

ANNUAL *Report* 2014





Our role • Manage the sustainable use and protection of Tasmania's natural resources – its water, air, land, plants, animals and fisheries • Help to grow competitive primary industries and food sectors • Contribute to the management and preservation of Tasmania's natural and cultural heritage • Maintain essential land and resource information infrastructure • Deliver ready access to government services via the Service Tasmania shop network.

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An electronic version of this report is available on our website at
www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au
or contact the Department on 1300 368 550

16 October 2014

Hon. Matthew Groom MP
Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage

Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Dear Ministers

In accordance with the requirements of section 36 of the *State Service Act 2000* and section 27 of the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990*, I am pleased to submit, for presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment for the year ending 30 June 2014.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *State Service Act 2000* and the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Whittington', written in a cursive style.

John Whittington
Secretary

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Navigating this report

For ease of access the focus of the key sections of this report for the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) are explained below.

Chapter	Purpose	Page No.
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Role, aim and objectives	This chapter provides a description of DPIPWE's role, aim and objectives as outlined in the DPIPWE Corporate Plan 2011-2014.	6
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Financial information	This chapter outlines the 2013-14 Financial Statements and the Report of the Auditor-General.	167
Glossary and indexes	These chapters include a guide to acronyms and indexes to assist in accessing specific information.	256

Secretary's report

Following the March Tasmanian election, DPIPWE worked with the new State Government in delivering its plan for the 'First 100 Days in Office'.

Several major projects were identified as immediate priorities for DPIPWE.

Expressions of interest (EOI) were called for sensitive and appropriate tourism development in the State's national parks and reserves, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. AgriGrowth Tasmania - a specialised Division to dramatically increase farm gate value - was established, a review of State and local government regulations in the agriculture sector was initiated, and Biosecurity Tasmania was created to strengthen Tasmania's front line against the threat of exotic weeds, pests and diseases.

The EOI process will be conducted over two stages. Stage 1 will be an invitation to submit a proposed development and will be led by DPIPWE. Stage 2 will be a request by the Minister for a detailed proposal from selected participants and will be coordinated from the new office of the Coordinator General but with considerable support from DPIPWE.

The establishment of the AgriGrowth Tasmania Division will promote a whole-of-government approach to growing Tasmania's primary industries. Links between industry and Government will be strengthened to provide responsive and targeted support to build production, skills, markets and the Tasmanian brand.

The regulatory review of the agricultural sector will identify overlaps or duplication that could be removed to create a simpler system. In particular, the evaluation of the *Primary Industry Activities Protection Act 1995* is aimed at giving certainty to primary producers in undertaking their everyday business and managing their farming operations.

As part of the new Government's focus, DPIPWE also established Biosecurity Tasmania as a new Division of the Department. A merger of the Invasive Species Branch with the Biosecurity and Product Integrity Division, Biosecurity Tasmania is focused on enhancing the State's ability to monitor, prevent and respond to the threats and risks of introduced pests and diseases. The Division covers the biosecurity spectrum from pre-border to post-border, policy and legislation, risk assessment, research, diagnostics and response. Biosecurity Tasmania has been tasked to review all legislation under its remit.

These critical projects were delivered at the same time as providing comprehensive briefing material to the new Government about DPIPWE, its role and its financial position. This package included background on topical and significant issues and advice on how new policy commitments might be implemented.

Before his secondment to help establish the Department of State Growth after the State election, DPIPWE Secretary Kim Evans oversaw a range of major Agency achievements during the year. These included:

- Development of a prototype walkers' hut for the Three Capes Track and significant progress on Stage 2 of the track incorporating in Cape Pillar.
- A declaration of 'unqualified success' for the Macquarie Island Pest Eradication Program with the completion of a rigorous baiting and monitoring campaign showing no sign of rabbits, rats or mice.
- A ban on retailers supplying lightweight plastic shopping bags from 1 November 2013.
- The development of a comprehensive issues paper to support the review of the State's moratorium on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).
- The delivery of the \$10 million Kindred North Motton Irrigation Scheme, the sixth in a string of irrigation schemes to boost agricultural activity.
- The launch of the Natural Heritage Strategy to direct the Agency's future conservation and environmental biosecurity work.
- The passing by State Parliament of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Amendment Bill 2012* after a lengthy and complex public consultation process.

- The proclamation of 221 000 ha of former forestry reserves into conservation and regional reserves to be managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service. The restructure of Forestry Tasmania saw more than 40 staff recruited to the Parks and Wildlife Service and DPIPWE Corporate Services.

John Whittington
Secretary

Role, aim and objectives

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) is responsible for the sustainable management, sensible development, promotion, use and protection of the State's natural resources and cultural heritage, for the benefit of the Tasmanian community.

Our role

- Manage the sustainable use and protection of Tasmania's natural resources – its water, air, land, plants, animals and fisheries.
- Help to grow competitive primary industries and food sectors.
- Contribute to the management and preservation of Tasmania's natural and cultural heritage.
- Maintain essential land and resource information infrastructure.
- Deliver ready access to government services via the *Service Tasmania* shop network.

Our aim

We aim to contribute to the achievement of four major outcomes for Tasmanians:

- a compelling sense of place,
- a healthy lifestyle,
- a strong economy,
- a credible Tasmanian brand.

Our objectives

We have 12 objectives that help us to achieve our aim:

- Maintain, and where appropriate, improve the condition of Tasmania's natural resources.
- Facilitate the sustainable development of Tasmania's natural resources.
- Help to grow Tasmania's primary industries and food sectors.
- Ensure a healthy environment for all Tasmanians.
- Sustainably manage Tasmania's national parks and reserve system.
- Support the recognition, protection and management of Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage.
- Support the recognition, protection and management of Tasmania's historic heritage.
- Build-on and protect the Tasmanian brand credentials.
- Maintain the security of land tenure in Tasmania.
- Provide ready access to accurate and meaningful land and resource information.
- Efficiently deliver government services statewide via the *Service Tasmania* shop network.
- Build an efficient and effective organisation.

Output Groups and Outputs

We deliver services under nine Output Groups.

Output Group 1: Information and Land Services

- Output 1.1 Land Titles, Survey and Mapping Services
- Output 1.2 Valuation Services
- Output 1.3 *Service Tasmania*

Output Group 2: Primary Industries

- Output 2.1 AgriGrowth Tasmania
- Output 2.2 Marine Resources

Output Group 3: Resource Management and Conservation

- Output 3.1 Land Management Services
- Output 3.2 Conservation of Tasmania's Flora and Fauna

Output Group 4: Water Resources

- Output 4.1 Water Resource Management
- Output 4.2 Water Resource Assessment

Output Group 5: Policy

- Output 5.1 Policy Advice

Output Group 6: Biosecurity Tasmania

- Output 6.1 Biosecurity
- Output 6.2 Product Integrity

Output Group 7: Environment Protection and Analytical Services

- Output 7.1 Environmental and Pollution Control
- Output 7.2 Analytical Services

Output Group 8: Parks and Wildlife Management

- Output 8.1 Parks and Wildlife Management
- Output 8.2 Crown Land Services

Output Group 9: Heritage

- Output 9.1 Historic Heritage Services
- Output 9.2 Aboriginal Heritage
- Output 9.3 Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

The Department reports to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, and the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, Hon Matthew Groom MP.

A detailed outline of the relationship between our Output Groups and Outputs and our organisational structure can be found in the Organisational structure segment (refer page 118).

Snapshot of financial performance

Funding Sources and Application

The Financial Statements are reported against two categories, namely 'controlled' activities and 'administered' activities.

Controlled activities are those that relate to an agency's operational objectives, where the agency exercises significant discretion and direction over these activities. Administered transactions relate to activities that are administered on behalf of government, where an agency has no discretion to alter the resources provided or determine how they are spent.

'**Controlled revenue**' totals \$265 million for 2013-14.

The Department is predominantly funded by appropriation revenue, revenue from Special Capital Investment Funds and Australian Government Funding. For 2013-14 controlled activities, those funding sources totalled \$179 million, which represents approximately 68 per cent of total revenue.

The Department's government funding for 2013-14 is summarised in the following table:

Table 1: Government funding sources

	\$'000
Appropriation revenue - recurrent	125 519
Appropriation revenue – capital works & services	1 246
Revenue from Special Capital Investment Funds	882
Australian Government grants ¹	51 524
Total	179 171

Source: DPIPWE financial records.

Note:

1. Australian Government grants includes \$35.668 million in Water Infrastructure Fund payments transferred to Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd as equity contributions.

Other significant revenue categories include the 'Sales of goods and services' \$18 million and 'Contributions to the running of *Service Tasmania*' \$11 million.

'**Controlled expenses**' totals \$213 million for 2013-14.

The largest expense item is 'Employee benefits', which represents approximately 53 per cent of total controlled expenses. Other significant expense categories include 'Grants and transfer payments' and 'Supplies and consumables', which represent approximately 10 per cent and 24 per cent respectively of total controlled expenses.

The Department's expenditure by Output Group for 2013-14 is summarised in the following table.

Table 2: Output expenditure

Output Group	\$'000
Information and Land Services	30 832
Primary Industries	17 974
Resource Management and Conservation	23 681
Water Resources	10 278
Policy	2 231
Biosecurity Tasmania	22 942
Environment Protection and Analytical Services	17 727
Parks and Wildlife Management	76 108
Heritage	7 882
Capital Investment Program and Special Capital Investment Funds	3 487
Total	213 142
Administered Payments ¹	12 406

Source: DPIPWE financial records.

Note:

1. The Administered Payments figure is for grant payments only, all of which are funded through appropriation.

Asset Revaluations

The Department undertook a valuation of land, buildings and land under buildings above the valuation threshold of \$200 000 during the year. The valuation was performed by the Valuer-General. The resulting changes in the asset values were taken to the Asset Revaluation Reserve. The valuation has resulted in a significant decrease of \$26.634 million in the value of assets in the category of National Parks, Reserves and Crown Land. A large number of the assets comprise large scale tracts of native bush and, with the changes in the timber industry over the last few years, these types of properties have reflected decreases in value.

The Department's heritage assets were also revalued during 2013-14 by the Australian Valuation Office. The resulting change in asset values were recognised as other economic flows in net results. Refer to Note 14 in the Financial Statements for further information on all valuation movements (refer page 237).

Forestry Tasmania Transition

A significant event for the Department occurred through the commencement of the *Forest Management Act 2013* and the *Tasmanian Forests Agreement Act 2013*, which resulted in assets and liabilities being transferred to the Department from Forestry Tasmania, via the Department of Treasury and Finance. The net assets received, totalling \$149 million, are designated as contributions by the Department of Treasury and Finance and adjusted against equity with the Statement of Financial Position. Note 2.8(a) in the Financial Statements provides further information (refer page 187).

Budget Outcome

The Department managed its 2013-14 Consolidated Fund allocation, including meeting budget management savings required as part of the previous 2012-13 State Government budget. Note 8.1 of the Financial Statements on page 219 outlines the movements between the original Consolidated Fund estimate and the actual outcome.

The 2013-14 Comprehensive Result of \$23.983 million was \$4.208 million less than the original budget estimate. Explanations of material variances between the original budget estimate and actual outcomes for the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Cash Flows are discussed in Note 5 of the Financial Statements on page 211.

Output Group performance report

This section assesses our performance against a number of effectiveness indicators for each of our nine Output Groups and key objectives related to those Output Groups. It includes:

- effectiveness indicators identified in the *Budget Paper No.2, Volume 2, 2013–14* for each of our Output Groups;
- additional effectiveness indicators to assist us to measure the impact of the activities and services delivered as part of these Output Groups;
- an analysis of performance against each indicator; and
- a narrative report on key activities contributing to each indicator.

Information about key performance for each of our Output Groups is located as follows:

Output Group 1 – Information and Land Services	p. 17
Output Group 2 – Primary Industries	p. 27
Output Group 3 – Resource Management and Conservation	p. 40
Output Group 4 – Water Resources	p. 54
Output Group 5 – Policy	p. 66
Output Group 6 – Biosecurity Tasmania	p. 71
Output Group 7 – Environment Protection and Analytical Services	p. 87
Output Group 8 – Parks and Wildlife Management	p. 95
Output Group 9 – Heritage	p. 103

Recent Highlights

Output Group 1

Information and Land Services

The Information and Land Services (ILS) Division delivers efficient and effective land and property products and services to Tasmanian enterprises and the community. With the successful completion of the Spatial Information Foundations (SIF) Project and the launch of the new LIST in early 2014, the focus has been on ensuring widespread adoption of these services (including LISTmap) with industries such as real estate and conveyancing.

A program of interactive information sessions has been held across the State. Significant liaison and collaboration has been underway with other government organisations, in particular the Department of State Growth (Mineral Resources Tasmania) and Department of Education, where the geography curriculum is being developed to incorporate LIST mapping tools as key educational resources.

The SIF Project and LIST have won several major awards: *Best Practice in the Public Sector*, awarded by the Institute of Public Administration Australia (Tasmania); the *Government iAward Winner* in the Australian Computer Society (Tasmania) iAwards for technical excellence and innovation in ICT; and the Spatial Information Business Association (SIBA) award for Technical Excellence.

The IT focus of the Government includes a commitment to an open data policy that is being led by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) with significant input from the ILS Division. Increasing access to information and data to industry and the community to generate investment and economic growth has driven the development of key spatial databases such as the LIST. The Division will continue to work closely with Department of Premier and Cabinet DPAC on policy development and the implementation process.

In April 2014, the Government Contact Centre transferred from DPAC to the ILS Division to become part of *Service Tasmania* operations. This represented a key milestone for the Integrated Tasmanian Government Contact Centre (ITGCC) Project, which is establishing an integrated solution for the provision of government information and services to the Tasmanian community. The model revolves around establishing purpose-built contact facilities and functionality within a number of *Service Tasmania* shops.

In March 2014, the Office of the Valuer-General (OVG) gazetted Adjustment Factors for Land Value for all municipal areas for the 2014-15 financial year. The OVG recently completed the market rental valuation of approximately 14 000 properties for Housing Tasmania. Valuation advice has been provided to other Government agencies on a range of property related matters.

Output Group 2

Primary Industries

This Output supports the Government's vision for agriculture (*AgriVision 2050*), being to increase its annual contribution to the Tasmanian economy tenfold to \$10 billion by 2050. It focuses on the Government initiative of *Cultivating Prosperity in Agriculture* through implementation of strategies including skills and innovation facilitation, reducing red and green tape, reviewing the *Primary Industries Protection Act 1995*, developing a Good Neighbour Charter and supporting rural communities.

These strategies are being implemented through the newly formed AgriGrowth Tasmania, a specialist division created within DPIPWE, which formally commenced on 1 July 2014, and is focussed on working with the agriculture industry to advance its prosperity and sustainability.

Through this Output the Government's investment in the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) is administered. This investment is recognition of the importance of research development in underpinning growth in agriculture.

To further the Government's priority of supporting a world class fisheries and seafood sector the major focus for the Marine Resources Group in the past three months has been directed to the growth aspirations of the Tasmanian salmonid marine farming industry. This has been achieved by advancing major amendments to marine farming development plans in the south-eastern region of Tasmania through the statutory planning processes to provide for increased water for the companies to farm.

In addition, the Marine Resources Group has progressed the statutory processes to enable the commercial scallop fishery for 2014 to commence on 1 July. It has also implemented the Minister's decision to grant two exploratory permits under the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* to enable the trial harvesting of Australian sardines while advancing work to develop guidelines to support the Government's commitment to encouraging developmental fisheries.

Output Group 3

Resource Management and Conservation

There have been a number of recent significant achievements by the Resource Management and Conservation Division across the full range of its responsibilities.

Recent monitoring has demonstrated that the translocation of 24 captive bred orange-bellied parrots into the wild in late 2013 was a success, with released birds breeding, and at least one migrating to the Australian mainland. The breeding productivity for 2013-14 was greater than recorded in the previous decade. Due to the success, the wild population will be enhanced in 2014-15 with up to 36 captive bred birds to be released and predator control measures strengthened. The success of the captive breeding program indicates that ongoing translocations will be an important step to increase the chances of survival of this critically endangered species in the wild.

The *Save the Tasmanian Devil Program* (STDP) is investigating the long-term management of wild populations of Tasmanian devils. The STDP is developing practical on-ground management measures to ensure that wild populations are maintained and can recover.

This change in the focus of the STDP is possible due to the successful establishment of the insurance population. The confirmation of second generation breeding of the translocated population of Tasmanian devils on Maria Island in autumn 2014 was a major achievement towards this significant objective.

The STDP continues to build strategic international partnerships to further support conservation activities, with Tasmanian devils sent to zoos in the USA and New Zealand early in the year.

In June 2014, one of the largest private conservation agreements in Tasmanian history was registered on title. The Private Land Conservation Program and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy agreed to the formal registration. The agreement protects in perpetuity 8 800 ha of land on the Central Plateau near Bronte. This single covenant increases the total area of land under formal private conservation agreements in Tasmania by 10 per cent to more than 96 800 ha.

Draft statewide enterprise suitability maps have been created for poppies, rye grass, lucerne and industrial hemp based on existing soil and climate information. These maps identify agricultural locations best suited to the growing of particular crop types. They provide primary producers with the tools to develop new industries and improve productivity. Significant further work has been done on preparing these maps for a further 16 crops. The outputs developed to date are being used to evaluate the potential for a significant new asparagus enterprise in the north-east, to advise the hazelnut industry on potential expansion areas and to help in scoping the potential for winter finishing of beef cattle as part of the red meat strategy for northern Tasmania. The mapping products are unique in Australia and are providing nation leading innovation in the area of spatial decision support for a wide range of land uses.

The Division has been implementing the *Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Research and Monitoring Priorities 2013-18*. This monitoring has discovered what appears to be a new species of skink in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

The Division has worked cooperatively with the Australian Government and the game meat export industry to gain approval for the expansion of the overseas exports for products from Tasmanian pademelons and Bennetts wallabies.

The Natural Values Atlas (NVA) continues as an easy-to-access information source on Tasmania's natural values. The recent inclusion of additional datasets and updated mapping contributes to the popularity of this website and 116 000 page hits were recorded during 2013-14. This period also saw the release of TASVEG 3.0, which is the first major release of the Tasmanian vegetation map since 2009 and reflects improved knowledge of vegetation communities through finer quality mapping.

Output Group 4

Water Resources

The major focus for the Water Resources Group over the last three months has been to continue to support irrigation development through facilitating larger-scale water infrastructure projects. This has been achieved through provision of policy and technical support for Tasmanian Irrigation while maintaining appropriate separation for the Output's role as a regulator. The Division continues to advise the Government on preferred options and business case development for Tranche 2 irrigation schemes to allow these schemes to proceed to a 'shovel ready' stage.

This Output continues to develop a State Water Management Framework as the overarching policy framework for water management in Tasmania and progress the State water reform agenda by the development of a Water Use Accountability Policy, introducing standard conditions to water licenses and implement adopted water management plans for the State's catchments. This is consistent with the Government's vision to ease regulatory burden and enhance irrigation and agricultural development in Tasmania.

Output Group 5

Policy

This Output took a lead role in the Department's drafting of the Government's new forestry legislation, the *Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Bill 2014*. This has involved providing maps and information to Parliamentary briefings, to Government and external agencies, to the public via the Department's LISTmap website, and the Department of State Growth (formerly the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources) website.

The Division contributed to the development of joint State/Australian Government Bilateral Agreements under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for both environmental assessments and approvals. As a result, a number of Tasmanian environmental assessment and approval processes are likely to be accredited under the Australian Government's environment legislation, effectively removing significant duplication and reducing approval timeframes for major projects.

It also coordinated assessments and provided advice relating to the development and implementation of six irrigation schemes. The Policy Output Group has provided advice on monitoring and compliance activities relating to construction and operational phases of some of the irrigation schemes, and implementation of the Landscape Monitoring and Quality Assurance Protocols for the Midlands Water Scheme. The work contributed to the timely and efficient assessment of major irrigation projects key to securing water advantages within Tasmania.

Assisted in the development and public release of the Expression of Interest package for appropriate and sensitive investment opportunities in national parks and reserves. The

Expression of Interest process comprises an invitation for participants to submit a proposed development outlining ideas for new environmental tourism experiences, and a request from the Minister for a more detailed proposal from selected participants.

Output Group 6

Biosecurity Tasmania

Biosecurity Tasmania was established on 1 May 2014 as a Division of DPIPWE through the merging of the Invasive Species Branch and the Biosecurity and Product Integrity Division. Biosecurity Tasmania is a specialised unit tasked with protecting Tasmania's primary production, economy, natural environment, amenity and the Tasmanian Island Brand from exotic weeds, pests and diseases. The establishment of Biosecurity Tasmania created a single entity within DPIPWE to manage the State Government's biosecurity responsibilities for Tasmania. The new Division will have responsibilities across all areas of biosecurity: agriculture, aquaculture and the environment. The bringing together of all the specialist skills and experience in biosecurity into one division enables a more cohesive approach to address the threat from introduced pests and diseases to our agriculture and aquaculture industries, marine areas and the environment.

Little Cherry Virus 2 Response: Biosecurity Tasmania led a national response to the detection of the Little Cherry Virus 2 disease in cherry trees. This followed the detection of the virus in leaf material by Biosecurity Tasmania plant pathologists after the leaves were brought into the plant biosecurity laboratories by an alert private sector agronomist. Subsequent investigations conducted by Biosecurity Tasmania across Tasmania indicated the virus was present in at least 13 orchards across the State, had probably been present in Tasmania for several decades, and has subsequently been found in a distribution nursery in Victoria. A national eradication program is yet to progress, however Biosecurity Tasmania staff are working with Fruit Growers Tasmania on a plan to manage the disease in the State.

Plant Quarantine Containment Laboratory: A small quarantine containment laboratory was built at the plant biosecurity laboratories at New Town for the containment of both plant pathogens and insect pests. This facility enhances the ability of Biosecurity Tasmania to undertake plant biosecurity response activities more effectively.

Plant pest and disease surveys: In addition to routine survey activity, Biosecurity Tasmania completed additional surveys for exotic pests clover root weevil, brown marmorated stink bug, giant willow aphid, and myrtle rust.

Biosecure Fish Facility: Construction commenced in May on an expanded Biosecure Fish Facility at Mt Pleasant Laboratories, Launceston. This facility will support the development of fish vaccines that will directly contribute to the salmonid industry goal of doubling production by 2030.

Output Group 7

Environment Protection and Analytical Services

A major focus of the EPA Division has been the negotiation of a draft bilateral agreement between the Tasmanian and the Australian Governments to enable the latter to rely on Tasmanian environmental assessment processes to inform its approvals under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). This was a major step toward establishing a 'one stop shop' for environmental approvals as part of the Government's regulatory reform agenda.

In a further step towards this goal, the Division also worked with Australian Government officials and others in the Tasmanian Government to negotiate the particulars of a draft EPBC bilateral approvals agreement. This will see Tasmania's environmental approval processes accredited, such that no further Australian Government approval decision is required for the purposes of the EPBC Act, reducing duplication in regulation.

A further regulatory reform initiative of the EPA Division this year has been to improve the effectiveness of the regulatory partnership between the EPA and local government; both of which have particular regulatory functions and responsibilities under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*. The focus has been on working with Councils to address difficult issues and increase capability to improve regulatory efficiency and consistency across the State.

The focus of the 2014 *Burn Brighter this Winter* project has been on reducing domestic wood heater smoke exposure in the Longford community. This is being done through building relationships with local community groups and engaging with the general community through face-to-face communication activities.

The Analytical Services Tasmania laboratory at New Town has assisted many Tasmanian businesses to manage their operations and meet their environmental obligations by performing 299 387 analyses in 2013-14. This was an increase of more than 23 000 tests from the previous year.

Output Group 8

Parks and Wildlife Management

In June 2014, Expressions of Interest (EOI) were called for new, sensitive and appropriate tourism experiences and associated infrastructure in Tasmania's parks and reserves. The EOI is specifically looking for developments that broaden the range of exciting and unique experiences on offer in the State by improving access for tourists while maintaining the integrity of the natural areas. This initiative will create much needed new partnerships with the private sector in the delivery of new experiences for visitors to Tasmania. This is one of the measures that will help to grow Tasmania's tourism industry to 1.5 million visitors per year by 2020.

The Parks and Wildlife Service celebrated the successful completion of the largest pest eradication of rabbits, rats and mice in the world, with Macquarie Island declared rabbit and rodent free on 7 April 2014. Once aerial baiting of the island was completed in 2011, hunters and dogs scoured the island thoroughly, searching day and night for any sign of surviving individuals of the three pest species. With search coverage logged by GPS, they cumulatively walked nearly 92 000 kilometres. Macquarie Island's ecosystem is already showing encouraging signs of recovery in both vegetation and increased breeding success in bird species.

Planning commenced for the implementation of a number of Government initiatives including the re-opening of tracks and protection of Aboriginal values in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area; the 'tenure-blind' Statewide Fuel Reduction Burning Program in which PWS will have a lead role; and a number of asset investment projects. These include the replacement of two bridges on the Meander Falls Road, an upgrade of the South Coast Track and, visitor facilities at Dip River Falls, walking track stabilisation at Georges Bay at St Helens and development of a function centre and building conservation works at Highfield Historic Site.

In addition, work continued on the creation of the Three Capes Track. The Australian and State Governments had already committed \$25.3 million, with an additional \$4 million now committed by the State for Stage 3. A major portion of new trackwork was tendered out in November 2013, and the project was on course to have a four-day, three-night walk opportunity available for fully online booking by late 2015.

Output Group 9

Heritage

Heritage Tasmania

Proclamation of the amendments to the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* in the latter part of 2014 was a major highlight of 2013-14. This has led to a significant reduction in red tape.

Seeking approval for works is now a single application, advertisement and permit system. Since 1 March 2014, the owners of places entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register need only lodge a single discretionary permit application with their council, which forwards it to the Heritage Council.

Certificates of exemption were also introduced that allows lodging a discretionary permit application, when proposed works will have no or negligible impact on the heritage values of a place. The streamlined system became the focus of an education program for local government planners, heritage personnel, other professionals and affected property owners.

During the year almost 2 000 entries in the Heritage Register were updated, including their cadastral or location details. This process is ongoing and is a pre-cursor to the creation of an historic heritage layer in the Land Information System Tasmania (LIST).

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

The fourth edition of the *Guide to the Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Process* was released in May 2014. This publication provides information and promotes an understanding of the Aboriginal heritage assessment process

In partnership with the Australian National University (ANU), an intensive five-day Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management workshop for Aboriginal people was developed. The primary focus of the workshop was on heritage place identification, protection and management.

RTBG

In line with Government policy to unlock the potential of parks and heritage sites, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) are negotiating with a private operator in regard to running the RTBG restaurant and other catering opportunities within the Gardens. If successful it will provide the RTBG with a sustainable income stream and will bring a higher level of professionalism to the RTBG hospitality services, adding value to the visitor experience.

The RTBG has sourced philanthropic and grant based funding and undertaken early planning towards advancing and completing the construction of the RTBG's Living / Learning Centre before June 2015. The Living / Learning Centre will provide the capacity to expand the RTBG's growing Learning and Community programs.

At any given time in 2013-14, up to 100 adult learners undertook professional horticulture training across the State each week in a number of horticulture programs including national horticulture certificates from I to III. Up to 50 per cent of the graduates find some form of horticultural employment post course.

The RTBG held regular equity training opportunities for those who have difficulties accessing standard skills training programs. These include speciality programs to assist community members to gain meaningful skills and enable them to build their self-confidence for a future in the horticultural industry.

The RTBG is a significant partner with the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) and the initiative known as the 24 Carrot gardens project. Along with the other project partners its objective is to assist primary schools to develop their own food gardens and to integrate the teachings of fresh food production and use in creative and inspiring environments. The project has completed six new school kitchen gardens and aims to complete 12 gardens in total by the end of 2015.

Output Group 1

Information and Land Services

As part of Output Group 1, the Information and Land Services (ILS) Division provides government land products and services that deliver fundamental land information and maintain the security of land tenure. The Division provides a range of products and services that include titling, valuations, survey services, the collection, maintenance and delivery of a wide range of land datasets, and the management of *Service Tasmania* shops and phone channel. These services are key enablers of investment in Tasmania and contribute to Tasmania's economic growth and development.

The ILS Division contributes towards the achievement of all of the Department's objectives and, in particular, has a lead role in the achievement of three of the objectives:

- maintain the security of land tenure;
- provide ready access to accurate and meaningful land and resource information; and
- efficiently deliver government services statewide via the *Service Tasmania* shop network and the government contact centre.

Recent Highlights

- The Land Titles Office (LTO) continues to provide ready access to land information through the development of improved internal processes. The Tasmanian Online Plans (TOP) system, for example, is being developed to enhance the management and delivery of land information by enabling online lodgement of Plans and/or Survey Notes and associated documents. TOP will provide a workflow that enables surveyors, solicitors, the water authority and local government full level to the plans.
- All Registry of Deeds plans are now scanned and available online via the LIST, meaning these plans are more readily available to clients.
- In the valuation services, Adjustment Factors for Land Value for all 29 municipal areas were issued in March 2014; valuation consultancy advice was provided to Government resulting in significant rental savings for key buildings; and asset valuations for financial reporting purposes for 2013-14 were completed for this Department as well as the Departments of Treasury and Finance, and Health and Human Services.
- The recent redevelopment of the LIST has allowed for delivery of spatial information via web services and has facilitated the increased uptake of spatial information use across Government, and the emergency services sector in particular. Significant additional spatial datasets have are also now publicly available via the LIST, including historic aerial photography, TASVEG, LiDAR tile indexes, bushfire-related datasets, coastal erosion and hazard data and Bureau of Meteorology datasets.
- Anticipating the Government's interest in open data policy, ILS has decided to deliver free of charge an additional 50 spatial datasets previously subject to fees and to facilitate their access via the new Data and Services Directory. The technical aspects of this change will be implemented in the latter part of 2014.
- Within the last three months, ILS has undertaken numerous training and information sessions about the new LIST within both government and industry, which have been very well received.

A high quality and contemporary legislative and policy framework that supports government land services

We maintain an effective legislative and policy framework that protects the integrity of land tenure in Tasmania.

We administer key legislation relating to the management of land titles, surveying and valuations in Tasmania.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Progress with legislative reform program'

The Division reviews relevant legislation and policy to assess their currency and make recommendations aimed at ensuring the State's needs are met as well as reflecting industry and national best practice in government land services.

This indicator provides a narrative report on progress with the legislative program.

Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Act 2013

The *Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Act 2013* applies the Electronic Conveyancing National Law in Tasmania in readiness for Tasmania's participation in this Council of Australian Governments initiative.

Strata Titles Act 1998

The Department intends to propose amendments to the *Strata Titles Act 1998*. This Act regulates the development of land by strata schemes and day-to-day activity within a strata scheme.

Taking into account public submissions, a list of recommended amendments has been compiled, primarily of a technical nature.

Land Titles Act 1980

The Department intends to propose amendments to the *Land Titles Act 1980* (the Act) to amend section 146 and to introduce a requirement for mortgagees to identify mortgagors.

Previous and current Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Tasmania have requested that section 146 of the Act be amended to reflect current practice in relation to applications for a mortgagee, encumbrancee or lessor obtaining possession in certain circumstances.

Consistent with other Australian jurisdictions, it is proposed that mortgagees be required to identify the person(s) to whom they are lending money if they wish to have their mortgage protected under the Act.

Land Titles Regulations 2012

It is intended that the *Land Titles Regulations 2012* be amended to provide for the lodgement of mortgages signed only by the mortgagee.

This amendment will, for example, cater for instances when a mortgage forms part of an electronic transaction in national electronic conveyancing, and the mortgagee is the only party signing the mortgage.

Review of the Surveyors Act 2002 and Surveyors Regulations 2003

The *Surveyors Act 2002* provides for the registration of surveyors with diverse specialist competencies, the regulation of the practice of registered surveyors engaged in surveys authorised or required under any enactment, and other related matters. The Act is supported by subordinate legislation *Surveyors Regulations 2003* and technical standards in the 'Survey Directions'.

Changes have been instituted to better reflect an appropriate registration structure, eligibility criteria and attendant fees; to enable effective disciplinary activity to be undertaken; and to assist in survey correction and rectification of areas of deteriorated property boundaries.

The *Surveyors Amendment Bill 2014* is proposed for the spring session of Parliament.

The *Surveyors Regulations 2003* will be repealed on 26 November 2014. The amendment of the Act will need to precede the remaking of regulations so that changes to the Act are reflected in the subordinate legislation. The Minister has approved the remaking of the regulations, and drafting is about to commence.

Security of land tenure in Tasmania maintained

We deliver a range of services that underpin the security of the State's land tenure. We provide an effective land title system and land survey service. We also administer and deliver an impartial, effective and cost efficient valuation consultancy and land acquisition service.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 5)

'Volume and timeliness of land registration transactions'

Security of land tenure requires that any changes to land division and ownership must be registered. Developers, the real estate industry and individual landowners depend on a timely registration process to progress their business.

Table 3: Volume and timeliness of land registration transactions

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Land registration transactions processed ¹	No.	53 335	49 651	54 409	65 000	60 000
Transactions completed within agreed timeframes ²	%	74	84	60	75	75

Source: DPIPWE ILS Division records.

Notes:

1. Transactions processed represent the number of lodgements registered.
2. Agreed timeframes represents those lodgements registered within one week.

The increase in the number of registrations reflects an increase in the volume of documents lodged for registration with the LTO.

In 2013-14, the number of lodgements increased by 9.1 per cent in comparison to 2012-13.

The reduction in registration efficiency is due to an increase in the volume of dealings.

Key activities in 2013-14

The Recorder of Titles actively monitors lodgement and registration levels, reprioritising resources as and when required. In light of current and anticipated registration and lodgement numbers, the Recorder is reviewing the registration process to determine where and if further efficiencies can be made without affecting the integrity of the Land Titles Register.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 5)

'Timeliness of registration process for the Early Issue Scheme'

This indicator measures the timeliness of the registration process for sealed plans for new subdivisions lodged under the Early Issue Scheme. The Scheme is designed to support a fast turnaround for the registration process for developers.

Table 4: Registration of sealed plans lodged under the Early Issue Scheme

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Registration of sealed plans lodged under the Early Issue Scheme within 10 working days of lodgement of the original plan	%	72	92	86	70	75

Source: DPIPWE ILS Division.

The increase in the number of sealed plans lodged under the Early Issue Scheme registered within 10 working days of lodgement of the original plan in 2012-13 is because it now includes all sealed plans lodged under the Early Issue Scheme and not just those that complied with the Scheme.

Key activities in 2013-14

The Tasmanian Online Plans (TOP) system is being developed with the objective of enhancing the management and delivery of land information through the ability to lodge online digital images of Plans and/or Survey Notes together with relevant associated documents.

The initial release of TOP will be limited to Sealed Plans and non-Sealed Plans, with other plan types added as the system further develops.

TOP will be available to subscribers and will be accessible through the LIST. Access to TOP will be by agreement with the Recorder of Titles and is free to use.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 5)

'Progress in introducing the National Electronic Conveyancing System'

Property Exchange Australia Limited (PEXA Ltd), formerly National E-Conveyancing Development Limited, commenced operating Release 1 of the first Electronic Lodgement Network, Property Exchange Australia (PEXA).

National Based Activity

Release 1 of PEXA is limited to single party mortgages and discharges of mortgages and commenced operating in other Australian jurisdictions during 2013-14.

Significant progress has been made in relation to Release 2, which will include transfers, caveats and withdrawal of caveats, and also introduce financial settlement.

PEXA Ltd's current schedule for the roll out of Release 2 will commence February 2015 and all jurisdictions, including Tasmania, are expected to commence using PEXA during 2015.

State Based Activity

The *Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Act 2013* commenced operation on 19 November 2013.

The Recorder of Titles is examining a draft Operating Agreement from PEXA Ltd and will shortly be entering into discussions with the conveyancing industry regarding the alignment of processes in the paper and electronic environments.

Key effectiveness indicator (4 of 5)

'Quality of land surveys'

Under the *Surveyors Act 2002*, the Surveyor-General may issue directions regarding the technical specifications and standards to be observed in the conduct of surveys. This indicator assesses how well surveys undertaken in Tasmania comply with these standards. Data for the indicator is derived from the annual audit program.

Table 5: Audited surveys complying with standards

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Audited surveys complying with standards	%	76	69	n.a	n.a	75

Source: DPIPWE ILS Division records.

The survey audit program was deferred for the 2013-14 year while resources were utilised to complete the review of the *Surveyors Act 2002* and *Surveyors Regulations 2003*. The audit program will resume in 2014-15.

Although the audit program has been successful in improving compliance over the past 15 years, the level of compliant surveys has plateaued at 70 - 75 per cent.

In part, the review of the Act will serve to strengthen the investigative powers of the Valuer-General and the disciplinary powers of the Director of Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading in relation to those surveyors whose poor performance has not improved in response to the survey audit program.

Key effectiveness indicator (5 of 5)

'Quality of valuation services'

The Valuer-General is responsible for the standard and control of all statutory valuations in the State. This indicator assesses the quality and consistency of valuations completed.

Table 6: Valuation notices

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Total valuation notices issued	No.	12 616	105 875	9 937	10 000	10 000
Objections resulting in an amended valuation ¹	%	0.20	0.46 ²	0.21	<2.00	<2.00

Source: DPIPWE ILS Division records.

Notes:

1. This represents the percentage of total valuation notices that have an amended valuation following the lodgement of an objection.
2. The previously reported figure as at 30 June 2013 was 0.02 per cent. This has been revised to 0.46 per cent to account for objections relating to the 2012-13 year that have subsequently been finalised. Ten objections are yet to be determined.

Municipal revaluations for one-third of the State occur every two years and supplementary valuations occur annually. The 2013-14 actual objections resulting in an amended valuation percentage is correct as at 27 July 2014, with six objections to be finalised. The closing date for objections for 2013-14 was 8 September 2014. The measure will be adjusted in forward reports.

Key activities in 2013-14

Adjustment Factors for Land Value for all 29 municipal areas were released in March 2014. An Adjustment Factor is used to adjust the levels of value of all property in a locality and class, based on broad market movements. The adjustment factors affect the rating year 2014-15.

The Office of the Valuer-General provided property valuation and consultancy advice to Government agencies in 2013-14 including valuations for rental, disposal, purchase and asset reporting purposes.

The Office of the Valuer-General continues to place high emphasis on maintaining and improving its electronic GIS valuation database and systems, focusing on using current technologies to provide a mobile best practice valuation service.

Ready access to accurate and meaningful land information

We produce, maintain and integrate a broad range of land information datasets for use by government, business and the community. This includes spatial information – information with a definable location, whether it is above, below or on the earth’s surface. There is increased demand for quality spatial information from a variety of stakeholders. We provide access to land information through the Land Information System Tasmania (LIST), a whole-of-government integrated land information infrastructure with a web-based delivery system, and the TASMALP products.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 3)

'Accessibility of quality land information via the LIST'

Services provided through the LIST can be broadly divided into two main areas:

- Online access to data held by the Geodata Services Branch, Office of the Valuer-General and the LTO; and
- Online access to a range of spatial information, including topographical data, natural resource data, roads and community facilities, cadastre (property boundaries), survey control points and nomenclature.

Information is available through paid subscription for specialist users, and as a comprehensive, free public service. This indicator measures how many land-related datasets are available through the LIST, the accuracy of these datasets, and the level of use of the LIST as a source of land information.

Table 7: Accessibility through the LIST of quality land information

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
The LIST:						
Land-related datasets available	No. of themes	772	788	880 ¹	685	920
Features with key framework datasets that meet design objectives	'000	603	660	714 ²	700	740
Level of government and public user access	Million pages accessed	17.1	17.7	9.8 ³	18.0	7.0

Source: DPIPWE ILS Division records.

Notes:

1. LIST refers to the Land Information System Tasmania. There has been an increase in this measure due to the implementation of the new LISTmap that has improved the ease of use, including through additional functions. This has been reflected in the target set for 2014-15.
2. The accuracy of key LIST framework datasets relates primarily to the number of land parcels meeting specification within the digital cadastral database project. The increase in 2013-14 actual is due to the continual refinement of data.
3. Due to changes in the LIST website, as part of the Spatial Information Foundations Project, the actual number of page views for 2013-14 decreased due to the adoption of statistical software that has an algorithm that measures page views per site differently. This does not indicate a reduction in use as the web site now utilises more efficient communication technologies that provide an effective and user friendly interaction.

Land related datasets include information on drainage, road centreline locations, vegetation and planning scheme zones. The number of land-related datasets available from the LIST has grown steadily. The method of distribution has also changed. The new LIST provides a more efficient process and should facilitate even greater uptake of spatial data.

There are 880 land-related datasets available via the LIST, and more than 400 of these are available to public users at no cost. Some datasets are restricted for use by emergency

services, such as location of police and fire vehicles, status of active incidents and ambulance locations.

ILS is working with data custodians to make land-related datasets discoverable via the Data and Services Directory. The new LIST is being actively promoted by Government as the central discovery and distribution point for spatial data.

In cooperation with local government, ILS has been gradually updating the spatial model to service the increasing requirements of consumers of spatial data.

Key activities in 2013-14

As part of the completion of the two-year \$3 million Spatial Information Foundations (SIF) Project, the new LIST was released in February 2014. It provides a key spatial data discovery and delivery system. A new Statewide Imagery Program has been established and increased collaboration with other agencies and local government has delivered significant savings for individual parties.

One of the key ongoing aspects of the SIF project has been to ensure education and training of the new suite of services via the LIST. To date, many agencies, industry groups and professional associations have attended demonstrations and training.

Of particular note is the progress being made in the education sector where, through a combination of a national GPS in-schools initiative, and local ILS efforts, Tasmanian schools will soon be the beneficiaries of LIST tools and spatial data with a particular focus on supporting the new national geography curriculum.

Another significant activity has been the ILS decision to proactively respond to the government's agenda for open data. In particular, an additional 50 spatial data have had their fees removed and are now available free of charge. This makes more than 400 spatial datasets freely available to the public user, and more than 880 available overall. Those not available to the public are due to restricted access (for example, emergency services use) by their custodians. In the coming year it is expected that an ongoing review of pricing and access policies will deliver more datasets to the public.

Key effectiveness indicator of 3)

'Accessibility of maps'

In addition to the LIST services, the Division provides public and specialist access to a range of land information sets via the mapping products and services, including the TASMMap service that produces a large range of mapping products. In addition to the standard mapping programs, TASMMap provides a specialist map production service, and clients can utilise the experience of TASMMap cartographers to design, prepare and print map products to their specifications.

Key activities in 2013-14

TASMMap is in the process of consolidating its topographic map series into a statewide 1:50 000 map series in order to provide a more consistent and up-to-date map base for government, emergency services and consumers.

TASMMap maintains and delivers digital versions of its topographic series maps (1:25 000 and 1:100 000). Traditionally the sale and delivery of these has been through manual extraction, charging and delivery, however, TASMMap is in the final stages of implementing online sale and download of selected products via the TASMMap e-shop.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 3)

'Leadership in the Government's innovative use and high standards of spatial information'

Recognition of the value of spatially enabled information continues to increase across government and the private sector. Spatial applications are now a key component of operational business in critical areas such as emergency response and recovery activities,

planning and development of major infrastructure assets, and the management of utilities and automated agricultural production.

This indicator provides a narrative report of the leadership in the development and use of spatial data by government in Tasmania. It includes work to support the Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) and the Tasmanian Government Spatial Committee (TGSC), and implementation of the Spatial Information Foundations (SIF) project.

Key activities in 2013-14

Spatial Information Foundations (SIF) Project

The final components of the Tasmanian Government's two-year Spatial Information Foundations (SIF) project were released on 1 February 2014. This project output involved a complete redevelopment and extension of the Government's whole-of-government web-based service for the efficient delivery of location-linked data and services via the LIST (www.thelist.tas.gov.au).

New web-based services developed as part of the project allow government users to integrate maps and spatial analysis tools to support improved planning, operational and decision-making capability. A key component of the project was the development of the emergency services' Common Operating Platform (COP), which provides information from different emergency management organisations, seamlessly combined and delivered through a common, secure interface. The Tasmanian Planning Commission's Planning Schemes Online project is dependent on the enhanced services delivered through LIST to customise and embed maps into the new planning scheme content management system and enable the transition to new web-based digital planning schemes.

Supporting TASSIC and TGSC

Throughout 2013-14, ILS continued to support the activities of TASSIC and TGSC.

TASSIC's primary focus for 2013-14 was engagement with key sectors about the use of spatial information in the Health, Education and Planning sectors.

TASSIC is committed to increasing dialogue with government about the development and adoption of effective spatial policies, standards and open data initiatives. The Council is also working on facilitating development of the spatial skills required across government, academia and private business to enable individuals and organisations to use spatial information more efficiently and effectively.

The TGSC has focussed strongly on supporting the uptake of the Spatial Data and Services Directory, a key component of the new LIST. Members of TGSC represent some of the heaviest users of government spatial information and provide key technical and policy input to their agencies.

ILS assumes key leadership roles in other spatial information forums such as the Emergency Management Spatial Information Network Australia (EMSINA), a national working group, comprised of State and Australian Government representatives. Some recent work undertaken by EMSINA includes the development of nationally consistent mapping symbology for emergency management, and working with the Australian Business Register (ABR) of the Australian Tax Office (ATO) to develop a geocoded business location data layer.

Land acquired for public purposes

We administer the statutory acquisition of land required for public purposes, including the acquisition of land required for major projects, on behalf of the government.

The Valuer-General administers the *Land Acquisition Act 1993* under which acquisitions for public purposes, including for major projects on behalf of the government, are undertaken.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Progress with major land acquisitions required by government'

The Office of the Valuer-General delivered on its 2013-14 major commitments relating to infrastructure projects involving land acquisition advice and services. Seventy-nine *Notices of Acquisition* to acquire land for Government projects were issued during this period.

Major acquisition projects currently underway include the Midlands Highway (Symmons Plains), Bridport Main Road, Bridgewater Bridge Replacement and Railton Main Road.

Quick and easy access to government services for the community via the *Service Tasmania* shopfronts and telephone channel

Service Tasmania shops provide ready access to government services for the community. Services are delivered on behalf of State Government agencies and a number of Australian Government and local government agencies. We are responsible for the management and day-to-day operations of the shops and the Government Contact Centre.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 3)

'Accessibility of Service Tasmania shop services'

Service Tasmania shops are located in urban and rural areas statewide. The operation of the shops is the responsibility of the Department.

Table 8: Accessibility of *Service Tasmania* shop services

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
<i>Service Tasmania</i> shops in local communities	No.	27	27	27	27	27
Over the counter government services provided to local communities	No.	570	574	599	575	600

Source: DPIPWE ILS Division records.

Additional services provided by *Service Tasmania* shops include Working With Vulnerable People; Mandatory Alcohol Interlock Program, Taxi and Disability subsidies; electricity concessions for people requiring life support; and concessions related to the recognition of ImmiCard in Tasmania.

Key activities in 2013-14

A key milestone of the Integrated Tasmanian Government Contact Centre project involved the transfer of the existing Government Contact Centre from TMD in the Department of Premier and Cabinet to DPIPWE. Nine staff were transferred on 10 April 2014 and are located in Hobart and Launceston.

In terms of capital works, *Service Tasmania* Launceston undertook improvements to the customer waiting area and integrated a new contact centre facility in the back office. A new counter was installed and other minor works were undertaken at the *Service Tasmania* New Norfolk location.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 3)

'Volume of Service Tasmania shop transactions'

Service Tasmania shops provide a quick and easy way to perform financial transactions by offering the community a 'one stop' shop to do business with government.

This indicator measures the number and value of financial transactions flowing through the shops.

Table 9: *Service Tasmania* shop financial transactions

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Volume of financial transactions ¹	'000	1 031	955	906	950	900
Value of financial transactions	\$'000	204 744	194 623	181 577	195 000	180 000

Source: DPIPWE ILS Division records.

Note:

Alternative payment methods such as BPay, Australia Post and the internet continue to impact on the number of people using *Service Tasmania* to pay government bills in person.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 3)

'Level of customer satisfaction with Service Tasmania shops'

This indicator assesses the level of customer satisfaction with *Service Tasmania* shops by measuring the number of formal complaints received as a proportion of transactions.

Table 10: *Service Tasmania* shop complaints

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Formal complaints received	% of transactions	0.002	0.002	0.003	0.003	0.003

Source: DPIPWE ILS records.

During the year, 52 formal complaints were received. Of these, 25 were directly related to *Service Tasmania* and 27 to Client Agency services. All were forwarded to the relevant agency for investigation and response.

Complaints covered matters such as changes in shop opening hours, long queues, incorrect information being provided, or unsatisfactory service delivery.

For the same period, 63 positive comments were received from customers regarding the service they received from Client Service Officers, such as friendliness, helpfulness and the ease of doing business with the staff involved.

Output Group 2

Primary Industries

Services to support delivery of this Output Group are provided by two areas within the Department: the AgriGrowth Tasmania Division and the Marine Resources branches located in the Water and Marine Resources Division.

The AgriGrowth Tasmania Division (AGT) aims to provide leadership in agricultural policy development, focussing on maximising the potential of agriculture as a key growth sector in Tasmania. AGT provides professional and informed advice and information to Government on key issues and projects. It also ensures that the research, development, extension and education services provided by the University of Tasmania's Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) are aligned with Government policy outcomes.

The Marine Resources Group supports the orderly and sustainable development of Tasmania's marine farming industry in accordance with the *Marine Farming Planning Act 1995* and *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*. It develops and implements management policies and plans to support the sustainable development of Tasmania's wild marine fisheries for both the commercial and recreational sectors. It contributes to services that include advice and direction for the Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration Agreement with the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), to deliver marine farming and fisheries research that underpins the development of fisheries and marine farming.

Output Group 2 services contribute to the achievement of a number of the Department's objectives, in particular to 'help to grow Tasmania's primary industries and food sectors'.

Recent Highlights

- Creation of AgriGrowth Tasmania.
- Completed a comprehensive issues paper and release of a report reviewing genetically modified organisms (GMO) in Tasmania.
- In collaboration with key poppy industry stakeholders developed the *Best Practice Guide to Growing Poppies in Tasmania*, which is available on the Department's website.
- Collaborated with industry and the Drug Education Network to develop a website discouraging ingestion of extracts from commercial poppy plants.
- Progressing the review of the *Primary Industries Activities Act 1995*.
- Reduced the number of hens in caged egg production systems by about 31 000 and increased the number in non-cage production systems by about 33 000.
- Assisting King Island beef producers to improve their production systems in order to operate profitably without an export abattoir on King Island.
- Expanded governance arrangements to support rock lobster translocation under development. West coast translocation program continued.
- Strategic policy for supporting developmental fishing programs under development.
- Market development permits for Australian sardines issued.
- Review of fisheries advisory committees and their format is ongoing.
- The pre-season survey completed in preparation of the opening of the commercial scallop fishery.
- Spatial management closures for 2014 abalone fishery developed and implemented.
- Program for electronic data collection, and the management of e-data for the abalone fishery developed - implementation begins.

- Gould's squid fishery received export accreditation under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). Several fisheries re-accredited.
- Fishcare community awareness/education program continues, including extension to Tasmania schools.
- Draft amendment No. 3 to the Huon River and Port Esperance Marine Farming Development Plan February 2002 has been prepared and released for public exhibition and comment.
- Draft amendment No. 4 to the *D'Entrecasteaux Channel Marine Farming Development Plan February 2002* has been prepared and released for public exhibition and comment.
- Draft amendment No. 5 to the *D'Entrecasteaux Channel Marine Farming Development Plan February 2002* has been prepared and released for public exhibition and comment.
- Draft amendment No. 1 to the *Storm Bay off Trumpeter Bay Marine Farming development Plan 1998* has been prepared and submitted for the consideration of the Marine Farming Planning Review Panel.

Improving the national and international competitiveness of the primary industries sector

The services help improve the national and international competitiveness of the primary industries sector. We aim to provide policy, information and advice to support Tasmanian fishers and farmers to take advantage of the benefits of sustainable fishing and farming.

While there are many circumstances beyond our control impacting on the competitiveness of the State's primary industries, the indicators detailed below provide a snapshot of the sector.

Headline indicator (1 of 3)

'Gross value of agricultural and fish production'

This measure provides an estimated annual value of Tasmanian wild fisheries, marine farming and agriculture. This is one of several benchmarks aiming to measure the strength of the State's primary industries sector. The Department has lead agency responsibility for this benchmark.

Table 11: Gross value of agriculture and fish production

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Gross value of agricultural and fish production:						
Wild fisheries ¹	\$ million	171.6	154	154	155	155
Marine Farming ²	\$ million	537	520	553	552	589
Agriculture ³	\$ million	1 171.1	1 190.3	n.a.	1 275	1 300

Source: DPIPW E APB and Water and Marine Resources (WMR) Division records

Notes:

1. Actual and Target Wild Fisheries figures for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are impacted by changes in the total allowable commercial catch for key fisheries, and the potential for difficult market conditions for rock lobster and abalone to be ongoing.
2. Actual Marine Farming figures for 2012-13 have been amended to take account of production returns for the 2012-13 year received after the compilation of the previous Annual Report. The production figures for 2013-14 are estimates based on production returns received to date and extrapolated to produce a figure for the financial year.
3. The 2014-15 target assumes average seasonal conditions and conformity with long-term trend.

Growth in the value of agricultural output in 2012-13 was weaker than anticipated. The result reflects expected lower returns to dairy due to lower farm gate prices and reduced production.

Agricultural output was depressed below the anticipated value as a result of poor seasonal conditions impacting on vegetable yields and relatively low prices in the red meat sector.

Although data for agricultural output in 2013-14 is not yet available, better seasonal conditions and improved dairy prices are likely to result in a return to the long-term upward trend.

Key activities in 2013-14

Work commenced on implementation of the Government's AgriVision 2050 Plan to grow the value of Tasmanian agricultural production tenfold by 2050.

A review of the *Primary Industries Activity Protection Act 1995* commenced with a view to improving operation of the Act and strengthening protection for farmers engaging in agricultural production to enable them to focus on their core business.

Undertook a comprehensive review of the moratorium on GMOs, which received 160 public submissions and involved the commissioning of new market research.

Under the Target 120 Program, King Island cattle producers have been assisted in transitioning their businesses from supplying a local abattoir to supplying processors remote from the Island, in the wake of the closure of the only cattle processing abattoir on the Island in 2012. In 2014, an extension officer was appointed to the Island to assist producers with business analyses to develop and implement strategies that will assist them in achieving long-term sustainable production and financial viability.

In order to export product from a fishery, that fishery must be accredited by the Australian Government as being managed in a sustainable manner. Supporting management frameworks and outcomes to support such accreditation – and the processes for assessment – are ongoing. For Tasmania's two most valuable fisheries (rock lobster and abalone) capacity to export to China in particular is critical.

A high priority for the Marine Resources Group during the course of 2013-14 has been working closely with salmonid industry to advance the industries aspirations to grow. This has involved the progression of a several amendments to marine farming development plans through the statutory planning approval processes that will provide increased water to support increasing production of Atlantic salmon.

Headline indicator (2 of 3)

'Food production value added'

Employment in rural areas, as well as Tasmania's economy and reputation for high-quality food products, should be enhanced by quality processing and packaging occurring here rather than interstate or overseas. This measure is an estimate of the value added in Tasmania by businesses engaged along the food production chain.

Table 12: Food production value added

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Food production value added	\$ million	3 113.9.	n.a.	n.a	3 258.0	3 300

Source: DPIPWE APB records.

Notes:

1. This measure is calculated by the Department based on the quantity of agricultural and seafood produce data sourced from: the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS); DPIPWE; and in consultation with major food producers such as brewery and dairy manufacturers. The value of production is based on wholesale price estimate and export data.
2. Although the food value added component has not been calculated at this stage for 2012-13, the expectations are that the final estimate will be in line with previous estimates.

Food production value added in 2011-12 increased by \$266.5 million on the previous year. A marked jump in salmon production was a significant contributor to this increase. Estimates for 2014-15 assume continued growth in salmon and dairy production and average seasonal conditions.

Key activities in 2013-14

The Department provides a suite of downloadable business planning tools to assist farmers in decision making, particularly in relation to investment in irrigation. These business tools were updated in the second half of the financial year for online publication early in 2014-15. Departmental officers have showcased the business planning tools available to farmers at a range of industry-led seminars and workshops.

Headline indicator (3 of 3)

'Value of exports of food, agriculture and fisheries'

This indicator reports on the level of overseas and interstate food, agriculture and fisheries exports.

The export information is derived from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) overseas export data and incorporates red meat, dairy, seafood and fruit and vegetables.

The interstate export information is derived from our *Tasmanian Food and Beverage Industry ScoreCard* publication. It includes the four categories of overseas food exports reported by the ABS, together with beverages and confectionary. ABS and industry information is used as a basis for calculations. ABS data is adjusted to take into account further information provided by the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Biosecurity.

Table 13: Value of primary industries exports

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Exports of food, agriculture and fisheries:						
Overseas exports	\$ million	517.3	n.a.	n.a.	525	530
Interstate food trade ¹	\$ million	1 852.3	n.a.	n.a.	1 919	2 045 ²

Source: DPIPW, ABS and Tasmanian Food and Beverage Industry Scorecard.

Note:

1. This measure is derived from ABS overseas export data and incorporates meat, dairy, fish, and fruit and vegetables. The value of overseas exports for 2011-12 has been revised down by \$2.4 million as a result of additional data but remains in line with estimates. Weak growth in exports in 2011-12 and 2012-13 reflects the impact of weak international demand and a high Australian dollar. Export prospects for 2014-15 remain constrained in spite of a slightly lower Australian dollar.
2. The 2014-15 target assumes average seasonal conditions and conformity with long-term trend.

The value of overseas exports for 2012-13 grew by a modest \$3.2 million on the previous year in line with estimates and an anticipated continued diversion of food, agriculture and fisheries products from overseas exports into domestic markets as a result of a high Australian dollar and soft commodity prices. Estimates for 2014-15 exports reflect an easing of this trend as a result of a lower Australian dollar.

Innovation and change initiatives that support improved competitiveness in the agricultural sector

We provide advice and direction to TIA to assist the development of innovative technologies for Tasmania's agricultural sector. We also work closely with TIA to ensure that the delivery of its extension services meet the needs of the agricultural sector. We provide advice on, and manage delivery of Government initiatives aimed at supporting industries experiencing change as a result of adverse market or environmental conditions.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 3)

'External funds leveraged from Government investment in agricultural research'

The Department has a Joint Venture Agreement with the University of Tasmania for the provision of research, development and extension services by TIA. This agreement has contributed to the growth of a strong agricultural Institute able to attract Australian Government, corporate, foundation and industry funding. TIA is now in its 17th year of operation.

The Department's Secretary chairs the TIA Board Department and the Division provides advice and direction to ensure that TIA's services align with the Government's priorities. This indicator identifies the level of Australian Government and other external funding attracted by TIA.

Table 14: External funds received by TIA

	Unit of Measure	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2013 Target	2014 Target
External funds received by TIA	\$ million	9.6	10.4	11.0	9.0	9.0

Source: TIA

Notes:

1. This measure excludes the contribution by the University of Tasmania.
2. Leverage is only one measure of the success of the Joint Venture Agreement with TIA. The TIA Strategic Plan 2012-16 identifies the priorities for the Institution, including supporting the Government's Economic Development Plan. The slight reduction in the leverage predicted for 2013-14 will still see the funds invested in TIA leveraged at approximately 50 per cent, a substantial return on investment.

High leveraging reduces the flexibility of TIA to strategically respond to Tasmanian specific issues requiring research, development and extension resources. The Government aims to ensure issues limiting production, sustainable use of natural resources, market development and food safety are addressed in a timely manner resulting in positive outcomes to assist industry sectors achieve their potential performance and contribution to the state economy.

Key activities in 2013-14

Departmental representatives contribute to the strategic direction of TIA through membership of the TIA Board and Centre Advisory Groups. This membership helps to ensure alignment between government initiatives, policies and TIA activities.

The Department also initiates specific projects for which funds are provided to TIA to deliver outputs. As an example, the Potential for Asian Export of Branded King Island Wallaby Meat project is investigating the potential to value add King Island wallabies to meet specifications of the high value Asian market.

Cressy Research Station, which is managed by DPIPW, is made available to TIA to enable grazing systems and pasture plant evaluation work to be undertaken, which has Tasmanian as well as national significance.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 3)

'Progress with initiatives to support industries undergoing critical change'

The Tasmanian agricultural sector is susceptible to pressures associated with changes in global market conditions and production. The Division manages delivery of Government initiatives aimed at supporting industries experiencing change as a result of adverse market conditions. Such initiatives aim to assist the affected industries through the change process and open up new opportunities for growers and their families.

The Target 120 project was initiated to provide support to King Island beef producers following closure of the export abattoir on the Island. This project provides extension and business analysis support to assist King Island farmers adapt their businesses to be profitable in the absence of an export abattoir operating on the Island.

Rural Alive and Well (RAW) is supported by DPIPWE through board membership. RAW provides outreach services to rural communities undergoing significant changes such as those associated with forest industry restructure, fire, abattoir and mine closures.

In collaboration with key poppy industry stakeholders, developed the *Best Practice Guide to Growing Poppies in Tasmania*, which is available on the Department's website. In response to concerns raised by the poppy industry around community perception and public safety the Poppy Industry Public Safety and Education Committee (PIPSEC) was formed. The key output of PIPSEC has been development of a targeted website highlighting the potentially lethal consequences of ingesting illegally sourced poppy materials.

In collaboration with both Simplot management and their vegetable grower group assisted in development of a strategic plan that identified whole-of-supply chain opportunities to help secure an ongoing vegetable processing sector in Tasmania.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 3)

'Level of assistance provided to farmers affected by adverse environmental conditions'

Rural Alive and Well outreach workers continue to support individuals and communities affected by the January 2013 bush fires.

Recipients of bush fire recovery grants provided under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements have been audited to ensure compliance with assistance conditions.

Knowledgeable and skilled farmers

We provide information services to assist farmers to develop and apply innovative business, planning and risk management skills to help improve their enterprise and industry competitiveness.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Accessibility of information to support farmers to run their businesses'

In 2007, the Department established the FarmPoint web portal to facilitate greater interaction between farmers and government, and to provide easy access to information required by farmers to run their businesses.

Table 15: FarmPoint information

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
FarmPoint website:						
Links provided to external websites	No.	780	780	760	780	760
Level of public use of FarmPoint website	Pages '000	439	75 ¹	76	76	75

Source: DPIPWE records and Google Analytics

Note:

1. The variation between 2011-12 and 2012-13 public use figures is due to the adoption of new statistical software that that measures page views per site differently.

Key activities in 2013-14

To ensure that the FarmPoint web portal remains up-to-date and relevant, DPIPWE updates the front page of the portal weekly, including the 'FarmPoint News' and 'Calendar of Events' sections. Hot links to other websites and information sources are routinely maintained.

Effective relationships with key agricultural stakeholders

We work in partnership with key stakeholders to support the strategic development of the agricultural sector. This includes collaborative efforts with the Department of State Growth (formerly the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts). It also includes work with a range of external bodies such as the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, the Rural Financial Counselling Service Tasmania, Organics Tasmania, Fruit Growers Tasmania, Poppy Growers Tasmania, Wine Tasmania, Rural Alive and Well, Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group, Dairy Tas, Rural Business Tasmania, and industry research and development corporations.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Level of cooperative arrangements with stakeholder groups'

The Output provides policy, planning and information services to the primary industries sector. This indicator provides a narrative report on the outcomes of key collaborative efforts.

Organics Tasmania

AgriGrowth Tasmania Division (AGT) provides a representative to the board of Organics Tasmania, which is the peak industry body for this sector.

Wine Tasmania

The Department, along with the Department of State Growth and TIA, jointly funded an industry development officer position within Wine Tasmania.

Rural Financial Counselling Service Tasmania

To support and strengthen the rural communities, the Department provides funding to support the operations of this free and confidential counselling service to farmers and fishers, as well as in-kind support with vehicle and fuel purchases.

The agency is represented on the Rural Stakeholders Forum.

Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA)

The Department continues to maintain a good working relationship with the TFGA and seeks input on a diverse range of issues and policy decisions. The Australian Government Farm Finance Concessional Loan Scheme Farmer Liaison Program is an example of Government and TFGA working together, with the Program aimed at building the sector's understanding of how farming businesses can access the Loan Scheme.

Rural Alive and Well (RAW)

Collaboration with Rural Alive and Well ensured provision of outreach support services to communities adversely affected by fire and industry adjustment.

Poppy Industry

The Department, together with Department of State Growth, continued to work with poppy industry stakeholders to develop a strategic direction for the poppy industry so that it can remain globally competitive and a significant pre and post farm-gate contributor to the Tasmanian economy.

The formation of the Poppy Industry Public Safety and Education Committee (PIPSEC) and development of the *'Best Practice Guide to Growing Poppies in Tasmania'* have resulted from a close collaboration between the AGT and poppy industry stakeholders.

Red Meat Forecast Committee

The Red Meat Forecast Committee brings together producers, processors, agents and transporters in the red meat industries to discuss topics of mutual concern, and to forecast slaughter statistics for the coming year. DPIPWE convenes the quarterly meetings, and provides data and secretariat support to the Committee.

Women and Rural Communities Program

AGT provides dedicated support to women in rural communities through the Women and Rural Communities Program. Activities include facilitating training opportunities for women, providing assistance with grant applications, coordinating the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation *Rural Women's Award* in Tasmania, and working in close consultation with rural women's and community groups.

Tasmanian Red Meat Industry Strategy Working Group

DPIPWE contributed to the Tasmanian Red Meat Industry Strategy Working Group, which was convened by the TFGA and facilitated by TIA. The Working Group was tasked with determining the priority issues to achieve future sustainability and success of the industry.

New technologies and practices that support improved competitiveness in the marine farming and fisheries sectors

We provide advice and direction for the Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration Agreement with the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, formerly the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, to assist marine farming and fisheries research that supports the sustainable development of these sectors.

Key effectiveness indicator

'External funds leveraged from Government investment in fisheries research'

In January 2011, the Department entered into the Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration Agreement (SMRCA) with the University of Tasmania to undertake marine farming, fisheries and coastal marine research under the auspices of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS). The SMRCA has created a strong research institute able to attract Australian Government and industry funding through its delivery of industry relevant, internationally-recognised research. The SMRCA is supported by an Advisory Committee chaired by the Department.

The Department is represented on the IMAS Board. The Output provides advice and direction to ensure the continued relevance and uptake of IMAS research by Tasmanian industry.

Table 16: External funds received by IMAS

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
External funds received by IMAS (SMRCA) and formerly TAFI	\$ million	9.1	9.1	9.3	10.0	10

Source: IMAS and former TAFI records.

Note:

This measure excludes the contribution by the University of Tasmania.

The external funds received by IMAS is an indicator of the value proposition from the Government's core investment of \$2.6 million per annum under the SMRCA achieved through leverage.

Improvements to the IMAS financial reporting systems implemented this year will see a revision to the way this performance indicator is reported in future financial years.

Sustainable fisheries and marine farming resources

We deliver services to support the sustainable development of the State's marine farming industry. We develop and implement management practices and plans for the wild fisheries to ensure that both commercial and recreational fishing are sustainable.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 3)

'Level of marine farming production'

The industry is regulated by the Department under the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* and *Marine Farming Planning Act 1995*. The Division prepares reviews, modifies and amends marine farming development plans for marine farming areas around the State that support the development of this industry. Marine farming operations are licensed to ensure that the operations are sustainable.

Table 17: Level of marine farm production

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Marine farm production by fishery:						
Salmonid ³	Tonnes	43 249	41 762	40 404	44 000	43 000
Mussels ¹	Tonnes	1 215	1 041	749	1 260	1 000
Abalone ^{3:4}	Tonnes	97	123	98	197	125
Pacific Oysters ²	dozens	3 901	3 449	3 236	3 800	3 250

Source: DPIPWE WMR Division records.

Notes:

1. Mussel production is down against last year due to the impact of the toxic algal bloom on the East Coast during the spring/summer of 2012-13.
2. Pacific Oyster production is down due to the double impact of the toxic algal bloom on the East Coast during the spring/summer of 2012-13 and the sewage contamination event during Easter 2013.
3. It must be noted that the figures provided are estimates, particularly for the last quarter of 2014, as there are outstanding production returns.
4. Abalone production in 2013/14 is down on previous year due to a major abalone farm being impacted by bushfire in January, 2013.

Key activities in 2013-14

The amendment to the Macquarie Harbour Marine Farming Development Plan approved in May 2012, seeing an additional 360 ha of water being zoned for the production of salmonids, has been progressively implemented.

The salmonid industry has been supported through the processes that enable bringing the new water on line for production.

The growth of the Tasmanian salmonid marine farming industry has been supported by advancing major amendments to marine farming development plans in the south-eastern region of Tasmania through the statutory planning processes to provide for increased water for the companies to farm.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 3)

'Fishers licensing transaction times'

All commercial fishing must be conducted under a licence and a licence is required for recreational fishing for a number of species. This indicator assesses how timely the processes are for the issuing of licences, which, for the commercial sector, is important for the operation of profitable businesses.

Table 18: Fishers' licensing transaction times

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Target	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Target
Fishers' licensing transaction times	% completed in three days	95	95	95	97	97

Source: DPIPWE WMR Division records

The Department continues its ongoing commitment to the development and support of the Fisheries Integrated Licensing and Management System (FILMS) project. The Quota Management component is now in the final stages of development with operational and quality assurance testing envisaged to begin in the near future. The catch and effort component will be progressed as soon as the quota management component has been implemented. Assessment and upgrading of the FILMS production database remains an ongoing task of high priority.

Key activities in 2014-15

Assessment and upgrading of the FILMS production database in the production environment remains a high priority.

The annual leasing of the 40 abalone quota units held by the Crown is managed by the Department.

Continued support is provided to the National Licensing and Compliance Committees.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 3)

'Actual catch by fishery'

This indicator provides information about the actual catch by fishery. It provides a broad guide to the production of each fishery and contributes to an understanding of the impacts of management plans and practices.

Table 19: Actual catch by fishery

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Target
Actual catch by fishery: ^{1&2}					
Abalone	Tonnes	2 546	2 226	2 157.7	2 158
Giant crab	Tonnes	44.1	31.1	26.7	27
Rock lobster	Tonnes	1 100	1 096	1 120.8	1 103
Sea urchin	Tonnes	120	129	126.5	127
Mackerel & Redbait ^{3&4}	Tonnes	56	< 1	4.8	4
Periwinkle	Tonnes	17	22	19.8	20
Banded morwong ⁵	No. of fish	28 979	26 440	26 209	26 000

Source: DPIPWE WMR Division records.

Notes:

1. The Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) has been used as the basis for establishing targets for this indicator. TACCs are set for the relevant licensing year, which generally do not follow a financial year. Only the jack mackerel licensing year follows a financial year. The targets are based on the TACCs for the last completed licensing year that falls during the financial year.
2. The actual catch by fishery is also derived from data for the last completed licensing year that falls in the financial year.
3. The Mackerel TACC combines the three separate species TACCs.
4. Catches of Mackerel are incomplete due to TACC period ending 30 June 2014 and that the major licence holder did fish during this period.
5. Banded Morwong TACC is set in number of fish, not kilograms.

The assessment and adjustment of catch levels for the major fisheries continues to be key activity for supporting the sustainable management and development of Tasmanian commercial marine fisheries. The key focus is for abalone and rock lobster.

The price of commodities to the Chinese market continues as a major factor for the value of export fisheries. The price for abalone has remained low, while rock lobster has been more volatile, with some periods of high prices.

Key activities in 2013-14

Abalone

A refined spatial management system for the 2014 abalone season was developed in close liaison with the commercial sector. This system is increasingly nuanced and targeted. The roll out for 2014 saw some areas closed relatively early in the season, with other key areas the subject of performance triggers.

In line with the Government's priorities, a process comprising industry, government and researchers has examined opportunities and technologies for the electronic collection of data in the abalone fishery and methodologies for utilising and disseminating such information. A strategic plan was developed and is already being used for forward planning and for improving assessment processes in the fishery.

With the introduction of GPS loggers on every diver, novel assessment and performance measures are now being developed for trial

Rock lobster fishery

Commitments to increase the translocation program and to include the East Coast also, see requirements for expanding the scope of this program. This includes expanding the governance provisions (including input from the recreational sector) and development of an operational plan to guide the translocation activities to determine where lobsters will be translocated to, how many will be moved and when.

A 'catch cap' for part of the commercial East Coast fishery began with the new rock lobster quota year on 1 March 2014. This measure will limit the commercial catch on the East Coast with the objective of improving stocks in that area. When the catch in the catch cap area reached its trigger point an area will close until the next quota year.

Scalefish

With a review of the scalefish fishery rules in progress, work has focussed on scoping of issues and background with stakeholders plus developing new policy guidelines and performance measures for the different species within this fishery. Importantly, the assessment flowing into this process is now aligned with the national guidelines for the assessment of fishery stock status.

The Tasmanian Gould's squid fishery has successfully achieved its first export accreditation under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). This provides additional opportunities for fishers and processors to access new market opportunities overseas and potentially value add to this fishery.

Scallops

The commercial scallop fishery was assessed and consequently opened for fishing on 1 July 2014. Assessment involved authorising a number of industry based vessels to undertake statewide surveys and then having the survey data analysed. Approval was then provided, allowing for the area, season dates and Total Allowable Catch to be determined by the Minister. This fishery provides an iconic Tasmanian seafood to the general public that is highly sought after and valued, while at the same time providing regional economic and employment benefits to a number of small coastal towns around the State.

Recreational and community awareness

The Wild Fisheries Management's Recreational Fisheries Section continues to promote an education and community awareness campaign under the Fish for the Future/Fishcare banner.

Fishcare Tasmania is a program that educates the community about sustainable marine recreational fishing practices. Fishcare volunteers are enthusiastic individuals who give up their time in order to help members of the recreational fishing community with good fishing practices and provide advice about fisheries rules.

Importantly, the section has been strongly promoting a schools program and fishing clinics suitable for children of all ages with the aim of increasing responsible fishing behaviours in young Tasmanians.

Again this year, the Recreational Fisheries Section continued a standalone display at AGFEST. This event and the clearly targeted format is now considered one of the more effective tools for extending and liaising with the community in the operational year for the Recreational Fisheries Section.

Australian Government EPBC accreditation

Generally, Tasmanian seafood product targets the high value end of the seafood market. With limits on the catch that can be taken, maximising the return is critical. Despite being managed by Tasmania, any fishery from which product is to be exported must be accredited, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth), as being managed in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Appropriate management regimes complementary to such an outcome are necessary.

Accredited fisheries also have a series of recommendations within each accreditation that must be progressed and supported by appropriate management intervention.

Several of Tasmania's key fisheries are subject to ongoing accreditations and subsequent review, including progress towards addressing the relevant recommendations. These accreditations are most critical for the two most valuable fisheries, i.e. abalone and rock lobster. Exports markets, in particular China, are critical to the continued profitability of these sectors, which face increasing cost pressures. Issues such as fuel prices, commodity prices and the value of the Australian dollar all potentially impact profitability.

Other fisheries approved under this regime include the shellfish fishery, giant crab, scallops and commercial dive.

In 2014, the Gould's squid fishery was successfully granted its first accreditation after requests from fishers to widen the market opportunities for Gould's squid.

Improved capacity for farmers and fishers to manage climate change

The Division provides advice to the Minister on the impact of climate change policies on Tasmanian primary industries, including initiatives on emissions reductions in agriculture. Also it contributes to the development of natural resources adaptation strategies. We participate in key climate change groups and forums.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Contribution to strategies and policies to assist farmers and fishers to manage climate change'

This indicator is a narrative report on initiatives and activities to support the primary industries and fishing sectors to manage the effects of, and take advantage of, opportunities provided by climate change in Tasmania.

Fisheries management processes and changes to fishery management regimes aim to adapt to changes in the environment – whether these may be due to influences such as inter-annual variability or climate changes. Poor recruitment in some fisheries has been a continuing challenge with a management response required, irrespective of the cause. For example, changes to the total allowable catches for abalone and rock lobster.

The Department is working to implement the Government's initiative to encourage developmental fisheries, which has seen the granting of two short-term permits to trial the taking and marketing of Australian sardines. This species is now being reported in Tasmania waters in quantities not previously observed, which is being linked to changes in the East Australian Current. Subject to the success of these trials a developmental fishery for this species may be advanced.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Contribution to strategies and policies to assist farmers and fishers to manage climate change'

This indicator is a narrative report on initiatives and activities to support the primary industries and fishing sectors to manage the effects of, and take advantage of, opportunities provided by climate change in Tasmania.

Climate Change Policies

The Department has prepared information that is available on the DPIPWE website to assist Tasmanian agricultural enterprises understand the potential impacts of the Australian Government's climate change policy.

Agricultural adaptation

The Department worked with a number of industry partners to produce the Tasmanian version of *Making Cent\$ of Carbon and Emissions On-Farm Handbook* as an adaptation (with permission) of the Victorian Handbook. This publication provides practical tips and case studies on how emissions and carbon can be managed and encourages farmers to take a proactive approach.

The Department continued to participate in activities that support the Climate Change Strategy for Primary Industries and the Water Use in Agriculture Strategy that form part of the National research, development and extension framework cross-sectoral strategies.

Output Group 3

Resource Management and Conservation

Services under Output Group 3 are provided by the Resource Management and Conservation (RMC) Division.

The RMC Division plays a leadership role in the sustainable use and conservation of Tasmania's natural diversity and land resources.

This is achieved through effective relationships and the provision of assistance, information, incentives and decision support tools to landholders, land managers, regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups, industry, local and Australian governments.

The Division contributes to improving the State's planning processes through effective policies and programs that support the sustainable development and conservation of the State's natural values. The Division undertakes regulatory activities directed to the sustainable management of wildlife and other terrestrial and marine natural values.

The RMC Division contributes to a number of the Department's objectives and, in particular, has a lead role in the achievement of the following objectives:

- maintaining and, where appropriate, improving the condition of Tasmania's natural resources;
- facilitating the sustainable development of Tasmania's natural resources;
- building on and protecting the Tasmanian brand credentials; and
- providing ready access to accurate and meaningful land and resource information.

Recent Highlights

- Confirmation of second generation breeding of the translocated population of Tasmanian devils on Maria Island.
- Completion of draft statewide enterprise suitability mapping for new and emerging crops.
- Formal registration on title of one of the largest private conservation agreements in Tasmanian history.
- Successful translocation of orange-bellied parrots from the captive breeding program to the wild.
- The discovery of what appear to be new species in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Conservation of natural diversity

Tasmania's diversity of landscape and distinctive plants and animals are an integral part of the State's diversity and comparative advantage in key markets. The indicators detailed below provide an overall assessment of key conservation activities. The RMC Division is one of a number of contributors to these benchmarks.

Headline indicator (1 of 3)

'Proportion of Tasmanian land reserved'

This indicator aims to measure the percentage of land protected either by legislation or contract in conservation reserves, under covenant or heritage regimes. It includes both private and public land.

RMC Division is one of a number of contributors to this benchmark. The Division provides policy and regulatory frameworks and programs that underpin the sustainable management of the State's natural resources. The work completed by the Division to support the conservation activities of private landholders is an important input to this benchmark.

Table 20: Land protected by legislation or contract

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Land protected either by legislation or by contract in conservation reserves, under covenant or heritage regimes ^{1&2}	%	45.4	50.2	50.4	52.0 ³	50.5 ⁴

Source: DPIPWE RMC Division records.

Notes:

1. The land protected by legislation or contract is based on the preliminary Tasmanian Reserve Estate layer, which is made up of current formal and private reserves and informal reserves from the best available data. The area of Tasmania calculated is 6.81 million ha, based on the mean high-water mark. This includes Macquarie Island and other Tasmanian offshore islands. Only the terrestrial portion of reserves is reported on.
2. The use of the preliminary Tasmanian Reserve Estate layer may result in slight variances in the annual figures quoted as they are subject to revision based on the final reserve data.
3. The 2013-14 target was based on predicted changes to the reserve estate associated with legislative projects.
4. The target for 2014-15 reflects the continuing implementation of programs focused on conservation on private land, and takes into account voluntary agreements in negotiation or finalisation. The new forestry legislation is not expected to change the current reservation status of land in the Tasmanian Reserve Estate layer.

Key activities in 2013-14

In 2013-14 the focus of the RMC Division's activities in relation to this indicator has been on supporting the establishment of voluntary covenants on private land. In this year 30 such covenants were finalised, adding 12 425 ha to the Tasmanian reserve estate.

Headline indicator (2 of 3)

'Area of non-forest vegetation protected'

This indicator identifies all non-forest vegetation communities protected through formal reservation and other means. It includes both private and public land.

The RMC Division, along with private landholders, contribute to this benchmark through the development of voluntary conservation agreements, which may include some non-forest areas.

Table 21: Area of non-forest vegetation protected

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Area of non-forest vegetation protected:						
Hectares of reserves included in the CAR Reserve system ¹	Hectares '000	1 077	1 122	1 109 ²	1 180	1 110
Hectares covered by all other non-binding agreements ³	Hectares '000	9.6	10.5	10.2 ²	13.0	10.5

Source: DPIPWE RMC Division records.

Notes:

1. The hectares of reserves include all classes in the preliminary Tasmanian Reserve Estate layer. Non-forest vegetation extent is taken from TASVEG 3.0 (2013).

- 2 The reduction in the reported figure relates to changes in the base mapping used. The vegetation classification used in TASVEG 3.0 is significantly different to that used in TASVEG 2.0 (see Key activities in 2013-14, below), such that direct comparison of figures between these TASVEG versions is not recommended.
- 3 This indicator reflects participation in the Department's 'Land for Wildlife' voluntary conservation scheme and other programs such as the Midlands Conservation Fund stewardship agreements.

Key activities in 2013-14

The Department undertook a major revision of its key vegetation mapping tool TASVEG, with version 3.0 released in November 2013. This release reflects significantly improved knowledge of the distribution of important lowland native grasslands and other vulnerable communities, and includes more finely resolved mapping of forest communities. These changes do not reflect a reduction in the areas of formal and informal reserve areas, only an improved understanding of the types of vegetation they contain.

The extent of non-forest vegetation protected is considered to be stable: no significant increases in actual extent through new conservation agreements were made during the year. It is anticipated that the trend in protection of non-forest vegetation will not change in the coming year. There are a number of reserves that are non-perpetual, and as these expire the area protected may decline.

Headline indicator (3 of 3)

'Changes in status of threatened species'

The RMC Division supports the Government in the conservation of Tasmania's natural heritage, including protecting and managing flora and fauna that are listed under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. This indicator assesses the extent to which Tasmania's biodiversity is being maintained by measuring changes in the status of threatened species. The *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* is administered by the Department. It establishes the mechanisms for the listing and delisting of threatened species and provides Schedules of native flora and fauna that have different degrees of threatened species status.

The Division contributes towards this benchmark through a range of activities that support the conservation of Tasmania's biodiversity and natural heritage. They include monitoring the status of specific species to assess changes, providing information to support the management and recovery of threatened species by Department staff and others, as well as actively managing and recovering specific threatened species.

Table 22: Changes in status of threatened species

		Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Threatened species showing a decline in status	No.	No.	5	3	0	10 ¹	5
Threatened species showing an improved status	No.	No.	4	6	0	10 ¹	2

Source: DPIPWE RMC Division records.

Note:

1. Changing the status of threatened species requires the completion of the formal process detailed in the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. Significant work has been undertaken on a number of species during 2013-14. However, the process that formalises the change in status of species and therefore provides the result for these measures (either improved or declined) has not been completed within the financial year. For this reason the result for these two measures is zero for 2013-14. In light of this delay, the targets for 2014-15 reflect the number of species for which the formal process is most likely to be completed in that period.

Key activities in 2013-14

The RMC Division continued to undertake a number of specific tasks required to support the processes of listing and managing threatened species. These included the preparation of 29 draft listing statements, reviewing data and information and providing this to the Scientific

Advisory Committee to assist their consideration of proposed changes in threatened species status.

Partnership approaches to conservation on private land

We work with private landowners, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and the NRM regional bodies to implement workable approaches to nature conservation on private land. We provide support and advice to our partners and to landowners on the management of natural values at the property and landscape scales. We participate in national and international programs and initiatives to ensure that Tasmania receives the best possible advice and support for natural values management.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Area of private land covered by voluntary binding conservation agreements'

The Private Land Conservation Program provides landowners with access to voluntary conservation agreements that protect the natural values on their land. This indicator measures how much private land has been committed for conservation and demonstrates the level of interest from private landowners in conservation of natural values on their land and in the wider landscape.

Table 23: Private land covered by property-based conservation agreements

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Private land covered by property-based conservation agreements ¹	Hectares '000	88.0	91.1	102.7	93.0 ²	105 ³

Source: DPIPWE RMC Division records.

Notes:

1. Voluntary binding conservation agreements include both conservation covenants and management agreements, except for offset and compensation covenants. The measure represents the cumulative total for reservation.
2. The 2013-14 result is related to increased participation in voluntary covenants, notably large properties purchased by Tasmanian Land Conservancy and higher than expected performance of the Protected Areas on Private Land program.
3. The 2014-15 target includes agreements in negotiation or finalisation.

Key activities in 2013-14

The Private Land Conservation Program has achieved significant increases in hectares protected through the inclusion of the Five Rivers conservation reserve owned by Tasmanian Land Conservancy in the Central Highlands. The program now has more than 755 individual statutory conservation agreements with private landowners as well as 877 participants in the non-binding 'Land for Wildlife' program.

Sustainable management of wildlife population

Tasmania's diversity of animals is an important part of the State's identity, contributing to the Tasmanian brand values. We sustainably manage the State's wildlife, including game species. We deliver services to assist landholders to minimise browsing damage caused by wildlife. We also manage the controlled hunting of game.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 3)

'Private land covered by property-based game management plans'

The emphasis in wildlife management is on cooperative arrangements with landholders through the design and implementation of property-based game management plans to enable

wildlife and landholders to successfully coexist. Game management plans identify a practical approach to reduce the damage wildlife may cause to agricultural, pastoral and forestry production on individual properties.

This indicator measures how many properties are covered by these voluntary arrangements. It provides an assessment of the impact of the work with landholders to encourage sustainable game management on private land.

Table 24: Land covered by property-based game management plans

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Private land covered by property-based game management plans ^{1&2}	No of properties	3 715	3 715	3 715 ²	3 720	3 715 ³

Source: DPIPWE RMC Division records

Notes:

1. This measure includes individual forestry coupes.
2. The actual 2013-14 figure reflects the plans revised and maintained for the period.
3. The target for 2014-15 aims to maintain the number of plans. A significant proportion of plans are for individual forestry coupes.

Key activities in 2013–14

During 2013-14, the work of the Game Management Unit has centred around property specific deer management, browsing damage control and hunter coordination on properties covered by plans. Five plans have been reviewed and updated.

A new wallaby management program commenced on King Island and is showing positive early results.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 3)

'Level of 1080 usage'

This indicator measures the level of usage of 1080 for browsing animal control. It reflects the need for browsing animal control by the forestry and primary industries sectors. The Department has lead agency responsibility for this benchmark and administers the Code of Practice for the Use of 1080 Poison.

Table 25: Usage of 1080

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Level of usage of 1080 ¹	Kg	0.42	1.21	1.14 ²	<1.00	1.14 ³

Source: DPIPWE RMC records

Notes:

1. The actual level of usage of 1080 reflects the need of primary producers to manage the impact of browsing damage to crops and pastures. It is used as a last resort when no practical alternative exists.
2. The 2013-14 target was not met due to increased demand for access to 1080.
3. The 2014-15 target reflects the Tasmanian Government's commitment to provide landholders with access to 1080 until a viable, safe, and cost-effective alternative exists.

Key activities in 2013-14

The Department recognises the significant impact of browsing animals on pastures and crops in Tasmania and will continue to provide access to 1080 for farmers, until such time as a viable and approved alternative is found.

The Department's Browsing Animal Management Program will continue to work closely with landholders to support effective management of browsing animals. The program demonstrates practical methods to help farmers quantify production losses resulting from the impacts of browsing wildlife and then develop a browsing animal management strategy for their property.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 3)

'Issuance of wildlife licences and permits'

The sustainable management of Tasmania's wildlife is based on reliable scientific information about the numbers, health and behaviours of the wildlife. The Division maintains a permit and licensing system to facilitate the controlled and accountable taking of wildlife.

Table 26: Licences and permits issued from 2011-12 to 2013-14

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual
Herpetology permits	each	390	445	394
Staff permits	each	466	444	417
Commercial licences for wallaby, possum and mutton bird ¹	each	80	114	128
Cultural mutton bird permits ²	each	76	71	3
Recreational game licences ³	each	13 507	13 923	13 753
Crop protection permits ⁴	each	6 275	3 515	3 279
Import/export wildlife permits	each	507	409	475
Threatened species permits (flora and fauna) ⁵	each	74	123	133
Other miscellaneous permits ⁶	each	523	958	1 403
Wildlife rehabilitation permits (Schedule 1 and 2 species)	each	276	391	479
Crown/Reserved Land Authorities ⁷	each	3 354	2 064	1 105

Source: DPIPWE RMC Division permit database

Notes:

1. The increase in commercial licences is a reflection of greater demand for commercially supplied wallaby, possum and mutton bird products and broader community understanding of licence requirements associated with the sale of such products.
2. Consultation with Aboriginal communities regarding seasonally low bird numbers resulted in cultural mutton bird harvesting in southern Tasmania being severely restricted and fewer permits were issued in 2013-14.
3. The game licence year runs from February to January.
4. From 2012-13 crop protection permits for Brushtail possums are issued for 12 months; previously they had been issued quarterly. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the actual number of permits issued.
5. Threatened species permits include 72 scientific permits and 61 development permits for 2013-14
6. The miscellaneous permits figure for 2012-13 includes 511 seal management permits; and the figure for 2013-14 includes 630 seal management permits. The 2013-14 figure also includes 12 wildlife exhibition licences; 19 wildlife display permits; 520 wildlife possession permits; 54 taxidermy permits; 54 research permits for fauna; 4 development permits for fauna; 25 flora permits for reserved land; and 85 miscellaneous permits, which reflects an increase in wildlife possession permits and reporting of miscellaneous permits not previously included in figures.
7. Crown/Reserved Land Authorities are now called Firearms Licence Holder's Permission Documents as per s39 of the *Firearms Act 1999*. These documents are used to support an application for a firearms licence; the decreasing number reflects a trend towards hunting on private land.

Key activities in 2013-14

DPIPWE Corporate Information Technology staff, in consultation with the Wildlife Management Branch, have been working on the creation of a new Wildlife Information System. Once completed, this will incorporate a permit and licensing system for the Agency (to facilitate the controlled and accountable taking of wildlife) with an information gathering and sharing database for use across government.

Ready access to accurate and meaningful natural resource condition information

We collect, analyse and provide access to an extensive range of natural resource condition information. The Natural Values Atlas (NVA) provides a user-friendly web interface allowing the public easy access to information on more than 20 000 plant and animal species in Tasmania.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 3)

'Accessibility of natural values information via the NVA'

The NVA is a valuable resource available for government and non-government organisations, scientists, consultants, students, educators, travellers and nature enthusiasts.

This indicator assesses the volume of natural values records the Division makes available via the NVA and the level of public use of the system.

Table 27: Information provided via the NVA

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Records included in the NVA ¹	'000	1 125	1 215	1 249	1 250	1 270
Level of use of the NVA – hits on website ²	'000	1 718	1 917	116 ³	1 900	120

Source: DPIPWE RMC Division records.

Note:

1. These are the number of accepted records held within the NVA.
2. These are the number of page requests from the NVA website.
3. The Natural Values Atlas (NVA) provides a web interface allowing access to authoritative and comprehensive natural values information (datasets). The 2013-14 decrease in the number of pages visited when compared to 2012-13 is due to the adoption of statistical software that has an algorithm that measures page views per site differently.

Key activities in 2013-14

In 2013-14, the inclusion of additional datasets and augmented functionality has ensured the continuation of the NVA as a popular source of information on Tasmania's natural values, with 116 000 page hits recorded for the NVA web site during this period.

Over the reporting period a total of 38 368 accepted observations were loaded into the NVA, resulting from the incorporation of a number of major and diverse datasets that included vertebrate data from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, shorebird data and historical invasive species records.

Observation Type and Extent

Recent enhancements to the NVA include improved capacity to record meaningful type and status information for each observation. These enhancements will result in a greater ability to record, search and display observation records. Users will now have better access to species survey data and will be able to determine changes in species distribution over time. Implementation of a 'confidence rating' similar to that used within the Atlas of Living Australia will improve data quality information to better facilitate the inclusion of 'Citizen Science' data in the NVA.

ALA

The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), funded by the Australian Government, contains information on all the known species in Australia aggregated from a wide range of providers, including the NVA. The NVA provides the ALA with all of its validated observation data. In reciprocation, the ALA is currently negotiating with other partners to facilitate the transfer of their relevant Tasmanian observation records into the NVA.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 3)

'Accessibility and quality of the TASVEG dataset'

The Division creates, maintains and continually improves TASVEG, the 1:25 000 scale statewide vegetation community map. The TASVEG baseline mapping underpins legislative native vegetation conservation provisions, policy, vegetation management agreements and monitoring at the State and Australian Government levels.

This indicator assesses the level of public access to TASVEG data delivered via the Land Information System Tasmania (LIST) and the level of improvement to the mapped distribution of TASVEG communities.

Table 28: Accessibility and quality of TASVEG dataset

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Area of mapping revised in TASVEG ¹	Hectares '000	302	1 277	214	400	300 ²
Level of use of TASVEG:						
Requests for digital datasets ³	No.	71	81	90	85	85
Requests via LISTmap ⁴	'000	23.5	28.1	5.6	25	5.7

Source: ILS and RMC divisional records.

Notes:

1. This is based on the total area of polygons attributed with a project code indicating completion during the 2013-14 financial year. This measure is likely to underestimate total area updated. The area of TASVEG revised in 2013-14 was 214 000 hectares, representing around 3 per cent of the total TASVEG area. This is an apparent decrease in comparison to previous years and reflects a period of altered focus on activities associated with the release of TASVEG 3.0 in November 2013, and on improved capacity for user input.
2. The area of revised mapping depends in part on the level of externally generated mapping that is provided to the Department for inclusion in the NVA. It is therefore difficult to predict; the 2014-15 target is based on the Department's current capacity to integrate mapping data from external sources.
3. Number of requests for digital datasets, including both full and partial TASVEG datasets. The release of TASVEG 3.0 in November 2013 resulted in the automatic distribution of this dataset to users with existing data agreements. In addition, a number of new requests for this data were received.
4. Requests via LISTmap. Prior to the 2013-14 reporting period this statistic represented the number of requests of the LISTmap display, where the TASVEG layer is selected. The current statistic represents the number of times TASVEG was added to a LISTmap user session (rather than the number of page refreshes or 'hits') and is therefore not directly comparable to previous years. The current value also represents a theoretical estimate based on statistics for the last five months of the financial year.

Key activities in 2013-14

Release of TASVEG 3.0

The launch of TASVEG 3.0 on 18 November 2013, is the first major release of the vegetation map since 2009. This release reflects significantly improved knowledge of the distribution of important lowland native grasslands and other vulnerable communities, and includes more finely resolved mapping of forest communities including *Eucalyptus globulus* wet forests. Better mapping has been achieved for scrub, heathland and coastal complex vegetation.

Forest to Fjaeldmark

TASVEG mapping is supported by a technical manual that catalogues and documents Tasmania's extensive and diverse native vegetation. Edition 2 of *From Forest to Fjaeldmark*, released to coincide with TASVEG 3.0, flags the substantial progress that has been made in revising the State's 1:25 000 scale vegetation map, and for the first time includes comprehensive descriptions of the vegetation communities of sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island.

Error Notification Service

In the latter part of 2013-14, the foundations for a TASVEG Error Notification Service (ENS) were laid. The ENS will allow key users of the TASVEG dataset to notify us of errors or omissions in the dataset. Notifications may relate to incorrect TASVEG codes, verification of existing codes via field visits or changes to polygon geometry. Once verified, errors will be

corrected in TASVEG for inclusion in the next scheduled release. This service will be delivered via the web and will allow users to view the most up-to-date in production version of TASVEG.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 3)

'Percentage of threatened species covered by a listing statement'

To further the conservation and management of the natural heritage and biodiversity, the Division collects and makes available information to support the management and recovery of threatened species by the staff, and other organisations and individuals.

Listing statements provide the base level of information required to support decisions related to threatened species management and recovery. These statements contain information on the species, its habitat, conservation status, threats and management requirements. The Division now prepares listing statements at the time a species is listed under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. Threatened species listing statements are readily available to the public through the recently developed web-based decision support tool, the Threatened Species Link.

This indicator assesses the extent to which information is available for each threatened species via a listing statement.

Table 29: Threatened species covered by a listing statement

		Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Threatened covered by a listing statement ¹	species %		42.5	42.5	44.3	42.5	46

Source: DPIPWE RMC Division records.

Note:

1. This measure indicates the availability of information to support decisions about threatened species management and recovery. This measure includes approved Listing Statements and draft Listing Statements that await comment from the threatened species Scientific Advisory Committee and the threatened species Community Review Committee and final approval by the Secretary of the Department.

Key activities in 2013-14

Approved Listing Statements were completed for 18 flora and 11 fauna species, all of which are listed as either endangered or vulnerable. These Listing Statements are available to the public through the web-based decision-support tool, the Threatened Species Link.

Natural systems resilient to climate change

Ready access to information on the potential impacts of climate change is critical for the future planning and development of Tasmania’s industries and communities and the management of Tasmania’s built and natural environment.

We lead or are partners in several key climate change projects, including a project to enable adaptation to be incorporated into policy and management responses for the sustainable management and conservation of Tasmania’s natural resources.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Progress in building the resilience of our natural systems to climate change'

The Division is currently undertaking a six-year project (2012 to 2018) that will refine understanding of the vulnerability of Tasmania’s natural heritage to climate change and sea level rise

The Division is using risk assessment approaches and spatial layers to inform planning and decision-making processes, management and policy principles, and monitoring and adaptive management programs with partners in other government agencies and universities.

Key activities in 2013-14

This year the Division has focused project activity on the potential impact of sea level rise on natural values that are largely confined to the coast. Detailed beach-scale assessment has been undertaken on natural values on public land managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service to inform conservation planning for coastal areas. The project has also produced mapping that identifies coastal retreat pathways and refugia areas for plants, shorebirds and vegetation.

Other outputs include the mapping of fire refuge areas for vulnerable ecosystems and a map of important areas for the protection of ancient palaeo-endemic plant species.

User-friendly, timely and cost-efficient assessment processes

The RMC Division examines resource use and development proposals for their possible impact on threatened species, threatened native vegetation communities, geoheritage and the marine environment. An examination considers how this impact can be avoided, minimised or remedied. Advice is provided to the Assessment Committee for Dam Construction, Forest Practices Authority, the Policy Division, Environment Protection Authority, Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmanian Planning Commission, local governments, and the Australian Government.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Improvements to natural resource assessment processes'

The Division has several initiatives underway aimed at improving the assessment processes. This indicator provides a narrative report on the progress.

The Agency guidelines for conducting natural values assessments have been reviewed and the preparation of guidelines for conducting reviews in the marine environment has commenced. Draft management prescriptions have been prepared for conservation assessments involving hazard reduction burning and for Tasmanian devils.

Minimisation of the impacts of significant pests and diseases on the State's industries and natural diversity

The Department's efforts to maintain effective border protection against significant pests and diseases is described as part of Output Group 6: Biosecurity and Product Integrity. But even the best biosecurity safeguards cannot remove every threat to the natural diversity and industries.

We are continuing to address the damage caused by the Devil Facial Tumour Disease. Efforts are also underway to implement the Conservation Biosecurity System to minimise biosecurity risks, including those relating to chytrid disease.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Progress of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program'

The Tasmanian devil is listed as Endangered, having suffered dramatic population decline due to the infectious Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). The plight of the Tasmanian devil led to the establishment of the *Save the Tasmanian Devil Program* (STDP) in 2003, jointly funded by the Tasmanian and Australian Governments and undertaken in partnership with the Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA). The objectives of the Program are to maintain the genetic

diversity of the devil population, maintain the population in the wild and manage the ecological impacts of a reduced devil population over its natural range.

The STDP is undergoing a transition since successfully establishing an insurance population. While other achievements, such as the translocation of a devil population on Maria Island, were built upon in the last year:

- the STDP is now applying the tools and knowledge gained through the work of the last decade to support the survival of devils in the wild; and
- through isolated landscapes as well as implementing management actions undertaken to support and supplement diseased populations.

Current status of the disease and ecological impacts

Annual spotlight surveys show there has been a statewide decline in sightings of devils of 80 per cent since signs resembling symptoms of DFTD were first reported in 1996. At the sites where disease first emerged, the decline is estimated to be 96 per cent.

In the north-west of the State, the disease has been confirmed at Mawbanna and at Lileah, south-east of Smithton. In addition, DFTD was confirmed further south at Zeehan and in the Henty River area. These reports constitute the most westerly records of DFTD to date.

The following table provides information about the extent of monitoring undertaken in the wild.

Table 30: Monitoring the status of Tasmanian devils in the wild

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Traps deployed to catch Tasmanian devils and monitor their health ¹	No	2 880	2 493	3 960	1 000	3 960
Long-term monitoring sites maintained ²	No	5	4	8	8	8

Source: DPIPWE RMC Division records

Notes:

1. Traps are deployed overnight for the purpose of safely holding Tasmanian devils to enable them to be examined for disease by trained staff. The measure refers to the number of traps deployed on an overnight basis in a year. The targets are based on the monitoring effort required to provide the necessary information to assess the impacts and progress of the DFTD. The increase for 2013-14 is due to the commencement of a five-year monitoring program where 40 traps are set at eight sites for seven nights each.
2. These are sites that are regularly visited over a long period of time, years to decades, to detect long-term changes in the devil population and ecological impacts resulting from those changes. In 2013-14 the number of long-term monitoring sites increased from five to eight sites, reflecting the transition towards establishing the status and trends of the population in order to guide management decisions.

Insurance population

The establishment and maintenance of a Tasmanian devil insurance population aims to support the recovery of the population. This objective is being achieved through the use of traditional intensive captive enclosures, free range enclosures, island translocations and landscape isolation, with the intensive captive collection being the mainstay of the insurance population.

The establishment of the insurance population has been successfully achieved and has exceeded the major performance indicators set in 2008.

The following table shows the results of an annual assessment of the genetic variation within the insurance population undertaken following the breeding season. It examines the genetic characteristics of the insurance population compared with the founder insurance animals.

Table 31: Genetic diversity of the Tasmanian devil

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Extent of genetic diversity of the Tasmanian devil insurance population ¹	%	>99	99	99	>95	>95

Source: DPIPWE RMC Division records

Note:

1. This measure is aimed at assessing the extent of genetic variation within the devil insurance population. Maintaining 95 per cent genetic diversity is considered desirable to minimise the likelihood of inbreeding within the population and to ensure that it remains fit for release at a later date as and if required. The assessment is undertaken on an annual basis following the breeding season. It examines the genetic characteristics of the insurance population compared with the founder insurance animals. Further information can be found on the Program's website www.tassiedevil.com.au.

Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal

The STDP Appeal is a joint initiative of the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania. The relationship has been under review to strengthen the partnership and continue the Appeal as the official fundraiser for the STDP.

Strategic partnerships

The STDP has established a framework for the export of devils to world-class zoos to enhance international advocacy for the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program and to build international partnerships to further support conservation activities. A pilot project to test the framework was conducted in 2013.

The existing relationship with Copenhagen Zoo has been brought within the initiative. New partnerships have been developed with San Diego Zoo and Albuquerque Bio Park in North America, and the Wellington and Auckland Zoos in New Zealand. All of these zoos are also directly participating in the conservation effort in Australia.

Four devils arrived at Auckland Zoo in April 2014.

The pilot project has been completed and the Tasmanian Devil Ambassador Program will now continue to look for opportunities with world-class zoos as suitable animals become surplus to the insurance population.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Progress with other pest and disease management activities'

This indicator provides a narrative report of activities undertaken to manage several other significant pests and diseases and the threat that they pose to the natural diversity.

Azorella macquariensis dieback

In the last five years this species, which has previously been the dominant, keystone species on the Macquarie Island plateau, has suffered a catastrophic decline which has seen it listed as Critically Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

Photo monitoring of 31 sites that have set up to monitor the progression of dieback in *Azorella macquariensis* on Macquarie Island has been completed for the 2013-14 season and the images returned to Hobart. This is the fourth year that these images have been collected and analysis, which is presently underway, will provide information on the progression of the dieback over this period. The previous three years of data have been included in a recently published paper, *Spatial and temporal variation in damage and dieback in a threatened subantarctic cushion species* in the *Australian Journal of Botany*.

The nature of the dieback suggests strongly that the underlying issue is climate change, which is causing the plants stress and making them susceptible to attack from soil borne pathogens that they have probably been resistant to in the past. Staff from RMC, the University of Tasmania and the Australian Antarctic Division have been collaborating to identify the agents that are influencing the extent and spread of the dieback.

Weed incursion on Macquarie Island

Two clumps of exotic grass were found on Macquarie Island in February. The species were identified as creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and the closely related species browntop bentgrass (*Agrostis capillaris*). Neither species has previously been recorded on the island; both are potentially invasive and pose a significant risk.

Based on the initial Identification advice provided by RMC, the PWS staff on the island have removed the two areas of grass and follow up searches will be conducted over the next few years to ensure that this eradication has been successful.

Tasmanian Frog Conservation Project

The 2014 Tasmanian Frog Conservation Project is being undertaken in a partnership between NRM South, Hydro Tasmania and DPIPWE. A wildlife disease biologist has been employed by NRM South and will be hosted by the Biodiversity Conservation Branch until the end of 2014. The project aims to continue to assess the impact of chytrid fungus on key susceptible Tasmanian amphibians, investigate the spread of chytrid fungus into and within the TWWHA, and monitor the effectiveness of new biosecurity infrastructure. The project builds on previous years of monitoring and research as part of a longitudinal study of chytrid and frog population trends.

Based on the project work undertaken biosecurity proposals for the draft TWWHA management plan were developed, biosecurity training was provided for new Parks and Wildlife Service staff and a biosecurity video series was redesigned to improve linkage to management processes and stakeholder messages. The Natural Values Atlas Biosecurity Report was developed as a tool to improve in-field biosecurity and planning.

Myrtle rust

Myrtle rust inoculation trials on seedlings of 18 of Tasmania's 22 understorey Myrtaceae species (e.g. tea trees and paperbarks) show all are susceptible to a degree under glasshouse conditions. Only six species displayed any resistance within the plants tested.

The full genetic variability in the species was not tested and susceptibility of plants in the real world is very likely to be lower. The failure of Myrtle rust to establish significantly in natural ecosystems in Victoria in the last two years points to a potentially lower risk than the climate models predict.

A report on the results of initial susceptibility testing of Tasmanian Myrtaceae species to Myrtle rust has been completed. The report provides results from initial testing of native species, which has been carried out on behalf of the Department by the Plant Breeding Institute, University of Sydney and will support assessment of biodiversity risks, development of incursion monitoring approaches and precautionary planning for mitigation actions.

Integrated and strategic approach to coastal planning and management

Within the RMC Division, we aim to foster better integration and strategic direction in coastal planning and management across Tasmania.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Progress with initiatives to support the State Coastal Policy'

During the year the Division provided advice and information to other State agencies, local government and other stakeholders to assist better implementation of the *State Coastal Policy 1996*. The Division provides ongoing comment on the development of local government planning codes relating to the management of the coast, including hazard management.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)*'Contribution to adaptive responses to coastal climate change'*

The Division works closely with the Tasmanian Climate Change Office, Department of Premier and Cabinet, on the development of measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This includes the development of spatial tools that can be used to assist in responding to climate change and sea level rise impacts on coastal communities and environments.

The Division has completed detailed beach-scale assessments of natural values on public land managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service to inform conservation planning for coastal areas. Coastal retreat pathways and refugia areas have also been mapped for plants, shorebirds and vegetation.

The Division is partnering with Department of Premier and Cabinet to manage coastal hazard data, including data from a review of coastal defences from climate change and sea level rise. This data will be provided to coastal planners on an ongoing basis.

Output Group 4

Water Resources

Delivery of water management and assessment services under Output Group 4 forms a large part of the responsibilities of our Water and Marine Resources Division, contributing towards the sustainable use and management of the State's water resources.

The water-related branches manage Tasmania's water resources in accordance with the *Water Management Act 1999*. This includes: the design of policy and regulatory frameworks to ensure the equitable, efficient and sustainable allocation and use of surface and groundwater resources and the safety of dams; monitoring and assessment of the condition of the State's freshwater resources; facilitating water development through the provision of technical and administrative support for the Assessment Committee for Dam Construction (ACDC); and supporting the work of Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd.

The responsibilities also include the development and implementation of policy and legislative mechanisms to support urban water and sewerage reforms under the *Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008*.

The water-related branches contribute towards a number of the Department's objectives, in particular the following:

- maintaining and, where appropriate, improving the condition of Tasmania's natural resources;
- facilitating the sustainable development of Tasmania's natural resources;
- helping to grow Tasmania's primary industries and food sectors; and
- providing ready access to accurate and meaningful land and resource information.

Recent Highlights

- Adoption of the Ringarooma and South Esk Water Management Plans.
- Provision of advice to Tasmanian Irrigation on Tranche 2 irrigation development projects.
- Transition of water data to the AQUARIUS water information database.
- Significant progress in the rollout of standard conditions for water licenses.

Water infrastructure development

We are a key partner in the Government's major Water Infrastructure Project to deliver more water to the agricultural sector, allowing this sector to unlock the competitive advantages offered by the State's plentiful water supply.

We provide technical support to the Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd to assist in progressing projects through approval processes while maintaining an appropriate separation, given the regulatory responsibilities under the *Water Management Act 1999*. We also support the work of Tasmanian Irrigation in the establishment of irrigation districts.

Headline indicator

'Amount of water available for irrigation'

The amount of water licensed for irrigation is an indicator of expanding access to water for the agricultural sector. It captures new and existing dam storage capacity as well as access to water licensed through other statutory water rights. It is an effective summary of the State's overall water capacity for agriculture and, over time, will enable the effects of the Government's multi-million dollar investment in water infrastructure to be tracked.

Table 32: Water available for irrigation

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Total volume of water licensed for irrigation (cumulative)	Megalitres (ML) '000	628	652	708	668	720

Source: DPIPWE Water and Marine Resource (WMR) Division records.

Note:

A further approximately 100 000 ML is available through other statutory water entitlements, which are not recorded on the DPIPWE register.

Safe and sustainable dam development

Dams are a critical source of water supplies for industry and the community in Tasmania. The services support safe and sustainable dam development. They underpin the work of the Assessment Committee for Dam Construction (ACDC) and help ensure that the State's dam works permit process meets client expectations.

The ACDC is an independent statutory body established under the *Water Management Act 1999* (refer pages 62 to 65).

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 3)

'New dam works permits approved'

The Division provides administrative and technical support and advice to the ACDC. It also assess dam permit applications as delegated by the ACDC under the *Water Management Act 1999*. This indicator assesses progress with dam development. It provides information about the number of new dam works permits approved and the increased water storage capacity that results.

Table 33: New dam works permits approved

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
New dam works permits approved per year	No.	45	44	40	40	35
Increased storage capacity approved per year	ML	19 159	24 218	11 394	14 000	10 000

Source: DPIPWE Water Licence Register records.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 3)

'Dam permit application processing time'

The *Water Management Act 1999* requires that dam permit applications be dealt with within 84 days of lodgement. This indicator assesses how timely the processes are to support the assessment of applications.

Table 34: Dam application processing time

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Average time for processing dam permit applications	Days	78	78	79	84	84
Percentage of applications processed within the statutory timeframe	%	100	100	100	100	100

Source: DPIPWE WMR Division records.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 3)

'Level of dam safety'

The potential consequences of a dam failure for its owner, the downstream community and the environment can be significant, depending on the size and location of the dam and the extent of the failure. The Division provides policy and regulatory frameworks and advice to the ACDC to ensure that new dams are constructed safely. It is also responsible for regulating existing dams to ensure that dam owners meet their obligations in relation to the ongoing safety of their dams.

Table 35: Dam safety

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Prescribed dams with initial safety surveillance reports completed	%	93	87	48	100	100

Source: DPIPWE WMR Division records.

Note:

The methodology for this indicator has been amended. Prior to 2009–10 it included dams of 'High C' or above hazard rating. As from 2009-10 the data includes dams of 'Significant' or above hazard rating.

Of the 31 Safety Reviews due during 2013-14, some 16 dam owners have yet to submit appropriate documentation and are being actively followed up by the Department hence only 48 per cent of the target was reached.

Sustainable management of groundwater

We are responsible for managing the State's groundwater resources under the *Water Management Act 1999* to ensure that these resources are developed and used in an orderly, equitable and sustainable manner. It is an important resource, with direct and significant linkages to surface water. We manage the licensing of well drillers, regulate bore development and, where relevant, manage the licensing and allocation of groundwater extractions.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Progress in implementing improved processes for management of groundwater'

This indicator provides a narrative report on progress to implement mechanisms designed to improve the sustainable management, development and use of Tasmania's groundwater.

Well works permit system

The well works permit system allows more effective management of the location of new wells, which helps to protect water-dependent environmental values and existing groundwater and connected surface water users from adverse impacts. The permit system also ensures appropriate standards are met for drilling and construction of wells.

Since the introduction of the permitting system, 356 permits have been issued. In 2013-14, 55 applications were received and 54 permits were issued: 39 for stock and domestic purposes; five for commercial purposes and 10 for decommissioning purposes.

Groundwater licensing and allocation system

Tasmania's first Groundwater Area was appointed at Sassafras-Wesley Vale under the *Water Management Act 1999* in July 2012. Appointment of Groundwater Areas provides the primary approach to licence groundwater extraction.

Licensing and allocation of groundwater has been carried out during 2013-14 under the provisions of the Sassafras Wesley Vale Water Management Plan. Of the 5 769 ML of groundwater available for allocation, 5 131 ML was allocated during 2013-14. Due to some late submissions the remainder of available groundwater (636.8 ML) will be formally allocated in 2014-15.

Understanding groundwater systems

A unified Tasmanian Aquifer Framework, developed in 2012, was used as the basis for preparing the Groundwater Report to support the future development of the proposed North-West Water Management Plan.

The report provides a description of the groundwater resource and covers five north-west river catchments (Welcome, Montagu, Duck, Arthur and Black-Detention) with a combined area of approximately 4 600 km².

This report synthesises the available information on the hydrogeology of the North-West plan area and also examines the current levels of groundwater use in relation to the estimated potential groundwater recharge at the scale of the plan. This will allow a determination of groundwater availability under the proposed North-West plan.

Groundwater monitoring and information

The State's groundwater monitoring network comprises 118 currently operational sites with 106 fitted with data loggers and telemetry devices to automatically record water levels. This allows the data to be automatically transferred to the Department's database. Current groundwater monitoring data have been made available to the general public together with surface water monitoring information on Water Information System of Tasmania web portal (<http://wrt.tas.gov.au/wist/ui>).

Collection of water bore drilling information, maintenance and development of Tasmania's groundwater information and management database system (GWIMS) is an ongoing process. The database contains details on 10 510 existing bores and all new bores across the State. This information is publicly available via a map-based public access web portal (<http://wrt.tas.gov.au/groundwater-info/>).

During the last year, interpretation of the existing and new drillers' logs to a standardised Tasmanian Geological and Hydrogeological Units was continued. An updated version of Tasmanian Groundwater Information System Core Database was supplied to Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) for inclusion in the National Groundwater Information System (NGIS) Database Model and web delivery in 2014 using the Bureau of Meteorology web site (<http://www.bom.gov.au/water/groundwater/ngis/>). The Division published the web based Groundwater Information Portal and finalised and published the Tasmanian component of the web-based Atlas of Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems.

Tasmania operating within an effective national water planning and management framework

In 2005, the Tasmanian Government entered into the Intergovernmental Agreement for the National Water Initiative (NWI). The NWI recognises the importance of Australia's water resources to communities and the economy. It aims to achieve a more cohesive national approach to the way Australia manages, plans for, prices and trades water.

We lead implementation of Tasmania's NWI obligations. We also support the development of a National Water Market System.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Progress with Tasmania's Implementation Plan for the NWI'

This indicator assesses progress with the NWI Implementation Plan. It provides a narrative report on progress with key focus areas of the plan. This includes water management plans, water metering, water accounting, groundwater management and determining the impacts of interception on water availability. The narrative report is supported by relevant statistical information.

Water management plans

Water management plans provide the opportunity for catchment communities and other stakeholders to have a direct say in how a catchment's water resources are best allocated and managed to achieve the community's economic, social and environmental objectives.

Table 36: Catchments with water management plans in place

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Catchments with water management plans in place	No.	9	9	12	13	13

Source: DPIPWE WMR Division records.

Key activities in 2013-14

Both the Ringarooma and South Esk River Catchment Water Management Plans were adopted by the Minister during 2013-14. Both Plans will take effect in October 2014. In addition, the draft Macquarie River Catchment Water Management Plan was all but completed, and should be adopted by the Minister early in 2014-15. The Tasmanian Planning Commission completed its review of representations on this draft Plan earlier in 2014, and the Minister's adoption of the Plan remains the final step.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Contribution to the development of a National Water Market System'

This indicator provides a narrative report on the input into the Australian Government's previous work to develop a National Water Market System (NWMS). The NWMS was agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and was intended to provide nationally-integrated and connected, high performance electronic water entitlement register systems in each State and Territory, known collectively as the Common Registry System (CRS).

During 2013-14, work was progressed on the CRS project prior to its cancellation by the Australian Government as part of the 2014-15 budget. Discussions are currently being held between the Australian and State and Territory Governments in regard to finalisation of the project as it stood at that point in time, and transfer of intellectual property for use by the States and Territories as appropriate. Notwithstanding the cancellation of the project, work undertaken in 2013-14 was beneficial for improving the functionality of the current Water Information Management System (WIMS).

Ready access to accurate and meaningful water related information

We undertake a range of water assessment and monitoring activities to provide information to enable the Department and other stakeholders, including water users, to meet their statutory responsibilities. This includes information to support water development and management decisions.

We develop and maintain the Water Information System of Tasmania (WIST), a single point of access to Tasmanian freshwater related information. Information on stream flow, water quality and freshwater related documents can be displayed and downloaded.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Accessibility of water related information via the WIST'

Rapid, affordable and simple access to water resource information is a key strategy in encouraging industry and community involvement in water resource management. This indicator examines the range of fresh water related information available to the public via the WIST and the extent to which this information is accessed.

Table 37: Information provided via the WIST

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Surface and groundwater monitoring sites on WIST	No.	134	206	202	208	202
Public use of WIST – pages accessed	'000	383	n.a.	85	500	130

Source: DPIPW E WMR Division records and Google Analytics.

During 2013-14, significant progress has been made restructuring the water licencing database to further facilitate ease of public access to water licencing data via WIST and other systems.

As at 30 June 2014, the total number of sites presented on WIST was 202. This consists of 81 stream flow stations and 121 ground water monitoring bores.

The software and method for determining the statistics for WIST web pages viewed has changed and has only been available since October 2013. The 2014-15 target reflects the expected hits utilising the new methodology (derived statistics from Google Analytics) and software where the expected target was 500 000 hits using the old methodology and only 85 000 hits could be measured since analysis using Google Analytics commenced.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Assessing the health, condition and state of Tasmania's water resources'

This indicator provides a narrative report on the work to assess, monitor and provide advice on the health, condition and state of Tasmania's water resources.

Water and river health monitoring

During the year the Division monitored 81 stream flow stations and 121 ground water monitoring sites and continued the delivery of data in real time to stakeholders. Continued efficiency upgrade work included finalising upgrading stream flow stations to IP telemetry functionality and the completion of traveller way upgrades improving the stream flow measuring at high flows and enhancing WHS protocols.

The 2013-14, AusRivAS sampling round of the collection and processing of macroinvertebrate samples from 60 monitoring sites statewide was completed.

Results from the 2013-14 sampling season are consistent with those obtained in 2011-12 with the noted increase in the proportion of sites assessed as equivalent to reference or undisturbed (Band A). This exceeds the target set for 2013-14 for expected sites assessed as Band A. Correspondingly there are fewer sites assessed as significantly impaired (Band B).

Table 38: Health of waterways – AusRivAS testing

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Proportion of sampling sites in each AusRivAS band:						
X band	%	3	n.a.	3	3	n.a.
A band	%	58	n.a.	62	60	n.a.
B band	%	32	n.a.	27	30	n.a.
C band	%	7	n.a.	8	7	n.a.
D band	%	0	n.a.	0	0	n.a.

Source: DPIPW E Division records.

AusRivAS provides an assessment of river health based on the composition of the macroinvertebrate community found at a site. A site's health is classified into one of five bands ranging from equivalent to reference condition or undisturbed (Band A and X) to impoverished (Band D).

AusRivAS models predict the aquatic macroinvertebrate fauna that would be expected to occur at a site in the absence of environmental stress such as pollution or habitat degradation.

Further information about the AusRivAS assessment bands can be found in the Water section of the Department's website.

River health sampling is now undertaken every two years, rather than on an annual basis. Sampling will be conducted in 2015-16 and on that basis, no targets for have been provided for 2014-15.

Hydrological modelling to inform water management

Hydrological modelling work was undertaken to inform environmental flow determination for the Arthur River catchment in preparation for future water management planning in the region. Hydrological modelling has also been applied in the determination of catchment yields and hydrological characterisations for hydrology reports informing the North-West planning region (Arthur, Welcome, Montagu, Duck, Black/Detention catchments).

Supporting hydrological information has also been provided for the preparation of Water Management Statements for the Meander, Jordan and Forth catchments.

Hydrological modelling using future climate change scenarios has been undertaken in preparation for inclusion in Water Allocation Tool (WAT) enhancements.

Conservation of Fresh Water Ecosystem Values (CFEV) Program

In 2013-14, the Division focused on consolidation and ensuring relevance of the CFEV database in a planning context. The website has been updated, which has improved the availability of CFEV technical information; a valuable resource for users of the database and other stakeholders. The Division has started the planning process for updating aspects of the CFEV database (Version 2.0). A review of the relevant literature has been done and consultation with CFEV database users has been initiated. An online stakeholder survey and individual interviews have been conducted that aimed to obtain feedback on how the CFEV database is used, determine which aspects of the datasets users wanted updated, and identify specific errors in CFEV data. The survey provided positive and constructive feedback which will be incorporated into a structured updating and maintenance process for the CFEV database in 2014-15. The CFEV program provides ongoing technical support and advice to users of the CFEV database.

Improved urban water and wastewater supplies

We are continuing to implement the Government's agenda to improve delivery of water and sewerage services for Tasmanian communities.

The Urban Water Policy Unit supports the development and coordination of policies relating to the regulation of urban water and sewerage.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Progress with implementation of urban water and sewerage policy development'

This indicator provides a narrative report on the work to support the development and coordination of urban water and sewerage legislative/regulatory framework.

Ensuring the regulatory framework is fit-for-purpose

During 2013-14, the Division continued the work in identifying and rectifying short-comings in the broader regulatory framework and policy settings that apply to the operation of Tasmania's urban water and sewerage sector. This work is necessary to ensure that implementation of the reforms to the sector, initiated in 2009, can continue under a supportive and practical legislative framework. Although implementation of the reforms is well advanced, fine-tuning of

the relevant policy settings is continuing. As part of this activity, extensive consultation has been undertaken with the water and sewerage corporation and other stakeholders, including the sector's regulators and local government.

The main legislative change made during 2013-14 was the enacting of the *Urban Drainage Act 2013* to replace the *Drains Act 1954*. The out-dated legislation was replaced with a piece of modern legislation that will support local government in its duty to effectively drain urban areas. The new Act also provides clear guidance in relation to the provision of stormwater drainage through the use of sewer assets. Development of the new Act involved extensive consultation with water and sewerage service providers, the Local Government Association of Tasmania and councils.

The Division also made progress with several other improvements to the legislative framework. In 2013-14, this included developing urban drainage regulations which are expected to be made in 2014-15.

Other policy activities

The Division has been engaged in a range of other urban water policy related activities, some of which will be likely to lead to legislative changes. These activities, in 2013-14, have included:

- Development work on a reticulated service replacement policy, which is considered desirable as a guide for dealing with situations in which the replacement of a reticulated service with a suitable alternative might be considered.
- A project to update and rationalise water licenses held by urban water entities, which will link to planned future work on supply and demand planning.
- Development and implementation of a protocol to facilitate decommissioning of urban water supply dams that are no longer needed.
- Commencement of a review of the *Water and Sewerage Industry (Customer Service Standards) Regulations 2009*.
- Ongoing work to implement a modern approach to the management of trade waste in the urban sewerage sector.
- Ongoing work to resolve issues around the ownership of Lake Leake and Tooms Lake. This work is necessary to ensure the proper management of the lakes and to ensure they can continue to provide the necessary range of environmental, commercial and recreational functions and benefits.

Assessment Committee for Dam Construction Annual Report 2013-14

This is the last report by the Assessment Committee for Dam Construction (ACDC) as it is scheduled to be dissolved during the forthcoming year. The Committee commenced operations in March 2000, following the enactment of the *Water Management Act 1999*. It is an independent statutory body, established by the Minister to assess applications for dam works in Tasmania.

The functions of the ACDC are:

- to consider applications for dam permits, to grant or refuse permits and to determine any conditions to which the permits should be subject;
- to determine the size, type, location or purpose of dams for which the grant or refusal of an application for a permit may be delegated;
- to determine what type of additional information is to be provided by an applicant for a permit;
- to make recommendations to the Minister on the sharing of costs between applicants and agencies for any additional information provided;
- to provide for the conciliation of any matter arising from an application for a permit;
- to perform such other functions as are conferred or imposed on the Committee by or under the *Water Management Act* or any other Act; and
- to do such supplemental, incidental and consequential acts as may be necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions.

Committee membership during 2013–14 comprised:

- Mr Warren Jones, (Chair)
- Ms Andrea Schiwy, (Deputy Chair)
- Mr Neil Blaikie
- Mr Glenn Moore
- Dr Martin Read
- Mr John Mollison

As required by the Act, the Committee includes members nominated by the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, the Local Government Association of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Minister responsible for administration of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1995*. Two people are nominated by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, one of whom is appointed as chairperson.

Under the Act, 'dam works' means any works for the construction, erection, enlargement, modification, repair or removal of a dam, or for the conversion of land to a dam, or any work on any such dam that may significantly increase the dam's safety risk.

The provision of a separate statutory approval process for dam works, outside the State's more general development application process under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, reflects the fact that dam developments generally cover a larger land area, have potential for greater off-site impacts and pose more significant public safety risks than any other routine type of development proposal.

The Committee receives advice from a Technical Advisory Group in relation to the various technical aspects of dam permit applications, with group membership drawn from various departments. The advice includes information on dam safety and environmental issues including Aboriginal and cultural heritage, threatened species and communities, environmental flows, water quality and fish passage. The Committee also receives operational and management advice and support from the Department.

To 30 June 2014, there have been 1 560 dam works permits approved since the commencement of the *Water Management Act 1999* in 2000; an average of 10 dam works permits issued per month by the Committee over this period. Each of these permits has been assessed for the impact of the proposed works on existing water users, the environment, and public safety.

All decisions by the Assessment Committee to issue Notices and grant or refuse permit applications are open to appeal to the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal. Since 2000, less than one per cent of them have been subject to appeal, a record which reflects the Committee's strict adherence to processes and judicious deliberations.

The *Water Management Act 1999* provides time limits in which the Committee must finalise its decisions to seek further information from applicants or to grant or refuse permit applications. The Committee places a high priority on meeting these limits and has also established procedures to make the approval process as efficient as possible, consistent with the requirement to give due consideration to proposals. To this end, decisions on applications for straightforward dam works proposals of less than 100 ML, where no additional information is required from the applicant and there are no representations received, have been delegated to officers within the Water and Marine Resources Division of the Department.

The number of 40 approvals for 2013-14 is the lowest annual total since 2000. However, the total storage capacity of dams approved for the year results in an average dam size of 285 ML, which is still substantial when compared to the average of 229 ML for 2008-09, 134 ML for 2005-06 and 68 ML for 2000-01. This continues the noticeable trend over time of an increase in both the size and the complexity of the assessment required for new dams, the vast majority of which are farm dams to provide water for irrigation.

Notwithstanding this increasing size and complexity of dam proposals, in 2013-14 the Assessment Committee met its responsibilities for completing all assessments within the 84 day statutory limit; in fact the overall average time period was around 79 days, and the time was much less for smaller, less complex dam proposals.

In the 12 months to 30 June 2014, the Committee held 12 normal meetings to consider dam permit applications. It also conducted a number of inter-sessional meetings between the ordinary monthly meetings to consider additional information about specific applications and/or ensure that statutory time frames for decisions were met and that proponents received prompt advice of any determinations in relation to their applications.

A dam works permit granted by the Assessment Committee does not provide authorisation for the taking of water into a dam. Under the *Water Management Act 1999*, this requires a separate water licence. The Department is responsible for issuing water licences for new or enlarged dams and works closely with the Assessment Committee to ensure that the two processes are closely integrated. In general the Committee will not grant a dam works permit unless it is confident that a relevant water licence (where required) will be granted by the Department.

In accordance with the Committee's Business Plan, a number of field inspections of dam sites were made during the year. These inspections assist the Committee in its broader deliberations of applications for dam permits by enabling Committee members to make direct observations of on-site dam works issues and obtain feedback from dam proponents. In addition there were a number of other matters addressed during the year as a consequence of the implementation of the Business Plan: new FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) were developed in consultation with the TFGA and have now been made public on the Department's internet site; and the program to critically review all documentation that supports the assessment process was commenced with a number of forms being revised during the year.

During 2013-14, the Assessment Committee further refined the assessment process for dam works to ensure that processes and protocols were in place to allow for and improve the integration of assessment of all environmental issues relevant to an application within the Assessment Committee process. This has enhanced the concept of the 'one stop' shop for obtaining the necessary environmental authorisations to construct a dam, replacing the previous legislative framework, which in some cases required the issue of other authorisations in addition to the dam works permit. Under these procedures, the Committee considers all relevant environmental matters for dam applications, such as the clearing of dam sites,

protection of natural values and activities to mitigate or off-set environmental harm that may result from dam works.

The Committee's work in determining dam safety requirements for tailings dams at mine sites has also increased over the last year with increased mining activity in the State. The Committee provides expert input on dam safety for works on tailings dams directly to the relevant body responsible for their overall approval (the local council or the Environmental Protection Authority).

Summary of ACDC activities in 2013-14

Table 39: ACDC dam permit applications approved

Region	2012-13	2013-14
Pieman	2	2
Inglis-Cam	2	1
Mersey-Forth	5	6
Meander	3	7
Pipers-Ringarooma	13	11
South Esk	11	7
Derwent-South-East	7	6
Huon-Gordon	1	0
Total	44	40

Table 40: ACDC dam permit applications assessed during the year

TYPE OF DECISION	No. applications assessed	
	2012-13	2013-14
ACDC decisions:		
Approved	28	17
Refused	0	0
Delegated to the Water Management Branch (under section 144 of the Water Management Act 1999):		
Approved	16	23
Refused	0	0
Total	44	40

Table 41: ACDC classification of dam permits issued

Dam classification	No. permits issued	
	2012-13	2013-14
On-stream (for all purposes)	25	26
Catchment and off-stream	18	13
Other	1	1
Total permits issued	44	40

Table 42: ACDC permits issued by capacity

Dam category based on capacity in megalitres	No. approvals	
	2012-13	2013-14
< 10	6	9
> 10 and < 100	19	18
> 100 and < 1 000	15	10
> 1 000	4	3
Total	44	40

Table 43: ACDC approvals by purpose, number and capacity in 2013-14

Purpose	No. approvals	Capacity megalitres
Irrigation	31	11 160
Stock and domestic	3	49
Commercial	1	172
Other	5	13
Total	40	11 394

Table 44: ACDC comparison of approvals by number and capacity for the last five years

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Total no. approvals	77	55	45	44	40
Capacity in megalitres	16 241	12 133	19 159	24 218	11 394

Output Group 5

Policy

The Policy Branch in the Policy Division delivers services under Output Group 5. The Branch provides policy advice on cross departmental issues, supports projects of strategic importance to the Department, and manages input into the assessment process for major development projects.

In addition, the Branch coordinates a number of department-wide programs, including the Department's Right to Information, legislative and internal audit programs. It also facilitates the Ministerial processes for the Department ensuring delivery of accurate and timely information to Ministerial Offices.

The Branch contributes to the achievement of all of the Department's objectives.

Recent Highlights

- Led the Department's role in drafting the Government's new forestry legislation, the *Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Bill 2014*.
- Contributed to the development of joint State/Australian Bilateral Agreements under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for both environmental assessments and environmental approvals.
- Coordinated assessments and advice relating to development and implementation of six irrigation schemes.
- Developed and released the Expression of Interest (EOI) package for appropriate and sensitive tourism investment opportunities in national parks and reserves.

Timely and cost-efficient assessment of major projects

We facilitate assessment of potential major terrestrial and marine developments for their impact on natural and cultural values, helping to ensure compliance with environmental standards, and providing advice to both statutory regulators and proponents.

We have adopted a whole-of-department approach to deal with assessment processes for major developments and projects. This provides a coordinated service for proponents that assists them to better understand and respond to the State's requirements for sustainable development.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Major development projects with significant DPIPWE milestones achieved'

This indicator assesses the extent to which the Division met milestones for contributing advice and assessments for major development projects in Tasmania.

Table 45: Major development projects with significant DPIPWE milestones achieved

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Major development projects	No.	15	9 ¹	12	12	10
Projects with significant DPIPWE milestones achieved in accordance with targets	%	100	100	100	100	100

Source: DPIPWE Policy Division (PD) records.

Note:

1. The target for 2014-15 was set lower than in the previous year as the Major Projects priority for the first part of 2014-15 is on informing the development and implementation of new forestry legislation.

Key activities in 2013-14

The Division coordinated the Department's review of natural and cultural resource assessments undertaken by Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd (TI Pty Ltd) for six of its current irrigation development projects. It also provided advice on monitoring and compliance activities relating to construction and operational phases of some of these schemes, including implementation of the Landscape Monitoring and Quality Assurance Protocols for the Midlands Water Scheme. The work contributed to the timely and efficient assessment of major irrigation projects that are central to securing water advantages within Tasmania.

During the year the Division provided advice to Government on assessment aspects of planned aquaculture and dairy industry expansion activities across Tasmania and surrounding waters, as well as on individual proposed developments including the Mt Wellington cable car proposal and proposed development along the Bellerive foreshore in Kangaroo Bay.

This year also saw the commencement of the process for seeking expressions of interest for appropriate and sensitive tourism development in national parks and reserves.

High quality strategic policy development

We undertake research and provide advice on strategic policy issues that support the Department to achieve its objectives.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Progress with significant strategic policy initiatives'

This indicator provides a narrative report on the work to progress policy issues of strategic importance to the Department.

Launceston flood risk management legislation

The legislation required further minor amendment to reflect changes in planning law, followed by consultation with the key stakeholders (the Launceston City Council and the Launceston Flood Authority). The *Launceston Flood Risk Management Bill 2014* was introduced to Parliament by the Minister for Planning and Local Government on 5 June 2014.

Aboriginal heritage protection legislation

The Aboriginal heritage protection legislation made significant progress during the year, resulting in the introduction of the *Aboriginal Heritage Protection Bill 2013* in Parliament in late 2013. Draft Regulations in support of the Bill were also developed and made publicly available during a statutory public consultation process to assess the regulatory impact of specific elements. The Response to Submissions Report was released in July 2013. The 2013 Bill, which passed the House of Assembly, was ultimately referred by the Legislative Council to a Sessional Committee and has since lapsed with the proroguing of Parliament.

Replacing the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* remains a priority and the Government is giving careful consideration to its options, including by taking account of recent developments in other jurisdictions. It aims to strike the right balance between effective protection of Aboriginal heritage, and the provision of greater certainty and reasonable process for people trying to develop land. As part of this process, consideration is also being given to some important questions raised by stakeholders about the lapsed legislation.

Forestry Transition

Throughout the reporting period the Division provided policy support and coordinated data and information relevant to the transitioning of the forest industry. This included input to the development and passage through Parliament of the *Forest Management Act 2013*, and

implementation of elements of the previous Government's *Tasmanian Forest Agreement 2012* and the *Tasmanian Forests Agreement Act 2013*.

During 2014, the Division has been part of the tri-agency team developing new legislation to implement the Government's new forest policy. The *Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Bill 2014* was tabled in Parliament at the end of the reporting period.

Parks & Reserves Authority Bill

Development of the *National Parks and Reserves Management Amendment (Parks and Reserves Authority) Bill 2013* entered its final stages in late 2013. Following consultation with key stakeholders, amendments to the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* to establish a statutory Parks and Reserves were introduced in Parliament in October 2013. The amendments were drafted to enable the Authority to guide the strategic direction and management of the State's reserve estate. The Bill was passed in the House of Assembly on 12 November 2013, but did not pass the Legislative Council.

Environmental Regulatory Reform

As part of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) environmental regulatory reform agenda, *the Division* has been working on a range of projects including contributing to the development of joint State and Australian Government Bilateral Agreements under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for both environmental assessments and approvals. This work will see a number of Tasmanian environmental assessment and approval processes accredited under the Australian Government's environment legislation, effectively removing significant duplication and reducing approval timeframes for major projects.

Revision of Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan

A small project team has developed a new draft Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) management plan which, subject to approval from the Director of National Parks and Wildlife, should be ready for public release in late 2014. The draft plan was developed following consultation through a series of public meetings and with key stakeholder groups, Aboriginal people and agency specialists.

Expression of Interest – National Parks and Reserves

An Expression of Interest (EOI) package was developed and released on 21 June 2014 for tourism investment opportunities in national parks and reserves. The package is available from the 'Invest Tasmania' website at www.investtasmania.com.au. The EOI process is conducted over two stages. Stage 1 invites participants to submit a Proposed Development outlining ideas they have for a new environmental tourism experience at a particular site, while Stage 2 involves a request from the Minister for a more detailed proposal from a short list of participants.

Effective coordination of whole-of-department activities

We coordinate a range of ongoing departmental activities, including support for key Department committees.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Progress with coordination activities'

This indicator provides a narrative report on a selection of the Output's work to effectively coordinate a range of departmental activities.

Ministerial advice

The Division coordinates the flow of information between the Department and the offices of the Ministers for Primary Industries and Water and Environment, Parks and Heritage. During the period the Division coordinated 1 362 requests for information from the Minister's Offices, and 1 157 briefings were generated by the Department.

Animal Ethics Committee

The Animal Ethics Committee is constituted in accordance with the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, 8th Edition 2013* (the Code) and approved by the Minister under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*. The Division provides Executive support for the Animal Ethics Committee, including undertaking a range of policy and administrative tasks.

The Department's Animal Ethics Committee provides animal ethics support to Departmental researchers and other licensed animal research institutions and independent researchers. In 2013-14, the Animal Ethics Committee considered 22 new research applications, and reviewed 13 annual reports, 13 amendments to ongoing projects, and 17 final reports for completed research projects. During 2013-14, the Animal Ethics Committee managed 49 different projects undertaken by Departmental researchers, external organisations such as CSIRO, environmental consultants and independent researchers.

In addition to the ongoing management of research projects, the main focus of the work program for the 2013-14 year was to update the Animal Ethics Committee resources to reflect the changes brought about by the release of the 8th Edition of the Code. This required review and revision of the Animal Ethics Committee website, templates, reference materials, guidelines, training package and procedures, and is scheduled for completion in October 2014.

COAG Ministerial councils and standing committees

In 2013, the Division coordinated briefings for the Ministers attending twice-yearly meetings of the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) Ministerial Standing Council on Primary Industries and the Ministerial Standing Council on Environment and Water. The Division also coordinated briefings for Department Officials participating in meetings of the Primary Industries Standing Committee and the Senior Officials Committee (Standing Council on environment and Water).

As a result of the COAG decision of December 2013 to streamline and refocus its priorities, a number of councils were discontinued, including the Standing Council on Primary Industries and the Standing Council on Environment and Water.

In early 2014, the Agricultural Minister's Forum (AGMIN) and the Meeting of Environment Ministers (MEM) were established to enable Ministers to continue inter-jurisdictional collaboration on environmental, agricultural, fisheries and forestry issues of national significance. AGMIN is supported by the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee and MEM by the Senior Officials Group (SOG).

The Division coordinated briefings for the Ministers for the respective inaugural meetings of AGMIN and MEM in April 2014 as well as briefings for Department officials for AGSOC and SOG meetings in March 2014.

Corporate planning

The Division manages the business planning and reporting processes for the Department. This work includes coordination of the annual divisional and branch level business plans, which in turn support the Department's Corporate Plan. It also coordinate the biannual reporting process to enable the Department's Executive Committee to monitor progress of key divisional initiatives and their contribution to the achievement of the Department's objectives.

Other coordination activities

During the year the Division continued to coordinate whole-of-department responses for key activities including input on intra- and inter-governmental issues and input for the annual Parliamentary Budget sessions and associated hearings.

The coordination work ranges across a wide variety of tasks, including:

- supporting the Department's legal advice policy;
- leading and facilitating the provision of strategic and general policy advice across the Department; and
- facilitating and coordinating the Department's engagement with the Department of State Growth (formerly the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts) Business Tasmania Online project.

During the year the Division continued to manage the Department's legislation program, including coordination of input to whole-of-government legislation. Information related to other coordination activities can be found in the Supporting Information chapter of this report: Legislative Program (refer page 121), Right to Information Program (refer page 148), Internal Audit Committee (refer page 132), and Disability Access and Inclusion Working Group (refer page 133).

Emergency management

The Department has adopted a new collaborative approach for addressing its broad divisional emergency management responsibilities.

A critical element of this initiative has been the establishment of an internal Executive level committee for emergency management, which has led the renewal of the agency's emergency management framework and coordinated engagement with the Government sector emergency management committees.

The Committee has almost completed the development of a new set of arrangements, which are described in the 'DPIPWE Emergency Management Plan'. The Plan provides guidance for the maintenance of emergency management capability in line with contemporary practices. This enables Departmental Divisions to share their resources during emergency operations safely, efficiently and effectively.

The Department has also been involved in the implementation of the new Whole-of-Government Interoperability Arrangements, the first of its kind nationally. As at the end of June 2014, the Department has supported 60 staff nominations to participate in these arrangements, contributing approximately 30 per cent of the overall Tasmanian capability.

In addition, Departmental divisions continue to manage their hazard specific programs and initiatives and/or services for whole-of-government emergency management. Examples of such programs include mapping services and advice, and contact centre infrastructure and arrangements.

These initiatives demonstrate the Department's clear commitment toward addressing its emergency management responsibilities in a professional and collaborative manner for the benefit of the Tasmanian community.

Output Group 6

Biosecurity Tasmania

Services for this Output Group are provided by the Biosecurity Tasmania (BT) Division. The services encompass pre-border, border and post-border activities to exclude, eradicate or effectively manage exotic pests and diseases, invasive animals and weeds that jeopardise Tasmania's free status from the relative pest and disease, invasive animals and weeds. These include scientific risk-based systems for control of imports; targeted surveillance programs for early detection of high risk pests and diseases, invasive animals and weeds; and development of a response capability for biosecurity emergencies. Diagnostic services are also provided that support sustainable pest control measures and validate the State's relative pest and disease free status. In addition, the Division provides services aimed at ensuring that agricultural chemical use and animal health and welfare practices are consistent with legislative requirements and community expectations. The Division also provides a framework to regulate and manage food safety in the primary production and processing sectors.

The BT Division contributes towards a number of the Department's objectives, in particular:

- helping to grow Tasmania's primary industries and food sectors;
- ensuring a healthy environment for all Tasmanians; and
- building-on and protecting the Tasmanian brand credentials.

Recent Highlights

- Creation of Biosecurity Tasmania.
- Detection of and response to Little Cherry Virus 2.
- Building of the Plant Quarantine Containment Laboratory.
- Plant Pest and Disease Surveys.
- Building of the Biosecure Fish Facility at Mt Pleasant Laboratories.

A high quality and contemporary legislative and policy framework that supports Tasmania's relative pest and disease free status

The Tasmanian Biosecurity Policy and Strategy is a whole-of-government approach that aims to protect and enhance Tasmania's biosecurity status for the benefit of the industries, environment and public wellbeing, health, amenity and safety. It incorporates prevention, detection and management of biosecurity incursions.

Biosecurity Tasmania leads implementation of the Strategy. This includes contributing to national policy development and applying a risk-based assessment framework for biosecurity activities.

Headline indicator

'New pests established'

This indicator provides information to assess the impact of efforts to prevent the introduction of new pests. The table reports about the introduction of new invertebrate pests and new plant pathogens identified as having been established in Tasmania. The indicator also provides information about the introduction of new weeds, which is reported in a separate table (refer Table 46).

The Department contributes towards this benchmark along with councils, industry and the community. The key activities include implementation of the Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy.

Table 46: New pests established

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
New invertebrate pests	No.	0	0	1	0	0
New plant pathogens	No.	0	0	0	0	0

Source: DPIPWE BT Division records.

In 2013-14, there was one new invertebrate pest, Giant Willow Aphid, determined as having established in Tasmania. The discovery of Little Cherry Virus in Tasmania does not represent the introduction or establishment of a new pest. The discovery resulted from improved technology for the detection of plant diseases. Subsequent investigations revealed that Little Cherry Virus has been present in Tasmania for more than 20 years.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Progress with implementation of the Tasmanian Biosecurity Policy and Strategy'

This indicator assesses the progress with the Biosecurity Policy and Strategy. It provides a narrative report on progress with the development and implementation of key national and State biosecurity policies and programs.

Key activities in 2013-14

Policy development

The updated Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy was published during 2012-13. The Policy was incorporated as a separate section of the updated Strategy. The implementation plan for the Strategy was developed during 2013-14. The progress of the implementation is reported half-yearly.

Import risk analysis framework

The Tasmanian import risk analysis framework (*Import Risk Analysis: A framework of context, concepts, methods and administrative procedures*) describes the Tasmanian, national and international context for import risk analysis. It introduces concepts relevant to dealing with scientific uncertainty and provides guidance on administrative considerations relevant to biosecurity decision making in the Department. The framework provides high level guidance to staff who evaluate biosecurity risks associated with inbound trade and travel.

During 2013-14, 71 Special Authorities were issued to allow importation of live animals including bird and fish species. A further 29 authorities were issued to allow entry of non-viable fish products. These special authorities are required in situations where routine importation is not covered by a published General Authority. A new General Authority was issued for bees and bee products entering the State to better address the risk of introduction of small hive beetle into the State.

Biosecurity surveillance programs

Surveys were undertaken for the quarantinable pests: Myrtle Rust; Clover Root Weevil; Brown Marmorated Stink Bug; and Giant Willow Aphid during 2013-14. None were detected. In the case of Myrtle Rust, which is now endemic in Victoria, these results support current Tasmanian import requirements restricting the importation of hosts.

Within the animal sectors, targeted surveillance was conducted for arboviruses, Newcastle disease, avian influenza (in wild birds) and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Private practitioners contributed eight of the 17 cases reported to the TSE surveillance program. Targeted surveillance was also undertaken for Pacific oyster mortality virus.

The Tasmanian Salmonid Health Surveillance program is a joint Government and industry initiative that has been in operation since 1993. The program provides passive disease surveillance as part of regional and State biosecurity measures. The program contributes to evidence of freedom from a number of significant aquatic diseases. Aspects of the program are varied each year to accommodate specific biosecurity needs and objectives. The program

for 2013-14 was revised by the introduction of company and regional quotas to ensure samples were submitted consistently during the year and for all production zones and compartments. Farm companies were provided with monthly submission statistics and quarterly databased on regional data.

Tasmanian Pacific Oyster Health Surveillance Program provides an overarching structure for the investigation of disease events and evidence to support of the oyster industry's disease status. The program incorporates active testing for the viral pathogen 'oyster herpes virus' that has recently had such a dramatic impact on the New South Wales industry, and now includes regular testing of major Tasmanian port areas. Tasmania continues to remain free of this disease. Departmental officers have been working closely with the Tasmanian oyster industry to improve State, regional and enterprise biosecurity, together with enhancing emergency response preparedness. The Tasmanian oyster industry receives a report of program activities at the end of each financial year. This report is also used to facilitate interstate trade of oyster spat by Tasmanian hatcheries.

Animal health investigations

During 2013-14, 50 terrestrial animal disease investigation events or projects were conducted in domesticated and wild species. In addition there were nine individual disease events involving significant input from the private veterinary sector. Disease syndromes investigated included neurological disease in lambs and calves, abortion and neonatal loss in sheep, acute production declines in dairy herds and hydatid cyst detections at abattoirs. Exclusions of emergency animal disease were conducted for anthrax, Australian bat lyssavirus, avian influenza, foot and mouth disease, vesicular stomatitis, Hendra virus, Newcastle disease, rabies, and West Nile fever. No further cases of avian paramyxovirus type 1 have been detected in pigeons or other avian species since the emergency response mounted in late June 2013 and concluding in August 2013.

During this year, Departmental officers worked closely with the salmonid industry to investigate cases of Salmon Orthomyxovirus Syndrome to describe the epidemiology of the disease and to assist development of management options. Work has also commenced on development of a diagnostic test for the virus.

Two restricted areas remain in place within Tasmania for the control of endemic salmonid diseases. The Department designates movement conditions in consultation with industry for the movement of salmonid products out of Macquarie Harbour and live salmonids from the Huon/Channel region. A number of processing premises were also inspected for biosecurity compliance purposes.

Aquatic animal health research

A partnership arrangement has been developed between the Department, the Tasmanian Salmonid Growers' Association, and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) to develop a Fish Health Centre of Excellence as the basis for providing an advanced research capability for aquatic animal disease. The purpose of the partnership is to provide industry focussed research that supports a shared vision of biosecurity. The focus of activity has centred on a major expansion of a biosecure fish holding facility and upgrading research and diagnostic facilities at the Animal Health Laboratories in Launceston. Work on the upgrade to the facilities is due to be completed by the end of 2014. Further research has been undertaken on the development of a multivalent vaccine for the control of Vibriosis, Marine Aeromonas disease and Yersiniosis that is to be deployed commercially in 2015. A project has commenced, in collaboration with the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, to characterise and develop diagnostic tools for the salmon orthomyxo-like virus, a novel virus of Atlantic salmon.

Animal Biosecurity and Welfare officers, working in conjunction with FRDC, CSIRO Fish Health Laboratories, the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regions, and the Victorian Department of Primary Industries finalised a major research project investigation the epidemiology of abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG). This disease has been shown to be endemic to wild Tasmanian abalone with at least five strains of the virus identified. A key outcome of this project was to validate testing procedures used to detect carriage of the disease. Outcomes of this project have been used to develop an accreditation program aimed at demonstrating freedom of disease for abalone farms, and thus facilitate the safe movement of live abalone between states.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Effectiveness of plant health measures'

Tasmania's relative pest and disease free status supports the State's access to key markets for the food exports. The Division regularly reviews the import requirements used to exclude exotic pests and diseases that may jeopardise Tasmania's biosecurity status. Import requirements are outlined in the Plant Quarantine Manual and specify conditions and restrictions on imported plants and plant products. There are currently 35 commodity/pest specific import requirements.

This indicator provides information about the review of import requirements for plants and plant products and the number assessed to be fit for purpose.

Table 47: Effectiveness of plant health measures

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Import requirements for plants and plant products:						
Reviewed for currency ¹	No.	21	2	2	2	2
Fit for purpose	%	100	100	100	100	100

Source: DPIPWE BT Division records.

Note:

1. This suite of measures assesses the currency of import requirements used to exclude exotic pests and diseases that may jeopardise Tasmania's relative pest and disease free status.

The reduced number of import requirements scheduled for review in the period post 2011-12 reflects the completion of a number of reviews over the previous three years and adjustment to pest declaration processes that has resulted in the revocation of several import requirements. All current import requirements are considered fit-for-purpose in supporting the Tasmanian plant biosecurity system and the continued review process of a small number of requirements each year will ensure currency is maintained.

Key activities in 2013-14

Existing import requirements in relation to fruit fly host produce (deconsolidation of packed product) and to phylloxera in grapes were reviewed and amended. A full Import Risk Analysis was completed for managing the risk of phylloxera entry to Tasmania resulting in revised import requirements. In addition, an import risk analysis in relation to queen bees was undertaken resulting in revised import requirements associated with queen bee imports into Tasmania. Both of these assessments are publically available on the DPIPWE website.

A strong quarantine barrier that excludes pests and diseases harmful to Tasmania's industries and environment

The Biosecurity Operations Branch provides the quarantine barrier controls at all of the major points of entry into the State. This includes the clearance of passengers, cargo, mail, plants and plant products at major sea and airports around the State. Australian Government import and export inspection and certification services are also undertaken on behalf of the Australian Government.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Effectiveness of Tasmania's quarantine barrier'

This indicator combines a range of information, that, when examined together, offers an insight into how well the State's quarantine barrier is operating. For example, a relatively high rate of quarantine interceptions and confiscations of quarantine materials combined with a low level of post-barrier detections are likely to suggest that the barrier service is operating effectively. Care needs to be taken in interpreting this indicator as the results can also be influenced by

the level of service. The data should always be assessed in conjunction with the remaining indicators and explanatory text for the Outcome component.

The 'identification of private quarantine materials' element of the indicator aims to measure protection from the harm caused by the illegal importation of plants and animals. The Division has lead agency responsibility for this benchmark.

Table 48: Effectiveness of quarantine barrier

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Quarantine interceptions for pests, diseases and weeds ¹	No.	363	372	1 182	400	400
Post-barrier detections of significant pests, diseases and weeds:						
Via DPIPWE surveillance systems	No.	0	0	0	0	0
Other detections	No.	0	0	1	0	0
Identification of private quarantine material – private confiscations ²	Kilos	1 605	1 684	1 693	1 600	1 600

Source: DPIPWE BT Division records.

Notes:

- 1 This is a measure of samples of high risk material taken to identify pests, diseases and weeds.
- 2 The measure refers to the number of kilograms of restricted produce confiscated by Biosecurity Operations Branch at Tasmanian ports during a selected month of the year. Therefore, this figure is sensitive to external variations such as changes to flight schedules, origin and seasonal influences. Restricted produce is any plant material defined as restricted under the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997*.

Significant increase in quarantine interceptions in 2013-14 is due to increased focus on certain material (goods) as part of the response to the Little Cherry Virus. The increase in interceptions does not reflect an increase in disease detection. This increase reflects an increased focus on particular biosecurity risk material that was intercepted for surveillance purposes.

Though detected during 2013-14, Little Cherry Virus 2 is believed to have been present in the State for several decades. Its detection was a result of increased biosecurity awareness in the private sector and molecular testing services introduced into the State plant pathology laboratories.

Key activities in 2013-14

The creation of the Biosecurity Operations Branch is for the purpose of maintaining a combined function of delivering Biosecurity Tasmania programs with the flexibility and capability to respond to emerging and urgent situations to protect Tasmania's biosecurity and product integrity status.

A new state-of-the-art Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) cargo and quarantine hub has opened on Hobart's waterfront at Macquarie 2. This new facility will enhance biosecurity measures and ensure that scientists and expeditioners do not accidentally pack a pest to Antarctica. AAD and Biosecurity Tasmania collaborated to educate all stakeholders on how to help to keep Antarctica, the world's largest wilderness area, pristine. The branch prepared a training package designed for AAD staff and subcontractors working on cargo processing for this season's voyages.

New detector dog facilities have been established in both the north and north-west of the State. The previous northern facility ceased operation necessitating the need to source a suitable facility in the region. The north-west facility brings the detector dogs closer to the handlers to reduce travel time in providing care and maintenance of the dogs at the beginning and end of their working day.

Deployment of new x-ray machines at Australia Post to screen express mail items at Mornington and Kings Meadows mail centres has resulted in the detection of a number of biosecurity risk materials. The machines greatly assist officers in their task to process and sample a daily average of 1 200 items.

A Quarantine Officer travelled to South Australia to preclear approximately 3 500 tonnes of track from mining lines destined for a new mine on the West Coast of Tasmania. The officer provided training and supervision of the washing process to ensure the iron met Tasmanian quarantine standards.

A new position responsible for enhancing awareness and preparedness in the apiary biosecurity area was created during 2013-14. The position plays a coordinating and facilitating role liaising with internal and industry stakeholders on import and export issues.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Level of inspection of container cargo'

The domestic container inspection system provides for the systematic external and internal examination of cargo. This indicator is a measure of the level of inspection of cargo containers entering Tasmania.

Table 49: Inspection of cargo containers

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Containers subject to external inspection ¹	%	95	96	95	95	95
Containers subject to internal inspection ²	%	15	15	15	15	15

Source: DPIPWE BT Division records.

Notes:

1. Target of 100 per cent has been revised down to allow for 'leakage' at wharf-side. Leakage in this case are containers that by-pass our inspection facilities. When this does occur, a follow up procedure is instigated, mitigating any risk. The 100 per cent target is considered unrealistic given practical experience with the program thus far.
2. Inspection often entails detailed document examination rather than physical examination of containers.

Key activities in 2013-14

The rationalisation of domestic shipping into north-west ports has provided efficiencies in the undertaking of external container clearances.

Industry partnerships have been developed that facilitate efficiencies in the movement, sampling and release of grain products.

Timely and effective response to pest and disease incursions

Even the best barrier controls cannot remove every threat to Tasmania's biosecurity status. We lead Tasmania's response to biosecurity emergencies arising from animal diseases, plant pests and invasive species.

The Biosecurity Emergency Preparedness Program (BEPP) has enabled us to build the State's capability to respond to pest and disease incursions, providing us with a reserve of personnel forming a first response team, contingency plans, enabling legislation and work instructions, and relationships with stakeholders.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Level of biosecurity emergency preparedness'

This indicator provides information about the extent of the activities aimed at building the capacity to respond in the event of a biosecurity emergency in Tasmania.

Table 50: Emergency preparedness activities

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Staff members of the Biosecurity Emergency Response Team	No.	124	145	144	145	144
Emergency preparedness activities:						
Workshops and exercises ¹	No.	7	5	6	5	6
Staff participating	No.	63	72	73	72	72

Source: DPIPWE BT Division records.

Note:

1. 'Workshops and exercises' includes activities conducted by Departmental staff and others provided externally (by other providers).

For 2013-14, records based upon activities conducted in 2014. The participation total (73) includes eight people from private industry and three from other agencies, reflecting contemporary best practice to involve industry partners and joint responders in biosecurity preparedness.

Key activities in 2013-14

The Department commenced its involvement in the national livestock standstill preparedness activity Exercise Odysseus, which runs across the 2014 and 2015 reporting years. It was pleasing that there was a high level of engagement from key private sector stakeholders and from joint-responders (Tasmania Police and Department of Premier and Cabinet).

BEPP used two plant pest incidents to impart, maintain, extend and test emergency response skills. These were the local Little Cherry Virus response and the Northern Territory's Banana Freckle response. This recognised that participation in actual response is one of the best ways to exercise or extend existing skills or to gain new ones. Both these activities were conducted in accordance with national obligations relating to inter-jurisdictional liaison and coordination. Australia's Chief Plant Health Manager observed that Tasmania's Little Cherry Virus response set a new standard for reporting on an emergency plant pest in Australia.

The generic nature of emergency management skills possessed by many BEPP members was reflected in the roles asked of them during the year. One BEPP member was Incident Controller for the banana freckle response, three filled the role of Logistics Manager and one was Surveillance Manager. A further member with logistic skills was posted to the Zeehan Fire Station to assist the Parks and Wildlife Service with coordination of the response to the West Coast fires.

Infrastructure and hardware improvements during the period included the acquisition of laptops and mobile telephones dedicated to biosecurity emergency response. A large meeting room at DPIPWE's New Town Research Laboratory was successfully trialled as a State Coordination Centre and work has commenced to make the facility easily converted to such use in the future.

Improved training skills featured for a core group of BEPP members. Thirteen places were taken up by BEPP members in courses on writing online emergency response training packages, advanced training skills and also on language, literacy and numeracy awareness necessary to maintain accreditation for Certificate IV in Training and Evaluation.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Effectiveness of diagnostic services'

This indicator assesses the effectiveness of the diagnostic services in producing test results that support the pest and disease control measures. The diagnostic services are an integral component of our emergency preparedness as they enable the State to quickly and accurately confirm or rule out the arrival of potential pests and diseases in Tasmania. They also provide evidence to help validate the State's relative pest and disease free status and support Tasmania's access to key markets for the primary industries exports.

This measure provides independent verification of the quality of the Department's diagnostic services. Every 18 months the Department's veterinary testing laboratory's compliance with relevant segments of ISO 17025 is independently assessed by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA). ISO 17025 accreditation is an international standard against which laboratories demonstrate their technical competence to perform and report on a specified range of tests. It applies to any laboratory required to assure its customers of the precision, accuracy and repeatability of its results.

Table 51: Effectiveness of diagnostic services

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Compliance with International Standard ISO 17025 as applied to veterinary testing laboratories	Yes/No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: DPIPWE BT Division records.

The Animal Health Laboratory was last audited by NATA in June 2013 and was successful in maintaining accreditation. The next audit is scheduled for October 2014.

Key activities in 2013-14

NATA accredited reporting from diagnostic testing at the Animal Health Lab continues to support the activities of the Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Branch and to a lesser extent other programs conducted by DPIPWE. Programs supported include general animal disease investigations, Johne's disease surveillance, Newcastle disease surveillance, Avian Influenza surveillance, the Tasmanian Salmon Health Surveillance Program, the Tasmanian Oyster Health Surveillance Program and the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, among others.

Systems in place for the market to trace primary industry products back to their source

Trace back systems provide a mechanism to speedily trace back products in the event of a biosecurity emergency. We provide services to support implementation of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) in Tasmania. We also work with industry to explore options for voluntary product tagging and origin labelling.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Progress in implementing the NLIS in Tasmania'

This indicator provides a narrative report on progress in key focus areas to implement the NLIS in Tasmania.

Improvements were implemented to the NLIS monitoring system, which is an important NLIS regulatory monitoring tool. It analyses information about livestock movements through saleyards, to major processors and between producer properties. Improvements were made to various reports enabling a greater capacity to cover more aspects of NLIS regulatory performance and in greater detail.

The Department continued to participate in the development of the NLIS (Pork) Business rules, the process examining improvements for NLIS Sheep and Goats and continuing refinements to NLIS for cattle.

Improving NLIS systems and regulatory processes at meat processors across Australia was a focus area because of concerns raised at national forums. Systems and regulatory mechanisms are being reviewed to identify improvements and to ensure their effectiveness.

The Department participated in several advisory committees and attended several meetings important for the consistent implementation of NLIS across Australia.

Legislation to postpone the repeal of the possible regulatory amendments for the *Animal (Brands and Movement) Regulations 2003* was passed by Parliament. Scoping of regulatory amendments continue to be identified and developed prior to consultation with the NLIS Advisory Committee.

The Department maintained a strong presence at saleyards to ensure compliance with NLIS tagging and other regulatory requirements. Warning letters and infringement notices continued to be issued depending on the type of non-compliance and history of non-compliance of the infringing person.

Genetically modified organism (GMO) moratorium

The Government maintains a moratorium on the commercial release of GMOs to the Tasmanian environment in recognition of the potential market advantage this offers the food producers. The Department administers the State's policy on GMOs, including meeting the State's obligations under the national scheme for Gene Technology Regulation. We also monitor the status of existing GM trial sites.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Status of GMO moratorium'

This indicator provides information about the Tasmanian Government's moratorium on the use of commercial GM food and non-food GM crops in the Tasmanian environment.

In 2009, the *Genetically Modified Organisms Control Act 2004* was amended to extend the moratorium on use of GMOs until November 2014. During the later half of 2013, a comprehensive review of the moratorium was undertaken that involved the receipt of 160 public submissions. Due to the State election, the review of the legislation and the associated Government policy did not commence until after the newly elected Government made its decision on the moratorium. Subsequently, once a decision was known, the work commenced on extending the legislation prior to its scheduled expiry.

To support the GMO moratorium, the management of former GM canola trial sites continued during the year. In addition, barrier controls remained in place for seed imports.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Remediation of former GM canola trial sites'

The Division manages all former GM canola sites, in accordance with the *Genetically Modified Organisms Control Act 2004*. They are subject to audit, typically when environmental conditions can be expected to favour germination of residual GM canola seed. This indicator assesses the impact of the services in remediating the former trial sites.

Table 52: Remediation of former GM canola trial sites¹

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target ²
Former GM canola sites remediated – cumulative	No.	5	4	4	8	7
Former GM canola sites with substantial progress towards remediation – cumulative	No.	6	6	6	10	10

Source: DPIPWE BT Division records.

Notes:

1. After the introduction of the moratorium, permits were issued for each of the 57 sites to be managed for GM canola eradication. An audit program was implemented to monitor compliance to the permits and assess the sites for release from management under permit. Four sites were signed off in 2006-07. The remaining 53 sites continue to be monitored and assessed under the audit program.
2. There are presently three sites that are approaching readiness for release from permit, hence the 2014-15 target becoming seven, with 10 more sites making steady progress towards sign off.

Safe use of chemicals in primary production

Chemicals are used in primary production for controlling weeds and other pests, treating or preventing disease and infestations, and providing soil nutrients. Their use is controlled by legislation in Tasmania to ensure that the safety of our animal, human and environmental health and our trade in primary produce are protected. We administer the legislation and oversee primary production chemical use issues. This includes licensing of commercial spray contractors, authorising the use of certain restricted products and coordinating residue surveillance and management programs.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Water samples where pesticides exceed national guidelines'

The Division conducts water quality monitoring every two months at 47 surface water testing sites. The water samples from these sites are tested for the presence of 17 pesticides in accordance with the Agricultural, Silvicultural and Veterinary Chemicals Council (ASCHEM) Pesticide Water Monitoring Program.

Pesticide water monitoring provides a means to increase knowledge and understanding as to the nature and extent of pesticide contamination in Tasmania. The sample results are used by those who manage Tasmania's water resources (i.e. government, industry, water authorities) in a number of ways to assist in maintaining Tasmania's water as a safe and reliable resource.

Table 53: Water samples where pesticides exceed national guidelines

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Water samples with pesticides exceeding national guidelines	%	0	0	0	<1	<1

Source: DPIPWE BT Division records.

Key activities in 2013-14

A total of 282 water samples were collected and tested during 2013-14. No test results were above the national guideline limits set in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) for human health.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Level of compliance with chemical usage legislation'

This indicator assesses the level of compliance with chemical use legislation. It reports on the findings of an audit regime which commenced in September 2009. The aim of the audit program is to improve performance in the way agricultural and veterinary chemicals are used by enhancing compliance with regulatory requirements and to better measure and assess that performance. The audit program is designed to identify the overall effectiveness of the chemical management system in Tasmania.

Table 54: Results of audits of compliance with chemical usage legislation

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Audits of agricultural and veterinary chemical usage without significant findings	%	100	100	100	100	100

Source: DPIPWE BT Division records.

Note:

This measure assesses the level of compliance with chemical usage legislation.

Key activities in 2013-14

In 2013-14, agricultural chemical use audits were conducted on the poppy, viticulture and dairy industries. A total of 32 properties were audited via site visits. One hundred per cent of the audits conducted found no significant findings of non-compliance with chemical use legislation, for example label requirements were adhered to and spray application was confined to target crops.

A safe primary food production chain

Unsafe primary food production not only poses a significant health risk to the Tasmanian community, it could also undermine consumer confidence in the State's food exports. We deliver a framework to regulate and manage food safety in the primary production and processing sector.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Level of compliance with food safety standards by primary producers and processors'

The Division approves food safety quality assurance plans and programs and oversees an audit program to ensure compliance with those plans and programs. This indicator assesses primary producers' and processors' compliance with food safety standards. It focuses on areas of high risk; those aspects of primary industry food production that, if not controlled adequately, are likely to present a food safety risk to consumers.

Table 55: Compliance with food safety by primary producers in high risk areas

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Food safety quality assurance plans/programs approved annually by DPIPWE for eligible producers/processors – cumulative ¹	No.	112	123	142	150	175
Audits of high risk food safety areas without significant findings ²	%	100	100	100	100	100

Source: DPIPWE BT Division records.

Notes:

1. A critical non-compliance finding is a contravention on the part of a producer that presents an imminent and serious risk to the safety of primary produce intended for sale or that would cause significant unsuitability of primary produce intended for sale. During an audit minor non-compliances may be detected and corrective action taken. Such non-compliances do not represent a serious risk to food safety.
2. High risk areas relate to aspects of primary food production that, if not controlled adequately by the operator, are likely to present a food safety risk to consumers.

The requirement for the number of approved food safety programs increased from 2012-13 to 2013-14 following the commencement on 1 April 2014 of Primary Produce Safety Regulations for Seafood and Seed Sprouts. The figure is expected to trend upwards during 2014-15 as regulatory food safety management of the Tasmanian abalone industry is enhanced and the national *Primary Production and Processing Standard for Eggs and Egg Product* is applied in Tasmania via new Primary Produce Safety (Egg) Regulations.

Key activities in 2013-14

The Division provided Tasmanian input into formal assessment and development processes for national primary production and processing standards in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code related meat and horticultural products.

Roll out of new legislative framework with the proclamation of the *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011* (PPSA) was commenced in February 2014, and *Primary Produce Safety (Seafood) Regulations 2014* and *Primary Produce Safety (Seed Sprout) Regulations 2014* commenced on 01 April 2014.

The Division managed transition of Tasmanian bivalve mollusc and abalone producers into new accreditation framework established under the Seafood Food Safety Scheme.

Draft *Primary Produce Safety (Egg) Regulations* was released for public consultation with more than 150 public submissions received by the end of January 2014.

The Division provided input with DHHS and local government into the development and introduction of an amended section 86 notice under the *Food Act 2003*.

Register of approved private third party food safety auditors was established and commenced to conduct regulatory audits for the purposes of the PPSA.

The Division delivered series of information workshops on the introduction of the PPSA for local government Environmental Health Officers.

The Division delivered agreed functions regarding Tasmanian producers supplying export as well as domestic markets who must comply with Australian Government laws relating to export as described in Letter of Exchange with the Australian Government.

Supporting information and material such as template food safety programs and fact sheets were developed to assist industry to comply with legislative requirements.

Information on Biosecurity Tasmania website was reviewed and updated to ensure industry and other stakeholders can access accurate and relevant information on legislative requirements.

Animal welfare practices consistent with community expectations

We manage the regulation and monitoring of animal welfare practices and seek to ensure that the welfare of animals is protected, taking into account both industry and community expectations. Perceived animal cruelty incidents and behaviours attract community outrage and can influence consumer purchasing decisions.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Level of compliance with animal welfare standards'

This indicator reports on a program of inspections of intensive pig and poultry farms to assess compliance with the *Animal Welfare Act* and its subordinate legislation. The inspections include assessment of systems and standards that support good welfare as well as assessment of the animals with respect to actual welfare outcomes achieved.

Table 56: Compliance with animal welfare standards

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Inspections of intensive farming activities:						
Percentage subject to animal welfare inspections ¹	%	71	50	61	50	50
Inspections without significant non-compliance issues identified ²	%	100	100	100	100	100

Source: DPIPWE BT Division records.

Notes:

1. Intensive farming activities refer to commercial piggeries with 50 or more breeding sows, commercial layer poultry farms and commercial meat poultry farms. There were a total of 42 intensive farms (pig and poultry) at the start of 2012-13.

Note that in previous years, intensive pig farms were defined as farms with 50 or more pigs. The definition has been revised based on data collected regarding the use of intensive farming techniques and the size of operation.

2. Significant non-compliance is defined as a breach or alleged breach of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* or *Animal Welfare Regulations 2008* resulting in an infringement or prosecution.

The target of inspecting 50 per cent of intensive farming activities farms was exceeded. The percentage total for 2013-14 of 61 per cent includes 53 per cent of poultry meat farms, 64 per cent of layer farms and 67 per cent of eligible pig farms. No major compliance issues were detected during these inspections.

Key activities in 2013-14

The *Animal Welfare Act 1993* was reviewed in 2013 and a number of recommended changes were put forward to the Minister. It is anticipated that an amendment Bill will be tabled in Parliament by early 2015.

New regulations were made in July 2013: the *Animal Welfare (Domestic Poultry) Regulations 2013*, the *Animal Welfare (Pigs) Regulations 2013* and the *Animal Welfare (Land Transport of Livestock) Regulations 2013*. These regulations legislate nationally developed animal welfare standards. Standards for the welfare of dogs were also developed at the state level and it is anticipated that these standards will be made into regulations in 2014-15.

Minimisation of the impacts of significant pests and diseases on the State's industries and natural diversity

We provide services through the Invasive Species Branch aimed at reducing the impact of pests and diseases on Tasmania's natural diversity and primary industries. The activities include several projects directed at understanding and managing diseases in wildlife, plant diseases, the control of weeds and the control of wildlife imports. Key priorities include eradicating the threat of foxes and reducing the impacts of feral cats.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Progress in the eradication of foxes'

The establishment of foxes in this State would not only impose significant costs on the agricultural industries but would also have a devastating effect on the native wildlife. The Tasmanian and Australian Governments have funded a 10-year program in response to the threat that this pest poses. The narrative report on progress with the program is supported by relevant statistical information.

Baiting Program

In 2010, a precautionary baiting control front was established as recommended by the 2009-10 independent review of the program. This approach employed a baiting control front that systematically moved across all expected fox habitat.

The eradication effort is now moving to a new stage as a result of changes in funding arrangements and in light of no new evidence of foxes detected in the previous two years. The new stage of operations will focus on the incursion response to detections of foxes and investigation of public sightings. Since the cessation of precautionary baiting, the Department has moved its focus to maintaining an incursion response capacity in the context of a new integrated approach to invasive pests.

The following table identifies the results of monitoring and surveillance that then occurs behind the fronts to detect any surviving foxes or those that seek to re-establish so that action can be taken to destroy them.

Table 57: Evidence of foxes established behind the precautionary baiting control front

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Evidence of foxes established behind the precautionary baiting control front	No.	0	0	0	0	0

Source: DPIPWE RMC & BT Divisions records.

Note:

This measure was introduced in the 2011-12 and was aimed at assessing the impact of the precautionary baiting control front established by the Fox Eradication Program in 2010. There has been no evidence that foxes have been behind the precautionary baiting fronts. Following the Kitchell Review of the Program in 2013, precautionary baiting was ceased and the program has moved to a stage of surveillance for fox presence. Only credible sightings or physical evidence will trigger a response that involves localised baiting. No physical evidence has been found since mid-2011.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Progress with other pest and disease management activities'

This indicator provides a narrative report of activities undertaken to prevent and control several other significant diseases and the threat that they pose to the natural diversity.

Macquarie Island Pest Eradication Program

In April 2014, eradication success was declared for the project to eradicate rabbits, rats and mice from Macquarie Island. Since aerial baiting was completed in 2011, highly skilled hunters and dogs embarked on the monitoring phase eradicating the few baiting survivors. In the three years since baiting, day and night searching was thorough and intensive across every part of the island. Teams covered an estimated 92 000 kilometres.

Active management of weeds by landholders

Weeds pose a sizeable threat to Tasmania's agricultural sector and the natural environment. We implement the State's weed management legislation and contribute to the Weeds of National Significance Program. We work cooperatively with the three Natural Resource Management regions and local government to support their weed management efforts. We also provide weed management advice to private landholders.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'New pests established - weeds'

This indicator provides information about the introduction of new weeds into the State. The Division contributes towards this benchmark along with councils and the community. The key activities include administration of the *Weed Management Act 1999*.

Table 58: New pests established – weeds

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
New weeds established	No.	0	1	0	0	0

Source: DPIPWE RMC & BT Divisions records.

Note:

The indicator is based on introduced species that are regarded as having become naturalised in Tasmania, i.e. that they exist as self-sustaining populations. The information is generally based on inclusions in the Tasmanian Herbarium's *A Census of The Vascular Plants of Tasmania*. This avoids listing garden and agricultural plants that might be occasionally found but are unlikely to establish.

Notification is taken to be when a species becomes naturalised in the wild and when it is reported in the Tasmanian Vascular Plant Census. Notified plants are then recorded in this output. If a plant is detected it will not show up on this output report until it is recorded as becoming naturalised and put on the Census. In 2013-14, *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* (Meadow parsley) was reported but will not be recorded in this output until 2014-15 when it will be put on the Census.

Key activities in 2013-14

Two emergency incursion response activities were implemented during this period, one in response to *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* (meadow parsley) in December 2013 and the other in response to *Xanthium spinosum* (Bathurst burr) in early 2014. The Meadow parsley incursion represented a first record for Tasmania, while Bathurst burr had previously been recorded, but controlled. Both incursions involved extensive survey work, engagement with landowners and industry groups and on-ground control work. The sites these weeds were found at will require ongoing monitoring over coming years.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Effectiveness of cooperative weed management programs'

This indicator assesses the success of the work with landholders to educate and encourage them to actively manage weeds on their properties.

Table 59: Weed management compliance

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Inspections resulting in weed requirement and/or infringement notices	%	1.5	1.5	1.0	<5	<5

Source: DPIPWE RMC Division records.

Note:

The Department undertakes a cooperative approach to declared weed management, involving initial contact with landowners and a request to manage or eradicate weed species in accordance with the relevant statutory weed management plan.

During 2013-14, the Department's weed management officers undertook 993 property compliance inspections to assess compliance with the Act. This resulted in 10 requirement notices being issued requiring landholders to control declared weeds. These notices were complied with, meaning no further enforcement action was required. This measure indicates a high level of compliance with the Act which highlights the effectiveness of local and regional weed management programs.

Key activities in 2013-14

New and emerging species have received a greater emphasis for on-ground work over established invasive weeds. Emergency incursion responses for Meadow parsley and Bathurst burr resulted in significant contact with landholders and businesses during the year. More than 450 letters were sent informing landowners of the incursion of Bathurst burr in early 2014, requesting that any additional infestations be reported and reminding affected landowners of their responsibilities under the *Weed Management Act 1999* to control the weeds.

The Department continued to work closely with landowners with serrated tussock infestations following the completion of the Statewide Serrated Tussock Control Project. This includes providing support to Councils which have taken on responsibility for monitoring ongoing serrated tussock control activities.

Output Group 7

Environment Protection and Analytical Services

Output Group 7 provides services to support the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to regulate developments and activities that impact on environmental quality and promote best practice, sustainable environmental management and to conduct and promote activities to achieve its goals of clean air, clean water, clean land, acceptable noise levels and the sustainable use of resources. The Division is responsible for the delivery of services under this Output Group.

The EPA Division's primary roles are to:

- support the EPA to fulfil its statutory and operating functions and achieve its goals;
- provide environmental management and pollution control policy advice to Government;
- implement the Government's environmental management and pollution control policy initiatives; and
- provide Government and commercial clients with quality analytical services through Analytical Services Tasmania.

We seek to maintain an efficient and effective regulatory framework for environmental management in Tasmania that meets our environmental objectives while imposing the minimum burden upon business and the community.

In supporting the EPA and in delivering its other services, the EPA Division contributes to a number of DPIPWE objectives, in particular ensuring 'a healthy environment for all Tasmanians'.

Recent Highlights

- The EPA Division played a lead role in the negotiation of a draft bilateral agreement between the Tasmania and the Australian Governments to enable the latter to rely on Tasmanian environmental assessment processes to inform its approvals under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).
- The Division also worked with Australian Government officials to make good progress in the negotiation of the particulars of a draft EPBC bilateral approvals agreement, which will see Tasmania's environmental approval processes accredited, such that no further Australian Government approval decision is required for the purposes of the EPBC Act.
- Project was initiated to improve the effectiveness of the regulatory partnership with local government. Project manager appointed in April 2014.
- Worked with the Northern Midlands Council, and local community groups, to promote the message of *Burn Brighter This Winter* in the Longford township, to reduce exposure to smoke from domestic wood heaters. Information booths were set up at the Longford IGA supermarket, and an informative postcard offering tips on good wood heater operation were provided to the community through a general mail out to residents.
- Through the EPA Board's Waste Advisory Committee, the officers have supported a review of the management of priority waste streams: municipal solid waste; industrial waste; clinical and quarantine waste; pit waste and sludges; and organic waste. A final report on the review was published on the EPA website in March 2014.
- During early 2014, it was identified that a significant review of the Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Miscellaneous Noise) Regulations was required to bring them into line with contemporary practice and Government direction. The regulations were re-made for two years to allow for the review to be undertaken in close consultation with all stakeholders.

- NATA accreditation retained for the Analytical Services Tasmania laboratory, following external auditing. Achieving such rigorous standards serves Tasmanian businesses and the community by ensuring high quality industries and services can be maintained in Tasmania, such as for food safety and export, water supply management, and environmental incident response.

Effective support for the Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

The EPA Division provides a range of support for the EPA to enable the Authority to achieve its goals.

The EPA's purpose is to regulate developments and activities that impact on environmental quality and promote best practice, sustainable environmental management and to conduct and promote activities to achieve its goals of clean air, clean land, acceptable noise levels and the sustainable use of resources. Further information about the EPA's goals and priorities are outlined in the EPA Strategic Plan 2012, available on the EPA's website (www.epa.tas.gov.au).

The EPA Division supports the EPA to:

- allow it to make well informed environmental assessment decisions, through an efficient integrated assessment process;
- ensure major industrial, municipal and community activities employ best practice environmental management and do not have unacceptable impacts on the environment;
- provide the community with information about the quality of the environment; and
- improve ambient environmental quality, including the remediation of historical environmental damage.

Key performance measures relevant to the Division's support for the EPA are provided in the EPA's Annual Report available on the EPA's website (www.epa.tas.gov.au).

A high quality and contemporary legislative and policy framework for sustainable environmental management

The EPA Division supports the Government in developing and implementing environmental policy initiatives and reviewing and maintaining relevant legislation and policies. We engage in current and emerging environmental issues, including the development and implementation of policy instruments and participation in national policy development.

We aim to continuously improve the business systems to improve stakeholder engagement in these processes.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 3)

'Progress in developing and reviewing sustainable environmental management policy'

This indicator provides a narrative report on the progress in developing new policy and reviewing existing policy to ensure the currency and effectiveness of the policy framework that underpins the State's environmental management.

Regulatory reform in assessing proposals

The major focus of regulatory reform to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden has been upon finalising bilateral agreements with the Australian Government. A draft assessment agreement has been finalised, which would allow for the Australian Government to continue to rely upon Tasmania's assessment of the environmental impacts of a development proposal for the purposes of its decision making. Good progress has also been made on the development of an approvals bilateral agreement, which would mean that the Australian Government will not

need to approve an activity that has been approved by Tasmania in accordance with the agreement.

The EPA has also revised its guidance to proponents to assist them in developing Development Proposals and Environmental Management Plans with a view to achieving a better informed and hence more streamlined assessment process.

Land Use Planning

In recognition of the Government's objectives of achieving a simpler and more consistent planning system, the EPA Division has continued to provide technical and specialist advice to councils and the Tasmanian Planning Commission on appropriate requirements for Codes in Tasmanian planning schemes. Staff have provided advice in the areas of contaminated land, water quality, hazard management, noise and attenuation distances.

Waste Management Policy

The EPA Division continued to support the Waste Advisory Committee, which is a sub-committee of the EPA Board. With a key role in overseeing the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy, the Waste Advisory Committee has been active in strengthening the relationships between industry, the community and government.

Of particular note has been the Committee's attention to potential future directions and options for waste management policy in the State. The Committee commissioned consultants *Blue Environment* to prepare a Tasmanian Waste Review report, which was provided to the EPA Board for consideration. The Committee also commissioned consultants *MRA Consulting* to conduct a study of the economic benefits and impacts of a waste levy.

Dispute Mediation Trial

The EPA Division facilitated a trial, jointly funded by Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) member Councils, and the EPA Board, to assess the value of a specific mediation service for environmental disputes in Tasmania.

The aim was to assess mediation as a means of resolving disputes over neighbourhood environmental issues, such as music and motorbike noise, smoke from wood fires and backyard burning, other air pollution sources, and water contamination. The trial targeted environmental nuisance complaints that are difficult to manage because there is not an obvious regulatory or planning solution.

The trial wrapped up early in late 2013 having received few cases, with a final report being released in September 2013.

Domestic Smoke Management Program

Burn Brighter this Winter 2014, the third phase of the EPA Division's Domestic Smoke Management Program (DSMP), is currently running in the township of Longford. This is the third year of the program conducted by the Division to support the objectives of the *Tasmanian Air Quality Strategy 2006*, and is being delivered in collaboration with the Northern Midlands Council.

The focus of the 2014 project has been on building relationships with local community groups and engaging with the general community through face-to-face communication activities. In support of this strategy, project team members and staff from the Northern Midlands Council have operated a number of information stalls in the community to provide the residents of Longford with an opportunity to discuss the issue of wood smoke in their community, and to access educational materials and advice on wood heater operation.

An informative postcard offering tips on good wood heater operation has been provided to the community through a general mail out to residents and further communication with the community is expected to be achieved through a suite of newsprint and radio advertising in the later part of this season's project.

Travel BLANKET air quality monitoring surveys are continuing to be undertaken in the Longford township to provide information on the concentration and distribution of smoke in the community during the colder months of winter. Analysis of this data will assist in the targeting of future community engagement activities in Longford.

Container Deposit System

Following support in both Tasmanian Houses of Parliament for a State-based container deposit scheme, consultants *Marsden Jacob Associates* were commissioned by the EPA Division in January 2014 to undertake a cost benefit analysis of introducing a Tasmanian container deposit scheme.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 3)

'Progress with environmental legislative program'

During 2013-14, the EPA Division supported the introduction of legislative amendments, and continued a rolling review of legislation and regulations in accordance with legislative requirements and experience. This indicator provides a narrative report on the progress with priority initiatives.

Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act

In early 2013, the legal situation regarding the discharge of sewage from boats became clear, with the Act being interpreted to mean there was a strict prohibition of such discharge from any vessel in Tasmanian waters. In keeping with the intent of national legislation, of which the Act is mirror legislation, and with the way other jurisdictions are addressing the same issue, work was initiated to amend the Act.

In November 2013, Parliament passed an amendment to the Act to provide that in relation to certain vessels, the offence provision will not apply to discharge that complies with a Sewage Management Directive.

The Directive is a risk-based approach to sewage discharge that specifies where sewage may and may not be discharged from certain vessels into Tasmanian waters. It is intended to ensure that sewage is not discharged in areas where it presents a significant risk to the environment or public health.

Development of the Directive was done during many months of consultation with an expert working group that included representation from the recreational and commercial boating sectors, and after a call for public comment on a draft Directive.

The Directive is primarily intended to apply to local vessels; the existing offence will not apply to them if they comply with it. The offence provision of the Act continues to apply to vessels to which Annex IV of MARPOL applies, and Annex IV sets out what such vessels must do to avoid the offence.

In December 2013, the final Directive on The Discharge of Sewage from Certain Vessels into State waters was made by the EPA Director and published in the Gazette.

Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (EMPCA)

Following amendments to the Act in late 2012, the EPA Division has been coordinating the amendments of a number of the Act's subordinate Regulations.

Amendments were made to the EMPC (General Fees) Regulations to ensure consistency with the amended Act, and to provide some operational clarifications. Also consequential to the changes to the Act, minor amendments have been proposed to the EMPC (Environmental Infringement Notice) Regulations. These are currently being progressed.

The EMPC (Miscellaneous Noise) Regulations were due to be automatically repealed in July 2014, and initial work was undertaken to review these Regulations. However, it became apparent in early 2014 that a significantly larger review was required, particularly as the Government wished to review the manner in which some noises sources, such as trail bikes, were dealt with. As a consequence, the 2004 Regulations were re-made for an additional two years, allowing time for engagement with key stakeholders and the community on developing more contemporary noise management regulations.

Also under review were the EMPC (Distributed Atmospheric Emissions) Regulations. A survey of local governments and review of the implementation of the regulations highlighted a number of issues for which minor clarification amendments have been proposed. These are also being considered.

Plastic Shopping Bags Ban Act

Following the commencement of the Act in June 2013, the focus of the Division's activity shifted to a major retailer and community education and awareness campaign for the introduction of the ban on 1 November 2013. A wide range of media was used to inform the community and retailers of the change, including advertisements in newspapers, billboards and on the backs of buses. A specific website (www.plasticbags.tas.gov.au) was established to provide factual information about the ban. With the permission of the South Australian Government, their television advertisement was adapted for Tasmania and shown during an intense period in the lead up to, and immediately after the ban.

Since the ban, compliance activities have concentrated on awareness-raising, with the Division's staff working closely with retailers and wholesalers to ensure the requirements of the new legislation are being met.

Recognising that tourists were an important group to inform about the change in Tasmania, the education and awareness campaign also targeted the airports and Spirit of Tasmania with billboards, posters and information flyers. The Division worked closely with major tour group operators servicing the cruise boat market so that those visitors would also be prepared when they reached Tasmania.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 3)

Contribution to national policy development

The EPA Division has an active role in supporting Tasmania's contribution to the national environmental policy agenda. This indicator provides a narrative report on the progress with priority initiatives.

Ministerial Council arrangements

In December 2013, COAG replaced its 22 Standing Councils, Select Councils and governance fora with a consolidated set of eight Councils. This included the revocation of the Standing Council on Environment and Water. With some of the former Council's work program still underway, oversight is being provided by new arrangements of occasional Meetings of Environment Ministers, supported by a Senior Officials Group and several Project Governance groups. Environment Ministers still have a statutory role as the National Environment Protection Council.

National Waste Policy and Product Stewardship

The EPA Division continues to support and contribute to the implementation of the *National Waste Policy – Less Waste, More Resources*. The EPA Division contributed to a working group developing a nationally consistent data collection and reporting framework, which will help improve the three-yearly National Waste Report that monitors the success of the Policy.

Product stewardship schemes are a key component of the National Waste Policy. They are based on a shared responsibility of manufacturers, importers, retailers and consumers for products at end-of-life.

The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme was the first scheme to be established under the new arrangements. Under the Scheme, householders and small business can drop-off these items for free at designated access points.

FluoroCycle has also been accredited as a product stewardship scheme under the Australian Government legislation. This scheme aims to increase the recycling of lamps that contain mercury and reduce the amount of mercury entering the environment.

The Division continues to support efforts to develop and implement a national, voluntary industry-run scheme for the collection and recycling of waste tyres.

Packaging recovery and litter reduction investigation

The Division has continued to provide policy advice on options being considered under the national Packaging Impacts Study, as well as conducting a cost benefit analysis of a hypothetical container deposit scheme for Tasmania (refer page 90).

National policy advice included review of a Decision Regulatory Impact Statement (DRIS), which assessed 10 options for reducing litter and increasing the recovery of beverage containers and other packaging materials.

The DRIS was provided to national Environment Ministers just prior to their April 2014 meeting. Given the comprehensive nature of the analysis and the importance of this issue, Ministers agreed all jurisdictions needed adequate time to fully assess the findings of the study.

National Chemicals Environmental Management (NChEM) Framework

Implementing COAG's plastic and chemicals reforms has continued, with EPA Division staff providing input into the development of a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (CRIS), then helping refine the policy options for consideration in a Decision Regulatory Impact Statement (DRIS). The intent of the reforms is to give effect to the findings of the 2008 Productivity Commission Research Report on Chemicals and Plastics Regulation.

In the latter part of 2013-14, the Division's input centred on collaboration with other jurisdictions on a number of priority listed industrial chemicals, and on working with industry to find alternatives to particular problem chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

National Air Quality Policy Development

The focus this year has been to contribute through a number of national working groups to review the *National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (AAQ NEPM)* standards for particles, and to develop Decision Regulatory Impact Statements (DRIS) for emission reduction projects relating to wood heaters and to non-road spark ignition engines (including marine engines).

Changes to the national particles standards and these emission reduction projects are proposed as it is now known that significant effects of air pollution on human health are observed below current particle standards. The proposed variation to the AAQ NEPM and the DRIS are expected to soon be released for public consultation.

A National Clean Air Agreement has been proposed to strengthen collaborative efforts across governments in policy setting and the management of air quality improvement initiatives. The intention is for Environment Ministers to finalise the Agreement by 1 July 2016.

National harmonisation of environmental regulation and practice

Reducing duplication and inefficiencies in environmental regulation has been a priority action area. Through national forums, Divisional staff continue to seek opportunities for sharing of knowledge, guidelines, codes and procedures that will make both Tasmanian systems more efficient and effective, but also be more consistent with mainland jurisdictions.

Implementing a nationally common set of principles for environmental regulatory practices has also helped guide the development and application of environmental regulation in Tasmania. Through the adoption of these principles, regulatory requirements, policies and standards are to be harmonised where possible, with the aim of improving environmental outcomes, making it easier for businesses to comply, and reducing administrative burden for both business and government.

The implementation of the bilateral agreements for the assessment and approval of development proposals, once those agreements are in force, will contribute substantially to that reduced business burden.

National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) reviews

The latest NEPM review to be instigated was in May 2014 when national Environment Ministers, meeting as the National Environment Protection Council, gave notice of the intention to vary the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure. This variation aims to reflect latest scientific understanding and allow for an adequate level of health protection against the impacts of particle air pollution for the whole Australian community.

As with all such reviews, the EPA Division provided support and input to ensure that Tasmanian requirements and issues are fully considered during the review.

Since the commencement of the 2013 variation to the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure, EPA Division staff have been active in assisting Tasmanian Councils and environmental consultants understand the new requirements, and have provided guidance and support on implementation of the NEPM in Tasmania.

Oil spill response

During 2013-14, Australia adopted a new National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies, to replace the old National Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

EPA Division staff were actively engaged with the revision of the Plan, with strong inter-jurisdictional collaboration resulting in the new plan providing a more comprehensive and contemporary framework for managing such emergencies at sea. Included in the discussions on the new Plan was consideration of the use of volunteers during a response to an incident. It is very difficult balancing the desire of the community to assist and the workforce they provide, against the risks to the safety of individuals and the quality of the clean-up after a spill. EPA Division staff were instrumental in considering the issue at both the State level and at the national level.

High quality and reliable analytical services

Analytical Services Tasmania (AST) provides an analytical chemistry and biological testing and advisory service to state and local government agencies, industry and the general public on a fee for service basis.

The chemical testing and advisory service is provided for areas of environmental water and soil testing, potable water supplies, and samples related to industrial operations. The scope of chemical testing encompasses physical parameters, nutrients, trace metals, pesticide residues, major and minor anions. A biological testing and advisory service is provided for areas of algal identification and enumeration, and toxicity testing in water.

AST is the only laboratory in Tasmania that offers this range services, the provision of which aids industry and Government in carrying out their core business.

Key activities in 2013-14

AST provides data that supports industry and Government to make sound social and economic decisions. The services provided by AST in 2013-14 assisted industry, Government, and the Tasmanian community as a whole in a number of areas including aquaculture, compliance testing, food safety and export, environmental monitoring, site remediation, mining and similar industrial operations, management of water supplies, waste management, and environmental incident response.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 3)

'Volume of chemical and biological analyses performed'

This indicator measures the number of analyses undertaken by AST during the financial year.

Table 60: AST number of analyses

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Analyses performed	'000	245.9	276.3	299.4	270	290

Source: DPIPWE EPA Division records.

The number of analyses performed was 299 387, which constituted 29 387 more tests than the revised estimated target of 270 000 that was reported in the 2013 Annual Report. Tests are estimated on the previous years' work taking into account any predicted changes resulting from alterations in contracts or programs. The increases in tests performed pertained to extra contractual work that occurred during the financial year. The number of jobs reported on time

was 17 per cent less than the target of 75 per cent, which is reflective of the increased work performed.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 3)

'Timeliness of analyses'

This indicator assesses the timeliness of analyses undertaken by AST. It measures the percentage of jobs undertaken that were reported on time.

Table 61: AST jobs reported on time

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
AST jobs reported on time	%	42.8	55.9	62.4	75	70

Source: DPIPWE EPA Division records.

AST is consistently improving upon the timeliness of analysis. The higher than expected volume of work submitted impacted on AST's ability to meet this performance target during 2013-14. AST has adopted a similar target for 2014-15 in line with the expectation of continued improvements.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 3)

'Quality of analyses'

The AST laboratory is accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) in the fields of chemical and biological testing.

This indicator assesses the quality of analyses undertaken by AST as demonstrated by the laboratory's compliance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005; an international standard against which laboratories demonstrate their technical competence to perform and report on a specified range of tests.

Table 62: AST quality of analyses

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Compliance with International Standard ISO 17025 as applied to chemical and biological testing laboratories	Yes/No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: DPIPWE EPA Division records.

AST was assessed via an external Audit conducted by NATA in 2014. The purpose of this reassessment was to monitor the facility's continuing compliance with the requirements for accreditation. This included a complete review of the facility's technical competence together with a review of management requirements. Selected elements of the management system were assessed against the requirements for accreditation. This was conducted by verifying the laboratories implementation of the system via review of records and/or observation of technical activities.

The audit was conducted against ISO/IEC 17025 Standard Application and Chemical Testing Application Documents, and applicable Annexes. AST was found to comply with the requirements of corporate accreditation.

Output Group 8

Parks and Wildlife Management

The Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) is responsible for the management of Tasmania's national parks, reserves, historic sites, marine reserves and Crown land. In total this represents 816 reserves, including 19 national parks, covering 2.9 million ha of land and water. The terrestrial areas of Crown land declared as reserved land under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* comprises approximately 40 per cent of the land area of the State.

The PWS manages two World Heritage Areas: the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and Macquarie Island. The PWS also manages the Darlington Probation Station, one of 11 sites that make up the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Area.

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area is 1.58 million ha, covering approximately 23 per cent of Tasmania's land area. It is one of the largest conservation reserves in Australia. It is also one of only three temperate wilderness areas in the Southern Hemisphere. Macquarie Island is the only place where the earth's crust is exposed above sea level and it is home to many sub-Antarctic species.

There is evidence in Tasmania's reserves of Aboriginal people inhabiting areas up to 40 000 years ago. There is a rich diversity of rock engravings, hand stencils, hut depressions and middens that are of outstanding heritage value.

The PWS aims to protect, promote and manage Tasmania's world-renowned parks and reserve system. These areas provide significant environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits and experiences. This Output provides for their sustainable use through maintenance, appropriate infrastructure, high-quality visitor experiences (including those to be realised through new tourism investment opportunities) and a culture that promotes visitor safety.

It contributes towards the achievement of several of the Department's objectives, in particular to 'sustainably manage Tasmania's national parks and reserve system'.

Volunteers greatly assist the work of PWS and are involved in a diversity of activities, including weed control, maintenance on historic heritage buildings, caretaking on remote islands and in campgrounds, wildlife monitoring, interpretation and operating a number of visitor centres.

Recent Highlights

- An increase of 214 new reserves in the public reserve estate managed by the PWS, covering more than 300 000 ha, and the associated transfer of approximately 40 Forestry Tasmania staff to the PWS, mainly to field centres around the State.
- The Macquarie Island ecosystem can now return to its natural state after more than 150 years of pest species causing serious damage to its natural values. This largest ever attempted eradication project was jointly funded with the Australian Government over a five-year period and in April this year, the sub-Antarctic island was declared pest free.
- Visitation to parks and reserves has experienced a widespread increase. Significant increases in numbers were recorded at Mt Field, Maria Island, Freycinet and Mole Creek Karst National Parks. Mt Field experienced a 39 per cent increase in visitors this year compared to last year; Maria Island a 21 per cent increase; and Freycinet a 14 per cent increase.
- The summer Discovery Ranger program saw 20 staff in 16 locations connect with a wide range of people. The Easter program, with five Discovery Rangers, brought the total to nearly 35 000 people attracted to this innovative and creative program.
- Online services for the purchase of Overland Track passes and other park passes have been streamlined for the ease and convenience of park visitors.
- The PWS has engaged more than 6 000 volunteers from within the Tasmanian community.

- New trackwork tendered out for the Three Capes Track in November 2013.

The condition of natural heritage values in reserves, including geological and biological diversity, water quality and wilderness, maintained or enhanced

Under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*, the PWS is responsible for protecting Tasmania's national parks and reserves against adverse impacts, and for conserving the natural and cultural heritage values. Natural heritage values include biological diversity, geological diversity, water quality and the natural primitive and remote character of wilderness areas in national parks.

The PWS has in place sound management systems, processes and instruments designed to protect Tasmania's national parks and reserves against adverse impacts and ensure the significance, integrity and condition of reserves and reserve values are maintained or enhanced.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Protected land covered by approved management plans'

This indicator provides information about the percentage of public land protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* that is managed by the PWS subject to management plans approved under the *National Parks and Reserves Act*. This indicator also provides information about the number of reserves with management plans.

Securely managed protected land is one measure of the extent to which the Department is protecting the natural and physical resources.

Table 63: Protected land under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* covered by management plans

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Protected land covered by management plans ^{1 & 2}	%	67	67	62	67	67
Reserves covered by management plans	No.	58	59	59	60	82

Source: DPIPWE PWS records.

Notes:

1. This measure refers to public reserves managed by the PWS. It does not include private sanctuaries or private nature reserves. Protected land includes both reserved inland and marine waters. As at June 2014, there were 816 reserves (an increase of 214 new reserves over the last year). The 2014-15 target assumes that the new TWWHA Management Plan will be approved in 2014-15.
2. The achievement for 2013-14 was impacted by proclamation of new reserves.

Key activities in 2013-14

Work continued on the development of the General Management Plan (GMP) to cover all reserves without a statutory management plan. There are more than 700 reserves.

Community, stakeholder and agency consultation concerning the new Management Plan for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area was undertaken. This involved a series of public forums around the State. Preparation of the draft management plan is on track for release for public comment later in 2014.

Preparation of a draft Lavinia State Reserve Management Plan is being progressed.

Non-statutory planning

The Walls of Jerusalem Recreation Zone Plan was revised and approved to take public comment into account.

The Draft Melaleuca Site and Rehabilitation Plan and Melaleuca-Cox Bight Management Statement were released for public comment and subsequently revised and submitted for approval.

Planning continues for the Frenchmans Cap Recreation Zone.

The Fortescue Bay Site Plan was updated to provide guidance for access improvements associated with the Three Capes Track.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Progress with the Macquarie Island Project to reduce and eradicate controlled pests'

The Macquarie Island Pest Eradication Project involves the aerial application of poison bait to eradicate rabbits, ship rats and house mice. The total budget for the project is \$24.7 million.

Key activities in 2013-14

A replacement hunting team comprising nine rabbit hunters and a rodent monitoring team of two (with three privately-owned dogs), was deployed to Macquarie Island in April 2013. The financial year 2013-14 commenced with the team conducting a thorough whole-Island search for rabbit and rodent signs, continuing the monitoring phase of the project that commenced in March 2012.

The first search of the Island was completed in December 2013 and no sign was found. A second coverage of the Island was completed in March 2014 and again no sign was found. Based on search intensity and duration of the monitoring period, the successful eradication of rabbits and rodents from Macquarie Island was declared on 7 April 2014 and the final hunting team returned to Hobart. This drew to a close the three-year fieldwork component of the largest multi-species eradication project tackled worldwide, and represents a project of international conservation significance. Planning for this project had originally commenced in October 2004.

Scientists from DPIPWE and the University of Tasmania worked on the Island during the summer monitoring changes in vegetation and geomorphology associated with the removal of rabbits. Seabird, vegetation and invertebrate communities all appear to be recovering well, albeit at different rates, thus contributing toward realisation of project objectives.

Activities in the remainder of the 2013-14 financial year focused on travel arrangements to return staff to their homes, arranging for redeployment of project-owned hunting dogs, media activity associated with the announcement of project success, and retrieval and inventory of significant volumes of project equipment from the Australian Antarctic Division cargo system.

A number of presentations about the project have been made to interested parties and conferences.

Recreational and other uses of reserves that are sustainable and consistent with conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

The PWS aims to ensure that its assets are fit for service to the public and that uses of our reserves are sustainable into the future.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Number of visitors to national parks and reserves'

The national parks and reserves provide the opportunity for the Tasmanian community and visitors alike to enjoy the State's natural and cultural values, whether it is as part of a day visit, great walks or camping experiences.

This indicator assesses the extent to which parks and reserves are frequented by the community, reporting on the number of visitors to major sites.

Table 64: Visitors to selected park and reserve sites

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target ⁴
Visitors: ¹						
Mt Field	'000	102	100	141	101	148
Freycinet	'000	186	191	217	191	228
Cradle Mountain ²	'000	150	170	177	n.a.	186
Lake St Clair	'000	72	71	69	71	72
Gordon River ³	'000	85	66	69	69	72
Narawntapu	'000	42	43	43	43	45
Mole Creek Caves	'000	43	44	44	49	51

Source: DPIPWE PWS and Tourism Tasmania.

Notes:

1. The PWS does not count visitors to every national park or reserve. An estimate is made of the number of visitors to selected sites, including those in the table.
2. Cradle Mountain data for 2013-14 is for the 12 months ending March 2014. Data for June 2014 is still being processed and is not yet available at the time this report was prepared.
3. Gordon River data for 2013-14 refers to the 12 months ending March 2014. This data is collected by the *Tasmanian Visitor Survey* (Tourism Tasmania). Data for the Gordon River only includes visitors to Tasmania.
4. Targets for 2014-15 are the actuals for 2013-14 plus five per cent. A five per cent growth per annum is consistent with the Government's goal to increase the Tourism Industry and increase the number of visitors to Tasmania.

Key activities in 2013-14

Strong growth in the overall visitor market to Tasmania, in conjunction with some specific activities and events, has seen a strong growth in visitation to key national parks and reserves managed by the PWS.

Mt Field received a record number of visitors (141 000), an increase of 39 per cent over the previous financial year. Mt Field's proximity to Hobart has enabled cruise ship passengers, locals, domestic and international visitors easy access to one of Tasmania's original reserves.

Maria Island also experienced a strong growth in visitation. Much of this increase can be attributed to the subsidised winter ferry service, which operated in July and August and was supported by a marketing campaign and reduced accommodation fees over winter. Many Tasmanians took the opportunity to visit the island during this period.

In addition, the Maria Island Ecotourism Development Feasibility Study was completed in January 2014. The report identified that the affordability and consistency of a quality freight and passenger service will determine visitation and the long-term viability of the Island as an ecotourism destination. Maria Island's natural values, including its isolation, wildlife and scenery, along with the World Heritage listed Darlington Probation Station, have much to offer the visitor and enhance the East Coast's tourism appeal. The study also noted the need to renew the Island's brand, develop a marketing strategy, create experiences that appeal to target markets and allow for visitors to experience the Island's values, upgrade service infrastructure, and establish additional accommodation options and food and beverage services.

Works also commenced on the jetty upgrade to ensure it will have a long lifespan. The jetty will provide a much more sheltered environment than the current structure, and offer a range of berthing options for visiting vessels.

Walking on the Frenchmans Cap Track has entered a new era, with the completion of the re-route around the South Loddon Plains, once known as the 'Sodden Loddons' because of the notoriously muddy track conditions. The track leads to the impressive white quartzite dome of Frenchmans Cap. At 1 446 metres high, it is the most prominent mountain peak in the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, which is a part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The track passes buttongrass plains, unusual rainforest where Huon pine grows alongside King Billy pine, and spectacular glacial valleys, up to Lake Tahune, perched under the spectacular cliff face of Frenchmans Cap. Most walkers spend between three and five days completing the return trip, a distance of about 23 km each way.

The milestone was reached five years into a 10-year program of a track upgrade that is the result of a partnership between entrepreneur Dick Smith and the PWS.

A suite of three DVDs produced by the PWS promotes the sustainable use of the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area, its rich Aboriginal heritage and the passion of the people who live and work there.

The first DVD, *kani milaythina – talk country*, is a ground-breaking production that showcases the globally significant and irreplaceable Aboriginal heritage of the area. It is a wonderful teaching tool aimed at student audiences and copies will be made available to Tasmanian schools.

The second DVD, *Recreational Driving in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area (APCA)*, addresses the impact of the increasing number of recreational vehicles using the reserve. Presented by well-known identity Nick Duigan, the DVD is essential viewing for anyone planning recreational driving in what is recognised as the most technically challenging location in Tasmania. The DVD, along with the Recreational Driving booklet, is being distributed to visitors who purchase a recreational driving pass for the APCA. The DVD was produced with the assistance of local four-wheel-drive clubs and was partly-funded by the Motor Accidents Insurance Board.

The third DVD, *Powerful Country, Passionate People*, showcases the north-west of Tasmania through interviews with colourful characters, including local residents, cattle farmers, fishermen and kelpers, as well as shack owners and the PWS staff who help to manage the area.

Two-way partnerships that encourage stewardship of the natural and cultural values of Tasmania

The PWS is committed to engaging with the community in meaningful partnerships that encourage stewardship of the natural and cultural values of Tasmania.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Level of volunteer support'

The PWS appreciates the assistance provided by hundreds of volunteers and a large number of volunteer organisations around Tasmania. The volunteers and their organisations contribute time valued in excess of \$6 million in support of the PWS. This includes support provided through WILDCARE Inc, our local volunteer management partner.

This indicator assesses the level of volunteer support provided to the PWS.

Table 65: Volunteer support for PWS

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
WILDCARE Inc. registered members	No.	5 004	5 688	6 039	6 300	7 000
Registered volunteer partner organisations	No.	82	90	100	94	100
WILDCARE Groups	No.	76	70	82	87	90

Source: DPIPWE PWS and WILDCARE Inc. records.

Note:

The Parks and Wildlife Service maintains a Volunteer Partner Organisation register, listing organisations that work alongside the PWS on projects and programs. The majority of these partner organisations are branches of WILDCARE Inc, formed by WILDCARE Inc members to provide support to specific reserves or undertake activities such as whale stranding response. WILDCARE Inc maintains a member database, recording number of members, their interests and skills.

Key activities in 2013-14

There are now 100 Partner Volunteer Organisations registered with the PWS that undertake a variety of volunteer activity. The primary community volunteer partner for the PWS is WILDCARE Inc. With more than 6 000 members, WILDCARE Inc has created around 90 groups as branches of the organisation. It is estimated that volunteers provide time with a dollar equivalent value of approximately \$6 million annually.

Community groups continued to access additional project funding through grants programs, philanthropic partnerships and merchandise sales. Since 2005, WILDCARE Inc groups have raised around \$1.5 million to fund on-ground reserve management, nature conservation and cultural heritage projects. Over the same period, WILDCARE Inc has allocated around \$200 000 from its own small grants scheme to support on-ground projects undertaken by its branches. The WILDCARE Gift Fund has now allocated around \$500 000 to projects, including a continuing contribution towards maintenance of the Frenchmans Cap Walking Track and pest eradication programs on islands. This funding is derived from many small donations, primarily from members, as well as significant donors such as Dick Smith (\$100 000 annual donation) and from the ecotourism operator Rob Pennicott (\$100 000 total donations).

Fire managed and the risks of bushfire minimised

The PWS has an obligation to actively, effectively and efficiently manage the risks associated with bushfires on the lands that it manages, and to assist wherever possible with the management of bushfires on other Tasmanian lands.

Fire is also an important land management tool. It is appropriate to use fire under specific fuel and weather conditions to achieve defined management objectives, including managing the build-up of flammable fuel to reduce the impact and difficulty of suppressing bushfires, and maintaining biodiversity and other environmental values.

Fire management activities also include preparedness and prevention through training, and developing appropriately skilled staff who meet health and fitness requirements for various roles, such as maintaining fire breaks, trails, signs and waterholes, pre-positioning fire crews, and patrolling on high fire danger days.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Area subject to fuel reduction burns'

The strategic Fire Management Program includes a series of fuel reduction burns. This indicator measures the number of burns and the hectares covered.

Table 66: Fuel reduction burns

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Fuel reduction burns	No.	27	20	39	36	36
Area covered by fuel reduction burns						
Reserved land	Hectares	1 927	6 650	13 400	10 000	10 000
Other land ¹	Hectares	....	....	....	....	17 000

Source: DPIPWE PWS records.

Note:

1. The target for 2014-15 is for a new statewide tenure blind burning program. The funding builds up over four years and there is also a need to develop the relevant capabilities and resources. Hence, the target is modest in the first year, but with the aim of building to 60 000 ha by year four of the program.

Every year the PWS endeavours to carry out as many burns as possible given the resources available. The PWS achieved slightly better than its target for fuel reduction burning in 2013-14 because weather conditions were suitable on an adequate number of days during autumn.

Thirty-nine fuel reduction burns, spread over all three PWS regions, were completed in 2013-14. As in previous years, fuel reduction burns were undertaken for one of three primary objectives – asset protection, strategic fuel management, or ecological maintenance (although many burns will have achieved more than one of these objectives).

Time, resources and complexity vary considerably from one block burn to the next. For example, a strategic fuel management burn in a remote part of the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area was carried out in April 2014 by helicopter with only three people involved. The total area burnt was 1 930 ha. In contrast, an asset protection burn next to Bridport was only 68 ha, and involved many more fire-fighters because of the need to protect the town.

Efficient management of public land assets

We manage Crown lands, ensuring their sustainable use and development for the benefit of the Tasmanian community. We assess applications requesting the use of Crown land, taking into account the management objectives for the land. We manage the licensing, leasing, sale and rental of Crown properties.

We also provide specialist Crown property-related advice to government and the private sector.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Implementation of decisions related to Crown land assessment and classification'

In 2006, the Division completed the assessment and classification of all unallocated Crown land and public reserves under the *Crown Land Act 1976* and prepared for the sale, transfer or reservation of classified land. This indicator was to provide information about the value of land sales; however, with current low demand in the property market, the sale of these properties has been placed on hold.

Table 67: Decisions actioned as a result of the Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project (CLAC)

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Value of sales completed	\$ million	0.3	n.a.	0.06	n.a.	n.a.
Proportion of decisions relating to transfers finalised	%	n.a.	86	89	90	95

Source: DPIPWE PWS Division records.

Due to their mostly remote location and low demand, the remaining properties recommended by CLAC for sale are not being actively marketed.

Transfer of 466 of the 595 parcels has been completed to date, with the transfer of 55 parcels yet to be completed. The remaining 74 parcels were offered to Councils but declined. During 2013-14, the transfer of a total of 15 properties to Councils was completed.

Key efficiency indicator (2 of 2)

'Turnaround time for processing applications related to Crown land'

This indicator assesses the average time between lodgement and processing of applications for the use and development of Crown land. It measures the timeliness of the assessment procedures.

Table 68: Turnaround time for processing applications related to Crown land¹

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Average time for processing applications for the use and development of Crown land:						
Sale	Weeks	130	132	99 ²	36	36
Lease	Weeks	93	95	74	20	20
Licence	Weeks	100	98	63	15	15

Source: DPIPWE PWS Division records.

Notes:

1. The methodology used to calculate turnaround times is based on the lodgement date of the application and the date of application completion. For sales applications, completion is the date documents are lodged with the Lands Titles Office. For licences and leases, completion is the date the agreement was executed and internal business processes finalised.
The clock does not stop during periods waiting for external activities to be finalised, including time taken for clients to obtain planning approvals, or times waiting for survey and valuation or additional information from clients etc.
2. The sale application backlog was significantly reduced during the 2013-14 financial year; however, a number of applications received many years ago were finalised during the financial year, resulting in a negative impact on the average sale turnaround time.

Key activities in 2013-14

The management of Crown Land Services was transferred to the PWS in 2012. Since then, a number of management and system improvements have been implemented to achieve noticeable efficiency gains. This business improvement process will continue for a number of years so that target turnaround times can be realised.

Output Group 9

Heritage

Services for the three Outputs under this Output Group are provided by three areas within the Department:

- Heritage Tasmania
- Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania and
- Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

Recent Highlights

Output 9.1

- Reducing red tape in the planning system with the implementation of amendments to the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* that streamline and simplified the works approval process, and created a single application and permit system on 1 March 2014.
- Implementing a community and local government training package on the amendments to the Act. This included training of planning personnel statewide, and developing training materials and publications to ensure a smooth transition to a single application and permit system.
- A full audit of the Heritage Register, including a major review to update the details of almost 2 000 places and the cadastral information held by the Heritage Register.

Output 9.2

- Released the fourth edition of the *Guide to the Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Process*.
- In partnership with the Australian National University produced a five-day Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management workshop.

Output 9.3

- The negotiation for a private operator to run the restaurant and catering within the Gardens.
- Early planning towards advancing and completing the construction of the Living / Learning Centre before June 2015.
- Provided professional horticulture training across the State in a number of horticulture programs, including national horticulture certificates from 1 to 3.
- Held regular training opportunities for those who have difficulties accessing standard training programs.
- In partnership with MONA, the fostering of the primary school program of developing food gardens.

Output 9.1 – Historic Heritage Services

The key objective of services provided by Heritage Tasmania under Output 9.1 is to help to facilitate development and the continued use of heritage that is important to Tasmania.

Heritage Tasmania is responsible for coordinating and implementing historic heritage strategy, policy development and activity for the State, and providing advice to the Minister on the State's most important historic heritage places and precincts. It facilitates the ongoing development of the sector and supports the work of those who work across the sector.

A major role is to support the Tasmanian Heritage Council to undertake its functions under the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* and provide its secretariat services. The Heritage Council is established under the Act and is part of the resource management and planning system.

Heritage Tasmania delivers programs that assist the State Government and Heritage Council to assess significance, list significant places, provide pre-application advice and assess applications for works to places on the Heritage Register. It also provides free advice on how to achieve good heritage and community outcomes, and facilitates community education and development activities that reinforce the importance of Tasmania's heritage. It also provides proactive advice to help facilitate major private and public sector developments.

A high quality and contemporary legislative and policy framework that protects Tasmania's historic heritage

Heritage Tasmania develops and maintains an effective legislative and policy framework aimed at helping to facilitate, develop and protect heritage values. Its work includes supporting the Heritage Council to administer its obligations under the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Progress on reforming Tasmania's historic heritage legislative and policy framework'

This indicator provides a narrative report on the contribution towards the reform of Tasmania's historic heritage legislative and policy framework. The reform process aims to deliver greater clarity, consistency and certainty in the statutory management of the historic environment.

From 1 March 2014, three core amendments made to the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* came into effect. These amendments have simplified the statutory management of places on the Heritage Register and reduced red-tape for those undertaking works to heritage places.

The requirement for owners of places on the Heritage Register to lodge a separate application for works to the Heritage Council has been removed. Now only a single discretionary permit application is required. The permit issued includes both the Heritage Council and the local council's decision. As a result of this reform, there has been a reduction in the amount of time taken to assess development applications from an average of 35 days for the financial year to 28 February 2014 to 31 days from 1 March 2014.

Another amendment included the insertion of an eighth criterion by which a place can be entered on the Heritage Register. The new aesthetics criterion brings historic heritage legislation into line with national best practice and the objectives of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*. Over the coming year public consultation will be undertaken on how the aesthetics criterion should be assessed. After this the current guidelines for Assessing Historic Heritage Significance will be reviewed, updated and published online.

The third major amendment to the Act requires the issuing of a Ministerial Statement of Expectation to the Heritage Council. This will outline the Minister's expectations of the Heritage Council over a three-year period. The inaugural document is being prepared and will help to articulate the Minister and State Government's expectations for this portfolio area.

Maintain and improve the management of Tasmania's historic heritage

Heritage Tasmania maintains the Tasmanian Heritage Register on behalf of the Heritage Council as required under the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*. The Heritage Register is reviewed and improved by the inclusion of new places, systematically reviewing or removing of existing places and the management of development applications made by owners.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 4)

'A comprehensive statutory register of places of State historic heritage significance'

The Heritage Register is a statutory inventory of places that are recognised as being of State historic heritage significance. In addition to being a management tool, the Heritage Register is a valuable information resource. It details the history, values and stories of individual places and Tasmania's past. This indicator shows the number of sites listed on the Register.

Table 69: Places entered in the Tasmanian Heritage Register

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Places entered in the Tasmanian Heritage Register ¹	No.	5 549	5 569	5 553	5 600	3 900

Source: DPIPWE Heritage Tasmania records.

Note:

1. Permanent entry in the Tasmanian Heritage Register provides for the statutory management of heritage places under Part 6 of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*. The data reflects the number of places permanently entered, excluding all provisional entries in train as at 30 June 2014. During 2014-15, the number of places on the Heritage Register will reduce by up to 30 per cent, as those places deemed to not be of State significance in accordance with s15(1A)(a) start to be removed from the Heritage Register. This is in line with the State Government's commitment and will guarantee the integrity of the register. Consultation will be undertaken on how best to achieve this target. Where it can be negotiated, places of local heritage significance may remain on, or be added to, the historic heritage code of the relevant planning scheme.

During the year, nine entries were permanently added to the Heritage Register, and as at 30 June 2014 an additional nine places had been provisionally entered. A further four places were removed as they were fire damaged, structurally unsound, or in the case of one, was reassessed and no longer satisfied any criteria for entry. There were 10 nominations that were rejected for entry to the Heritage Register as they did not meet any of the criteria of the Act.

There was one appeal against the inclusion of a place on the Heritage Register. This appeal was withdrawn by the appellant, resulting in an appeal rate of nil.

Key activities in 2013-14

Heritage Tasmania has undertaken a large body of work on behalf of the Heritage Council to review and update the location details of all places entered on the Heritage Register.

This large and complex project has resulted in almost 2 000 entries in the Heritage Register being updated. This includes 1 887 amendments being made to places on the Heritage Register in accordance with section 94 of the Act. These updates were to the location details. A further 95 replacement entries were completed, with an additional 25 in-train as at 30 June 2014. Replacement entries provide revised boundaries or better explanations of a place's heritage values. The process involves consultation with the owners and local government.

During 2013-14, an audit of the Heritage Register was completed, with the support of an independent consultant. This project was initiated to obtain a better understanding of the nature of the entries on the Heritage Register and their significance. This is the first time a comprehensive audit of the Heritage Register has been conducted. It is anticipated that it will help to inform discussions about the future management of the Heritage Register, building on other projects currently underway that are helping to revise a number of existing entries.

A large project is also underway to improve the business system that hosts the Heritage Register so it will eventually be available on the Division's website at www.heritage.tas.gov.au. This means that datasheets for places on the Heritage Register will be directly accessible by the general public. Once this occurs, there will be greater transparency about what the Heritage Register contains for owners and others with an interest in its content.

An additional project is underway that will better define the heritage values of rural places. This project is expected to result in tens of thousands of hectares of land being removed from the Heritage Register. This will provide clarity and certainty to owners of rural places about the parts of their properties that have heritage values, and reduce their need to seek Heritage

Council approval for works if there are no impacts on heritage values. The project's outcomes will be reported in next year's Annual Report.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 4)

'Statutory and proactive management of historic heritage places of importance to Tasmania'

Under the amended *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* a discretionary permit application or certificate of exemption is required for any works or development that may impact on the significance of a place entered on the Heritage Register. The aim is to ensure that works to places on the Heritage Register do not affect original fabric or heritage values.

All applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with Heritage Tasmania in the pre-application phase. This limits the risk of the works being refused, excessively conditioned or appealed. If the works will impact on a place's heritage values then a discretionary permit application may be required. Where it will not have an impact a certificate of exemption can be issued. Once an application is received, it is assessed (which may involve making a site visit) and a recommendation is prepared for determination. Applications may be approved, approved with conditions, or refused.

This indicator reports on the assessment of works or development applications each year. It also measures the proportion of works applications with a positive or neutral impact on heritage values.

Table 70: Assessment of works applications for sites included in the Tasmanian Heritage Register

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Heritage works or development applications assessed ¹	No.	231	167	207 ²	n.a.	n.a
Proportion of works applications with a positive or neutral impact on heritage values	%	86	88	93	n.a.	90
Recorded historic heritage sites actively managed ³	%	7.1	6.5	7.7	6.0	7.0

Source: DPIPWE Heritage Tasmania records.

Notes:

1. The number of works or development applications assessed is totally dependent on the needs of owners and activity in the building and construction sector. As such, targets are unable to be defined.
2. From 1 March 2014, discretionary permit applications were assessed according to s36 of the amended *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*. Of the 207 applications, 152 were assessed according to the old provisions and 55 were assessed under the new provisions in the amended Act.
3. The percentage of recorded historic heritage sites actively managed relates to those places in the Heritage Register that were subject to a works or development application; exemption or certificate of exemption; or a conservation grant. This figure includes re-instatement of a previous grant through the Heritage Conservation Funding Program for works to 121 Harrington Street, in Hobart.

Of the 207 works or development applications assessed, 15 were issued with a certificate of exemption; 81 of the remaining applications were approved without conditions, 105 were approved with conditions, one was deemed approved because the local planning authority did not forward the application to the Heritage Council within the required timeframe to determine it, and the Heritage Council refused only five (2.4 per cent) of applications.

A further 234 exemptions or certificates of exemption were issued.

Three appeals against Heritage Council works decisions were lodged with the Resource Management Planning and Appeals Tribunal. Two of these were resolved by mediation through the Tribunal. The third (in which seven parties have lodged appeals on the same development application) has been deferred indefinitely by the Tribunal.

The rate of appeal on works or development applications was only 1.4 per cent.

Key activities in 2013-14

On 1 March 2014, Draft Works Guidelines were published. The guidelines coincide with the implementation of the legislative amendments to the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*. They increase certainty for owners, developers and local government and provide a consistent framework for the assessment and decision-making process. The guidelines outline works that are exempt from requiring development application; if a permit is required they explain what an appropriate historic-heritage outcome might be. The guidelines will be reviewed in the next financial year, following a current open public and sector-wide consultation process.

Heritage Tasmania continues to work closely with owners and developers who are undertaking works on heritage-listed places and provide advice on many important unlisted places and major projects. This includes assisting developers with advice before they lodge an application and assisting developers meet any conditions imposed on permits issued.

For example, advice has been provided on Parliament Square, the UTAS Performing Arts Centre adjacent to the Theatre Royal, Willow Court at New Norfolk, Pumphouse Point at Lake St Claire, Launceston's Gasworks, various Midlands Highway upgrade projects, the CH Smith Site, the Launceston Flood Authority Esk River Levy Project and Macquarie Point Redevelopment and the Macquarie Wharf No 1 site in Hobart.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 4)

'Support available to local planning authorities to manage local heritage places and precincts'

Implementation of the legislative amendments in March this year has increased the amount of engagement between Heritage Tasmania and local government, especially its planners. The new single permit system requires a higher level of collaboration between these two groups of staff. Information is more easily shared between the two tiers of government, creating a more streamlined and effective development application process.

Heritage Tasmania's Heritage: Everything for Local Planning (HELP) local government program and network was instrumental in providing a way to communicate the changes to local government. A number of well-attended information sessions were held around the State. A new resource manual was also produced for local government and distributed.

HELP is also online, with a dedicated webpage for local government at www.heritage.tas.gov.au, where resources and information specific to local authorities is available. A LinkedIn group was also launched so that there is an online discussion space open all year round. This was especially welcomed by those who work in more remote municipal areas.

The inaugural annual HELP forum was held with close to 25 planners in attendance, and regular HELP email updates are sent to all local government personnel on our mailing list. The e-network for this initiative now has more than 100 members. The division maintained its regular annual presence at the Local Government Association's annual conference, making itself available to support work being done in local areas.

Key effectiveness indicator (4 of 4)

'Support of national and world heritage listing and management processes'

There are four main means of providing statutory heritage protection of historic heritage places, recognising their significance at a local, state, national and world heritage level. A place may be entered in one or more heritage lists that reflect their significance.

The two highest profile lists are the World Heritage List, managed by the World Heritage Committee (WHC) and the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the National Heritage List, managed by the Australian Heritage Council (AHC) and the Australian Department of the Environment (DOE).

This indicator shows the support given for Tasmanian places on these lists.

Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property

Heritage Tasmania continues to coordinate collaboration between the Tasmanian convict sites and the Australian Government, as part of the *Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property*.

This effort is primarily focused on coordinating the Tasmanian Site Managers Group and representing the State Government nationally on the Australian Convict Sites Steering Committee (ACSSC). The Site Managers Group meet across the sites at least twice annually, and provide feedback on relevant policy developments, collaborate on projects at a national and State level, share insights and explore ways of promoting the sites.

At a local level emphasis is on building marketing collateral that better illustrates the lives of convicts and other players engaged in the system. Emphasis has also been on providing opportunities for visitors to make stronger connections between sites, given that many convicts moved between various sites while serving their sentences. Effort nationally has been focused on developing a greater web presence for all the Australian Convict Sites.

Australia's National Heritage List

There have been no new Tasmanian places added to the Australian Government's Prioritised Assessment List for places to be assessed for entry to the National Heritage List in the past 12 months. However, increased attention is currently being given to completing outstanding national assessments for Home Hill in Devonport, the Low Head Pilot Station on the Tamar River and the Sullivan's Cove Precinct in Hobart. Further information about the status of these assessments is unclear and remains in the hands of the Australian Government.

Over the past 12 months the Australian Government has been focused on developing a draft National Heritage Strategy and a proposed assessment Bilateral Agreement with the State Government. The nature and impact of these is yet to be fully confirmed for Tasmania, but public consultation on the proposed Bilateral Agreement is expected to commence shortly.

Community education and development activities that support informative engagement with and management of historic heritage

Heritage Tasmania produces, maintains and provides public access to a broad range of information to assist owners, government, community groups and others responsible for historic heritage. The information ranges from practice notes, guidelines and information sheets that address key questions of owners, managers and developers and includes an internet Heritage Services Directory to assist those seeking heritage specialists and skilled tradespeople.

Heritage Tasmania also coordinates and promotes events that raise awareness of and educate the public about the importance of Tasmania's historic heritage places and precincts.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Enhanced community education and development activity'

This indicator provides a narrative report on progress with initiatives aimed at improving stakeholder and community access to historic heritage information to assist them in decision-making and managing historic heritage sites.

During the year Heritage Tasmania and the Heritage Council delivered or facilitated 27 separate events or activities with a total of close to 1 900 people in attendance.

A key focus of the year has been consultation and the development of publications to advise key stakeholders, particularly planners, owners and developers about the amendments to the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*. In the last months of the financial year, seven forums were held around the state, with more than 150 planners and other stakeholders in attendance.

Regular communications with planners were undertaken through the HELP forum LinkedIn site, and email updates. Mayors, Councillors and Aldermen were regularly communicated with about the status of the implementation process. Heritage Tasmania also maintained its

presence in the trade display area of the Local Government Association Annual Conference to provide elected officials with an opportunity to directly engage with the division informally.

Local Government manual

This manual was developed to support the implementation of the legislative amendments in March this year. It targeted local government planners and provides plain English information on changes to the legislation. It was distributed and published online this year.

Draft works guidelines

Guidelines were developed and published online in March 2014 to coincide with the amendments to the Act. The guidelines will increase transparency and provide a consistent framework for owners so they can better anticipate the works assessment and decision-making process. They outline works that are exempt from requiring a discretionary permit application, when an application is required and what appropriate historic-heritage outcomes might be.

Assessing heritage places brochure

This brochure was developed in the latter part of the financial year to support the implementation of the legislative amendments. It targets owners of places that have been nominated for inclusion on the Heritage Register and provides information about the assessment process for places proposed to be entered on the Heritage Register.

Important changes for heritage property owners' newsletter

This newsletter was made available to all owners of places on the Heritage Register from March 2014 to explain to them how the changes to *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* and the development application process would affect them. Local governments found it a particularly useful tool to provide to those lodging development applications, as it provided a succinct explanation of the new approach.

Heritage e-News

The Heritage e-News continues to be distributed. This publication has been distributed monthly since March 2005. It provides a range of information to up to 600 subscribers each edition. It is also distributed widely by other organisations. Information includes recent activities, training opportunities, and events throughout the year. It has also been a key mechanism for advising subscribers of the implementation of the amendments to the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*.

Tasmanian Heritage Festival

Support for the Tasmanian Heritage Festival through the provision of advice and promotion of Festival activities continues. The Heritage Festival is coordinated by the National Trust. The Festival also receives significant funding from the State Government, which is managed by Heritage Tasmania. Heritage Tasmania's Director, Pete Smith, hosted a walk around Sullivans Cove as Heritage Tasmania's contribution to the Festival; 30 people attended this event, with input from Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, and the Penitentiary Chapel and Criminal Courts.

Meandering Art Exhibition

Heritage Tasmania sponsored the Heritage Award for this local art exhibition, which is hosted by the Meander Valley Council. The award category highlights the historic diversity and features of the Meander Valley. This is a small but useful component of Heritage Tasmania's local government and communications programs.

Open Doors

This year's annual Open Doors event had approximately 1 350 visitors across 11 sites. This year there was an evening opening for the weekend held at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. The Deeds Register administered by the Lands Titles Office in the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment along with sites as divergent as the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, UTAS School of Nursing and the Real Tennis Club, participated in the program.

Tourism Conference

Heritage Tasmania attended the Tasmanian Tourism Conference trade display for the first time this year. This provided Heritage Tasmania with an opportunity to liaise with tourism operators who own historic heritage places, and respond to any queries they may have.

Annual Heritage Council Regional Visit and Stakeholder Function

In May 2014, Heritage Tasmania again supported the Heritage Council to undertake its annual regional visit, which this year was to Scottsdale, Bridport and Derby in Tasmania's North-East. The regional visit involved meetings with a range of local stakeholders. The Heritage Council's monthly meeting was held at the Dorset Council Chambers. A stakeholder function was also held so that local volunteers, members of the community, heritage owners, local government councillors, local politicians and historical society members could be recognised for their efforts and meet informally with Heritage Council representatives.

Tasmanian Heritage Council Annual Report

Heritage Tasmania prepares the Heritage Council's Annual Report. The report is a requirement of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* and must be provided to the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage by 31 October each year. As required by the Act, the report contains details of entries and changes made to the Heritage Register, and the Council's financial activities. It also provides an account of all Council activities for the financial year.

Developing and maintaining relationships that foster integration and collaboration in and across the heritage sector

The historic heritage sector is a relatively diverse collection of people, including individuals, groups, organisations, tradespeople, building and design professionals and the three levels of government. A collaborative approach is critical to the sector's success. Heritage Tasmania has adopted an open door approach, encouraging stakeholders to approach us for information and advice.

Key effectiveness indicator

'Fostering collaborative relationships with, and across Tasmania's historic heritage sector'

This indicator provides a narrative report of the collaborative relationship with the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania). A number of collaborative relationships with other partners have already been outlined in early segments of this chapter, especially local government and the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

Heritage Tasmania continues to work with and support the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania). The National Trust is a key stakeholder in this sector. The current triennial funding agreement which provides \$300 000 per annum expires in 2014-15. Re-negotiations are expected to commence during 2014-15.

In the latter part of 2013, the State Government provided an additional \$200 000 to support the Trust's operations and to assist it to restructure its operations to enhance its viability and ensure that the presentation property, Oak Lodge at Richmond, remained in community hands.

Output 9.2 – Aboriginal Heritage

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) plays a leadership role in the protection, management and promotion of Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania. This is achieved through the effective and efficient administration of legislative responsibilities, provision of Cultural Awareness training and working in partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

The key objectives are to:

- educate the community about Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage;
- develop policies and processes that are clear, equitable and accessible;
- foster sustainable management of Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage values, consistent with legislative and statutory obligations; and
- monitor management systems, policy frameworks and service delivery in relation to Aboriginal heritage.

AHT administers the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* and provides advice on the responsible management of Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage on all land tenure. Central to the administration of the Act is the management of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Site Index (TASI) and the provision of advice to the Director of National Parks and Wildlife and the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage on permit applications for activities impacting on Aboriginal heritage.

AHT is also responsible for the provision of administrative and secretariat support to the interim Aboriginal Heritage Council (iAHC). The iAHC has been established as an advisory body to the Minister. The iAHC provides the consolidated view of the Aboriginal community on new permit applications and proposals under the Act, and on relevant policies, standards and procedural guidelines.

The services provided by AHT contribute towards the achievement of the Department's objective to 'support the recognition, protection and management of Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage'.

High quality policy framework and management systems that support the sustainable management of Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage values

An effective legislative and policy framework, underpinned by good management systems, is critical to the conservation of Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage, ensuring it is protected for future generations. We are working to develop a framework that respects and recognises the rights of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, enabling them to manage and protect their heritage, and that provides a fair and effective regulatory system for all land users.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 3)

'Progress with the development of contemporary Aboriginal heritage legislation'

This project included the introduction of the *Aboriginal Heritage Protection Bill 2013* in November 2013. It passed the House of Assembly but was referred to a Committee in the Legislative Council. The Bill lapsed with the dissolution of Parliament. The Government is strongly committed to replacing the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* and introducing clearer and more effective legislation.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 3)

'Progress with development and review of Aboriginal heritage policies and guidelines'

The Division continues to review the adequacy and effectiveness of the policies and guidelines to ensure that its services are consistent, accountable and transparent. This indicator provides a narrative report on key initiatives designed to improve the relevance and usefulness of the policies and guidelines to stakeholders.

Since the release of the *Guide to the Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Process* in 2012, which replaced the 2009 *Guidelines and Standards Package*, the Department has seen a marked improvement in client satisfaction as well as understanding of the Aboriginal heritage assessment process. The Division has continued to refine the *Guide to the Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Process* with the release of the fourth edition in May 2014.

To complement the Guide and to support the anticipated release of the Aboriginal Heritage Register, a suite of forms such as the Unanticipated Discovery Plan, numerous application forms, and the site recording form have recently been reviewed, updated or created.

Key effectiveness indicator (3 of 3)

'Progress with further development and maintenance of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Site Index (TASI)'

The Division manages and maintains the TASI, a permanent database of identified Aboriginal heritage places used for Aboriginal heritage management, research and accountability purposes.

This indicator is a narrative report of activities aimed to improve the coverage, accuracy and usefulness of the TASI to ensure that it meets the current and future needs of Government, the Aboriginal community and clients.

The primary purpose of the Aboriginal Heritage Register (AHR) Development Project is to deliver a set of business processes and IT support services that will replace the TASI and the current workflow systems.

A functional test system has been in place for 12 months with testing taking place in development cycles to ensure that the system is fit for purpose. It is anticipated that the first phase of the system will be released soon. In conjunction, AHT have revisited many sites to ensure that the sites currently registered on the TASI are accurately located within the landscape and spatially enabled.

The first phase of the AHR Project is for in-house use only; however phase two and three incorporate external self-services such as the lodgement of applications in an interactive environment as well as a website where the public, councils, developers and alike can check for Aboriginal heritage issues in areas where they are contemplating development activities. Phase two and three will also incorporate the development of an application for use in conjunction with smart technology for the mapping and recording of sites for in-house and external practitioners to ensure that the information contained in the AHR is accurate and as up-to-date as possible.

**Timely and effective assessment of applications under the
*Aboriginal Relics Act 1975***

We undertake activities associated with the administration of the Act. AHT provides advice on the management of Aboriginal heritage for development proposals and environmental management plans, farm dam assessments, reserve activity assessments and other planning applications. We provide advice on how development impacts on Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage values and how impacts can be avoided, minimised or mitigated.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Level of compliance with permits issued under the Aboriginal Relics Act'

The issuance of permits to impact on an Aboriginal relic under the Act recognises the need for appropriate balance between respecting Aboriginal heritage, recognising the importance of a range of land uses and facilitating economic development. In making recommendations for the issuance of permits the Division seeks to identify how impacts on Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage values can best be avoided or mitigated. In doing so the Division aims to work closely with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and proponents to provide a solution that meets the needs of all parties.

This indicator provides information about the permitting process, the number of permits issued and the level of compliance with those permits as a measure of the effectiveness of the permit system.

Table 71: Permits under Aboriginal Relics Act

	Unit of Measure	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Target	2014-15 Target
Permit recommendations provided to the Director of National Parks and Wildlife within 20 working days ¹	%	100	96.5	100	100	100
Permit recommendations provided to the Director of National Parks and Wildlife that include evidence of Aboriginal community engagement	%	100	100	100	100	100
Permits issued ²	No.	20	22	20	...	...
Instances of non-compliance with permits	No.	0	0	0	0	0

Source: DPIPWE AHT records.

Notes:

1. The level of assessment has broadened to include assessment from the Policy and Conservation Assessment Branch (PCAB) of the Resource Management and Conservation Division (RMC). This means that AHT is allocated 20 days and PCAB is also allocated 20 days for the assessment process. This performance measure will be revised to incorporate the expanded assessment process.
2. The number of permits issued is impacted by the number of applications received. It is not possible to provide a target for this component of the measure.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Progress with consultative arrangements with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community'

Effective consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community about proposals impacting on Aboriginal heritage values is central to ensuring the effective management and protection of these values in a way that is fair, transparent and inclusive. This indicator is a narrative report on initiatives to improve consultative arrangements with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

The establishment of the interim Aboriginal Heritage Council in 2012 has provided an avenue for proponents and developers to gain a consolidated view of the Aboriginal community. This successful arrangement has continued into the 2013-14 financial year with advice gained on many issues such as the issuance of permits and relevant policies such as the *Guide to the Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Process*.

In the past three months, AHT has begun to explore options surrounding the release of information pertaining to developments in an electronic media format directly to the Aboriginal community. This would ensure that information would be circulated on a regular basis and the Aboriginal community would have the opportunity to provide comment or additional information and to request supplementary details if necessary.

Increased understanding and respect for Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and heritage

Through our work we aim to engage with and educate the Tasmanian community to improve respect and understanding of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and heritage. We undertake research and interpretive activities aimed at improving knowledge and understanding of the nature and value of Aboriginal sites and landscapes.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Level of cultural awareness training'

For a number of years the Division has conducted cultural awareness training, with a focus on Aboriginal heritage values and management for the Department, other Government agencies and non-government organisations.

This indicator is a narrative report on AHT cultural awareness training activities in 2013-14.

Over the past 12 months the Division has provided regular cultural awareness training to the Parks and Wildlife Service as a part of its induction package for new employees. The Division also developed, in partnership with the Australian National University (ANU), an intensive five-day Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management workshop for Aboriginal people with the primary focus being professional practice relating to heritage place identification, protection and management.

The Division is also developing cultural awareness and site identification materials such as posters, handouts and booklets for all people interested in Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage and other target audiences, such as land managers in the forest industry, electricity suppliers and telecommunications providers.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Public access to information about Aboriginal heritage values and issues'

This indicator is a narrative report on activities and initiatives aimed at increasing public access to information about Aboriginal heritage values and issues, including research projects.

The Ice Age Website

This project is designed to provide a web-based interpretation of Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples occupation during the Ice Age. A timeline of Aboriginal occupation compared to international attainments has been created as well as supplementary and supporting media such as a poster-map of Ice Age Tasmania. These documents will be distributed to schools and museums during the launch of the website.

1892 Mission Station Bruny Island

This project was designed to assist weetaoona Aboriginal Corporation (wAC) recover key aspects of their heritage on Murrayfield, a sheep property on Bruny Island that is managed by the Indigenous Land Corporation for the wAC. In 2007, wAC received an Australian Government grant to fund a search for the Mission and asked AHT to assist in the task.

Two reports have been recently completed for this project. *The Search for George Augustus Robinson's Aboriginal Mission, Bruny Island: A Report to the Weetaoona Aboriginal Corporation* and *The Aboriginal Establishment, Brune Island, 1829* with the former written primarily for the wAC and the latter for general consumption.

Aboriginal Rock Marking Site

This project was designed to preserve a 3D image of a rock marking site that is threatened by the effects of climate change. The images will be used for management and research purposes and have been used in interpretation exercises such as presentations at NAIDOC week and other exhibits at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG). This method of 3D imaging has the potential to be applied to all engraved art sites within Tasmania before erosion and rising sea levels destroy them.

D-Stretch

Decorrelation Stretch or D-Stretch is a mathematical tool applied to images to enhance and emphasise colour differentiation. The D-Stretch is a computer program that has been adapted from NASA technology, which was utilised in a Mars mission in 2004 to discriminate between colour and texture in soil to determine landforms. In Tasmania, AHT has recently applied D - Stretch to ochre art sites with amazing results. Previous recordings of hand stencil sites located throughout Tasmania have details regarding the presence of, what has been termed, ochre smears. A number of these smears have recently been re-photographed and with the assistance of the image enhancing D-Stretch program it has been determined that these ochre

smears are actually degraded or eroded ochre hand stencils. These enhanced images have been included in interpretation presentations and it is envisaged that further sites with ochre smears will be re-evaluated in the future.

Increased skills and knowledge to support sustainable management of Aboriginal heritage

AHT undertakes a number of activities aimed at increasing skills and knowledge in the Aboriginal heritage sector. The Government has made a commitment to involve the Aboriginal community in decision-making about their heritage. Therefore, it is important that relevant Aboriginal heritage skills and knowledge are kept up-to-date so that best practice management principles are applied to the protection and management of Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage.

Key effectiveness indicator (1 of 2)

'Increased skills of AHT staff'

This indicator is a narrative report on activities and initiatives aimed at increasing the skills and knowledge of staff within AHT.

All new AHT staff have either formal qualifications in cultural heritage management, a relevant qualification in their technical field, or extensive experience in their chosen field.

- AHT employed a graduate archaeologist who is currently undertaking an Honours degree in archaeology specialising in Rock Art research. This employee also has relevant field experience in the sphere of Aboriginal archaeology.
- Two AHT staff are currently undertaking the DPIPWE Leadership program, which has been developed to provide a contemporary learning opportunity and promote an evolving culture of learning and performing in all divisions.
- AHT staff are provided with opportunities to attend conferences or short-term training courses as part of their professional development.
- All AHT staff have participated in the online Work, Health and Safety Course.

Key effectiveness indicator (2 of 2)

'Level of support provided to the Aboriginal community to increase skills in the Aboriginal Heritage Sector'

This indicator is a narrative report on AHT activities and initiatives aimed at increasing skills and knowledge within the Aboriginal heritage sector.

AHT has provided and continues to provide on-ground training to members of the interim Aboriginal Heritage Council.

The Division continues to provide training opportunities for the Parks and Wildlife Service Aboriginal Trainee Ranger Program. Operations staff undertook a two-day survey with the Aboriginal Rangers in conjunction with the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority at the Isle of the Dead and Surveyors Bay. The Rangers were asked to participate in a survey program in conjunction with AHT archaeologists and produce accurate sites recordings of archaeological deposits that were located during the survey.

Besides the partnership with the Australian National University (ANU) that produced a five-day Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management workshop for Aboriginal people, further training opportunities have also been developed. These other training sessions include a stone tool identification workshop and a midden composition and identification workshop. These workshops are aimed at Aboriginal Heritage Officers and Aboriginal community members.

Output 9.3 – Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

The 14 ha Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) were established in 1818. They are the only botanical gardens in Tasmania and provide an important botanical, horticultural, educational, cultural and interpretation resource.

The RTBG is a significant tourism site with visitation of approximately 400 000 per annum. The Gardens also play an important role as a community asset especially in relation to education focussed on food security and healthy eating practices based around the Tasmanian Community Food Garden.

RTBG is a State Government statutory organisation governed by the *Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act 2002* and administered by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment. A board of seven members appointed by the Minister manages the Gardens under the Act.

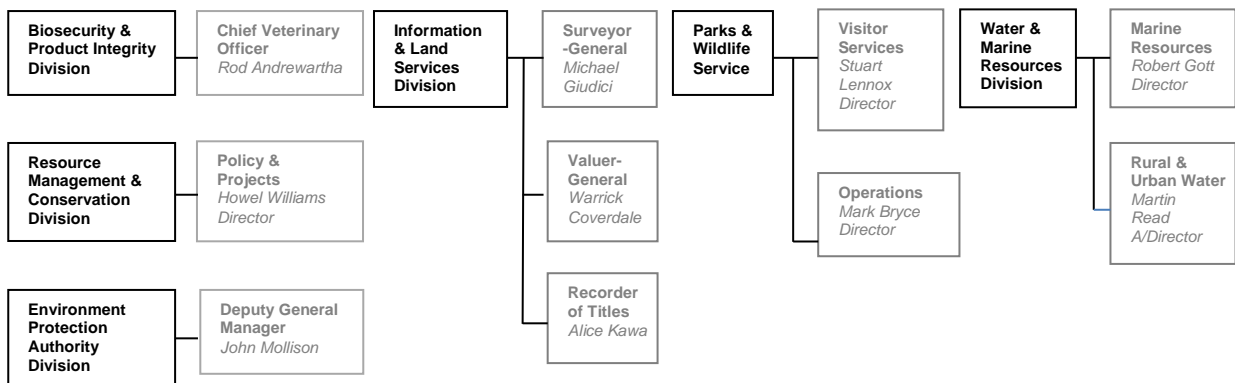
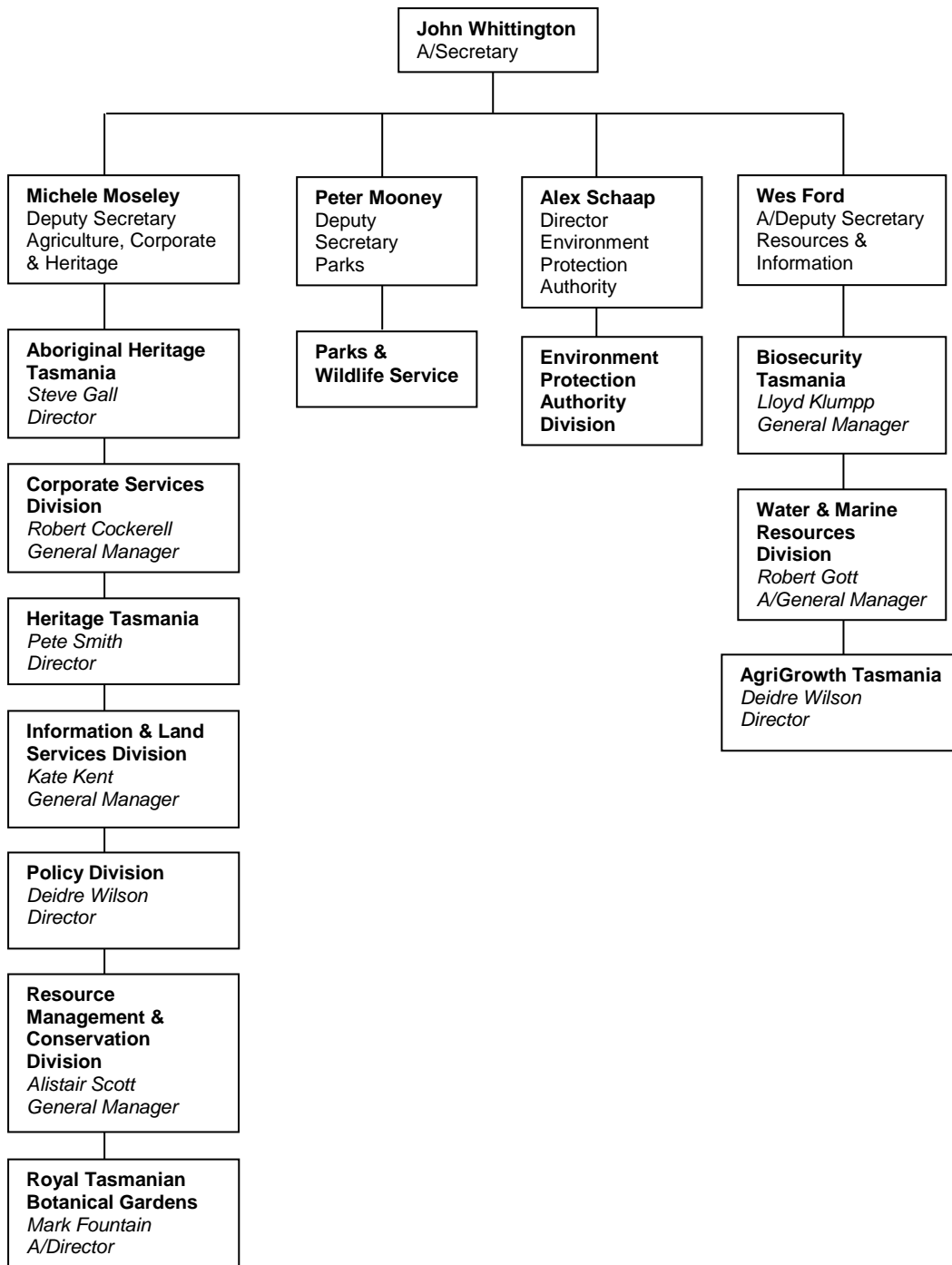
The main objective of the Gardens is to be internationally recognised as a centre of excellence in southern hemisphere cool climate plants and to enrich Tasmania's social and cultural environment.

The Gardens' staff manage, conserve and enhance the site by delivering sustainable and relevant programs in plant collections and displays, tourism and recreation, cultural heritage, research and learning for Tasmanians and other visitors and users.

In accordance with the requirements of section 17 of the *Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act 2002*, the RTBG produces its own Annual Report detailing activities and key performance for the year. The report is available on the RTBG website (www.rtbq.tas.gov.au).

Supporting information

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Organisational structure, Output Groups and Outputs

As at 30 June 2014, the Department had a number of operational divisions and groups aligned to our Output Groups and Outputs. These are outlined below.

Information and Land Services Division

Output Group 1: Information and Land Services

- Output 1.1: Land Titles, Survey and Mapping Services
- Output 1.2: Valuation Services
- Output 1.3: *Service Tasmania*

Resource Management and Conservation Division

Output Group 3: Resource Management and Conservation

- Output 3.1: Land Management Services
- Output 3.2: Conservation of Tasmania's Flora and Fauna

Water and Marine Resources Division

Output Group 2: Primary Industries

- Output 2.2: Marine Resources

Output Group 4: Water Resources

- Output 4.1: Water Resource Management
- Output 4.2: Water Resource Assessment

Policy Division

Output Group 2: Primary Industries

- Output 2.1: AgriGrowth Tasmania

Output Group 5: Policy

- Output 5.1 Policy Advice

Biosecurity and Product Integrity

Output Group 6: Biosecurity Tasmania

- Output 6.1: Biosecurity
- Output 6.2: Product Integrity

Environment Protection Authority Division

Output Group 7: Environment Protection and Analytical Services

- Output 7.1: Environmental Management and Pollution Control
- Output 7.2: Analytical Services

Parks and Wildlife Service

Output Group 8: Parks and Wildlife Management

- Output 8.1: Parks and Wildlife Management
- Output 8.2: Crown Land Services

Heritage Tasmania

Output Group 9: Heritage

- Output 9.1: Historic Heritage Services

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

Output Group 9: Heritage

- Output 9.2: Aboriginal Heritage

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

Output Group 9: Heritage

- Output 9.3: Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

In addition, the Corporate Services Division provided internal services to support the activities and objectives of operational areas.

Also, the Corporate Communications Branch is attached to the Policy Division.

Governance and management

Governance arrangements

The Department reports to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water and the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage.

The Department is led by an Executive team comprising the Secretary, four Deputy Secretaries, five General Managers of Divisions and four Directors. The primary function of the Executive team is to assist the Secretary in managing DPIPWE to meet the needs of the stakeholders within the legislative framework.

As at 30 June 2014, the DPIPWE Executive team comprised:

- John Whittington, Acting Secretary,
- Alex Schaap, Director Environment Protection Authority (Deputy Secretary position),
- Wes Ford, Acting Deputy Secretary Resources and Information,
- Peter Mooney, Deputy Secretary Parks,
- Michele Moseley, Deputy Secretary Agriculture, Corporate and Heritage,
- Kate Kent, General Manager Information and Land Services,
- Alistair Scott, General Manager Resource Management and Conservation,
- Robert Gott, Acting General Manager Water and Marine Resources,
- Lloyd Klumpp, General Manager Biosecurity Tasmania,
- Pete Smith, Director Heritage Tasmania,
- Steve Gall, Director Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania,
- Mark Fountain, Acting Director Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens,
- Robert Cockerell, General Manager Corporate Services, and
- Deidre Wilson, Director Policy.

Legislation and legislative program

The Department administers 91 Acts, including three in part and their subordinate legislation. Of these Acts, 32 are in the Ministerial portfolio of Environment, Parks and Heritage and 59 are in the Primary Industries and Water portfolio.

The Policy Division coordinates the legislative program, as part of services delivered under Output Group 5: Policy. This includes the provision of advisory services, quality control and liaison associated with the development and review of legislation.

Below is information about legislation administered by the Department and legislative changes that occurred during the year.

Legislation administered by DPIPWE¹

Ministerial portfolio of Environment, Parks and Heritage

Abandoned Lands Act 1973

¹ The administration of legislation is assigned to the Ministerial portfolios of Environment, Parks and Heritage, and Primary Industries and Water under the *Administrative Arrangements Order (No.3) 2014*, in accordance with s4(1) of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1990*.

Aboriginal Relics Act 1975
Ben Lomond Skifield Management Authority (Repeal) Act 2007
Crown Land (Parliamentary Precinct Redevelopment) Act 2009
Crown Lands Act 1976
Crown Lands (Extinguishment of Public Rights) Act 2001
Crown Lands (Extinguishment of Public Rights) Act 2003
Crown Lands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997
Crown Lands (Shack Sites) Act 1997
Crown Lands (Validation of Fees) Act 2011
Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994
Government House Land Act 1964
Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995
Ida Bay Railway Repeal Act 2001
Litter Act 2007
Mt Lyell Acid Drainage Reduction Act 2003
National Environment Protection Council (Tasmania) Act 1995
National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002
National Trust Act 2006
National Trust Preservation Fund (Winding-up) Act 1999
Natural Resource Management Act 2002
Nature Conservation Act 2002
Plastic Shopping Bags Ban Act 2013
Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1987
Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority Act 1987
Ralphs Bay Conservation Area (Clarification) Act 2006
Regional Forest Agreement (Land Classification) Act 1998
(Divisions 2 and 3 of Part 2 and the making of regulations under section 26 in so far as those regulations relate to Divisions 2 and 3 of Part 2 [otherwise see Forestry Corporation under the Minister for Resources])
Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act 2002
Self's Point Land Act 1951
Threatened Species Protection Act 1995
Wellington Park Act 1993
Whales Protection Act 1988

Ministerial portfolio of Primary Industries and Water

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Tasmania) Act 1994
Animal (Brands and Movement) Act 1984
Animal Farming (Registration) Act 1994
Animal Health Act 1995

Animal Welfare Act 1993
Biological Control Act 1986
Boundary Fences Act 1908
Cat Management Act 2009
Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1884
Dairy Industry Act 1994
Egg Industry Act 2002
Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Act 2013
Estates Tail Act 1853
Fertilizers Act 1993
Fisheries Rules (Validation) Act 1997
Fishing (Licence Ownership and Interest) Registration Act 2001
Florentine Valley Paper Industry Act 1935
Forestry Rights Registration Act 1990
Fruit and Nut Industry (Research, Development and Extension Trust Fund) Act 2012
Gene Technology Act 2012
Genetically Modified Organisms Control Act 2004
Inland Fisheries Act 1995
Inland Fisheries (Director of Inland Fisheries Validation) Act 2003
Inland Fisheries (Savings and Transitional) Act 1995
Irrigation Clauses Act 1973
Irrigation Company Act 2011
Lakes Sorell and Crescent Conservation Act 1901
Land Acquisition Act 1993
Land Titles Act 1980
Land Valuers Act 2001
Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995
Living Marine Resources Management (Validation of Documents) Act 2002
Marine Farming Planning Act 1995
Marine Resources (Savings and Transitional) Act 1995
Meander Dam Project Act 2003
Meat Hygiene Act 1985
Partition Act 1869
Plant Quarantine Act 1997
Powers of Attorney Act 2000

(Except in so far as it relates to the functions and powers of the Guardianship and Administration Board in relation to enduring powers of attorney [see Department of Justice under the Minister for Justice])

Primary Industry Activities Protection Act 1995
Primary Produce Safety Act 2011
Public Trusts Act 1882

Registration of Deeds Act 1935

Repeal of Regulations Postponement Act (No. 2) 2013

Seeds Act 1985

Strata Titles Act 1998

Survey Co-ordination Act 1944

Surveyors Act 2002

Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) Trust Act 1990

Urban Drainage Act 2013

Valuation of Land Act 2001

Vermin Control Act 2000

Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987

Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008

(Except Subdivision 3 of Division 1 of Part 4, Division 5 of Part 4 and sections 88 and 111 and the making of regulations under section 115 in so far as those regulations relate to Subdivision 3 of Division 1 of Part 4, Division 5 of Part 4 and sections 88 and 111 [see Department of Treasury and Finance under the Treasurer]).

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2013

Water Management Act 1999

Waterworks Clauses Act 1952

Weed Management Act 1999

New legislation

Ministerial portfolio of Environment, Parks and Heritage

There was no new legislation during 2013-14.

Ministerial portfolio of Primary Industries and Water

Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Act 2013

The *Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Act 2013* was passed by Parliament on 12 November 2013. It adopts the Electronic Conveyancing National Law, which forms the basis of a national scheme for the electronic lodgement and processing of conveyancing transactions, as a law of Tasmania.

Repeal of Regulations Postponement Act (No. 2) 2013

The *Subordinate Legislation Act 1992* provides for the systematic repeal of subordinate legislation over a rolling 10-year period. For a variety of reasons, including the need to complete ongoing reviews or fit with nationally agreed reforms, it is often necessary to defer the repeal of regulations that fall due for automatic repeal. The *Repeal of Regulations Postponement Act (No.2) 2013* was passed by Parliament on 19 September 2013. It extended the date at which the *Surveyors Regulations 2003* and the *Animal (Brands and Movement) Regulations 2003* expire to 26 November 2014 and 10 December 2014 respectively. Deferring the automatic repeal of regulations when necessary is essential for the effective operation of government and for continuity in the administration of legislation.

Urban Drainage Act 2013

The *Urban Drainage Act 2013* was passed by Parliament on 21 November 2013. It replaces the *Drains Act 1954* with modern and fit-for-purpose stormwater management legislation. The Act enhances and simplifies the powers and obligations previously provided under the *Drains Act* to reflect the current operating environment and facilitate the continued provision of stormwater drainage services by councils.

Legislation amended

Ministerial portfolio of Environment, Parks and Heritage

Historic Cultural Heritage Amendment Act 2013

The *Historic Cultural Heritage Amendment Act 2013* was passed by Parliament on 21 November 2013. Amendments to the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* were required to provide increased clarity and certainty in the statutory management of historic heritage places, including a clearer system of defining and identifying heritage, and greater consistency with the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* in the management of works to heritage places.

Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Historic Cultural Heritage) Act 2013

The *Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Historic Cultural Heritage) Act 2013* was passed by Parliament on 12 November 2013. Amendments to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* were required as a result of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Amendment Act 2013* reforms. The Act amended the timeframe by which a planning authority must make a determination for a discretionary planning permit.

Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Amendment Act 2013

The *Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Amendment Act 2013* was passed by Parliament on 21 November 2013. It amended the *Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1987* to allow for the making of a sewage management directive, and to provide that compliance with such a directive will exempt local vessels from the existing offence provision. The Act also amended the definition of 'State waters' in line with recent amendments to model Australian Government legislation, the *Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1983*.

Ministerial portfolio of Primary Industries and Water

There were no significant amendments to legislation during 2013-14.

Legislation transferred

Ministerial portfolio of Environment, Parks and Heritage

Cat Management Act 2009

In May 2014, the Government announced the creation of Biosecurity Tasmania, a single entity within the Department with expanded biosecurity responsibilities covering primary industries and the environment. The creation of this new entity required the Invasive Species Branch (previously with the Resource Management and Conservation Division) to merge with the Biosecurity and Product Integrity Division. This restructure also necessitated the transfer of the administration of the *Cat Management Act 2009* from the portfolio of the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage to the portfolio of the Minister for Primary Industries and Water.²

Weed Management Act 1999

Following the May 2013 announcement of the creation of Biosecurity Tasmania, it was also necessary to transfer the administration of the *Weed Management Act 1999* from the portfolio of the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage to the portfolio of the Minister for Primary Industries and Water³. The former Invasive Species Branch merged into the Biosecurity Tasmania as part of this restructure.

² The *Administrative Arrangements Order (No.2) 2014* gave effect to the changes to the assignment of legislation under the Ministerial portfolios of Environment, Parks and Heritage, and Primary Industries and Water. These changes took effect on 31 March 2014.

³ As above.

Ministerial portfolio of Primary Industries and Water

Abandoned Lands Act 1973

The administration of the *Abandoned Lands Act 1973* was transferred from the portfolio of the Minister for Primary Industries and Water to the portfolio of the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage in 2014⁴, to correctly align its administration with Ministerial responsibilities for Crown lands.

Legislation repealed

Ministerial portfolio of Environment, Parks and Heritage

No legislation was repealed during 2013-14.

Ministerial portfolio of Primary Industries and Water

Drains Act 1954

The *Drains Act 1954* was repealed on 19 December 2013. The Act was replaced by the *Urban Drainage Act 2013*.

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005

The *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005* was repealed on 18 July 2013. The Act was replaced by the *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2013*⁵.

⁴ The *Administrative Arrangements Order (No.3) 2014* gave effect to the change to the assignment of legislation under the Ministerial portfolios of Environment, Parks and Heritage, and Primary Industries and Water. The change took effect on 18 June 2014.

⁵ The *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2013* was passed by Parliament on 27 June 2013.

Statutory bodies, joint ventures and non-statutory bodies

The Department supports the work of a number of statutory bodies and non-statutory bodies and joint ventures. A list of these bodies is provided below.

Statutory bodies

Abalone Fishery Advisory Committee,
Agricultural, Silvicultural and Veterinary Chemicals Council,
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee,
Assessment Committee for Dam Construction,
Board of Advice and Reference,
Board of Environment Protection Authority,
Board of Management (Apple and Pear Industry Research and Development Account),
Community Review Committee (Threatened Species),
Conservation Compensation Committee,
Crustacean Fishery Advisory Committee,
Marine Farming Planning Review Panel,
National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council,
National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) Board,
Nomenclature Board,
Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Regional Committee,
North West Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Regional Committee,
Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee,
Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Board,
Savage River Remediation Program Management Committee,
Scalefish Fishery Advisory Committee,
Scallop Fishery Advisory Committee,
Scientific Advisory Committee (Threatened Species),
Southern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Regional Committee,
State Marine Pollution Committee,
Tasmanian Dairy Industry Authority,
Tasmanian Heritage Council,
Tasmanian Land Surveyors Accreditation Board,
Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council,
Veterinary Board of Tasmania,
Wellington Park Management Trust.

Joint Ventures

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies,
Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture.

Non-statutory bodies

(Interim) Aboriginal Heritage Council,
Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area Management Committee,
Audit Committee,
Australian Convict Sites Steering Committee,
Azorella Dieback Steering Committee,
Bass Strait Livestock Shipping Committee,
Blooming Tasmania (Garden Tourism Industry Body),
Cascades Community Advisory Committee,
Cressy Research and Development Station Management Committee,
Derwent Estuary Program Steering Committee,
DPIPWE Animal Ethics Committee,
Feeding the Future,
Fox Eradication Program Steering Committee (under review),
Fox Eradication Program Technical Advisory Panel (under review),
Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens,
Game Management Liaison Committee,
Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand,
Invasive Species Community Partnership,
Macquarie Island Research Assessment Group,
National Heritage System Interdepartmental Committee,
Macquarie Harbour Technical Working Group,
Primary Industry Consultative Committee (Weather),
RD&E Committee of Primary Industries Standing Committee,
Red Meat Forecast Committee,
Red Meat Co-Investment Committee (National),
Rural Alive and Well Board,
Rural Business Tasmania Inc Board,
Rural Support Network,
Save the Tasmanian Devil Program Steering Committee,
Save the Tasmanian Devil Scientific Advisory Committee,
Sustainable Marine Research Advisory Committee,
Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Steering Committee,
Tasmanian Biosecurity Committee,
Tasmanian Community Food Garden Steering Committee,
Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee,
Tasmanian Geoconservation Database
Tasmanian Government Spatial Committee,
Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Dairy Centre Advisory Committee,
Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Extensive Agriculture Advisory Committee,

Tasmanian Plant Biosecurity Regulatory Working Group,
Tasmanian Primary Industries Biosecurity Committee,
Tasmanian Spatial Information Council,
Tasmanian Women in Agriculture Executive Committee,
Tasmanian World Heritage Convict Sites – Site Managers Group,
Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture Vegetable Centre Advisory Committee,
Waste Advisory Committee,
(Wildlife) Import Technical Assessment Panel,
24 Carrot School Gardens (MONA) Steering Committee.

Key operational activities

Corporate support activities

The role of the Corporate Services Division is to provide innovative corporate support and leadership to assist the operational divisions in achieving the Department's aims and objectives. The Corporate Services Division provides leadership in the areas of finance, facilities management, human resource management and information services.

In addition the Corporate Communications Branch, which is attached to the Policy Division, provides corporate marketing and communication services.

Finance

The Finance Branch facilitates financial management within the Department. It is responsible for overall budget management and coordination, the development and implementation of financial policies and procedures, the provision of financial reports in accordance with statutory requirements, maintenance and development of the financial management information system (including support to users), and financial processing and management of creditors and debtors.

In 2013-14, there continued to be a priority focus on monitoring the Department's budget position and progress in achieving budget management strategies in accordance with the Government's objective to return the State's financial position to a sustainable position.

Several key events occurred during the year, which included the Branch facilitating the transfer of the Integrated Tasmanian Government Contact Centre from the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Also, there was new forestry legislation that resulted in a significant increase in the area of reserved lands to be managed by the Department. The Branch and Parks and Wildlife Service coordinated the valuation of land, building and infrastructure assets to be transferred from Forestry Tasmania to the Department.

The Finance Branch also coordinated the valuation for the following asset classes: heritage, land, buildings and land under buildings. In accordance with the Department's Valuation Policy, a valuation of an asset class is conducted every five years.

In line with the Department's commitment to pay its accounts on time, the Branch continues to focus on improving efficiencies and timeliness in regard to payment processes. The Branch undertook an internal review to ensure compliance with relevant Treasurer's Instructions and to identify possible areas for improvements and subsequently implemented revised guidelines and increased awareness of requirements to all staff. The result of previous accounts payable system development and ongoing management in this area has resulted in the average percentage of late payments in 2013-14 to the total number of payments made by the Department being less than five per cent.

Facilities management

The Facilities Management Branch manages accommodation at major centres and operational facilities across the State. Key activities include lease management, statutory infrastructure maintenance, major and minor works programs and fleet management. The Branch also manages the Department's major procurement function, which includes support to the Department's Procurement Review Committee and insurance requirements through the Tasmanian Risk Management Fund.

The Branch recently completed a major upgrade of air conditioning at the Mt Pleasant Laboratories. A range of works, which improve access for the disabled, has been completed at the New Town and Mt Pleasant Laboratories. Investigations into asbestos were undertaken at both Laboratories with significant remediation actions completed.

Accommodation on the ground floor of the Marine Board Building was vacated with re-structuring absorbing staff to other floors. Negotiations were undertaken with the building

owner, resulting in the owner meeting all major works and relocation costs. The changes will produce ongoing rental savings and a reduction in the Department's carbon footprint.

As part of its role in managing the Department's procurement process the Branch assisted operational Divisions with the administration and review of 31 major tenders, which resulted in the awarding of 42 contracts. The Branch provided priority support with procurement advice for the Three Capes Track as this priority project progressed.

Human resource management

The Human Resources Branch (HR) provided advisory and consultant support for agency-wide people management programs and practices, and also services for payroll, recruitment and selection, organisational and job design, and workers compensation for managers and employees within the Department.

Performance management, learning and development, leadership, managing work relationships, and work health and safety were a key focus for HR. This is reflected in the successful delivery of Leadership Program workshops, several Agency induction sessions involving new employees and members of the Executive, and a participation rate of 95 per cent for all employees in the Department's performance management model. The Agency's Work Health and Safety Management System continues to be revised and implemented through the Central Steering Committee and a 'Healthy DPIPWE Expo' attracted many employees on the day.

The Branch was involved in the successful transfer of 42 employees from Forestry Tasmania and the Government's Call Centre to the Parks and Wildlife Service and Service Tasmania respectively. These transfers were a consequence of changes made by the government to the way the Department manages the forest reserves and planned improvements in the way the community can access government services or information.

Information services

The Information Services Branch provides information and communication technology, records management and library services across the Department. This includes the provision and support of reliable systems and infrastructure to support business operations. The Branch also designs, develops and implements computer systems that enable the Department to provide more efficient and effective services.

In 2013-14, focus was on the rollout of the whole-of-government modern communications program. This project installed 1 089 new Voice over Internet Protocol handsets and services across 39 sites. More than 92 per cent of the previous telephone wire based service has been replaced. The majority of the remainder will be deployed by September 2014.

During the year the major system development projects included:

- Finalisation of the Spatial Information Foundations project, which delivered the new Land Information System of Tasmania (LIST). This was a whole-of-government initiative to transform Tasmania's spatial information infrastructure to meet the increasing demands of government and the community for the delivery of more accessible and accurate location-linked information.
- Completion of a new departmental internet website to provide a more modern experience and greater functionality. Since its launch on 23 February 2014, the website has received 613 045 page views and some very positive feedback.
- Redevelopment of the Department's learning and development register to track skills, training, qualification and experience of employees, ensure compliance with Workplace Health and Safety requirements and to better assist emergency response teams to allocate staff and resources.
- Redevelopment of the Aboriginal Heritage Sites Register is in progress, which holds all the information for Aboriginal heritage sites ever recorded in Tasmania. Currently there are nearly 12 000 Aboriginal heritage sites listed.

- The Information Support Section has continued to implement the Tasmanian Government Information Security Policy Manual, which sets out the Tasmanian Government's approach to managing information security.

Corporate communications

The Corporate Communications Branch manages the Department's web presences, its exhibitions at major events such as Agfest, produces the online publication *Tasmanian Regions*, and coordinates the provision of information to media from across the Department's portfolio.

The Branch also has a significant role in overseeing the Department's internal communications across a broad portfolio range and a geographically diverse working environment.

The Branch oversees more than 2 050 web pages and more than 4 000 documents (PDFs, rich text documents, Word documents and Excel spreadsheets) on the Department's main corporate internet site.

As part of improving public access to the Department's website, the site was re-launched in March this year with a new design, structure and content management system (SharePoint).

The new site features a responsive design, which means the website can be accessed seamlessly on mobile and tablet devices as well as desktop computers and uses new, flexible technology that has enhanced the communication with external partners, stakeholders and the public.

The most popular areas of the website are currently information on Tasmanian devils, land titles, fishing, quarantine and biosecurity.

Since the new website went live on 14 March 2014, it has received 450 187 page hits (as at 18 July).

Tasmanian Regions, which was a quarterly magazine published by the Branch with a circulation of 3 000 copies per issue, was also relaunched as an online blog style magazine in March 2014. The new online blog site for the magazine has received 5 757 page hits (as at July 18).

The diverse DPIPWE site at AGFEST continues to see an increase in the number of visitors as a consequence of the high number of people visiting Agfest each year.

The event is an important method for engaging with the rural community and providing direct information on programs coordinated by the Department.

The 2014 AGFEST display received significant positive feedback on the theme of 'Partnerships For Success'.

Internal audit

The internal audit function facilitates an independent appraisal of the operations and systems of control to ensure that acceptable policies and procedures are followed, legislative requirements and established standards are met, and the resources are used efficiently and economically to achieve planned outcomes.

The internal audit function is a key element of the risk management approach, control systems and governance processes. KPMG has been contracted to provide internal audit services (Internal Auditors).

The requirement for an internal audit function derives from section 22(c) of the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990*. The purpose, authorities and responsibilities of the Department's audit function are documented in the Audit Charter, which is overseen by an Audit Committee. The Committee is a formally constituted committee of the Executive Group and comprises one Deputy Secretary, one General Manager and an independent member appointed by the Executive.

The Audit Committee provides independent and objective advice and recommendations to the Executive in relation to the Department's financial reporting, internal controls and audit

function. It meets at least five times a year and representatives of the Department's Internal Auditor and the Tasmanian Audit Office are invited to attend.

The Audit Committee reviews the Internal Auditor's work and the Executive's response to recommendations. The Committee also considers findings from audits conducted by the Tasmanian Audit Office and reviews the Department's draft Financial Statements. In 2013-14, the Committee considered the following internal audit reports:

- *Parks & Wildlife: Hastings Caves Cash Handling processes* (March 2013);
- *Parks & Wildlife Service Business Enterprise – cash handling and follow-up* (June 2013);
- *Rotational cash audits – Service Tasmania Rosny* (August 2013);
- *Workers compensation benefits* (September 2013);
- *Treasurer's Instruction compliance* (September 2013);
- *Analytical Services Tasmania's Financial Transaction and Reporting Framework follow-up* (March 2014);
- *Rotational cash audits – Land Titles Office* (March 2014);
- *Data Mining* (March 2014); and
- *Rotational cash audits – Service Tasmania Hobart* (April 2014).

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The draft *DPIPWE Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2014-17* was developed to deliver the Department's commitments under the State *Disability Framework for Action 2013-2017*. The Framework aligns Tasmania with current national and international approaches to disability policy.

The draft *DPIPWE Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2014-17* includes measures of progress to determine its impact on improving life outcomes for people with disability who are working and interacting with the Department. It was developed in consultation with the Premier's Disability Advisory Committee (PDAC).

Recruitment, employment and retention

Departmental practices and procedures for recruitment and selection include information on referring vacancies to the State Service's Disability Fixed-Term Employment Program, as well as listing Disability Employment Service Providers approved by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

All position vacancies are reviewed as part of a policy to consider removing any historic requirements of positions that may be a barrier to employment of people with a disability, such as the need for driver's licences

Physical access to public buildings, facilities and off-premises events

A consultant specialising in Disability Access was engaged by the Department to undertake an audit of some of our key premises. Capital Works undertaken for the last 12 months include:

Mt Pleasant Laboratories

- toilet for the disabled constructed on the ground floor;
- disability access at front reception upgraded to be compliant with present standards, including installation of tactile indicators, hand rails and path adjustments;
- reception area modified to allow wheel chair access ;
- realignment of disabled parking to conform to standards; and
- installation of visual indicator strips for glass surfaces.

New Town Research Laboratories

- toilet for the disabled constructed on the ground floor;

- replacement of internal handrails to meet standards;
- lift improvements including voice and hand rails;
- disability access at front reception upgrade to be compliant with present standards, including installation of tactile indicators, hand rails; and
- wheelchair ramp re-graded.

Whitemark site activity

- design and plan approval for disabled access alterations to Government building Lagoon Rd completed.

To improve disability access to national parks, a 'Trailrider' was trialled at the Parks and Wildlife Services' Cradle Mountain Field Centre. The Trailrider provides access for those who are wheelchair bound or who have limited mobility. The success of this trial led to the purchase of a Trailrider unit. It is planned for the Trailrider to be initially be based at Cradle Mountain where staff are in the process of assessing appropriate tracks and putting together user policies and safety information.

Information and communication

The Department ensures compliance with W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, which are included in the web development criteria.

The Department launched a new corporate website that went live earlier this year, which is a significant step towards meeting the WC3 requirements and the testing tools available to ensure compliance.

The Training Consortium has provided excellent training courses in Web Accessibility and nine general web staff have undertaken training in Writing Content for the Web with a focus on accessibility requirements.

Consultative relationships and stakeholder engagement

The Royal Botanical Gardens, in partnership with the GlobalNet Academy (RTO No 60058), is offering a nationally accredited training course in horticulture. Designed to provide participants a unique and practical learning experience, including working onsite at the Gardens, the course covers two Certificates in Horticulture and has been developed to provide access to learning for those with a disability.

Climate change

The Division provides data of the emissions for inclusion in the Tasmanian Government Greenhouse Inventory when requested. Where appropriate, Climate Change Impact Statements are incorporated into Cabinet Minutes.

Greenhouse gas emissions report

Greenhouse gas emission data is unavailable for the 2013-14 period as the Tasmanian Climate Change Office is developing a database to provide this information. It is proposed that this database will be developed and implemented by December 2014.

Consumption for the two main sources of energy are listed in the following table.

Table 72: Electricity and fuel use 2012-13 and 2013-14

	2012-13	2013-14	% change
Electricity use by kWh	7 702 066	7 742 205	0.52
FTE – DPIPWE divisions	1 262.16	1 279.33	1.36
Electricity use, kWh per FTE	6 102	6 051	-0.828
Fleet vehicle travel – litres of fuel	704 677	656 075	-6.897

Source: DPIPWE records.

Activities and achievements

The key emissions reduction activities undertaken in 2013-14 are listed below:

The Facilities Management Branch reviewed the following for more efficient technologies and practices to reduce energy consumption:

- New Town Research Laboratories – hot water system timing; and
- Mt Pleasant Laboratories – heat exchange upgrade.

All DPIPWE sites participated in Earth Hour on 29 March 2014 where lights are turned off between 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm, except for emergency and security lighting.

Notes:

1. Electricity Data is extracted from electrical retailer quarterly billing information. Data has been annualised where quarters do not align with the fiscal year.
2. FTEs refers to paid staff as at 30 June 2014, excluding those on secondment, parental leave or leave without pay.

Stakeholder relations

Partnership agreements

Partnership agreements are formal agreements between the various tiers of government aimed at improving services to Tasmanian communities. They enable better integration of State, regional and local action, the adoption of collaborative approaches for projects and funding approaches, and the establishment of priorities, commitments and timeframes to address key issues.

Activities to support partnership agreements

In October 2012, the Department became a party to a new bilateral agreement with the King Island Council.

The Department has a key role in this agreement and is responsible for progressing two schedules: Primary Industries and Natural Resource Management. Both schedules are progressing well and are making a significant contribution to supporting economic development on the Island following the closure of the JBS Australia abattoir in 2012. The peak group that oversaw the development of the agreement and ensuring its effective implementation is chaired by the Secretary of the Department.

Throughout the year the Department assisted the Break O'Day Council in the implementation of the third partnership agreement through membership on the steering committee and providing information and data to the consultants employed to develop the Municipal Management Plan. The Plan is scheduled to be finalised later in 2013. The Department has also continued to work with the Council on the Binnalong Bay viewing platform, Binnalong Bay Foreshore master plan, the north-east mountain bike project and the Parnella Conservation Land Slip area strategy.

Community engagement and awareness activities

The Department undertakes a broad range of community engagement and awareness activities aimed at providing the stakeholders with up-to-date information relevant to their needs.

It also maintains a comprehensive website at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au.

The Department has a number of specific interest publications for stakeholders, and undertakes a number of other activities designed to inform the community about specialised programs and projects, including information about the consultative processes and deadlines.

Examples of community awareness activities undertaken by staff in our areas in 2013-14 are outlined below.

Information and Land Services

The Information and Land Services Division communicates with its clients, customers and stakeholders in a variety of ways including newsletters, regular updates on the internet, public forums and participation in workshops and other forums.

One edition of the *location matters* newsletter was published in 2013-14. This publication aims to provide land professionals and the community with information about land in Tasmania. It was distributed in hardcopy, via e-mail and on the website. It was also made available at Service Tasmania shops.

The Recorder of Titles attended the Law Society's Property and Commercial Law Committee meetings.

A tour of the Land Titles Office was provided to Legal Practice students and Tasmanian Online Land Dealing (TOLD) system training is provided to these students.

The Land Titles Office provided presentations to local government, solicitors, conveyancers and strata managers regarding strata title related matters.

The Office of the Valuer-General has regular contact with stakeholders, particularly those in both local and State Government, and consults on its statutory and client valuation processes and acquisitions of land. The Valuer-General and the Senior Valuer (North-West) hold formal positions on the board of the Australian Property Institute – Tasmanian Division. The Valuer-General meets regularly with valuation industry members and contractors to discuss contemporary practices.

Geospatial Infrastructure Branch surveyors are active in the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute where they provide specialist input at technical seminars conferences. In addition, the Branch supports the activities of the Tasmanian Land Surveyors Accreditation Board (TLSAB) via Board membership and committee representation on the Institute of Surveyors Tasmania.

The Surveyor-General lectures Graduate Diploma candidates in land surveying each year, and the Branch has employed a Graduate Diploma candidate under a scholarship arrangement with UTAS.

Within the Division, the Integrated Client Services Unit is very active in engaging with industry, particularly in regard to advocacy of the new LIST. Weekly engagement, for example, encompasses the real estate industry, Property Council, Valuer forums, lawyer, surveyor and NRM groups.

The Division has been active in promoting LIST tools and services to the education sector. This is being achieved via a nationally generated GPS in schools project and ILS internal efforts to support the new Australian geography curriculum.

Officers from the ILS Division attended Agfest as part of the DPIPWE tent site. This year our presence proved particularly popular because of the new LIST and displays of 'Early Treasures' map products. Agfest generated increased interest in online access to spatial data and historical products, and provided some valuable feedback for the prioritisation of new LIST features.

AgriGrowth Tasmania Division

A Target 120 program reference group works with DPIPWE to provide awareness and feedback associated with this initiative. A collaborative relationship with the *King Island Courier* newspaper ensures ongoing program awareness and publication of timely production agriculture technical messages.

The Women and Rural Communities Program continues to work closely with the Tasmanian Women in Agriculture executive committee on the strategic direction and governance of the organisation. The Program also maintains a database used to disseminate information of interest from government and other sources via an email newsletter. The Program has supported the highly regarded Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Rural Women's Awards since their inception in 2000. Each year, the Award provides a \$10 000 bursary to an outstanding rural woman to pursue her goals in primary industries.

In June 2013, the Department provided funding to TIA to develop an irrigation research, development and extension to support the current expansion of irrigation in the State. As part of this work TIA conducted a consultation process to gain stakeholder views on activities required to support this initiative.

In August 2013, the Department sought public comment on the moratorium on GMOs in Tasmania. An Issues Paper was released by the Department with submissions closing in October 2013. One hundred and sixty submissions were received and posted on the Department's website.

Discussions occurred with various stakeholders in the beef industry on the best way to implement the recommendations of the 2012 Review of the *Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) Trust Act 1990*. Amendments to the Act are expected to be tabled in Parliament in late 2014.

In response to concerns raised by the poppy industry around community perception and public safety, the Branch was instrumental in formation of the Poppy Industry Public Safety and

Education Committee (PIPSEC). The key output of PIPSEC was development of a targeted website highlighting the potentially lethal consequences of ingesting illegally sourced poppy materials. To ensure that PIPSEC was responding in an appropriate manner to these concerns the Branch liaised with State and National drug education bodies, secondary schools and the Hagley Farm School. PIPSEC initiatives are funded by the poppy industry and there is an ongoing commitment to review, upgrade and add to the educational material currently provided.

Water and Marine Resources Division

Marine Farming Branch staff attended public forums convened by both Tassal and Huon Aquaculture to inform the community about proposed marine farming development plan amendments being advanced by these companies.

Staff from the Wild Fisheries Management Branch engages with the commercial fishery across the state at port meetings.

The Wild Fisheries Management Branch conducted a responsible fisheries exhibit at AGFest in May. The Branch when operating the Fishcare Tasmania program conducted:

- 63 fisheries awareness talks and responsible fishing clinics to 1 700 students at 26 schools.
- 18 community based fishing clinics to more than 614 individuals.
- 33 exhibits at community or school fairs. Nearly all of these events involved the 'kids fishing pool' or the Fishcare Display trailer.
- Exhibits at major and regional events, fishery forums and boat shows including The Tasmanian Outdoor, Boat and Caravan Show and Inland Fishing Service Liawenee Open days. An estimated 125 000 people attending these events were exposed to the key responsible fishing messages and practices

The Department has engaged with the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, particularly its Water Policy Committee, on a range of policy initiatives. It also attends Water Policy Committee meeting as a matter of routine to ensure it is kept informed of the key policy and operational matters that the Division is working on.

Resource Management and Conservation Division

Save the Tasmanian Devil Program

The Program implemented a wide range of communications aimed at community engagement and awareness, including the STDP Annual Program Report 2012-13 and a regular newsletter.

In addition, the Program published news articles, updated its website at www.tassiedevil.com.au, and posted information on its Facebook page, which now has more than 9 500 likes. Its Twitter account has more than 700 followers. The Program also worked with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal on its website and on specific campaigns and joint promotions.

Program staff attended a range of meetings, conferences and events throughout the year, presenting talks, information and displays. Senior staff attended the opening of the Tasmanian devil enclosure at the San Diego Zoo Global in the United States of America; and the Wellington Zoo in New Zealand, launching the Ambassador Devil Initiative. Senior staff also attended the Australasian Zoo and Aquarium Association AGM and Symposium in New Zealand. Scientific staff attended a range of conferences, including the International Mammalogical Society Conference in Belfast; the Australasian Wildlife Management Society Annual Conference in New Zealand; the National Island Arks Symposium in Hobart; the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in Hobart; and the National Natural Resource Management Conference in Launceston.

Due to the activities being undertaken by the Program in South-East Tasmania, staff focused on attending local schools, businesses, community meetings and public events in this region. This included the Bream Creek Show, and visits to councils and NRM South. Staff provided

induction training to Parks and Wildlife Service staff; worked with the Friends of the Tasmanian Devil community group and WILDCARE volunteers; assisted with promotion of Threatened Species Day; and conducted talks and meetings with the tourism and mining industries.

Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)

Staff from the Department contributed to a 'think-tank' at the University of Tasmania titled: *Will changing fire patterns be a game changer for landscapes and ecosystems in South-West Tasmania?* This think tank was attended by a range of stakeholders, including members of the State Fire Management Council. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity to share emerging results, explore the implications of the landscape-scale fires in the TWWHA and identify further opportunities to collaborate.

Natural Values Atlas

Natural Values Atlas staff contributed to the annual Sustainable Living Festival held in November 2013. Training in access and use of NVA data and tools was provided to a number of stakeholders during 2013-14. These included PWS staff at various locations, Burnie TAFE environment students, council planners, Invasive Species Branch staff and private consultants. Training on data entry was provided to a number of stakeholders. NVA staff responded to 492 requests for general support in the use of the NVA.

Vegetation Monitoring and Mapping Program

Concomitant with the release of TASVEG 3.0 in November 2013, a TASVEG 'Club' was established and is used as a conduit for delivering relevant information to key users of the mapping. Collaborative opportunities have been sought with NRMs to raise awareness of available data and training opportunities. TASVEG Monitoring and Mapping Program staff worked in partnership with NRM South to produce a revised set of vegetation community condition benchmarks, and toward the development of a tool to assist the field collection of vegetation condition information. Planning is in place for presentations/training in each NRM region.

Threatened Species Link

A review of the use of the online Threatened Species Link has revealed a 300 per cent increase in users over the 12 months to 30 April 2014 (1 579 users, up from 392 users). The pattern of use of the tool indicates that many of the users are new to the tool. Among the most popular species profiles were the wedge-tailed eagle, Tasmanian devil, swift parrot, orange-bellied parrot and Tasmanian live-bearing seastar.

Browsing Animal Management Program

The Browsing Animal Management Program (BAMP) provides land managers with information and advice on the range of viable options that are available in dealing with damage from Bennetts wallabies, Tasmanian pademelons and brushtail possums. The BAMP conducted a large number of community engagement activities in 2013-14, including staffing displays at seven regional shows and Agfest, attending field days on King Island and in the north-west, as well as visiting more than 65 farmers. BAMP staff also worked directly with beef and dairy industry organisations, NRM bodies and community groups and provided information kits to farm supply organisations following on from engagement in previous years. The work of the BAMP team was presented at three conferences attended by more than 400 primary producers, and articles were featured in three rural publications.

Statewide Land Use Mapping

Every two years the RMC Division reviews and revises Tasmania's land use mapping. These maps provide land management planners with current information on the extent of change in land use and in the location of particular land uses.

Key stakeholders from across the state attended workshops held in each of the NRM Regions from 27 – 29 May to provide comments on the draft maps. NRM Regions each organised a workshop to engage with Land Use mapping stakeholders in their region in a two-way information exchange. This process has proved valuable in the past and was again an efficient way to access field based observation from a wide range of people.

Policy Division

Policy Branch

The Branch continued to undertake stakeholder engagement in relation to the development of the *Aboriginal Heritage Protection Bill 2013*. The formal consultation on the regulatory impact statement required for the draft Regulations finished in early July 2013. The detailed 'Response' report was issued in September and distributed directly to all identified stakeholders, as well as published on the website. Further consultations occurred almost up to the point when the Bill was introduced to Parliament in November 2013.

Major Projects

The Government announced it would call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for tourism investment opportunities in Tasmania's national parks and reserves, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA), in its first 100 days of government.

The EOI process was launched on 21 June 2014 at Mt Field National Park, delivering on the election commitment. A package of EOI documentation was prepared that includes a set of guidelines for the process, the conditions that will apply, the information required, probity guidelines and an application form, which are available on the Invest Tasmania website at www.investtasmania.com.au. The EOI process has involved considerable communication and engagement activity with input coordinated by the Policy Output Group.

The Department has continued to liaise with major developers and regulators, with a particular focus on irrigation development, to further streamline the assessment and approval processes. This work has involved collaborating with the Australian Government to progress the environmental regulatory reform agenda, resulting in development of material for public release relating to a draft environmental assessments bilateral agreement between the State and Australian Governments.

As part of the forestry transition process the Division has prepared a range of maps, fact sheets and supporting information for the development and implementation of forestry legislation, including the *Tasmanian Forests Agreement Act 2013*, the *Forest Management Act 2013* and the *Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Bill 2014*. This has involved providing maps and information to Parliamentary briefings, government and external agencies, the public via the Department's LISTmap website and the Department of State Growth (formerly the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources) website, and directly to stakeholders on request.

Biosecurity Tasmania Division

The link between farm biosecurity and livestock productivity has been promoted in conjunction with the industry-funded Livestock Biosecurity Network. During 2013-14, regional biosecurity interest groups and the Sheep and Cattle Health Taskforces have been formed. These groups join the ongoing Dairy Animal Health and Welfare Action Group in addressing specific biosecurity and production issues for industry, Government and animal health service providers such as veterinary practices. Feedback from these groups also assists in the planning of targeted surveillance and research programs. In addition, Biosecurity Tasmania has regular dialogue with the major industry peak bodies through the Primary Industries Biosecurity Action Alliance Group and organisations such as TFGA, FGT and TSGA, among others.

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Division

The EPA Division has been monitoring the effectiveness of the website (<http://epa.tas.gov.au>), providing continual improvements where possible. The Assessments component of the website continues to be a frequently used area. It provides comprehensive information about the proposals being considered by the EPA, and makes available all appropriate information for public scrutiny.

The EPA Division encourages business and industry proponents to actively involve their local community in the development of project proposals. To assist, the Division has developed information for proponents on the advantages of community engagement, and how it may be

undertaken. The Division will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this, and provide additional material where necessary.

Such engagement is consistent with the Tasmanian Government Framework for Community Engagement. The engagement expertise within the Division has been utilised in the development and promotion of the Framework. Staff in the Division are continuing to work on specific tools that will help deliver the outcomes of the Framework within the context of the Division's work.

A particular focus in the latter part of the financial year was the establishment of a project to enhance the engagement with local government, as our co-regulatory partners under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*. Local government is typically the first point of contact for developers, who are seeking land use planning approvals. Likewise, the community also seek information from Council about such land use planning issues. The community also regularly seek information, or make complaints about, environmental management issues to both councils and the EPA. Hence, strengthening the relationship between the EPA Division and local government serves the community by ensuring there is better integration of Council and Divisional systems, and that staff are provided with comprehensive and consistent tools, resources, and training opportunities.

November 2013 saw the commencement of a ban on lightweight plastic shopping bags in Tasmania. Divisional staff led the program of very wide engagement with retailers, wholesalers and the community. The ban required a significant change in behaviour of all Tasmanians, so ensuring that there was good understanding of the ban by all Tasmanians was critical. Awareness-raising was also directed at tourists to the State, with information provided at the main entry points (the Spirit of Tasmania and airports). Cruise boat companies were also provided with education material so that they could inform their passengers before arriving in one of the State's ports.

The awareness and engagement program was successful, with high degrees of compliance with the legislation as soon as the ban came into force. Some incidences of non-compliance were identified during random checks by Divisional staff, as well as from complaints made by members of the public. These have been followed up with staff working with retailers and wholesalers to ensure that changes were made so that bags being used were compliant.

The focus of the 2014 Burn Brighter this Winter project has been on building relationships with local community groups and engaging with the general community through face-to-face communication activities. A number of meetings and presentations have been made with local community groups and a series of three information booths were undertaken at the Longford IGA supermarket. An informative postcard offering tips on good wood heater operation has also been provided to the community through a general mail out to residents. Arrangements for a suite of newsprint and radio advertising are now being made to communicate the project messages to a broader section of the community.

The issue of appropriately and safely harnessing the power and energy of community volunteers during emergencies has been considered in the context of continual improvement of the oil spill response capacity. This has been done both at the planning level, and in providing training for organisations in undertaking cleanup programs in a safe and effective manner. Discussions have also been held with Volunteering Tasmania to ensure that the Division is well placed to respond should Tasmania experience a significant marine emergency needing a major cleanup,

The Division has continued to provide a small, but important service to the education and community sectors in Tasmania. Lesson plans and other resources, together with some school visits, have helped highlight to teachers and students a range of air quality, waste management, and resource recovery issues. Similar issues have also been promoted at a small number of community events.

The Division continued to facilitate the Derwent Estuary Program, a significant partnership program between the Division and Councils bordering the River Derwent. Details of this are covered in the EPA's Annual Report, outlining the engagement on various water quality monitoring programs, biodiversity management projects, education, communication and other research activities.

Heritage Tasmania

Heritage Tasmania organised and coordinated 27 individual events and activities throughout the year, which attracted the direct involvement of almost 1 900 participants. A significant effort was placed on training those involved in the planning system about the amendments to the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*. This included training 150 personnel, attendance at the Local Government Association of Tasmania's Annual Conference, production of new brochures, training manual, a property owner newsletter and regular updates direct to stakeholders and via the Heritage e-News, which is distributed to around 600 subscribers.

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

Consultation with some parts of the Aboriginal community continue to be difficult since the previous Government issued a permit under the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* to allow a bridge over the Jordan River Levee to be built in December 2010. In late 2012 the interim Aboriginal Heritage Council was established as an advisory body to provide a consolidated view from the Aboriginal community on new permit applications and proposals under the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*, and on relevant policies, standards and criteria.

The interim Aboriginal Heritage Council continues to meet monthly to consider permit applications and project proposals. The Council has provided useful comment to both the Department and Minister for nearly two years.

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania continues to provide support to other Aboriginal organisations on request. This includes the provision of Aboriginal heritage site information, joint research projects and advice on interpretation materials.

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG)

Refer to the RTBG Annual Report for information. The Report is available at the RTBG website (www.rtbg.tas.gov.au).

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Avenues for appeal of decisions

Decisions are made by staff or Ministers responsible for legislation administered by the Department and under a number of pieces of whole-of-government legislation. In most cases there are avenues to appeal or seek a review of these decisions.

Appeal process

Reasons for an appeal are outlined when that decision is provided to the person concerned.

In every instance the legislation provides direction in relation to the right of appeal and the process available for doing so. While appeal mechanisms are built into some legislation, most appeals are directed to one of the major appeal bodies such as the Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division), the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal, or the Supreme Court for resolution. There are also generic rights of review on questions of law concerning certain administrative decisions under the *Judicial Review Act 2000*.

Right to information

The *Right to Information Act 2009* aims to improve democratic government in Tasmania by giving members of the public the right to obtain information about the operations of Government. It seeks to increase the accountability of the Executive to the people of Tasmania and to increase the people's ability to participate in governance processes.

The Act acknowledges that information collected by public authorities is obtained for, and on behalf of, the people of Tasmania and that members of the public have the right to access information held by public authorities.

The following table provides information about the processing of requests under the Right to Information Act in 2013-14.

Table 73: Right to Information applications 2013-14

Right to Information Requests	No
Applications	
Carried over from 2012-13	4
Received in 2013-14	40
Transferred to another agency in full	2
Withdrawn by the applicant	2
Determined during the financial year	31
Outcomes of applications for information determined in the period	
Requested information was provided in full	15
Requested information was provided in part (part exempt)	11
Requested information was not provided (all exempt)	3
Information relevant to the application was not held by the Agency	1
Application was refused	1
Reasons for refusal/exemptions used	
s.5, s.11, s.17 – information requested was not within the scope of the Act (s.5 – Not official business; s.11 - available at Archives office and s.17 – Deferred)	0
s.9, s.12 – information is otherwise available or will become available in the next 12 months	1
s.10, s.19 – application may be refused if resources unreasonably diverted	0
s.20 – repeat or vexatious applications may be refused	0
s.25 – Executive Council information	0
s.26 – Cabinet information	0
s.27 – internal briefing information of a Minister	5
s.28 – information not related to official business	0
s.29 – information affecting national or State security, defence or international relations	0
s.30 – information relating to enforcement of the law	4
s.31 – legal professional privilege	1
s.32 – information relating to closed meetings of Councils	0
s.34 – information communicated by other jurisdictions	2
s.35 – internal deliberative information	9
s.36 – personal information of a person	8
s.37 – information relating to the business affairs of a third party	3
s.38 – information relating to the business affairs of a public authority	0
s.39 – information obtained in confidence	5
s.40 – information on procedures and criteria used in certain public authority negotiations	0
s.41 – information likely to affect State economy	0
s.42 – information likely to affect cultural, heritage and natural values of the State	1

Time taken to make decisions	
Within the statutory time limit	9
Over the statutory time limit	22
Internal reviews	
Requested during 2013-14	5
Determined during the financial year (total)	2
Those where the decision was upheld in full	2
Those where the decision was upheld in part	0
Those where the decision was reversed	0
External reviews by the Ombudsman	
Requested during 2013-14	1
Determined (including those carried over from 2012-13)	1
Decision was upheld in full	1
Decision was upheld in part	0
Decision was reversed	0

Source: DPIPWE Policy Branch records

Requests for information under the Right to Information Act should be directed to:

Right to Information Coordinator

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

GPO Box 44

Hobart 7001

Telephone: (03) 6165 3161

Fax: (03) 6233 0865

Email: right2info@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au

Human resource management

Policies and procedures

The role of the Human Resources Branch (HR) is to provide advice, assistance and support in people management practices within DPIPWE, including the development and implementation of a comprehensive range of policies, programs and procedures that support performance management, Work, Health and Safety, learning and development, managing work relationships, and also providing HR services for payroll, recruitment, job design and workers compensation.

HR's service delivery ensures that the Department's people management practices are ethical and fair, and developed within a framework that provides flexibility that will support the business needs of the Department, the workplace and the personal needs of employees.

Recruitment policies and procedures

As a result of changes to State legislation relevant to the management of Tasmanian forest reserves, 42 Forestry Tasmania employees were transferred to the Department through a merit based Expression of Interest process.

The Whole of Government Integrated Contact Centre is being transferred from the Department of Premier and Cabinet to DPIPWE to establish purpose-built government contact facilities within seven of the Department's Service Tasmania Shops. Phase one has been completed resulting in the transfer of nine employees to Service Tasmania.

The Department has a range of online procedural guidelines and templates that support any recruitment activity and to ensure the Department meets the statutory compliance requirements and the business needs of the Divisions.

The State Service Vacancy Control Process continues to apply to all vacancies and the redeployment of employees.

Performance management, learning and development

The Department continues to provide learning and development opportunities to its managers and employees. The Leadership and Mentor Program, delivered for its second year, assists with the Department's succession planning for managers. Stage two included the design of new topics such as strategic thinking, innovation and change, and emotional intelligence to supplement topics delivered at Stage 1, including performance management and managing work place relationships. Also the Department collaborated with The Training Consortium to deliver online training to all employees as required under the Work Health and Safety Act 2012.

The Department's Performance Management Review (PMR) model complies with Employment Direction 26 and, as at 30 June 2014, 95 per cent of all employees had participated in the PMR process during the year. Agency induction sessions continue to be delivered throughout the year where new employees had the opportunity to meet with the Secretary and members of the Executive Committee as part of the Agency's induction program that complement induction by Divisions for their new employees.

The Department has a strong focus on the health and wellbeing of its employees. 'Healthy DPIPWE' Expos were held in Hobart and Launceston where more than 170 employees attended workshops about keeping active, avoiding sedentary behaviour, healthy heart checks, vision screening and healthy cooking demonstrations. A total of 547 employees received influenza immunisation shots in March 2014 and boot camps were conducted over the summer season whereby 87 employees actively participated. Responses provided to the Department's Health and Well Being Survey indicate that 88 per cent of all employees think the key issues for the Department are to improve or support mental health, increase personal resilience, and reduce sedentary behaviours in the workplace.

Table 74: Training and development 2013-14

Course	No. Staff
WHS Employee training	1 462
WHS Manager training	114
STOP! Bullying and Harassment	39
Leadership Program	489

Source: DPIPWE Corporate Services Division (CSD) records.

Workplace diversity

The Department's *Managing Work Place Diversity Plan 2011-14* has been in place since July 2011 and has three objectives:

1. recognise and support the different needs of an inter-generational workforce;
2. ensure the workplace is free from discrimination or harassment; and
3. integrate workplace diversity principles into the day-to-day management and work practices.

Table 75: Employment of people by category 2013-14

	No.	% of workforce
People with a disability	19	1.21
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	31	1.97
Diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds	10	0.64
Young people < 25	23	1.46
Young people < 30	102	6.50
Male	834	53.12
Female	736	46.88

Source: DPIPWE CSD records.

Notes:

1. Employment numbers are based on the number of people employed either full-time, part-time or casual as at 30 June 2014 and can be referred to as a 'head count' measure.
2. This table includes data related to the statutory body: the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS), and secondments (employee movement outside the State Service), including staff seconded to the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA).

Employee investigation and grievance matters

Four alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct were investigated as per Employment Instruction Number 5 during 2013-14. One investigation resulted in the allegations being upheld and a sanction of termination was determined. The remaining Code of Conduct investigations continue to progress. Two formal grievances under Employment Instruction 5 requiring investigation were also lodged within this period, one resulting in the allegations being unsubstantiated and requiring no future disciplinary action. The remaining grievance continues to be investigated.

Work health and safety (WH&S)

Considerable progress has been made by the Department to comply with new WHS legislation. The Department's WHS Plan provides a strategic approach for the design and implementation of a range of policies, guidelines, templates and training to support managers and employees. A preliminary audit conducted by the State Service Management Office in 2013 has identified a number of actions to be undertaken through the departmental WHS Central Steering Committee before a compliance audit is conducted in 2015.

Table 76: Workers compensation, new claims by nature of injury 2012-13 and 2013-14

Nature of injury	2012-13	2013-14
Intracranial injuries	1	0
Fractures	4	1
Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage	9	7
Burns	2	2
Injury to Nerves and Spinal Cord	1	1
Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury	8	10
Other Injuries	4	11
Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disease	46	29
Mental Impacts	7	16
Digestive system diseases	0	1
Skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases	2	0
Nervous system and sense organ diseases	2	1
Respiratory system diseases	1	1
Circulatory system disease	0	0
Infection and Parasitic disease	0	1
Neoplasms (cancer)	0	1
Other diseases	0	0
No Injury	0	0
Total	87	82

Source: DPIPWE workers compensation records.

Note:

1. Classifications for the dataset above are derived from the *Type of Occurrence Classification System Version 3.0* developed by the Australian Safety and Compensation Council. This is a change from the categories used in previous annual reports

Staffing statistical profile

The following section provides a range of statistical information about the Department's staffing profile.

Table 77: Employment as at 30 June 2013 and 2014

		Paid FTEs	
		2013	2014
Output Group			
Output Group 1	Information and Land Services	247.77	254.00
Output Group 2	Primary Industries	48.62	58.25
Output Group 3	Resource Management and Conservation	162.55	134.98 ³
Output Group 4	Water Resources	59.19	56.70
Output Group 5	Policy	17.80	14.25
Output Group 6	Biosecurity and Product Integrity	148.44	146.80 ³
Output Group 7	Environment Protection and Analytical Services	120.18	121.32
Output Group 8	Parks and Wildlife Management	285.79	314.54
Output Group 9	Heritage	55.97	60.76
Corporate support activities		115.85	117.73
Departmental subtotal		1 262.16	1 279.33
Other bodies administered by DPIPWE			
Inland Fisheries Service (IFS)		21.75	20.39
Other bodies subtotal		21.75	20.39
Other			
Parental leave, leave without pay, external secondments		61.28	59.16
Total		1 345.19	1 358.88

Source: DPIPWE HR records.

Notes:

1. The table measures staffing on a 'Full-Time Equivalent' (FTE) basis, which records contributions in fractions of a week, so that two people sharing a job, each working 2.5 days, would be one FTE.
2. DPIPWE staff seconded to the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) are included in the category 'Other'.
3. On 1 May 2014, and in accordance with the Government's election commitment, Biosecurity Tasmania was created and for management purposes the Invasive Species Branch (32.3 FTEs) was transferred from Output Group 3 – Resource Management and Conservation to Output Group 6 - Biosecurity and Product Integrity. For financial reporting purposes the formal change in output structure, including the renaming of Output 6 to Biosecurity Tasmania together with the staff movements, will take effect from 1 July 2014.

Table 78: Head count as at 30 June 2013 and 2014

Type of employee	No. 2013	No. 2014
Head count excluding casuals	1 516	1 562
Head count casuals only	12	8
Total	1 528	1 570

Source: DPIPWE HR records.

Notes:

1. This table includes data related to Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) that is a statutory body and secondments (employee movement outside the State Service), including staff seconded to the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA).
2. Employment numbers are based on the number of people employed either full-time, part-time or casual as at 30 June 2014 and can be referred to as a 'head count' measure.

Table 79: Salary profile as at 30 June 2014 (head count)

Salary range \$	Male	Female	Total
< 30 000	0	0	0
30 000 – 39 999	3	4	7
40 000 – 49 999	56	63	119
50 000 – 59 999	212	352	564
60 000 – 69 999	59	49	108
70 000 – 79 999	163	102	265
80 000 – 89 999	134	89	223
90 000 – 99 999	72	40	112
100 000 – 109 999	82	26	108
110 000 – 119 999	36	7	43
= or > 120 000	17	4	21
Total	834	736	1 570

Source: DPIPWE HR records.

Table 80: Age profile as at 30 June 2014 (head count)

Age profile	Male	Female	Total
15 – 19	0	2	2
20 – 24	11	10	21
25 – 29	39	40	79
30 – 34	73	84	157
35 – 39	74	93	167
40 – 44	99	141	240
45 – 49	138	96	234
50 – 54	157	121	278
55 – 59	150	99	249
60 – 64	67	40	107
65 +	26	10	36
Total	834	736	1 570

Source: DPIPWE HR records.

Table 81: Employment categories by gender as at 30 June 2014 (head count)

Employment category	Male	Female	Total
Head of Agency/Prescribed Officer/Senior Executive	17	5	22
Permanent full time	660	328	988
Permanent part time	90	327	417
Fixed term full time	35	27	62
Fixed term part time	26	47	73
Fixed term casual	6	2	8
Total	834	736	1 570

Source: DPIPWE HR records.

Note:

This table includes data related to the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) that is a statutory body and secondments (employee movement outside the State Service), including staff seconded to the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA).

Table 82: Total employee commencements and separations by category 2013-14

Category of commencements and separations	No.
Permanent commencements	98
Fixed term commencements	120
Casual commencements	6
Permanent cessations	81
Fixed term cessations	96
Casual cessations	10

Source: DPIPWE HR records.

Notes:

1. Reconciliation of employee head count and commencement/cessation data is subject to system and timing issues.
2. This table includes data related to the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) that is a statutory body and secondments (employee movement outside the State Service), including staff seconded to the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA).

Leave liability

Table 83: Estimated value of leave liability as at 30 June 2014

	\$ million
Annual leave	8 688
Long service leave	20 024
Total	28 712

Source: DPIPWE records.

Note:

1. Leave liability is calculated in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards. Refer Note 2.13(b) Significant Accounting Policies in the Financial Statements for further information.

Table 84: Leave entitlements 2014

	No.
Number of employees on leave without pay	40
Number of employees on parental leave	10
Sick leave taken per employee (days)	7.70
Average recreation leave per employee, including pro-rata (days)	16.65
Average days long service leave per employee (available days) ¹	26.71

Source: DPIPWE HR records.

Note:

1. 'Available days' relates to leave entitlement for staff who have completed the qualifying period for LSL of 10 years.

Superannuation certificate

I, John Whittington, Acting Secretary, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, hereby certify that the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment has met its obligations under the Australian Government's *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* in respect of those employees of the Department who are members of complying superannuation schemes to which this Department contributes.

John Whittington
Acting Secretary

Table 85: Superannuation funds as at 30 June 2014

Superannuation fund

AGEST	Host-Plus Hospitality
ALR Superannuation Fund	Jaramar P/L ATF Reid Family
AMP	K & K Tas Super Fund
AMP CustomSuper	KineticSuper
AMP FLEX L/TIME	Lebski Family Super Fund
AMP Flexible Super	Leighton Superannuation Fund
AMP Life Ltd - Superleader	LG Super
AMP Life LTD	Lifetrack Superannuation Fund
AMP Retire Sav Acc	Lynch Family Super Fund
AMP Super Savings Trust	Macquarie Super Accumulator
Annie Philips Super Fund	Maritime Super
ANZ Smart Choice Super	Mellco Superannuation Emper
ANZ Super Advantage	Mercer Super Trust
AON Master Trust	MLC Limited
Asgard	Netwealth Investments Limited
Australian Ethical Super	OneAnswer Personal Super
Australian Super (Corp. Div)	OnePath Integra Super
AustralianSuper	PortfolioCare Super
AustSafe Super	Prime Super
AXA Australia	Print Super
Bendigo	QSuper
BT Lifetime Super	Quadrant Super
BT Super for Life	Retirement Benefits Fund
Campbell Superannuation Fund	REST Super
CARE Super	Sandy Bay Investments
Catpet Super Fund	SMF
Cbus	Spectrum Plan
Chesford Superannuation Fund	Summit
Cliff Top Super Fund	Suncorp Master Trust
Colonial First State	Sunsuper
Colonial FirstWrap Plus	Super Directions
Commonwealth Bank Super Savings Acct	Superwrap
Commonwealth Bank Officers	Tasplan
D&L Gatenby Super Fund	TaylorGoninonFamily Super Fund
Denney Family Super	Telstra Super
First State Super	The Adams Family Super Fund
FSP Super	Unisuper
Garac Superannuation Fund	Universal Super MLC
Grantham Super Fund	VicSuper
Greskie Superannuation Fund	Virgin Super
GuildSuper	Vision Super
Hackett Super Fund	WA Local Government Super Plan
Health Super	Wells Family Super Fund
HESTA Super Fund	Winwood Super Fund
HillrossRtmntPln-PortfolioCare	Woodside Super Fund

Public interest disclosures

The Department is committed to the aims and objectives of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2002*. The Department does not tolerate improper conduct by our employees, officers or members, or the taking of reprisals against those who come forward to disclose such conduct.

The Department recognises the value of transparency and accountability in administrative and management practices and supports the making of disclosures that reveal corrupt conduct, conduct involving a substantial mismanagement of public resources, or conduct involving a substantial risk to public health and safety of the environment.

The Department will take all reasonable steps to protect people who make such disclosures from any detrimental action in reprisal for making the disclosure. The Department will also afford natural justice to the person who is the subject of the disclosure.

The staff can access the Department's Public Disclosure Procedures on the intranet site or by contacting our Human Resources.

No disclosures were made to the Department during the year.

Financial management

Pricing policies

Departmental fees and charges subject to the *Fee Units Act 1997* are published annually in the Tasmanian Government *Gazette* as required under section 8(1) of the Act.

The Department has responsibility for some service delivery activities which, in accordance with the Government's policy on fees and charges, requires that fees and charges should be set at a level that ensures that the full cost of providing a good or service can be accounted for explicitly and recovered at an appropriate level.

Concessions are provided for park and cave entry fees, recreational fishing and game licences, and other fees as determined by the relevant Minister. Details on concessions are available at <http://www.concessions.tas.gov.au>.

Asset management

The Department is responsible for a diverse asset portfolio with a significant number of land holdings, buildings and infrastructure. These asset holdings include national parks, reserves and conservation areas, major infrastructure such as walking tracks, roads and other visitor service structures, buildings, plant, equipment, internally generated software and heritage assets. The Department is also custodian of Crown land and other Government-owned buildings and structures not attributed to another agency. A significant component of the asset portfolio managed by the Department is held for public benefit including significant attractions for local, interstate and overseas visitors.

The Department has various policies to support the strategic and operational management of these assets. This includes policies that support the conservation and protection of many of the State's publicly accessible cultural and natural assets.

The Department maintains an asset register in accordance with the Treasurer's Instructions. Details of acquisitions, disposals, transfers, revaluations and write-offs are recorded in the register.

The Department undertook a valuation of land, buildings and land under buildings during the 2013-14 financial year. All assets with a 30 June 2013 fair value of \$200 000 and above were independently valued by the Valuer-General. The resulting changes in the asset values were taken to the Asset Revaluation Reserve with a revaluation decrement of \$27.832 million in 2013-14.

The Department's heritage assets were also revalued during the year by the Australian Valuation Office. The resulting change in asset values were recognised as other economic flows in net results, in which there was a revaluation decrement of \$10 000.

Indices, supplied by qualified valuers, are applied to the fair value of land, buildings, land under buildings and infrastructure assets not valued during 2013-14.

Abalone quota units were valued and recorded as intangible assets in the Department's Financial Statements for the first time in 2013-14. Abalone quota units were previously transferred to the Department as a result of the *Living Marine Resource Management Act 1995* and valued to a fair value of \$6.4 million as at 30 June 2014 by an independent commercial broker, Robert Rex. There are 40 quota units in total and each unit has been recorded with an indefinite useful life, as there is no foreseeable limit to the period over which the units are expected to generate income for the Department.

The Financial Statements are recorded on an accrual basis, with accounting policies in relation to the recognition, valuation, judgements and assumptions and depreciation outlined in the Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements (refer page 177).

Risk management

Risk management involves identifying factors that may impact on the ability to achieve the departmental objectives and putting in place strategies to mitigate these factors.

A key element of the Department's Risk Management Framework is the Internal Audit Program (refer page 132 for information about the Program).

All of the Department's insurable risks are covered by the Tasmanian Risk Management Fund. This includes workers compensation, general liability, property damage, and motor vehicle cover.

Loss and damage and write-offs

The Department is a large and diverse organisation with substantial asset holdings. There is always potential for loss or damage to occur to assets, facilities and the like. In addition, not all debts can be collected and a small proportion must be written-off each year.

The following tables summarise any losses and damage to public property or money and debt write-offs occurring in 2013-14.

Table 86: Loss and damage to public property or money 2013-14

Category	No. new claims	Total paid by insurers \$
Property	5	269 684
Fraud	0	Nil
Personal accident	1	118
Public liability	2	5 266
Motor vehicle	40 ¹	28 446
Total		

Source: Marsh Pty Ltd, Fund Administration Agent for the Tasmanian Risk Management Fund

Note:

1. Five claims came from vehicle accidents late in the 2012-13 financial period.

Table 87: Write-offs 2013-14

Category	No. debts	Amount \$
Debtors < \$500	31	4 965.12
Debtors > \$500	18	64 206.35
Total	49	69 171.47

Source: DPIPWE CSD records.

Major capital projects

A series of major capital projects were progressed in 2013-14.

Completed projects and programs

The Water Infrastructure Fund had specific projects completed; specifically the Midlands, Lower South Esk and Kindred North Motton irrigation schemes.

Infrastructure Tasmania Fund project

The Infrastructure Tasmania Fund is a whole-of-government fund that provides funding for investment in Tasmania's major infrastructure. In 2011-12, the Tasmanian Government provided the Department \$3 million over three years for the Spatial Information Foundations Project.

In 2013-14, \$800 000 was expended by the Department to complete the Project. In February 2014, the upgraded Land Information System Tasmania (LIST) system was launched. LIST provides a contemporary, web-based platform for the distribution of spatial information across Government and the private sector.

Ongoing projects and programs

Information is provided below about four ongoing major capital projects and programs.

Table 88: Major capital projects uncompleted as at 30 June 2014

	Estimated total cost \$'000	Expenses 2013-14 \$'000	Estimated cost to complete \$'000	Estimated completion financial year
Water Infrastructure Fund ¹	215 770	38 200	29 043	2015-16
Crown Land Services: Structural Asset Upgrade Program ²	n.a	556	n.a	ongoing
Three Capes Track	25 300	4 056	15 449	2015-16
Cockle Creek Bridge	600	90	510	2014-15

Source: DPIPWE Finance records.

Notes:

1. Total funding for the Water Infrastructure Fund represents the \$80 million allocated by the Tasmanian Government, \$107 million received to date from the Australian Government and future Australian Government funding of approximately \$29 million to be received as milestones are met. The estimated cost to complete is the balance of current funds received plus the additional Australian Government funding to be received as milestones are met. The completion date represents the year in the Current Forward Estimates when the funding transfers to Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd are expected to be completed.
2. The Crown Land Services Program is ongoing. As such, it is not appropriate to include an amount for the estimated total cost or the cost to complete.

Water Infrastructure Fund

In 2008, the Tasmanian Government established an \$80 million Water Infrastructure Fund to enable major investment in the State's water infrastructure. This Government investment includes the development of a number of significant irrigation schemes across Tasmania.

In conjunction with the Tasmanian Government funding, the Australian Government earmarked \$140 million to progress water development projects in Tasmania.

In 2013-14, the Department expended \$38.2 million from the Water Infrastructure Fund. The amount was provided to the Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd. It included funding for the Midlands, Lower South Esk, Kindred North Motton, South East and Upper Ringarooma irrigation schemes. Construction has been completed on these schemes except the South East and Upper Ringarooma schemes where construction will continue in 2014-15.

Capital Investment Program – Crown Land Services: Structural Assets Upgrade Program

As custodian of a range of Government-owned buildings and structures, the Department is responsible for statutory and essential maintenance, including the removal or remediation of structures that present a public liability risk. The Crown Land Services Structural Assets Upgrade Program provides funding for these activities.

Capital Investment Program – Three Capes Track

The Three Capes Track Project is a \$25.3 million initiative. It includes funding of \$12.8 million by the Tasmanian Government, supported by \$12.5 million from the Australia Government. The walk will take in dramatic vistas at three capes within the Tasman National Park. The walk will increase Tasmania's profile as an iconic walking destination and support the growth of tourism on the Tasman Peninsula.

In 2013-14, \$4.06 million was expended by the Department on the Project. It is expected that by the end of 2015, a three nights and four day hut-based walking experience on the eastern peninsula will be available to the community.

Capital Investment Program – Cockle Creek Bridge

In 2013-14, the Government committed \$600 000 to the Department to construct a replacement bridge at Cockle Creek. In 2013-14, \$90 000 was expended by the Department on the Project, which is expected to be completed by September 2014.

Tenders and consultancies

The Department procures goods, services and building and construction in accordance with Government policy and guidelines. The Department aims to maximise the opportunity for local business participation.

During 2013-14, the Department awarded 45 contracts totalling \$13.8 million. Of this total, 31 contracts were awarded to Tasmanian businesses.

Tables 89 - 92 provide details in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 1111 and 1203 for all contracts awarded (including consultancies) and procurements called during 2013-14 with values in excess of \$50 000.

Table 89: Summary of participation by local business (for contracts, tenders and/or quotation processes of \$50 000 or over, ex GST)

Tender process	2013-14
Number of tenders awarded ¹	33
Total number of contracts awarded to Tasmanian businesses	31
Total value of contracts awarded \$'000	13 766
Total value of contracts awarded to Tasmanian businesses \$'000	11 157
Total number of tenders called and/or quotation processes run	33
Total number of bids and/or written quotations received	118
Total number of bids and/or written quotations received from Tasmanian businesses	85

Source: DPIPWE procurement records and Treasury Tenders website.

Note:

1. Number of tenders awarded includes some Panel Arrangement contracts and some tenders awarded to multiple parties. This resulted in 46 separate contracts being awarded during the 2013-14 financial period.

Table 90: Major contracts issued 2013-14 (\$50 000 and over)

Name of contractor	Location of contractor	Description of contract	Period of contract¹	Total value of contract \$
Michael Jones (Personnel Options & Solutions Cleaning Services)	Sorell, Tas	Cleaning services to Freycinet Visitor Centre	9/07/2013 to 30/06/2015	175 164
Tas Marine Construction	Lindisfarne, Tas	Stage 1 remedial works – Darlington Jetty, Maria Island	22/07/2013 to 25/10/2014	578 625
Tas Marine Construction	Lindisfarne, Tas	Stage 2 remedial works – Darlington Jetty, Maria Island	10/01/2014 to 30/05/2014	965 130
MS Contracting	Bridgewater, Tas	Fortescue Bay Campground – caretaker services	30/09/2013 to 29/09/2015	180 000
Walking Track Services	Mt Stuart, Tas	Track construction	5/11/2013 to 1/12/2014	1 308 488
MTN Trails Pty Ltd	Lindisfarne, Tas	Three Capes		1 672 474
Colleen McKean (trading as Nichols Excavations)	Nubeena, Tas	Supply of gravel to Three Capes Track	One off	86 800
G.J. and G.M. Gray	Devonport, Tas	Re-build of King Island Senior Citizens Centre	3/03/2014 to 31/12/2014	310 380
Island Workshop Pty Ltd	Hobart, Tas	Construction of hut prototype for Three Capes Track	One off	235 405

Name of contractor	Location of contractor	Description of contract	Period of contract ¹	Total value of contract \$
VEC Civil Engineering Pty Ltd	Ulverstone, Tas	Construct and install a replacement bridge for Cockle Creek	14/05/2014 to 31/07/2014	518 588
Midland Tractors	Latrobe, Tas	Supply of tractor for field operations at the Arthur Pieman Conservation Area	One off	80 000
Webster Trucks	Derwent Park, Tas	Supply of light truck for land management operations, southern parks and reserves	One off	56 002
Back in a Flash Constructions	Strahan, Tas	Remedial works to flood damaged infrastructure at Sarah Island, Macquarie Harbour	10/01/2014 to 31/01/2014	165 300
R & S Rosier Constructions Pty Ltd	St Leonards, Tas	Construction of toilets within Waterhouse Conservation Area	1/08/2013 to 11/10/2013	105 000
Continental Builders Pty Ltd	South Launceston, Tas	Re-development of the Tamar Field Centre	9/05/2014 to 11/07/2014	85 740
Linfox Armaguard Pty Ltd	Essendon, Vic	Cash management services	1/10/2012 to 30/09/2017	1 601 130
Agilent Technologies Australia Pty Ltd	Mulgrave, Vic	Supply and install an Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectrometer	One off	201 469
AAM Pty Ltd	Hawthorn East, Vic	Panel arrangement – remotely sensed data acquisition – nine contractors listed	1/10/2013 to 30/09/2018	100 000 ²
Aerial Acquisitions Pty Ltd	Penhurst, NSW			
Aerometrex Pty Ltd	Kent Town, SA			
Airlines of Tasmania Pty Ltd	Cambridge, Tas			
Fugro Spatial Solutions Pty Ltd	West Perth, WA			
HyVista Corporation Pty Ltd	Castle Hill, NSW			
Photomapping Services Pty Ltd	North Melbourne, Vic			
Terranean Mapping Technologies Pty Ltd	Fortitude Valley, QLD			
Sinclair Knight Merz	Hobart, Tas			
Magdem Pty Ltd	Sandy Bay, Tas	Digitisation services to capture microfilm (blip and non-blip)	29/11/2013 to 28/11/2014	102 800
Datacom Information Technology Pty Ltd	Southbank, Vic			46 858
ABC Healthcare Services	Glenorchy, Tas	Cleaning services to New Town and Mt Pleasant Research Laboratories	1/01/2014 to 31/12/2019	914 940
General Window and Cleaning Pty Ltd	Glenorchy, Tas			
MSS Security Pty Ltd	Bellerive, Tas	Security and reception services to the Lands Building, 134 Macquarie Street	1/01/2014 to 31/12/2019	653 926

Name of contractor	Location of contractor	Description of contract	Period of contract ¹	Total value of contract \$
Fairbrother Pty Ltd	Launceston, Tas	Construction of new bio-security fish holding facility at Mt Pleasant Research Laboratories	3/03/2014 to 1/09/2014	986 232
Valueit Pty Ltd	Melbourne, Vic	Statutory valuation services to municipal councils – Central Highlands, Devonport, Kentish, Latrobe and West Coast	1/09/2016 to 31/07/2016	660 000 ³
LG Valuation Services Pty Ltd	Launceston, Tas	Statutory valuation services to municipal councils - Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough and Southern Midlands	1/09/2016 to 31/07/2016	1 293 000 ⁴
Southern Machinery Pty Ltd	Kingston, Tas	Supply of tractor for Parks operations in the Southern Region	One off	69 842
Co-Op Toyota Launceston Toyota Gowans Toyota	Hobart, Tas Launceston, Tas Burnie, Tas	Supply of five Toyota Landcruiser Workmate vehicles for fire tanker modifications	One Off	263 540 ⁵

Source: DPIPWE procurement records and Department of Treasury and Finance tenders website.

Notes:

1. Period of contract includes options to extend
2. Value of the contract under the panel arrangement is an estimate
3. Value of the contract is the combination of five separate contracts
4. Value of the contract is the combination of four separate contracts
5. Value of the contract is the combination of three separate contracts

Table 91: Consultants engaged 2013-14 (\$50 000 and over)

Name of consultant	Location of consultant	Description of consultancy	Period of contract	Total value of contract \$
Pitt and Sherry (Operations) Pty Ltd	Hobart, Tas	Asset audit services for reserved lands transferred to the Department from Forestry Tasmania	25/09/2013 to 30/06/2014	350 000 ¹

Source: DPIPWE procurement records and Department of Treasury and Finance tenders website

1. The contract value is an estimate

Table 92: Contracts awarded resulting from a direct/limited sourcing process

Name of supplier	Description of the contract	Reasons for approval	Total value of contract \$
Co-Op Toyota	Purchase of five Toyota Landcruiser Workmate vehicles to be specially modified for PWS firefighting capability	Exemption from the requirement to use the F200 Fleet Management Agreement	263 540

Financial information

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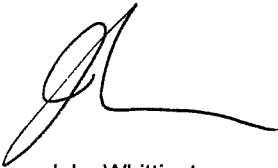
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

Certification

The accompanying Financial Statements of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment are in agreement with the relevant accounts and records and have been prepared in compliance with Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990* to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2014 and the financial position as at the end of the year.

At the date of signing I am not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the Financial Statements misleading or inaccurate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Whittington', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Whittington

Acting Secretary

12 August 2014

Independent Auditor's Report

To Members of the Tasmanian Parliament

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2014

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (the Department), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014 and the statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by the Secretary of the Department.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion the Department's financial statements:

- (a) present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 30 June 2014 and its financial performance, cash flows and changes in equity for the year then ended
- (b) are in accordance with the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990* and Australian Accounting Standards.

The Responsibility of the Secretary for the Financial Statements

The Secretary of the Department is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Section 27 (1) of the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based upon my audit. My audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the

audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, I considered internal control relevant to the Secretary's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate to the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Secretary, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

My audit is not designed to provide assurance on the accuracy and appropriateness of the budget information in the Department's financial statements.

Independence

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of State Entities but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Tasmanian Audit Office are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.

Tasmanian Audit Office



E R De Santi
Deputy Auditor-General
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Hobart
10 September 2014

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Notes	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations				
Revenue and other income from transactions				
Revenue from Government				
Appropriation revenue - recurrent	2.9(a), 8.1	119 681	125 519	122 140
Appropriation revenue - capital works & services	2.9(a), 8.1	1 156	1 246	1 226
Revenue from Special Capital Investment Funds	8.2	800	882	2 500
Grants	2.9(b), 8.3	50 741	57 069	40 389
Sales of goods and services	2.9(c), 8.4	14 543	18 088	16 413
Fees and fines	2.9(d), 8.5	8 278	8 205	7 673
Fair value of assets recognised	2.9(e), 8.6	2 314	27 682	20 333
Interest	2.9(f), 8.7	1 037	464	655
Contributions to running of <i>Service Tasmania</i>	2.9(g)	11 138	11 367	10 908
Rents received	2.9(h)	3 830	7 124	6 435
Other revenue	2.9(i), 8.8	728	6 860	5 261
Total revenue and other income from transactions		214 246	264 506	233 933
Expenses from transactions				
Employee benefits	2.10(a), 9.1	106 747	112 203	108 249
Depreciation and amortisation	2.10(b), 9.2	9 920	14 167	13 360
Transfers to Administered Funds	2.10(c), 9.3	6 500	6 500	5 400
Grants and transfer payments	2.10(d), 9.4	15 192	20 816	30 327
Supplies and consumables	9.5	45 143	51 214	50 086
Fair value of assets provided	2.10(e), 9.6	...	1 512	3 166
Other expenses	2.10(f), 9.7	4 696	6 730	5 935
Total expenses from transactions		188 198	213 142	216 523
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		26 048	51 364	17 410
Other economic flows included in net result				
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	2.11(a),10.1	...	346	33
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables/payables	2.11(b),10.2	...	3	(44)
Change in estimate of non-financial assets	10.3	...	(739)	(32 012)
Total other economic flows included in net result		...	(390)	(32 023)
Net result from continuing operations		26 048	50 974	(14 613)

	Notes	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Other economic flows – other comprehensive income				
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>				
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	2.11(c),14.1	2 143	(26 991)	2 740
Total Other economic flows – other comprehensive income		2 143	(26 991)	2 740
Comprehensive result		28 191	23 983	(11 873)

This Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 5 of the accompanying notes.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

	Notes	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Assets				
<i>Financial assets</i>				
Cash and deposits	2.12(a), 15.1	72 125	88 717	88 480
Receivables	2.12(b), 11.1	4 441	4 836	2 913
Other financial assets	2.12(c), 11.2	1 524	1 275	1 560
<i>Non financial assets</i>				
Inventories	2.12(d), 11.3	731	773	706
Property, plant and equipment	2.12(f), 11.4	838 943	921 860	815 839
Infrastructure	2.12(f), 11.5	157 801	182 183	154 694
Intangibles	2.12(g), 11.6	1 536	9 893	2 896
Other non-financial assets	2.12(h), 11.7	9 929	10 559	10 615
Total assets		1 087 030	1 220 096	1 077 703
Liabilities				
Payables	2.13(a), 12.1	2 211	2 562	2 312
Employee benefits	2.13(b), 12.2	30 139	32 123	29 175
Provisions	2.13(c), 12.3	8 778	9 720	9 716
Other liabilities	2.13(d), 12.4	4 033	9 829	7 856
Total liabilities		45 161	54 234	49 059
Net assets		1 041 869	1 165 862	1 028 644
Equity				
Contributed capital			785 396	636 493
Reserves	14.1		253 320	280 311
Water Infrastructure Fund			...	2 532
Accumulated funds			127 146	109 308
Total equity		1 041 869	1 165 862	1 028 644

This Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 5 of the accompanying notes.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Notes	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities				
Cash inflows				
Appropriation revenue – recurrent		119 681	123 499	126 205
Appropriation revenue – works & services		556	556	556
Revenue from Special Capital Investment Funds		...	82	502
Grants		8 335	20 939	15 284
Sales of goods and services		14 543	17 944	16 530
Fees and fines		8 278	8 434	7 729
GST receipts		9 070	7 510	8 388
Interest received		1 029	477	697
Other cash receipts		15 627	24 295	23 183
Total cash inflows		177 119	203 736	199 074
Cash outflows				
Employee benefits		106 386	110 043	108 101
GST payments		9 070	7 901	8 520
Transfers to Administered Funds		6 500	6 500	5 400
Grants and transfer payments		15 192	20 879	30 327
Other cash payments		49 984	57 399	55 811
Total cash outflows		187 132	202 722	208 159
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	15.2	(10 013)	1 014	(9 085)
Cash flows from investing activities				
Cash inflows				
Proceeds from the disposal of non-financial assets		314	648	423
Asset sales transfers from Treasury		2 000	2 694	8 293
Receipts from non-operational capital funding - <i>Water Infrastructure Fund</i> receipts		36 306	35 668	23 292
Receipts from non-operational capital funding - works & services		600	1 200	670
Receipts from non-operational capital funding - Special Capital Investment Funds		800	800	1 998
Receipts from non-operational capital funding - Grants		6 100	3 400	1 680
Loan payments received		...	4	6
Total cash inflows		46 120	44 414	36 362
Cash outflows				
Payments for acquisition of non-financial assets		7 745	9 523	6 632
Transfers to Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd		36 306	35 668	23 292
Total cash outflows		44 051	45 191	29 924

	Notes	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Net cash from (used by) investing activities		2 069	(777)	6 438
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		(7 944)	237	(2 647)
Cash and deposits at the beginning of the reporting period		80 069	88 480	91 127
Cash and deposits at the end of the reporting period	15.1	72 125	88 717	88 480

This Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 5 of the accompanying notes.

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

	Notes	Contributed Equity \$'000	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Water Infrastructure Fund \$'000	Accumulated Funds \$'000	Total Equity \$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2013		636 493	280 311	2 532	109 308	1 028 644
Net result		...		33 136 ¹	17 838	50 974
Other comprehensive income	14.1	...	(26 991)	...	...	(26 991)
Total comprehensive income		636 493	253 320	35 668	127 146	1 052 627
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:						
Equity contributions – Forestry Tasmania transition	14.2	148 905	...	...	...	148 905
Equity contributions – Integrated Tasmanian Government Contact Centre	14.2	(2)	...	...	...	(2)
Transfers to Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd		...	...	(35 668)	...	(35 668)
Total		148 903	...	(35 668)	...	113 235
Balance as at 30 June 2014		785 396	253 320	...	127 146	1 165 862

¹ **Water Infrastructure Fund**

Total comprehensive result

Grants	35 668
Grants and transfer payments	(2 532)
Total	33 136

	Contributed Equity \$'000	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Water Infrastructure Fund \$'000	Accumulated Funds \$'000	Total Equity \$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2012	636 493	277 571	15 791	133 954	1 063 809
Net result	...	...	10 033 ²	(24 646)	(14 613)
Other comprehensive income	...	2 740	...	...	2 740
Total comprehensive income	636 493	280 311	25 824	109 308	1 051 936
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Transfers to Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd	...	...	(23 292)	...	(23 292)
Total	...	...	(23 292)	...	(23 292)
Balance as at 30 June 2013	636 493	280 311	2 532	109 308	1 028 644

² **Water Infrastructure Fund**

Total comprehensive result

Appropriation revenue – recurrent	23 292
Grants and transfer payments	(13 259)
Total	10 033

This Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014

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Note 18 Transactions and Balances Relating to a Trustee or Agency Arrangement

Note 1: Administered Financial Statements

1.1 Schedule of Administered Income and Expenses

	Notes	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Administered revenue and other income from transactions				
Appropriation revenue – recurrent	2.9(a), 17.2	12 406	12 406	9 407
Grants	2.9(b), 17.3	...	...	133
Fees and fines	2.9(d), 17.4	35 880	37 319	35 782
Transfers from the Controlled Funds	17.5	6 500	6 500	5 400
Total administered revenue and other income from transactions		54 786	56 225	50 722
Administered expenses from transactions				
Grants and transfer payments	2.10(d), 17.6	12 406	12 406	9 540
Transfers to Consolidated Fund		42 380	43 921	41 009
Total administered expenses from transactions		54 786	56 327	50 549
Administered net result from transactions attributable to the State		...	(102)	173
Administered other economic flows in administered net result				
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables/payables	2.11(b), 17.7	...	102	(173)
Total administered other economic flows included in net result		...	102	(173)
Administered net result		...	...	...
Administered comprehensive result		...	...	...

This Schedule of Administered Income and Expenses should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 17 of the accompanying notes.

1.2 Schedule of Administered Assets and Liabilities

	Notes	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Administered assets				
<i>Financial assets</i>				
Cash and deposits	2.12(a), 17.11	...	133	130
Receivables	2.12(b), 17.8	4 970	3 331	3 427
Total administered assets		4 970	3 464	3 557
Administered liabilities				
Payables	2.13(a), 17.9	4 534	3 336	3 362
Other liabilities	2.13(d), 17.10	436	128	195
Total administered liabilities		4 970	3 464	3 557
Administered net assets		...	...	...
Administered equity				
Accumulated funds		...	...	...
Total administered equity		...	...	...

This Schedule of Administered Assets and Liabilities should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 17 of the accompanying notes.

1.3 Schedule of Administered Cash Flows

	Notes	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Administered cash flows from operating activities				
Administered cash inflows				
Appropriation revenue – recurrent		12 406	12 406	9 407
Grants		...	...	137
Fees and fines		35 880	37 446	36 739
Transfers from the Controlled Funds		6 500	6 500	5 400
Total administered cash inflows		54 786	56 352	51 683
Administered cash outflows				
Grants and transfer payments		12 406	12 406	9 540
Transfers to Consolidated Fund		42 380	43 943	42 199
Total administered cash outflows		54 786	56 349	51 739
Administered net cash from operating activities	17.12	...	3	(56)
Net increase (decrease) in Administered cash held		...	3	(56)
Administered cash and deposits at the beginning of the reporting period		...	130	186
Administered cash and deposits at the end of the reporting period	17.11	...	133	130

This Schedule of Administered Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 17 of the accompanying notes.

1.4 Schedule of Administered Changes in Equity

	Contributed Equity \$'000	Accumulated Funds \$'000	Total Equity \$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2013
Total comprehensive result
Balance as at 30 June 2014

	Contributed Equity \$'000	Accumulated Funds \$'000	Total Equity \$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2012
Total comprehensive result
Balance as at 30 June 2013

This Schedule of Administered Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Note 2: Significant Accounting Policies

2.1 Objectives and Funding

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, is responsible for the sustainable management and protection of Tasmania's natural and cultural assets for the benefit of Tasmanian communities and the economy.

The Department's activities guide and support the use and management of Tasmania's land and water resources and protect its natural and cultural environment. The Department is also responsible for delivering the services that support primary industry development and the protection of the State's relative disease and pest-free status.

The Department's role is to support Tasmania's continued economic, environmental and social wellbeing through its contribution to the achievement of the following major outcomes:

- A clean, healthy and diverse environment;
- Profitable and sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries industries;
- Safe and sustainable water supplies for communities, industries and the environment;
- A protected and conserved Aboriginal and historical heritage;
- A world renowned national park and reserve system;
- Iconic botanical heritage and cultural sites;
- Quality information that supports water and land use decisions; and
- Self-reliant rural and regional communities.

During 2013-14 individual outputs of the Department were provided under the following nine Output Groups. Further details on each are contained in the Annual Report.

- Output Group 1: Information and Land Services
- Output Group 2: Primary Industries
- Output Group 3: Resource Management and Conservation
- Output Group 4: Water Resources
- Output Group 5: Policy
- Output Group 6: Biosecurity Tasmania
- Output Group 7: Environment Protection and Analytical Services
- Output Group 8: Parks and Wildlife Management
- Output Group 9: Heritage

Departmental activities are classified as either controlled or administered.

Controlled activities involve the use of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses controlled or incurred by the Department in its own right. Administered activities involve the management or oversight by the Department, on behalf of the Government, of items controlled or incurred by the Government.

The Department is a Tasmanian Government not-for-profit entity that is predominantly funded through Parliamentary appropriations. It also provides services on a fee for service basis, as outlined in Notes 8.4 and 8.5. The financial report encompasses all funds that the Department controls to carry out its functions.

2.2 Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements are a general purpose financial report and have been prepared in accordance with:

- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- The Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990*.

The Financial Statements were signed by the Secretary on 12 August 2014.

Compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as the AASs include requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS. The Department is considered to be not-for-profit and has adopted some accounting policies under AASs that do not comply with IFRS.

The Financial Statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and, except where stated, are in accordance with the historical cost convention. The accounting policies are generally consistent with the previous year except for those outlined in Note 2.5 below.

The Financial Statements have been prepared as a going concern. The continued existence of the Department in its present form, undertaking its current activities, is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the Department's administration and activities.

2.3 Functional and Presentation Currency

These Financial Statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Department's functional currency.

2.4 Reporting Entity

The Financial Statements include all the controlled activities of the Department.

2.5 Changes in Accounting Policies

(a) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards

In the current year, the Department has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period. These include:

- AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement (AASB 2011-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13)* – This Standard defines fair value, sets out a framework for measuring fair value and requires disclosures about fair value measurements. AASB 13 sets out a new definition of 'fair value' as well as new principles to be applied when determining the fair value of assets and liabilities. The new requirements will apply to all of the Department's assets and liabilities (excluding leases), that are measured and/or disclosed at fair value or another measurement based on fair value.

The Department has reviewed its fair value methodologies (including instructions to valuers, data used and assumptions made) for all items of property, plant and equipment measured at fair value to ensure those methodologies comply with AASB 13, and the assessment has not materially changed the fair values recognised.

AASB 13 requires increased disclosures in relation to fair value measurements for both assets and liabilities. To the extent that any fair value measurement for an asset or liability uses data that is not "observable" outside the department, the disclosures are significantly greater.

AASB 2011-8 replaces the existing definition and fair value guidance in other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of AASB 13.

- AASB 119 *Employee Benefits (2011-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 119)* – This Standard supersedes AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments. The Standard was issued in September 2013. There is no financial impact.
- 2012-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosures – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 7 & AASB 132]* – This Standard makes amendments to AASB 7 and AASB 132 as a consequence of the issuance of amendments to IFRS 7 by the International Accounting Standards Board in December 2011. It is anticipated that there will not be any financial impact.
- 2012-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Mandatory Effective Date of AASB 9 and Transition Disclosures [AASB 9, AASB 2009-11, AASB 2010-7, AASB 2011-7 & AASB 2011-8]* – This Standard makes amendments to various standards as a consequence of the issuance of International Financial Reporting Standard *Mandatory Effective Date and Transition Disclosures (Amendments to IFRS 9 and IFRS 7)* by the International Accounting Standards Board in December 2011. It is anticipated that there will not be any financial impact.
- AASB 2013-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosures – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 7 & AASB 132]* – This Standard amends the required disclosures in AASB 7 to include information that will enable users of an entity's financial statements to evaluate the effect or potential effect of netting arrangements, including rights of set-off associated with the entity's recognised financial assets and recognised financial

liabilities, on the entity's financial position. It is anticipated that there will not be any financial impact.

(b) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards yet to be applied

The following applicable Standards have been issued by the AASB and are yet to be applied:

- AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* – This Standard supersedes AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments. The Standard was issued in December 2010. The Standard was reissued in August 2011 and was available from 1 January 2017 for application by not-for-profit entities. It is not expected to have a financial impact.
- AASB 2011-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Consolidation and Joint Arrangements Standards [AASB 1, 2, 5, 7, 101, 107, 112, 118, 121, 124, 132, 133, 136, 138, 1023, & 1038 and Interpretations 5, 9, 16 & 17]* – This Standard gives effect to consequential changes arising from the issuance of AASB 10, AASB 11, AASB 127 *Separate Financial Statements* and AASB 128 *Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures*. For not-for-profit entities, it applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2014. It is not expected to have a financial impact.
- AASB 2012-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 132]* – This Standard adds application guidance to AASB 132 to address inconsistencies identified in applying some of the offsetting criteria, including clarifying the meaning of “currently has a legally enforceable right of set-off” and that some gross settlement systems may be considered equivalent to net settlement. It is not expected to have a financial impact.
- AASB 2013-5 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Annual Improvements 2009-2011 Cycle [AASB 1, AASB 101, AASB 116, AASB 132 & AASB 134 and Interpretation 2]* – This Standard makes amendments to the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a consequence of the annual improvements process. It is not expected to have a financial impact.
- AASB 2013-8 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance to Not-For-Profit Entities – Control and Structured Entities [AASB 10, AASB 12 & AASB 1049]* - The amendments to AASB 10 add Appendix E Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities as an integral part of that Standard. The appendix explains various principles in AASB 10 regarding the criteria for determining whether one entity controls another entity from the perspective of not-for-profit entities, and illustrates the principles with examples. It is not expected to have a financial impact.

2.6 Administered Transactions and Balances

The Department administers, but does not control, certain resources on behalf of the Government as a whole. It is accountable for the transactions involving such administered resources, but does not have the discretion to deploy resources for the achievement of the Department's objectives.

Administered assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues are disclosed in Note 1 to the Financial Statements.

2.7 Activities Undertaken in a Trustee or Agency Relationship

Transactions relating to activities undertaken by the Department in a trust or fiduciary (agency) capacity do not form part of the Department's activities. Trustee and agency arrangements, and transactions/balances relating to those activities, are neither controlled nor administered.

Fees, commissions earned and expenses incurred in the course of rendering services as a trustee or through an agency arrangement are recognised as controlled transactions.

Transactions and balances relating to a trustee or an agency arrangement are not recognised as departmental revenues, expenses, assets or liabilities in the Financial Statements. Details of these transactions are provided in Note 18.

In line with the concept of materiality contained in AASB 1031 *Materiality*, transactions in relation to the independent bodies, the Tasmanian Dairy Industry Authority and the Tasmanian Heritage Council have not been eliminated from the Department's Financial Statements.

2.8 Transactions by the Government as Owner

a) Forestry Tasmania transition

In 2013 new forestry legislation resulted in a significant increase in the area of reserved lands to be managed by the Department via the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Under the *Forest Management Act 2013*, which commenced on 11 December 2013, 221 555 hectares of former Forest Reserves (under the now repealed *Forestry Act 1920*) were declared as either regional reserves or conservation areas under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. These reserves are now managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Under the *Tasmanian Forests Agreement Act 2013*, which commenced in June 2013, 514 969 hectares has been classified as Future Reserve Land to be progressively reserved in a series of tranches over the next 8 years. The first component (tranche 1a) of 95 725 hectares has been proclaimed as reserves (gazetted on 18 December 2013) and is now managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service.

In order to manage the new reserves, 42 permanent Forestry Tasmania employees took up positions in January 2014. Relevant employee benefits and employee benefit on costs balances transferred from Forestry Tasmania to the Department.

As a result of the new legislation, assets and liabilities have been transferred to the Department from Forestry Tasmania via the Department of Treasury and Finance. The net assets received are designated as contributions by owners and adjusted against equity. Prior to recognition, the Department of Treasury and Finance revalued the Forestry Tasmania assets to their fair value. The assets have been initially recognised at these amounts. The liabilities transferred are initially recognised at the amounts held by Forestry Tasmania immediately prior to the transfer. Details of these transactions are provided in Note 14.2(a).

b) Restructuring of administrative arrangements

Net assets received under a restructuring of administrative arrangements are designated as contributions by owners and adjusted directly against equity. Net assets relinquished are designated as distributions to owners. Net assets transferred are initially recognised at the amounts at which they were held by the transferring agency immediately prior to the transfer. Details of these transactions are provided in Note 14.2(b).

As a result of the *State Service (Restructuring) Order 2014* made under section 11 of the *State Service Act 2000*, the Department assumed responsibility for the Integrated Tasmanian Government Contact Centre on 10 April 2014 from the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

2.9 Income from transactions

Income is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when an increase in future economic benefits, related to an increase in an asset or a decrease of a liability, has arisen that can be reliably measured.

a) Revenue from Government

Appropriations, whether recurrent or capital, are recognised as revenues in the period in which the Department gains control of the appropriated funds. Except for any amounts identified as carried forward in Notes 8.1 and 17.2, control arises in the period of appropriation.

b) Grants

Grants payable by the Australian Government are recognised as revenue when the Department gains control of the underlying assets. Where grants are reciprocal, revenue is recognised as performance occurs under the grant. Non-reciprocal grants are recognised as revenue when the grant is received or receivable. Conditional grants may be reciprocal or non-reciprocal depending on the terms of the grant.

c) Sales of goods and services

Amounts earned in exchange for the provision of goods are recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer. Revenue from the provision of services is recognised in proportion to the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date. The stage of completion is assessed by reference to surveys of work performed.

d) Fees and fines

Revenue from fees and fines is recognised at the time the obligation to pay arises, pursuant to the issue of an assessment.

The collectability of debts is assessed at balance date and specific provision is made for doubtful debts.

e) Fair value of assets recognised

Services received free of charge by the Department, are recognised as income when a fair value can be reliably determined and at the time the services would have been purchased if they had not been passed across to the Department. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Assets received at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised at their fair value when it is probable that future economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the Department and the amount can be reliably measured. However, where the asset received is from another government agency as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements, they are recognised as contributions by owners directly within equity. In these circumstances, book values from the transferor agency have been used.

Fair value of land received includes property transferred by the Department of Treasury and Finance upon their sale through the Crown Lands Administration Fund.

Fair value of land and buildings recognised for the first time includes properties identified upon their sale.

Fair value of Infrastructure recognised is related to new assets registered on the Parks and Wildlife Service Information Management System not previously valued and recorded in the Department's Financial Statements.

Fair value of intangibles recognised is related to new abalone quota unit assets transferred to the Crown not previously valued and recorded in the Department's Financial Statements.

f) Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest rate method.

g) Contributions to running of *Service Tasmania*

Amounts received from the Department of Premier and Cabinet to assist with the cost of operating *Service Tasmania* are recognised as they accrue.

h) Rent received

Rental income is recognised as it accrues. Rental income is incidental to the general operations and is not part of the Department's core activities.

i) Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is probable that the inflow or other enhancement or saving in outflows of future economic benefits has occurred and can be measured reliably.

2.10 Expenses from transactions

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in an asset or an increase of a liability, has arisen that can be measured reliably.

a) Employee benefits

Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

b) Depreciation and amortisation

All applicable non-financial assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their service potential. Land, being an asset with an unlimited useful life, is not depreciated.

Depreciation is provided for on a straight-line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Heritage assets are not depreciated.

Major depreciation periods are:

Plant and equipment	3-25 years
Buildings	20-100 years
Infrastructure – other	15-80 years
Infrastructure – tracks	30-50 years
Leasehold improvements	10 years

Intangible assets with limited useful lives are systematically amortised over their useful lives to reflect the pattern in which the asset's future economic benefits are expected to be consumed by the Department. Abalone quota units being an asset with an unlimited useful life are not depreciated.

Major amortisation rates are:

Software	2-5 years
Operating lease make-good asset	3-30 years

c) Transfers to Administered Funds

Transfers to Administered Funds include:

- The amount determined by the Treasurer to be transferred from the Crown Land Administration Fund to the Consolidated Fund. This amount may not be greater than the balance of the Crown Land Administration Fund at that date; and
- Transfers of Australian Government Funds from balances already held.

d) Grants and transfer payments

Grants and transfer payments are recognised to the extent that:

- The services required to be performed by the grantee have been performed; or
- The grant eligibility criteria have been satisfied.

A liability is recorded when the Department has a binding contractual obligation to pay the grant. Where grant monies are paid in advance of performance or eligibility, a prepayment is recognised.

e) Fair value of assets provided

Services, goods or assets provided free of charge by the Department to another entity are recognised as an expense when fair value can be reliably determined.

f) Other expenses

Other expenses are recognised when it is probable that the consumption of loss of future economic benefits resulting in a reduction in assets and/or an increase in liabilities has occurred and the consumption or loss of future economic benefits can be measured reliably.

2.11 Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows measure the change in volume or value of assets or liabilities that do not result from transactions.

a) Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets

Any gain or loss on the disposal of non-financial assets is recognised at the date of disposal and is the difference between the proceeds and the carrying value of the asset at the time.

b) Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables/payables

Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether any financial assets are impaired. A financial asset is considered to be impaired if objective evidence indicates that one or more events have had a negative effect on the estimated future cash flows of that asset.

An impairment loss, in respect of a financial asset measured at amortised cost, is calculated as the difference between its carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the original effective interest rate.

All impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

An impairment loss is reversed if the reversal can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised. For financial assets measured at amortised cost the reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

Non-financial Assets

All non-financial assets are assessed to determine whether any impairment exists. Impairment exists when the recoverable amount of an asset is less than its carrying amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. The Department's assets are not used for the purpose of generating cash flows; therefore value in use is based on depreciated replacement cost where the asset would be replaced if deprived of it.

All impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

In respect of other non-financial assets, impairment losses recognised in prior periods are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

c) Other economic flows – other comprehensive income

Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve

Net revaluation decreases are recognised in 'other economic flows – other comprehensive income' to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of asset. Otherwise, the net revaluation decreases are recognised immediately as other economic flows in the net result. The net revaluation decrease recognised in 'other economic flows – other comprehensive income' reduces the amount accumulated in equity under the asset revaluation reserve.

Net revaluation increases are recognised in 'other economic flows – other comprehensive income', and accumulated in equity under the asset revaluation reserve. However, the net revaluation increase is recognised in the net result to the extent that it reverses a net revaluation decrease in respect of the same class of asset previously recognised as an expense (other economic flows) in the net result.

Revaluation increases and decreases relating to individual assets in a class asset are offset against one another in that class but are not offset in respect of assets in different classes. The asset revaluation reserve is not transferred to accumulated funds on derecognition of the relevant asset.

2.12 Assets

Assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied in the asset will eventuate and the asset possesses a cost or other value that can be reliably measured.

a) Cash and deposits

Cash means notes, coins, any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution, as well as funds held in the Special Deposits and Trust Fund, being short term of three months or less and highly liquid. Deposits are recognised at amortised cost, being their face value.

b) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at amortised cost less any impairment losses. Due to the short settlement period, receivables are not discounted back to their present value. The Department offers 30 day terms of trade.

c) Other financial assets

Shares are recorded at cost and assessed for impairment on an annual basis.

Loan advances are brought to account in the balance owing as at 30 June 2014. Impairment losses are recognised when there is an indication that there is a measurable decrease in the collectability of loans.

d) Inventories

Inventories held for resale are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Inventories held for distribution are valued at cost and, where applicable, adjusted for any loss of service potential. Inventories acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, are valued at current replacement cost.

e) Assets held for sale

Assets that are expected to be recovered primarily through sale rather than continuing use are classified as held for sale.

Immediately before classification as held for sale, the assets are remeasured in accordance with the Department's accounting policies. Thereafter the assets are measured at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

f) Property, plant and equipment, infrastructure and heritage

(i) Valuation basis

Land, buildings, infrastructure and heritage assets are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. All assets within a class of asset are measured on the same basis.

In respect of the above-mentioned asset classes, the cost of items acquired during the financial year has been judged to materially represent fair value at the end of the reporting period.

Plant and equipment that is not long lived, is measured at cost. The carrying amounts for such plant and equipment at cost should not materially differ from their fair value.

Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. The costs of self-constructed assets includes the cost of materials and direct labour, any other costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to a working condition for its intended use, and the costs of dismantling and removing the items and restoring the site on which they are located. Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalised as part of that equipment.

When parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (when material) of property, plant and equipment.

Fair value is based on the highest and best use of the asset. Unless there is an explicit Government policy to the contrary, the highest and best use of an asset is the current purpose for which the asset is being used or building being occupied.

(ii) Subsequent costs

The cost of replacing part of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the part will flow to the Department and its costs can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is expensed. The costs of day-to-day servicing of property, plant and equipment are recognised as an expense as incurred.

(iii) Asset recognition threshold

The asset capitalisation threshold adopted by the Department is \$10 000. Assets valued at less than \$10 000 are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year of purchase (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are material in total).

(iv) Fair value measurement

All assets of the Department for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the Financial Statements are categorised within the following fair value hierarchy, based on the data and assumptions used in the most recent specific appraisals:

- Level 1 – represents fair value measurements that reflect unadjusted quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities;
- Level 2 – represents fair value measurements that are substantially derived from inputs (other than quoted prices included within Level 1) that are observable, either directly or indirectly; and
- Level 3 – represents fair value measurements that are substantially derived from unobservable inputs.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, the Department has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, the Department determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation at the end of each reporting period.

As 2013-14 is the first year application of AASB 13 by the Department, there were no transfers of assets between fair value hierarchy levels during the period.

(v) Revaluations

All asset classes are revalued using an independent professional valuer or internal experts on a five year cycle as per the Department's asset revaluation policy. In accordance with AASB116 *Property Plant and Equipment*, for years in between valuations, indices supplied by qualified valuers and assessed for appropriateness by the Department are applied to index valuations to fair value.

From 2013-14 asset revaluations performed on a depreciated replacement cost basis are disclosed on a gross basis. Asset revaluations based on a market basis have been disclosed on a net basis.

In line with the concept of materiality contained in AASB 1031 *Materiality*, the Department has established a set valuation threshold approach which provides that only assets of a value greater than a certain level require valuation. While only a portion of the total asset class is valued, the entire class is deemed to be valued at fair value.

The thresholds have been established based on the number and value of existing assets and their stratification within the total asset class portfolio.

The current class thresholds applied by the Department are as follows with thresholds assessed as part of the valuation cycle.

	<i>Valuation threshold</i>	<i>Planned Percentage coverage</i>
Land	\$200 000	80-90%
Buildings	\$200 000	80-90%
Infrastructure – walking tracks, roads and fire trails	...	100%
Infrastructure – other	\$50 000	60-70%
Heritage	...	100%

Land and buildings

Land, buildings and land under buildings were revalued to fair value as at 30 June 2014. All land, buildings and land under buildings, above the valuation threshold of \$200 000, were valued by the Valuer-General. Land, buildings and land under buildings, below the valuation threshold of \$200 000, were indexed to fair value as at 30 June 2014 based on indices provided by the Valuer-General (2013-14: 0 per cent). The resulting changes in asset values were taken to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

All land and buildings transferred to the Department as a result of the Forestry Tasmania transition were transferred at fair value.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure was last revalued to fair value as at 30 June 2012. All walking tracks, 4X4 access roads, roads and fire trail infrastructure assets were valued internally by the Parks and Wildlife Service. All other infrastructure assets above the valuation threshold of \$50 000 were valued by an independent valuer, Mr Martin Burns (CPV, MBA, B. App. Sc) of Liquid Pacific Pty Ltd. Infrastructure was indexed to fair value as at 30 June 2014 based on indices provided by Liquid Pacific Pty Ltd (0.58 per cent). The resulting changes in asset values were taken to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

All built assets (road, walking tracks, buildings and other infrastructure assets) on land transferred to the Department as a result of the Forestry Tasmania transition were transferred at fair value.

Heritage

All heritage assets were revalued to fair value as at 30 June 2014 by an independent valuer, the Australian Valuation Office. The resulting change in asset values were recognised as other economic flows in the net result.

Equipment

Equipment is assessed annually by departmental staff with expertise in its use to review possible impairment and to identify any amendments required to its remaining useful life.

(vi) Judgements and Assumptions in relation to Revaluations

The key assumption underpinning all assessments of value was that:

In determining fair value it is a requirement to have regard to the highest and best use which is the most economic use that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible, and is determined from the perspective of market participants. Government policy is a legislative barrier for the purposes of highest and best use. As a result, the highest and best use of all property, plant and equipment is their existing use.

Non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings

Non-specialised land is valued using the market approach. The market value approach uses recent prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable assets allowing for size, topography, location and other relevant factors specific to the asset being valued. An appropriate rate per square metre has been applied to the subject asset.

Non-specialised buildings are valued using the income approach where the assets value is dependent on its income generating capability. The income approach converts future cash flows or income and expenses to a single current discounted amount. The fair value measurement reflects current market expectations about those future amounts. The fair value is determined based on a static capitalisation of an asset's income at an appropriate capitalisation rate or a discounted cash flow where future income streams are discounted to a net present value at an appropriate discount rate.

To the extent that non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings do not contain significant, unobservable adjustments, these assets are classified as Level 2 under the market and income approach.

Specialised land and specialised buildings

The market approach is used for specialised land, including National Parks and Reserves and Conservation Areas, although it is adjusted for the community service obligation (CSO) to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued.

The CSO adjustment is a reflection of the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that is also equally applicable to market participants. This approach is in light of the highest and best use consideration required for fair value measurement, and takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible, and financially feasible. As adjustments of CSOs are considered as significant unobservable inputs, specialised land is classified as Level 3 assets.

For the majority of specialised buildings, the depreciated replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciations. The depreciated replacement cost method is based on the principle of substitution. The approach assesses value by using the economic principle that a purchaser will pay no more for an asset than the cost to obtain an asset of equivalent utility by construction. For iconic buildings where design of the building is of greater importance than the functionality of the accommodation a depreciated reproduction cost approach was employed. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, specialised buildings are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

Infrastructure – Walking Tracks, Roads and Fire Trails

All assets within this category are considered specialised in nature and valued utilising a depreciated replacement cost method. Assets were valued using the Parks and Wildlife Service Information Management System (IMS). The IMS holds information supporting the quantity, classification, size and current condition of the infrastructure assets managed by the Department. As many of the infrastructure items have been developed over time, often with no substantiated start date, remaining useful life is estimated based on an assessment of the current condition of each asset.

At the time of valuation there were approximately 7 per cent of assets that did not have a condition assessment for which a default condition category of 'poor recoverable' was applied.

As the reconstruction rate per linear metre, condition assessments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, walking tracks, roads and fire trails are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

Infrastructure – Other

All assets within this category were considered specialised in nature and valued utilising a depreciated replacement cost. In determining the 'current cost' of a specialised asset, Liquid Pacific Pty Ltd makes reference to the cost of replacing the asset's service potential and in doing so adopted the Modern Equivalent Replacement Cost of the asset which inherently reflects the use to which the asset is put and allows for adjustments to the cost base of the asset to account for over-engineering or surplus capacity as well as replacement with equivalent assets based on current technology. Assets were inspected for the purposes of determining value and Liquid Pacific Pty Ltd relied upon information made available by the Department, subscriber and public information databases (such as LIST) to assist with the recognition, quantification and calculation of asset values. Assets were valued in their existing use and none exhibited a 'feasibly' higher and better use alternative.

As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, infrastructure - other is classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

Heritage

The market value approach was considered the most appropriate approach to value all assets in this category. While there was an active and liquid market for valuing a majority of assets there was also some market evidence for valuing the rarer assets.

To the extent that heritage assets do not contain significant, unobservable adjustments, these assets are classified as Level 2 under the market approach.

g) Intangibles

An intangible asset is recognised where:

- It is probable that an expected future benefit attributable to the asset will flow to the Department; and
- The cost of the asset can be reliably measured.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. Subsequently, intangible assets, with finite useful lives are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation /amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is expected that additional future economic benefits will flow to the Department.

Abalone quota units previously transferred to the Department as a result of the *Living Marine Resource Management Act 1995* were valued at fair value by an independent commercial broker, Robert Rex, as at 30 June 2014 and recorded in the Department's Financial Statements for the first time in 2013-14. Abalone quote units are classified as Level 1 fair value measurements.

h) Other non-financial assets

An asset has been recognised in these accounts for a debt agreement between the Tasmanian Government and Grange Resources. When Goldamere Pty Ltd, trading as Grange Resources, entered into an agreement with the Crown to purchase the Savage River Mine and the Port Latta Pelletising Plant, it was agreed that Goldamere Pty Ltd would pay \$13 million to the State in instalments. This was to fund the remediation of pollution arising from historical mining operations (ie pre-1987). The debt was secured by a fixed and floating charge and a freehold mortgage over all the assets and undertakings of Goldamere Pty Ltd. Subsequently, through a Deed of Variation, the debt was also secured by a bank guarantee of \$2.8 million. In accordance with a strategic plan jointly developed under the agreement, the company is required to complete remediation works to the value of the outstanding debt. On that basis, the debt has been recognised as a non-financial asset. A corresponding provision for remediation works has been recognised. Refer to Note 12.3.

Other assets comprise of prepayments and an operating lease make-good asset. Prepayments relate to actual transactions that are recorded at cost. The operating lease make-good asset corresponds to the provision, less any accumulated amortisation.

2.13 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will result from the settlement of a present obligation and the amount at which the settlement will take place can be measured reliably.

a) Payables

Payables, including goods received and services incurred but not yet invoiced, are recognised at amortised cost which, due to the short settlement period, equates to face value when the Department becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services.

b) Employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are recognised when an employee becomes entitled to receive a benefit. Those liabilities eligible to be taken within 12 months are measured as the amount expected to be paid. Other employee entitlements are measured as the present value of the benefit at 30 June 2014, where the impact of discounting is material, and at the amount expected to be paid if discounting is not material.

A liability for long service leave is recognised and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Sick leave entitlements are not vested in employees and are not considered to give rise to a liability therefore no provision has been made.

c) Provisions

A provision arises if, as a result of a past event, the Department has a present legal or constructive obligation that can be estimated reliably, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. Any right to reimbursement relating to some or all of the provision is recognised as an asset when it is virtually certain that the reimbursement will be received.

As per Note 11.7 an asset has been recognised in these accounts for a debt agreement between the Tasmanian Government and Grange Resources (previously Australian Bulk Minerals). In accordance with a strategic plan jointly developed under the agreement, the company is required to complete remediation

works to the value of the outstanding debt. On that basis, the debt has been recognised as a non-financial asset. A corresponding provision for remediation works has been recognised.

d) Other liabilities

Other liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will result from the settlement of a present obligation and the amount at which the settlement will take place can be measured reliably.

e) Superannuation

(i) Defined contribution plans

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which an entity pays fixed contributions to a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense when they fall due.

(ii) Defined benefit plans

A defined benefit plan is a post-employment benefit plan other than a defined contribution plan.

The Department does not recognise a liability for the accruing superannuation benefits of Departmental employees. This liability is recognised and held by the Finance-General Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

2.14 Leases

The Department has entered into a number of operating lease agreements for property, plant and equipment, where the lessors effectively retain all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the items leased. Equal instalments of lease payments are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the lease term as this is representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property.

The Department is prohibited by Treasurer's Instruction 502 *Leases* from holding finance leases.

2.15 Unrecognised financial instruments

The Department had no unrecognised financial instruments.

2.16 Judgements and assumptions

In the application of Australian Accounting Standards, the Department is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgements made by the Department that have significant effects on the Financial Statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the Financial Statements. These judgements include:

- Asset revaluations refer Notes 2.12(f)(vi), 11 and 14;
- Provisions refer Notes 2.13(c), 12.3; and
- Contingencies refer Note 13.2.

The Department has made no assumptions concerning the future that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

2.17 Foreign Currency

Transactions denominated in a foreign currency are converted at the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency receivables and payables are translated at the exchange rates current as at balance date.

2.18 Comparative Figures

Comparative figures have been adjusted to reflect any changes in accounting policy or the adoption of new standards. Details of the impact of changes in accounting policy on comparative figures are at Note 2.5(a).

Where amounts have been reclassified within the Financial Statements, the comparative statements have been restated.

Any restructure of Outputs within the Department (internal restructures) that do not affect the results shown on the face of the Financial Statements are reflected in the comparatives in the Output Schedule at Note 3.

2.19 Budget Information

Budget information refers to original estimates as disclosed in the 2013-14 Budget Papers. Budget information has not been subject to audit. There have been minor changes to budget line categories however there have been no net changes to the total budget.

2.20 Rounding

All amounts in the Financial Statements are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise stated.

2.21 Departmental Taxation

The Department is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax and the goods and services tax (GST).

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax, except where the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount recoverable, or payable, to the ATO is recognised as an asset or liability within the Statement of Financial Position.

In the Statement of Cash Flows, the GST component of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is classified as an operating cash flow.

2.22 Accounting Adjustments

In the current financial year:

- *Fair Value of assets recognised* – Asset reconciliation

As a result of continued asset validation and reconciliation processes, 32 parcels or Crown Land assets, with a value of \$16.182 million, were identified which previously had not been recorded in the Department's Financial Statements.

- *Fair Value of assets recognised* – Asset revaluation

Through the 2013-14 valuation process, 3 parcels of land, with a value of \$1.2 million, were identified which previously had not been previously recorded in the Department's Financial Statements.

- *Fair Value of assets recognised* – Abalone quota units

40 abalone quota units are controlled and managed by the Department. The assets, with a value of \$6.4 million, were previously not recorded in the Department's Financial Statements.

In accordance with AASB108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and taking into account materiality, the above have been treated as fair value of assets recognised (Note 8.6) throughout the Financial Statements and consequently comparatives have not been amended.

The Department is continuing to revise and improve validation and reconciliation processes for financial reporting on its diverse asset portfolio.

Note 3: Department Output Schedules

3.1 Output Group Information

Comparative information has not been restated for external administrative restructures.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Output Group 1: Information and Land Services

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Revenue from appropriation	17 234	15 901	15 819
Grants	...	13	14
Sales of goods and services	1 530	3 620	3 247
Fees and fines	526	191	240
Interest	...	2	2
Contribution to running of <i>Service Tasmania</i>	11 138	11 367	10 908
Rents received	...	4	6
Other revenue	251	700	764
Total revenue and other income from transactions	30 679	31 798	31 000
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits	23 827	22 344	21 033
Depreciation and amortisation	286	657	450
Grants and transfer payments	94	56	91
Supplies and consumables	6 783	7 062	7 239
Other expenses	880	713	1 456
Total expenses from transactions	31 870	30 832	30 269
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	(1 191)	966	731
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	...	(6)	...
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables /payables	...	(15)	103
Change in estimate of non-financial assets	...	(14)	...
Total other economic flows included in net result	...	(35)	103
Net result from continuing operations	(1 191)	931	834
Other economic flows – other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	...	65	25
Total Other economic flows - other comprehensive income	...	65	25
Comprehensive result	(1 191)	996	859

Output Group 1: Information and Land Services

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Expenses by Output			
1.1 Land titles, survey and mapping services	12 139	13 065	12 317
1.2 Valuation services	7 160	4 928	5 274
1.3 <i>Service</i> Tasmania shop fronts	12 571	12 839	12 678
Total	31 870	30 832	30 269
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed		8 867	5 842
Total liabilities incurred		6 477	6 591
Net Assets deployed for Information and Land Services		2 390	(749)

Output Group 2: Primary Industries

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Revenue from appropriation	9 380	11 370	10 668
Grants	772	1 444	1 033
Sales of goods and services	...	27	26
Fees and fines	4 540	4 840	4 345
Fair value of assets recognised	...	6 400	...
Interest	7	3	5
Rents received	...	33	59
Other revenue	119	434	386
Total revenue and other income from transactions	14 818	24 551	16 522
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits ¹	7 923	5 827	5 271
Depreciation and amortisation	394	313	345
Grants and transfer payments ¹	2 254	8 398	7 470
Supplies and consumables	2 865	2 230	2 506
Other expenses	2 837	1 206	1 133
Total expenses from transactions	16 273	17 974	16 725
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	(1 455)	6 577	(203)
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables /payables	...	...	2
Change in estimate of non-financial assets	...	(4)	(44)
Total other economic flows included in net result	...	(4)	(42)
Net result from continuing operations	(1 455)	6 573	(245)
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	...	(1 560)	85
Total Other economic flows - other comprehensive income	...	(1 560)	85
Comprehensive result	(1 455)	5 013	(160)
Expense by Output			
2.1 Agriculture industry development services	5 489	5 876	6 167
2.2 Marine resources	10 784	12 098	10 558
Total	16 273	17 974	16 725
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed		25 650	16 943
Total liabilities incurred		2 651	1 420
Net Assets deployed for Primary Industries		22 999	15 523

¹ The movement primarily relates to the Department's budgeted contribution to salaries for the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. The payment is reported as a grant however the budget is currently recorded within employee benefits.

Output Group 3: Resource Management and Conservation

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Revenue from appropriation	15 191	18 077	16 567
Grants	1 053	3 394	4 904
Sales of goods and services	...	94	129
Fees and fines	...	10	113
Interest	498	177	286
Rents received	4	3	4
Other revenue	145	222	340
Revenue and other income from transactions	16 891	21 977	22 343
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits	10 688	14 369	15 742
Depreciation and amortisation	198	265	335
Grants and transfer payments	1 157	1 622	3 256
Supplies and consumables	5 487	5 052	6 054
Other expenses	...	2 373	473
Total expenses from transactions	17 530	23 681	25 860
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	(639)	(1 704)	(3 517)
Other economic flows included in Net Result			
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables /payables	...	...	1
Total other economic flows included in net result	...	...	1
Net result from continuing operations	(639)	(1 704)	(3 516)
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	...	(9)	28
Total Other economic flows - other comprehensive income	...	(9)	28
Comprehensive result	(639)	(1 713)	(3 488)
Expense by Output			
3.1 Land management services	1 084	1 666	905
3.2 Conservation of Tasmania's flora and fauna	16 446	22 015	24 955
Total	17 530	23 681	25 860

Output Group 3: Resource Management and Conservation

	2014	2014	2013
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed		15 597	19 288
Total liabilities incurred		7 201	7 258
Net Assets deployed for Resource Management and Conservation		8 396	12 030

Output Group 4: Water Resources

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Revenue from appropriation	8 597	7 862	8 226
Grants	834	704	564
Sales of goods and services	...	10	36
Fees and fines	263	386	352
Rents received	...	1	1
Other revenue	149	750	715
Total revenue and other income from transactions	9 843	9 713	9 894
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits	6 787	6 085	6 107
Depreciation and amortisation	269	359	416
Grants and transfer payments	1 666	1 176	1 044
Supplies and consumables	2 087	1 934	1 774
Other expenses	131	724	748
Total expenses from transactions	10 940	10 278	10 089
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	(1 097)	(565)	(195)
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables /payables	...	(3)	3
Total other economic flows included in net result	...	(3)	3
Net result from continuing operations	(1 097)	(568)	(192)
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	...	(292)	56
Total Other economic flows - other comprehensive income	...	(292)	56
Comprehensive result	(1 097)	(860)	(136)
Expense by Output			
4.1 Water resource management	8 082	7 427	7 370
4.2 Water resource assessment	2 858	2 851	2 719
Total	10 940	10 278	10 089
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed		4 457	5 065
Total liabilities incurred		1 856	1 814
Net assets deployed for Water Resources		2 601	3 251

Output Group 5: Policy

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Revenue from appropriation	2 529	2 181	2 176
Fees and Fines	...	...	8
Other revenue	...	7	8
Total revenue and other income from transactions	2 529	2 188	2 192
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits	2 026	1 799	1 749
Depreciation and amortisation	16	21	26
Grants and transfer payments	17	2	6
Supplies and consumables	600	389	302
Other expenses	5	20	47
Total expenses from transactions	2 664	2 231	2 130
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	(135)	(43)	62
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	...	...	2
Total Other economic flows - other comprehensive income	...	...	2
Comprehensive result	(135)	(43)	64
Expense by Output			
5.1 Policy advice	2 664	2 231	2 130
Total	2 664	2 231	2 130
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed		116	18
Total liabilities incurred		521	454
Net Assets deployed for Policy		(405)	(436)

Output Group 6: Biosecurity Tasmania

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Revenue from appropriation	17 305	18 312	16 202
Grants	2 158	2 704	3 013
Sales of goods and services	...	47	15
Fees and fines	1 028	1 023	1 052
Rents received	...	44	51
Other revenue	62	294	198
Total revenue and other income from transactions	20 553	22 424	20 531
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits	12 852	14 896	14 295
Depreciation and amortisation	232	436	302
Grants and transfer payments	2 876	2 585	557
Supplies and consumables	4 819	4 867	5 085
Other expenses	81	158	329
Total expenses from transactions	20 860	22 942	20 568
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	(307)	(518)	(37)
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables /payables	...	5	1
Change in estimate of non-financial assets	...	(8)	(11)
Total other economic flows included in net result	...	(3)	(10)
Net result from continuing operations	(307)	(521)	(47)
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	...	(230)	15
Total Other economic flows - other comprehensive income	...	(230)	15
Comprehensive result	(307)	(751)	(32)
Expense by Output			
6.1 Biosecurity	18 704	20 943	18 585
6.2 Product integrity	2 156	1 999	1 983
Total	20 860	22 942	20 568
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed		8 308	7 464
Total liabilities incurred		5 771	4 532
Net assets deployed for Biosecurity Tasmania		2 537	2 932

Output Group 7: Environment Protection and Analytical Services

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Revenue from appropriation	14 499	13 898	14 839
Grants	...	536	467
Sales of goods and services	2 609	3 086	2 858
Fees and fines	391	125	129
Interest	520	277	344
Rents received	...	2	3
Other revenue	...	95	183
Total revenue and other income from transactions	18 019	18 019	18 823
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits	12 334	12 510	12 111
Depreciation and amortisation	509	710	672
Grants and transfer payments	512	279	801
Supplies and consumables	4 840	4 042	4 077
Other expenses	310	186	361
Total expenses from transactions	18 505	17 727	18 022
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	(486)	292	801
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables /payables	...	(3)	5
Change in estimate of non-financial assets	...	(49)	...
Total other economic flows included in net result	...	(52)	5
Net result from continuing operations	(486)	240	806
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	...	...	2 179
Total Other economic flows - other comprehensive income	...	...	2 179
Comprehensive result	(486)	240	2 985
Expense by Output			
7.1 Environment and Pollution Control	13 982	13 553	14 002
7.2 Analytical Services	4 523	4 174	4 020
Total	18 505	17 727	18 022
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed		31 933	33 244
Total liabilities incurred		15 428	15 234
Net Assets deployed for Environment Protection & Analytical Services		16 505	18 010

Output Group 8: Parks and Wildlife Management

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Revenue from appropriation	28 148	30 505	30 763
Grants	3 518	9 206	5 477
Sales of goods and services	10 400	11 204	10 102
Fees and fines	1 500	1 581	1 343
Fair value of assets recognised	...	21 282	20 333
Interest	...	2	15
Rents received	3 830	7 037	6 311
Other revenue	2 316	4 332	2 637
Total revenue and other income from transactions	49 712	85 149	76 981
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits	27 354	30 644	28 432
Depreciation and amortisation	7 966	11 324	10 728
Grants and transfer payments	1 090	958	1 030
Transfer to Administered Funds	6 500	6 500	5 400
Supplies and consumables	15 164	23 857	20 889
Fair value of assets provided	...	1 512	3 166
Other expenses	440	1 313	1 308
Total expenses from transactions	58 514	76 108	70 953
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	(8 802)	9 041	6 028
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	...	352	33
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables /payables	...	16	(159)
Change in estimate of non-financial assets	...	(652)	(31 957)
Total other economic flows included in net result	(8 802)	(284)	(32 083)
Net result from continuing operations	(8 802)	8 757	(26 055)
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	...	(24 974)	347
Total Other economic flows - other comprehensive income	...	(24 974)	347
Comprehensive result	(8 802)	(16 217)	(25 708)

Output Group 8: Parks and Wildlife Management

	2014	2014	2013
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expense by Output			
8.1 Parks and Wildlife Management	46 382	61 670	56 800
8.2 Crown Land Services	12 132	14 438	14 153
Total	58 514	76 108	70 953
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed		1 095 606	961 381
Total liabilities incurred		9 009	6 827
Net Assets deployed for Parks and Wildlife Management		1 086 597	954 554

Output Group 9: Heritage

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Revenue from appropriation	6 798	7 413	6 880
Fees and fines	30	49	91
Interest	12	3	3
Other revenue	...	26	19
Total revenue and other income from transactions	6 840	7 491	6 993
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits	2 836	3 461	2 951
Depreciation and amortisation	50	82	86
Grants and transfer payments	2 993	3 208	2 813
Supplies and consumables	1 262	1 098	1 196
Other expenses	12	33	68
Total expenses from transactions	7 153	7 882	7 114
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	(313)	(391)	(121)
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	...	...	3
Total Other economic flows - other comprehensive income	...	...	3
Comprehensive result	(313)	(391)	(118)
Expense by Output			
9.1 Historic Heritage Services	2 848	3 278	2 884
9.2 Aboriginal Heritage	1 710	1 900	1 770
9.3 Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens	2 595	2 704	2 460
Total	7 153	7 882	7 114
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed		808	1 153
Total liabilities incurred		775	668
Net Assets deployed for Heritage		33	485

3.2 Reconciliation of Total Output Groups Comprehensive Result to Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Total comprehensive result of Output Groups	(14 425)	(13 726)	(25 734)
Capital Investment Program & Special Capital Investment Funds			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Appropriation revenue – capital works & services	1 156	1 246	1 226
Revenue from Special Capital Investment Funds	800	882	2 500
Grants	6 100	3 400	1 625
Other revenue	...	...	11
Total revenue and other income from transactions	8 056	5 528	5 362
Expenses from transactions			
Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund expenditure	...	...	102
Infrastructure Fund Tasmania	...	82	303
Other Capital Investment Program expenditure items	556	749	479
Spatial Information Foundations Project	800	124	650
Total expenses from transactions	1 356	955	1 534
Water Infrastructure Fund			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Grants	36 306	35 668	23 292
Total revenue and other income from transactions	36 306	35 668	23 292
Expenses from transactions			
Water Infrastructure Fund expenditure	2 533	2 532	13 259
Total expenses from transactions	2 533	2 532	13 259
Other economic flows			
Change in estimate of non-financial assets	2 143	...	...
Total other economic flows	2 143	...	...
Comprehensive result	28 191	23 983	(11 873)

3.3 Reconciliation of Total Output Groups Net Assets to Statement of Financial Position

Total net assets deployed for Output Groups	1 141 653	1 005 600
Reconciliation to net assets		
Assets unallocated to Output Groups	28 754	27 306
Liabilities unallocated to Output Groups	4 545	4 262
Net assets	1 165 862	1 028 644

Note 4: Expenditure under Australian Government Funding Arrangements

	2014		2013	
	Australian Govt Funds	State Funds	Australian Govt Funds	State Funds
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
National Partnership Payments				
Water for the Future	35 668	2 532	23 804	13 300
Tasmanian Inter-Government Agreement	4 128	...	...	...
Australian Jobs Fund	3 456	600	1 651	670
Caring for our Country	759	1 372	11 213	10 457
National Water Initiatives	...	...	15	...
	44 011	4 504	36 683	24 427
Commonwealth Own Purpose Expenditures				
Caring for our Country	4 437	6 577	...	...
Quarantine Services	1 907	...	2 358	73
Maria Island Jetty Upgrade	1 381	39	...	...
Other	2 038	184	1 152	...
	9 763	6 800	3 510	73
Total	53 774	11 304	40 193	24 500

Expenditure under Australian Government Funding Arrangements is disclosed on an accruals basis, inclusive of net capital investment, and includes any expenditure of State funds for that purpose. Disclosures include total expenditure, not only the Australian Government component.

From 1 July 2013 Australian Government Funding received for the Save the Tasmanian Devil program, the Tasmanian Fox Eradication program and the World Heritage Area program previously received as National Partnership Payments is now received under Commonwealth Own Purpose arrangements.

Note 5: Explanations of Material Variances between Budget and Actual Outcomes

The following are brief explanations of material variances between budget estimates and actual outcomes. Variances are considered material where the variance exceeds ten per cent of the original budget estimate and \$250 000.

	Notes	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
5.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income					
Revenue and other income from transactions					
Grants	(a)	50 741	57 069	6 328	12
Sales of goods and services	(b)	14 543	18 088	3 545	24
Fair value of assets recognised	(c)	2 314	27 682	25 368	110
Interest	(d)	1 037	464	(573)	(55)
Rent received	(e)	3 830	7 124	3 294	86
Other revenue	(f)	728	6 860	6 132	842
Expenses from transactions					
Employee benefits	(g)	106 747	112 203	5 456	5
Depreciation and amortisation	(h)	9 920	14 167	4 247	43
Grants and transfer payments	(i)	15 192	20 816	5 624	37
Supplies and consumables	(j)	45 143	51 214	6 071	13
Fair value of assets provided	(k)	...	1 512	1 512	100
Other expense	(l)	4 696	6 730	2 034	43
Other economic flows					
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	(m)	...	346	346	100
Change in estimates of non-financial assets	(n)	...	(739)	(739)	(100)
Changes in physical asset revaluation reserve	(o)	2 143	(26 991)	(29 134)	(1 359)

Notes to Statement of Comprehensive Income variances

- (a) The increase in grants revenue primarily relates to unbudgeted revenue of \$5.6 million from the Department of Treasury and Finance for the reimbursement of costs associated with the Forestry Tasmania transition, as a result of new forestry legislation in 2013. Refer to Note 2.8(a) for further information. The variance also relates to various Australian Government agreements not in place at the beginning of 2013-14 which were subsequently signed during the financial year. New agreements include the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan, Save the Tasmanian Devil program and the Tasmanian Fox Eradication program.
- The increase is partly offset by a \$2.7 million adjustment to the timing of expenditure on the Three Capes Track which, in turn, impacts the receipt of Australian Government grant revenue.
- (b) The increase in sales of goods and services revenue primarily relates to higher than budgeted revenue from sales in geodata services and environment analytical services. In addition, there was an increase in Parks and Wildlife Service revenue as a result of increased visitors to Tasmania's national parks.
- (c) The increase in fair value of assets recognised primarily relates to assets previously not recognised by the Department. In particular, Crown Land with a value of \$16.182 million identified through the continued asset validation and reconciliation process; a further 3 parcels of Crown Land assets, with a value of \$1.2 million, identified through the 2013-14 valuation process and 40 abalone quota units controlled and managed by the Department, with a value of \$6.4 million. Refer to Notes 2.22 and 8.6 for additional information.

- (d) The decrease in interest is due to a combination of reduced Special Deposits and Trust Fund account balances that attract interest and reduced interest rates in 2013-14.
- (e) The increase in rent revenue relates to higher than budgeted revenue received from crown land leased properties of \$3.1 million. A major contributing factor included an expected decrease in the budget estimate in rent revenue with the planned sale of Parliament Square. This sale did not occur in 2013-14 and rent received reflects the full year of rent.
- (f) Items within the other revenue category may vary each year resulting in significant budget variances. The increase in other revenue in 2013-14 is mainly due to additional revenue from the reimbursement of expenses totalling \$3.9 million which were not accounted for in the original budget estimate. This includes the reimbursement of wildfire suppression expenditure from Forestry Tasmania and the Tasmanian Fire Service of \$2.0 million and reimbursement from insurance claims of \$1.0 million primarily for asset maintenance and replacement.
- (g) The increase in employee benefits is primarily due to the original budget estimate not factoring:
- Employee costs of approximately \$1.5 million associated with the Forestry Tasmania transition. Refer to Note 2.8(a) for further information;
 - \$0.9 million associated with wildfire suppression expenditure;
 - \$1.4 million associated with Australian Government expenditure relating to agreements not in place at the beginning of 2013-14 which were subsequently signed during the financial year. New agreements include the Save the Tasmanian Devil program, the Tasmanian Fox Eradication program and Aboriginal Trainee Ranger program; and
 - Long service leave expenses which were \$1.1 million higher than budget due to an increase in 2013-14 in the number of employees who became eligible for long service leave, resulting in an increase in the long service leave provision calculation.

This is partly offset by the Department's contribution to the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA). In 2013-14, approximately \$2.1 million of the TIA payment was budgeted against employee benefits but recorded as a grant payment.

- (h) The increase in depreciation primarily relates to the decrease in useful lives of buildings which were valued in 2010-11 and the 2011-12 revaluation of infrastructure assets which resulted in a material increase in the written down value of infrastructure assets offset to a lesser degree by the increase in useful lives of walking tracks, 4X4 access roads, roads and fire trails infrastructure.
- (i) The increase in grants and transfer payments primarily relates to the Department's contribution to the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. In 2013-14, \$2.9 million of the grant payment was budgeted as employee benefits and other supplies and consumables but reported as a grant payment.
- The increase also relates to Government initiatives totalling \$1.3 million that were announced and paid during 2013-14 and a \$0.8 million contribution to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation for the Biosecure Fish Facility that were not part of the original budget estimate.
- (j) The increase in supplies and consumables is primarily due to unbudgeted expenditure of approximately \$2.8 million associated with the Forestry Tasmania transition (refer to Note 2.8(a) for further information) and \$3.0 million of unbudgeted expenditure associated with wildfire suppression costs.
- (k) The Department does not include estimates for the fair value of assets recognised. The contributions provided relate to land transferred through the Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project to Local Government.

- (l) Items within the other expenditure category may vary each year resulting in significant budget variances. The increase in other expenses in 2013-14 is mainly due to payments of \$2.1 million in relation to claims under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.
- (m) The Department does not include an estimate for net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets. The gain on non-financial assets primarily relates to the disposal of National Parks, Reserves and Crown Land assets.
- (n) The Department does not include an estimate for change in estimates of non-financial assets. The change in estimate primarily relates to land and building assets identified in the 2013-14 revaluation process that had been transferred in prior years. Refer to Note 10.3 for further information.
- (o) Land, buildings and land under buildings were revalued to fair value as at 30 June 2014 by the Valuer-General. The overall valuation decrement of \$27.832 million was taken to the Asset Revaluation Reserve. This decrement was offset slightly by the \$0.841 million valuation indexation factor applied to infrastructure assets not valued in 2013-14. The indexation was taken to the Asset Revaluation Reserve. Refer to Notes 2.11(c), 2.12(f) and 11.4 and 14.1 for further information.

Note 5: Explanations of Material Variances between Budget and Actual Outcomes

	Notes	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
5.2 Statement of Financial Position					
Assets					
Cash and deposits	(a)	72 125	88 717	16 592	23
Other financial assets	(b)	1 524	1 275	(249)	(16)
Property, plant and equipment	(c)	838 943	921 860	82 917	10
Infrastructure	(d)	157 801	182 183	24 382	15
Intangibles	(e)	1 536	9 893	8 357	544
Liabilities					
Payables	(f)	2 211	2 562	351	16
Provisions	(g)	8 778	9 720	942	11
Other liabilities	(h)	4 033	9 829	5 796	144

Notes to Financial Position variances

- (a) The increase in cash and deposits is mainly due to the estimate factoring in a greater draw down in the Department's operating account. In addition, the increase is a result of the \$2.555 million appropriation carried forward from the current year under Section 8A(2) of the *Public Account Act 1986* (Refer to Note 8.1(d) for further information), 2014-15 Australian Government Funding for the Save the Tasmanian Devil program of \$2.9 million received in advance and higher than estimated asset sales and rental revenue of approximately \$4.5 million in the Crown Land Administration Fund.
- (b) The decrease in other financial assets reflects an overestimate based on historical data.
- (c) The increase in property, plant and equipment primarily relates to the Forestry Tasmania additions of \$121.684 million of land and buildings now managed by the Department associated with the Forestry Tasmania transition. Refer to Note 2.8(a) for further information. Furthermore, \$16.182 million in Crown Land parcels, previously not recorded were identified as a result of continued asset validation and reconciliation processes during 2013-14. Refer to Note 2.22 and 8.6 for additional information.
- The increase in property plant and equipment is partially offset by the revaluation of existing land and buildings assets which resulted in a valuation decrement of \$27.832 million. The budget in 2013-14 is based on historical data and does not reflect the 2012-13 \$30.807 million write-down of Land. Refer to 11.4(b) for further information.
- (d) The increase in infrastructure primarily relates to the Forestry Tasmania additions of \$27.863 million through the Forestry Tasmania transition.
- (e) The increase in intangibles is primarily related to \$6.4 million abalone quota units recognised for the first time in 2013-14. Refer to Note 2.12 and 8.6 for additional information. The Department's Information and Land Services Division completed two major capital projects in 2013-14 including the Spatial Information Foundations project. The budget estimate for this project was all against expenses while a component of actuals has been capitalised.
- (f) The increase in payables reflects an underestimate based on historical data.
- (g) The increase in provisions is primarily due to the lower than expected reduction in the Grange Resources provision as a result of the estimate for annual works being higher than works undertaken for the previous four years. This does not impact the Statement of Comprehensive Income as there is a corresponding asset for this provision.
- (h) The increase in other liabilities reflects the corresponding impact of the Australian Government grant for the Save the Tasmanian Devil program of \$2.9 million received in advance. In addition, the increase in other liabilities is a result of the \$2.555 million appropriation carried forward from the current year under Section 8A(2) of the *Public Account Act 1986*. Refer to Note to 8.1(d) for further information.

Note 5: Explanations of Material Variances between Budget and Actual Outcomes

	Notes	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
5.3 Statement of Cash Flows					
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash inflows					
Grants	(a)	8 335	20 939	12 604	151
Sales of goods and services	(b)	14 543	17 944	3 401	23
GST receipts	(c)	9 070	7 510	(1 560)	(17)
Interest received	(d)	1 029	477	(552)	(54)
Other cash receipts	(e)	15 657	24 295	8 638	55
Cash outflows					
Employee benefits	(f)	106 386	110 043	3 657	3
GST payments	(c)	9 070	7 901	(1 169)	(13)
Grants and transfer payments	(g)	15 192	20 879	5 687	37
Other cash payments	(h)	49 984	57 399	7 415	15
Cash flows from investing activities					
Cash inflows					
Proceeds from the disposal of non-financial assets	(i)	314	648	334	106
Asset sales transfers from Treasury	(j)	2 000	2 694	694	35
Receipts from non-operational capital funding-works & services	(k)	600	1 200	600	100
Receipts from non-operational capital funding – Grants	(l)	6 100	3 400	(2 700)	(44)
Cash outflows					
Payments for acquisition of non-financial assets	(m)	7 745	9 523	1 778	23

Notes to Statement of Cash Flow variances

- (a) The increase in grants revenue primarily relates to unbudgeted revenue of \$5.6 million from the Department of Treasury and Finance for the reimbursement of costs associated with the Forestry Tasmania transition as a result of new forestry legislation in 2013. Refer to Note 2.8(a) for further information. The variance also relates to Australian Government agreements not in place at the beginning of 2013-14 which were subsequently signed during the financial year. Agreements include \$3.3 million for the Save the Tasmanian Devil program received in 2013-14 which has not yet been fully expended and as such not recognised fully as revenue in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Other agreements include the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan and the Tasmanian Fox Eradication program.
- (b) The increase in sales of goods and services revenue primarily relates to higher than budgeted revenue from sales in geodata services and environment analytical services. In addition, there was an increase in Parks and Wildlife Service revenue as a result of increased visitors to Tasmania's national parks.
- (c) The decrease in GST receipts and payments is primarily due to the change in GST status of a significant grant payment made by the Department on an annual basis to a Government Business Enterprise. The grant payment was classified as an appropriation in 2013-14 which resulted in a GST free status. The GST paid on this grant in the previous financial year was \$0.564 million.
- (d) The decrease in interest is due to a combination of reduced Special Deposits and Trust Fund account balances that attract interest and reduced interest rates in 2013-14.

- (e) The increase in other cash receipts is mainly due to:
- The reimbursement of expenses which were not accounted for in the original budget estimate. This includes the reimbursement of wildfire suppression expenditure from Forestry Tasmania of \$2.0 million and the Tasmanian Fire Service and reimbursement from insurance claims of \$1.0 million primarily for asset maintenance and replacement; and
 - Higher than budgeted revenue received from Crown Land leased properties of \$3.1 million. A major contributing factor included an expected decrease in the budget estimate in rent revenue with the planned sale of Parliament Square. This sale did not occur in 2013-14 and rent received reflects the full year of rent.
- (f) The increase in employee benefits is primarily due to the original budget estimate not factoring:
- Employee costs of approximately \$1.5 million associated with the Forestry Tasmania transition. Refer to Note 2.8(a) for further information;
 - \$0.9 million associated with wildfire suppression expenditure; and
 - \$1.4 million associated with Australian Government expenditure relating to agreements not in place at the beginning of 2013-14 which were subsequently signed during the financial year. New agreements include the Save the Tasmanian Devil program, the Tasmanian Fox Eradication program and Aboriginal Trainee Ranger program.

This is partly offset by the Department's contribution to the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA). In 2013-14, approximately \$2.1 million of the TIA payment was budgeted against employee benefits but recorded as a grant payment.

- (g) The increase in grants and transfer payments primarily relates to the Department's contribution to the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. In 2013-14, \$2.9 million of the grant payment was budgeted as employee benefits and other supplies and consumables but reported as a grant payment.

The increase also relates to Government initiatives totalling \$1.3 million that were announced and paid during 2013-14 and a \$0.8 million contribution to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation for the Biosecure Fish Facility that were not part of the original budget estimate.

- (h) The increase in other cash payments is primarily due to unbudgeted expenditure of approximately \$2.8 million associated with the Forestry Tasmania transition (refer to Note 2.8(a) for further information) and \$3.0 million of unbudgeted expenditure associated with wildfire suppression costs.

In addition, \$2.1 million of compensation claims under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* were paid during 2013-14 that were not budgeted for.

This is partly offset by the Department's contribution to salaries for the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. The payment is reported as a grant and transfer payment however the budget is partially recorded within other cash payments.

- (i) The increase in proceeds from the disposal of non-financial assets is predominantly due to higher than expected sales of crown land properties managed by the Department.
- (j) The increase in asset sale transfers from Treasury is predominantly due to the higher level of major sales compared to the original Crown Land Administration Fund estimate provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance.
- (k) The increase in receipts from non-operational capital funding – works & services is due to additional funding received during 2013-14 for the replacement of the Cockle Creek bridge.
- (l) The decrease in receipts from non-operational capital funding – grants relates to an adjustment to the timing of expenditure on the Three Capes Track which, in turn, impacts the receipt of Australian Government grant revenue. The variance does not reflect an overall change to the total budget for this program.

- (m) The variance in payment for acquisition of non-financial assets is mainly due to building expenditure and equipment purchases for Parks and Wildlife Service and the Environment Protection Authority that were not included in the original budget estimate. This includes the construction of a \$1.0 million Parks and Wildlife Service visitor facility at Maydena.

The Department completed two major capital projects in 2013-14 including the Spatial Information Foundations project. The budget estimate for this project was all against cash payments while a component of actuals has been capitalised and therefore against acquisition of non-financial assets.

The increase is partly offset by a \$2.7 million adjustment to the timing of expenditure on the Three Capes Track. The adjustment does not reflect an overall change to the total budget for this program.

Note 6: Events occurring after balance date

There have been no events subsequent to balance date which would have a material effect on the Department's Financial Statements as at 30 June 2014.

Note 7: Underlying net operating balance

The net operating result has been adjusted to remove the effects of the following items:

- (i) Non-operational capital funding is the income from transactions relating to funding for capital projects. This funding is classified as income from transactions and included in the net operating balance. However, the corresponding expenditure is not included in the calculation of the net operating balance.
- (ii) The fair value of assets recognised are assets received at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration and are recognised as income and included in the net operating balance.
- (iii) The fair value of assets provided are services, goods or assets provided free of charge by the Department to another entity and are recognised as an expense and included in the net operating balance.

Accordingly, the net operating balance will portray a position that is better than the true underlying financial result.

For this reason, the net operating result is adjusted to remove the effects of funding for capital projects and the fair value of assets recognised and provided.

	Notes	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		26 048	51 364	17 410
Remove impact of Non-operational capital funding and Fair value of assets recognised				
Appropriation revenue - capital works & services	2.9(a),8.1	(600)	(690)	(670)
Revenue from Special Capital Investment Funds	2.9(a),8.2	(800)	(800)	(1 998)
Grants - <i>Water Infrastructure Funds</i>	2.9(b),8.3	(36 306)	(35 668)	(23 292)
Grants	2.9(b),8.3	(6 100)	(3 400)	(1 680)
Fair value of assets recognised	2.9(e),8.6	(2 314)	(27 682)	(20 333)
Total		(46 120)	(68 240)	(47 973)
Remove impact of Fair value of assets provided				
Fair value of assets provided	2.10(e),9.6	...	1 512	3 166
		...	1 512	3 166
Underlying Net operating balance		(20 072)	(15 364)	(27 397)

Note 8: Income from transactions

8.1 Revenue from Government

Revenue from Government includes revenue from appropriations, appropriations carried forward under section 8A(2) of the *Public Account Act 1986*, and items Reserved by Law.

The Budget information is based on original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Continuing Operations			
Appropriation revenue – recurrent			
Current year	119 681	124 711	126 205
Total	119 681	124 711	126 205
Appropriation Revenue – capital works & services			
Total	556	556	556
Non-operational capital funding			
Appropriation Revenue – capital works & services			
Total	600	1 200	670
Revenue from Government - other			
Add Appropriation carried forward under Section 8A(2) of the <i>Public Account Act 1986</i> taken up as revenue in the current year	...	4 065	...
Less Appropriation carried forward under Section 8A(2) of the <i>Public Account Act 1986</i> - recurrent	...	(2 045)	(4 065)
Less Appropriation carried forward under Section 8A(2) of the <i>Public Account Act 1986</i> – capital works & services	...	(510)	...
Less unspent funds returned to the Consolidated Fund under Section 8A(4) of the <i>Public Account Act 1986</i>	...	(1 212)	...
Total	...	298	(4 065)
Total Revenue from Government	120 837	126 765	123 366
<i>Comprising of:</i>			
Appropriation revenue – recurrent	119 681	125 519	122 140
Appropriation revenue – works and services	1 156	1 246	1 226
Total	120 837	126 765	123 366

Section 8A(2) of the *Public Account Act 1986* allows for an unexpended balance of an appropriation to be transferred to an account in the Special Deposits and Trust Fund for such purposes and conditions as approved by the Treasurer. In the initial year, the carry forward is recognised as a liability, revenue received in advance. The carry forward from the initial year is recognised as revenue in the reporting year, assuming that the conditions of the carry forward are met and the funds are expended.

Section 8A(4) of the *Public Account Act 1986* specifies that any funds that are not expended as provided under Section 8A(2) of the *Public Account Act 1986* are to be paid back to the Consolidated Fund.

The increase in actual Appropriation (\$5.928 million) compared to the original Budget is reflected by:

	2014
	\$'000
a) Additional funding by requests from additional funds:	
Wildfire Suppression costs	1 934
Assistance Package for King Island Beef Producers	1 246
Cockle Creek Bridge replacement costs	600
Additional funding from PWS Asset Sales	556
Additional funding for the Tasmanian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program	494
Additional salary indexation	219
National Trust Tasmania financial assistance	200
RSPCA financial assistance	200
Tasmanian Abalone Council Ltd financial assistance	181
Seafoods Tasmania financial assistance	100
	<u>5 730</u>
b) Budget savings	
Mine Remediation and Innovation Centre of Excellence Study	(100)
	<u>(100)</u>
c) Appropriation carried forward under Section 8A(2) of the <i>Public Account Act 1986</i> taken up as revenue in the current year	
Nature Conservation Act Compensation payments	3 300
Intensive Animal Farming Industry Development grants	650
Australian Government	115
	<u>4 065</u>
d) Appropriation carried forward under Section 8A(2) of the <i>Public Account Act 1986</i>	
<i>Recurrent</i>	
Intensive Animal Farming Industry Development grants	(1 130)
Assistance Package to King Island Beef Producers	(730)
Macquarie Island Pest Eradication project	(185)
<i>Capital works & services</i>	
Cockle Creek Bridge replacement costs	(510)
	<u>(2 555)</u>
e) Unspent funds returned to the Consolidated Fund under Section 8A(4) of the <i>Public Account Act 1986</i>	
Nature Conservation Act Compensation payments	(1 212)
	<u>(1 212)</u>
Total increase in Appropriation	<u>5 928</u>

8.2 Revenue from Special Capital Investment Funds

Funding for major infrastructure projects is provided through Special Capital Investment Funds managed by the Department of Treasury and Finance. The Department is allocated funding for specific projects from the Special Capital Investment Funds as part of the budget process.

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Continuing operations</i>		
Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund	...	202
Infrastructure Fund Tasmania	82	300
Total	<u>82</u>	<u>502</u>

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
<i>Non-operational capital funding</i>		
Infrastructure Fund Tasmania	800	1 998
Total	800	1 998
Total Revenue from Special Capital Investment Funds	882	2 500

Details of total Special Capital Investment Funds revenues and expenses are included in Note 3: Departmental Output Schedules. Details of total cash flows for each project are at Note 15.3.

8.3 Grants

Continuing operations

Grants from the Australian Government

Other Australian Government Grants	12 456	11 392
Total	12 456	11 392

Other Grants

State Government Grants	2 216	1 139
Donations and sponsorship	86	339
Other grants and industry contributions	3 243	2 547
Total	5 545	4 025

Non-operational capital funding

Water Infrastructure Funds	35 668	23 292
Grants from the Australian Government	3 400	1 625
Total	39 068	24 917

Other Grants

Other grants and industry contributions	...	55
Total	...	55

Total revenue from Grants	57 069	40 389
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8.4 Sales of goods and services

Park entry / user charges	9 610	8 564
Park enterprise sales	1 381	1 284
Environment analytical services	3 083	2 859
Valuation charges	1 651	1 547
Other sales of goods and services	2 363	2 159
Total	18 088	16 413

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
8.5 Fees and fines		
Licences and leases	5 794	5 585
Applications and transfers	1 650	1 251
Certification, inspection and testing	501	560
General fees and permits	197	204
Environment notices and fees	63	73
Total	8 205	7 673

8.6 Fair value of assets recognised

Fair value of Crown Land recognised	17 382	...
Fair value of Intangible recognised	6 400	...
Fair value of Crown Land recognised (CLAF and CLAC)	3 487	9 419
Fair value of Buildings recognised	320	930
Fair value of Infrastructure recognised	93	...
Fair value of National Parks and Reserves recognised	...	9 984
Total	27 682	20 333

As a result of continued asset validation and reconciliation processes, 32 parcels of Crown Land assets, with a value of \$16.182 million were identified which previously had not been recorded in the Department's Financial Statements. A further 3 parcels of Crown Land assets, with a value of \$1.2 million, were identified through the 2013-14 valuation process which previously had not been recorded in the Department's Financial Statements.

Fair value of Intangibles recognised relates to the abalone quota units transferred to the Department. The units have been valued and recognised this year.

Fair value of Crown Land and buildings recognised includes property transferred by the Department of Treasury and Finance upon their sale through the Crown Lands Administration Fund (CLAF) and properties transferred through the Crown Land Assessment and Classification project (CLAC).

Fair value of National Parks and Reserves recognised relates to Crown Land that had its status changed to Conservation Areas. The parcels are valued and recognised in the year Gazetted.

8.7 Interest

Interest on cash held in the Special Deposits and Trust Fund	457	637
Other interest revenue	7	18
Total	464	655

8.8 Other revenue

Reimbursement of expenses ¹	5 251	3 988
Other	1 609	1 273
Total	6 860	5 261

¹ Reimbursement of expenses has increased in the current year as a result of the reimbursement of wildfire suppression costs from Forestry Tasmania and the Tasmanian Fire Service of \$1.953 million (2013: \$1.0 million).

Note 9: Expenses from transactions

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
9.1 Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	78 940	77 604
Annual leave	8 071	7 419
Long service leave	3 615	2 518
Sick leave	2 899	2 560
Overtime and allowances	5 681	5 763
Superannuation – defined benefit scheme	4 324	4 428
Superannuation – defined contribution scheme	7 648	7 106
Separation payments	688	470
Fringe benefits tax	337	381
Total	112 203	108 249

Superannuation expenses relating to defined benefits schemes relate to payments into the Consolidated Fund. The amount of the payment is based on an employer contribution rate determined by the Treasurer, on the advice of the State Actuary. The current employer contribution is 12.5 per cent (2013: 12.5 per cent) of salary.

Superannuation expenses relating to defined contribution schemes are paid directly to superannuation funds for the majority of staff at the rate of 9.25 per cent (2013: 9 per cent) of salary. In addition, departments are also required to pay into the Consolidated Fund a 'gap' payment equivalent to 3.5 per cent of salary in respect of employees who are members of the contribution scheme.

9.2 Depreciation and amortisation

(a) Depreciation

Buildings	5 270	5 056
Plant and equipment	1 220	1 245
Infrastructure	6 898	6 429
Total	13 388	12 730

(b) Amortisation

Leasehold improvements	306	281
Intangibles	426	302
Operating lease make-good provision	47	47
Total	779	630

Total depreciation and amortisation	14 167	13 360
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	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
9.3 Transfers to Administered Funds		
Transfer from Crown Land Administration Fund	6 500	5 400
Total	6 500	5 400
9.4 Grants and transfer payments		
Marine farming and wild fisheries (including industry contributions)	4 629	3 411
Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd	3 516	13 908
Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	2 904	3 701
Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens	2 704	2 460
Intensive Animal Farming Industry Development	2 561	102
Tasmania Fire Service	790	790
National Resource Management	740	1 358
Assistance Package for King Island Beef Producers	511	...
Heritage	500	342
Agriculture industry	371	382
Environmental	257	752
Caring for our Country	163	1 462
Launceston City Council	177	173
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	...	400
Other grants and transfer payments	993	1 086
Total	20 816	30 327
9.5 Supplies and consumables		
Property services	11 684	12 135
Travel and transport	9 164	9 435
Professional and other contract services	7 690	6 774
Infrastructure and building maintenance	4 288	4 198
Information technology	4 156	3 794
Administrative costs (printing, publications, office supplies)	3 295	3 567
Communications	2 208	2 220
Employee costs (training, recruitment, WHS etc)	2 189	1 565
Equipment costs (lease costs, minor purchases)	2 087	2 115
Advertising and promotions	653	583
Consultants	612	769
Audit fees – financial audit	119	115
Audit fees – internal audit	69	89
Other supplies and consumables	3 000	2 727
Total	51 214	50 086

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
9.6 Fair value of assets provided		
Assets transferred to other entities		
National Parks, Reserves and Crown Land	1 512	3 166
Total	1 512	3 166

The fair value of assets provided relates to land transferred through the Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project to Local Government.

9.7 Other expenses		
Disbursement of third party revenue collected	2 270	2 252
Covenant costs and agreement fees	2 223	90
Workers' compensation	1 406	1 317
Financial expenses	831	910
Payroll tax	...	1 366
Total	6 730	5 935

Note 10: Other economic flows included in net result

10.1 Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets		
National Parks, Reserves and Crown Land disposals	336	52
Plant and equipment disposals	10	(19)
Total net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	346	33

10.2 Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables/payables

Impairment of:		
Loans and receivables	3	(44)
Total net gain/(loss) on financial instruments	3	(44)

10.3 Change in estimate of non-financial assets

National Parks, Reserves and Crown Land write downs	(244)	(30 807)
Buildings write downs	(251)	(448)
Infrastructure write downs	(103)	(746)
Plant and equipment write downs	(64)	(11)
Leasehold improvements write downs	(41)	...
Heritage write downs	(36)	...
Total change in estimate of non-financial assets	(739)	(32 012)
Total net gain/(loss) from other economic flows	(390)	(32 023)

Note 11: Assets

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
11.1 Receivables		
Receivables	3 841	2 166
Less: Provision for impairment	(140)	(189)
Accrued revenue	262	455
GST receivable	873	481
Total	4 836	2 913
Settled within 12 months	4 836	2 913
Total	4 836	2 913
Reconciliation of movement in provision for impairment of receivables		
Carrying amount at 1 July	189	179
Amounts written off during the year	(47)	(34)
Increase/(decrease) in provision recognised in profit or loss	(2)	44
Carrying amount at 30 June	140	189
11.2 Other financial assets		
Shares in Saltas ¹	625	625
Assets held for resale ²	...	282
Loan advances	637	637
Shack-owner Assistance Scheme hardship loans	13	16
Total	1 275	1 560
Settled within 12 months	13	298
Settled in more than 12 months	1 262	1 262
Total	1 275	1 560

¹ Salmon Enterprises of Tasmania Pty Ltd (Saltas) is a private company that is involved in the production of salmon smolt. The Minister for Primary Industries and Water holds 625 000 fully paid A class preference shares. The shares carry one vote per share and the right to dividends.

² Assets held for re-sale include shares received in a bequest in 2012-13. The bequest was used specifically for the conservation management of threatened species in Tasmania. The shares were sold in 2013-14 and receipted into a specific trust account.

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
11.3 Inventories		
Inventory held for resale	773	706
Total	773	706
Settled within 12 months	773	706
Total	773	706
11.4 Property, plant and equipment		
(a) Carrying amount		
National Parks, Reserves and Crown Land		
At fair value	838 280	728 475
Total	838 280	728 475
Buildings		
At fair value	176 774	92 453
Less: Accumulated depreciation ¹	(103 158)	(14 009)
	73 616	78 444
Work in progress (at cost)	709	...
Total	74 325	78 444
Leasehold improvements		
At cost	4 989	4 407
Less: Accumulated amortisation	(3 369)	(3 150)
	1 620	1 257
Work in progress (at cost)	...	162
Total	1 620	1 419
Plant and equipment		
At cost	17 718	17 389
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(12 374)	(12 082)
	5 344	5 307
Work in progress (at cost)	156	23
Total	5 500	5 330
Heritage		
At fair value	2 135	2 171
Total	2 135	2 171
Total property, plant and equipment	921 860	815 839

Heritage assets held by the Department include collections at the following historic sites; Entally House, Highfield House, The Richmond Gaol, The Steppes Sculptures, The Kangaroo Bluff Battery, Woodvine, Maria Island and Low Head Pilot Station. These assets are not depreciated as they do not have limited useful lives due to appropriate care and conservation methods.

¹ The increase in accumulated depreciation is a result of a change in the revaluation process. From 2013-14 asset revaluations performed on a depreciated replacement cost basis are disclosed on a gross basis. Asset revaluations based on a market basis have been disclosed on a net basis.

(b) Reconciliation of movements (including fair value levels)

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below. Carrying value means the net amount after deducting accumulated depreciation.

2014	Crown Land Level 2 (non- specialised)	National Parks, Reserves & Crown Land Level 3 (specialised)	Buildings Level 2 (non- specialised)	Buildings Level 3 (specialised)	Leasehold Improve- ments	Plant & equipment	Heritage Level 2 (non- specialised)	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying value at 1 July	35 462	693 013	6 977	71 467	1 419	5 330	2 171	815 839
Additions	...	...	...	925	434	1 539	...	2 898
Additions Forestry Tasmania transition ¹	...	120 238	...	1 446	...	...	...	121 684
Additions Integrated Tasmanian Government Contact Centre	...	...	...	...	114	...	...	114
Fair value of assets recognised ²	5 100	15 769	...	320	...	...	...	21 189
Disposals	...	(2 912)	...	(91)	...	(85)	...	(3 088)
Fair value of assets provided	...	(1 512)	...	...	...	...	...	(1 512)
Change in estimates	...	(244)	...	(251)	(41)	(64)	(36)	(636)
Revaluation increments (decrements)	188	(26 822)	1 182	(2 380)	...	...	...	(27 832)
Depreciation/amortisation	...	...	(661)	(4 609)	(306)	(1 220)	...	(6 796)
Carrying value at 30 June	40 750	797 530	7 498	66 827	1 620	5 500	2 135	921 860

¹ The additions from the Forestry Tasmania transition includes 317 280 hectares of land and buildings now managed by the Department via the Parks and Wildlife Service as a result of the *Forest Management Act 2013* and the *Tasmanian Forests Agreement Act 2013*. Refer Note 2.8(a) for further information.

² The fair value of assets recognised of \$5.1 million and \$15.769 million are represented by the fair value of Crown Land recognised (CLAF and CLAC) of \$3.487 million and the fair value of Crown Land recognised of \$17.382 million. Refer to Note 8.6 for further information.

(b) Reconciliation of movements

2013	National Parks, Reserves & Crown Land	Buildings	Leasehold Improvements	Plant & equipment	Heritage	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying value at 1 July	755 409	80 192	1 538	5 187	2 171	844 497
Additions	...	128	162	1 423	...	1 713
Fair value of assets recognised	19 403	930	...	...	...	20 333
Disposals	(8 660)	(172)	...	(24)	...	(8 856)
Fair value of assets provided	(3 166)	...	...	...	...	(3 166)
Change in estimates	(30 807)	(448)	...	(11)	...	(31 266)
Revaluation increments	(3 704)	2 870	...	...	...	(834)
Depreciation/amortisation	...	(5 056)	(281)	(1 245)	...	(6 582)
Carrying value at 30 June	728 475	78 444	1 419	5 330	2 171	815 839

The change in estimates in National Parks, Reserves and Crown Land is attributable to land that had been transferred in prior financial years. The transfers, with a total value of \$30.807 million, were predominantly at no cost through transfer to Councils or other government related entities.

(c) Level 3 significant valuation inputs and relationship to fair value

Description	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs	Range (weighted average)	Sensitivity of fair value measurement to changes in significant unobservable inputs
Land (specialised)	Market	Discount	20 - 80% (25%)	A significant increase or decrease in the discount adjustment would result in a significantly lower (higher) fair value
Buildings (specialised)	Depreciated replacement cost	Remaining useful life (years)	7 - 62 years (19 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated remaining useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.

(d) Assets where current use is not the highest and best use

In determining fair value it is a requirement to have regard to the highest and best use which is the most economic use that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible, and is determined from the perspective of market participants. Government policy is a legislative barrier for the purposes of highest and best use. As a result, the highest and best use of all property, plant and equipment is their existing use.

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
11.5 Infrastructure		
(a) Carrying amount		
At fair value	191 582	160 651
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(17 358)	(10 581)
	174 224	150 070
Work in progress at cost	7 959	4 624
Total	182 183	154 694
(b) Reconciliation of movements (including fair value levels)		
	2014 Level 3 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Carrying value at 1 July	154 694	154 856
Additions	5 786	3 439
Additions Forestry Tasmania transition	27 863	...
Disposals	(93)	...
Fair value of assets recognised	93	...
Change in estimates write downs	(103)	(746)
Revaluation increments (decrements)	841	3 574
Depreciation	(6 898)	(6 429)
Carrying value at 30 June	182 183	154 694

The additions from the Forestry Tasmania transition represent infrastructure assets (walking tracks, roads and other infrastructure) now managed by the Department via the Parks and Wildlife Service as a result of the *Forest Management Act 2013* and the *Tasmanian Forests Agreement Act 2013*. Refer to Note 2.8(a) for further information.

It is estimated that 1 551 km of road network is on the transferred land now under the management of the Department. Only 167.4 km of the extensive road network has been captured, valued and recognised in 2013-14. The remainder of the road network will be captured, valued and recognised in 2014-15.

(c) Level 3 significant valuation inputs and relationship to fair value

Description	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs	Range (<i>weighted average</i>) ¹	Sensitivity of fair value measurement to changes in significant unobservable inputs
Infrastructure – walking track	Depreciated replacement cost	Gross cost per linear metre	\$30 - \$300 (\$92)	A significant increase or decrease in the cost per linear metre would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value.
		Remaining useful life (condition assessment)	5 - 47.5 years (30 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated remaining useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.

Description	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs	Range (weighted average) ¹	Sensitivity of fair value measurement to changes in significant unobservable inputs
Infrastructure – road network	Depreciated replacement cost	Gross cost per linear metre	\$74 - \$715 (\$165)	A significant increase or decrease in the cost per linear metre would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value.
		Remaining useful life (condition assessment)	8.5 - 47.5 years (30 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated remaining useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Infrastructure – fire trails	Depreciated replacement cost	Gross cost per linear metre	\$112 - \$173 (\$122)	A significant increase or decrease in the gross cost per linear metre would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value.
		Remaining useful life (condition assessment)	8.5 - 47.5 years (23 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated remaining useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Infrastructure - Other	Depreciated replacement cost	Remaining useful life (condition assessment)	2 – 86 years (33 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated remaining useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.

¹ Rates used in last revaluation as at 30 June 2012. All infrastructure is indexed to fair value in between years based on indices provided by Liquid Pacific Pty Ltd.

(d) Assets where current use is not the highest and best use

In determining fair value it is a requirement to have regard to the highest and best use which is the most economic use that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible, and is determined from the perspective of market participants. Government policy is a legislative barrier for the purposes of highest and best use. As a result, the highest and best use of all infrastructure is their existing use.

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
11.6 Intangibles		
(a) Carrying amount		
Intangibles with a finite useful life		
At cost	5 304	3 457
Less: Accumulated amortisation	(2 797)	(2 887)
	2 507	570
Intangibles with an infinite useful life		
At fair value	6 400	...
	6 400	...
Work in progress	986	2 326
Total	9 893	2 896

(b) Reconciliation of movements (including fair value levels)

	2014 Level 1	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying value at 1 July	...	2 896	1 546
Additions	...	1 023	1 652
Fair value of assets recognised ¹	6 400	...	...
Depreciation and amortisation	...	(426)	(302)
Carrying value at 30 June	6 400	3 493	2 896

¹ The fair value of intangibles recognised relates to the abalone quota units transferred to the Department. The units have been valued and recognised this financial year. Each unit has been recorded with an indefinite useful life, as there is no foreseeable limit to the period over which the units are expected to generate income for the Department. Refer to Note 8.6 for further information.

11.7 Other non-financial assets

Grange Resources debt agreement	9 148	9 121
Prepayments	1 247	1 292
Operating lease make-good	164	202
Total	10 559	10 615
Settled within 12 months	2 374	1 764
Settled within more than 12 months	8 185	8 851
Total	10 559	10 615

Note 12: Liabilities

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
12.1 Payables		
Creditors	1 604	1 375
Accrued expenses	958	937
Total	2 562	2 312

Settled within 12 months	2 562	2 312
Total	2 562	2 312

Settlement of payables is usually made within 30 days

12.2 Employee benefits

Accrued salaries	3 411	2 883
Annual leave	8 688	8 373
Long service leave	20 024	17 919
Total	32 123	29 175

Expected to settle wholly within 12 months	13 170	12 137
Expected to settle wholly after 12 months	18 953	17 038
Total	32 123	29 175

12.3 Provisions

(a) Carrying amount

Provision for Grange Resources debt agreement	9 148	9 121
Operating lease make-good	445	438
Provision for State Service Accumulated Leave Scheme (SSALS)	127	157
Total	9 720	9 716

Settled within 12 months	1 208	628
Settled in more than 12 months	8 512	9 088
Total	9 720	9 716

(b) Reconciliation of movements in provisions

	Grange debt agreement		Operating lease make-good		SSALS		Voluntary separations		Total Provision	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at 1 July	9 121	9 153	438	423	157	...	...	110	9 716	9 686
Increases	268	239	7	15	31	157	...	...	306	411
Charges	(241)	(271)	...	...	(61)	...	...	(110)	(302)	(381)
Balance at 30 June	9 148	9 121	445	438	127	157	...	...	9 720	9 716

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
12.4 Other liabilities		
Appropriation carried forward from current year under Section 8A(2) of the <i>Public Account Act 1986</i>	2 555	4 065
Other revenue received in advance	3 609	361
Environmental bonds	2 984	2 975
Employee benefit on costs	402	311
Other liabilities	279	144
Total	9 829	7 856
Settled within 12 months	6 578	4 678
Settled in more than 12 months	3 251	3 178
Total	9 829	7 856

Note 13: Commitments and Contingencies

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
13.1 Schedule of Commitments		
By Type		
Capital commitments		
Infrastructure	4 654	2 800
Equipment	57	78
Total capital commitments	4 711	2 878
Lease commitments		
Operating leases	46 226	54 965
Total lease commitments	46 226	54 965
By Maturity		
Capital commitments		
One year or less	4 711	2 878
Total capital commitments	4 711	2 878
Lease commitments		
One year or less	10 400	10 683
From one to five years	26 962	34 045
Over five years	8 864	10 237
Total lease commitments	46 226	54 965
Total	50 937	57 843

Capital commitments

Capital commitments include contracts with a value of \$50 000 and above. Capital payments are determined by the value of the contract and the timing of the completion of the work.

Operating lease commitments

Properties

Property lease payments are determined by the price per square metre of the leased area as agreed in the lease documents.

Terms of leases are set for specific periods with options to extend in most instances.

Leases contain provision for price rates to be adjusted in accordance with market rates. Adjustments are normally made after each two years of the agreement, although periods may vary.

Lease agreements do not contain provision for purchase on cessation.

Lease agreements have been reviewed for make-good provisions. Where appropriate the make-good provision has been recognised refer to Notes 11.7 and 12.3 for further information.

Motor vehicles

The Government Motor Vehicle fleet is managed by Lease Plan Australia.

Lease payments vary according to the type of vehicle and where applicable the price received for replaced vehicles.

Lease terms are for a maximum of three years or specific kilometres, whichever occurs first, with no change to the lease rate.

No restrictions or purchase options are contained in the lease agreements.

13.2 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet due to uncertainty regarding the amount or timing of the underlying claim or obligation.

(a) Quantifiable Contingent liabilities

There are a number of compensation claims from land owners under the affected owner's provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. Claims arise from either the rejection or amendment of a forest practices plan in order to protect threatened species or threatened native vegetation. Based on applications that have had independent valuations undertaken as part of the assessment process, the liability to the Department at the end of 2013-14 is estimated to be \$2.254 million (2013: \$4.404 million). The Conservation Compensation Committee considers the independent valuations in conjunction with a submission from the applicant before making a recommendation on compensation to the Minister in accordance with legislative requirements. There are two claims that have been accepted by the claimant but are subject to covenants being finalised.

(b) Unquantifiable Contingent liabilities

There is a further compensation claim that has been accepted in addition to those mentioned above from land owners under the affected owner's provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* that is currently being assessed. There is also further possible future compensation claims. Compensation claims will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The Department is responsible for the management of Crown land. A number of these sites may be contaminated and require restoration.

There has been an examination of the legal proceedings in which the Department is involved. At the end of 2013-14 there were 41 (2013: 62) legal proceedings in progress for which the Department was exposed to an estimated maximum liability of \$2 378 500 (2013: \$1 871 500). Where applicable, claims will be met by the Tasmanian Risk Management Fund. The estimates do not include matters that are the subject of claims dealt with under the Tasmanian Risk Management Fund for workers compensation.

(c) Quantifiable Contingent assets

Crown Lands Assessment and Classification Project (CLAC)

The Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project (CLAC) includes the process of reclassifying 350 parcels (approximately 70 000 hectares) from general crown land to conservation areas. The Parks and Wildlife Service is the major land holder who has approximately 2.8 million hectares of land in total. The land to be reclassified is therefore approximately only 2.5 per cent of the total land held.

No parcels were proclaimed in 2013-14.

There is a balance of 131 parcels (approximately 15 841 hectares) to be progressively proclaimed.

(d) Unquantifiable Contingent assets

The proposed *Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Bill 2014* legislation will convert 398 450 hectares of Future Reserve Land (FRL) and 40 hectares of non-FRL, to Crown land to be known as future potential production forest (FPPF) land. It is proposed that this land will be administered through Crown Land Services. This is expected to occur in the first half of 2014-15. The area of future reserve land already proclaimed and transferred to the Department as reserves will not change status. The FPPF Land may not be sold, but it can be leased. Land may be exchanged between FPPF Land and Permanent Timber Production Zone (PTPZ) Land with the approval of parliament.

After April 2020, FPPF Land may be converted to PTPZ Land with the approval of parliament, to enable native forest harvesting. The legislation requires that future reservation of PTPZ Land or FPPF Land will need a two-thirds majority of both Houses of Parliament.

As a result of the uncertainty surrounding the future land conversion, the Department will not value or recognise the FPPF Land, and any built asset on the land, until administrative responsibility is legislatively transferred to the Department.

Refer to Note 2.8(a) for further information.

Note 14: Reserves

14.1 Physical asset revaluation reserve

2014	National Parks, Reserves & Crown Land	Buildings	Infra- structure	Plant	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Asset revaluation reserve					
Balance at the beginning of financial year	157 311	28 176	92 005	2 819	280 311
Revaluation increments / (decrements)	(26 634)	(1 198)	841	...	(26 991)
Reversal of impairment losses	...	...	...	...	...
Transfers to accumulated surplus	...	...	...	...	...
Balance at end of financial year	130 677	26 978	92 846	2 819	253 320
2013	National Parks, Reserves & Crown Land	Buildings	Infra- structure	Plant	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Asset revaluation reserve					
Balance at the beginning of financial year	161 015	25 306	88 431	2 819	277 571
Revaluation increments / (decrements)	(3 704)	2 870	3 574	...	2 740
Reversal of impairment losses	...	...	...	...	...
Transfers to accumulated surplus	...	...	...	...	...
Balance at end of financial year	157 311	28 176	92 005	2 819	280 311

(a) Nature and purpose of reserves

Asset revaluation reserve

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets as described in Notes 2.11(c) and 2.12(f)(v).

14.2 Transactions by the Government as Owner

(a) Forestry Tasmania transition

In 2013 new forestry legislation resulted in a significant increase in the area of reserve lands to be managed by the Department via the Parks and Wildlife Service. Refer to Note 2.8(a) for further information.

The net book values of assets and liabilities transferred to the Department from Forestry Tasmania, via the Department of Treasury and Finance, for no consideration and recognised as at the date of transfer were:

	2014
	\$'000
Net assets assumed on transition	
Reserved land (forest reserves non-commercial zones) and future reserve land (state forest)	120 238
Built assets on transferred reserve land and future reserve land	29 309
Total assets recognised	149 547
Employee benefits	622
Employee benefit on costs	20
Total liabilities recognised	642
Net assets (liabilities) assumed on transition	148 905

(b) Administrative Restructuring

As a result of the *State Service (Restructuring) Order 2014* made under section 11 of the *State Service Act 2000*, the Department assumed responsibility for the Integrated Tasmanian Government Contact Centre on 10 April 2014 from the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

In respect of activities assumed, the net book values of assets and liabilities transferred to the Department from the Department of Premier and Cabinet for no consideration and recognised as at the date of transfer were:

	2014
	\$'000
Net assets assumed on restructure	
Leasehold improvements	114
Total assets recognised	114
Employee benefits	114
Other liabilities	2
Total liabilities recognised	116
Net assets (liabilities) assumed on restructure	(2)

Note 15: Cash Flow Reconciliation

Cash and deposits includes the balance of the Special Deposits and Trust Fund accounts held by the Department, and other cash held, excluding those accounts which are administered or held in a trustee capacity or agency arrangement.

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
15.1 Cash and deposits		
Special Deposits and Trust Fund balance		
Regional forest agreement (T115) ¹	2 989	3 568
DPIPWE operating account (T512) ²	52 092	51 849
Crown Land administration fund (T635) ³	28 700	27 304
Valuation services (T643) ⁴	1 526	734
Water infrastructure (T711) ⁵	...	2 532
Environmental Incident (T743)	230	173
Parks Development and Maintenance (T750) ⁶	1 293	646
Apple and pear industry research and development (T753)	109	191
Recreational fishing licences trust fund (T804)	694	732
Service Tasmania account (T814)	625	459
Total	88 258	88 188
Other cash held		
This represents the balance of cash accounts, other than those held in the Special Deposits and Trust Fund, excluding those accounts which are administered or held in a trustee capacity or agency arrangement.	459	292
Total cash and deposits	88 717	88 480

Explanation for significant cash and deposit balances for 2013-14

¹ This balance represents Australian Government funds held for delivery of the Private Forests Reserves Program under the Regional Forest Agreement.

² This is the Department's general operating accounts and balances consisting of Australian Government, industry and other funds which are used to finance various projects in the Agency.

³ The Crown Lands Administration Fund (CLAF) was created under the *Crown Lands Act 1976*, section 48B. Payments and receipts into the fund are prescribed within the Act. Any payments not specifically prescribed require approval from the Treasurer. There is an annual transfer from the CLAF into Consolidated Fund revenue, the amount of which is determined by the Treasurer.

⁴ The Valuation Services fund records receipts and payments of activities undertaken by the Office of the Valuer-General. The increase in 2013-14 was due to an increase in valuations undertaken on behalf of Government agencies and local councils.

⁵ The Water Infrastructure Fund (WIF) was created in 2007-08 to enable major investment in Tasmania's water infrastructure. \$80.0 million of State funds was provided to fund the WIF. The State also received Commonwealth contributions for the WIF through the Australian Government's Water for the Future Program. The balance of funds in the WIF were utilised in 2013-14 for funding operational grants to Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd and equity contributions to major irrigation infrastructure projects. The Treasurer approved release of these funds.

⁶ The Parks Development and Maintenance fund records receipts and payments of activities undertaken by the Parks and Wildlife Service for the management of Tasmania's national parks. The increase in 2013-14 was due to a higher volume of visitors into Tasmania's national parks.

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
15.2 Reconciliation of Net Result to Net Cash from Operating Activities			
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		51 364	17 410
Non-operational capital funding	7	(40 558)	(27 640)
Fair value of assets recognised	8.6	(27 682)	(20 333)
Depreciation and amortisation	9.2	14 167	13 360
Fair value of assets provided	9.6	1 512	3 166
Decrease (increase) in receivables		(1 921)	722
Decrease (increase) in other financial assets		285	282
Decrease (increase) in inventories		(65)	(45)
Decrease (increase) in non-financial assets		6	(391)
Increase (decrease) in payables		249	397
Increase (decrease) in provisions		4	62
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities		1 463	3 825
Increase (decrease) in employee benefits		2 190	100
Net cash from (used by) operating activities		1 014	(9 085)

15.3 Acquittal of Special Capital Investment and Capital Investment Funds

The Department received works and services appropriation funding, revenues from the Special Capital Investment Fund and the Water Infrastructure Fund to fund specific projects.

Cash outflows relating to these projects are listed below by category.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
(a) Project expenditure			
Special Capital Investment Funds (SCIF)			
(a) Water Infrastructure Fund			
Water Infrastructure Initiatives	38 839	38 200	36 551
Total Water Infrastructure Fund	38 839	38 200	36 551
(b) Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund			
<i>Completed Projects</i>			
North East Tasmania Camping Infrastructure	...	...	197
Total Urban Renewal and Heritage Fund	...	...	197
(c) Infrastructure Tasmania Fund			
<i>Completed Projects</i>			
Spatial Information Foundations Project	800	800	1 933
Off-Road Vehicle and Track Management	...	...	257
<i>On-going Projects</i>			
Coastal Walk at Arthur River ¹	...	82	75
Total Infrastructure Tasmania Fund	800	882	2 265

	2014	2014	2013
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital Investment Programs (CIP)			
(a) Three Capes Track ²	6 700	4 056	2 180
(b) Crown Land Services – Structural Asset Upgrades	556	556	556
(c) Cockle Creek Bridge ³	...	90	...
Total Capital Investment Programs	7 256	4 702	2 736
Total Acquittal of SCIF and CIP		43 784	41 749

Explanation for significant variations between budget figures and actual figures for 2013-14

¹ The variance between budget and actual expenditure on the Coastal Walk at Arthur River Project is due to changes in the timing of project expenditure and does not reflect any overall changes in the total budget of the project.

² The under expenditure on the Three Capes Track is due to a longer than anticipated tender negotiation period for track construction and delays on the track work due to poor weather conditions. The change does not reflect any overall changes to the total budget for this program.

³ There was no budget for the Cockle Creek bridge as additional funding was provided to the Department during 2013-14 to construct a replacement bridge at Cockle Creek.

(b) Classification of cash flows

The Project expenditure above is reflected in the Statement of Cash Flows as follows:

	2014	2013
	Actual	Actual
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash outflows		
Equity contribution to Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd	35 668	23 292
Other cash payments	3 170	14 921
Payments for acquisition of non-financial assets	4 946	3 536
Total cash outflows	43 784	41 749

Note 16: Financial Instruments

16.1 Risk Exposure

(a) Risk management policies

The Department has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- credit risk;
- liquidity risk; and
- market risk.

The Head of Agency has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Department's risk management framework. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse risks facing the Department, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits.

(b) Credit risk exposures

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Department if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. No changes have been made to credit risk policy and methods from the previous year.

Financial Instrument	Accounting and strategic policies (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and conditions affecting the amount. Timing and certainty of cash flows)
Receivables	Credit risk in relation to debtors is managed through internal policies and procedures governing both the manner and timeframes of the recovery of overdue debts. Receivables that are neither past due nor impaired are considered to be of sound credit quality.	The Department offers 30 day terms of trade.
Shack-owner Assistance Scheme hardship loans	Credit risk arising from the Shack-owner Assistance Scheme loans is mitigated through the Department holding registered mortgages over real property as security for the full amount of the debts owed. Loans that are neither past due nor impaired are considered to be of sound credit quality.	The financial instruments are standard principal and interest loans at a variable interest rate. Collateral is held in the form of registered mortgages over real property.
Cash and deposits	The Department's cash is managed on a Whole of Government basis by the Department of Treasury and Finance. In addition to this the Department manages cash outflows through ensuring all payments are made in accordance with creditor terms	Cash means notes, coins and deposits held at call.

Except as detailed in the following table, the carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the Financial Statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the Department's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking into account any collateral or other security:

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Mortgages over real property	38	57
Total	38	57

The following tables analyse financial assets that are past due but not impaired:

Analysis of financial assets as at 30 June 2014 but not impaired

	Not past due \$'000	Past due 30 days \$'000	Past due 90 days \$'000	Past due 180 days \$'000	Total \$'000
Receivables	1 794	1 491	241	315	3 841

Analysis of financial assets as at 30 June 2013 but not impaired

	Not past due \$'000	Past due 30 days \$'000	Past due 90 days \$'000	Past due 180 days \$'000	Total \$'000
Receivables	1 306	336	195	329	2 166

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Department will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Department's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due. No changes have been made to the liquidity risk policy and methods from the previous year.

Financial Instrument	Accounting and strategic policies (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and conditions affecting the amount. Timing and certainty of cash flows)
Payables	The Department's liquidity is managed on a Whole of Government basis by the Department of Treasury and Finance. The Department uses the Annual Budget to assist in liquidity management. In addition to this the Department manages cash outflows through ensuring all payments are made in accordance with creditor terms	The Department has negotiated 30 day terms of trade with the majority of its suppliers.
Other Financial Liabilities	One major component is the appropriation carried forward from current and previous years under section 8A(2) of the <i>Public Account Act 1986</i> The other major component is an Environmental Bond. It relates to specific work to be completed.	Appropriation carried forward from current and previous years. The interest is repayable per terms of the agreement.

The following tables detail the undiscounted cash flows payable by the Department by remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities. It should be noted that as these are undiscounted, totals may not reconcile to the carrying amounts presented in the Statement of Financial Position.

2014

Maturity analysis for financial liabilities

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	More than 5 years	Undiscounted total	Carrying amount
Financial Liabilities								
Payables	2 562	...	...	...	...	...	2 562	2 562
Other financial liabilities	279	...	...	...	...	2 984	3 263	3 263
Total	2 841	...	...	...	...	2 984	5 825	5 825

2013

Maturity analysis for financial liabilities

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	More than 5 years	Undiscounted total	Carrying amount
Financial Liabilities								
Payables	2 312	...	...	...	...	...	2 312	2 312
Other financial liabilities	144	2 934	...	...	...	41	3 119	3 119
Total	2 456	2 934	...	...	...	41	5 431	5 431

(d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The primary market risk that the Department is exposed to is interest rate risk. No changes have been made to the market risk policy and methods from the previous year.

The Department's exposure to interest rate risk is considered immaterial. Minimisation of this risk is achieved by mainly undertaking non-interest bearing financial instruments. The majority of the Department's interest bearing financial instruments are managed by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

At the reporting date the interest rate profile of the Department's interest bearing financial instruments was:

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Variable rate instruments		
<i>Financial assets</i>		
Cash in Special Deposits and Trust Funds	26 949	27 910
Shack owner Assistance Scheme hardship loans	38	57
Total	26 987	27 967

Changes in variable rates of 100 basis points at reporting date would have the following effect on the Department's profit or loss and equity:

Sensitivity analysis of Department's exposure to possible changes in interest rates

	Profit or Loss		Equity	
	100 basis point increase \$'000	100 basis point decrease \$'000	100 basis point increase \$'000	100 basis point decrease \$'000
30 June 2014				
Cash in Special Deposits and Trust Funds	269	(269)	269	(269)
Net sensitivity	269	(269)	269	(269)
30 June 2013				
Cash in Special Deposits and Trust Funds	279	(279)	279	(279)
Shack owner Assistance Scheme loans	1	(1)	1	(1)
Net sensitivity	280	(280)	280	(280)

The analysis assumes all other variables remain constant. The analysis was performed on the same basis in the 2012-13 year.

16.2 Categories of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets		
Cash and deposits	88 717	88 480
Loans and receivables	3 854	2 182
Available-for-sale financial assets	625	907
Total	93 196	91 569
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	5 825	5 425
Total	5 825	5 425

16.3 Reclassification of Financial Assets

The Department has made no reclassification of financial assets during the 2013-14 year.

16.4 De-recognition of Financial Assets

The Department did not derecognise any financial assets during the 2013-14 year.

16.5 Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

2014

	Net Fair Value Level 1 \$'000	Net Fair Value Level 2 \$'000	Net Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Net Fair Value Total \$'000
Financial assets				
Loans	13	13
Shares	625	625
Total financial assets	638	638
Financial liabilities (recognised)				
Other financial liabilities/bonds etc	2 984	2 984
Total financial liabilities (recognised)	2 984	2 984

16.5 Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

2013

	Net Fair Value Level 1 \$'000	Net Fair Value Level 2 \$'000	Net Fair Value Level 3 \$'000	Net Fair Value Total \$'000
Financial assets				
Loans	16	16
Shares	907	907
Total financial assets	923	923
Financial liabilities (recognised)				
Other financial liabilities/bonds etc	2 975	2 975
Total financial liabilities (recognised)	2 975	2 975

The Department uses various methods in estimating the fair value of financial instruments. The methods comprise:

Level 1 – the fair value is calculated using quoted prices in active markets;

Level 2 – the fair value is estimated using inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (as prices) or indirectly (derived from prices); and

Level 3 – the fair value is estimated using inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data.

16.6 Comparison between Carrying Amount and Net Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Financial Assets

The net fair values of cash and non-interest bearing monetary financial assets approximate their carrying amounts.

Financial Liabilities

The net fair values of trade creditors and other liabilities are approximated by their carrying amounts.

Note 17: Notes to Administered Statements

17.1 Explanations of Material Variances between Budget and Actual Outcomes

The following are brief explanations of material variances between budget estimates and actual outcomes. Variances are considered material where the variance exceeds 10 per cent of the original budget estimate and \$250 000.

(a) Schedule of Administered Income and Expenses

There are no material variances between budget and actual outcomes.

(b) Schedule of Administered Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
Assets					
Receivables	(a)	4 970	3 331	(1 639)	(33)
Liabilities					
Payables	(b)	4 534	3 336	(1 198)	(26)
Other liabilities	(c)	436	128	(308)	(71)

Notes to Schedule of Assets and Liabilities variances

- (a) The decrease in receivables is a result of the budget reflecting an overestimate based on historical data.
- (b) Payables represent a notional transfer due to the Consolidated Fund for accrued revenue as at 30 June. The decrease in payables reflects the corresponding impact of the decrease in receivables.
- (c) The decrease in other liabilities is a result of the budget reflecting an overestimate based on historical data.

(c) Schedule of Administered Cash Flows

There are no material variances between budget and actual outcomes.

17.2 Administered Revenue from Government

Administered revenue from Government includes revenue from appropriations, appropriations carried forward under section 8A(2) of the *Public Account Act 1986* and Items Reserved by Law.

The Budget information is based on original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

	2014 Budget \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	2013 Actual \$'000
Appropriation revenue – recurrent			
Current year	12 406	12 406	9 407
Total revenue from Government	12 406	12 406	9 407

17.3 Administered Grants

Other Grants

Other	...	133
Total	...	133

Total revenue from Grants

...	133
-----	------------

17.4 Administered Fees and fines

Land Titles Office dealings	8 201	6 849
Lands Titles Office copies	5 384	5 269
Lands Titles Office other	1 665	1 566
Abalone licences	5 908	5 775
Environment permits	4 152	4 069
Other marine licences	4 047	4 117
Water royalties	3 975	4 098
Quarantine fees	2 635	2 569
Other fees	1 352	1 470
Total	37 319	35 782

17.5 Administered Transfers from Controlled Funds

Crown Land Administration Fund transfer	6 500	5 400
Total	6 500	5 400

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
17.6 Administered Grants and transfer payments		
Grant to the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies ¹	2 605	2 605
Grant to the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture ²	1 958	1 958
Grant to the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority ³	6 174	3 262
Inland Fisheries Service – Government contribution ⁴	1 089	1 135
Wellington Park contribution ⁵	110	110
Contribution to Commonwealth, State and industry organisations ⁶	470	470
Total	12 406	9 540

¹ In 2010, the Department entered into the Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration Agreement with the University of Tasmania's Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) to assist aquaculture and fisheries research. The Government provides its contribution to the joint venture by way of an annual grant. Activities of IMAS contribute to Output Group 2 – Primary Industries.

² The Department and the University of Tasmania have an agreement in place for the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) to undertake agricultural research, development, extension and education. The activities of TIA contribute to Output 2 – Primary Industries and the majority of Government funding is reflected in that Output. The remaining funding is provided by way of an administered grant.

³ This funding represents the Government's contribution to the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority to support the agreed conservation funding program for the Port Arthur, Coal Mines and Cascade Female Factory Historic Sites. The increase in funding in 2013-14 reflects a one-off funding allocation of \$3.0 million to be applied to the structural stabilisation works for the Penitentiary Precinct building.

⁴ This contribution is linked to Output Group 3 – Resource Management and Conservation. It represents the community service functions of the Inland Fisheries Service (IFS) in relation to the conservation, protection and management of Tasmania's native freshwater fauna and the carp management program.

⁵ This allocation represents the Government's contribution to the cost of administering Wellington Park through a grant to the Wellington Park Management Trust.

⁶ This funding is the State contribution to cost sharing arrangements as agreed at meetings of the Agriculture Ministers' Forum, and in relation to nationally agreed initiatives, particularly for biosecurity programs and projects. The funding contributes to activities under Output Group 2 – Primary Industries, Output Group 3 – Resource Management and Conservation, and Output 6 – Biosecurity Tasmania.

17.7 Administered Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables/payables

Impairment of statutory receivables	102	(173)
Total net gain/(loss) on financial instruments	102	(173)

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
17.8 Administered Receivables		
Receivables	1 547	1 830
Less: Provision for impairment	(160)	(284)
Accrued Revenue	1 944	1 881
Total	3 331	3 427
Settled within 12 months	3 331	3 367
Settled in more than 12 months	...	60
Total	3 331	3 427
Reconciliation of movement in provision for impairment of administered receivables		
Carrying amount at 1 July	284	154
Amount written off during the year	(22)	(43)
Increase/(decrease) in provision recognised in profit or loss	(102)	173
Carrying amount at 30 June	160	284
17.9 Administered Payables		
Accrued expenses (accrued transfers to the Consolidated Fund)	3 336	3 362
Total	3 336	3 362
Due within 12 months	3 336	3 362
Total	3 336	3 362
17.10 Administered Other liabilities		
Licence fees received in advance	128	195
Total	128	195
Due within 12 months	124	195
Due in more than 12 months	4	...
Total	128	195

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
17.11 Administered Cash and deposits		
Cash held	133	130
Total	133	130

This represents the balance of cash accounts, other than those held in the Special Deposits and Trust Fund, excluding those accounts held in a trustee capacity or agency arrangement.

17.12 Reconciliation of Administered Net Result to Net Cash from Administered Operating Activities

Net Result	(102)	173
Decrease (increase) in receivables	198	1 066
Increase (decrease) in payables	(26)	(1 190)
Increase (decrease) in revenue received in advance	(67)	(105)
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	3	(56)

17.13 Financial Instruments (Administered)

(a) Risk management policies

The Department has exposure in the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- credit risk;
- liquidity risk; and
- market risk.

The Head of Agency has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Department's risk management framework. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse risks faced by the Department, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits.

(b) Credit risk exposures

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Department if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. No changes have been made to the credit risk policy and methods from the previous year.

The Department does not hold any collateral or other security over administered financial assets.

Financial Instrument	Accounting and strategic policies (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and conditions affecting the amount. Timing and certainty of cash flows)
Receivables	Credit risk in relation to debtors is managed through internal policies and procedures governing both the manner and timeframes of the recovery of overdue debts. Receivables that are neither past due nor impaired are considered to be of sound credit quality.	The Department offers 30 day terms of trade.

The following tables analyse financial assets that are past due but not impaired:

Analysis of administered financial assets as at 30 June 2014 but not impaired

	Not Past due \$'000	Past due 30 days \$'000	Past due 90 days \$'000	Past due 180 days \$'000	Total \$'000
Receivables	848	173	166	360	1 547

Analysis of administered financial assets as at 30 June 2013 but not impaired

	Not Past due \$'000	Past due 30 days \$'000	Past due 90 days \$'000	Past due 180 days \$'000	Total \$'000
Receivables	1 036	202	184	408	1 830

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Department will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Department's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due. No changes have been made to the liquidity risk policy and methods from the previous year.

Financial Instrument	Accounting and strategic policies (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and conditions affecting the amount. Timing and certainty of cash flows)
Payables	The Department's liquidity is managed on a Whole of Government basis by the Department of Treasury and Finance. The Department uses the Annual Budget to assist in liquidity management. In addition to this the Department manages cash outflows through ensuring all payments are made in accordance with creditor terms.	The Department has negotiated 30 day terms of trade with the majority of its suppliers.

The following tables detail the undiscounted cash flows payable by the Department by remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities. It should be noted that as these are undiscounted, totals may not reconcile to the carrying amounts presented in the balance sheet.

2014

Maturity analysis for financial liabilities

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	More than 5 years	Undiscounted total	Carrying amount
Financial Liabilities								
Payables	3 336	...	...	...	...	...	3 336	3 336
Total	3 336	...	...	...	...	...	3 336	3 336

2013

Maturity analysis for financial liabilities

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years	More than 5 years	Undiscounted total	Carrying amount
Financial Liabilities								
Payables	3 362	...	...	...	...	...	3 362	3 362
Total	3 362	...	...	...	...	...	3 362	3 362

(d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The primary market risk that the Department is exposed to is interest rate risk. At the reporting date the Department did not hold any administered interest bearing financial instruments.

17.14 Categories of Administered Financial Assets and Liabilities

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Administered financial assets		
Loans and receivables	1 547	1 830
Total	1 547	1 830
Administered financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	...	...
Total	...	...

17.15 Reclassification of Administered Financial Assets

The Department has made no reclassification of administered financial assets during the 2013-14 year.

17.16 De-recognition of Administered Financial Assets

The Department did not derecognise any administered financial assets during the 2013-14 year.

17.17 Comparison between Carrying Amount and Net Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

Administered Financial Assets

The net fair values of cash, receivables and non-interest bearing monetary financial assets approximate their carrying amounts.

Administered Financial Liabilities

The net fair values for trade creditors are approximated by their carrying amounts.

Note 18: Transactions and Balances Relating to a Trustee or Agency Arrangement

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue collected through <i>Service Tasmania</i> branches	(181 606)	(194 637)
Revenue forwarded to other entities	181 606	194 637
Total	...	...
<i>Service Tasmania</i> Bank Account	263	82
Total	263	82

Service Tasmania provides the public with a shopfront to pay invoices from a number of different agencies and councils. Funds collected through *Service Tasmania* are forwarded to each agency or council. These are outside of the Department's control and outside of the Budget process.

Council Certificate revenue collected	3 616	3 035
Council Certificate revenue forwarded to Councils	3 616	3 035
Total	...	...

In line with the concept of materiality contained in *AASB 1031 Materiality*, transactions in relation to the independent bodies, the Tasmanian Dairy Industry Authority and the Tasmanian Heritage Council have not been eliminated from the Department's Financial Statements.

Glossary

AAD	Australian Antarctic Division
AAQ	Ambient Air Quality
AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
AASs	Australian Accounting Standards
ABR	Australian Business Register
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACDC	Assessment Committee for Dam Construction
ACSSC	Australian Convict Sites Steering Committee
ADW Guidelines	Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
AEC	Animal Ethics Committee
AGMIN	Agricultural Minister's Forum
AGT	AgriGrowth Tasmania Division
AHC	Australian Heritage Council
AHR	Aboriginal Heritage Register
AHT	Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
ALA	Atlas of Living Australia
ANU	Australian National University
APCA	Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area
ASCHEM	Agricultural, Silvicultural and Veterinary Chemicals Council
AST	Analytical Services Tasmania
ATO	Australian Tax Office
AVG	Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis
BAMP	Browsing Animal Management Program
BEPP	Biosecurity Emergency Preparedness Program
BLANKET	Base-Line Air Network EPA Tasmania
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
BT Division	Biosecurity Tasmania Division
CFEV	Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystem Values
CIP	Capital Investment Programs
CLAC Project	Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project
CLAF	Crown Lands Administration Fund
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CRIS	Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement
CRS	Common Registry System
CS Division	Corporate Services Division
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CSO	Community service obligation
DFTD	Devil Facial Tumour Disease
DOE	Department of the Environment
DPIPWE	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
DRIS	Decision Regulation Impact Statement
DSMP	Domestic Smoke Management Program
EMPCA	<i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>
EMSINA	Emergency Management Spatial Information Network Australia

ENS	Error Notification Service
EOI	Expression of interest
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPA Division	Environment Protection Authority Division
EPBC	<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FILMS	Fisheries Integrated Licensing and Management System
FMAA	<i>Financial Management and Audit Act 1990</i>
FPPF	Future potential production forest
FRDC	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
FRL	Future Reserve Land
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GMP	General Management Plan
GPS	Global Positioning System
GST	Goods and Services Tax
GWIMS	groundwater information and management database system
HELP	Heritage: Everything for Local Planning
HR	Human Resources
iAHC	Interim Aboriginal Heritage Council
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
IFS	Inland Fisheries Service
ILS Division	Information and Land Services Division
IMAS	Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies
IMS	Information Management System
ITGCC	Integrated Tasmanian Government Contact Centre
LGAT	Local Government Association of Tasmania
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LIST	Land Information System Tasmania
LSL	Long Service Leave
LTO	Land Titles Office
MEM	Meeting of Environment Ministers
ML	Megalitres
MONA	Museum of Old and New Art
n.a.	Not Available
NAIDOC	National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee
NATA	National Association of Testing Authorities
NChEM	National Chemical Environmental Management Framework
NEPM	National Environment Protection Measure
NGIS	National Groundwater Information System
NLIS	National Livestock Identification System
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NVA	Natural Values Atlas
NWI	National Water Initiative
NWMS	National Water Market System

Output	An identified good or service produced by, or on behalf of, DPIPWE and provided to clients outside of DPIPWE
Output Group	A set of Outputs grouped together to reflect a common relationship for the delivery of the Outputs – used as a basis for Government funding
OVG	Office of the Valuer-General
PD	Policy Division
PCAB	Policy and Conservation Assessment Branch
PDAC	Premier's Disability Advisory Committee
PDF	Portable Document Format
PEXA	Property Exchange Australia
PIDA	<i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002</i>
PIPSEC	Poppy Industry Public Safety and Education Committee
PMR	Performance Management Review
PPSA	<i>Primary Produce Safety Act 2011</i>
PTPZ	Permanent Timber Production Zone
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service
RAW	Rural Alive and Well
RMC Division	Resource Management and Conservation Division
RTBG	Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
SCIF	Special Capital Investment Funds
SIBA	Spatial Information Business Association
SIF	Spatial Information Foundations
SMRCA	Sustainable Marine Research Collaborative Agreement
SMRCA	Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration Agreement
SOG	Senior Officials Group
SSA	<i>State Service Act 2000</i>
SSALS	State Service Accumulated Leave Scheme
SSR	<i>State Service Regulations 2001</i>
STDP	Save the Tasmanian Devil Program
TACC	Total Allowable Commercial Catch
TAFI	Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute
TASI	Tasmanian Aboriginal Site Index
TASSIC	Tasmanian Spatial Information Council
TASVEG	Tasmania's Vegetation Map
TFA	Tasmanian Forest Agreement
TFGA	Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
TGSC	Tasmanian Government Spatial Committee
TI 1111	Treasurer's Instruction 1111 – Disclosure and Annual Report Requirements: Goods and Services
TI 201	Treasurer's Instruction 201 – Content of Reports
TI Pty Ltd	Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd
TIA	Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural
TLSAB	Tasmanian Land Surveyors Accreditation Board
TMAG	Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
TOLD	Tasmanian Online Land Dealing
TOP	Tasmanian Online Plan
TSE	transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

TWWHA	Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
wAC	weetapoonna Aboriginal Corporation
WAT	Water Allocation Tool
WH&S	Work Health and Safety
WHC	World Heritage Committee
WIF	Water Infrastructure Fund
WIST	Water Information System Tasmania
WMR Division	Water and Marine Resources Division
ZAA	Zoos and Aquaria Association

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