



ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Annual Report

2012- 2013



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Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
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www.aapant.org.au

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

The Hon Bess Price MLA
Minister for Community Services
DARWIN NT 0800

15 November 2013

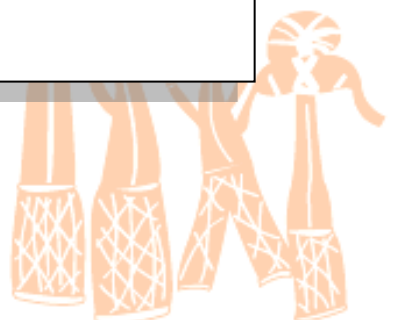
Dear Minister

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 2012 to 30 June 2013.

The Report refers to the twenty-fourth year of operation of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

Yours sincerely

BERNARD ABBOTT
Chairman





The Hon Bess Price MLA
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The Report refers to the twenty-fourth year of operation of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and to the best of my knowledge and belief as Accountable Officer, pursuant to section 13 of the *Financial Management Act*, the system of internal control and audit provides reasonable assurance that:

- a) proper records of all transactions affecting the agency are kept and that the department's employees observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, the Financial Management Regulations and Treasurer's Directions;
- b) Authority procedures provide proper internal control and a current description of those 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; and
- e) the financial statements in this annual report have been prepared from proper accounts and records and are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Benedict Scambary', is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr Benedict Scambary
Chief Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION



PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This is a report on the administration and operation of the Authority for the 2012-13 Financial Year. This report includes the Authority's Financial Statements and shows 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.

It also provides the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and the public with an account of the performance, responsibilities and activities of the Authority.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This report seeks to inform interested parties amongst our diverse range of stakeholders of Aboriginal custodians, Government agencies and users of land across the Territory of our objectives and performance during the 2012-13 financial year as well as our business direction for the year to come.

This report will also be available electronically on our website at www.aapant.org.au. Further information on the services of the Authority can be found there or by contacting the Authority directly. Contact details for the Authority are listed on the back cover of this report.





SACRED SITES

Sacred sites are places within the landscape that have a special significance under Aboriginal tradition. Hills, rocks, waterholes, trees, plains and other natural features may be sacred sites. In coastal and sea areas, sacred sites may include features which lie both above and below the water. Sacred sites are significant because of their association with key events and stories of Aboriginal spiritual ancestors credited with creating the landscape.

Aboriginal people know that sacred sites are powerful places. They are concerned to protect all people, including people from a non-Indigenous background, from the consequences that inappropriate contact with such places may entail. Some activities, such as lopping a sacred tree or digging into sacred ground, may disturb the spirit ancestors, with grave consequences both for the person causing the disturbance and for the Aboriginal people who are custodians of that place.

According to Aboriginal law, each sacred site is the responsibility of recognised custodians. They must ensure that sacred sites are kept safe and that they are used properly. Aboriginal law dictates that if custodians of sacred sites allow a site to be damaged, other Aboriginal people will hold them responsible. This can lead to retribution or sanctions within Aboriginal society. It can also lead to recriminations against non-Aboriginal people who damage such places.

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“Sacred sites legislation has been working in the Northern Territory for more than 26 years. Aboriginal laws and customs about sacred sites have been operating for thousands of years. The work of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority brings together Aboriginal law with law passed by our Parliament to make sure that sacred sites can continue to be protected in today’s community”.

Mr Roy Hammer

Aboriginal Custodian & Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority Chairman, 1997-2007



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In 2012-13 I was pleased to be re-appointed for another three years onto the Authority Board and to serve as the Chairperson of the Board once again. The Board welcomed new member Mr John Rawnsley and said goodbye to Mr Michael Gillam.

The Board is proud of the work by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority in protecting sacred sites in the Northern Territory. Through the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act* the Authority has helped provide certainty to businesses, people and Aboriginal custodians using land.

In 2012 the Board endorsed the final report and recommendations on the future management of the Papunya Boards. I was privileged to present this report to the Minister for Regional Development and Minister for Arts and Museums. This report acknowledges the cultural significance of this art collection and provides a good basis for the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory to manage the iconic works into the future. The Authority is grateful for the generosity and commitment of the custodians, their descendants and artists for sharing their cultural knowledge and expertise in the completion of this historic report.

Under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act* the Authority is responsible for investigating and, where necessary, taking legal action against those who breach the offence provisions of the Act. In July 2012 the Authority successfully prosecuted a commercial fisherman for illegally working and entering a sacred site in the Blyth River. It is hoped that this action will deter others from illegally working and entering sacred sites in the marine environment. The Board looks forward to working with the Seafood Industry to develop a better understanding of the significance of sacred sites.

The damage to the sacred site at the Bootu Creek mine, north of Tennant Creek has been a major challenge for the Authority, the Board and custodians. The Authority has charged OM (Manganese) Pty Ltd with two counts of desecration and one count of damage. It is the first time the charge of desecration under the Act has been tested before the courts. The matter went to a hearing in March 2013 and a decision is due to be handed down in early 2013-14.

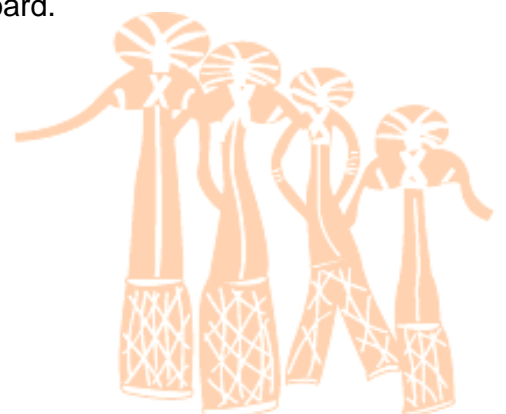
For many years the Authority, under a delegation from the *Heritage Conservation Act*, was involved in dealing with matters relating to Aboriginal burials and ancestral remains. However with the introduction of the new *Heritage Act* in October 2013, the Authority no longer holds this delegation. To ensure that reported findings of human remains were dealt with correctly and quickly the Authority worked closely with the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment to develop transition arrangements.

Finally I thank the CEO Dr Ben Scambary, and the Authority staff for their commitment to protecting sacred sites and their ongoing support of the Board.

BERNARD ABBOTT

Chairman

15 November 2013



INTRODUCTION

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In 2012 I was honoured to be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Board for the first time. The Authority Board comprises a group of 12 members. Together the Board forms an expert group of Indigenous people from across the Territory and bring experience in land, law, education, government, community development and Indigenous development.

Sacred sites are important to all Australians and it is the Authority's job to ensure that these sites are protected whilst providing people and businesses with the opportunity to use and develop land in the Territory.

The registering of sacred sites is one of the best ways the Authority can protect sacred sites in the Northern Territory. For custodians the site registration process offers strong protection for sacred sites and for the public this process provides them with appropriate information about the location and features of the site.

In the reporting period the Authority registered 18 sites spanning across the Territory.

This year the Board attended meetings in both Alice Springs and Darwin. For many years the Board has been interested in meeting and working with key government, Non-Government Organisations and community stakeholders to grow public awareness and appreciation of sacred sites and the work of the Authority.

Throughout the year the Board met with many stakeholders to discuss a range of issues relating to sacred sites, land use and development.

The Board is also very proud of Board member Ms Carol Christophersen, who was the recipient of the Natural History Museum of London Fellowship in 2012. Ms Christophersen was selected from amongst a strong field of applicants for the fellowship which had been created as part of the international repatriation of ancestral remains arrangement between the Natural History Museum, Torres Strait Island communities and the Australian Government. Under the Fellowship Ms Christophersen spent six months working in the Human Remains Unit at the Natural History Museum preparing the return of ancestral remains and raising awareness of repatriation issues.

Next year the Board and staff are looking forward to continuing their work and efforts in protecting sacred sites. We hope to also focus on initiatives such as youth engagement and helping our young people learn about sacred sites.



BANDUK MARIKA

Deputy Chairman

15 November 2013



INTRODUCTION

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The new government elected in 2012-13 is focused on building the Territory's economic, social, environment and cultural position. The Authority is well placed to support these priorities through its work in protecting sacred sites while assisting in facilitating development projects across the Northern Territory. The Authority's consultation process with custodians of sacred sites enables development to occur in a way that manages risk for both developers and custodians.



In 2012-13 the Authority issued 280 Authority Certificates, each applying to a separate development project. Of these 34 *per cent* were issued for projects relating to planning infrastructure and housing, including supporting development on Aboriginal communities; 17 *per cent* were issued for road infrastructure projects; 14 *per cent* for general infrastructure and development projects; 13 *per cent* were mining and exploration projects; 11 *per cent* for power, water and sewerage projects; 7 *per cent* were tourism and National Park related; and the remaining 4 *per cent* for communications infrastructure and maintenance activity.

The Authority contributed through its Authority Certificate process on several major projects across the Northern Territory including the Katherine to Gove gas pipeline; the National Broadband Network in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Nhulunbuy; Western Desert Resources Iron Ore Pty Ltd for the Roper Bar iron ore project; and Sherwin Iron Ltd. The timeframes associated with these projects that cover extensive areas and potentially intersect with many sacred sites are necessarily long. But early planning and good communication will ensure that project timeframes are met with certainty whilst sacred sites are avoided.

The Authority continues to improve how it engages with its stakeholders and ensuring that the information and service it provides is consistent and timely. In 2012-13 the Authority held workshops with the former Department of Lands and Planning to improve how the two organisations could communicate and work better together on upcoming projects. Workshops with other Government departments are planned in 2013-14.

Since 2009 the Authority has worked with Fisheries and a number of Indigenous organisations to install buoyage at coastal sacred sites. In 2012-13 the Authority in collaboration with Gumurr Marthakal, Wangu Djakamirr and Crocodile Island Rangers installed five buoys at the mouth of the Glyde River to mark a sacred site complex.

The Authority undertook a number of site avoidance surveys in support of large scale mining and exploration related projects in 2012-13 and was able to meet some very tight timeframes for many of these. The Authority understands the pressures of this industry and tries to accommodate accordingly. To further build the positive relationship with the industry the Authority participated in the Northern Territory Resources Week and also accepted the opportunity to speak at the Northern Territory Mining Conference.

The Authority continued its major initiative of redeveloping its Enterprise Data Management System which will lead to greater efficiency in the organisation's processes. Benefits of this project will include reduced timeframes for applicants and greater certainty for custodians. This project is likely to conclude in 2014-15.

The Authority was saddened by the passing in 2012-13 of custodians Paddy Benbo Huddleston, senior Wagiman man from Kybrook/Pine Creek, Kylie Barrowei, Jawoyn Wurrkbarbar woman from Werenbun, Lazarus Ford, Jawoyn man from Katherine, Sadie Ludwig, Kungarakany women from Darwin, Mr W McKinnon Senior Rumburiya man

INTRODUCTION

from Vanderlin Island/Borrooloola areas, Chuckler Simpson Tennant Creek region and Mr Steven Roberts from Roper River region.

I thank the staff and the Board of the Authority for their commitment and hard work in 2012-13.

Dr Benedict Scamby
Chief Executive Officer
15 November 2013



OVERVIEW

FUNCTIONS OF THE ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority is a statutory authority established under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act* to administer sacred site protection in the Northern Territory.

The functions of the Authority are set out in Section 10 of the Sacred Sites Act. They relate to the protection of Aboriginal sacred sites in the Northern Territory and may be summarised as follows:

- Carry out surveys and consultations with custodians to determine the constraints, if any, imposed by the existence of sacred sites on work on land anywhere in the Northern Territory, and where possible, issue Authority Certificates (with any required conditions) for the proposed works to proceed.
- Make available for public inspection the Register and records of all agreements, Certificates and refusals, except to the extent that such availability would disclose sensitive commercial information or matters required by Aboriginal tradition to be kept secret.
- Establish and maintain a Register of Sacred Sites and such other registers and records as required by or under the Sacred Sites Act.
- Respond to requests for site protection from Aboriginal custodians, including documenting sacred site information, implementing protection measures for sites and maintaining confidential records of traditional information.
- As required under the Sacred Sites Act, undertake mechanisms of accountability, referral and review of the Authority's actions and decisions.
- Enforce the Sacred Sites Act, including undertaking prosecutions for offences.



OUR ROLE

The protection of Aboriginal sacred sites is recognised by the Northern Territory Government and the broader Territory community as an important element in the preservation of the Territory's cultural heritage for the benefit of all Territorians.

The Authority provides the means by which Aboriginal sacred sites are protected through:

- *Sacred site avoidance surveys (Authority Certificates) through consultation with custodians over development proposals;*
- *The provision of information to the public about sacred site protection; and*
- *The registration of Aboriginal sacred sites.*

In all circumstances the Authority strives to achieve practical outcomes in its operations by recognizing, respecting and balancing the interests of developers, landowners and site custodians.

OUR VISION

- *Achieve practical outcomes by recognising and respecting the interest of Aboriginal sacred site custodians, landowners and developers.*
- *Provide sound and timely protection of sacred sites in the Northern Territory.*
- *Minimise unnecessary controversy over the existence of sacred sites.*
- *Foster understanding and enhance relations between Aboriginal custodians and other Territorians about sacred sites.*
- *Provide clear and practical instructions for the protection of sacred sites.*

KEY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES

People 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. An Authority Certificate provides a statutory indemnity against prosecution in relation to the works or uses covered by the Certificate provided the applicant complies with any conditions imposed to protect sacred sites. Moreover, the process provides an opportunity for applicants to work together with custodians to reach a mutually acceptable resolution of issues, so that the end result reflects the agreement of all involved.

An Authority Certificate provides certainty that the proposed use or work can proceed without the risk of damage to a sacred site.

The Authority determines Authority Certificate applications only after it has consulted the relevant Aboriginal custodians and conducted on-ground surveys to identify any sites. An Authority Certificate will be issued to the applicant if the works can proceed without damage to, or interference with, any sacred sites on or in the vicinity of the land. There may be conditions imposed within the Certificate to ensure that sites are not damaged. Within the Authority Certificate process, applicants can ask the Authority to arrange a conference with custodians. This provides an avenue for direct detailed discussions between developers and affected custodians.

The Sacred Sites Act and the Authority have earned the confidence of the wider community through the Authority's transparent, consistent and timely responses to applications for Authority Certificates.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Members of the public may seek advice on registered sacred sites by requesting access to the Register of Sacred Sites. The Register of Authority Certificates is also a public Register.

In addition to the Register, the Authority maintains records of sacred sites that have been brought to its attention by custodians. These additional records are separate from the Register, and details of these records are available to the public only at the discretion of the Authority. Custodians have provided much of this information to the Authority as the basis (and justification) for conditions on proposed works or use of land imposed by Authority Certificates.

The public may also request access to other relevant information concerning sites, including records of any agreements. However, such access is subject to restrictions to protect knowledge which is required by Aboriginal tradition to be kept secret, and information of a personal or sensitive commercial nature.



REGISTRATION OF SACRED SITES

Custodians of sacred sites may apply to have their sites registered under Part III Division 2 of the Sacred Sites Act. The Authority will then conduct research into the site to determine the location, extent and traditional significance of the site. Upon registration this information is recorded on the Register of Sacred Sites.

The registration process also provides an opportunity for the landowner(s) to discuss practical issues about the site. Prior to considering a request for registration the Authority will invite the landowner(s) to comment about the impact that registration may have on their interests in land.

Registration in itself does not confer extra protection on the site, as all sites in the Northern Territory are protected under the Sacred Sites Act. However, registration is relevant to the enforcement of protection of the site in that, under the Sacred Sites Act, the Register of Sacred Sites is accessible to the public (Section 48), and proof of registration shall be accepted by courts as *prima facie* evidence that a site is a sacred site (Section 45).



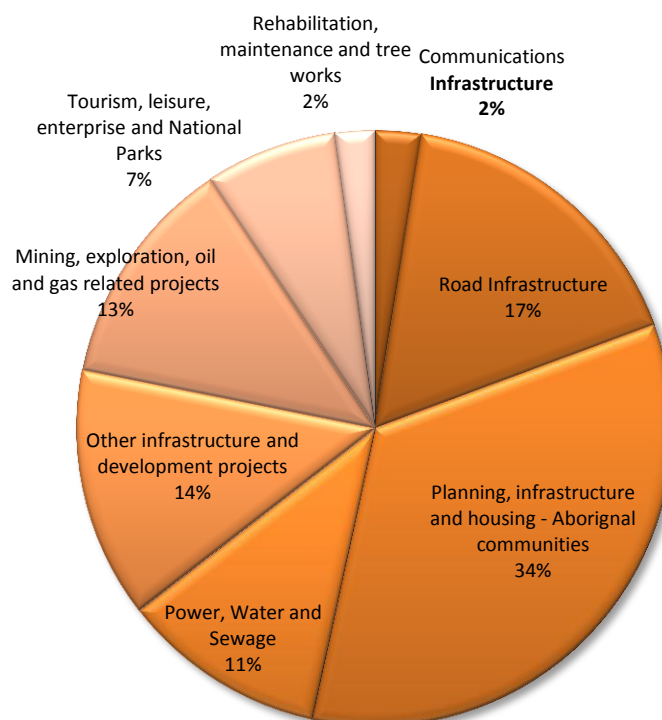
OVERVIEW

2012-13 SNAPSHOTS

The Authority is associated with providing sacred site protection for all major projects in the Northern Territory and mediates Indigenous concerns about sacred site protection with economic, cultural and social developments.

In 2012-13 the Authority:

- Received 240 new applications for Authority Certificates.
- Issued a total of 280 Authority Certificates in relation to current and proposed works across the Territory.
- Major projects included:
 - Significant infrastructure projects associated with Inpex as well as the rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN);
 - Exploration and mining ventures such as McArthur River Mine Phase 3 development project and the Roper Bar Iron Ore Project.
 - Road works upgrade and maintenance throughout the NT including for Howard Springs, Atnarpa, Ranken, Bullita, Central Arnhem and Rum Jungle roads; urban road networks; Mt Dare, Tanami Downs and Lucy Creek access roads as well as Barkly, Ross, Victoria, Kakadu and Stuart Highways; and
 - Coordinated research and issuing of Authority Certificates in support of significant Government investment in infrastructure on Aboriginal communities. This included the issuing of Authority Certificates for Pigeon Hole, Wallace Rockhole, Wadeye, Peppiminarti, Numbulwar Robinson River, Gunyangara, Gunbalanya, Finke, Yirrkala, Milingimbi, Bulla, Gapuwiyak, Willowra, Maranunga, Amanbidji, Manyallaluk, Imanpa and Maningrida townships.
- Overall the distribution of issued Authority Certificates across industry and/or project areas can be summarised as follows for 2012-13:



OVERVIEW

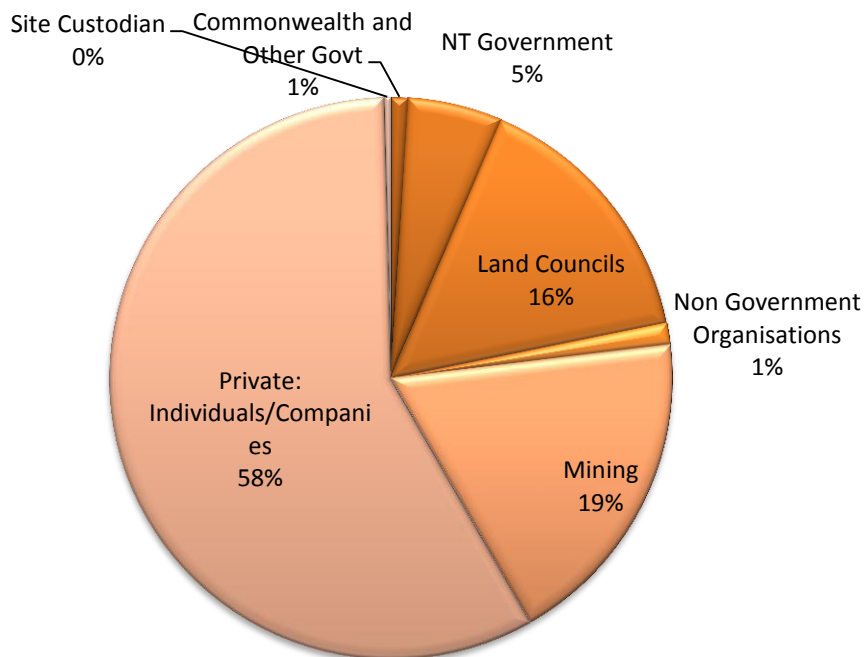
Where the Authority is not satisfied that sacred sites can be protected from damage the Authority can refuse to issue a Certificate however in 2012-13 there were no Authority Certificates refused.

During the year, 42 Authority Certificate applications were withdrawn. As the Authority may have been progressing certificate applications when the proponent has withdrawn them, they represent a discrete component of the Authority's workload. Withdrawn applications can occur due to a lack of information from the applicant, a lack of acceptance of the requirement to pay costs for certificates, or a lapsing of the proposed project or use of land.

In 2012-13, the Authority progressed (issued or withdrew) a total of 322 Authority Certificate applications.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Overall, in 2012-13 the Authority provided 584 formal responses to requests for information. The requests for information resulted in a total of 2338 searches being carried out of Authority records and provided timely responses to a broad range of stakeholders. More than 500 requests were for abstracts of the Authority's records providing a snapshot of known information and enabling the Authority to provide preliminary risk management advice in relation to sacred site protection directly to the applicant.



SACRED SITE REGISTRATIONS

The Authority entered 18 sacred sites into the Register of Sacred Sites from the following regions: East Arnhem Land; Kakadu; Katherine; Timber Creek; Barkly Tablelands; Tennant Creek; Alice Springs; Yuendumu; and Finke.

The Authority also ratified amended details of 2 sacred sites. In total 326 new sites were recorded during the year.

SACRED SITE DAMAGE

Compliance was a key focus for the Authority in 2012-13 and therefore a significant component of the Authority's workload. Investigations were undertaken for a total of 40 reports of illegal entry, illegal works, desecration and sacred site damage. 14 cases were

OVERVIEW

resolved and/or closed by the end of the financial year, leaving 26 cases still active. In 2012-13 a small number of site damage offences were dealt with through the courts:

- Prosecution was completed against a fisherman for entering and working on a sacred site in the Blyth River. The fisherman was convicted and fined \$1 500 and costs.
- Prosecution continued against OM Manganese for breach of Authority Certificate and desecration of a sacred site at the company's Bootu Creek mine on Banka Banka Station. This case was still in progress at the end of the financial year with expected resolution in early 2013-14.
- Prosecution was commenced for breach of Authority Certificate conditions by Parks and Wildlife which led to a sacred site being damaged at Chambers Pillar Conservation Reserve. This case was still in progress at the end of the financial year with expected resolution in 2013-14.
- Prosecution was commenced for work on a sacred site at Gregory National Park by Parks and Wildlife resulting in damage to a sacred site. This case was still in progress at the end of the financial year with expected resolution in 2013-14.

COORDINATED COMMUNITY AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES

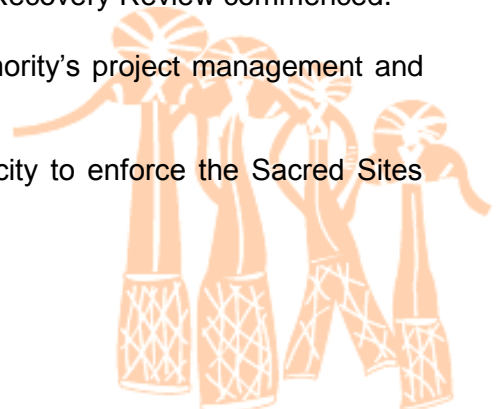
Throughout the reporting period the Authority continued the coordinated linkages with Territory Government agencies to establish clear procedures in relation to sacred site protection for major work projects.

A particular highlight continues to be the successfully negotiated arrangement with the Departments of Lands, Planning and the Environment, Housing and the Power and Water Corporation, for the issuing of Coordinated Community Authority Certificates for Aboriginal communities. This co-ordinated arrangement has supported the roll-out of infrastructure and housing development on Aboriginal communities. Through the coordinated issuing of Authority Certificates, all 3 participating agencies and their contractors have certainty over the conditions which apply for the protection of sacred sites, and sacred sites in and around the communities are protected according to custodians' wishes.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS

During this financial year, the Authority continued significant internal change in order to improve the effectiveness of its operations. Key areas included:

- The implementation of a replacement Electronic Data Management System commenced. This system will adequately support the Authority's needs into the future as well as enable better online access and services to all stakeholders.
- The completion of a review of cost recovery charges and processes.
- The implementation of recommendations from the Cost Recovery Review commenced.
- Implementation and continued improvement of the Authority's project management and research capacity.
- Continued focus on strengthening the Authority's capacity to enforce the Sacred Sites Act through the employment of a compliance officer.



CHALLENGES AND DIRECTIONS FOR 2013-2014

- Continue to meet the demand for Authority Certificates and requests for information by implementing the strategic priorities of the Authority and monitor trends in applications and revenue to understand where the opportunities and risks are for the Authority.
- Meet the changing needs of custodians and developers for sacred site protection through amendments to the Sacred Sites Act, appropriate information technology and management and increasingly more efficient processes.
- Ensure high quality research to achieve practical implementation of the Act and the Authority's goals.
- Enforce legal and legislative protection for sacred sites.
- Carry out Coordinated and strategic planning for sacred site protection through:
 - The ongoing implementation of phase two of the Coordinated Community Authority Certificate Project (CCAC).
 - The preparation of advice for the Northern Territory Government, under the current Moratorium on Exploration and Mining in Coastal Waters of the Northern Territory, on appropriate measures to protect sacred sites as a part of any exploration or mining of seabed mineral resources.
 - The development of a submission for the strategic management of sacred sites including fencing, signage and tourism potential.
- Build focused and strategic relationships with key stakeholders to provide them with clear and customised information about sacred sites This will be addressed through:
 - Improving frontlines services and the Authority's website;
 - The development of a Stakeholder Management Strategy; and
 - The development of strategies to maintain Indigenous cultural knowledge.
- Provide leadership and support to staff so that they are able to actively contribute to meeting the Authority's priorities. This will be achieved by building staff capabilities, developing a positive work culture, and improving processes and roles.
- Meet the operational needs of the Authority by improving the recovery of allowable costs for its services, and streamlining resources in line with Government appropriation.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PROTECTION OF SACRED SITES AND PERFORMANCE

The Authority's overarching responsibility is to protect sacred sites. The Sacred Sites Act provides for the protection of sacred sites through the provision of sacred sites information in response to requests, the registration of sites and through consultations with custodians to develop sacred site avoidance procedures (Authority Certificates) relating 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 of Authority Certificate applications completed.

Timeliness is assessed as the average/mean number of days between application and completion of Authority Certificates and the average/mean response time to requests for information from the Register and Archives of the Authority.

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* (Commonwealth).

Output Group: Protection of Sacred Sites.

Outcome: Enhanced relations between Indigenous 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.

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

Performance measures		Actual 2011-12	Target 2012-13	Actual 2012-13
Quantity	Authority Certificates issued	256	270	280
	Requests for information completed	565	500	584
Timeliness	Average time between receiving Authority Certificate applications and completing service	135 days	100 days	148 days
	Average time between receiving request for information and completing service	5.7 days	8 days	4 days
Quality	Statutory appeals	<1%	<1%	<1%

In 2012-13, the Authority's overall workload, as measured by the aggregate of all sacred site information requests completed, remained high and the Authority delivered well above its target of 770 (Authority Certificate and Request for information targets combined). The Authority continued to deliver quality outcomes and there were no Authority Certificates subject to statutory appeals (less than 1 per cent).

During 2012-13 significant resources were committed to address outstanding applications that remained in progress due to a range of complex issues. In many instances such applications involved large and remote areas of land to be surveyed for sacred sites and

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

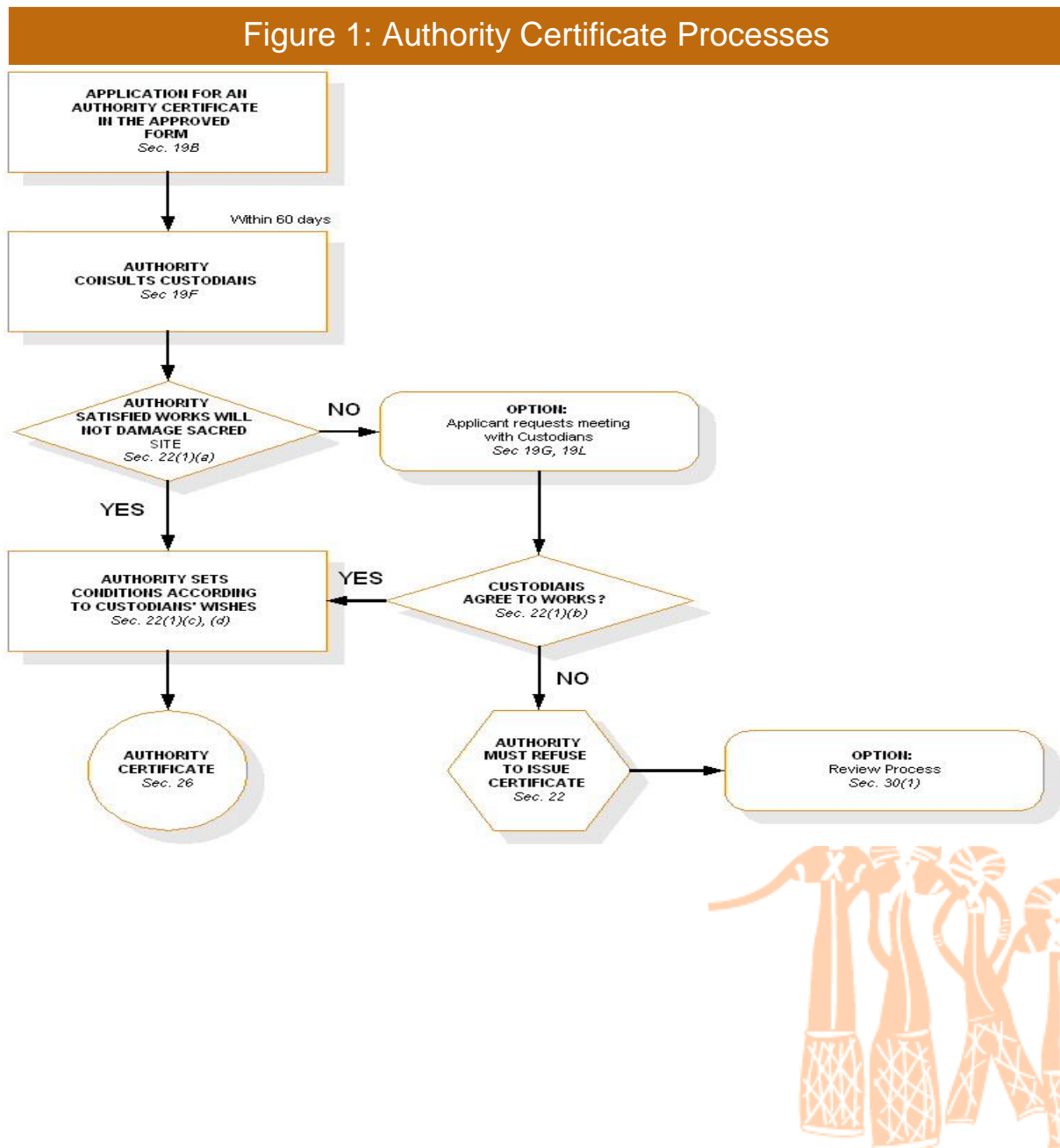
complex consultations with custodians. A substantial number of applications that had been in progress for 15 months or more were able to be finalised due to the focused efforts of the Authority's experienced in-house staff. Completion of this body of Authority Certificates has contributed to the higher than anticipated average timeframes for Authority Certificates in the reporting period. In addition, an ongoing initiative to improve the Authority's internal processes through the redevelopment of the Authority's Enterprise Data Management System resulted in the creation of better guidelines and criteria to accommodate these longer term complex Authority Certificates.

There were no statutory appeals received in 2012-13.

AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES

APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES

Authority Certificates are instruments of sacred site avoidance under the Sacred Sites Act. The steps involved in processing applications for Authority Certificates are represented in Figure 1.



PERFORMANCE REPORTING

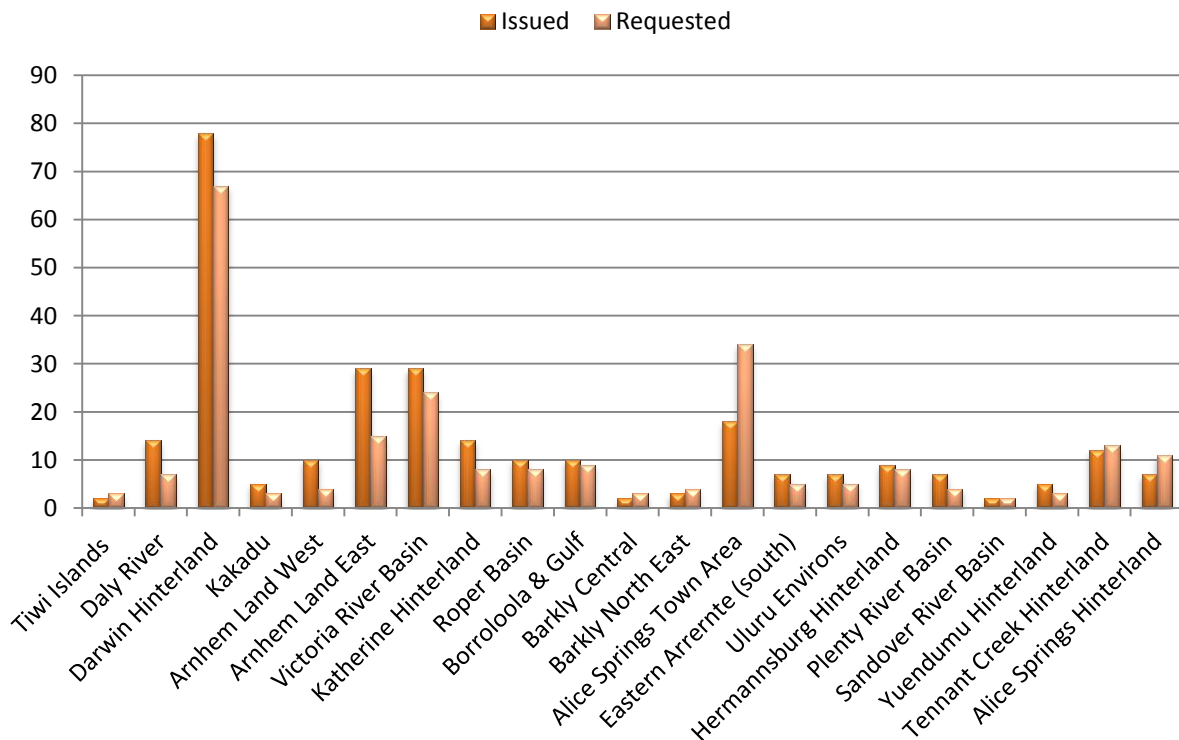
In any financial year the number of applications and the number of Authority Certificates issued are likely to differ because of the time elapsing between the application date and the date of issue. In 2012-13 there were 240 Authority Certificate applications received. This is a slight decrease from 2011-12 where 352 applications were received and considerably less than the 476 applications received in 2009-10.

The Authority experienced an increase in applications for Authority Certificates from 2007-08 and 2008-09 associated with infrastructure development initiatives arising either directly or indirectly from the Northern Territory Emergency Response. The numbers were unprecedented and the subsequent drop in numbers of Authority Certificate applications received in 2010-11 and 2011-12 was a clear indication that the numbers were stabilising following the preceding reporting periods. The decrease in 2012-13 can be attributed to the transition to the Stronger Futures legislative framework, broader economic factors impacting the Northern Territory, and the transition period associated with the Northern Territory election and subsequent new Government. It is worth noting that Authority Certificate requests remain higher than years preceding the Northern Territory Emergency Response. In 2006-07 the Authority received just 184 requests. Comparing this to current figures there seems to be a significant increase in economic development initiatives across the Northern Territory in recent years.

There continues to be high levels of demand for Authority Certificates in Alice Springs, and in Darwin and its hinterland regions. Major infrastructure projects have partially resulted in high workloads in these areas. For Alice Springs the increased demand has been largely due to development initiatives of the Alice Springs Town Council. Additionally, demand was particularly high across eastern Arnhem Land but also in the regions of Victoria River, Tennant Creek Hinterland and Alice Springs Hinterland.

For administrative purposes the Authority divides the Territory into 21 regions. Figure 2 shows the breakdown of issued and requested Authority Certificates by region.

Figure 2: Regional distribution of Authority Certificates issued and applications received in 2012-13



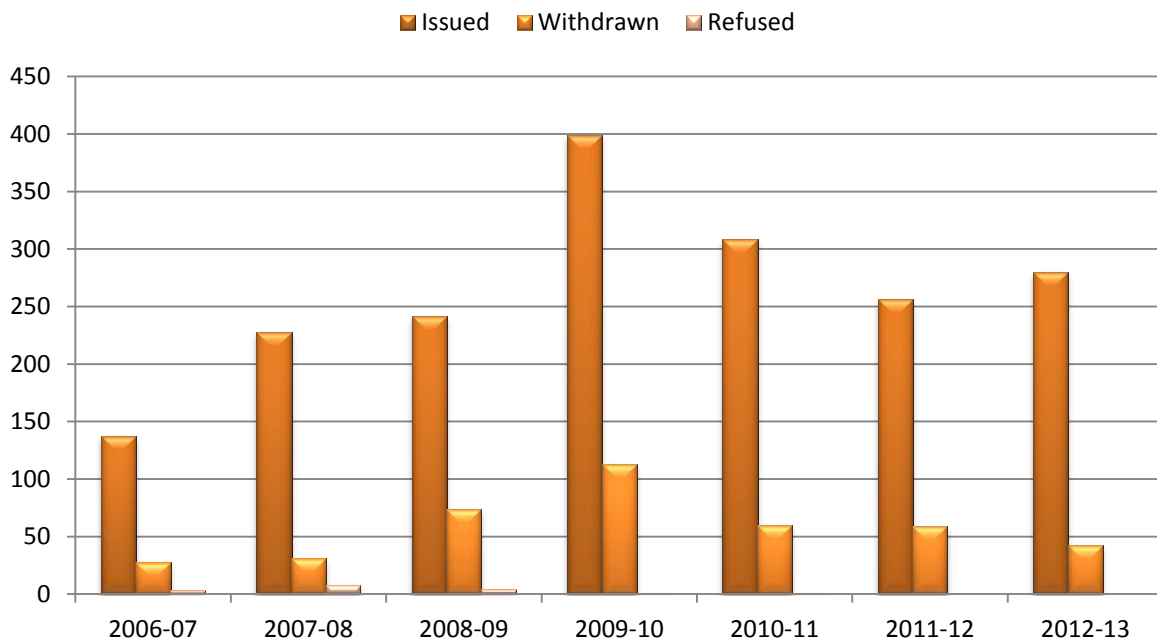
PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Figure 3 shows the number of Authority Certificate applications issued or refused by the Authority, or withdrawn by the applicant. In the past year, the Authority has responded to a considerable workload as well as addressed a substantial amount of outstanding applications carried over from the previous reporting period. Areas for which there was an increase in applications included mining and development related ventures.

In 2012-13 there were 280 Authority Certificates issued (87 *per cent*) and 42 applications for Authority Certificates withdrawn (13 *per cent*). There were no Authority Certificate requests refused. This compares with 2011-12 when 256 were issued (81.3 *per cent*) and 59 were withdrawn (18.7 *per cent*).

In the current reporting period 42 Authority Certificate applications were withdrawn by the applicant. The percentage of withdrawn applications has since 2009-10 remained consistently around 16-20 *per cent* of completed applications. It is notable that this has decreased considerably to 13 *per cent* in 2012-13 and reflects an improvement in the quality of advice provided by the Authority to applicants prior to and at the time of application lodgement. The main reason for applicants withdrawing Authority Certificate applications continues to be proponents allowing insufficient time for the process in their project planning phase. This reflects a lack of education amongst certain sectors of the processes of the Authority, and in some instances a lack of coordination between the processes of the Authority and other regulatory approvals under other Northern Territory statutes. The Authority will continue to work with stakeholders to provide high quality advice and seek further reductions in the number of applications withdrawn.

Figure 3: Authority Certificates issued, withdrawn or refused during 2012-13

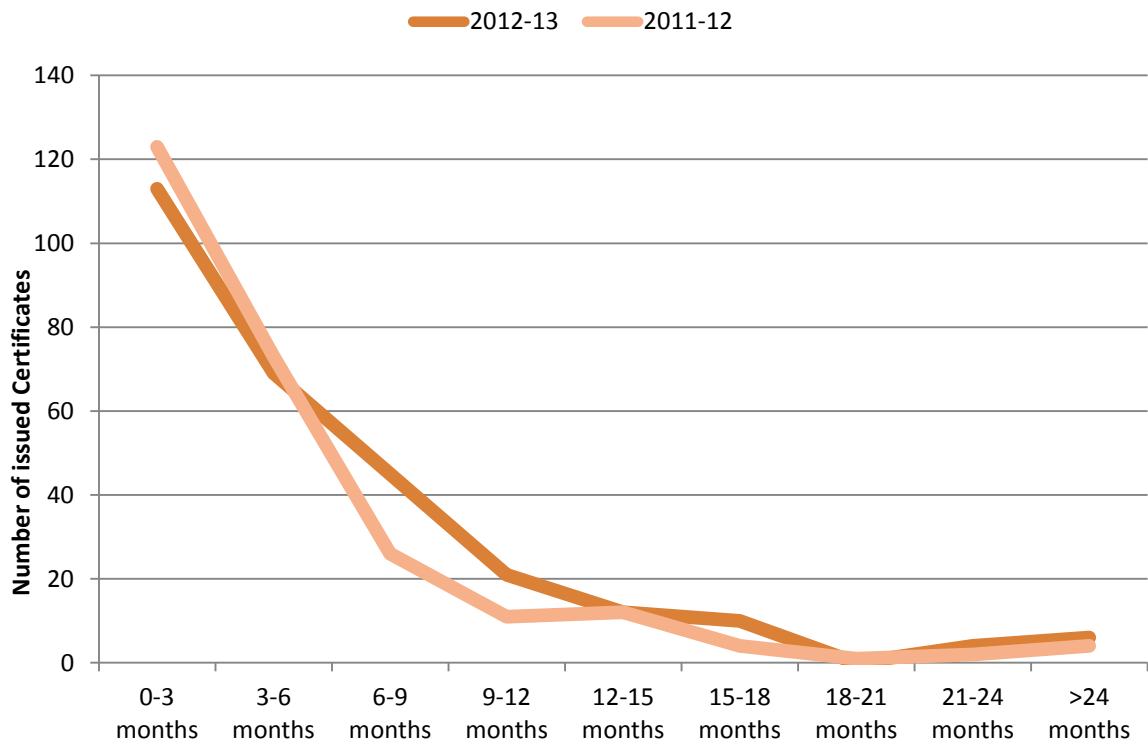


In this reporting period 76 *per cent* of the Authority's workload can be attributed to applications from the public sector including Northern Territory and Australian Governments and associated statutory bodies for purposes such as roads; community services; community infrastructure and housing; Defence services; power, water and sewage infrastructure and services; and land development. The workload associated with the mineral, oil and gas exploration and mining sector encompassed 13 *per cent* of Authority Certificates issued but constituted 17 *per cent* of the overall time spent by the Authority to deliver Certificates. This is a clear indication of the increased complexity frequently involved in such ventures. Other private sector ventures including tourism, development and communications made up for a further 11 *per cent* of the overall workload.

TIMELINESS - AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES

In 2012-13, completion of Authority Certificate applications took an average of 148 days, in comparison to 135 days in 2011-12 and 132 days in 2010-11 (Figure 5). Of all applications, 50 per cent (the median) were issued within 118 days, compared to 97 days last year. 65 per cent of Authority Certificate applications were issued within six months with 40 per cent issued within 3 months of the application being accepted by the Authority (Figure 4).

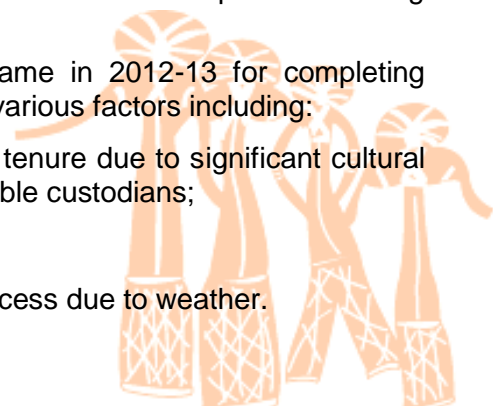
Figure 4: Timeframes for the issuing of Authority Certificates



The average time for the completion of Authority Certificate applications in 2012-13 was affected by the Authority addressing a number of complex applications which required a large amount of management oversight. The use of consultants in previous years to meet the requirements of the Authority Certificate workload enabled the Authority to respond to more applications in a timely manner but it also increased the amount of administrative support and management attention required to finalising Certificates. In addition in 2012-13 a focused effort to progress the more complicated applications associated with an enduring backlog of applications through the improvement of processes occurred. This has impacted slightly on the timeliness of Authority Certificates in the reporting period but will have a positive bearing on timeframes in the longer term.

In addition to limited administrative resources, the timeframe in 2012-13 for completing consultations with custodians was significantly impacted by various factors including:

- The increased complexity of project proposals and land tenure due to significant cultural transitions resulting from deaths of senior or knowledgeable custodians;
- The increased mobility of Indigenous custodians; and
- The remoteness of applications areas and associated access due to weather.

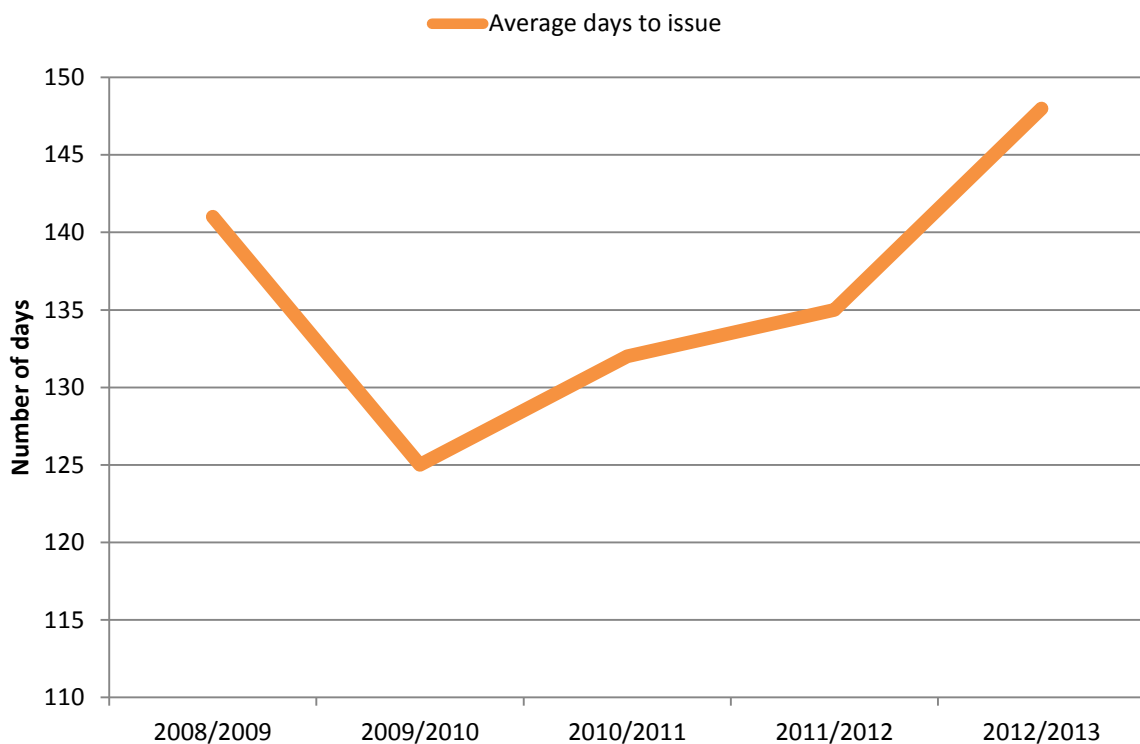


PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Between 2001-02 and 2008-09 there was a steady increase in the time necessary to complete consultations for Authority Certificate applications. The timely and effective completion of Authority Certificates is dependent upon:

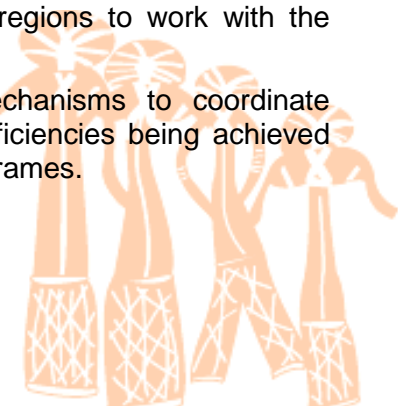
- The nature of the land involved, including numbers of sacred sites, and native title or Aboriginal land issues;
- The area of land, often significant in mining exploration applications;
- The clarity of the works proposed by the applicant, and of the application details;
- The number of custodian and other Aboriginal groups with an interest in the land;
- The certainty of custodian knowledge and of the records of sacred sites held by the Authority;
- The availability of sufficiently experienced anthropological research staff/consultants, within the resources available to the Authority; and
- The overall workload of the Authority and the capacity to prioritise within this workload.

Figure 5: Average days to process Authority Certificate applications in 2012-13



The high number of Certificate applications in Alice Springs and the Darwin hinterland continues to place significant pressures on custodians in these regions to work with the Authority in documenting sites.

It is expected that the on-going improvement of internal mechanisms to coordinate applications across the Northern Territory will result in greater efficiencies being achieved internally over the next four years which will assist in reducing timeframes.



PERFORMANCE REPORTING

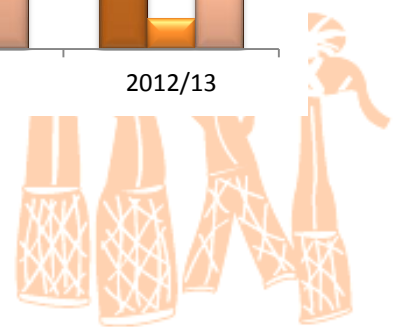
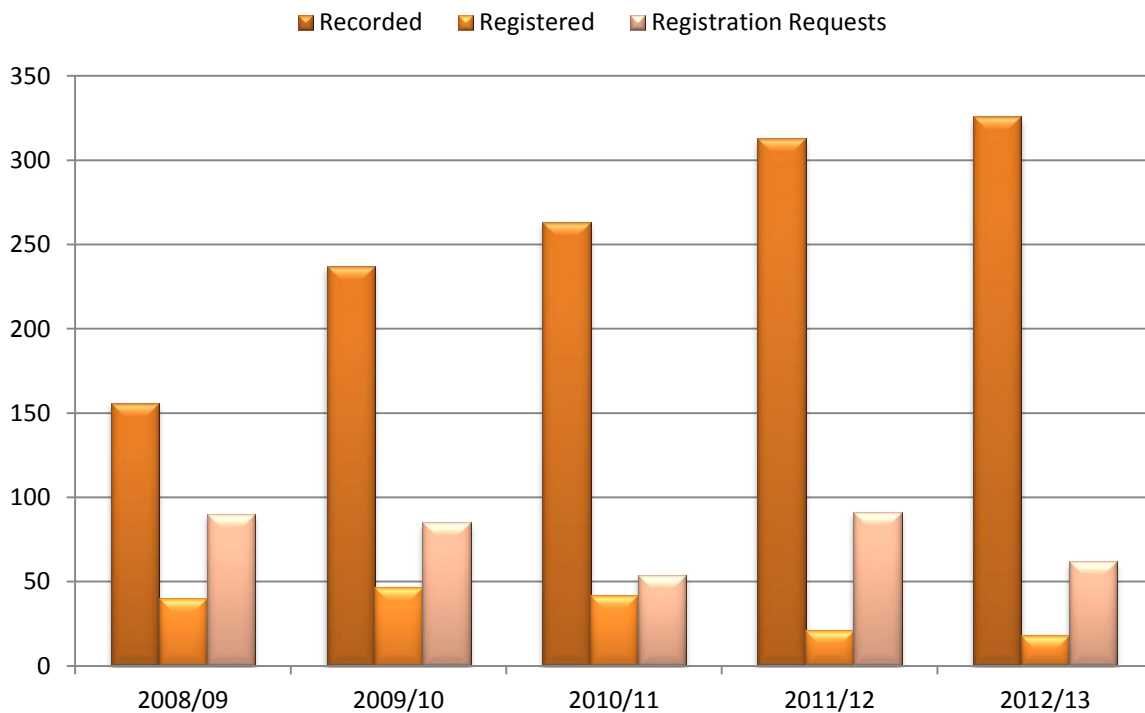
REGISTER OF SACRED SITES

The registration of sacred sites provides a clear and strong basis for the protection of the site, and for users of land to have information regarding the site's location. For Aboriginal custodians, registration of a sacred site provides the strongest possible protection for the site, with it being accepted as *prima facie* evidence in a court.

There were 62 sites requested for registration by custodians in 2012-13. This is a decrease from 91 sites requested in 2011-12. The number of sites registered by the Authority decreased from 21 in 2012-13 to 18 in 2012-13. The number of new sites recorded has continually increased on an annual basis from 156 recorded sites in 2008-09 to 326 in 2012-13.

There remains a significant backlog of registration requests, with more than 400 requests outstanding. The Authority has established priorities for addressing registration requests, based around threats of damage or desecration, or arising from cultural transformation associated with generational change. Nevertheless, the backlog can only be addressed on an *ad hoc* basis and even then only if there is a capacity to undertake registration research without impacting on the timeframes and resources available for Authority Certificate research. The Authority has continued the development of processes to combine the registration of sacred sites with the conduct of research for Authority Certificates. The Authority Board has placed a priority on the registration of sacred sites and it is expected that there will be a gradual increase in the numbers of sacred sites registered over the next four years.

Figure 6: Sacred site registrations, requests for registration and new sites recorded in 2012-13

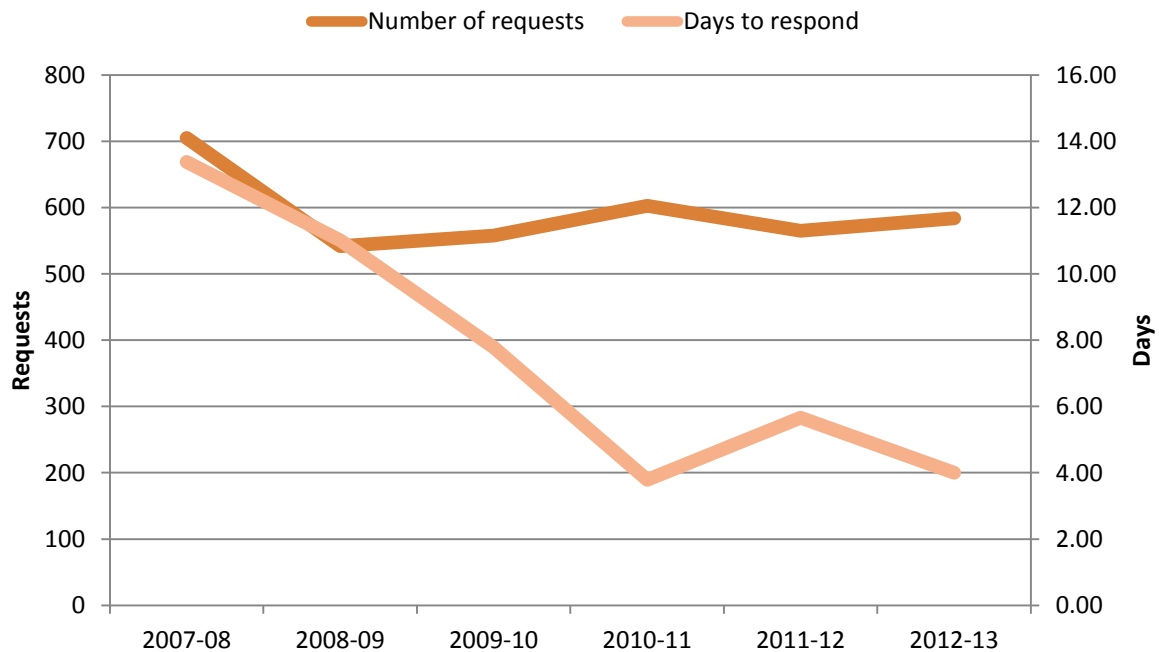


PERFORMANCE REPORTING

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

In 2012-13 the Authority responded to 584 formal requests for information from the Register of Sacred Sites. This was a slight increase of 19 requests from 565 formal requests in 2011-12.

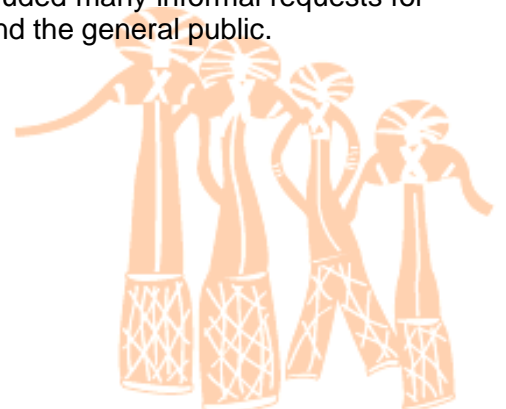
Figure 7: Number of requests for information from the sacred sites register and response times in 2012-13

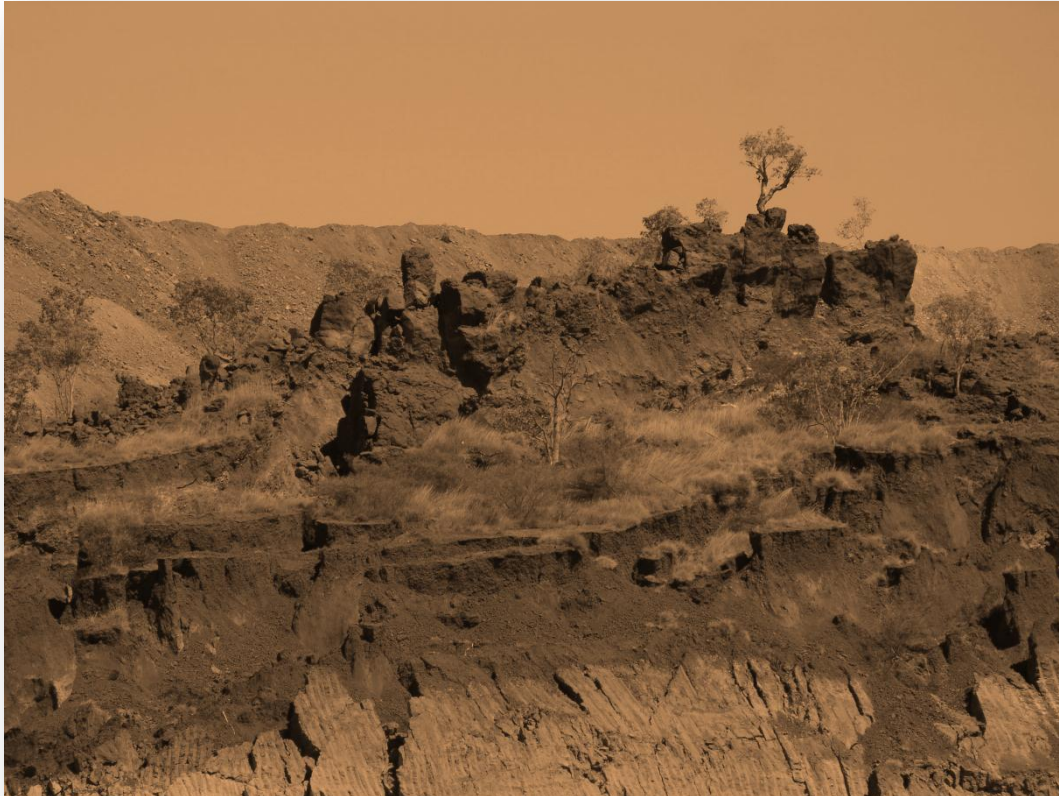


The average time taken to complete requests for information was 4 days, a decrease of 1.7 days from the previous year (Figure 7). In 2012-13 work continued on automating the mapping and output creation for requests following on from work done in previous years to streamline the process. There will be opportunities to further streamline this process in the coming year with the redevelopment of the Authority's Enterprise Data Management System which will positively impact on timeframes for requests for information about sacred sites.

ADVICE TO CLIENTS AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY

In addition to formal requests to inspect the Register of Sacred Sites and the Register of Authority Certificates, the Authority also deals with numerous requests for information relating to site protection in the Northern Territory. The provision of information and advice to the public is a significant element of the Authority's responsibility in carrying out its functions. In the 2012-13 reporting period the Authority received ongoing and daily requests for information pertaining to sacred site protection. This has included many informal requests for information from Territory Government agencies, industry, and the general public.





DAMAGE TO SACRED SITES

Under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act* it is an offence to enter and remain on a sacred site or carry out work on or desecrate a sacred site. In recent years the Authority has responded to a large number of reports of potential breaches of the offence provisions of the Act and has undertaken investigations and negotiations over each report.

In 2012-13 the Authority continued to focus on improving its capacity to enforce the Sacred Sites Act and to deal more effectively with reports of site damage. There were 12 site damage matters carried over from previous reporting periods. Three of these were finalised during 2012-13 with the remaining 9 still under investigation or before the courts. During 2012-13 there were 27 new reports of alleged damage, 11 of these were closed during 2012-13 and 16 remained open at the end of 2012-13.

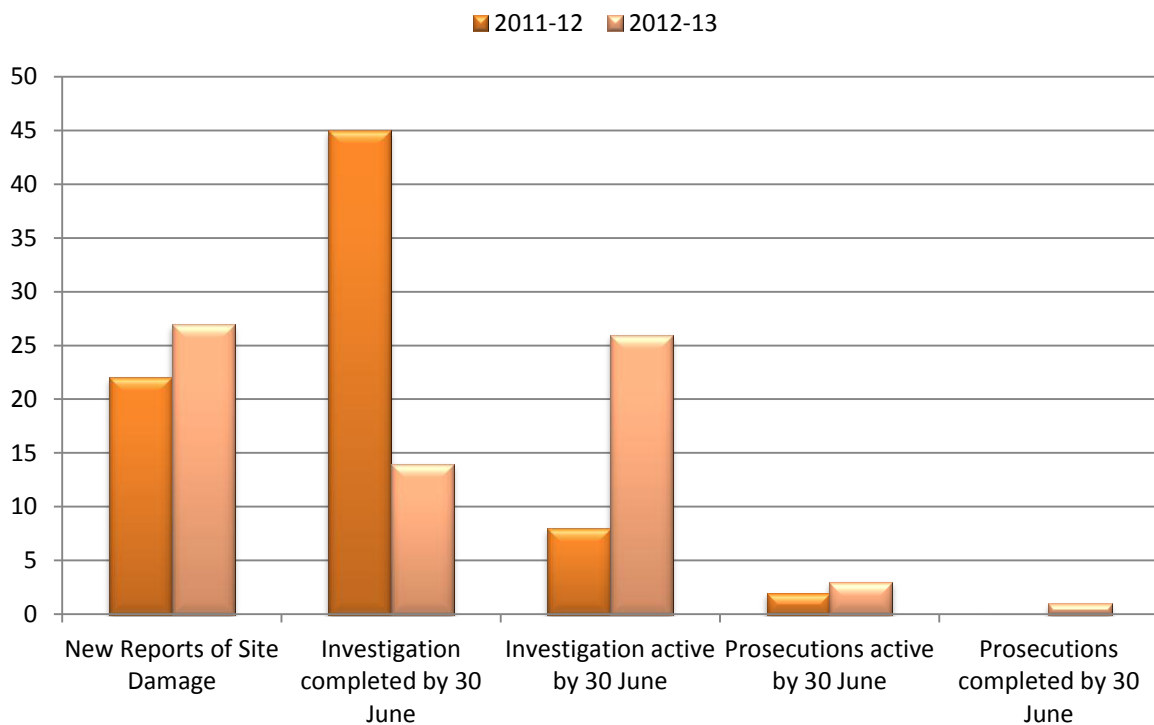
During 2012-13 prosecution was completed against a commercial fisherman for entering and working upon a sacred site in the Blyth River. This case concluded in July 2012 with the fisherman convicted on one count of entry onto a sacred site and one count of work on a sacred site resulting in a fine of \$1 500 and the fisherman ordered to pay legal costs.

The Authority charged OM (Manganese) with offences under the Sacred Sites Act at the company's Bootu Creek manganese mine northwest of Tennant Creek in November 2011. There were numerous court appearances throughout 2011-12 and 2012-13. OM (Manganese) was charged with two offences for desecration of a sacred site (s35); and one offence for contravening of an Authority Certificate (s37). The Court Hearing for this matter was held in March 2013. A resolution is expected in early 2013-14.

Two reports of site damage, one at Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve south of Alice Springs and one within Judbarra/Gregory National Park near Timber Creek, progressed to prosecution following investigation. Both cases were still in progress at the end of the financial year with expected resolution in 2013-14.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Figure 8: Damage to sacred sites – new reports, investigation and prosecutions



ANCESTRAL SKELETAL REMAINS

Responsibilities delegated under the *Heritage Conservation Act* have previously resulted in a number of requests associated with forensic enquiries coming to the Authority. This involved rendering assistance to the NT Police and the Coroner's Office on the discovery of skeletal remains to ensure that traditional ancestral remains were not unnecessarily disturbed. With the new *Heritage Act* coming into effect on 1 October 2012 this delegation ceased.

The Authority has continued to work with the Coroner's Office on a project to conduct DNA and medical analyses on a number of the remains held by the Authority for repatriation. The aim of this project is to explore further avenues of inquiry in unresolved missing person cases. The Coroner has requested that all repatriations of skeletal material included in this project are suspended until the DNA and medical analyses is concluded.

Transitional arrangements are in place with the Heritage Branch of the Department of Lands Planning and Environment to ensure the transfer of this workload from the Authority.



GOVERNANCE

AUTHORITY BOARD

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

The Authority Board comprises twelve members, ten of whom are nominated by Northern Territory Land Councils in equal numbers (five) of males and females, and two of whom are nominated by the relevant Northern Territory Minister as Government representatives. To fill vacancies for Aboriginal custodian members, 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*.

Custodian members of the Authority have been appointed from different regions of the Territory to generally provide a geographic and representative balance for the Authority.

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

The Authority meets at least four times each calendar year, often in different parts of the Northern Territory. The Authority attempts to meet in locations outside of Darwin at least once per year.

Section 12 of the Sacred Sites Act provides that the Chairman “shall call such meetings of the Authority and committees of the Authority as are necessary for the performance and functions of the Authority” and that “the Chairman shall call not less than four meetings of the Authority in each full calendar year of its operation”. Below is an outline of dates, venues and attendances at meetings called by the Chairman for the 2012-13 Financial Year:

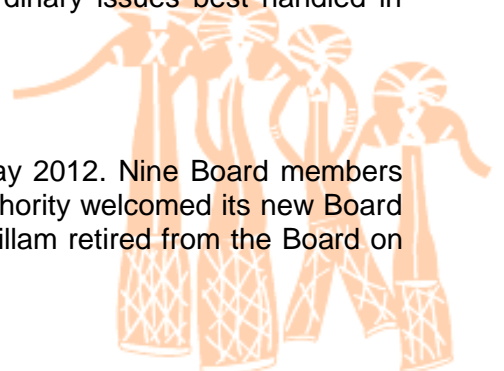
93 rd Board Meeting	16 August 2012	Darwin
94 th Board Meeting	17 August 2012	Darwin
95 th Board Meeting	5-6 December 2012	Darwin
96 th Board Meeting	13-14 March 2013	Darwin
97 th Board Meeting	22-23 May 2013	Alice Springs

The Board achieved its required four meetings during calendar year 2012.

In order to deal more effectively with the breadth of issues before it, and where time permits, the Board of the Authority has held its meetings for up to two days. This extra time has allowed more time for the Board to become familiar with the issues and to give them adequate time for their full consideration. In August 2012 the Board split its meeting into two separate meetings as there were a number of extraordinary issues best handled in isolation to the general business of the Board.

APPOINTMENTS

The terms for ten members of the Board expired on 18 May 2012. Nine Board members were reappointed to the Board on 31 July 2012 and the Authority welcomed its new Board member Mr John Rawnsley on 31 July 2012. Mr Michael Gillam retired from the Board on 18 May 2012 after three years of dedicated service.



GOVERNANCE

MEMBERS OF THE ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Mr Bernard Abbott - Chairman



Nominated by:	Central Land Council
Date appointed / re-appointed:	31 July 2012
First appointed in:	1995
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	5

Mr Abbott is an Arrernte man from Wallace Rockhole, west of Alice Springs. He is currently a member of the Central Land Council. Mr Abbott has been a member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority since 1995 and has taken an active role on the Authority Board.

Ms Banduk Marika – Deputy Chairman



Nominated by:	Northern Land Council
Date appointed / re-appointed:	31 July 2012
First appointed in:	2006
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	4

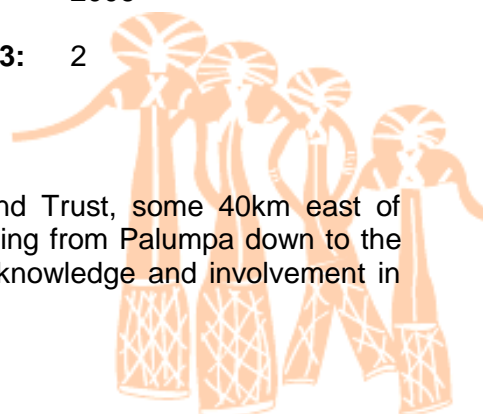
Ms Marika is a Rirratjingu woman from Yirrkala. Her country is located in the Port Bradshaw area of North East Arnhem Land. Ms Marika is an accomplished artist and a senior woman in her community and a well-known advocate for land care and site protection.

Mr Captain Woditj



Nominated by:	Northern Land Council
Date appointed / re-appointed:	31 July 2012
First appointed in:	2006
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	2

Mr Woditj lives at Peppimenarti on the Daly River Land Trust, some 40km east of Wadeye. Mr Woditj is a senior custodian for lands reaching from Palumpa down to the Fitzmaurice River. He is well respected for his cultural knowledge and involvement in associated activities.



GOVERNANCE

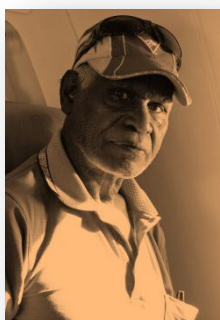
Ms Lena Pula



Nominated by:	Central Land Council
Date appointed / re-appointed:	31 July 2012
First appointed in:	1999
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	4

Ms Pula is a senior woman from Utopia northeast of Alice Springs. She is a renowned artist who took up painting in the mid-1990s and has been on a number of Government Boards. She is regarded by other female Board members as an authority on women's site issues.

Mr Robert Tipungwuti



Nominated by:	Tiwi Land Council
Date appointed / re-appointed:	31 July 2012
First appointed in:	2006
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	4

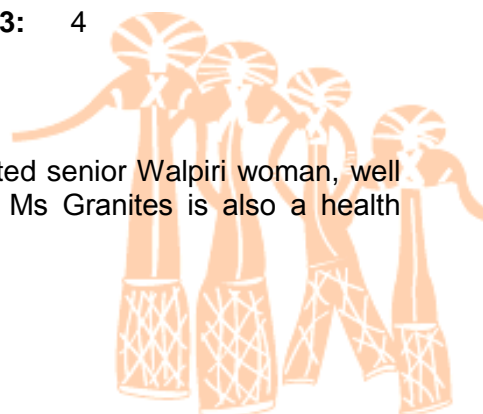
Mr Tipungwuti is a senior Tiwi man who lives at Wurankuwu on Bathurst Island. He has held many representative and political roles at a local, regional, Territory and national level over the past 30 years, including with the former Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Aboriginal Development Corporation, as an ATSIC Commissioner, and more recently as President of the Wurankuwu Aboriginal Corporation.

Ms Lynette Granites



Nominated by:	Central Land Council
Date appointed / re-appointed:	6 February 2012
First appointed in:	2005
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	4

Ms Granites, who lives at Yuendumu, is a highly respected senior Walpiri woman, well known for her knowledge in women's law and culture. Ms Granites is also a health worker and artist in her community.



GOVERNANCE

Mr Pepy Simpson



Nominated by:	Central Land Council
Date appointed / re-appointed:	31 July 2012
First appointed in:	1999
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	5

Mr Simpson is a Warramungu man from Tennant Creek. He is currently a member of the Manungurra Aboriginal Corporation Board, the Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation Board and the Central Land Council. Mr Simpson has been a member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority since 1999 and has taken an active role on the Authority Board.

Ms Jenny Inmulugulu



Nominated by:	Northern Land Council
Date appointed / re-appointed:	31 July 2012
First appointed in:	2006
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	3

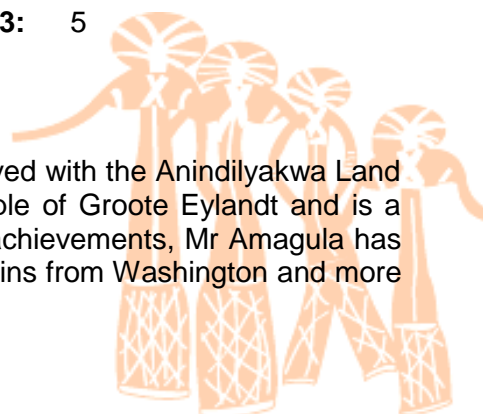
Ms Inmulugulu is from Goulburn Island. She is a senior woman for her clan and a strong advocate for her community and actively involved in youth engagement initiatives at Goulburn Island.

Mr Thomas Amagula



Nominated by:	Anindilyakwa Land Council
Date appointed / re-appointed:	31 July 2012
First appointed in:	2009
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	5

Mr Amagula is from Groote Eylandt and has been employed with the Anindilyakwa Land Council for many years. He is an advocate for the people of Groote Eylandt and is a respected member of the community. Among his many achievements, Mr Amagula has successfully negotiated the repatriation of ancestral remains from Washington and more recently from the Czech Republic.



GOVERNANCE

Ms Nancy McDinny



Nominated by:	Northern Land Council
Date appointed / re-appointed:	31 July 2012
First appointed in:	2009
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	4

Ms McDinny is a Garrwa/Yanyuwa traditional owner who now lives at Sandridge Outstation near Borroloola. She is an advocate for women's roles and issues within the Borroloola region. She plays a key role in ceremonial dance and language activity in the region, and since 2002 she has become a nationally recognized artist.

Mr John Rawnsley



Nominated by:	Government
Date appointed / re-appointed:	31 July 2012
First appointed in:	2012
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	4

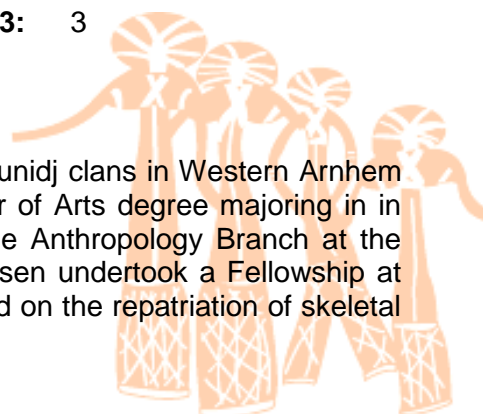
Mr Rawnsley is a descendant of the Larrakia and Anmatjerre people and has lived in many NT locations. Mr Rawnsley holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice. His many achievements include serving as an alderman on the Alice Springs Town Council (2008-12) and as Deputy Mayor of Alice Springs (2009).

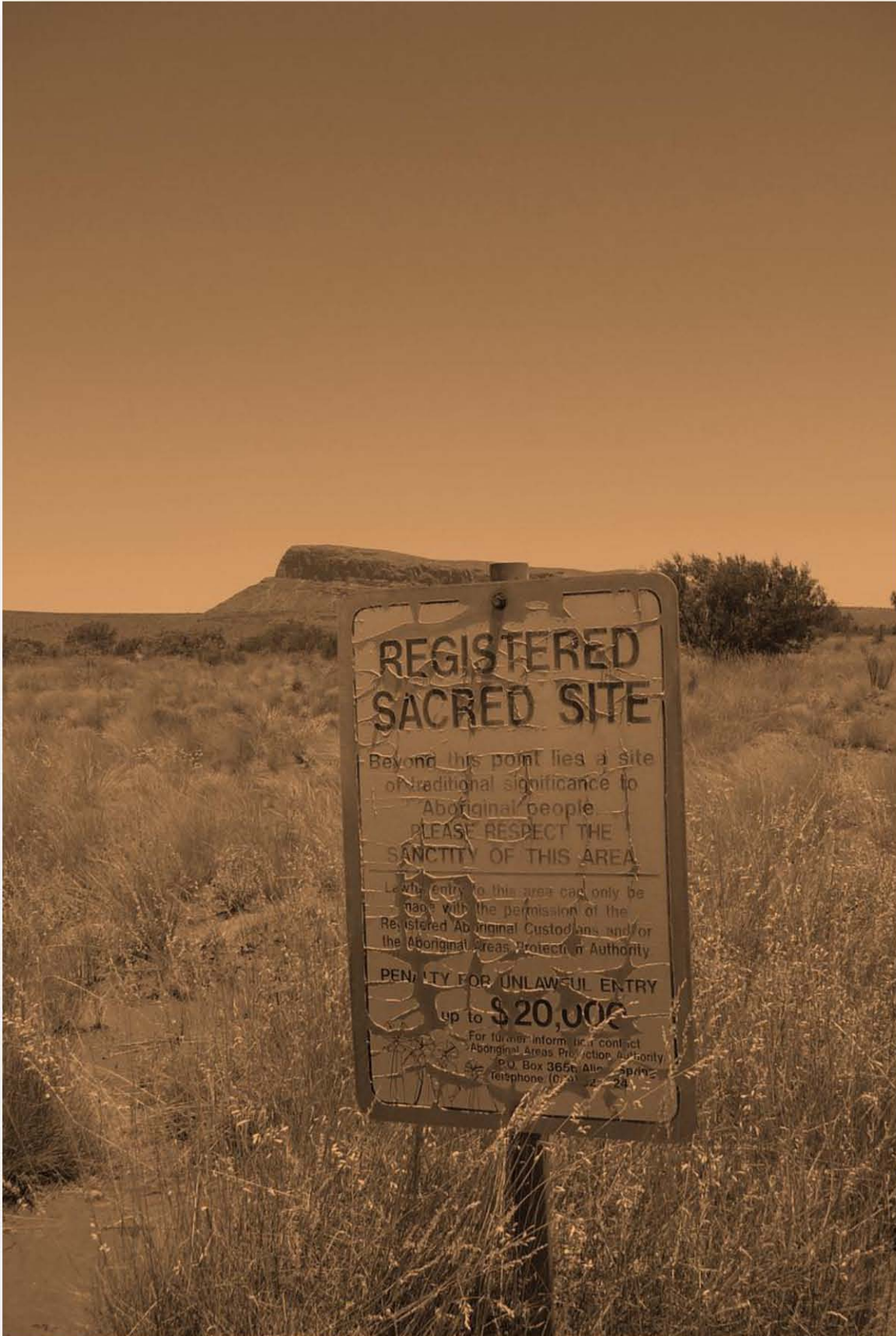
Ms Carol Christophersen



Nominated by:	Government
Date appointed / re-appointed:	6 February 2012
First appointed in:	2009
Meetings attended in 2012-13:	3

Ms Christophersen is a descendant of the Murran and Bunidj clans in Western Arnhem Land and Kakadu National Park. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Anthropology and is currently the Acting Manager of the Anthropology Branch at the Northern Land Council. During 2012/13 Ms Christophersen undertook a Fellowship at the British Natural History Museum in London and worked on the repatriation of skeletal remains to Australia.





AUTHORITY OPERATIONS

PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE

The Authority's governance framework aims to ensure that the Authority carries out its functions in an effective and efficient manner, in accordance 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; and
- planning and development of a strategic plan.

HOW THE AUTHORITY IS GOVERNED

The primary policy and decision-making body is the Authority established at Section 5 of the Sacred Sites Act. Section 15 of the Act 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 staff of the Authority are employed directly by the Authority, under Section 17 of the Sacred Sites Act.

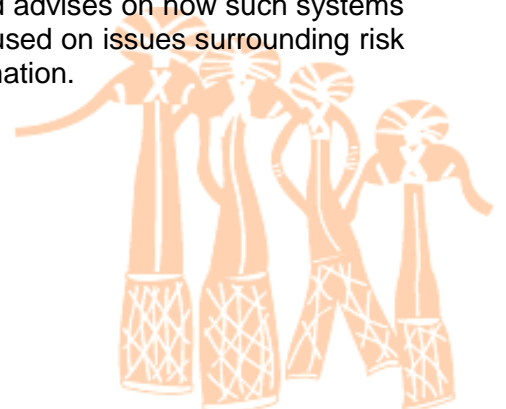
Section 19 provides for the Authority to delegate certain powers or functions. The CEO holds various such delegations and is responsible for the overall operation of the Authority. The CEO also exercises responsibilities under the *Financial Management Act* and complies with the principles of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, though the Authority is not an 'Agency' under this Act. The Authority also held a delegation under the *Heritage Conservation Act* in relation to traditional Aboriginal and Macassan burial sites and human remains and the provision of advice and assistance on such matters. This delegation ceased with the commencement of the new *Heritage Act* on 1 October 2012 and human remains are now the responsibility of the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment.

HOW THE AUTHORITY IS MANAGED

The CEO maintains overall responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the Authority. To ensure the smooth functioning of the offices, the CEO chairs weekly Executive Management Group meetings with senior managers of the Authority's operational groups. Each operational group also meets regularly to ensure an effective flow of information.

The Authority's operational groups comprise: Research and Technical Section, Corporate Services, Policy and Planning, and Secretariat (Figure 9).

The Authority's Internal Audit Committee functions as an advisory body to the CEO, assisting the CEO in monitoring internal control systems and advises on how such systems may be improved. During 2012-13 the Audit Committee focused on issues surrounding risk management, delegations and management of critical information.



GOVERNANCE

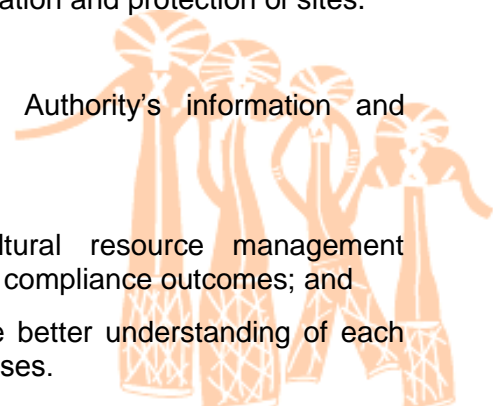
Figure 9: Operating structure



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES DEVELOPMENT

The Authority's core business is the protection of sacred sites across the Northern Territory under the Sacred Sites Act. There has been a high level of demand for Authority Certificates and requests for information from the Authority's records over the past five years. To meet the challenges of this demand for services the Authority has been refining its processes. Achievements against the six key priorities of the Authority's strategic plan during 2012-13 have included:

- Protection of sacred sites in the NT:
 - Registration of sacred sites in areas of changed or increased activity;
 - Workshops with Indigenous Ranger groups; and
 - Improved communication and advice to stakeholders.
- Quality research:
 - Improved business systems support for the identification and protection of sites.
- Information management:
 - The development continued on improving the Authority's information and communications technology and systems.
- Our message:
 - Significant collaboration with natural and cultural resource management organizations to improve sacred site protection and compliance outcomes; and
 - Workshops with Government agencies to promote better understanding of each other's business and develop more effective processes.



GOVERNANCE

- Our people:
 - Continued a process of role and accountability clarification for all staff; and
 - Provided training and development for all staff, including cross-cultural awareness training and implemented improved policies for safety in the field.
- Financial resources:
 - Continued to refine the Authority's principles and mechanisms for recovery of allowable costs under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Site Regulations*.

KEY EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Authority continued to work on improving its relationships with key Government agencies. The Authority held regular meetings with senior staff at Government Departments including the Departments of Lands, Planning and the Environment, Mines and Energy, Treasury and Finance, Chief Minister, Primary Industry and Fisheries, Housing and the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

The Authority also coordinated two workshops with the former Department of Lands and Planning. The aim of the workshops was to establish clear communication channels between the two organisations and address key issues impacting on planning and service delivery. The Authority is planning to conduct similar workshops for other Government stakeholders in 2013-14.

The completion and delivery of the Papunya Boards Report to the Minister for Arts and Museums marked a significant achievement for the Authority. The report investigated the secret and ceremonial nature of the Papunya Boards collection held by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. The research in the report greatly enhanced the information held by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and will assist in the future management of the collection.

The Authority continued working on a range of outreach projects across the Northern Territory to help custodians and Indigenous organisations protect their sacred sites. The Authority has been involved in the installation of marine buoys at sacred sites in Northern Territory waters in collaboration with Northern Territory Fisheries and several Indigenous organisations since 2009. Over this period the Authority has successfully prosecuted fishermen in the Blyth River. The successful prosecutions have in part been due to the clear marking of sites and this has resulted in substantial interest from custodians in other areas for similar demarcation to be installed elsewhere. In 2012-13 five buoys were installed by the Authority in collaboration with Gumurr Marthakal, Wanga Djakamirr and Crocodile Island Rangers to mark a site complex at the mouth of the Glyde River. In 2013-2014 the Authority is planning to focus on buoyage near Bremer Island at Gove.

The Authority facilitated an agreement between the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens and the Mparntwe Custodians for the maintenance and rehabilitation of sacred sites in Alice Springs including grass cutting, weed control, fire prevention, rubbish removal and maintaining signage and fencing. The agreement has enabled the Botanic Gardens and the Custodians to establish a sacred site management program and seek funding and training partnerships to develop an Indigenous workforce for the maintenance of sacred sites in Alice Springs.

The Authority also worked with the Jawoyn Association on its long term rock art research project. Upon Jawoyn's request the Authority became involved in the project to help ensure that sacred sites covered by the project were appropriately recorded, registered and protected under the Sacred Sites Act. In recognition of the Authority's expertise on sacred sites, the Authority was approached by Kakadu National Park to provide specialist advice on sacred sites that would contribute to the Park's development of a Jim Jim / Twin Falls Precinct Plan. The project will involve an Authority researcher in 2013-14 carrying out fieldwork in the area and sharing cultural information with Kakadu National Park.

GOVERNANCE

The Authority continues to be represented on the Heritage Advisory Council in accordance with the *Heritage Act*. This ensures that heritage and sacred site protection continues to operate in a complementary fashion across the Northern Territory.

The Authority, as part of its review under the moratorium on exploration and mining in Northern Territory waters, participated in a workshop organised by the CSIRO on the Top End Marine Multiple Use Management Stakeholder Workshop. This workshop brought together representatives of key groups interested in and / or affected by issues surrounding the management of coastal and marine resources in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

The Authority is active in promoting its work and expertise in sacred site protection to different industry groups. As part of its work in engaging the mining industry, the Authority held information stands at the NT Resources Week and accepted a speaking opportunity at the NT Mining Conference. Both of these events were held in Darwin.

The Authority participated in discussions with other stakeholders at the second Northern Australian Indigenous Experts Forum on Sustainable Economic Development in Jabiru in May 2013.

In September 2012 staff from the Authority presented papers at the Australian Anthropological Society annual conference in Brisbane.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Following the completion of an external review of the Authority's Information Technology and Communications business systems in 2010, the Authority commenced the process of implementing the recommendations including the replacement of its Enterprise Data Management System (EDMS).

In late 2012, the Authority engaged through public tender an independent IT solution company to replace its EDMS. The work is progressing well and it is anticipated that the development of the replacement will take three years to complete.

This improved system will have significantly improved functionality and provide a strong base for ongoing improvement in the Authority's services to custodians, applicants and the public.

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 (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Land Rights Act)* and the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*. Both of these 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:

...the protection of, and the prevention of the desecration of, sacred sites in the Northern Territory...

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 site custodians, landowners and developers. Often custodians, landowners and developers have divergent interests in land. However there is usually substantial overlap between these interests. In most cases, the Authority's challenge is to accommodate new uses of land with the need to protect sacred sites, thus preserving and enhancing Aboriginal tradition in a changing social, economic and cultural environment.

Landowners and developers are afforded 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 of the Sacred Sites Act 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.
- Further 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 NT HERITAGE LEGISLATION

Section 10(j) of the Sacred Sites Act specifies that one of the functions of the Authority is "to perform such other functions as are imposed on it by or under this or any other Act...". Up until 1 October 2012 this included the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* under which the following duties were placed on the Authority:

- The Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage delegated in February 2010 his powers and functions under Section 29 of the *Heritage Conservation Act* in relation to human remains and burial artefacts to the CEO of the Authority. As a consequence of these delegations the Authority were responsible for responding to requests from the Coroner's office for advice on whether skeletal remains found in the Northern Territory were likely to be part of a traditional Aboriginal burial; and
- under Section 29(2) of the *Heritage Conservation Act* to consult with Custodians on issues relating to objects sacred according to Aboriginal tradition for the purposes of providing advice to the Minister.

The new *Heritage Act* commenced on 1 October 2012. Under this Act, the previous delegation has ceased and issues in relation to human remains and sacred objects within the context of a heritage site now falls under the Heritage Unit under the Department of

GOVERNANCE

Lands, Planning and the Environment. The Authority retains, under Section 128 (2)(b) of the *Heritage Act* a representative on the Heritage Advisory Council.



OVERVIEW

The principles of human resource management contained in the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* inform the human resource management policy and procedures of the Authority although the Authority is not an ‘agency’ under the Act. The Authority complies with provisions of anti-discrimination legislation, in particular, the Northern Territory’s *Anti-Discrimination Act*. The Authority provides a safe and healthy working environment and safe plant and equipment by maintaining a work, health and safety program in which all employees are actively encouraged to participate to ensure compliance with the *Northern Territory Work Health Act*.

STAFFING

As at 30 June 2012 there were 32 positions in the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The Authority employs staff under the relevant provisions of the Sacred Sites Act. As a consequence, the Authority is not a prescribed agency within the meaning of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993*. The Commissioner for Public Employment approved terms and conditions for staff employed by the Authority in line with the provisions of the Sacred Sites Act on 5 May 2004.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POLICY OBJECTIVES

The Authority aims to ensure that all staff regardless of gender, race, disability, religion, political belief or marital status are able to fully and equally:

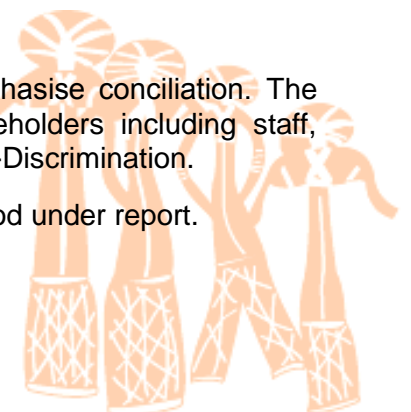
- Develop their abilities and potential;
- Contribute to the success of the Authority’s objectives; and
- Share in the benefits of employment according to their contribution.

To achieve these objectives the Authority provides Equal Employment Opportunity Awareness Sessions for management and the dissemination of information relating to equality of opportunity and prevention of discrimination to all staff. In addition, the Authority provides a process for resolving any staff grievances as well as specific mechanisms for dealing with incidents of workplace harassment. These last two areas are outlined under their respective headings below.

INTERNAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The Authority’s resolution procedures for internal grievances emphasise conciliation. The procedures were adopted after extensive consultation with stakeholders including staff, Unions, Commissioner for Public Employment and the Office of Anti-Discrimination.

There were no grievances arising from Authority staff within the period under report.



WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

The objective of this policy is to provide guidance for employees on the prevention and elimination of any form of harassment of employees within the Authority. It also provides procedures for the resolution of both formal and informal complaints. Staff members with managerial responsibilities are made aware of the Authority's obligations under the *Anti-Discrimination Act* and the principles of equity and merit that underpin the Authority's Equal Employment Opportunity objectives.

There were no allegations of workplace harassment made within the period of the report.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Authority's Employee Assistance Program is an external program providing professional and confidential counseling for all employees and their immediate family members.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Authority continues to be committed to providing a safe workplace for all its employees and consultants. The Authority encourages the participation of every staff member in achieving a healthy and safe working environment.

This commitment is demonstrated by its high emphasis on fieldwork safety and training at both the Darwin and Alice Springs offices. Members of staff are encouraged to raise any issues with the nominated Work, Health and Safety officer and are assured of a prompt response.

Work, Health and Safety is a standing item on the agenda for the staff meetings usually conducted once every fortnight.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

There were no workers compensation claims made within the period of the report.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Training and development focuses on providing the skills and competencies necessary for staff to perform the tasks involved in achieving the desired outcomes of the Authority. The Authority recognises that training is a continuous process integrated with, and running parallel to work.

Courses included:

- Professional development allowance;
- Continued professional development support through study leave;
- Senior Management Workshop;
- Tower Records Information Management (TRIM) training;
- Coaching skills;
- Information Act training;
- Information Audit training;
- Defensive four wheel driving;



HUMAN RESOURCES—MANAGING OUR PEOPLE

- First aid;
- Cultural awareness; and
- MapInfo and project management.

The Authority spent \$31 800 on training programs in 2012-13.

CROSS CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

100 *per cent* of the Authority's staff have attended recent cross cultural awareness training.

STUDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Authority values its staff as its greatest resource. The Authority is committed to providing support for formal education as a learning opportunity enabling staff to progress in their careers and increase the Authority's overall skill base.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The purpose of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority's Staff Development Framework is to provide a process for staff throughout the organisation to:

- Understand their role and contribution within the organisation;
- Realise their potential within the context of their work roles;
- Ensure they have the appropriate skills to undertake their existing and future work requirements;
- Consider their long-term work needs within the Authority; and
- Give and receive feedback about themselves and their managers.

SUPPORTING AND VALUING OUR PEOPLE

- Continued the support of staff and family who wished to access the Employee Assistance Program through two local service providers; and
- Accommodated those staff who wished to access the "Flexible working arrangements" whilst considering the operational requirements of the Authority.



FINANCIAL REPORT

PRESCRIBED FORMAT OF AGENCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Consistent with the requirements of Treasurer's Directions Section R2.1 this report provides Agencies with the prescribed format for Agency financial statements for 2012-13 and future financial years (unless amended).

Although the prescribed format has been developed to cover a wide range of Agency circumstances and situations, in some situations Agencies may need to include additional financial information and/or disclosures. Treasurer's Directions Section R2.1 and this report provide this flexibility in certain circumstances. In this regard, Agencies should refer to italicised comments within the prescribed format.



FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OVERVIEW

For the Year Ended 30 June 2012

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority is a statutory authority established under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* to administer sacred site protection in the Northern Territory. The Administrator of the Northern Territory appoints Board members of the Authority. The Authority is constituted under Section 5, and staff are employed under Section 17 of the Act. This provides for the Authority to administer the Act at arm's length from the day-to-day operations of the Northern Territory Government.

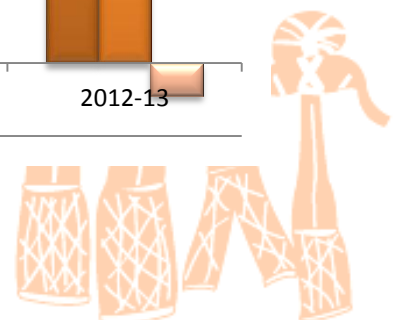
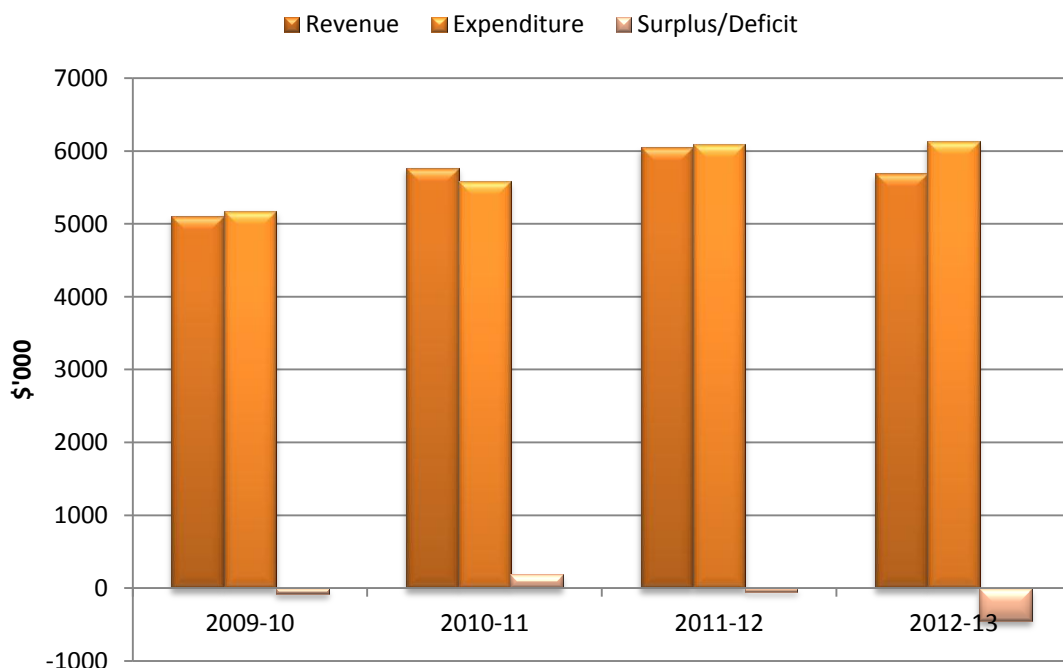
The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority received the majority of their funding through Output Appropriation \$2 798 000 with the remaining through Agency Revenue \$2 100 000.

The Authority recorded a deficit of \$446 000 for the 2012-13 financial year. The deficit outcome can be attributed to the requirement of unforeseen expenses i.e.: The Bootu Creek prosecution and the depreciation of a major asset. The Authority did however achieve an increase in Revenue for the sales of goods and services of over \$120 000.

The Authority is required to disclose the dollar amount expended on Insurance Policies. For the financial year 2012-13 the amount is as follows:

- General Property Insurance \$4,235.00
- Motor Vehicle Insurance \$10,579.84
- Workers Compensation Insurance \$34,727.00

Figure 10: Operating results



FINANCIAL REPORT

ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY FINANCIAL REPORT

CERTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority have been prepared from proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act* and *Treasurers 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 2013 and the financial position on that date.

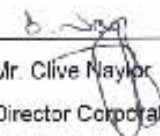
At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Dr. Benedict Scambary

Chief Executive Officer

30/06/13



Mr. Clive Naylor

Director Corporate Services

30/06/13

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2012

	Note	2013	2012
		\$000	\$000
INCOME			
Taxation revenue			
Grants and subsidies revenue			
Current			
Capital			
Appropriation		2798	3616
Output		2798	3616
Commonwealth			
Sales of goods and services ^(b)		2100	1736
Interest revenue			
Goods and services received free of charge	4	722	697
Gain on disposal of assets ^(a)	5		
Fees from Regulatory Services			
Other income ^(b)		5	3
TOTAL INCOME	3	5625	6052
EXPENSES			
Employee expenses		3299	3293
Administrative expenses			
Purchases of goods and services	6	1724	1923
Repairs and maintenance		1	1
Property Management		47	61
Depreciation and amortisation	10, 11	279	20
Other administrative expenses ¹		722	795
Grants and subsidies expenses			
Current			
Capital			
Community service obligations			
Interest expenses	18		
TOTAL EXPENSES	3	6072	6093
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(446)	(42)
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		(446)	(42)

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 2013

	Note	2013	2012
		\$000	\$000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and deposits	7	574	397
Receivables	8	193	418
Prepayments		29	10
Total Current Assets		795	825
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	10	1052	18
Total Non-Current Assets		1052	18
TOTAL ASSETS		1847	842
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	12	109	115
Accounts Payable		45	48
Other Payable and Accruals		64	66
Provisions	14	386	364
Provision for Employee Benefits		279	304
Other Provisions		107	60
Other liabilities	15	95	
Total Current Liabilities		589	479
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	14	111	84
Provision for Employee Benefits		111	84
Total Non-Current Liabilities		111	84
TOTAL LIABILITIES		701	563
NET ASSETS		1147	280
EQUITY			
Capital		1621	307
Opening Balance		307	307
Equity Injections(+)/Withdrawals(-)		1313	
Accumulated funds		(474)	(28)
Opening Balance		(28)	(28)
Current Year Surplus(+)/Deficit(-)		(446)	
TOTAL EQUITY		1147	280

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 2013

	Note	Equity at 1 July \$000	Comprehensive result \$000	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners \$000	Equity at 30 June \$000
2012-13					
Accumulated Funds		(28)	(446)		(474)
		(28)	(446)		(474)
Reserves ^(c)	16				
Capital – Transactions with Owners					
Equity injections		307			307
Equity transfers in				1313	1313
		307		1313	1621
Total Equity at End of Financial Year		280	(446)	1313	1147
2011-12					
Accumulated Funds		14	(42)		(28)
		14	(42)		(28)
Reserves ^(c)	16				
Capital – Transactions with Owners					
Equity injections		269			269
Capital appropriation				38	38
Total Equity at End of Financial Year		283	(42)	38	280

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 2013

	Note	2013	2012
		\$000	\$000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Operating Receipts			
Appropriation			
Output		2798	3616
Receipts from sales of goods and services		2561	1692
Total Operating Receipts		5359	5308
Operating Payments			
Payments to employees		3252	3105
Payments for goods and services		1929	2125
Total Operating Payments		5182	5230
Net Cash From/(Used in) Operating Activities	17	177	78
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Investing Receipts			
Investing Payments			
Purchases of assets			19
Total Investing Payments			19
Net Cash From/(Used in) Investing Activities			19
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Financing Receipts			
Capital appropriation			38
Total Financing Receipts			38
Net Cash From/(Used in) Financing Activities			38
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		177	135
Cash at beginning of financial year		397	262
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	7	574	397

The Cash Flow Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

INDEX OF NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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1. Objectives and Funding
2. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies
3. Comprehensive Operating Statement by Output Group
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17. Schedule of Territory Items



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority ('the Authority') is established by the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act (the 'Act') by the following:

'An Act to effect a practical balance between the recognised need to preserve and enhance Aboriginal cultural tradition in relation to certain land in the Territory and the aspirations of the Aboriginal and all other peoples of the Territory for their economic, cultural and social advancement, by establishing a procedure for the protection and registration of sacred sites, providing for entry onto sacred sites and the conditions to which such entry is subject, establishing a procedure for the avoidance of sacred sites in the development and use of land and establishing an Authority for the purposes of the Act and a procedure for the review of decisions of the Authority by the Minister, and for related purposes.

The Authority is predominantly funded by, and is dependent on the receipt of Parliamentary appropriations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the Authority controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver output. Note 3 provides summary financial information in the form of an Operating Statement by Output Group.

2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act* and related Treasurer's Directions. The *Financial Management Act* requires the Aboriginal Areas Protection 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 is to 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.

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 Australian Accounting Standards. The effects of all relevant new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

(AASB) that are effective for the current annual reporting period have been evaluated. The Standards and Interpretations and their impacts are:

AASB 2011-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income [AASB 1, 5, 7, 101, 112, 120, 121, 132, 133, 134, 1039 & 1049]

The amendments, as reflected on the comprehensive operating statement, require entities to group items presented in other comprehensive income on the basis of whether they are potentially re-classifiable to profit or loss subsequently.

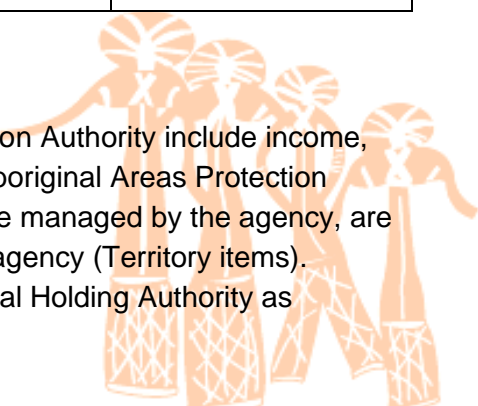
b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations Issued but not yet Effective

At the date of authorisation of the financial statements, the Standards and Interpretations listed below were in issue but not yet effective.

Standard/Interpretation	Summary	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments (Dec 2010)</i> , AASB 2010-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (Dec 2010)</i> [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 120, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 137, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Interpretations 2, 5, 10, 12, 19 & 127], AASB 2012-6 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Mandatory Effective Date of AASB 9 and Transition Disclosures</i> [AASB 9, 2009-11, 2010-7, 2011-7 & 2011-8]	AASB 9 incorporates revised requirements for the classification and measurement of financial instruments resulting from the IASB's project to replace IAS 39 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i> (AASB 139 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i>).	1 Jan 2015	Minimal

c) Agency and Territory Items

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



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

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 agency's financial statements. However, as the agency is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of Government, these items have been separately disclosed in Note 24 – Schedule of Territory Items.

d) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2011-12 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.

f) Changes in Accounting Policies

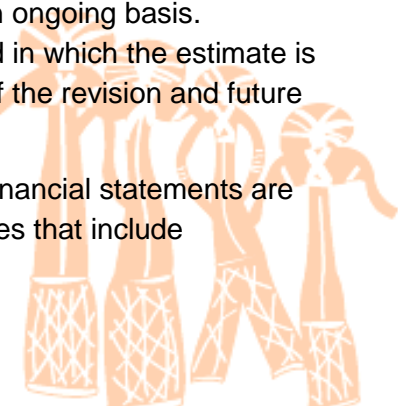
There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2012-13 as a result of management decisions.

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. Notes that include significant judgments and estimates are:



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

- Employee Benefits – Note 2(v) and Note 10: Non-current liabilities in respect of employee benefits are measured as the present value of estimated future cash outflows based on the appropriate Government bond rate, estimates of future salary and wage levels and employee periods of service.
- Contingent Liabilities – Note 14: The present value of material quantifiable contingent liabilities are calculated using a discount rate based on the published 10-year Government bond rate.
- Allowance for Impairment Losses – Note 2(o), 7: Receivables and 13: Financial Instruments.
- Depreciation and Amortisation – Note 2(k), Note 8: Property, Plant and Equipment.

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) Income Recognition

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

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.

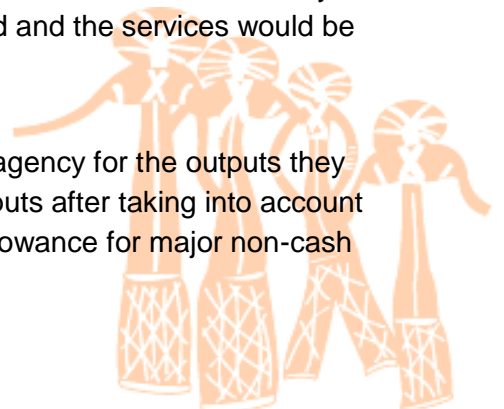
Grants and Other Contributions

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the agency obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon receipt.

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

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.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

Commonwealth appropriation follows from the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, resulting in Special Purpose Payments (SPPs) and National Partnership (NP) payments being made by the Commonwealth Treasury to state treasuries, in a manner similar to arrangements for GST payments. These payments are received by the Department of Treasury and Finance on behalf of the Central Holding Authority and then on-passed to the relevant agencies as Commonwealth appropriation.

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; and
- 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; and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

Interest Revenue

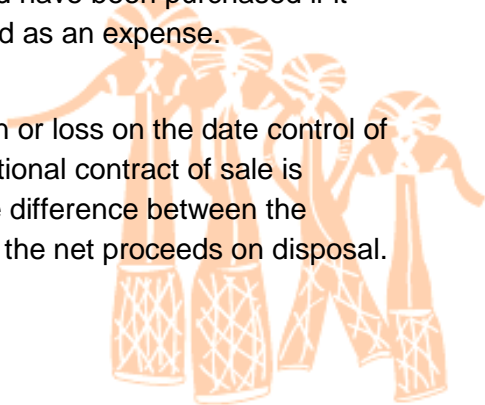
Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

Goods and Services Received Free of Charge

Goods and services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when a fair value can be reliably determined and the resource would have been purchased if it had not been donated. Use of the resource is recognised as an expense.

Disposal of Assets

A gain or loss on disposal of assets is included as a gain or loss on the date control of the asset passes to the buyer, usually when an unconditional contract of sale is signed. The gain or loss on disposal is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of disposal and the net proceeds on disposal. Refer also to Note 5.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

Contributions of Assets

Contributions of assets and contributions to assist in the acquisition of assets, being non-reciprocal transfers, are recognised, unless otherwise determined by Government, as gains when the agency obtains control of the asset or contribution. Contributions are recognised at the fair value received or receivable.

j) Repairs and Maintenance Expense

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

k) Depreciation and Amortisation Expense

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings but excluding land, have limited useful lives and are depreciated or amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

Amortisation applies in relation to intangible non-current assets with limited useful lives and is calculated and accounted for in a similar manner to depreciation.

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

	2013	2012
Building fit out	10 years	10 years
Plant and Equipment	2 - 4 years	2 - 4 years
Computer Equipment	5 years	5 years

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

l) Interest Expense

Interest expenses include interest and finance lease charges. Interest expenses are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

m) Cash and Deposits

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash.

n) Inventories

Inventories include assets held either for sale (general inventories) or for distribution at no or nominal consideration in the ordinary course of business operations.

General inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net releasable value, while those held for distribution are carried at the lower of cost and current replacement cost. Cost of inventories includes all costs associated with bringing the inventories to their present location and condition. When inventories are acquired at no or nominal consideration, the cost will be the current replacement cost at date of acquisition.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

The cost of inventories are assigned using a mixture of first-in, first out or weighted average cost formula or using specific identification of their individual costs.

Inventory held for distribution is regularly assessed for obsolescence and loss.

o) Receivables

Receivables include accounts receivable and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any allowance for impairment losses.

The allowance for impairment losses represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analyses of the age of the receivables that are past due as at the reporting date are disclosed in an aging schedule under credit risk in Note 13 Financial Instruments. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 30 days and other receivables within 60 days.

p) Property, Plant and Equipment

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

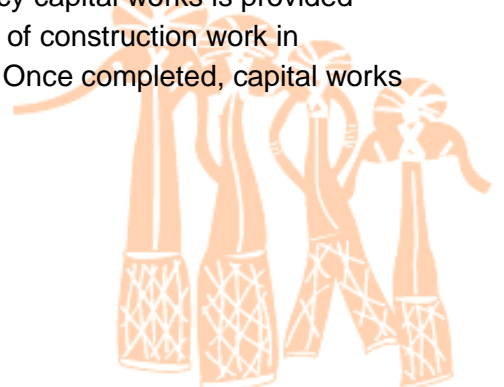
Costs incurred on property, plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the agency in future years. Where these costs represent separate components of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

Construction (Work in Progress)

As part of the financial management framework, the Department of Infrastructure is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of Government basis. Therefore appropriation for all agency capital works is provided directly to the Department of Infrastructure and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that Department. Once completed, capital works assets are transferred to the agency.

q) Biological Assets

Not applicable to the agency.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

r) Revaluations and Impairment

Revaluation of Assets

Subsequent to initial recognition, assets belonging to the following classes of non-current assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of these assets does not differ materially from their fair value at reporting date:

- land;
- buildings;
- infrastructure assets;
- heritage and cultural assets;
- biological assets; and
- intangibles.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arms-length transaction.

Plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation, which is deemed to equate to fair value.

The unique nature of some of the heritage and cultural assets may preclude reliable measurement. Such assets have not been recognised in the financial statements.

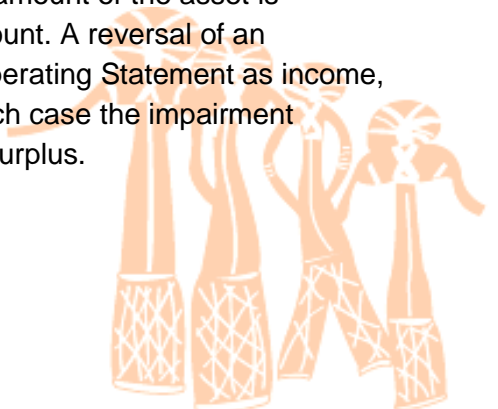
Impairment of Assets

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. 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 depreciated 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.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

Assets Held for Sale

Assets held for sale consist of those assets that management has determined are available for immediate sale in their present condition, and their sale is highly probably within the next twelve months.

These assets are measured at the lower of the asset's carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. These assets are not depreciated. Non-current assets held for sale have been recognised on the face of the financial statements as current assets.

s) Leased Assets

Leases under which the agency assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset are classified as finance leases. Other leases are classified as operating leases.

Finance Leases

Finance leases are capitalised. A lease asset and lease liability equal to the lower of the fair value of the leased property and present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease, are recognised.

Lease payments are allocated between the principal component of the lease liability and the interest expense.

Operating Leases

Operating lease payments made at regular intervals throughout the term are expensed when the payments are due, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property. Lease incentives under an operating lease of a building or office space is recognised as an integral part of the consideration for the use of the leased asset. Lease incentives are to be recognised as a deduction of the lease expenses over the term of the lease.

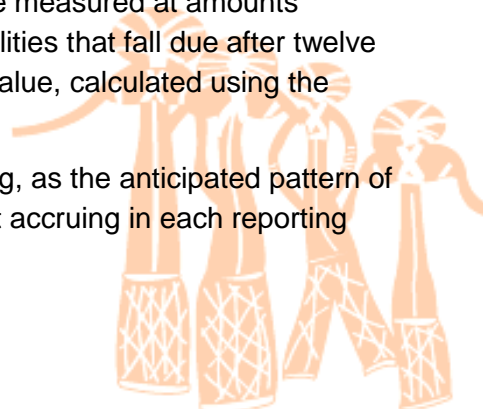
t) Payables

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.

u) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that fall due within twelve months of reporting date are classified as current liabilities and are measured at amounts expected to be paid. Non-current employee benefit liabilities that fall due after twelve months of the reporting date are measured at present value, calculated using the Government long-term bond rate.

No provision is made for sick leave, which is non-vesting, as the anticipated pattern of future sick leave to be taken is less than the entitlement accruing in each reporting period.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

Employee benefit expenses are recognised on a net basis in respect of the following categories:

- wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits, recreation leave, sick leave and other leave entitlements; and
- other types of employee benefits.

As part of the financial management framework, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of Government agencies, including The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in agency financial statements.

v) Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- AustralianSuper;
- Northern Territory Government and Public Authorities Superannuation Scheme (NTGPASS) for employees who commenced prior to 9 August 1999;
- Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS); or
- non-government employee-nominated schemes for those employees commencing on or after 10 August 1999.

The agency makes superannuation contributions on behalf of its employees to the Central Holding Authority or non-government employee-nominated schemes. Superannuation liabilities related to government superannuation schemes are held by the Central Holding Authority and as such are not recognised in agency financial statements.

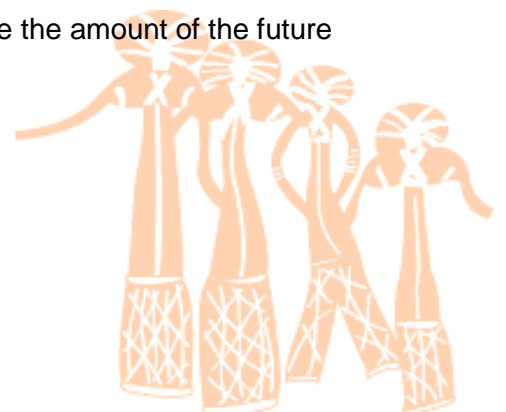
w) Contributions by and Distributions to Government

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* 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.

The Statement of Changes in Equity provides additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, Government.

x) Commitments.

Commitments are those contracted as at 30 June where the amount of the future commitment can be reliably measured.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

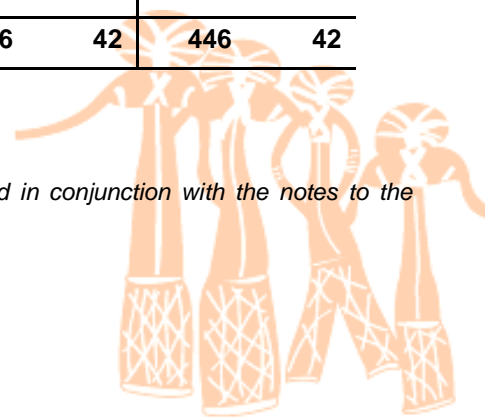
For the year ended 30 June 2013

3. COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT BY OUTPUT GROUP

	Note	Protection of Sacred Sites		Total	
		2013	2012	2013	2012
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
INCOME					
Appropriation					
Output		2798	3616	2798	3616
Sales of goods and services ^(b)		2100	1736	2100	1736
Goods and services received free of charge	4	722	697	722	697
Other income ^(b)		5	3	5	3
TOTAL INCOME		5625	6052	5625	6052
EXPENSES					
Employee expenses		3299	3293	3299	3293
Administrative expenses					
Purchases of goods and services	6	1771	1984	1771	1984
Repairs and maintenance		1	1	1	1
Depreciation and amortisation	10, 11	279	20	279	279
Other administrative expenses ¹		722	795	722	722
Grants and subsidies expenses					
Current					
Capital					
Community service obligations					
Interest expenses	18				
TOTAL EXPENSES		6072	6093	6072	6093
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		446	42	446	42
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		446	42	446	42

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.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$000	\$000
4. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE		
Corporate and information services	722	697
	722	697

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⁾	641	786
Advertising ⁽²⁾	0	0
Marketing and promotion ⁽³⁾	4	17
Document production	5	7
Legal expenses ⁽⁴⁾	156	21
Recruitment ⁽⁵⁾	2	9
Training and study	32	86
Official duty fares	72	152
Travelling allowance	30	39
	943	1119

⁽¹⁾ Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

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

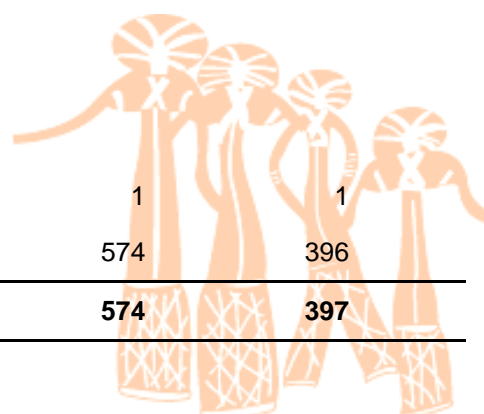
⁽³⁾ Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category.

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

⁽⁵⁾ Includes recruitment-related advertising costs.

6. CASH AND DEPOSITS

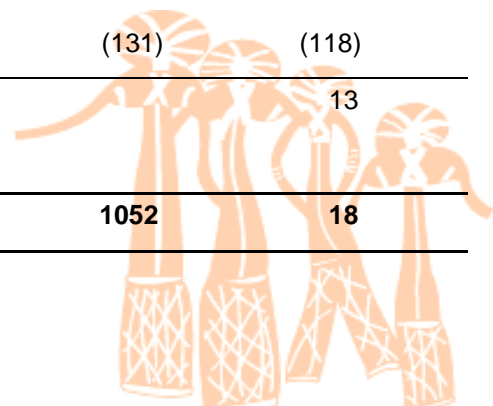
Cash on hand	1	1
Cash at Bank	574	396
Total Cash and Deposits	574	397



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$000	\$000
7. RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Accounts receivable	185	418
Less: Allowance for impairment losses	(5)	(5)
	12	5
GST receivables		
Total Receivables	193	418
8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Buildings		
At fair value	1313	
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(263)	
	1051	
Plant and Equipment		
At fair value	66	66
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(65)	(61)
	1	5
Computer Software		
At Cost	40	40
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(40)	(40)
Computer Hardware		
At Cost	131	131
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(131)	(118)
	13	13
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	1052	18



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

2013 Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2012-13 is set out below:

	Buildings	Construction (Work in Progress)	Plant and Equipment	Computer Hardware	Computer Software	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2012			5	13		18
Depreciation	(263)		(4)	(13)		(279)
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	1313					1313
Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2013	1051		1			1052

2012 Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2011-12 is set out below:

	Buildings	Construction (Work in Progress)	Plant and Equipment	Computer Hardware	Computer Software	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2011		98	31	3	23	155
Additions			(19)			(19)
Depreciation			(7)	(3)	(10)	(20)
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers		(98)				(98)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2012			5		13	18



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$000	\$000
9. PAYABLES		
Accounts payable	45	48
Accrued expenses	64	66
Total Payables	109	115
10. PROVISIONS		
Current		
<i>Employee benefits</i>		
Recreation leave	211	236
Leave loading	42	44
Other employee benefits	26	23
Other provisions	107	60
	386	364
Non-Current		
<i>Employee benefits</i>	111	84
	111	84
Total Provisions	497	448

The Agency employed 32 employees as at 30 June 2013 (34 employees as at 30 June 2012).

11. OTHER LIABILITIES		
Current		
Other liabilities	95	
	95	
Total Other Liabilities	95	



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

12. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Reconciliation of Cash

The total of agency 'Cash and deposits' of \$574 000 recorded in the Balance Sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'Cash' in the Cash Flow Statement.

Reconciliation of Net Surplus/(Deficit) to Net Cash from Operating Activities

Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(446)	(42)
<i>Non-cash items:</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation	279	20
Asset write-offs/write-downs		98
Decrease/(Increase) in receivables	226	(179)
Decrease/(Increase) in prepayments	(19)	(2)
(Decrease)/Increase in payables	(5)	15
(Decrease)/Increase in provision for employee benefits	2	141
(Decrease)/Increase in other provisions	46	26
(Decrease)/Increase in other deferred income	95	
Net Cash from Operating Activities	177	78

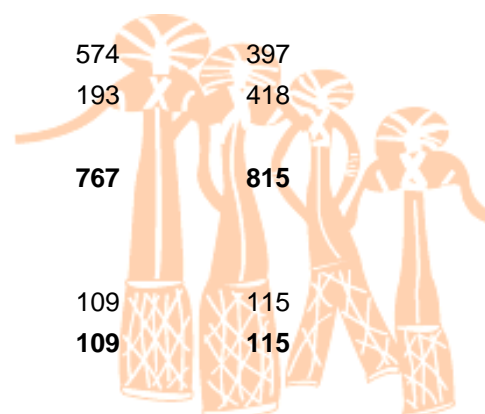
13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial instruments held by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and finance leases. The *Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority* has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

a) Categorisation of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority's financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below.

	2013	2012
	\$000	\$000
Financial Assets		
Cash and deposits	574	397
receivables	193	418
Available-for-sale financial assets		
Total Financial Assets	767	815
Financial Liabilities		
Payables	109	115
Total Financial Liabilities	109	115



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

b) Credit Risk

The agency has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the agency has adopted a policy of only dealing with credit worthy organisations and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the agency's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

Receivables

Receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that exposure to bad debts is not significant. A reconciliation and aging analysis of receivables is presented below.

Internal Receivables^(a)	Aging of Receivables	Aging of Impaired Receivables	Net Receivables
	\$000	\$000	\$000
2012-13			
Not overdue	54		54
Overdue for less than 30 days	62		62
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	8		8
Overdue for more than 60 days	62		62
GST Receivables	12		12
Total	197		197

Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses^(b)

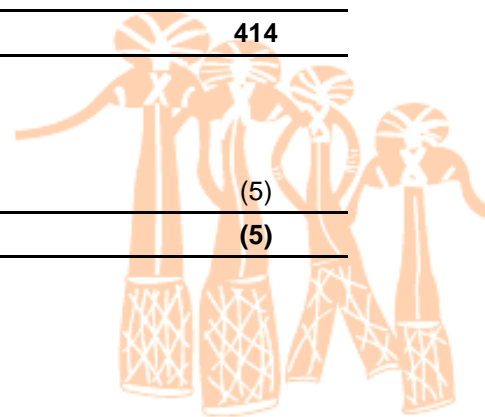
Opening	(5)	(5)
Total	(5)	(5)

2011-12

Not overdue	28	28
Overdue for less than 30 days	65	65
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	29	29
Overdue for more than 60 days	292	292
Total	414	414

Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses^(b)

Opening	(5)	(5)
Total	(5)	(5)



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

c) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the agency will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The agency's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

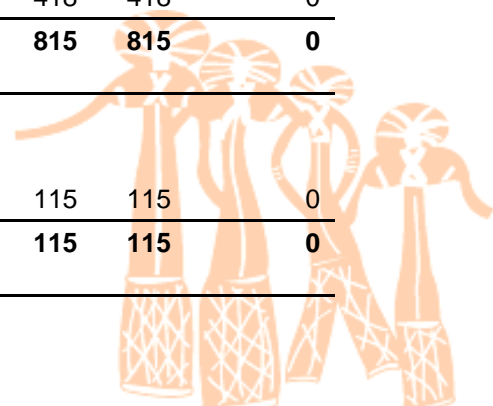
The following tables detail the agency's remaining contractual maturity for its financial assets and liabilities. It should be noted that these values are undiscounted, and consequently totals may not reconcile to the carrying amounts presented in the Balance Sheet.

2013 Maturity analysis for financial assets and liabilities

	Interest Bearing				Total	Weighted Average	
	Fixed or Variable	Less than	1 to 5 Years	More than			Non Interest Bearing
		a Year		5 Years			
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%	
Assets							
Cash and deposits				574	574	0	
Receivables				193	193	0	
Total Financial Assets				767	767	0	
Liabilities							
Deposits held							
Payables				109	109	0	
Total Financial Liabilities				109	109	0	

2012 Maturity analysis for financial assets and liabilities

	Interest Bearing				Total	Weighted Average	
	Fixed or Variable	Less than	1 to 5 Years	More than			Non Interest Bearing
		a Year		5 Years			
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%	
Assets							
Cash and deposits				397	397	0	
Receivables				418	418	0	
Total Financial Assets				815	815	0	
Liabilities							
Payables				115	115	0	
Total Financial Liabilities				115	115	0	



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

d) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. It comprises interest rate risk, price risk and currency risk.

(i) Interest Rate Risk

The *Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority* is not exposed to interest rate risk as agency financial assets and financial liabilities are non-interest bearing.

(ii) Price Risk

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority is not exposed to price risk as the Authority does not hold units in unit trusts.

(iii) Currency Risk

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority is not exposed to currency risk as the Authority does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency.

Borrowings

By using cross currency interest rate swap contracts, Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority agrees to exchange specified principal and interest foreign currency amounts at an agreed future date at a specified exchange rate, thereby enabling Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority to mitigate the risk of adverse movements in foreign exchange rates. The quantum and maturity profile of the cross currency interest rate swaps are reflected in the table shown under Liquidity Risk.

14. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

a) Contingent Liabilities

The agency had no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2013 or 30 June 2012.

b) Contingent Assets

The agency had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2013 or 30 June 2012.

15. 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.

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

The agency had no write offs, postponements or waivers in 2012-13 and 2011-12.

17. SCHEDULE OF TERRITORY ITEMS

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



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
	\$000	\$000
TERRITORY INCOME AND EXPENSES		
Income		
Fees from regulatory services	68	47
Total Income	68	47
Expenses		
Central Holding Authority income transferred	68	47
Total Expenses	68	47
Territory Income less Expenses	0	0



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2013





CONTACT DETAILS

Office hours are 8.00am to 4.21pm Monday to Friday and our offices are located in:

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