,522
Member	David Newsome	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	3,783
Member	Laura Gray	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member	Jane Blennerhassett	Sessional	01/07/25 to 31/10/25	3,783
Member	Eleanor Ridley	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member	Gary Kendrick	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	3,783
Member	Gary Jackson	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member	Stacey Blane	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	3,783
Member	Sarah Gilleland	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	3,783
Total				**21,437**

Swan River Trust Board

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration ($)
Chair	David McFerran	Fortnightly	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	18,245
Deputy Chair	Peter King	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	11,859
Member	Marenée Provost	Sessional	01/07/25 to 19/06/26	2,973
Member	Tracy Shea	Sessional	01/07/25 to 19/06/26	2,973
Member	Michael Voros	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	2,664
Member	Rosemary Walley	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	1,570
Member	Jacquie Stone	Not eligible for remuneration	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Member	Cr Sara Saberi	Sessional	01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Nil
Total				**40,284**

Consultant expenditure

Engagement of consultants less than $50,000:

- The department had two engagements with an actual cost of $61,122.50 including GST.



OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Bluff Knoll, Stirling Range National Park
Photo - Lynne Whittle/DBCA

Ministerial directives

Treasurer's Instruction 8 Financial Accounting and Reporting requires disclosure of any written ministerial directions relevant to the setting of desired outcomes or operational objectives, investment activities and financing activities.

On 3 June 2026, the Minister for the Environment issued a directive to the department in relation to Homelessness Across Department Managed Lands to:

1. Engage with the Office of Homelessness and outreach services.
2. Take all reasonable steps to ensure the continuing safety, hygiene and amenity of the area is maintained.
3. Not undertake any move-on notices or compliance actions along Memorial Drive in Rockingham Lakes Regional Park without first briefing the Minister for the Environment and seeking approval for such actions.

The department continues to take a compassionate approach to homelessness where possible and has not issued any lawful direction notices for people to vacate the Memorial Drive area.

Temporary variable message boards have been installed along Memorial Drive reminding vehicles to slow down. In addition, department contractors undertake daily rubbish collection during weekdays along with the provision of two skip bins which are emptied twice per week.

The department liaises closely with the City of Rockingham's Community Safety and Support Services, the Office of Homelessness, St Patricks Community Support Centre, and WA Police.

The department will continue to monitor the area and liaise with the relevant local and State Government agencies.

Unauthorised use of credit cards

There were 226 personal transactions charged to departmental credit cards by 159 different cardholders to 30 June 2026. 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	2025–26
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure for the reporting period	$19,527.89
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled by the due date (within 5 working days)	$19,527.89
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled after five working days	$0
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 2025–26.

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 for 2025–26 was:	**$236,528.43**
Expenditure occurred in the following areas:	
Advertising agencies – recruitment	**$103,694.77**
Initiative Media Australia	$97,121.00
LinkedIn	$1,135.81
Meta	$5,437.96
Direct mail organisations	**NIL**
Market research organisations	**NIL**
Media advertising organisations	**$132,833.66**
Albany Bicentennial Magazine	$1,500.00
Andimaps	$1,375.55
Australia's Coral Coast	$270.00
Australia's South-West	$716.00
Carat Australia Media	$79,973.35
Caravanning Australia	$863.64
Cervantes Historical Society	$38.50
City of Albany	$81.82
Collie Chamber of Commerce	$2,545.45
Countrywide Publications	$636.36
Dandaragan Community Resource Centre	$156.20
Denmark Chamber of Commerce	$1,309.09
Initiative Media Australia	$28,182.88
Kununurra Visitor Centre	$3,065.00
Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association	$136.36
Meta	$7,574.04
State Law Publisher	$2,493.05
Walpole Community Resource Centre	$1,916.37

Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes

In the final year of the department's Disability, Access and Inclusion Plan 2021–2025 (DAIP), work continued to ensure people with disability have the same opportunities as others to access services, information, facilities and employment.

During 2025–26, planning for accessible visitor infrastructure progressed in these areas:

- Completed redesign of Wagyl's Noorook Thrombolites boardwalk, with a construction tender awarded in June 2026.
- Redesigned the Park Hub building and landscape at John Forrest National Park, including accessible landscape spaces that connect the newly constructed accessible bridge to buildings, toilets and visitor amenity spaces.
- Progressed design work for visitor infrastructure at Minyirr (Gantheaume) Point in Broome, including an accessible lookout, carpark and accessible toilets.
- Completed planning for the replacement Hamelin Pool boardwalk in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, damaged by cyclone Seroja, with a construction tender awarded in June 2026.

Construction work began on the following projects:

- The West Ridge amenities plaza in John Forrest National Park, linking the carpark to the newly constructed bridge via accessible paths adjacent to accessible interpretation spaces, gathering areas, trail head and toilets.
- Accessible paths at Beeliar Regional Park, complementing the newly constructed carpark.
- A new carpark with accessible paths and lookout at Cable Beach, Torndirrup National Park.
- Accessible paths in Kings Park, linking and improving the accessibility of existing path networks.
- Visitor infrastructure at Knox Gorge in Karijini National Park, including accessible toilets and paths.

The following projects were completed:

- 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 Giants Trails network in Walpole-Nornalup National Park, including trails that are suitable for adaptive mountain bike users.
- Luisini Boardwalk in Yellagonga Regional Park.
- Construction of a 300m accessible bridge in John Forrest National Park linking the newly constructed carpark to the proposed Park Hub.
- Adaptive friendly mountain bike trails in the Arboretum Trail Network in Pemberton, with accessible infrastructure including carpark, picnic facilities, paths and toilets also provided.
- Visitor infrastructure, including improved parking, gathering spaces and an accessible toilet, at The Gap in Torndirrup National Park.
- Accessible trailheads at Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin for the Cape to Cape Track. These provide information for visitors and act as a focal point for trail users. The Cape Naturaliste trailhead encourages the use of the all-access section of the track from Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse to Sugarloaf Rock.
- Visitor infrastructure at Weano Gorge in Karijini National Park, including accessible toilets, accessible paths and interpretation and wayfinding space.

The department continued to implement initiatives in line with the DAIP, with a focus on inclusive employment, accessibility and workforce capability. These included:

- Continued recognition as a Disability Confident Recruiter for 2025–26, marking the fifth consecutive year of accreditation and reflecting sustained commitment to inclusive hiring practices.
- Ongoing employment of people with disability through fee-for-service arrangements with Western Australian Disability Enterprises, supporting meaningful employment opportunities and skills development.
- Continued use of specialist disability recruitment agencies and networks to promote employment opportunities and broaden access to departmental vacancies for candidates with a disability.
- Promotion of diversity and inclusion through internal communications and cultural initiatives, including activities aligned to International Day of People with Disability, supported by staff stories shared via intranet channels to highlight lived experience and contributions of employees with disability.
- Further supported workforce capability through initiatives aligned to Neurodiversity Celebration Week, including access to learning activities that build awareness and capability in supporting neurodiverse employees.
- Development of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026–30, supported by an implementation plan outlining actions, timeframes and accountabilities to strengthen access and inclusion across services, facilities, information and employment.

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

Compliance with the Public Sector Standards, Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and Commissioner's Instruction 40 – Ethical Foundations, is supported by the department's Code of Conduct, which outlines expected standards of behaviour and integrity for all employees.

A culture of ethical behaviour and accountability is reinforced through governance frameworks, policies and ongoing communication, ensuring integrity is embedded in decision-making and day-to-day operations.

All employees are introduced to these requirements through mandatory induction and onboarding processes. This includes training in the Code of Conduct, Accountable and Ethical Decision Making, Workplace Discrimination and Harassment (including leadership-specific training), Information Security and Records Management

During 2025–26, oversight of Code of Conduct compliance was strengthened through the introduction of quarterly reporting of employee acknowledgements and progress on a mandatory online Code of Conduct training module, aligned with Commissioner's Instruction 40 – Ethical Foundations, which is scheduled for rollout in late 2026 and will require annual completion by all employees.

In 2025–26, two breach claims relating to the Employment Standard were received, with one resolved internally and one referred to the Public Sector Commission, which subsequently declined the claim.

Recordkeeping plans

As required under section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000* (the Act), the department has an approved recordkeeping plan which 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 three years, ensuring the program continues to be effective.

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Certification of financial statements
For the reporting period ended 30 June 2026

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 2026 and the financial position as at 30 June 2026.

Amanda Klenke BCom CPA
Chief Finance Officer
14 September 2026

Stuart Smith
Accountable Authority
14 September 2026

Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve
Photo - DBCA

Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

2026

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

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 2026, 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 2026 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 2026 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 it determines 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 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 and the misappropriation of public moneys.

Qualified Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. 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 2026, and that the controls were implemented as designed as at 30 June 2026.

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 2026 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 2026 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 2026.

Matter of Significance

The Department received a direction from the Treasurer, in accordance with section 61(1)(b) of the Financial Management Act 2006, on 22 December 2025 that it is not required to report the 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 the year ended 30 June 2026. As a result, the Department does not have a reportable effectiveness indicator for Outcome 3 'Sustainable use of forest resources". I am required by section 24(1) of the *Auditor General Act 2006* to report matters of such significance. 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 Department'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 - 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 2026, 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 for the year ended 30 June 2026 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 Department to confirm the information contained in the website version.



Grant Robinson
Assistant Auditor General Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
16 September 2026



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	3.1(a)	277,440	243,147
Supplies and services	3.3	125,783	125,579
Depreciation expense	5.1.1,5.2	50,464	41,707
Accommodation expenses	3.3	3,264	3,457
Grants and subsidies	3.2	69,182	80,722
Other expenses	3.3	43,003	67,357
Finance costs	7.2	3,097	1,992
Total cost of services		**572,233**	**563,961**
Income			
User charges and fees	4.2	42,953	43,496
Commonwealth grants	4.4	9,352	6,544
Other grants	4.5	12,844	13,842
Interest income		6,317	6,073
Other income	4.3	11,511	14,882
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	453	266
Total income		**83,430**	**85,103**
Net cost of services		**488,803**	**478,858**
Income from State Government	4.1		
Service appropriation		423,711	398,726
Income from other public sector entities		35,801	33,375
Resources received		1,366	1,741
Royalties for Regions Fund		34,742	39,590
Asset Maintenance Fund		2,228	0
Total income from State Government		**497,848**	**473,432**

	Note	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		**9,045**	**(5,426)**
Other comprehensive income			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit and loss			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		628,378	315,662
Total other comprehensive income		**628,378**	**315,662**
Total comprehensive income for the period		**637,423**	**310,236**

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

	Note	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7.3	20,829	19,433
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.3	162,703	126,924
Inventories	6.1	7,446	6,414
Receivables	6.2	12,413	23,441
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	11,300	11,300
Other current assets	6.4	2,666	2,235
Non-current assets classified as held for sale		24	27
Total Current Assets		**217,381**	**189,774**
Non-Current Assets			
Receivables	6.2	6,782	6,348
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	352,489	326,396
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1	5,095,328	4,442,971
Right-of-use assets	5.2	27,406	21,553
Total Non-Current Assets		**5,482,005**	**4,797,268**
Total Assets		**5,699,386**	**4,987,042**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	6.5	23,809	25,927
Lease liabilities	7.1	9,834	7,832
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	56,120	49,570
Other current liabilities	6.6	23,180	22,628
Total Current Liabilities		**112,943**	**105,957**

	Note	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Non-Current Liabilities			
Lease liabilities	7.1	18,026	13,776
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	6,270	5,284
Other non-current liabilities	6.6	34,964	37,316
Total Non-Current Liabilities		**59,260**	**56,376**
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**172,203**	**162,333**
NET ASSETS		**5,527,183**	**4,824,709**
EQUITY	9.7		
Contributed equity		3,453,984	3,388,933
Reserves		1,930,020	1,301,642
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		143,179	134,134
TOTAL EQUITY		**5,527,183**	**4,824,709**

See also the 'Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service'.

The Statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

	Notes	Contributed equity $'000	Reserves $'000	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) $'000	Total equity $'000
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	9.7	**3,388,933**	**1,301,642**	**134,134**	**4,824,709**
Balance at 1 July 2025		3,388,933	1,301,642	134,134	4,824,709
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	9,045	9,045
Other comprehensive income		0	628,378	0	628,378
Total comprehensive income for the period		**0**	**628,378**	**9,045**	**637,423**
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		140,434	0	0	140,434
Other contributions by owners		21,578	0	0	21,578
Distributions to owners		(96,961)	0	0	(96,961)
Total		**65,051**	**0**	**0**	**65,051**
Balance at 30 June 2026	9.7	**3,453,984**	**1,930,020**	**143,179**	**5,527,183**

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

	Note	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Cash flows from the State Government			
Service appropriation		386,318	363,049
Capital appropriation		140,434	105,959
Holding account drawdowns		11,300	11,300
Non-retained revenue distributed to owner		(96,961)	(54,092)
Funds from other public sector entities		41,376	30,972
Royalties for Regions Fund		38,392	49,824
Climate Action Fund		5,953	0
Asset Maintenance Fund		2,228	0
Digital Capability Fund		350	0
Net cash provided by the State Government		**529,390**	**507,012**
Utilised as follows:			
Cash flows from operating activities			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(268,530)	(241,305)
Supplies and services		(128,216)	(123,494)
Accommodation		(3,264)	(3,457)
Grants and subsidies		(69,182)	(80,722)
GST payments on purchases		(24,264)	(26,770)
Other payments		(45,355)	(48,879)
Finance costs		(3,096)	(1,992)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		43,671	36,939
Commonwealth grants		8,372	8,605
Interest received		6,203	5,623
GST receipts on sales		6,149	5,984
GST receipts from taxation authority		19,630	19,582
Other receipts		26,529	36,012
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**7.3.2**	**(431,353)**	**(413,874)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current assets		(50,433)	(73,149)
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets		1,086	1,155
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		**(49,347)**	**(71,994)**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Payments			
Principal repayment of lease liabilities		(10,658)	(8,710)
Payment to accrued salaries account		(857)	(876)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		**(11,515)**	**(9,586)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		37,175	11,558
Change in classification of cash and cash equivalents		0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		146,357	134,799
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	7.3	**183,532**	**146,357**

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

	CONSERVING HABITATS, SPECIES AND ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES		IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN		TOTAL	
	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS						
Income						
For transfer:						
Regulatory fees and other charges	44	65	0	0	44	65
Gain on valuation of biological assets	0	0	684	0	684	0
Total administered income	**44**	**65**	**684**	**0**	**728**	**65**
Expenses						
Transfer payments[a]	44	65	0	0	44	65
Loss on valuation of biological assets[b]	0	0	0	524	0	524
Total administered expenses	**44**	**65**	**0**	**524**	**44**	**589**

(a) Transfer payments represent the transfer of non-retainable regulatory fees to the Consolidated Account.

(b) Biological assets represents wild sandalwood.

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Current assets		
Biological assets:		
Sandalwood	258	364
Total administered current assets	**258**	**364**
Non-current assets		
Biological assets:		
Sandalwood	2,545	1,755
Total administered non-current assets	**2,545**	**1,755**
TOTAL ADMINISTERED ASSETS	**2,803**	**2,119**

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 14 September 2026.

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.

Assets, liabilities, income and expenses 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', 'Administered assets and liabilities' and explanatory statements are displayed at note 10.2 'Explanatory statement for administered items'. Schedules are prepared using the same basis as the financial statements.

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 Liabilities 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2.2 Schedule of income and expenses by service
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	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	
	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
COST OF SERVICES																						
Expenses																						
Employee benefits expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,837	9,138	94,920	83,772	70,352	63,056	13,781	10,102	20,363	18,086	48,699	40,943	19,488	18,050	277,440	243,147
Supplies and services	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,890	3,370	52,257	55,733	17,549	20,172	7,595	7,225	8,613	8,052	16,100	12,591	20,779	18,436	125,783	125,579
Depreciation expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	882	702	30,768	24,220	4,833	4,234	1,099	732	1,317	1,343	5,919	5,180	5,646	5,296	50,464	41,707
Accommodation expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	249	392	1,602	1,666	863	843	145	144	149	130	133	113	123	169	3,264	3,457
Grants & subsidies	15,334	17,846	6,690	9,264	10,289	14,119	7,155	7,601	23,515	30,288	5,697	497	502	1,039	0	68	0	0	0	0	69,182	80,722
Other expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	408	281	7,301	30,944	4,786	4,086	853	657	1,671	2,104	1,902	1,808	26,082	27,477	43,003	67,357
Finance costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	32	2,237	1,394	286	200	71	36	68	65	278	150	117	115	3,097	1,992
Total cost of services	**15,334**	**17,846**	**6,690**	**9,264**	**10,289**	**14,119**	**21,461**	**21,516**	**212,600**	**228,017**	**104,366**	**93,088**	**24,046**	**19,935**	**32,181**	**29,848**	**73,031**	**60,785**	**72,235**	**69,543**	**572,233**	**563,961**
Income																						
User charges and fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	495	102	38,291	38,000	175	529	2,001	2,168	321	331	1,183	1,945	487	421	42,953	43,496
Commonwealth grants and contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,600	1,063	45	1,082	119	1	4,041	1,023	0	0	1,547	3,375	0	0	9,352	6,544
Other grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	780	269	976	668	37	11,784	11,954	95	14	0	35	0	46	12,844	13,842
Interest income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	484	471	590	571	4,855	4,686	308	299	80	46	0	0	6,317	6,073
Other revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	26	6,812	7,531	1,991	3,592	516	459	973	1,955	946	1,170	249	149	11,511	14,882
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	30	272	167	38	39	10	9	12	0	54	18	59	3	453	266
Total income	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4,155**	**2,001**	**46,173**	**48,227**	**3,581**	**4,769**	**23,207**	**20,299**	**1,709**	**2,599**	**3,810**	**6,589**	**795**	**619**	**83,430**	**85,103**
NET COST OF SERVICES	**15,334**	**17,846**	**6,690**	**9,264**	**10,289**	**14,119**	**17,306**	**19,515**	**166,427**	**179,790**	**100,785**	**88,319**	**839**	**(364)**	**30,472**	**27,249**	**69,221**	**54,196**	**71,440**	**68,924**	**488,803**	**478,858**
Income from State Government																						
Service appropriation	15,334	17,846	6,690	9,264	10,289	14,119	13,689	11,779	131,037	130,013	96,223	81,599	0	0	28,354	24,425	60,525	49,989	61,570	59,692	423,711	398,726
Income from other public sector entities	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,795	3,798	5,981	10,886	5,371	4,126	4,006	2,689	2,439	1,728	3,752	2,783	10,457	7,365	35,801	33,375
Services received free of charge	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	578	766	174	222	50	45	51	67	255	298	254	336	1,366	1,741
Royalties for Regions Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28,970	36,409	272	306	0	0	0	0	5,500	2,875	0	0	34,742	39,590
Asset Maintenance Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,228	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,228	0
Total income from State Government	**15,334**	**17,846**	**6,690**	**9,264**	**10,289**	**14,119**	**17,488**	**15,584**	**166,566**	**178,074**	**102,040**	**86,253**	**4,056**	**2,734**	**30,844**	**26,220**	**70,032**	**55,945**	**72,281**	**67,393**	**497,848**	**473,432**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the period	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**182**	**(3,931)**	**139**	**(1,716)**	**1,255**	**(2,066)**	**3,217**	**3,098**	**372**	**(1,029)**	**811**	**1,749**	**841**	**(1,531)**	**9,045**	**(5,426)**

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 2026

	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	
	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
ASSETS																						
Current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	252	370	96,500	72,550	6,170	7,629	96,234	89,211	3,974	2,120	10,764	8,657	3,487	9,237	217,381	189,774
Non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	51,260	45,350	2,072,985	1,821,428	1,325,951	1,128,809	20,637	15,253	1,835,529	1,619,236	88,255	79,899	87,388	87,293	5,482,005	4,797,268
Total assets	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**51,512**	**45,720**	**2,169,485**	**1,893,978**	**1,332,121**	**1,136,438**	**116,871**	**104,464**	**1,839,503**	**1,621,356**	**99,019**	**88,556**	**90,875**	**96,530**	**5,699,386**	**4,987,042**
LIABILITIES																						
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,291	4,059	45,911	45,963	27,178	26,408	5,046	4,201	9,155	7,730	13,475	12,865	5,887	4,731	112,943	105,957
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,323	2,511	23,076	22,653	12,132	10,928	2,689	2,238	3,751	3,520	8,221	7,089	7,068	7,437	59,260	56,376
Total liabilities	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**8,614**	**6,570**	**68,987**	**68,616**	**39,310**	**37,336**	**7,735**	**6,439**	**12,906**	**11,250**	**21,696**	**19,954**	**12,955**	**12,168**	**172,203**	**162,333**
NET ASSETS	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**42,898**	**39,150**	**2,100,498**	**1,825,362**	**1,292,811**	**1,099,102**	**109,136**	**98,025**	**1,826,597**	**1,610,106**	**77,323**	**68,602**	**77,920**	**84,362**	**5,527,183**	**4,824,709**

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 expenditure	3.3

3.1a) Employee benefits expense

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Employee benefits	250,280	219,278
Termination benefits	37	127
Superannuation – defined contribution plans	27,123	23,742
Total employee benefits expense	**277,440**	**243,147**
Add: AASB 16 non-monetary benefits (not included in employee benefits expense)	4,732	4,013
Less: Employee contributions (per the statement of comprehensive income)	(2,597)	(2,086)
Net employee benefits	**279,575**	**245,074**

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

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Annual leave	27,000	21,952
Long service leave	28,430	27,004
	55,430	**48,956**

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs	690	614
Total current employee related provisions	**56,120**	**49,570**
Non-current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Long service leave	6,189	5,216
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs	81	68
Total non-current employee related provisions	**6,270**	**5,284**
Total employee related provisions	**62,390**	**54,854**

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:

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	24,841	20,146
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	2,159	1,806
	27,000	**21,952**

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:

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	7,288	6,669
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	27,331	25,551
	34,619	**32,220**

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'.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Employment on-costs provision		
Carrying amount at start of period	**682**	**678**
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	322	290
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefits	(237)	(249)
Unwinding of the discount	4	(37)
Carrying amount at end of period	**771**	**682**

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.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
3.2 Grants and subsidies		
Recurrent		
State Government[(a)]	32,716	42,450
Private organisations	9,882	5,574
Royalties for Regions Fund – Aboriginal Ranger Program	21,414	29,419
Local Government	4,668	2,526
Federal Government	502	753
Total grants and subsidies	**69,182**	**80,722**

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

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	15,334	17,846
Zoological Parks Authority	10,692	14,440
Rottnest Island Authority	6,690	9,264
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	0	316
Burswood Park Board	0	74
WA Museum	0	410
Department of Transport	0	100

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.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
3.3 Other expenditure		
Supplies and services		
Communications	3,924	3,298
Consultants and contractors	14,751	11,987
Services and contracts	51,525	57,795
Materials	31,582	29,244
Repairs and maintenance	7,819	7,320
Travel	9,127	8,513
Staff costs (including uniforms & protective clothing)	7,055	7,182
Other	0	240
Total supplies and services expenses	**125,783**	**125,579**
Accommodation expenses		
Lease rentals	692	848
Electricity, power and water	2,572	2,609
	3,264	**3,457**

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Other expenses		
Employment on-costs	6,119	3,786
Light fleet management costs	6,812	6,818
Other lease, rental and hire expenses	27,528	29,554
Software maintenance	502	719
Financial Liability recognition	1,884	26,415
Other	158	65
Total other expenses	**43,003**	**67,357**
Total other expenditure	**172,050**	**196,393**

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 $10.47 million (2025: $10.71 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 Housing and Works, are expensed as incurred as Memorandum of Understanding Agreements between the Department and the Department of Housing and Works contain significant substitution rights.

During the year the Department's transactions with government related entities on accommodation amount to $0.83 million (2025: $1.60 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 Note 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 $9.08 million (2025: $9.46 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

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
4.1 Income from State Government		
Appropriation received during the period:		
Service appropriation	423,711	398,726
Total service appropriation received	**423,711**	**398,726**
Resources received from other public sector entities during the period:		
Services received free of charge	1,366	1,741
Total resources received	**1,366**	**1,741**

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Income received from other public sector entities during the period:		
Recurrent grants	9,355	11,787
Capital grants	5,484	3,324
Fees	20,962	18,264
Total income from other public sector entities	**35,801**	**33,375**
Royalties for Regions Fund:		
Regional Community Services Account	**34,742**	**39,590**
Asset Maintenance Fund	**2,228**	**0**
Total income from State Government	**497,848**	**473,432**

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 the Department of Treasury and Finance.

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.

Asset Maintenance Fund: A Treasurer's Special Purpose Account that provides funding for targeted asset maintenance projects. The Department gains control of funds at the time those funds are deposited in the bank account.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summary of consolidated account appropriations
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026 Budget[1] $'000	2026 Section 25 Transfers $'000	2026 Additional funding[2] $'000	2026 Revised Budget $'000	2026 Actual $'000	2026 Variance $'000
Delivery of Services						
Item 89 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	413,738	12,451	3,070	429,259	429,259	0
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes						
-Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	879	0	0	879	879	0
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	**414,617**	**12,451**	**3,070**	**430,138**	**430,138**	**0**
Capital						
Item 155 Capital appropriations	194,833	0	0	194,833	140,434	(54,399)
Item 109 Capital appropriations	350	0	0	350	0	(350)
Grand Total	**609,800**	**12,451**	**3,070**	**625,321**	**570,572**	**(54,749)**

[1]The 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.
[2]Additional funding includes supplementary funding and new funding authorised under section 25 of the Act and amendments to standing appropriations.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
4.2 User charges and fees		
User charges	36,741	36,427
Fees	6,212	7,069
	42,953	**43,496**
4.2a) User charges		
Entry fees	12,049	12,840
Camping	10,715	10,379
Park passes	4,100	4,032
Merchandise	3,918	3,967
Leases	3,944	2,944
Commercial operation licences	1,670	1,696
Other	345	569
	36,741	**36,427**

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
4.2b) User charges by location/business unit		
Goldfields	19	5
Kimberley	2,669	2,614
Midwest	7,641	7,153
Parks and Visitor Services(a)	1,255	1,290
Nature Based Tourism(a)	263	179
Pilbara	6,384	7,204
South Coast	3,732	3,553
South West	2,812	2,603
Swan	6,928	7,042
Warren	4,870	4,633
Wheatbelt	168	151
	36,741	**36,427**

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

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
4.2c) Fees by sector		
Private organisations	6,084	6,934
Federal Government	54	104
Local Government	76	31
	6,212	**7,069**

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
4.3 Other income		
Mining compensation	2,676	5,634
Insurance refunds(a)	596	475
Forest and beach shack leases	1,436	1,492
Other	1,051	632
Communication sites	1,200	908
Employee contributions	2,597	2,086
Publications	139	228
Apiary sites	366	653
Diesel fuel rebate	458	470
Sale of minor assets	43	36
Carbon credit sales	598	960
Assets found during the period:		
-Buildings	0	910
-Infrastructure & Plant & Equip	351	398
	11,511	**14,882**

(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 3.1a). Employees benefits expense also provide contribution for leased vehicle.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
4.4 Commonwealth grants		
Recurrent	7,805	2,403
Capital	0	766
Carbon Credits	1,547	3,375
	9,352	**6,544**

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 2025-26 period carbon credits are recognised at the end of month spot market price in which the credits are granted to the Department.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
4.5 Other grants		
Capital	276	1,258
Recurrent	12,568	12,584
	12,844	**13,842**

The Department received revenue from a range of private and state granting (note 4.1) entities in 2026. Revenue recognition policies for other grants is consistent with the policies stated at note 4.1 for income from other public sector entities.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
4.6 Gains/loss on disposal of non-current assets		
Net proceeds from disposal of non-current assets		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	1,093	1,155
Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	(663)	(799)
Retirement of lease assets and liabilities		
Net gain/(loss) on retirement of lease asset and liabilities	23	(90)
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets	**453**	**266**

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5.1(a) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

Year ended 30 June 2026	Land ($000)	Buildings ($000)	Assets under construction ($000)	Plant, equipment ($000)	Vehicles ($000)	Infrastructure ($000)	Works of art ($000)	Total ($000)
1 July 2025								
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
Carrying amount at start of period	**3,921,280**	**198,121**	**96,872**	**103,171**	**31,390**	**91,475**	**662**	**4,442,971**
Additions	2,212	3,350	25,746	5,341	6,005	8,008	0	50,662
Transfers(a)	13,230	6,068	(67,417)	28,948	3,817	28,340	0	12,986
Transfers between categories(d)	0	198	0	(37,292)	0	37,094	0	0
Assets not previously identified	0	0	0	351	0	0	0	351
Assets classified as held for sale	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	24
Disposals	0	0	0	(246)	(416)	0	0	(662)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)(c)	618,013	10,365	0	0	0	0	0	628,378
Impairment losses(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	(7,422)	0	(11,003)	(7,525)	(13,432)	0	(39,382)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2026	**4,554,735**	**210,680**	**55,201**	**89,270**	**33,295**	**151,485**	**662**	**5,095,328**
Gross carrying amount	4,554,735	210,680	55,201	195,910	76,868	280,949	662	**5,375,005**
Accumulated depreciation	0	0	0	(106,640)	(43,573)	(129,464)	0	(279,677)
Accumulated Impairment loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(a) The Department received $11.62 million land assets in 2025-26 and $22.95 million of land assets in 2024-25 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, $23.97 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.

(d) Transfers of $37.09 million (2025-26) and $4.67 million (2024-25) mainly represent recategorisation of bridges, camping, parking infrastructure, roads, track and facilities and trails from plant and equipment to infrastructure.

5.1(a) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

Year ended 30 June 2025	Land ($000)	Buildings ($000)	Assets under construction ($000)	Plant, equipment ($000)	Vehicles ($000)	Infrastructure ($000)	Works of art ($000)	Total ($000)
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 increments/(decrements)(c)	305,558	10,104	0	0	0	0	0	315,662
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**

(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. 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 2025, with valuations performed during the year ended 30 June 2026 and recognised at 30 June 2026.

In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: $406,909,400 (2025: $353,575,100) and buildings: $11,596,000 (2025: $5,783,100). 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.

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.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
5.1.1 Depreciation and impairment		
Property, plant and equipment		
Plant, equipment	11,003	12,211
Vehicles	7,525	6,726
Buildings	7,422	6,784
Infrastructure	13,432	7,334
Total depreciation for the period	**39,382**	**33,055**

As at 30 June 2026, there were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment or infrastructure.

All surplus assets at 30 June 2026 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

Year ended 30 June 2026	Land ($000)	Buildings ($000)	Accommodation[b] ($000)	Plant, equipment ($000)	Vehicles[a] ($000)	Total ($000)
At 1 July 2025						
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)
Carrying amount at start of period	**16**	**12**	**6,863**	**279**	**14,383**	**21,553**
Additions	0	0	6,074	197	11,790	18,061
Disposals	0	0	(1,077)	0	(49)	(1,126)
Depreciation	(2)	(12)	(4,544)	(267)	(6,257)	(11,082)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2026	**14**	**0**	**7,316**	**209**	**19,867**	**27,406**
Gross carrying amount	26	0	12,362	256	34,819	47,463
Accumulated depreciation	(12)	0	(5,046)	(47)	(14,952)	(20,057)

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

(b) In 2026 $4.80 million (carrying amount) of right of use assets were transferred from Department of Communities.

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.

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 Right-of-use 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:

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
5.2.1 Lease disclosures		
Depreciation expenses of right-of-use assets	11,082	8,652
Lease interest expense	1,749	1,165
Short-term leases (included in other expenditure and employee benefits expenditure)(b)	31,325	33,632
Low-value leases (included in other expenditure)	52	69
Income from subleasing right-of-use assets	(1,668)	(1,369)
Total amount recognised in the statement of comprehensive income (net)	**42,540**	**42,149**
Total lease cash outflow(a)	52,415	52,025

(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. $23.61 million (2025: $26.92 million) in short-term leases relate to aircraft hire and aircraft standby charges.

As at 30 June 2026 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 Housing and Works for the leasing of office accommodation. These are not recognised under AASB 16 because of substitution rights held by the Department of Housing and Works 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

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
6.1 Inventories		
Inventories held for resale:		
Souvenirs	508	782
Inventories held for distribution:		
Publications	369	452
Carbon Credits	6,569	5,180
Total inventories at end of period	**7,446**	**6,414**

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. Historically 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.

6.2 Receivables	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Current		
Trade receivables	7,317	16,039
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(213)	(405)
GST receivable	1,916	3,433
Accrued revenue	3,393	4,374
Total current receivables	**12,413**	**23,441**
Non-current		
Accrued revenue	0	423
Accrued salaries account(a)	6,782	5,925
Total non-current receivables	**6,782**	**6,348**
Total receivables at end of period	**19,195**	**29,789**

(a)Funds transferred to the Department of Treasury and Finance 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 2026 receivables from other government related entities amounted to $2.50 million (2025: $10.17 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.

6.2.1 Movement in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables:		
Opening balance	**405**	**182**
Expected credit losses expense	0	0
Expected credit losses adjustment	(191)	240
Amounts written off during the period	(1)	(17)
Allowance for impairment at end of period	**213**	**405**

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 risk management'.

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

6.3 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Current	11,300	11,300
Non-current	352,489	326,396
Total amounts receivable for services at end of period	**363,789**	**337,696**

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).

6.4 Other assets	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Current		
Prepayments	2,666	2,235
Total current	**2,666**	**2,235**

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.

6.5 Payables	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Current		
Trade payables	12,576	16,729
Accrued expenses	3,504	2,858
Accrued salaries	6,803	5,606
Accrued superannuation	812	636
Parental payment	114	98
Total current	**23,809**	**25,927**

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.

6.6 Other liabilities		2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Current			
Unearned revenue	6.6a)	14,939	14,136
Capital grant liabilities	6.6b)	3,033	3,710
Financial liability	6.6c)	5,208	4,782
Total current		**23,180**	**22,628**
Non-current			
Unearned revenue	6.6a)	5,293	5,010
Financial liability	6.6c)	29,671	32,306
Total non-current		**34,964**	**37,316**
Total other liabilities at end of period		**58,144**	**59,944**

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
6.6a) Unearned revenue		
Opening balance	19,146	15,841
Additions	12,469	14,038
Income recognised during the current financial year	(11,383)	(10,733)
Unearned revenue at end of period	**20,232**	**19,146**

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*.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
6.6b) Capital grant liabilities		
Opening balance	3,710	8,608
Additions	831	1,760
Adjustments(b)	0	(2,335)
Income recognised during the current financial year(a)	(1,508)	(4,323)
Capital grant liabilities at end of period	**3,033**	**3,710**

(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.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
6.6c) Financial Liabilities		
Opening balance	37,088	13,368
Additions	1,882	26,416
Interest	1,348	827
Payments	(5,439)	(3,523)
Financial liabilities at end of period	**34,879**	**37,088**

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

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
7.1 Lease liabilities		
Current	9,834	7,832
Non-current	18,026	13,776
	27,860	**21,608**

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 Housing and Works and represents a liability of $20.47 million in 2026 (2025: $14.69 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 $4.93 million in 2026 (2025: $3.41 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 Housing and Works 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.

	($000)	($000)
7.2 Finance costs		
Financial liability interest expense	1,348	827
Lease interest expense	1,749	1,165
Finance costs expensed	**3,097**	**1,992**

'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.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
7.3 Cash and cash equivalents		
7.3.1 Reconciliation of cash		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	20,829	19,433
Restricted cash and cash equivalents – Cash amounts in Special Purpose account[a]	162,703	126,924
Balance at end of period	**183,532**	**146,357**

(a) Cash held in the account is to fund the three special purpose accounts disclosed at note 9.5 '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	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
7.3.2 Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities			
Net cost of services		(488,803)	(478,858)
Non-cash items			
Depreciation expense	5.1.1,5.2	50,464	41,707
Resourced received	4.1	1,366	1,741
Finance costs – unwinding of discounts	7.2	1,348	827
Adjustments for other non-cash items		(351)	(1,308)
Loss/(Gain) on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	(453)	(266)
(Increase)/decrease in assets			
Receivables(a)		1,238	4,961
Inventories		(1,034)	(3,713)
Other current assets		43	511
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities			
Payables and other liabilities[a]		(4,223)	21,601
Provisions		7,536	127
Net GST receipts/(payments)[b]		1,516	(1,204)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		**(431,353)**	**(413,874)**

(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.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($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	37,326	25,289
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	12,164	3,803
	49,490	**29,092**

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:

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	20,829	19,433
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	162,703	126,924
Financial assets at amortised cost(a)	381,068	364,052
Total financial assets	**564,600**	**510,409**
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost(b)	86,548	84,624
Total financial liability	**86,548**	**84,624**

(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 2026						
Expected credit loss rate		1.71%	4.50%	5.36%	8.40%	13.70%
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	7,317	6,006	530	174	109	498
Expected credit losses	**(213)**	(103)	(24)	(9)	(9)	(68)
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)

(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

			Interest rate exposure				Maturity dates				
	Weighted average effective interest rate	Carrying amount	Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing	Nominal amount	Up to 1 month	1-3 months	3 months to 1 year	1-5 years	More than 5 years
	%	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)
2026											
Financial assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	4.37	20,829	0	20,829	0	20,829	20,829	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	4.37	162,703	0	162,703	0	162,703	162,703	0	0	0	0
Receivables[a]		17,279	0	0	17,279	17,279	8,999	1,498	0	6,782	0
Amounts receivable for services		363,789	0	0	363,789	363,789	1,071	1,428	8,801	45,200	307,289
		564,600	**0**	**183,532**	**381,068**	**564,600**	**193,602**	**2,926**	**8,801**	**51,982**	**307,289**
Financial liabilities											
Payables		23,809	0	0	23,809	23,809	23,809	0	0	0	0
Lease liabilities[b]	6.95	27,860	27,860	0	0	27,860	910	1,808	7,116	17,287	739
Other financial liabilities	11.77	34,879	34,879	0	0	34,879	4,068	337	804	14,920	14,750
		86,548	**62,739**	**0**	**23,809**	**86,548**	**28,787**	**2,145**	**7,920**	**32,207**	**15,489**

(a) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).
(b) The amount of lease liabilities includes $4.93 m from leased buildings with Department of Communities as part of the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) program and $20.47 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	Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing	Nominal amount	Up to 1 month	1-3 months	3 months to 1 year	1-5 years	More than 5 years
	%	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($000)	($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.

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.

		-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
	Carrying amount ($000)	Surplus ($000)	Equity ($000)	Surplus ($000)	Equity ($000)
2026					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	20,829	(208.29)	(208.29)	208.29	208.29
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	162,703	(1,627.03)	(1,627.03)	1,627.03	1,627.03
Total increase/(decrease)		**(1,835.32)**	**(1,835.32)**	**1,835.32**	**1,835.32**

		-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
	Carrying amount ($000)	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**

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 (2025: 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 $2-$3 million related to alleged damage to properties from prescribed burns. The Department also has 9 litigation claims against it amounting to $11,336,252 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, 3 sites classified as contaminated – restricted use and 98 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: 2026	**Level 1 ($000)**	**Level 2 ($000)**	**Level 3 ($000)**	**Fair value at end of period ($000)**
Land (Note 5.1)	0	406,909	4,147,826	**4,554,735**
Buildings (Note 5.1)	0	11,596	199,084	**210,680**
	0	**418,505**	**4,346,910**	**4,756,415**

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**

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

Valuation techniques and inputs to derive Level 2 fair values

Fair values of non-current assets held for sale, and market type land and buildings (office accommodation) are derived using the market approach. Market evidence of sales prices of comparable assets 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)

2026	**Land ($000)**	**Buildings ($000)**
Fair value at start of period	3,567,705	192,338
Additions	2,212	3,349
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Profit or Loss	0	0
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	577,909	10,187
Transfers from/(to) Level 2	0	0
Disposals	0	0
Depreciation expense	0	(6,790)
Fair value at end of period	**4,147,826**	**199,084**

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

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**

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)

High Utility land values are measured by drawing comparison between the subject asset as a going concern and market pricing data of assets having similar utility and service capacity.

The assessed Highest & Best Use Value is based upon comparable utility transactions and is adjusted for valuation deferment recognition. Valuation deferment is the practice of delaying the recognition or calculation of an asset's value until a future date, primarily used to manage uncertainty, account for value over time, restrictions on ownership and current use considerations. The value of the land reflects differences between public and private sector market associated with title conversion, time deferments, and other factors including encumbrances, title status, management orders or lease conditions.

Buildings (Level 3 fair values)

Fair value for current use buildings is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset. 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 of obsolescence estimated by Landgate. The fair value measurement is sensitive to the estimate of 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
Impact of Australian standards	9.1
Future impact of Australian standards issued not yet operative	9.1.1
Key management personnel	9.2
Related party transactions	9.3
Affiliated bodies	9.4
Special purpose accounts	9.5
Remuneration of auditors	9.6
Equity	9.7
Supplementary financial information	9.8

9.1 Impact of Australian standards

9.1.1 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 2026	
AASB 2024-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments* 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 2026 cont'd	
AASB 2025-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Contracts Referencing Nature-dependent Electricity* This Standard amends AASB 7 and AASB 9 as a consequence of the issuance of IFRS *Contracts Referencing Nature-dependent Electricity* (Amendments to IFRS 9 and IFRS 7) by the International Accounting Standards Board in December 2024. There is no financial impact.	1 Jan 2026

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
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

9.2 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:

Compensation band ($)	**2026**	**2025**
450,001 – 500,000	1	1
300,001 – 350,000	3	1
250,001 – 300,000	4	4
200,001 – 250,000	4	6
150,001 – 200,000	0	2
100,001 – 150,000	1	1

	2026 ($000)	**2025 ($000)**
Short-term employee benefits	2,872	2,988
Post-employment benefits	347	360
Other long-term benefits	341	342
Termination benefits	0	0
Total compensation of senior officers	**3,560**	**3,690**

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

9.3 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 Housing and Works 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 leased from the Department of Housing and Works 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 9.7);

• Royalties for Regions Fund (Note 4.1) and equity injections from Royalties for Regions Funds (Note 9.7); and

• remuneration for services provided by the Auditor General (Note 9.6).

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.

9.4 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.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Conservation and Parks Commission	208	187
Balance at end of period	**208**	**187**

9.5 Special purpose accounts

Biodiversity Conservation Account (a)

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

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Balance at start of period	**930**	**850**
Receipts	77	80
Payments	0	0
Balance at end of period	**1,007**	**930**

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.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Balance at start of period	**3,793**	**3,689**
Receipts	3,196	3,143
Payments	(2,371)	(3,039)
Balance at end of period	**4,618**	**3,793**

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.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Balance at start of period	**7,614**	**7,281**
Receipts	1,943	1,895
Payments	(1,486)	(1,562)
Balance at end of period	**8,071**	**7,614**

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.

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Balance at start of period	**399**	**681**
Receipts	43	29
Payments	(235)	(311)
Balance at end of period	**207**	**399**

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

9.6 Remuneration of auditors

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

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Auditing the accounts, financial statements, controls, and key performance indicators	553	492

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
9.7 Equity		
Contributed equity		
Balance at start of period	3,388,933	3,303,885
Contributions by owners		
Capital appropriation	140,434	105,959
Other contributions by owners		
Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account	3,650	10,234
Climate Action Funding	5,953	0
Digital Capability Fund	350	0
Transfer of net assets from other agencies		
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	11,625	22,947
Total contributions by owners	**162,012**	**139,140**
Distributions to owners		
Transfer of net assets to other agencies:		
Department of Treasury and Finance	(5,500)	(434)
Rottnest Island Authority	(86,543)	(37,469)
Zoological Parks Authority	(4,810)	(16,090)
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	(108)	(99)
Total distributions to owners	**(96,961)**	**(54,092)**
Total contributed equity at end of period	**3,453,984**	**3,388,933**

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Reserves		
Balance at the start of period	1,301,642	985,980
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	618,013	305,558
Buildings	10,365	10,104
Total reserves at end of period	**1,930,020**	**1,301,642**

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Accumulated surplus		
Balance at the start of period	134,134	139,560
Result for the period	9,045	(5,426)
Total accumulated surplus at end of period	**143,179**	**134,134**

9.8 Supplementary financial information

(a) Write-offs

During the financial year, $1,320 (2025: $16,928) was written off as bad debts and $88,362 (2025: $125,871) of the Department's asset and public property register under the authority of:

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
The Accountable Authority	90	143
The Minister	0	0
The Treasurer	0	0
Balance at end of period	**90**	**143**

The amount approved for write off during the year of $88,362 (2025: $133,507) relates to losses through theft, defaults and other causes disclosed at note 9.9(b) below. The total amount written off is comprised of separate matters that are below the threshold that would require the Minister's approval.

(b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

	2026 ($000)	2025 ($000)
Losses of public money and other property through theft or default	89	134
Amounts recovered	0	0
Balance at end of period	**89**	**134**

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 2026, and between the actual results for 2026 and 2025 are shown below. "2026 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 2026 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 Variances	**Variance note**	**Estimate 2026[1] ($000)**	**Actual 2026 ($000)**	**Actual 2025 ($000)**	**Variance between actual and estimate ($000)**	**Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 ($000)**
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense	A	258,405	277,440	243,147	19,035	34,293
Supplies and services		122,832	125,783	125,579	2,951	204
Depreciation expense	1,B	35,795	50,464	41,707	14,669	8,757
Accommodation expenses		3,357	3,264	3,457	(93)	(193)
Grants and subsidies	2,C	33,831	69,182	80,722	35,351	(11,540)
Other expenses	D	44,599	43,003	67,357	(1,596)	(24,354)
Finance costs		2,412	3,097	1,992	685	1,105
Total cost of services		501,231	572,233	563,961	71,002	8,272

	Variance note	**Estimate 2026[1] ($000)**	**Actual 2026 ($000)**	**Actual 2025 ($000)**	**Variance between actual and estimate ($000)**	**Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 ($000)**
Income						
Revenue						
User charges and fees	3	34,686	42,953	43,496	8,267	(543)
Commonwealth grants		4,619	9,352	6,544	4,733	2,808
Other grants		11,904	12,844	13,842	940	(998)
Interest income		1,960	6,317	6,073	4,357	244
Other income	4	5,326	11,511	14,882	6,185	(3,371)
Gain on disposal of non-current assets		0	453	266	453	187
Total Income		**58,495**	**83,430**	**85,103**	**24,935**	**(1,673)**
NET COST OF SERVICES		**442,736**	**488,803**	**478,858**	**46,067**	**9,945**
Income from State Government						
Service appropriation	5	376,344	423,711	398,726	47,367	24,985
Income from other public sector entities	6	25,846	35,801	33,375	9,955	2,426
Resources received		1,493	1,366	1,741	(127)	(375)
Royalties for Regions Fund		36,301	34,742	39,590	(1,559)	(4,848)
Asset Maintenance Fund		2,228	2,228	0	0	2,228
Total income from State Government		**442,212**	**497,848**	**473,432**	**55,636**	**24,416**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		**(524)**	**9,045**	**(5,426)**	**9,569**	**14,471**

	Variance note	Estimate 2026[1] ($000)	Actual 2026 ($000)	Actual 2025 ($000)	Variance between actual and estimate ($000)	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 ($000)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss						
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		0	628,378	315,662	628,378	312,716
Total other comprehensive income		**0**	**628,378**	**315,662**	**628,378**	**312,716**
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		**(524)**	**637,423**	**310,236**	**637,947**	**327,187**

Major Estimate and Actual (2026) Variance Narratives

1. Depreciation and amortisation expense exceeded estimates by $14.67 million (40.98%) mainly due to increased tourism infrastructure completed.
2. Grants and subsidies exceeded estimates by $35.35 million (104.49%) 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. User charges and fees exceeded estimates by $8.27 million (23.83%) mainly due to increased park passes and camping activity.
4. Other income is higher than estimates by $6.19 million (116.13%) due to higher mining compensation, carbon credit sales and insurance refunds.
5. Service appropriation exceeded estimates by $47.37 million (12.59%) 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. Additional appropriation received linked to supplementary funding for bushfire suppression.
6. Income from other public sector entities exceeds estimates by $9.96 million (38.52%) 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 (2026) and Comparative (2025) Variance Narratives

A. Employee benefits expense increased by $34.29 million (14.10%) is higher than the prior year due to expanded Plan for Our Parks program. Increase is also partly due to the impact of increased superannuation rate in the 2025-26 period and increase in salaries linked to award agreements with flow on impact to leave provisions.

B. Depreciation and amortisation expense increased by $8.76 million (21.00%) due to increased tourism infrastructure completed.
C. Grants and subsidies decreased by $11.54 million (14.30%) partly due to reduced annual grant payments (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority and reduced payments under the Aboriginal Ranger program.
D. Other expenses decreased by $24.35 million (36.16%) 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 made in the previous year. Less financial liabilities recognised in the current financial year.

10.1.2 Statement of Financial Position Variances	Variance note	Estimate 2026[1] ($000)	Actual 2026 ($000)	Actual 2025 ($000)	Variance between actual and estimate ($000)	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 ($000)
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		12,015	20,829	19,433	8,814	1,396
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		77,191	162,703	126,924	85,512	35,779
Inventories		2,736	7,446	6,414	4,711	1,033
Receivables		11,585	12,413	23,441	828	(11,028)
Amounts receivable for services		11,300	11,300	11,300	0	0
Other current assets		13,675	2,666	2,235	(11,009)	431
Non-current assets held for sale		12	24	27	12	(3)
Total Current Assets		**128,514**	**217,381**	**189,774**	**88,868**	**27,608**

10.1.2 Statement of Financial Position Variances	Variance note	Estimate 2026[1] ($000)	Actual 2026 ($000)	Actual 2025 ($000)	Variance between actual and estimate ($000)	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 ($000)
Non-Current Assets						
Receivables		8,713	6,782	6,348	(1,931)	434
Amounts receivable for services		350,890	352,489	326,396	1,599	26,093
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	1,A	4,220,525	5,095,328	4,442,971	874,803	652,357
Right-of-use assets		16,727	27,406	21,553	10,679	5,853
Total Non-Current Assets		**4,596,855**	**5,482,005**	**4,797,268**	**885,150**	**684,737**
TOTAL ASSETS		**4,725,369**	**5,699,386**	**4,987,042**	**974,017**	**712,344**
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Payables		31,701	23,809	25,927	(7,892)	(2,118)
Lease liabilities		6,707	9,834	7,832	3,127	2,002
Employee related provisions		53,462	56,120	49,570	2,658	6,550
Other current liabilities		16,203	23,180	22,628	6,977	552
Total Current Liabilities		**108,073**	**112,943**	**105,957**	**4,870**	**6,986**
Non-Current Liabilities						
Lease liabilities		10,368	18,026	13,776	7,658	4,250
Employee related provisions		5,435	6,270	5,284	835	986
Other non-current liabilities		38,441	34,964	37,316	(3,477)	(2,352)
Total Non-Current Liabilities		**54,244**	**59,260**	**56,376**	**5,016**	**2,884**

10.1.2 Statement of Financial Position Variances cont'd	Variance note	Estimate 2026[1] ($000)	Actual 2026 ($000)	Actual 2025 ($000)	Variance between actual and estimate ($000)	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 ($000)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**162,317**	**172,203**	**162,333**	**9,886**	**9,870**
NET ASSETS		**4,563,052**	**5,527,183**	**4,824,709**	**964,131**	**702,474**
EQUITY						
Contributed equity		3,483,125	3,453,984	3,388,933	(29,141)	65,051
Reserves	2,B	985,980	1,930,020	1,301,642	944,040	628,378
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		93,947	143,179	134,134	49,232	9,045
TOTAL EQUITY		**4,563,052**	**5,527,183**	**4,824,709**	**964,131**	**702,474**

Major Estimate and Actual (2026) Variance Narratives

1,A. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment exceeded estimates by $874.80 million (20.73%) and increased by $652.36 million (14.68%) 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 $23.97 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. $11.63 million in land assets were transferred from Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, $50.68 million in assets were added and $39.38 million in depreciation was recorded in the 2025-26 period.
2,B. Reserves exceeded estimates by $944.04 million (95.75%) and increased by $628.38 million (48.28%) 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 2026[1] ($000)	Actual 2026 ($000)	Actual 2025 ($000)	Variance between actual and estimate ($000)	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 ($000)
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation	1	340,899	386,318	363,049	45,419	23,269
Capital appropriations	2,A	90,195	140,434	105,959	50,239	34,475
Holding account drawdown		11,300	11,300	11,300	0	0
Non-retained revenue distributed to owner	3,B	0	(96,961)	(54,092)	(96,961)	(42,869)
Funds from other public sector entities	4,C	25,846	41,376	30,972	15,530	10,404
Royalties for Regions Fund	5,D	52,670	38,392	49,824	(14,278)	(11,432)
Climate Action Funding	E	3,275	5,953	0	2,678	5,953
Asset Maintenance Fund		2,228	2,228	0	0	2,228
Digital Capability Fund		0	350	0	350	350
Net cash provided by State Government		**526,413**	**529,390**	**507,012**	**2,977**	**22,378**
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Employee benefits	F	(258,133)	(268,530)	(241,305)	(10,397)	(27,225)
Supplies and services		(125,917)	(128,216)	(123,494)	(2,299)	(4,722)
Accommodation		(3,602)	(3,264)	(3,457)	338	193
Grants and subsidies	6,G	(37,159)	(69,182)	(80,722)	(32,023)	11,540
GST payments on purchases	7	(13,322)	(24,264)	(26,770)	(10,942)	2,506
Other payments	8	(36,453)	(45,355)	(48,879)	(8,902)	3,524
Finance costs		(2,412)	(3,096)	(1,992)	(684)	(1,104)

10.1.3 Statement of Cash Flows Variance	Variance note	Estimate 2026[1] ($000)	Actual 2026 ($000)	Actual 2025 ($000)	Variance between actual and estimate ($000)	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 ($000)
Receipts						
User charges and fees	9,H	34,686	43,671	36,939	8,985	6,732
Commonwealth grants	10	749	8,372	8,605	7,623	(233)
Interest received		1,960	6,203	5,623	4,243	580
GST receipts on sales		7,827	6,149	5,984	(1,678)	165
GST receipts from taxation authority	11	5,500	19,630	19,582	14,130	48
Other receipts	I	21,867	26,529	36,012	4,662	(9,483)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		**(404,409)**	**(431,353)**	**(413,874)**	**(26,944)**	**(17,479)**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	12,J	(120,017)	(50,433)	(73,149)	69,584	22,716
Receipts						
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		500	1,086	1,155	586	(69)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		**(119,517)**	**(49,347)**	**(71,994)**	**70,170**	**22,647**
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Principal repayments of lease liabilities		(6,358)	(10,658)	(8,710)	(4,300)	(1,948)
Payment to accrued salaries account		0	(857)	(876)	(857)	19
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		**(6,358)**	**(11,515)**	**(9,586)**	**(5,157)**	**(1,929)**

10.1.3 Statement of Cash Flows Variance cont'd	Variance note	Estimate 2026[1] ($000)	Actual 2026 ($000)	Actual 2025 ($000)	Variance between actual and estimate ($000)	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 ($000)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(3,871)	37,175	11,558	41,046	25,617
Change in classification of cash and cash equivalents		0	0	0	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		**93,077**	**146,357**	**134,799**	**53,280**	**11,558**
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD		**89,206**	**183,532**	**146,357**	**94,326**	**37,175**

Major Estimate and Actual (2026) Variance Narratives

1. Service appropriation exceeded estimates by $45.42 million (13.32%) due to receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
2. Capital appropriations exceeded estimates by $50.24 million (55.70%) 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 $96.96 million due to distribution of capital appropriation to statutory authorities and redistribution of funds to Treasury.
4. Funds from other public entities exceeded estimates by $15.53 million (60.09%) mainly due to recoup of bushfire suppression costs.
5. Royalties for Regions Fund is under estimates by $14.28 million (27.11%) due to lower drawdowns than expected.
6. Grants and subsidies exceeded estimates by $32.02 million (86.18%) due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
7. GST payments on purchases exceeded estimates by $10.94 million (82.13%) 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.
8. Other payments exceeded estimates by $8.90 million (24.42%) mainly due to bushfire suppression costs incurred during the 2025-26 fire season.
9. User charges and fees exceeded estimates by $8.99 million (25.90%) mainly due to increased park passes and camping activity and lower debtors position in 2025-26 compared to the previous reporting period.

10. Commonwealth grants exceeded estimates by $7.62 million (1,017.76%) mainly due to Commonwealth Urban Rivers and Catchment funding and Commonwealth grants linked to conservation management.
11. GST receipts from taxation authority exceeded estimates by $14.13 million (256.91%) due to increases in camping and park passes revenue that hasn't been factored into the GST baseline in the department's estimates.
12. Purchase of non-current physical assets is under estimates by $69.58 million (57.98%) due to underspends in the department's capital assets program.

Major Actual (2026) and Comparative (2025) Variance Narratives

A. Capital appropriations increased by $34.48 million (32.54%) due to increased capital appropriation received by the Department then transferred to Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority for infrastructure upgrades.
B. Non-retained revenue distributed to owners increased by $42.87 million (74.25%) partly due to increased capital appropriation transferred to Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
C. Funds from other public entities exceeded estimates by $10.40 million (33.59%) mainly due to receipt of recoup of bushfire suppression costs.
D. Royalties for Regions decreased by $11.43 million (22.94%) and is linked to lower drawdowns than prior year for programs such as the Aboriginal Ranger program.
E. Climate Action funding increased by $5.95 million and was drawn down to implement priorities of the Ministerial Taskforce on Climate Action.
F. Employee benefits increased by $27.23 million (11.28%) partly due to additional staff linked to Plan for Our Parks, annual increase in salaries linked to awards and the % increase in superannuation in the 2025-26 period.
G. Grants and subsidies decreased by $11.54 million (14.30%) partly due to less appropriation transferred to the statutory authorities.
H. User charges and Fees increased by $6.73 million (18.22%) partly due to reduced debtors position at year end compared to the prior reporting period.
I. Other receipts decreased by $9.48 million (26.33%) partly due to a decrease in mining compensation received for the clearance of forest.
J. Purchases of non-current physical assets decreased by $22.72 million (31.05%) due to underspends in the department's capital assets program.

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 2026, and between the actual results for 2026 and 2025 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 2026[1] ($000)	Actual 2026 ($000)	Actual 2025 ($000)	Variance between estimate and actual ($000)	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 ($000)
INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS						
Income						
For transfer:						
Regulatory fees and other charges	1),A	30	44	65	14	(21)
Gains on valuation of biological assets[a]	2),B	0	685	0	685	685
Total administered income		**30**	**729**	**65**	**699**	**664**
Expenses						
Loss on valuation of biological assets[a]	2),B	0	0	524	0	(524)
Transfer payments[b]	1) ,A	30	44	65	14	(21)
Total administered expenses		**30**	**44**	**589**	**14**	**(545)**
Net income from Administered Items		**0**	**685**	**(524)**	**685**	**1,209**

[1] These estimates are published in the State Budget 2025-26, Budget Papers No.2 'Budget Statements'.
[a] Biological assets represent wild sandalwood.
[b] Transfer payments represent the transfer of non retainable regulatory fees to the Consolidated Account.

Major estimate and actual (2026) variance narratives

1) Regulatory fees are $14k (46.67%) 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 (2026) and comparative (2025) variance narratives

A) Regulatory fees and other charges decreased by $21k (32.31%) 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 an increment of $685k (2025: decrement of $524k). The sandalwood valuation increase is partly due to positive earnings forecast when compared to the prior year.



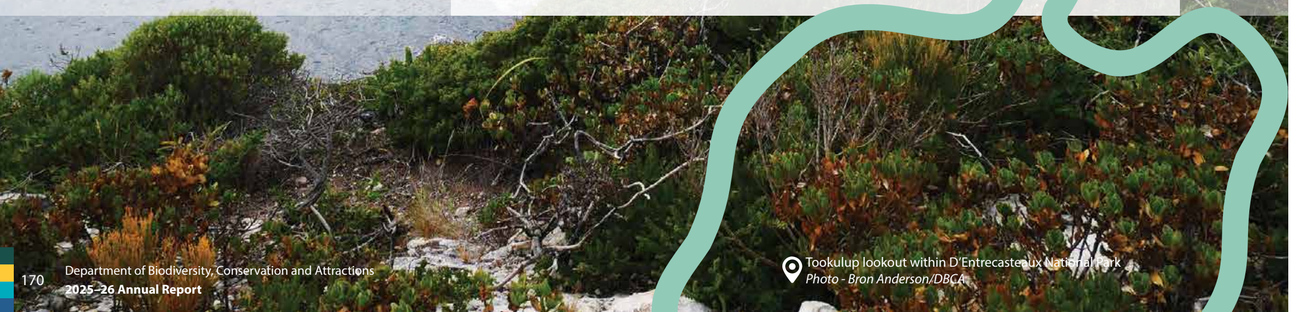
AUDITED KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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 2026.

Stuart Smith
Accountable Authority

14 September 2026



Tookulup lookout within D'Entrecasteaux National Park
Photo - Bron Anderson/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 Canning Riverpark**	
		Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan Canning Riverpark	**Key efficiency indicator** 4.1 Average cost per hectare in the Swan 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** 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 or conservation advice[1] 2. Area of land baited for introduced predators	**Key efficiency indicator** 6.1 Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat
		7. Research and Conservation Partnerships	
			Key efficiency indicator 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** 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** 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** 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.

[1]Key Effectiveness Indicator was modified in the 2025-26 reporting period to include conservation advice, taking effect from the 2025-26 reporting period. The modification was approved by the Under Treasurer under TI 3 – Financial Sustainability – requirement 5.2.

The 2026-27 budget statements for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions features different service numbers to align with the new Government Goals 'Building Safe and Inclusive Communities' and 'Protecting and Restoring Our Environment'. The new service numbers will be presented in the 2026-27 annual report. The underlying service lines have not changed.

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 Canning Riverpark

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%
Actual	82.20%	80.90%	85.40%	92.30%	88.80%

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.

In the 2025-26 reporting period, the methodology of the survey collection was adjusted to include one survey collection period during summer and a second survey collection period in winter. The survey completion method was changed from an intercept, interviewer administered survey to an intercept, self-complete survey. Both changes were made to reduce the impact of seasonal and interviewer bias. The additional survey collection period has allowed increased surveys to be collected increasing the representative nature of the sample. The Department of Treasury and Finance was notified of the change in methodology in the 2025-26 reporting period. The department determined that the adjustment to the methodology did not constitute a modification to the Key Effectiveness Indicator under Treasury Guidance 3 Financial Sustainability.

The surveys were conducted at 25 selected river foreshore parks within the Riverpark with a total of 415 intercept surveys undertaken. All the surveys are conducted on site using a questionnaire administered via iPad. Participation was voluntary, with respondents approached through an intercept method. All respondents received the same set of questions, in the same order, and typically completed the survey in a timeframe of three to five 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. Average satisfaction score was calculated by adding the total of all scores and dividing by the total number of respondents. The average satisfaction score was 6.2. This score was converted to a percentage (88.8 per cent) to enable comparison with the target of 85 per cent. The confidence level was 95 per cent with a margin of error being 5 per cent.

The average level of visitor satisfaction surpasses this year's target by 3.8 per cent, compared to 7.3 per cent last year. This year's samples were collected during summer and winter, to address seasonal bias, whereas previous years have been collected exclusively in summer. Satisfaction scores were higher in summer than in winter (90.4 per cent compared to 87.3 per cent), suggesting that seasonal bias may partly explain the higher results reported last year.

Furthermore, the survey method was changed from interviewer-administered to self-complete to reduce interviewer bias. The presence of interviewers can increase social desirability bias, where respondents tend to provide more agreeable or favourable answers. This can lead to inflated positive responses in face-to-face surveys. The shift to self-complete surveys may therefore further explain the lower average satisfaction compared to last year.

Results remain higher than in previous years (2021–2022 and 2022-23), which may be partially attributed to a change in question order introduced in 2023-24, whereby the satisfaction question was asked first.

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.

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	90.00%	90.00%	90.00%	91.00%	94.00%
Actual	94.57%	94.42%	93.40%	93.71%	93.09%

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 (993 in 2025-26; confidence level 95%; margin of error 0.8%) 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.

Four parks were not included in 2025-2026 survey. These locations represented 130 surveys of a total of 1,155 (11%) allocated survey. Based on prior year results, this had no statistical significance to the final result calculated.

The level of satisfaction for 2025-26 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 or conservation advice

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	72.00%	72.00%	72.00%	70.00%	70.00%
Actual	74.60%	72.50%	70.02%	70.02%	*
Actual – conservation advice added	95.57%	92.44%	89.94%	90.54%	89.06%

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 or conservation advice 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.

'Proportion of critically endangered and endangered species and ecological communities that have a recovery plan or conservation advice' is the modified KEI for services 6 and 7 intended for reporting effective from the 2025-26 reporting period. The inclusion of conservation advices allows for more fulsome reporting on the status of actions being taken to recover threatened species and ecological communities. Conservation advices offer similar guidance as that contained in a recovery plan to stakeholders and the public on recovery actions needed to mitigate threats and facilitate recovery of a threatened species. Their advantage is they can be updated relatively quickly providing greater flexibility to respond to changing circumstances.

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 were fifteen net additional threatened species added in 2025-26 (five flora, nine fauna and one ecological community) and two recovery plans were added. The KEI was modified during the 2025-26 reporting period and the 2025-26 target could not be adjusted as a result. The 2026-27 budget target was set at 87.80% and the 2025-26 estimated actual, at the time of the 2026-27 budget, was set at 89.65%. The result in the 2025-26 reporting period is within a reasonable range of the estimated actual and future target.

*The key effectiveness (KEI) indicator was revised in the 2025-26 reporting period to include 'conservation advice' in addition to recovery plans. The amendment was approved by the Under Treasurer in accordance with TI 3 – Financial Sustainability – Requirement 5.2. Comparative results have been restated and disclosed where practicable.

2. Area of land baited for introduced predators

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	4,012,681 ha	3,822,539 ha	3,875,015 ha	3,861,612 ha	4,922,061 ha
Actual	3,875,015 ha	3,880,798 ha	3,923,225 ha	4,142,839 ha	4,764,000 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 2025-26, includes existing baited areas under the Western Shield program, with some expansion of existing cells. 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; Millstream (239,400 ha), Watheroo (60,300 ha) and Wanjarri (55,800 ha).

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

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	1,528,000 m^3	1,719,000 m^3	1,910,000 m^3	n.a.	n.a.
Actual	1,072,540 m^3	1,166,569 m^3	1,230,523 m^3	n.a.	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.

The Treasurer provided direction under section 61(1)b of the Financial Management Act to report no key effectiveness indicator for outcome 3 for 2025-26. A new key effectiveness indicator *The proportion of candidate forest enhancement areas on the annual ecological thinning plan that have an approved biodiversity and silvicultural plan* has been approved by the Under Treasurer under section 61(1)(b) of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and Treasurer's Instruction (TI) 3 Financial Sustainability in the 2026-27 budget statements and will be presented in the 2026-27 reporting year. The new key effectiveness indicator will be reported against outcome 3.

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

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	55%	55%	55%	55%	55%
Actual	37%	49%	37%	48%	50%

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 than target proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns was achieved because suitable prescribed burning conditions were available for an extended period in the northern south-west rather than evenly distributed across the state's forested area. This resulted in more opportunity to undertake a range of prescribed burns including priority 2 and 3 across Autumn 2026. Despite the limited opportunities in delivering in the more southern parts of the forest area, there was a two per cent increase of Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved in 2025-26 compared to 2024-25.

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.

	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
Actual	79%	86%	76%	85%	86%

Note to indicator: This indicator relates to bushfires in the South West where the department is the initial attack agency. Compared to 2024-25, there was a one 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

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.

	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	$2,323	$2,455	$3,016	$2,936
Actual	$2,313	$2,361	$2,939	$2,931

Note to indicator: The actual average cost per hectare is consistent with the 2025-26 target with the difference being 0.18 per cent.

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.

Service five supports the delivery of a world-class parks system for Western Australia by connecting people and community to nature, culture and heritage. By working together with Aboriginal peoples and partnering with communities, volunteers, stakeholders and industry, the service delivers inclusive visitor experiences, meaningful engagement and conservation outcomes across lands and waters managed by the department.

	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	$4.56	$4.85	$6.12	$6.39
Actual	$5.05	$5.53	$6.63	$6.16

Note to indicator: The actual average cost per hectare to manage national parks and other lands and waters is lower than the prior year actual partly due to lower expenditure on the state-wide Aboriginal Ranger Program. In 2025-26, lower financial liabilities were recognised than prior year. Financial liabilities represent the present value of direct monetary payments promised to external parties under indigenous land use agreements.

Total land and waters under the department's care and management (hectares) utilised in the key efficiency indicator calculation for the 2025-26 reporting period was 34,491,958 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.

	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	$2.05	$1.91	$2.08	$2.50
Actual	$2.25	$2.46	$2.71	$3.03

Note to indicator: The actual average cost per hectare of conserving wildlife habitat, species and ecological communities has increased from prior year and against the target due to the increased conservation activity linked to additional indigenous land use agreements and joint management agreements the department is involved with. Plan for Our Parks costs have been reallocated from Visitor Services to reflect the expenditure incurred on conservation activities as the initiative progresses. Average cost per hectare has also increased against target due to additional funding secured for the Healthy Oceans program that is paid out as a grant.

Total land and waters under the department's care and management (hectares) utilised in the key efficiency indicator calculation for the 2025-26 reporting period was 34,491,958 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.

	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	$0.64	$0.56	$0.59	$0.62
Actual	$0.55	$0.49	$0.58	$0.70

Note to indicator: This measure is higher than the 2025-26 target and is higher than the prior year measure due to increased employee benefits expense and supplies and services 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 2025-26 reporting period was 34,491,958 hectares.

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	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	$16.54	$45.13	$14.50	$14.89
Actual	$16.91	$19.78	$12.23	$13.21

Note to indicator: The actual average cost per hectare of forest is lower than the target due to underspends in the implementation of the Forest Management Plan and is higher than the prior year due to increases in employee benefits expense.

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.

	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	$14.62	$13.80	$15.89	$12.10
Actual	$11.05	$9.12	$12.02	$6.41

Note to indicator: The department treated 11,395,591 hectares of land through its prescribed burning program compared to 5,056,369 hectares in the prior year. The total cost of service for prescribed burning increased due to favourable autumn weather conditions that enabled safe conditions to undertake more prescribed burning. This resulted in a lower average cost compared to the target and the previous financial year.

Service 10: Bushfire Suppression

10.1 Average cost per hectare burnt

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

	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Target	$13.26	$17.81	$18.01	$21.30
Actual	$59.54	$14.46	$62.60	$20.46

Note to indicator: The total area burnt by bushfires to which the department contributed a suppression response in 2025-26 was 3,531,349 hectares. This compares to 1,110, 970 hectares for the 2024-25 period. The previous financial year included significant fires in the Donnelly district in February and March, with the Chesapeake bushfire complex running for 34 days.

The department sought supplementary funding during the 2025-26 year to cover costs linked to significant fires across the bushfire season including the Nerren Nerren, Depot Hill, Woolmulla and Dongara bushfires in the Midwest Region, the Boddington, Urbrae Scott, Perth Hills Complex and Mogumber bushfires in the Swan Region, the Lake Jasper and Goonac bushfires in the South West Region, the Fitzgerald River National Park bushfires in the South Coast Region and the Dunn Rock Nature Reserve bushfire in the Wheatbelt Region.

Of particular note was the South Coast Bushfire Complex including both the Telegraph Track and Dunn Rock Nature Reserve bushfires, which were started from lightning strikes on 16 January 2026. The fires were contained late January. They burnt a combined area of approximately 200,388 hectares. At its peak, the response involved two pre-formed team deployments of up to 160 firefighters and 60 incident management personnel as part of an interagency response.



Gathercole Nature Reserve
Photo - Bronwyn Wells /DBCA



Whale Shark, Ningaloo Marine Park



Kennedy Range National Park
Photo - Amanda Smith/DBCA

2026_616