



Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW
Annual Report 2007–08

A healthy environment for life

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Cover photo credits – Large photo: Towra Point wetlands, DECC.

Other photos, top to bottom: Annette and Keegan Bowen with their new solar hot water system, partly funded by the Residential Rebate Program, Adam McLean/Fairfax Photos; vapour recovery equipment that prevents harmful emissions escaping into the atmosphere, DECC; koalas in Gunnedah, John Lemon DECC; Blue Mountains Discovery rangers, Janelle Randall-Court DECC.

Overview

The Hon Carmel Tebbutt
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

It is my pleasure to forward to you for presentation to the New South Wales Parliament the annual report of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, covering the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

DECC's annual report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985*, the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*. DECC consolidated financial statements received an unqualified opinion from the Auditor General.

Due to the complexity of compiling the financial statements for DECC, a six-week extension of time for submission of the report to 12 December 2008 was approved.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Corbyn
Director General



Director General's review

It is again my pleasure to present the annual report for the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). It has been another challenging year for us, with many developments at State, Commonwealth and international levels in the climate change arena, and as we also consolidated DECC following the integration of agencies in April 2007.

NSW State Plan

DECC is the lead agency for two State Plan priorities under the *Environment for Living* theme. Under the banner 'Practical Environmental Solutions' we are working to meet clean air and greenhouse gas targets and deliver better outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways. We are also working collaboratively with other NSW Government agencies and stakeholders to meet State Plan targets such as better water access and energy reliability, more people using parks, supporting Aboriginal communities and encouraging volunteering.

Minimising the impact of climate change

DECC has a pivotal role in leading the NSW response to climate change which became very active in 2007 with the change in Federal Government policy, the signing of the Kyoto Protocol and a new emphasis in the Council of Australian Governments.

Since July 2007, we have been administering the new NSW Climate Change Fund. It provides \$340 million to help households, business and government save energy and water, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An added emphasis on energy efficiency is being promoted through the new Energy Efficiency Strategy which was announced in December 2007. This innovative package is designed to help families and businesses save money and reduce the State's growth in energy use and production of greenhouse gas emissions.

We have also been able to better link our climate change and air quality programs where there are opportunities to use common strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as conventional air pollutants, as was highlighted in the public Clean Air Forum in November 2007.

Regulatory reform

DECC values its reputation as a credible regulator and now plays a broader role across a much wider spectrum, including natural resources regulation. This year, we began developing a new native vegetation compliance strategy which resulted in the completion of two prosecutions and the commencement of another nine prosecutions for alleged clearing offences.

We also engaged in positive regulatory reforms in areas such as the modernising of the waste regulatory framework.

Integrated landscape management

We are building flexibility and adaptability to respond to challenges and emerging issues in critical areas such as native vegetation, environmental water management for river and wetland health and Aboriginal cultural heritage management.

DECC has an active environmental water recovery program encompassing both water purchase and water saving infrastructure projects. Our environmental water recovery team has done a tremendous job in establishing and managing our purchase and use of water through the RiverBank, Living Murray, NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration and Wetland Recovery programs.

Our parks system is outstanding, and we are continuing to add to its scope while tackling the tough issues like fire, pests and weeds. This year has also seen a major initiative to increase the number of people visiting parks, and promote tourism and partnerships in line with State Plan targets.

This year, we have also progressed some new high profile programs which illustrate the benefits of integrated landscape management across both public and private lands. The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (formerly the Alps to Atherton Initiative) aims to engage communities to help conserve, restore and connect landscapes for an amazing 2,800 kilometres along the eastern seaboard of Australia.

Similarly, the Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme, known as BioBanking, will officially start on 11 July 2008 and provides a new approach to addressing the cumulative loss of biodiversity, and encourages private landholders as well as developers to protect and manage land for conservation. We also have a special \$5 million program called *Land Alive* to work with Aboriginal communities so they can participate actively in biobanking.

We have made a major effort to put in place the science-based Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy for the State Plan's 13 natural resource and environment targets, and to link this science-based work with Catchment Management Authorities.

A credible and efficient organisation

Our people are the key to our organisation and this was highlighted in our May 2008 senior staff conference. The many awards and international recognition that staff received this year are testimony to the commitment and contribution of DECC staff to environment protection and natural resource management in NSW and beyond.

Turning to our own environmental performance, DECC has now signed up to Sustainability Advantage, to reduce our environmental footprint and save money.

I would like to thank everyone in DECC for their contribution this year. This includes DECC staff and the many members of boards, trusts and advisory committees we work with, including the Environment Protection Authority Board, National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, Botanic Gardens Trust and the Environmental Trust.

I also acknowledge the many partnerships we value and respect, including those with Catchment Management Authorities, universities and other stakeholders who contribute to environment protection and natural resource management in NSW.

This year, we have had changes in Ministers and I would like to thank the former Ministers for Climate Change and the Environment, Phil Koperberg and Verity Firth, for their contributions. In my view, each brought their unique perspectives which helped and encouraged us as a department to achieve new goals. We look forward to working with our new Minister and the Deputy Premier, Carmel Tebbutt, to build a strong and innovative agency.



Lisa Corbyn
Director General



EPA Board

The EPA Board.

Standing left to right: Mr Tony Wright, Professor Don White, Mr Bob Junor, Dr John Keniry, Mr Peter Prineas.

Seated left to right: Honourable Paul Stein, Ms Lisa Corbyn, Councillor Genia McCaffery, Ms Yvonne Stewart.

Absent: Dr Gerry Bates.

Chair's report

This year brought a new set of challenges for the EPA Board as it continued to bring issues of environmental significance into prominent focus for the Government and the community. The Board welcomed the appointment of a new Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, the Hon Verity Firth MP in February 2008. In maintaining an independent regulatory authority, the Board has continued to advise the Minister on environmental policy and programs and on the long-term strategic plans for environment protection. This has assisted the Department of Environment and Climate Change with maintaining a strong focus on one of its core strengths, environment protection, while developing new capabilities for achieving NSW State Plan goals.

In the last year, the Board has had two new members, including myself as Chair and member with expertise in environment protection policy and Professor Donald White as member with experience in nature conservation or environment protection. A broader range of issues have been brought to the Board in recognition of the growing importance of climate change and the evolving relationships between governments and stakeholders.

The integration across environment and climate change issues continues to present important opportunities for environment protection in NSW with the Board maintaining a supervisory role.

In July 2007, the Board prepared a submission for the inquiry into the NSW Southern Coalfield and for the strategic inquiry into potential coal mining impacts in the Wyong Local Government Area. The environmental impact of mining activities remains a significant issue for NSW, requiring a whole-of-government approach and recognition of important land use considerations.

In March 2008, the Board considered and approved an exemption subject to the conditions of section 284 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* for Orica's proposed remediation of some of its legacy waste. Detailed consideration was given to the appropriate standard for the in-stack limit for Orica's proposed thermal desorption plant. The Board examined material assessed by independent expert reports, which included detailed comparisons with best practice standards for remediation of waste applied in the United States of America.

In the same month, the Board met in Taree and visited a number of local project sites. Regional visits give the

Board a real opportunity to see how the issues coming to the Board look on the ground in regional NSW, and reinforce the importance of collaborative work across the community, State and local government. After giving input into DECC's Clean Up of Illegal Dumping and Deterrence on Aboriginal Owned Lands Pilot Program, the Board visited one of the project sites at Purfleet near Taree. The Board has been pleased to lend its support to this program which builds and strengthens effective working relationships between Aboriginal communities, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local government to facilitate clean-up of large quantities of waste, and builds community capacity for this work to continue in the future.

The Board reviewed the NSW Diffuse Source Water Pollution Strategy at different stages in its development last year. This strategy aims to reduce diffuse source water pollution in NSW waterways and contribute to meeting NSW water quality objectives and natural resource management targets in the NSW State Plan. It was encouraging to see that measures to tackle diffuse source water pollution are already being applied in some areas, as was evident in the Board's visit to the Froggalla Wetland remediation site which is a known hotspot badly affected by acid sulphate soils. The site is being remediated under the Commonwealth Government's Coastal Catchments Initiative managed by Great Lakes Council. The visit demonstrated ways in which measures to address diffuse source water pollution are being applied, and demonstrated the development of new decision support systems that can highlight priority pollution sources and guide investment across the catchment.

On behalf of the EPA Board, I would like to thank DECC's Director General, Lisa Corbyn, and DECC staff for their support of the work of the EPA Board, and for their commitment and dedication to the protection of our environment. I would also like to thank Dr Judy Henderson for her outstanding contribution as a member of the Board since 1996. Her extensive experience with catchment management authority issues and water management was particularly valued. I would like to acknowledge Mr Tony Wright for acting as Chair of the Board until my appointment at the end of 2007.

Paul Stein
Chair

About DECC

Our vision

A healthy environment for life

Our values

As individual staff, as work teams and as a department we seek to:

1. Protect the environment

We understand that the health of the environment underpins our social and economic prosperity as well as the health and wellbeing of the community.

2. Recognise the rights and status of Aboriginal people

We respect the unique rights and status of Aboriginal people based on their prior and continuing occupation of the land and waters of NSW, including the right to self-determination in economic, social and cultural development. We also acknowledge the importance of connection to Country for community wellbeing.

3. Act with integrity

We are ethical, impartial and honest. We are also open, accessible and accountable to the community and each other.

4. Act professionally

We treat everyone with respect. We need to be responsive and flexible and to get things done quickly and effectively. We base our decisions on facts, analysis and community values. We encourage debate but we speak with one voice once a decision has been made.

5. Work collaboratively

We value the knowledge, skills and experience of the people we work with. We encourage teamwork and work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes.

6. Be innovative

We bring energy and creativity to our work. We will learn and improve by questioning, challenging and thinking about the future.

Who we are

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) is the NSW Government agency responsible for developing, coordinating and delivering policy and programs to deal with environmental, climate change, sustainability, natural resource and cultural heritage issues in NSW.

DECC was formed in April 2007 to build a broad organisation to respond to the challenges presented by climate change, progress reforms in the sustainable management and regulation of the state's natural resources, and manage the state's terrestrial and marine parks and reserves.

DECC builds on the strengths and cultures of its formative agencies and combines knowledge, innovation, regulatory and field experience and science to tackle the priorities outlined in the NSW State Plan and to deliver services to the community across a broad range of environmental programs.

The formation of DECC brought together a number of well-recognised brands and legislative authorities including the Environment Protection Authority, Botanic Gardens Trust, the Department of Natural Resources and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. DECC also administers programs on behalf of the statutory Environmental Trust, and supports the Marine Parks Authority and catchment management authorities.

In regulatory matters for environment protection, DECC acts under the powers of the statutory Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The independent EPA Board provides policy direction and approves significant prosecutions and exemptions under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

DECC supports the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment in performing their executive and statutory functions.

- air and water quality and noise control programs
- regulation of chemicals and control of contaminated sites and radiation
- programs to reduce waste, litter and illegal dumping
- national parks and reserves, including marine parks and aquatic reserves
- biodiversity, threatened species and native vegetation issues
- natural resource and catchment management policy and science issues
- environmental water recovery and management issues
- coastal and floodplain programs
- Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic sites
- botanic gardens – Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens and the Domain, and Mount Annan and Mount Tomah botanic gardens.

What we do

DECC is responsible for protecting and conserving the environment and Aboriginal heritage, managing national and marine parks and reserves, ensuring sustainable management of natural resources, including coastal environments and floodplains, and developing and coordinating programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in NSW and the impacts of climate change on the community. In carrying out its responsibilities, DECC administers around 45 Acts and Regulations.

DECC manages:

- climate change and greenhouse gas issues, including the new Climate Change Fund
- sustainability programs, including environmental education, energy efficiency and water conservation programs, and the renewable energy policy



Graphic: DECC.

Through Sustainability Advantage, DECC works with medium and large businesses on business practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy.

Our approach

1. We offer information, education and incentives to help the community's decision making, to protect and improve the environment and to understand the linkages between economic, social and environmental decisions.
2. We regulate activities using a mix of tools according to the risk these activities pose to the environment, human health or Aboriginal cultural heritage.
3. We work in partnership with people in government, business and the community, including catchment management authorities, to develop and deliver sustainable environmental and conservation solutions.
4. We respect Aboriginal culture, both traditional and contemporary, and the special relationship that Aboriginal people have with Country, and seek to incorporate their knowledge, insights, values and involvement into efforts to conserve and protect the environment.
5. We manage over 8% of NSW land for conservation, education and public enjoyment.
6. We provide facilities and services to encourage the use of parks and reserves for regional development, sustainable recreation, tourism, education and scientific purposes.

7. We contribute to public debate about solutions to environmental and conservation problems.
8. We deliver best available scientific information to support environmental and cultural heritage policy, regulation and conservation objectives.

Our work with Government

DECC works collaboratively with a wide range of government agencies to deliver services to the community. It is represented on the Chief Executives Committee which drives the implementation of the Government's service delivery priorities and public sector management, particularly in relation to the State Plan. DECC is a member of the:

- Natural Resources and Environment Cluster
- Business and Economics Cluster
- Transport, Planning and Infrastructure Cluster.

Nationally, DECC contributes to the Council of Australian Governments and its working groups and Ministerial Councils, to deliver significant reforms in the areas of climate change, water, natural resource management, regulatory reform and chemicals.



Photo: G. Atkinson, DECC.

DECC scientist Mitch Tulau measures the extent of acid sulfate soils on a site in northern NSW.

Our clients and stakeholders

DECC values its relationships with external stakeholders and recognises their valuable role in supporting environmental initiatives. External stakeholders include potential partners in environment protection and opinion makers inside and outside government.

DECC has established and implemented several mechanisms for public participation, to involve the community in:

- the development of legislation, policies and guidelines
- the review of environment protection licences
- the development of conservation plans
- the development of wilderness declarations
- the development of conservation agreements with a statutory authority or another minister
- State Plan stakeholder workshops to deliver State Plan priorities
- practical strategies to promote sustainable living and participate in environmental activities, including volunteering in, and visiting, national parks and reserves.

Our resources

- We manage more than 750 national parks and reserves covering 6.6 million hectares of land (more than 8% of NSW) for conservation, education and public enjoyment.
- We manage 6 marine parks covering an area of more than 345,000 hectares, and 12 aquatic reserves.
- We employ 3,596 staff, with more than 2,600 in regional locations.
- Each year, at least 3,800 volunteers contribute more than 172,000 volunteer hours to park and reserve activities.
- We manage a total operating budget of \$981 million.

Our priorities

DECC's new corporate plan sets out our goals, objectives and priorities for the next four years, from 2008 to 2012. Our Annual Report 2007-08 reports on our performance according to the goals set out in the corporate plan and NSW State Plan.



Photo: C. Ramsay, DECC.

DECC's work in 2007–08 to save the threatened animals of NSW included monitoring, and controlling foxes on, brush-tailed rock-wallaby sites.

Corporate Plan 2008–2012 summary

Goals	Outcomes	Objective	NSW State Plan Priorities
Climate change and its impacts are minimised to protect the environment, the economy and community wellbeing	Greenhouse gas emissions reduced NSW community is supported and active in adapting to climate change Increased risks to life, property and the environment from coastal erosion, flooding and bushfires are minimised and managed Business, industry and government operate sustainably, reducing adverse impacts and achieving cost savings Individuals, families and communities live more sustainably	NSW greenhouse gas mitigation measures in place to complement national climate change programs Regional climate change scenarios being used across NSW by local government, other government agencies and business to inform their planning Improved condition of coastal environments with reduced losses and impacts from flooding and coastal hazards Improved understanding of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, and the nature of future bushfire regimes More efficient use of energy, water and materials Initiatives in place to address climate change, sustain and enhance the economic viability of industries and businesses in NSW	Priority E3 Cleaner air and progress on greenhouse gas reductions Lead agency Priority E1 A secure and sustainable water supply for all users Partner agency Priority E2 A reliable electricity supply with increased use of renewable energy Partner agency Priority E5 Jobs closer to home Partner agency Priority R3 Reduced levels of anti-social behaviour Partner agency Priority R4 Increased participation and integration in community activities Partner agency Priority E4 Better environmental outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways Lead agency Priority E6 More people using parks, sporting and recreational facilities, and participating in the arts and cultural activity Partner agency Priority F1 Improved health, education and social outcomes for Aboriginal people Partner agency
A healthier and cleaner environment protecting both ecological and human health	Air pollution and other adverse environmental impacts prevented, reduced or mitigated Degraded environments remediated or restored Community wellbeing improved Unnecessary regulation eliminated	Harmful emissions to air, land and water reduced The number of significantly contaminated sites reduced Community and environmental exposure to chemicals, radiation, noise, dust, waste, odour and vibration reduced Effective and more streamlined environmental regulatory and approval processes in place to achieve environmental outcomes	Priority E5 Jobs closer to home Partner agency Priority R3 Reduced levels of anti-social behaviour Partner agency Priority R4 Increased participation and integration in community activities Partner agency Priority E4 Better environmental outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways Lead agency Priority E6 More people using parks, sporting and recreational facilities, and participating in the arts and cultural activity Partner agency Priority F1 Improved health, education and social outcomes for Aboriginal people Partner agency
Integrated landscape management for long-term ecological, social and economic sustainability	Condition of natural resources improved Biodiversity and native vegetation protected and restored Parks and reserves contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development An integrated system of public and private lands managed for conservation of natural and cultural values Aboriginal culture and heritage protected and revitalised Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management and conservation increased	Health of wetlands, waterways and rivers managed Native species of flora and fauna protected and conserved in healthy populations The extent and condition of native vegetation improved A sustainable range of opportunities and experiences provided for visitors to enjoy national parks, marine parks, reserves and botanic gardens Increased area of land managed for conservation outcomes Historic heritage in parks and gardens managed for the conservation and presentation of cultural values Fire, pest animals and weeds managed in cooperation with others to protect parks and neighbours Aboriginal people supported in the practice, promotion and renewal of their cultures Aboriginal community capacity to manage Country increased Volunteer participation in, and community support for, the environment and conservation increased	Priority E5 Jobs closer to home Partner agency Priority R3 Reduced levels of anti-social behaviour Partner agency Priority R4 Increased participation and integration in community activities Partner agency Priority E4 Better environmental outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways Lead agency Priority E6 More people using parks, sporting and recreational facilities, and participating in the arts and cultural activity Partner agency Priority F1 Improved health, education and social outcomes for Aboriginal people Partner agency
A credible, efficient and effective organisation	A responsive and adaptable organisation that delivers, and where people want to work	DECC leads in sustainability and environmental performance within the NSW Government Internal and external connections developed and renewed DECC is a safe and healthy workplace that values staff and encourages innovation A 'one DECC' culture developed, and our systems, processes and relationships aligned and working well together Skilled people and smart systems in place Good knowledge and information available to make decisions Customer satisfaction with DECC services	Priority P6 Increased business investment in rural and regional NSW Partner agency Priority P3 Cutting red tape All agencies Priority S8 Increased customer satisfaction with government services All agencies

Executive and organisational structure

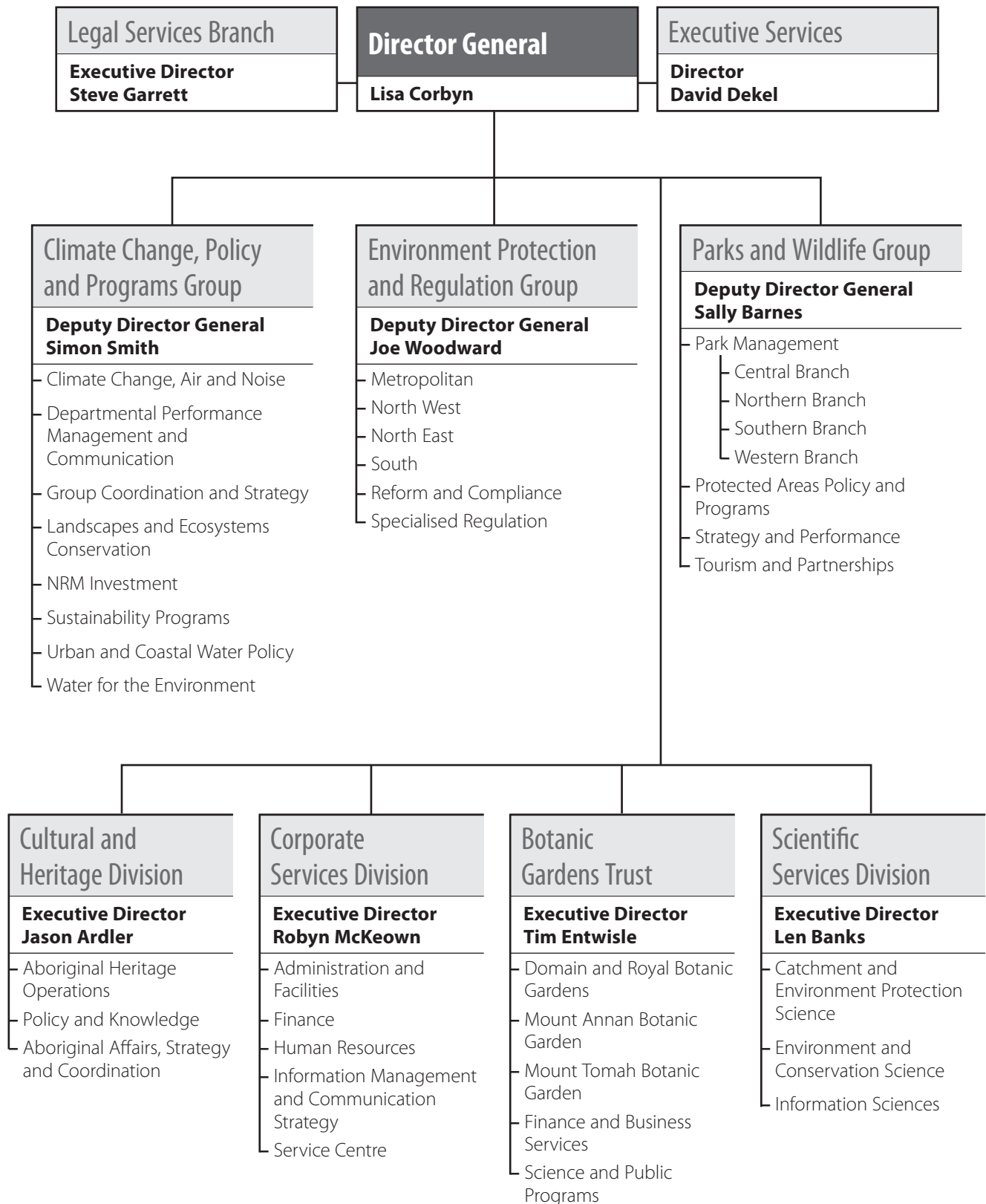
Our executive

At June 2008, DECC's executive management team comprised the Director General and 11 senior officers.



Gary Whytcross (Acting Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Group), David Dekel (Director, Executive Services), Sally Barnes (Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Group), Simon Smith (Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group), Robyn McKeown (Executive Director, Corporate Services Division), Lisa Corbyn (Director General), Bob Conroy (Executive Director, Park Management), Tim Entwistle (Executive Director, Botanic Gardens Trust), Tim Rogers (Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication), Steve Garrett (Executive Director, Legal Services), Len Banks (Executive Director, Scientific Services Division). Absent: Jason Ardler (Executive Director, Culture and Heritage Division), Joe Woodward (Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Group).

Organisational structure



Performance summary 2007–08

Strategic priority: Climate change

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

The NSW Climate Change Fund was established on 1 July 2007. It provides \$340 million to help households, businesses and government save energy and water, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In December 2007, the NSW Government announced the Energy Efficiency Strategy to reduce the growth in energy use and further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) saw an 18% increase in rated space in premises in NSW and a 21% increase for Australia since 2006–07.

Two hundred and twenty three energy savings plans identified 1,828 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 1 million tonnes a year, and save \$40 million on energy bills. Two hundred and twenty two water savings plans identified 1,830 cost-effective actions to save 7.3 billion litres of water a year and \$12 million on water bills.

Support the NSW community to adapt to climate change

DECC is developing the NSW Government's newly announced Climate Change Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help the people of NSW adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Framework for NSW was released. It included research to investigate and reduce climate change impacts on biodiversity.

Under the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, two community partnership programs involving 15 partner organisations were successfully established.

A supplementary survey to the *Who cares about the environment?* social research series revealed that people believed climate change was an important issue for State Government attention.

Minimise and manage increased risks to life, property and the environment

The Coastal Management Program approved 36 grants totalling \$2.89 million in 17 local government areas for hazard mitigation works, dune restoration and enhancement of coastal facilities. The Estuary Management Program approved 79 grants totalling \$3.52 million in 39 council areas for protection and improvement works, rehabilitation of degraded coastal wetlands and habitats, and environmental monitoring.

Eight new estuary management plans and one new coastal management plan were completed in 2007–08, with a cumulative total of 77 coastal zone management plans now being implemented.

More councils are now managing flood risks responsibly, with an increase in the number of completed floodplain risk management plans, from 85 in 2003–04 to 96 in 2007–08.

Business, industry and government operate sustainably

A \$20 million expansion of Sustainability Advantage to cover 1,000 organisations over the next five years was announced to include a stronger emphasis on energy efficiency. Currently, 217 medium to large organisations are participating in this initiative to save energy and raw materials, use less water and reduce waste.

Individuals, families and communities live more sustainably

Throughout the year DECC has supported individuals, families and communities to live more sustainably through a range of initiatives, including \$1.9 million for 11 projects under the Public Facilities Program, ongoing partnerships with the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, ongoing environmental education initiatives via the *Our environment – it's a living thing* website, and the Sustainable Schools partnership with the NSW Department of Education and Training.

There were 65,160 visitors to the *Our environment – it's a living thing* website, representing a 20% increase in visits.

Strategic priority: Healthier and cleaner environment

Prevent, reduce or mitigate air, water and noise pollution and other adverse environmental impacts

Under the NSW Government's 25-year strategy to improve the state's air quality, a draft Cleaner Vehicles and Fuels Strategy was released. New standards were introduced to capture and recycle petrol vapours at service stations, reducing the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released into the environment by 5,000 tonnes a year.

DECC developed the diffuse source water pollution strategy to improve the health of rivers, wetlands and estuaries by reducing pathogen, nutrient and sediment pollution.

Noise from motor vehicles, marine vessels and miscellaneous household equipment is now more effectively controlled under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2008. A Noise Testing and Anti-Tampering Scheme was launched to significantly reduce the number of noisy vehicles on NSW roads.

DECC finalised major reforms to modernise the waste regulatory framework.

Sydney Greater Metropolitan Region had 10 high pollution days in 2007–08, which is 30 fewer than in the previous year. Air quality standards were exceeded on 6 days in 2007–08, which is 24 days fewer than in the previous year.

DECC negotiated 77 new pollution reduction programs with an estimated value of over \$21 million to ensure industry reduces its air and water pollution.

Ninety-six percent of prosecutions completed under Environment Protection Authority legislation were successful.

Two thousand and thirty two penalty infringement notices were issued, with fines totalling \$750,000.

Remediate or restore degraded environments

DECC continued to focus on illegal dumping and provided grants of \$50,000 to help Aboriginal communities clean up illegally dumped waste and prevent illegal dumping from happening again. DECC also worked with construction companies to ensure industry waste was being transported safely to a legal waste disposal facility.

Scientists measured ways in which contaminated sediments and soils affect various species and ecosystems, with the results helping to make more accurate predictions about the impacts contaminated areas will have on biodiversity.

Waste disposed of to landfill increased by an estimated 250,000 tonnes between 2006–07 and 2007–08, due to waste being legally deposited at a landfill rather than being illegally dumped.

Improve community wellbeing

A new Air Quality Index was launched, providing online hourly updates of air quality data from the 24 monitoring sites in NSW. Information includes levels of various pollutants, pollution forecasting and health alerts with, for the first time in Australia, an SMS and email subscription service so people can receive alerts for high pollution days.

The number of Beachwatch and Harbourwatch sites complying with swimming water quality guidelines was lower in 2007–08 than in previous years due to extremely wet weather and increased pollution levels recorded at some beaches due to stormwater and sewage overflows.

Eliminate unnecessary regulation

DECC introduced a more simplified and streamlined waste licensing and regulatory system, aimed at encouraging innovative ways of reducing the amount of waste disposed of to landfill and increasing recycling.

Regulation was simplified for development assessment and biodiversity certification for local councils; for radiation requirements to make it easier for dentists to conduct their business; and for waste licensing to increase recycling rates and resource recovery.

Strategic priority: Integrated landscape management

Natural resources

Twenty-five million dollars worth of water entitlements were bought through the nation's first market-based water recovery program, NSW RiverBank, in 2007–08, much of which was directed to the Macquarie Marshes to support a successful bird breeding season.

One hundred per cent of DECC prosecutions completed under conservation legislation were successful in 2007–08.

In 2007–08, DECC compliance and enforcement activities under native vegetation legislation included finalising two prosecutions and commencing a further nine prosecutions. These and other native vegetation compliance and enforcement activities build on DECC's credible regulatory framework and send a signal of deterrence about illegal land clearing.

Amendments to the Native Vegetation Regulation 2005 commenced on 1 August 2007 to provide more protection for native vegetation and threatened species under legislation governing private native forestry operations. DECC completed 50 audits of operations and approved 418 private native forestry property vegetation plans covering a total of 115,466 hectares of land.

The total area of land maintained or improved by property vegetation plans is now more than 1.43 million hectares.

Protect and restore biodiversity and native vegetation

More than 6.69 million hectares of land (8.3% of NSW) are now protected. About 34% (345,000 hectares) of NSW waters are in the marine park system.

DECC finalised its National Parks Establishment Plan, outlining priorities for the next decade in extending the reserve system. One priority is to establish new reserves in far and central western NSW, where less than 5% of the landscape is protected. Fourteen properties totalling 10,682 hectares in the Brigalow and Nandewar bioregions were purchased in 2007–08.

DECC prepared to implement the BioBanking Scheme which will ensure biodiversity is maintained when land is being developed. Included is a program giving Aboriginal landowners accredited land management training so they can participate in the scheme.

Under the NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement, DECC is working with government agencies, business and the community to implement actions to recover the threatened species of NSW. In 2007–08, actions included controlling and monitoring foxes at brush-tailed rock-wallaby sites and connecting stakeholders, through an online service, with actions to recover threatened species and endangered ecological communities in their local areas.

DECC continued to implement actions to protect threatened resident and migratory shorebirds, control the impact of pests and weeds and conduct research and monitoring programs in its national parks and marine parks.

In 2007–08, 645 reserves were covered by an adopted fire management strategy, covering 5.35 million hectares and 80% of reserves.

Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves

DECC celebrated the 40th anniversary of the creation of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Events were held across the state, and all national parks had free entry on Sunday 7 October.

DECC expanded its *Discovery* programs. Over 37,000 people took part in guided tours around historic sites and through special environmental precincts around the state. In total, over 177,135 people attended a guided activity.

DECC continued to upgrade visitor facilities, including amenities and walking tracks, and accommodation for all budgets. As part of DECC's website upgrade, information for visitors to national parks and reserves is being made more user-friendly and relevant.

Conserve natural and cultural values through an integrated system of public and private lands

Twelve plans of management were adopted in 2007–08 with more than 4.4 million hectares or 66.47% of reserves now covered by a plan of management.

The Marine Parks Authority began a review of the zoning plans for Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay marine parks. Around 2,000 public submissions were received and will be considered in the review, which will determine whether the zoning plans need to be amended.

Twenty new conservation agreements and five new wildlife refuges were established, leading to an increase of 3,194 hectares of land being managed for conservation.

Protect and revitalise Aboriginal culture and heritage

DECC staff trained South Australian participants, including Aboriginal community members, in rock art conservation, in a project assisting the South Australian government with removing dust from rock art at Arkaroo.

The Aboriginal *Discovery* program was extended throughout NSW, with more rangers being employed on the far south coast due to the popularity of *Discovery* activities. In June 2008, the first ever Aboriginal *Discovery* Ranger Training Course was conducted at Jervis Bay for staff from across the state and from the Commonwealth's Booderee National Park.

Eight Aboriginal Places were declared this year, protecting burial and ceremonial sites, and former living and meeting places. A total of 64 Aboriginal Places have now been declared.

DECC returned six Aboriginal ancestral remains and collections of cultural material and helped return two remains held by museums and universities to Aboriginal communities.

Increase Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management

The Menindee Aboriginal Elders Council and DECC renewed the existing memorandum of understanding for Kinchega National Park. The Githabul Management Committee and the Worimi Board of Management were appointed and the Biamanga and Gulaga boards of management held their first meetings.

There are now 15 formal co-management arrangements in place with Aboriginal communities, covering 97 areas across more than 1.5 million hectares of the reserve system.

Strategic priority: Credible and efficient organisation

Be a leader in sustainability and environmental performance

Through sound building management, and changes to the vehicle fleet and its usage, DECC has reduced overall energy consumption by 7% and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 10%.

DECC signed up to Sustainability Advantage and will focus on resource efficiency and staff engagement in sustainability initiatives in 2008–09.

The Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) report indicated that the recycling rate in NSW government agencies remained high, with 80% of paper used by NSW government agencies being recycled. The report also indicated that 64% of vegetation waste was being recycled and 93% of construction and demolition materials were being recycled.

Maintain and improve internal and external connections

DECC launched its new website which includes information on climate change, natural resources, national parks and reserves, native plants and animals and environment protection.

Requests handled by the Information Centre have risen steadily by approximately 10% each year. In 2007–08, over 228,000 requests were handled (not including reports of pollution incidents) and DECC received 4,770,011 visits to its websites.

Ensure safe and healthy workplace

The number of injuries suffered by staff reduced this year to 7.5 per 100 employees compared with 8.3 per 100 employees in 2006–07. DECC completed and implemented its Manual Tasks Injury Prevention Project, which focuses on preventing soft-tissue injuries. These are the main injuries suffered by staff in DECC.

Encourage a 'one-DECC' culture

Three new awards have been negotiated and a senior staff conference was held to discuss common goals and opportunities.

DECC finalised the new Work and Development System which will be rolled out across the organisation in 2008–09.

Skilled people smart systems

Ten of the 15 participants in DECC's graduate recruitment program found positions in DECC or other public sector agencies.

DECC now has around 300 more staff with expertise in environmental and natural resource science. In April 2008, DECC released a Science Statement which describes the drivers, values and approaches that guide DECC's science to deliver positive outcomes for the environment, natural resource management and cultural heritage.

An additional seven Aboriginal cadetships were established to make a total of 17 Aboriginal cadets working with DECC.

Good knowledge and information to make decisions

DECC continued to implement the 2007–2010 Information Management and Communications Technology Strategic Plan, including the successful transition of over 300 staff from the former Department of Natural Resources.

DECC met the financial challenges of a significantly larger capital budget and a more complex program environment. Strong management of financial issues was required to address administrative restructuring and new initiatives, such as the BioBanking Scheme, and water and energy efficiency rebates.

Customer satisfaction

DECC published its Guarantee of Service which covers four main standards all staff commit to when they start working for DECC: respect, helpfulness, responsiveness and continuous improvement.

Financial summary

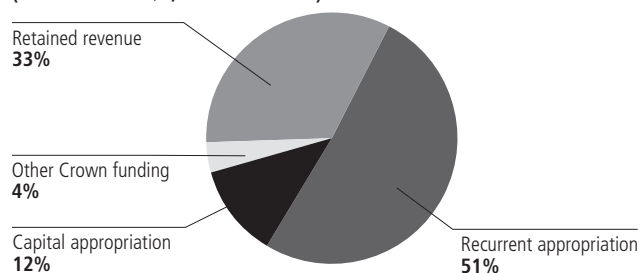
This overview of the performance of DECC's financial operations for 2007–08 should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements and related notes. These are provided on pages 123–176 of this report. There are separate financial statements for the Environment Protection Authority and the Marine Parks Authority.

The net cost of services is the cost to the NSW Government of DECC's services as follows:

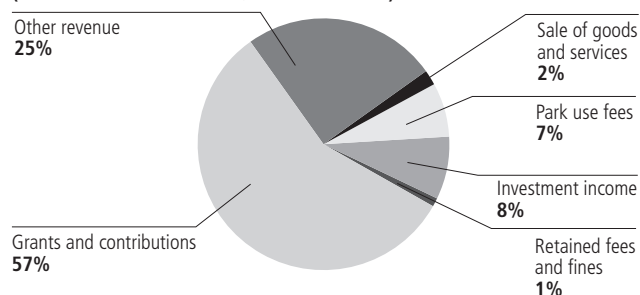
	2007–08 \$'000	2006–07 \$'000
Total expenses	946,127	674,333
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	1,401	2,789
Less: total retained revenue	(351,369)	(170,539)
Net cost of services	596,159	506,583

DECC also collected Crown revenue on behalf of the NSW Government totalling \$277.6 million during 2007–08.

Source of revenue 2007–08
(Total revenue: \$1,075.280 million)



Source of retained revenue 2007–08
(Total retained revenues: \$351.369 million)



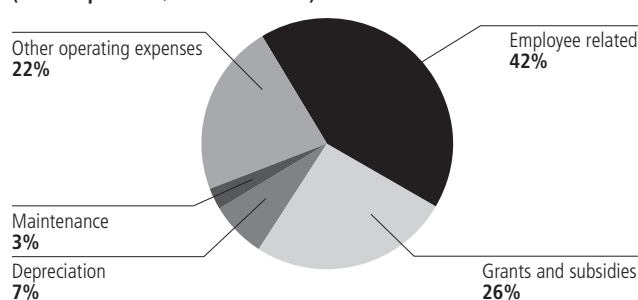
Major funding initiatives for 2007–08 included:

- establishing the Climate Change Fund and the NSW Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Framework
- continued implementation of the NSW City and Country Environment Restoration Program to address the state's most significant environmental challenges, including restoring iconic wetlands, protecting marine environments and securing the best possible conservation results in managing Crown Lands
- working in partnership with catchment management authorities and private landowners to improve native vegetation and increase conservation outcomes
- promoting sustainability through improved waste management by providing waste service improvement payments to councils to drive and reward improved council waste systems.

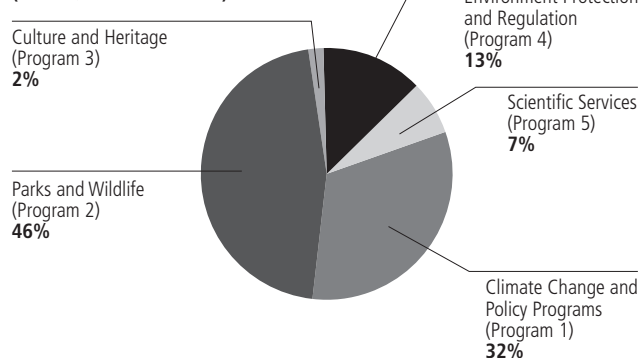
How we use our financial resources

The following charts provide a summary of the sources of revenue, expenses and net cost of services for 2007–08:

Allocation of total expenses 2007–08
(Total expenses: \$946.127 million)



2007–08 Programs – net cost of services
(Total: \$596.159 million)



Climate change and its impacts are minimised to protect the environment, the economy and community wellbeing



DECC is working to ensure NSW is ready to meet the challenges of climate change by introducing strategies to minimise impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enable future generations to be prepared for climate change and its effects.

Context

Climate change is a key issue and an important priority for the NSW community.

The probable effects of climate change include higher temperatures and more extreme weather patterns. These effects are likely to impact on agriculture, the water supply, built environments and infrastructure, natural resources, biodiversity and human health. DECC is developing strategic partnerships with government, business and industry, individuals, families and communities to help reduce emissions and deal with unavoidable impacts.

DECC has been conducting regular social research on the NSW community's attitudes to the environment since 1993. In 2007, a supplementary survey to the *Who cares about the environment?* social research series revealed that people believed climate change was an important issue for State Government attention. In addition, 39% of people surveyed mentioned 'climate change', 'water' or 'environment' in their two most important issues for State Government attention.

NSW was the first Australian state or territory to introduce long-term emissions reduction targets – a return to year 2000 amounts of greenhouse gases by 2025, and a cut of 60% in emissions by 2050. The NSW Climate Change Fund and NSW Energy Efficiency Strategy, introduced this year, are two important initiatives to help households, business and government save energy and water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. DECC's air quality programs, such as pollution reduction programs and strategies to reduce petrol and vehicle emissions, ensure that industry continues to further reduce amounts of greenhouse gases as well as conventional air pollutants.

DECC coordinates the whole-of-government policy for NSW on climate change, which is driven by the NSW Greenhouse Plan and the *State Plan – A New Direction for NSW*. DECC also coordinates the NSW Government's response to climate change, which includes strategies to reduce emissions, encourage efficient use of water, promote sustainability, and research adaptability to climate change.

The Commonwealth Government's focus on climate change is enabling NSW to develop new initiatives that complement the Commonwealth's initiatives. DECC is working with the Commonwealth on the development of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, to be established in 2010.

Outcomes

DECC aims to minimise the impacts of climate change by:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- encouraging the NSW community to introduce measures to adapt to climate change
- minimising and managing increased risks to life, property and the environment from coastal erosion, flooding and bushfires
- supporting business, industry and government in operating sustainably to reduce adverse impacts and achieve cost savings
- supporting individuals, families and communities in living more sustainably.

Key drivers

DECC's work in the area of climate change is informed by the:

- NSW Greenhouse Plan (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/greenhouseplan.htm)
- *State Plan – A New Direction for NSW* (www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/)
- *NSW Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Framework* (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/climatechange.htm)
- Climate Change Fund (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccfund.htm)
- NSW Energy Efficiency Strategy (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/energy.htm)

Performance indicators

DECC measures performance in the area of climate change through the following performance indicators:

- Approved energy savings action plans and water savings action plans
- Approved floodplain risk management plans
- Approved coastal and estuary management plans
- Businesses participating with DECC to improve resource recovery and sustainability
- National Australian Built Environment Rating System – commercial market penetration



Photo: B. Peters.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

National initiatives

The Commonwealth Government plans to finalise the design of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme by the end of 2008, with the scheme to start in 2010. DECC has provided input to the scheme's design and implementation in the following areas:

- complementary measures – to ensure actions across jurisdictions complement Commonwealth implementation of the scheme
- energy efficiency – to promote acceleration and expanded uptake of energy efficiency measures
- renewable energy – to ensure strategies meet proposed mandatory energy reduction targets.

DECC has also worked with other government agencies to progress new actions for:

- adaptation – to develop an adaptation framework
- water – to introduce key water reform strategies.

NSW Energy Efficiency Strategy

In December 2007, the Premier of NSW announced a new Energy Efficiency Strategy to reduce the state's use of energy and greenhouse gas emissions. This strategy was part of the Government's response to the Owen Inquiry into Electricity Supply in NSW that was released in September 2007.

Energy efficiency enables consumers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money on bills. It also reduces costs to the economy by producing more economically efficient energy consumption and supply patterns.

In June 2008, the NSW Government announced a \$150.5 million energy efficiency package under the strategy, to help families and businesses save money and help the environment. The package includes:

- \$63 million for a Low Income Household Refit Program
- \$15 million for a Small Business Energy Efficiency Program
- \$20 million to expand Sustainability Advantage
- establishing energy savings targets for the state

■ CASE STUDY

Rebates make a difference

For the Bowen family of Keiraville, Wollongong, the \$600 NSW Government rebate on a new \$3,000 hot water system – coupled with a similar Commonwealth Government grant – made a green dream come true.

Annette Bowen said her old electric hot water system needed to be replaced, but she could not have afforded the solar option without the rebates. 'It has made all the difference to me', she said. 'Next I am going to get insulation and a water tank.'

The Bowen family is one of thousands of NSW households who took action in 2007–08 and claimed \$13.1 million in rebates from the NSW Climate Change Fund. In total, 17,573 rainwater tanks were installed, 4,772 electric hot water systems were replaced and 3,060 ceilings were insulated. Together, these



Photo: Adam McLean/Fairfax Photos.

Annette and Keegan Bowen with their solar hot water heater, which the Residential Rebate Program helped fund.

improvements will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 15,000 tonnes and save 791 million litres of water a year.

- establishing a new market-based energy efficiency program based on revitalising and extending NSW's existing greenhouse gas abatement scheme
- up to \$27.5 million for a community awareness program
- a legal requirement for the state's largest 200 energy users to implement cost-effective energy savings measures.

Energy efficiency in the NSW Government sector will be targeted under the NSW Government Sustainability Policy which was announced in May 2008 and includes a Government commitment to being carbon neutral by 2020.

NSW Climate Change Fund

The NSW Climate Change Fund was established on 1 July 2007 under the *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987*. It provides \$340 million to help households, business and government save energy and water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Funding is provided through various programs, which are described below. DECC administers the fund by managing grant applications and financial administration, and processing residential rebates.

Under the Residential Rebate Program, hot water system and insulation rebates were introduced on 1 October 2007 to help NSW households reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Hot water system rebates provide up to \$1,200 to switch from electric to solar, heat pump or gas hot water systems. DECC approved 4,772 hot water system rebates to June 2008 totalling \$3.3 million, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 11,930 tonnes a year.

The insulation rebates cover half the cost of installing ceiling insulation, up to a maximum of \$300. DECC approved 3,060 insulation rebates to June 2008, allocating \$890,000 and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2,750 tonnes a year.

The rainwater tank rebate was introduced on 1 July 2007. It provides up to \$1,500 for installation of a rainwater tank connected to toilets or a washing machine, or both. DECC paid 17,573 rebates for rainwater tanks to June 2008, allocating \$8.9 million and saving an estimated 791 million litres of water a year in NSW homes. A washing machine rebate and a fridge buy-back scheme will be introduced from August 2008.

The NSW Green Business Program provides \$30 million over five years for projects that will save water and energy in business operations in NSW. Round 1 of the Green Business Program was held from October to December 2007. It allocated \$11.7 million to 24 water and energy projects which will, for example, enable business operators to install energy efficient lighting, make boilers and air conditioning systems operate more efficiently, and recycle water. These projects will save an estimated 240 million litres of drinking water, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 36,000 tonnes a year.

The Renewable Energy Development Program provides \$40 million over five years to support the commercialisation of new renewable technologies. Under Stage 1, expressions of interest for funding were sought between December 2007 and February 2008. Under Stage 2, 17 project proponents have been invited to submit detailed applications for funding.

The Public Facilities Program is reported on under 'Support Individuals, families and communities in living more sustainably'.

The Energy Savings Fund and Water Savings Fund, both established in 2005, were incorporated into the Climate Change Fund in 2007. Under the Energy Savings Fund, \$29 million was allocated to 49 energy projects which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 150,000 tonnes a year. In 2007–08, four energy projects were completed which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 6,965 tonnes, and save 7,098 megawatt hours and 1,965 kilowatts of peak demand, a year.

Under the Water Savings Fund, \$56.8 million was allocated to 96 business, government agency and local council water saving projects, which will save an estimated 15,759 million litres of water a year. In 2007–08, 15 projects were completed, which will save an estimated 442 million litres of water a year.

The Climate Change Fund also provides \$2 million a year for the Central Coast Water Savings Fund. This fund was established in partnership with the Gosford/Wyong Councils' Water Authority in 2006 to encourage investment in water savings on the Central Coast. To date, \$4.9 million has been allocated to 49 projects which will save an estimated 750 million litres of water a year. In 2007–08, 16 projects were completed, saving an estimated 113 million litres of water a year. Projects included major water recycling projects, efficiency programs for schools and households, projects to harvest rainwater for reuse in sporting clubs and on playing fields, and funding to extend the \$200 washing machine rebate for Central Coast households. Round 3 of the Central Coast Water Saving Fund was held from April to June 2008.

Businesses and government agencies across NSW that use specified amounts of energy must submit energy savings action plans to DECC and report on the implementation of measures identified in their plan in an annual report to DECC (see performance indicator). A total of 223 plans were approved to June 2008. They identified 1,828 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 1 million tonnes a year, and save \$40 million on energy bills. The Government has announced that these organisations will be required by law to implement these measures.

Businesses and government agencies in Sydney Water's area that use specified amounts of water, and all local councils, must submit water savings action plans to DECC (see performance indicator). A total of 222 plans were approved to June 2008, identifying 1,830 cost-effective actions to save 7.3 billion litres of water a year and \$12 million on water bills.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Approved energy savings action plans and water savings action plans

Definition: Under Part 6A of the *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987*, businesses and government agencies that use over a certain amount of energy and water and certain local councils, must prepare and implement savings action plans. This indicator measures how many energy and water savings action plans have been approved.

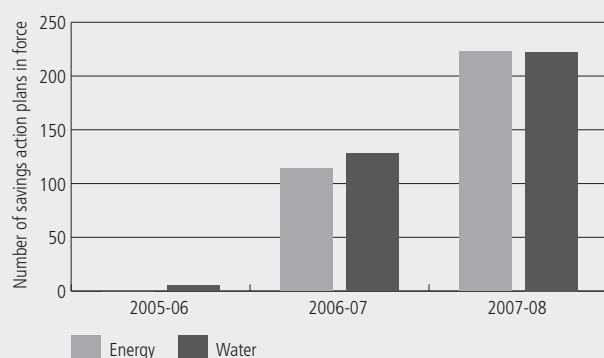
Energy savings action plans are required for:

- business and government sites using more than 10 gigawatt-hours of electricity per year in NSW
- all local councils with populations of 50,000 or more.

Water savings action plans are required for:

- business and government sites using more than 50 megalitres per year in Sydney Water's area of operations
- all local councils in Sydney Water's area of operations.

Savings action plans in force (cumulative)



Interpretation: Water savings action plans had to be submitted by 31 March 2006 (30 June 2006 for hospitals) and energy plans had to be submitted before 30 June 2006. Plans are only approved if they meet the guidelines gazetted by the Minister. If the plans are not adequate, organisations must submit revised plans. By 30 June 2008, 223 energy savings plans and 222 water savings plans were approved, a significant improvement on the previous year. This indicates that businesses and governments are meeting their responsibilities in planning to reduce energy and water use.

- working with three CMAs to increase the use of composted organic materials in land rehabilitation works. The initial trials with Hawkesbury–Nepean CMA were successful and the CMA now uses recycled organic materials as a standard practice. Thousands of cubic metres of compost have been sold to CMAs.
- releasing and promoting across all CMAs the *Guidelines for using compost in land rehabilitation and catchment management*.

Several successful projects which used organic waste as compost in the turf industry, parks and gardens, agriculture and rehabilitation of land were completed. These projects reduced waste, amounts of greenhouse gases and the use of chemical fertilisers; and improved soil health, plant productivity and soil carbon sequestration. These projects will also help industry and councils save money. For example, for a typical Western Sydney council, savings of over \$25,000 per year and up to 30% of normal water and fertiliser needs can be achieved by using compost top dressings across eight sporting grounds and five parks.

Clean Air, Healthy Communities

In November 2006 the NSW Environmental Trust established the Clean Air, Healthy Communities Fund to progress initiatives that can improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector. The Environmental Trust allocated approximately \$5 million to the fund over three years from 2007–2010.

Recycled organic material

The major greenhouse gases generated from the waste industry are derived from the decomposition of organic material in landfill. DECC has been working with councils, industry and catchment management authorities (CMAs) to find new ways of recycling organic waste. DECC's work includes:

- a three-year agricultural trial to investigate the costs, effectiveness and environmental benefits of using organic material as compost compared with conventional treatments of manures and artificial fertilisers.



Photo: R. Scott, DECC.

DECC works with Bicycle NSW on On Your Bike! which helps bike riders improve their skills.

The fund is administered by a subcommittee of the Environmental Trust. DECC prepared a business plan for the fund, under the direction of this subcommittee. The business plan was approved by the Environmental Trust on 24 September 2007. There are eight programs being funded by Clean Air, Healthy Communities:

- On Your Bike! – DECC works with Bicycle NSW on this program which supports bike riders in improving cycling skills, feeling confident and riding safely. This program also aims to encourage greater use of existing infrastructure, identify infrastructure enhancements and better integrate cycling with other modes of transport.
- Diesel Retrofit – this program is a partnership between the Environmental Trust, DECC and the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority. The program subsidises the modification of older diesel trucks and commercial vehicles to reduce emissions.



Photo: DECC.

A diesel particle trap has been fitted to a truck as part of the Diesel Retrofit Program.

- Sustainable Mobility Initiatives for Local Environments (SMILE) – through the SMILE project, DECC is researching people's behaviour regarding the current transport system, and what would be required for people to use healthier, more sustainable transport solutions such as walking and cycling. This program will also showcase innovative practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport.
- Woodsmoke reduction – DECC held four woodsmoke reduction workshops in 2007–08 for 37 different local councils, which were attended by 69 council officers. These workshops give council officers the skills to enforce legislation against those with excessively smoky chimneys, improve wood heater installation practices and undertake community education campaigns.
- Behaviour change/education – this component of the fund supports the other programs by enhancing the ability of businesses and individuals to reduce emissions. In 2007–08, research was commissioned into public responses to pollution and a communication strategy, resource kit and website were developed.

Earth Hour 2008

The NSW Government supported Earth Hour 2008 by providing \$100,000 from the Climate Change Fund. To raise awareness of climate change, every NSW Government agency joined businesses and households across 24 countries to switch off the lights for one hour on 29 March 2008. DECC ran a complementary campaign to encourage people to 'make it last a lifetime', by tapping into the wealth of resources on the *Our environment – it's a living thing* website (see www.livingthing.net.au/).

- FleetWise – this voluntary partnership with private sector fleet operators helps them reduce greenhouse gas emissions by choosing cleaner vehicles, minimising the distance travelled, and operating fleets efficiently. Refer to chapter 5 for more details.
- Stage 2 Vapour Recovery – this program, to be implemented between 2010 and 2016, will require the installation of equipment which better captures emissions that escape from petrol station bowsers. Refer to chapter 3 for more details.
- Low Emissions Air Project – this program helps smash repair workshop operators reduce emissions through installing new emission-reducing equipment.



Photo: M. Cufer.

Encourage the NSW community to adapt to climate change

Climate Change Action Plan

In March 2008, it was announced that NSW would develop a Climate Change Action Plan to replace the NSW Greenhouse Plan. The action plan will provide an opportunity to review achievements under the NSW Greenhouse Plan, and define new priorities for NSW which align with national policy. DECC will be a lead agency in developing the plan.

Biodiversity and climate change adaptation framework

DECC released the *Biodiversity and climate change adaptation framework* for NSW, which was prepared in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries, the Department of Planning, the Australian Museum and the Botanic Gardens Trust.

The framework sets out ways in which NSW public sector agencies are tackling climate change through awareness raising, research and monitoring, and actions to help protect biodiversity. The framework is supplemented by DECC's *Adaptation strategy for climate change impacts on biodiversity*.

Both biodiversity frameworks are available on www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/climatechange.htm.

Climate change research into pests and weeds

Understanding the effects of climate change on the distribution, abundance and impacts of invasive species is a priority research area identified in DECC's *Adaptation strategy for climate change impacts on biodiversity*. A research project involving DECC, Macquarie University and the Australian Research Council has developed modelling techniques to assess ways in which climate change may favour certain weed species by increasing their distribution and abundance. Predicted distribution patterns for selected weed species have been modelled for two climate change scenarios to 2030 and 2070, using data on the current distribution of the weeds in Australia and in

their native habitat overseas. This information will be used to identify future priorities for weed management.

A project involving DECC, the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre and the Commonwealth Bureau of Rural Sciences commenced in 2008 to research the potential effects of climate change on the distribution and impacts of pest animals.

DECC Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Research Program

This program enables DECC to undertake and fund research projects under the NSW Greenhouse Plan. Current projects, which are delivering important information on climate change impacts, include investigating:

- sea level rise and its impacts on cultural heritage, particularly Aboriginal heritage sites, coastal ecosystems, acid sulfate soils and infrastructure
- impacts on and threats to biodiversity resulting from the effects climate change is likely to have on the functioning of ecosystems
- the effects on the environment of projected increases in extreme climatic events, such as floods, droughts and bushfires
- the impact of increasing carbon dioxide and altered climatic regimes on the interaction between conservation and primary production in arid and semi-arid regions
- possible future rainfall distribution and its potential impacts on water resources and its further impacts on aquatic and water body dependent ecosystems
- assessment of the carbon sequestration capacity of soils and the role that increasing soil carbon plays in improving the adaptive capacity of various land management activities.

DECC is continuing to develop strategic collaborative climate change research programs with Commonwealth agencies such as the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology, and with major NSW universities including the University of New South Wales, Macquarie University, Wollongong University, the University of New England and Charles Sturt University.

Coastal impacts from climate change and sea level rise

DECC has been working on projects dealing with coastal impacts and sea level rise to increase understanding of the impacts of climate change and to provide technical guidance to government agencies and local councils.

A floodplain risk management guideline, called *Practical consideration of climate change*, has been produced to help local councils to assess floodplain risk in rivers across NSW.

Rising sea levels as a result of climate change are likely to affect the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of saline coastal wetlands. Through the Saltmarsh and Sea-level Rise Project, DECC is examining the relationship between the relative elevation of wetland sediments in saltmarsh areas, sea-level rise, groundwater and other climatic factors. Results indicate that several saltmarshes would be adversely affected by sea-level rises. The ability of saline coastal wetlands to adapt to sea-level rise depends on their sediment levels, plant productivity, amount of groundwater available and tide stage, which is the height of the tide at a given place and time. Monitoring will continue in 2008 to assess the vulnerability of mangroves and continue to assess the vulnerability of saltmarshes to sea-level rise.

DECC has also trialled airborne laser mapping of the sea bed on selected areas of the Central and Hunter coasts. The high quality elevation data produced by this technique will enable DECC and other stakeholders to model the impacts of sea-level rise and altered wave patterns on the adjacent coastline.



Photo: D. Andrew, DECC.

DECC research indicates that saltmarshes would be adversely affected by sea-level rise.

■ CASE STUDY

Case study: Researching the impacts of climate change on coastal environments

Under the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Research Program, DECC is researching the possible impacts of climate change on estuarine environments over 25 and 75 years. Research is being carried out at two coastal locations, Batemans Bay on the south coast and Woolli on the north coast.

Ways in which the effects of climate change – such as intense storms and sea-level rise – may affect rates of erosion, inundation and estuarine flushing, and the economic impacts of these effects, such as ways in which increased erosion could affect coastal properties, are being investigated.

DECC is also developing and evaluating options for low-, moderate- and high-cost responses to deal with these effects.



Photo: DECC.

DECC is researching the impacts of climate change on estuarine environments such as those at Woolli on the north coast of NSW.

Findings generated by this research will be used to develop effective policy responses to deal with climate change impacts on the NSW coast.

Great Eastern Ranges Initiative

The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (formerly known in NSW as the Alps to Atherton Initiative) is a long-term strategy, introduced by DECC in 2007, to connect and conserve public and private lands extending more than 2,800 km along the Great Dividing Range and Great Escarpment of eastern Australia from southern Victoria to far north Queensland. The objective is to create a corridor which will allow native plants and animals to move across the landscape and upwards in elevation in response to climate change impacts. The Environmental Trust has provided \$4 million for three years for the program, which is guided by a committee including representatives from community, research and government organisations.

In 2007–08, two community partnership programs known as *Kosciuszko to Coast* and *Slopes to Summit* were successfully established on the southern section of the great eastern ranges in NSW. The programs involve 15 partner organisations including DECC. *Kosciuszko to Coast* aims to reconnect isolated woodlands and grasslands between Kosciuszko and Namadgi national parks and the coastal forests of the far south coast. *Slopes to Summit* aims to link natural areas between the western slopes near Albury and Kosciuszko National Park.

Projects being implemented under these programs include sponsoring and supporting those managing land for conservation; establishing voluntary conservation agreements and covenants; and whole-of-paddock habitat restoration. They provide a model for three additional partnership programs which will begin operating in the upper Hunter River, Southern Highlands and Border Ranges regions in 2008–09.

For more information on the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ger/index.htm.



Photo: K. Ho

*The powerful owl *Ninox strenua* is threatened by loss of suitable forest and woodland habitat. The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative is providing more habitat at a range of elevations and latitudes to help the owl adapt to the impacts of climate change.*



Photo courtesy Department of Water and Energy.

Minimise and manage increased risks to life, property and the environment

Coastal, estuary and floodplain management programs

DECC works closely with local councils, catchment management authorities and communities across the state to ensure the long-term protection, conservation and restoration of coastal, estuarine and floodplain environments by reducing the risks posed by coastal hazards such as extreme tides, sea-level rise and floods.

During 2007–08, 36 grants totalling \$2.89 million were approved under the Coastal Management Program in 17 local government areas for projects such as hazard mitigation works, dune restoration and enhancement of coastal facilities.

Similarly, the Estuary Management Program approved 79 grants totalling \$3.52 million in 39 council areas. These funds have supported projects such as protection and improvement works, rehabilitation of degraded coastal wetlands and habitats, and environmental monitoring.

Along the coast, local councils have been encouraged to establish coastal zone management committees, which include representatives from the local community, industry and environmental interest groups. The committees develop and implement long-term sustainable coastal zone management plans. As at June 2008, there were committees dealing with almost three-quarters of NSW's estuaries.



Photo: M. Cufer.

The Estuary Management Program helps local councils to protect and rehabilitate estuarine environments.

■ CASE STUDY

Lower Hunter Flood Mitigation Scheme

DECC, in partnership with the Hunter–Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority, manages the operation and maintenance of the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme. The infrastructure constructed through the scheme, which includes 240 kms of levees, spillways and control banks, is designed to protect around 3,000 buildings in urban areas such as Maitland and Lorn, and 18,000 hectares of agricultural land in the Hunter Valley.

This infrastructure has withstood 32 floods since it was constructed after the 1955 floods, which devastated the Hunter Region and killed 14 people, inundated 5,200 houses and caused damages well in excess of \$700 million.

Each time there is a flood, the scheme saves around \$10 million worth of damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure and spares people the heartache and financial devastation of recovering from flooding.

The scheme is valued at \$300 million. DECC funds about \$1.7 million of the approximate \$2.4 million annual maintenance costs.

Rehabilitation work on the Maitland Levee was completed in 2004. During the flood in June 2007, this prevented \$60 million in flood damages to 1600 houses.

During the June 2007 flood, the State Emergency Service (SES) evacuated about 4,200 people when it was feared that levees would spill over. During this flood, DECC provided advice and interpretation to SES emergency control and coordination personnel on predicted flood behaviour. This helped them make appropriate and timely decisions on evacuations and assistance to flood-affected property owners.

The success of the scheme demonstrates the importance of managing flood risk strategically to protect the community. DECC's vital technical assistance and financial support to local councils helps councils understand and manage flood risk and assists the SES in their emergency response planning for floods.

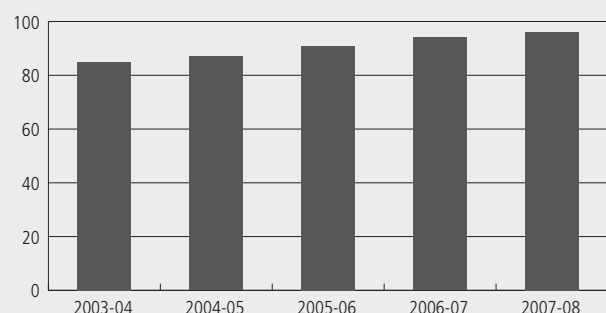
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Approved floodplain risk management plans

Definition: This indicator measures the cumulative number of urban floodplain risk management plans prepared by local government agencies. Councils are responsible for preparing these plans in urban or closely-settled rural areas, as they have statutory responsibility for land use planning and management under the *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for their local government area and are responsible for managing floodprone land.

DECC administers floodplain management programs and provides expert technical advice and assistance to local government in preparing and implementing floodplain risk management plans.

Number of floodplain risk management plans



Interpretation: At 30 June 2008, there were 96 floodplain risk management plans completed in NSW, an increase of 11 since 2003–04. The increase in the number of completed plans, from 85 in 2003–04 to 96 in 2007–08, provides an indication of the number of councils that are managing flood risks responsibly.

Local councils are encouraged to establish floodplain risk management committees to assist them in preparing and implementing floodplain risk management plans. These plans provide the basis for informed decisions on the most suitable floodplain risk management options for communities. There are currently over 90 urban and 12 rural committees, which include members from the local flood-affected community, state agencies and specific-interest community groups. In 2007–08, DECC allocated \$7.97 million for 254 grants to 85 councils and two authorities under the State Floodplain Management Program for the development and implementation of plans.

In 2007, DECC released floodplain risk management guidelines to further assist local government in developing and implementing floodplain risk management plans. These guidelines cover a range of issues including considering climate change issues when developing strategies to alleviate the negative impacts of flooding. DECC also oversaw the preparation of strategic floodplain management plans in rural areas which minimise flood risk to the community while sustaining the benefits of flooding on floodplains.

During 2007–08, DECC progressed the development of nine rural floodplain management plans in key areas covering approximately 12,000 square kilometres of the Murray–Darling Basin. Once these plans are adopted, there will be 20 plans covering about 24,000 square kilometres of the Murray–Darling Basin.

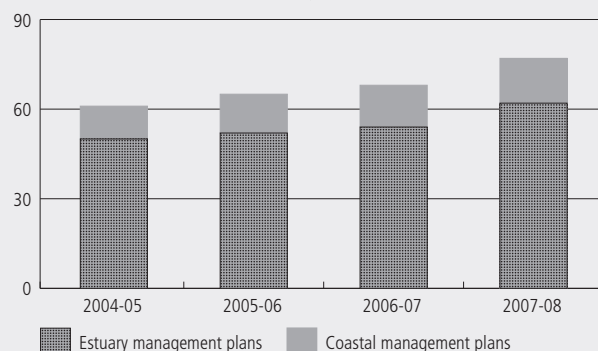
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Approved coastal and estuary management plans

Definition: This indicator measures the cumulative number of coastal and estuary management plans local government agencies have prepared for coastal areas of NSW in accordance with the NSW Coastal Policy and the *Coastal Protection Act 1979*. A coastal zone management plan may cover a section of the coastline, a beach or an estuary.

DECC administers the coastal and estuary management programs and provides expert technical advice and assistance to local government in preparing and implementing management plans.

Total number of coastal and estuary management plans completed



Interpretation: The number of plans completed provides an indication of the level of council and community support for developing and implementing management plans. Eight new estuary management plans, and one new coastal management plan were completed in 2007–08, bringing the cumulative total to 77 coastal zone management plans completed.

Fire ecology research

DECC has a diverse research program to determine ways in which different species and ecological communities respond to different fire regimes. As fire is one of the major forces structuring Australian ecosystems, almost all terrestrial ecosystems are positively or negatively affected by fire. The impacts of fire depend on their frequency, intensity, and occurrence relative to the life cycle of the species they affect.



Photo: L. Tasker, DECC.

DECC is investigating how quickly native plant species recover from bushfires that may be more severe and frequent under climate change scenarios.

In June 2008, DECC submitted to the Environmental Trust its final report of a three-year project on ways in which biodiversity in the Blue Mountains and Sydney region could respond to increased intensity and frequency of fire under climate change. The study suggests the dry sclerophyll forests of the region can change and adapt to altered fire regimes. It predicts that the abundance of herbaceous vegetation may increase under warmer and drier conditions and more frequent fire, while the abundance of shrubs may decline.

The project also confirmed that warmer and drier conditions are likely to increase the intensity of fire, despite the lower amounts of surface litter fuels that will result from such conditions. Three scientific papers explaining the findings are being prepared.

Other fire ecology projects carried out in 2007–08 are as follows:

- a fire monitoring program was initiated that will capture fire-related data across NSW. This data will help fire scientists and managers develop strategies to better manage future fires.
- experimental field studies were undertaken to examine ways in which the size and intensity of fires affect the regeneration of different species of plants and alter the composition of the resulting vegetation.
- remote sensing was used to map fire severity. The maps were then used to study the response of plants and animals to fire, examine rates of fuel build-up and plan future management needed to maintain biodiversity in these areas.
- innovative technology was trialled to monitor fire-sensitive threatened fauna not covered by existing techniques.



Photo: T. Auld.

Climate change projections indicate there will be more bushfires.

Emergency management

Climate change projections indicate there will be more extreme storms, bushfires, and heat waves. DECC is working closely with the emergency management sector to understand these changes and include this knowledge in improving emergency preparedness, planning, response and recovery arrangements.



Photo: DECC

Support business, industry and government in operating sustainably

Greenhouse Innovation Fund

Through the Greenhouse Innovation Fund, DECC is financing projects that will help reduce the adverse impacts of climate change, and help the community save money.

Two pilot projects are being developed with the Department of Health, which will assess the impacts of climate change on the health of regional communities and enable appropriate strategies to be developed to deal with such health issues. One project models the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector on rural communities, and identifies costs associated with various strategies to reduce these emissions. This project will help governments and agricultural industries identify options for reducing greenhouse emissions at least cost. The second project models the cost of achieving emissions reductions in the NSW transport sector. This will help governments develop policies to reduce emissions in this sector while building a healthier, and more environmentally and economically effective, transport system for the people of NSW.

Sydney Metropolitan Water Plan

DECC has had an ongoing role in helping to develop and implement the Sydney Metropolitan Water Plan, with a focus on the health of waterways. First released in 2004 and revised in 2006, a progress report was tabled in 2007. The plan sets out a range of programs and initiatives to secure Sydney's water into the future.

DECC is developing a Nutrient Management Strategy for the Hawkesbury–Nepean River. In 2007–08, DECC led workshops with local councils and other stakeholders based on a discussion paper that will inform the final strategy. DECC also led a comprehensive analysis of all water monitoring data back to the 1980s for the Hawkesbury–Nepean River below the major dams.

DECC's involvement in the Sydney Metropolitan Water Plan has also included contributing to:

- the environmental planning and assessment of the Western Sydney Replacement Flows Project, led by Sydney Water, which uses highly treated wastewater from three Western Sydney treatment plants for environmental flows in the Hawkesbury–Nepean River. DECC will also be the environmental regulator of this treatment plant once it is constructed.
- educating the public about water issues through the NSW Government's Water for Life Campaign, resulting in community awareness of 97% of plan initiatives.
- development of the environmental flows from large dams to provide better flows to the Shoalhaven, Hawkesbury–Nepean and Woronora rivers.

Ecoclubs

The EcoClubs Program is a three-year partnership between DECC and ClubsNSW to improve the environmental performance of registered clubs in NSW. Launched in February 2007, the program is working with almost 50 registered clubs to tackle major issues such as energy and water management through immediate actions and longer-term planning. Many clubs use large buildings with plant and equipment that run for long hours. They consume large amounts of energy and water and produce different types of waste. Some clubs have introduced new features to deal with these issues. For example, the Mount Pritchard and District Community Club (Mounties) and the Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club have introduced a 'Pulpmaster' organic waste removal system which is recovering around 1,200 tonnes of organic food waste per year. This food waste is being used to generate electricity.

Sustainability Compacts

Sustainability Compacts are high level voluntary agreements where parties commit to work together over three to five years in the areas of sustainability leadership, sustainable products and services, efficient production and service delivery and environmental responsibility. Over the year Sensis, Hewlett Packard and Insurance Australia Group (IAG) achieved significant environmental gains.

IAG completed and launched the Farm Environment Risk Radar which enables their agribusiness customers to assess the environmental risks of activities such as growing various crops. Activities are assessed in various business sectors such as dairy farming, viticulture and cotton, grain and sugarcane growing. IAG also developed an environmental standard and associated training for their preferred smash repairer network, and completed a home contents trial where 36 tonnes of damaged household items were collected of which 80% were reused or recycled. IAG is now investigating the expansion of this scheme across Sydney, Newcastle and other Australian cities. It has also undertaken a feasibility study into the use of mini-wind turbines in urban environments.

Hewlett Packard (HP) and DECC completed preliminary desktop research on a program for sustainable information and communication technology procurement. The next steps involve promoting sustainable procurement principles and actions in government and business. DECC and HP also developed an IT industry product stewardship model. HP worked independently to divert 1,750 tonnes of electronic equipment from landfill to reuse and recycling as part of asset recovery services. Its participation in the Cartridges for Planet Ark program has helped to divert three million cartridges from landfill since 2003.

DECC partnered with Sensis to prepare Australia's first 'green UBD' which will be launched in October 2008. As part of a supply chain initiative, one of Sensis's major suppliers, PMP Print (the printer of Australia's White and Yellow Pages), has joined Sustainability Advantage.

Sustainability Advantage

As at June 2008, 217 medium to large organisations, 18 of which are listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, are participating in Sustainability Advantage, which was launched in late 2006 (see the performance indicator for a description of the program). These organisations employ over 70,000 people in NSW and come from sectors as diverse as building products manufacturing, agribusiness, hospitality, health and aged care, tertiary education, community services and government. Participation from the TAFE sector alone includes 6 TAFE institutes, 72 separate campuses and over 300,000 students.



Photo: DECC

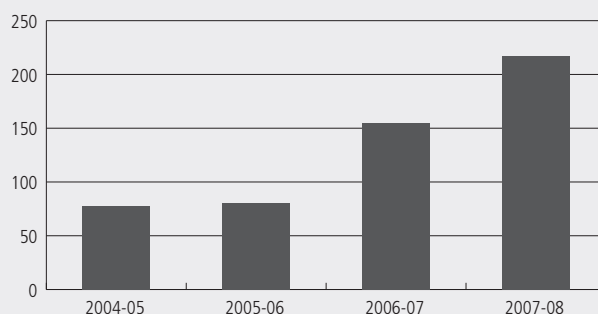
De Bortoli Wines in the Riverina region are finding ways of making wine production more sustainable under Sustainability Advantage.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Businesses participating with DECC to improve resource recovery and sustainability

Definition: This indicator measures DECC's collaboration with predominantly medium to large businesses, principally through Sustainability Advantage, to enhance their environmental performance. While these partnerships focus on resource recovery, support is also provided in areas such as corporate planning, staff education and supply chain management. The indicator does not reflect the depth of the relationship, which may vary from networking to collaboration and full partnership.

Number of businesses participating with DECC to improve resource recovery



Interpretation: The 2004–05 and 2005–06 figures represent the former DEC's engagement with businesses to improve resource recovery through the Industry Partnership Program, which involved 80 businesses in 2005–06. The resource efficiency work with business has been rolled into Sustainability Advantage, which also addresses other sustainability issues such as encouraging organisations to incorporate environmental actions into business plans, ensuring all business areas (such as operations, marketing and human resources) are involved in environmental actions, and working in geographic or sector-based clusters. Often, this work is medium to long-term and spans a number of years.

During the year participants achieved substantial savings in energy, raw material and water use as well as reductions in waste.

Preliminary data indicates that by 30 June 2008, Sustainability Advantage participants were saving \$2.78 million per year by reducing raw material, energy and water use as well as waste. This includes environmental savings of 1,365 MWh of electricity and 3,762 GJ of gas which amounts to 1,410 tonnes of CO₂. As well, 151 ML of water is being saved each year along with 121 tonnes of solid waste that is being recycled or reused. Although the waste figure is modest, it is expected to grow to over 50,000 tonnes being recycled or reused over the coming year as major projects begin to deliver results. Major building products companies are managing projects covering glass, timber and fibre cement which are scheduled to deliver significant waste reductions.

In June 2008, the NSW Government announced a \$20 million expansion of Sustainability Advantage to cover 1,000 organisations over the next five years. The expansion will entail a particular emphasis on energy efficiency as part of the Government's Energy Efficiency Strategy.

Industry sustainability training

DECC managed a pilot training program with two companies, Diageo and Fairfax Regional Printers. Company personnel were trained in sustainable manufacturing by TAFE NSW. Following the training, both Diageo and Fairfax Regional Printers have implemented significant sustainability initiatives, such as reducing carbon dioxide usage on beverage bottling lines by approximately 1.3% or 344 tonnes per year; reducing waste disposal by 9.65 tonnes per year; reducing pallet shrink wrap by 40% with a saving of \$30,000 per year; and improving paper and office machinery usage, with a target of 898 kilograms of CO₂ or \$1,680 saved per year.

DECC continued to work with industry and training providers to encourage the uptake of nationally accredited vocational training by industry. DECC:

- provided training and resources for the Protection of the Environment: Authorised Officers Course for regulatory staff in local councils. This course trains staff in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities for environmental protection under NSW environmental legislation. In 2007–08, four courses were conducted in Sydney and regional NSW with 83 participants.
- provided training and resources for the Storage and Handling of Liquids: Environmental Protection Course for industry and local government. Two train-the-trainer courses were conducted in early 2008 – one for industry and one for local government – to help them use the resources in targeted training in-house. Forty two participants attended the two courses.
- trained local councils in resource efficiency. This training helps council officers to work with business in improving their resource efficiency. The one-day course was developed and piloted in 2008 in Sydney and Lismore, with 44 participants attending. The final course will be available in late 2008 with two workshops scheduled for Sydney and the south coast.
- produced environmental action publications for smash repairers, local councils, and printing and furniture industries. The publications are also widely used by local councils for their environmental education work. Training was undertaken for Printing Industry Association and Furniture Industries Association members, the NRMA and Motor Transport Authority smash repairers' networks and independent smash repairers.
- Three workshops on environmental auditing of service stations were conducted for council officers, which were attended by 238 people. A training needs analysis survey was conducted which will inform the delivery of training in 2008–09.

Grants for urban waterways

DECC's Urban Sustainability Program provides funding for projects of significant environmental benefit to NSW. The Urban Waterways Initiative, introduced in 2007–08, funds local government projects that rehabilitate waterways in the catchments of Georges River, Cooks River, Hawkesbury–Nepean River, the Central Coast/Lower Hunter and Sydney Harbour. Five projects have been funded with a total of \$2.8 million. These projects:

- address total water cycle management, including options for stormwater harvesting and reuse, and restoration of environmental flows to local and regional waterways
- implement restoration actions to rehabilitate waterways
- conserve threatened ecological communities listed under State and Commonwealth legislation.

Waste Performance Improvements Payments Program

The Waste Performance Improvements Payments Program rewards councils for meeting targets relating to the efficient collection and management of waste. Now in its second year, all 51 councils in Sydney, the Hunter, Illawarra and Shoalhaven met program requirements sharing \$8.5 million. These included ensuring new household clean-up contracts included a recycling/resource recovery component and working towards providing Australian Standard bin configurations and colours.

DECC provides a range of tools and information to support councils in their efforts to improve waste services, including guidelines, handbooks and best practice techniques. These are available on www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/localauthorities.htm.

Litter grants

DECC ran a local government grants program to fund local and regional litter prevention campaigns. Ninety-one councils shared in grants totalling \$339,000 to educate residents and visitors about the environmental effects of littering and penalties imposed under NSW and national legislation for littering. In their applications for funding, councils had to demonstrate ways in which they would educate their communities about littering, using the tools and resources provided in DECC's Council Litter Prevention Campaign Resource Kit (see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/litterkit.htm). In May 2008, 21 projects were approved for funding – 9 local campaigns to be conducted by individual councils, and 12 regional campaigns to be run by groups of councils.

Regional local government support

DECC continues to work with rural regional councils to improve resource recovery in rural NSW through a network of eight voluntary regional waste groups (VRWGs), which collectively represent 96 councils. DECC supports the VRWGs through forums, dedicated staff support, advice, tools and other resources.

DECC provided over \$1.5 million to the VRWGs for key programs identified in their regional plans, examples of which include:

- developing a regional waste profiling methodology to enable the VRWGs to estimate the amounts and composition of waste likely to be produced from their various regional and rural communities.
- producing toolkits, such as the North East Waste Forum's *Early childhood waste wise education resource kit* and *6 steps to an eco-friendly youth project*, which can be rolled out to other areas of NSW.
- creating resources that can be used across rural regional NSW, such as the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils' *yours 2 take* website (www.yours2take.com.au). This site allows users to exchange products that can be reused. As at June 2008, 650 items have been listed and 229 goods have been exchanged for reuse and therefore diverted from landfill.
- hosting forums and workshops, such as Northern Inland Regional Waste's environmental youth forum and the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils' garden smart workshops.

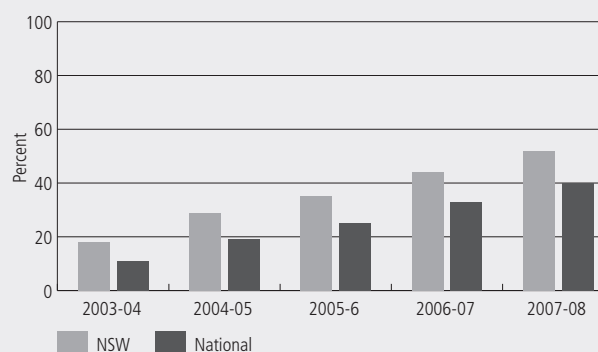
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

National Australian Built Environment Rating System – commercial market penetration

Definition: This indicator measures the proportion of the total number of national office buildings which have been rated using the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS).

NABERS measures the energy, water, waste and indoor environmental performance of a building compared with its peers. Ratings are on a one- to five-star scale, with five stars representing best performance. Ratings are voluntary. NABERS is managed nationally by DECC.

Australian Building Greenhouse Rating – percentage of commercial market penetration



Interpretation: By 30 June 2008, 40% of the available office space in Australia and 52% of the office space in NSW had rated greenhouse performance using NABERS. There has been an 18% increase in rated space from 2006–07 to 2007–08 in NSW, and a 21% increase in Australia. On average, office buildings using NABERS to measure, manage and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and water use have improved their greenhouse performance by 12% and water efficiency by 18%. Together, these buildings are achieving total annual savings of 110,000 tonnes of CO₂ and 450,000 kL of potable water. In 2007–08, 425 NABERS energy and water ratings for offices were submitted to DECC.

■ CASE STUDY

Case study: Instyle Contract Textiles wins Green Globe Awards

NSW Government's major sustainability award program for business and government was hosted by DECC for the first time at Parliament House on 28 February 2008. The Sustainability Green Globe Awards recognise and honour achievement in environmental sustainability and are open to businesses, individuals, government and non-government organisations. The awards attracted 105 nominations for 14 awards covering a range of water, energy and sustainability initiatives.

Instyle Contract Textiles won the 2008 Premier's Sustainability Excellence Award, presented to the best overall nominee for demonstrating exceptional delivery of sustainable environmental practices throughout NSW. The company also won this year's inaugural Small Business Environmental Sustainability Green Globe Award and was a joint winner of the Industry Environmental Sustainability Green Globe Award. Its



The Hon. Verity Firth MP (right) with Tracy Mak and Michael Fitzsimons from Instyle Contract Textiles.

Photo: DECC

proactive, whole of business approach to sustainability includes integrating environmental practices – in its management, product design, warehouse operations and transport divisions – and inspiring others to follow its example.

Sustainable Choice

Sustainable Choice is a partnership project between the Local Government and Shires Association and DECC which provides local councils with the tools and resources to implement sustainable procurement in their organisations. There are 42 local councils in the program. Sustainable Choice Expos were held in Fairfield in October 2007 and Leichhardt in November 2007, where 21 suppliers of sustainable goods and services met with staff from 16 and 17 councils respectively.

A seminar on sustainable paper was held in September 2007 and was attended by staff from 15 councils. Development of a sustainable procurement training course for NSW local councils began in April 2008, which is due for delivery from August 2008.

National Australian Built Environment Rating System

The National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) is a suite of environmental performance rating tools for Australian buildings, including water and energy ratings for commercial office buildings.

In May 2008, a new suite of tools was launched including waste and indoor environment ratings for offices, and energy and water ratings for hotels. Three conferences were held in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth to introduce the new ratings to the industry, attended by 404 people.

NABERS Home includes an online tool to enable householders to rate and measure the water and energy performance of their homes and identify opportunities for improvement. The NABERS Home rating tool was used in 2007–08 to evaluate and measure the effectiveness of household sustainability programs in partnership with local government and non-government organisations.

NSW Government Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy

The NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) requires all NSW Government agencies and state-owned corporations to develop WRAPP plans to reduce waste, increase recycling, and increase purchase of materials with recycled content.

Agencies are required to report to DECC every two years on implementing their plans. DECC released the WRAPP 2008 report in June 2008. It provides the results of reports from 106 agencies for the 2005–2007 reporting period which represents 94% of agencies required to report under the policy. According to the data for 2005–07, the NSW public sector is meeting or exceeding targets for many major waste streams. Some key results include:

- the paper recycling rate remained steady at 80% (82% in 2005)
- overall, 3% less waste paper and cardboard was generated

- all agencies reported having an office paper recycling system, with over 95% of agencies implementing measures such as double-sided printing and electronic publishing to reduce paper use
- the cardboard recycling rate fell slightly from 82% to 76%
- the recycling rate for used toner cartridges fell from 52% to 47%; however, the recycling rate was high among small and medium-size agencies where it was 86%
- in the construction materials category, the most significant improvements were in the recycling rate for waste fill and virgin excavated natural material, which rose from 89% to 94%
- the recycling rate for bricks and roof tiles dropped slightly from 34% to 31%
- there was a significant increase of 51% in the amount of vegetation waste generated and a decrease of 23% in the proportion recycled, from 87% to 64%
- the amount of concrete recovered for recycling dropped significantly from 76% to 39%; however, the total amount generated also dropped 19,769 tonnes or 16% from 2005.

To further improve agency performance under WRAPP, DECC is continuing to work with key agencies during the 2007–09 reporting period to:

- take advantage of new opportunities in government procurement including electronic purchasing (Smartbuy) and whole-of-government contracting
- facilitate networking by groups of agencies with similar waste and recycling issues
- undertake training for agency staff in waste management and sustainable purchasing
- disseminate information, product guides and specifications on targeted recycled content products
- improve sustainability requirements in NSW Government supply contracts.

In August 2007, the Audit Office of NSW commenced a performance audit of waste reduction and recycling efforts of government agencies by examining the WRAPP process and agency reporting and performance. The audit was completed in June 2008.



Photo: courtesy Loftus Public School.

Support individuals, families and communities in living more sustainably

Who cares about water and climate change?

In June–July 2007, DECC conducted a supplementary survey to broaden knowledge of the community's changing attitudes to the environment since *Who cares about the environment?* was released in 2006. The survey focused on the issues of water and climate change.

Respondents identified 'water conservation and management/drought' as the most important environmental issue. 'Climate change' was second and 'energy' fourth. 'Energy, greenhouse and climate change measures' were nominated by 14% of respondents as the most important environmental issue for the NSW Government. Younger people have embraced the climate change issue with 28% of 15 to 24 year olds saying this is one of the top two issues for the NSW Government.

The survey revealed that more than half of respondents (57%) said they know 'a fair amount' or 'a lot' about climate change. The survey also revealed that 54% of people believed the impacts of climate change are already affecting themselves, their children, other Australians and people living in other countries. About three-quarters of respondents thought climate change will affect their food and water supplies, and household budgets.

On the question of who should take the most responsibility for preventing human-induced climate change, 93% of respondents nominated the Commonwealth Government, 92% nominated industry, 88% nominated state government and an encouraging 68% nominated individuals.

Public Facilities Program

The Public Facilities Program was originally established in 2006 as a rolling program under the Energy Savings Fund. A contestable version of the Public Facilities Program was then established under the Climate Change Fund. It provides \$30 million for water and energy saving projects in facilities which are open to, and frequently accessed by, the public (these include schools, community buildings, sporting facilities, museums and art galleries). A total of \$1.9 million has been allocated to 11 projects under the rolling program and these projects are ongoing. Round 1 of the

Public Facilities Program under the Climate Change Fund was held from December 2007 to February 2008.

CleanOut Program for household chemicals

There are a wide range of chemical products available for domestic household use, including cleaners, paints, adhesives, solvents and chemicals for use in hobbies such as photography. The CleanOut Program is a partnership between DECC and local government across the Sydney, Hunter and Illawarra regions to deal with the safe and environmentally sound disposal of hazardous household waste. The program helps to ensure that hazardous materials are not dumped in bushland or tipped into waterways.

CleanOut staff have established temporary collection sites for the community to safely and correctly dispose of their chemical waste, and are educating the community about practices resulting in less toxic homes and protecting the natural environment.

Support for the CleanOut Program from local government partners and the general public has increased significantly. In 2007–08 there were 38 collections throughout Sydney, Hunter and Illawarra regions, 22,711 community members participating, and 748,782kg of hazardous materials being deposited and safely disposed of. These figures represent a 20% increase on the 2006–07 results. The most commonly collected materials were paints, oils, batteries and gas cylinders.

Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project

DECC works in partnership with the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW and employs 18 bilingual educators to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of sustainable living in a culturally appropriate context. This year, the project delivered workshops in eight community languages to 3,937 participants from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Information stalls and interactive activities were featured at 15 community and cultural festivals, reaching a further 5,000 people.



Photo: DECC

A program about sustainability in Greek on SBS Radio.

Highlights for 2007–08 include:

- an Italian water saving campaign – L'acqua vita
- a Greek radio series about sustainability which aired on SBS Radio
- an Arabic environmental awareness campaign conducted with the Arab Council of Australia
- a water ambassadors program with the Chinese Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation and Sri Lankan communities
- presentation of the Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project at the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education in India
- completion of the World Tower Waste Reduction Project with the City of Sydney
- an information sharing day for community educators held with the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority.

The Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project also offers advice and support for other sustainability practitioners and organisations. In 2007–08, project personnel worked with Birds Australia, Operation BlueTongue (a biodiversity project for new and recently

arrived migrants), the Department of Water and Energy, Energy Australia, Sydney Water, the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority and various local government and community organisations to facilitate local sustainability education and involvement.

Our environment – it's a living thing

Our environment - it's a living thing is the overarching environmental education program of the NSW Government. This state-wide initiative motivates and encourages people to adopt environmentally sustainable lifestyles at home, work and play.

In 2007–08, there were 65,160 visitors to the website, representing a 20% increase in visits. The 'What you can do' and 'Resource centre' sections were popular, receiving more than half the total page views. Major themes for the year were recycling, global warming, worm farming, rebate schemes, energy and water saving, and local community initiatives and activities.

The Living Thing Resource Centre was expanded to include topical information and guides for sustainable home renovations and purchase, early childhood environmental education and sustainable business. In February 2008, the website released an eight-episode podcast series on business sustainability. Visitors can access the series in streaming video and MP3 audio format.

The *Living Sustainably* e-newsletter strengthened its readership with the release of four issues featuring local sustainability activities, projects and website news. *Living Sustainably* has more than 6,900 subscribers, who include individuals, businesses, community groups, environmental educators and consultants, local and state government agencies, and interstate and international environmental agencies.

■ CASE STUDY

Case study: Schools environmental management plans

Schools in NSW are getting involved in a wide range of environmental activities relating to waste and energy reduction, and biodiversity.

Loftus Public School in southern Sydney has been part of Sustainable Schools NSW since the program was piloted in 2003. Loftus Public School Principal, Mr Martin Sinclair said: 'Through implementing a school environmental management plan, we have halved the amount of waste we produce, significantly reduced the amount of electricity and water we use, and recycled approximately 8000 kilograms of paper over two-and-a-half years.'

'Perhaps more importantly, school policy and culture has shifted to reflect our commitment to protecting the environment and finding more sustainable ways to teach and learn.'



Photo courtesy of Loftus Public School.

Loftus Public School students are thinking of ways of saving energy in their school.

'We achieved this cultural shift by involving the whole school community – teachers, students and families – in our environmental vision and plan, and by emphasising personal responsibility for acting in environmentally sustainable ways.'

Sustainable Schools NSW

Sustainable Schools NSW is a partnership between DECC and the NSW Department of Education and Training to help teachers across NSW to teach sustainability and environmental issues, and implement positive and fun actions into schoolwork.

In November 2007, the Sustainable Schools NSW website was launched by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and the Minister for Education and Training. The website enables schools to develop an environmental management plan online and keep track of energy and water use, waste generation and purchasing procedures. Schools are also encouraged to promote their initiatives on the website. By June 2008, 20% of NSW schools were participating in the initiative. Since February 2008, DECC has developed accredited training and supported professional learning workshops for teachers about teaching sustainability. As at June 2008, 177 participants have attended 16 workshops across NSW.

Another strategy is the ongoing development of partnerships with those who work with schools. In 2007, the NSW Catholic Education Commission and DECC signed a formal agreement to assist NSW Catholic schools to implement sustainability education. The Commission has now formed a sustainability working group.

Sustainable Schools NSW is part of the national Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative. The national partnership statement across all states, territories and the Commonwealth was endorsed by the Environment Protection and Heritage Council in April 2008.



Photo: S. Cottrell, DECC.

DECC works with schools on sustainable gardening programs.

A healthier and cleaner environment, protecting both ecological and human health



Photo: V. Farrar, DECC.

DECC values its reputation as an effective NSW regulator of air and water quality, noise and odour issues, chemical and pesticide use, waste disposal, use of radioactive substances, and contaminated sites.

Context

The NSW community is faced with many significant environmental issues as a result of the size of the population and the demands placed on the environment. Air and water quality are ongoing issues, while the use of chemicals, pesticides and hazardous materials can create pollution and contaminate land. These pressures also result in impacts on biodiversity and the loss of native vegetation through overclearing, leading to salinity, soil erosion, changes to the water table, and the loss of plants and animals and their habitats.

DECC is responsible for administering NSW legislation to protect the environment including the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*, *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001*, *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

DECC uses a risk control approach to its regulatory activities for protecting the environment, natural and cultural resources and human health. Activities cover industry operations, government practices and community activities. DECC manages programs that provide more certainty for business, help business and government introduce best practice principles and operate more efficiently, and promote community awareness and understanding.

Outcomes

DECC aims to provide a healthier and cleaner environment, protecting both ecological and human health, by working with communities, business and governments to:

- prevent, reduce or mitigate air, water and noise pollution and other adverse environmental impacts that could affect biodiversity and cause the loss of native vegetation
- remediate or restore degraded environments
- improve community wellbeing
- eliminate unnecessary regulation.

Key drivers

DECC's work in the area of environment protection and regulation is informed by:

- *State Plan – A New Direction for NSW* (www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan)
- *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm)
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm)
- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001* (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm)
- *Radiation Control Act 1990* (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm)
- *Pesticides Act 1999* (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm)
- *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2008* (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm)
- Action for Air (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/actionforair/index.htm)

Performance indicators

DECC measures performance in the area of environment protection and regulation through the following performance indicators:

- Estimated volatile organic compound emissions in the Greater Metropolitan Region
- Air quality standards exceeded in the Sydney Greater Metropolitan Region
- New pollution reduction programs negotiated with licensees
- Pollutant Load Indicator for air and water pollutants from premises licensed under load-based licensing
- Environment Line – incident reports about air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises
- Prosecutions completed under EPA legislation
- Penalty infringement notices issued by DECC under EPA legislation
- NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy – changes in waste disposed of to landfill in the Greater Sydney Region
- Regulatory actions under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*
- High air pollution days in the Sydney Greater Metropolitan Region
- Valid air quality data available from DECC's monitoring network
- Beachwatch and Harbourwatch monitoring programs.



Photo: DECC.

Prevent, reduce or mitigate air, water and noise pollution and other adverse environmental impacts

Clean Air Forum

Action for Air is a 25-year action plan for improved air quality, involving all state government agencies. Under Action for Air, DECC hosted the third Clean Air Forum in November 2007. Actions and feedback from the forum contributed to the next update of Action for Air, which is due for release in late 2008.

The forum's theme was 'Clean Air, Cool Climate'. Around 200 guests attended from industry, academia, government, and environment and community groups. Topics covered by speakers and discussion panels included:

- the links between air quality and climate change and ways in which governments are addressing them
- the health impacts of air pollution and local levels of exposure to air pollutants
- progress on achieving State Plan targets relating to air quality
- meeting the national air quality standards.

DECC papers delivered at the forum included *Current and projected air quality in NSW*, *Air emissions inventory for the Greater Metropolitan Region in NSW* and the *Draft NSW cleaner vehicles and fuels strategy*.

For more information on the forum, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/actionforair/caf2007.htm.

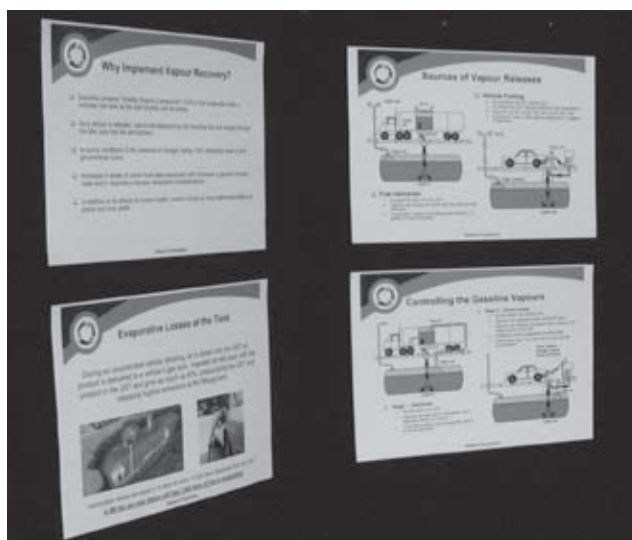


Photo: DECC.

Signs at the Clean Air Forum explain the process of vapour recovery.

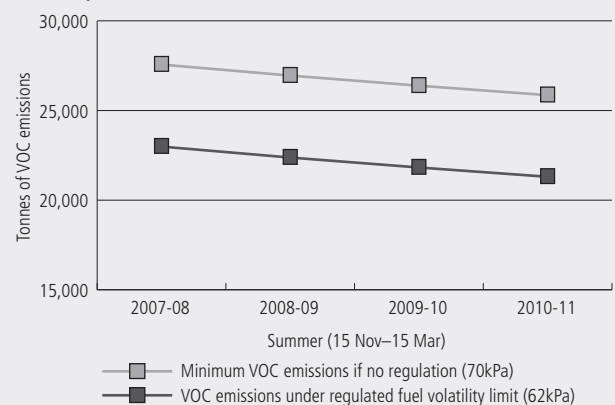
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Estimated volatile organic compound emissions in the Greater Metropolitan Region

Definition: Petrol vapour containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) is one of the main causes of smog in the Greater Metropolitan Region (GMR) during summer. Lowering volatility reduces fuel evaporation and emissions from petrol vehicles and machines. The summer period is targeted because the warmer temperatures contribute to greater evaporation of petrol.

This indicator estimates the reduction in VOC emissions that will be achieved as a result of the amendments in 2004 to the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation. The amendments require those in the fuel industry to comply with volatility limits set on petrol supplied in the GMR between 15 November and 15 March each year. Figures from previous years have not been supplied because the estimates have been updated to include non-road engines and are therefore not comparable.

Estimated VOC emissions from petrol in the GMR in four-month summer periods (tonnes)



Interpretation: The limits in the Regulation, which are the tightest in Australia, commenced in November 2004. The estimate in VOC emissions from the petrol complying with limits is compared with an estimate of the emissions if no regulation of petrol volatility had been introduced. The estimates for VOC emissions with no regulation are decreasing due to improved emission control technology in vehicles.

Pollution reduction programs

DECC uses pollution reduction programs (PRPs) to reduce air emissions and address specific air and water pollution issues (see performance indicator).

Seventeen PRPs completed during the year meant licensees reduced their emissions and formulated improvement programs. DECC also made PRPs conditions of more environment protection licences, requiring licensees to improve air pollution controls, measures or monitoring equipment. One such PRP is requiring a licensee to progressively replace solvent-based materials used in their production processes with a water-based product. This action will deliver a 90% reduction in volatile organic compound emissions over four years.

DECC negotiated 38 water licences to reduce water pollution through PRPs. For example, DECC negotiated with the Northern Co-operative Meat Company to upgrade their tannery and abattoir wastewater system to ensure sustainable irrigation of wastewater. The upgrade

will be achieved by treating the tannery wastewater with activated sludge technology. The upgrade will be complemented by an expansion and superior management of the existing irrigation area.

DECC attached a PRP to the West Cliff coal mine environment protection licence. The PRP required BHP Billiton, the operator of the mine, to assess water quality impacts so effective treatment technologies or approaches to improve discharge water quality can be developed.

A similar PRP at the same mine resulted in installation of desalination treatment which has significantly reduced the load and concentration of salts being discharged to the Nepean River Catchment. The facility cost approximately \$6 million and has allowed up to 2 ML/d of treated water to be used in underground mining operations, thus reducing the demand on Sydney's drinking water supply. The development and installation of full-scale technology at West Cliff coal mine is estimated to take between three and five years.

■ CASE STUDY

Vapour recovery expanded at petrol stations

Petrol vapours emitted during the refuelling of motor vehicles are a significant and growing source of air pollution in the NSW Greater Metropolitan Region (GMR). These emissions are evident at the petrol dispenser as a visible haze or strong odour and contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone or smog, which is harmful to human health. Petrol vapour emissions can also severely impact on the local amenity of areas near service stations.

Stage 1 vapour recovery (VR1) captures volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions that are vented from underground storage tanks as they are filled by road tankers. Since 1986, NSW legislation has required VR1 controls to be fitted at most service stations in the Sydney region. The area in which service stations are required to install VR1 will now be extended over 2008–2013 to include the Lower Hunter, Illawarra and Central Coast regions.

Stage 2 vapour recovery (VR2) captures and recycles the petrol vapours that would otherwise be emitted into the atmosphere during refuelling of vehicles at the bowser. VR2 can reduce emission of VOCs at service stations by 95%. VR2 technology is required in many parts of the USA, Europe and Asia. The potential implementation of VR2 in Sydney has been evaluated through a 12-month equipment trial, an independent economic analysis and extensive industry consultation. The equipment trial demonstrated the environmental benefits of VR2 and that the technology works successfully and reliably under Australian conditions.

In November 2007, the Government announced its intention to expand vapour recovery by requiring VR2 technology to be fitted at large service stations in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong and on the Central Coast. A two-year lead in period from 2008–2010 will

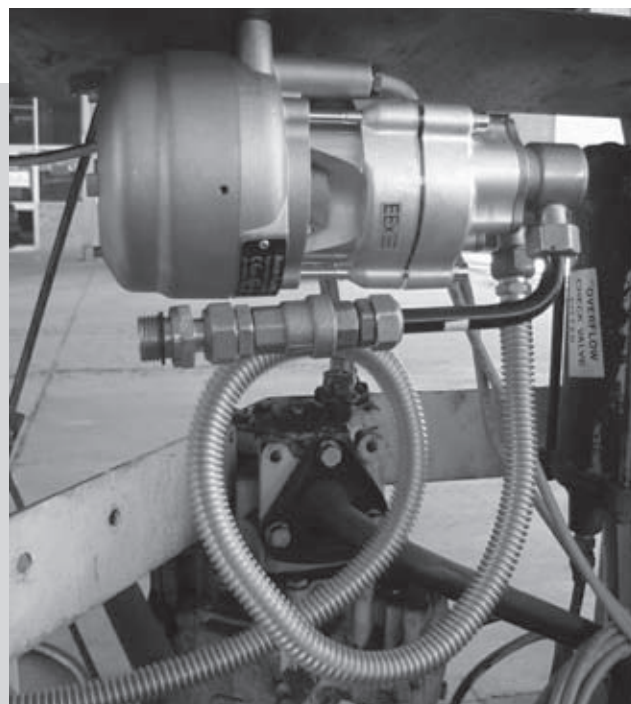


Photo: DECC.

VR2 equipment will be installed at petrol stations to capture and recycle volatile organic compounds so they do not escape into the atmosphere and add to air pollution levels.

be provided to resolve a range of issues including equipment certification, industry up-skilling, resolution of technical issues and development of industry codes and guidelines. The new equipment itself will be phased-in over a nine-year period from 2008–2016, to allow service station operators enough time to install it. Small service stations are exempt from the requirement unless they are newly built or refurbished.

The proposed expansion of vapour recovery will reduce VOC emissions by over 5,000 tonnes a year. The Environmental Trust's Clean Air, Healthy Communities Fund is providing resources to assist industry consultation and communication, and implement the new regulations.

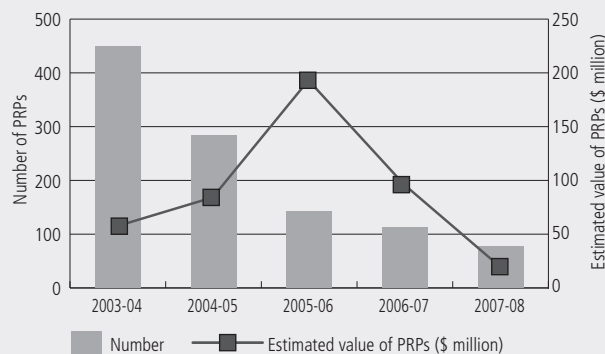
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

New pollution reduction programs negotiated with licensees

Definition: This indicator measures the number and estimated value of new pollution reduction programs (PRPs) negotiated during the year. PRPs are legally enforceable programs that are attached to environment protection licences and negotiated with licensees. PRPs require changes to works or management practices to bring about environmental improvements within a specified timeframe. PRPs may be implemented in stages over a number of years, with specific conditions attached to each stage.

The dollar values are approximate DECC estimates.

Number and estimated value of new pollution reduction programs negotiated with licensees



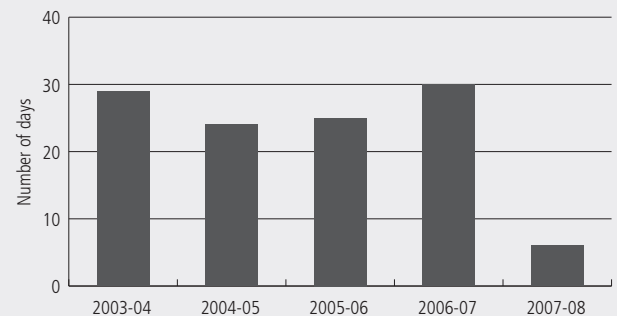
Interpretation: The estimated value of PRPs negotiated by DECC in 2007–08 was over \$21 million. The higher number and estimated value of new PRPs in 2003–2006 were related to Sydney Water's major improvements to Sydney and Illawarra sewage systems, and upgrades in rural plants to improve water quality and reduce sewage overflows.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Air quality standards exceeded in the Sydney Greater Metropolitan Region

Definition: The National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (Air NEPM) specifies national air quality standards for six pollutants: photochemical smog (ozone), nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, fine particles less than 10 micrometres (PM₁₀) and lead. This indicator details the number of days in the Greater Metropolitan Region (GMR) (Sydney, Illawarra and the lower Hunter) when one or more of these standards were exceeded at any site. If more than one standard was exceeded on a given day, that day is only counted once.

Number of days air quality standards exceeded in the Sydney Greater Metropolitan Region



Interpretation: Air quality standards were exceeded on 8 days in 2007–08, 22 days fewer than in 2006–07. Easing of the prolonged drought conditions experienced across south-east Australia greatly reduced the incidence of elevated particle concentrations. There were also fewer bushfires and fewer photochemical smog (ozone) exceedance days, due to a milder and wetter summer season.

■ CASE STUDY

New charge cars at Illawarra Coke Company

The Illawarra Coke Company (ICC) produces high quality coking coal for steelmaking, and lead and zinc smelting. The ICC Coalcliff premises have been operating since 1914. Over recent years, DECC has negotiated PRPs with ICC on a five-year basis. The last round of the five-year program was negotiated in 2004 when five new PRPs were added to the Coalcliff licence.

Coke making involves heating coal in purpose-built ovens to produce a pure form of carbon. The objective of one PRP was to reduce air emissions, including particulate matter, during coke oven charging.

The first stage involved investigating and assessing the emissions and the operational changes that could be made to the company's 58 ovens. The next stage involved trialling different coal charging methods to reduce emissions. Various methods were discounted for operational and technical reasons, with the company finally committing to new charge cars.

In December 2007 and February 2008, two new charge cars were installed on the coke ovens' battery at a cost of \$1.6 million. Due to the age of the battery, they required complex design work. Key environmental features of the new charge cars include:

- a steel boot under the hopper to direct coal into the ovens without discharging emissions



Photo courtesy Illawarra Coke Company

Old and new charge cars at Illawarra Coke Company. The new charge cars are reducing air emissions, including particulate matter.

- a shroud around the loading area to prevent emissions from escaping
- new guides to allow alignment of the charge car with each of the 58 ovens
- three video cameras to allow the drivers to monitor the cars' alignment
- a charging operation occurring under negative pressure with emissions being directed to a baghouse
- captured fine particulates being directed back to the ovens
- a programmable system to allow each oven to be charged with different quantities of coal depending on the oven characteristics.

As a result of the modifications, ICC has reported a significant decrease in charging emissions. There will be further investigation and assessment to evaluate the project's success.

Diffuse source water pollution strategy

DECC developed this strategy for NSW as a significant contribution to Priority E4 of the State Plan (Better outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways). For the first time, NSW now has a coordinated approach across all relevant natural resources agencies, catchment management authorities and local councils, to focus efforts on priority diffuse source water pollution problems, mainly pathogen, nutrient and sediment pollution. Agencies will work together to improve the health of rivers, wetlands and estuaries.

Delivery of the strategy will be achieved through an action plan, which identifies cost-effective and efficient actions for the various entities to address diffuse pollution. The action plan will continue to be expanded as more partnerships are established and funding opportunities are negotiated.

Metropolitan marinas and boat repair facilities

DECC completed a project to assess the overall environmental performance of licensed premises in the marina and boat repair facility sector in Sydney, and to address unsatisfactory environmental performance. The project aimed to ensure good environmental practices and controls were in place to prevent further soil, groundwater and surface water contamination at these facilities. Twenty-five premises were inspected.

Overall, performance at most premises was satisfactory, with achievable corrective actions identified and implemented. These related mainly to inadequate bunding around slipways, hardstands, workshops and where fuel or waste oil were stored or dispensed. However, officers identified licence breaches and shortcomings on

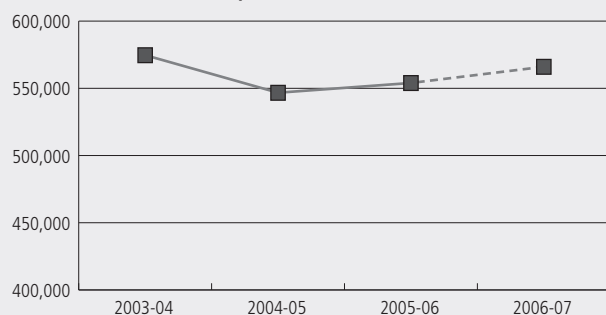
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Pollutant Load Indicator for air and water pollutants from premises licensed under load-based licensing

Definition: The Pollutant Load Indicator (PLI) represents the total pollutant load emitted by all load-based licensing (LBL) activities for the reporting year, adjusted to reflect the relative harm of the pollutants and the sensitivity of the environment into which they are emitted. A pollutant emitted in very large quantities can have a lower impact than another pollutant with relatively small emissions because of differing levels of toxicity and the sensitivity of the environment into which it is emitted. Fluorides, for example, have a higher pollutant impact than volatile organic compounds, even though their actual pollutant load is lower. The higher the PLI, the greater the environmental harm.

Under the load-based licensing scheme, 12 types of air pollutants and 17 categories of water pollutants are reported by licensees and assessed by DECC. Air pollutants are: arsenic, lead, fine particles, fluorides, nitrogen oxides, mercury, sulfur oxides, volatile organic compounds, hydrogen sulfide, coarse particles, benzene and benzo(a) pyrene. Water pollutants are: total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, total phenolics, pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls, mercury, arsenic, chromium, salt, phosphorus, selenium, biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, nitrogen, oil and grease, zinc, lead, copper and cadmium.

PLI for total assessable air pollutants

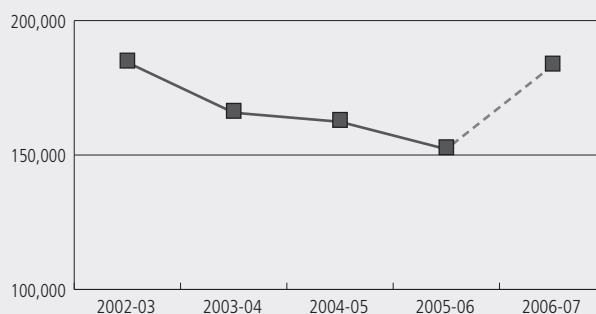


The side axis represents the total Pollutant Load Indicator which is explained above.

Interpretation for air pollution emissions: The PLI for total air pollutant emissions decreased by 5% to 546,723 from 2003–04 to 2004–05. Data for 2006–07 shows a marginal increase of around 3.5% over the two years since then. Increased LBL fees for ozone-causing emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds were introduced in 2006–07. The annual PLIs for these pollutants decreased by 2% and 25% respectively in 2006–07 compared with 2005–06.

Data for 2005–06 and 2006–07 is considered provisional (shown by a dotted line), as quality assurance systems can lead to some restatement for up to two years following reporting. Data from all licensees for 2007–08 will be updated in 2009.

PLI for total assessable water pollutants



The side axis represents the total Pollutant Load Indicator which is explained above.

Interpretation for water pollution emissions: The trend indicates continued improvement in controlling the levels of harm from water pollutants emitted by licensed activities, with a steady decrease in the PLI up to 2005–06. However, data for 2006–07 shows an increase of approximately 20% on the previous year. This is primarily due to significant increases in emissions of total suspended solids by the main Sydney Water sewage treatment systems and increased rainfall compared to 2005–06.

Data for 2005–06 and 2006–07 is considered provisional (shown by a dotted line), as quality assurance systems can lead to some restatement for up to two years following reporting. Data from all licensees for 2007–08 will be updated in 2009.

some sites. In total, licensees committed over \$8 million towards pollution reduction programs and environmental improvement programs and these will be tracked to completion. Feedback from all stakeholders, including the Boating Industry Association, has been positive.

Sydney Water Catchment audit

Between June and October 2007, DECC undertook the fifth independent audit of the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment in accordance with the *Sydney Catchment Management Act 1998*. The report provides a valuable benchmark for the government, private sector and the community who share common interests in the supply of raw drinking water and the health of the catchment. The audit used a core set of 16 environmental indicators to provide a valuable baseline for future audits, and made recommendations relating to raw water quality, managing water resources, land condition and ecosystem health. It will enable stakeholders to identify areas that need to be targeted for additional action.

New noise regulation

A new noise Regulation was introduced this year, completing a commitment under the State Plan to strengthen neighbourhood noise legislation.

The POEO (Noise Control) Regulation 2008 controls noise from motor vehicles, marine vessels and miscellaneous household equipment. The Regulation aims to prevent the selling or driving of vehicles that emit noise above maximum exhaust noise limits or have temporary noise reduction devices designed to cheat noise tests. It controls offensive noise from marine vessels and sound systems used on boats, and restricts the times when equipment such as air conditioners, garden and power tools may be heard, to protect residential amenity during the night and early morning.

Local councils, police and NSW Maritime Officers have been briefed on the new requirements and DECC's five noise brochures are being updated (see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/noise/noise_brochures.htm). The *Noise guide for local government* is also being revised.

Due to the large number of requests from the public seeking more controls on noisy equipment such as leaf blowers and air conditioners, the NSW Government formed an interstate working group, under the auspices of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, to investigate introducing a noise labelling scheme for Australia and New Zealand.

In 2007–08, DECC undertook 234 noise assessments of sample sites from industries such as coal mines, power stations, quarries and hospitals.

Noise Testing and Anti-tampering Inspection Scheme

In September 2007, DECC formally launched its Noise Testing and Anti-tampering Inspection Scheme. The aim of the scheme is to significantly reduce the number of noisy vehicles on NSW roads and strengthen strategic compliance activities.

A network of approved inspection stations will be established across NSW to provide a more accessible service to vehicle owners. Previously, a vehicle owner reported to have an excessively noisy vehicle had to have the vehicle tested at Lidcombe. This limited DECC's capacity to undertake noisy vehicle compliance activities outside Sydney and vehicle owners often had to wait several weeks to have their vehicles re-tested. Two stations at Granville and Campbelltown have been appointed as the first approved inspection stations. More stations, including stations outside Sydney, will be set up over the next twelve months.

Industrial compliance

Each year, DECC undertakes Strategic Environmental Compliance and Performance Reviews. The reviews integrate compliance audit and licence review programs, and improve industry's environmental performance by providing review findings and examples of best practice operations.

In 2007–08, DECC released its report on preventing contaminated sites. The review focused on activities that could contaminate land or groundwater, such as those taking place in metal industries. The report is available on www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/licensing/strategicconsitesreport.pdf. It includes information on best environmental management practices that can be adopted by industry to reduce the likelihood of site contamination.

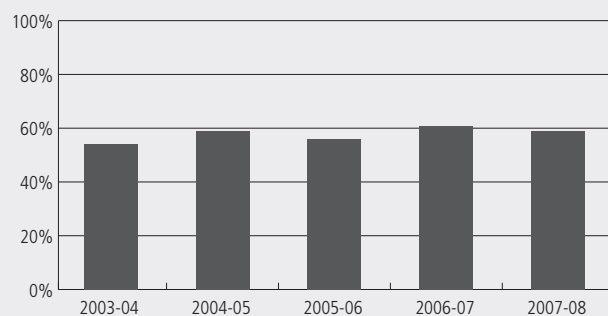
DECC also completed a review to improve the environmental performance of licensed and non-licensed premises in industrial estates. The review was conducted with Tamworth Regional Council and Wollongong City Council, and identified issues such as lack of spill containment structures, practices resulting in dust and odour emissions and inadequate emergency response procedures. The review also highlighted opportunities for businesses to adopt practices to save water and energy and reduce waste, which would also in some instances reduce costs. Better practices included reusing wastewater in manufacturing processes, managing hot water usage to match operational demands and investigating opportunities for neighbouring businesses to reuse waste. A report outlining the findings is available on www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/licensing/08444indest.pdf.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Environment Line – incident reports about air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises

Definition: DECC's Environment Line receives reports from the public and industry on pollution incidents (see Appendix 13). This indicator measures the percentage of reports received about dust, smoke or other airborne particulate emissions, odour and noise from premises which DECC regulates.

Percentage of total incident reports to Environment Line relating to air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises



Interpretation: When viewed over the past five years, combined air and noise pollution incident reports have remained steady each year as a percentage of total incidents reported to the Environment Line. In 2007–08, they made up 59% of total incidents reported. This large percentage reflects the public's ongoing concerns about lifestyle, amenity and the impacts of air and noise pollution. However, while the percentage rates have remained steady, air and noise complaint numbers have steadily declined from 5,711 in 2003–04 to 4,064 in 2007–08. Over the last two years, the numbers of reports on odours have also declined slightly. This indicates improvements in managing major sources of pollution on-site, including implementation of stricter odour guidelines and pollution reduction programs. Reports of noise increased slightly, in some cases due to large infrastructure projects in regional areas.

In May 2008, DECC commenced a review of industry monitoring. The review aims to increase industry awareness of correct procedures to use when undertaking sampling and analysis, and to use monitoring results to inform site operations and improve environmental performance. A report on this review will be released in 2009.

Another example of DECC's industrial compliance activities was its work with MMP Industrial Pty Ltd, one of the leading companies in NSW in the processing and blending of chemicals, specialising in the automotive industry. MMP Industrial stores and processes thousands of tons of chemicals every year.

In 2007, it was determined that the company's activities must be licensed by DECC under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*. As part of the environmental assessment, there was concern that chemical spills, and the lack of wastewater and stormwater controls, could adversely affect the environment. A pollution reduction program was negotiated to deal with these concerns.

Within nine to ten months, some of the environmental achievements completed were:

- spill kits were placed at several strategic locations
- all chemical storage tanks were labelled in accordance with relevant legislation and appropriate guidelines
- an inventory was conducted of all chemicals stored on-site
- two highly sophisticated and specially designed shut-off valves were installed to prevent any material from leaving the site in the event of a major chemical spill
- employees were trained to deal with emergency spills.

Licence reviews

DECC had 16 licences due for review in the 2007–08 financial year. Of these, DECC completed 11 on time, completed 4 late and did not complete 1. Of the five reviews not completed by the due date, one review was delayed due to the licensee seeking modifications to their development consent, two were delayed as site inspections could not be scheduled before the due date, and the remaining two were delayed for administrative reasons.

In accordance with Section 78(3) of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, DECC advised the EPA Board of this result.

Prosecutions

DECC can commence prosecutions for environment protection offences under the authority of the Environment Protection Authority. DECC can also commence prosecutions for offences under native vegetation, threatened species, parks, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage legislation. These are reported on in the next chapter.

Significant prosecutions under EPA legislation during 2007–08 include:

Abigroup Contractors Pty Limited – pollution of waters

In August 2007, the NSW Land and Environment Court convicted Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd of pollution of waters near Brunswick Heads. Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd was ordered to pay \$20,000 to the Department of Primary Industries for general environmental purposes, to publicise the details of the conviction in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Byron Bay Echo* and *Lismore Northern Star* and to pay legal costs. The offence occurred when sediment-laden water flowed from a work site into a wetland following heavy rain. Inadequate sediment and erosion controls were in place at the time of the offence.

Caltex Australia Petroleum Pty Limited – pollution of waters

In October 2007, Caltex Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd was convicted in the NSW Land and Environment Court of pollution of waters and fined \$12,000. The company was also convicted of failing to notify the appropriate regulatory authority of the pollution incident and fined a further \$15,000. The Court ordered the money be paid to Moree Plains Shire Council for the Mehi River Corridor Restoration Project. The company was ordered to publish a notice of its conviction in two newspapers and to pay legal costs. The offences resulted from a leaking diesel storage tank at a depot in Moree. Caltex discovered the leak and commenced work to remediate the affected area but did not notify DECC or the local council of the discovery.

Lithgow City Council – breach of environment protection licence

In October 2007, Lithgow City Council was convicted in the NSW Land and Environment Court of two breaches of its environment protection licence and fined \$11,250 for the first offence and \$37,500 for the second offence. It was also ordered to complete repairs to its sludge lagoons by 9 June 2008 and to pay legal and investigation costs. The offences arose out of a failure to comply with conditions relating to pollution reduction programs.

Nalco Australia Pty Ltd – pollution of waters

In September 2007, Nalco Australia Pty Ltd was convicted in the NSW Land and Environment Court of polluting waters near Botany Bay. Nalco Australia Pty Ltd was ordered to pay a penalty of \$50,000 to DECC which would be used to implement the Towra Point Nature Reserve Weed Management Strategy, and publish details of its conviction in the *Southern Courier* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. The company was also ordered to pay legal costs. The offence occurred during the unloading of ethylene glycol from a tanker truck to a storage tank on the company's premises at Banksmeadow. Approximately 9,000L of ethylene glycol flowed out of the tank and passed through the stormwater system.

Nowra Chemical Manufacturers Pty Ltd – pollution of waters

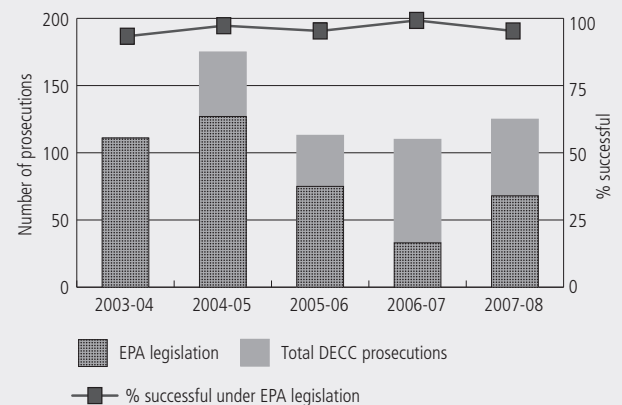
In June 2008, Nowra Chemical Manufacturers Pty Ltd was convicted in the NSW Land and Environment Court of pollution of waters near Flat Rock Dam, Nowra. The company was ordered to pay \$100,000 towards restoration and erosion control works on Shoalhaven River. The company was also ordered to pay DECC's legal and investigation costs. On 19 January 2007, employees noticed that liquid containing sulphuric acid was leaking from an unbunded tank into a nearby stormwater drain. Approximately 1,700 litres escaped. At the hearing on penalty, the Court found that there was harm caused to a number of native plant species along a 22-metre stretch of the stormwater easement.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

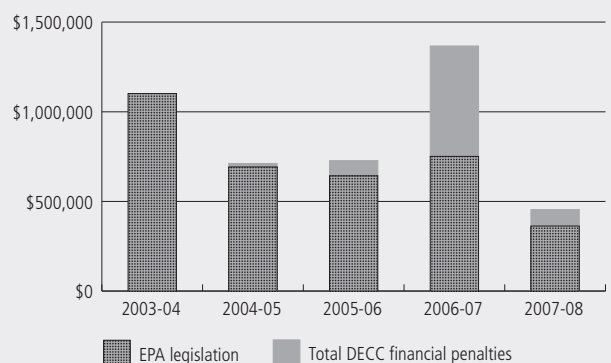
Prosecutions completed under EPA legislation

Definition: This indicator measures the number of prosecutions completed under Environment Protection Authority (EPA) legislation, the proportion that were successful and the resulting value of penalties imposed by the Land and Environment or local courts. 'Successful' refers to prosecution cases that DECC won. These include cases where the defendant was convicted and a penalty was imposed and cases where DECC's case was proved but no conviction or penalty was imposed.

Prosecutions completed under EPA legislation



Value of financial penalties



Interpretation: DECC maintained its consistently high successful prosecution rate in 2007–08 with 96% of its prosecutions successful under EPA laws. The number of such prosecutions more than doubled in 2007–08 although total fines imposed for these offences declined compared with previous years. The lower fine levels are partly a consequence of certain major prosecutions, which were progressed during 2007–08, not having been completed by the end of the financial year.

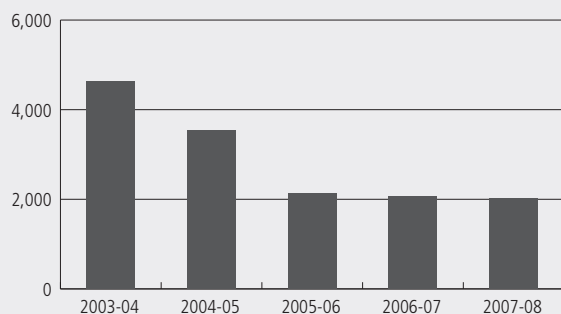
Refer to Appendix 8 Infringements and Prosecutions for more information on all prosecutions.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

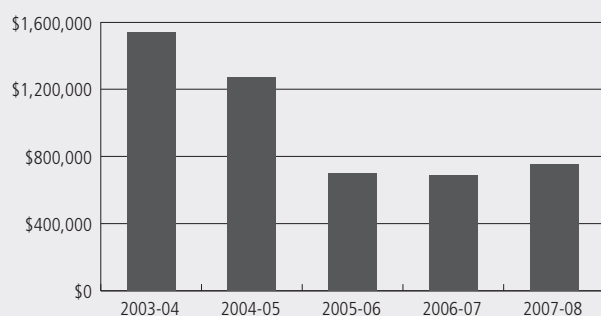
Penalty infringement notices issued by DECC under EPA legislation

Definition: Penalty infringement notices (PINs) are issued for minor breaches of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) legislation administered by DECC, as well as for smoky and noisy vehicles and littering from vehicles. PINs impose a fine. This indicator measures only the number of PINs issued and processed by DECC. See Appendix 8 for details of the legislation under which these PINs are issued, and PINs issued by local councils.

Number of PINs issued



Value of fines from PINs issued



Interpretation: In 2007–08, 2,032 PINs were issued which imposed fines of \$750,000. In recent years, the number of PINs for motor vehicles, especially smoky vehicles and littering from vehicles, has decreased. DECC's surveys confirm a decrease in the number of smoky vehicles in Sydney. The decrease is partly due to improvements in motor vehicle fuel standards and emission controls, and also reflects the success of DECC's enforcement and education activities.

David John Hogan – use land as a waste facility without lawful authority

In March 2008, Mr David John Hogan was prosecuted in the NSW Land and Environment Court for being involved in the management of a company that used land as a waste facility without lawful authority. Mr Hogan was convicted and fined \$18,000 and was ordered to pay legal costs. Mr Hogan was the general manager of Riverstone Earthmoving Pty Ltd, which operated a landfill in Western Sydney. The landfill received solid waste and virgin excavated natural material. It held an environment protection licence to allow it to operate this waste facility. The Department suspended the licence on 12 May 2006. However, the company continued to operate the landfill until 21 June 2006.

Enforceable undertakings

Enforceable undertakings are an adjunct to prosecutions and are available to DECC in dealing with environmental incidents. DECC negotiated two enforceable undertakings in relation to two separate pollution incidents in 2007–08.

The first was with Delta Electricity, under which Delta agreed to pay \$45,000 for environmental enhancement works involving weed control and bush regeneration at the Colongra Swamp Nature Reserve in Budgewoi.

The second was with Mato Investments Pty Ltd, under which the company agreed to pay \$98,400 for remediation and enhancement works to the Murray River.

Waste compliance activities

The DECC waste compliance and enforcement program uses a broad range of compliance tools such as targeted inspections, sector compliance programs, education and cleaner industry programs. In 2007–08, DECC conducted 16 waste compliance campaigns targeting the disposal of construction and demolition waste, companies generating liquid wastes, waste trucks that do not cover their loads, daily cover at landfills and illegal waste dumping.

DECC compiled a database of over 300 unlicensed waste operators such as skip bin companies in the Sydney Region. The database was developed using classified and online directories. DECC officers also contacted 65 skip bin companies via the telephone and asked a series of questions about the types and quantities of waste they collected. The database provides DECC with an up-to-date list of non-licensed waste operators and information about what types of wastes they are handling, and can be used to identify premises to target in future compliance campaigns.

DECC commenced a compliance project to improve the management and disposal of perchloroethylene (dry cleaning solvent) used by the dry cleaning industry. Information on chemical usage and waste disposal was obtained through meetings with dry cleaning industry representatives, councils and waste treatment facilities. As a result of the project, DECC is developing initiatives to help dry cleaning operators be aware of waste management responsibilities and establish environmentally friendly systems. A multi-lingual educational brochure is being prepared.

In June 2008, DECC hosted a Resource Efficiency Forum in Bankstown for licensed liquid waste generators, focusing on reducing liquid waste. The 30 participating businesses were encouraged to adopt measures that reduce the use of raw materials, energy, water and generation of waste. The forum was also an opportunity to inform businesses of the proposed changes to licensing, the liquid waste levy, waste tracking, Sustainability Advantage and the Green Businesses Program. Presentations were also delivered by Sydney Water about trade waste, and by two companies who had introduced sustainable measures to reduce waste.

Transport of dangerous goods enforcement

DECC, WorkCover NSW, the Independent Transport and Reliability Regulator, NSW Police and the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) conduct combined enforcement campaigns, audits and education activities in NSW relating to road and rail transport activities.

In 2007–08, combined enforcement operations with NSW Police and the RTA proved that some transport operators and drivers were still taking risks with dangerous goods. Such risks included incompatible loads, not displaying placards, or not carrying appropriate safety and protective equipment or required documentation. DECC regularly issues penalty notices for such offences or undertakes prosecutions.

Transport of dangerous goods is prohibited on some routes in the Sydney area such as the M5 east tunnel and airport tunnel. In June 2008, DECC assisted NSW Police to investigate an incident involving a semi-trailer carrying a large container transporting toxic products. This vehicle had been driven through the airport tunnel in breach of dangerous goods transport legislation.

In September 2007, a transport company was convicted of four dangerous goods offences, resulting in fines totalling \$15,000. The company was convicted of using a vehicle to transport a load of dangerous goods without the required personal protective and safety equipment, failing to display appropriate placards, and not complying with shipping documentation and emergency information requirements.

In April 2008, a transport company was fined \$3,500 for consigning a load of dangerous goods for transport by road without equipping the driver with emergency information about the dangerous goods being carried.

Also in June 2008, a person was convicted of not complying with dangerous goods transport, shipping documentation and emergency information requirements while transporting a load of dangerous goods, resulting in nearly \$3,000 in fines.

Radiation compliance

DECC radiation officers conduct inspections of regulated premises and investigate breaches of the radiation legislation. As a follow up to a Hunter Valley audit in 2006–07, radiation compliance inspections were carried out on radiation gauges at coal washing and other industrial sites.

High dose reports for radiation workers are reviewed quarterly. DECC investigates the cause of a high dose and ensures that workers do not exceed their annual dose limit. Radiation accidents reports were provided to the Radiation Advisory Committee and the Commonwealth Government to be included on a national register.

In September 2007, DECC radiation officers were involved in the emergency management arrangements for APEC as part of the radiological incident response team.



Photo: W. Stein, DECC

Remediate or restore degraded environments

Crackdown on illegal dumping

Illegal dumping is an important issue for DECC, councils and communities across NSW. It degrades the environment by polluting waterways, destroying vegetation and contaminating land. Illegally dumped waste can pose a health risk and cost landowners significant amounts of money to clean up.

DECC released *Crackdown on illegal dumping handbook for local government* in February 2008. It is designed to help councils understand why illegal dumping occurs and reduce incidences. It advises councils on ways of developing, implementing and evaluating illegal dumping prevention programs, and minimising opportunities for illegal dumping.

Waste management and the construction industry

DECC conducted social research into the construction industry to benchmark industry awareness, knowledge, behaviours and practices relating to:

- transporting waste to a lawful place
- fines and penalties for illegal dumping
- accurate record keeping
- the supply of information about waste to council officers, DECC and private certifiers.

Results from this social research were used to inform DECC campaigns, and in the development of the brochure *Know your responsibilities: managing waste from construction sites*.

DECC joined forces with local councils and Regional Illegal Dumping Squads to help stamp out the illegal dumping of construction and demolition waste in NSW. DECC worked with Bankstown, Newcastle, Parramatta, Sutherland Shire and Wollongong councils to raise awareness in the

■ CASE STUDY

Aboriginal Lands Clean Up Program

This program involves DECC, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local government working together to improve the wellbeing of Aboriginal communities and the environment by removing illegally dumped materials from Aboriginal-owned lands.

The Clean Up and Deterrence of Illegal Dumping on Aboriginal Owned Land Grants provide \$50,000 of funding for clean-up and deterrence activities. DECC is currently completing two projects and has approved a further four clean-up programs involving Kempsey Local Aboriginal Land Council and Kempsey Shire Council, Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council and Wyong Shire Council, Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council and Eurobodalla Shire Council, and Gilgandra Local Aboriginal Land Council and Gilgandra Shire Council.

Aboriginal communities will also be better able to deal with illegal dumping. After extensive consultation



Photo: B. Graham, courtesy Sutherland Shire Council.

Working together to clean up illegally dumped materials on Aboriginal-owned lands.

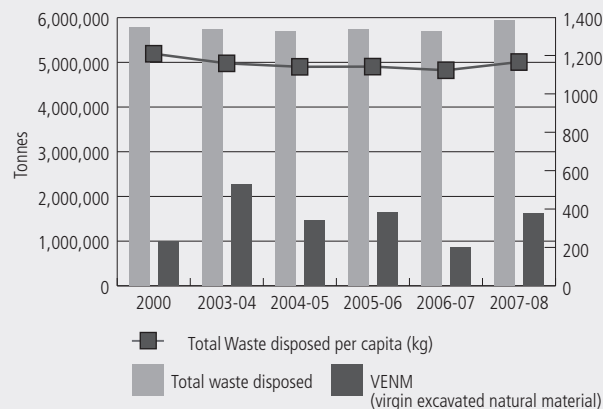
with Aboriginal communities, more than 15 Aboriginal organisations provided examples and photographs of successful projects to address illegal dumping for a handbook and DVD. Draft versions of these were released in early 2008 for comment and final versions are due to be released in 2008–09.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy – change in waste disposed of to landfill in the Greater Sydney Region

Definition: This indicator measures the tonnes of waste disposed of to landfill from the Greater Sydney Region (from Port Stephens to the Shoalhaven and including the Sydney Metropolitan Area). DECC leads the implementation of the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy.

Waste disposed of to landfill in the Greater Sydney Region



Interpretation: In 2007–08, waste disposal in the Sydney area was down by 3% compared to 2000 levels. Waste disposal in the Illawarra and Hunter regions increased overall between 2000 and 2007–08.

While the total quantity of waste disposed of increased between 2006–07 and 2007–08, it is estimated that 250,000 tonnes in 2007–08 was due to the impact of regulatory reforms and more effective compliance action.

Total waste disposed per capita has decreased by 4% between 2000 and 2007–08.

construction industry of waste disposal responsibilities. They distributed educational material to over 500 businesses, and conducted inspections and audits of 82 local construction sites to check compliance with waste management plans and to ensure waste was being taken to an appropriate reuse or disposal facility.

DECC also conducted a project to improve waste disposal practices of the top 20 construction companies in NSW and their subcontractors. Thirteen construction sites were inspected to check waste handling procedures, waste disposal receipts and waste management plans. DECC also required five businesses to provide information and records about their procedures for waste disposal.

Underground petroleum storage systems

The Protection of the Environment Operations (Underground Petroleum Storage Systems) Regulation 2008 (UPSS Regulation) commenced on 1 June 2008.

Underground petroleum storage systems (UPSS) can leak, leading to expensive clean-up bills and damage to the environment. Persistent leaks can have a major impact on neighbouring properties and impose significant financial and environmental costs on the tank owner and the broader community.

The Regulation introduces preventative measures to reduce harm to the environment and human health. It aims to save money, minimise time-consuming remediation by preventing leaks or dealing with them early, ensure industry best practice is followed and ensure appropriate validation and decommissioning of systems and sites. DECC is preparing guidelines to help those responsible for a UPSS to understand and comply with the Regulation.

Contaminants in sediments test

DECC ecotoxicologists have continued to progress a project to develop a more rapid and sensitive chronic test for contaminants in sediments. The test uses embryonic stages of an amphipod that burrows in sediments. It focuses on reproductive success and development of embryos in the first 13 days of the amphipod's life cycle. The test is proving amphipods are sensitive to contaminants. They take the metals into their bodies through diet rather than through water absorption. Conditions for culturing the amphipods in the laboratory are being improved. The test will lead to improved management of contaminated sediments in Australia. The project is funded by the Environmental Trust.

Studying southern bell frogs

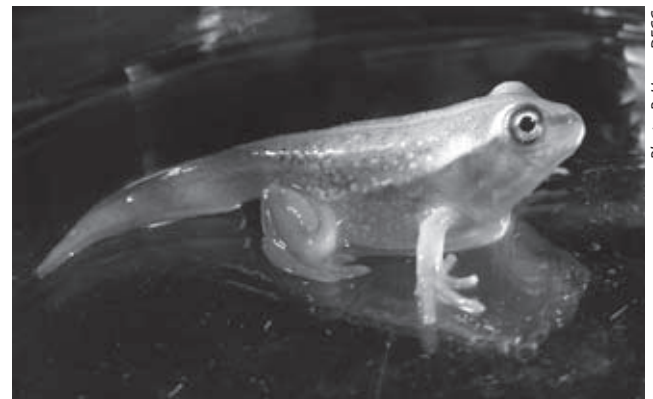


Photo: R. Hynes, DECC.

Southern bell frog tadpole turning into a frog.



Photo: S. Healy, Charles Sturt University.

Southern bell frog in Yanga National Park.

DECC scientists completed a study to assess the effects of herbicides on frogs, including the southern bell frog, in rice crops of the Coleambally Irrigation Area, NSW. The *Frogs as bioindicators for chemical use in an irrigation-based agricultural study* found that the endangered southern bell frog and its tadpoles were found on 20% of study farms with mixed crops in the north compared to 70% of study farms in the south. Other species were found to be uniformly distributed. Although there was a correlation with types of crops, results suggested that the differences in abundance were due more to habitat modification than pesticides. The study was funded by the Centre for Ecotoxicology and Land & Water Australia.

DECC scientists are also monitoring populations of the endangered southern bell frog and other frog demographics in Yanga National Park. This work uses non-destructive determinations of age from toe-clippings and sex ratio to assess the health of the Yanga population and provide models for future population trends. To date, it appears that water availability and timing of water releases and how they fit in with the frog's breeding cycle are strongly influencing breeding success.

Comprehensive dataset expanded

DECC scientists' contributed to the 2006–07 study by the Department of Primary Industries that revealed the extent of dioxin-like compounds present in fish and prawns throughout Sydney Harbour. The dataset provided an invaluable opportunity to gain an understanding of how fish species respond to chemical levels in the environment. The dataset has now been expanded to include sediments and water column data. This expansion will help those developing environmental models to make more robust predictions about ways in which levels of persistent organic chemicals will vary with changes in environmental conditions.

Scientific collaborations

DECC has engaged in a number of collaborative pesticide and chemical research opportunities this year. Scientists from DECC and University of Technology Sydney studied the impact of pesticide mixtures on horticultural areas around the Hawkesbury–Nepean River. The project was funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant. DECC has also been collaborating with scientists from CSIRO Land & Water on an Environmental Trust project to develop a framework for soil quality guidelines.

■ CASE STUDY

Remediation of the former Armidale Gasworks site

DECC declared the former gasworks a remediation site under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*. The use of the site as a coal fired gasworks from 1885 to 1971 resulted in the land being contaminated by tar and gasworks waste, which were produced in the gas making process. The site is environmentally sensitive, as it is located adjacent to Dumaresq Creek.

Remediation of the site was undertaken by Armidale Dumaresq City Council with assistance from DECC and a grant from the Environmental Trust. The remediation consisted of constructing a barrier wall around the perimeter of the site to enclose the contaminated soils and prevent movement of groundwater through the contaminated soils. The most heavily contaminated soil was removed and disposed of following treatment and the remaining soil was capped. The remedial work was assessed by an independent auditor.

The site has now been redeveloped as a shopping centre and car park with approximately 600 car spaces. A long-term vapour and groundwater monitoring and



Photo: DECC.

Removing contaminated soil from around the gasworks infrastructure.

maintenance plan is being implemented to ensure that any residual contaminated material remains contained and harmless to the environment

The benefits of this remediation project are:

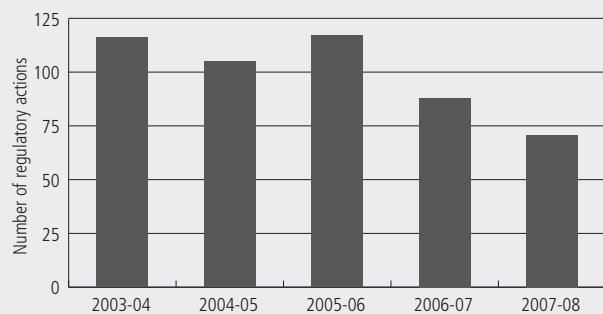
- the ongoing generation of contaminated groundwater has been prevented or ameliorated
- the land is accessible to the community
- the commercial site provides opportunities for local businesses.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Regulatory actions under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*

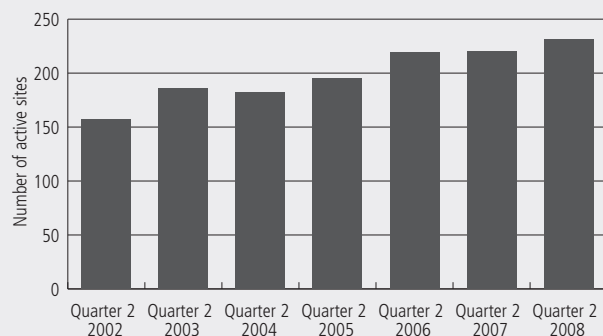
Definition: This indicator outlines the number of regulatory actions DECC has taken under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* (CLM Act). When contamination presents a significant risk of harm as defined under the Act, DECC may take one or more regulatory actions to clean up the site. These actions include assessing contamination under the Act, declaring investigation areas and remediation sites, and developing orders and agreements for voluntary proposals relating to investigation or clean up tasks.

Regulatory actions under the Contaminated Land Management Act



Interpretation: The number of regulatory actions each year fluctuates in accordance with regulatory needs. Several actions are normally taken to regulate a site. Completing the clean-up of a site can take several years. As equilibrium has not been reached between the number of new contaminated sites notified and the number of sites successfully cleaned up each year, the number of sites under active regulation is still increasing. Once a site is brought under regulation, a significant amount of resources can be spent on ensuring an appropriate outcome without any more regulatory actions being taken. The following table shows the total number of sites under active assessment and regulation.

Total number of active sites



In 2007–08, DECC undertook 71 regulatory actions compared with 88 in 2006–07. This year, DECC received 24 new contaminated site notifications; assessed significant risk of harm to people and the environment on 31 sites; issued 34 regulatory notices, and brought 12 more sites under the regulation of the CLM Act to a total of 121 sites under current regulation; and oversaw completion of the remediation or investigation of 7 sites. These actions have allowed 15 regulatory notices to be withdrawn and brought the total number of sites remediated since 1998 to 65.



Photo: B. Webster, DECC.

Improve community wellbeing

Regional Air Quality Index website

In June 2008, DECC launched the most significant change to air quality information on its website since the service was launched in 1998. The new Regional Air Quality Index provides hourly updates of air quality data from the 24 monitoring sites in NSW, including information on levels of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, one-hour and four-hour ozone, sulfur dioxide, and particles as PM_{10} and as a measure of visibility. The new index also provides pollution forecasting.

DECC and NSW Health continue to operate a health alert system on the Regional Air Quality Index site. This is designed to alert asthmatics and other sensitive members of the community to high pollution days and their possible health effects. For the first time in Australia, there is now an SMS and email subscription service so people can receive alerts for high pollution days.

The new look air quality pages have improved navigation. The hourly data is colour-coded to display the health status and associated health message for any measured concentration. In 2007–2008, one health alert was issued for the Sydney region.

The new index replaces the old Regional Pollutant Index, and is available on www.environment.nsw.gov.au/AQMS/aqi.htm.



Photo: B. Peters, DECC.

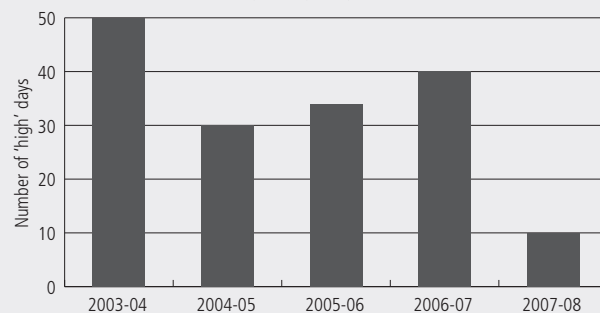
DECC's new Regional Air Quality Index provides hourly updates of air quality data from Sydney and other NSW regions.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

High air pollution days in the Sydney Greater Metropolitan Region

Definition: The regional pollution index (RPI) is an air quality index based on measured hourly concentrations of photochemical smog (ozone), nitrogen dioxide and visibility. RPIs are calculated for three regions in Sydney (central east, north-west and south-west), two regions in the Illawarra (Albion Park and Wollongong), and three sites in the lower Hunter (Beresfield, Newcastle and Wallsend). The index is reported twice daily, in the morning and afternoon. RPI values in the 'high' category indicate that ozone or nitrogen dioxide have exceeded the national standards, or visibility is less than the NSW goal of 10 kilometres. A day is counted as having high pollution if the RPI in one or more regions reached 'high' in either the morning or afternoon report. The RPI has now been replaced by the Regional Air Quality Index.

Number of high pollution days in Sydney Greater Metropolitan Region



Interpretation: The air pollution index (RPI) was high on 10 days in 2007–08, 30 days fewer than in the previous year. Easing of the prolonged drought conditions experienced across south-east Australia greatly reduced the incidence of elevated particle concentration. There were also fewer bushfires and fewer photochemical smog (ozone) exceedences due to a wetter and milder summer season.

Beachwatch and Harbourwatch

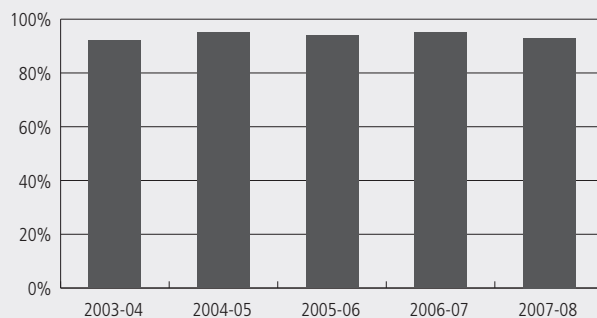
The Beachwatch and Harbourwatch programs monitor the health of Sydney's beaches and harbour and issue daily assessments of pollution levels to the public. A further 148 regional sites are monitored in partnership with 12 local councils under the Beachwatch Partnership Program, from Ballina in the north to Bega in the south.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Valid air quality data available from DECC's monitoring network

Definition: This indicator measures the percentage of time valid data was available to the community from DECC's air quality monitoring network in the Greater Metropolitan Region (Sydney, the lower Hunter and the Illawarra) and four regional cities (Albury, Bathurst, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga). 'Valid' data is data that has been fully quality-assured. The maximum time valid data can be expected from the network is about 95%, because of the need to calibrate data monitoring equipment.

Percentage of time valid air quality data is available from DECC's monitoring network



Interpretation: Maintenance, calibrations and quality assurance tasks are routinely performed on instruments in the air quality monitoring network. Loss of data during these tasks means that the optimum percentage of valid online data is about 95%. The network for 2007–08 was run at levels just below optimum, with valid data available for 93% of this period.

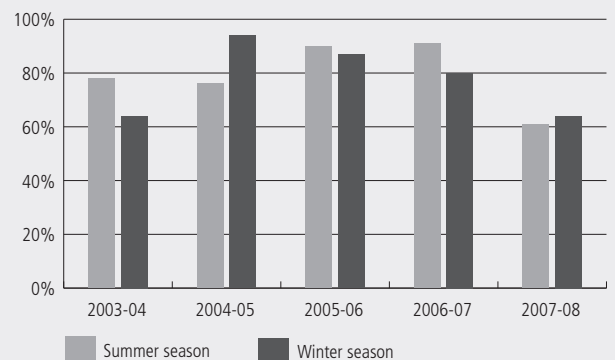
The annual *State of the beaches* reports are issued each October and provide a comprehensive summary of Beachwatch activities and water quality results. Beachwatch data shows that the beaches of NSW are generally in excellent condition. During 2007–08, more than 70% of regional coastal swimming locations monitored under the Beachwatch Partnership Program complied with swimming guidelines in all months despite heavy rainfall and flooding in many areas of NSW. Monitoring by some local councils shows that there is still room for improvement at swimming sites in coastal lakes and estuaries, particularly following rainfall. *State of the beaches 2007–08* is due for release in October 2008.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Beachwatch and Harbourwatch sites complying with swimming water quality guidelines

Definition: DECC's Beachwatch and Harbourwatch programs monitor water quality at 131 recreational sites in Sydney, the lower Hunter and the Illawarra, reporting on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis to the community and stakeholders. Samples are tested for two indicator bacteria: faecal coliforms and enterococci, and sites must meet the criteria for both to meet the swimming guidelines. The winter season extends from May to September; summer extends from October to April.

Percentage of Beachwatch and Harbourwatch sites complying with Beachwatch swimming water quality guidelines more than 90% of the time



Interpretation: Due to extremely wet weather in 2007–08, an increase in pollution was recorded at a number of beaches caused by stormwater and sewage overflows triggered by heavy rainfall. This resulted in lower compliance levels with Beachwatch water quality guidelines than in previous years.

Despite lower levels of compliance in 2007–08, water quality has shown a marked improvement over the last ten years, being 93% better than it was in 1998–99 when extremely high rainfall levels were last recorded. These results are due to long-term improvements in the management of stormwater and wastewater.



Photo: K. Carter, DECC.

Beachwatch monitors sea quality daily, informing the public of any pollution issues.

NSW litter report

Every two years, DECC reports on the composition and quantity of litter across 100 sites. The 2006 Litter Report was released in August 2007. It is the second in the series. Some of the findings from the 2006 litter survey include:

- the total number of litter items found on sites increased between the 2004 and 2006 surveys by 6% with an average of 47.5 litter items per site
- the most common litter item was cigarette butts (100 sites), followed by plastic waste (71 sites), paper waste (70 sites), confectionery waste (66 sites), beverage waste (61 sites) and organic materials (55 sites)
- a relatively small number of categories of litter made up most litter items counted; in 2006, cigarette butts comprised 59% of all litter items, and the next most common item was beverage waste, comprising 13% of all litter items.

Emergency management

DECC is the coordinating agency for the protection of the environment during major disasters and emergencies. DECC is represented on the State and District Emergency Management Committees where it advises other agencies on ways of preventing or minimising environmental impacts. Key emergency management initiatives in 2007–08 were:

- DECC assisted the Department of Primary Industries and the State Emergency Management Committee with the overall response to the equine influenza outbreak that started in late August 2007. DECC advised on the management of wastes and other hazardous substances.
- DECC coordinated a multi-agency working group that assessed NSW's capability to respond to decontamination following an incident involving chemical, biological or radiological substances.
- DECC staff were trained for emergency response activities and participated in specialist emergency management training for other agencies.
- DECC contributed to the development and running of a major exercise, Exercise Oily Carp, led by NSW Maritime in March 2008 in Coffs Harbour, to test the overall response to major oil spills on the NSW coast.

Hazmat incident response

DECC maintains a 24-hour emergency response and hazardous materials advice service linked to the Environment Line and the DECC regional after-hours incident response services. DECC staff attend significant incidents, usually to oversee clean up or to investigate potential breaches of environmental legislation. In 2007–08, DECC was notified of 189 hazardous materials incidents. DECC staff attended 30 incident sites and provided advice over the telephone for the remaining incidents. Significant incidents in 2007–08 included:

- a truck on the Barrier Highway, Cobar, containing munitions, flammable and corrosive dangerous goods, tyres and other goods was involved in a fire
- 1600 litres of sodium chlorite solution spilled in a warehouse, resulting in flash fires caused by spontaneous combustion as the liquid chemical dried
- fire broke out in a warehouse at Arndell Park involving 60 tonnes of nitrocellulose
- between 20,000 to 30,000 litres of waste oil, grease and water escaped from an industrial site in Blacktown into Breakfast Creek
- two light planes carrying pesticides collided mid-air whilst spraying crops on neighbouring farms near Narrabri.

New requirements for licensed pest controllers

The NSW Government has a longstanding commitment to staged implementation of notification of pesticide use. This year, work continued on implementing new requirements for licensed pest controllers to provide prior notice to 'sensitive places' (schools, childcare centres, kindergartens, preschools, nursing homes or certain community health centres) when they propose to spray or inject liquid pesticides outdoors on adjacent premises.

Nanotechnology inquiry

Nanotechnology is the precision engineering of materials to produce tiny particles with novel properties due to their small size. Products containing nanomaterials are already in use, such as in many sunscreens.

In June 2008, DECC was asked by the NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee on State Development to give evidence at a Parliamentary hearing on nanotechnology. Submissions to the inquiry closed in March 2008 and the inquiry's final report is due in October 2008. In addition to participating in the inquiry, DECC contributed to a whole-of-government NSW submission which was coordinated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Technology assessments

DECC assesses and regulates technologies used for hazardous waste destruction in NSW. In 2007–08, DECC assessed the technology used to destroy chemical waste on a site in Kurnell, as well as approving commissioning and proof-of-performance programs for destroying hazardous waste on the Hydrodec site in southern NSW.

DECC continued to regulate storage of Orica's hexachlorobenzene (HCB) waste while the issue of ultimate destruction of the waste was further investigated. DECC was also involved in the planning approval process for the proposed directly heated thermal desorption (DTD) treatment of Orica's car park waste. DTD technology involves desorption, or separation/vaporisation of contaminants from materials at temperatures typically in the range of 300°C to 450°C in a rotary dryer.



Photo: B. Graham, courtesy
Sutherland Shire Council

Eliminate unnecessary regulation

Regulatory reform

DECC has an extensive regulatory reform agenda, with all regulations scheduled for review every five years. Rigorous and published cost-benefit assessment is used to ensure that the benefits generated from new proposals significantly outweigh the costs or that they deliver statutory goals at least cost. DECC uses best practice in this area and applies the Government's Better Regulation Principles to all its regulatory reforms.

DECC aims to cut red tape and reduce the regulatory burden on business, government and the community whilst maintaining appropriate environmental controls and outcomes. DECC is currently engaged in reforms such as streamlining Aboriginal cultural heritage and native vegetation regulation, and creating a more efficient environment protection licensing system.

Simplified requirements for waste management and regulation

DECC's review of the waste regulatory framework introduced a more simplified and streamlined waste licensing and regulatory system. These changes aim to encourage further investment in innovative ways of reducing the amount of waste disposed of to landfill and increasing recycling.

Amendments to the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation took effect on 28 April 2008. These changes, made under the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Scheduled Activities and Waste) Regulation 2008, follow consultation with the waste industry and the broader community. The changes provide:

- fewer and simpler licensing categories for waste, with waste licensing categories reduced from ten to three licence types to better reflect ways in which industry manages waste
- removing the need for approximately 300 licences
- a streamlined waste classification system
- new resource recovery licensing categories and resource recovery exemptions
- clearer requirements for managing asbestos and clinical waste.

DECC developed a simplified licence for waste transporters that has reduced red tape and the administrative burden for over 600 licence holders by removing unnecessary licence conditions, and removed requirements to list all vehicles and lodge annual returns. The changes to the licences reduced the average size of a licence from 40 to 14 pages.

Liquid waste levy introduced

Licensed waste facilities are required to pay a contribution for all solid waste received. This is known as the waste and environment levy. This levy was extended to 'trackable' liquid waste on 1 October 2007 to provide the same economic incentive as for solid waste, by discouraging the generation of potentially hazardous liquids and encouraging the recovery of reusable substances that would otherwise be disposed of.

Online waste tracking system

The transport of certain wastes within NSW must be tracked. Waste tracking involves obtaining prior approval to transport certain wastes and completing specific documentation each time such waste is received or transported. DECC has developed an easy and efficient online waste tracking system for those moving trackable wastes around NSW.

The online system provides DECC with better information about waste flows in NSW, enabling pressure points to be identified early and corrective action to be taken before they become a major problem. The intelligence gathered also enables DECC to identify and deal with illegal activities more systematically, leading to a better environment and a fairer waste market.

To support this system, DECC recently published a series of nine fact sheets titled 'Waste tracking fact sheets – protecting the environment and your business'. They provide essential information to improve the waste industry's knowledge of tracking liquid waste and to promote due diligence. Major waste companies have indicated that they will include relevant fact sheets in their advice to new customers. The fact sheets are available on www.environment.nsw.gov.au/owt/wastetrackfs.htm.

Waste data system

Operators of licensed waste facilities must pay the waste and environment levy on every tonne of waste they receive. To support this system, landfills must report to DECC on the waste they receive each month. Each year DECC receives over 4,300 paper-based waste data reports from waste facility operators, councils, hazardous waste generators, transporters and facilities.

To reduce the paperwork costs, DECC has introduced an electronic service that allows facilities to complete and submit their waste data online. DECC has boosted this service with time saving tools such as levy liability and deduction calculators and email prompts when reports or payments are due. The introduction of this system enabled more responsive waste management, and will ultimately lead to better environmental outcomes, in line with community expectations.

Transport of dangerous goods legislation

In 2007–2008, DECC worked with the National Transport Commission and all Australian jurisdictions to finalise a new Australian Dangerous Goods Code, and new dangerous goods legislation which is scheduled to come into effect in all Australian jurisdictions by December 2008. The reforms replace the existing legislation with an updated uniform national regulatory scheme which matches the UN Model Regulations to ensure that classification, packaging, labelling and placarding requirements are compatible with international regulations and codes.

The NSW component of the new legislation was introduced into the NSW Parliament in June 2008. The Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Bill 2008 follows the example of national legislation by regulating the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail. The Bill reduces inconsistencies between different forms of transport, promotes safer practices, facilitates international trade and expedites responses to incidents. The reforms will also promote safety and improve domestic transport efficiency to benefit retail distributors and small business.

Mutual recognition of dangerous goods occupational licences

During the year, DECC represented NSW on the Council of Australian Government's (COAG's) Land Transport Regulatory Group which is working to implement mutual recognition of occupational licences, including dangerous goods. A national framework was designed to help address skill shortages and increase the mobility of skilled workers in Australia who currently need additional testing and registration if they wish to work in another state. It is anticipated that ministerial declarations will be made later in 2008 under section 32 of the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992*, to widen the range of occupational licences within the mutual recognition framework.

Dangerous goods education and training

DECC worked with other jurisdictions that administer dangerous goods transport legislation in Australia to develop a competency-based national dangerous goods driver training framework so skill-related requirements for licensing can be demonstrated through vocational education and training. Jurisdictions aim to have a new national competency-based training framework designed and agreed to before the end of 2008.

■ CASE STUDY

Resource recovery exemptions facilitate using waste in infrastructure

While many waste-derived materials are not suitable for land or thermal applications, certain waste or waste-derived materials can be applied to land or used as a fuel. Resource recovery exemptions were introduced under clause 51 and 51A of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005 in April 2008 to clearly distinguish between beneficial and safe resource recovery activities and those that may be harmful.

DECC publishes resource recovery exemptions on its website (see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/RRecoveryExemptions.htm) so processors and consumers can be certain that they are making and dealing with legal recovered materials. The resource recovery exemptions also encourage generators and processors of waste to put in place better environmental standards, and better test and characterise waste-derived material.

Recovered aggregate is one example of how the resource recovery exemptions work. In 2006–07, around 1.6 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste went to landfill in NSW. This waste included old bricks and concrete, tiles, aggregates and general demolition rubbish. The resource recovery exemption for recovered aggregates enables recoverable demolition waste to be processed to produce material that can replace virgin rock and aggregates in road making, landscaping and general construction. This reduces the need to quarry new virgin materials and offers an avenue for recovered aggregate to be reused rather than adding to the burden of waste in landfills.

DECC provided information sessions to industry groups on implementing dangerous goods legislation in NSW. These included presentations at the Australian Environment Business Network seminar in Sydney and the Plastics and Chemical Industry Association member conference. DECC also trains police officers who can enforce the dangerous goods transport requirements.



Photo: DECC.

DECC provides training to industry representatives on the regulation governing the transport and handling of dangerous goods.

State regulatory reform

DECC reviewed the Pesticides Regulation 1995 to evaluate its effectiveness and efficiency. Following stakeholder consultation, proposed amendments were approved in January 2008 by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. After gazettal, the new provisions will commence in September 2009 to give the industry time to prepare.

DECC also reviewed the Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Regulation 1999. The review was prompted by the staged repeal of the statutory rules program. Following stakeholder consultation, a remade Regulation has been proposed which is awaiting gazettal. The 2008 Regulation continues the provisions of the 1999 Regulation with the only changes being adjustments to the fees covering licensing activities and to the assessment of technologies to be used for the treatment of wastes controlled under the Act.

National regulatory reform

The regulation of chemicals and plastics has been identified by the Council of Australian Governments as a 'hotspot' for regulatory reform. The Commonwealth's Productivity Commission is reviewing regulation of the sector.

A COAG Ministerial Taskforce is working to develop measures to achieve streamlined national chemicals and plastics regulation. The taskforce is being informed by the independent Productivity Commission study into regulation of the chemicals and plastics sector. Its draft report was released on 19 March 2008 and its final report will go to the Commonwealth Government on 28 July 2008.

DECC led the preparation of a NSW Government submission on the draft report and a submission from the national NChEM Working Group. These processes have provided an opportunity to advocate reforms to address significant gaps in the national system for managing the environmental effects of industrial chemicals.

Radiation control

DECC administers the *Radiation Control Act 1990*, which aims to protect people and the environment from the harmful effects of exposure to ionising and non-ionising radiation. In 2007–08, DECC worked with the Radiation Advisory Council to review the radiation legislation to ensure that its objectives are being met and that the regulation of radiation in NSW is both efficient and effective in controlling risks to human health and the environment. A public discussion paper setting out the issues for review is expected to be released later in 2008.

Changes were made to the Radiation Control Regulation 2003 in September 2007, exempting registered dentists and dental auxiliaries from licensing requirements when performing general dental radiography. This particular initiative benefits over 3,000 dentists in NSW who previously needed a licence for performing this low-risk activity.

The amendments also allowed for the option of three-year radiation licensing instead of annual renewal, reducing the administrative burden to government in administering such licences and making it easier for licensees to conduct their business.

DECC commenced work on legislation to regulate the use of solariums. This has been deemed to be necessary to protect people in NSW from the harmful effects of UV radiation emitted by cosmetic tanning units. The Regulation will control the use of this apparatus, particularly by young people and those considered to be at risk of developing skin cancers.

DECC participated in national uniformity of radiation protection through its role on the inter-jurisdictional Radiation Health Committee. DECC contributed to the further development of the *National Directory for Radiation Protection*, published by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). DECC also contributed to the development of other ARPANSA codes of practice and radiation standards, including a *Code of practice for radiation protection in the medical applications of ionizing radiation* and the *Code of practice for safe transport of radioactive material*.

DECC is continuing to progress implementation of the radiation security measures agreed to by COAG in April 2007 as part of Australia's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Strategy, including the staged implementation of the ARPANSA *Code of practice for the security of radioactive sources*. DECC is working with ARPANSA, NSW agencies and other Australian jurisdictions to develop a national database of high risk radioactive sources, protocols for interstate tracking of sources, and guidance for stakeholders affected by enhanced security requirements.

Planning reform – review of concurrences and referrals

The NSW Government introduced a number of planning reforms to streamline the state's planning and development approval processes. DECC reviewed all relevant concurrence and referral provisions in legislation and environmental planning instruments as part of this process. It found that more than 250 concurrences and referrals were no longer necessary as they were either outdated, duplicated other legislation or planning requirements or could be replaced with reference to a guideline.

DECC developed *Guidelines for developments adjoining Department of Environment and Climate Change land* to replace a number of the referrals. The guidelines were completed and published in May 2008 (see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/developmntadjoiningdecc.htm). They request that:

- a local council or another consent authority consider the matters set out in the guide when a development is proposed to adjoin DECC land
- the consent authority either refuse the application or seek advice from the relevant DECC regional office where the consent authority believes the development is likely to have significant adverse impacts on adjoining DECC land.

Where appropriate, reference to the relevant DECC guidelines will be incorporated into the draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Repeal of Concurrence and Referral Provisions) 2008. These changes will contribute significantly to streamlining the development assessment process while maintaining the Government's commitment to sound environmental outcomes.

Integrated landscape management for long-term ecological, social and economic sustainability



Towra Point wetlands. Photo: DECC.

Parks and reserves protect more than six and a half million hectares of NSW, or around 8% of the state. Many other valuable landscapes and habitats exist on land that is privately owned or managed by local authorities. DECC works with government agencies, private landholders and community groups to ensure this land is managed to protect native plants and animals and minimise the impacts of salinity, contaminated soils and water quality on biodiversity, threatened species, riverbanks and ecosystems.

Context

It is vital that the health of native plants, animals and ecosystems is maintained and their diversity is conserved as they have a fundamental right to exist and thrive. Healthy native flora, fauna and ecosystems also provide human populations with fresh water sources, productive forests and ocean resources, and allow people to connect with and enjoy the natural environment.

The extreme conditions associated with ongoing drought continue to affect land across NSW, including riverine and groundwater-dependent ecosystems. In addition, much of the state's vegetation has been cleared, thinned or significantly disturbed for decades.

To minimise these impacts, in 2007–08 DECC expanded the area of protected reserves it manages, introduced more effective management techniques, and improved threatened species conservation and land clearing controls. DECC worked with farmers, private landowners, conservationists and community groups, scientists, other government agencies and Aboriginal communities on statewide programs such as the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy, Aboriginal heritage conservation projects, the NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement, and the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative reported on in chapter 2.

NSW national parks and reserves attract more than 22 million visitors a year. DECC aims to improve the quality of visitors' experiences and increase visitation to parks and reserves in line with NSW State Plan objectives. Over the last decade, national and marine parks have been extended and more people are using and enjoying them. This includes Aboriginal people for whom connection to Country is often critical for the maintenance of culture and improved social wellbeing. DECC is managing protected areas to ensure visitor and conservation needs are balanced, enable Aboriginal people to co-manage national parks and improve community knowledge of Aboriginal culture.

Outcomes

DECC aims to integrate landscape management for long-term ecological, social and economic sustainability by:

- improving the condition of natural resources
- conserving biodiversity and threatened species, and increasing areas of native vegetation
- contributing to increased tourism and community wellbeing through parks and reserves, and investing in environmental projects for regional development
- conserving natural and cultural values through an integrated system of public and private lands
- protecting and revitalising Aboriginal culture and heritage
- increasing Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management.

Key drivers

Our work in the area of integrated landscape management is informed by:

- *State Plan – A New Direction for NSW* (www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan)
- *NSW Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Framework* (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/climatechange.htm)
- *National Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan* (www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/nbccap/)
- *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm)
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm)
- *Native Vegetation Act 2003* (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/legislation.htm)
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy
- *NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement* (www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/home_PAS_new.aspx).

Performance indicators

DECC measures performance in the area of integrated landscape management through the following performance indicators:

- RiverBank, Living Murray and Wetland Recovery Program
- DECC prosecutions completed under conservation legislation
- Approved property vegetation plans
- Land managed by DECC for conservation
- Reserves covered by an adopted fire management strategy
- *Discovery* education programs
- Adopted plans of management for the reserve system
- Private and unreserved land in NSW managed for conservation
- Aboriginal Place declarations for sites of Aboriginal cultural significance
- Aboriginal ancestral remains and collections of cultural material repatriated to Aboriginal communities
- Formal agreements with Aboriginal communities for co-management of protected areas



Photo: S. Bowen, DECC.

Improve the condition of natural resources

Water for the environment

DECC is responsible for programs that revive waterways and improve DECC's capacity to increase the extent and duration of flows to important wetlands such as the Macquarie Marshes. Programs DECC manages include NSW RiverBank, the NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program (RERP), the NSW Wetland Recovery Program (WRP) and The Living Murray (TLM). These programs are building on the initial outcomes achieved through allocating environmental water through water sharing plans made under the *Water Management Act 2000*.

Through RiverBank, the NSW Government has led the way nationally by implementing the first market-based water recovery program, purchasing water licences from willing sellers. DECC committed \$25 million to the purchase of water entitlements through NSW RiverBank in 2007–08 and will continue to fund the program through to 2010–11.

RERP, WRP and TLM are each jointly funded by the NSW and Commonwealth governments, and involve purchasing water licences, saving water, and improving environmental water delivery through infrastructure works, investing in knowledge to improve environmental water decision making, and investing in improved management of privately-owned wetlands.

DECC is working with the Commonwealth Government to manage environmental water held by the new Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. The newly established Murray Darling Basin Authority will develop a Basin Plan which will integrate all environmental water use within the Murray Darling Basin, and DECC will have an important role in informing the development of the Basin Plan over the next two years.

■ CASE STUDY

NSW RiverBank acquires water for wetlands

NSW RiverBank had a strong first year of operation, increasing its holdings from 16,681 megalitres to 32,104 megalitres of environmental water by 30 June 2008. Commonwealth funding of \$20 million under the NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program helped NSW RiverBank meet its target.

NSW RiverBank negotiated with southern NSW markets to recover water for six Murray River sites through the Living Murray program. Approximately 15,000 megalitres of water entitlement was gained by 30 June 2008, in addition to 100,000 megalitres purchased from Murray Irrigation Limited.

The first use was made of adaptive environmental water held by NSW RiverBank, with approximately 700 megalitres of water delivered to the Macquarie Marshes. This water supported the successful breeding of some 2,000 waterbirds, including egrets, that had commenced nesting in response to earlier inflows to the marshes. These earlier flows marked the largest flood in the



Photo: D. Love, DECC.

A flock of egrets flies over the Macquarie Marshes.

marshes in seven years, due partly to extensive local rainfall.

In April 2008, DECC staff in Coonabarabran organised four-wheel drive tours to the Macquarie Marshes so the public could see the waterbirds. Visitors observed flocks of magpie geese, black swans, ibis and ducks, and a large colony of great and intermediate egrets.

Ramsar wetlands

The Paroo River Wetlands site was added to the Ramsar list of internationally important wetlands in September 2007. The wetlands support threatened plant and animal species and significant native fish communities, and are some of the most important wetland systems for migratory waterbirds in south-eastern Australia. The wetlands are primarily fed by the Paroo River, the last remaining free-flowing river in the northern Murray Darling Basin.

The nomination of the site was supported by the traditional owners of the Paroo River country, the Baakandji and Budjiti people. A publication about the Aboriginal values of the Paroo River Wetlands was produced for the Ramsar listing.

Projects to describe the ecological characteristics of the Myall Lakes and Towra Point Ramsar sites were also undertaken in 2007–08.

Wetland initiatives

In 2007–08, DECC established new reserves or added to existing reserves to protect vulnerable wetland habitat. Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area gained another 94 hectares of land while 217 hectares were added to the Towra Point Nature Reserve.

The following projects were initiated in 2007–08 and will be gazetted in 2008–09:

- approximately 8,536 hectares of land will be added to the Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve to significantly enhance water flows in the reserve and conserve threatened species
- 4,000 hectares were acquired to create the proposed new Upper Barwon River Nature Reserve, which will secure vulnerable woodland and 25 kilometres of land along the Barwon River, and include land between Thalaba and Pagan creeks
- 5,976 hectares of additional land will be added to the Narran Lake National Park to allow for better management of water and conservation of wetlands and migratory bird habitat
- 4,000 hectares of additional land will be added to the Kalyarr National Park to help conserve riverine vegetation
- 539 hectares were acquired in the Yarrahapinni wetlands
- 87 hectares were acquired as part of the expansion of the Darawank and Minimbah wetland reserves.

Under the Coastal Wetlands Land Acquisition Program, funded by the Environmental Trust, DECC acquires land to protect coastal wetlands and to restore or rehabilitate degraded coastal wetlands. In 2007–08, DECC acquired 654 hectares of land.

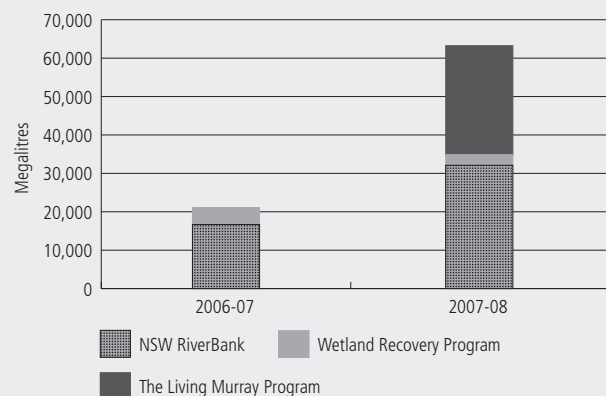
DECC continued its work to protect wetlands through a major project on floodplain management. A more streamlined approach to rural floodplain management planning is being developed that will improve connectivity between floodplains and ensure floodwaters can reach important wetlands in NSW.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

RiverBank, Living Murray and Wetland Recovery Program

Definition: This indicator measures the amount of water entitlement, measured in megalitres (ML), acquired by NSW RiverBank, the Living Murray Program and the NSW Wetland Recovery Program in the target river valleys of NSW. (One megalitre equals one million litres. In comparison, an Olympic-sized swimming pool holds about two-and-a-half megalitres.)

Cumulative total of water entitlement purchased



Interpretation: Water entitlements are a share of the water available in storage, which varies with seasonal rainfall and river catchment runoff. General security (GS) is the most common entitlement available to water market operators such as irrigators. As an example, GS availability might be announced with a 50% allocation. That would mean a holder with a 100-ML licence entitlement could use 50 ML of water. Allocations increase throughout a year if water availability improves. In most areas, general security allocation is only issued after high security allocation is at or close to 100%.

NSW RiverBank and the NSW Wetland Recovery Program purchase target GS water entitlement but will also acquire small volumes of high security and supplementary access entitlement. NSW RiverBank and the NSW Wetland Recovery Program acquired 32,104 ML and 2,769 ML of water entitlement respectively by 30 June 2008. The Living Murray program is targeting a mix of general and high security licences and had contracted or settled a total of 28,369 ML by 30 June 2008.

DECC will manage water acquired by NSW RiverBank and the NSW Wetland Recovery Program and water allocated for environmental purposes in water sharing plans made under the Water Management Act. Water recovered under The Living Murray program will be managed by the Murray Darling Basin Commission under an intergovernmental agreement involving all basin jurisdictions.

Allocations have been very low or zero percent in many valleys due to the continuing drought. However, 692 ML of NSW RiverBank and NSW Wetland Recovery Program water was used in April 2008, in conjunction with an environmental water release of 8,000 ML from Burrendong Dam under the Macquarie–Cudgegong Water Sharing Plan, to support the successful conclusion of bird breeding in the Macquarie Marshes.

DECC also worked closely with other NSW agencies to develop a floodplain harvesting policy. This policy will regulate floodplain harvesting activities through the statutory framework for water management and will better protect water entitlements, including those purchased under programs such as NSW RiverBank and the NSW Wetland Recovery Program.

Macquarie Marshes inundation history map

Under the NSW Wetland Recovery Program, the inundation history of the Macquarie Marshes was mapped using annual Landsat satellite images over a 28-year period from 1979 to 2006.

Measuring inundation at large landscape scales and over long timeframes enables DECC to effectively manage regulated rivers, environmental flows and floodplain wetlands. Inundation history information also enables DECC to analyse the hydrological and ecological success of environmental flows as it provides a historical comparison of events.

This inundation history map will contribute to an improved understanding of this important wetland and help to better manage its biodiversity values.

Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy

The NSW Natural Resources Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy (MER Strategy) was adopted by the NSW Government in 2006. The strategy is a major initiative under State Plan Priority E4 (Better outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers, and coastal waterways) to deliver better environmental outcomes by measuring progress towards 13 targets at a regional, catchment and statewide scale. DECC is responsible for meeting eight of the targets, to improve native vegetation, native fauna, threatened species, wetlands, estuaries and coastal lakes, soil condition, land capability and community capacity, as well as contributing substantially to the targets to improve rivers and marine waters.

As part of the MER Strategy, DECC initiated the collection, collation and analysis of data for state of the catchments reporting. Two pilot draft state of the catchments reports explaining ways in which the eight targets were met at a catchment level were produced for the Hunter–Central Rivers and Central West regions. Through the pilot projects, a framework was developed to integrate existing data into a simple visual representation of catchment health.

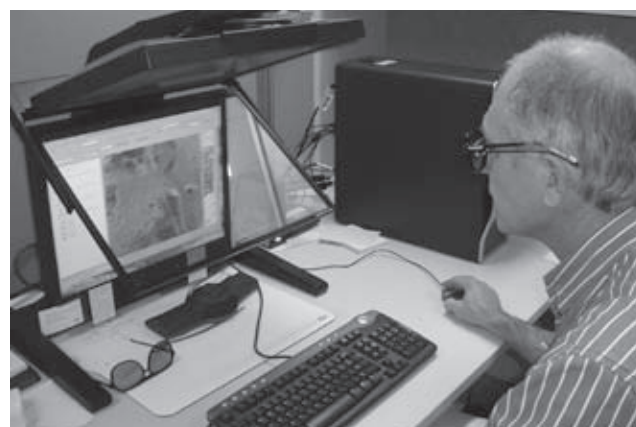
These reports will be evaluated before the framework is extended to the other 11 catchment management authorities. In 2008–09, DECC will design and deliver state of the catchment reports that:

- provide a preliminary assessment of the condition of natural resources in each region and the stresses on those natural resources
- inform investment decisions within and between regions, and by other natural resource managers
- assess progress towards the eight targets.

MER programs

Progress in 2007–08 on MER programs being managed by DECC include:

- Indicators of native vegetation extent and condition, and the percentage of land covered by native vegetation in NSW, were trialled. For the condition assessment, monitoring sites were established in four regions to determine the effects of land use and management on native vegetation.
- Three mapping and classification standards to improve the nature, quality and extent of native vegetation data were approved for publication. The standards dealt with monitoring the extent of Montreal Forests and woody vegetation, and operational definitions of native vegetation. A further standard dealing with native vegetation composition is being developed.
- Records in the NSW Wildlife Atlas and in other fauna databases such as those held by Birds Australia were analysed so the number of sustainable populations of mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian and freshwater fish species could be assessed and reported on. Monitoring programs are being established for significant fauna.
- Threatened species records were analysed to determine the proportion of the pre-European distribution of each species remaining, to report on the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities.
- Indicators including extent, biological condition, water quality and soil condition were assessed to report on the condition of important wetlands across NSW. Pressure indicators were also developed for the following threats: excessive sediment and nutrient concentrations, negative flow regimes, habitat modification, pest species, acidity and salinity.
- Data for algae, turbidity, seagrass, mangroves, saltmarsh and fish were collected to develop indicators to report on the condition of estuaries and coastal lakes along the NSW coastline. Pressure indicators assessed included cleared land, population, sediment and nutrient inflows, tidal and freshwater flow regimes, disturbed habitat and fish catch indicators.



DECC is using planar technology to map vegetation coverage, soil erosion and other natural resource attributes.

Photo: S. Taylor, DECC.

- A soil health index and simplified report cards have been developed to report soil health on a catchment or statewide scale. A soil watch kit for soil monitoring by landholders has been developed and is being introduced to catchment management authorities. Baseline data collection, analysis and reporting will be completed in 2008–09. Supporting information is also being developed, including land use and land management data and land and soils capability mapping for NSW.
- The capacity of natural resource managers to contribute to regional natural resource management issues is being reported on. Key natural resource manager groups have been identified in some regions and the capacity of people to adapt to situations that affect their livelihoods is being assessed.

Working with catchment management authorities

Catchment management authorities (CMAs) deliver programs that remediate or improve natural resources such as native vegetation and soils, and deal with environmental hazards such as salinity. DECC provides the 13 CMAs in NSW with state-level administration and grant funding from the State Sustainability Fund and the NSW Land and Water Management Plan. Both NSW and the Commonwealth governments provide funding from the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality Program. In 2007–08, \$214 million of joint State/Commonwealth funding and \$41 million of state funding was expended by CMAs to implement strategies dealing with water quality, salinity, agricultural land and urban infrastructure issues.

DECC reviews catchment action plans and associated investment strategies. DECC also provides CMAs and community groups with technical support for salinity issues and the development of the Waterwatch program, and state level support for Landcare, administration of appointments of CMA Board members and strategic operations.

In 2007–08, DECC provided the following assistance to CMAs:

- development of the hydrogeological landscape model, which is based on the interaction of groundwater, geology, soils, regolith and climate in creating salinity. This model, developed with Geoscience Australia and the University of Canberra for Central West CMA, will be fine tuned and implemented in 2008–09.
- expertise in soils mapping for projects in Western NSW and for identifying irrigation salinity.
- training in the identification of salinity hazards and management for CMA staff, landholders, community groups and schools, and local government.
- technical assessments and advice on salinity for landholders and mining operations, and CMAs.
- production of the annual Basin Salinity Management Strategy Report for NSW, in partnership with the Department of Water and Energy, and salinity indicators for the National Land and Water Resources Audit.

Prosecutions

DECC can commence prosecutions for offences under native vegetation, threatened species, parks, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage provisions. Significant prosecutions that took place during 2007–08 include:

Timothy Wayne Keys – threatened species and protected fauna offences

In September 2007, Mr Timothy Wayne Keys was convicted in Raymond Terrace Local Court for four offences relating to the illegal possession and sale of threatened species and protected fauna. The charges related to over 70 native birds and reptiles. Mr Keys was the owner and operator of a pet shop in Saltash and holder of a number of expired licences to keep birds and reptiles. The offences were discovered following an undercover operation carried out by DECC officers. Mr Keys was fined \$7,500 for the offences.

John Archibald Knox – damage reserved lands

In October 2007, Mr John Archibald Knox was convicted in the NSW Land and Environment Court of causing damage to vegetation in Goulburn River National Park. Mr Knox was convicted and ordered to pay a fine of \$13,200 and legal costs. Mr Knox operated an aerial pesticide-spraying business and was engaged to spray pesticide from his helicopter over a neighbouring property. The spray drifted into the park and caused damage to vegetation over an area of 3.7 hectares.

Lisa and Timothy O'Neill – disturbing and damaging Aboriginal objects

In August 2007, Mrs Lisa O'Neill and Mr Timothy O'Neill were each convicted in the NSW Land and Environment Court of two offences relating to unlawfully disturbing and damaging an Aboriginal midden. Mr and Mrs O'Neill were each fined \$800 for the two offences and were ordered to pay DECC's legal costs. The offences occurred when Mr and Mrs O'Neill engaged contractors to move an Aboriginal midden situated near their house to facilitate construction works on their property. The process of moving the Aboriginal midden damaged objects including shells and bones.

Colin Alfred Taylor – clearing native vegetation

In November 2007, Mr Colin Taylor was convicted in the NSW Land and Environment Court of illegally clearing native vegetation. Mr Taylor was fined \$20,000 and ordered to pay legal costs. The offence concerned the clearing of 30 hectares of native vegetation on Mr Taylor's property north-west of Kempsey. The clearing was detected in December 2004 by the former Department of Natural Resources' SPOT 5 satellite monitoring program.

Tomerong Quarry Pty Ltd – pick plants part of a threatened species

In July 2007, Tomerong Quarry Pty Ltd was convicted in the Nowra Local Court of picking plants that were part of a threatened species. The company was fined \$10,000 and ordered to pay legal costs. The offence occurred when its employees were told to clear the vegetation on a site for which development consent had been sought to build a worm farm. The vegetation included the threatened species *Melaleuca boconvexa*.

Lawrence Kenneth Weismantel – clearing native vegetation

In June 2008, Mr Lawrence Weismantel was convicted in Kempsey Local Court of illegally clearing native vegetation. Mr Weismantel was fined \$6,000 and ordered to pay legal costs. The offence concerned the clearing of 11 hectares of native vegetation on Mr Weismantel's property near Kempsey.

Native vegetation compliance and enforcement activities

DECC has integrated native vegetation compliance and enforcement into its other environmental regulatory work. Native vegetation compliance and enforcement activities improve the environment by increasing awareness and understanding of environmental issues and responsibilities leading to behavioural change. DECC is promoting voluntary compliance with native vegetation legislation, to help the community understand and meet its obligations at the lowest possible cost.

DECC prepared the Native Vegetation Compliance and Enforcement Strategy which is due to be released in 2008–09. It will provide strategic direction for compliance and enforcement activities in a transparent and clear decision making framework, and will assist DECC to identify the regulated community, establish compliance and enforcement priorities, promote and monitor compliance, respond to non-compliance and communicate results.

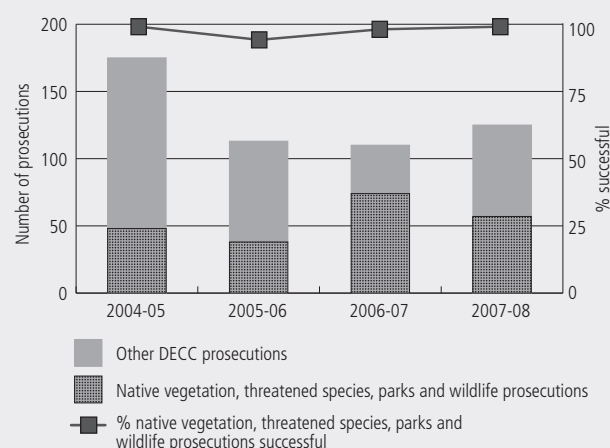
In 2007–08, under native vegetation legislation, DECC finalised 2 prosecutions, commenced a further 9 prosecutions, issued 6 stop work orders, issued 7 remediation directions requiring remedial action to be taken in relation to over 800 hectares of cleared land, issued 4 penalty notices and sent 66 formal warning and advisory letters. These activities build on our credible regulatory framework and send a signal of deterrence about illegal land clearing.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

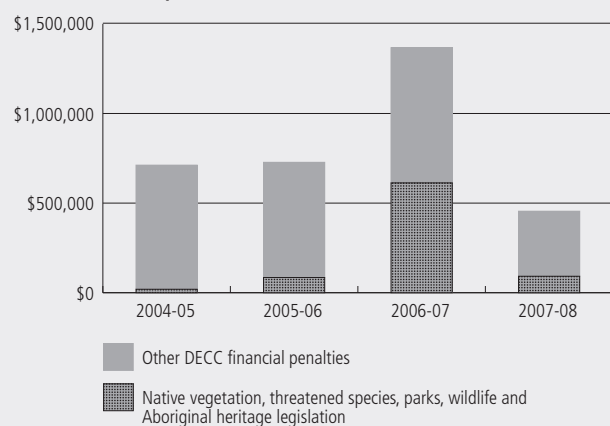
Prosecutions completed under conservation legislation

Definition: This indicator measures the number of prosecutions completed under native vegetation, threatened species, parks, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage legislation, the proportion that were successful and the resulting value of fines awarded by the Land and Environment Court or local courts. 'Successful' refers to prosecution cases that DECC won. These include cases where the defendant was convicted and a penalty was imposed and cases where the DECC case was proved but no conviction or penalty was imposed. See Appendix 8 for details of all completed DECC prosecutions.

DECC prosecutions completed under native vegetation, threatened species, parks, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage legislation



Value of financial penalties



Interpretation: In 2007–08, total fines of \$91,848 were imposed for breaches of native vegetation, threatened species, parks, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage legislation. The level of fines is lower than in the previous financial year, mainly because several very major cases were completed in 2006–07. In 2007–08, considerable attention was given to progressing native vegetation matters. Fines of \$26,000 were imposed for native vegetation offences this year compared with fines of \$3,300 in 2006–07. Of the 59 prosecutions commenced under native vegetation, threatened species, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage legislation this year, 10 were for offences under native vegetation legislation. This is a considerably higher number than in previous years.

Native vegetation ventures

During the year, DECC worked with the Border Rivers–Gwydir, Hunter Central Rivers and Namoi CMAs to complete high quality native vegetation mapping in their catchments. DECC also assisted Murray CMA to develop and implement a catchment-wide biodiversity baseline monitoring project.

DECC has progressed the design and implementation of a vegetation information system for NSW. Ultimately, this information system will store spatial and descriptive data for all native vegetation in NSW. It will also deliver vegetation-related information to stakeholders, including raw data, maps, descriptions and specialist reports built by users, and allow a freer flow of information between the State and Commonwealth governments.

Monitoring native vegetation

In 2007, the NSW Government committed \$24 million over four years to improve monitoring of native vegetation change, and compliance with native vegetation legislation. These funds are being used to purchase high resolution imagery and systems to improve monitoring.

High resolution imagery from the SPOT5 satellite has been acquired to help deliver these outcomes. The SPOT5 images have a 10-metre multi-spectral pixel and 2.5-metre panchromatic pixel resolution which makes them much clearer than Landsat images. Images for all of NSW for 2007–08 are being acquired and will be made available in 2008–09.

A new computer and image storage facility has been purchased to accommodate and process this data. This facility will be located in Sydney, with sub-nodes at Grafton and Dubbo, and will be commissioned during 2008–09.

DECC is collaborating with the University of Queensland, Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water, Landcare Research (NZ) and Geoscience Australia, to develop automated methods to process the enormous amount of information being acquired. This research will continue during 2008–09. When the storage facility is more established, further opportunities for collaboration in natural resource monitoring will be explored.

Native vegetation reports

The *NSW woody vegetation change report 2006–07* and NSW Native Vegetation Report Card provide a widespread picture of native vegetation in NSW. They demonstrate that the NSW Government is honouring its commitment to end broadscale land clearing and that the state's natural resources are being responsibly managed.

The woody vegetation report is based on Landsat satellite imagery which tracks all changes to woody vegetation where the canopy cover is greater than 20%. The Landsat survey demonstrated that the total loss in area of woody native vegetation during 2006–07 was 0.3% of NSW, or 243,000 hectares. Of this, more than 80%, or 202,000 hectares, was caused by large-scale bushfires, mainly in the

Pilliga and Blue Mountain forests. Most of this vegetation is expected to regenerate over time. The remainder of the loss, at just over 18,500 hectares, was due to the impacts of fire, clearing for pastures and crop planting, thinning of woody vegetation, forestry activities and clearing for the establishment of rural infrastructure.

DECC produces Native Vegetation Report Cards every six months to inform the public about conservation, revegetation, and management and clearing of native vegetation. DECC collects and analyses data from databases held by DECC, Department of Lands, Forests NSW and the CMAs.

From 1 July to 31 December 2007, over 167,000 hectares of native vegetation were conserved or improved across NSW. In contrast, CMAs approved clearing of only 3,500 hectares and only on the condition that environmental values were maintained or improved through mechanisms such as the use of offsets.

Over the 12-month period to June 2008, only 5,500 hectares of native vegetation were approved for clearing, and almost 448,900 hectares of native vegetation were conserved or improved.

The information in these reports is used by DECC, CMAs and others to help target investment and compliance priorities.

Native Vegetation Report Card results

Category	July 2007 – June 2008
Conservation – area added to the NSW reserve system or to private lands managed for conservation.	88,400 hectares, with 64% of this area added to the public reserve system.
Restoration or revegetation – area on which vegetation condition was improved through incentive funding for property vegetation plans and native plantations, or National Heritage Trust and National Action Plan funding.	360,500 hectares, most of the area being funded by the National Heritage Trust and National Action Plan (153,900 hectares) and incentive property vegetation plans (147,600 hectares).
Management – sustainable management, including management of invasive native scrub, private native forestry and rangeland, and weed removal programs on state protected land.	1,100,300 hectares, much of the area being for management of invasive native scrub (643,900 hectares).
Approved clearing – clearing approved under property vegetation plans or development applications where environmental outcomes are maintained or improved, or under other legislation (such as the <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i>)	5,500 hectares, with most of the area approved where environmental outcomes were maintained or improved.

Property vegetation plans

The *Native Vegetation Act 2003* established property vegetation plans (PVPs) as the negotiated agreements between CMAs and landholders to establish areas for clearing, offsets and incentives. A total of 1,130 PVPs have been approved, including 785 PVPs that involve incentives. In total, these PVPs cover more than 240,000 hectares.

In 2007–08, CMAs approved approximately 5,000 hectares of clearing, with more than 12,000 hectares of associated offsets. This is compared to clearing approvals of more than 12,000 hectares in 2005–06, and much higher levels under the previous legislation.

On 30 May 2008, DECC rolled out a new software system called PADACS which has been designed to create, manage and record PVPs. The Department is working with the CMAs to support its implementation.

Native vegetation legislative reform

Further amendments to the Native Vegetation Regulation 2005 allow for minor changes to the clearing assessment. The amendments enable the clearing of degraded vegetation in exchange for good quality offsets in certain circumstances. All proposals are still required to include measures to improve or maintain environmental outcomes.

In March 2008, the Minister approved two assessment protocols that provide a test for when an accredited expert can reclassify the condition of native vegetation, reclassify the percentage of cleared threshold for a Mitchell landscape or vegetation type, or vary the regional value of vegetation.

Public outdoor recreation facilities have been added to the list of local government infrastructure that is exempt from the need for a clearing assessment under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. This amendment provides local councils with a streamlined assessment process to approve clearing for the purpose of constructing public outdoor recreational facilities such as playing fields and playgrounds.

Private native forestry

Amendments to the Native Vegetation Regulation 2005 commenced on 1 August 2007 to bring native forestry operations under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. The Private Native Forestry Code of Practice came into force at the same time to support the legal changes.

The Code promotes the sustainable management of private forests, by balancing the requirement that forestry operations improve or maintain environmental outcomes with the need to ensure that communities and businesses that rely on private forests are sustained. Some key requirements in the Code include:

- exclusion of harvesting in rainforests and old growth forests, on land adjacent to waterways and on steep land.

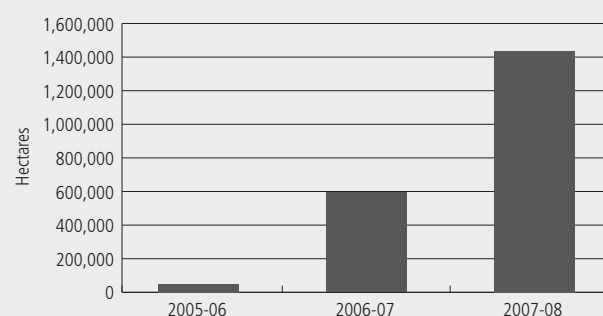
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Approved property vegetation plans

Definition: This indicator measures the total area of land maintained or improved each year by property vegetation plans (cumulative). A property vegetation plan (PVP) is a voluntary agreement under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, negotiated between a landholder, or a group of landholders, and the local CMA, which assesses and approves the PVP.

This annual data includes offset arrangements, incentive areas, Invasive Native Scrub PVPs and Thinning PVPs. It does not include clearing statistics or PVPs for private native forestry.

Total area of land maintained or improved by property vegetation plans



Interpretation: The *Native Vegetation Act 2003* did not commence until December 2005, so the 2005–06 figure only incorporates seven months of data. Initially PVPs were taken up slowly by landholders as they were a new concept. The significant increase in 2006–07 and 2007–08 is due to large PVPs approved in western NSW for the management of invasive native scrub (approximately 450,000 and 690,000 hectares respectively).

- protection of biodiversity values, so for example, exclusion zones are required around certain threatened flora, and habitat and feed trees for threatened fauna must be retained. No harvesting is permitted in a wetland or within 20 metres of a wetland.



Photo: J. Lemon, DECC.

The Private Native Forestry Code of Practice contains protocols to protect threatened species, such as koalas, and their habitats.

- minimum silvicultural requirements are required during harvesting, such as retaining a minimum level of 'tree area' per hectare. Harvesting is not permitted below these minimum tree retention areas.
- there must be minimum stand stocking requirements for forest regeneration before further harvesting is permitted.
- there are limits on where and how harvesting operations can occur to prevent soil erosion or sedimentation, and to protect water quality.

Approval through a private native forestry property vegetation plan (PNF PVP) is required to carry out forestry operations on private land. A PNF PVP is a legally binding agreement between a landholder and the Minister. PNF PVPs are valid for up to 15 years, giving landowners the security they need to make long-term forest management decisions.

As at June 2008, DECC had received 1,592 enquiries, approved 418 PNF PVPs covering 115,466 hectares and drafted a further 556 PNF PVPs. The NSW Government has provided \$29.3 million for industry assistance, \$4 million for training and accreditation and \$3.7 million to support the implementation of the Code. Assistance is also available for landholders under the Native Vegetation Assistance Package.

In 2007–08, DECC completed 50 audits of PNF operations under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. A few operations had minor areas of non-compliance which have now been resolved. Compliance action is being progressed against one operation which was found to be operating without an approved PVP or consent. DECC investigated an operation for breach of a consent issued under the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997* and issued penalty notices worth \$4,800.

■ CASE STUDY

Threatened species protected under the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice

As an example of how the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice works, a landholder who had dry and moist eucalypt forest on their property applied for a private native forestry property vegetation plan (PNF PVP). DECC provided a sketch map showing various landscape features that could not be harvested, including a 250-metre strip of rainforest. The landholder accepted the rainforest mapping as accurate, and agreed that forestry operations would not take place in rainforest areas.

DECC then completed a search for records of any threatened species within a one-kilometre radius. Two threatened species were found immediately adjacent to the proposed PVP area. A map showing the name and location of the species was supplied to the landholder.

A PNF PVP was issued to the landholder for 15 years. The landholder prepared a forest operations plan, which included identifying the rainforest areas to be excluded from harvesting and the appropriate measures which would be taken to protect the threatened species before



Photo: DECC.

Under the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice, valuable landscapes such as rainforests will not be harvested.

commencing forestry operations. The operations were supervised by a logging contractor.

The landholder received \$7,500 for 150 m³ of timber from the local sawmill. A similar harvest can be expected in another 10 years.

DECC conducted a random audit of the operation and found the requirements of the Code had been met.



Photo: R. Nicolai.

Protect and restore biodiversity and native vegetation

Protected area acquisition program

DECC acquires and reserves land to conserve and protect natural and cultural heritage values under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

In 2007–08, 47 areas totalling nearly 42,000 hectares were acquired for future addition to the reserve system. Land was purchased using funds from Treasury capital allocations, the NSW Environmental Trust and the Great Lakes Shire Council. Land was also transferred to DECC from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. Crown land, which can be reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and is not purchased, was also acquired.

DECC finalised its *NSW National Parks Establishment Plan 2008* which outlines future directions for building the public reserve system, sets out long-term goals and outlines priorities for the next decade. The focus over the next few years will be:

- establishing new reserves in far western and central western NSW, where reservation currently protects less than 5% of the landscape
- increasing existing reserves on the western slopes and tablelands
- fine-tuning reserve boundaries along the coast and coastal ranges, where nearly 30% of the landscape is protected.

For more information on the *NSW National Parks Establishment Plan 2008*, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/npestabplan.htm.

The focus for land acquisitions in 2007–08 were landholdings in western NSW, coastal wetlands and lowlands, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, reserve inholdings and perimeter additions, Brigalow–Nandewar leases and high reservation value Crown leases.

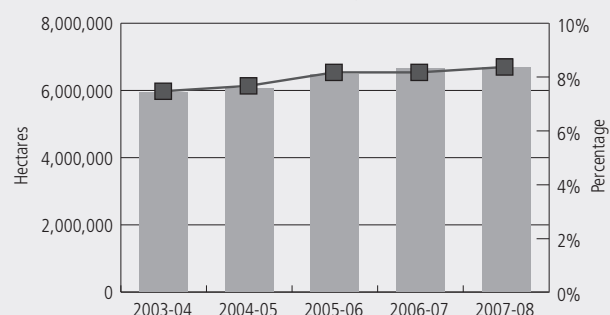
The Brigalow and Nandewar acquisitions were major. Fourteen properties were acquired totalling 10,682 hectares. Six of the properties were leasehold lands vested with the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. These will significantly contribute to Bullala Community Conservation Area (CCA) Zone 1 National Park, Towarri National Park, Gwydir River CCA Zone 3 State Conservation Area and Coolah Tops National Park. CCAs are areas set aside for conservation where some sustainable development, such as forestry, may also take place.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

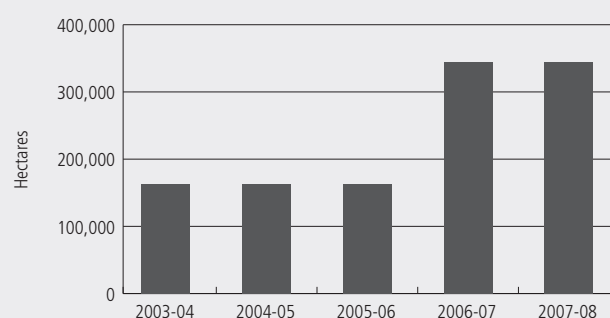
Land managed by DECC for conservation

Definition: This indicator measures the area of reserves managed by DECC (shown in hectares and as a percentage of NSW), and the area in hectares of marine parks managed by DECC as part of the Marine Parks Authority.

Land and percentage of NSW managed by DECC for conservation



Marine parks managed by DECC



Interpretation: During 2006–07, over 162,000 hectares of land were formally added to the reserve system. DECC now manages over six and a half million hectares of land in NSW, which represents 8.3% of the state's total area.

The area of land reserved during 2007–08 of 41,149 hectares is lower than the area of land reserved in previous years. This reflects the change from large areas of public land transferring into the national park system (Crown land and state forest), to a greater reliance on the purchase of privately-owned land offered for sale to DECC.

At 30 June 2008, approximately 345,100 hectares (34%) of NSW waters were in the marine park system, including approximately 64,900 hectares (6.5%) in sanctuary zones.

Other significant acquisitions for addition to the reserve system were:

- Clybucca – about 480 hectares of the lower Macleay River floodplain that stretches for approximately 14 km and which contains examples of some of the largest Aboriginal middens recorded in NSW. All the Clybucca–Stuarts Point complex of estuarine shell middens is of high scientific and archaeological significance.
- Upper Barwon, located north east of Walgett – a 4,000-hectare property which will establish the core of a new reserve in the poorly reserved Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion. It will protect a large expanse of Coolabah–Black Box Woodland, an endangered ecological community.
- Kalyarr State Conservation Area – a 4,000-hectare Mullawa property located 50 km west of Hay in the Riverina Bioregion that adjoins the southern boundary of the reserve, and will increase its area by 37%.
- Blue Mountains National Park – three properties totalling 56 hectares that will further consolidate the reserve boundary and enhance the national park's World Heritage values.

Percentage of NSW bioregions protected in the NSW reserve system

NSW Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) Bioregion	% reserved
Australian Alps	81.8
Brigalow Belt South	8.3
Broken Hill Complex	2.0
Channel Country	9.4
Cobar Penepplain	2.4
Darling Riverine Plains	1.7
Mulga Lands	3.6
Murray–Darling Depression	5.6
Nandewar	3.7
New England Tableland	9.1
NSW North Coast	24.4
NSW South Western Slopes	1.9
Riverina	1.8
Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields	11.1
South East Corner	42.7
South Eastern Highlands	14.8
South Eastern Queensland	13.6
Sydney Basin	38.1
Total NSW	8.3

Lands reserved

This year there were 64 additions to the reserve system comprising 41,149 hectares.

In the Lower Hunter Region, DECC implemented Stage 1 of the NSW Government's Lower Hunter Regional Conservation Plan, adding 13,768 hectares to the reserve system. As part of the plan, several new reserves were established and small reserves were re-categorised and re-named. Significant reserve additions included:

- 3,533 hectares were added to Karuah National Park to protect paperbark swamp forest and coastal wetlands
- 2,300 hectares were added to Werakata State Conservation Area, which forms a green corridor across the Hunter Valley floor linking ranges to the east and west and protecting stands of endangered Lower Hunter Spotted Gum–Ironbark Forest.

Sugarloaf State Conservation Area (3,926 hectares), Tilligerry National Park (146 hectares) and Tilligerry State Conservation Area (4,570 hectares) were established to build on the green corridor established from the Watagans National Park via Hexham Swamp (Hunter Estuary National Park) to Port Stephens.

Outside the Lower Hunter region, four new reserves were established: Maroomba State Conservation Area, Doctors Nose Mountain Nature Reserve, Lansdowne Nature Reserve and Wianamatta Regional Park.

Other additions to reserves include:

- several properties totalling 5,956 hectares were added to Guy Fawkes River National Park, New England Tablelands
- an additional half a hectare was added to the Dalrymple–Hay Nature Reserve, St Ives, Sydney
- Culgoa National Park, in north-western NSW, was increased by 11,294 hectares.

Wild rivers

Section 61 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* provides for the declaration of wild rivers in national parks. Wild rivers are in a near-pristine condition in terms of animal and plant life and water flow, and free of unnatural rates of siltation or bank erosion that affect many of Australia's waterways. All the wild rivers can be used as benchmarks for environmental monitoring and scientific study, and some will be managed for recreation. Five wild rivers have been declared. These are the Upper Brogo, Forbes, Upper Hastings and Kowmung rivers, and Washpool Creek.

During the past 12 months, DECC continued its work in assessing the Colo, Grose, Maria, Macdonald and Paroo rivers.

Wilderness

Wilderness is a large natural area of land which, with its native plant and animal communities, is in a relatively natural state, and has either not been substantially modified by human activity or can be restored. Under section 7 of the *Wilderness Act 1987*, anyone may nominate an area to be considered as wilderness. DECC can also assess an area for wilderness values independently of any proposal.

DECC did not receive any new nominations for wilderness in 2007–08. There were no declarations of wilderness in the same period. The total area of declared wilderness in NSW is 1,907,233 hectares, which represents 29% of the total DECC estate and 2.4% of NSW.

Karst reserves

Under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, DECC manages all the state's significant karst reserves. Responsibility for Abercrombie, Borenore and Wombeyan karst conservation reserves and the conservation management zone of the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve were transferred to DECC in July 2006. The transfer to DECC of the remaining area of the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve (the visitor use and services zone) is expected to take place following the Minister's endorsement of the reserve's plan of management.

During 2007–08, the Karst Management Advisory Committee provided advice on the:

- Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve Draft Plan of Management
- Cave Access Policy Directive and related guidelines
- Karst Research Prospectus
- Karst Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- establishment of buffer zones for water extraction in karst environments
- karst provisions in local environmental plans
- proposed collaborative management of Macleay and New England karst.



Photo: J. Lin

Lucas Cave is one of the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve's greatest assets.



Photo: DECC

Minister Firth spoke about the importance of recognising Aboriginal people's knowledge of land management during the launch of LandAlive in June 2008.

BioBanking Scheme

The NSW Government has introduced the Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (BioBanking Scheme) to help address the loss of biodiversity values, including threatened species. A framework for the NSW BioBanking Scheme was established under the *Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Banking) Act 2006*.

BioBanking is a market-based scheme that provides a streamlined biodiversity assessment process for development, a rigorous and credible offsetting scheme and an opportunity for rural landowners to generate income by managing land for conservation.

BioBanking enables 'biodiversity credits' to be generated by landowners who commit to enhancing and protecting biodiversity values on their land through a biobanking agreement. These credits can then be sold, generating funds for managing the site. Credits can be purchased by developers to counterbalance or offset the impacts on biodiversity that are likely to occur as a result of development. They can also be sold to those seeking to invest in conservation outcomes, including philanthropic organisations and government agencies.

The BioBanking Scheme has attracted a great deal of community interest. In 2007–08, DECC released several important components of the scheme for community comment, including the:

- Regulatory Impact Statement for the proposed Threatened Species Conservation (Biodiversity Banking) Regulation 2007
- draft BioBanking Assessment Methodology
- draft Compliance Assurance Strategy.

The scheme is planned to commence in 2008–09. For more information on the BioBanking Scheme, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking/.

LandAlive

LandAlive – Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity is a new DECC project which was launched by Minister Verity Firth in June 2008. *LandAlive* is funded by the Environmental Trust. It provides Aboriginal landowners with accredited land management training so they can participate in the BioBanking Scheme and generate biodiversity credits. The project enables participants to acquire skills, creates opportunities for long-term jobs and brings Aboriginal land management practices to the forefront of land management in NSW.

Threatened species assessment of significance guidelines

Threatened species impact assessment is part of environmental impact assessment, which takes place when a site is being assessed for development. DECC released *Threatened species assessment guidelines: the assessment of significance*, to clarify the terminology of the relevant legislation and provide clear interpretations of the factors of assessment for applicants. Factors of assessment are the factors that need to be considered when assessing whether an action, development or activity is likely to significantly affect threatened species, populations, ecological communities or habitats.

NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement

Introducing the NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement (PAS) outlines the broad strategies and detailed actions to be undertaken in NSW to promote the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities, and manage key threats. It was approved by the Director General in October 2007. Changes were made to the draft version of the PAS, including creating priority actions for approximately 250 species missing from the draft PAS; refining the quality of actions and internal review processes in response to public submissions; and DECC committing to achieving priority actions over the next three years.

The PAS will be reviewed in 2010 with input from the Natural Resources Commission, the NSW Scientific Committee, the Social and Economic Advisory Council, the Biological Diversity Advisory Council, state and federal government agencies and the public.

DECC staff are now using the PAS to undertake threatened species recovery and threat abatement work. This work includes:

- completing the recovery plan for the brush-tailed rock-wallaby. DECC is now working with local councils and catchment management authorities on recovery actions, and research and monitoring projects, to save the rock-wallaby
- initiating a green and golden bell frog community education campaign, to be completed in 2008–09
- working with Sydney Catchment Management Authority, local councils and community groups to identify threatened species demonstration sites in Sydney that can be protected or improved, and can form a basis for a series of best practice guidelines that will help land managers manage threatened species or endangered ecological communities on similar sites
- completing the Endangered Ecological Communities Project (see next page).

Introducing the NSW Threatened Species Priorities Statement is available at www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/home_PAS_new.aspx

CASE STUDY

Threatened and pest animals study reveals surprises

In November 2007, details of a major study were released which had been undertaken by DECC and the Sydney Catchment Authority between 2002 and 2007. Project staff recorded the distribution and abundance of, and threats facing, native animals in the Greater Southern Sydney Region. Staff mapped fauna habitat, surveyed animals, and assessed their conservation status in bushland around southern Sydney, Wollongong and the southern Blue Mountains.

The study revealed some surprising discoveries. Two new small populations of the brush-tailed rock-wallaby and little bentwing bat were discovered, and the yellow-bellied glider was found to be more common in the area than had been anticipated. Sadly, other species such as the long-nosed potoroo had drastically declined in the region.

Threatened and pest animals of Greater Southern Sydney summarises the main findings of the study, provides a profile of each animal and tells people what they can do on their properties or in their community to



Photo: J. Winter

The threatened yellow-bellied glider has been found to be more common than anticipated in Greater Southern Sydney.

help conserve each animal. Technical reports are also available for environmental consultants, local councils, natural resource management staff and students. For more information, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/faunasouthsydney.htm.

Endangered Ecological Communities Project

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* defines 'endangered' as a species, population or ecological community that is likely to become extinct or is in immediate danger of extinction. DECC was funded by the Natural Heritage Trust to develop a comprehensive identification package for seven endangered ecological communities (EECs). These were the River-flat Eucalypt Forest, Swamp Sclerophyll Forest, Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest, Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Saltmarsh, Littoral Rainforest and Montane Peatlands EECs.

Information sessions were held with stakeholders, including councils, catchment management authorities, universities, landholders and peak environmental groups. Workshops were held with Hawkesbury–Nepean Catchment Management Authority Wetlands Group and Saltmarsh Group, the Floodplain Network in Grafton and Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

The project has now been completed, with simple profiles of the EECs available on www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/home_tec.aspx. These profiles will help stakeholders locate EECs and find out about the habitat they contain and the species that live in them, according to where they are located. Other information in each profile includes threats facing a species, recovery strategies, maps and a reference database.



Photo: V. Jones.

The Flying-Fox Camp Management Policy will help protect grey-headed flying-foxes in NSW.



Photo: M. Schulz.

Endangered Ecological Communities, including Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest, now have their own profiles on DECC's website.

Flying-fox camp management policy

DECC released its *Flying-fox Camp Management Policy* in December 2007 after consultation with many stakeholders, including the NSW Flying-fox Consultative Committee. The policy aims to help land managers, the community and wildlife carers, local government and catchment management authorities to appropriately conserve and manage flying-fox camps in NSW.

The policy:

- clarifies legal responsibilities in regard to flying-fox camps
- provides a consistent approach to flying-fox camp management
- advises on ways in which to deal with public complaints about flying-foxes, and helps land managers reduce conflict near flying-fox camps by using education and communication strategies
- recommends procedures for relocating flying-fox camps in exceptional circumstances when no other alternative exists.

Gould's petrel recovery

Gould's petrel is a rare pelagic seabird whose only breeding site worldwide is Cabbage Tree Island at the entrance to Port Stephens, NSW. This enigmatic seabird once teetered on the very brink of extinction. DECC's integrated program of scientific research and experimental management action has seen the Gould's petrel undergo a remarkable recovery.

Despite these gains, the population on Cabbage Tree Island remains vulnerable to local catastrophe, such as a wildfire or the introduction of rats, mice or cats. To reduce this risk, DECC has been working to establish a second population on nearby Boondelbah Island. This new colony has increased since its inception. Importantly, second-generation birds returned this year to breed for the first time, thereby meeting established criteria for a successful translocation. The translocation techniques developed for Gould's petrel by DECC scientists represent a watershed in the science of seabird translocation, and are being used around the world to save other threatened species such as the critically endangered Bermuda petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*).



Photo: N. Carlisle, DECC.

A Gould's petrel fledgling is safely established on Boondelbah Island.

■ CASE STUDY

South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program

The South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program is a long-term program supported by DECC, other government agencies and volunteers to protect the breeding and nesting habitat of four species of threatened shorebird on the south coast; the little tern (endangered), hooded plover (endangered), pied oystercatcher (vulnerable) and the sooty oystercatcher (vulnerable).

Major threats facing the birds include nest inundation, human interference, abandonment, sand coverage, and predation by other birds and foxes. To combat these threats, several actions were undertaken during 2007–08:

- fox control, including baiting, trapping and shooting, and the maintenance or construction of electric fences, was undertaken at most sites
- wire nest protectors to exclude predators were used on hooded plover and little tern nests
- nests found to be in danger of inundation were raised on sandbags, with additional shelter in the form of leafy branches and driftwood being provided for newly-hatched chicks at sparsely vegetated nesting sites
- temporary signs were erected to help minimise disturbance by beach-users and dogs.



Photo: M. Weston.

Hooded plover.

More than 70 volunteers assisted with guarding the sites, nest protection measures, education and monitoring at nearly 60 sites. Many of these volunteers received awards from Landcare Australia and were recognised as local heroes.

Although wild weather affected the breeding success of little terns and oystercatchers, it was one of the most successful seasons on record for hooded plovers, with 13 chicks fledged to boost population numbers.

Bird breeding in Murray Darling Basin

The most significant bird breeding event in eight years in the Murray Darling Basin took place in the Narran Lakes Reserve in northern NSW, where 60,000 ibis nested.

Substantial rain and river inflows provided the best environmental conditions in the area since 2000, and waterbirds bred in response to abundant water and revitalised wetland environments. This water was later supplemented by the Murray Darling Basin Commission which provided 11,000 megalitres of water to sustain the event and allow the best possible chance for chicks to fledge.

Staff from DECC and University of NSW scientists observed the colony and conducted surveys to monitor the breeding and river inflows. DECC scientists are now analysing the data to determine the number of birds present and the success of the breeding season.

National Threatened Species Day

Protecting Places, Protecting Species was the theme for National Threatened Species Day on 7 September 2007. To mark the event, DECC developed a new education kit, *Connect Kids*, to raise awareness of threatened species in the Coffs Harbour region.

The education kit connects students to local habitats and threatened species in their neighbourhood. They learn about things they can do to help local native species, the environmental consequences of choices made now and in the future, and the importance of conserving remaining natural areas as habitat for native species.

Pest animal and weed control

Reducing the impact of invasive species is one of the 13 statewide targets for natural resource management under the NSW State Plan. DECC has played a key role in developing the NSW Invasive Species Plan which identifies statewide priorities for managing vertebrate and invertebrate pests and weeds. Key objectives in the plan include responding rapidly to eradicate or contain new incursions and widespread species such as foxes and bitou bush, and prioritising management programs to areas where benefits are greatest.

Fox and bitou bush threat abatement plans

The *NSW threat abatement plan for predation of the red fox* (Fox TAP) identifies the threatened species that will benefit most from a reduction in fox predation and establishes monitoring programs to measure the effectiveness of control programs at priority sites.

A review of the Fox TAP has commenced, which will include a critical assessment of the recovery of threatened species targeted for protection from foxes. The review is being overseen by an inter-agency working group. Input from independent scientists will be sought before a revised draft is released for public comment in 2009.

Many efforts under the Fox TAP in 2007–08 monitored the success of fox control programs in maintaining or increasing populations of the threatened brush-tailed rock-wallaby. For example, the response of the rock-wallabies to fox control in the Central Coast–Hunter Region was monitored at 11 sites across the region between March and June 2008, both in and outside parks.

A large fox control program was conducted around brush-tailed rock-wallaby sites in Warrumbungle and Mt Kaputar national parks. At Mt Kaputar National Park, fox control was expanded onto 10 neighbouring private properties to protect populations of rock-wallabies in the park. This program was supported by a grant from the Namoi Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

Part of a fox baiting program undertaken in Watagans National Park included community education, including a workshop in April 2008, to encourage neighbouring landholders to undertake fox baiting on private lands.



Photo: C. Ramsay, DECC.

Native threatened species such as the brush-tailed rock-wallaby are being protected under the Fox TAP.

The *bitou bush and boneseed threat abatement plan* (Bitou TAP) identifies 81 priority sites in coastal NSW where the weed is being controlled. The Bitou TAP is also being implemented at additional priority sites. Bitou control programs aim to protect approximately 60% of the priority species or plant communities identified in the Bitou TAP. A field guide has been prepared to help managers identify these priority species. Monitoring guidelines are also being developed to help land managers assess the effectiveness of their control programs.

In a joint project with NSW Department of Primary Industries, DECC is working with the 13 CMAs to identify regional priorities for the control of environmental weeds. Workshops were held to identify and rank areas to guide CMA investment in weed control where biodiversity benefits would be greatest. Statewide monitoring protocols are being developed so the recovery of native species can be measured following weed control.

A DECC study has highlighted the significance of the biodiversity impacts of lantana, with 279 rare or threatened plant species and 93 rare or threatened animal species being at risk. Due to the extent of lantana infestations, a national lantana threat abatement plan is being prepared by DECC and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. The plan identifies the 24 highest priority sites for lantana control, which contain 92 high priority native species and plant communities. While herbicides and other bush regeneration techniques may be used at these sites, DECC is also working with the NSW Department of Primary Industries to rear biocontrol agents and release them on these sites.

Infection of native plants by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* statement of intent

In April 2008, DECC released its *Statement of intent 1: Infection of native plants by Phytophthora cinnamomi* in response to the key threatening process listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

This is DECC's first in a series of proposed statements of intent. It outlines DECC's approach to implementing actions over the next five years to manage the threat and minimise its impact on biodiversity. It is a resource for government and other organisations, land managers and the public to tackle this threat into the future.

Weed education and awareness programs

In 2007–08, DECC worked with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and NSW Department of Education and Training to raise public awareness of weeds by implementing *NSW: No space 4 weeds* and *Weed warriors*.

NSW: No space 4 weeds is a statewide campaign to raise awareness of weeds in the community by teaching people about the impacts of weeds and highlighting the benefits of preventing the spread of weeds. It provides the community with simple actions they can undertake such as not dumping garden waste and planting non-invasive plants in their gardens. *Weed warriors* is a program for school students. It is linked to *Weeds Attack!*, an interactive computer package that teaches students about the impacts of weeds and the principles of weed control. Students can play the games and take the challenges which are part of *Weeds Attack!* while becoming aware of weed issues and increasing their knowledge of, and capacity to manage, the environment.

Examples of weed programs undertaken in national parks and reserves during 2007–08 include:

- water hyacinth removal in Tuggerah Nature Reserve to increase open water for water birds
- control of bitou bush in Bouddi and Wyrabalong national parks, Munmorah and Lake Macquarie state conservation areas, and Pulbah Island nature reserve
- a weed control program targeting mother-of-millions, bridal creeper, prickly pear, lantana, blackberry and tree of heaven in Wollemi, Yengo and Werakata national parks

- weed removal in the Macquarie area reserves targeting blackberry, St Johns wort and serrated tussock
- removal of African boxthorn in many reserves in western NSW including Yathong Nature Reserve and Oolambeyan and Yanga national parks.

Feral goat control programs

In 2007–08, DECC continued to work on a project in western NSW to reduce the impacts of feral goats in reserves by managing watering points, trapping, shooting and strategic fencing. Funds have been provided from the Natural Heritage Trust to monitor the effectiveness of this project at Culgoa, Gundabooka and Paroo-Darling national parks and Nocolche Nature Reserve.

At the Warrumbungle National Park, between August 2007 and March 2008, 218 goats were removed. This has significantly reduced the impact of goats on brush-tailed rock-wallaby colonies in the park. Further results include 83 goats removed from Pilliga Nature Reserve, 807 goats removed from Mt Kaputar National Park, and 57 goats removed from smaller reserves near the Queensland border.

DECC also carried out a collaborative goat removal program in Cocoparra National Park and Nature Reserve with adjoining property owners. The program involved several goat removal methods, including goat mustering and trapping for market sales and aerial shooting. Results indicate that the program has been successful in dramatically reducing goat numbers in the Lachlan and Macquarie areas. This has enabled revegetation of plant communities in fragile environments in Goobang National Park and Winburndale Nature Reserve.

Feral pig program

In 2007–08, an extensive feral pig program was implemented in western NSW. More than 1,000 feral pigs were successfully trapped and removed from Yanga National Park. Similar programs were successful at Goobang National Park, Mount Canoblas State Conservation Area, and Winburndale and Eusdale nature reserves.

Between October 2007 and May 2008, 717 pigs were removed from the Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve which significantly reduced impacts on ground nesting waterbirds. A similar program undertaken at Narran Lake Nature Reserve successfully removed 331 pigs. The Narran Lakes program coincided with a cooperative Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB) aerial shooting program along the Narran River and at strategic locations at Walgett, Brewarrina and Bourke in which 584 pigs were successfully removed.

In November 2007, DECC worked with the Moree RLPB on a coordinated aerial shooting program targeting private property and a number of nature reserves in the area, including Budelah, Boomi, Boomi West, Boronga and Midkin nature reserves. The program successfully removed 108 pigs from these reserves. Another aerial shooting program in January 2008 with the Northern Slopes RLPB removed 115 pigs from Planchonella Nature Reserve and Gunyerwarildi National Park. The program also removed 335 pigs from private property.

Wild dog control

In 2007–08, DECC continued research to develop innovative control methods for wild dogs and foxes. These included techniques such as the M-44 ejector (a specially designed bait delivery device), llamas as livestock guarding animals, livestock protection collars, synthetic lures, night vision technology and correction collars.

Across NSW, a number of cooperative wild dog control programs were implemented with various rural lands protection boards and wild dog control associations to reduce the impact of wild dogs on lands adjacent to Ben Halls Gap, Barrington Tops and Curracabundi national parks, and Wallabadah and Camerons Gorge nature reserves. These programs were also expanded to include new reserves in the Upper Hunter, including Woolooma and Murrurundi Pass national parks.

In the Walcha area, over 280 kilometres of aerial baiting and 50 kilometres of ground baiting were undertaken. Between March and June 2008, 16 wild dogs were trapped. Wild dog management plans were re-negotiated with wild dog associations, four kilometres of new dog fencing were supplied to protected area neighbours, and materials and planning support were provided for the Moona/Winterbourne Wild Dog Association wild dog exclusion electric fencing project.

In Kosciuszko National Park, aerial baiting with 1,080 wild dog meat baits occurred in the Adaminaby/Yaouk Wild Dog Association area in May 2007 and October 2007. The primary control measure in this area is for experienced pest animal controllers to trap the dogs. These methods resulted in 31 wild dogs being culled with only 25 livestock being killed by wild dog attacks. Sand plot monitoring in Spring 2007 indicated that wild dogs were scarce in the area. Scat searches for spotted-tailed quolls indicated that there was still a sparse population of this threatened species. Infrared cameras were deployed in 10 locations in Scabby Range between September 2007 and January 2008, but no quolls were detected.

In the Goobragandra/Blowering Wild Dog Working Group area of Kosciuszko National Park, an experienced contractor conducted a strategic trapping program, trapping or shooting 17 wild dogs, resulting in only nine farm animals being killed by wild dog attacks.

■ CASE STUDY

Trap that toad

The *Trap that Toad* teacher's resource is a key component of DECC's community education strategy to control cane toads in NSW. This award-winning resource has been produced with the assistance of the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. It provides information about the toad, develops skills in identifying the toad and differentiating it from native frogs, and promotes responsible action using approaches that appeal to different learning styles. In 2008, *Trap that Toad* won a National Heritage Trust Award and was a finalist in the Land and Biodiversity Category of the 2008 Banksia Awards.

The resource has also increased community awareness, leading to a marked increase in participation in cane toad control programs and the reduction or even disappearance of isolated cane toad populations. DECC has received unprecedented requests for additional information and resources, demonstrating the desire of local communities to be involved in biodiversity conservation programs.



Cane toad.

Photo: DECC.

This year, over 2,500 children participated in the program in NSW and the resource is now being rolled out in south-east Queensland. *Trap that Toad* is being delivered by *Discovery* rangers, local government officers and school teachers.

In Sturt National Park, weekly monitoring of wild dog activity was carried out across the park, with results indicating minimal dog activity. Major baiting programs were carried out in August 2007 after whelping and in January–February 2008 when younger dogs were dispersing. Two dogs were discovered through track detection on the eastern boundary of the park in May 2008. A reactive baiting and trapping program was initiated which resulted in no further signs of activity. No transgressions of wild dogs from the park onto neighbouring properties were reported.

Deer control

Deer browsing, trampling and wallowing are having a serious and increasing environmental impact on the Illawarra region. In Kangaroo Valley, a number of rural landholders have formed a Landcare group in partnership with DECC to help control feral deer in specifically approved shooting zones in national parks and on adjoining properties. Thirty-five deer have been culled in the last two years, and the program continues to be supported by the local community.

The deer control program continued to be implemented in Royal National Park and was expanded into the local area in response to increasing numbers. To date, over 1,000 deer have been culled through the program, which is being conducted with Sutherland Shire Council. Work also proceeded in Wollongong to install deer warning signs at strategic locations and inform the community about the program.

Fire management

DECC manages some of the most rugged and remote bushfire-prone country in the world. Under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, DECC is responsible for protecting human life, property, and natural and cultural heritage values from bushfires on lands that it manages. To undertake fire management, DECC has approximately 900 trained firefighters, hundreds of trained incident management staff and a full range of vehicles, plant, equipment and aircraft for fire management operations, particularly in remote areas.

DECC cooperates and coordinates its firefighting operations with the NSW Rural Fire Service, Forests NSW, the Sydney Catchment Authority and NSW Fire Brigades. DECC is a member of the NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee and the Australasian Fire Authorities Council.

To ensure it is prepared for suppressing bushfires in national parks and adjacent lands, DECC conducts a Fire Fighter Health and Fitness Program each year for staff involved in fire fighting. As a Registered Training Authority, DECC also trains other staff in fire and incident management and assesses fire fighters and incident management personnel for competency. These programs ensure that fire fighters remain highly skilled and meet national competency standards.

DECC develops reserve fire management strategies (see performance indicator) and uses these as the basis for fire suppression schedules and maps.

Over the past year, DECC undertook prescribed burning on over 48,514 hectares of parks and reserves, and approximately 2,157 hectares on lands next to parks. In addition, hazard reduction through means such as slashing was carried out on over 1,016 hectares of parks. Over 9,700 kilometres of DECC fire trails were regularly maintained.

Prescribed burns over five years conducted by DECC

Fire year	Number of burns conducted by DECC staff	Total hectares of treated area burnt
2003–04	340	65,451
2004–05	148	41,037
2005–06	162	27,400
2006–07	76	23,718
2007–08	157	48,514

In 2007–08, wildfires in DECC parks and reserves accounted for only 1.5% of the total number of wildfire incidents within NSW. Approximately 44,000 hectares of DECC land were burnt as a result of these wildfires. DECC firefighters also assisted on 50 fires outside reserves.

Origin and movement of wildfires affecting parks and reserves in 2007–08

Fire origin	Fire movement	Number of fires	Percentage of NSW fire on DECC lands
On-park	Controlled on-park	85	0.8%
On-park	Moved off-park	18	0.2%
Off-park	Moved on-park	57	0.5%

DECC is committed to recovering and rehabilitating its lands after fire. Appropriate measures are undertaken as early as possible, often commencing before a fire has been fully extinguished and generally during the 'mop-up' phase. Following a fire, rehabilitation strategies are used to continue to implement and monitor recovery actions. During 2007–08, DECC measures to ensure that disturbed areas were given enough support to recover included:

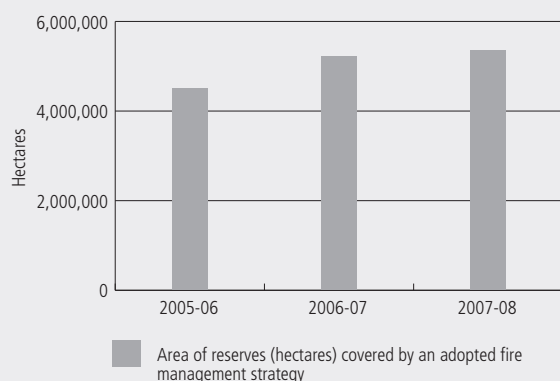
- using fire suppression strategies with minimum environmental impact
- rescuing wildlife with the assistance of volunteer groups such as the Wildlife Information and Rescue Service (WIRES)
- rehabilitating temporary fire control lines (temporary bulldozer trails and hand-constructed trails and fire breaks)
- removing dangerous tree limbs and trees from visitation areas
- implementing targeted weed and feral animal control programs following fires.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Reserves covered by an adopted fire management strategy

Definition: This indicator measures the area of the reserve system covered by fire management strategies adopted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Area of reserve system covered by an adopted fire management strategy



Interpretation: DECC works with local bushfire management committees across the state to ensure that strategies are compatible with each district's bushfire management plan. DECC has prioritised the development of fire management strategies, resulting in a significant increase in the number of reserves covered by such a strategy since 2004.

At 30 June 2008, 645 reserves were covered by an adopted fire management strategy. This is an increase of 590 reserves since June 2004 when only 55 were covered by an adopted strategy. These adopted fire management strategies cover an area of over 5,350,000 hectares of the reserve system.

Researching and monitoring biodiversity

This year, DECC continued to conduct monitoring programs in national parks and reserves, many with the assistance of volunteers. These programs included:

- monitoring key populations of the endangered green and golden bell frog on the NSW south coast, using funding from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. Breeding was observed in Meroo National Park and Brundee Swamp Nature Reserve, with over 100 bell frog tadpoles metamorphosing into young frogs in Brundee Swamp despite many plague minnow (*Gambusia holbrooki*) being present. The plague minnow is an introduced fish which preys on young bell frogs and tadpoles. DECC plans to investigate historically altered drainage in the swamp and find out if this drainage may be better managed to exclude plague minnow without flooding private land.
- surveying wildlife in Pilliga Forest in April 2008, with over 50 volunteers from local schools and overseas. Threatened bird species found included barking owls, speckled warblers, brown treecreepers and grey-crowned babblers.



Photo: M. Schulz

Good news for the green and golden bell frog in protected areas on the south coast. Surveys found no cases of frog chytrid fungus (which causes the demise of frogs round Australia) in green and golden bell frog populations.

- surveying cane toads on the NSW north coast in March 2008. As with similar surveys in 2006–07, cane toads were again detected in Border Ranges, Mebbin, Nightcap and Mount Jerusalem national parks and Yarrungully Nature Reserve. The surveys also found cane toads in the northern part of Bundjalung National Park near Evans Head, where they had previously been undetected.
- researching the impacts of severe fires on vegetation communities, animal species and habitats in protected areas across western NSW including Pilliga Nature Reserve, Goonoo State Conservation Area and Goobang, Kaputar and Mallee Cliffs national parks. The research used satellite imagery before and after a severe fire, and field surveys, to develop fire severity maps which will be invaluable tools in monitoring the effects of fire severity.
- searching for seven threatened and several rare species of karst flora in Bungonia State Conservation Area. Additional occurrences of all the species but one were found, including the endangered plants *Pomaderris cotoneaster* and *Pimelea axiflora*.
- surveying coastal forest areas on the far south coast between November 2007 and June 2008 for evidence of koalas. Of the 240 sites surveyed in the coastal forests between Wapengo and Bermagui River catchments, covering an area of 5,000 hectares, evidence of koalas was found at 44 sites.
- surveying the distribution of koalas in the Namoi CMA region. The koala population of Gunnedah and its surrounds seems to be the only population increasing in NSW. Koalas were found mostly on private land, particularly at low elevations.

- surveying the distribution, status and threats to bats in the Namoi CMA region. The survey found that less than 10% of bat records are on private land, which contains vegetation communities not adequately conserved in reserves.
- with the University of NSW, coordinating an annual aerial survey of wetlands and waterbirds in eastern Australia. The waterbird numbers in 2007 were influenced by severe and widespread drought conditions. Total waterbird abundance was the second lowest on record in the 25-year history of the survey. Nine species were recorded at or near their lowest numbers in 25 years. Breeding species richness was the lowest on record in 25 years. There is continued concern about the longevity of waterbird populations in these locations.
- monitoring the response of small ground dwelling mammals to different fire regimes in Bouddi National Park in April 2008. Results show good recovery of recently burnt habitat, and, most importantly, no pest species have invaded the park.
- surveying reptiles, amphibians and small mammals in Palm Grove Nature Reserve. Thirteen species of frog and 27 species of reptile were recorded, including two threatened species – the pale headed snake and stuttering frog.
- surveying spotted-tailed quolls in May 2008 in Werrikimbe National Park World Heritage Area. Fourteen quolls were caught and tagged for future monitoring.
- tracking dingo movements in Myall Lakes National Park in June 2008. Seven dingoes were fitted with GPS collars.

Marine parks and aquatic reserves research

Research and monitoring in marine parks help to evaluate the effectiveness of zoning and related management arrangements. Marine park and aquatic reserve studies completed in 2007–08 included:

- completing a seabed habitat mapping project in Jervis Bay and Solitary Islands marine parks (see case study below)
- completing vegetation surveys in Moona Moona Creek Catchment adjacent to Jervis Bay Marine Park
- completing a visitor survey of Lord Howe Island Marine Park
- establishing a volunteer-based monitoring program to investigate shallow reefs in Batemans Marine Park, in collaboration with the Nature Coast Marine Group
- establishing a program to catalogue the abundance and diversity of sharks and rays in sandy habitats in Cape Byron Marine Park
- establishing two projects in Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve to survey the uses and values of the reserve, and wobbegong sharks.

DECC also continued monitoring programs to assess the status of marine habitats and biodiversity in marine parks, including monitoring fish communities on rocky reefs in shallow water and sampling deep water fish communities using baited underwater video techniques.

■ CASE STUDY

Case study: Acoustic seabed habitat mapping

DECC undertook high resolution acoustic seabed habitat mapping in the Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay marine parks in 2007–08, to define the distribution and structure of seabed habitats. Technologies used in this research included accurate global positioning systems (GPS), powerful acoustic software/hardware and reliable underwater video cameras.

Overall, around 100 km² of seabed were mapped throughout both marine parks. Detailed mapping of rocky reefs was conducted, including large areas in deep offshore waters that had previously not been mapped. There was considerable variability in reef complexity, which is likely to influence biodiversity.

Maps of seabed habitats have been combined with information on species composition to ensure zoning arrangements protect the areas' biodiversity. These combined maps are informing the current review of zoning plans.



Mapping a rocky reef.

Photo: T. Lynch, DECC.

Wildlife management

DECC is responsible for protecting wildlife in NSW and managing human–wildlife interactions, undertaking wildlife licensing and regulating the sustainable use of wildlife resources. During 2007–08, DECC, in consultation with external stakeholders:

- developed a policy to identify, manage and communicate wildlife disease outbreaks
- developed guidelines on the seizure and management of reptiles from individuals who were thought to be in breach of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- enhanced compliance with and enforcement of native animal keeper licences and general licences
- improved the way DECC collects and reports on marine strandings
- developed the cut-flower industry management plan to regulate and monitor the use of protected and threatened native plants in the cut-flower industry. This four-year plan is nearly completed and is expected to be implemented in 2008–09.

In May 2008, the Memorandum of Understanding on Wildlife Incidents and Management between DECC and Taronga Conservation Society was renewed. It includes an annual \$20,000 grant from DECC to assist with operating the Australian Registry of Wildlife Health. In June 2008, DECC entered into a three-year annual funding agreement with the NSW Wildlife Council. Under this agreement, DECC will provide an additional \$20,000 to wildlife rehabilitation groups. DECC is also working with the NSW Wildlife Council to improve wildlife care standards in NSW.

Wildlife licensing

In 2007–08, DECC consolidated the roll out of the Government Licensing System (GLS), which is a whole of government initiative to simplify the management of licence types in NSW. Approximately 21,000 current licences comprising native animal keeper and import and export licences are now managed on the GLS. Other licence types such as scientific research licences are expected to become operational on the GLS within the next six months.

Number of licences issued by category in 2007–08

Interstate import and export licences	2,261
Scientific research licences	1,225
Reptile keepers licences	4,625
Amphibian keepers licences	312
Mammal keepers licences	38
Bird keepers licences	638
Fauna dealers licences	25
Miscellaneous licences	728
Total	9,825

DECC commenced a program of reform to regulate wildlife keeping and trading. The objective of the program is to ensure that the regulatory system for keeping and trading in native fauna reduces risks to conservation and to animal welfare, and that it is enforceable, fair and easy to understand. Particular attention is being paid to keeping and trading native reptiles, which has increased in popularity by 34% in the past three years.

In 2008–09, DECC will be seeking to implement further efficiencies for licensees by enabling online renewal of its animal keeper licences.

Marine wildlife management

Each year, DECC responds to numerous marine wildlife incidents involving whales, seals, dolphins and turtles.

In October 2007 on the far south coast, a southern right whale was rescued after a week-long operation led by DECC. The female and her calf were first spotted near Bermagui, with the mother having a trap line entangled round her tail. Efforts to cut off the trap line were hampered by heavy seas and the new mother's nervousness. The whale was eventually spotted at a beach north of Tathra. After a combined effort from DECC, NSW Fisheries, Tathra Surf Live Saving Club and the Victorian Department of Sustainability, the line was cut from the whale's tail.

In March 2008, DECC responded to two separate incidents around Sydney on successive days involving seals. In the first incident, an Australian fur seal required disentangling when it was caught in netting off Sydney's northern beaches. DECC staff worked with water police to successfully release the seal, which was unharmed by its ordeal.

The next day in Royal National Park, a young male leopard seal was rescued from Wattamolla Beach after straying several thousand kilometres from its usual range. The seal was very weak and malnourished and had suffered a 'cookie cutter' shark bite on its tail. The seal was transported to Taronga Zoo for treatment.



Photo: B. Webster, DECC

Contribute to increased tourism, community wellbeing and regional development through parks and reserves

NPWS 40th anniversary

In October 2007, DECC celebrated the 40th anniversary of the creation of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). NPWS became part of DECC in 2003.

The 40th anniversary celebrations commemorated the conservation of some of the state's most unique and precious landscapes, cultural heritage and wildlife. Free entry to all national parks on Sunday 7 October provided a great opportunity to introduce people to the wonders of the state's national parks.

Events were held around NSW. These included tram trips into Royal National Park, Yarrangobilly Caves House Open Day which included the reopening of Yarrangobilly Caves House for overnight accommodation following refurbishment, a slide show at a local caravan park hosted by staff in the Cobar area, and helicopter tours of Solitary Island on the north coast. Community service announcements were aired on television and radio, and DECC launched a 40th anniversary website.

Celebrating 20 years of wilderness

The *Wilderness Act* turned 20 in 2007. This Act regulates wilderness areas, which are largely undisturbed areas containing valuable ecosystems and habitat for native plants and animals. Wilderness areas provide natural corridors and link different types of habitat, so are important for wildlife movement, particularly during times of drought and climate change. They also contain many sites that are important for Aboriginal people.

Almost all wilderness areas are in national parks and reserves. By late 2007, 45 NSW reserves contained declared wilderness areas, including Kosciuszko, Wollemi, Blue Mountains, Barrington Tops and Mungo national parks.

Washpool National Park 25th anniversary celebrations

In April 2008, over 60 people gathered at Washpool National Park, west of Grafton, to celebrate 25 years of rainforest protection. The celebration was attended by members of the Clarence Valley and Armidale National Parks Association, local people and DECC representatives. Washpool National Park includes the largest remaining stand of coachwood rainforest left in the world, and was added to the World Heritage list in 1986.

World Wetlands Day photography awards

Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People was the theme for World Wetlands Day in February 2008. DECC sponsored a \$1,000 photography award in the WetlandCare National Art Competition to promote the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and hosted the exhibition of winning entries in June at Dorriggo Rainforest Centre.



Photo: L. Hosking

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the National Parks and Wildlife Service on Shark Island.

Lighthouse Network Group

DECC manages ten historic lighthouses in NSW from Cape Byron in the north to Green Cape in the south. The new Lighthouse Network Group was established to bring DECC staff together to coordinate the management of these sites. In 2007–08, the group decided to explore ways of improving the connection between the ‘highway of lights’ for staff and for visitors. Giving visitors an insight into the interesting stories and experiences of lighthouse keepers in these remote places will help visitors gain an insight into the special history of lighthouses and an appreciation of the state’s cultural heritage.

Volunteer participation and partnerships

Volunteers contribute significantly to conservation efforts in, and public appreciation of, national parks. It is estimated that each year at least 3,800 volunteers contribute more than 172,000 volunteer hours to activities including weed and fire control, ecological conservation in and outside parks, threatened species programs, and community education.

In 2007–08, DECC continued its partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia. Volunteers contributed more than 570 volunteer days in national parks and reserves to plant 760 plants, weed 23.6 hectares of land and repair or construct 16.8 kilometres of walking track. They also spent 15 days monitoring and surveying.

DECC established a new partnership with the National Parks Association (NPA) of NSW to promote environmental volunteering. DECC is supporting the NPA’s ‘HarbourKeepers, CoastKeepers and NatureKeepers’ trial program to promote conversation and connect young people to their environment in the parks and aquatic reserves around Sydney.

Examples of volunteer projects in 2007–08 include:

- 80 students from Minmi Public School planted 800 plants in Blue Gum Hills Regional Park and painted three totems with themes reminiscent of the area’s mining heritage.
- The Friends of Bundanoon completed track work in the Bundanoon area of Morton National Park, planted trees at Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve and conducted a threatened bird survey in Barren Grounds Nature Reserve. The group of ten volunteers put in nearly 500 hours of work over the year. One volunteer won a Seniors Week Achievement Award in 2008 for her contribution as a long-term volunteer.
- Batemans Marine Park, in conjunction with Nature Coast Marine Group, conducted a volunteer snorkelling program which involved surveying sanctuary zones and habitat protection zones.
- Volunteers associated with the Kosciuszko Huts Association helped to rebuild Broken Dam, Patons and Delaney’s huts.
- Members of the Range Rover 4WD Club volunteered to help remove car bodies from Watagans National Park to help restore biodiversity and improve visitor access.
- Twelve volunteers, including nine international students, assisted in biodiversity surveys, pitfall trapping, radio-tracking and vegetation/habitat assessments in Sturt National Park. They also helped to maintain a historic homestead which is used for accommodation in the park.
- Volunteer bushcare groups on the north coast removed weeds in Bouddi and Brisbane Water national parks and Wambina, Wamberal Lagoon, Cockle Bay and Rileys Island nature reserves.
- Clean-up Stockton Beach Day involved 1,000 volunteers collecting and removing over 15 tonnes of rubbish from the Worimi Conservation Lands.

Recognising volunteers

In 2008, DECC recognised the valuable contribution of volunteers by investing additional resources in volunteering and continuing its review of volunteering.

A DECC officer was seconded to work in the Department of Premier and Cabinet’s Volunteering Unit. DECC appointed a Volunteer Coordinator to facilitate the statewide implementation of volunteer programs in parks, and commissioned outside organisations to undertake an economic evaluation of volunteer programs and review volunteering activities, including their safety.

DECC hosted an event at Saltwater National Park to thank volunteers. More than 100 volunteers attended.

Cape Byron Trust volunteer Gai Taylor received a NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Award in November 2007 in recognition of her work at the Cape Byron Maritime Museum.

Discovery for Schools

This year approximately 80,000 students took part in cultural and environmental educational activities through *Discovery for Schools*.

The Worimi teachers kit was completed and presented to 13 schools in the Great Lakes area. A launch in May 2008 included 10 *Discovery* rangers involving more than 200 school students in cultural activities such as dance, identifying bush foods, and art.

On the north coast, a puppet show was developed to help bring the cane toad education program to local schools, and help students across the Clarence Valley differentiate cane toads from local native frogs.

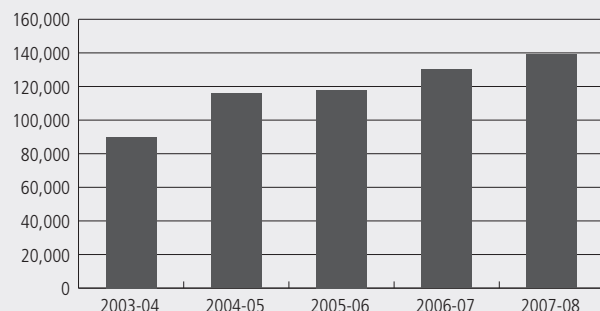
In the Snowy Mountains Region, almost 7,000 primary, secondary and tertiary students participated in *Discovery for Schools* programs. Participants included 154 indigenous school students from a local Aboriginal community group and five schools.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Discovery education programs

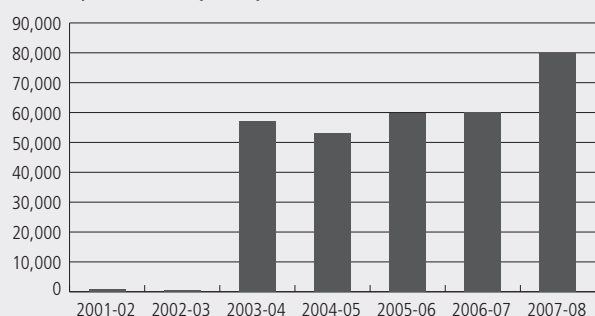
Definition: This indicator measures the number of participants in all *Discovery* program activities. It also indicates the percentage of a surveyed sample of participants satisfied with their experience. DECC surveys at least 10% of participants in each regional program over the year.

Total number of participants in the *Discovery* education program



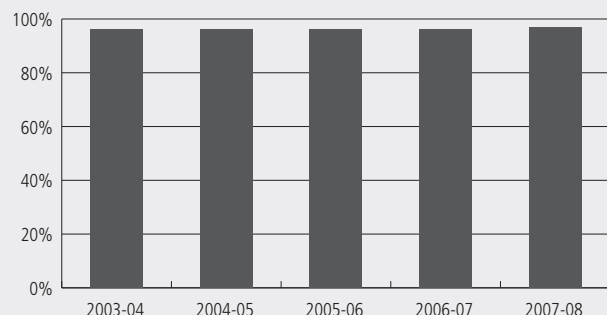
Interpretation: The *Discovery* program continues to attract more participants across the state. In 2007–08, there was an increase of over 9,000 participants from the previous year. This growth area was mostly in the *Discovery* for Schools program as demonstrated in the chart below. *Discovery* for Schools activities are delivered through school excursions to national parks or via outreach programs in classrooms.

Discovery for Schools participant overview



Over 37,000 people took part in guided tours around historic sites such as Cape Byron Lighthouse and through special environmental precincts, such as Minnamurra Rainforest and Yarrangobilly Caves. In total, over 177,135 people attended a guided activity during the year.

Percentage of participants satisfied with *Discovery* education programs



The level of satisfaction of surveyed participants remains high at 97%, demonstrating that the program remains engaging and enjoyable.

In March 2008, all school-aged children in the town of White Cliffs in far west NSW participated in an Easter Sunday treasure hunt to teach them about the water cycle and associated ecosystems in an arid environment. During the year, DECC staff worked closely with the Tibooburra Outback School of the Air to plan and create a native garden on the school grounds. As the school is frequently visited by tourists, lessons about native vegetation in an arid setting and water-wise gardens have extended beyond the students.

Discovery partnerships

During the year, DECC developed *Discovery* partnerships with other government agencies and environmental education providers, including city councils, catchment management authorities, the Marine Parks Authority, environmental education centres, local tourism agencies, universities and Aboriginal corporations, to combine resources and coordinate the delivery of programs.

DECC also continued partnerships with environmental education providers. A popular program was the Coast Care Summer Festival presented with Port Stephens, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie councils.

Park visitation management

Under the State Plan, DECC is working to increase visits to parks and reserves by 20% by 2016 by developing programs that foster an appreciation of parks and provide access to recreational opportunities.

In 2007–08, DECC started developing branch visitation management plans to guide the growth and resourcing of visitation to national parks across NSW. DECC also worked on a way to improve recording of visitor numbers to provide better estimates in the future.

A pilot study was conducted to develop a method for collecting statewide visitor numbers and estimating visitor satisfaction. Telephone surveyors asked respondents about parks they had visited within the last four weeks. Interviewing commenced in early 2008 and will continue throughout the 2008 calendar year to provide estimates of the number of visits to parks, visitor satisfaction with park visits and the proportion of visitors participating in different activities.



Photo: J. Randall-Court, DECC.

Discovery rangers in Blue Mountains National Park.

DECC is implementing the Visitor Data System (VDS), a database used to store and analyse visitor data. The system includes a traffic counter and results of a visitor survey. In 2007–08, the VDS was upgraded to increase functionality and resolve a number of software issues.

Visitor surveys and profiles were undertaken in the Sea Acres Nature Rainforest Centre, Trial Bay Gaol and Arakoon State Conservation Area.

As part of the Worimi Conservation Lands Recreational Use Study, a range of data was collected during the 2007–08 Christmas holiday period. Vehicle counters were used and observation teams were located at the two beach access points. The project provided information on the variety of recreational activities undertaken, and will assist in the development of the plan of management for the reserves.

Profiles of visitors using national parks in western NSW were completed using results from the 2006 Western Branch Visitor Survey, which identified visitors' origin, age groups, means of transport, length of stay and reasons for visit.

Ninety-eight percent of visitors reported being satisfied or highly satisfied with their visit to the park. Even though the surveys were undertaken during school holiday periods, over half of all visitors were over 45-years-old and were couples without children, and travelled to the park in a 4WD vehicle. A quarter of visitors surveyed towed a trailer or caravan. Sightseeing was the most popular activity, followed by enjoying nature and the outdoors.

Parks promotions and marketing plan

DECC commissioned a marketing company to develop a marketing and communications strategic plan for NSW national parks. Key actions under the plan in 2007–08 have included promoting tourism and partnerships through a new bi-monthly electronic newsletter, *Explore*, which showcases park tourism activities.

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Healthy Parks Healthy People is a program that promotes the physical, social and mental health benefits of spending time in parks and reserves. Contact with nature and recreation in national parks can reduce the stresses of living in an urban environment and enhance community cohesion, health and wellbeing.

During 2007–08, DECC promoted the Healthy Parks Healthy People program in its free visitor guides and on the website.

Seniors Week 2008

In April, DECC participated in NSW Seniors Week, a statewide community event that celebrated its 50th year in 2008. DECC offered a national parks free entry day to NSW Seniors Cardholders on 9 April. DECC hosted a range of events for seniors throughout the week, from a bush tucker and bush medicine tour in Royal National Park to a bush and birds walk in Dalrymple–Hay Nature Reserve.

World's Greatest Pram Stroll

During the year DECC worked with park agencies across Australia to participate in the first national approach to the World's Greatest Pram Stroll. This is a free annual community event that raises awareness of social isolation and post natal depression while reinforcing the message that parks are a great place to meet people and get healthy. DECC was a sponsor of the 2007 activities which were held on 28 October at Centennial Parklands. Over 2,000 families participated in the stroll at 28 locations around the country.

Artist in Residence program

In July and August 2007, the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre joined with Port Macquarie's Sea Acres Rainforest Centre and Arts Mid North Coast to present an innovative Artist-in-Residence program. The five-week program, which involved 86 local people, culminated in the opening of an exhibition of over 70 artworks at Dorrigo Rainforest Centre. Artist Sharon Muir and other participants worked together to produce vibrant works of art representing local threatened species of the Dorrigo region.

Local goods for sale at Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre

Over 30 craft exhibitions were enjoyed by thousands of local and international visitors at the Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre throughout 2007–08. Displays changed monthly and included arrangements of flowers and bonsai vegetation, artworks, glassware, and food including indigenous jams. This program attracted visitors to Fitzroy Falls and enabled local craftspeople to sell their products. Exhibitors had to use environmentally-friendly materials in their exhibits.



Photo: S. Ruming, DECC.

DECC is encouraging more visitors to its national parks and reserves.

Activities in the Snowy Mountains

The Mound and Mount Polish Festival was officially opened at the Snowy Region Visitor Centre on 19 April 2008. Over 500 people attended the festival held in Jindabyne, Cooma and Kosciuszko National Park. The visitor centre also hosted a number of exhibitions throughout the year including an art exhibition by Aboriginal artist Cheryl Davison and a photo exhibition by local landscape photographer Ray Killen.

New attractions at Warrumbungle National Park

The Warrumbungle National Park Visitor Centre celebrated its new displays at a formal ceremony on 30 May 2008. The new displays depict the spectacular geological features of the park, its biodiversity and its Aboriginal and European history. There is also an audio track of local children singing in *Gamilaraay*, one of the traditional Aboriginal languages of the area. The information in the displays has been put together by park neighbours, Aboriginal people, long-term residents, bushwalkers, bird and animal lovers and DECC staff.

Infrastructure improvements in Kosciuszko National Park

An ongoing infrastructure program in Kosciuszko National Park ensures this iconic place is constantly being improved for visitors while ensuring conservation values are maintained. In 2007–08:

- the Thredbo Valley multi-use track feasibility study was completed, and a route was selected. The review of environmental factors was completed and is awaiting approval. Planning is under way to implement Stage 1 of the track (Bullocks Flat to Thredbo Diggings) during 2008–09, subject to the approval.
- planning and design were completed for the construction of the Landers Falls Lookout and the upgrading of Cumberland Trail for public access, including safer access onto the Snowy Mountains Highway.
- the upgrade of the Alpine Way Visitor Entry Station was completed in time for the start of the 2008 ski season.
- DECC began re-routing the Bicentennial National Trail in the Snowy Mountains Region so horseriders will not have to ride on the shoulder of the Alpine Way. This will eliminate any risk of horses and riders being struck by motor vehicles. The re-routed trail runs parallel to the Alpine Way, and will be suitable for use by horseriders, mountain bikers and walkers.

■ CASE STUDY

New accommodation in national parks

A variety of new accommodation options are available in national parks to suit all tastes and budgets.

Under the Revitalising Sydney's National Parks program, Steele Point Cottage (the former battery barracks) in Nielsen Park underwent a \$150,000 refurbishment to allow it to open for holiday rental. The cottage was featured in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Australian* as well as the Channel Nine program, *Getaway*. It has proven to be popular with couples wanting a romantic getaway.

Several Cape Byron Lighthouse cottages have been refurbished to provide beachside visitor accommodation. Partridges Cottage has been renovated based on a 1950s 'retro' theme.

Renovations to Narcowla Hut in Sturt National Park were completed in 2008. Wind turbine and solar panels were installed at the site and together produce 12-volt power, generating low level lighting. The hut has three bedrooms, a kitchen, bathroom, lounge and dining room and is furnished with all the basic comforts.

To book any visitor accommodation in NSW national parks, visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/searchaccommodation.aspx.



Photo: J. Winter.

Several cottages around Cape Byron Lighthouse have been renovated to provide visitor accommodation.

- construction of a toilet facility at Rawson Pass was completed in early 2008. Final rehabilitation work on the pass and installation of interpretive signage is due for completion in 2008–09.
- work continued on the Main Range Walking Track, much of this being done in conjunction with the rehabilitation of Rawson Pass. This is a long-term project focusing on the upgrade and reconstruction of the walking tracks around Mount Kosciuszko.
- Southern Cloud Lookout, complete with interpretive signage, was constructed near Tooma in conjunction with Tumbarumba Shire. This lookout provides views of the western side of Kosciuszko National Park and the crash site of the *Southern Cloud*, which is a passenger aeroplane which disappeared in 1931 and was not located until 1958.

Other projects included road works, bridge upgrades, securing water supplies, sludge storage facility construction, snow melt and rainwater collection, plantings and design works.

Revitalising Sydney's National Parks

In 2005, the NSW Government committed \$38 million over four years to improve visitor facilities in Sydney's national parks and reserves through the Revitalising Sydney's National Parks program. Works completed in 2007–08 included:

- commencement of a three-year \$1.5 million stonework conservation project, to mark the 150th anniversary of Fort Denison in 2007. Work was completed on slipway repairs, the West Room external walls and pointing of the Barracks. A partnership was developed with Matilda Cruises to allow visitors to disembark without pre-booking, and either participate in a guided tour or browse the new interpretive display.
- completion of landscape improvements, roadworks, restoration of degraded areas, and other features at Bonnie Vale campground in Royal National Park. The campground was open to the public before the 2007 Christmas period.
- completion of planning documents for the Meeting Place Project in Botany Bay National Park. Dune forest restoration commenced in August 2007 and will continue until December 2008. Construction works commenced in April 2008. External stakeholder consultation and information dissemination included erecting an information sign at the site.
- continuing the repair, replacement and adaptation of the basic infrastructure on Goat Island in Sydney Harbour National Park. Safe visitor access to and around the island was ensured. More than \$3 million was invested in wharf repairs and the provision of a pontoon and ramp for wheelchair access to the island. A conservation management plan and Goat Island masterplan have been produced in draft form and will be finalised during 2008–09.

Visitor facility upgrades

During the year, DECC upgraded visitor facilities in many national parks and reserves. Some of the upgrades were:

- in Bournda National Park, Hobart Beach campground was upgraded. This \$80,000 two-year program involved relocating some campsites, constructing a new shelter shed and toilet, and constructing a school camping area. The upgrades have improved visitor comfort and privacy and ensured protection of Aboriginal sites.
- Caves Creek in Bargo River State Conservation Area was upgraded, including a car park, walking tracks, toilets, signage and picnic facilities. Disabled facilities and access are also now available.
- at Blue Gum Hills Regional Park, \$312,000 was spent on new visitor facilities including a junior playspace, new picnic facilities with barbecues and tables, and additional car park and bus parking facilities with disabled access.
- a \$600,000 renovation program for the Cape Byron Lighthouse cottages was completed in October 2007, ensuring the ongoing protection and promotion of their important historic heritage values. A safety fence was constructed around the lighthouse precinct and walking tracks. A conservation management plan and staff training in historical heritage maintenance will ensure the heritage values of the precinct are maintained.
- constructing an \$80,000 amenities block in Copeland Tops State Conservation Area near Gloucester, to replace pit toilets. Future works planned include constructing a \$212,000 outdoor education gallery with a small interpretative area.
- completing a major road upgrade and the Halls Peak Day Use and Camping Area, which provide visitor access to, and accommodation in, a remote area of the park. At Tia Falls, a walking track upgrade to include disabled access was completed.
- completing a new information and picnic shelter at the Cameron's Corner entry to Sturt National Park. The facility includes a picnic table, bench seats and six new framed interpretation panels about the national park. The project cost \$28,000.



Photo: R. Scott, DECC.

Conserve natural and cultural values through an integrated system of public and private lands

National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is constituted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The Council has up to 19 members with qualifications required of each member as set out in the Act. The Council advises the Minister on a range of issues including the management of national parks and reserves, the protection of wildlife, conservation agreements and wilderness areas.

Four meetings are held in Sydney each year. The Council's work is also carried out through the Management Planning Subcommittee, the Research and Policy Subcommittee and the Conservation Planning and Community Participation Subcommittee.

The Council has a statutory role in reviewing plans of management for parks and reserves. During 2007-08, the Council considered and made recommendations on 24 draft plans of management covering 33 parks and reserves. Significant plans reviewed included those for Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve, Conjola National Park and Guy Fawkes River National Park, Nature Reserve and State Conservation Area.

The Council also provided comment on climate change, carbon trading, the Commercial Tour Operators Review and the proposal to add up to 520 beds to existing leaseholders' properties in Perisher Valley, Kosciuszko National Park.



Photo: Studio Commercial.

National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Committee.

Back row left to right: Dr Bruce Hayllar; Dr Ronnie Harding; Rod Young; Alison Verwey (Executive Officer); Ken Prendergast; Sally Barnes; Nick Jacomas; Jean Rice

Front row (seated) left to right: Anne Reeves; James Ingram; Dr George McKay (Chair); Glenda Chalker; Diana Hoffman

Members absent: Jane Judd (Deputy Chair); Christine Ferguson; Dr Geoff Cary; Cr Ian McKenzie

Park Management Program

DECC's Park Management Program continually improves systems, policies and procedures that support park managers. In 2007–08, Parks Management Program staff:

- developed an information systems strategy, which includes investigating approaches used in other agencies to support park management issues, and help minimise cost and risk to DECC.
- trialled and adopted The Park Management Policy Manual, which outlines DECC's position on and policies for all aspects of park management. Because best practice park management is constantly evolving, the policy manual is routinely updated. During 2007–08, the first quarterly update of the policy manual was completed. The manual continues to be used by staff in managing national parks and reserves across NSW.

State of the Parks

Through the NSW State of the Parks program, DECC park managers monitor and evaluate the condition of and pressures on protected areas, and find ways of managing these areas more efficiently.

A State of the Parks survey was undertaken in 2007–08 on every reserve in NSW, of which there are more than 750. Compiled data is being used to support planning and management decisions on a range of issues.

DECC continued to work on an Australian Research Council partnership project with the University of Queensland and Parks Victoria to refine State of the Parks programs. Valuable research has validated the accuracy of staff assessments and provided a greater understanding of correlations between different management approaches, issues and reserve attributes. The research project will finish in 2009.

Plans of management

Under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, a plan of management must be prepared for each terrestrial park and reserve. Plans of management lead to better understanding of natural and cultural features that must be protected, including threatened species or cultural heritage sites. The plans also incorporate strategies for management of issues such as fire and pests, and outline any visitor facilities proposed to be developed.

In 2007–08, 12 plans covering 13 parks and reserves across nearly 30,000 hectares were adopted by the Minister. These included plans for Bimberamala and Warra national parks, Kuma Nature Reserve and Clybucca Historic Site. A further 19 draft plans covering 38 parks and reserves were placed on public exhibition during the year.

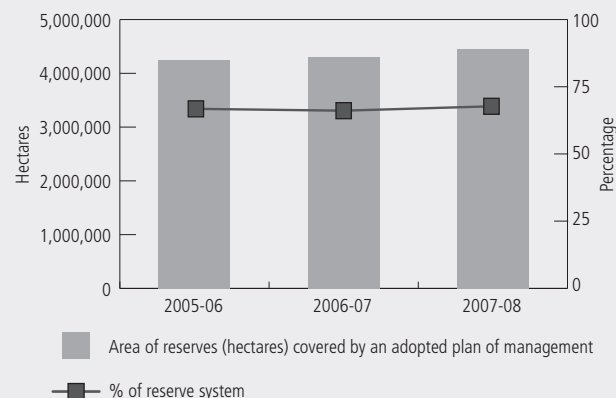
As at 30 June 2008, there were 228 adopted plans covering 322 parks and reserves. In total, more than 4.4 million hectares are now covered by an adopted plan of management. This represents almost 70% of the reserve system.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Adopted plans of management for the reserve system

Definition: This indicator measures the area and percentage of the reserve system managed by DECC which are covered by an adopted plan of management.

Area and percentage of reserve system covered by an adopted plan of management



Interpretation: During 2007–08, 12 plans of management were adopted by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. These plans cover 13 parks and reserves, an area of nearly 30,000 hectares. In addition, 19 draft plans for 38 parks and reserves were placed on public exhibition.

Parks with no adopted plan of management are managed under the principles set out in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and in accordance with DECC's policy for park management prior to adoption of a plan of management.

The result of a review of the plan of management process was completed in 2007–08. Plans of management in future will put greater emphasis on identifying and describing the values of the park and ways in which managers intend to protect these. Results of the review also indicated the preparation of plans should be streamlined, simplified and shortened. This will be reflected in modified plan templates and an updated plan of management manual which will be completed in 2008–09.

Regional operations plans are one way of implementing the management actions and strategies from plans of management. An outcome of the review was to develop a new template for regional operations plans, which are prepared by all regions and approved by branch directors annually.

Marine park and aquatic reserve plans

Zoning plans are the key management tool for NSW marine parks. They are designed to protect the range of biodiversity in marine parks and provide for ongoing sustainable activities such as fishing and tourism.

The current zoning plans for Jervis Bay and Solitary Islands marine parks came into effect in 2002 and the government committed to reviewing the plans after five years of operation.

The Marine Parks Authority commenced a review of the zoning plans in March 2008, through a two-month consultation period. The zoning plans were placed on the website for public comment, and information days were held. Around 2,000 submissions were received and will be considered in the review of each marine park's plan.

The review will determine whether the zoning plans remain appropriate or need to be amended. It is anticipated that the review process will be concluded in 2008–09.

In addition to zoning plans, the Marine Parks Authority manages programs to maintain important natural and cultural values in marine parks. Outcomes of these programs during 2007–08 included the following:

- a Marine Oil and Chemical Contingency Plan was developed for Lord Howe Island Marine Park
- signage was upgraded in Jervis Bay Marine Park
- an educational program was conducted by Solitary Island Marine Park staff for Aboriginal children so they could explore indigenous stone fish traps
- an Aboriginal Advisory Group was formed for Batemans Marine Park to facilitate conservation of indigenous cultural heritage, and to develop a cultural map and calendar to outline traditional use needs
- a plan of management for the rehabilitation of Brunswick River Oxbow Lakes was developed by Cape Byron Marine Park staff in collaboration with the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority
- an education and advisory campaign was conducted following the commencement of the Port Stephens–Great Lakes Marine Park zoning plan.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Arakwal community and the Marine Parks Authority was signed on 13 September 2007. The MOU recognises the traditional association of the Arakwal people with the land and waters of Cape Byron Marine Park and acknowledges the responsibilities of the Marine Parks Authority in managing the marine park. The MOU also outlines employment and training opportunities the Marine Parks Authority will provide for Arakwal people.

Work commenced on developing the first aquatic reserve management plan for Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve. There was an audit and upgrade of aquatic reserve signage and enforcement training was developed for local council and DECC staff. An upgrade of aquatic reserve website information was commenced.

Conservation partnerships

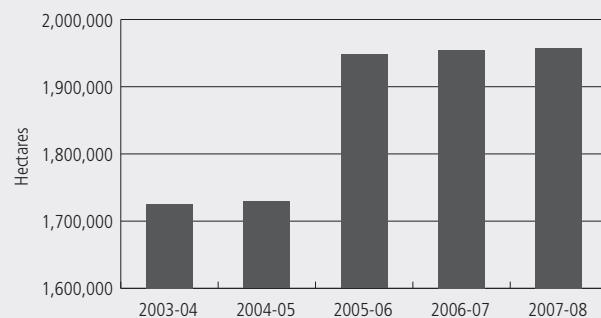
Through the Conservation Partners Program, DECC establishes, monitors and supports long-term partnerships that protect and conserve significant natural and cultural heritage under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Two main ways of conserving private and other public lands are for landholders to voluntarily enter into a conservation agreement or set land aside as a wildlife refuge. Conservation agreements involve placing land under in-perpetuity conservation covenants.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Private and unreserved land in NSW managed for conservation

Definition: This indicator measures the total land area of NSW protected and managed by landholders of private and unreserved public land for conservation under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, through voluntary conservation agreements and wildlife refuges.

Hectares of private land managed for conservation outcomes



Interpretation: In 2007-08, 20 new conservation agreements were established over a total area of 2,202 hectares. Five new wildlife refuges were established over a total area of 992 hectares. Additions to three wildlife refuges of nearly 34 hectares were gazetted. A further 938 hectares with wildlife refuge status were transferred to DECC's reserve system.

In total, landholders managed an additional 3,194 hectares for conservation in 2007-08. At 30 June 2008, landholders managed a total of 1,957,365 hectares of land for conservation outside the reserve system. This represents 2.44% of the land in NSW.

The involvement of private landholders in formal conservation commitments continues to grow across the state. A new support initiative for landholders was developed by the Paddy Pallin Foundation, Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, Wildlife Land Trust and DECC. The Private Conservation Grants Program provides funding for conservation projects on lands protected by in-perpetuity conservation covenants. Conservation agreement landholders are eligible to apply for funding and the program will award its first grants in 2008–09.

An amendment to section 555 of the *Local Government Act 1993* was introduced into Parliament this year to provide for the continuance of rate reductions on properties which include a conservation agreement. This recognises the contribution that private landholders make in conserving significant natural and cultural heritage on their properties.

The Land for Wildlife Program encourages private landholders to enter into voluntary wildlife conservation. The Community Environment Network (CEN), a non-government community conservation organisation, has assumed from DECC the state coordination role for this program. During the year, partnership arrangements were implemented to enable this transition. In 2008–09, CEN will host a state conference to herald the further development of Land for Wildlife in NSW.

Asset Maintenance System

As part of its total asset management plan, DECC has commenced the statewide rollout of the Asset Maintenance System (AMS) for national parks and reserves. The AMS provides a comprehensive inventory of all assets owned or maintained; a statewide tool for consistent and efficient scheduling and implementation of asset maintenance; and a powerful reporting tool for local or statewide analysis of maintenance activities and costs.

This year, DECC completed system design, testing and the development of training materials. Rollout of the new system, starting with comprehensive asset data capture, commenced in February 2008, with the first areas going live in June 2008.

Historic heritage maintenance

DECC has one of the largest holdings of historic heritage sites in NSW. Each year, DECC manages major planning, works and maintenance projects to ensure that significant heritage is conserved. In 2007–08, the Heritage Assets Maintenance Program (HAMP) allocated over \$2.06 million to 58 projects at 40 locations, comprising 20 heritage planning projects and 36 heritage works projects.



Photo: A. Wong, DECC.

Restoring the wattle and daub wall at Haefliger's Cottage, Hill End, as part of the Historic Assets Maintenance Program.

Some of these projects were:

- the Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse restoration project, which gained a NSW National Trust Heritage Award. Restoration works costing \$1 million included constructing verandas, relocating kitchens, upgrading bathrooms and extensive conservation works. From 1 July 2008, the lighthouse keeper's cottages will be available for short-term holiday accommodation.
- conservation works at Trial Bay Gaol, including an all-weather education space. In addition, a long-term interpretation plan was finalised. The project cost \$250,000.
- a significant upgrade of the East Kunderang Homestead, which was completed in April 2008. The renovations included two refurbished bathrooms, a separate toilet, kitchen/dining renovations (\$142,000) and a water supply upgrade (\$10,000). The building is still available for visitor accommodation.
- reconstruction of the original lock-up (circa 1892) at the police station precinct in Dalmorton village in Guy Fawkes River State Conservation Area, completed in June 2008. This project, costing \$50,000, included replacing bearers and walls using recycled tallowood.
- the upgrade and refurbishment of Karamea Homestead on the banks of Barnard River, which was completed in June 2008 at a cost of \$290,000. The homestead is available for visitor accommodation.
- the stabilisation of Tibbooburra Courthouse, at a cost of approximately \$8,000, which was completed in March 2008.



Photo: O. Beazley, DECC.

Undertaking a geophysical survey as part of the project to identify Sturt's Stockade.

HAMP funding was also secured to undertake archaeological work to assist in locating Charles Sturt's stockade on the edge of Lake Pinaroo. The project cost approximately \$13,000 and was completed in June 2008.

The following major heritage management plans were endorsed under the *Heritage Act 1977*:

- an archaeological landscape management plan for Lake Innes Historic Site, endorsed in October 2007.
- a conservation management plan for the Old Great North Road, endorsed in December 2007. This site was submitted to the Commonwealth Government to form part of the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage nomination.
- a conservation management plan for The Meeting Place Precinct, Botany Bay National Park.

The Historic Heritage Information Management System

The Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS) contains information on over 9,000 historic heritage sites, moveable heritage collections, reports and DECCs statutory permit delegations under the NSW Heritage Act.

HHIMS data is being used to assist in the rollout and mapping of DECC assets through the Asset Management System (AMS). Data matching between HHIMS and the AMS is under way across the state.

Great Eastern Ranges Cultural Values Project

The Great Eastern Ranges Cultural Values Project was undertaken to explore ways in which NSW communities value landscapes that cover more than 2,800 kilometres of the NSW section of the great eastern ranges. The project provides an overview of the social, cultural and spiritual values of the great eastern ranges, and informs government agencies of ways in which they can engage with communities. The final report for the project will be completed in 2008-09.

For more information on the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, see chapter 2.

Cultural landscapes: connecting history, heritage and reserve management

DECC continued to support management of cultural heritage in NSW reserves, by preparing an operational guide for DECC field staff. The guide will help staff to identify and manage Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage, and will be completed in late 2008.



Photo: DECC.

Protect and revitalise Aboriginal culture and heritage

Aboriginal Places

Declaring an area as an Aboriginal Place is a way to formally recognise and protect Aboriginal people's cultural attachment to the land. In 2007–08, guidelines and procedures for assessing Aboriginal Place nominations were reviewed to streamline the investigation process and expedite the declaration of Aboriginal Places.

A highlight of the year was the Byrock Rockholes Aboriginal Place declaration ceremony which was held on-site (70 km south of Bourke) in May 2008. The Dreaming stories of the Ngemba people connected to this place are still intact today, allowing stories to be passed on by Ngemba knowledge holders. The area is connected with Biaime (the creator) and Wawai (the rainbow serpent) Dreaming stories, including stories about the creation of animals. It is also a reliable water source in a naturally dry landscape that is rich in bush foods, medicines and natural materials needed for everyday activities. The Rockholes site was home to Aboriginal families who camped there from the late 1880s to early 1900s.

Interim community consultation requirements

Under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, DECC issues permits for activities that may impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage objects and places. DECC's Interim Community Consultation Requirements are used by permit applicants to consult with affected Aboriginal parties about the significance of their cultural heritage, the potential for impacts from proposed activities and ways in which these can be avoided or mitigated. DECC undertook an extensive review of the consultation requirements with the release of a discussion paper in December 2007. This was followed by a series of statewide forums between March and June 2008 at 20 locations, which involved meeting with more than 200 people. DECC also received more than 30 written submissions from interested parties. DECC is currently rewriting the consultation requirements based on feedback. Further consultation will occur on the revised draft.

Reburials

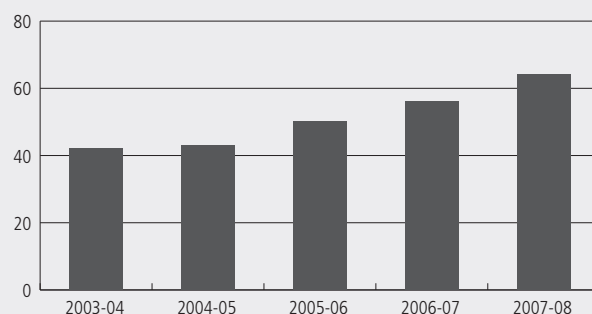
At times, Aboriginal ancestral remains are uncovered by human, animal or environmental activity, causing distress to local Aboriginal communities. In 2007–08, DECC worked closely with Aboriginal elders, traditional Aboriginal owners and Aboriginal communities on reburials. Projects included the retrieval and reburial of ancestral remains uncovered in Bournda and Kosciuszko national parks.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Aboriginal Place declarations for sites of Aboriginal cultural significance

Definition: This indicator measures the cumulative number of places across NSW that were declared as Aboriginal Places under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* following recognition of their special significance to Aboriginal culture.

Aboriginal Place declarations



Interpretation: Eight Aboriginal Places were declared in 2007–08. They were Bermagui Waterhole, Blackfellows Hand (near Lithgow), Byrock Rockholes (near Bourke), Capeen Mountain, Inglebah (near Tamworth), Kings Grave (near Condobolin and adjacent to the Lachlan River), Mt Yengo (in Mt Yengo National Park), and Yabra Springs (in Yabba State Forest). These places protect burial and ceremonial sites, and former living and meeting places. As at June 2008, a total of 64 Aboriginal Places had been declared. The number of declarations does not always reflect the level of ongoing investigative work as investigations may not be completed in a single reporting year, or investigations may find that a nominated place does not meet legislative requirements for declaration.

Reburial locations continue to be inspected to ensure these sites are secure. An inspection of a 1999 reburial site in Royal National Park found its sand dune slope had not stabilised. DECC assisted the La Perouse Aboriginal community to excavate and relocate the remains to a nearby Resting Place.

Repatriation program

The repatriation program enables ancestral remains to be returned to Country. In partnership with local Aboriginal communities, DECC continued to identify, prioritise and coordinate return of ancestral remains, cultural materials and cultural information to Country.

Three repatriation projects conducted during 2007–08 were:

- the repatriation of ancestral remains, formally held by the Australian Museum, back to Nari Nari land near Hay. These remains were laid to rest at Aboriginal-owned Toogimbie Station.
- repatriation projects with the Ngunnawal, Brungle/Tumut and Eden Local Aboriginal Land Councils, which included the return of a scarred tree from Kurnell south of Sydney.
- completion of the first stage of the Barham Collection repatriation, which involved the re-unification of 14–15 individuals unearthed during road works in the Wakool Shire near Barham in 1972.

The repatriation program in 2008–09 will continue with planning for the return of approximately 104 remains held by the Australian Museum and Sydney University to local Aboriginal communities around Sydney and in southern NSW.

Yaegl oral history project

DECC completed an oral history project with Yaegl Aboriginal people from Yamba and Maclean, and prepared an account of Yaegl history from the nineteenth century onwards in relation to the landscape of Yuraygir National Park. The information delivered by the project will be used by park managers to continue to build a working partnership with the local Aboriginal community.

The Yaegl history is being incorporated into a revised version of the contextual history of the park prepared in 2006. This history serves to acknowledge, recognise and respect community connections to the park landscape, promote understanding of the park's cultural values and support the conservation of places of cultural value.

Aboriginal women's heritage

Ballina and Cabbage Tree Island women's heritage is a new booklet published by DECC that captures the personal stories of 12 Aboriginal women along the lower Richmond River. This publication was launched in Ballina in January 2008. It is the twelfth in DECC's series of books about the cultural attachment and associations Aboriginal women have with their local landscape.

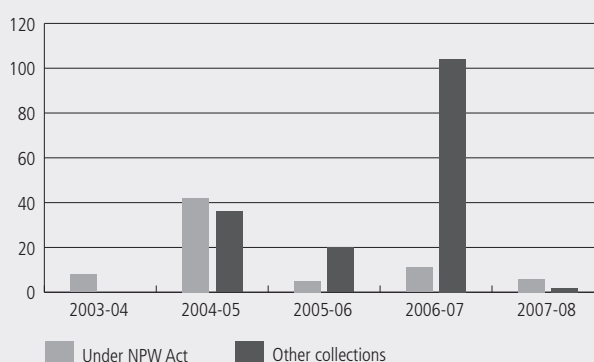
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Aboriginal ancestral remains and collections of cultural material repatriated to Aboriginal communities

Definition: This indicator measures the number of Aboriginal ancestral remains and collections of cultural material held under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) repatriated by DECC to NSW Aboriginal communities. DECC also works with the Australian Museum and community groups to facilitate repatriation under other legislation.

A 'collection' is more than two and up to 200 items. The repatriation process involves extensive consultation with Aboriginal communities to ensure items are returned appropriately and according to Aboriginal community protocols.

Aboriginal ancestral remains and collections of cultural material repatriated to Aboriginal communities



Interpretation: In 2007–08, DECC returned six remains and collections held under the NPW Act, and helped return two remains held by museums and universities to Aboriginal communities. Information is not available before 2004–05 for items returned from collections which were not under the NPW Act.

Rock art conservation projects

In 2007–08, under the rock art conservation program, work included preventing water wash erosion of pigment sites and damage by feral goats at Gundabooka National Park; removing graffiti from rock art sites at Wollemi and Royal national parks and in the Bargo River/Thirlmere Lakes region; addressing salt erosion at North Head art sites; and repairing fire damage to an engraving site resulting from burnt boardwalks at West Head.

Rock art conservation training continued with DECC regional staff, Sutherland Shire Council staff, Wonnarua Local Aboriginal Land Council members, and Aboriginal community members from the Pilliga, Cobar/Bourke and Mudgee regions. DECC assisted the South Australian government with removing dust which was obscuring rock art at Arkaroo. DECC staff trained South Australian participants, including Aboriginal community members, in rock art conservation.

Culture camps

Culture camps, also known as ‘back to Country’ activities, support and enhance Aboriginal connections to Country through intergenerational learning, the practice of custodial responsibilities and the continuation of valued traditions.

In May 2008, a culture camp was held at Grassy Head in Yarriabini National Park, to develop a memorandum of understanding with the Gumbaynggirr and Dunghutti people, which would clarify their advisory role in the management of Yarriabini National Park. An agreement was reached that will result in closer consultation with local Aboriginal people about all aspects of caring for Country, including cultural heritage management issues.

The ‘Back to Carowra Tank Weekend’ was held in April 2008 on a property north-east of Ivanhoe. It enabled local Aboriginal people to reconnect with an area which was an Aboriginal camp before it became a government reserve in the late 1920s. Activities over the weekend included sharing memories about the place, and informing participants about the documentation, preservation and protection of the site and its cultural heritage.

On the mid north coast, four camps were conducted for young offenders at Crowdy Bay and Tappin Tops national parks. About ten boys participated in each camp. DECC Aboriginal staff camped overnight with the boys, who engaged in spotlighting to find native animals and learnt bush skills.

During the year, other culture camps included those held at Yathong Nature Reserve and Gundabooka State Conservation Area, two women’s camps, a youth camp and a family camp at Talbingo and Elms Grove in the south-west slopes area, and the annual Christmas camp for Saltwater people in Saltwater National Park.

At Culgoa National Park, a culture camp shelter for Murrawarri people was completed in 2008. The shelter was constructed in response to an arrangement between Murrawarri elders and DECC which enables the community to access their traditional lands without seeking permission. The facility is located away from the main public camping area and provides a venue where the Murrawarri people can meet privately.

In Gundabooka National Park, work continued on the renovation of ‘Tooolooly House’, a homestead near the Mulgowan art site. The homestead will serve as a meeting place, cultural centre and education facility for Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal sites awareness training

DECC’s Aboriginal sites awareness training program was developed in 2007. Training was delivered to six government and non-government partners. Results showed improved understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal heritage, increased knowledge of regulatory requirements, enhanced abilities in identifying and managing Aboriginal sites, and improved skills in working effectively with Aboriginal people.

Georges River Project

DECC and the University of Technology Sydney are researching the different ways that Aboriginal, Anglo-Irish, Arabic-speaking and Vietnamese people value and use the parklands along the Georges River in southwest Sydney.

A book will be published in 2008 tracing the history of Aboriginal presence on the river after 1788. It will focus on the history of the Salt Pan Creek fringe camp, which shows how Aboriginal pockets of settlement could endure, even in the middle of suburban Sydney, into the mid-twentieth century.

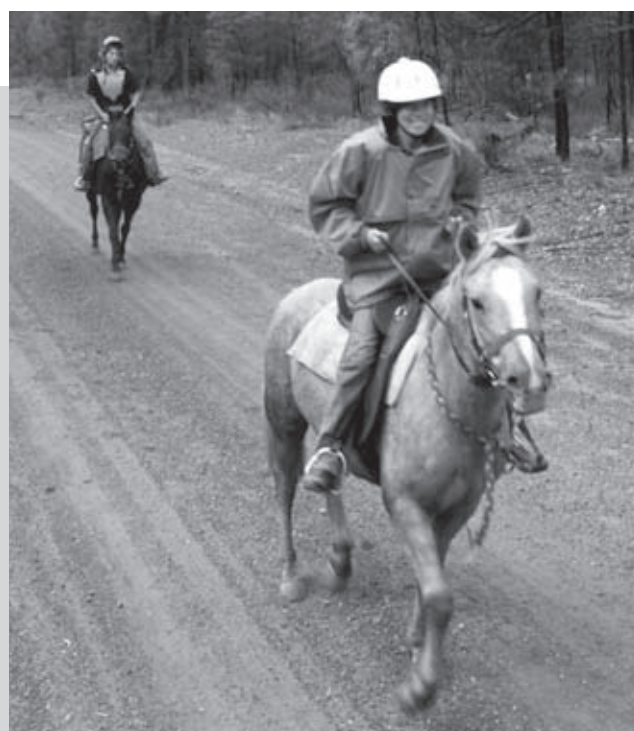
■ CASE STUDY

Gamilaroi Gallop

Elders and young people from the Narrabri, Pilliga, Baradine and Coonabarabran Aboriginal communities journeyed along a 200-km heritage trail on horseback through Gamilaroi country. As part of a project to ‘Know Your Land, Know Your People, Know Yourself’ they rode from Narrabri and traveled through the Pilliga scrub to Coonabarabran in north-western NSW.

The path chosen enabled participants to increase their understanding of the cultural and economic relationship Aboriginal people have with land and water. Along the way, participants learnt about themselves, their culture and values such as responsibility, respect, trust and leadership.

The gallop was supported by a Duke of Edinburgh award and local Aboriginal elders. Aboriginal role models included Anthony Mundine, Alison Page and Paul Sinclair who shared their stories of success with participants, emphasising the importance of knowing your culture and setting and achieving life goals.



Gamilaroi Gallop riders on the trail.

Photo: C. Hampson, DECC.

A companion book will describe the settlement of the suburbs along the northern side of the river by low-income Anglo-Irish families through the early and mid-twentieth century, and describe their campaigns to reserve bushland areas along the river for the health and enjoyment of their families, in a part of Sydney that had very few parks.

Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) contains detailed archaeological information on 55,385 recorded sites and 9,446 Aboriginal heritage reports. It is used by government, industry and heritage professionals for land use planning, regulation and conservation management, and by local Aboriginal communities to help them manage, conserve and protect local sites and heritage.

In 2007–08, DECC digitally photographed 780 tracings of rock art and modified trees from locations across NSW, and registered 2,762 new items and locations in AHIMS.

This represents a 17% increase from last year. DECC staff entered 482 new reports, representing a 38% increase and undertook 3,506 searches of the system for external users, an increase of 20% from 2006–07.



Photo: G. Thompson, DECC.

DECC staff member, Emma Lees, traces Aboriginal rock art.

Aboriginal Discovery Program

DECC's Aboriginal Discovery Program was established in 1998–99 and has gone from strength to strength. Aboriginal Discovery involves DECC working in partnership with local Aboriginal communities to educate the broader community about local Aboriginal culture and heritage through walks, talks, tours and school programs. During 2007–08, 16 regions delivered an Aboriginal Discovery program with advice and help from their local Aboriginal communities.

A key aim of Aboriginal Discovery is to support local Aboriginal people in the management and interpretation of their culture and heritage. Aboriginal Discovery also strengthens cultural renewal. Authorisation is gained from the appropriate local Aboriginal elders or community groups to develop and conduct Aboriginal Discovery activities on behalf of their communities.

During 2007–08, 47 Aboriginal people across the state were engaged to deliver Aboriginal Discovery programs. This is a similar number to previous years.

	2002 -03	2003 -04	2004 -05	2005 -06	2006 -07	2007 -08
Aboriginal Discovery program staff	45	45	49	58	41	47

During 2007–08, 1,070 Aboriginal Discovery tours were conducted across the state with a large increase in the number of tours that were conducted by Aboriginal people without the assistance of non-Aboriginal Discovery staff. This increase relates to the growth in the Discovery for Schools program where Aboriginal topics are becoming increasingly popular.

In 2007–08 there were several new Aboriginal Discovery programs, including:

- 'Wiradjuri Wonders' in Kosciuszko National Park, which focuses on bush tucker, bush craft and traditional pathways through the northern end of the park.
- a program involving local elders in Saltwater National Park
- 'Wanda on Wheels' on the far south coast. Two Aboriginal Discovery rangers travelled around the region in a brightly-coloured van playing the didgeridoo; teaching the public about bush tucker, traditional Aboriginal life and culture; and performing Aboriginal dances. The Discovery rangers delivered 83 activities to 6,500 visitors at caravan parks, camping grounds, after school care facilities, preschools and local clubs. 'Wanda on Wheels' has increased the demand for Aboriginal cultural education and has led to the number of Aboriginal Discovery rangers in the region being doubled.

New tours and curriculum-based programs were also developed for the Worimi Conservation Lands.

Aboriginal Discovery rangers in the Hunter region continued to deliver popular programs including 'Minnaring' at Awabakal Nature Reserve and 'Bushfood Bounty' at Glenrock State Conservation Area.

In the Snowy Mountains Region, 698 visitors participated in guided walks featuring indigenous plant use, traditional skills demonstrations, and art and craft activities.

The successful Gamilaraay Discovery Program, which is delivered with the local Gamilaraay community, continued in Coonabarabran. It includes a half day visit to Tara Cave in Warrumbungle National Park and Sandstone Caves in Pilliga Nature Reserve, and a visit to Burra-bee-dee Mission.

Aboriginal Discovery activities in the far west of the state included walking tours with bush tucker, talks on Aboriginal history and contemporary Aboriginal culture, and tours of stencil and engraving sites in Mungo, Kinchega, Mutawintji and Paroo-Darling national parks.

Training and employment opportunities

In June 2008, the first ever Aboriginal *Discovery* ranger training course was conducted at Jervis Bay for staff from across the State and the Commonwealth Booderee National Park. They practiced delivering Aboriginal cultural programs to more than 500 students from Moss Vale Primary School. In addition, 100 children from St Georges Basin Primary School spent a morning in Jervis Bay National Park with the rangers, learning about bush tucker/medicine, men's and women's business and how to throw a boomerang.

The Towra Team in Botany Bay National Park are jointly funded by a federal grant for dune reforestation and DECC Aboriginal co-management funding. The Towra Team consists of 10 members of the La Perouse Aboriginal community employed by DECC as casual *Discovery* guides.

Team members contribute to the management of Towra Point Nature Reserve on the Kurnell Peninsula while receiving extensive training and experience to increase their capacity to gain further employment with DECC. As the project has progressed, Towra Team members have also become involved in managing Botany Bay National Park.

During the year, team members obtained their Green Card (an occupational health and safety ticket required for people to work in or around construction sites), first aid certificate and boat licences. The team is currently undertaking chainsaw, cross cut, and conservation and land management courses which receive TAFE certification.

They are also involved in boat patrols, law enforcement, archaeological site monitoring, dune restoration, planting, mulching, weeding, nursery work, and community consultation. The project has also enhanced connections between the La Perouse Aboriginal community and local DECC staff.

The Long-nosed Potoroo Indigenous Cultural Connection Project is a cooperative project between DECC and Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority in the far south coast region. The project provides Aboriginal community members with opportunities to take part in wildlife surveys, including sand plot monitoring and animal track identification. A booklet has been produced that presents information on the species incorporating, where possible, local Koori languages. A DVD is due to be released by September 2008.

A trainee Aboriginal *Discovery* ranger was employed in the Snowy Mountains region in 2007. The trainee helped prepare and present programs on Aboriginal and natural heritage, and shared local history. On the mid north coast, a young Aboriginal person has been trained in guiding at Sea Acres Nature Reserve Rainforest Centre.

In northern NSW, an Aboriginal sites identification course was held at Kwiambal National Park and Bural Yurral Nature Reserve involving traditional owners, local Aboriginal elders, and staff from DECC and Border Rivers Gwydir Catchment Management Authority.

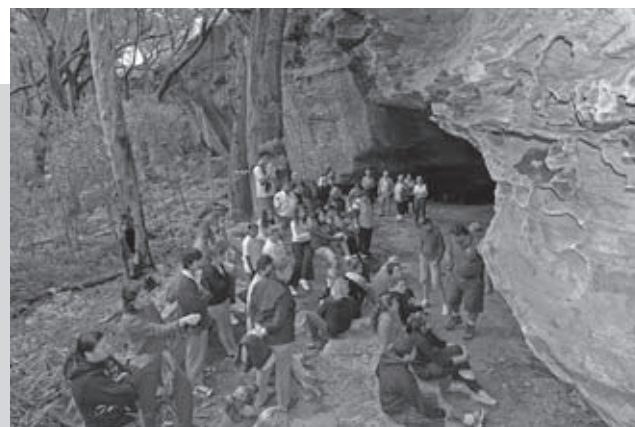
■ CASE STUDY

Young Aboriginal people find out about their past

The Shoalhaven Youth Volunteering Initiative Program, now in its fifth year, targets mainly Aboriginal students from Shoalhaven High School, who attend sessions with DECC Aboriginal staff on career opportunities, re-connecting with and interpreting their culture, and site identification and management.

The students also completed a project on interpreting the significance of Bomaderry Creek Regional Park to the local Aboriginal community. The interpretation was linked with the 100-year anniversary of the Bomaderry Children's Home – the first to open in NSW in 1908. Bomaderry Creek was a safe place for families to hide their children when government welfare officers came looking for Aboriginal children. It was also one of the few places where children from the home could swim and fish.

In May 2008, on the anniversary of the opening, indigenous people from across NSW visited the children's home to share their stories, meet up with



Students from Shoalhaven High School learn about Aboriginal culture as part of the preparation for conducting the Bomaderry Children's Home Project.

Photo: F. Kristo.

people they had not seen for years and relive their time spent in the home as young children. The mentoring students from Shoalhaven High School and DECC staff hosted a 'yarn-up' to record stories from the children's home. The stories will be presented by the students on a video to be circulated to schools and indigenous groups throughout NSW.



Photo: DECC

Increase Aboriginal participation in land, water and natural resource management

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC) is established under Section 27 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The Committee was constituted in 2006, to advise the Minister and the Director General on any matter relating to identification, assessment and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW.

The ACHAC developed a strategic agenda for 2006–09 comprising the following five priority areas:

1. Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage.
2. Understanding Aboriginal cultural heritage and managing heritage information/knowledge.
3. Cultural identity/renewal.
4. Managing lands, gardens and terrestrial and marine parks.
5. Building a working environment in DECC that affirms and respects Aboriginal culture.



Photo: DECC

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee.

Standing left to right: Stephen Ryan, Jason Field, Yvonne Stewart (Chair), Robin Heath, Victor Perry (Deputy Chair).

Sitting left to right: Glenda Chalker, James Ingram, Viola Brown.

Absent: Lavina Duroux, Mary Duroux, Maureen O'Donnell.

Co-management of parks

Co-management of parks involves DECC and Aboriginal people sharing responsibility for a park's management. The aim is to ensure that Aboriginal people participate in planning of and decision making for a park or reserve, while maintaining access to the park for everyone. Formal co-management options include:

- DECC returning a protected area to its Aboriginal owners and leasing it back to be jointly managed under Part 4A of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) with native title holders under the *Native Title Act 1993*
- memoranda of understanding (MOU) between DECC and Aboriginal communities
- DECC entering into less formal partnerships with Aboriginal people to protect and manage their culture, heritage and land.

As at 30 June 2008, co-management arrangements included:

- Aboriginal ownership and lease back of Mutawintji National Park, Mutawintji Historic Site and Mutawintji Nature Reserve, in the far west; Mt Grenfell Historic Site near Cobar; Biamanga and Gulaga national parks on the far south coast; and the Worimi Conservation Lands near Newcastle.
- ILUAs with the Bundjalung people of Byron Bay (Arakwal) for Arakwal National Park and a proposed Ti Tree Lake Aboriginal Area near Cape Byron; and with the Githabul people for ten parks in the Kyogle area.
- MOUs for Mungo National Park near Mildura; Kinchega National Park near Menindee; Goobang National Park and Snake Rock Aboriginal Area near Peak Hill; Pilliga Nature Reserve near Coonabarabran; and parks in the Central Coast–Hunter Range Region and in Sydney.

DECC is also working with Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council to cooperatively manage lands at Seal Rocks.

In November 2007, the Federal Court recognised the Githabul people's native title rights to over 112,000 hectares of national parks and state forests in the Kyogle, Woodenbong and Tenterfield areas of NSW. This is the largest determination of native title in NSW, and means the Githabul people are legally entitled to access and camp in the areas; fish, hunt and gather animal and plant resources for personal use; take and use water for personal use; access the area for spiritual purposes and access sites of spiritual significance; and protect places of importance from physical harm. The rights are non-exclusive, meaning that the wider community will still be able to access these areas.

The Githabul ILUA includes agreement as to how these rights will be exercised in parks and establishes a co-management arrangement for them. The Githabul National Parks Management Committee, whose role is to advise DECC on the care, control and management of the 10 parks, was appointed in November 2007.

The Worimi Board of Management met for the first time in March 2008. The board, with a majority of Worimi-registered Aboriginal owners, has the care, control and management of Worimi National Park, Worimi Regional Park and Worimi State Conservation Area.

The Biamanga Board of Management, which is responsible for the care, control and management of Biamanga National Park, and the Gulaga Board of Management, which is responsible for the care, control and management of Gulaga National Park, met for the first time in August 2007. The members of both Boards are mainly Yuin-registered Aboriginal owners.

In July 2007, DECC and the Pilliga Nature Reserve Aboriginal Consultative Committee, which includes elders and other representatives from the Coonabarabran, Baradine, Gunnedah and Narrabri local Aboriginal communities, celebrated five years of successful cooperation with the launch of the Gunyah, a special Aboriginal-style shelter for culture camps. This partnership has resulted in the protection of local Aboriginal heritage in the reserve and fostered a valuable connection to Country for traditional owners.

Activities initiated by the committee over the last five years have included employing local Aboriginal people in locating and recording Aboriginal sites, employing Aboriginal *Discovery* rangers to lead cultural tours, holding cultural camps twice, and developing dual language interpretive signage featuring the Gamilaraay language. In 2008, the Committee changed its name to Gawambaraay Pilliga Co-management Committee and expanded its area of responsibility to include Dandry Gorge and Willala Aboriginal Areas. Gawambaraay is the traditional name for local Gamilaraay people.

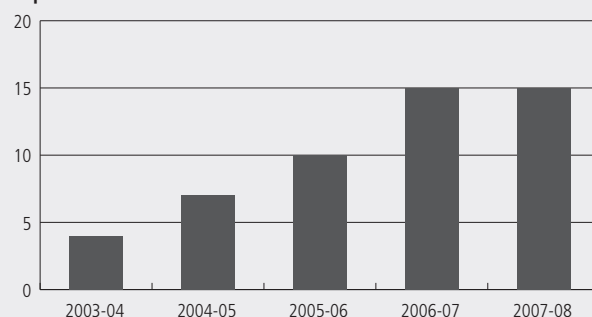
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Formal agreements with Aboriginal communities for co-management of protected areas

Definition: DECC works with Aboriginal communities to incorporate cultural practices into the management of parks and reserves under co-management arrangements. These agreements are guided and formalised under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth). This indicator shows the number of formal co-management agreements in place with Aboriginal communities, including leases, Indigenous Land Use Agreements and memoranda of understanding.

DECC also engages in informal partnership arrangements with Aboriginal communities. However, given the localised nature of many of these, they are difficult to measure accurately and have not been included in this indicator.

Formal agreements with Aboriginal communities for co-management of protected areas



Interpretation: During 2007–08, no new co-management agreements were entered into. The Menindee Aboriginal Elders Council and DECC renewed the existing MOU for Kinchega National Park. Important steps were taken to implement the new Aboriginal co-management agreements entered into in late 2006–07, including the appointment of the Githabul Management Committee and the Worimi Board of Management and the first meetings of the Biamanga and Gulaga Boards of Management.

As at 30 June 2008, there were 15 formal co-management arrangements in place with Aboriginal communities covering 97 areas across more than 1.5 million hectares (or 23%) of the reserve system.

NSW Wetland Recovery Program

As part of the NSW Wetland Recovery Program, DECC is consulting with Aboriginal communities about environmental restoration in the Macquarie Marshes and Gwydir Wetlands.

Aboriginal communities were consulted on archaeological surveys, historical research and oral history interviews. Consultation also included 'Back to Country' camps so local Aboriginal people could exchange family histories, share knowledge about plants and stories and use wetland resources for cultural uses and manufacture. The outcomes demonstrated that the wetlands retain important Aboriginal cultural values. Strategies are being developed to recognise these values in environmental management.

Aboriginal sites decision support tool

The Aboriginal sites decision support tool (ASDST) models the distribution of Aboriginal sites including camp sites, rock art, and scarred trees. The information can be used to determine the preservation status of Aboriginal sites, their representation in existing conservation mechanisms and the context for conservation strategies prepared with Aboriginal communities. In 2007–08, ASDST was used in initiatives such as the Great Eastern Ranges Cultural Values Project and regional assessments of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion, Cathedral Rock and Yanga national parks, the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, and Crown lands.

CMA partnerships

In 2007–08, DECC worked with Namoi Catchment Management Authority on ground works for 22 Aboriginal heritage sites. Comprehensive assessments were conducted for risks including erosion, inundation of weeds and impacts from domestic stock. Works included burial identification, fencing, signage erection, revegetation works, and 'ground truthing' using a global positional radar.

Joint ventures and projects

The Pandanus People in South West Rocks undertake restoration projects such as removing weeds from, and planting trees and shrubs in, Arakoon State Conservation Area and Hat Head National Park. In 2007–08, they established a nursery for propagating native plants with DECC staff, and sold the plants to other planting programs to assist with the sustainability of the nursery.

Conservation works were completed at Severs Beach in Ben Boyd National Park in May 2008 as part of a joint project with Eden Local Aboriginal Lands Council. Work included restoring middens and installing a boardwalk.

The Pambula River Cultural Landscape Project, which involves the Eden Local Aboriginal Lands Council, Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and DECC, commenced in March 2008 and involves surveying all the midden sites and developing a management plan. The estimated completion date is the end of 2009.

Stage 4 of the Eurobodalla Heritage Study commenced this year. It is a joint program between DECC, Eurobodalla Shire Council and Batemans Bay, Bodalla, Cobowra, Merrimans, Mogo and Wagonga Local Aboriginal Land Councils. Stage 4 incorporates the information obtained during previous stages into council planning. An oral history booklet was launched in June 2008.

Hands Across the Desert

In October 2007, Aboriginal members of the Northern Territory Mulan Community travelled 900 kilometres to Mungo National Park. They met with the traditional owners of the Willandra World Heritage Area for a cultural exchange. The event formed part of the Mungo Festival, the Hands Across the Desert Project. It provided an opportunity for the two groups to come together to yarn about cultural tourism and management in significant areas.

NAIDOC celebrations

Dorrigo National Park hosted a bush tucker day to celebrate NAIDOC Week in 2007. Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal *Discovery* ranger Mark Flanders led rainforest walks describing the rainforest as 'a hospital, supermarket and hardware store, all in one'. At the Canopy Café, a bush tucker feast was served to visitors, featuring kangaroo, crocodile, barramundi, wattle-seed scones and native berry cheesecake.

Flag raising in Bega formed part of NAIDOC celebrations on the far south coast. Approximately 300 people attended the event.

In the Snowy Mountains, activities held in conjunction with local government agencies included a dinner for elders and community members, an official ceremony, and a workshop with local Aboriginal children in Cooma.

Out west, a community barbecue including a ranger-guided activity for Menindee Central School students, was held in Kinchega National Park assisted by the Menindee Aboriginal Elders Council. Around 80 people participated in the event.

The Killungoondie Plain cultural burning in Dorrig National Park coincided with NAIDOC Week celebrations. The Killungoondie Plain is one of a few relatively intact grassland plains in a forested environment in NSW. The plains were important to the local Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal People before European settlement as hunting, ceremonial and habitation sites. In July 2007, a program of cultural and ecological burning was commenced in consultation with the Dorrig Aboriginal Land Council to maintain these sites. A conservation management plan has been prepared with recommendations for future management.

A credible, effective and efficient organisation



Photo: Evolving Images.

As the lead environment and conservation agency in NSW, DECC ensures staff have the skills to deliver positive outcomes for the environment, and the organisation is managed cost-effectively and efficiently

Context

As the NSW public sector agency responsible for environment protection, conservation and natural resource management, DECC employs nearly 3,600 full-time equivalent staff, with more than 2,600 in regional locations.

DECC is a leader in environmental sustainability and has signed up to Sustainability Advantage, to reduce its environmental footprint and save money. DECC has developed an internal Sustainability Action Plan to enable the organisation to lead sustainability issues in the NSW Government sector. DECC has already reduced its overall energy consumption and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

DECC continues to encourage a diverse and well-trained workforce, with solid training programs and career development opportunities for staff. The high calibre of DECC staff was reflected in the number of awards won in 2007–08 for programs and services, such as NSW RiverBank and Montague Island Tours. DECC continues to attract new staff by running graduate, cadet and trainee work programs.

Since DECC was created in April 2007, some business functions have been realigned so that the organisation is well placed to address key environmental issues, such as climate change and natural resource management. In 2007–08, a new website was developed to communicate the wider focus of the new department. A work and development system and new awards were agreed to, meaning all staff are on equitable pay scales and work under the same conditions.

Outcomes

DECC aims to be a credible, effective and efficient organisation by:

- having sound corporate governance arrangements
- being a leader in environmental sustainability
- having effective internal and external communications systems
- providing a safe and healthy workplace
- establishing a DECC culture where everyone has the same goals
- nurturing and training staff and establishing smart systems
- keeping up-to-date with current national and international environmental knowledge and innovation
- providing excellent customer service.

Key drivers

Our drive to be a credible, effective and efficient organisation is informed by:

- *State Plan – A New Direction for NSW* (www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan/)
- DECC Corporate Plan 2008–2012 (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/plan.htm)
- Results and Services Plan (financial documentation)
- DECC Sustainability Action Plan
- NSW Government Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/WRAPP.htm)
- NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Plan, *Two Ways Together* (www.daa.nsw.gov.au/policies/policy.html)
- occupational health and safety, equal employment opportunity and ethnic affairs priorities statement frameworks.

Performance indicators

We measure our organisational performance by the following performance indicators:

- Requests handled by DECC's Information Centre
- Visits to DECC websites
- DECC staff accidents and workers' compensation claims
- DECC staff representation in equal employment opportunity groups
- Payment of accounts
- Freedom of information requests



Photo: Richard Gregorio Photography

Corporate governance

Corporate governance reporting

Through corporate governance processes, DECC complies with statutory requirements and manages risk and performance. DECC implements effective corporate governance systems that:

- enhance organisational performance
- strengthen risk management
- enhance DECC's credibility and public reputation through transparency and accountability
- prevent and detect fraudulent, dishonest or unethical behaviour.

DECC monitors a comprehensive set of corporate performance indicators. They provide the basis of performance reports that are provided quarterly to DECC management and key external stakeholders, including NSW Treasury. In June 2007, DECC incorporated performance indicators for the agencies which joined DECC, to enable comprehensive coverage of its expanded roles and responsibilities.

Management

The Director General is the head of the Department of Environment and Climate Change and supports the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. The Director General works with DECC managers and staff to achieve DECC objectives and ensure its resources are used efficiently.

DECC executive members consider corporate and budget performance at regular monthly and quarterly reporting meetings, to ensure DECC is meeting its responsibilities.

There are also a number of significant boards and committees that support the Director General and the executive to meet corporate objectives, including sound corporate governance. These include the EPA Board, the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee.

Risk management

DECC manages risk on an ongoing basis by systematically identifying, assessing, controlling and monitoring risk across the department. Risk management programs in place include those on:

- pesticide use in public places
- fire management
- park visitation
- occupational health and safety
- audit and compliance
- insurance arrangements.

In 2007–08, DECC continued to reduce the risk of fraud and corruption. The Fraud and Corruption Control Strategy sets out fraud policies, highlights activities that are susceptible to fraud and corruption, and details DECC's approach to preventing, detecting, reporting on and investigating fraud and corruption. The risk of fraud and corruption is also lessened through a strong Code of Ethical Conduct and Statement of Business Ethics that guide DECC's relationships with external providers and stakeholders.

As part of internal audits, key controls were tested in 2007–08 to ensure they were effective in minimising fraud and corruption.

Audit and compliance program

DECC's comprehensive internal audit program helps to ensure DECC programs and processes are complying with legislation and best practice management. Conservation compliance is overseen by the Conservation Audit and Compliance Committee (CACC), established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Environment protection, finance and administration are overseen by the Internal Audit Committee (IAC). Both committees meet quarterly. The internal auditors submit final reports to the appropriate audit committee and recommendations are monitored to ensure they are fully implemented. Refer to Appendix 5 for more details about these committees.

Audits completed during 2007–08 which were overseen by the CACC were:

- maintaining roads in national parks
- processing applications for Aboriginal cultural heritage consents and permits
- managing storage facilities and practices for cultural materials, historic artefacts and the sites register
- managing resort operators' compliance with environment and conservation standards
- managing threatened species
- audits of 17 plans of management for:
 - Tweed Heads Historic Site and Ukerebagh Nature Reserve
 - Cathedral Rock National Park
 - Lake Innes Nature Reserve
 - Yuragir National Park and State Conservation Area
 - Towarri National Park, Wingen Maid Nature Reserve and Cedar Bush Nature Reserve
 - Demon Nature Reserve
 - Nadgee Nature Reserve
 - Murramarang National Park, Brush Island Nature Reserve, Belowla Island Nature Reserve and Tollgate Island Nature Reserve
 - Miniary National Park
 - Munmorah State Conservation Area and Bird Island Nature Reserve
 - Abercrombie Karst Conservation Area
 - Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island nature reserves
 - Botany Bay National Park (south)
 - Botany Bay National Park (north)
 - Mt Canobolas State Conservation Area
 - Tarawi Nature Reserve
 - Binnaway and Weetalibah nature reserves.



Photo: M. Van Ewijk

The plan of management for Murramarang National Park was audited in 2007–08.

Audits completed during 2007–08 and overseen by the IAC were:

- licensing the operations of national parks and reserves under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- managing leave
- managing external grants received by DECC
- RTA DRIVES (Roads and Traffic Authority vehicle registration database)
- managing voluntary activities
- managing the commercial kangaroo quota allocation
- DECC's sustainability performance
- accreditation of auditors for contaminated sites
- contract management
- debtors management
- World Heritage funding
- regulatory record keeping.

The audits of both the operational and administrative processes found that the systems were predominantly sound. There were no areas identified with extreme risk ratings. The areas identified with high risk ratings were all controlled by the acceptance of a range of recommendations. The DECC audit committees monitored progress towards implementing the recommendations. In all cases, the committee was satisfied that issues were being adequately addressed and actions were being taken to prevent risks from occurring.

External reviews

During 2007–08, the Audit Office of NSW carried out its annual comprehensive audits of DECC's financial reporting and performance systems.

In May 2008, the Auditor-General NSW released a follow-up audit on *Protecting our Rivers* which was an audit completed in 2003. The 2003 audit had looked at ways in which the government was protecting NSW river water quality, and made a number of recommendations. The 2008 audit examined what progress had been made since 2003. The Audit Office found that a comprehensive monitoring program for river health is now under way based on the Government's Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy for natural resources. As this data collection progresses, NSW will be able to undertake risk assessments of rivers for river health and water quality.

In June 2008, the Audit Office released the performance audit on *Recycling and Reuse of Waste by the NSW Public Sector: Department of Environment and Climate Change*. The Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) is a whole-of-government policy that aims to make NSW Government agencies and state owned corporations model waste managers by reducing waste, increasing recycling, and increasing purchases of products with recycled content. DECC is responsible for coordinating this policy within the NSW Government.

The audit assessed whether DECC had successfully supported WRAPP by managing its implementation in other public sector agencies as well as DECC, and whether its implementation had been effective in reducing waste and improving recycling and reuse throughout the public sector.

Overall, the performance audit found that DECC has done a good job in promoting WRAPP's implementation in public sector agencies. Over the last six years the public sector had reduced the proportion of waste going to landfill and had increased its use of materials with recycled content. The audit also identified some opportunities to further improve the program. As WRAPP is now ten-years-old, DECC agreed that it should be reviewed to ensure it remained relevant and reflected community expectations about the environment. In 2008–09, DECC will therefore implement Audit Office recommendations.

Business continuity planning

DECC works to minimise disruption of services to the public in the event of an emergency through business continuity plans. Some operational areas of DECC have special disaster recovery frameworks for their area of business.

Intellectual property

Intellectual property held by DECC includes copyright, plant breeding rights, trademarks, confidential information and trade secrets, and Aboriginal intellectual property. The Intellectual Property Management Framework includes guidelines and an asset management system for significant items.

Asset management systems

DECC manages a wide range of assets, classified as land and buildings, water entitlements, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems. Many aspects of asset management are undertaken regionally, such as building maintenance and replacement of plant and equipment, while large-scale acquisitions, overall asset management systems and asset financing are managed centrally. DECC employs a continuous improvement approach to asset management, using monitoring and review to inform agency-wide improvements.

Ethical behaviour

DECC strives to be an ethical organisation and recognises that this requires both corporate and individual commitment. A range of measures are in place to help resolve ethical dilemmas as they arise and enable DECC to respond to unethical decisions and practices if they are identified.

DECC's ethical framework is detailed in a number of policies and guidelines relating to ethical conduct, managing complaints and allegations, preventing fraud and corruption and making a protected disclosure under the *Protected Disclosures Act 1994*.

DECC updated its Code of Ethical Conduct in June 2007 and published the full text in its 2006–07 annual report. The Code of Ethical Conduct applies to everyone engaged by DECC and describes the ethical framework that should guide the actions, decisions and behaviour of employees.

DECC works to ensure the privacy of staff and clients is protected. During 2007–08, one application was received for access to personal information and all documents were released. No complaints were received under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*.

Corporate governance activities relating to financial management, consumer response and freedom of information are reported elsewhere in this chapter. Other corporate governance activities are reported in the annual report appendices:

- SES performance statements (see Appendix 2)
- significant statutory boards and committees (see Appendix 5)
- legislation (see Appendix 7)
- Statement of Affairs (see Appendix 10)
- freedom of information (see Appendix 11)
- Guarantee of Service (see Appendix 12).



Photo: DECC.

A leader in sustainability and environmental performance

Sustainability

As the lead environment and climate change agency in NSW, DECC is committed to improving sustainability in line with NSW Government policy, and to becoming carbon neutral.

In May 2008, the Premier announced the Sustainability Policy for the NSW Government (see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/government/policy.htm). This policy outlines ways in which the NSW Government will reduce water and energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and waste generation, and improve fleet management and sustainable purchasing. The NSW Government is also committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2020.

DECC has developed an internal Sustainability Action Plan, which will allow DECC to lead sustainability issues in the NSW Government sector. The action plan has been informed by a greenhouse gas inventory undertaken in August 2007, and by signing up to the Sustainability Advantage program run by DECC. The action plan highlights activities that DECC will undertake in the latter half of 2008 and beyond. DECC's focus for 2008–09 will be resource efficiency and staff engagement in sustainability initiatives. The following sections provide further information on areas where DECC is working to achieve sustainability outcomes.

Energy

Through sound building management, changes to the vehicle fleet and changes in usage of the fleet, DECC reduced overall energy consumption in 2006–07 by 7% from the previous year to 169,718 gigajoules. DECC's greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 10% over the same period to 18,619 tonnes CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂ –e) (Energy data sourced from OSCAR October 2008).

Data for 2007–08 has not yet been compiled and will be reported in the 2008–09 annual report.

DECC has been working with the State Contracts Control Board to extend the existing electricity contract for small sites (where consumption is less than 160,000 kilowatts (Kw) per annum). This contract continues to ensure that green power, accredited by the Office of Renewable Energy Regulator, is one available option.

DECC is currently purchasing more green power than the minimum standard of 6% set out in the NSW Sustainability Policy. Over 2007–08, some large sites (those using more than 160,000 Kw per annum), increased their green power procurement to exceed the 6% minimum:

■ CASE STUDY

Solar energy in western NSW

DECC reduced its carbon footprint in far western NSW by increasing its use of solar energy to power most aspects of its national parks offices, including computers, lights and other electronic devices.

In 2007–08, the grid-connected solar power systems generated 40,637 kWh, the equivalent of the energy used by four domestic houses. As a result, these offices obtained credits from Country Energy for channelling excess power back into the local electricity grid.

The use of solar power is decreasing carbon emissions, and it is anticipated that overall operating costs in these offices will also be decreased.



Photo: J. Pedler, DECC.

Solar panels on the roof on DECC's White Cliffs office.

% green power	Site	Locality
100%	Lane Cove Tourist Park	Macquarie Park, Sydney
25%	59 Goulburn St	Sydney
25%	Weerona Rd	Lidcombe (2 accounts), Sydney
10%	43 Bridge St	Hurstville, Sydney
10%	6 Rutledge St	Queanbeyan

In addition, six remote DECC sites in western NSW are generating solar energy (see case study).

Energy efficiency initiatives in the information technology area are also under way to reduce DECC's demand for electricity. For example, the Lidcombe Data Centre, which has been designed to be carbon neutral, is using:

- a geothermal earth loop, where warm water is cooled in underground pipes and used to cool the data centre room
- a power factor correction unit, which increases the efficiency of the energy supplied to equipment, reducing the inefficiency rate from 20% to 3%
- an energy metering system, which enables changes in demand to be monitored in real time.

DECC again participated in Earth Hour in Sydney on 29 March 2008, ensuring that lights, computers, computer monitors and non-essential office equipment were switched off. In addition, DECC staff statewide were encouraged to take part in Earth Hour, both within DECC premises and at home.

Office accommodation

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum 2004-4, all buildings leased by DECC must have a minimum 3.5 star rating (using the Australian Building Greenhouse Rating (ABGR) scheme). As an organisation, DECC strives to better this minimum standard wherever it is practical, in both metropolitan and regional office accommodation.

In the previous reporting period, a number of initiatives promoted by DECC resulted in achieving five star ratings (ABGR) in both the Goulburn Street, Sydney and Bridge Street, Hurstville tenancies. ABGR has been incorporated into the new National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) and in 2008-09, DECC will upgrade the ABGR ratings, in its larger office buildings of over 1,000m² in size, to NABERS ratings. This will set DECC on target for meeting the requirements of the NSW Sustainability Policy, which sets targets for government-owned or leased buildings to achieve NABERS ratings.

Whenever office accommodation refurbishments are planned, sustainable workplace initiatives, such as energy and water efficiency and recycling systems, are incorporated into the fit out plans. Where possible, DECC arranges for outmoded fluorescent tubes and unserviceable T5 replacement energy efficient tubes to be collected so their mercury, alloy, glass and phosphor powder content are separated, refined and recycled.

In 2007-08, DECC undertook office fit outs on levels 12 and 25 of its Goulburn Street tenancy. DECC negotiated the acquisition of recycled workstations from another CBD building at no cost. This furniture was bound for landfill but was perfectly serviceable and has been installed within the tenancy. Over 80% of the existing electrical and data cabling was also reused in the fit outs, which greatly reduced waste and cost.

By working closely with the building management of the Goulburn Street office, DECC has been able to upgrade the male toilets to a waterless urinal system. The upgrade is expected to be completed in August 2008. DECC is currently investigating opportunities to roll out waterless urinals in other office accommodation.

Green fleet

DECC's Fleet Improvement Plan contains performance strategies to achieve the targets set by the Cleaner NSW Government Fleet Program. Progress towards these targets is measured by calculating an average environmental performance score for the fleet, using the system adopted for the NSW Clean Car Benchmarks. This score measures vehicular greenhouse gas emissions (as CO₂) and air quality impacts (as noxious emissions). The plan also contains a target of a 20% reduction in greenhouse gases generated by a fleet annually, using a baseline of 2004-05.

While DECC has calculated environmental performance scores for its fleet, the reduction in greenhouse gases against the baseline data could not be calculated. With the formation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, amalgamated fuel data was not available until 2005-06, and with the subsequent creation of DECC, this data was no longer comparable. New targets for the government fleet will be announced in 2008-09. DECC is currently preparing a baseline data set of fuel emissions for 2007-08.

By implementing its Fleet Improvement Plan, DECC achieved the mandated average environmental performance score of 12 out of 20 for its passenger vehicle fleet as at 30 June 2008.

DECC uses diesel vehicles for fire fighting and as associated support vehicles for health and safety reasons, as diesel is less likely to ignite. The environmental performance score for the diesel operational fleet with a gross vehicle mass (GVM) of less than 3.5 tonnes is 7.29. As a result, the overall score for the DECC fleet is 9.35 out of 20.

In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, in 2007-08 DECC's fleet generated approximately 5,405 t CO₂ -e. This represents an increase of 8% over 2006-07. DECC is continually striving to reduce the physical size of its fleet. However, due to recent amalgamations with other government agencies, there has been an increase in the number of small passenger vehicles in the fleet from 252 to 289 over 2007-08. DECC has also increased the area of reserves it manages by 41,149 hectares since the previous reporting period, meaning rangers must travel further to patrol and monitor sites.

One of the initiatives implemented to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions is a shift to more hybrid vehicles. The number of hybrid vehicles has been increased from 26 vehicles to 34 and staff are encouraged to use these wherever possible for business purposes.

Biofuels and other alternative fuels

Biofuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel, are considered as renewable fuel sources when produced from agricultural crops, their residues, and animal fats or cooking oils. DECC has adopted the use of E10 (ethanol blended petroleum) in all its passenger vehicle fleet wherever it is available. Regular bulletins are distributed to staff encouraging the use of biofuels. Pool vehicle folders clearly state the advantage in refuelling with E10 and stickers have been affixed to fuel filler caps as a further reminder to use E10 fuel.

In the reporting period, 7.7% of DECC's fuel usage was E10. As E10 becomes increasingly available, DECC will be able to increase its usage and will report on this increase in 2008–09. Such usage is reported quarterly to the DECC executive.

Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy

As well as coordinating the NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) in other agencies and state owned corporations, DECC is responsible for putting WRAPP principles into practice in its own organisation, and reports every two years (as required) on its own performance.

The most recent WRAPP data collected by DECC covers the period 2006–07. A snapshot of DECC's progress in reducing waste is provided in the table below. This is expressed as a percentage of the total amount of waste recovered for recycling compared with the average recycling rate based on the WRAPP reports for 106 state agencies and state owned corporations:

Material of concern	DECC	State average
office paper	83%	80%
cardboard	93%	76%
toner cartridges	95%	47%
total vegetation, construction and demolition waste	80%	92%
steel	100%	88%
asphalt	100%	96%
bricks	96%	31%
glass	96%	22%
concrete	77%	39%
non-ferrous metals	75%	93%

DECC has reviewed waste management practices and commenced implementing systems, where possible, to recycle co-mingled containers from office kitchen areas (62% recovered). In May 2008, DECC undertook a WRAPP audit of its head office in Goulburn Street, Sydney as part of the Greening Head Office program. The recommendations from this audit are being implemented, with an improved system to be introduced in the latter half of 2008.

Another key requirement of WRAPP is to increase the purchase of products with recycled content where they are cost-effective and competitive. The table below outlines a snapshot of DECC procurement of products with recycled content over the period 2006–07:

Material purchased	Amount with recycled content	State average
copy paper	97%	45%
printing and publications paper	90%	19%
landscaping materials	78%	88%
fill	82%	61%
sand	76%	30%

To further improve agency performance under WRAPP, in 2009 DECC is planning to review its procurement manual, internal staff training modules and internal staff guidance procedures to highlight the importance of sustainability in these areas.



Photo: B. Coates, DECC

Internal and external connections

Environment Line

The Environment Line is DECC's main enquiries and advice line. Staff take calls from business, industry and the public seeking information and advice on environment protection, climate change issues, rebates for water saving initiatives, native plants and animals, visiting national parks and reserves, native vegetation and reporting pollution incidents.

In 2007–08, the Environment Line received 228,584 calls, up from 207,983 in 2006–07. This increase reflects DECC's wider range of responsibilities, particularly for water and energy related rebates. The Environment Line also received 6,835 reports of pollution (almost the same as last year) and another 7,286 reports relating to noise, littering and smoke from vehicles, which is a 12% decline from last year. Smoky vehicle reports have been declining steadily for some years which may indicate an improvement in vehicle maintenance or the age of vehicles on NSW roads.

Improvements to the website and intranet

The website is one of the main ways DECC informs the public of its activities and strategies. The website also provides a range of online services, making it easier for people to access publications, apply for licences or record sightings of native species. In February 2008, DECC finished integrating many separate websites into a new integrated site which includes climate change and natural resource information.

As part of this upgrade, information for visitors to national parks and reserves is being made more user-friendly and relevant. The first stage of this development, including new mapping features, will be completed in July 2008. Further work in 2008–09 will improve the content and style of the site, including more photographs to help give visitors a better appreciation of where they may want to visit.

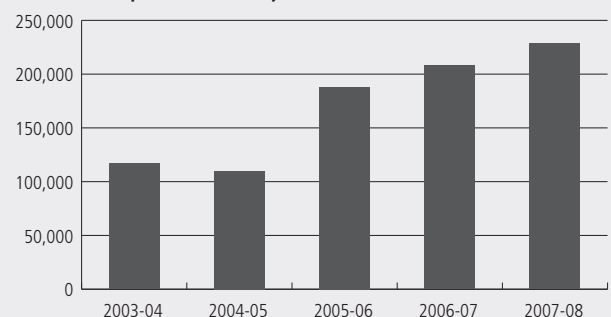
An important feature of the new site will be the content management system that will be available to staff in branches and regions so they can directly change and update content. This will help ensure that the website is current and improve efficiency.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Requests handled by DECC's Information Centre

Definition: The Information Centre provides information by telephone via the Environment Line, by email and face-to-face; through reception services and switchboards; and in answer to inquiries received via the website, fax, email and mail. The following statistics do not include pollution incident and motor vehicle reports, or any calls after hours. Refer to the performance indicator *Environment Line – incident reports about air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises* in chapter 3 for incident reports, and Appendix 13.

Number of requests handled by DECC's Information Centre



Interpretation: DECC public information services were integrated in 2005–06. Since then, requests handled by the Information Centre have risen steadily by approximately 10% each year. In 2007–08 over 228,000 requests were handled (not including reports of pollution incidents). A major reason for this increase is the Climate Change Fund rebate program for water conservation and energy efficiency in residential households. Email inquiries increased by 29%, due at least to the additional websites now integrated into the DECC website.

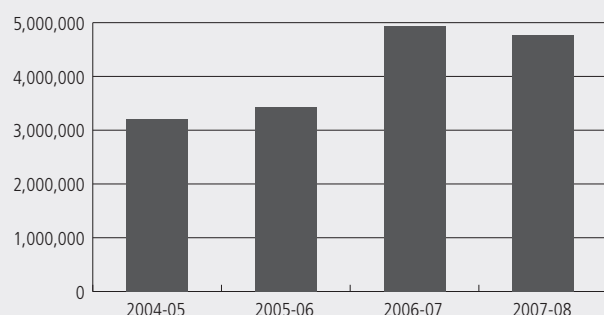
DECC has many staff located outside metropolitan areas. The internal intranet site, known as DECCnet, is an important way to communicate with staff and provide them with tools and resources to do their work. With the formation of DECC, development work was undertaken in 2007–08 to start creating a new integrated site for all staff. This work will be a priority for completion in 2008–09. It will benefit from using the same technology employed on the DECC website.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Visits to DECC websites

Definition: This indicator measures the total number of visits to some of DECC's websites. The statistics include visits to the former Environment Protection Authority and National Parks and Wildlife Service websites and the corporate DECC website. They do not include visits to the former Resource NSW or Botanic Gardens websites, or to the websites of agencies which joined DECC in April 2007. A 'visit' consists of one or more page views by a single visitor.

Total visits to DECC websites



Interpretation: Usage of the DECC websites continues to be very strong. It confirms the vital role that the sites play in delivering information and services to stakeholders and the public. In 2007–08, DECC integrated a number of DECC-managed websites into a single site. This accounts for the apparent drop in visitor numbers as many visitors need only now access one site and are only counted as a single visit. Further integration of other DECC managed sites will be completed in 2008–09.

- developing an Aboriginal Community Engagement Framework to ensure that DECC's policies and programs affecting Aboriginal communities are developed in an environment of positive Aboriginal community engagement
- supporting the Aboriginal Staff Network Annual Conference, held at Broken Hill
- conducting approximately 40 research and heritage projects in collaboration with Aboriginal community groups
- holding an Aboriginal Co-management Conference, which included representatives from all Aboriginal co-management committees
- launching *LandAlive*, funded by the Environmental Trust, which seeks to work with Aboriginal landowners, including Local Aboriginal Land Councils, to help them consider options for managing their lands, including the BioBanking Scheme
- funding six programs to prevent and clean-up illegal waste dumping on Aboriginal-owned lands
- releasing a draft illegal dumping handbook and DVD for Aboriginal communities, to equip Aboriginal landowners with knowledge and further sources of information and help, so they can better deal with illegal dumping on their lands
- supporting the development of a booklet for the Aboriginal community entitled *Baakandji and Budjiti people: living and working on the Paroo River* (representatives of the Baakandji and Budjiti communities are members of the steering committee that manages the Paroo River Wetlands Ramsar site).

The DECC Welcome to Country Protocols and Procedures Policy was endorsed by the DECC executive in consultation with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee.

The policy provides practical advice for DECC staff in observing the appropriate protocols for recognising Aboriginal people at official events and events where the NSW Government is a major sponsor.

First national park for East Timor

In August 2007, the interim Timor-Leste Government declared its first national park as its last act of Parliament. Over the last six years, DECC staff have worked with organisations such as Birdlife International and Australian Volunteers International to identify, assess and establish this park. The Nino Konos Santana National Park includes 68,000 hectares of land and 55,600 hectares of sea to protect some of East Timor's most significant natural, cultural and marine heritage.

Aboriginal affairs

DECC's Aboriginal Affairs Strategy and Coordination Branch coordinates and monitors agency implementation of *Two Ways Together* and NSW State Plan actions that are relevant to Aboriginal people.

DECC is responsible for leading the development of the Building (Aboriginal) Community Resilience Strategy under Priority F1 in the NSW State Plan. This strategy aims to improve the health and education of, and social outcomes for, Aboriginal people. This strategy will guide long-term government and community planning strategies, and prioritise actions and services to achieve the maximum benefits for communities.

Some initiatives DECC undertook in 2007–08 to promote and respect Aboriginal culture and heritage include:

- continuing to implement DECC's Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2006–2008, with 8.27% of the workforce being from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background
- including Aboriginal representation in the membership of 64% of DECC's statutory and significant advisory boards and committees



Photo: J. Denby.

DECC staff member Peter Kennedy helped develop a management plan for Songshan National Nature Reserve in China.

From Minnamurra to Beijing

Peter Kennedy, the manager of Minnamurra Rainforest Centre in Budderoo National Park, helped to develop a management plan for the Songshan National Nature Reserve in China in 2007–08. Peter was asked to help formulate the plan due to his recognised expertise, skills and experience in nature-based tourism management and development and delivery of environmental education. The Songshan Reserve is reminiscent of the degraded ecological status of the Minnamurra Reserve before it was transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1986.



Photo: A. Weeraratne, DECC

A safe and healthy workplace

Occupational health and safety

The number of injuries suffered by staff reduced this year to 7.5 per 100 employees compared with 8.3 per 100 employees in 2006–07. DECC's Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Strategy, and Injury Management Strategy and Improvement Plan 2005–2008, was effectively implemented throughout the period with the following key milestones achieved:

- completion of the Manual Tasks Injury Prevention Project, which aims to reduce soft tissue injuries and which is now being implemented
- refinement and piloting of the online OH&S hazard and incident management system in preparation for rollout in September 2008
- development of online learning packages for implementation in the second half of 2008
- completion of a comprehensive internal audit program to increase the consistency of OH&S and injury management across DECC
- review and ongoing refinement of a key hazard management policy and guidelines to ensure industry best practice
- comprehensive overhaul of the internal OH&S intranet site to ensure easy and timely access of information for all staff across DECC.

DECC, in consultation with the OH&S Advisory Group, is currently reviewing the strategy and plan in line with the Public Sector OH&S and Injury Management Improvement Strategy.

Occupational health and safety statistics for 2007–08:

Accidents reported: 575

Claims: 270

*Cost of claims: \$2,154,041

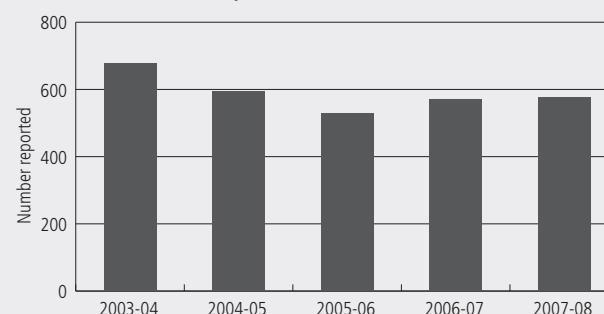
*Allianz data; includes all workplace injuries

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

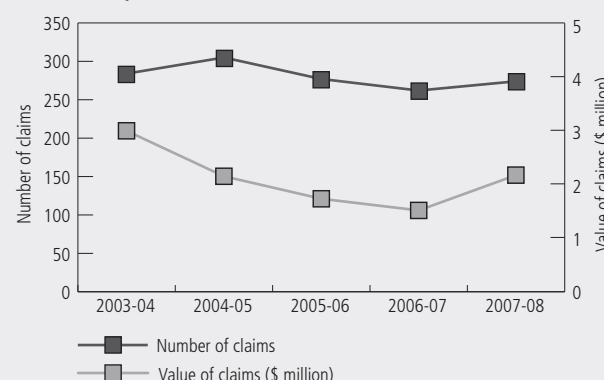
DECC staff accidents and workers compensation claims

Definition: This indicator measures work-related incidents and accidents, and any resulting claim for compensation. The number of reported accidents and incidents indicates staff-reported events that could have led to, or did cause, an injury. The number and dollar value indicators measure the number and cost of injuries for which a claim was made. Claims are usually lodged and recorded immediately after an incident, although claims may be lodged and costs incurred for several years after. These costs and claims are reported in the year in which the incident occurred, so historical trend data may vary from year to year.

Accidents and incidents reported



Workers' compensation claims and their value



Interpretation: Data for years before 2007–08 relates to former Department of Environment and Conservation staff only. This year, the number of incidents reported were similar, at 575, to the previous year at 570. The number of total compensation claims, however, increased from 262 in 2006–07 to 270 in 2007–08, although on an equivalent full-time basis the rate decreased from 8.3 claims per 100 employees in 2006–07 to 7.5 claims per 100 employees in 2007–08. An increase in total claims costs for 2007–08 resulted from increased medical costs and lost time related to surgical intervention.



A 'one DECC' culture

Corporate integration

Since DECC was established in April 2007, significant progress has been made in a relatively short period of time to integrate both staff and programs. As part of the integration, DECC staff have experienced a number of corporate changes, including a change in surroundings, office dynamics, processes and procedures and corporate brand. The following initiatives have helped to achieve successful organisational integration:

- a conference for senior staff
- the realignment of branches and divisions to reflect organisational priorities
- the successful integration of human resources information and pay records to minimise disruption to staff
- an update of personnel files
- the rebranding of building signage
- the introduction of a new accounting system
- the completion of accommodation planning so all staff have been successfully relocated, where necessary
- the integration of library services.

Industrial awards

During the reporting period, DECC finalised and implemented three new awards:

1. *Crown Employees (Department of Environment and Climate Change – Parks and Wildlife Group) Conditions of Employment Award* - this award provides conditions of employment for staff working in the Parks and Wildlife Group, with the exception of:
 - (a) field officers – only field staff in Kosciuszko National Park and staff employed under the *Flight Officers Enterprise Agreement 2006* are subject to this award
 - (b) staff transferred under Administrative Orders which established the Department of Environment and Climate Change
 - (c) Senior Executive Service staff and Senior Officers
 - (d) staff employed in the Botanic Gardens Trust
 - (e) staff employed under the award noted below in point 2.
2. *Crown Employees (Department of Environment and Climate Change – Parks and Wildlife Group) Field Officers and Skilled Trades Salaries and Conditions Award 2007* – this award is specific to field staff and trades staff located in the Parks and Wildlife Group.
3. *Crown Employees (Department of Environment and Climate Change) General Award* – this award provides the conditions of employment for all staff and casual employees of DECC with the exception of those listed in 1 (a) to (e) and 2 above.



Minister Verity Firth (left) and DECC's Director General, Lisa Corbyn (right), attended the senior staff conference in April 2008.

DECC also finalised and implemented new conditions of employment for officers employed in the Botanic Gardens Trust (BGT).

The new conditions for the various groups within DECC as an outcome of these negotiations include:

- (a) a new classification scale for field staff that recognises the need for additional career path opportunities
- (b) standard recording of hours of work under flexible working hours conditions and enhancements to the accrual and taking of credit hours worked – this has removed confusion for staff and enabled managers and staff to better balance their working hours and external commitments
- (c) access to financial assistance for ongoing study – while available to some agencies before the formation of DECC, these conditions are now available across the department
- (d) a common work and development system – before the formation of DECC, there were differing programs in place to manage performance and staff development. By providing a common system for all staff, there is equity and an enhanced ability to recognise and reward the efforts of staff and their contribution to the work of DECC.

Other industrial instruments have been either reviewed to consolidate entitlements and conditions, or rescinded as obsolete awards. These include:

a. Reviewed

Crown Employees (Royal Botanic Gardens Building and Mechanical Trades Staff) Award

Crown Employees (Parks and Gardens – Horticulture and Rangers Staff) Consent Award 2007

b. Rescinded

Senior Managers (National Parks and Wildlife Service) Award 2004

DECC was also invited to participate in the review of the Commentary and Guidelines on Conduct and Performance Provisions – Part 2.7 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002*; the review of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002*; and the State Wage Case Taskforce.



Photo: Bob Peters, DECC.

Skilled people and smart systems

Learning and development framework

The major training programs coordinated through the learning and development framework were in the areas of policy development, contract management, dealing with threatening and aggressive behaviour, project management, financial management and Aboriginal cultural awareness.

The learning and development framework will be linked to the new work and development system which has been developed to ensure the work and goals of staff are aligned with those of the corporate plan.

The new system will incorporate a team and individual staff awards system to recognise exceptional performance. It will be supported by an extensive training program for staff and managers, which began with a session for the DECC executive on 13 June 2008. Training will be provided for all managers and staff across the state over the coming months.

The work and development system will assist in ensuring that DECC remains an employer of choice. It will be instrumental in helping DECC meet State Plan obligations, corporate objectives and operational targets. The system and its implementation will be audited regularly.

Aboriginal cultural awareness training continues to be included as a corporate priority to ensure all staff understand and are familiar with the needs of Aboriginal staff, individuals and communities. Feedback from participants indicates that Aboriginal cultural awareness training continues to be highly valued throughout DECC.

Summary of formal staff training 2007–08

Total number of formal training days	Average number of formal training days per staff member
4985 days	1.88 days*

* Does not include inductions and other external studies subsidised by DECC

Graduate development program

The graduate development program incorporates a considerable investment in learning and development. Graduates are selected on the basis of their potential to contribute significantly to the achievement of DECC's goals and business outcomes. The outcomes of the program have been extremely positive. Of the 15 graduates, including two Aboriginal graduates, who entered the program in February 2007, 10 have found positions in DECC or other public sector agencies. Three others will complete the program in February 2009. A review of the program is currently being undertaken to inform the next intake of graduate candidates in 2010.

Aboriginal cadetship program

Through the Aboriginal cadetship program, cadets undertake full-time study and 12 weeks of practical work experience each year to complete their undergraduate degree, with guaranteed employment on successful completion. In 2008, an additional seven Aboriginal cadetships were established to make a total of 17 Aboriginal cadets. The recruitment process for the next intake will commence in August 2008. DECC supports this program as an indicator of its commitment to *Two Ways Together* and recognises that Aboriginal people have an important role in environmental management.



Photo: DECC.

Aboriginal cadets training in DECC's Hurstville office.

Aboriginal traineeships

DECC has entered a partnership arrangement with the Western Institute of TAFE to provide Aboriginal traineeships which will lead to the nationally recognised qualification of Certificate II in conservation and land management. The traineeships are for a 12-month period and allow trainees to combine full-time practical work with structured training sessions throughout the year. The 2008 intake comprises 11 new trainees undertaking trainee field officer and trainee interpretive assistant positions. DECC's recruitment of trainees complements the Aboriginal cadetship program.

Fire management training

Fire management training continues to support the professionalism and safety of departmental staff involved in fire management roles. DECC has approximately 900 trained fire fighters and hundreds of trained incident management staff. To ensure it is prepared for bushfires in national parks and adjacent lands, DECC conducts a Fire Fighter Health and Fitness Program each year for staff. The program is completed before the start of each fire season. It is based on national and international standards and consists of an annual medical assessment and fitness test. The program aims to improve employee safety and performance and ensure firefighters are only assigned tasks they are medically and physically able to carry out. During the year 1,163 staff attempted the assessment and 93% succeeded.

Sixteen firefighters from all Western Branch regions attended the first Divisional Commander fire training course in Dubbo. Divisional Commanders are senior firefighters who coordinate firefighting operations and manage on-the-ground operations that may involve firefighters from across the state, and other agencies. This training will help Western Branch firefighters manage tactical fire operations more safely and effectively.

Increased scientific expertise

DECC now has around 300 staff with expertise in most areas of environmental and natural resource science. This year, significant Commonwealth funding has enabled DECC to establish baseline data for, and monitoring programs to assess the condition of, vegetation, fauna, estuaries and soils. The funding has also helped develop a program to gather information about the capacity of land managers in natural resource management. This work complements existing Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy programs, which are reported on in chapter 4.

DECC's scientific activities are designed to provide environmental, cultural heritage and natural resource decision makers in NSW with quality information to work towards the goals and priorities outlined in the NSW State Plan and DECC's corporate plan. In April 2008, DECC released a Science Statement which describes the drivers, values and approaches that will deliver positive outcomes for the environment, natural resource management and cultural heritage. The Science Statement is available on www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/science.htm.

Library services

DECC's internal library services help staff to maintain and develop their knowledge. Access to national and international best practice and research broaden staff knowledge and understanding of policy and science. In the last couple of years, DECC library services have taken advantage of the development of resources available electronically and have delivered a range of online bibliographic databases and journals to staff on their desktops. This has significantly improved access to information for all staff, especially those based outside metropolitan areas. This year, the library also completed the integration of catalogues from DECC's predecessor agencies which has made it easier for staff to search the library collection.

Public recognition for our staff and programs

This year, a number of DECC staff and programs received awards for their outstanding contributions to public service and environment protection in NSW. These awards are a testament to the high calibre of staff in DECC.

Public Service Medals:

Two DECC employees, Barbara Richardson, Manager Water Policy, and Mark Johnston, Regional Manager Northern Rivers, were awarded Public Service Medals for their outstanding contributions to public service in natural resource management and environment protection in NSW.

2007 Ecological Society of Australia Member Service Prize:

Dr Ross Peacock, Native Vegetation Science Section, Scientific Services Division, was awarded the 2007 Ecological Society of Australia Member Service Prize for his outstanding contribution to ecology.

Academy of Natural Sciences Philadelphia Jessup Award:

Hugh Jones, Senior Natural Resources Officer, Scientific Services Division, won a Jessup Award and spent six weeks working at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

NSW Government Heritage Award:

Gai Taylor, Cape Byron Trust volunteer, won one of 20 statewide awards for her outstanding work in the Cape Byron Lighthouse Maritime Museum.

Premier's Public Sector Awards:

RiverBank environmental water recovery program – Silver
Wollemi Pine conservation and sustainable horticulture project – nomination

2008 National Trust Heritage Awards:

Conservation Built Heritage for Project over \$1 million
Award for the 2.5 km National Pass Walking Track –
Wentworth Falls

Conservation Landscape Heritage Award for the Lake
Wollumboola Little Tern Conservation Program

Education Award for the 'Trap that Toad' school program

Highly commended award to Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse
restoration

Institute of Landscape Architects Awards:

Parks Facilities Manual

Master Plan for Bobbin Head and Apple Tree Bay

NSW Tourism Awards – Ecotourism category:

Montague Island Tours

Lane Cove River Tourist Park

National Tourism Award for Ecotourism:

Montague Island Tours

Master Builders Association of NSW Excellence in Construction Awards:

Surf Safety Centre, Garie Beach Royal National Park, took
out three awards in the categories of Sporting Facilities up
to \$5 million, Environmental Management and Best Use of
Timber.



Photo: DECC.

DECC won a NSW Tourism Award for its Montague Island Tours in 2007–08. Preston Cope (right) accepted the award for DECC.

Equal employment opportunity

DECC, like all NSW Government agencies, is committed to equal employment opportunity (EEO). As an employer, DECC recruits and employs staff on the basis of merit and values its skilled and diverse workforce.

Each year, DECC submits an Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan to the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet in accordance with Part 9A of the *Anti Discrimination Act 1977* to outline its strategies to eliminate and ensure the absence of discrimination in employment and promote EEO. DECC reported on a range of initiatives to promote EEO within the organisation, including Aboriginal cultural awareness training, employment programs and the Spokeswomen's program.

During the year DECC continued to offer cadetships (Aboriginal cadet rangers), traineeships (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal field officers and an interpretive assistant) and apprenticeships (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal apprentice horticulturalists). DECC continues to facilitate increased representation of Aboriginal people linked to broader workforce planning strategies.

DECC is currently developing an agency-wide Disability Action Plan. DECC will continue to focus on improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and access and services for DECC staff with disabilities and the public. DECC is committed to enhancing access for people with disabilities to its many national parks and reserves, lookouts, picnic areas, tracks and camping grounds. Information on these facilities is available on www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/disability.htm.

Spokeswomen program

The Spokeswomen strategic plan 2007–08 aimed to ensure that all DECC female staff have opportunities to reach their full potential in a workplace where there is strong acceptance of equal employment opportunity principles. The plan promoted gender equity and career development opportunities and provided for a number of new initiatives, including:

- career development – 24 participants from all divisions and regions participated in the Springboard women's career development program. Spokeswomen also sponsored six women in management positions on a Career Resiliency program.
- stronger links were made with the Aboriginal Network to support Aboriginal women and sponsorship for NAIDOC week celebrations.
- an increased capacity to support women in regional NSW.
- diversity principles which were promoted by a targeted election process.
- a communication strategy – regular newsletters were issued to inform all DECC employees of Spokeswomen activities.

The second annual DECC Spokeswomen's Recognition Awards were presented by the then Minister Verity Firth. These awards recognised women who had excelled in customer service. Ten women from across the department received awards. The overall 'DECC Woman of the Year' award went to Aine Gliddon.

Over 130 women and men attended the annual Spokeswomen workshops around NSW in March 2008 to celebrate International Women's Day. Workshop highlights were:

- 'Skills for work and life' – six DECC women located in remote areas such as Broken Hill and Cobar were sponsored to attend this Sydney workshop
- 'Work and Family' – this workshop addressed special demands placed on those with carers' responsibilities
- 'Getting ahead' and 'Making work for you' – these workshops addressed flexible work models.

Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement

DECC has developed an Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement (EAPS) which outlines DECC's key strategies and actions for 2006–10 to help achieve the Government's policies in ethnic affairs and the principles of cultural diversity as described in the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*. The strategies and actions outlined in the EAPS 2006–10 implement the principles of cultural diversity in the context of DECC's corporate goals.

- DECC continues to work with the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW and employs 18 bilingual educators to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of sustainable living in a culturally appropriate context. This year, workshops were delivered in eight community languages to 3,937 participants from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Chapter 2 contains more information on this program.
- DECC researched cultural perceptions, attachments and needs relating to the Georges River parklands. A book on the research and findings is being prepared for publication in 2009.
- DECC developed a discussion paper relating to the values, needs and interests of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities regarding parks, which will inform park policies, management and the development of strategies to increase volunteering and visitation to parks and botanic gardens by people from CALD communities.

DECC remains committed to fostering a climate of mutual respect in a cohesive multicultural society and will ensure that its ongoing natural resource management, environmental and organisational policies, programs and partnerships involve and reflect the needs of people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. In 2008–09, DECC will:

- continue to foster environmental citizenship for recently arrived migrants and offer opportunities to participate in field days and provide training workshops for bilingual and other community workers
- continue to work in partnership with the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of sustainable living to CALD communities

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

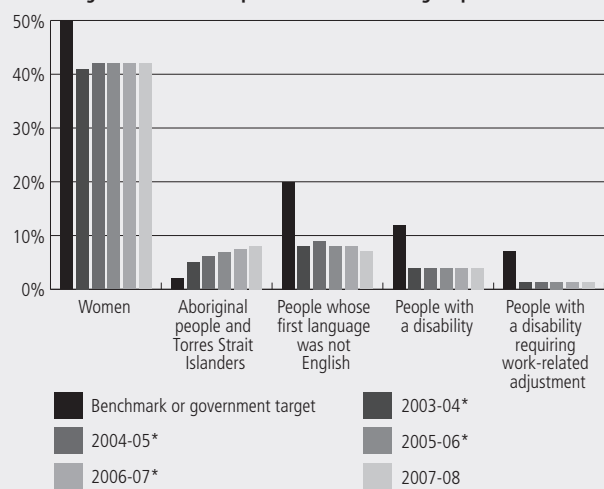
DECC staff representation in equal employment opportunity groups

Definition: DECC tracks its performance in employing people from the equal employment opportunity (EEO) target groups against the NSW Government benchmarks.

This indicator measures staff statistics according to five EEO groups: women, Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, people whose first language spoken as a child was not English, people with a disability, and people with a disability requiring work-related adjustment.

The data includes DECC staff but excludes Minister's Office staff, contractors, and board and committee members. The data is based on a headcount of staff, not full-time equivalent figures.

Percentage of DECC staff representation for EEO groups



Interpretation: DECC employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) staff remains significantly higher than the NSW Government benchmark with an increase of 0.5% from last year to 8% in 2007–08. DECC continued to administer formal employment initiatives to provide opportunities for ATSI staff to study, increase their skills, gain work experience and secure temporary and permanent employment.

DECC did not reach the NSW Government benchmarks for employment for women, people whose first language was not English, and people with disabilities. DECC will continue to improve the levels of under-represented EEO groups.

- investigate ways to increase visitation to parks and botanic gardens by people from CALD communities
- review the current park volunteer program to strategically expand volunteer conservation projects in parks and pilot new models to promote greater CALD community involvement in park management.



Photo: Evolving Images

Good knowledge and information to make decisions

Financial management

During 2007–08 DECC met the financial challenges of a significantly larger capital budget and a more complex program environment. Strong financial management was required in the areas of administrative restructuring and new initiatives, such as BioBanking and water and energy efficiency rebates. Financial strategies and systems have been enhanced and financial management training has been delivered across DECC and the catchment management authorities (CMAs). Significant financial projects and activities during the year included:

- a comprehensive reconciliation of CMA programs and funding, in close liaison with NSW Treasury
- aligning Results and Services Plan groups, budgets and reporting with the new organisational structure (DECC prepares an annual Results and Services Plan (RSP) for the NSW Treasurer to support departmental accountability for funding provided by the NSW Government. The RSP outlines intended actions, and reports on performance.)
- successfully completing unqualified statutory financial statements for 19 entities, including DECC, Environmental Trust, Environment Protection Authority, Marine Parks Authority, Lake Illawarra Authority, Chipping Norton Lakes Authority and 13 CMAs
- significant efficiency enhancements to financial systems, including implementing the SAP Asset Maintenance System, SAP Travel, SAP Online Tutorials and a comprehensive review of financial reporting and analysis (SAP is the software DECC uses in its financial management)
- strengthening working relationships with the NSW Treasury, Audit Office, CMAs, new financial and program managers joining DECC, professional bodies and other state agencies
- enhancing financial policies, procedures and protocols, including delegations, the treatment of goods and services tax and fringe benefits tax, the upgrading of business planning, quality planning and professional development, and the establishment of a new finance network for sharing information

- financial training was provided across DECC and the CMAs, with courses in financial management and the use of the financial system (SAP)
- significant efficiency enhancements were made in leave and human resource management with the implementation of Self Service Leave and higher duties applications online.

Financial improvement initiatives planned for 2008–09 include the commencement of an upgrade of SAP, launching an executive dashboard, enhancing forecasting through SAP and developing program reporting through SAP.

Insurance cover

As part of its management of risk, in 2007–08 DECC obtained insurance cover through the Treasury Managed Fund which uses Allianz for workers' compensation and GIO for other risk areas.

Areas of risk and relevant insurance premiums:

	2006-07 \$'000	2007-08 \$'000
Workers compensation	5,539	6,033
Property	1,835	2,136
Motor vehicles	1,178	1,160
Public liability	3,085	3,393
Fire	10,414	10,417
Miscellaneous	36	42
	22,087	23,181

Premiums are based on claims history over a three-year rolling period and reflect DECC's risk management approach to management of claims. The workers' compensation premium was reduced for 2007–08, but ended up being higher due to a hindsight adjustment of \$2.376 million for 2005–06.

Employee liabilities

Liability as at 30 June 2008	\$'000
Long service leave*	69,708
On cost long service leave	8,128
Recreation leave	37,315
On-cost recreation leave	1,922

*DECC liabilities for long service leave are assumed by the Crown Entity. Long service leave is measured using the present value basis.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Payment of accounts

Definition: DECC's performance on paying trade creditor accounts on time was as follows:

Trade creditor 'accounts payable' balances at the end of each quarter for the financial year 2007–08

Quarter	Current (ie within due date) \$	Fewer than 30 days \$	Between 30 and 60 days \$	Between 60 and 90 days \$	More than 90 days \$
September	4,318,150	42,422	60,857	110,551	50,127
December	4,844,965	3,731,242	18,948	0	418
March	4,884,212	1,491,760	670,606	0	32,673
June	2,577,424	0	355	5,967	1,839

The main reasons for accounts being paid outside the due date period were:

- invoices raised for large capital works are only paid on satisfactory review of the work
- invoices raised for large capital purchases may include items not yet received but expected to be received in the near future.
- some short payment terms are not necessarily appropriate in more remote settings where the documentation may take time to be collected and matched for payment.

Value of accounts paid on time for each quarter

Quarter	Target %	Actual %	\$	Total amount paid \$
September	85	91.14	105,695,683	115,974,759
December	85	84.45	183,756,529	217,582,333
March	85	72.37	43,794,424	60,517,354
June	85	89.48	428,037,420	478,340,314

Interpretation:

Late payment of accounts

DECC was not required to pay interest to creditors due to the late payment of accounts during the year.

Credit card certification

In accordance with Treasurer's Direction 205.01, it is certified that credit card usage by officers of the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change has been in accordance with the appropriate government policy, Premier's Memoranda and Treasurer's Directions.

Information management and communications technology

During the year, DECC continued to implement the 2007–2010 Information Management and Communications Technology Strategic Plan. Overall, good progress was made and the implementation of the plan proceeded according to schedule. Significant achievements during the year included:

- the successful transition of over 300 staff from the former Department of Natural Resources to DECC. This complex project was completed in June 2008.
- implementing the DECC Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure Replacement Program. During the year, approximately 750 desktop computers and 60 laptops were replaced, giving staff the necessary technology to undertake their roles and responsibilities. Work also began on implementing new technology to support the upgrade of DECC's financial and human resource applications in 2008–2009.
- upgrading the DECC IT telecommunications network. Over 200 locations are connected to the DECC IT telecommunications network. During the year, several network upgrades were completed and new network technology was implemented.
- providing IT support for various business initiatives including rollout of employee self service and online travel management; development of an asset tracking system; development of a BioBanking Information Management System to support the administration of biobanking agreements, statements and credit information; and the rollout of an online Air Quality Management System which is available to the general public on the DECC website.

DECC has developed an online Motor Vehicle Compliance Training Course to enable staff to report a vehicle that is blowing excessive smoke for more than 10 seconds; people who are littering from a motor vehicle; and a vehicle that is excessively noisy.



Customer satisfaction with DECC services

Consumer response

DECC takes consumer response seriously, including complaints and other performance feedback from the public, to improve service delivery and prevent problems recurring.

DECC's policy for managing complaints and allegations is based on NSW Government standards.

In 2007–08, DECC received 14 significant complaints. Ten of these complaints, together with 6 complaints received but not resolved in 2006–07, were finalised during the year. Evidence of improper conduct was found in three cases and appropriate action was taken in response. Changes to some systems or procedures were also recommended and these have been implemented. Training programs have been completed.

DECC engages with consumers and gathers performance feedback through:

- the DECC Information Centre
- Environment Line
- national parks information and visitors centres
- public forums and consultations
- stakeholder surveys
- consultation and advisory committees
- other communication channels, including submissions and email correspondence.

Guarantee of Service

DECC published its Guarantee of Service which covers four main standards all staff commit to when they work for DECC: respect, helpfulness, responsiveness and continuous improvement. The Guarantee of Service is published in Appendix 12.

DECC reviewed stakeholder engagement in 2007 as part of the integration of agencies under the DECC banner. DECC values its relationships with external stakeholders and recognises their valuable role in supporting environmental initiatives. The outcomes of this review will inform the way DECC staff and management work with external stakeholders in the future.

Freedom of information

DECC is committed to transparent and accountable decision making. Members of the public can access many documents held by DECC through its website (www.environment.nsw.gov.au), on request or by purchasing them. Other documents can be obtained by applying under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

DECC received 86 new FOI requests this year, one more than 2006–07, and 93 applications were processed (see Appendix 11). Many applications were from members of parliament, solicitors, journalists, companies, and community organisations. DECC received only two FOI applications from people seeking information about their personal affairs.

Although 42% of the FOI applications were subject to exemptions from release, including part exemptions, 84% of the documents captured by the FOI application were released. Many DECC applications are complex and involve documents provided by third parties such as individuals, organisations and businesses. Most FOI exemptions were made to protect those parties' personal and business affairs. Except in cases of ongoing investigations, few documents created by DECC were exempted.

There were six internal review decisions made during 2007–08. Five decisions were affirmed. In one case, the original FOI decision was varied. Three review requests were received from third parties attempting to prevent DECC from releasing documents.

There were no decisions proceeding to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal (ADT) and no complaint was made to the Ombudsman's Office about any DECC decision.

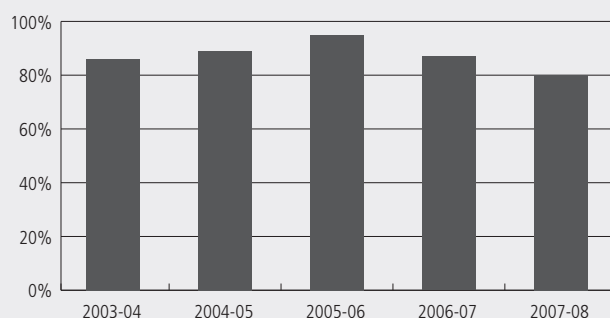
Due to the large scope and complexity of many FOI applications, four were not completed within the statutory timeframe. Some applications involved hundreds of documents, required accessing documents from a number of regional locations, and involved extensive consultation with many affected third parties.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Freedom of information requests

Definition: This indicator measures the percentage of freedom of information (FOI) applications DECC and the former DEC processed where 80% or more of the requested documents were released.

Percentage of FOI requests granted by DECC and the former DEC that provide 80% or more of requested information



Interpretation: In 2007–08, for 80% of FOI requests DECC provided 80% of the requested information. FOI requests are now generally fewer in number, but larger in scope, more complex than in previous years and involve more documents. DECC exempts very few of its documents requested under FOI from release. However, a small percentage of documents received from third parties are exempted. Third parties provide information to DECC in confidence or in response to regulatory requirements. The release of information concerning third parties' personal or business affairs may have an adverse effect on them and the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* provides protection in these circumstances.

Finance

Department of Environment and Climate Change

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Department of Environment and Climate Change



GPO BOX 12
Sydney NSW 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Department of Environment and Climate Change

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (the Department), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2008, the operating statement, statement of recognised income and expense, cash flow statement, program statement - expenses and revenues and a summary of compliance with financial directives for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Department as at 30 June 2008, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- is in accordance with section 45E of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Department Head's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Department Head is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A Act. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is 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 report based on my audit. I conducted my audit 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 whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the Department's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Department Head, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

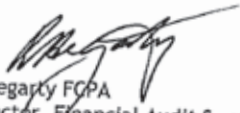
My opinion does not provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Department,
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically,
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls, or
- on the assumptions used in formulating the budget figures disclosed in the financial report.

Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General, and
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.


R Hegarty FCPA
Director, Financial Audit Service

28 October 2008
SYDNEY

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

Pursuant to section 45F of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, I state that:

- (a) the accompanying financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies, the applicable clauses of the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005 and the Treasurer's Directions;
- (b) the report exhibits a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Department; and
- (c) there are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial report to be misleading or inaccurate.



Lisa Corbyn
Director General
27 October 2008

Beginning of audited financial report

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Operating statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
Expenses excluding losses				
Operating expenses				
Employee related	2(a)	407,992	377,496	299,391
Other operating expenses	2(b)	229,720	175,424	188,523
Depreciation and amortisation	2(c)	65,061	57,117	59,062
Grants and subsidies	2(d)	241,241	369,027	125,091
Finance costs	2(e)	1,930	—	2,091
Other expenses	2(f)	183	1,890	175
Total expenses excluding losses		946,127	980,954	674,333
Less:				
Revenue				
Sale of goods and services	3(a)	32,496	113,455	29,826
Investment revenue	3(b)	28,040	6,884	16,215
Retained fees and fines	3(c)	3,048	3,000	3,043
Grants and contributions	3(d)	198,840	125,867	55,863
Other revenue	3(e)	88,945	8,549	65,592
Total revenue		351,369	257,755	170,539
Gain/(loss) on disposal	4	(1,401)	(940)	(2,789)
NET COST OF SERVICES	27	596,159	724,139	506,583
Government contributions				
Recurrent appropriation	6(a)	560,350	653,874	459,060
Capital appropriation	6(b)	125,800	50,312	49,903
Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities	7	37,761	32,899	19,001
Total government contributions		723,911	737,085	527,964
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		127,752	12,946	21,381

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Statement of recognised income and expense

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
Net increase/(decrease) in property, plant and equipment asset revaluation reserve	22	(95,942)	—	98,812
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSE RECOGNISED DIRECTLY IN EQUITY		(95,942)	—	98,812
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		127,752	12,946	21,381
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSE RECOGNISED FOR THE YEAR		31,810	12,946	120,193

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Balance sheet

AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	10	208,197	191,037	190,908
Receivables	11	36,976	34,513	33,948
Inventories	12	734	738	738
Other financial assets	13	16	16	16
Non-current assets held for sale	14	4,475	3,372	3,372
Total current assets		250,398	229,676	228,982
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment				
Land and buildings	15	2,153,077	2,181,666	2,164,600
Plant and equipment	15	62,896	70,728	68,660
Infrastructure systems	15	712,737	709,609	727,020
Total property, plant and equipment		2,928,710	2,962,003	2,960,280
Intangible assets	16	98,727	60,467	44,437
Total non-current assets		3,027,437	3,022,470	3,004,717
TOTAL ASSETS		3,277,835	3,252,146	3,233,699
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Payables	18	13,785	29,258	28,404
Provisions	20	46,981	43,764	43,611
Other	21	7,023	6,237	6,237
Total current liabilities		67,789	79,259	78,252
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings	19	39,107	36,669	32,174
Provisions	20	384	269	270
Other	21	536	—	—
Total non-current liabilities		40,027	36,938	32,444
TOTAL LIABILITIES		107,816	116,197	110,696
NET ASSETS		3,170,019	3,135,949	3,123,003
EQUITY				
Reserves	22	1,112,894	1,208,836	1,208,836
Accumulated funds	22	2,057,125	1,927,113	1,914,167
TOTAL EQUITY		3,170,019	3,135,949	3,123,003

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Cash flow statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities				
Payments				
Employment related		(298,480)	(343,449)	(260,648)
Grants and subsidies		(241,241)	(369,097)	(125,090)
Finance costs		(1,930)	—	(405)
Other		(240,421)	(195,966)	(203,969)
Total payments		(782,072)	(908,512)	(590,112)
Receipts				
Sale of goods and services		39,903	113,355	23,952
Retained fees and fines		3,049	—	3,042
Interest received		10,488	6,884	16,397
Other		217,157	155,431	121,475
Total receipts		270,597	275,670	164,866
Cash flows from government				
Recurrent appropriation	6(a)	560,350	653,874	459,060
Capital appropriation	6(b)	125,800	50,312	49,903
Cash reimbursements from the Crown Entity		4,741	—	3,592
Net cash flows from government		690,891	704,186	512,555
Net cash flows from operating activities	26 & 27	179,416	71,344	87,309
Cash flows from investing activities				
Proceeds from sale of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems		(1,402)	4,495	2,789
Purchases of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems		(119,708)	(62,175)	(68,696)
Purchases of water licences		(48,520)	(18,030)	(10,339)
Net cash flows from investing activities		(169,630)	(75,710)	(76,246)
Cash flows from financing activities				
Proceeds from borrowings and advances		5,003	4,495	3,447
Repayments of borrowings and advances		—	—	(7,510)
Net cash flows from financing activities		5,003	4,495	(4,063)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		14,789	129	6,999
Opening cash and cash equivalents		190,908	190,908	74,608
Cash transferred in as a result of administrative restructure		2,500	—	109,301
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	10	208,197	191,037	190,908

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary of compliance with financial directives

	2008			2007		
	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000
Original budget						
Appropriation/expenditure						
Appropriation Act						
Section 24 – Transfers of functions between departments	650,315	650,315	50,312	350,196	350,196	46,327
Commonwealth Specific Purpose Payments (section 26 of the PF&A Act)	(696)	(696)	–	175,896	175,896	2,191
	4,255	4,255	–	1,412	1,412	–
	653,874	653,874	50,312	527,504	494,860	48,518
Other appropriation/expenditure						
Treasurer's advance	3,692	3,692	22,989	35	35	1,385
Section 22 – Expenditure for certain works and services	(24,495)	(24,495)	50,945	–	–	–
Transfers to/from another agency (section 32 of the Appropriation Act)	3,743	3,743	1,583	–	–	–
	(17,060)	(17,060)	75,517	35	35	1,385
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	636,814	636,814	125,829	527,539	494,895	49,903
Amount drawn against appropriation	–	636,814	–	–	–	49,903
LIABILITY TO CONSOLIDATED FUND	–	–	–	–	–	–
				501		

The summary of compliance is based on the assumption that Consolidated Fund moneys are spent first (except where otherwise identified or prescribed).

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Program statement – expenses and revenues

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Program 1*		Program 2*		Program 3*		Program 4*		Program 5*		Not attributable		Total	
	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Agency's expenses and revenues														
Expenses excluding losses														
Operating expenses														
Employee related	52,841	29,149	175,746	165,187	10,039	7,682	57,667	49,328	33,759	16,696	77,940	31,349	407,992	299,391
Other operating expenses	75,343	27,045	118,489	129,068	3,012	3,263	16,367	14,677	16,509	14,470	—	—	229,720	188,523
Depreciation and amortisation	7,637	7,338	50,730	50,037	687	567	3,775	(1)	2,232	1,121	—	—	65,061	59,062
Grants and subsidies	228,001	74,911	3,244	793	366	3,123	8,988	4,335	642	41,929	—	—	241,241	125,091
Finance costs	—	253	1,930	1,293	—	61	—	361	—	123	—	—	1,930	2,091
Other expenses	12	7	150	152	2	2	12	10	7	4	—	—	183	175
Total expenses excluding losses	363,834	138,703	350,289	346,530	14,106	14,698	86,809	68,710	53,149	74,343	77,940	31,349	946,127	674,332
Retained revenue														
Sale of goods and services	2,371	298	29,143	28,849	237	174	298	234	447	271	—	—	32,496	29,826
Investment income	7,525	417	19,091	15,107	146	80	815	415	463	196	—	—	28,040	16,215
Retained fees and fines	103	91	1,803	1,766	21	23	1,042	1,119	79	44	—	—	3,048	3,043
Grants and contributions	159,879	25,148	21,089	23,502	637	632	6,544	5,103	10,691	1,478	—	—	198,840	55,863
Other revenue	1,594	1,595	8,966	31,802	34	34	259	575	152	237	77,940	31,349	88,945	65,592
Total retained revenue	171,472	27,549	80,092	101,026	1,075	943	8,958	7,446	11,832	2,226	77,940	31,349	351,369	170,539
Gain/(loss) on sale of non-current assets	—	—	(1,401)	(2,789)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1,401)	(2,789)
Net cost of services	192,362	111,154	271,598	248,293	13,031	13,755	77,851	61,264	41,317	72,117	—	—	596,159	506,583
Government contributions**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	723,911	527,964	723,911	527,964
NET EXPENDITURE/(REVENUE)	192,362	111,154	271,598	248,293	13,031	13,755	77,851	61,264	41,317	72,117	(723,911)	(527,964)	127,752	(21,381)
FOR THE YEAR														
Administered expenses														
Transfer payments (Note 8)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	76,465	36,336	76,465	36,336
Total administered expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	76,465	36,336	76,465	36,336
Administered revenues														
Transfer receipts (Note 8)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Consolidated Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	76,465	36,336	76,465	36,336
Taxes, fees and fines (Note 28)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	277,600	202,889	277,600	202,889
Total administered revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	354,065	239,225	354,065	239,225
Administered revenues less expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	277,600	202,889	277,600	202,889

* The name and purpose of each program is summarised in Note 9.

** Appropriations are made on an agency basis and not to individual programs. Consequently, government contributions must be included in the 'Not attributable' column.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

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1. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) Reporting entity

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) was established as a reporting entity by Public Sector Employment and Management (General) Order 2007 (PSEM) commencing on 27 April 2007 and comprising all the entities under its control, including the agency's commercial activities.

DECC is a NSW Government department. DECC is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not the principal objective) with no cash generating units. The reporting entity is consolidated as part of the NSW Total State Sector Accounts.

The entity holds assets and funds which are restricted for specific uses by the grantor donor. These funds and assets are controlled by DECC.

The DECC reporting entity includes employee related expenses and provisions for the catchment management authorities, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust and the Lord Howe Island Board. These are offset by income and receivables. Refer Notes 2(a), 3(e), 11 and 20 for the financial impact of these transactions.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is not a controlled entity of DECC. This view was confirmed by the Treasurer during 2005–06. As a statutory body, the EPA is required to prepare a separate financial report. The activities of the EPA are fully integrated within DECC operations. The income and expenditure of the EPA has been determined as \$66,523,000 (2006–2007: \$65,078,000).

This financial report has been authorised for issue by the Director-General on 27 October 2008.

(b) Basis of preparation

DECC's financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and Regulation
- The Financial Reporting Directions published in the *Financial reporting code for budget dependent general government sector agencies* or issued by the Treasurer.

Property, plant and equipment and intangibles are measured at fair value. Other financial statement items are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Judgements, key assumptions and estimates made by management are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial report.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

(c) Administered activities

DECC administers, but does not control, certain activities on behalf of the Crown Entity. It is accountable for the transactions relating to those administered activities but does not have the discretion, for example, to deploy the resources for the achievement of DECC's own objectives.

Transactions and balances relating to the administered activities are not recognised as DECC's revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, but are disclosed in the accompanying notes as 'Administered revenues' and 'Administered expenses', 'Administered assets' and 'Administered liabilities'.

The accrual basis of accounting and all applicable accounting standards have been adopted for the reporting of the administered activities.

(d) Income recognition

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration or contribution received or receivable. Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of income are discussed below.

(i) Parliamentary appropriations and contributions

Except as specified below, parliamentary appropriations and contributions from other bodies (including grants and donations) are generally recognised as income when DECC obtains control over the assets comprising the appropriations and contributions. Control over appropriations and contributions is normally obtained upon the receipt of cash.

An exception to the above is when appropriations are unspent at year end. In this case, the authority to spend the money lapses and generally the unspent amount must be repaid to the Consolidated Fund in the following financial year. As a result, unspent appropriations are accounted for as liabilities rather than revenue (refer to Note 18).

Where there is a liability, it is disclosed as part of 'Current liabilities – Other'. The amount would be repaid and the liability would be extinguished next financial year. Any liability in respect of transfer payments would be disclosed as part of 'Administered assets and liabilities'.

(ii) Sale of goods and services

Revenue from the sale of goods and services is recognised as revenue when DECC transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the assets.

(iii) Rendering of services

Revenue is recognised when the service is provided or by reference to the stage of completion (based on labour hours incurred to date).

(iv) Investment revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in *AASB 139 – Financial instruments: recognition and measurement*.

Rental revenue is recognised in accordance with *AASB 117 – Leases* on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(v) Taxes, fines, regulatory fees and contributions

Taxes, fines, regulatory fees and contributions collected by DECC on behalf of the Crown are not recognised as revenues of DECC and are disclosed in the financial report by way of a note only. Waste-related levies and fees are shown net of rebates (refer to Note 28).

(e) Employee benefits and other provisions**(i) Salaries and wages, annual leave, sick leave and on-costs**

Liabilities for salaries and wages (including non-monetary benefits), annual leave and paid sick leave that fall due wholly within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised and measured in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date at undiscounted amounts, based on the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future.

The outstanding amounts of payroll tax, workers' compensation insurance premiums and fringe benefits tax, which are consequential to employment, are recognised as liabilities and expenses where the employee benefits to which they relate have been recognised.

(ii) Long service leave and superannuation

DECC's liabilities for long service leave and defined benefit superannuation are assumed by the Crown Entity. DECC accounts for the liability as having been extinguished resulting in the amount assumed being shown as part of the non-monetary revenue item described as 'Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities' (see Note 7).

Long service leave is measured using the present value basis in accordance with *AASB 119 – Employee benefits*. This is based on the application of certain factors (specified in NSWTC 07/04) to employees with five or more years of service, using current rates of pay. These factors were determined on an actuarial review to approximate present value.

The superannuation expense for the financial year is determined using the formulae specified in the Treasurer's Directions. The expense for certain superannuation schemes (i.e. Basic Benefit and First State Super) is calculated as a percentage of the employee's salary. For other superannuation schemes (i.e. State Superannuation Scheme and State Authorities Superannuation Scheme) the expense is calculated as a multiple of the employees' superannuation contributions.

(iii) Other provisions

Other provisions exist when DECC has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Any provisions for restructuring are recognised only when DECC has a detailed formal plan and has raised a valid expectation in those affected by the restructuring that it will carry out the restructuring by starting to implement the plan or announcing its main features to those affected.

(f) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred in accordance with Treasury's mandate to general government sector agencies.

(g) Insurance

DECC's insurance activities are conducted through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund (TMF) Scheme of self-insurance for government agencies. The expense (premium) is determined by the fund manager based on past experience.

(h) Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except:

- the amount of GST incurred by the DECC as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense
- receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

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

(i) Acquisition of assets

The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisitions of assets controlled by DECC. Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire the asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or, where applicable, the amount attributed to the asset when initially recognised in accordance with the specific requirements of other Australian Accounting Standards.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration during the year, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition (see contributed assets – Notes 3(d) and 14). Refer also to assets transferred as a result of an administrative restructure – Note 23.

Land transferred from other agencies at no cost, awaiting gazettal, is reported at fair value. Fair value means the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Infrastructure assets and property previously under construction, which were completed and brought to account during the year have been valued at cost until that class of assets is revalued.

(j) Capitalisation thresholds

All assets valued at more than \$5,000 are capitalised. Items below \$5,000 are expensed except where they form an integral part of a network or facility (e.g. DECC radio network or wide area network). Plant and equipment comprises aircraft, motor vehicles, furniture and fittings, and other plant and equipment.

(k) Revaluation of property, plant and equipment

Physical non-current assets are valued in accordance with the *Valuation of physical non-current assets at fair value policy and guidelines paper* (TPP 07–01). This policy adopts fair value in accordance with *AASB 116 – Property, plant and equipment*.

Property, plant and equipment is measured on an existing use basis, where there are no feasible alternative uses in the existing natural, legal, financial and socio-political environment. However, in the limited circumstances where there are feasible alternative uses, assets are valued at their higher and best use.

Fair value of property, plant and equipment is determined based on the best available market evidence, including current market selling price for the same or similar assets. Where there is no available market evidence, the assets fair value is measured at its market buying price, the best indicator of which is depreciated replacement cost.

DECC is a not-for-profit entity and does not hold assets predominantly for revenue generation.

As a result of the size and nature of its assets (land, buildings, roads and other access, utilities and other infrastructure) DECC revalues its physical non-current assets on a five-year cycle or with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of each asset in the class does not differ materially from its fair value reporting date.

Set out below is a table of asset categories, dates last valued and by whom:

Asset category	Date of valuation	By whom
Land – dedicated	30 June 2005	NSW Department of Commerce*
Land – non-dedicated	20 June 2005	NSW Department of Commerce*
Buildings	1 July 2006	Australian Valuation Office
Other amenities and facilities	1 July 2004	DECC engineers**
Roads	1 July 2003	DECC engineers
Wharfs	1 July 2003	DECC engineers
Utilities and other Infrastructure	1 July 2006	DECC engineers
Aircraft	1 July 2006	Aircraft Sales Australia
Historical furniture and fittings	1 July 2006	Jonathan Alford Pty Ltd

* Land dedicated and non-dedicated valuations are in accordance with the *Guidelines for the valuation of physical non-current assets at fair value* (TTP07–1) and *AASB 116 – Property, plant and equipment*.

** Other amenities and facilities valuations are based on statewide standard costs derived by DECC engineers. These costs reflect the cost standards required to construct DECC picnic areas, camping grounds, lookouts and external interpretive signs.

Non-specialised assets with short useful lives are measured at depreciated historic cost, as a surrogate for fair value. When revaluing non-current assets by reference to current prices for assets newer than those being revalued (adjusted to reflect the present condition of the assets), the gross amount and the related accumulated depreciation are separately restated.

For other assets, any balances of accumulated depreciation existing at the revaluation date in respect of those assets are credited to the asset accounts to which they relate. The net asset accounts are then increased or decreased by the revaluation increments or decrements.

Revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, except that, to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that class of asset previously recognised as an expense in the surplus/deficit, the increment is recognised immediately as revenue in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as expenses in the surplus/deficit, except that, to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of asset, they are debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve.

As a not-for-profit entity, revaluation increments and decrements are offset against one another within a class of non-current assets but not otherwise.

Where an asset that has previously been revalued is disposed of, any balance remaining in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of that asset is transferred to accumulated funds.

(l) Impairment of property, plant and equipment

As a not-for-profit entity with no cash generating units, DECC is effectively exempt from *AASB 136 – Impairment of assets and impairment testing*. This is because AASB 136 modifies the recoverable amount test to the higher of fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost. This means that, for an asset already measured at fair value, impairment can only arise if selling costs are material. Selling costs are regarded as immaterial.

(m) Assets not able to be reliably measured

DECC holds certain assets, which have not been recognised in the balance sheet because the value of these assets cannot be measured reliably. These assets include historical buildings (not in use) and cultural artefacts.

(n) Depreciation of property, plant and equipment

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their expected useful life to DECC. This reflects the consumption of their service potential. The straight-line method is used to depreciate non-current assets.

Land is not a depreciated asset.

Certain heritage assets (in use) with an extremely long useful life are not depreciated. Depreciation for these cannot be reliably measured because the useful life and the net amount to be recovered at the end of the useful life cannot be reliably ascertained. In these cases, depreciation is not recognised. The decision not to recognise depreciation for these assets is reviewed annually.

Buildings and improvements

The construction type of DECC buildings is used to determine the asset's useful life (from which a depreciation rate is derived). For example, historic buildings in use are deemed to have useful lives of between 40 and 100 years; and visitors centres and staff residences 40 to 80 years.

Roads and other access; utilities and other infrastructure

The following depreciation rates have been adopted:

- 2.5% for roads; car parks, fire trails and management trails; walking tracks, bridges, picnic areas, camping areas and lookouts
- 5% for boat ramps and wharves, utilities and other infrastructure.

Except where bridges, boat ramps, wharves and utilities have been independently valued, an assessment of the useful life of each asset was carried out and the depreciation rate was derived accordingly.

Plant and equipment

Depreciation rates applied vary from 10% to 25% per annum.

Amortisation of intangible assets

- 25% for software.
- Nil for water licences.

(o) Maintenance

Day-to-day servicing costs or maintenance are charged as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a significant part or component of an asset, in which case the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

(p) Leased assets

Under certain leases granted by DECC, the lessee will maintain or improve the leased property, which, at the expiry of the lease, reverts to the ownership of DECC. Alternatively, where land is leased, property may be built on the land by the lessee and at the expiry of the lease, ownership of the property transfers to DECC.

Assets and improvements are brought to account by DECC on expiry of the lease when actual ownership and control revert to DECC. On assumption of ownership, the asset will be included in the DECC asset register. Examples of such prospective assets include commercial buildings and infrastructure such as marinas and ski lifts (excluding associated plant and machinery) built by lessees on DECC property.

Operating lease payments are charged to the Operating Statement in the periods in which they are incurred.

(q) Intangible assets

DECC recognises intangible assets only if it is probable that future economic benefit will flow to DECC and the cost of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired at no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

All research costs are expensed. Development costs are only capitalised when certain criteria are met. The useful lives of intangible software assets are assessed to be finite. Intangible assets are subsequently measured at fair value only if there is an active market. As there is no active market for DECC's intangible software assets, the assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation. DECC's intangible software assets are amortised using the straight-line method over a period of four years. DECC's intangible water licence assets are not amortised.

DECC recognises water licences issued under the *Water Management Act, 2000* and the *Water Act 1912*. Licences purchased are reported at cost which equates to fair value. Licences held but not purchased, which cannot be reliably measured, have not been included in the Financial Report.

In general, intangible assets are tested for impairment where an indicator of impairment exists. However, as a not-for-profit entity with no cash generating units, DECC is effectively exempt from impairment testing (refer to paragraph (l)).

(r) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These financial assets are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for any impairment of receivables. Any changes are accounted for in the Operating Statement when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process.

Short-term receivables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

(s) Inventories

Inventories held for distribution are stated at the lower of cost and current replacement cost. Inventories (other than those held for distribution) are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is calculated using the weighted average cost. Shop stocks held for 12 months or more and considered to be unsaleable are regarded as obsolete and are expensed.

Generally, the quantum of inventory held is small. DECC relies on end-of-year stock takes to identify shop stocks and inventory held for distribution for reporting purposes.

(t) Other financial assets

Other financial assets are recognised at fair value.

(u) Equity transfers

The transfer of net assets between agencies as a result of an administrative restructure, transfer of programs/functions and parts thereof between NSW public sector agencies is designated as a contribution by owners and recognised as an adjustment to 'Accumulated funds'. This treatment is consistent with Australian Interpretation 1038 – *Contributions by owners made to wholly-owned public sector entities*.

Transfers arising from an administrative restructure between government agencies are recognised at the amount at which the asset was recognised by the transferor government agency immediately prior to the restructure. In most instances this will approximate fair value. All other equity transfers are recognised at fair value.

(v) Payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to DECC and other amounts, including interest. Payables are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Short-term payables with no stated interest are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

(w) Borrowings

Loans are not held for trading or designated at fair value through profit or loss and are recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Gains or losses are recognised in the Operating Statement on de-recognition. The finance lease liability is determined in accordance with *AASB 117 – Leases*.

(x) Budgeted amounts

The budgeted amounts are drawn from budgets as formulated at the beginning of the financial year (State Budget) and with any adjustments for the effects of additional appropriations under s. 21A, s. 24, and/or s. 26 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*.

The budgeted amounts in the Operating Statement and the Cash Flow Statement are generally based on amounts disclosed in the NSW Budget Papers (as adjusted above). However, in the Balance Sheet, the amounts vary from the Budget Papers, as the opening balances of the budgeted amounts are based on carried forward actual amounts, i.e. per the audited financial statements (rather than carried forward estimates).

(y) Comparative information

Except when an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is disclosed in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

(z) Marine Parks Authority

From 27 April 2007, DECC has had sole responsibility for the Marine Parks Authority (MPA) and all associated assets and liabilities. Prior to this date, assets of the MPA, namely those covered by the four established marine parks at Jervis Bay, Solitary Islands, Cape Byron and Lord Howe Island, were administered jointly by DECC and the Department of Primary Industries.

DECC's capital equipment used for maintaining day-to-day operations of these four administered assets has been recognised and reported in accordance with DECC's Asset Acquisition and Valuation Policy – Notes 1(i) and 1(k).

The operating costs incurred by DECC in administering these assets, which are included in the operating statement, were \$3,773,902 (2006–07: \$2,005,749).

2. Expenses

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
(a) Employee related expenses		
Salary and wages (including recreation leave)*	315,369	240,884
Superannuation – defined benefits plans	12,484	6,379
Superannuation – defined contribution plans	19,937	14,761
Long service leave	30,323	12,637
Workers' compensation insurance	6,750	5,909
Payroll tax and fringe benefits tax	22,208	17,403
Other	921	1,418
	407,992	299,391

* Salaries and wages amounting to \$1,666,856 (2006–07: \$1,837,613) have been capitalised.

In 2008, \$24,091,519 was included for the Botanic Gardens and the Domain Trust and Lord Howe Island Board and \$53,848,206 for the catchment management authorities. Refer also to Notes 1(a) and 3(e).

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
(b) Other operating expenses		
Auditor's remuneration (audit or review of the financial report)	394	539
Cost of sales	1,363	1,548
Bad and doubtful debts	(96)	(27)
Operating lease rental expenses (minimum lease payments)	14,548	12,597
Other occupancy costs	4,940	4,640
Maintenance*	25,313	25,379
Insurance	17,463	16,891
Communication costs	5,375	5,770
Energy costs	4,471	3,972
Fees and services	113,234	70,114
Information dissemination	6,002	5,216
Legal costs	2,104	1,126
Stores and minor assets	13,521	13,269
Travel costs	21,936	27,581
Other	(848)	(92)
	229,720	188,523
* Reconciliation		
Maintenance expense (Note 2(b) as above)	25,313	25,379
Maintenance related employee expenses included in Note 2(a)	25,132	22,366
Total maintenance expenses included in Notes 2(a) and 2(b)	50,445	47,745
(c) Depreciation and amortisation expenses		
Buildings and improvements	9,680	9,495
Roads and other access	20,602	20,448
Utilities and other infrastructure	9,495	9,166
Plant and equipment	18,815	16,329
Furniture and fittings	1,569	1,543
	60,161	56,981
Amortisation of intangibles	4,900	2,081
	65,061	59,062
(d) Grants and subsidies		
Federal Government	6,109	1,824
NSW Government	175,301	86,564
Local government	26,947	18,343
Waste performance improvement payments	8,557	4,081
Energy Savings Fund	4,177	3,650
Water Savings Fund	3,642	8,177
Non-government organisations	16,355	2,414
Other	153	38
	241,241	125,091

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
(e) Finance costs		
Interest expense from financial liabilities not at fair value through profit or loss	1,930	2,091
	1,930	2,091
(f) Other expenses		
Bank charges	181	162
Miscellaneous	2	13
	183	175

3. Revenue

(a) Sale of goods and services

Sale of goods:		
Annual and day entry	14,363	12,637
Camping fees	7,279	6,280
Sale of assets under \$5,000	64	156
Sale of publications and stock	2,428	2,769
	24,134	21,842
Rendering of services:		
Community service	2,738	2,719
Hire of facilities	1,171	2,401
Miscellaneous park service	2,298	1,807
Minor user charges	2,155	1,057
	8,362	7,984
Total	32,496	29,826

(b) Investment revenue

Interest revenue from financial assets not at fair value through profit and loss	14,081	4,921
Lease and rental of premises	13,959	11,294
	28,040	16,215

(c) Retained fees and fines

Fees – licences and permits	856	810
Fees – kangaroo and other royalties	897	1,018
Fees – parking, court and other	1,295	1,215
	3,048	3,043

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
(d) Grants and contributions		
Funding was provided by the Commonwealth and State governments together with private and corporate sponsorship as follows (see Note 5):		
Federal Government	50,856	2,961
NSW Government	70,243	39,367
Other state governments	516	438
Local government	610	489
Non-government	73,987	8,535
Contributed assets	2,628	4,073
	198,840	55,863
(e) Other revenue		
Insurance recoveries	6,873	30,714
Telephone rebate	1	1
Personnel services (refer to Notes 1(a) and 2(a))	77,940	31,349
Miscellaneous	4,131	3,528
	88,945	65,592

(f) Revenue foregone

DECC's revenue does not include park use fees which DECC foregoes through concessions such as free and discounted park use permits provided to certain groups, including pensioners and volunteer firefighters.

4. Gain/(loss) on disposal

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets		
Land and buildings	1,219	–
Plant and equipment	677	1,429
Infrastructure	–	15
Written down value of non-current assets disposed of		
Land and buildings	(1802)	(614)
Plant and equipment	(673)	(1,988)
Infrastructure	(822)	(1,631)
Net gain/(loss) on disposal	(1,401)	(2,789)

5. Conditions on contributions

DECC received contributions for specific purposes, e.g. restoration works or scientific research projects. The amount received during this period was \$196,211,386 (2006–07: \$49,649,743). Contributions received during the year include climate change funds of \$72,003,984.

Usually, the conditions imposed upon DECC stipulate that grants provided are required to be spent on the specific project for which the funds were provided. Usually, any funds that are not used on the specific project must be refunded to the donor body.

No externally imposed financial restrictions are operable in respect of DECC's assets (except cash) as a result of such contributions. In the case of research grants, assets of an intangible nature (e.g. intellectual property) may ensue. Due to the valuation difficulties and immateriality, all costs incurred are expensed.

The contributions which were unexpended as at 30 June 2008 were \$184,719,878 (2006–07: \$50,815,157). Contributions which are unexpended at the balance date are considered to be restricted assets.

6. Appropriations

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
(a) Recurrent appropriation		
Total recurrent drawdowns from Treasury*	636,815	495,396
Less: liability to Consolidated Fund*	—	(501)
	636,815	494,895
Comprising:		
Recurrent appropriation**	560,350	459,060
Transfer payments (see Note 8)	76,465	36,336
	636,815	495,396
(b) Capital appropriation		
Total capital drawdowns from Treasury*	125,800	49,903
Less: liability to Consolidated Fund*	—	—
	125,800	49,903
Comprising:		
Capital appropriation**	125,800	49,903
	125,800	49,903
* As per Summary of Compliance		
**As per Operating Statement		

7. Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities

The following liabilities/expenses have been assumed by the Crown Entity:		
Superannuation	9,457	6,386
Long service leave	27,736	12,214
Payroll tax on superannuation	568	401
	37,761	19,001

8. Transfer payments

Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife	50	50
Lord Howe Island Board	1,789	1,311
Zoological Parks Board	35,638	34,975
Nature Conservation Trust	500	—
Catchment Management Authorities	38,488	—
	76,465	36,336

9. Programs/activities of the department

Program 1: Climate Change and Policy Programs

Objective(s): To lead the state's response to climate change.

To deliver water, energy and waste sustainability programs, and implement market-based and regulatory programs for industry and local government to reduce environmental impact.

To develop, implement and review policies, programs and procedures pertaining to catchment management, threatened species, private land conservation, native vegetation, biodiversity, conservation, air, water, noise, and coastal protection.

Program 2: Parks and Wildlife

Objective(s): To protect biodiversity and cultural heritage, and provide opportunities for visitor enjoyment, by managing NSW protected areas, including national parks, wilderness areas and marine parks, and partnering communities on off-park protected areas.

Program 3: Culture and Heritage

Objective(s) To manage and protect cultural heritage and support the involvement of Aboriginal people in the management of Country, including their traditional lands, waters and natural resources.

Program 4: Environment Protection and Regulation

Objective(s): To deliver regulated programs across air, water, noise, threatened species, pesticide use, native vegetation, waste, contaminated sites, radiation, dangerous goods, forestry and Aboriginal cultural heritage for current and proposed major new activities.

Program 5: Scientific Services

Objective(s): To ensure climate change, natural resource management and environment protection and conservation efforts by government, industry and the community are underpinned by strong science.

10. Current assets – cash and cash equivalents

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents include all of the following:		
Cash at bank	161,758	147,436
Cash on hand	158	145
Cash at TCorp	46,281	43,327
Closing cash and cash equivalents (as per cash flow statement)	208,197	190,908

'Cash at TCorp' includes a restricted asset of \$36,899,241 provided by Snowy Hydro Ltd to assist with the remediation of sites formerly occupied by that organisation. 'Cash at bank' includes a restricted asset of \$125,213,515 for the water and energy savings funds.

11. Current/non-current assets – receivables

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Current		
Sale of goods and services	15,916	16,588
Retained taxes, fees and fines	64	150
Less: allowance for impairment	(142)	(312)
Accrued income	11,822	13,120
Prepayments	1,391	912
GST	7,864	3,436
Other receivables	61	54
	36,976	33,948

Debts written off during the period amounted to \$74,599 (2006–07: \$83,583).

Reconciliation

	General government agencies	PTEs and PFEs	Other (inc C'wealth/ private and not-for-profit sectors)	Total
2007–08 movements				
Opening balance 1 July 2007	225	—	87	312
Amounts written off during the year	—	—	(75)	(75)
Amounts recovered during the year	(225)	—	(12)	(237)
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in P&L	52	—	90	142
Closing balance 30 June 2008	52	—	90	142
2006–07 movements				
Opening balance 1 July 2006	53	—	137	190
Amounts written off during the year	—	—	(84)	(84)
Amounts recovered during the year	(53)	—	(53)	(106)
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in P&L	225	—	87	312
Closing balance 30 June 2007	225	—	87	312

12. Current assets – inventories

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Finished goods – shop stocks	734	738
	734	738

13. Current assets – other financial assets at fair value

Interest-bearing deposits	16	16
	16	16

14. Current assets – held for sale

Land	4,475	3,372
	4,475	3,372

A parcel of land attached to the Yanga property went to auction on 21 June 2007 with proceeds of \$1,219,383 received during 2007–08. The balance of the proceeds was not received until July 2008 due to a delay in the subdivision/title transfer.

15. Non-current assets – property, plant and equipment

	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Infrastructure systems \$'000	Total \$'000
At 1 July 2007				
Gross carrying amount	2,341,038	118,182	1,024,162	3,483,382
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(176,438)	(49,522)	(297,142)	(523,102)
Net carrying amount	2,164,600	68,660	727,020	2,960,280
At 30 June 2008				
Gross carrying amount	2,337,306	131,517	1,039,329	3,508,152
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(184,229)	(68,621)	(326,592)	(579,442)
Net carrying amount	2,153,077	62,896	712,737	2,928,710

Reconciliation

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current reporting period is set out below.

	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Infrastructure systems \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 30 June 2008				
Net carrying amount at start of year	2,164,600	68,660	727,020	2,960,280
Additions	82,377	14,319	17,300	113,996
Disposals	(7,472)	(702)	(1,234)	(9,408)
Acquisitions through administrative restructures	19,361	917	—	20,278
Net revaluation increment/(decrement)	(98,320)	60	—	(98,260)
Depreciation expense	(9,680)	(20,384)	(30,097)	(60,161)
Class change	(351)	9	(252)	(594)
Other movements – free of cost	2,562	17	—	2,579
Carrying amount at end of year	2,153,077	62,896	712,737	2,928,710

Revaluation decrement in 2007–08 relates to settlement of a land acquisition dispute, the decrease in the land revaluation factor (from 5% to 3%) provided by the Department of Lands and revaluation to 'existing use' valuation of current year acquisitions.

	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Infrastructure systems \$'000	Total \$'000
At 1 July 2006				
Gross carrying amount	2,209,271	117,020	995,559	3,321,850
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(148,426)	(71,430)	(284,260)	(504,116)
Net carrying amount	2,060,845	45,590	711,299	2,817,734
At 30 June 2007				
Gross carrying amount	2,341,038	118,182	1,024,162	3,483,382
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(176,438)	(49,522)	(297,142)	(523,102)
Net carrying amount	2,164,600	68,660	727,020	2,960,280

Reconciliation

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current reporting period is set out below.

	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Infrastructure systems \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 30 June 2007				
Net carrying amount at start of year	2,060,845	45,590	711,299	2,817,734
Additions	29,046	15,691	17,029	61,766
Disposals	(614)	(2,259)	(1,692)	(4,565)
Acquisitions through administrative restructures	51,401	789	3,919	56,109
Net revaluation increment	33,109	26,704	25,704	85,517
Depreciation expense	(9,495)	(17,871)	(29,615)	(56,981)
Reclassification (held for sale – see Note 14)	(3,373)	–	–	(3,373)
Class change	(392)	16	376	–
Other movements – free of cost	4,073	–	–	4,073
Carrying amount at end of year	2,164,600	68,660	727,020	2,960,280

DECC holds certain assets, which are not included in the financial statements as they cannot be measured reliably – see Note 1(m).

DECC also continues to derive service potential and economic benefit from some fully depreciated assets that have not been revalued this financial year. The effect of International Financial Reporting Standards is minimal as most fully depreciated assets are likely to be in poor condition and therefore may or may not have zero value.

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Buildings	6,857	6,732
Plant and equipment	261	–
Intangibles	8,519	8,644
Infrastructure	9,360	9,360
	24,997	24,736

16. Intangible assets

	Software \$'000	Water licences \$'000	Total \$'000
At 1 July 2007			
Cost (gross carrying amount)	27,400	29,815	57,215
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(12,778)	–	(12,778)
Net carrying amount	14,622	29,815	44,437
At 30 June 2008			
Cost (gross carrying amount)	38,047	78,335	116,382
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(17,655)	–	(17,655)
Net carrying amount	20,392	78,335	98,727
Year ended 30 June 2008			
Net carrying amount at start of year	14,622	29,815	44,437
Additions (from internal development or acquired separately)	10,118	48,520	58,638
Disposals	(88)	–	(88)
Net revaluation increment/(decrement)	(2)	–	(2)
Amortisation (recognised in 'Depreciation and amortisation')	(4,900)	–	(4,900)
Class change	593	–	593
Other movements – free of cost	49	–	49
Net carrying amount at end of year	20,392	78,335	98,727

	Software \$'000	Water licences \$'000	Total \$'000
At 1 July 2006			
Cost (gross carrying amount)	15,509	6,182	21,691
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(10,142)	–	(10,142)
Net carrying amount	5,367	6,182	11,549
At 30 June 2007			
Cost (gross carrying amount)	27,400	29,815	57,215
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(12,778)	–	(12,778)
Net carrying amount	14,622	29,815	44,437
Year ended 30 June 2007			
Net carrying amount at start of year	5,367	6,182	11,549
Additions (from internal development or acquired separately)	1,295	10,339	11,634
Disposals	10,041	–	10,041
Amortisation (recognised in 'Depreciation and amortisation')	(2,081)	–	(2,081)
Other movements (reclassification)	–	13,294	13,294
Net carrying amount at end of year	14,622	29,815	44,437

17. Restricted assets

DECC has under its control a wide range of assets, such as historic buildings, dedicated land and specified sites, which are subject to restrictions on their use by virtue of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. These restrictions include disposal of the asset or, under certain circumstances, exploitation for financial or economic gain. Additional restrictions may be brought to bear by DECC's stakeholders as well as other legislation governing the use of historic sites and buildings.

DECC also conducts research projects on behalf of a wide range of donor bodies. The bodies provide funds that are restricted to use on projects specified by the donor body. Strict terms and conditions can apply to the use of these funds. Any unspent funds can be returned to the donor bodies.

DECC also has a bank account that facilitates the payment of employee entitlements for catchment management authority staff. This account is controlled by the Department of Commerce.

18. Current liabilities – payables

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Creditors	9,508	25,547
Liability to consolidated fund	–	501
Voluntary redundancies	846	408
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs	3,431	1,948
	13,785	28,404

19. Current/non-current liabilities – borrowings

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Treasury advances repayable	39,107	32,174
	39,107	32,174
Borrowings – repayment schedule		
Less than one year	–	–
One year to five years	572	–
Later than five years	38,535	32,174
Total	39,107	32,174

DECC has drawn down a repayable advance to meet costs associated with the Perisher Resort Development, i.e. to meet the costs associated with the development of a master plan and upgrading the water in the Perisher area. The repayable schedule of the interest-bearing repayable advances has been determined in the context of the NSW Infrastructure Strategy. No repayments are scheduled to commence within the next 12 months.

While DECC did not have the powers to borrow funds (i.e. loans) under the *Public Authorities (Financial Arrangements) Act 1987*, specific approval was given by the NSW Treasurer for these advances.

20. Current/non-current liabilities – provisions

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Employee benefits and related on-costs		
Recreation leave	37,315	35,586
Recreation leave on-costs	1,922	2,359
Long service leave on-cost – current*	7,744	5,666
Long service leave on-cost – non-current	384	270
Total provisions	47,365	43,881
*\$4,377,000 expected to be paid later than 12 months (2006–07: \$4,526,000)		
Aggregate employee benefits and related on-costs		
Provisions – current	46,981	43,611
Provisions – non-current	384	270
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs (see Note 18)	3,431	1,948
	50,796	45,829

*Includes Employee benefits and related on-costs for the catchment management authorities, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust and the Lord Howe Island Board – refer to Note 1(a).

21. Current/non-current liabilities – other

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Security deposits	300	361
Interest held in trust (catchment management authorities)	6,442	3,436
Prepaid income	281	2,440
	7,023	6,237
Unamortised discount (non-current)	536	–
	536	–

22. Changes in equity

	Accumulated funds		Asset revaluation reserve		Total equity	
	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Balance at the beginning	1,914,167	1,735,119	1,208,836	1,110,024	3,123,003	2,845,143
Changes in equity – transactions with owners as owners						
Increase/(decrease) in net assets from equity transfers (see Note 23)	15,206	157,666	–	–	15,206	157,666
Total	1,929,373	1,892,785	1,208,836	1,110,024	3,138,209	3,002,809
Changes in equity – other than transactions with owners as owners						
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	127,752	21,382	–	–	127,752	21,382
Increment/(decrement) on revaluation of:						
Land and buildings	–	–	(95,942)	98,812	(95,942)	98,812
Total	127,752	21,382	(95,942)	98,812	31,810	120,194
Balance at the end of the financial year	2,057,125	1,914,167	1,112,894	1,208,836	3,170,019	3,123,003

23. Increase/decrease in net assets from equity transfers

Other administrative restructures transferred since the formation of DECC are:

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Increase in assets and liabilities from 27 April 2007 administrative restructure	(4,156)	115,623
Adjustment to accumulated funds as per TPP08–3	–	(6,449)
Increase in assets and liabilities – other administrative restructures (below)	19,362	48,492
	15,206	157,666

Assets and liabilities transferred due to administrative restructure in 2007–08:

	DoC \$'000	DoL \$'000	DWE \$'000	SPA \$'000	Total \$'000
Cash	2,500	–	–	–	2,500
Receivables	660	–	(151)	–	509
Non-current assets:					
Land and buildings	–	(5,042)	(810)	(1,044)	(6,896)
Plant and equipment	917	–	(17)	–	900
Infrastructure systems	–	–	(411)	–	(411)
Intangible assets	–	–	(88)	–	(88)
Provisions	(670)	–	–	–	(670)
Net assets from administrative restructure	3,407	(5,042)	(1,477)	(1,044)	(4,156)

Other administrative restructures transferred since the formation of the Department are:

		2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Transfers of land and associated infrastructure from other agencies, which are treated as 'administrative restructuring' – refer to Note 1(u) – are detailed below:			
State Forests of NSW	Land and infrastructure	6,481	2,086
Roads and Traffic Authority	Land and infrastructure	–	(29)
Department of Lands	Land	12,881	18,180
Department of Planning	Land	–	1,492
Department of Sports & Recreation	Land	–	(547)
Jenolan Caves Trust	Land and infrastructure	–	7,327
Sydney Catchment Authority	Land	–	18,940
		19,362	47,449
Equity transfers (other than land)			
Stormwater Trust		–	1
Jenolan Caves		–	2
Greenhouse Office		–	1,040
		–	1,043
		19,362	48,492

24. Commitments for expenditure and revenue

Commitment – expenditure

(a) Capital commitments*

Aggregate capital expenditure contracted at balance date and not provided for:

Not later than one year	4,457	408
Later than one year and not later than five years	–	–
Later than five years	–	–
Total (including GST)	4,457	408

(b) Other expenditure commitments*

Aggregate other expenditure contracted at balance date and not provided for:

Not later than one year	5,712	3,078
Later than one year and not later than five years	–	–
Later than five years	–	–
Total (including GST)	5,712	3,078

(c) Operating lease** commitments*

Future non-cancellable operating lease rentals not provided for and payable:

Not later than one year	24,050	20,274
Later than one year and not later than five years	34,159	31,696
Later than five years	1,516	128
Total (including GST)	59,725	52,098

*As a consequence of the Goods and Service Tax (GST), a contingent asset is included in the commitments above. The value of this contingent asset is \$6,354,016 (2006–07: \$5,145,636), which represents commitments contracted for at balance date but not recognised in the statements as liabilities.

**Operating leases are for office accommodation, plant and equipment and motor vehicles.

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Commitment – revenue		
(a) Operating lease commitments – receivables*		
Further non-cancellable operating leases not provided for and receivable:		
Not later than one year	8,881	8,107
Later than one year and not later than five years	33,633	30,495
Later than five years	114,424	109,500
Total (including GST)	156,938	148,102

*As a consequence of the GST, a contingent liability is included in the commitments above. The value of this contingent liability is \$7,120,619 (2006–07: \$6,457,154).

DECC's revenue commitments arise from a varied portfolio of commercial leases that enable private operators to provide visitor services and experiences in national parks for a specific period of time. These lease contracts are often complex. Many contain clauses that create difficulties in estimating, with any certainty, the quantum of future commitments as the revenue is subject to various contingent factors, such as future Consumer Price Index over extended periods, sales turnover (which is itself subject to the vagaries of weather) and/or taxable income. DECC management considers that this category of leases cannot be reliably measured and has therefore excluded these leases from the above figures.

The lease commitments involving receivables reflected in this note relate solely to leases that specify a base rent component or receivables calculated as a percentage of land value which, in certain cases, is the minimum lease revenue that could be expected in future years.

25. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Contingent liabilities

There are presently unresolved disputes where legal action has been taken against DECC:

- DECC is a joint defendant in a matter before the Industrial Relations Commission in relation to allegations of unfair contract.
- An alleged breach of contract is to be judged in a local court. Presently the matter has not been listed for a hearing.

It is not practical to estimate the financial effect of these disputes.

Treasury Managed Fund

TMF manages a number of civil claims against DECC in relation to issues such as negligence and public liability. As at 30 June 2008 these included:

- The Director General is a joint defendant in Supreme Court and Land and Environment Court proceedings that commenced in December 2007. The matter relates to advice given on clearing native vegetation and bore water licences on the plaintiffs' property.
- A civil law suit in relation to water licences.
- Civil law suits against DECC by property holders who sustained property damage during the fires across a large proportion of the state in December to January 2001–02 and 2002–03.
- Civil law suits arising in relation to the January 2003 bushfires in Canberra.
- A civil law suit by an individual claiming damages in relation to alleged exposure to lead at Broken Hill.
- Civil law suits by individuals that have sustained injuries.

It is not practical to estimate the financial effect of these claims. DECC's insurable risk should adequately cover all these claims.

Other than the above, DECC is not aware of any significant or material contingent liability in existence at 30 June 2008 or which has emerged subsequent to this date, which may materially impact on the financial position of DECC as shown in the Financial Report.

Contingent assets

Treasury Managed Fund

Proceedings for the recovery of court costs are presently under way for a case against DECC that was struck out by the District Court. As at 30 June 2008, a settlement has not been reached. It is not practical to estimate the financial effect of this claim.

26. Budget review

Net cost of services

The actual net cost of services was lower than budget by \$127,980,000.

This was primarily due to the following factors:

(a) under expenditure on the Climate Change Fund, due mainly to slow take up of rebates and a delayed stormwater initiative with other parties	\$29,887,000
(b) revenue received for the purchase of water licences to be spent on capital	\$58,642,000
(c) Living Murray recurrent expenditure was lower than budget as a result of under expenditure on the Anabranch and Coly Stock water projects	\$23,600,000
(d) additional interest revenue was received from the Department of Water and Energy for the Climate Change Fund	\$6,800,000
(e) there was a reclassification of recurrent expenditure allocation to capital.	\$4,050,000

Assets and liabilities

Net assets were higher than budget by \$34,070,000

This was primarily due to the:

(a) increase in the purchase of water licences and software	\$38,260,000
(b) increase in cash and cash equivalents on hand at year end	\$17,160,000
(c) decrease in payables at year end	\$15,473,000
(d) revaluation of land and buildings	(\$28,590,000)
(e) lower than budgeted expenditure on plant and equipment.	(\$7,832,000)

Cash flows

The net increase in cash held is consistent with DECC's budget for 2007–08

Significant variances to budget included:

(a) additional interest revenue was received from the Department of Water and Energy for the Climate Change Fund	\$6,800,000
(b) cash reimbursed from the Crown for long service leave paid was not included in the Budget Papers	\$4,741,000
(c) purchase of land and buildings, plant and equipment, infrastructure systems and water licences was higher than budgeted due to an increase in the purchase of water licences and the settlement of a land acquisition dispute	(\$71,891,000)
(d) Living Murray recurrent expenditure was lower than budget as a result of under expenditure on the Anabranch and Coly Stock water projects	\$23,600,000
(e) there was under expenditure on the Climate Change Fund, due mainly to slow take up of rebates and a delayed stormwater initiative with other parties.	\$29,887,000

27. Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities to net cost of services

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Net cash flows used on operating activities	(179,416)	(87,309)
Cash flows from government appropriations	686,150	508,963
Acceptance by Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities	37,761	19,001
Depreciation and amortisation	65,061	59,062
Contributed assets	(2,628)	(4,073)
Decrease/(increase) in receivable	(4,130)	(15,003)
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	3	263
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	4,020	12,995
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(14,619)	12,590
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	786	3,907
Increase/decrease in borrowings	1,930	–
Increase/(decrease) due to first time adoption of AEIFRS	–	(4,770)
Net effect on accumulated funds from restructure	(160)	(1,832)
Net loss/(gain) on sale of plant and equipment	1,401	2,789
Net cost of services	596,159	506,583

28. Administered assets, liabilities and revenue

Receipts collected on behalf of the Consolidated Fund are not included in DECC's Financial Report. They are brought to account as revenue in the Treasurer's Public Accounts.

		2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
(a) Administered assets	Receivables	1,270	1,905
	Allowance for impairment	(748)	(693)
	Cash	119	6,165
	Remittance clearing	(119)	(6,165)
	Accrued income	7,213	4,774
		7,735	5,986
(b) Administered liabilities	Creditors	526	–
		526	–
(c) Administered revenues	Pollution licences and approvals	47,742	41,798
	Radiation licences	1,590	1,251
	Other fees and licences	1,367	1,551
	Waste-related levies and fees	228,852	157,888
	Waste levy rebates	(2,784)	(450)
	Fines	833	851
Total revenue collected on behalf of the Crown		277,600	202,889

29. Administered revenue – debts written off

Debts written off in 2007–08: \$47,418.00 (2006–07: \$10,480.00)

30. Administered revenue – schedule of uncollected amounts

Schedule of uncollected amounts

	\$'000
Waste audit levies	758
Pollution control licences	288
Radiation control licences	224
	1,270

		Waste audit levies		Pollution control licences		Radiation control licences	
	Total (\$'000)	Past due but not impaired (\$'000)	Considered impaired (\$'000)	Past due but not impaired (\$'000)	Considered impaired (\$'000)	Past due but not impaired (\$'000)	Considered impaired (\$'000)
2008							
< three months overdue	106	14	—	22		70	
three months – six months overdue	236	149	—	16		71	
> six months overdue	748	621	—	111		16	

Notes: The ageing analysis excludes receivables that are not past due and not impaired. Therefore, the total will not reconcile to the schedule of uncollected amounts.

31. Financial instruments

DECC's principal financial instruments are outlined below. These arise directly from DECC's operations or are required to finance these operations. DECC does not enter into or trade financial instruments for speculative purposes, nor does it use financial derivatives. Classes of instruments are recorded at cost and are carried at net fair value.

DECC's main risks arising from financial instruments are outlined below, together with DECC's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk. Further quantitative and qualitative disclosures are included throughout this financial report.

The Director General has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of risk management and reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by DECC, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed by the Audit Committee/internal auditors on a continuous basis.

(a) Financial instrument categories

Financial assets	Note	Category	Carrying amount	Carrying amount
			2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Class:				
Cash and cash equivalents	10	N/A	208,197	190,908
Receivables ¹	11	Loans and receivables (at amortised cost)	27,721	29,600
Other financial assets	13	Term deposit	16	16
Financial liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying amount	Carrying amount
			2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Class:				
Payables ²	18	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	13,785	28,404
Borrowings	19	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	39,107	32,174

Notes:

1. Excludes statutory receivables and prepayments (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7).

2. Excludes unearned revenue (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7).

Cash and cash equivalents

The carry amounts from Treasury advances are not materially different from their fair values. A repayment schedule is included in Note 31.

(b) Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of DECC's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to DECC. The maximum exposure to credit risk is generally represented by the carrying amount of the financial assets (net of any allowance for impairment).

Credit risk arises from the financial assets of DECC, including cash, receivables and department deposits. No collateral is held by DECC. DECC has not granted any financial guarantees.

Credit risk associated with DECC's financial assets, other than receivables, is managed through the selection of counterparties and establishment of minimum credit rating standards. DECC's deposits held with NSW TCorp are guaranteed by the State.

Cash

Cash comprises cash on hand and bank balances within the NSW Treasury Banking System. Interest is earned on daily bank balances at the monthly average NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) 11 a.m. unofficial cash rate adjusted for a management fee to Treasury. The TCorp Hour Glass cash facility is discussed in para (d) below.

Receivables – trade debtors

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectibility of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Procedures as established in the Treasurer's Directions are followed to recover outstanding amounts, including letters of demand. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. An allowance for impairment is raised when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due. This evidence includes past experience, and current and expected changes in economic conditions and debtor credit ratings. No interest is earned on trade debtors. Sales are made on 30-day terms.

DECC is not materially exposed to concentrations of credit risk to a single trade debtor or group of debtors. Based on past experience, debtors that are not past due (2007–08: \$3,039 million; 2006–07: \$3,406 million) and not less than 1 month past due (2007–08: \$1,016 million; 2006–07: \$1,229 million) are not considered impaired and together these represent 59% of the total trade debtors. Most of DECC's debtors have a good credit rating. There are no debtors which are currently not past due or impaired whose terms have been renegotiated.

Sales are made on 30-day terms. All lease revenue falls due immediately after the issue of the customer invoice except where the lease rent schedule conditions stipulate otherwise.

	Total (\$'000)	Past due but not impaired (\$'000)	Considered impaired (\$'000)
2008			
< three months overdue	3,342	3,342	—
three months – six months overdue	257	257	—
> six months overdue	142	142	—
2007			
< three months overdue	12,696	12,696	—
three months – six months overdue	325	325	—
> six months overdue	312	312	—

Notes:

1. Each column in the table reports 'gross receivables'.

2. The ageing analysis excludes statutory receivables, as these are not within the scope of AASB 7 and excludes receivables that are not past due and not impaired. Therefore, the total will not reconcile to the receivables total recognised in the balance sheet.

Other financial assets

As at 30 June 2008, DECC held two fixed term interest-bearing deposits to the value of \$15,500 (2006–07: \$15,500) with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Deposits at 30 June 2008 were earning an interest rate of 6.5% (2006–07: 6.05%) while over the period the average interest rate was 6.5% (2006–07: 5.83%).

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that DECC will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due. DECC continuously manages risk through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets. The objective is to maintain a balance between continuity of funding and flexibility through the use of overdrafts, loans and other advances.

DECC does not have any bank overdraft facility. However it does have a number of operational activities/limits with the bank that have a potential to be a liability. These include cheque cashing authorities, purchase card limits, a payroll agreement and a tape negotiation authority.

During the current and prior years, there were no defaults or breaches on any payables. No assets have been pledged as collateral. DECC's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

The liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in Treasurer's Direction 219.01. If trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received. Treasurer's Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment. No interest for late payment was applied during 2007–08 (2006–07: Nil).

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the Department's financial liabilities, together with the interest rate exposure.

Maturity analysis and interest rate exposure of financial assets and liabilities

	Interest rate exposure			Maturity dates			
	Weighted average effective interest rate	Nominal amount	Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	< 1 year	1–5 years	> 5 years
2008							
Payables:							
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs		3,431	—	—	3,431	—	—
Creditors		9,508	—	—	9,508	—	—
Borrowings:							
TCorp borrowings		39,107	6.0%	—	—	572	38,535
		52,046			12,939	572	38,535
2007							
Payables:							
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs		1,948	—	—	1,948	—	—
Creditors		25,547	—	—	25,547	—	—
Borrowings:							
Bank overdraft							
TCorp borrowings		32,174	6.0%	—	—	—	32,174
		59,669			27,495	—	32,174

(d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. DECC's exposures to market risk are primarily through interest rate risk on DECC's borrowings and other price risks associated with the movement in the unit price of the Hour Glass investment facilities. DECC has no exposure to foreign currency risk and does not enter into commodity contracts.

The effect on profit and equity due to a reasonably possible change in risk variable is outlined in the information below, for interest rate risk and other price risk. A reasonably possible change in risk variable has been determined after taking into account the economic environment in which DECC operates and the timeframe for the assessment (i.e. until the end of the next annual reporting period). The sensitivity analysis is based on risk exposures in existence at the balance sheet date. The analysis is performed on the same basis for 2007. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

Interest rate risk

Exposure to interest rate risk arises primarily through DECC's interest bearing liabilities. This risk is minimised by undertaking mainly fixed rate borrowings, primarily with NSW TCorp. DECC does not account for any fixed rate financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss or as available for sale. Therefore for these financial instruments a change in interest rates would not affect profit or loss or equity. A reasonably possible change of +/- 1% is used, consistent with current trends in interest rates. The basis will be reviewed annually and amended where there is a structural change in the level of interest rate volatility. DECC's exposure to interest rate risk is set out below.

\$'000					
	Carrying amount	-1%		+1%	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
2008					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	208,197	(2,082)	(2,082)	2,082	2,082
Receivables	36,976	(370)	(370)	370	370
Financial liabilities					
Payables	13,785	138	138	(138)	(138)
Borrowings	39,107	391	391	(391)	(391)
Other	16	–	–	–	–
2007					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	190,908	(1,909)	(1,909)	1,909	1,909
Receivables	33,948	(339)	(339)	339	339
Financial liabilities					
Payables	28,404	284	284	(284)	(284)
Borrowings	32,174	322	322	(322)	(322)
Other	16	–	–	–	–

Other price risk

Exposure to 'other price risk' primarily arises through the investment in the TCorp Hour Glass Investment facilities, which are held for strategic rather than trading purposes. DECC has no direct equity investments. DECC holds units in the following Hour Glass investment trusts:

Facility	Investment sectors	Investment horizon	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Cash facility	Cash, money market instruments	Up to 2 years	46,281	43,327

The unit price of each facility is equal to the total fair value of net assets held by the facility divided by the total number of units on issue for that facility. Unit prices are calculated and published daily.

NSW TCorp as trustee for the above facility is required to act in the best interest of the unit holders and to administer the trusts in accordance with the trust deeds. As trustee, TCorp has appointed external managers to manage the performance and risks of each facility in accordance with a mandate agreed by the parties. However, TCorp acts as manager for part of the Cash Facility. A significant portion of the administration of the facilities is outsourced to an external custodian.

Investment in the Hour Glass facilities limits DECC's exposure to risk, as it allows diversification across a pool of funds, with different investment horizons and a mix of investments.

NSW TCorp provides sensitivity analysis information for each of the facilities, using historically based volatility information collected over a ten-year period, quoted at two standard deviations (i.e. 95% probability). The TCorp Hour Glass investment facilities are designated at fair value through profit or loss and therefore any change in unit price impacts directly on profit (rather than equity). A reasonably possible change is based on the percentage change in unit price (as advised by TCorp) multiplied by the redemption value as at 30 June each year for each facility (balance from Hour Glass statement).

	Impact on profit/loss		
	Change in unit price	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Hour Glass Investment Cash Facility	+/- 6.82%	3,156	2,955

(e) Fair value

Financial instruments are generally recognised at cost, with the exception of the TCorp Hour Glass facilities, which are measured at fair value. As discussed, the value of the Hour Glass investments is based on DECC's share of the value of the underlying assets of the facility, based on the market value. All of the Hour Glass facilities are valued using 'redemption' pricing.

The amortised cost of financial instruments recognised in the balance sheet approximates fair value because of the short-term nature of the financial instruments.

32. Early adoption of standards – AASB 108 review

At reporting date, a number of Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been issued or reviewed by the AASB but are not yet operative. As per Treasury mandate these have not been early adopted by the Department. As at reporting date, the effect of any change if any is believed not to be material.

	AASB amendment	Application date for Department
Accounting Standards		
AASB 7 Financial Instruments: disclosure	New standard	1/07/2007
AASB 8 Operating segments	2007–3	1/01/2009
AASB 101 Presentation of financial report	Revised	1/01/2007
AASB 123 Borrowing costs	2007–6	1/01/2009
AASB 1049 General government sector and GFS/GAAP convergence	Revised	1/01/2008
Various Regarding Australian additions to and deletions from IFRSs	2007–4	1/01/2007
AASB 102 Inventories held for distribution by not-for-profit entities	2007–5	1/07/2007

Interpretations

Interpretation 4 (Feb 2007) regarding determining whether an arrangement contains a lease
 Interpretation 10 regarding interim financial reporting
 Interpretation 11 and AASB 2007–01 regarding group and treasury transactions
 Interpretation 12 and AASB 2007–02 regarding service concession arrangements

33. After balance date events

There are no significant events subsequent to balance sheet date.

End of audited financial report

Environment Protection Authority



GPO BOX 12
Sydney NSW 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Environment Protection Authority

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Environment Protection Authority (the Authority), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2008, the income statement, statement of recognised income and expense and cash flow statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Environment Protection Authority as at 30 June 2008, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- is in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

The Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The members of the Board are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A Act. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is 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 report based on my audit. I conducted my audit 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 whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the Authority's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the members of the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Authority,
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically, or
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General, and
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.


R Hegarty FCPA
Director, Financial Audit Services

31 October 2008
SYDNEY

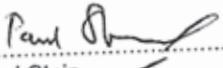
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

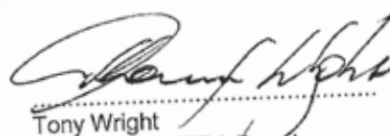
Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2008

Pursuant to section 41C (1B) and (1C) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, and clause 11(a) and (b) of the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005*, we state that:

- (a) the accompanying financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005* and the Treasurer's Directions
- (b) the report exhibits a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Authority; and
- (c) there are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial report to be misleading or inaccurate.


Paul Stein
Chair, EPA Board
October 2008


Tony Wright
Deputy Chair, EPA Board
October 2008

Environment Protection Authority

ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

I hereby adopt the Financial Statements of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), which have been prepared in accordance with the statute provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983, and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005 and the Treasurer's Directions.

Pursuant to section 41C of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I recommend that:

two members of the EPA Board provide a statement to the effect that in their opinion the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983, the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005 and the Treasurer's Directions; that the statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Authority, and they are not aware of any circumstances, which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



Carmel Tebbutt
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment

30 October 2008

Beginning of audited financial report

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Income statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
Revenue			
Other revenue	2	66,523	65,078
Total revenue		66,523	65,078
Less:			
Expenses			
Operating expenses			
Board member fees	3(a)	319	339
Audit fees	3(a)	11	10
Other expenses	3(b)	66,193	64,729
Total expenses		66,523	65,078
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		—	—

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Statement of recognised income and expense

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
Net income recognised directly in equity		—	—
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		—	—
Total income and expense recognised for the year		—	—

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Balance sheet

AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash		—	—
Receivables		—	—
Total current assets		—	—
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment			
Land and buildings		—	—
Plant and equipment		—	—
Total non-current assets		—	—
Total assets		—	—
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables		—	—
Provisions		—	—
Total current liabilities		—	—
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions		—	—
Total non-current liabilities		—	—
Total liabilities		—	—
Net assets		—	—
EQUITY			
Reserves		—	—
Accumulated funds		—	—
Total equity		—	—

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Cash flow statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employment related		—	—
Grants and subsidies		—	—
Other		—	—
Total payments		—	—
Receipts			
Sale of goods and services		—	—
Retained fees and fines		—	—
Investment income		—	—
Other		—	—
Government contributions		—	—
Total receipts		—	—
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		—	—
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems		—	—
Purchases of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems		—	—
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		—	—
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from borrowings and advances		—	—
Repayments of borrowings and advances		—	—
NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		—	—
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD			
Opening cash and cash equivalents		—	—
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		—	—

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) Reporting entity

The Public Sector Employment and Management (Environment and Conservation) Order 2003 (PSEM) made on 24 September 2003 established a new Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). This was partly achieved by the abolition of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) as a department. As such, the EPA is no longer a separate department of the Crown. On the 27 April 2007, the Department of Environment and Conservation became the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).

A need was identified to retain an independent role for the statutory body corporate of the EPA in taking legal actions, including the possible prosecution of State Government authorities and for most serious Tier 1 prosecutions. As a result, the Government decided to retain a separate legal entity that could take this legal action. It is important to recognise that the surviving statutory body known as the EPA with its Board is a legal mechanism only that operates within the confines of the environment protection legislation, such as the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*, in order to facilitate certain activities of DECC staff.

The EPA has no staff of its own, no material assets under its control and no material liabilities and will not receive a direct allocation from the Consolidated Fund to fund its operations. DECC has been providing services and resources free of charge for the EPA's operations.

While the activities of the EPA are fully integrated within DECC operations, as a statutory body the EPA is required to produce a separate financial report. The fair value of the expenditure of the EPA has been derived through an assessment by management of the resources consumed by DECC to enable the EPA to discharge its obligations. A notional grant has been provided by DECC as an offset.

This financial report was authorised for issue by the Minister on 30 October 2008.

(b) Basis of preparation

The EPA's financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Accounting Interpretations)
- the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and its Regulation.

Judgements, key assumptions and estimates made by management are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial report.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

2. Revenue

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Other revenue		
Grant from DECC	66,523	65,078
	66,523	65,078

3. Expenses

(a) Operating expenses

Board member fees	319	339
Audit fees	11	10
	330	349

(b) Other expenses

Fees for service – DECC	66,193	64,729
	66,193	64,729

Total expenditure	66,523	65,078
--------------------------	---------------	---------------

4. Expenditure by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC)

Total expenses relating to the EPA have been spent by DECC in a number of program areas. This expenditure is reported in Note 3. A description of each program, its objectives and the amount expended follows. In 2008, DECC programs were amended to better reflect the objectives of the new agency and comparative figures below have been amended as if the programs were in place in 2007. The amendment of the 2007 programs has resulted in a decrease of \$2,677,000 in the amounts reported in the 2007 financial report for both the grant received from DECC (refer to Note 2) and the other operating expenses paid to DECC (refer to Note 3(b)). There was no impact on either the operating result or total equity reported in the 2007 financial report.

Climate Change and Policy Programs

Objective(s): To lead the state's response to climate change.

To deliver water, energy and waste sustainability programs, and implement market-based and regulatory programs for industry and local government to reduce environmental impact.

To develop, implement and review policies, programs and procedures pertaining to catchment management, threatened species, private land conservation, native vegetation, biodiversity, conservation, air, water, noise, and coastal protection.

Environment Protection and Regulation

Objective(s): To deliver regulated programs across air, water, noise, threatened species, pesticide use, native vegetation, waste, contaminated sites, radiation, dangerous goods, forestry and Aboriginal cultural heritage for current and proposed major new activities.

Scientific Services

Objective(s): To ensure climate change, natural resource management and environmental protection and conservation efforts by government, industry and the community are underpinned by strong science.

Program	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Climate Change and Policy Programs	12,364	22,289
Environment Protection and Regulation	47,117	42,282
Scientific Services	6,712	158
	66,193	64,729

5. Contingent liabilities

There are no known contingent liabilities that would impact on the state of affairs of the EPA or have a material impact on the financial report.

6. Early adoption of standards

At reporting date a number of Australian Accounting Standards had been issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board but are not yet operative. These have not been early adopted by the Authority. These standards have been assessed for their possible impact on the financial report, if any, in the period of their initial application. The assessment concluded that there will be no material impact.

7. After balance date events

There are no known events that would impact on the state of affairs of the EPA or have a material impact on the financial report.

End of audited financial report

Marine Parks Authority



GPO BOX 12
Sydney NSW 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Marine Parks Authority

To the Treasurer

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Marine Parks Authority (the Authority), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2008, the income statement, statement of recognised income and expense and cash flow statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2008, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- is in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The members of the Authority are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A Act. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is 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 report based on my audit. I conducted my audit 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 whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the Authority's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the members of the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

My opinion does not provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Authority,
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically, or
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General, and
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.


R Hegarty FCPA
Director, Financial Audit Services

11 November 2008
SYDNEY

STATEMENT BY MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

Financial report

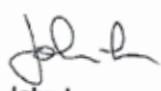
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

Pursuant to section 41C (1b) and (1c) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, and clause 11(a) and (b) of the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005*, we state that:

(a) the accompanying financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005* and the Treasurer's Directions;

(b) the report exhibits a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Authority; and

(c) there are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial report to be misleading or inaccurate.


John Lee
Chair, Marine Parks Authority
October 2008

 31/10/08.
Doug Hocking
Acting Member, Marine Parks Authority
October 2008


Lisa Corbyn
Member, Marine Parks Authority
27 October 2008

Beginning of audited financial report

MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

Income statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
Revenue			
Sale of goods and services	2(a)	1	41
Retained fees and fines	2(b)	28	—
Government contributions	2(c)	4,702	23,163
Other revenue	2(d)	13	19
Total revenue		4,744	23,223
Expenditure			
Operating expenses			
Other operating expenses	3(a)	1,650	1,408
Personnel services	3(b)	2,886	2,557
Other expenses	3(c)	—	19,258
Total expenses		4,536	23,223
Gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets		—	—
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	5	208	—

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

Statement of recognised income and expense

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
Net income recognised directly in equity			
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	5	208	—
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSE RECOGNISED FOR THE YEAR		208	—

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

Balance sheet

AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	283	75
Receivables		—	—
Other		—	—
Total current assets		283	75
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment		—	—
Land and buildings		—	—
Plant and equipment		—	—
Total property, plant and equipment		—	—
Intangible assets		—	—
Total non-current assets		—	—
Total assets		283	75
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables		—	—
Borrowings		—	—
Provisions		—	—
Other		—	—
Total current liabilities		—	—
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings		—	—
Provisions		—	—
Total non-current liabilities		—	—
Total liabilities		—	—
Net assets		283	75
EQUITY			
Reserves		—	—
Accumulated funds		283	75
Total equity		283	75

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

Cash flow statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employment related		—	—
Other		(4,536)	(23,223)
Total payments		(4,536)	(23,223)
Receipts			
Sale of goods and services		1	41
Retained fees and fines		50	—
Government contributions		4,692	23,159
Other		1	23
Total receipts		4,744	23,223
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	5	208	—
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of land and buildings, and plant and equipment		—	—
Purchases of land and buildings, and plant and equipment		—	—
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		—	—
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from borrowings and advances		—	—
Repayments of borrowings and advances		—	—
NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		—	—
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD		208	—
Opening cash and cash equivalents		75	75
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		283	75

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial report

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) Reporting entity

The Marine Parks Authority (MPA) is a reporting entity, whose activities are administered by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). Prior to 27 April 2007, the activities of the MPA were administered by the Department of Primary Industries, the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Premier's Department.

The MPA has no staff of its own, no material assets under its control or liabilities.

Transactions relating to the operations of the MPA, as represented in the financial report, are salaries and operational expenses, and any revenues identified by the administering agency.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the Chair of the authority on 31 October 2008.

(b) Basis of preparation

The Authority's financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations); and
- the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and Regulations.

Where there are inconsistencies between the above requirements, the legislative provisions have prevailed.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

(c) Income recognition

Income is recognised when the administering Department has control of the good or right to receive, it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Department and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.

(d) Employee benefits

The Marine Parks Authority does not employ staff of its own. Staff from the Department of Environment and Climate Change are used to perform various functions in relation to the activities of the MPA.

(e) Capital charge

The Marine Parks Authority does not own assets. It utilises assets controlled by the administering department for the undertaking of its functions. A charge out cost has been included within operating expenses to reflect the use of these assets. The Marine Parks Authority utilises items such as marine craft, computers, buildings and general plant and equipment.

(f) Marine Parks Act

The *Marine Parks Act 1997* (the Act) commenced on 1 July 1998. The objects of the Act are: to conserve marine biological diversity and marine habitats by declaring and providing for the management of a comprehensive system of marine parks; to maintain ecological processes in marine parks; to provide for the ecologically sustainable use of fish (including commercial and recreational fishing) and marine vegetation in marine parks; and to provide opportunities for public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of marine parks.

The Act provides for the establishment of a Marine Parks Fund in which all fees and charges under the Act and money received in connection with administration of the Act are paid.

(g) Buyout of commercial fishers

In 2006–07, the Department of Primary Industries received funding of \$19.258 million to buy out commercial fishers in Port Stephens and Batemans Bay. An amount of \$19.258 million was expended as at 30 June 2007.

2. Revenues

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
(a) Sale of goods and services		
Sale of goods	1	41
	1	41
(b) Retained fees and fines		
Retained fees and fines	28	–
	28	–
(c) Government contributions		
Government appropriations	–	23,088
Agency contributions	4,556	75
Federal government	146	–
	4,702	23,163
(d) Other revenue		
Other	13	19
	13	19

3. Expenses

(a) Other operating expenses		
Fees – general	1,650	1,408
	1,650	1,408
(b) Personnel services		
Personnel services are acquired from Department of Environment and Climate Change (and Department of Primary Industries and the Premier's Department in 2007).	2,886	2,557
	2,886	2,557
(c) Other expenses		
Buy out of commercial fishers (refer to Note 1(g))	–	19,258
	–	19,258

4. Current assets

Cash at bank	283	75
	283	75

5. Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities to surplus for the year

Net cash flows from operating activities	208	–
Surplus for year	208	–

6. Marine Parks Fund

The Marine Parks Fund was established under the provisions of the *Marine Parks Act 1997*. During 2007–08, the fund was administered by the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

7. Commitments

The Marine Parks Authority did not have any commitments at 30 June 2008.

8. Contingent liabilities

The Marine Parks Authority board is not aware of any contingent liabilities at 30 June 2008.

9. Early adoption of Australian Accounting Standards

At reporting date, a number of Australian Accounting Standards have been issued by the AASB but are not yet operative. These have not been early adopted by the Authority. These standards have been assessed for their possible impact on the financial report, if any, in the period of their initial application. The assessment concluded that there will be no material impact.

End of audited financial report

Appendices

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1. Statement of responsibility

As Director General, I have worked with other Executive members, principal officers and managers who are responsible for particular internal control processes to provide reasonable assurance that DECC is achieving its objectives and using its resources efficiently. These processes include:

- reporting to me and the Executive on aspects of organisational performance
- controlling how expenditure and staff resources are managed
- contracting out various independent external assessments of aspects of our work
- managing a program of internal audits that focuses on both operational and financial risk.

I participate on an independently chaired statutory audit and compliance committee established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* that reports to the Minister and to the Internal Audit Committee which has independent members. Details of internal audits and external assessments are provided on pages 103–105.

To the best of my knowledge, all these control processes have operated satisfactorily during the reporting year.



LISA CORBYN
Director General

2. Performance of senior staff

Name: Ms Lisa Corbyn
Position Title: Director General
Period: 1 July 2007–30 June 2008
SES Level: SES 8
Remuneration: \$357,301

During the year Ms Corbyn provided strong leadership, sound management and corporate team building for DECC which was formed in April 2007, and in delivering on priority outcomes under the State Plan. DECC is the lead agency for State Plan targets dealing with clean air, greenhouse gas reduction, natural resource management and building community resilience as part of Aboriginal community programs, and is a partner agency for seven other priorities including more people using parks.

Throughout the year Ms Corbyn led challenging policy and legislative reforms, established a new program for stakeholder engagement and implemented a broad range of environmental, conservation and natural resource management programs.

Ms Corbyn is active in whole-of-government and national processes including chairing the climate change and natural resource management and environment Chief Executive Officer clusters, participating in other clusters such as transport, land supply, metropolitan water and participating in the Chief Executives Committee. She is also Deputy Commissioner of the Murray Darling Basin Commission and a member of the Marine Parks Authority.

Results

- Strongly supported the State Plan process by progressing priority delivery plans, chairing the 'Environment for Living' annual stakeholder session and participating in regional forums.
- Delivered key strategies for the State Plan outcomes including; the Clean Air Forum, Cleaner Vehicles and Fuels Strategy, and the new Natural Resource Management Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting framework, and assisted in establishing the National Parks and Wildlife Service Tourism Task Force.
- Delivered major regulatory and policy approaches including marine parks legislative reforms, and progressed new proposed legislation on dangerous goods and contaminated lands, biobanking and Environment Protection Authority licensing reforms.
- On climate change, progressed the NSW Energy Efficiency Strategy and Government Sustainability Policy and proposed a new Climate Change Action Plan approach while also collaborating on the new Council of Australian Governments climate change efforts.
- Implemented new frameworks and strategies for native vegetation including a new compliance approach, commencing nine native vegetation prosecutions, resolving the classification and standard setting for mapping and implementing the code for private native forestry.
- Supported ongoing work with Aboriginal communities including developing programs for negotiating new co-management arrangements, rolling out DECC's cultural awareness training, delivering key milestones on Two Ways Together and increasing DECC's Aboriginal employment.

- Worked collaboratively with catchment management authorities to progress natural resource management programs and reposition efforts in the context of the Commonwealth's new Caring for Our Country funding approach, and to improve corporate governance frameworks.
- Progressed environmental water recovery targets and use including the purchase of almost 35,000 ML of environmental water over a two-year period, revamping The Living Murray effort, and delivering water to stressed ecosystems such as the ecosystem supporting the Southern Bell Frog.
- Introduced a new asset maintenance approach as well as structured fire, pest and weed programs for national parks, and initiated zoning plan reviews for two marine parks.
- Delivered on the major agency restructure and achieved significant corporate servicing benchmarks.

Name: Mr Simon A Y Smith
Position Title: Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group
Period: 1 July 2007–30 June 2008
SES Level: SES 7
Remuneration: \$357,300

The Director General has expressed satisfaction with Mr Smith's performance throughout 2007–08. Mr Smith has achieved the performance criteria contained in his performance agreement. He has been a strong leader, driving implementation of reforms using innovative approaches to meet Government priorities and community expectations.

Results

- Established a new climate change policy capability to develop the new roles for NSW that follow the Commonwealth's commitment to implement an emissions trading scheme, and supported the Minister in developing a new \$150 million NSW Energy Efficiency Strategy that was announced by the Premier in June.
- Successfully delivered the Government's Climate Change Fund, including grants and rebates for householders, businesses and local councils.
- Continued the successful acquisition of water for inland NSW, with water entitlement holdings by 30 June 2008 totalling 34,881 ML of entitlement across the Gwydir, Macquarie, Lachlan, and Murrumbidgee valleys, and continued delivery of the Government's coastal and floodplain program.
- Supported the continued development of the Government's reforms of conservation legislation, policies and programs. These included biodiversity certification for Sydney's north-west and south-west growth centres, legislation to secure financial benefits for holders of voluntary conservation agreements, final preparations for the commencement of the BioBanking Scheme, and regulation of forestry activities in native forests conducted by the private sector.
- Guided the establishment of a new structure for DECC following the transfer in of natural resource management and related functions from the former Department of Natural Resources, and ensured continuous service delivery during the change.

Name: Mr Joe Woodward
Position Title: Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Group
Period: 3 December 2007–30 June 2008
SES Level: SES 6
Remuneration: \$284,950

The Director General has expressed satisfaction with Mr Woodward's performance throughout 2007–08. Mr Woodward was appointed as Executive Director Operations and then Deputy Director General Environment and Protection and Regulation Group from February 2008.

Mr Woodward has achieved the criteria in his performance agreement. He has overseen the successful integration of a wide range of regulatory responsibilities including environment protection, biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage. He has driven better regulation and has sought to achieve a high level of regulatory credibility.

Results

- Integrated native vegetation compliance into DECC following the 2007 agency restructure and developed a new native vegetation compliance strategy. Initiated review of legislation to improve effectiveness.
- Led reforms of environment protection and waste legislation to improve compliance effectiveness and reduce unnecessary red tape and costs to industry.
- Worked with the Department of Planning to achieve the objective of the planning reforms to streamline planning legislation and processes while maintaining or improving environmental outcomes.
- Contributed to corporate and executive programs including executive lead for the State Plan clean air targets. Took up the chair of the National Air Quality Working Group for the Environment Protection and Heritage Council.
- Oversaw investigations leading to remedial actions, sanctions or ultimately successful prosecution of environmental offenders across the full range of environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage protection legislation.
- Assisted Aboriginal communities with waste clean-up projects and guidance material including production of DVDs and handbooks.

Name: Ms Sally Barnes
Position title: Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Group
Period: 11 December 2007–30 June 2008
SES level: SES 6
Remuneration: \$284,950

The Director General has expressed satisfaction with Ms Barnes' performance during the period that she led Parks and Wildlife Group in 2007–08. Ms Barnes has achieved the performance criteria contained in her performance agreement. As Head of the National Parks and Wildlife Service within DECC, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to building the protected area system and managing the reserve system to an excellent standard.

Results

- Worked with Aboriginal communities on co-managing national parks and reserves including successfully renewing the existing memorandum of understanding for Kinchega National Park with the Menindee Aboriginal Elders Council; and progressing appointment of the Githabul Management Committee and the Worimi Board of Management.
- Finalised the NSW National Parks Establishment Plan which outlines future directions for building a comprehensive, adequate and representative public reserve system, and sets out long-term goals and outlines priorities for the next decade.
- Acquired 47 areas totalling about 42,000 hectares for addition to the reserve system including implementing Stage 1 of the NSW Government's Lower Hunter Regional Conservation Plan, which added 13,768 hectares, including additions to Karuah National Park to protect paperbark swamp forest and coastal wetlands.
- Actively managed a hazard reduction and fire trail maintenance program across the reserve system as well as implemented cooperative, cross-tenure pest animal and weed control programs.
- Established a new partnership with key stakeholders including the National Parks Association (NPA) of NSW to promote environmental volunteering including supporting the NPA's 'HarbourKeepers, CoastKeepers and NatureKeepers' trial program to promote conversation and connect young people to their environment in the parks and aquatic reserves around Sydney.
- Implemented programs to increase visits to parks and reserves by 20% by 2016 by progressing branch visitation management plans to guide the growth and resourcing of visitation to national parks across NSW.
- Promoted tourism and partnerships through a new bi-monthly electronic newsletter, Explore, which showcases park tourism activities and participation on a newly established National Parks and Tourism Taskforce.
- Commenced the statewide rollout of the Asset Maintenance System for national parks and reserves to provide a comprehensive inventory of all assets owned or maintained; a statewide tool for consistent and efficient scheduling and implementation of asset maintenance; and a powerful reporting tool for local or statewide analysis of maintenance activities and costs.
- Completed infrastructure improvements in parks including the Revitalising Sydney's National Parks Program and for Kosciuszko National Park to ensure this iconic place is constantly being improved for visitors while ensuring conservation values are maintained. For example, the Alpine Way Visitor Entry Station was upgraded in time for the start of the 2008 ski season and the Southern Cloud Lookout, near Tooma, was constructed.

Name: Mr Len Banks
Position Title: Executive Director Scientific Services
Period: 1 July 2007–30 June 2008
SES Level: SES 5
Remuneration: \$236,599

The Director General expressed satisfaction with Mr Banks' performance throughout 2007–08. Mr Banks was Executive Director, Scientific Services for the full year and achieved the performance criteria agreed for that position.

Results

- Completed the establishment of a coherent Scientific Services Division with staff from the former component agencies, creating improved delivery of scientific services within DECC and to other clients.
- Progressed the Natural Resource Management Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Strategy through collecting and analysing of natural resource condition data in line with State Plan targets, achieving initial reporting products at state and catchment scales.
- Represented NSW on the National Land and Water Resources Audit Advisory Council to achieve national consistency and sharing of natural resource data collection and reporting.
- Commissioned the new natural resources laboratory for DECC providing the capacity for in-house analytical services to the MER Strategy and Catchment Management Authority programs.
- Provided leadership and direction in the development of the second Woody Vegetation Change Report for NSW (2006 to 2007) and the purchase of new computing power for the analysis and storage of digital satellite and other imagery, principally for vegetation monitoring.
- Led ongoing science support provided to the Marine Parks Authority, which included valuable assessments of marine habitats and information to assist in marine park zonings and management options.

Name: Ms Robyn McKeown
Position Title: Executive Director Corporate Services
Period: 1 January 2008–30 June 2008
SES Level: Acting SES 5
Remuneration: \$253,500

The Director General has expressed satisfaction with Ms McKeown's performance during the year. There was major restructuring in 2007–08 which significantly affected corporate services. Ms McKeown has been instrumental in DECC performing very well against corporate service benchmarks.

Results

- Corporate Services including IT, Human Resources, OH&S, Finance and Accommodation were all actively managed for the merging of organisation. New systems and programs were put in place to provide strategic services to catchment management authorities.
- DECC's financial management credibility was built through strong financial supervision and active systems management of new programs, including new procurement strategies and strategic financial services for catchment management authorities.

- A new IT business systems culture was put in place to manage the complex interrelationship of systems including DECC and Commerce systems which both service the agency and catchment management authorities.
- Strong culture and data management for OH&S was put in place including training for catchment management authorities.
- DECC's Integration Program was enacted for accommodation, IT and human resources.
- DECC's Service Centre implemented new approaches to travel, electronic self-servicing and an integrated payroll, for improved client service.

3. Principal officers

The DECC Executive comprises 12 principal officers. Following is a list of Executive members on 30 June 2008:

Director General

Ms Lisa Corbyn, BA, MPA, FIPAA

Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group

Mr Simon Smith, BA (Hons)

Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Group

Mr Joe Woodward, BSC, ME (Hons)

Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Group

Ms Sally Barnes, BA, DipEd, GradDip Information Sciences (Teacher Librarianship)

Executive Director, Botanic Gardens Trust

Dr Tim Entwisle, BSc, PhD (Botany)

Executive Director, Corporate Services Division

Ms Robyn McKeown

Executive Director, Cultural and Heritage Division

Mr Jason Ardler, BEc

Executive Director, Legal Services

Mr Steve Garrett, BEc, LLB

Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication

Mr Tim Rogers, BEc, MAd

Executive Director, Park Management

Mr Bob Conroy, Grad Dip Environmental Studies, MMgt

Executive Director, Scientific Services Division

Mr Len Banks, BScAgr, MScAgr

Director, Executive Services Branch

Mr David Dekel, BAppSc

4. EPA Board members' curricula vitae

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) functions as a statutory body corporate under whose power regulatory actions relating to environment protection legislation are taken. It is a part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).

Provisions for administering the EPA Board are detailed in the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*. Section 15(3) of the Act sets out appointment procedures for each of the part-time Board members. DECC administers these procedures in line with the Department of Premier and Cabinet's *Guidelines for NSW Board and Committee Members 2005*. Members of the EPA Board are appointed for a period of up to five years. The Minister makes final decisions on appointments for Cabinet approval. Of the appointed members, one is appointed by the Governor as the Chair of the Board and another is appointed by the Governor as Deputy Chair of the Board.

The EPA Board met nine times in 2007–08. Mr Paul Stein and Professor Don White were appointed to the EPA Board in December 2007 and attended their first meeting in February 2008. Dr Judy Henderson completed her term with the Board in December 2007.

Board members

Chair and member with expertise in environment protection policy

The Honourable Paul Stein AM, QC (attended 4 meetings)

Mr Paul Stein has over 25 years' experience in the Australian judicial system, serving as a judge of the NSW Court of Appeal, the NSW Supreme Court, the NSW District Court and the NSW Land and Environment Court. Throughout his career he has served on numerous boards and committees, gaining extensive experience in environment protection policy. He is currently Chair of the Macquarie University Centre for Environmental Law Advisory Committee, sits on the Heritage Committee of NSW Supreme Court and on the advisory boards of the Australian Centre for Environmental Law and La Trobe University Health Law Centre.

Deputy Chair and member with experience in, or knowledge of, environmental aspects of agriculture, industry or commerce

Mr Tony Wright, Dip Tech MBA (attended 9 meetings)

Mr Tony Wright is Managing Director of Wright Corporate Strategy Pty Ltd and Chair of State Water Corporation. He also chairs the State of the Environment Advisory Council of NSW and the Extended Producer Responsibility Expert Reference Group. Mr Wright is a past Chair of Environment Business Australia and a former Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Waste Management and Pollution Control.

Director General, Department of Environment and Climate Change

Ms Lisa Corbyn, BA MPA FIPAA (attended 9 meetings)

Ms Lisa Corbyn is the Director General of the Department of Environment and Climate Change. She was previously Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation and Director General of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). She is also Chair of the Natural Resources and Environment CEOs Cluster Group and a Deputy Commissioner of the Murray Darling Basin Commission.

Ms Corbyn has had a varied career as a senior manager in both the public and private sectors in Australia where she has worked for the Ministry of the Environment, AWA Limited, the Sydney Water Board and the Department of Planning. Before moving to Australia, she worked for over ten years for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, primarily in water programs.

Members with experience in, or knowledge of, nature conservation or environment protection

Professor Don White, FICHEM, CEng (attended 4 meetings)

Professor Don White is an Adjunct Associate Professor with the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Sydney. He has 30 years' experience as a manager and engineer in the process and chemical industries. Since 1998 he has provided private consulting services to chemicals, petrochemical and magnesium metal industries through his company Don White and Co. During this time, he was actively involved in nature conservation, environment protection and community issues.

Professor White is currently Chair of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and a member of several of the Council's internal committees. He is also a member of several government and liaison committees, including the Load Based Licensing Technical Review Panel and the Waste Committee of the Environmental Trust. Professor White also served on the Hazardous Chemicals Advisory Committee and the Homebush Bay Environment Reference Group.

Mr Peter Prineas, BA LLB (attended 9 meetings)

Mr Peter Prineas has broad experience in environmental policy through his work with community environmental organisations. He has served as Chair of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and Director of the National Parks Association of NSW. He has also contributed to government bodies, including the Licence Regulator for urban water utilities and the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council.

Member with experience in, or knowledge of, environmental aspects of agriculture, industry or commerce

Dr John Keniry, AM, BSc (Hons), PhD (attended 8 meetings)

Dr John Keniry chairs several bodies including Ridley Corporation Ltd and the Scientific Advisory Council to the NSW Minister for Primary Industries. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003. Dr Keniry is former Chairman of the Livestock Export Review, the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals and Unisearch Ltd.

Member with experience in environmental science

Mr Robert Junor HDA, BA (attended 7 meetings)

Mr Robert Junor is a former Commissioner and Chief Soil Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service of NSW. Mr Junor headed the Community Advisory Committee of the Murray Darling Basin Commission from 1992 to 1995. He is a natural resources management consultant, undertaking strategic planning, environmental audits and land management consultancies. He is also the Interim Chair of the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority.

Member with expertise in regional environmental issues

Ms Yvonne Stewart (attended 7 meetings)

Ms Yvonne Stewart chairs the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, the Cape Byron Trust and the Arakwal National Park Management Committee. She is also Chief Executive Officer of the Arakwal Aboriginal Corporation and is actively involved with the Byron Shire Council Aboriginal Consultative Committee in both environmental management issues and plans of management.

Following the historic Indigenous Land Use Agreement signing, Ms Stewart was actively involved in creating the Arakwal National Park and was a member of the Department of Lands Water Sharing Committee. She received a NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Award in 2004 for her work in promoting and protecting Aboriginal culture and involving Aboriginal people in national parks management.

Member with expertise in environmental law and an academic employed in a NSW tertiary institution

Professor Gerry Bates, LLB (Hons), PhD (attended 9 meetings)

Professor Gerry Bates teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in environmental law at several universities, including the Australian Centre for Environmental Law, the University of Sydney, the Australian National University in Canberra and the University of New South Wales. He has published extensively on environmental law, including the standard text *Environmental Law in Australia*. Dr Bates was formerly leader of the Greens in the Parliament of Tasmania.

Member with expertise in local government matters

Councillor Genia McCaffery, BEc (Hons) (attended 8 meetings)

Councillor Genia McCaffery is the Mayor of North Sydney and President of the NSW Local Government Association. She is a member of the Local Government Environmental and Planning Committee, the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority Board and the Environmental Trust. She has worked for the Department of Labour and Immigration and as a researcher for the National Trust. She has also undertaken work in youth issues, unemployment and public advocacy.

5. Significant statutory bodies and advisory committees

Significant committees advising DECC

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee is established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and consists of nominees of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal elders groups, as well as registered native title claimants and Aboriginal owners. It advises the Minister and the Director General of the Department of Environment and Climate Change on any matter relating to identification, assessment and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW.

Chair: Yvonne Stewart
 Deputy Chair: Victor Perry
 Viola Brown
 Robert Burgess
 Glenda Chalker
 Lavinia Duroux
 Mary Duroux
 Robin Heath
 James Ingram
 Maureen O'Donnell
 Stephen Ryan

Aboriginal Water Trust Advisory Committee

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee meets regularly to assess proposals submitted to the Aboriginal Water Trust. The Committee may recommend initial development funding to support a broad business case or, for well founded proposals more substantial funding. The Aboriginal Water Trust Advisory Committee provides strategic advice to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment on Aboriginal Water Trust issues and assesses and provides recommendations to the Minister on grant applications under the Aboriginal Water Trust.

Craig Cromelin
 Michael Bell
 Lionel Mongta
 Lillian Moseley

Animal Ethics Committee

The Animal Ethics Committee was originally formed in 1991 by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Its role is to approve and monitor all animal research conducted by DECC employees.

Chair: Carl Solomon, DECC
 Darill Clements
 Christine Coddington (retired)
 Anne Fowler
 Tony Gregory
 Robert Johnson (retired)
 Karen Lambert
 Dr David Priddel
 Dr Robert Taylor
 Flett Turner

BioBanking Ministerial Reference Group

The former Minister for the Environment formed the group to assist in finalising the BioBanking Assessment Methodology and regulations for operating the BioBanking Scheme under Part 7A of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

Chair: Simon Smith, DECC
 Jeff Angel
 Georgina Beattie
 Rachelle Benhow
 Richard Clarke
 Pam Green
 Sandy Halley
 Geoff Hudson
 Robert Humphries
 Jenny Rudolph
 Rachel Walmsley
 Robert Wilcher

Cape Byron State Conservation Area Trust

The Cape Byron State Conservation Area is managed by the trust which was established in 1989. The trust is a voluntary, non-profit community body empowered by the provisions of the *National Park and Wildlife Act 1974* with the care, control and management of the reserve.

Chair: Yvonne Stewart
 Deputy Chair: Tony McCabe
 Jan Barham
 Judy Conlan
 Mark Johnston, DECC
 Sean Kay
 Dulcie Nicholls
 Linda Vidler

Community Conservation Advisory Committees

Community Conservation Advisory Committees (CCACs) are constituted under the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005* to advise the Community Conservation Council on the provisions of the Community Conservation Area Agreement.

CCACs are appointed by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and the Minister for Primary Industries. Committee members are comprised of representatives from National Parks Regional Advisory Committees, local environment groups, industry (timber, mining and apiary), local farmers, local government, local recreation uses, Aboriginal people, catchment management authorities and scientific experts.

Border Rivers/Gwydir CCAC

Chair: Steven Adams
Kate Boyd
Casey Cooper
Bob Couch
James Croft (resigned)
Liza Duncan
Wendy Hawes
Brett Heath
Renee Hill (resigned)
David Paull (resigned)
Keith Pickstone
Phillip Spark
Peter Thompson (resigned)
Peter Turnbull
Kim Wright

Central West CCAC

Chair: Kenneth Rabbett
Mike Blake
Tom Gavel
David Goldney
Janis Hosking
Bryn Jones
Anne Kerle
Tim Lacey (resigned)
Richard MacFarlane
David Maynard
Anthony O'Halloran
Stephen Ryan
Bev Smiles
Michael Webb
Kim Wright

Namoi CCAC

Chair: Colleen Fuller
Jane Bender
Hugh Ford
Ted Hayman
Jane Judd
Anne Kerle
David King
Jim McDonald
Robert Michie
Tim Scrace
Ted Spackman
Helen Stevens
Tom Underwood

Conservation Audit and Compliance Committee

The Conservation Audit and Compliance Committee is established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and oversees, on behalf of the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, the compliance of the Director General of the Department of Environment and Climate Change with her legislative responsibilities under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or any other related legislation.

Chair: Arthur Butler
Sally Barnes, DECC (from Dec 2007)
Lisa Corbyn, DECC
Tony Fleming, DECC (to Oct 2007)
Alistair Hinchman, DECC
Roger Lembit
George McKay
Stephen Ryan

Internal Audit Committee

The Internal Audit Committee ensures that DECC's internal audit activity is properly focused on areas of identified significant risk; internal audit recommendations properly address identified issues of risk and other issues requiring improvement; and implementation of recommendations is effective and complete.

Chair: Lisa Corbyn, DECC
Jason Ardler, DECC
Arthur Butler
Dawn Easton, DECC
Dr John Keniry
Simon Smith, DECC

Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel

The Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel advises the Director General on matters pertaining to the implementation and review of the NSW Kangaroo Management Program (KMP), which sets the framework for the commercial harvest of kangaroos. These matters include: kangaroo population dynamics; harvest quotas; licensing and compliance monitoring; animal welfare issues; legislation and policy; fees and funding; research needs and priorities; long-term strategic planning; and any matter raised by the Minister or the Director General. All the above matters should be addressed in a manner consistent with the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2002, and the KMP. Members on the panel represent the views and interests of their organisation.

Chair: Joshua Gilroy, DECC
Sandy Bright
Michael Cavanagh
Dr Tony English
Dick MacFarlane
Ben Mannix
Greg Markwick
Patrick Medway
Mike Mulligan
David O'Shannessy
Nicole Payne, DECC
Marie Russell

Karst Management Advisory Committee

The Karst Management Advisory Committee is established under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to advise the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council on the conservation and management of karst environments.

Chair: Michael Wright, DECC

Michael Augee

Tracey Austin

Associate Professor Julia James

Associate Professor Neil Lipscombe

Susan Macdonald (resigned December 2007)

Chris Norton

Graeme Pattison

Andy Spate

Alfie Walker Jnr

Load-based Licensing Technical Review Panel

The Load-based Licensing Technical Review Panel advises DECC on the contents of the Load Calculation Protocol. It includes representatives of licensees, local government, environment groups, the EPA and an independent adviser. The Load Calculation Protocol sets out the methods that holders of licences issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* must use to calculate assessable pollutant loads.

Chair: Mark Gifford, DECC

Dr Richard Benson

John Court

Walter Moore

Dr Keith Osborne, DECC

Dr Debashis Raha

Paul Rendell, DECC

Professor Donald White

National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council (NPWAC)

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is constituted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The Council has up to 19 members with the qualifications required of each member as set out in the Act. The Advisory Council advises the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and the Director General on a range of issues including the management of national parks and reserves, the protection of wildlife, conservation agreements and wilderness areas.

Chair: Dr George McKay, NPWS Advisory Committee, Northern

Deputy Chair: Ms Jane Judd, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Dr Tony Fleming, DECC, resigned November 2007

Sally Barnes, DECC, appointed December 2007

Dr Geoff Cary, Australian National University

Glenda Chalker, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

Christine Ferguson, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

Dr Ronnie Harding, University of NSW

Dr Bruce Hayllar, University of Technology Sydney

Diana Hoffman, NPWS Advisory Committee, Western

James Ingram, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

Nicholas Jacomas, NPWS Advisory Committee, Central

Cr Ian McKenzie, Local Government and Shires Association

Ken Prendergast, NPWS Advisory Committee, Southern

Anne Reeves, National Parks Association of NSW

Jean Rice, Australian International Council on Monuments and Sites

Norma Shankie-Williams, Rural and Regional Development and Planning

Patrick Sutcliffe, Representing Peak Recreational Bodies (term ended 28 May 2008)

Dr Kent Williams, Scientific qualifications associated with the conservation of nature (term ended 17 January 2008)

National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committees

Regional Advisory Committees help the NPWAC and DECC to manage natural and cultural heritage, including Aboriginal cultural heritage, and to influence behaviour throughout the community to help protect the environment. There are 19 regional advisory committees across NSW with members appointed by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

Blue Mountains Region

Chair: Andy Macqueen
Warwick Armstrong
Tracey Austin
Joseph Banffy
Elizabeth Black
Robyn Bushell
Grahame Douglas
Helen Drewe
Fiona Meller
Beth Rushton
Bill Shields
Chris Tobin
Jack Tolhurst
Ian Tucker

Central Coast Hunter Range Region

Chair: Daryl Bower
Kim Baillie
Shane Geerin
Narelle Howard
Nick Jacomas
Dellas Johnston
Robert Kelly
Desmond Mills
Christine O'Brien
Andrew Paul
Stephen Talbott
Trevor Woolley
Noel Date — appointed as observer 1 December 2007
Ian Webb (resigned)

Far South Coast Region

Chair: Robert Ross
Michael Darcy
Chris Kowal
Catherine Lawler
Michael Litchfield
Shane McAlister
Fiona McCrossin
Kay Rogers
David Shaw
Alexander Sherriff
Frank Slabb
Yvonne Thomson
Josie Walcott
David Wauchope
Douglas Willcoxson

Far West Region

Chair: Diana Hoffman
Peter Beven
Beryl Carmichael
David Croft
Geoffrey Davis
James Graham
Richard Kelly
Thomas Kennedy
Dorothy Kiely
Michael McCulkin
Frances McKinnon
Maureen O'Donnell
Peter Sullivan
Arthur Vann

Hartley Historic Site

Chair: Robert Morris
Krystina Campbell
Roger Clarke
Margaret Combs
Helen Dreves
Clare Evans
Ross Fragar
Annette Gilbey
Cheryl Kenny
Marian Kinnear
John Luchetti
Gerard Martin
Malcolm McDonald
David Peters
Chris Tobin

Hunter Region

Chair: Helen Brown
John Asquith
Viola Brown
John Clarke
Trevor Connell
Michael Elfick
Joachim Engel
Margaret Francis
Sonia Hornery (resigned)
Suzanne Landers
George McKay
Christine Prientto
Gerard Tuckerman

Mid North Coast Region

Chair: Franklin Harrison
Leonard Blacklow
John Clark
Helen Hannah
Philip Holberton
Margaret Howard
Max Ingram
Isabelle Lee
Gary Morris
Cameron Price
Barry Ramke
Steve Read
Clark Valler

North Coast Region

Chair: Barbara Fahey
Lyndall Coomber
Jillian Cranny (resigned)
Robin Heath
Marie Howlett
Kay Jeffery
Peter Morgan
Judith Mortlock
Paul Parramore
Warwick Roche
Peter Smith
James Tedder
Bridget Walker

Northern Plains Region

Chair: Sandy Findlay
Meryl Dillon
Kay Durham
Jane Harding
Margaret Harris
Jane Judd
Geoffrey Mitchell
Ken Rogers
Maureen Sulter
David Toynton
Joan Treweeke
Alfred Trindall
John Whitehead
Vera Banks

Northern Rivers Region

Chair: Jeanette Olley
Harry Boyd
James Brideson
Rod Caldicott
Trevor Close
Raylee Delaney
Anthony Gleeson
Sarah Harris (resigned)
Douglas Jardine
Sharon McGrigor
Hugh Nicholson
Max Willoughby

Northern Tablelands Region

Chair: Lynne Hosking
Kate Boyd
Edward Briggs
Suzanne Hudson
John MacFarlane
Peter Metcalfe
James Rainger
Dianne Roberts
Timothy Scrace
Jeremy Smith
Allen Strudwick
John Taylor

Snowy Mountains Region

Chair: John Hood
Robert Creelman
Euan Diver
Gaynor Epstein
James Hart
Noreen Pendergast
Anthony Selden
Rae Solomon-Stewart
Diane Thompson
Jan Walker
Geoffrey Waters
Iris White

South Coast Region

Chair: Kevin Mills
William Barnetson
William Bean
Lena Bloxsome
Noel Butler
Jodie Egan
Jack Hampton
Robert Pallin
David Phelps
David Tranter
Vic Walker
Joyce Wheatley
Pia Winberg
Genelle Gregory

South West Slopes Region

Chair: Paul Davies
Janet Anderson
Coral Bulger
Timothy Cathles
Martin Chalk
Adrian Davey
Rachael Eggins (resigned)
Ramsay Freeman
Susan Moore
Kenneth Prendergast
Gerry Proft
Roger Quarterman
Maurice Sexton
Peter Southwell
Jacqueline Stol

Sydney Region

Chair: Garry McIlwaine
Simon Balderstone
Penny Carl-Nelson
Kevin Crameri
Barbara de Rome
Brigid Dowsett
Dennis Foley
Geoff Gougeon
Zenon Michniewicz
Gary Peters
Omar Seychell
Barbara Shaffer (resigned)
Allan Young

Sydney North Region

Chair: Patricia Giles
Angelo Baldo
David Bentham
Trevor Brown
Diane Campbell
Paul Coe
Dave Ella
Kirsten Hartshorne
Penny Holloway
Anntonette Joseph
Doug MacDonald
Robert Salt
Grant Stone
David Tribe

Sydney South Region

Chair: Sheelah Boleyn
Glenda Chalker
Phillip Costa
Sharyn Cullis
Joanne Daly
Brian Everingham
Nicholas Gill (resigned)
Anthony Kent (resigned)
Martyn Kiellor
Philip Sansom
Robert Spencer (resigned)
Peter Stitt
Shayne Williams
Mark Wood

Upper Darling Region

Chair: Marie Russell
Catherine Cooper
Michael Davis
Douglas Egan
Cecily Hampton
Janis Hosking
Philip Johnston
Karen Kneipp
Wayne Leigh
Steve Meredith
Anthony O'Halloran
Isabell Pretty

Western Rivers Region

Chair: Syd Craythorn
David Carter
Juliet Corish
Colin Ferguson
Yvonne Hutton
Cecilia Kinross
William Kite
Ian Lockhart
Bill Moller
Nerida Reid
Clifford Schultz
Roy Stacy
Ian Thompson
Susan Wakefield
Graham Williams
James Williams

Boards of Management

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* set up a process by which some parks can be returned to a local Aboriginal land council to hold on behalf of the Aboriginal owners. The park can then be leased back to the NSW Government under mutually agreed conditions, with the lease payments to be spent on the care, control and management of the park. A board of management cares for the park. The Aboriginal owners have a majority representation on the board, but there are also representatives of DECC, local government, a conservation group and adjoining landholders.

Biamanga Board of Management

Chair: John Mumbler
Cr John Aveyard
Ken Campbell
Pam Flanders
John Hibberd
Kathy Jones
Stephen Kelly
John Manns
Jim Scott
Tim Shepherd, DECC
Paul Stewart
Clifford Thomas
Pauline Thomas

Gulaga Board of Management

Chair: Mary Duroux
Ron Callaghan
Deanna Campbell
William Davis
Deanna Davison
Malcolm Dibden
Shirley Foster
Vivienne Mason
Lionel Mongta
Georgina Parsons
Tim Shepherd, DECC
Fergus Thomson
Dane Wimbush

Mutawintji Board of Management

Chair: Kim O'Donnell
Deputy Chair: Elizabeth Hunter
Richard Anderson
Badger Bates
Harold John Bates Jnr
William Bates
Barbara Clark
Adrian Davey
Norma Dutton
Walter Dutton
Mary Ann Hausia
Doris Hunter
Edna Hunter
Robert Hunter
Sky Kidd
Paul O'Connor
Dulcie O'Donnell
Maureen O'Donnell
Mark Peacock, DECC
Anthony Pease
Gerald Quayle
William Riley
Patricia Whyman

Mount Grenfell Board of Management

Chair: Phil Sullivan
Peter Dykes
Keith Hampton
Peter Harris
Fay Johnstone
Richard Kennedy
Stacey Meredith
Elaine Ohlsen
Isabel Pretty
Phillip Sullivan
Gwen Troutman
Dennis Williams
Steve Wolter, DECC

Worimi Conservation Lands Board of Management

Chair: Steve Larkins
Anthony Anderson
Lennie Anderson
Rod Bennison
David Feeney
Bev Manton
Petrice Manton
Val Merrick
Rob Quirk, DECC
Gwen Russell
Andrew Smith
Ron Swan
David Towers

Co-management committees

Through co-management committees, DECC and the local Aboriginal community work together to manage areas of high cultural significance and reduce impacts on those areas; involve local Aboriginal people in the development of plans of management, fire management plans, weed and pest management plans and other plans for the park; and ensure that local Aboriginal people are consulted on park management issues like the works program for the park, new proposals for commercial tour operations and research proposals.

Arakwal Management Committee

Chair: Yvonne Stewart
Jan Barham
Lorraine Harding
Mark Johnston, DECC
Dulcie Nicholls
Linda Vidler
Sue Walker

Bundjalung Women's Committee

Jan Barham
Lorraine Harding
Mark Johnston, DECC
Dulcie Nicholls
Yvonne Stewart
Linda Vidler
Sue Walker

Central Coast Hunter Range Regional Aboriginal Co-management Committee

Chair: Robert Welsh
Anthony Anderson
Lennie Anderson
Tom Bagnat
Jeff Betteridge
Noel Date
Jason Edwards
Troy Edwards
Craig Foreshow
Ron Gordon
Clifford Green
Allen Madden
John Mathews
Margaret Mathews
Tom Miller
Glen Morris
Victor Perry
Tracey Skene
Jack Smith
Robert Smith
Deb Swan
Stephen Talbot
Rhonda Ward
Brad Welsh

Darug Peoples Advisory Committee

Colin Gale (resigned)
Richard Green
Kerrie Kenton
Brad Moore
Gordon Morton
Chris Tobin
Leanne Watson
Jacinta Tobin
Simone Wilson
Gordon Workman

Githabul Management Committee

Amanda Bryant, DECC
Trevor Close
Mark Johnston, DECC
Dianne Torrens
Doug Williams
Gloria Williams
James Williams
Jennifer Williams
Paul Williams

Goobang National Park and Snake Rock Aboriginal Area Committee

Ray Keed
Valda Keed
Christine Peckham
Francis Robinson
Jenny Robinson
William West

Menindee Elders Group

Badger Bates
Evelyn Bates
Harold Bates Snr
Isobel Bennett
Bonnie Blair
Mirandah Doyle
Patricia Doyle
Noleen Ferguson
Marietta Files
Lorriane King
Maureen O'Donnell
Patricia Quayle
Eileen Williams
Richard Williams

Mungo NP Joint Management Advisory Committee

Jean Charles
Tanya Charles
Beryl Kennedy
Faye Kennedy
Roy Kennedy
Sheila Kirby
Patrick Lawson
Junette Mitchell
Steve O'Halloran
Mary Pappin Snr
Joan Slade
Lottie Williams
Patsy Winch
Des Wakefield
Martin Westbrooke

Paroo-Darling NP Co-management Group

Badger Bates
Evelyn Bates
Harold Bates Snr
Isobel Bennett
Bonnie Blair
Murray Butcher
Gladys Epsworth
Cyril Hunter
Christopher King
Colin King
Frances McKellar
Maureen O'Donnell
Dorothy Stephens
Rita Wilson

Pilliga Nature Reserve Aboriginal Consultative Committee

Michael Horne
Elizabeth Humble
Margaret Leslie
Patricia Madden
Ronald McGann
Robert Miller
Elizabeth Niddrie
William Robinson
Maureen Sulter
Danny Trindall
Sylvia Trindall

NSW Climate Change Council

On 10 March 2008, the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment announced the establishment of the NSW Climate Change Council. The council replaced the Premier's Greenhouse Advisory Panel. The NSW Climate Change Council is the Minister's key advisory panel on climate change which operates to ensure that the broad policy and program directions of the Government are informed by scientific, industry and broader community views. The council oversees the development of the NSW Climate Change Action Plan.

Chair: Martijn Wilder
Diana Gibbs
Steve Hatfield Dodds
Kevin Hennessy
Sam Mostyn
Paul Orton
Adam Spencer
Lorraine Stephenson

NSW Landcare Committee

The NSW Landcare Committee (NSWLC) is the peak State body for Landcare in NSW. It represents the independent Landcare networks and groups in NSW in its primary roles of advising the NSW Government and fostering NSW Landcare. The NSWLC provides advice to the NSW government via the Director General and DECC provides secretariat support to the committee. The chair of the committee is the ex-officio representative for Landcare on the Natural Resources Advisory Council. Members are appointed by the Director General.

Chair: Chris Scott
Deputy Chair: Ted Spackman
Andrew Bain
Jim Booth, DECC
Robert Clegg
Vanessa Ekins
John Klem

Waste Service Performance Improvement Payment Advisory Group

The Group was established under a memorandum of understanding between DECC and the Local Government and Shires Association to set criteria for councils to drive increased resource recovery.

Chair: Alan Travers
Dr David Blackmore, DECC
David Evans
John Harley, DECC
David Hojem
John Owen
Tim Rogers, DECC
Ron Smith
Robert Verhey
Allan Willding

World Heritage Areas advisory committees

World Heritage Areas advisory committees advise DECC on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the area, including strategic policies on Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention.

Greater Blue Mountains WHA Advisory Committee

Chair: Joan Domicelj
Deputy Chair: Richard Mackay
Doug Benson
Jodi Cameron
Lincoln Hall
Julia James
Wendy Lewis
Judy Smith
Haydn Washington

Gondwana Rainforests Community Advisory Committee

Prof Richard Braithwaite
Hague Best
Ysola Best
Helen Brown
Trevor Close
Cathie Duffy Masters
Barbara Fahey
Frank Harrison
Peter Lloyd
Peter Metcalfe
Hugh Nicholson
Jan Olley
Shane O'Reilly
Virginia West
Richard Zoomers

Gondwana Rainforests Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee

Prof Richard Braithwaite
Prof Ralf Buckley
Dr Aila Keto
Prof Roger Kitching
Assoc Prof Michael Mahony
Dr Bill McDonald
Dr Kathryn Taffs
Dr Erica Wilson

Willandra Lakes WHA Advisory Committee

Chair: Michael Ockwell
Gary Griffiths
David Johnston
Beryl Kennedy
Roy Kennedy
Geoff Larmour
John Magee
Marie Mitchell
Dr Jim Noble
Mary Pappin
Alan Purtell
Wilfred Shawcross
Darrel Sue
Bill Tatnell
Brian Wakefield
Des Wakefield
Ian Wakefield
Prof Martin Westbrooke
Lottie Williams

DECC membership of other significant statutory bodies

Lisa Corbyn, Director General	Environmental Trust Heritage Council of NSW Murray Darling Basin Commission The Living Murray MDBC Committee Natural Resources Advisory Council Marine Parks Authority Environment Protection and Heritage Ministerial Council and Standing Committee Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council and Standing Committee
Jason Ardler, Executive Director, Cultural Heritage Division	Heritage Council of NSW State Heritage Register Committee
Tim Rogers, Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communications, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group	NSW Committee of Waste Management Association Australia State Contracts Control Board
Tom Grosskopf, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group	Nature Conservation Trust
Alistair Henchman, Parks and Wildlife Group	Lord Howe Island Board
Dr David Keith, Scientific Services Division	NSW Scientific Committee
Craig Lamberton, Environment Protection and Regulation Group	Radiation Advisory Council
Bob Makinson, Botanic Gardens Trust	NSW Scientific Committee
Dr Todd Soderquist, Scientific Services Division	NSW Scientific Committee

DECC membership of significant interdepartmental committees

Rachelle Amess, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group	Environment Protection and Heritage Council, Travel Demand Management Working Group
Jason Ardler, Executive Director, Cultural Heritage Division	Two Ways Together Coordinating Committee
Len Banks, Executive Director, Scientific Services Division	Data and Information Management Working Group Natural Resources Information Needs Committee Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre Interim Members Council National Land and Water Resources Audit Advisory Council NSW Science Agencies Forum
Sally Barnes, Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Group	Tourism and National Parks Taskforce Australian Alps Liaison Committee
Neil Bennett, Scientific Services Division	Data and Information Management Working Group – NSW Remote Sensing Sub-Committee Board of Surveyors and Spatial Information (BOSSI) – Spatial Information Committee
Jim Booth, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group	Natural Resources Information Needs Committee Natural Resources Management Joint Steering Committee Natural Resources Policy and Programs Committee

Michael Cavanagh, Scientific Service Division	National Coordination Committee – Biodiversity Working Group
Mark Conlon, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group	COAG Adaptation Sub-Group
Lisa Corbyn, Director General	CEO Cluster on Climate Change CEO Cluster on Counter Terrorism CEO Cluster on Economic Development CEO Cluster on Sustainability CEO Cluster on Transport, Planning and Infrastructure Natural Resources and the Environment CEO Cluster Chief Executive Committee Brigalow/Nandewar Community Conservation Council Land Supply CEOs Metropolitan Strategy CEOs Group Metropolitan Water CEOs Committee
Liz Davidson, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group	Environment Protection and Heritage Council Australian Transport Council, Fuel Efficiency Working Group
Jonathan Doig, Scientific Service Division	Data and Information Management Working Group (DIMWG) – NSW Spatial Data Infrastructure Sub-Committee
Greg Chapman, Scientific Service Division	National Committee on Soil and Terrain Information
Keith Emery, Scientific Service Division	National Coordination – Executive Steering Committee on Australian Land Use Mapping
Keith Emery, Scientific Service Division Nik Henry, Scientific Service Division	National Coordination Committee – Technical Advisory Group for Australian Landuse Mapping
Dr Klaus Koop, Scientific Service Division	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Management Team
Dr Klaus Koop, Scientific Service Division Dr Greg Bowman, Scientific Service Division	NSW Research Scientist Classification Committee
Dr Mark Littleboy, Scientific Service Division	National Coordination Committee for Salinity Information Murray Darling Basin Commission Salinity Management in Catchments Task Force
Jenny McAllister, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group	COAG Complementary Measures Sub-Group
Allan Nicholson, Scientific Service Division	National Coordination Committee for Salinity Information
John Patten, Scientific Service Division	National Coordination Committee – Aquatic Ecosystems Task Group
Nigel Routh, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group	Environment Protection and Heritage Council Australian Transport Council, Fuel Efficiency Working Group Biofuels Expert Panel
Dr Peter Scanes, Scientific Service Division	National Coordination Committee – River Health Contact Group
David Schneider, Corporate Services Division	NSW CIO Executive Council
Dominic Sivertsen, Scientific Service Division	National Coordination Committee – Executive Steering Committee for Australian Vegetation Information
Malcolm Stephens, Scientific Service Division	Australian Collaborative Rangelands Information System Management Committee

Tim Rogers, Executive Director, Departmental Performance Management and Communication, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group	CEO Sustainability Working Group National Packaging Covenant Council Environment Protection and Heritage Council Waste Working Group
Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group	Darling River Water Savings Steering Committee Council of Australian Government (COAG) Working Group on Climate Change and Water Environmental Trust Subcommittees: Clean Air, Healthy Communities Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity Program Alps to Atherton Initiative NSW RiverBank Waste Emissions Trading Taskforce Demand Side Abatement Transition Working Group Climate Change Fund Advisory Committee
James White, Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group	COAG Energy Efficiency Sub-Group
Joe Woodward, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Group	Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation Technical Committee Intensive Agriculture Consultative Committee NSW National Oil Spill Plan Executive Committee State Emergency Management Committee Environment Protection and Heritage Council – Air Quality Working Group State Emergency Management Committee State Emergency Management Committee – Climate Change Working Group

6. Staff statistics

6.1 DECC employees by classification

The numbers reported are equivalent full-time (EFT) employees.

Staff category	EFT 30 June 2007	EFT 30 June 2008
Administrative and clerical	787	836
Field	648	655
Horticultural	135	135
Manager positions	286	321
Operations	135	132
Other	99	129
Policy, project and research	680	975
Ranger categories	288	293
Senior officers and senior executive service	83	105
Trade	16	15
Subtotal	3157	3596
From Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability	28	—
From Department of Natural Resources	315	—
From Department of Primary Industries	15	—
From NSW Greenhouse Office	5	—
From Resource and Conservation Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet	4	—
Subtotal of staff transferred	367	—
Total number of DECC employees	3524	3596

6.1.1 Includes all DECC employees by classification (including employees of the Botanic Gardens Trust).

6.1.2 Excludes Catchment Management Authority employees who are employed under separate statutory bodies and produce their own annual reports with staffing statistics.

6.1.3 EFT breakdown into categories as at 30 June 2008 includes 367 employees from former agencies transferred to the DECC payroll in the second half of 2007 from Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Primary Industries, NSW Greenhouse Office and Resource and Conservation Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet.

6.2 DECC employees by location

Location	EFT 30 June 2006	EFT 30 June 2007	EFT 30 June 2008
Sydney metropolitan area	1624	1697	1944
Regional areas	1273	1460	1652
Total	2897	3157	3596

6.2.1 EFT as at 30 June 2008 includes all DECC employees by classification (including employees of the Botanic Gardens Trust).

6.2.2 EFT as at 30 June 2008 excludes Catchment Management Authority employees who are employed under separate statutory bodies and produce their own annual reports with staffing statistics.

6.2.3 EFT as at 30 June 2008 includes 367 employees from former agencies transferred to DECC payroll in the second half of 2007 from Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Primary Industries, NSW Greenhouse Office and Resource and Conservation Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet.

6.2.4 EFT as at 30 June 2007 does not include 367 employees from former agencies transferred to DECC as set out in Table 6.1 above.

6.3 DECC executive officers

SES Level	30 June 2006	30 June 2007	30 June 2008
8	1	1	1
7	0	1	1
6	2	3	3
5	1	2	2
4	6	6	5
3	9	11	11
2	3	5	5
1	0	0	0
Total	22	29	28

Note: 2006 figures are for DEC only
2007 figures include additional staff transferred to DECC after 27 April 2007.

6.4 DECC female executive officers

	30 June 2006	30 June 2007	30 June 2008
Total	4	6	4

6.5 Staff representation levels for EEO groups

Trends in the representation of EEO groups

% of total staff*					
EEO group	Benchmark	30 June 2005	30 June 2006	30 June 2007	30 June 2008
Women	50	42	42	42	42
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders	2	6.1	6.9	7.5	8
People whose first language was not English	20	9	8	8	7
People with a disability	12	4	4	4	4
People with a disability requiring a work-related adjustment	7	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3

*Excludes casual staff

Trends in the distribution of EEO groups

Distribution index* for total staff**					
EEO group	Benchmark	30 June 2005	30 June 2006	30 June 2007	30 June 2008
Women	100	101	102	102	99
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders	100	70	66	73	73
People whose first language was not English	100	107	107	107	103
People with a disability	100	102	104	98	101
People with a disability requiring a work-related adjustment	100	114	115	112	114

* A distribution index of 100 indicates that the centre of the distribution of the EEO group across salary levels is equivalent to that of other staff. Values less than 100 mean that the EEO group tends to be more concentrated at lower salary levels than is the case for other staff. The more pronounced this tendency is, the lower the index will be. In some cases the index may be more than 100, indicating that the EEO group is less concentrated at lower salary levels.

** Excludes casual staff

7. Legislation and legal changes

Acts administered by DECC 1 July 2007–30 June 2008

DECC had responsibilities, powers, duties and functions – some of which were executed in the name of the EPA – under the following legislation:

- *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*
- *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*
- *Coastal Protection Act 1979*
- *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*
- *Crown Lands Act 1989*, in so far as it relates to the Crown Reserve known as Jenolan Caves Reserves, reserve number 190075 for preservation of caves, preservation of fauna, preservation of native flora and public recreation and the land dedicated for the public purpose of accommodation house D590137, in the Parishes of Jenolan, Bombah and Bouverie, Counties of Westmoreland and Georgiana (remainder, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Lands)
- *Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987* Part 6A; s. 40 (1A); and s. 45 in so far as it relates to Part 6A and to s. 40 (1A) (remainder, the Minister for Energy)
- *Environmental Trust Act 1998*
- *Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985*
- *Filming Approval Act 2004*
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, Division 2 of Part 7 and s. 227 in so far as it relates to Division 2 of Part 7; ss 243 and 245, jointly with the Minister for Primary Industries (remainder, the Minister for Primary Industries)
- *Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998*
- *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*
- *Forestry Revocation and National Park Reservation Act 1996*
- *Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Act 1983*
- *Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Act 1984*
- *Lake Illawarra Authority Act 1987*
- *Lane Cove National Park (Sugarloaf Point Additions) Act 1996*
- *Lord Howe Island Act 1953*
- *Lord Howe Island Aerodrome Act 1974*
- *Marine Parks Act 1997*, jointly with the Minister for Primary Industries
- *National Environment Protection Council (New South Wales) Act 1995*
- *National Park Estate (Lower Hunter Region Reservations) Act 2006*
- *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2002*
- *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2003*
- *National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2005*
- *National Park Estate (Southern Region Reservations) Act 2000*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Adjustment of Areas) Act 2001*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Adjustment of Areas) Act 2005*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Adjustment of Areas) Act 2006*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Further Adjustment of Areas) Act 2005*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Leacock Regional Park) Act 2008*
- *Native Vegetation Act 2003*

- *Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001*
- *Ozone Protection Act 1989*
- *Pesticides Act 1999*
- *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- *Radiation Control Act 1990*
- *Recreation Vehicles Act 1983*
- *Road and Rail Transport (Dangerous Goods) Act 1997*
- *Roads Act 1993 No 33*, so far as it relates to Lord Howe Island (remainder, the Minister for Roads, the Minister for Local Government, and the Minister for Lands)
- *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980*
- *Soil Conservation Act 1938 No 10*, Parts 2A, 3 and 4, and sections 15 and 30A in so far as they relate to Parts 2A, 3 or 4, jointly with the Minister for Lands (remainder, the Minister for Lands)
- *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*
- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001*
- *Wilderness Act 1987*

New and amending Acts

The following Acts were assented to in 2007–08:

- *Marine Parks Amendment Act 2007*
- *National Parks and Wildlife (Leacock Regional Park) Act 2008*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Waste) Act 2007*
- *Energy and Utilities Administration Amendment (Climate Change Fund) Act 2007*
- *Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007*
- *Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008*
- *Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No.2) 2007*

New and amending Regulations

The following Regulations were made or re-made in 2007–08:

- *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Regulation 2008*
- *Native Vegetation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2008*
- *Native Vegetation Amendment (Private Native Forestry – Transitional) Regulation 2007*
- *Native Vegetation Amendment (Private Native Forestry) Regulation 2007*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2008*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations (Underground Petroleum Storage Systems) Regulation 2008*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Scheduled Activities and Waste) Regulation 2008*
- *Radiation Control Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2007*
- *The Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Amendment (Liquid Waste) Regulation 2007*
- *Lake Illawarra Authority Regulation 2007*
- *Protection of the Environment Administration Regulation 2007*

Legislative reviews

There were no reviews undertaken this year. There was one report tabled in Parliament on the review of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001*.

8. Infringements and prosecutions

Penalty notices issued by DECC and local government under EPA legislation

Infringement	DECC authorised officers	Local government authorised officers
Air: Smoky vehicles – POEO* (Clean Air) Regulation	616	0
Air: Other air offences from vehicles – POEO Act, POEO (Clean Air) Regulation	61	0
Air and odour: All non-vehicles offences – POEO Act, POEO (Noise Control) Regulation	2	0
Noise: Noisy vehicles – POEO (Noise Control) Regulation	386	2,538
Noise: All non-vehicles offences – POEO Act, POEO (Noise Control) Regulation	0	0
Waste: Littering (from motor vehicles) – POEO Act	788	16,956
Waste: Aggravated littering (motor vehicle related) – POEO Act	1	168
Waste: Littering (other than motor vehicles) – POEO Act	0	5,784
Waste: All offences – POEO Act, POEO (Waste) Regulation	12	1,572
Water: All offences – POEO Act	20	2,400
Dangerous goods: All offences – Road Transport Reform (Dangerous Goods) (NSW) Regulations, Rail Transport Reform (Dangerous Goods) (NSW) Regulations	5	0
Pesticides: All offences – Pesticides Act and Regulation	34	0
Radiation: All offences – Radiation Control Act and Regulation	0	0
Ozone: All offences – Ozone Protection Act and Regulation	0	0
Other offences (e.g. contravene a condition of a licence) – POEO Act, POEO (General) Regulation	107	1,248
Total penalty infringement notices issued	2,032	30,666
Total value of fines imposed (estimates only)	\$750,000	11,300,000

Source: Office of State Revenue (Infringement Processing Bureau)

* POEO = Protection of the Environment Operations

Prosecutions

DECC can commence prosecutions for environment protection offences under the authority of the Environment Protection Authority. DECC can also commence prosecutions for offences under native vegetation, threatened species, parks, wildlife and Aboriginal heritage provisions in DECC legislation.

In total, DECC commenced 156 prosecutions in 2007–08. The number of completed prosecutions was 125. This was more than in either 2005–06 or 2006–07. The 125 completed prosecutions resulted in:

- 109 convictions
- 13 matters where the offence was proven but a conviction was not recorded
- 3 acquittals.

Details of prosecutions completed during 2007–08 are recorded below:

LEC = Land and Environment Court

LC = Local Court

s.10 = Under section 10 of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* the Court, although finding the defendant guilty of the offences charged, did not record a conviction or impose a fine.

Prosecutions completed under EPA legislation

TIER 2 OFFENCES

Defendant	Charge	Result/Penalty	Court
<i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>			
Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	Ordered to pay \$20,000 to the Department of Primary Industries for general environmental purposes and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i> , <i>Byron Bay Echo</i> and <i>Lismore Northern Star</i>	LEC
Caltex Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	Ordered to pay \$12,000 to Moree Plains Shire Council for Mehi River Corridor restoration project and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Border News</i> and <i>Moree Champion</i>	LEC
Caltex Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd	Failure to notify of a pollution incident that caused or threatened material harm to the environment	Ordered to pay \$15,000 to Moree Plains Shire Council for Mehi River Corridor	LEC
Carney, Helen June	Littering	Acquitted	Windsor LC
Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	\$16,000 Ordered to pay investigation costs of \$7,240	LEC
Dragicevich, Michael Len	Littering	\$200	Bankstown LC
Draper, Caroline Joyce	Littering	Acquitted	Sutherland LC
Feoderoff, Simon	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$1,500 Ordered to pay investigation costs of \$1,000	Ballina LC
Feoderoff, Simon	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$1,500	Ballina LC
Hogan, David	Unlawful use of land as a waste facility	\$18,000	LEC
Lithgow City Council	Breach licence condition	\$37,500 Ordered to pay investigation costs of \$5,905 and to complete repairs to its water treatment plant by 9 June 2008	LEC
Lithgow City Council	Breach licence condition	\$11,250	LEC
Lubec, Renate Karin	Littering	\$350	Penrith LC
Lubec, Renate Karin	Littering	\$350	Penrith LC
McDavid, Amanda Jane	Littering	\$200	Wollongong LC
Nalco Australia Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	Ordered to pay \$50,000 for use towards the Towra Point Weed Management Strategy and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Southern Courier</i> and <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>	LEC

Defendant	Charge	Result/Penalty	Court
Nowra Chemical Manufacturers Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	Ordered to pay \$100,000 for restoration and erosion control works on the Shoalhaven River and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>South Coast Register</i> and <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>	LEC
Page, Jeffery Eli Lathan	Breach licence condition	\$1,000	Downing Centre LC
Precians, Matthew	Littering	\$250	Downing Centre LC
Precians, Matthew	Littering	\$250	Downing Centre LC
Stimpson, Christopher	Littering	Acquitted	Downing Centre LC
Sutton, Karen	Littering	\$200	Blacktown LC

Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002

CAS Haulage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$1,500	Kogarah LC
CAS Haulage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$1,500	Kogarah LC
CAS Haulage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$1,500	Kogarah LC
CAS Haulage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$1,500	Kogarah LC
CAS Haulage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$1,500	Kogarah LC
Church, Keith James	Smoky vehicle	\$200	Campbelltown LC
Connect Couriers Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$100	Downing Centre LC
Corbet, Tony Edgar	Smoky vehicle	\$700	Kogarah LC
Corbet, Tony Edgar	Smoky vehicle	\$1,000	Kogarah LC
Drelap (NSW) Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$900	Moss Vale LC
Hartney Haulage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$7,500	Kogarah LC
Hartney Haulage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$7,500	Kogarah LC
Impey, John Edward	Smoky vehicle	\$600	Blacktown LC
Impey, John Edward	Smoky vehicle	\$600	Blacktown LC
J & J Roberston Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$2,500	Kogarah LC
L & M Scott Haulage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$2,000	Downing Centre LC
L & M Scott Haulage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$2,000	Downing Centre LC
L & M Scott Haulage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$2,000	Downing Centre LC
L & M Scott Haulage Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$2,000	Downing Centre LC
Proctor, Richard Charles	Smoky vehicle	\$1,000	Penrith LC
Silkview Logistics Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$4,000	Downing Centre LC
Smith, John	Smoky vehicle	\$500	Downing Centre LC
Unanderra Timber & Joinery Pty Ltd	Smoky vehicle	\$2,000	Sutherland LC

NON-TIER OFFENCES

Defendant	Charge	Result/Penalty	Court
<i>Pesticides Act 1999</i>			
Alison, Dougald	Breach pesticide control order	\$2,000	Dungog LC
Alison, Dougald	Breach pesticide control order	\$2,000	Dungog LC
Cameron, David	Breach pesticide control order	\$300	Armidale LC
Cameron, David	Breach pesticide control order	\$300	Armidale LC
<i>Road and Rail Transport (Dangerous Goods) (NSW) Act 1997</i>			
Fenech, Joe Anthony	Transport dangerous goods in an unlicensed vehicle	\$1,500	Wyong LC
<i>Road Transport Reform (Dangerous Goods) (NSW) Regulations</i>			
Border Express Pty Ltd	Transport a placard load of dangerous goods without required emergency information	\$3,500	Dubbo LC
Coregas Pty Ltd	Transport a placard of dangerous goods without required shipping documentation	\$1,000	Dubbo LC
Coregas Pty Ltd	Transport dangerous goods without required emergency information	\$1,000	Dubbo LC
ERS Australia Pty Ltd	Transport a placard load of dangerous goods without required safety equipment	s.10	Newcastle LC
ERS Australia Pty Ltd	Failure to supply required dangerous goods shipping documentation to driver	s.10	Newcastle LC
ERS Australia Pty Ltd	Transport a placard load of dangerous goods without appropriate placards	s.10	Newcastle LC
Flat Chat Transport Pty Ltd	Failure to supply required dangerous goods shipping documentation to driver	\$2,500	Dubbo LC
Flat Chat Transport Pty Ltd	Transport a placard load of dangerous goods without appropriate placards	\$2,500	Dubbo LC
Flat Chat Transport Pty Ltd	Transport dangerous goods without required safety equipment	\$5,000	Dubbo LC
Flat Chat Transport Pty Ltd	Transport dangerous goods without required emergency information	\$5,000	Dubbo LC
Leary, Paul William	Transport a placard load of dangerous goods without appropriate placards	\$1,500	Dubbo LC
Shine, Damian	Transport dangerous goods without required safety equipment	\$500	Dubbo LC
Shine, Damian	Transport a placard load of dangerous goods without appropriate placards	\$500	Dubbo LC
Swain, Nathan	Transport a placard load of dangerous goods without appropriate placards	\$600	Dubbo LC

Defendant	Charge	Result/Penalty	Court
TNT Australia Pty Ltd	Transport a placard load of dangerous goods without required shipping documentation	s.10	Parkes LC
TNT Australia Pty Ltd	Transport dangerous goods with incompatible goods	s.10	Parkes LC
Wilson, Peter Robert Raukawa	Transport a placard load of dangerous goods without appropriate placards	\$2,500	Dubbo LC
Wilson, Peter Robert Raukawa	Transport dangerous goods without required safety equipment	\$500	Dubbo LC

Total prosecutions under EPA legislation

Fines	\$165,850
Other financial penalties	\$197,000
Total fines and other financial penalties	\$362,850

Prosecutions completed under parks, wildlife, threatened species and Aboriginal heritage legislation

NON-TIER OFFENCES

Defendant	Charge	Result/Penalty	Court
<i>Marine Parks Act 1997</i>			
Clark, Brian John	Failure to comply with a requirement of a marine park ranger without reasonable excuse	\$500	Nowra LC

Marine Parks Regulation 1999

Ardron, Loretta	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$500	Nowra LC
Callaghan, John Vernon	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$500	Nowra LC
Clark, Brian John	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$500	Nowra LC
Lazenby, Glenn Alan	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$500	Nowra LC
Tarbit, Peter James	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$500	Nowra LC
Topham, Wayne Stephen	Attempt to harm animal in sanctuary zone	\$500	Nowra LC

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Chariton, Jonathon	Harm animal in park	\$250	Gosford LC
Ehsman, Michael Darren	Harm protected fauna	\$1,200	Inverell LC
Ehsman, Michael Darren	Breach licence condition	s.10	Inverell LC
Gollagher, Brett Mervyn	Harm protected fauna	\$350	Broken Hill LC
Gollagher, Brett Mervyn	Sell protected fauna	\$350	Broken Hill LC
Gollagher, Brett Mervyn	Breach licence condition	\$350	Broken Hill LC
Holmes, David	Import protected fauna	\$400	Albury LC
Holmes, David	Import protected fauna	\$400	Albury LC

Defendant	Charge	Result/Penalty	Court
Holmes, David	Possess protected fauna	\$400	Albury LC
Keys, Timothy	Sell protected fauna	\$1,000	Raymond Terrace LC
Keys, Timothy	Failure to deliver up fauna when required	\$500	Raymond Terrace LC
Keys, Timothy	Posses threatened species	\$5,000	Raymond Terrace LC
Keys, Timothy	Possess protected fauna	\$1,000	Raymond Terrace LC
Knox, John Archibald	Damage vegetation on reserved land	\$13,200	LEC
Krug, Joshua	Harm protected fauna	\$1,350	Inverell LC
Krug, Joshua	Breach licence condition	s.10	Inverell LC
Marett, Stanley William	Breach licence condition	\$400	Bourke LC
Marett, Stanley William	Import protected fauna	\$880	Bourke LC
Marett, Stanley William	Breach licence condition	\$0	Bourke LC
Morris, Leslie James	Harm protected fauna	\$8,000	Lightning Ridge LC
Morris, Leslie James	Breach licence condition	\$2,000	Lightning Ridge LC
Notson, Matthew	Harm animal in park	\$250	Gosford LC
Notson, Matthew	Possess protected fauna	\$250	Gosford LC
O'Neill, Lisa	Disturb Aboriginal object	\$400	LEC
O'Neill, Lisa	Disturb Aboriginal object	\$400	LEC
O'Neill, Timothy Alan	Damage Aboriginal object	\$400	LEC
O'Neill, Timothy Alan	Damage Aboriginal object	\$400	LEC
Tanks, Daniel Edward	Breach licence condition	\$3,000	Parkes LC
Thomas, Michael Barry	Possess protected native plant	\$2,500 Ordered tags and plants to be forfeited	Wollongong LC
Thomas, Michael Barry	Sell protected native plant	\$2,500 Ordered tags and plants to be forfeited	Wollongong LC
Thompson, Bradley, AKA Ashley England AKA Aaron Thompson	Possess protected fauna	\$250	Newcastle LC
Thompson, Bradley, AKA Ashley England AKA Aaron Thompson	Breach licence condition	\$250	Newcastle LC
Thompson, Bradley, AKA Ashley England AKA Aaron Thompson	Breach licence condition	\$250	Newcastle LC
Tomerong Quarry Pty Ltd	Pick plant that is part of a threatened species	\$10,000	Nowra LC

National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2002

Ashby, David Lock	Drive unregistered vehicle in park	\$300	Murwillumbah LC
Barkley, Heath William	Possess animal in park	s.10	Moruya LC
Clarke, Julie	Ride horse otherwise than in an authorised area	\$300	Hornsby LC
Hill, Adam	Possess animal in park	\$600	Mudgee LC
Hill, Adam	Dog in park with radio tracking equipment	\$200 Ordered radio tracking collars to be forfeited	Mudgee LC

Defendant	Charge	Result/Penalty	Court
Loh, Alison Suzanne	Park vehicle without valid pass displayed	\$68	Sutherland LC
McDougall, Gwenda Lynette	Park vehicle otherwise than in an authorised area	s.10	North Sydney LC
Miller, Adam	Possess animal in park	s.10 Ordered leather hunting collars to be forfeited	Mudgee LC
Miller, Adam	Dog in park with radio tracking equipment	s.10 Ordered radio tracking collar and antennae to be forfeited	Mudgee LC
Miller, Adam	Possess knife in park	s.10 Ordered knife to be forfeited	Mudgee LC
Spurr, Grant Raymond	Possess knife in park	\$1,000 Ordered knife to be forfeited	Mudgee LC
Spurr, Grant Raymond	Dog in park with a breast plate	\$1,000 Ordered breast plate to be forfeited	Mudgee LC
Spurr, Grant Raymond	Possess animal in park	\$1,000	Mudgee LC
Wilkinson, Dunbar	Possess animal in park	s.10	Narooma LC

Total prosecutions under parks wildlife, threatened species and Aboriginal heritage legislation: \$65,848

Prosecutions completed under native vegetation legislation

NON-TIER OFFENCES

Defendant	Charge	Result/Penalty	Court
<i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>			
Taylor, Colin Alfred	Clear native vegetation	\$20,000	LEC
Weismantel, Lawrence	Clear native vegetation	\$6,000	Kempsey LC

Total prosecutions under native vegetation legislation: \$26,000

Total DECC prosecutions completed

	Number of completed prosecutions	Value of fines and financial penalties
Total prosecutions under EPA legislation (fines and other financial penalties)	68	\$362,850
Total prosecutions under parks, wildlife, threatened species and Aboriginal heritage legislation (fines)	55	\$65,848
Total prosecutions under native vegetation legislation (fines)	2	\$26,000
Total DECC prosecutions	125	\$454,698

9. DECC-managed lands and waters

Terrestrial protected areas

Area (ha)	Area (ha)	Area (ha)	Area (ha)
Aboriginal areas	National parks		
Appletree 4	Abercrombie River 19,000	Conimbla 8,472	Ku-ring-gai Chase 14,978
Dubay Nurahm 6	Arakwal 186	Conjola 11,032	Kwiambal 6,532
Finchley 4	Bago Bluff 4,023	Coolah Tops 14,056	Lane Cove 635
Howe 7	Bald Rock 8,883	Coorabakh 1,840	Livingstone 1,919
Jubullum Flat Camp 7	Bangadilly 2,143	Cottan-Bimbang 30,679	Macquarie Pass 1,064
Lennox Head <1	Barakee 4,981	Crowdy Bay 10,300	Mallanganee 1,144
Mooney Mooney 8	Barool 11,214	Culgoa 35,240	Mallee Cliffs 57,969
Mt Ku-ring-gai <1	Barrington Tops 74,568	Cunnawarra 16,315	Maria 2,335
Murramarang 60	Basket Swamp 2,820	Curracabundi 10,784	Marramarra 11,786
Nambucca 2	Belford 294	Deua 12,2033	Marrangaroo 1,670
Nunguu Mirral 122	Bellinger River 2,830	Dharug 14,852	Maryland 2,283
Pindera Downs 11,433	Benambra 1,399	Dooragan 1,042	Mebbin 3,800
Snake Rock 61	Ben Boyd 10,486	Dorrigo 11,902	Meroo 3,663
Stonewoman 2	Ben Halls Gap 30,18	Dunggir 2,651	Middle Brother 1,830
Total area Aboriginal areas 11,717	Biamanga 13,749	Eurobodalla 2,913	Mimosa Rocks 5,802
Historic sites	Bimberamala 4,396	Fortis Creek 7,960	Minjary 1,462
Cadmans Cottage <1	Bindarri 5,513	Gardens of Stone 15,080	Monga 26,465
Clybucca 467	Biriwal Bulga 6,528	Garigal 2,203	Mooball 1,160
Davidson Whaling Station 27	Blue Mountains 267,955	Georges River 514	Morton 192,353
Hartley 14	Bongil Bongil 4,233	Ghin-Doo-Ee 4,819	Mt Clunie 1,426
Hill End 133	Boonoo Boonoo 4,377	Gibraltar Range 25,407	Mt Imlay 4,822
Innes Ruins 406	Booti Booti 1,567	Gir-um-bit 580	Mt Jerusalem 5,149
Koonadan 22	Border Ranges 31,729	Goobang 42,080	Mt Kaputar 50,226
Maroota 33	Botany Bay 456	Goonengerry 440	Mt Nothofagus 2,180
Maynggu Ganai 16	Bouddi 1,532	Goulburn River 72,578	Mt Pikapene 2,630
Mt Grenfell 1,357	Bournda 2,655	Gourock 7,873	Mt Royal 6,920
Mutawintji 486	Brindabella 18,454	Gulaga 4,673	Mt Warning 2,455
Throsby Park 75	Brisbane Water 11,474	Gumbaynggirr 4,938	Mummel Gulf 14,127
Tweed Heads 8	Broadwater 4,226	Gundabooka 63,903	Mungo 110,967
Wisemans Ferry 21	Budawang 23,787	Guy Fawkes River 106,574	Murramarang 12,387
Yuranighs Aboriginal Grave 2	Budderoo 7,120	Hat Head 7,459	Mutawintji 68,912
Total area historic sites 3,066	Bugong 1,022	Heathcote 2,679	Myall Lakes 47,594
	Bundjalung 20,359	Hunter Estuary 3,827	Nangar 9,196
	Bungawalbin 3,730	Indwarra 940	Nattai 48,985
	Butterleaf 3,000	Jerrawangala 4,009	New England 67,303
	Capoompeta 4,297	Jervis Bay 4,854	Nightcap 8,080
	Carrai 11,397	Junuy Juluum 945	Nowendoc 16,297
	Cascade 3,620	Kalyarr 8,173	Nymboi-Binderay 17,243
	Cataract 3,406	Kanangra-Boyd 68,661	Nymboida 40,044
	Cathedral Rock 10,921	Karuah 3,534	Oolambeyan 21,851
	Cattai 424	Kinchega 44,260	Oxley Wild Rivers 142,333
	Chaelundi 19,175	Kings Plains 6,919	Paroo-Darling 178,053
	Clyde River 1,278	Kooraban 11,644	Popran 3,970
	Cocoparra 8,358	Koreelah 5,270	Ramornie 3,307
	Columbey 868	Kosciuszko 673,492	Richmond Range 15,712
		Kumbatine 15,100	Royal 15,092

	Area (ha)
Saltwater	33
Scheyville	920
Scone Mountain	78
Seven Mile Beach	964
Single	2,559
South East Forest	115,991
Sturt	325,329
Sydney Harbour	393
Tallaganda	16,729
Tapin Tops	10,976
Tarlo River	8,074
Thirlmere Lakes	630
Tilligerry	141
Timbarra	1,772
Tomaree	2,402
Toooloom	4,380
Toonumbar	14,991
Towarri	6,074
Turon	3,059
Ulidarra	680
Wadbilliga	98,530
Wallarrah	178
Wallaroo	2,780
Wallingat	6,557
Warra	2,031
Warrabah	3,983
Warrumbungle	23,312
Washpool	67,347
Watagans	7,798
Weddin Mountains	8,377
Werakata	3,337
Werrikimbe	33,309
Willandra	19,386
Willi Willi	29,870
Woko	8,730
Wollemi	49,3765
Wollumbin	1,662
Woolooma	495
Woomargama	24,185
Worimi	1,827
Wyrrabalong	620
Yabbra	8,890
Yanga	31,190
Yanununbeyan	3,521
Yarrhapinni Wetlands	806
Yarriabini	2,183
Yengo	154,328
Yuraygir	35,502
Total area	5,009,730
national parks	

	Area (ha)
Nature reserves	
Aberbaldie	284
Agnes Banks	123
Andrew Johnston	21
Big Scrub	
Arakoola	3,180
Araluen	656
Avisford	2,437
Awabakal	228
Baalijin	2,701
Back River	735
Badja Swamps	561
Bagul Waajaarr	520
Ballina	721
Bamarang	370
Bandicoot Island	30
Banyabba	15,210
Barrengarry	21
Barren Grounds	2,024
Barton	529
Bees Nest	1,616
Bell Bird Creek	53
Belowla Island	4
Berkeley	8
Bermagquee	818
Berrico	910
Big Bush	640
Billinudgel	781
Bimberi	10,868
Binjura	707
Binnaway	3,699
Bird Island	7
Black Andrew	1,559
Bluff River	1,793
Boatharbour	24
Bobundara	204
Bogandyera	9,528
Boginderra Hills	554
Bolivia Hill	1,782
Bollanolla	650
Bondi Gulf	1,800
Boomi	156
Boomi West	149
Boonanghi	4,470
Boondelbah	9
Boorganna	390
Booroolong	968
Borong	195
Bournda	5,862
Bowraville	81
Bretti	2,902

	Area (ha)
Bridal Veil Falls	151
Brigalow Park	202
Brimbin	52
Broken Head	99
Broulee Island	43
Brundee Swamp	230
Brunswick Heads	222
Brush Island	47
Brushy Hill	80
Buddigower	327
Budelah	4,045
Bugan	1,530
Bull Island	1
Bungabbee	169
Bungawalbin	467
Burning Mountain	15
Burnt-Down Scrub	364
Burnt School	285
Burra Creek	270
Burrinjuck	5,250
Bushy Island	<1
Byrnes Scrub	737
Cambewarra Range	1,883
Camels Hump	545
Camerons Gorge	1,318
Captains Creek	2,834
Careunga	469
Castlereagh	490
Cecil Hoskins	47
Cedar Brush	190
Chambigne	798
Chapmans Peak	72
Clarence Estuary	130
Clarkes Hill	2,201
Cockle Bay	44
Cocopara	4,647
Colongra Swamp	112
Comboyne	23
Comerong Island	660
Coocumbac Island	5
Cook Island	5
Coolbaggie	1,793
Coolongolook	198
Coolumbooka	1,529
Cooperabung Creek	325
Coornartha	1,184
Copperhannia	3,497
Coramba	8
Corrie Island	164
Couchy Creek	218
Courabyra	239

	Area (ha)
Coxcomb	73
Cudgen	897
Cudgera Creek	60
Cullendulla Creek	126
Cumbebin Swamp	40
Cuumbeun	709
Dalrymple-Hay	11
Dananbilla	3,416
Dangelong	4,974
Dapper	999
Darawank	575
Davis Scrub	14
Deer Vale	181
Demon	900
Dharawal	347
Doctors Nose Mountain	66
Donnybrook	276
Downfall	496
Dthinna Dthinnawan	1,870
Dural	26
Durands Island	7
Duroby	31
Duval	240
Eagles Claw	1
Egan Peaks	2,145
Ellerslie	1,877
Eugowra	120
Eusdale	1,238
Evans Crown	425
Fifes Knob	553
Fishermans Bend	160
Five Islands	27
Flaggy Creek	72
Flagstaff Memorial	18
Flat Island	9
Freemantle	361
Gads Sugarloaf	477
Gamilaroi	114
Ganay	693
Garby	117
Georges Creek	1,190
Gibraltar	160
Girralang	640
Good Good	20
Goonawarra	437
Goonook	1,016
Goorooyarroo	266
Gubbata	162
Gulguer	359
Gungewalla	142
Guy Fawkes River	1,534

Area (ha)		Area (ha)		Area (ha)		Area (ha)	
Hattons Bluff	18	Little Llangothlin	258	Nearie Lake	4,347	Shark Island	2
Hattons Corner	4	Little Pimlico Island	16	Nest Hill	759	Sherwood	5,904
Hayters Hill	8	Long Island	73	Newington	48	Skillion	691
Hogarth Range	853	Loughnan	385	Ngadang	160	Smiths Lake	24
Hortons Creek	330	Macquarie	12	Ngambaa	10,560	Snapper Island	13
Illawong	51	Macquarie Marshes	19,825	Ngulin	1,250	Snows Gully	34
Illunie	721	Mann River	7,137	Nimmo	721	South-West Solitary Island	3
Iluka	136	Manobalai	3,759	Nocoleche	74,000	Spectacle Island	36
Imbota	218	Marshall's Creek	138	Nombinnie	70,000	Split Solitary Island	4
Ingalba	4,012	Medowie	238	North Obelisk	36	Stony Batter Creek	564
Inner Pocket	236	Melville Range	843	North Rock	4	Stony Creek	80
Ironbark	1,604	Meringo	49	North Solitary Island	20	Stormpetrel	8
Ironmungy	713	Mernot	320	North-West Solitary Island	4	Stotts Island	142
Jaanningga	975	Merriangaah	5,669	Numeralla	439	Strike-a-Light	407
Jagun	100	Midkin	359	Numinbah	858	Susan Island	23
Jasper	355	Mills Island	61	Oak Creek	404	Tabbimoble Swamp	1,070
Jerilderie	37	Moffats Swamp	151	One Tree Island	<1	Tabletop	104
Jerralong	341	Monkerai	865	Palm Grove	240	Talawahl	3,150
Jingellic	2,137	Monkeycot	1,612	Pambalong	35	Tallawudjah	1,247
Joadja	830	Montague Island	82	Parma Creek	3,565	Tapitallee	95
Jobs Mountain	702	Moonee Beach	336	Paupong	1,838	Tarawi	33,573
John Gould	26	Moon Island	1	Pee Dee	441	Taringa	1,342
Julian Rocks	<1	Moore Park	15	Pelican Island	40	The Basin	2,318
Juugawaarri	2,396	Mororo Creek	80	Pilliga	80,579	The Castles	2,720
Kajuligah	13,660	Morrison's Lake	312	Pitt Town	46	The Charcoal Tank	86
Kangaroo River	126	Mother of Ducks Lagoon	181	Planchonella	717	The Glen	2750
Karuah	823	Mt Clifford	306	Prospect	325	The Rock	347
Kattang	58	Mt Dowling	513	Pucawan	274	Tilligerry	513
Kemendok	1,043	Mt Hyland	2,519	Pulbah Island	69	Tinderry	14,623
Kemps Creek	129	Mt Mackenzie	141	Pulletop	145	Tingira Heights	18
Khappinghat	3,514	Mt Neville	6,575	Quanda	4,784	Tollgate Islands	12
Khatambuhl	801	Mt Nullum	99	Queanbeyan	68	Tollingo	3,232
Killabakh	2,644	Mt Seaview	1,704	Queens Lake	1,424	Tomalla	605
Killarney	435	Mt Yarowwyck	585	Quidong	750	Towibakh	62
Kirramingly	1,306	Muckleewee Mountain	355	Rawdon Creek	560	Towra Point	604
Koorawatha	1,105	Mudjarn	591	Razorback	2,595	Triplarina	157
Koorebang	465	Muldiva	10	Regatta Island	102	Tuckean	919
Kororo	11	Mulgoa	214	Richmond River	256	Tucki Tucki	4
Koukandowie	1,283	Mullengandra	150	Rileys Island	46	Tuggerah	132
Kuma	184	Mundoonen	1,471	Robertson	5	Tuggolo Creek	645
Kybeyan	432	Munghorn Gap	5,934	Rodway	83	Turallo	25
Lake Innes	3,523	Munro Island	14	Round Hill	13,630	Tweed Estuary	59
Lake Urana	302	Muogamarra	2,274	Saltwater Swamp	215	Tyagarah	800
Langtree	235	Mutawintji	6,688	Saratoga Island	2	Ukerebagh	150
Lansdowne	14	Muttonbird Island	9	Scabby Range	4,982	Ulandra	3,931
Ledknapper	30,604	Myalla	143	Scott	151	Undoo	19
Limeburners Creek	9,224	Nadgee	20,671	Sea Acres	76	Uralba	288
Limpinwood	2,647	Nadgigomar	5,596	Seaham Swamp	11	Valla	47
Linton	640	Narrandera	71	Seal Rocks	<1	Victoria Park	18
Lion Island	8	Narran Lake	20,565	Serpentine	723	Wadjan	92
Little Broughton Island	36	Narrawallee Creek	874	Severn River	5,750	Wallabadah	1,132

	Area (ha)
Wallamba	1,160
Wallis Island	584
Wallumatta	6
Wamberal Lagoon	140
Wambina	57
Wambool	194
Wanna Wanna	33
Warragai Creek	186
Watchimbark	744
Watsons Creek	1,260
Wee Jasper	631
Weelah	38
Weetalibah	2,146
Wiesners Swamp	103
Willi Willi Caves	8
Wilson	27
Winburndale	10,718
Windsor Downs	363
Wingen Maid	1,077
Wingham Brush	8
Wogamia	277
Woggoon	6,565
Wollondilly River	862
Wongarbon	99
Woodford Island	374
Woollamia	452
Wooyung	87
Woregore	84
Worrigee	232
Wullwye	155
Yaegl	313
Yahoo Island	47
Yanga	1,773
Yanununbeyan	40
Yaouk	2,924
Yarravel	318
Yarringully	285
Yathong	10,7241
Yattheyattah	35
Yessabah	17
Yina	100
Total area nature reserves	882,044

	Area (ha)
State conservation areas	
Arakoon	114
Avondale	314
Banyabba	3,566
Bargo	4,619
Bargo River	1,970
Barnunj	164
Barrakee	174
Barrington Tops	8,446
Bents Basin	48
Berlang	2,319
Bindarri	434
Black Bulga	1,554
Boonanghi	1,242
Bridal Veil Falls	65
Brindabella	2,880
Bulahdelah	138
Bundjalung	4870
Bungawalbin	1834
Bungonia	4007
Burraborang	17,642
Butterleaf	712
Camerons Gorge	429
Cape Byron	99
Carrai	6,853
Cascade	412
Cataract	572
Chaelundi	1,624
Chatsworth Hill	510
Colymea	1,674
Coneac	449
Copeland Tops	2,202
Corramy	856
Corymbia	495
Cottan-Bimbang	105
Curracabundi	729
Currys Gap	227
Dharawal	6,266
Everlasting Swamp	460
Fishermans Bend	39
Fladbury	114
Frogs Hole	77
Garawarra	949

	Area (ha)
Georges River	1
Gir-um-bit	184
Glenrock	534
Gumbaynggirr	2,561
Gundabooka	25,200
Gurranang	111
Guy Fawkes River	5,241
Illawarra Escarpment	2,494
Jackywalbin	661
Jilliby	12,159
Karuah	74
Kalyarr	6,768
Kooyong	753
Kumbatine	783
Kybeyan	4,173
Lake Innes	321
Lake Macquarie	761
Lawrence Road	440
Livingstone	541
Macanally	2,290
Macquarie Pass	166
Majors Creek	706
Maroomba	1,895
Maroota Ridge	260
Medowie	2,851
Monga	1,005
Morton	1,050
Mt Canobolas	1,673
Mt Hyland	293
Mt Pikapene	17
Mullion Range	1,025
Mummel Gulf	1,162
Munmorah	1,530
Nattai	3,383
Nombinnie	46,000
Nymboi-Binderay	585
Nymboida	528
Oxley Wild Rivers	1,439
Paroo-Darling	41,521
Parr	38,121
Queens Lake	1,026
Sugarloaf	3,926
Talawahl	136
Tallaganda	5,285

	Area (ha)
The Cells	4,708
Tilligerry	4,570
Toonumbar	128
Torrington	30,123
Tuggerah	126
Tumblong	746
Upper Nepean	25,237
Washpool	2,491
Watsons Creek	520
Werakata	2,300
Wereboldera	2,263
Werrikimbe	204
Whian Whian	2,439
Wollumbin	368
Wombat Creek	1,077
Worimi	1,043
Yanga	33,890
Yanununbeyan	3,823
Yarriabini	9
Yarringully	114
Yerranderie	12,192
Yurrammie	221
Yuraygir	3,150
Total area state conservation areas	435,626

	Area (ha)
Regional parks	
Berowra Valley	3,885
Blue Gum Hills	129
Bomaderry Creek	82
Coffs Coast	379
Leacock	34
Parramatta River	5
Penrith Lakes	<1
Rouse Hill	43
Western Sydney	564
Wianamatta	64
William Howe	43
Wolli Creek	8
Worimi	1,568
Yellomundee	485
Total area regional parks	7,289

Karst conservation reserves

Abercrombie	1,434
Borenore	136
Jenolan	2,422
Wombeyan	569
Total area karst conservation reserves	4,561

	Area (ha)
Community conservation areas: Zone 1 national parks	
Barayamal	179
Breelong	6,851
Bullala	2,516
Burrall Yurrul	1,037
Couradda	362
Crawney Pass	250
Dowe	381
Drillwarrina	1,077
Dthinna Dthinnawan	25,759
Garrawilla	937
Goonoo	9,090
Gunyaerwarildi	316
Gwydir River	2,257
Horton Falls	260
Kwiambal	796
Moema	2,028
Mogriguy	399
Murrurundi Pass	215
Nullamanna	296
Pilliga	11,120
Pilliga West	7,927
Somerton	759
Timallallie	39,395
Tinkrameanah	969
Warialda	1,603
Yarragin	3,201
Yarrobil	1,322
Total area community conservation areas Zone 1 national parks	121,302

	Area (ha)
Community conservation areas: Zone 2 Aboriginal areas	
Dandry Gorge	382
Deriah	2,240
Kelvin	2,267
Pilliga East	1,347
Terry Hie Hie	15,382
Total area community conservation areas Zone 2 Aboriginal areas	21,618

	Area (ha)
Community conservation areas: Zone 3 state conservation areas	
Beni	1,849
Biddon	3,352
Bingara	1,979
Bobbiwaa	2,688
Bullawa Creek	99
Durrigere	5,463
Goodiman	569
Goonoo	53,752
Goonoowigal	1,055
Gwydir River	2,607
Killarney	1,858
Leard	1,176
Merriwindi	1,730
Pilliga	33,386
Pilliga East	24,669
Pilliga West	34,415
Trinkey	10,229
Warialda	2,913
Wondoba	1,663
Total area community conservation areas Zone 3 state conservation areas	185,452

Summary of terrestrial protected areas at 30 June 2008

Type	No.	Area (ha)
Aboriginal areas	14	11,717
Historic sites	15	3,066
National parks	185	5,009,730
Nature reserves	396	882,044
State conservation areas	109	435,626
Regional parks	14	7,289
Karst conservation reserves	4	4,561
Community conservation areas Zone 1 national parks	27	121,302
Community conservation areas Zone 2 Aboriginal areas	5	21,618
Community conservation areas Zone 3 state conservation areas	19	185,452
Total	788	6,682,405*

*Represents 8.34% of land area of NSW

Declared wilderness in NSW

CCA: Community Conservation Area

HS: Historic Site

KCR: Karst Conservation Reserve

NP: National Park

NR: Nature Reserve

RP: Regional Park

SCA: State Conservation Area

VCA: Voluntary Conservation Area

Wilderness area	Reserve name(s)	Size (ha)*
Banyabba	Banyabba NR	17,924
Barrington	Barrington Tops and Mount Royal NPs	58,330
Bimberi	Kosciuszko NP, Bimberi NP and Scabby Range NR	60,785
Bindery-Mann	Nymboida, Gibraltar Range and Barool NPs	56,241
Bogong Peaks	Kosciuszko NP	28,758
Bramina	Kosciuszko NP	10,897
Broggo	Wadbilliga NP	39,900
Buckenbowra	Monga and Deua NPs	9,180
Budawang	Morton and Budawang NPs, Freehold VCA	75,839
Burra Oulla	Deua NP	17,776
Bundjalung	Bundjalung and Fortis Creek NPs	10,679
Byadbo	Kosciuszko NP	80,907
Carrai	Carrai NP	3,503
Cathedral Rock	Cathedral Rock NP	8,453
Chaelundi	Chaelundi NP	10,833
Ettrema	Morton NP	75,424
Genoa	South East Forest NP	6,161
Goobarragandra	Kosciuszko NP	33,532
Grattai	Mount Kaputar NP	4,180
Grose	Blue Mountains NP	37,788
Guy Fawkes	Guy Fawkes River NP & NR, Cathedral Rock NP	84,100
Indi	Kosciuszko NP	11,652
Jagungal	Kosciuszko NP	67,213
Kanangra-Boyd	Blue Mountains and Kanangra-Boyd NP, Yerranderie SRA	122,522
Kunderang	Oxley Wild Rivers NP	21,402
Levers	Border Ranges NP	15,266
Limeburners Creek	Limeburners Creek NR	8,351
Lost World	Border Ranges NP, Limpinwood NR	9,068

Wilderness area	Reserve name(s)	Size (ha)*
Macleay Gorges	Cunnawarra and Oxley Wild Rivers NPs, Georges Creek NR	77,741
Mootwingee	Mootwingee NP	47,895
Mount Seaview	Cotton-Bimbang NP and Mount Seaview NR	12,114
Mummel Gulf	Mummel Gulf NP	10,636
Nadgee	Nadgee NR	19,433
Nandewar	Mount Kaputar NP	13,182
Nattai	Nattai NP	29,040
New England	New England and Cunnawarra NPs	55,462
Pilot	Kosciuszko NP	80,311
Rusden	Mount Kaputar NP	12,637
Tuross	Wadbilliga NP	20,592
Warrazambil	Border Ranges NP	7,228
Washpool	Washpool, Gibraltar Range and Nymboida NPs	53,092
Werrikimbe	Werrikimbe NP	27,051
West Ettrema	Morton NP	12,770
Western Fall	Kosciuszko NP	15,217
Willi Willi	Willi Willi NP and Boonanghi NR	23,289
Woila Deua	Deua NP	26,996
Wollemi	Wollemi and Blue Mountains NPs	360,098
Yowrie	Wadbilliga NP	15,787
Total (48 contiguous areas)		1,907,233**

* Areas are calculated from DECC's digital mapping system (Lambert's projection) and rounded to the nearest hectare.

** Represents 2.4% of the total land area of NSW and 28.5% of total DECC-managed parks and reserves.

Other lands managed by DECC

Lands acquired under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, pending reservation/dedication at 30 June 2008

Park/Location	Area (ha)	Park/Location	Area (ha)	Park/Location	Area (ha)	Park/Location	Area (ha)
Bagul Waajaar NR	259	Crowdy Bay NP	105	Kalyarr SCA	4,028	South Solitary Island NR	11
Barton NR	16	Culgoa NP	894	Karuah NR	<1	Sturt NP	12,355
Billinudgel NR	8	Darawank NR	262	Kwiambal NP	666	Sydney Harbour NP	<1
Bindarri NP	77	Dthinna Dthinnawan NR	140	Lake Innes	16	Tamboroora	10
Blue Mountains NP	987	Dthinna Dthinnawan CCA (NP)	2,021	Lake Macquarie SCA	5	Thirlmere Lakes NP	10
Boginderra Hills NR	243	Dural NR	8	Lane Cove NP	37	Tinderry NR	81
Boonoo Boonoo NP	700	Duroby NR	<1	Ledknapper NR	17,256	Tuggerah NR	3
Borenore KCR	4	Durrigere CCA (SCA)	349	Livingstone SCA	61	Upper Nepean SCA	120
Brigalow Park NR	51	Eusdale	1,880	Marramarra NP	<1	Wambina NR	2
Brigalow Park NR (Claremont)	202	Gandangara	7	Marshall's Creek NR	64	Washpool NP	2,092
Brisbane Water NP	33	Garawarra SCA	2	Mimosa Rocks NP	<1	Watchimbark NR	520
Broadwater NP	6	Glenrock SCA	4	Minimbah	125	Wee Jasper NR	2
Bullala CCA (NP)	3,276	Goulburn River NP	118	Morton NP	2,086	Wiarborough	204
Burraborang SCA	1	Gundabooka SCA	265	Myall Lakes NP	8	Wollemi NP	472
Burrall Yurrul	1341	Guy Fawkes River NP	4,852	Narran Lake NR	1,509	Wolli Creek RP	11
Cataract NP	470	Gwydir River CCA (NP)	2,112	Nattai NP	1,134	Yanga NP	4,838
Cathedral Rock NP	45	Gwydir River CCA (SCA)	1,439	New England NP	1,294	Yarrahappini Wetlands NP	311
Chaelundi NP	1,878	Hayters Hill NR	<1	Nombinnie	7,063	Yarrobil CCA (NP)	524
Clybucca HS	310	Hill End HS	4	Nowendoc NP	1,071	Yellomundee RP	<1
Coffs Coast RP	2	Hunter Estuary NP	60	Nymboida NP	3,663	Yengo NP	158
Coneac SCA	355	Illawarra Escarpment SCA	103	Oxley Wild Rivers NP	9,675	Yuraygir NP	30
Coolah Tops NP	1,148	Jervis Bay NP	363	Paroo-Darling NP	521	Total	100,560
Coolangatta Mountain	41			Pilliga West CCA (SCA)	1,675		
Copeland Tops SCA	219			South East Forest NP	191		

Lands vested in the Minister administering the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* by virtue of Act 1996 No. 131 (Forestry Revocation and National Park Reservation Act)

Total area: approximately 452 hectares, mainly in south-east NSW

Crown land occupied by DECC under reserves or lease for various management purposes at 30 June 2008

Location	Reserve* R= Crown Reserve No. 95 gazetted Sp.L = Special lease with Department of Lands	Area (m ²)	Purpose
Armidale	R 89685	1,256	Workshop
Armidale	Sp.L.1989/4	2,753	Depot
Bingara	R 87087	2,023	Depot
Broken Hill	R 230017	1,125	Residence
Cobar	R 92637	749	Staff accommodation
Eden	R 91136	1,145	Workshop
Gol Gol	R 91509	2,023	Workshop
Narooma	R 95616	1,992	Workshop
Rylstone	R 190042	2,491	Depot
Tibooburra	R 96931	1,012	Workshop
Tibooburra	R 95882	1,799	Workshop/depot
Tibooburra	R 91376	2,023	Workshop
Ulladulla	R 180018	3,661	Workshop/office
Walcha	R 98162	3,862	Workshop/depot

Lands acquired under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and held for management purposes (not reserved) at 30 June 2008

Location	Area (m²)	Purpose
Armidale: 145 Miller Street	2,815	Depot
Baradine	5,615	Visitor centre
Boambee	4,725	Workshop/depot
Bombala	4,900	Workshop/depot
Bourke: Short, Anson and Tudor streets	3,036	Staff accommodation
Broken Hill	475	Regional office
Broken Hill: 167–173 Argent Street	1,881	Parking area
Bucketty	6,731	Workshop
Bulga	35,8000	Office/depot
Cobar: 61 Bradley Street	563	Staff accommodation
Cobar: lots 36 and 37 Wrightville Street and lots 42 and 43 Brickworks Road	7,498	Workshop
Dorrigo	5,210	Workshop/depot
Dungog	2,104	Depot
Ebor	1,700	Workshop/depot
Eden	4,196	Workshop/depot
Gloucester	7,245	Depot
Griffith	1,808	Workshop/depot
Hay: 2 Meakes Street	865	Staff accommodation
Hay	2,803	Area office
Jindabyne: Munyang and Cobbon streets and Snowy River Avenue	1.0825 ha	Staff accommodation/visitor centre
Khancoban: 1, 5 and 13 Douglas Street, 1 and 3 Blackburn Street, 8 Whitehead Street, Scammel Street, 19 Read Street and 24 Sheather Street	10,460	Staff accommodation
Khancoban: 5 and 6 Gray Street	2,049	Depot
Khancoban: corner McIlree and Gray streets	1,031	Depot
Menindee	2,023	Staff accommodation
Narooma	2,665	Workshop/depot
Nowra	7,954	Workshop/depot
Oakdale	4,274	Depot
Oberon	1,701	Office
Oberon	6,000	Workshop
Peak Hill	4,023	Workshop/depot
Rylstone	2,188	Depot
Scone: Hayes Street	4,529	Workshop/depot
Tenterfield	6,327	Depot
Tibooburra	506	Office accommodation
Tibooburra	506	Visitor centre
Tibooburra: Sturt Street	1,012	Staff accommodation
White Cliffs: corner Johnston Street and Karara Road	3,590	Visitor centre
Wilcannia: Woore Street	8,090	Workshop
Yetman	4,312	Depot/staff accommodation
Yetman: 63 Simpson Street	2,023	Staff accommodation

Aquatic protected areas

Marine parks

The NSW Government has declared six marine parks:

	Area (ha)
Batemans	85,100
Cape Byron	22,200
Jervis Bay	21,500
Lord Howe Island	45,500
Port Stephens-Great Lakes	98,400
Solitary Islands	71,500
Total	345,100

As at 30 June 2008, 34% (345,100 ha) of NSW waters are in the marine parks system, including approximately 6.5% (64,900 ha) in sanctuary zones.

Aquatic reserves

	Area (ha)
Barrenjoey Head	20
Boat Harbour	72
Bronte-Coogee	43
Bushrangers Bay	4
Cabbage Tree Bay	20
Cape Banks	22
Cook Island	78
Narrabeen Head	5
Long Reef	60
North (Sydney) Harbour	260
Shiprock	2
Towra Point	1,401
Total	1,987

Summary of aquatic protected areas as at 30 June 2008

Type	No.	Area (ha)
Marine parks	6	345,100
Aquatic reserves	12	1,987
Total	18	347,087

10. Statement of affairs

Under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (FOI Act), DECC is required to prepare a statement of affairs which describes its structure and functions; how the functions affect members of the public; how the public can participate in policy development; documents held by DECC; and how people can access those documents or seek amendment to documents concerning their personal affairs.

Structure and functions

DECC consists of the following Groups and Divisions:

- Climate Change Policy and Programs Group
- Parks and Wildlife Group
- Environment Protection and Regulation Group
- Culture and Heritage Division
- Scientific Services Division
- Corporate Services Division

The Botanic Gardens Trust is also part of DECC but reports separately under the statutory trust. For detailed descriptions of DECC's structure and functions, see Chapter 1 – Overview.

Effect of functions on members of the public

DECC is the NSW government agency with primary responsibility for working with the community to protect and conserve our environment, including our natural and cultural heritage. DECC leads the state's response to climate change and natural resource management and delivers water, energy and waste sustainability programs. Strategic policies and programs set corporate-wide direction and priorities in biodiversity and landscape conservation and environment protection.

DECC is committed to preventing pollution before it occurs, avoiding the creation of waste and managing cultural heritage, wildlife and the protected area system. DECC also recognises that strong and credible regulatory programs and innovative regulatory tools are needed to help address environmental problems. These functions have a broad effect on members of the public through, for example:

- licensing regimes for a range of issues including regulation of pollution from industrial premises through to licences to keep native wildlife
- specifying what recreation and other activities can take place on DECC-managed land and waters while maintaining important conservation values
- receiving reports of pollution incidents and responding appropriately
- monitoring and reporting on air quality and water quality
- encouraging waste reduction, recycling and the sustainable use of resources, such as energy and water.

Public participation in policy formulation

The health of the environment depends on community commitment and its involvement at all levels from policy development to everyday business, recreational or domestic activities. This includes all sectors: business, industry, environment groups, Aboriginal communities, individuals, landholders, catchment management authorities, and state, local and federal government bodies. DECC works with all of these to implement an integrated environment protection framework for NSW, and to protect our natural resources and cultural heritage.

The community participates in policy formulation through the various consultative bodies described elsewhere in this annual report. DECC also seeks public submissions when developing and reviewing policies, plans and programs. DECC's website regularly features calls for public comment and describes how to make submissions on its proposals.

Documents held by DECC and how to obtain them

DECC holds documents in its metropolitan, regional and area offices. While many documents are available for inspection or purchase, access to some documents may require an application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*, the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* or the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*.

Freedom of information applications

You can apply under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* for access to documents held by DECC that are not publicly available. The documents can relate to personal or non-personal information. You can also apply under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* to correct any information about your personal affairs that may be incomplete, incorrect, misleading or out-of-date.

Contact the Freedom of Information/Privacy Officer at PO Box A290, Sydney South 1232, phone (02) 9995 6080 or (02) 9995 6497, or visit DECC's website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au for an application form and information about the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*, the process, fees and charges. Freedom of Information statistics for 2007–08 are detailed in Appendix 11.

Privacy applications

The *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* regulate the way DECC deals with personal and health information and gives people a legally enforceable right of access to their information.

Applications can be made for personal information that may be held by DECC. Applications may also be made to amend personal information that may be incomplete, incorrect, misleading or out-of-date. If you believe that DECC has breached your privacy, you can ask us to investigate what occurred.

Contact the Freedom of Information/Privacy Officer at PO Box A290, Sydney South 1232, phone (02) 9995 6080 or (02) 9995 6497, or visit DECC's website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Policy documents

A list of policy documents called the Summary of Affairs is published each June and December in the *Government Gazette* and on the DECC website. These documents include corporate policy documents, scientific policies and manuals, environmental guidelines, field policies and procedures. Many of these documents are also available on the DECC website, while others may be purchased.

Publications

DECC produces a range of books, guides, teachers' kits, information pamphlets and posters. Publications may be obtained over the counter at DECC's office at 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney, and from many regional and area offices, and visitor centres. The DECC website features a list of publications for sale and downloading.

Photographs

A photographic library is available to the public and other agencies under certain conditions. Fees and charges may apply.

For further information phone (02) 9995 5000 or visit the DECC website.

Registers

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO) Public Register

The POEO Public Register is a register of environment protection licences and notices, any exemptions from the provisions of the Act or Regulations, details of convictions for offences under the Act and the results of civil proceedings. For more information contact DECC's Environment Line on 131 555 or email info@environment.nsw.gov.au. Also visit the Public Register on the DECC website free of charge.

Contaminated land

Copies of declarations, orders and notices issued under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* are available at a cost of \$12. A full list or part-list of the regulatory instruments issued under the Act is also available for \$12. A register of contaminated sites is available on the DECC website free of charge. Alternatively, phone 131 555 or email info@environment.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Chemicals and dangerous goods

DECC holds a number of public registers for chemicals and dangerous goods:

- approvals, exemptions and determinations under the *Road and Rail Transport (Dangerous Goods) Act 1997*
- dangerous goods licences
- *Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985* licences
- declared chemical wastes and chemical control orders under the *Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985*.

For more information on the above registers, contact by telephone on 131 555 or by email at info@environment.nsw.gov.au. The dangerous goods register is also accessible on the DECC website free of charge.

Threatened species

DECC holds three public registers under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The register for s. 91 licences under the Act, which contains the applications for licences (s. 96) and the licences issued (s. 104), and the register of critical habitat declared under s. 55 of the Act are available at DECC's office at 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney and on DECC's website free of charge. Phone 131 555 for more information.

The Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (BioBanking) public register covers:

- Biobanking agreements
- Biobank site expressions of interest
- Biobanking statements
- Biodiversity credits
- Biodiversity credit transaction.

It is available on the DECC website.

Native vegetation

DECC maintains a public register on the internet of a number of issues that relate to managing native vegetation in NSW. The register includes information on:

- the approval of broadscale clearing of native vegetation
- property vegetation plans (PVPs) and development consents that allow broadscale clearing where a catchment management authority has exercised its discretion
- dates specified in PVPs to meet relevant regrowth definitions
- clearing native vegetation for essential local government infrastructure.

Visit the native vegetation register at www.nativevegetation.nsw.gov.au/registry/index.shtml

Heritage and conservation

Section 170 of the *Heritage Act 1977* requires all NSW Government departments to have a Heritage and Conservation Register. DECC's register contains details of the Aboriginal, historic, natural, archaeological, moveable, multicultural and maritime heritage it manages with local, state, national and world heritage significance. The register is recorded as a subset of data within DECC's Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS).

DECC is refining the information it holds in order to provide a comprehensive register to the NSW Heritage Office by December 2009 in line with Heritage Council guidelines for NSW Government agencies managing heritage assets. The draft register currently contains over 3,000 items from parks and reserves across the state. It includes 37 items managed by DECC which are also on the State Heritage Register. DECC is still collating information about the items on the register, including information on the condition and cartilage of each item. When completed by December 2009, the dataset will also form part of State of the Parks reporting, which will require a review of information on the condition of these items every three years.

The condition of the 37 items on the State Heritage Register that DECC owns or manages complies with the standards set by the NSW Heritage Office for items on that register. The Royal Botanic Gardens maintains its own section 170 register.

HHIMS includes information about recorded historic places on sites managed by DECC. HHIMS holds details on the type and location of historic places and sites, reports, permits and other archival material. Access to HHIMS is available to researchers and interested members of the public through the HHIMS Registrar.

For more information, contact the HHIMS Registrar, Culture and Heritage Division, Hurstville by email at hhims@environment.nsw.gov.au.

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) includes a database and recording cards for all Aboriginal objects, Aboriginal places and other Aboriginal heritage values in NSW that have been reported to DECC. Access to AHIMS is available to Aboriginal groups, researchers and interested members of the public. Access may be restricted in some cases due to the sensitivity of some matters. DECC undertakes searches of AHIMS for a fee.

For more information, contact the AHIMS Registrar, Culture and Heritage Division, Hurstville on (02) 9585 6513 or (02) 9585 6345 or by email at ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Conservation

DECC holds registers of conservation agreements, interim protection orders and wilderness protection agreements. These are available at DECC's Hurstville office. For more information phone 131 555.

Leases, easements and rights of way on national parks and reserves

Section 151D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* requires the agency to keep a register of information on every lease, easement or right of way granted on national parks and reserves. This register is available on the DECC website.

Other information services

The Beachwatch and Harbourwatch information line provides a daily summary of water quality conditions at ocean and harbour beaches: phone 1800 036 677. It advises the public on whether there is any risk of bacterial contamination from swimming beaches and harbours in Sydney, and the Hunter and Illawarra regions.

11. Freedom of information applications

New Freedom of information (FOI) applications

FOI applications received, discontinued or completed	Number of FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08
New	2	2	83	84	85	86
Brought forward	0	0	15	7	15	7
Total to be processed	2	2	98	91	100	93
Completed	2	2	78	69	80	71
Discontinued	0	0	11	10	11	10
Total processed	2	2	89	79	91	81
Unfinished (carried forward)	0	0	7	12	7	12

Discontinued applications

Reasons why FOI applications were discontinued	Number of discontinued FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08
Request transferred out to another agency (s20)	0	0	4	3	4	3
Applicant withdrew request	0	0	3	2	3	2
Applicant failed to pay advance deposit (s22)	0	0	4	4	4	4
Applicant failed to amend a request that would have been an unreasonable diversion of resources to complete (s25(1)(a1))	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total discontinued	0	0	11	10	11	10

Completed applications

Completed FOI applications	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08
Granted or otherwise available in full	1	0	47	36	48	36
Granted or otherwise available in part	0	2	22	21	22	23
Refused	0	0	4	7	4	7
No documents held	1	0	5	5	6	5
Total completed	2	2	78	69	80	71

Applications granted or otherwise available in full

How documents were made available to the applicant	Number of FOI applications (granted or otherwise available in full)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08
All documents requested were:						
Provided to the applicant	1	0	47	36	48	36

Applications granted or otherwise available in part

How documents were made available to the applicant	Number of FOI applications (granted or otherwise available in part)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
Documents made available were:	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08
Provided to the applicant	0	2	22	21	22	23

Refused FOI applications

Reasons why access to the documents was refused	Number of refused FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08
Exempt	0	0	4	7	4	7
Deemed refused	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total refused	0	0	4	7	4	7

Exempt documents

Reasons why the documents were classified as exempt	Number of FOI applications (refused or access granted or otherwise available in part only)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08

Restricted documents

Cabinet documents (Clause 1)	0	0	3	4	3	4
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety (Clause 4)	0	0	3	5	3	5

Documents requiring consultation

Documents affecting personal affairs (Clause 6)	0	1	2	0	2	1
Documents affecting business affairs (Clause 7)	0	0	0	3	0	3

Documents otherwise exempt

Internal working documents (Clause 9)	0	0	1	0	1	0
Documents subject to legal professional privilege (Clause 10)	0	0	4	8	4	8
Documents subject to secrecy provisions (Clause 12)	0	0	2	2	2	2
Documents containing confidential material (Clause 13)	0	1	3	5	3	6
Documents affecting financial or property interests of the state or an agency (Clause 15)	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total applications including exempt documents	0	2	18	28	18	30

Ministerial certificates (s59)

	Number of ministerial certificates	
	2006–07	2007–08
Ministerial certificates issued	0	0

Formal consultations

Formal consultations conducted	Number	
	2006–07	2007–08
Number of applications requiring formal consultation	48	41
Number of persons formally consulted	327	272

Amendment of personal records

Applications for amendment of personal records agreed to or refused	Number of applications for amendment of personal records	
	2006–07	2007–08
Agreed in full	0	0
Agreed in part	0	0
Refused	0	0
Total	0	0

Notation of personal records

Formal consultations conducted	Number of applications for notation	
	2006–07	2007–08
Applications for notation	0	0

Fees and costs

Fees assessed and received for FOI applications processed (excluding applications transferred out)	Assessed costs		Fees received	
	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08
All completed applications	\$14,795	\$10,972	\$13,790	\$10,972

Fee discounts and waivers

Fee waivers and discounts allowed and reasons	Number of FOI applications (where fees were waived or discounted)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08
Processing fees waived in full	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public interest discounts	0	0	3	5	3	5
Financial hardship discounts – pensioner or child	0	0	3	0	3	0
Financial hardship discounts – non-profit organisation	0	0	6	5	6	5
Total	0	0	12	10	12	10

Fee refunds

Fee refunds granted	Number of refunds	
	2006–07	2007–08
Number of fee refunds granted as a result of significant correction of personal records	0	0

Days taken to complete request

Calendar days taken to process completed applications	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08
0–21 days – statutory determination period	1	0	34	33	35	33
22–35 days – extended statutory determination period	1	2	31	32	32	34
Over 21 days – deemed refusal where no extended determination period applies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 35 days – deemed refusal where extended determination period applies	0	0	13	4	13	4
Total	2	2	78	69	80	71

Processing time

Time taken to process completed applications	Number of completed FOI applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08
0–10 hours	2	2	63	52	65	54
11–20 hours	0	0	8	14	8	14
21–40 hours	0	0	5	3	5	3
Over 40 hours	0	0	2	0	2	0
Total	2	2	78	69	80	71

Number of reviews finalised

	2006–07	2007–08
Internal reviews	4	6
Ombudsman reviews	0	0
ADT reviews	0	0

Results of internal reviews

Grounds on which the internal review was requested	Number of internal reviews					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08	2006–07	2007–08
Original agency decision						
Access refused	0	0	3	0	3	0
Access deferred	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exempt matter deleted from documents	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable charges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to consult with third parties	0	0	0	0	0	0
Third parties views disregarded	0	0	2	1	2	1
Amendment of personal records refused	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	5	1	5	1

12. Guarantee of service

This year, DECC published its Guarantee of Service as part of its commitment to customer satisfaction.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) is responsible for protecting and conserving the environment and the Aboriginal cultural heritage of NSW. It is also responsible for managing national and marine parks and reserves, ensuring sustainable management of natural resources (including coastal environments and floodplains), and developing and coordinating programs to address the impacts of climate change in NSW.

In carrying out its role, DECC:

- undertakes regulatory and compliance activities and programs to protect the environment and our Aboriginal cultural heritage
- manages more than six million hectares of land (over 8% of the state) for conservation, education and public enjoyment
- delivers policies, programs and services across the full range of its responsibilities.

The people of NSW expect the work of DECC to be conducted with responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, and we are committed to delivering our services in a professional, timely manner that promotes and maintains public confidence and trust.

Principles

Our four service principles establish the standard of service people may expect from us:

Respect

We will treat people and the environment with respect. Our client service will be culturally sensitive to all people and will recognise the rights and interests of Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. We will involve the community in helping to protect and conserve the environment and our cultural heritage.

Helpfulness

We will listen to our stakeholders and the broader community, and explain our processes in a friendly and helpful manner so that interactions with us are clearly understood. We will work to be consistent, accurate and impartial. Access to DECC programs and information will be supported by communication technology where possible.

Responsiveness

Our services will be delivered in a timely, ethical and transparent way. Phone calls will be answered promptly and the first person you speak to will aim to have your request dealt with in a way that meets your needs. We will communicate clearly and establish programs to assist in any emergency. DECC staff will endeavour at all times to meet these service standards.

Continuous improvement

We seek to have our services meet people's needs and to improve all our products and services through collaboration and continuous improvement. We will regularly and systematically consult with people who use our services, and listen to their ideas for improvement.

Service standards

Telephone calls

We will respond to telephone enquiries promptly during normal office hours. The person answering your call will identify their name or position, or the area you have contacted. We aim to answer all calls within four rings.

We seek to minimise the use of voicemail. Where it is necessary to divert calls to voicemail, the name and number of an alternative contact will be provided as part of the message. Voicemail messages will be acknowledged by phone or email within one working day of the officer's return.

General correspondence

We will aim to reply to correspondence, including email correspondence, within 20 working days of receiving it. If we are unable to give you an answer in full within that time, you will receive an acknowledgement and notice of when you can expect a full reply. A contact name and telephone number will be provided in all correspondence.

Emails

We will treat emails as general correspondence. We seek to have all emails to DECC accessed within 24 hours. As with other general correspondence, if we are unable to give you an answer in full within 20 working days of receipt of your request, you will receive an acknowledgement and notice of when you can expect a full reply. A contact name and telephone number will be provided in all correspondence, including emails.

Booking accommodation at parks and reserves

Information on the types of accommodation, including camping facilities, is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/searchAccommodation.aspx along with contact details for area offices. We will respond to requests within five working days.

Discovery tour bookings

Details on National Parks and Wildlife Service guided tours in various areas are available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/Tours.aspx. We will reply to your booking request within two working days.

General bookings for parks and reserves for trips, special events and school holiday activities

Bookings for activities in parks and reserves are usually made at the time of the request; otherwise, we will respond to requests within five working days.

Botanic Gardens bookings

Botanic Gardens indoor events and marquee bookings require three working days; lawn weddings and picnics may require up to two weeks and special public events require a minimum of three weeks to approve, depending on the time of year.

Wheelchair friendly parks and reserves

There are wheelchair-accessible features and facilities in many parks and reserves. Further information is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parks/Wheelchair.htm

Information centres

These are open from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm for information and advice on DECC matters, including advice on the range of national park annual passes available for purchase, and arrangements for pass exemptions.

Obtaining information

We will provide publicly available information promptly when we receive a request. If there is likely to be a delay, we will advise you of the reason for the delay and when we will be able to provide the information.

If the information you need is not publicly available, you can apply for it under the *Freedom of Information Act, 1989*. If you would like to access information or documents concerning your personal affairs, you can apply for them under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, 1998*. Further information is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whowere/information.htm

Feedback on our service

We welcome and value your comments about the programs and services that we provide. Your feedback will help us improve our service delivery, address your concerns, resolve any problems, and develop our programs and services.

Please let us know in person, by telephone or in writing if:

- we are giving you positive or outstanding service
- you have any ideas on how we can improve our programs and service delivery
- you are dissatisfied with the service you have received.

Making complaints

In all instances, we are committed to resolving your problem quickly. It will help us achieve this if, when you wish to make a complaint, you discuss the problem initially with the person who provided the service or, if they are unavailable, the manager of that area.

13. Information Centre and Environment Line statistics

The following table shows a detailed breakdown of inquiries to DECC's Information Centre and predecessor services over the last five years. It includes information calls taken by the 'Environment Line' telephone service.

Information inquiries to DECC's Information Centre by subject area

Subject	2003–04		2004–05		2005–06		2006–07		2007–08	
	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No
Air	16	6,224	14	5,570	13	4,818	10	4,027	7	4,100
Chemicals	13	4,862	15	5,689	12	4,480	8	3,200	8.5	4,980
Land	8	3,112	5.7	2,202	6.4	2,418	4	1,612	7	4,101
Noise	14	5,602	16	6,193	12	4,278	8	3,242	8	4,686
Waste	17	6,612	17	6,535	22	8,205	36	14,496	35	20,503
Water	14	5,328	13	5,018	12	4,345	9	3,624	6.5	3,808
Other	18	7,158	20	7,691	24	8,980	25	10,067	28	16,402
Total	100	38,898	100	38,898	100	37,524	100	40,268	100	58,580
Flora/fauna	na	na	na	na	28	16,518	31	20,640	24	16,504
National parks	na	na	na	na	48	28,713	51	33,956	30	20,630
National parks passes	na	na	na	na	24	14,260	18	11,984	22	15,128
Climate Change Fund	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	24	16,506
Total	na	na	na	na	100	59,491	100	66,580	100	68,768
Total information contacts	na	na	na	na	na	97,015	100	106,848		127,348
Other inquiries at reception	na	na	na	na	100	30,355	100	33,635	100	37,330
Switchboard inquiries	na	na	na	na	100	60,658	100	67,500	100	63,907

Calls to Environment Line reporting pollution incidents by type

Incident type	2003–04		2004–05		2005–06		2006–07		2007–08	
	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No
Air	10	1,051	11	1,078	9.2	746	10	671	10	695
Air – odour	30	3,191	33	3,238	33	2,662	36	2,478	32	2,215
Chemicals – waste	4.3	451	4.2	405	4.2	338	5	339	5	360
Chemicals – hazardous waste	2.1	218	1.9	180	1.3	103	2	120	2	115
Chemicals – illegal dumping	1.3	138	0.9	92	0.8	65	1	92	1	74
Chemicals – toxic spills	0.7	74	0.3	33	0.5	39	0.3	22	0.2	15
Contaminated land	0.2	26	0.2	23	0.3	23	0.5	31	0.4	25
Cultural heritage	na	na	na	na	0.1	6	0.1	8	0.1	7
Noise	3.3	346	4.1	393	3.2	263	4	279	5	354
Noise – scheduled premises	11	1,123	11	1,045	10.6	867	11	760	12	800
Native vegetation									5.5	378
Pesticides	2.9	308	3.4	331	3.1	255	4	279	4.5	310
Radiation	0.1	7	< 0.1	2	0.1	6	0.4	25	0.1	7
Threatened species	na	na	< 0.1	4	0.9	72	2.3	157	2	120
Water	11	1,199	13	1,292	13	1,097	8	563	8	530
Water – algae	0.3	30	0.2	17	0.4	34	0.4	26	0.2	15
Water – fish kills	0.8	87	0.7	67	0.9	70	1	62	0.7	50
Water – oil spills	2	210	1.6	153	1.8	147	2	151	2.3	165
Water – stormwater	19	2,036	14	1,343	16.6	1,350	12	801	9	600
Total	100	10,495	100	9,696	100	8,143	100	6,864	100	6,835

Calls to Environment Line and reports to the DECC website on vehicle-related pollution incidents

Incident type	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08
Smoky vehicles	5,426	4,466	3,488	3,396	2,830
Noisy vehicles	655	1,155	561	896	1,063
Littering from vehicles	5,746	5,574	4,379	5,058	4,429
Total	11,827	11,195	8,428	9,350	8,322

14. Publications

Corporate publications

Department of Environment and Climate Change Annual Report 2006–07

Environmental Trust Annual Report 2006–07

Radiation Advisory Council Annual Report 2006–07

Discussion papers and draft plans

Draft BioBanking assessment methodology

Draft BioBanking compliance assurance strategy

Draft NSW cleaner vehicles and fuels strategy

Guidelines for implementing the POEO (Underground Petrol Storage Systems) Regulation 2008: Draft for comment

Illegal dumping prevention and clean-up: Handbook for Aboriginal communities – Consultation draft (with DVD)

Improving air quality through vapour recovery at service stations: discussion paper

Regulatory Impact Statement: Contaminated Land Management Regulation 2008

Regulatory Impact Statement: Proposed Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Regulation 2008

Regulatory Impact Statement: Proposed Threatened Species Conservation (Biodiversity Banking) Regulation 2007

Reviewing the interim community consultation requirements for applicants for Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits: discussion paper

Guidelines and advisory documents

Aboriginal tour guide training manual

Better practice guide for waste management in multi unit dwellings (CD)

Conservation partnerships: a guide for industry

Contaminated sites: prevention of contamination on marina sites

Controlling soil erosion on construction sites using compost blankets

Crackdown on illegal dumping: handbook for local government

Emergency pollution and orphan waste clean-up program: guidelines for applying for Environmental Trust funds towards clean-up costs

Endangered Ecological Communities field identification guidelines:

- Freshwater wetlands on coastal floodplains
- Littoral rainforest
- Lower Hunter spotted gum – ironbark forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion
- McKies stringybark/blackbutt open forest
- Ribbon gum – mountain gum – snow gum grassy forest/ woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion
- River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplain
- Subtropical coastal floodplain forest
- Swamp oak floodplain forest

- Swamp sclerophyll forest on coastal floodplain
- White box – yellow box – Blakely's red gum woodland
- Coastal saltmarsh
- Montane peatlands and swamps

E-RAMP: environmental risk assessment and mitigation package for small waste facilities (CD)

Floodplain risk management guideline: practical consideration of climate change

Guidelines for conducting household kerbside residual waste, recycling and garden organics audits in NSW local government areas 2008

Guidelines for the use of the Environmental Trust name and logo

Guidelines on resource recovery exemptions (land application)

Guide to licensing: Part A (revision)

Guide to licensing: Part B (revision)

Guide to the BioBanking threatened species profile database

Load calculation protocol (June 2008)

Lord Howe Island Biodiversity Management Plan

NSW resource recovery industries survey 2005–06

NSW RiverBank Business Plan: Part A Program plan 2006–11

NSW RiverBank Business Plan: Part B Annual plan 2007–08

NSW statement of intent for infection of native plants by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*

NSW waste avoidance and resource recovery performance report 2006

NSW waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy 2007

NSW waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy 2007: overview

Resource guide for local councils: environmental management of council operations

Science statement

Strategic environmental compliance and performance review – preventing contaminated sites

Threatened species assessment guidelines – the assessment of significance

Underground petrol storage systems regulation exemption plan

Waste classification guidelines:

- Part 1 – Classifying waste
- Part 2 – Immobilisation of waste
- Part 3 – Waste containing radioactive waste

Waste tracking fact sheets:

- Characterising your waste
- New waste tracking requirements
- Online waste tracking
- Transporting waste interstate or overseas
- Waste that must be tracked
- Waste tracking for authorised agents
- Waste tracking for receiving facilities
- Waste tracking for waste producers
- Waste tracking for waste transporters

Environmental and technical reports

Air emissions inventory for the Greater Metropolitan Region of NSW:

- Technical report 1 – Criteria pollutant emissions for all sectors
- Technical report 2 – Anthropogenic ozone precursors and particle emissions in the Greater Metropolitan and Sydney regions
- Technical report 3 – Biogenic emissions module
- Technical report 4 – Commercial emissions module
- Technical report 5 – Domestic–commercial emissions module
- Technical report 6 – Industrial emissions module
- Technical report 7 – Off-road mobile emissions module
- Technical report 8 – On-road mobile emissions module
- Technical report 9 – Emissions data management system
- Technical report 10 – Emissions to area report analysis

An ecological footprint study of NSW and Sydney

Alps to Atherton Initiative: NSW business plan 2007–10

Audit of the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment 2007

BioBanking Scheme overview

Blue Lake Ramsar site: Ecological character description

Current and projected air quality in NSW: a technical paper supporting the Clean Air Forum 2007

Identifying potential agricultural and horticultural markets for composted garden organics in NSW

Introducing the NSW threatened species priorities action statement

Lake Pinaroo Ramsar site: ecological character description

NSW Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2007–08

NSW Extended Producer Responsibility Priority Statement 2007

NSW Extended Producer Responsibility Priority Statement 2007 – public consultation report

NSW Government Action Plan for Energy Efficiency

NSW Government Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) Progress Report 2008

Reducing contamination of dry recyclables and garden organics at the kerbside – The NSW experience

Report into the construction and demolition waste stream audit 2000–05

Report on the implementation of the NSW extended producer responsibility priority statement 2005–06

Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001

Risks and benefits associated with using compost prepared from harvested aquatic weed for improving land condition

Terrestrial vertebrate fauna of the Greater Southern Sydney Region: Volume 1 – Background report

Terrestrial vertebrate fauna of the Greater Southern Sydney Region: Volume 2 – Fauna of conservation concern including priority pest species

Terrestrial vertebrate fauna of the Greater Southern Sydney Region: Volume 3 – Fauna of the Warragamba Special Area

Terrestrial vertebrate fauna of the Greater Southern Sydney Region: Volume 4 – Fauna of the Metropolitan, O'Hares Creek and Woronora Special Areas

Terrestrial vertebrate fauna of the Greater Southern Sydney Region: Volume 5 – Fauna of the Blue Mountains Special Areas

Terrestrial vertebrate fauna of the Greater Southern Sydney Region: Volumes 1–5 (CD version of all reports)

Trial of recycled glass as pipe embedment material

Using biofilters to reduce the impact of small and medium-sized landfills

Using compost materials on council sporting fields

Vertebrate fauna of Dharawal State Conservation Area, Dharawal Nature Reserve and adjacent lands

Western Sydney growth centres: assessment of proposal to confer biodiversity certification

Native vegetation, catchment management and soil publications

Acid sulfate soils remediation guidelines for coastal floodplains in New South Wales

Guidelines for using compost in land rehabilitation and catchment management

Native vegetation assistance package for private forestry: fact sheet

NSW native vegetation report card – 1 July to 31 December 2007

NSW woody vegetation change report 2006–07

Private native forestry advisory notes:

- Bat roosts
- Biodiversity
- Cultural heritage
- Fleshy fruits
- Flying-fox camps
- Glossy-black cockatoo
- Hollow bearing trees
- Koala habitat
- Nectar feed trees
- Old growth forests
- Roost and nest trees
- Spotted-tailed quoll
- Threatened species conservation
- Threatened species recovery plans
- Yellow-bellied glider

Private native forestry code of practice fact sheet no. 1: Overview – new arrangements for private native forestry

Private native forestry code of practice fact sheet no. 2: How to obtain a private native forestry property vegetation plan

Private native forestry code of practice for cypress and western hardwood forests

Private native forestry code of practice for northern NSW

Private native forestry code of practice for southern NSW

Private native forestry code of practice for the river red gum forests

Private native forestry code of practice guideline no. 1: Guidelines for assessing regeneration and stocking

Private native forestry code of practice guideline no. 2: Protocol for re-evaluating old-growth forest on private property

Private native forestry code of practice guideline no. 3: Protocol for re-evaluating rainforest on private property

Private native forestry code of practice guideline no. 4: Techniques for measuring stand height

Routine agricultural management activities on private native forestry land: fact sheet

Water and energy-savings publications

Better coffee with less water: case study

Energy future: 6 step action plan

New facilities lead to water independence: case study

NSW Climate Change Fund: Green Business Program — guide for applicants

NSW Climate Change Fund: rainwater tank rebate application guide

NSW Climate Change Fund: residential rebate program

Terrestrial reserve plans of management

Draft plans

Avondale State Conservation Area Draft Plan of Management

Babadaga Group of Reserves Draft Plan of Management

Bangadilly National Park Draft Plan of Management

Barrington Tops and Mount Royal National Parks and Barrington Tops State Conservation Area Draft Plan of Management

Clarence Estuary Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Cockle Bay, Rileys Island, Pelican Island and Saratoga Island Nature Reserves Draft Plan of Management

Dananbilla, Koorawatha, Illunie and Gungewalla Nature Reserves Draft Plan of Management

Jervis Bay National Park and Woollamia Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Jubullum Flat Camp Aboriginal Area Draft Plan of Management

Kemendok Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management: Proposed Amendments

Macquarie Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Merriangaah Group of Nature Reserves (incorporating Merriangaah, Quidong and Meringo Nature Reserves) Draft Plan of Management

Mount Hyland Nature Reserve and Mount Hyland State Conservation Area Draft Plan of Management

Nearie Lake Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Oak Creek Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and Garawarra State Conservation Area Plan of Management 2000: Proposed Amendments (leases and licences and boat launching at Bonnie Vale)

Scabby Range Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Scheyville National Park and Pitt Town Nature Reserve Plan of Management: Proposed Amendments

Scott Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Tingira Heights Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Turallo Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Tweed Caldera National Parks and Nature Reserves Plan of Management (relevant to Nightcap National Park): Proposed Amendments

Wee Jasper Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Whian Whian State Conservation Area Draft Plan of Management

Yaouk Nature Reserve Draft Plan of Management

Approved plans

Burnt School and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves Plan of Management

Warra National Park Plan of Management

Marine parks publications

Management of Jervis Bay Marine Park

Management of Solitary Islands Marine Park

Natural Values of Jervis Bay Marine Park

Natural Values of Solitary Islands Marine Park

Reviewing Marine Park Zoning Plans: Frequently asked questions

Review of the Jervis Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan

Review of the Solitary Islands Marine Park Zoning Plan

Summary of research in the Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay Marine Parks 2002–07

Recovery and threat abatement plans

Draft plans

Draft NSW Recovery Plan: Barrington Tops Broad-toothed Rat (*Mastacomys fuscus*) Endangered Population

Approved plans

Flying-fox Camp Management Policy

Management Plan: Green and Golden Bell Frog Key Population at Kurnell

Management Plan: Green and Golden Bell Frog Key Population at Sussex Inlet—Swan Lake

Management Plan: Green and Golden Bell Frog Key Population in the Upper Hunter

Management Plan: Green and Golden Bell Frog Key Population within the Crookhaven River Floodplain

Recovery plan for the brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*)

Education and community relations

Beachwatch and Harbourwatch: state of the beaches 2006–07

Beachwatch Partnership Program: state of the beaches 2006–07

Behind the scenes: Central Coast Hunter Range region achievements 2006–07

Climate change fact sheet – who cares about the environment 2006–2007?

Conserving water using compost (revision)

Culgoa National Park. Inventory recording of places and landscapes

Cultural landscapes and park management: a literature snapshot

Environmental action for the automotive servicing and repairs industry

Environmental action for smash repairers

40 Years: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Goat Island: Sydney Harbour National Park – a contextual history (final report)

Guide to NSW national parks 2008

Improving the environmental management of New South Wales golf courses

LandAlive: Aboriginal land management for biodiversity

Leap into the sustainable schools NSW community (brochure and poster)

Liquid waste: automotive workshops information sheet

Liquid waste: boat yards and marinas information sheet

Major players working together: case study

NSW Rivers Environmental Restoration Program: restoring the rivers, restoring life

Organics recycling offers major environmental benefits (revision)

POEO (Noise Control) Regulation 2008: new provisions affecting marine vessels

POEO (Noise Control) Regulation 2008: new provisions affecting motor vehicles

POEO (Noise Control) Regulation 2008: new provisions affecting various articles

Reducing soil erosion with compost (revision)

Regional businesses 'all in this together': case study

Stay warm, breathe easy: information for owners of wood heaters (Revision)

Sustainable landscaping using compost (revision)

Sustainable schools (DVD)

Threatened and pest animals of Greater Southern Sydney

Threatened plants of the Illawarra

Turning textile waste into profit: case study

Using compost for sustainable viticulture (revision)

What is leading practice? Education for sustainability

Yuraygir National Park contextual history

Yuraygir National Park. Inventory recording of historic places and landscapes. Volume 1: report

Newsletters

Bush Matters No. 9 Winter 2007

Bush Matters No. 10 Autumn 2008

Culture and heritage newsletter: December 2007

Explore: April and June 2008

Living Sustainably e-newsletter: August and November 2007, February and May 2008

Working with local government towards a sustainable future: October 2007, June 2008

Fire management plans and strategies

Adopted strategies

Couchy Creek Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007

Aberbaldie Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006

Abercrombie River National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 3), 2005

Agnes Banks Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007

Arakoola Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005

Arakwal National Park and Study Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 3), 2005

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Avisford Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006

Avondale State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005

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Back River Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005

Bago Bluff National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005

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Bald Rock National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005

Ballina Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1), 2003

Bamarang Nature Reserve, Wogamia Nature Reserve & Colymea State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007

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Bangadilly National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007

- Barakee National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
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- Barrington Tops and Adjacent Reserves Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007
- Basket Swamp National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Bees Nest Nature Reserve & Jerralong Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007
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- Benambra National Park & Tabletop Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
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- Brundee Swamp & Saltwater Swamp Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Brunswick Heads (North) Nature Reserve, Marshalls Creek Nature Reserve and Billinudgel Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Brunswick Heads (South) Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Budawang National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Budderoo National Park & Barren Grounds Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Budderoo National Park, Macquarie Pass National Park, Barren Grounds Nature Reserve & Robertson Nature Reserve Plan of Management (Type 1), 2002
- Buddigower Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006
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- Bugong National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
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- Bundjalung National Park, Iluka Nature Reserve and Tabbimobile Swamp Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Bungawalbin National Park, Nature Reserve and State Conservation Area and Yarrigully Nature Reserve and State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Burning Mountain Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
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- Oolambeyan National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Pambalong Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
- Parma Creek Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Paroo-Darling National Park Fire Management Strategy (Coonavitra Section), (Type 2), 2007
- Parramatta River RP Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006
- Paupong Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Pee Dee Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1), 2003
- Pelican Island Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006
- Pilliga Nature Reserve Fire Management Plan, (Type 3), 2001
- Pindera Downs Aboriginal Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2008
- Pitt Town Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007
- Planchonella Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2008
- Popran National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Pullop Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1), 2006
- Quanda Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Queanbeyan Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007
- Queens Lake Nature Reserve & Queens Lake State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Ramornie National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Rawdon Creek Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Razorback Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007
- Regatta Island Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
- Richmond Range Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Richmond River Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1), 2005
- Rileys Island Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006
- Rouse Hill Regional Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006
- Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park & Garawarra State Conservation Area Fire Management Plan, (Type 3), 2006
- Saltwater Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
- Scabby Range Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007
- Scott Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1), 2007
- Sea Acres Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 1995
- Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
- Seven Mile Beach National Park & Comerong Island Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Severn River Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Sherwood Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Single National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
- Skillion Nature Reserve and Yarravel Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005

- Snapper Island Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
- Solitary Islands Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006
- South East Forests National Park (including Egan Peaks Nature Reserve, Mount Imlay National Park & Yurammie State Conservation Area) Fire Management Strategy, (Type 3), 2005
- Southern Richmond Range Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Stonewoman Aboriginal Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Stony Batter Creek Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Stotts Island Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
- Sturt National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2008
- Susan Island Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006
- Sydney Harbour National Park & Botany Bay National Park (LaPerouse) Fire Management Strategy, (Type 3), 2004
- Tallaganda National Park & State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007
- Tallawudjah Nature Reserve; Flaggy Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1), 2004
- Tapin Tops National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Tapitallee Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Tarawi Nature Reserve Fire Management Plan, (Type 3), 1999
- Taringa Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Tarlo River National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007
- The Castles Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1), 2004
- The Charcoal Tank Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006
- The Glen Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Thirlmere Lakes National Park & the Nattai Reserves Fire Management Plan, (Type 2), 2006
- Timbarra National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Tinderry Nature Reserve Fire Management Plan, (Type 3), 2002
- Tingira Heights Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Tollingo Nature Reserve and Woggoon Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Tomalla Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Tomaree National Park & Tilligerry Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 3), 2006
- Tooloom National Park & Captains Creek Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Toonumbar National Park & State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Torrington State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007
- Towarri National Park and Surrounding Reserves Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007
- Towibakh Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
- Triplarina Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Tuckean Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Tucki Tucki Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
- Tumblong Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Turallo Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1), 2007
- Tweed Estuary Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
- Tweed Heads Historic Site and Ukerebagh Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Tyagarah Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2000
- Ulandra Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Ulidarra National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006
- Uralba Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Wadbilliga & South East Forests National Park Fire Management Plan, (Type 3), 2003
- Wallabadah Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
- Wallamba Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Wallarrah National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Walleroo Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Wallingat National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Wallis Island Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005
- Wamberal Lagoon Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Wambina Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006
- Waragai Creek Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006
- Warra National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Warrabah National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005
- Warrumbungle National Park Fire Management Plan, (Type 3), 2001

Washpool National Park (Coombadjha) Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006

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Wingham Brush Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1), 2003

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Wollondilly River Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2007

Wombat Creek Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006

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Woodford Island Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006

Woomargarma and Mullengandra Reserves Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007

Wooyung Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005

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Worrigeer Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007

Wullwey Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006

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Yabba National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005

Yaegl Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006

Yahoo Island Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2005

Yanununbeyan Reserves Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2006

Yaouk Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2007

Yarriabini National Park Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005

Yathong, Nombinnie & Round Hill Nature Reserves Fire Management Plan, (Type 3), 2003

Yattheyattah Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1), 2002

Yellomundee RP Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2006

Yengo National Park, Parr State Conservation Area & Dharug National Park Fire Management Plan, (Type 3), 2003

Yerranderie State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2008

Yessabah Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1), 2004

Yina Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2), 2005

Yuranighs Aboriginal Grave Historic Site Reserve Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1), 2008

Yuraygir National Park; Yuraygir State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy, (Type 3), 2004

Drafts (awaiting adoption, on exhibition, in preparation)

Barayamal CCAZ1 Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)

Bimberi Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)

Bingara CCAZ3 Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)

Botany Bay National Park Kurnell Peninsula Precinct Fire Management Plan, (Type 2)

Bouddi National Park Draft Fire Management Strategy incorporating Cockle Bay Nature Reserve, (Type 3)

Brindabella National Park & State Conservation Area Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 3)

Burrall Yurrul CCAZ1 & Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)

Cattai National Park Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)

Dowe CCAZ1 Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)

Dthinna Dthinnawan CCAZ1 & Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)

Goonawarra Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1)

Gwydir River CCAZ1 & CCAZ3 Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)

Horton Falls CCAZ1 Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	Maroota Ridge State Conservation Area Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
Kosciuszko National Park Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 3)	Marrangaroo National Park Draft Fire Management Strategy
Kwiambal CCAZ1 National Park Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	Palm Grove Nature Reserve
Narrandera Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1)	Tuggerah Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
Nullamanna CCAZ1 Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	Turon River National Park Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
Scheyville National Park Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	Wambool Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
Snake Rock Aboriginal Area Plan of Management, (Type 1)	Weraketa Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
The Rock Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	Winburndale Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
Warialda CCAZ1 & CCAZ3 Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	Woregore Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1)
Towra Point Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1)	Biddon Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
Sydney Harbour National Park (North Head Precinct) Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	Garrawilla Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
Meroo National Park & Barnunj State Conservation Area Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 3)	Somerton Draft Fire Management Strategy
Murramarang National Park, Brush Island Nature Reserve, Belowla Island Nature Reserve & Tollgate Islands Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 3)	Tinkrameanah Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
Kemendoc Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1)	Colongra Swamp Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1)
Nearie Lake Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1)	Sugarloaf Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
Bridal Veil Falls Nature Reserve & State Conservation Area Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1)	Prospect Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)
Brigalow Park and Claremont Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	Kelvin Draft Fire Management Strategy
Comboyne Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 1)	Pilliga Draft Fire Management Strategy
Dapper Nature Reserve Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	Trinkey Draft Fire Management Strategy
Durrigere Draft Fire Management Strategy	
Gardens of Stone National Park Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	
Goodiman / Yarrobil Draft Fire Management Strategy	
Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	
Hill End Historic Site Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	
Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	
Jerilderie Nature Reserve Plan of Management, (Type 1)	
Jervis Bay National Park, Corramy State Conservation Area & Woolamia Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 3)	
Joadja Nature Reserve Draft Fire Management Strategy, (Type 2)	

15. Papers published and presented

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16. Overseas visits by staff

Name	Purpose of Visit	Destination	Cost to DECC	Notes
Stephen Beaman	Present at a waste levy workshop	New Zealand	Nil	Waste Management Institute of NZ return airfare, accommodation and other expenses
Dr Greg Bowman	Meetings with Chinese Academy of Sciences for Water Quality Monitoring Project under Australia–China Special Fund for Science and Technology Cooperation	China	Nil	\$2,340 covered by Australia–China Special Fund for Science and Technology Cooperation
Dr Elizabeth Brown	Participate in a joint survey and research projects in Fiji	Fiji	Nil	\$3,500–National Geographic Society Grant Funds to Field Museum, Chicago
Stephen Brown	ICOMOS 16 th General Assembly and International Scientific Symposium	Canada	\$6,790	
Dr John Chapman	Facilitate establishment of UK–Australia collaboration into endocrine disrupting chemicals and emerging chemicals	United Kingdom	\$600	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK paid airfares
Dr Bruce Chessman	Attend and present paper at joint meeting of the Australian Society for Limnology and the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society	New Zealand	\$2,684	
Andrew Claridge	Attend World Fungi Conference	Spain	Nil	Conference organisers and Government of Andalusia
Alison Curtain	Australian Government representative for AusAid initiative on wetlands policy and management in China	China	Nil	All costs met by GHD Consulting Services
Dave Darlington	Sign off on agreement and evaluate success of seven years international collaboration	Bhutan	\$1,380	
Pat Darlington	Assist the Bhutanese to design educational exhibits for centre and associated interpretative trails	Bhutan	\$4,378	DECC paid for airfares and accommodation en route to Bangkok. Bhutanese Department of Agriculture paid for transport, accommodation and meals in Bhutan
Dr Ken Green	Lake Management in Changing Environment Conference	Canada	\$4,083	
Alistair Henschman	Sign-off on agreement and evaluate success of seven years international collaboration	Bhutan	\$1,380	
Dr Ross Hyne	Present paper and chair session at the SETAC–Europe Annual Meeting	Poland	\$2,200	Travel costs met by Mr Hyne
William Johnson	Resilience 2008 Conference	Sweden	Nil	Costs met by Mr Johnson
Dr Hugh Jones	Jessop Award from Academy of Natural Sciences Philadelphia to undertake research on freshwater mussel systematics	USA	Nil	\$5,800 – The Academy of Natural Sciences
Dr David Keith	Contribute to international threatened species assessment guidelines	Switzerland	\$476	\$4,100 – IUCN Species Survival Commission, 100% IUCN funded

Name	Purpose of Visit	Destination	Cost to DECC	Notes
Dr David Keith	Society for Conservation Biology conference (present paper on retrospective extinction study, convene session on population viability analysis, meet with collaborators)	South Africa	\$2,100	Trip during June–July 2007, costs partly met in previous financial year
Dr David Keith	Invited participation in workshop on extinction modelling under climate change	United Kingdom	\$200	Airfare and accommodation costs (c. \$4000) met by UK National Environment Research Council
Dr David Keith	Invited participation in workshop on species traits for vulnerability to climate change	United Kingdom	Nil	Airfare and accommodation costs (c. \$4000) met by UK National Environment Research Council
Dr David Keith	Invited participation in workshop on IUCN Red List for Ecosystems (London) and meeting of working group on species extinction risk under climate change (Madrid)	United Kingdom and Spain	\$200	Airfare and accommodation costs (c. \$5000) met by UK National Environment Research Council and Madrid Natural History Museum
Peter Kennedy	Continue work with Songshan National Nature Reserve management to assess Ecotourism Master Plan	China	Nil	All costs met by The Nature Conservancy
Dr Yoshi Kobayashi	Present paper at joint meeting of the Australian Society for Limnology and the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society	New Zealand	\$2,684	
Keith McDougall	Attend the Third International Mountain Weeds Workshop	Spain	\$856	
Therese Manning	Attend Dioxin 2007 Conference, present results of Sydney Harbour Dioxin study	Japan	\$5,114	
Louisa Mamouny	Attend annual regulatory conference of the US Army Corp of Engineers	USA	Nil	Costs met by US Army Corp of Engineers
Jenny McAllister	Participate in the Australian states and territories delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference	Indonesia	\$5,512	
Jenny McAllister	Accompany and support Minister to BIO 2008 Conference, California, and investigate Californian responses to key climate change issues, including renewables, energy efficiency and hybrid vehicles	USA	\$17,885	
Dan Nicholls	Assist the Bhutanese to design educational exhibits for centre and associated interpretative trails	Bhutan	\$4,378	DECC paid for airfares and accommodation en route to Bangkok. Bhutanese Department of Agriculture paid for transport, accommodation and meals in Bhutan.
David Nicholson	ANZOG Executive Master in Public Administration	New Zealand	\$2,000	Department of Premier and Cabinet contribution for accommodation and meals
David Pemberton	Australia and New Zealand School for Government (ANZSOG) Masters of Public Administration	New Zealand	\$2,500	
Dr Tony Roach	Attend Dioxin 2007 Conference, present results of Sydney Harbour Dioxin study	Japan	\$5,114	

Name	Purpose of Visit	Destination	Cost to DECC	Notes
Hugh Robertson	Attend the Australian Society for Limnology Annual Conference	New Zealand	Conference registration cost only \$370	
David Roman	Present DECC/PWG's approach to visitation and revenue management	USA	Nil	Costs met by Mr Roman
Dr Ben Russell	Present paper at 6th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference	United Kingdom	Nil	Costs met by Dr Russell
Dr Peter Scanes	Meetings with Chinese Academy of Sciences for Water Quality Monitoring Project under Australia–China Special Fund for Science and Technology Cooperation	China	Nil	\$2,340 covered by Australia–China Special Fund for Science and Technology Cooperation
Simon Smith	Research into developments and innovation in climate change and energy efficiency policies and technology Attended ACEEE (American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy) Fourth National Conference on Energy Efficiency as a Resource	USA	\$3,425	
Rachael Thomas	Present paper at joint meeting of Australian Society for Limnology and the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society	New Zealand	\$2,684	
Kylie Walker	Visit to Tzu Chi Foundation headquarters	Taiwan	Nil	All costs met by Tzu Chi Foundation
Kylie Walker	Present at 4th International Conference on Environmental Education	India	\$1,514	
Peter Wells	Attend 8th International Conference on Environmental Compliance & Enforcement	South Africa	Nil	All costs met by INECE
Joe Woodward	Attend 8th International Conference on Environmental Compliance & Enforcement	South Africa	\$5,239	
Dr Xihua Yang	Meetings with Chinese Academy of Sciences for Water Quality Monitoring Project under Australia–China Special Fund for Science and Technology Cooperation	China	Nil	\$1,500 covered by Australia–China Special Fund for Science and Technology Cooperation
Dr Bob You	Supervise and undertake a 3-year project on coastal sediment transport	China	Nil	A Distinguished Overseas Chinese Scholar Grant (\$75,000) from the Chinese Research Council

17. Consultancies

A consultant is an organisation or individual engaged for a defined period of time solely to provide an expert opinion or recommendation to DECC on a specific issue.

Consultancies of \$30,000 or more		2007–08
Consultant	Product description	Cost (\$)
Australian Museum	Fossil Footprints Plan of Management	30,000
BSR Solutions	Develop a functional specification for a Planning Information Management System	71,250
Department of Commerce	OHS inspections of DECC housing	50,000
Eco logical Australia	LiDAR Vegetation Surveys over inland wetlands	44,940
Evans & Peck Services Pty Ltd	National Emissions Trading Taskforce (NETT)	89,636
IRP Environmental Solutions	Macquarie Marshes – Environment Management Plan	41,200
J A Hunter Pty Ltd	National Park Vegetation Surveys	103,829
Macquarie University	Namoi Vegetation Mapping (sub project)	150,000
McLennan Magasanik	National Emissions Trading Taskforce (NETT)	109,271
Monash University	National Emissions Trading Taskforce (NETT)	50,426
OHM Consultants	Moveable Heritage Report	40,000
Public Relations Partners	Providing advice on development of a tourism strategy for NSW national parks	107,713
Rare Consulting Pty Ltd	Sustainable mobility initiatives for local environment initiative (SMILE)	100,864
Water Consultancy	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage – Lachlan CMA	36,800
WMA Water	Hacking Sediment Study	65,022
Wyld Group Pty Ltd	Draft Solar Thermal Roadmap	84,101
Subtotal – consultancies of \$30,000 or more		1,175,052

Consultancies less than \$30,000		2007–08
Category	Number	Cost (\$)
Finance and Accounting	0	0
Information Technology	3	8,955
Legal	4	8,505
Management Services	15	123,102
Environment	89	584,752
Engineering	17	79,654
Organisational Review	7	34,318
Training	2	20,477
Subtotal – consultancies less than \$30,000	137	859,762
Subtotal – consultancies of \$30,000 or more		1,175,052
Total consultancies	167	2,034,814

18. Grants to community organisations

For the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

Recipient	Amount (\$)	Program	Nature and purpose of grant
Australian Seabird Rescue	2,000.00	2	Grant to assist with the provision of wildlife services
Central Coast Community Environment Network Inc	15,000.00	1	Sponsorship of Land for Wildlife Coordination
Community Broadcasting Association	56,000.00	1	Funding for Energize project
FAWNA (NSW) Inc.	8,000.00	2	Grant to assist with the provision of wildlife services
Friends of the Koala	1,500.00	2	Grant to assist with the provision of wildlife services
Great Lakes Wildlife Rescue	6,650.00	2	Grant to assist with the provision of wildlife services
Hunter Koala Preservation Society	1,500.00	2	Grant to assist with the provision of wildlife services
Lutanda Children's Services	10,000.00	1	Water Wise at Camp Toukley
Mehi Crescent Tenancy Task Force	25,454.54	1	Mehi Bore Assessment
Nari Nari Tribal Council	15,909.09	1	Toogimbie Wetlands Centre
Native Animal Trust Fund	15,450.00	2	Grant to assist with the provision of wildlife services
Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers	3,350.00	2	Grant to assist with the provision of wildlife services
Pambula Wetlands & Heritage Project	5,000.00	2	Support community program for threatened species
Saltwater Youth Sport and Recreation	17,000.00	1	Improving water infrastructure
Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers	2,500.00	2	Grant to assist with the provision of wildlife services
Walhallow Murri Enterprise Aboriginal	225,000.00	1	Improving water infrastructure
Wildlife Animal Rescue and Care	3,000.00	2	Grant to assist with the provision of wildlife services
WIRES – Central Coast	3,000.00	2	Grant to assist with the provision of wildlife services
WIRES – Northern Rivers	8,650.00	2	Grant to assist with the provision of wildlife services
Total	424,963.63		

Key to programs

1. Climate Change and Policy Programs
2. Parks and Wildlife

19. Major works

Project	Cost to date \$'000	Estimated completion
Major new works		
Purchase of perpetual Crown Leases for conservation	3,154	2010–11
Improve fire, feral animal and weed control	449	2010–11
Lower Hunter Conservation Area	1,073	2010–11
Acquisition of satellite imagery	2,769	2010–11
Major works in progress		
Acquisition of spatial data	683	2009–10
Brigalow/Nandewar establishment	13,051	2010–11
Environmental science facility	4,644	2010–11
Green Cities	4,308	2007–08
Implementation of native vegetation reforms	2,920	2008–09
Infrastructure improvements in national parks	21,255	2008–09
Kosciuszko Centenary	1,674	2025–26
Kosciuszko roads and bridges	700	2010–11
Land purchases – funded by grants and donations	30,372	2010–11
Marine parks	2,900	2010–11
New park establishment costs	20,997	2010–11
New parks in Hunter Valley	4,000	2007–08
Perisher Range redevelopment	11,130	2025–26
RiverBank	24,378	2010–11
Rivers Environmental Restoration	21,075	2009–10
Wetlands recovery	3,067	2008–09
Total	74,599	

There were no significant cost overruns in these projects.

* Costs to date represent cumulative expenditures incurred by the formative agencies prior to the establishment of DECC on 27 April 2007.

20. Major assets

By virtue of its functions, the DECC asset base covers a wide range of fixed assets and other infrastructure which have been categorised as follows for accounting purposes:

Land

Most of the land parcels in this category are 'dedicated land' including national parks, nature reserves, historic sites, Aboriginal areas, state conservation areas and regional parks. A full list of dedicated and DECC-managed lands is included in Appendix 9.

Land disposal

Four properties attached to Yanga Station (Yanga National Park) were auctioned in June 2007 with a value of \$5.83 million. Ministerial approval was sought and gained for the disposal.

The portions sold had been historically cropped and were on the edges of the property, therefore their sale would not impact negatively on the conservation value for which the property was purchased. Proceeds of \$1.2 million were received during 2007–08, with the balance delayed due to subdivision/title transfer. Final proceeds were received in July 2008.

Application for access to documents concerning the sale can be made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

Buildings and improvements

This category includes all buildings and improvements in use and temporarily out of use. There are 1,466 buildings in total, and those with a replacement value of \$1 million or more are:

- Audley regional office, Royal National Park
- Blackheath Visitors Centre, Blue Mountains National Park
- Byron Coast area office, Byron Bay
- Coffs Harbour sub district office
- Cattai National Park accommodation units and homestead
- Caves House, Kosciuszko National Park
- Bobbin Head Visitor Centre and Halvorsen's boat shed, Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park
- Discovery Centre, Botany Bay National Park
- Dorriggo Rainforest Centre
- Far West regional office, Broken Hill
- Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre, Morton National Park
- Fort Denison, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Gap Bluff officers' mess, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Garie Beach Surf Safety Centre, Royal National Park
- Goat Island amenities and ship repair building, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Greycliffe House, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Hartley Court House and Royal Hotel, Hartley Historic Site
- Jenkins Centre, Lane Cove National Park
- La Pérouse Museum and Gallery, Botany Bay National Park
- Lidcombe Laboratories and Environmental Science Facility
- Lighthouses — Barrenjoey, Port Stephens, Greencape and Cape Byron
- Long Tan residences, Scheyville National Park
- Quarantine Station, accommodation units and conference centre, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Sawpit Creek Office, Kosciuszko National Park
- Sea Acres Visitor Centre, Port Macquarie
- Snowy Mountains Visitor Centre, Jindabyne
- Throsby Park Homestead, Throsby Park Historic Site.

Heritage buildings at the following locations are also included:

- Bare Island
- Goat Island
- Hartley Historic Site
- Hill End Historic Site
- Quarantine Station, Manly
- Rodd Island
- Yanga National Park, Oakhampton and Yanga Homesteads.

'Improvements' such as picnic areas, campsites and lookouts with a replacement value of \$750,000 or more are located in Blue Mountains, Botany Bay, Bundjalung, Cattai, Garigal, Georges River, Ku-ring-gai Chase, Lane Cove, Murrumbidgee, Royal, Sydney Harbour and Warrumbungle national parks, as well as Arakoon State Conservation Area and Leacock, Rouse Hill and Western Sydney regional parks.

Roads and other access

Apart from roads of various construction, this category includes access facilities such as fire trails, walking tracks, car parks and bridges. Roads and other access facilities with a replacement value of \$3 million or more are:

- Cambridge Plateau Drive, Richmond Range National Park
- Camerons Corner Road, Sturt National Park
- Elliot Way, Kosciuszko National Park
- Geehi Walls Track, Kosciuszko National Park
- Guthega Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Kiandra to Khancoban Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Minnamurra Rainforest Walk, Budderoo National Park
- Mungo Brush Road, Myall Lakes National Park
- Olsens Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Pocket Saddle Road, Woomargama National Park
- Port Phillip Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Tantangara Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Tin Min Road, Woomargama National Park
- Tweed Range Scenic Drive, Border Ranges National Park.

Utilities and other infrastructure

This category includes electricity reticulation, sewerage systems, levees, fences and water supply systems. Those with a replacement value of \$1 million or more are:

- airstrips in far western NSW — Bourke, Broken Hill and Cobar regions
- the helipad, Perisher Valley
- sewage treatment plants at Hill End Historic Site, Kosciuszko, Lane Cove, Ku-ring-gai Chase and Sydney Harbour national parks and Yarrangobilly Caves
- water supply systems in Gundabooka, Kosciuszko and Mt Kaputar national parks and Yathong Nature Reserve.

Motorised plant

The following major plant items are valued at \$5,000 or more:

	Quantity		Quantity
Aircraft		Field plant	
Helicopter, Eurocopter AS 350B-3	1	Boats (incl. outboards)	64
Plane, Cessna U206G	1	Bobcats	47
Motor vehicles (excl leased)		Graders, bulldozers, excavators, rollers	48
Dual cab and utility vehicles	12	Forklifts	61
Motorbikes	10	Generators	16
Quad bikes	150	Mowers, ride-on vehicles	80
Trucks, 1–5 tonne, >5 tonne	159	Off-road carriers, 6x4	26
		Skidoos, snow vehicles	20
		Tractors, loaders, backhoes	122
		Other — slashers, mulchers, cranes, power carriers, quickspray units, etc	39

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