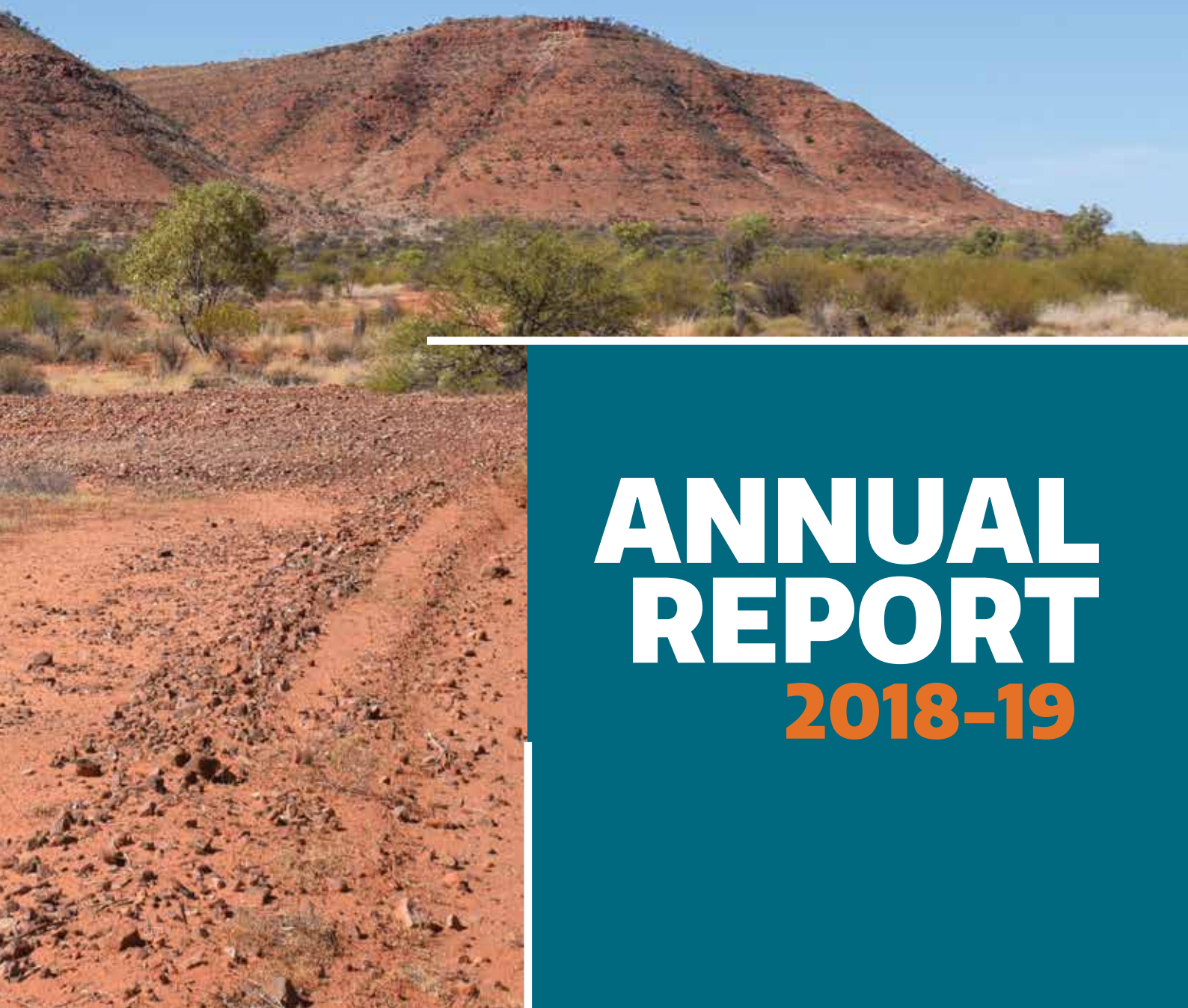




**Aboriginal Areas
Protection Authority**
protecting sacred sites across the territory



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19

DISCLAIMER

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority has taken due care in ensuring information contained in this annual report was true and correct at the time of publication, however changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on its accuracy. The Authority disclaim all liability associated with the use of this information by others in contexts not approved by the Authority.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island readers and viewers should be aware that this material may contain images or names of deceased persons.

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ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

GPO Box 1890
Darwin NT 0801

www.aapant.org.au

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Custodians during fieldwork in Ngukurr, NT.

Front cover: Watarrka National Park, NT.

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The Hon. Eva Lawler MLA
Minister for Environment and Natural Resources
DARWIN NT 0800

30 September 2019

Dear Minister

I have the pleasure to submit to you, in accordance with the provisions of section 14(1) of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*, the annual report for the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority for the financial period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

The report refers to the thirtieth year of operation of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bobby Nungumajbarr', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Bobby Nungumajbarr
Chairman

The Hon. Eva Lawler MLA
Minister for Environment and Natural Resources
DARWIN NT 0800

30 September 2019

Dear Minister

I have the pleasure to submit to you, in accordance with the provisions of section 14(1) of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*, the annual report for the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority for the financial period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

The report refers to the thirtieth year of operation of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. To the best of my knowledge and belief as the Accountable Officer, pursuant to section 13 of the *Financial Management Act 1995*, the system of internal control and audit provides reasonable assurance that:

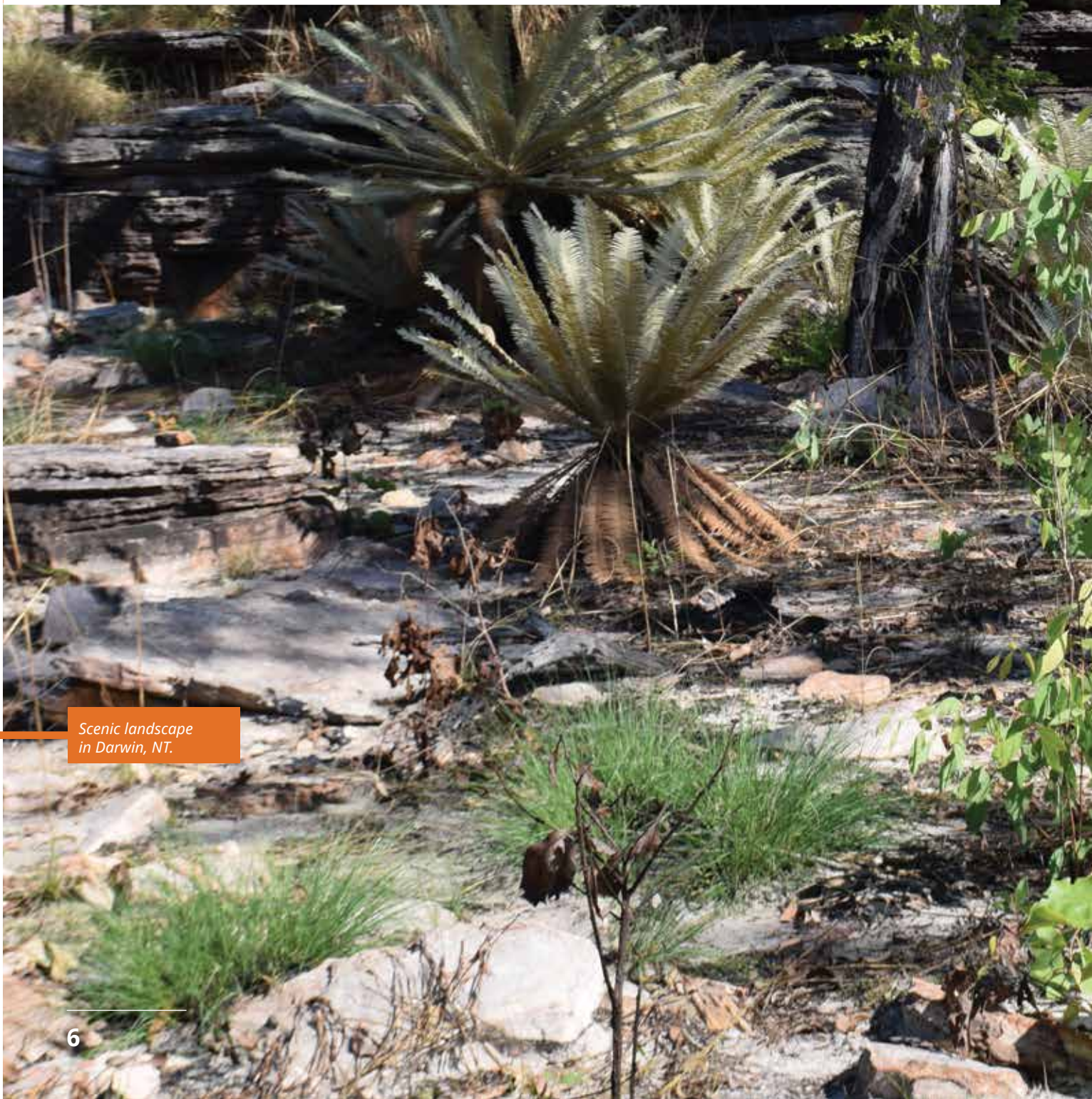
- a. proper records of all transactions affecting the Authority are kept, and employees under my control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, the Financial Management Regulations and Treasurer's Directions
- b. procedures within the Authority afford proper internal control, and a current description of such procedures is recorded in the accounting and property manual, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act*
- c. no indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in or omission from the accounts and records exists
- d. in accordance with the requirements of section 15 of the *Financial Management Act*, the internal audit capacity available to the Authority is adequate, and the results of internal audits have been reported to me
- e. the financial statements included in the annual report have been prepared from proper accounts and records and are in accordance with Treasurer's Directions
- f. the Authority is working in compliance with the *Information Act*.

Yours sincerely



Dr Benedict Scambary
Chief Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION



*Scenic landscape
in Darwin, NT.*



PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

This is an annual report on the administration and operation of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (the Authority) for the 2018-19 financial year.

The annual report includes the Authority's financial statements and displays compliance with standards of internal control in accordance with the reporting

requirements of the *Financial Management Act*, the Treasurer's Directions and the policies of the Northern Territory Government.

The annual report also provides the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and the public with an account of the Authority's performance, responsibilities, activities and business direction for the year ahead.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This annual report is for our diverse range of stakeholders: the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, government agencies, Aboriginal custodians, the public and land users across the Northern Territory.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is an honour to be appointed Chairman of the board, to celebrate the passing of another year and to be a part of the ongoing history of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

I would like to thank the board and the Authority for their dedication and perseverance in the protection of sacred sites throughout the Territory.

The *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* provides a framework for recognition and promotion of the existence of sacred sites throughout the Territory. The Authority is rich with knowledge, recording our stories, our family histories and our places on country.

The board is made up of 10 Aboriginal custodians and two government-appointed members, comprising equal numbers of male and female members. We meet four times a year and serve as the primary decision-making body for the Authority. As leaders in our communities, we offer senior traditional expertise, guidance and advice relating to sacred sites and broader cultural issues. In 2019, we welcomed two new members to our board, Mr Neville Petrick and Ms Barbara Shaw, and we look forward to their contributions to the Authority.

Over the last 12 months, the Authority has facilitated development in the Defence sector, issuing various Authority Certificates for the

refurbishment and expansion of airfield services south-east of Katherine. We have also issued Authority Certificates to attract and sustain recreational tourism in the region by supporting development in Litchfield National Park, approving the development of the Glen Helen Path and Viewing Platform and approving the installation of new park facilities along the Larapinta Trail.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the work of past Chairman Mr Philip Wilyuka, who has paved the way for me. Serving as our Chairman for two years, Mr Wilyuka is well respected within the Authority and the wider community. He has been a voice of guidance for the Authority and the board, and his wisdom will be remembered and sadly missed.

**Bobby Nunggumajbarr
Chairman**



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The 2018–19 year marks another successful year for the Authority.

The Northern Territory Government and the broader community recognise the protection of Aboriginal sacred sites as an important element in preserving the Territory's cultural heritage for the benefit of all Territorians. The *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (the *Sacred Sites Act*) is a highly regarded piece of legislation and is one of the strongest frameworks for achieving this goal of preserving cultural heritage.

Notably this year, the Northern Territory Government and the mining and exploration sector continue to be the highest requester groups of Authority Certificates. This reaffirms confidence in the procedures of the Authority and the capacity of the *Sacred Sites Act* to deliver certainty, and it signals the government's support in the Authority's capability to make informed and careful decisions.

An emerging challenge for the Authority is the potential development of an onshore gas industry in the Northern Territory. The Authority has been part of the Northern Territory Government-wide working group, providing advice about the recommendations and implementation of the management of onshore gas activity. Implementation of the recommendations of the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory* has seen the introduction of mandatory Authority Certificates for

hydraulic fracturing. As other recommendations are progressed, the Authority is developing processes to meet the challenges presented by this emerging industry to ensure the adequate protection of sacred sites.

In 2018–19, the Authority issued certificates to support major developments in the Territory, including works on the Central Arnhem Link Road and the Plenty Highway. Certificates were also issued to support community infrastructure, including the ongoing development in the Pirlangimpi township development on the Tiwi Islands, and the Balunu Health Camp upgrades. The Balunu Health Camp offers programs focussing on health, education, life skills, training and employment, with a strong emphasis on emotional wellbeing.

With great sadness, the Authority board and staff farewelled our Special Advisor to the Board, Mr Abbott. Mr Abbott was appointed to the board in 1995 and served as Deputy Chair and Chairman. He served on the board for 20 years, making him the longest serving Board member in our history. Due to his significant knowledge, on completion of his final term, Mr Abbott was appointed Special Advisor to the board. He passed away peacefully in Wallace Rockhole surrounded by his family. Mr Abbott's achievements were recognised by several members of Parliament during a condolence motion in the November 2018 Legislative Assembly.

Looking ahead, our aim for the Authority is to amend our Act in response to the 2016 *Sacred Sites Processes and Outcomes Review* conducted by the Northern Territory Government. We seek to modernise the *Sacred Sites Act* to better reflect the community's value of sacred sites and Aboriginal tradition.

I thank the Minister, the board and the staff of the Authority for supporting the sound operation of the *Sacred Sites Act* in 2018–19.

Dr Benedict Scamary
Chief Executive Officer



DEPUTY CHAIR REPORT

It has been an honour to be re-elected this year as the Deputy Chairman of the board.

I will continue to contribute to the success and hard work of the Authority in protecting sacred sites across the Northern Territory. By doing this, we help our countrymen and countrywomen to keep culture strong in our communities.

This year, the Authority board registered 20 sacred sites across the Northern Territory. Through preservation of these sacred sites, our younger generation can maintain a tangible connection to their country and to culture. This is important in maintaining our cultural identity and also to the Northern Territory and to all Territorians. Together we enjoy a rich and diverse cultural heritage, and sacred sites and what they represent are a significant part of this.

There have been some changes to the board. We have welcomed new members and farewelled some members. In 2019, we held our first annual board meeting in Alice Springs and focussed on our objectives for the future. From this

meeting, what emerged was the shared desire to be more proactive in the protection of sacred sites.

Finally, I thank the board for another year of dedication and hard work. I would like to acknowledge the commitment of Dr Benedict Scambary and Authority staff, for without their guidance and support, the Authority would not have been able to achieve these many great things.

Valerie Martin
Deputy Chair





OUR ORGANISATION



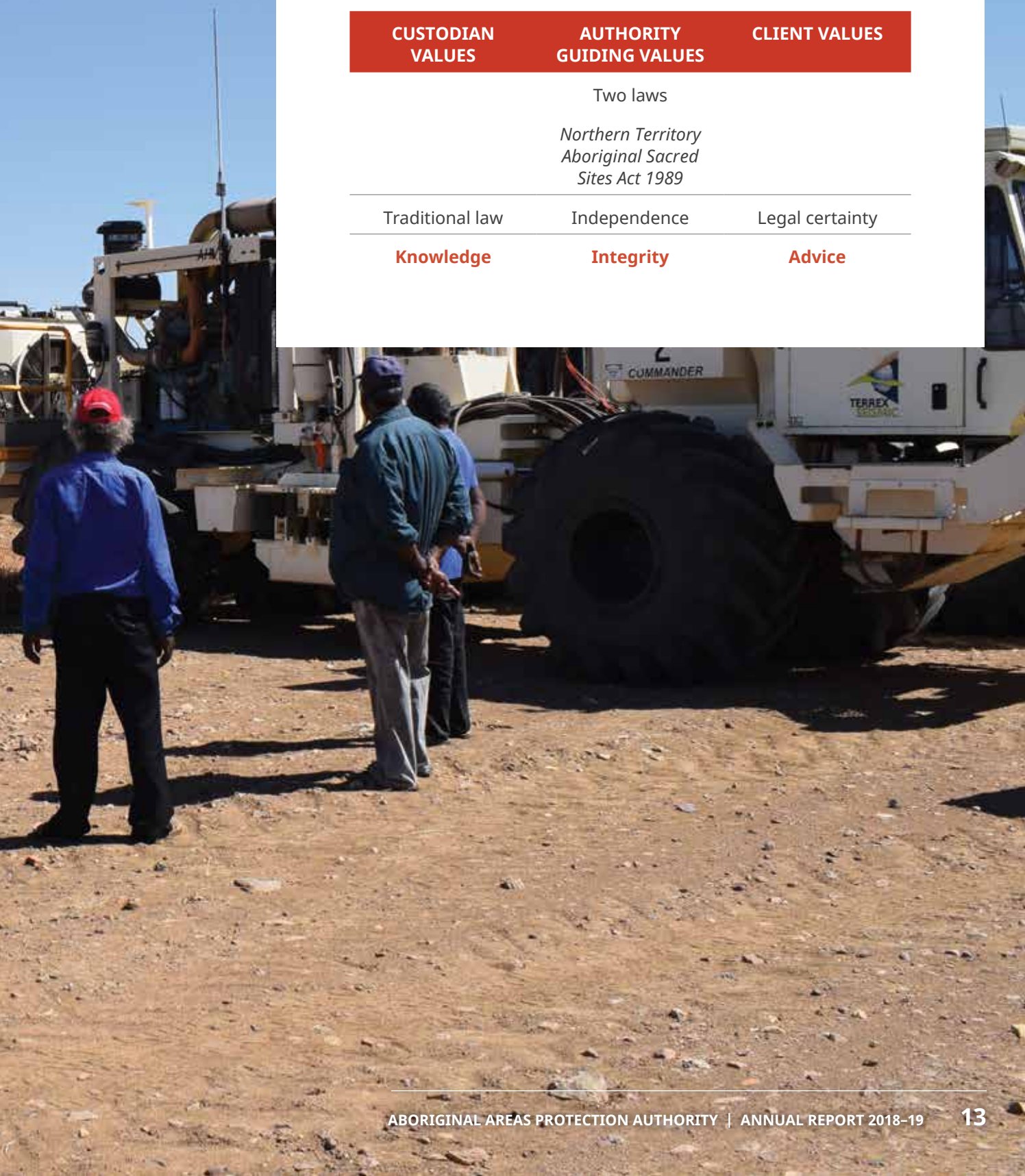
*Custodians during fieldwork
in the Barkly Tablelands, NT.*

MISSION STATEMENT

To protect sacred sites in the Northern Territory.

VALUES

CUSTODIAN VALUES	AUTHORITY GUIDING VALUES	CLIENT VALUES
	Two laws <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i>	
Traditional law	Independence	Legal certainty
Knowledge	Integrity	Advice





Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

protecting sacred sites across the territory

STRATEGIC PLAN

CUSTODIAN VALUES

- Traditional Law
- Knowledge

AUTHORITY GUIDING VALUES

- Two Laws
- Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act
- Independence
- Integrity

CLIENT VALUES

- Legal Certainty
- Advice

Strategies to Protect Sacred Sites in the NT

Promote the Value of Sacred Sites in the Northern Territory by:

1. Ensure Compliance with the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act*
2. Adopt a Risk Management Approach to Corporate Governance
3. Advance Technology and Information Management
4. Advance High Quality Research and Land Information
5. Staff Committed to the Values of a High Performing Organisation
6. Streamlined Financial Management Systems

MISSION STATEMENT:

To protect Sacred Sites in the Northern Territory



Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

protecting sacred sites across the territory

BUSINESS PLAN 2021

PRIORITIES	PROJECTS	SECTION
1.1 Amend the <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act</i>	1.1.1 Annotate the <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act</i>	Policy and Governance
1.2 Progress inter-agency collaborations for Sacred Site messaging	1.1.2 Develop and progress a package of legislative amendments	
1.3 Improve compliance management	1.2.1 Develop a communications strategy	
	1.3.1 Develop an improved compliance management process	
2.1 Develop a risk management framework	2.1.1 Risk Framework 2.1.2 Audit Plan	Policy and Governance
3.1 Coordinate and deliver a digital workplace strategy	3.1.1 Conduct business process reviews 3.1.2 Information and data review 3.1.3 Enhance digital communication 3.1.4 Improve website communication	Corporate Services
4.1 Explore research advancement using new technologies	4.1.1 Develop an enhanced database for Research	Research and Land Information
4.2 Utilise new technologies for information management and access	4.2.1 Develop innovative multi-media solutions for site recording, reporting and mapping	
4.3 Uphold professional and quality control standards in research and land information	4.2.2 Explore new client products	
	4.2.3 Ranger Group collaboration in Site Registration and protection	
	4.2.4 Digitise the Research and Land Information Induction Manual	
	4.3.1 Data Integrity Project	
5.1 Leadership aligned with Values	5.1.1 Build the capabilities of Authority staff	Corporate Services
6.1 Develop a new revenue strategy	6.1.1 Provide financial information to increase revenue and control costs	Corporate Services

MISSION STATEMENT:

To protect Sacred Sites in the Northern Territory

ROLE AND FUNCTION

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (the Authority) is a statutory authority that was established under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989 (Sacred Sites Act)* and is responsible for overseeing the protection of sacred sites in the Northern Territory.

The Authority's functions are set out in section 10 of the

Sacred Sites Act. The Northern Territory Government and the broader Territory community recognises protecting Aboriginal sacred sites as an important element in preserving the Territory's cultural heritage for the benefit of all Territorians. The Authority seeks to strike a balance between the protection of sacred sites and development in the Northern Territory.

The Authority seeks to strike a balance between the protection of sacred sites and development in the Northern Territory.

OUR HISTORY

The Authority has existed in one form or another for the past 41 years.

Our history is entwined with that of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976*—the legislation that gives the Northern Territory the power to pass laws for the protection of sacred sites. That Act also gave rise to the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*.

The Act's predecessor, the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1978 (NT)*, was one of the first pieces of legislation the Northern Territory Government passed after self-government was granted in 1978. The new law was significant in its recognition of Aboriginal culture by empowering Aboriginal people to protect their sites of cultural significance and allowing their sacred sites to be recorded, registered and protected in the context of development.

Under the new law, it became an offence to enter, remain on, carry out works on or desecrate sacred sites anywhere in the Northern Territory. Other parts of today's legal protection were also established at that point, including a board largely made

up of Aboriginal custodians of equal genders who are nominated by land councils, and a clear definition of what a sacred site is.

The early years brought some controversy between the Authority, the government and developers. The notion of sacred sites and their meaning and importance to Aboriginal people were poorly understood by the wider community. However, under the strong leadership of senior Aboriginal Chairmen, including Mr Raphael Apuatimi OAM and Mr Wenten Rubuntja AM, the Authority worked hard to bridge this gap by engaging with government and developers to negotiate workable solutions.

Throughout the 1980s, there were numerous proposals to amend the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1978 (NT)*. In 1988, due to concerns around the Act, the Northern Territory Government introduced the Aboriginal Areas Protection Bill (NT) in an attempt to strike a more effective balance between protecting sacred sites and the development of the Territory.

The government continued negotiations with the Authority

and land councils over amendments to the sacred sites legislation, which led to the current *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* and the establishment of the current Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

Since 1989, the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act* has established a framework for sacred site protection based on voluntary engagement. While Authority Certificates aren't mandatory, they give developers, businesses and individuals certainty about where sacred sites are and what can and cannot be done around them.

The current *Sacred Sites Act* has only had minor changes since it was introduced, and in late 2015, the Northern Territory Government announced an independent review of the Act. *The Sacred Sites Processes and Outcomes Review* was published in July 2016 and contained 39 recommendations for changes to improve the legislative framework and the day-to-day operations of the Authority.

In conjunction with the government, we are working on progressing the recommendations from the review.

OUR SERVICES

The Authority manages the protection of Aboriginal sacred sites through:

- sacred site avoidance surveys and issuing Authority Certificates for any proposed development
- providing the public with information about existing sacred sites through abstracts of Authority records and access to the register we maintain
- registering Aboriginal sacred sites.

AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES

Anyone proposing to use or work on land in the Northern Territory may apply to the Authority for an **Authority Certificate** to cover their proposed activities.

We issue these certificates based on consultations with custodians, and the certificates include clear conditions on what can and cannot be done in and around sacred sites.

An Authority Certificate provides a defence against prosecution in relation to the works or uses covered by the Authority Certificate, as long as the applicant complies with any conditions imposed to protect sacred sites.

While Authority Certificates are voluntary, they are an effective risk management tool for developers as they indicate where sacred sites are and how to work in and around them. This helps prevent risk of damage to the site, which can lead to project delays and extra cost.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Members of the public can seek advice on registered sacred sites by requesting access to the Register of Sacred Sites. We provide **abstracts of records** on where sacred sites are known to exist.

THE REGISTRATION OF ABORIGINAL SACRED SITES

Custodians of Aboriginal sacred sites may apply to have their sites **registered** under Part III, Division 2 of the *Sacred Sites Act*.

The Authority then conducts anthropological research. This includes consulting with Aboriginal custodians and reviewing the register for any historical information that may be available on the proposed sacred site to determine the site's location, boundaries and significance. In accordance with the *Sacred Sites Act*, we then present a report of that information to the Authority board for approval. Landowners are also given an opportunity to comment on the proposed registration.

While Authority Certificates are voluntary, they are an effective risk management tool for developers as they indicate where sacred sites are and how to work in and around them.

OUR STAKEHOLDERS

The Authority has a diverse range of stakeholders:

- Aboriginal custodians and traditional owners
- Northern Territory and Australian Government agencies
- industry groups (including the oil industry, gas and mining industry and pastoral industry)
- the Defence Force
- land councils
- local governments and shires
- communication network companies
- food producers
- tourism operators
- environmental managers (including Aboriginal rangers)
- home owners
- real estate agents
- private and non-government organisations who use land across the Territory.

The Authority strives to meet the needs of all stakeholders in protecting sacred sites.



Landscape on the Arnhem Highway, NT.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2018-19

ORGANISATION HIGHLIGHTS



- The Authority registered 20 sacred sites during Authority board meetings in 2018-19.
- The Authority recorded 160 new sacred sites as a result of field work in 2018-19.



- The Authority welcomed two new central region board members in 2018-19.



- In 2018-19, the Authority continued to support Northern Territory and remote communities by providing full or partial fee waivers to 11 Authority Certificates issued, valued over \$151 000.

STAFFING HIGHLIGHTS



- Dr Sophie Creighton achieved 10 years of service.
- Ms Ambre Philpott achieved 10 years of service.



- Dr Benedict Scambary was awarded a Post-Doctoral Fulbright Scholarship to study at Columbia University in the United States of America with his chosen research topic of Treaty with First Nations People.

GOVERNANCE



*Custodian during fieldwork
in Litchfield, NT.*



The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority board comprises 12 members.

Ten of those members are custodians nominated by Northern Territory land councils in equal numbers: five males and five females. The other two members are nominated by the Northern Territory Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

To fill vacancies for Aboriginal custodian members of the board, the land councils are requested to nominate a panel of twice the number of custodians of the relevant gender.

The Administrator of the Northern Territory appoints members by notice in the *Northern Territory Government Gazette*.

The Administrator also appoints Aboriginal members as the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the board, who must be of opposite gender, based on nominations from the Authority.

AUTHORITY BOARD MEETINGS

Under the *Sacred Sites Act*, the Authority meets four times each calendar year.

In the 2018–19 financial year, the Chairman called the following meetings:

118th board meeting	26–27 September 2018	Darwin
119th board meeting	28–29 November 2018	Darwin
120th board meeting	3–4 April 2019	Alice Springs

APPOINTMENTS

On 8 February 2019, Mr Bobby Nungumajbarr was appointed as Chairman and Ms Valerie Martin was re-appointed as Deputy Chairman.

The term of two member appointments commenced in 2018–19:

Ms Barbara Shaw
Mr Neville Petrick

The term of two member appointments expired in 2018–19:

Ms Veronica Lynch
Mr Philip Wilyuka

ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY BOARD



MR BOBBY NUNGGUMAJBARR – CHAIRMAN

REGION:
Roper Basin

FIRST APPOINTED:
29 September 2015

DATE RE-APPOINTED:
8 February 2019

Mr Bobby Nunggumajbarr is a senior Nunggubuyu man from Numbulwar in south-eastern Arnhem Land. He has had a long and distinguished career in public administration and has held various positions on the Yugul Mangi Community Government Council in Ngukurr, the Roper Gulf Shire, and until recently, he was the Senior Project Officer in charge of the Northern Land Council's Ngukurr office, which is a role he held for more than 15 years. Mr Nunggumajbarr is widely respected for his knowledge and authority in Ngukurr and is well regarded as a community facilitator of high order. Mr Nunggumajbarr was elected as Chairman until his appointment to the board expires on 30 October 2021.



MS VALERIE MARTIN – DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

REGION:
Yuendumu hinterland

DATE APPOINTED:
2 August 2016

Ms Valerie Martin is a Warlpiri woman from Yuendumu. Ms Martin is a member of the board of the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation and is also a member of the Central Land Council's Aboriginal Benefit Account Advisory Committee. On 20 September 2016, Ms Martin was elected as Deputy Chairperson for the board of the Authority and again in February 2019, on conclusion of her first election.



MS JENNY INMULUGULU

REGION:
Arnhem Land West

FIRST APPOINTED:
2006

DATE RE-APPOINTED:
31 October 2018

Ms Jenny Inmulugulu is a traditional owner of Warruwi community on South Goulburn Island. She has been a member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority since 2006 and served as Deputy Chairman on the board from 2008 to 2012. Ms Inmulugulu is a member of the Northern Land Council. As a senior woman for her clan, she is a strong advocate for her community, with a focus on youth engagement and business enterprises.



MS LEAH CLIFFORD

REGION:

Darwin Hinterland

FIRST APPOINTED:

1 August 2015

DATE RE-APPOINTED:

3 October 2018

Ms Leah Clifford is the Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics. Ms Clifford has previously held senior positions within the Northern Territory Government, including in the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment and the Department of Housing. She brings specialist professional skills in the area of land policy and administration to the Authority board membership.



MR WALTER KERINAIUA JUNIOR

REGION:

Tiwi Islands

FIRST APPOINTED:

31 August 2015

DATE RE-APPOINTED:

22 August 2018

Mr Walter Kerinaia Junior is one of the senior 'culture men' on the Tiwi Islands. He is a past member of the Tiwi Islands Regional Council/Tiwi Islands Land Council and past Director of Mantiupwi Pty Ltd. Mr Kerinaia Junior has been the long-time Trustee of the Mantiupwi land-owning group, which takes in southern parts of both Bathurst and Melville islands.



MS LYNETTE GRANITES

REGION:

Yuendumu Hinterland

FIRST APPOINTED:

2005

DATE RE-APPOINTED:

22 August 2018

Ms Lynette Granites is a highly respected senior Warlpiri woman from Yuendumu. She has been a member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority Board since 2005. Ms Granites is well known for her knowledge in women's law and culture and has worked closely with the Authority on many sacred site registrations and Authority Certificate consultations. She has worked as a health worker for many years and is a renowned artist in her community.



MR JACK GREEN

REGION:

Borroloola and Gulf

FIRST APPOINTED:

29 September 2015

DATE RE-APPOINTED:

31 October 2018

Mr Jack Green is from Borroloola. He is a Senior Cultural Advisor to the Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa ranger programs in the Gulf region of the Northern Territory. He is a member of the Borroloola Aboriginal peoples and has contributed significantly to Aboriginal community-based development programs in remote regions of Australia. Mr Green is a strong supporter of the maintenance of Aboriginal connection to the land.



MR PHILLIP MAMARIKA

REGION:

Arnhem Land East

FIRST APPOINTED:

31 August 2015

DATE RE-APPOINTED:

22 August 2018

Mr Phillip Mamarika is a respected elder of the Mamarika clan of Umbakumba on Groote Eylandt. He works as a senior ranger with the Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Rangers, providing on-the-ground leadership and mentoring to 10 staff regarding traditional land and sea country. Mr Mamarika represents the Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Rangers at the Anindilyakwa Indigenous Protected Area Advisory Committee and the Learning on Country Steering Committee. His role also extends to community liaison, and he is a strong conduit between the land and sea rangers and the Anindilyakwa Land Council head office.



MR ANDREW COWAN

REGION:

Darwin Hinterland

DATE APPOINTED:

5 July 2017

Mr Andrew Cowan is the Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of the Chief Minister and has previously held various senior positions within the NT Government. Mr Cowan is in charge of the Northern Territory Government's Indigenous Development Strategy and has a strong understanding of the government's Aboriginal Affairs and development priorities.



MS ELAINE WATTS

REGION:
Katherine Hinterland

DATE APPOINTED:
23 May 2018

Ms Elaine Watts is a traditional owner from the Katherine region and a long-serving member of the Northern Land Council (NLC), standing as a full council member from 2013 to 2016. Ms Watts has extensive knowledge of land and management practices, having worked in various Aboriginal land and sea management positions, which include the Sea Ranger NLC Facilitator and Timber Creek Ranger Group Facilitator. Ms Watts has also served as the Timber Creek/Victoria River representative on the Katherine Regional Advisory Committee, where she helped look after sacred sites and improved management of the country by increasing skills and work opportunities through training and work experience.



MS BARBARA SHAW

REGION:
Alice Springs Hinterland

DATE APPOINTED:
27 March 2019

Ms Barbara Shaw is from the Alice Springs region. She is the CLC delegate for Tangentyere Council, where she coordinates the family safety group, targeting domestic violent in town camps. She is a well-known advocate for education, women's issues and housing. Ms Shaw is also heavily involved in a range of community organisations and initiatives that support these areas, including acting as the co-chair of Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory, being a member of the Aboriginal Benefit Account, and being a former engagement officer with the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.



MR NEVILLE PETRICK

REGION:
Plenty River Basin

DATE APPOINTED:
27 March 2019

Mr Neville Petrick is from McDonald Downs in the Northern Territory and is the Executive Council representative on the Central Land Council for the Eastern Plenty region. In that role, Mr Petrick represents his region at the land council meetings and informs them about the discussions and outcomes of these meetings.

REMEMBERING BERNARD ABBOTT

Bernard Abbott was a well-respected Western Arrernte elder from Wallace Rockhole who spent more than 40 years supporting his community and advocating for the rights of the Aboriginal people of Central Australia.

In 1995, Bernard first joined the board of the Authority where he remained a member for 20 years. From the moment Bernard arrived at the Authority, he was instrumental in facilitating the protection of sacred sites for hundreds of development projects. This included major projects in the history of the Northern Territory such as the Ghan Railway, INPEX and the rollout of the National Broadband Network. In 2007, Bernard's significant contributions were recognised by his peers and he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Authority board. Three years later, he was nominated as Chairman, in 2010, until his term ceased in 2015. As Chairman of the Authority board, he was the leading voice for Aboriginal sacred site protection matters, both in the Territory and beyond.

During Bernard's tenure as Deputy Chairman and later as Chairman of the board, he guided staff and fellow board members on how to approach and progress the report and recommendations for the future management of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory's Papunya Board collection. When the report and recommendations were completed in 2012, Bernard presented the report to the Minister for Regional Development and Minister for Arts and Museums. This report acknowledged the cultural

significance of this art collection and provided a sound basis for the museum to manage the iconic works into the future.

At the conclusion of Bernard's 20-year membership, he was engaged as a Special Advisor to the Board to share his knowledge and support through to July 2018. Bernard passed away on 26 August 2018 surrounded by his family on country. He will forever be remembered for his wisdom, courage, determination, warm smile and a great sense of humour.



AUTHORITY OPERATIONS

PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE

The Authority's governance framework aims to ensure the Authority carries out its functions effectively, efficiently and in line with its responsibilities under the *Sacred Sites Act*.

This includes:

- effective human resources management practices
- quality control for data and outputs
- development of risk management strategies
- planning and development of a strategic plan.

HOW THE AUTHORITY IS GOVERNED

The primary policy and decision-making body is the Authority (the board), established under section 5 of the *Sacred Sites Act*. It requires that 'The Administrator shall appoint a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Authority who shall be charged with carrying out the decisions of the Authority.'

All other Authority staff are employed directly by the Authority, under section 17 of the *Sacred Sites Act*.

Section 19 provides for the Authority to delegate certain powers or functions. The CEO holds some of these delegations and is responsible for the Authority's overall operation. The CEO also exercises responsibilities under

the *Financial Management Act* and complies with the terms and conditions of employment under section 60 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*.

HOW THE AUTHORITY IS MANAGED

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) maintains overall responsibility for the Authority's day-to-day operation.

To ensure the smooth functioning of the office, the CEO chairs weekly Executive Management Group meetings and fortnightly staff meetings. Each operational group also meets regularly to ensure the effective flow of information.

The Authority's operational groups are Research and Land Information, Corporate Services, and Policy and Governance.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



LEGISLATION AND POLICY

ABORIGINAL SACRED SITE PROTECTION IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Aboriginal sacred sites are recognised and protected as an integral part of Northern Territory and Australian cultural heritage under both the Commonwealth's *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976 (Land Rights Act)* and the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*.

Both Acts define a sacred site as:

...a site that is sacred to Aboriginals or is otherwise of significance according to Aboriginal tradition...

COMMONWEALTH AND NORTHERN TERRITORY LAWS

The establishment of the *Sacred Sites Act* by the Northern Territory Government was enabled by section 73 of the *Land Rights Act*, which gives the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly power to enact laws for:

73(1)(a) laws providing for the protection of, and the prevention of the desecration of, sacred sites in the Northern Territory, including sacred sites on Aboriginal land, and, in particular, laws regulating or authorising the entry of persons on those sites, but so that any such laws shall provide for the right of Aboriginals to have access to those sites in accordance with Aboriginal tradition and shall take into account the wishes of Aboriginals relating to the extent to which those sites should be protected.

The *Sacred Sites Act* was passed under this power to establish procedures for the protection and registration of sacred sites and the avoidance of sacred sites in the development and use of land.

The protection of sacred sites in the Territory is furthermore aided by section 69 of the *Land Rights Act*, which broadly prohibits entry and remaining on any land in the Northern Territory that is a sacred site, unless a law of the Northern Territory specifies otherwise.

LANDOWNERS AND DEVELOPERS

The Authority strives to achieve practical outcomes in its operations by balancing the interests of sacred site custodians, landowners and developers.

Occasionally, custodians, landowners and developers will have divergent interests in land, but there is usually overlap between these interests. In most cases, the Authority's challenge is to accommodate new uses and development of land with the need to protect sacred sites, which preserves and enhances Aboriginal tradition in a changing social, economic and cultural environment.

Landowners and developers have certain rights under the *Sacred Sites Act*:

- section 28 provides the opportunity for landowners to make representations on the prospective registration of a sacred site.

- section 44 explicitly deals with landowners' rights to use land comprised in a sacred site consistent with the protection of sacred sites. Authority Certificates provide a legal instrument to accommodate such land use.
- under section 48A, if the application of the *Sacred Sites Act* in a particular case would result in an acquisition of property other than on just terms, then the person affected is entitled to such compensation as a court may decide.

As well as protecting the fabric of sacred sites in the context of land ownership and development, the *Sacred Sites Act* provides for Aboriginal people to have access to sacred sites 'in accordance with Aboriginal tradition'.

In accordance with the *Sacred Sites Act*, all sacred sites are protected regardless of underlying land title, registration status or whether or not they are known to the Authority.

The specific sections of the *Sacred Sites Act* relevant to the protection of sacred sites are sections 33 (unauthorised entry), 34 (unauthorised works or uses) and 35 (desecration), which set out the various offences in relation to sacred sites.

RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER NORTHERN TERRITORY HERITAGE LEGISLATION

Section 128 (2)(b) of the *Heritage Act 2011* states that the Authority must have a representative on the Heritage Advisory Council.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Authority's Executive Management Group (EMG) comprises senior managers from the organisation's operational areas and is chaired by the CEO.

The purpose of the EMG is to provide the CEO with advice and support about a range of strategic and operational matters. The group's key

functions include monitoring the organisation's performance, setting the Authority's strategic direction and priorities, implementing the strategic plan and addressing critical issues facing the Authority.

The EMG members are:

- Dr Ben Scamary, Chief Executive Officer

- Dr Sophie Creighton, Director Research and Information
- Mr Che Walsh, Director, Policy and Governance
- Mr Alan Buckingham, Director, Corporate Services.

COMMITTEES

RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

In accordance with section 13(2) of the *Financial Management Act*, the CEO must ensure appropriate internal control procedures are in place. As such, the Authority's Risk Management and Audit Committee exists to provide advice to the CEO on matters associated with risk management, internal controls, reviews and audits within the Authority. These matters may include:

- endorse and monitor the Risk Management Plan for the Authority
- review and maintain the Authority's risk register
- monitor external audit program outcomes and the implementation of recommendations
- monitor the development of internal review programs and audits

- review progress and findings of process reviews and monitor the implementation of findings
- consider the adequacy of the internal control environment, including the effectiveness of internal controls on key risks, such as fraud, information and communications technology, governance and systems to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements
- consider financial reports of the Authority, particularly the narrative summaries and statements included in the annual report, with respect to risk management and internal controls
- within the context of the committee's primary purpose, undertake other functions and activities as determined from time to time by the CEO.

The committee is made up of an independent chair from the Northern Territory Public Service and senior Authority staff.

During 2016–17, an external review was done for the Authority's Audit and Risk framework. The recommended changes to the process were implemented in February 2019. The Authority has incorporated a Strategic Risk Assessment to identify significant risks the Authority faces as well as a Risk Management Plan, which details a suggested program of actions and treatments to help manage the identified risks.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY GROUP

The Research Methodology Group (RMG) considers complex issues on matters affecting sacred sites and, where appropriate, develops and updates policies and procedures and provides advice to the EMG.

The RMG is made up of members from Research and Land Information, Governance and Policy and the Office of the CEO.

All policies and procedures the RMG develops are presented to the EMG.

The library committee looks for ways to make the library collection more relevant and easily accessible to Authority staff and our stakeholders.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

This committee oversees the Authority's information management, and information and communications technology (ICT) practices to ensure our priorities are met. The committee's responsibilities include:

- review business cases and project plans for ICT initiatives and investment decisions and prepare a submission to EMG for review and approval
- oversee the delivery of ICT initiatives and performance review of project delivery
- software upgrades and managing the impact on Authority users
- reporting any virus attacks or network intrusions.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The purpose of this committee is to maintain a collection of materials that are relevant to researching the protection of the cultural heritage of the Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory and for the benefit of all Territorians.

The library committee looks for ways to make the library collection more relevant and easily accessible to Authority staff and our stakeholders.





INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS



*Grassed landscape in
Lee Point, NT.*



As the statutory authority responsible for overseeing the protection of sacred sites under the *Sacred Sites Act*, the Authority is involved in the planning stages of most major projects in the Northern Territory. Our aim is to balance the interests of custodians, landowners and developers.

In the past 12 months, the Authority has worked with proponents of major developments in the Northern Territory to achieve significant outcomes in sacred site protection.

NOTABLE AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES

TOURISM AND VISITOR-EXPERIENCE PROJECTS

The Authority supported government and private sector tourism projects by issuing Authority Certificates that protected multiple sacred sites while allowing for works to improve visitor experience for locals and tourists, including:

- upgrades to Manton Dam recreation area
- Darwin water theme park planning
- Glen Helen path and viewing platform
- Litchfield National Park East Reynolds development
- Larapinta Trail installation of shelters and associated facilities and realignment of park track sections
- Big Horse campground host site works and repairs
- BASSINTEGRASS music festival.

AQUACULTURE

The Authority issued an Authority Certificate for the large-scale aquaculture project being developed in northern Australia and one for an outstation fisheries development.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Authority supported the Northern Territory and Australian governments' infrastructure and investment priorities by issuing certificates for infrastructure projects and major roadworks including:

- Defence Housing Lee Point Master Plan
- new telecommunications facility at Kintore
- proposed logistics and agribusiness hub in Katherine
- Darwin Ship Lift and Marine Industry Facility
- major road upgrades, repairs and maintenance of Point Stuart Road and boat ramp
- major upgrades, repairs and maintenance of the Plenty Highway
- overhead powerline upgrades from Tennant Creek to Threeways
- Ilparpa Road widening
- development of an undersea fibre optic cable to the Tiwi Islands
- construction of a rocket launch facility in Arnhem Land.

MINING AND EXPLORATION

The Authority issued numerous Authority Certificates to provide certainty around the location and extent of sacred sites for mineral exploration, geological mapping and survey work throughout the Territory

including instructions for protection of sacred sites.

The Authority issued 13 Authority Certificates for mining works, of which seven were issued for works associated

with hydraulic fracturing, including environmental water monitoring, bore construction and well development. Two of the 13 Authority Certificates issued were for mining and rehabilitation works.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PRESENTATION TO THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

In July 2018, Dr Sophie Creighton, Director of Research and Land Information, made a presentation to the Extractive Industry Association as part of industry focussed information sessions specifically aimed at explaining the regulatory requirements in the Northern Territory.

In this session, Dr Creighton spoke on the roles and functions of the Authority and sacred site protection in the context of extractive industries and mine management planning. Dr Creighton explained the processes involved in the issuing of Authority Certificates, including consultations with custodians, details on what constitutes a sacred site and timeframes and costs of the Authority Certificate process and the defence it provides

in the event of a prosecution. Dr Creighton also talked about other information the Authority can provide at the planning stages of a project. Questions, feedback, and follow-up engagement in Authority processes suggest this talk achieved a greater understanding of the Authority's role in the regulatory framework of the NT and that this information was appreciated by the industry representatives.

PRESENTATION TO THE NT ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

In November 2018, Dr Sophie Creighton, Director of Research and Land Information, presented to the NT Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Creighton spoke on the roles and functions of the Authority, focussing on the Authority Certificate process and sacred site protection. The talk outlined the Authority's role in the regulatory scheme of the NT, and also the ways that information held by the Authority about the location and extent of sacred sites can be accessed. Questions asked by attendees demonstrated a keen interest in the nature of sacred sites and how sacred site protection is enabled through the Authority Certificate process. Many of the conference participants were environmental consultants whose work aligns with the sacred site regulatory regime.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

HEAVITREE GAP FUTURE ROAD DUPLICATION PLANNING CONFERENCE

The Authority facilitated a conference between Aboriginal custodians and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics about options for the proposed duplication of Heavitree Gap road. The conference was held as two

separate meetings in 2018–19: one with Antulye custodians in late July 2018, and one with Mparntwe custodians in early August 2018. Both of these custodian groups have an interest in the proposal.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics outlined the options for the proposed road duplication, and custodians provided feedback on the planning proposal.

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

In April 2018, the Northern Territory Government accepted all 135 recommendations of the *Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory* (the Inquiry). The Inquiry made a

number of recommendations regarding the protection of sacred sites, and the Authority is part of the NT Government-wide working group providing advice about the recommendations and implementation.

Throughout the 2018–19 financial year, the Authority worked with a range of stakeholders, including NT Government, industry and land councils in relation to the implementation.

Custodians in Maningrida, NT.



PERFORMANCE REPORT



*Landscape on
Tanami Road, NT.*



The Authority's role is to protect sacred sites through the administration of the *Sacred Sites Act*. The Act provides for the protection of sacred sites through the provision of sacred site information, responding to requests from stakeholders, the registration of sacred sites and where required, the prosecution of the damage or desecration of a sacred site.

Importantly, in consultation with custodians, the Authority develops sacred site protection procedures through Authority Certificates, which specifically relate to the use and development of land in the Northern Territory.

Overall performance in a financial year is quantified by the requests for information (registers and other archives) and the number, size and complexity of Authority Certificate applications issued.

Timeliness is assessed as a result of the average number of days between acceptance of Authority Certificate applications or requests for information and the issuing of those requests.

Quality is reflected in the number of statutory appeals on Authority decisions under Part III, Division 3 of the *Sacred Sites Act* or section 9 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth)*.

The Authority reports against agreed performance measures as part of its output performance. These performance measures provide an indication of the Authority's current workload and performance.

OUTPUT GROUP: PROTECTION OF SACRED SITES

Provide statutory services for the protection and registration of sacred sites and the avoidance of sacred sites in the economic development and use of land.

OUTCOME:

Enhanced relations between Aboriginal custodians and the wider Territory community by increasing the level of certainty when identifying constraints, if any, on land and sea use proposals from the existence of sacred sites.

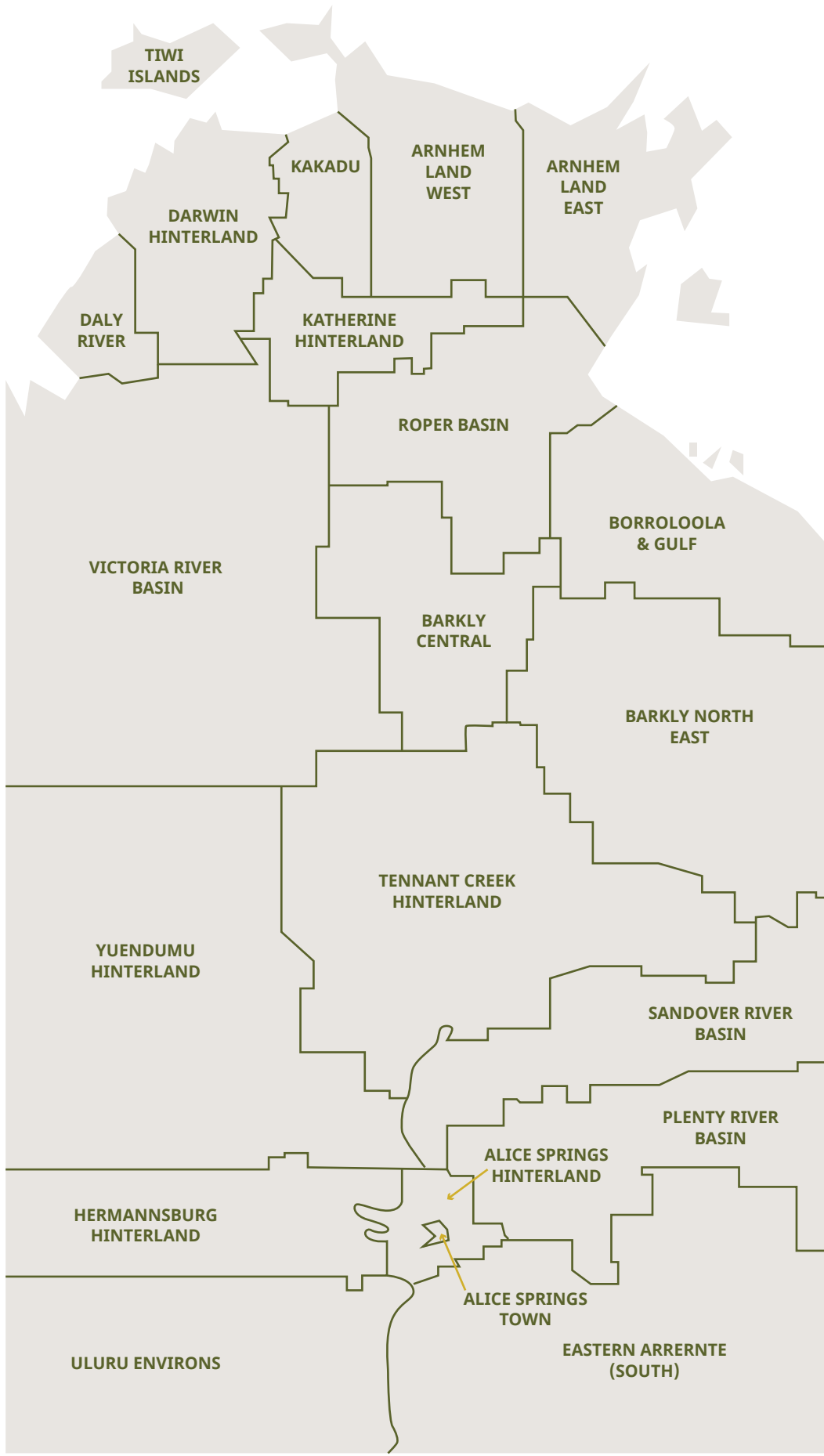
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19
Authority Certificates issued	177	242	157	107	150	107
Requests for information completed	513	636	579	789	550	511
Average time between receiving Authority Certificate application and completing service	126 days	114 days	90 days	93 days	120 days	109 days
Average time between receiving request for information and completing service	2.9 days	4.6 days	1.1 days	1.5 days	7 days	2.2 days
Statutory appeals	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%

The Authority also reports on the output group – Corporate Support. Information on Corporate Support can be found at note 3 of the financial report (page 80).



Fieldwork in Litchfield, NT.

FIGURE 1: MAP OF THE AUTHORITY'S REGIONS





Fitzmaurice River, NT.

AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES

QUANTITY

In 2018–19, the Authority issued 107 Authority Certificates for a range of projects across the Territory such as infrastructure, roadworks, mining/exploration, tourism and communications.

In total, 134 Authority Certificate requests were received; of that number, 107 Authority Certificates were issued and 27 were subsequently withdrawn. Of these withdrawn applications, nine were withdrawn by the Northern Territory Government, and a further nine withdrawn applications related to exploration and mining. The remaining certificates were withdrawn by Commonwealth and other government agencies (two), other Aboriginal organisations (one) and private/individual companies (six). In the last five financial years, no Authority Certificates have been refused by the Authority.

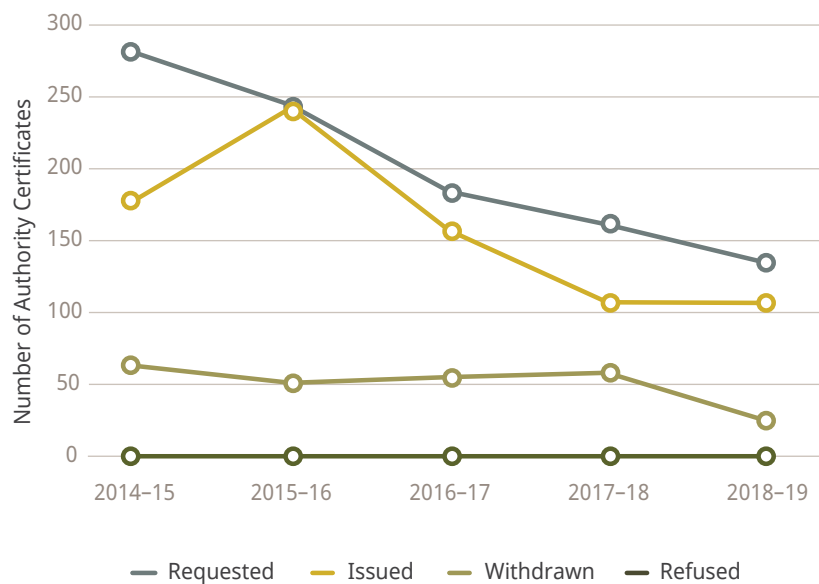
While the number of Authority Certificates we issued remained consistent with 2017–18, the Authority worked on several large-scale applications (such as major roadworks to the Plenty Highway and large-scale mining exploration-related Authority Certificates). These Authority Certificates required significant

human and organisational resources to deliver. The size and complexity of the 2018–19 Authority Certificates is reflected in the revenue generated on a cost-recovery basis that exceeded budget expectations and did not decline proportionately with the reduction in the number of Authority Certificates issued.

Figure 2 shows a decreasing trend in the number of Authority

Certificates received and issued in the last five years. However, this trend is offset by requests for information in the form of abstracts of records. This indicates to the Authority that proponents may be seeking to minimise outlay costs on Authority Certificates. This trend is a concern to the Authority because it increases the risk of damage to sacred sites.

FIGURE 2: AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES REQUESTED, ISSUED, WITHDRAWN AND REFUSED BETWEEN 1 JULY 2014 AND 30 JUNE 2019





REGIONAL PICTURE

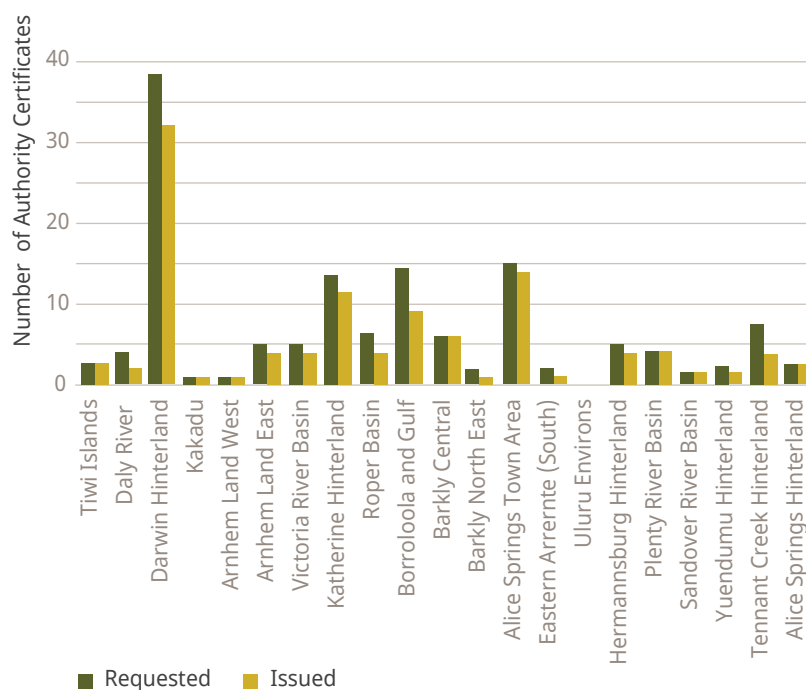
During 2018–19, the highest demand for Authority Certificates was in the major population areas of Darwin Hinterland (including Darwin) (total of 32) and Alice Springs (total of 14). A vast majority of the Darwin certificates covered Northern Territory Government works for planning and infrastructure projects and roadworks, including tourism-related ventures and upgrades to recreational areas.

In Alice Springs, most of the issued Authority Certificates also covered work for Northern Territory Government planning and infrastructure projects,

including installation of fitness stations along the Todd River, upgrades to the Alice Springs rural volunteer fire brigade and various other infrastructure projects.

After Darwin and Alice Springs, the Katherine Hinterland area was the third-highest area in demand for Authority Certificates (total of 11). These were issued mostly to the Department of Defence for projects within the Tindal RAAF Base and the Northern Territory Government for planning and infrastructure projects, such as flood mitigation and a proposed logistics and agribusiness hub.

FIGURE 3: REGIONAL TREND OF REQUESTED AND ISSUED AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES IN 2018-19



After Darwin and Alice Springs, the Katherine Hinterland area was the third-highest area in demand for Authority Certificates.

FIGURE 4: REGIONAL TREND FOR ISSUED AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES BETWEEN 1 JULY 2014 AND 30 JUNE 2019

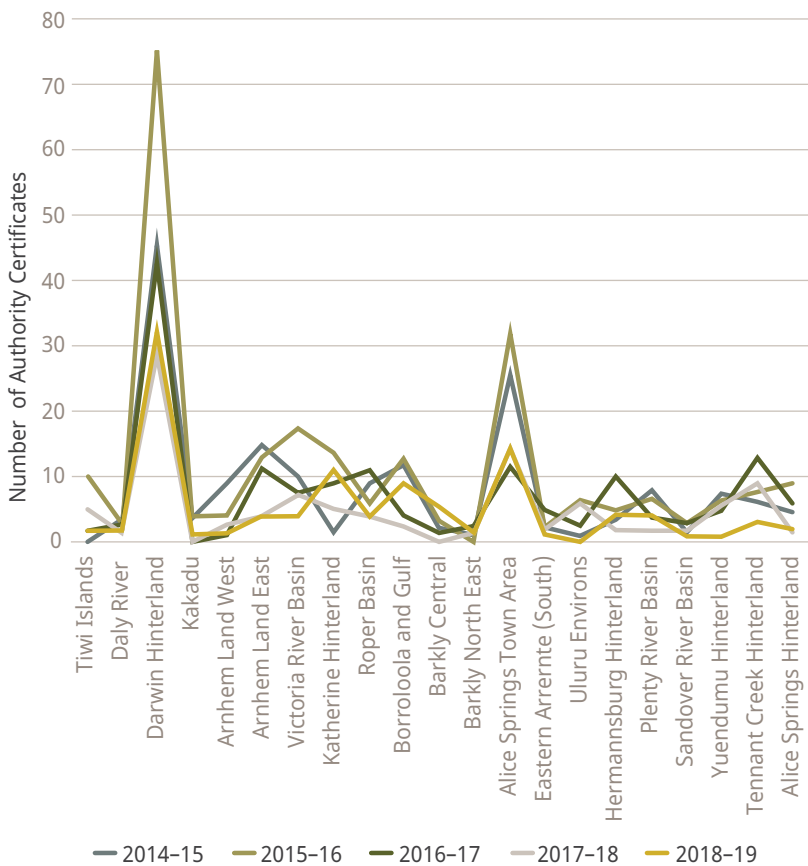
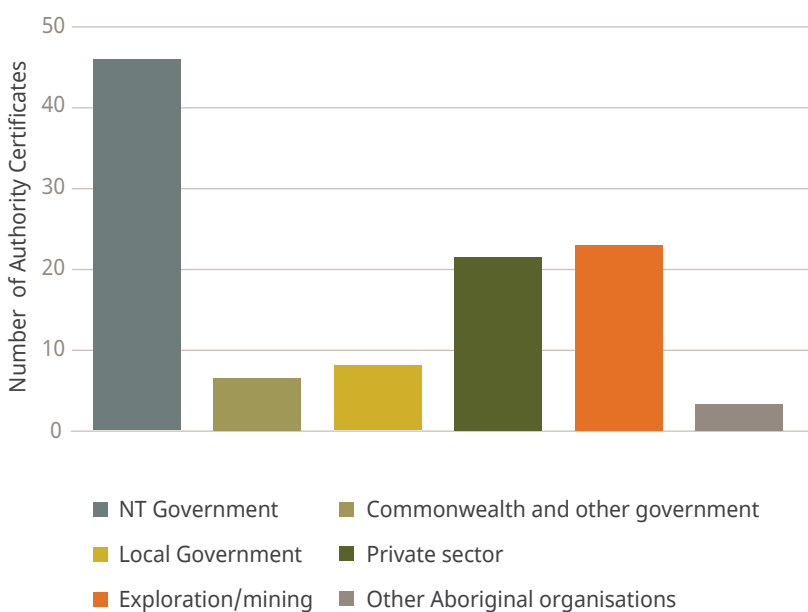


Figure 4 shows the concentration of issued Authority Certificates in the Darwin Hinterland and Alice Springs town area over the five-year period. The number of Authority Certificates issued for other regions varied from year to year, and there is no strong pattern or trend.

SERVICE USERS AND PROJECT TYPES

FIGURE 5: USERS OF AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES IN 2018-19



The Northern Territory Government is the largest group of Authority Certificate users, at 43%. The government's public works included roadworks, power, water and sewage, planning and infrastructure, primary industry, tourism and natural resource management.

The Authority's second-largest client is the mining and exploration sector, at 21.5%. Other users of Authority Certificates are the private sector (19.7%), local government (6.5%), Commonwealth and other government agencies (5.6%) and Aboriginal organisations (3.7%).

FIGURE 6: TYPES OF PROJECTS AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES WERE ISSUED FOR IN 2018-19

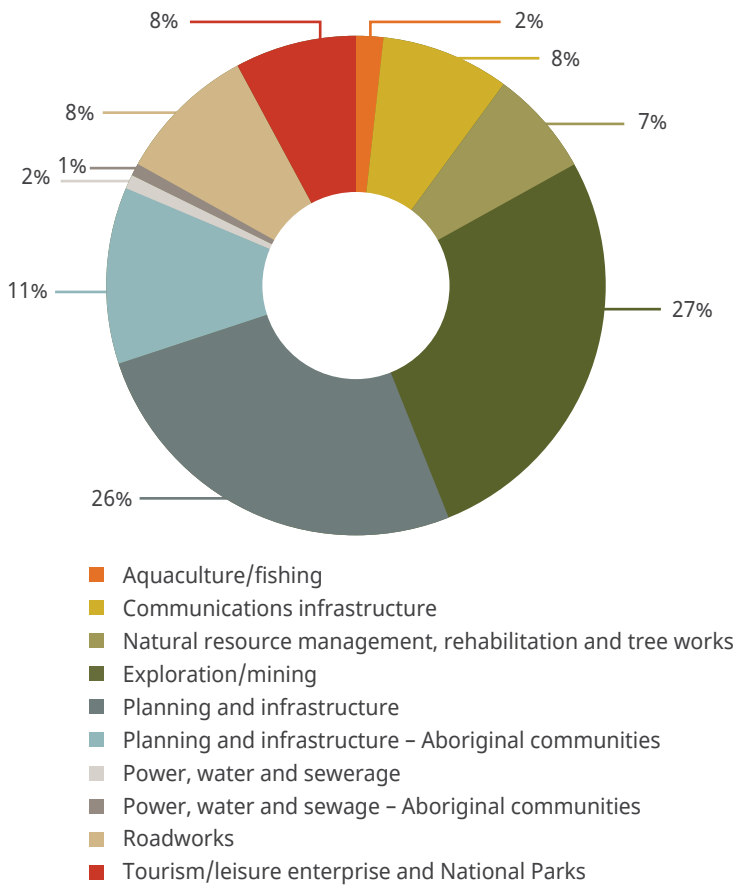
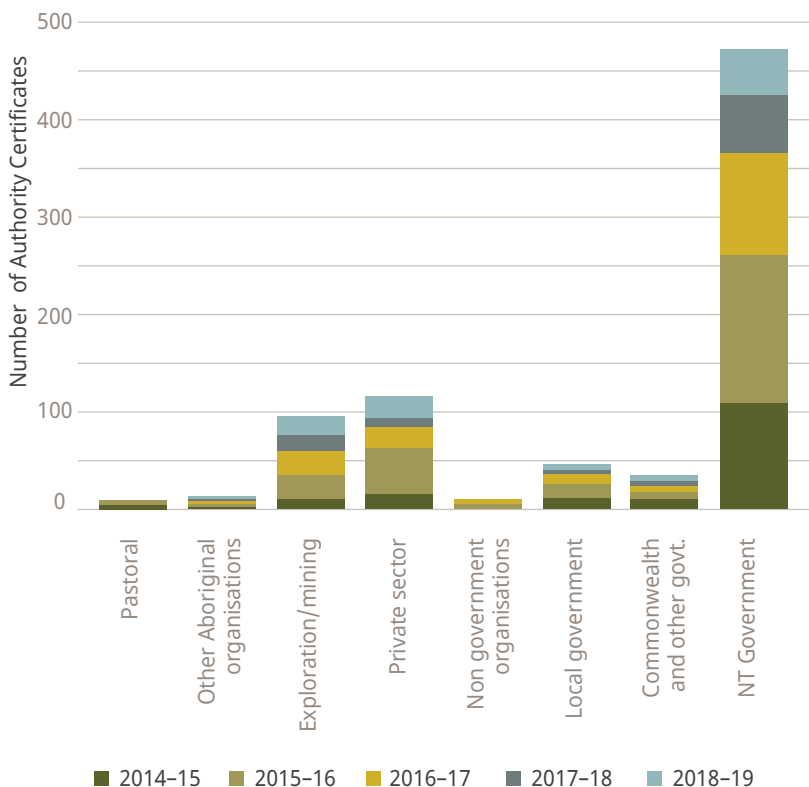


FIGURE 7: USER GROUPS OF AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES BETWEEN 1 JULY 2014 AND 30 JUNE 2019



Of the 107 Authority Certificates issued in 2018-19, 27% were for mining and exploration and 26% were for planning and infrastructure.

The trend over the last five years shows the Northern Territory Government maintaining its position as the Authority's biggest client. However, the demand from the government in this reporting period is the lowest it has been in the last five consecutive reporting years (see left, Figure 7). However, this is consistent with the overall decrease in Authority Certificate requests across all sectors.

For the third year in a row, the mining and exploration sector maintained its position as the second-largest client. This sector's demand for Authority Certificates has remained consistent since 2014-15 and is a reflection of the current proposed exploration activities in the Northern Territory.

TIMELINESS

Timeliness remains an important performance measure for the Authority. Timeframes for issuing Authority Certificates are significantly affected by staffing resources and completing consultations with Aboriginal custodians. This continues to be affected by factors such as:

- the increased complexity of project proposals
- changes to traditional land tenure due to cultural transitions that result from the generational changes of custodians
- the increased mobility of Aboriginal custodians
- the remoteness of application areas and the associated access due to the weather.

We continue to engage positively with large user groups for Authority Certificates, including the Northern Territory Government’s Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Logistics; Power and Water Corporation; Defence; the mining and exploration sector; and the private sector.

Our proactive engagement has helped us maintain positive and productive working relationships with stakeholders and gives us a greater understanding about the type of works our clients undertake. It also gives our clients greater awareness about the processes we must follow in issuing Authority Certificates.

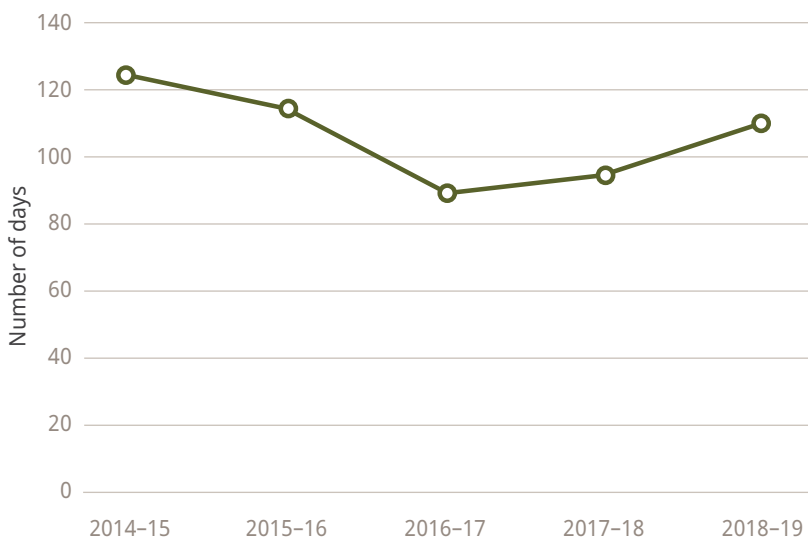
This stakeholder engagement has had a positive impact on timeframes for issuing certificates because of client collaboration and a greater understanding of the statutory processes, including the requirement for custodian consultation.

We also continued to work with land councils across the Northern Territory to consult with and, where appropriate, share information to issue Authority Certificates in accordance with section 22 (1)(b) of the *Sacred Sites Act*.

In 2018–19, the completion of Authority Certificates took an average of 109 days, an increase from the previous year’s average of 93 days. This was due to the large scale of Authority Certificates issued.

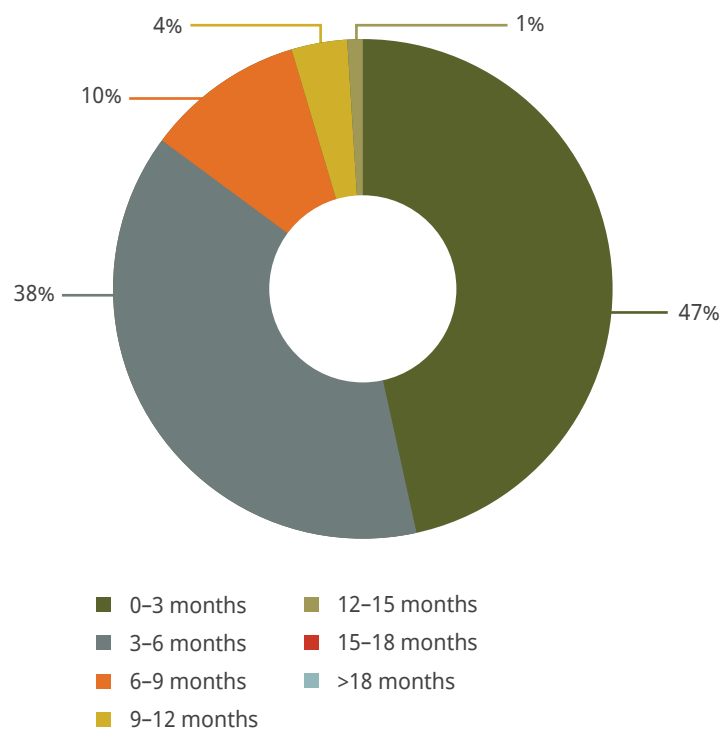
Our proactive engagement has helped us maintain positive and productive working relationships with stakeholders and gives us a greater understanding about the type of works our clients undertake.

FIGURE 8: AVERAGE DAYS TO ISSUE AN AUTHORITY CERTIFICATE BETWEEN 1 JULY 2014 AND 30 JUNE 2019



In 2018–19, 47% of Authority Certificates were issued within less than three months, and 38% were completed in between three and six months.

FIGURE 9: TIMEFRAMES TO ISSUE AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES IN 2018-19



Over the last five years, the vast majority of Authority Certificates were issued within six months. In 2018-19, 85% of Authority Certificates were issued within six months, and this is comparable with the previous five years on average (93% in 2017-18, 82% in 2016-17, 87% in 2015-16 and 79% in 2014-15).

FIGURE 10: TIMEFRAMES TO ISSUE AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES BETWEEN 1 JULY 2014 AND 30 JUNE 2019

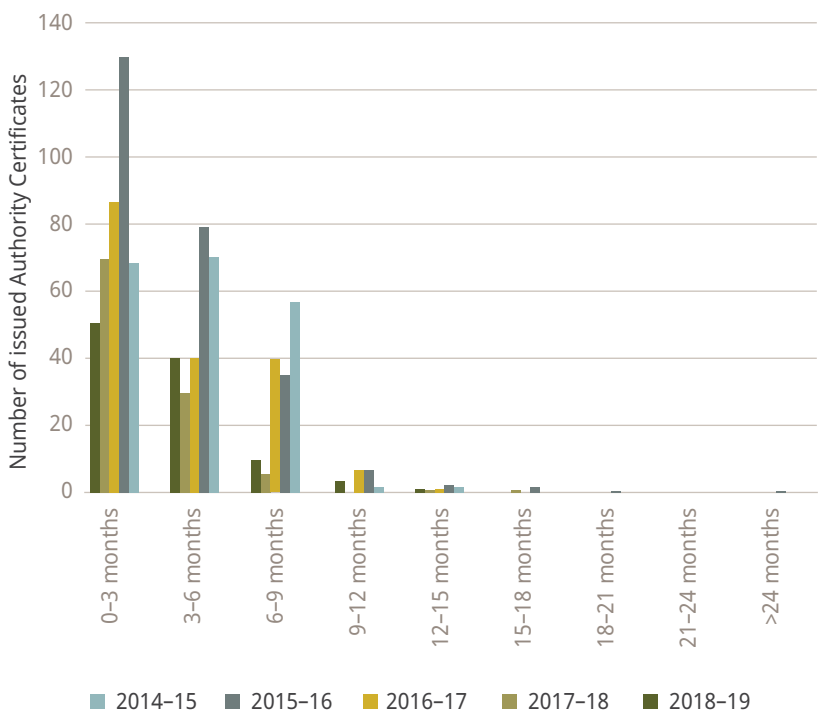
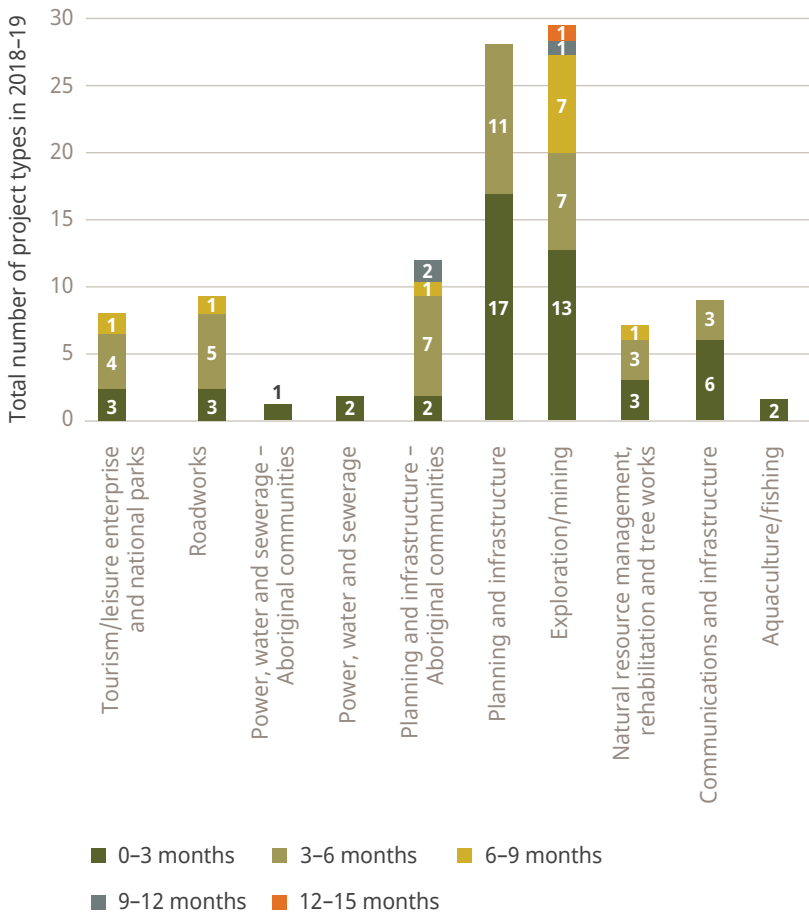
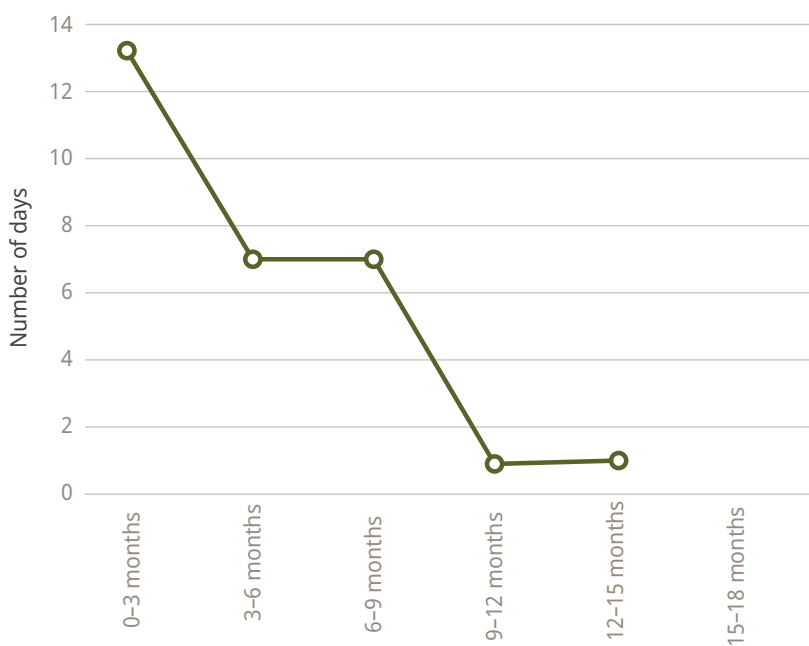


FIGURE 11: TIMEFRAMES TO ISSUE AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES BY PROJECT TYPE IN 2018-19



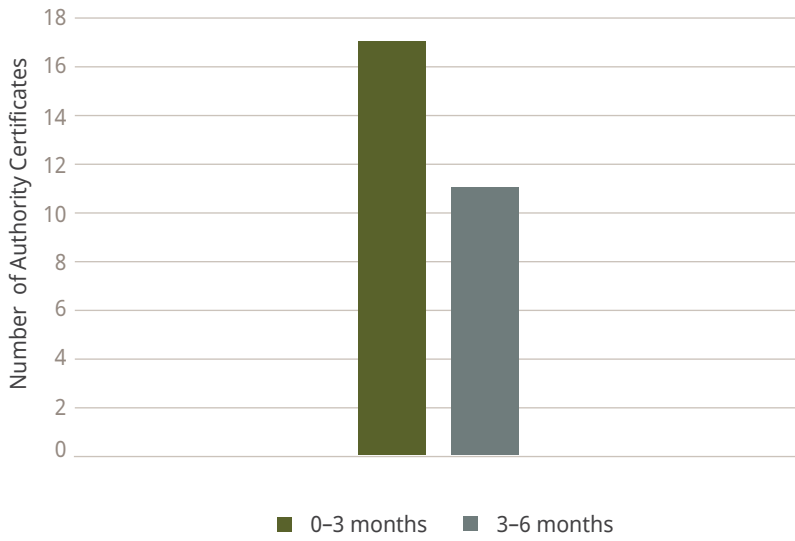
In 2018-19, the Authority worked on a wide range of projects, including aquaculture, infrastructure, mining and exploration, roadworks and tourism. This included a number of large-scale projects in the regions (such as major upgrades to the Plenty Highway and large-scale exploration activities). These types of projects required significant human and organisational resourcing to deliver and took more than six months to complete due to the complexity and the large-scale areas of land involved for the proposed works.

FIGURE 12: TIMEFRAMES TO ISSUE AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES FOR EXPLORATION/MINING PROJECTS IN 2018-19



Exploration and mining were the largest type of project we issued Authority Certificates for in 2018-19. In total, 44% of Authority Certificates were issued within three months, 24% in three to six months, 25% in six to nine months, 3.5% in 12-15 months and 3.5% in 15-18 months.

FIGURE 13: TIMEFRAMES TO ISSUE AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES FOR PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN 2018-19



Planning and infrastructure projects were the second-largest project type the Authority issued Authority Certificates for in 2018-19. In total, 60% of Authority Certificates were issued within three months and the remaining 40% in three to six months.

Custodian during fieldwork in Litchfield, NT.



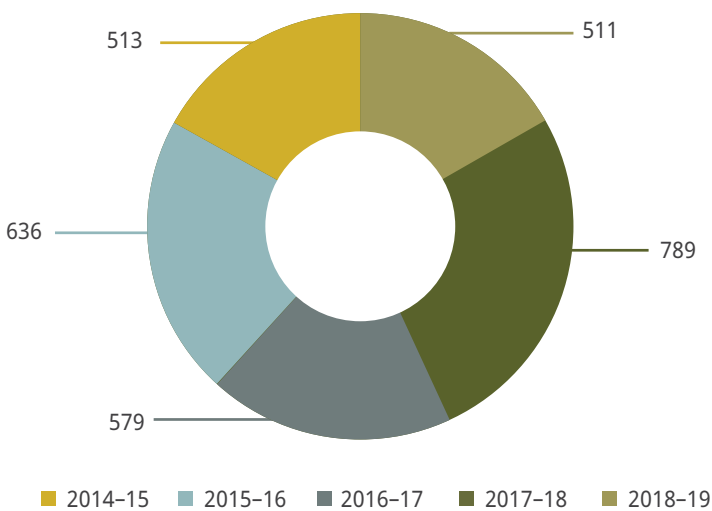
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

QUANTITY

In 2018–19, the Authority received and responded to 511 formal requests for information from the Register. This is a decrease of 278 from 2017–18, when the Authority received and responded to 789 requests for information.

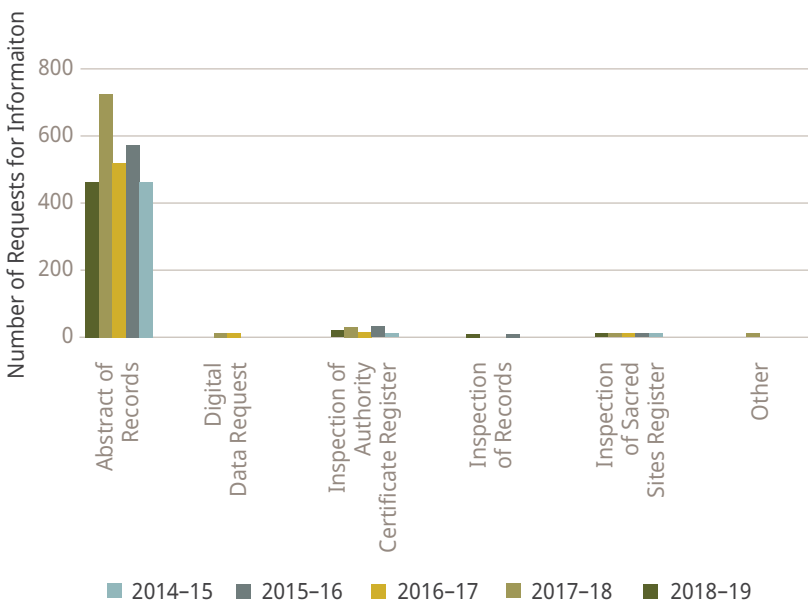
The requests for information in the 2018–19 financial year (511) is the lowest number of requests received in the past five financial years (see figure 14).

FIGURE 14: TOTAL NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION BETWEEN 1 JULY 2014 AND 30 JUNE 2019



Most requests (90%) take the form of an abstract of records. Other requests are Digital Data Requests, inspections of the Authority Certificate Register, inspections of records and Inspections of the Sacred Sites Register.

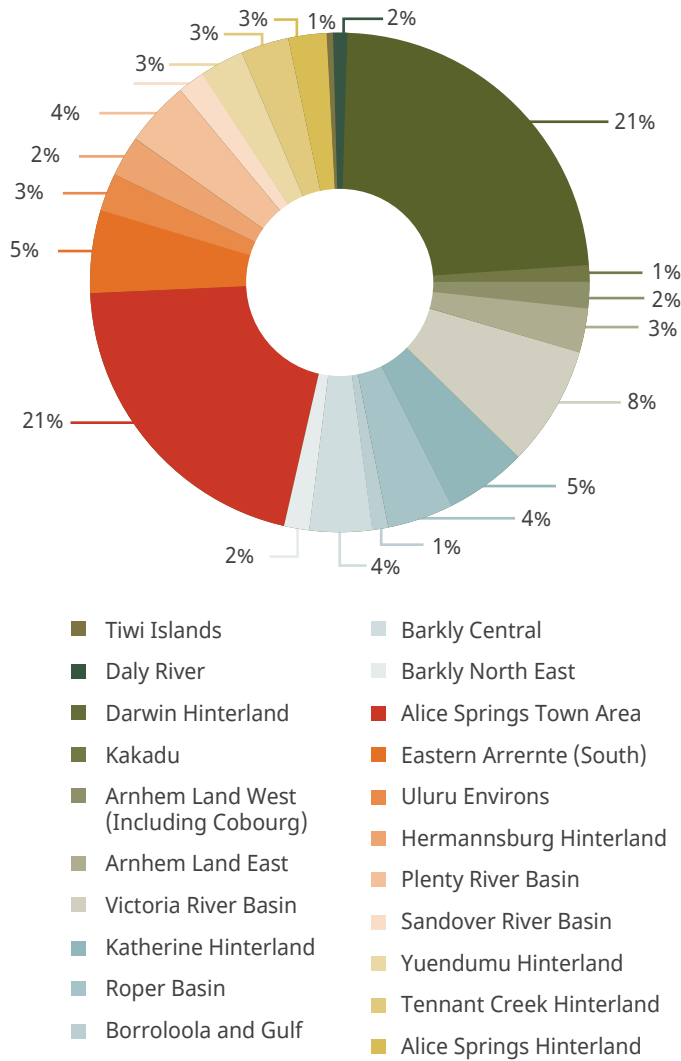
FIGURE 15: TYPES OF REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION BETWEEN 1 JULY 2014 AND 30 JUNE 2019



REGIONAL PICTURE

Requests for information were highest in the Darwin Hinterland region (109) in 2018–19. Consistent with previous years, the Alice Springs town area (106) was the next highest, followed by Victoria River Basin (40) and Katherine Hinterland and Eastern Arrernte (South) (both 27).

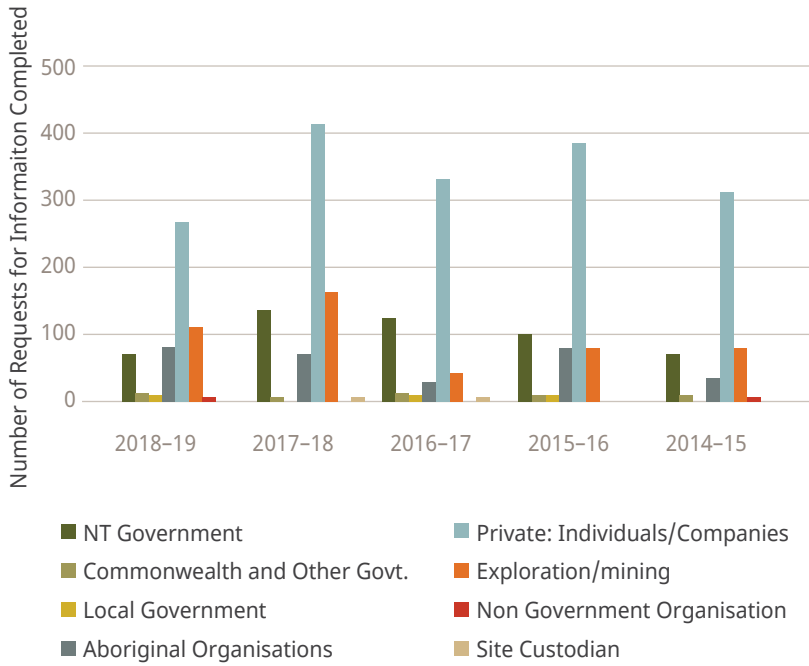
FIGURE 16: NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION PER REGION IN 2018–19



SERVICE USERS AND PROJECT TYPES

Figure 17 displays the user groups that requested information in 2018-19. The top three groups are the private sector, exploration/mining and the Northern Territory Government.

FIGURE 17: NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION PER USER GROUP BETWEEN 1 JULY 2014 AND 30 JUNE 2019



Although the demand for requests for information decreased from 789 in 2017-18 to 511 in 2018-19, private sector user groups still account for 50% of requests for information and exploration/mining equates to 20%. This is consistent in both financial years.

Lee Point, NT.

TIMELINESS

In 2018-19, there was a slight increase in the average time taken to complete all types of requests for information, from 1.5 days in 2017-18 to 2.2 days in 2018-19. Although this increased slightly, the Authority's 2018-19 key performance indicators (KPIs) estimate on average seven days to respond to requests for information, from day of acceptance to day of issue.

FIGURE 18: NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION BETWEEN 1 JULY 2014 AND 30 JUNE 2019 AND THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS TO RESPOND

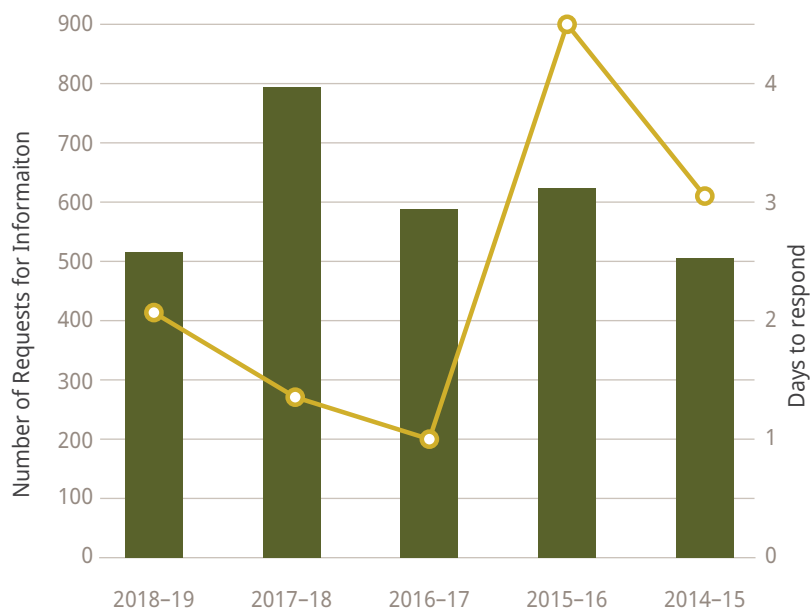
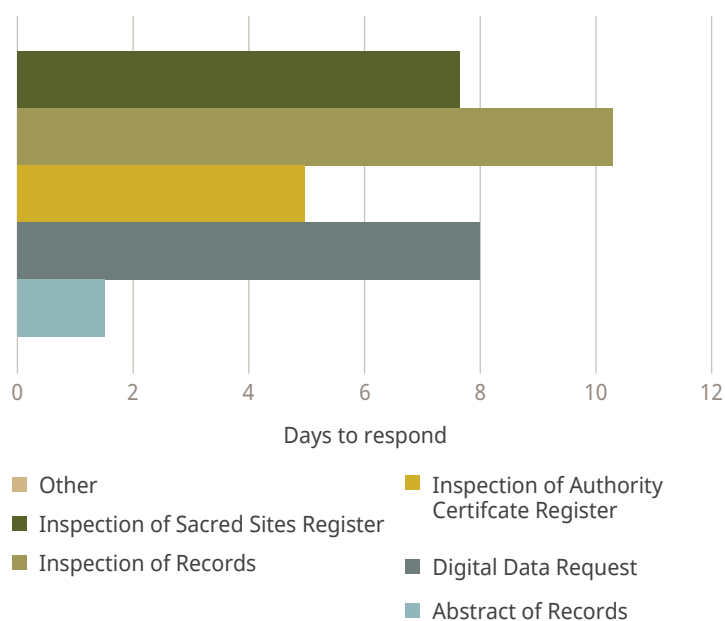


FIGURE 19: AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS TO COMPLETE EACH TYPE OF REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN 2018-19



While the average of all requests for information was 2.2 days, the total average for each type of request varied.

Abstract of records, which represented 90% of requests received, took on average 1.6 days to complete, while other requests, such as Inspections of the Sacred Sites Register, were completed on average within 7.7 days. The more complex requests, such as inspections of Authority Certificates, took an average of 4.7 days, and digital data requests, which require the negotiation of agreements, including conditions specific to each situation, took an average 8 days for completion.

REGISTRATION OF SACRED SITES

Registering a sacred site is the highest level of protection that can be given. Registration also gives users of land the best possible information about a sacred site. For Aboriginal custodians, registration of a sacred site means the sacred site will be accepted by a court as *prima facie* evidence that a place is a sacred site. The Authority maintains records of all sacred sites it has identified in the Northern Territory. The sacred sites listed in the Authority's records fall into two main categories:

REGISTERED SACRED SITES

These are sacred sites Aboriginal custodians have asked the Authority to protect and the Authority has comprehensively documented, evaluated and entered into the Register of Sacred Sites by the board of the Authority. The Register makes information about the location, boundaries and custodians of a sacred site publicly available through a request for information process.

RECORDED SACRED SITES

These are sacred sites that have been made known to the Authority from a variety of sources. In many cases, the Authority has not been able to assess the accuracy of its information about recorded sacred sites. These sacred sites usually have not been fully mapped nor have they gone through the formal process of being registered by the board of the Authority. These sacred sites are still protected by the *Sacred Sites Act*.

QUANTITY

The Authority registered 20 sacred sites in 2018–19, a decrease of 13 from 2017–18, when 33 sacred sites were registered. Sacred sites can only be registered at Authority board meetings, and there are four meetings each calendar year. However, only three meetings fell within the 2018–19 financial year reporting period, which explains the decrease in registrations.

In total, the Authority received 17 site registration requests in 2018–19, a 51% decrease from 35 requests in 2017–18.

The Authority recorded 160 new sacred sites through field work in 2018–19, a 29% increase from 124 in 2017–18. This reflects the large-scale and complex applications for Authority Certificates in 2018–19, which typically generates field work and custodian consultations that identifies previously unrecorded sacred sites.

In total, the Authority has 2124 registered sacred sites and 11 299 recorded sacred sites in its database, bringing the total number of documented sacred sites in the Northern Territory to 13 423.

TIMELINESS

There remains a backlog of registration requests for sacred sites. Generally, this registration research work is addressed on an ad hoc basis when field work is being carried out near a sacred site requested for registration. The Authority has established priorities for addressing registration requests based on threats of desecration.

To help reduce the backlog of registration requests, the Authority has engaged interns through the Aurora Project to assist in identifying and addressing gaps in current registration requests.

In total, the Authority has 2124 registered sacred sites and 11 299 recorded sacred sites in its database, bringing the total number of documented sacred sites in the Northern Territory to 13 423.

DAMAGE TO SACRED SITES

Under the *Sacred Sites Act*, it is an offence to enter and remain on a sacred site, carry out work on a sacred site or desecrate a sacred site. In recent years, the Authority has responded to a number of potential breaches of the offence provisions of the *Sacred Sites Act* and has investigated each report.

At the beginning of 2018–19, the Authority had eight alleged sacred site damage matters carried over from the previous reporting period.

During 2018–19, the Authority:

- received 11 new alleged site damage reports
- closed 11 cases.

By the end of 2018–19, eight cases remained active.

PROSECUTIONS

Blythe River

In the previous financial year (2017–18), the Authority commenced legal proceedings against a commercial fisherman for breaching the *Sacred Sites Act* in the Blythe River in 2016. This matter was finalised before the court in August 2018, with convictions recorded. Both the company and individual were fined \$3000 each for entering and working within the boundary of a sacred site.

PROVIDING SACRED SITE ADVICE TO NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

In addition, the Authority also provided sacred site advice about development proposals and management plans to a number of Northern Territory Government agencies.

The Northern Territory Government agencies the Authority provided advice to included:

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources: the Authority provided sacred site advice in relation to environmental management plans, environmental impact assessment proposals and land development applications (including pastoral matters and land clearing).
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics: the Authority provided sacred site advice on a range of development proposals through Development Assessment Services (such as subdivisions and rezonings) and applications relating to Crown leases.
- Department of the Chief Minister: the Authority provided sacred site advice on the implementation of the recommendations made by the *Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*.

Landscape in Litchfield, NT.



OUR PEOPLE



*Fieldwork in
Maningrida, NT.*



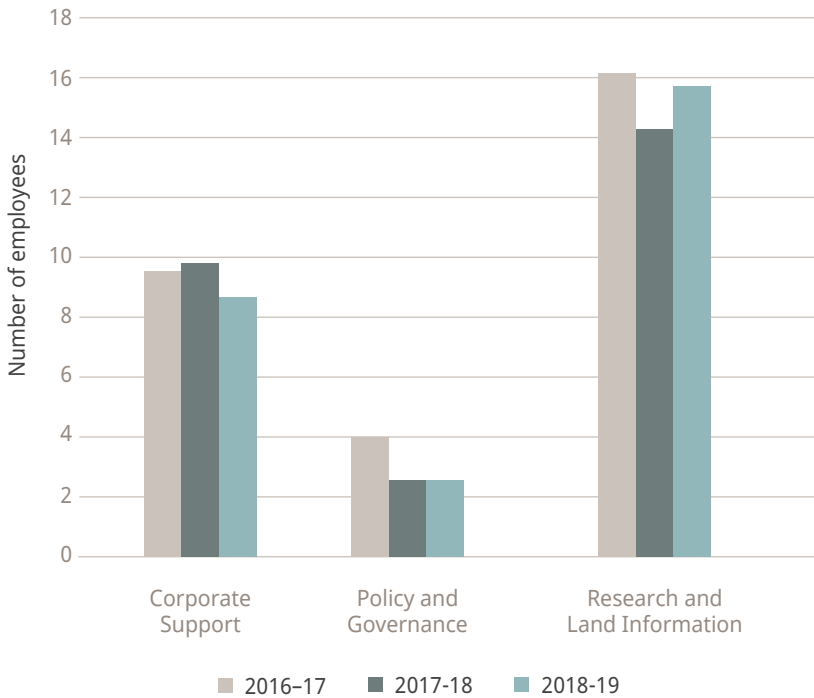
2018–19 SNAPSHOT

- Our full-time equivalent staff numbers were 27.35 in 2018–19 compared to 26.96 in 2017–18.
- Our headcount of staff was 30 in 2018–19 compared to 31 in 2017–18.
- 60% of the workforce were female in 2018–19 compared to 65% in 2017–18.
- The average age of staff was 39 in 2018–19 compared to 41 in 2017–18.
- 30% of our staff were aged 50 and over in 2018–19 compared to 37% in 2017–18.
- 77% of our staff were ongoing permanent employees in 2018–19 compared to 41% in 2017–18.
- Research and Land Information is our largest unit, employing 52% of our staff.
- 17% of our staff identified as Indigenous in 2018–19, which is consistent with 2017–18.
- 13% of our staff identified as being from a non-English-speaking background in 2018–19 compared to 10% in 2017–18.
- None of our staff identified as having a disability in 2018–19 compared to 3% in 2017–18.
- 13% of the workforce had worked for the Authority for more than 10 years, and 7% had worked for the Authority for more than 30 years.
- 47% of our staff were employed in the professional (40%) or technical streams (7%).
- 13% of our staff were employed part time.
- 30% of our staff had flexible work agreements in place.
- 7% of our staff were employed on a casual basis.
- \$38 725 was spent in 2018–19 on training and development for our staff.
- \$2808 was spent on providing eight individual support services.

WORKFORCE PROFILE

The Authority's workforce in 2018-19 reduced by one person to 30, compared to 31 in 2017-18. This reduction in our workforce was primarily due to resignations of staff moving interstate for either family reasons or for further studies.

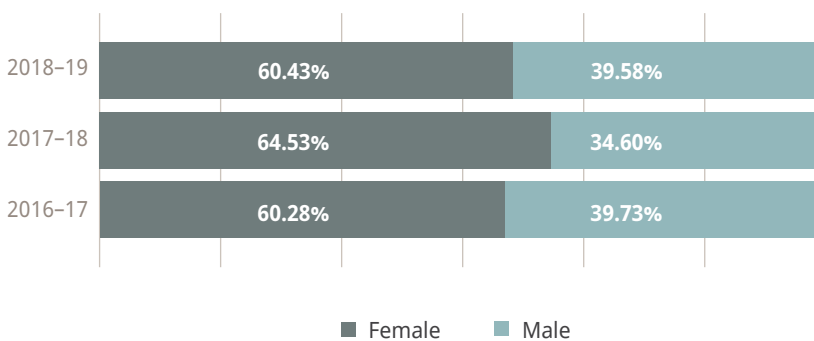
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) STAFF BY FINANCIAL YEAR



GENDER COMPARISON

There was a slight rise in the number of male employees in 2018-19 at 40% compared to 35% in 2017-18. Over the last three years, females made up more than 60% of the workforce.

EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER BY FINANCIAL YEAR (EXCLUDING BOARD MEMBERS)

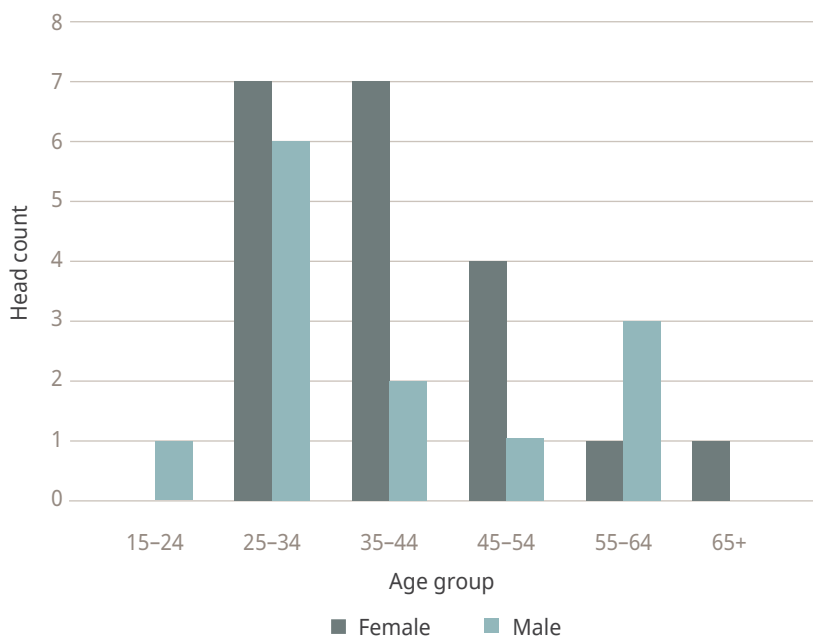


Barrow Creek, NT.

EMPLOYEES BY AGE AND GENDER

At 30 June 2019, 39.4% of the workforce was aged between 25 and 34, with most of the female workforce also in this age bracket. Male employees were also aged 25 to 34. The average age of staff reduced from 41 in 2017-18 to 39 in 2018-19. In 2018-19, the Authority saw a younger workforce emerging in comparison to the previous three years. 2018-19 saw a decrease of our staff over the age 50 at 20% compared to 23% in 2017-18 and 24% in 2016-17.

STAFFING BY GENDER AND AGE GROUP (EXCLUDING BOARD MEMBERS)

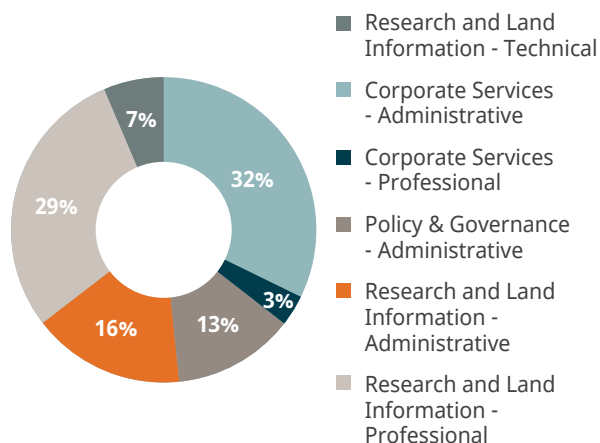


EMPLOYEES BY UNIT

In 2018-19, the Research and Land Information unit, which undertakes the Authority's anthropological and technical services, was the largest unit, employing 52% of our staff. Of those, 65% were employed in the professional stream. This is an increase of 9% on 2017-18, when the unit employed 52% of our workforce, with 56% in the professional stream. The increase is due to recruitment to vacant anthropology positions.

The Corporate Services unit was the second-largest unit in 2018-19, with 35% of the workforce employed in finance, procurement, fleet, travel, office and business services, human resources, library services, and information and system management and development.

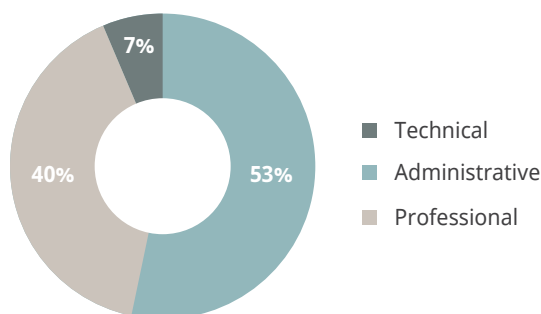
EMPLOYEES BY WORK UNIT AND BY STREAM



EMPLOYEES BY STREAM

In 2018-19, the majority of the workforce was employed in the administrative stream, at 53%, with 40% employed in the professional stream. Most of these professional stream staff members were anthropologists. The technical stream remained consistent with 2017-18 at 7%. 2018-19 saw an 8% decrease in administrative stream staff and an 8% increase in professional stream staff from the previous year, which reflects the increase in the Research and Land Information unit staffing.

EMPLOYMENT STREAM



RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

2018-19 saw a large transition of staff in and out of the Authority. During 2018-19, 11 employees commenced with the Authority, and another two transferred to the Authority from NT Government agencies. Six employees resigned, five contracts ceased and two staff transferred to NT Government agencies.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Separations	5	8	11
Commencements	4	5	11
Transfers in	4	2	2
Transfers out	4	4	2
<i>Summary in</i>	8	7	13
<i>Summary out</i>	9	12	13
Total	17	19	26

EMPLOYMENT TYPES

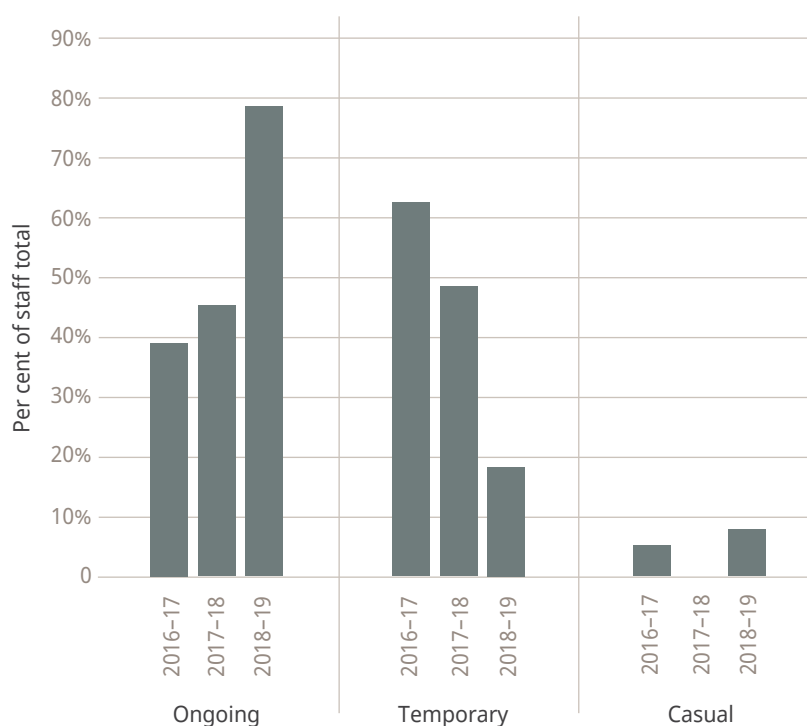
Overall in 2018-19, the workforce stabilised from a predominantly contract workforce to a permanent workforce.

In 2017-18, the workforce consisted of 45% of staff in ongoing positions; this transitioned to 77% in 2018-19. The temporary employment arrangements reduced from 48% in 2017-18 to 17% in 2018-19. Overall, this was a 32% increase in permanent employment and a 31% reduction in temporary employment arrangements from 2017-18 to 2018-19.

RECRUITMENT

In 2018-19, the Authority externally advertised 14 positions (11 ongoing positions and three temporary positions). One of the ongoing advertised positions was still being assessed at the time of publication. Two temporary contracts were also offered through an internal selection process using the Aboriginal Employment Program, and one temporary contract was offered using the Entry Level Employment Program administered by the Department of Corporate and Information Services.

EMPLOYMENT TYPE BY YEAR

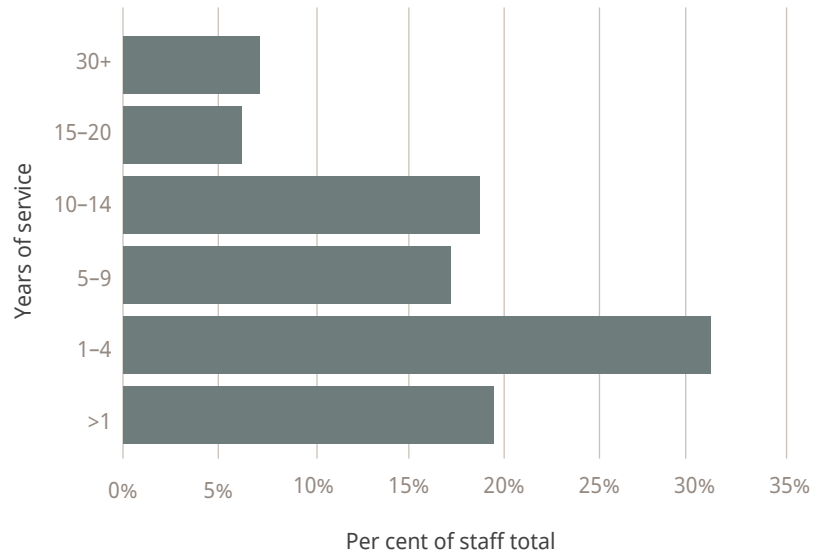


In 2018-19, the Authority externally advertised 14 positions.

RETENTION

In 2018-19, 19% of the workforce had been employed by the Authority for at least 10 years, and nearly 17% of the workforce had been employed for at least five years. The majority of the Authority's staff had been employed for less than five years. Two staff members had worked with the Authority for 35 years or more.

YEARS OF SERVICE



Lee Point fieldwork, NT.



DEVELOPING OUR WORKFORCE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

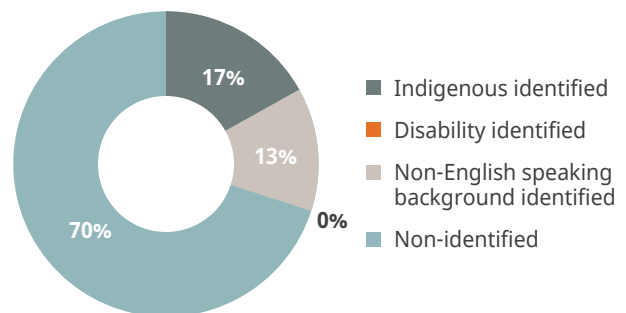
The Authority is placing greater emphasis on building a capable workforce through training and development and diversifying skills and experience. We use formal and informal programs to achieve goals, develop leadership styles and provide continuous feedback on performance to assist in professional and personal development.

In 2018–19, we implemented the professional development framework. More than 25 employees participated in identifying key performance measures and special projects for 2018–19 that aligned with the Strategic Plan. They also identified future training and development to support their current and future career pathways.

DIVERSITY

The Authority is committed to the principles of inclusion, equity and diversity. Overall, the number of people identifying as Indigenous stayed the same at 17% for both 2018–19 and 2017–18. People identifying as being from a non-English-speaking background increased from 10% in 2017–18 to 13% in 2018–19. Staff who identified as having a disability decreased from 3% in 2017–18 to 0% in 2018–19.

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY IN 2018–19

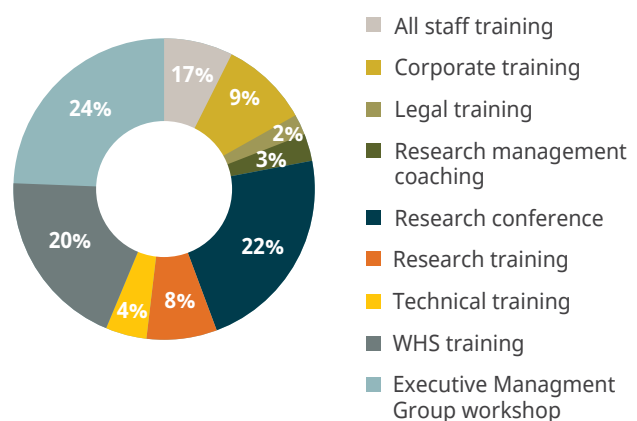


TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

2018–19 saw another significant year of investment in training and development, with \$38 725 spent on all forms of training compared to \$36 478 in 2017–18. In total, 37% of funding was specific to research conferences, training and coaching, and 20% related specifically to work health and safety (WHS) training in topics such as remote first aid training and four-wheel-drive defensive driving training for research officers. This helps ensure the safety of our staff travelling in remote areas, which is important for the Authority.

The Executive Management Group also undertook a two-day workshop to develop an organisational excellence strategy to strengthen leadership.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT



AURORA PROJECT INTERNSHIPS

In 2018–19, the Authority hosted two legal internship placements through the Aurora Project, the first time we have done so. The interns assisted in annotating the *Sacred Sites Act*, which involved collating and analysing previous legal advice and helping summarise the advice in a succinct and understandable format for Authority staff. The interns also helped formulate recommendations for the review and reform of the *Sacred Sites Act*.

STUDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Two of the Authority's employees requests for study assistance were supported in 2018–19. Ambre Philpott was accepted into a Diploma of Science in 2017, and we continue to support her through the Study Assistance Program. Ashlee Pope was accepted into a Diploma of Laws in 2019, and we also support her through that program.

The Authority maintains flexible work arrangements for staff and recognises the benefits of providing a balanced working environment.

WELLBEING AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

WORK LIFE BALANCE

The Authority maintains flexible work arrangements for staff and recognises the benefits of providing a balanced working environment that supports a family and lifestyle where possible. The benefits not only support our productivity but promote a supportive work environment.

In 2018–19, four staff continued employment on a part-time arrangement due to family and lifestyle balance, and a further eight staff, although working full time, continued to have a flexible workplace arrangement to vary their standard working hours. This work life balance program equates to 43% of our workforce employed in a flexible working environment, whether that be part-time employment or a variation of the standard working hours.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Authority continued to promote the Employee Assistance Program in 2018–19 and encouraged staff and family members to access the free and confidential counselling service through the whole-of-government contract.

In 2018–19, staff and family members participated in eight individual confidential counselling sessions. This is a significant reduction from 2017–18, when 22 individual sessions were accessed.

FLU VACCINATION PROGRAM

As in previous years, the Authority offered to reimburse all staff for flu vaccinations. In Darwin, we provided an in-house service that 14 staff members accessed. Due to our small staff numbers in Alice Springs, in-house services could not be provided; however, all staff were offered reimbursement.

CHRISTMAS CLOSEDOWN

In 2018–19, the Authority closed down over the Christmas period, enabling staff to have a break between Christmas and New Year. Staff accessed recreation leave during this period.

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Authority is committed to ensuring the safety of all our staff, whether they are travelling remotely or are in the office. In 2018–19, remote travel and staff welfare was again recognised as the highest organisational risk. To mitigate this risk, a rigorous call-in process is in place as well as regular remote first aid and four-wheel defensive driving training for all new and ongoing

staff who travel remotely. In addition, all new research officers are inducted through a number of joint fieldwork trips to ensure they are confident in the remote travel and safety requirements. In 2019–20, we will develop a remote emergency response policy and procedure and training exercises to ensure the systems and staff responsibilities are entrenched

in the day-to-day operations of fieldwork and our teams are properly equipped and trained for the environment they work in.

WORKPLACE INCIDENTS

There were no workers' compensation claims in 2018–19.

STAFFING MILESTONES

SOPHIE CREIGHTON

The Authority's Director of Research and Land Information, Dr Sophie Creighton, achieved 10 years of service in 2018–19. Sophie started working for the Authority in September 2008 as a research officer in Alice Springs, doing anthropological field work research in Alice Springs and remote locations. In 2012, Sophie became the Anthropology Manager, where she took an innovative approach to research methodology, transforming it to one that is documented, consistent and replicated across our entire research stream, ensuring rigor in the research. Sophie also implemented data checks and reviews and innovations in the database for recording sacred site information. During her time in Alice Springs, Sophie held regular town meetings with custodians to ensure a transparent approach to development and the protection of sacred sites in the Alice Springs

Township. She also played a key role in the delivery of the National Broadband Network to the Alice Springs region. In 2016, Sophie transferred to Darwin for the Director of Research and Land Information role, which is responsible for strategic direction and operational delivery of both the anthropological research and the technical registry functions. Sophie oversaw the anthropological research of the Sea Dragon project and has implemented a research induction program to ensure comprehensive training is delivered in all aspects of research methodology and fieldwork procedures for Authority Certificates, sacred site registration and compliance. Sophie has played a key role in client relationships and stakeholder engagement for the Authority, including numerous public presentations and hosting conferences between proponents and Aboriginal custodians on more complex projects.

AMBRE PHILPOTT

The Authority's Registrar, Ambre Philpott, achieved 10 years of service in 2018–19. Ambre joined the Authority in December 2008 as the Assistant Registrar in Darwin, providing technical assistance to the Registrar and clients on requests for information and Authority Certificates.

In 2012, Ambre became the Registrar, who is responsible for the registry of all sacred sites, working with clients to progress their requests for services and working closely with the research teams in Darwin and Alice Springs on site registrations, Authority Certificates and requests for information, ensuring data integrity, monitoring statutory timeframes and quality control. Ambre manages not only the registry but also the technical team responsible for mapping and the complex enquiries functions of the Authority.

Authority vehicle during fieldwork



SUSTAINABILITY



*Landscape on
Stuart Hwy, NT.*



Sacred sites are important to the cultural fabric and heritage of the Northern Territory and are an intrinsic part of a continuing body of practices and beliefs emanating from Aboriginal laws and traditions. Sacred sites give meaning to the natural landscape, and anchor cultural values and spiritual and kin-based relationships in the land. Protecting sacred sites plays an important role in sustaining Aboriginal culture.

In our role to protect sacred sites, the Authority helps deliver positive social outcomes through our key services: Authority Certificates, requests for information, registering sacred sites and prosecuting for the desecration of sacred sites where required.

Through providing these services, we enhance relationships between Aboriginal custodians and the wider Territory community by increasing the level of certainty when identifying the constraints, if any, on land use proposals arising from the existence of sacred sites.

- In 2018–19, the Authority conducted sacred site surveys and issued 107 Authority Certificates to protect sacred sites across the Northern Territory. The Authority Certificates provided protection to many sacred sites while facilitating development projects.
- The Authority responded to 511 requests for information from its Register of Sacred Sites, providing the public with information about sacred sites known to us and helping minimise the risk of inadvertent damage to the identified sites. It also identified where sacred sites are likely to be at risk if works were to be carried out without more detailed information being sought.
- The Authority registered 20 sacred sites in 2018–19, providing the sites with the maximum protection afforded under the *Sacred sites Act*.

THE AUTHORITY IN THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Authority values the importance of giving back to the community by supporting small businesses, organisations and community activities. In 2018–19, the Authority supported 11 applicants (including local government, small business, Non-government organisations and cultural organisations) by providing full or partial Authority Certificate waivers for projects. The total actual costs of the 11 certificates was \$151 642, a significant increase from the previous year of \$64 138. Among the certificates waived included works for outstation development and a playground in the Walangurrminy community.

FINANCIAL REPORT



*Rock pools in
Darwin, NT.*



FINANCIAL STATEMENT OVERVIEW

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority's mission is to protect sacred sites in the Northern Territory by recognising and respecting the interests of custodians of sacred sites, landowners and developers for the benefit of all Territorians.

While the Authority receives a level of appropriation from the NT Government, it relies on income derived from providing anthropological services to clients in order to maintain its operations. The Authority has again managed a significant surplus of \$802 000, although \$300 000 of this total was due to an appropriation paid in 2018–19 for additional works associated with the implementation of recommendations from the *Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*. This appropriation will not be expended until 2019–20. Employee expenses of \$3.2 million were the major expense item, accounting for 60% of total expenditure.

FINANCIAL REPORT, 2018–19

INCOME

The Authority is funded by a combination of NT Government appropriation, goods and services income, and services provided free of charge by the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS). The chart below illustrates the relative value of each income category. The income for 2018–19 was \$838 000 above budget. Additional goods and services revenue of \$538 000 was supplemented by a \$300 000 increase in the appropriation mentioned above. These figures are exclusive of Central Holding Authority revenue generated through the applications fees for Requests of Information and requests for Authority Certificates.

FIGURE 20: INCOME RECEIVED (\$'000) IN 2018–19

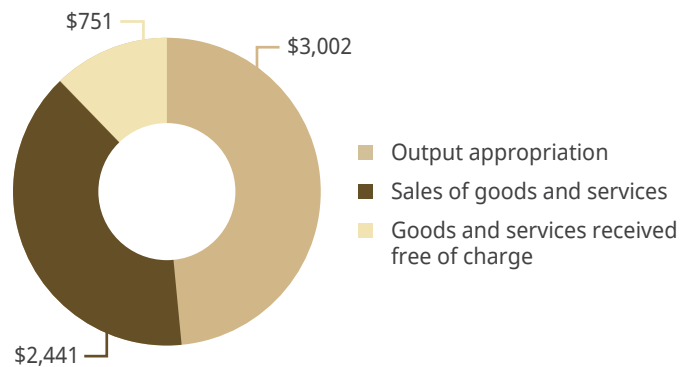
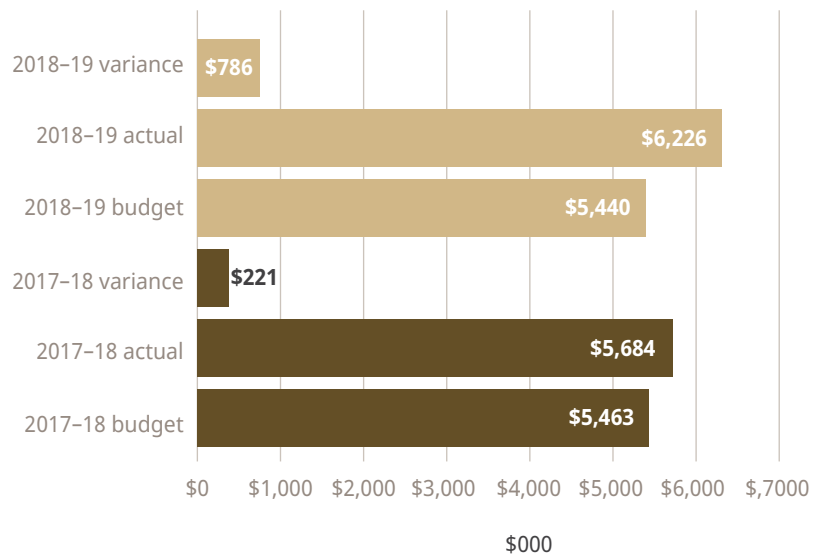


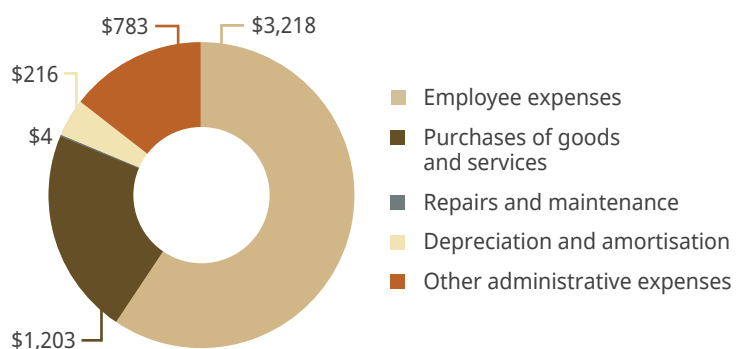
FIGURE 21: INCOME BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL (\$'000) IN 2018–19



EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure is made up of five broad categories: employee, purchase of goods and services, depreciation, repairs and maintenance, and other administrative expenses (DCIS charges). The most significant of these expenses were purchase of goods and services which was \$244 000 above budget and personnel expenditure, which was \$199 000 below budget.

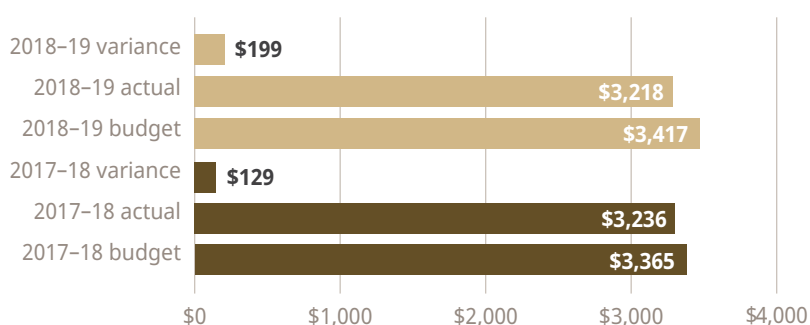
FIGURE 22: EXPENSES (\$'000) IN 2018–19



EMPLOYEE EXPENDITURE

During 2018–19, there were a number of vacancies, which resulted in savings of personnel costs of \$199 000.

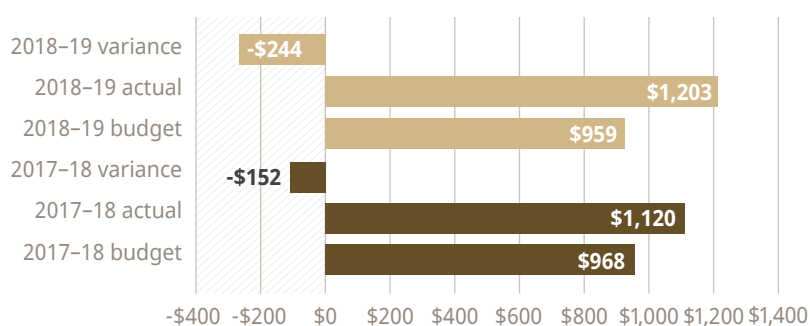
FIGURE 23: TOTAL EMPLOYEE EXPENSES – BUDGET VS ACTUAL (\$'000) IN 2018–19



GOODS AND SERVICES EXPENDITURE

Goods and services costs were over budget by \$244 000 due to additional custodian fees of \$110 000, relocation expenses of seven new employees for Anthropology positions in Alice Springs and Darwin of \$46 000, additional motor vehicle costs of \$43 000 due to equipment and hire charges and \$32 000 invested in training and study assistance. These expenses were offset by numerous small savings against other budget lines.

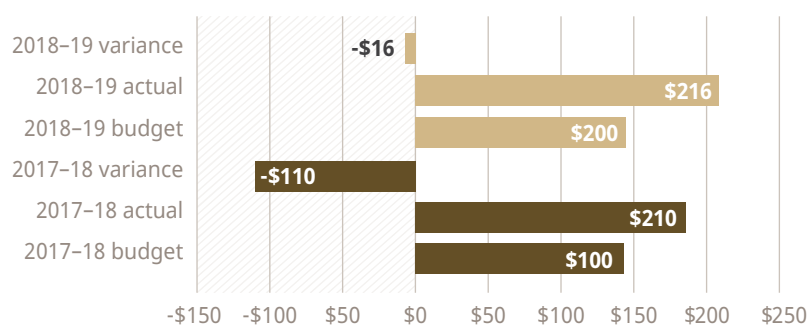
FIGURE 24: TOTAL PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES, BUDGET VS ACTUAL (\$'000) IN 2018–19



DEPRECIATION

There were additional depreciation costs of \$16 000 due to the upgrade of internal software systems.

FIGURE 25: TOTAL DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION BUDGET VS ACTUAL (\$'000) IN 2018–19

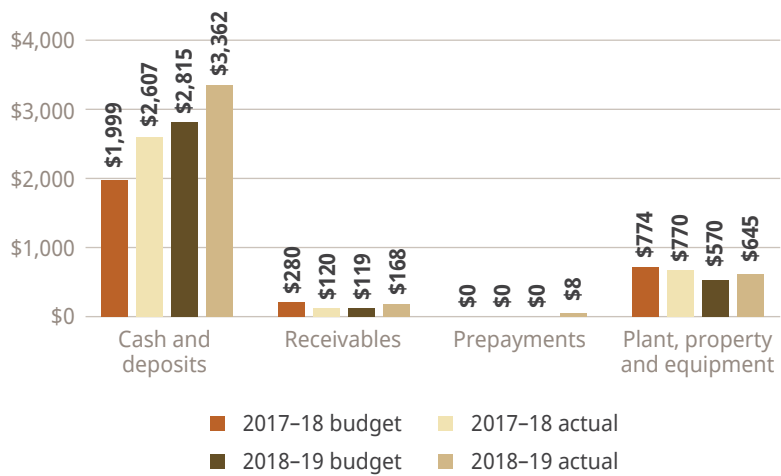


BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Total assets are made up of four main categories: cash and deposits; receivables; pre-paid expenses; and plant, property and equipment. Total assets increased by \$688 000 due to a \$756 000 increase in cash, \$49 000 increase in receivables, \$8000 increase in prepayments, which was offset by a decline of \$125 000 in fixed assets due to depreciation.

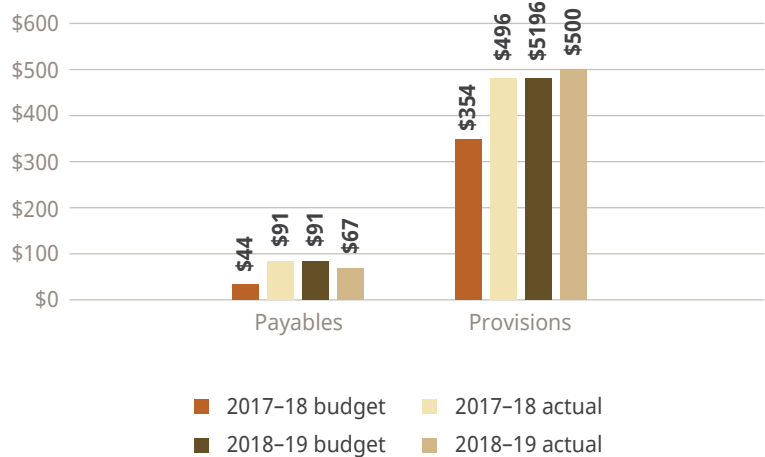
FIGURE 26: ASSETS - BUDGET VS ACTUAL (\$'000) IN 2018-19



LIABILITIES

Liabilities are made up of payables and employee provisions. Total liabilities of \$567 000 are dominated by provisions for employee entitlements (leave provisions) of \$500 000. Total liabilities in 2018-19 declined by \$115 000.

FIGURE 27: LIABILITIES - BUDGET VS ACTUAL ('000) IN 2018-19



EQUITY

Equity has increased in 2018-19 by \$802 000 due to the surplus attained during the financial year.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

The cash flow statement details how changes in income and balance sheet movements affect the cash situation and reflects that the Authority is in a very sound financial situation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OVERVIEW

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

CERTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority have been prepared based on proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act 1995* and Treasurer's Directions.

We further state that the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2019 and the financial position on that date.

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



Dr Benedict Scamary
Chief Executive Officer

31 August 2019



Alan Buckingham
Director of Corporate Services

31 August 2019

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	NOTE	2019	2018
		\$'000	\$'000
INCOME			
Appropriation			
Output		3002	2694
Sales of goods and services		2441	2133
Goods and services received free of charge	4	751	804
TOTAL INCOME	3	6194	5631
EXPENSES			
Employee expenses		3218	3236
Administrative expenses			
Purchases of goods and services	5	1158	1053
Repairs and maintenance		4	3
Property management		45	67
Depreciation and amortisation	9	216	210
Other administrative expenses ¹		751	804
TOTAL EXPENSES	3	5392	5373
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		802	258
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		802	258

¹ Includes DCIS service charges.

The comprehensive operating statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

	NOTE	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and deposits	7	3362	2607
Receivables	8	168	120
Advances and investments			
Prepayments		8	
Other assets			
Total current assets		3539	2726
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9	645	770
Total non-current assets		4184	3496
TOTAL ASSETS			
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	10	67	91
Provisions	11	500	496
Other liabilities			95
Total current liabilities		567	682
TOTAL LIABILITIES			
		567	682
NET ASSETS			
		3617	2814
EQUITY			
Capital		1621	1621
Accumulated funds		1996	1194
TOTAL EQUITY		3617	2814

The balance sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	NOTE	EQUITY AT 1 JULY	COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS IN THEIR CAPACITY AS OWNERS	EQUITY AT 30 JUNE
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2018-19					
Accumulated funds		(1188)	(802)		(1991)
Transfers from reserves		(5)			(5)
Total accumulated funds		(1194)	(802)		(1996)
Reserves					
Capital – transactions with owners					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		(564)			(564)
Equity transfers in		(1195)			(1195)
Other equity injections		(57)			(57)
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		195			195
Equity transfers out					
Total equity at end of financial year		(2814)	(802)		(3617)
2017-18					
Accumulated funds		(930)	(258)		(1188)
Transfers from reserves		(5)			(5)
		(935)	(258)		(1194)
Reserves					
Capital – transactions with owners					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		(564)			(564)
Equity transfers in		(1195)			(1195)
Other equity injections		(57)			(57)
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		195			195
Equity transfers out					
		(1621)			(1621)
Total equity at end of financial year		(2556)	(258)		(2814)

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	NOTE	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Operating receipts			
Appropriation			
Output		3002	2694
Receipts from sales of goods and services		2380	2457
Total operating receipts		5382	5151
Operating payments			
Payments to employees		(3214)	(3096)
Payments for goods and services		(1322)	(1132)
Total operating payments		(4535)	(4228)
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities		846	922
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Investing payments			
Purchases of assets		(91)	(106)
Advances and investing payments			
Total investing payments		(91)	(106)
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities		(91)	(106)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		756	816
Cash at beginning of financial year		2607	1791
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR		3362	2607

The cash flow statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

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1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority's (the Authority) mission is to protect sacred sites in the Northern Territory by recognising and respecting the interests of custodians of sacred sites, landowners and developers, for the benefit of all Territorians.

While the Authority receives a level of appropriation from the NT Government it relies on income derived from providing anthropological services to clients in order to maintain its operations. The Authority has managed a surplus of \$802 000 which includes a \$300 000 Treasurer's advance for expenditure that will occur in 2019-20. A project to upgrade important internal software continues, and this project continues to be self-funded. During the year \$90 703 was invested in this project. Employee expenses of \$3.2M were the major expense item, accounting for almost 60% of total expenditure.

2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1995* and related Treasurer's Directions. The *Financial Management Act 1995* requires the Authority to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of agency financial statements should include:

- (i) a certification of the financial statements
- (ii) a comprehensive operating statement
- (iii) a balance sheet
- (iv) a statement of changes in equity
- (v) a cash flow statement and
- (vi) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

b) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, which recognises the effect of financial transactions and events when they occur rather than when cash is paid out or received. As part of the preparation of the financial statements, all intra agency transactions and balances have been eliminated.

Except where stated, the financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The form of the agency financial statements is also consistent with the requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards. The effects of all relevant new and revised standards and interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are effective for the current annual reporting period have been evaluated.

Standards and interpretations effective from 2018–19

AASB 9 Financial Instruments

The agency applied AASB 9 for the first time in 2018–19. AASB 9 Financial Instruments replaces AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018. The agency has no financial instruments that are affected by this change because there are no loans and receivables are usually received within 30 days. Over the past two years about \$650 (\$540 of the \$650 was a salary overpayment which could not be recovered) has been written off against almost \$5M in revenue. This is not considered material.

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to the current reporting periods, but they are considered to have no impact on public sector reporting.

Standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

No Australian accounting standards have been early adopted for 2018–19.

On the date of authorisation of the financial statements, the following standards and interpretations were in issue but not yet effective and are expected to have an impact on future reporting periods:

c) Reporting entity

The financial statements cover the Department as an individual reporting entity.

The Authority is a Northern Territory entity established under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*.

The principal place of business of the Department is: *47 Mitchell St Darwin, NT 0801*

The financial statements of the Authority include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the Authority has control (agency items). Certain items, while managed by the Authority, are controlled and recorded by the Territory rather than the Authority (Territory items). Territory items are recognised and recorded in the Central Holding Authority as discussed below.

Central Holding Authority

The Central Holding Authority is the 'parent body' that represents the government's ownership interest in government-controlled entities.

The Central Holding Authority also records all Territory items, such as income, expenses, assets and liabilities controlled by the government and managed by agencies on behalf of the government. The main Territory item is Territory income, which includes taxation and royalty revenue, Commonwealth general purpose funding (such as GST revenue), fines, and statutory fees and charges.

The Central Holding Authority also holds certain Territory assets not assigned to agencies as well as certain Territory liabilities that are not practical or effective to assign to individual agencies such as unfunded superannuation and long service leave.

The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the Authority's financial statements. However, as the Authority is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of Government, these items have been separately disclosed in Note 17 – Schedule of administered Territory items.

d) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2018–19 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

e) Presentation and rounding of amounts

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts of \$500 or less being rounded down to zero. Figures in the financial statements and notes may not equate due to rounding.

f) Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2018–19 as a result of management decisions.

g) Accounting judgments and estimates

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgments and estimates that affect the recognised amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgments and estimates that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

h) Goods and services tax

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable or payable unless otherwise specified.

i) Contributions by and distributions to government

The agency may receive contributions from government where the government is acting as owner of the agency. Conversely, the agency may make distributions to government. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1995* and Treasurer's Directions, certain types of contributions and distributions, including those relating to administrative restructures, have been designated as contributions by, and distributions to, government. These designated contributions and distributions are treated by the agency as adjustments to equity. There has been no impact with respect to these matters on the Authority in the current reporting period.

The statement of changes in equity provides additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, government.

3. COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT BY OUTPUT GROUP

	NOTE	SACRED SITES		CORPORATE SUPPORT		TOTAL	
		2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
INCOME							
Appropriation							
Output		2252	2020	750	674	3002	2694
Sales of goods and services		2441	2133			2441	2133
Goods and services received free of charge	4	563	603	188	199	751	804
TOTAL INCOME		5256	4756	938	875	6194	5631
EXPENSES							
Employee expenses		1930	1911	1287	1325	3218	3236
Administrative expenses							
Purchases of goods and services	5	618	563	540	492	1158	1056
Repairs and maintenance				45	67	45	67
Property Management				4	3	4	3
Depreciation and amortisation	9	162	158	54	52	216	210
Other administrative expenses ¹		563	603	188	201	751	804
TOTAL EXPENSES		3273	3235	2118	2136	5392	5373
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		1983	1520	(1180)	(1262)	802	258
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		1983	1520	(1180)	(1262)	802	258

¹ Includes DCIS service charges.

This comprehensive operating statement by output group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Income

Income encompasses appropriation from the NT Government and sales of services from core activities.

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, exclusive of the amount of GST. Exchanges of goods or services of the same nature and value without any cash consideration being exchanged are not recognised as income.

Appropriation

Output appropriation is the operating payment to each agency for the outputs they provide and is calculated as the net cost of agency outputs after taking into account funding from agency income. It does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation.

Revenue in respect of appropriations is recognised in the period in which the agency gains control of the funds.

Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised (net of returns, discounts and allowances) when:

- the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer
- the agency retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold
- the amount of revenue can be reliably measured
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the agency
- the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

Rendering of services

Revenue from rendering services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.



Flight view over Bathurst Island, NT.

	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000
4. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE		
Corporate and information services	751	804
	751	804
5. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES		
The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
Goods and services expenses:		
Consultants ⁽¹⁾	376	250
Advertising ⁽²⁾	1	2
Marketing and promotion ⁽³⁾	17	13
Document production	5	5
Legal expenses ⁽⁴⁾	14	32
Recruitment ⁽⁵⁾	5	6
Training and study	36	36
Official duty fares	38	25
Travelling allowance	25	24
Board expenses ⁽⁶⁾	97	114
Motor Vehicle expenses ⁽⁷⁾	161	176
IT expenses	169	180
Other	214	190
	1158	1053

⁽¹⁾ Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

⁽²⁾ Does not include recruitment, advertising or marketing and promotion advertising.

⁽³⁾ Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category.

⁽⁴⁾ Includes legal fees, claim and settlement costs.

⁽⁵⁾ Includes recruitment-related advertising costs.

⁽⁶⁾ Board expenses include accommodation and travel from remote locations.

⁽⁷⁾ the Authority maintains a fleet of 4WD vehicles due to the requirement for staff to travel to remote locations.

Repairs and maintenance expense

Funding is received for repairs and maintenance works associated with agency assets as part of output appropriation. Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on agency assets are expensed as incurred.

6. WRITE-OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS, WAIVERS, GIFTS AND EX GRATIA PAYMENTS

	AGENCY		AGENCY		TERRITORY ITEMS		TERRITORY ITEMS	
	2019	NO. OF TRANS.	2018	NO. OF TRANS.	2019	NO. OF TRANS.	2018	NO. OF TRANS.
	\$'000		\$'000		\$'000		\$'000	
Write-offs, postponements and waivers under the <i>Financial Management Act 1995</i>	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0
Represented by:								
<i>Amounts written off, postponed and waived by delegates</i>								
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an agency written off	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0
Total written off, postponed and waived by delegates	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0

	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000
7. CASH AND DEPOSITS		
Cash on hand	1	1
Cash at bank	3361	2606
	3362	2607

	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000
8. RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Accounts receivable	170	80
Less: Loss allowance	(5)	(5)
GST receivables	3	7
Other receivables		38
Total receivables	168	120

Receivables include accounts and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any loss allowance.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 30 days.

The loss allowance reflects lifetime expected credit losses and represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful.

Credit risk exposure of receivables

Receivables are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that exposure to bad debts is not significant. The entity applies the AASB 9 simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses. This approach recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime expected credit losses for all accounts receivables. To measure expected credit losses, receivables have been grouped based on shared risk characteristics and days past due.

The expected loss rates are based on historical observed loss rates, and business processes where certificates are rarely released until payment is received. A provision of about \$5,000 is maintained in the unlikely event of a significant write-off which is sufficient to cover any risk. The loss rate is considered to be almost zero.

The table below demonstrates usual payment behavior.

INTERNAL RECEIVABLES	2019	2018
	AGEING OF RECEIVABLES	AGEING OF RECEIVABLES
	\$'000	\$'000
Not overdue	63	19
Overdue for less than 30 days		
Overdue for 30 to 60 days		19
Overdue for more than 60 days		20
Total internal receivables	63	59
External receivables		
Not overdue	43	20
Overdue for less than 30 days	63	
Overdue for 30 to 60 days		
Overdue for more than 60 days		
Total external receivables	109	20

Total amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts.

Prepayments

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

	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000
9. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Computer software		
At fair value	470	470
Less: accumulated depreciation	(227)	(143)
Computer hardware		
At fair value	32	53
Less: accumulated depreciation	(32)	(53)
Plant and equipment		
At fair value	1483	1407
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1080)	(964)
Total property, plant and equipment	645	770

2019 property, plant and equipment reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2018-19 is set out below:

	LAND	BUILDINGS	INFRASTRUCTURE	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	LEASED PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount as at 1 July 2018				326	444		770
Additions				91			91
Disposals							
Depreciation				(84)	(131)		(216)
Carrying amount as at 30 June 2019				333	313		645

2018 Property, plant and equipment reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2017–18 is set out below:

	LAND	BUILDINGS	INFRASTRUCTURE	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	LEASED PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	TOTAL
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying amount as at 1 July 2017				326	444		770
Additions				107			107
Disposals							
Depreciation				(78)	(133)		(211)
Carrying amount as at 30 June 2018				326	444		770

Acquisitions

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$10 000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$10 000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

The construction cost of property, plant and equipment includes the cost of materials and direct labour, and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Complex assets

Major items of plant and equipment comprising a number of components that have different useful lives, are accounted for as separate assets. The components may be replaced during the useful life of the complex asset.

Subsequent additional costs

Costs incurred on property, plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the agency in future years. Where these costs represent separate components of a complex asset, they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their expected useful lives.

Impairment of assets

An asset is said to be impaired when the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Non-current physical and intangible agency assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis or whenever there is indication of impairment. If an indicator of impairment exists, the agency determines the asset's recoverable amount. The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's current replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are recognised in the comprehensive operating statement. They are disclosed as an expense unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the asset revaluation surplus for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the asset revaluation surplus.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the asset revaluation surplus. Note 20 provides additional information in relation to the asset revaluation surplus.

Agency property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2019. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

The estimated useful lives for each class of asset are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions and are determined as follows:

	2019	2018
Computer Software	5 years(a)	5 years
Plant and equipment	10 years	10 years

Assets are depreciated or amortised from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000
10. PAYABLES		
Accounts payable	67	91
Total payables	67	91

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the agency. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

11. PROVISIONS

Current		
<i>Employee benefits</i>		
Recreation leave	301	346
Leave loading	42	43
Other employee benefits	157	107
Balance as at 30 June	500	496

The Authority employed 27.35 employees as at 30 June 2019 (26.96 employees as at 30 June 2018).

a) Fair value hierarchy

The Authority does not recognise any financial assets or liabilities at fair value as these are recognised at amortised cost. The carrying amounts of these financial assets and liabilities approximates their fair value.

12. RELATED PARTIES

i) Related parties

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority is a statutory body that is partly funded and controlled by the Northern Territory Government and administered by the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* and its 12 member Board. Related parties of the Authority include:

- the portfolio minister and key management personnel (KMP) because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Authority directly; and
- close family members of the portfolio minister or KMP including spouses, children and dependants; and
- all public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of government financial statements; and
- any entities controlled or jointly controlled by KMP or the portfolio minister or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members.

ii) Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Authority. These include the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, the Chief Executive Officer and the three members of the Executive Management Team:

1. Dr Sophie Creighton, Director of Research and Land Information;
2. Mr Che Walsh, Director of Governance and Policy
3. Mr Alan Buckingham, Director of Corporate Services / Chief Financial Officer.

iii) Remuneration of key management personnel

The details below excludes the salaries and other benefits of minister Environment and Natural Resources as the minister's remunerations and allowances are payable by the Department of the Legislative Assembly and consequently disclosed within the Treasurer's annual financial statements.

The aggregate compensation of key management personnel of Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority is set out below:

	2018-19	2017-18
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term benefits	774	749
Long-term benefits	0	0
Termination benefits	0	0
Total	774	749

iv) Related party transactions:

Transactions with Northern Territory Government controlled entities

The Authority's primary ongoing source of funding is received from the Central Holding Authority in the form of output and capital appropriation and on-passed Commonwealth national partnership and specific purpose payments. Additionally, the Authority generates its own income through the provision of Authority Certificate services. Central Holding Authority funding equates to 63% of income and 58% is self-generated income.

The following table provides quantitative information about related party transactions entered into during the year with all other Northern Territory Government-controlled entities.

2019

RELATED PARTY	REVENUE FROM RELATED PARTIES	PAYMENTS TO RELATED PARTIES	AMOUNTS OWED BY RELATED PARTIES	AMOUNTS OWED TO RELATED PARTIES
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000

All NTG Government departments	1022	5	87	0
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Australian Government	0	0	0	0
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The above does not include CHA, NTG appropriation or Free of Charge DCIS Services. It relates purely to business transactions

2018

RELATED PARTY	REVENUE FROM RELATED PARTIES	PAYMENTS TO RELATED PARTIES	AMOUNTS OWED BY RELATED PARTIES	AMOUNTS OWED TO RELATED PARTIES
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000

All NTG Government departments	1060	5	20	0
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Australian Government	34	0	0	0
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The above does not include CHA, NTG appropriation or Free of Charge DCIS Services. It relates purely to business transactions

13. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

The Authority had no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2019 or 30 June 2018.

14. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

No events have arisen between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that require adjustment to, or disclosure in these financial statements.

15. SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

The following Territory items are managed by the Authority on behalf of the Government and are recorded in the Central Holding Authority (refer Note 2(c)).

	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000
TERRITORY INCOME AND EXPENSES		
Income		
Fees from regulatory services	32	53
Total income	32	53
Expenses		
Central Holding Authority income transferred	32	53
Total expenses	32	53

16. BUDGETARY INFORMATION

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT	2018-19 ACTUAL	2018-19 ORIGINAL BUDGET	VARIANCE	NOTE
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
INCOME				
Appropriation				
Output	3002	2702	300	a
Sales of goods and services	2441	1904	537	b
Goods and services received free of charge	751	750	1	
TOTAL INCOME	6194	5356	838	
EXPENSES				
Employee expenses	3218	3417	199	c
Administrative expenses				
Purchases of goods and services	1203	959	(244)	d
Repairs and maintenance	4	8	4	
Depreciation and amortisation	216	200	(16)	
Services received free of charge	751	750	1	
TOTAL EXPENSES	5392	5334	(58)	
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	802	22	780	
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	802	22	780	

(a) \$0.3M received to be expended in 2019-20.

(b) Additional revenue due to business activity higher than expected.

(c) Employee expense savings due to vacancies.

(d) Additional operational costs due to contractors used to cover staff vacancies as well as unplanned relocation expenses and additional fleet expenses.

BALANCE SHEET	2018-19 ACTUAL	2018-19 ORIGINAL BUDGET	VARIANCE	NOTE
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
ASSETS				
Cash and deposits	3362	2207	1155	
Receivables	168	280	(112)	
Prepayments	8	10	(2)	
Property, plant and equipment	645	694	476	
TOTAL ASSETS	4184	3191	993	
LIABILITIES				
Payables	67	44	23	
Provisions	500	354	146	
Other liabilities				
TOTAL LIABILITIES	567	398	169	
NET ASSETS	3617	2793	954	
EQUITY				
Capital	1621	1621	-	
Reserves				
Accumulated funds	1996	1172	824	
TOTAL EQUITY	3617	2793	824	

CASH FLOW STATEMENT	2018-19 ACTUAL	2018-19 ORIGINAL BUDGET	VARIANCE	NOTE
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Operating receipts				
Appropriation				
Output	3002	2702	300	a
Receipts from sales of goods and services	2380	1904	476	b
Interest received				
Total operating receipts	5382	4606	776	
Operating payments				
Payments to employees	3214	3417	203	c
Payments for goods and services	1322	981	(341)	d
Total operating payments	4535	4398	(138)	
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	846	208	638	
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Investing payments				
Purchases of assets	91	0	91	
Advances and investing payments				
Total investing payments	91		91	
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities				
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities				
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	756	208	548	
Cash at beginning of financial year	2607	1999	606	
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	3362	2207	1154	

(a) \$0.3M Treasurer's advance to be expended in 2019-20.

(b) Business activity higher than expected.

(c) Savings due to staff vacancies

(d) Additional costs due to business activity and the use of consultants to cover staff vacancies.

17. BUDGETARY INFORMATION: ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

In addition to the specific departmental operations which are included in the financial statements, the Authority administers or manages other activities and resources on behalf of the Territory such as fees and regulatory charges that relate to application fees to requests for information or Authority Certificates. The Authority does not gain control over assets arising from these collections, consequently no income is recognised in the Authority's financial statements. The transactions relating to these activities are reported as administered items in this note.

ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS	2018-19 ACTUAL	2018-19 ORIGINAL BUDGET	VARIANCE	NOTE
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
TERRITORY INCOME AND EXPENSES				
Income				
Fees from regulatory services	32	55	23	
Total income				
Expenses				
Central Holding Authority income transferred	(32)	(55)	(23)	
Total expenses				
Territory income less expenses	0	0	0	



Litchfield, NT.



*Fieldwork near Namul
Namul homestead, NT.*



DARWIN

4th Floor, RCG Centre
47 Mitchell Street
DARWIN NT 0800

Telephone: (08) 8999 4332
Facsimile: (08) 8999 4334

ALICE SPRINGS

Ground Floor,
Belvedere House
Cnr Bath and Parsons Streets
Alice Springs NT 0870

Telephone: (08) 8951 5023
Facsimile: (08) 8952 2824

POSTAL ADDRESS

GPO Box 1890
DARWIN NT 0801

INTERNET AND EMAIL

Internet:
www.aapant.org.au

Email:
enquiries.aapa@nt.gov.au



**Aboriginal Areas
Protection Authority**
protecting sacred sites across the territory