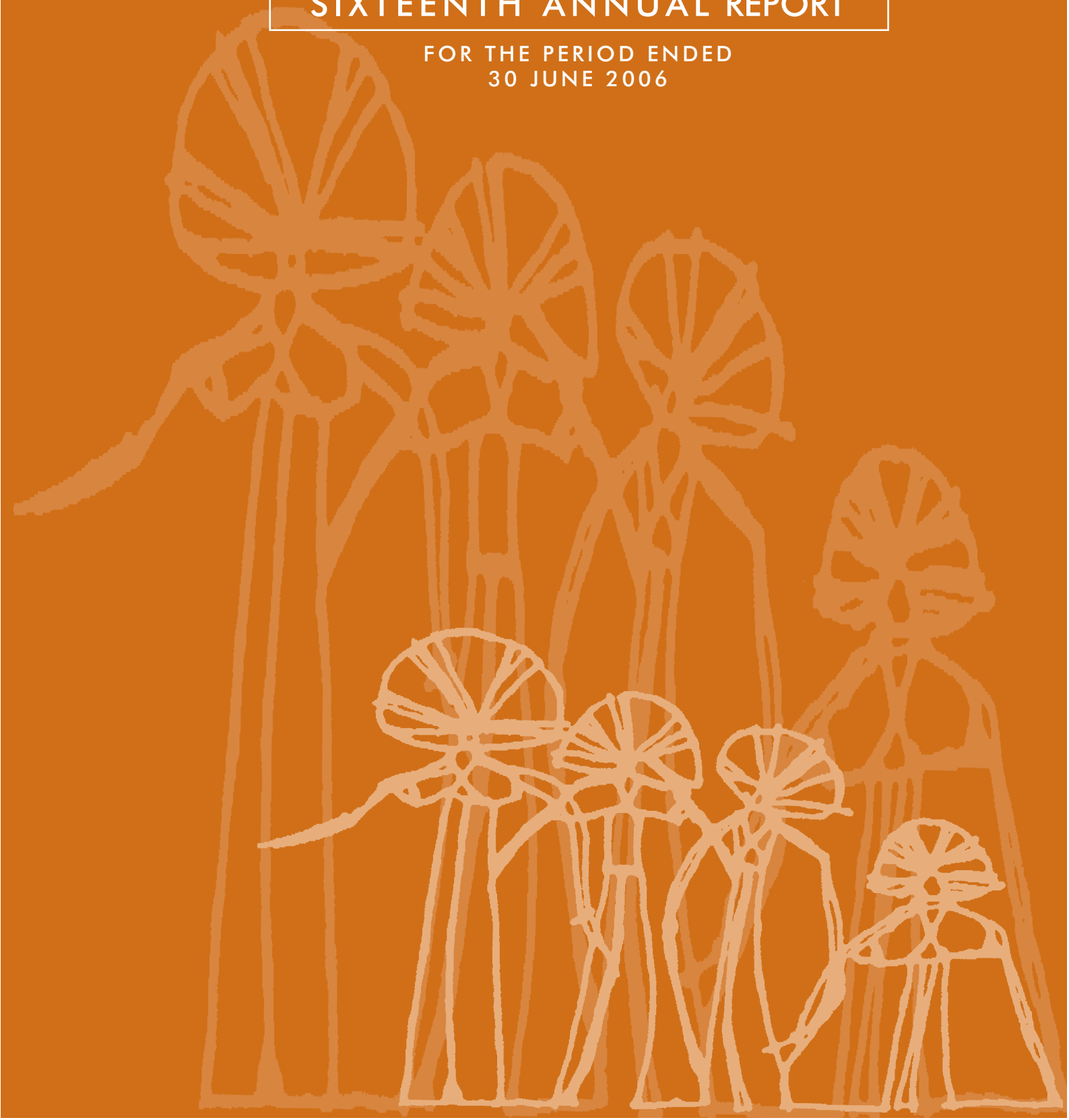


NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
30 JUNE 2006





ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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30 November 2006

The Hon Elliot McAdam MLA
Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Indigenous Policy
DARWIN NT 0800

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 2005 to 30 June 2006.

The Report refers to the seventeenth year of operation of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

Yours sincerely

Roy HAMMER

ROY HAMMER
CHAIRMAN

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HOW TO CONTACT US

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority maintains a central office in Darwin and a regional office in Alice Springs.

Office hours are 8.00 am to 4.21 pm Monday to Friday and the locations are:

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INTRODUCTION



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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.

The Authority is continuing to make sure that its work gives as much certainty as possible, for Aboriginal custodians and non-Aboriginal users of land. This takes time and hard work. I believe that the Authority's work brings together Aboriginal people and all Territorians while protecting and supporting Aboriginal culture and sacred sites.

All the members of the Authority work hard to protect sacred sites. Again this year we have seen complex issues coming up when we are looking to register sacred sites and issue Authority Certificates to protect sites.

The Authority is continuing to make sure that its work gives as much certainty as possible, for Aboriginal custodians and non-Aboriginal users of land. This takes time and hard work. I believe that the Authority's work brings together Aboriginal people and all Territorians while protecting and supporting Aboriginal culture and sacred sites.

Our tasks have included providing Authority Certificates for major works and roads projects, mining and industrial developments.

All the members of the Authority were pleased that the Northern Territory Parliament was able to amend the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act earlier this year. I thank the Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Aboriginal Policy, Mr Elliot McAdam MLA for helping to get these amendments through. These amendments were important to Aboriginal people in ensuring that sacred sites can be properly protected.

I am very pleased that during our meetings this year the Board met with Arrernte and Timber Creek custodians and representatives from the NT Cattlemen's Association and the Alice Springs Town Council. I note that our Chief Executive Officer also met with the Seafood Council and the Minerals Tax Commission for his advice to the Authority over many years. The Board hopes to meet with these and other key organisations in the coming year.

INTRODUCTION

This year saw a change in membership of the Authority, based on nominations of custodians by the Land Councils. I want to thank those members who served on the Authority in past years. While particularly acknowledging the long-serving contribution from our Deputy Chairman, Mrs Nellie Camfoo, I also thank George Campbell, Max Kerinauia, Josie Jones and Clementine Puruntatameri. I welcome our new members and look forward to working with them.

It is with some sadness that I talk about the loss of some senior custodians across the Territory. These senior Aboriginal men and women have contributed greatly to the protection of sacred sites, and to the development of a better understanding between Aboriginal people and those who want to use and develop land.

I particularly want to pay tribute to a former Chairman of the (then) Sacred Sites Authority, who was also a founding member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. His contributions in bringing greater understanding across our cultures, particularly in Central Australia, were outstanding.

Finally, on behalf of all the members of the Authority, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the dedicated and professional work of all the staff of the Authority. I look forward to working with them for another successful year ahead.

Roy HAMMER

ROY HAMMER
CHAIRMAN



INTRODUCTION



FROM THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to have been appointed as a member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and also as its Deputy Chairman. The role that we play in protecting our sacred sites is a very important one.

I think it is important that women protect their sacred sites. We need to work together to protect women's and men's sacred sites. Our land and culture and our ceremony and law are all kept strong by protecting sacred sites.

I would like to thank those women whose terms as members of the Authority expired during 2005-06. Josie Jones, from Timber Creek who was a member for the past three years, and Clementine Puruntatmeri from the Tiwi Islands who was a member for three years from 1992, and more recently since 1999.

I would particularly like to thank and acknowledge Ms Nellie Camfoo, who was a member of the Authority, and its Deputy Chairman, since 1992. Nellie's contribution to the protection of our sacred sites and to the Authority has been enormous. On International Women's Day 2006, Nellie's contribution to the Northern Territory was honoured as a recipient of the 2006 Tribute to Territory Women Award.

I look forward to working with custodians from across the Territory and from my own country around Beswick in working to keep our culture strong through protecting sacred sites. It is always good to talk with custodians about their sacred sites.

NEED MILLY'S SIGNATURE TO SCAN
MILLY SANDY MILLIWANGA
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

INTRODUCTION

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S FOREWORD

As well as meeting the Authority's reporting requirements, this report attempts to provide the public with an account of our activities, and of the principles behind the work of the Authority.

The Northern Territory is unique in its cross-cultural nature and issues. In an area one-sixth the size of Australia, approximately 30% of the population is Indigenous, and 50% of the land is controlled by Aboriginal people. The economy of the Territory is also strongly based on use of and access to land, for mining, tourism and pastoral industries. In the urban centres, there is an ongoing need for land to meet the demands of residential housing development.

Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory are acknowledged as having cultural traditions and practices going back for tens of thousands of years. In the Northern Territory, sacred sites are the vital cultural and spiritual places which link Aboriginal people to their cultural traditions and the land.

The Authority's environment is very clear. All sacred sites in the Northern Territory are protected, under the Commonwealth's *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act (the Land Rights Act)*, from which the Northern Territory derives its power, through the *Self Government (Northern Territory) Act*, to legislate for the administration of the protection of sacred sites.

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority plays an important ongoing role in bringing about solutions to often complex and diverse issues of protection of sacred sites, and the use of land on or near sacred sites.

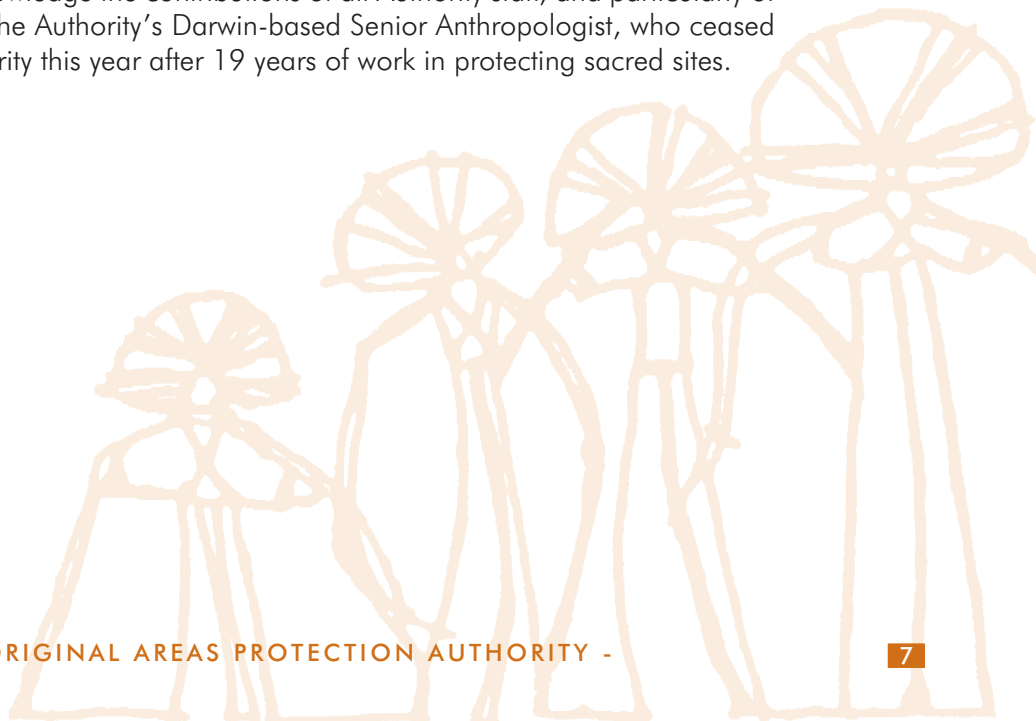
In the past year considerable resources of the Authority have been devoted to investigations and negotiations of damage to sacred sites and breach of Authority Certificate conditions. This has included the resolution of difficulties caused by the death of knowledgeable custodians which, on occasion, has lead to disputation amongst custodians.

This last year saw work commence on some particularly complex and time-consuming Authority Certificates, and a small increase in the completion of sacred sites registrations.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions of all Authority staff, and particularly of Ms Lesley Mearns, the Authority's Darwin-based Senior Anthropologist, who ceased work with the Authority this year after 19 years of work in protecting sacred sites.

J Stead

JEFFERY STEAD



INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This is the seventeenth Annual Report of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority pursuant to Section 14(1) of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (hereafter the *Sacred Sites Act*).

This is a report on the administration and operation of the Authority for the 2005-06 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 1995*, the Treasurer's Directions and the Northern Territory Government's Working for Outcomes policy.

It also provides the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly with an account of the performance of the Authority.



OVERVIEW

THE ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority is a statutory authority established under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act (Sacred Sites Act)* to administer sacred site protection in the Northern Territory. The Administrator of the Northern Territory appoints members to the Authority. The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority is constituted under Section 6, and staff are employed under Section 17 of the *Sacred Sites Act*. This provides for the Authority to administer the Act at arms-length from the day-to-day operations of the Northern Territory Government.

FUNCTIONS

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 reduced to the following:

- 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.
- Establish and maintain a Register of Sacred Sites and such other registers and records as required by or under the *Sacred Sites Act*.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



OVERVIEW

AAPA'S ROLE AND VISION

During 2005-06, the members of the Authority adopted the Authority's Business Plan, including the Authority's Main Job and Vision:

THE AUTHORITY'S JOB

Working with Aboriginal people to protect sacred sites.

THE AUTHORITY'S VISION

- Better protection for sacred sites.
- Minimising unnecessary controversy over the existence of sacred sites.
- Better relations between Aboriginal custodians and other Territorians over sacred sites.
- Everyone knowing more about what they can and cannot do when there are sacred sites nearby.

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:

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

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

KEY WORK AREAS

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

SITE AVOIDANCE PROCEDURES—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.

INSPECTIONS OF THE SACRED SITES REGISTER AND AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES REGISTER

Members of the public may seek advice on the location of 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 also 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 required by Aboriginal tradition to be kept secret and information of a personal or sensitive commercial nature.

When members of the public are provided information about the location of sacred sites, they are informed that they may not carry out works on these sacred sites without an Authority Certificate. Providing sacred site information to members of the public ensures that the sites will not be inadvertently damaged and that any development proposals take into account the existence of sacred sites.

OVERVIEW

2005-2006 HIGHLIGHTS

This year was the twenty-sixth year of operation of sacred sites legislation in the Northern Territory.

Throughout the reporting period the Authority:

- Worked with Territory Government agencies to establish clear procedures in relation to sacred site protection for major works projects;
- Completed a digital dataset of all Authority Certificates issued for works by the Northern Territory Government and provided the dataset to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to ensure protection of sacred sites;
- Completed a review, with Risk Management Services of the Department of Chief Minister, into sacred sites information management and systems;
- Facilitated amendments to the *Sacred Sites Act* to better protect sacred sites information, clarify the liability for prosecution of the Territory Crown, and allow a reasonable time in which to bring prosecutions for offences under the *Sacred Sites Act*;
- Issued 130 Authority Certificates in relation to current and proposed works across the Territory. Significant projects for which Certificates were issued included:
 - airstrips at Alpururulam, Bickerton Island, Pigeon Hole;
 - road and associated works at Victoria Highway, Kintore Road, Haasts Bluff Road, Namatjira Drive, Alice Springs, Woollogorang Road, Sandover Highway, Maryvale Road, Central Arnhem – Ramingining Road, Ngukurr – Numbulwar Road and various Stuart Highway locations;
 - enterprise, tourism and national park related projects in Alice Springs, Ruby Gap, Channel Point, Kulaluk, Roper Bar, Kalkuringi, Djukbinj, East Arnhem, Groote Eylandt and Darwin City Waterfront;
 - mining and exploration activities across the Territory, including at Tiwi Islands, Frances Creek, Dalmore Downs, Dunmarra–Daly Waters, Keep River and Victoria River; and
 - trees within Alice Springs, providing certainty for Alice Springs Town Council in carrying out ongoing maintenance and emergency works;
- Entered 35 sites into the Register of Sacred Sites including:
 - eight sites at Manbulloo, three sites at Victoria River Downs and three at Coolibah; and
 - six sites at Aileron and five sites in the Yuendumu area
- Ratified amendments to the Register for 8 sacred sites;
- Held a national level workshop to discuss the repatriation of Aboriginal ancestral remains in the Northern Territory;
- Repatriated a significant number of Larrakia remains previously held by the National Museum of Australia (on their return from overseas in the Edinburgh Collection);

OVERVIEW

- Ceased work on repatriation of ancestral remains held by the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT (MAGNT), to enable MAGNT to directly undertake this project;
- Continued discussions with Land Councils on protocols and cooperative operational arrangements;
- Undertook investigations and negotiations over several separate incidents of reported damage to sacred sites and initiated two prosecutions related to sacred site damage;
- Supported Aboriginal Ranger training and Aboriginal land management organizations in developing effective sacred site protection;
- Met with the Minerals Council of the NT, the NT Cattlemen's Association, the NT Seafood Council and the Alice Springs Town Council; and
- Responded to 1026 information requests regarding sacred sites.

CHALLENGES AND DIRECTIONS 2006-2007

- Continue to work with Government agencies in developing and implementing effective sacred site avoidance procedures;
- Finalise discussions with Land Councils aimed at establishing working protocols and clarifying jurisdictional issues;
- Finalise substantial Authority Certificates for the Central Arnhem Highway road corridor;
- Build on relationships established with key industry bodies across the Northern Territory;
- Conduct negotiations with the Australian Pipeline Trust, the Power and Water Corporation and the Northern Land Council over the protection of sacred sites on the Wadeye to Stuart Highway gas pipeline; and
- Monitor the potential impacts on sacred site protection of recent and proposed amendments to the *Land Rights Act*.



PERFORMANCE REPORTING

PROTECTION OF SITES

The Authority's overarching responsibility is to protect sacred sites. The *Sacred Sites Act* provides for the protection of sacred sites through the Registration of sites and Inspections of the Register of Sacred 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 number of sites registered; the requests for inspections of the Register (and other archives); completed and the number of Authority Certificate applications completed.

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).

Timeliness is assessed as the average period between application and completion of Authority Certificates.

OUTPUT GROUP

The Output Group for the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority is *Protection of Sacred Sites*.

OUTCOME

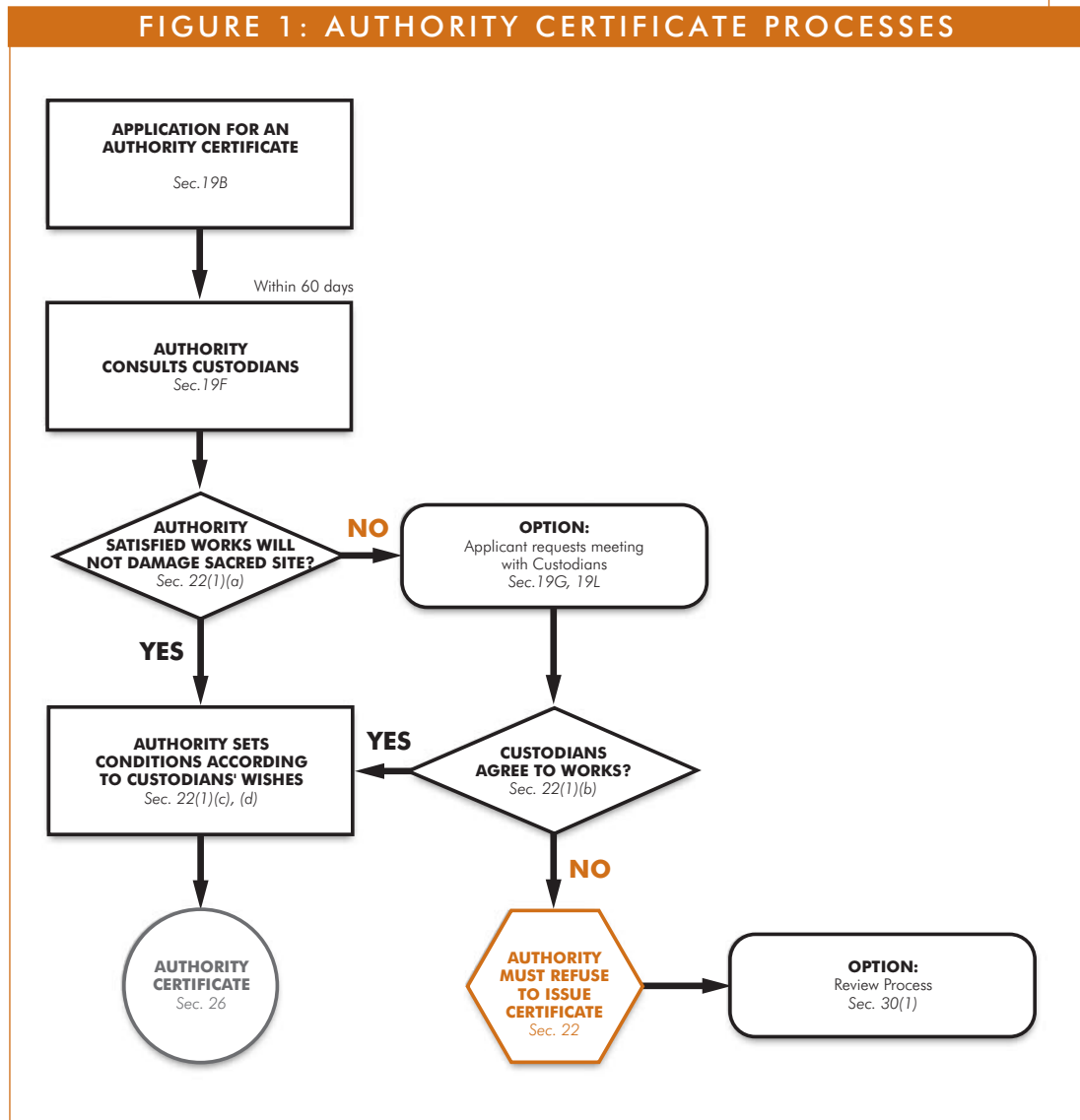
Enhanced relations between Indigenous custodians of sacred sites and the wider Territory population by increasing the level of certainty when identifying constraints on land-use, if any, arising from the existence of sacred sites.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	ACTUAL 2005-2005	TARGET 2005-2006	ACTUAL 2005-2006
- Quantity - Requests for Register inspections, sites recorded and applications for Authority Certificates completed	856	850	1,026
- Quality - Statutory appeals minimised	<1%	<1%	<1%
- Timeliness - Average elapsed time between request and completion of [Authority Certificate] service	119 days	100 days	123 days

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

AUTHORITY CERTIFICATES APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES

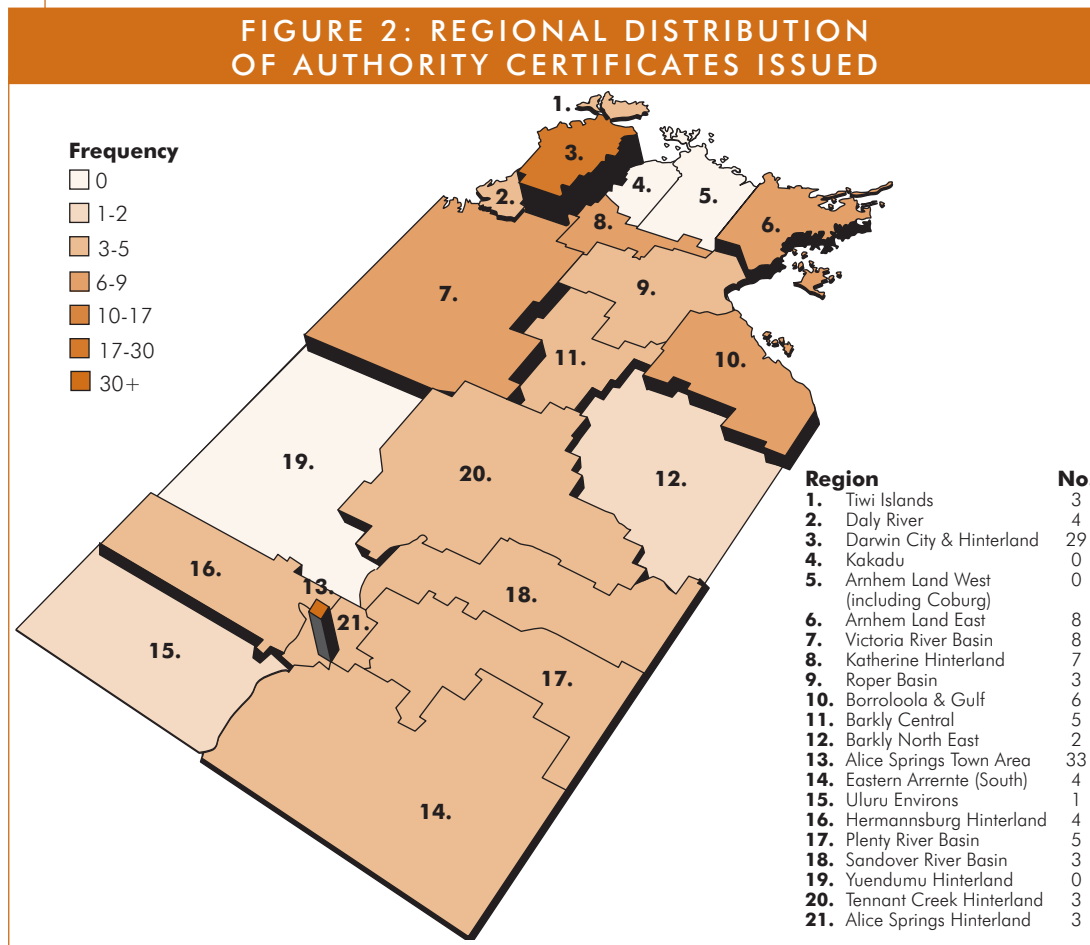
Authority Certificates are instruments of sacred site avoidance under the *Sacred Sites Act*. The processes involved in expediting applications for Authority Certificates are represented in Figure 1.



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 2005-06 there were 179 Authority Certificate applications received. This compares with 150 applications received in 2004-05.

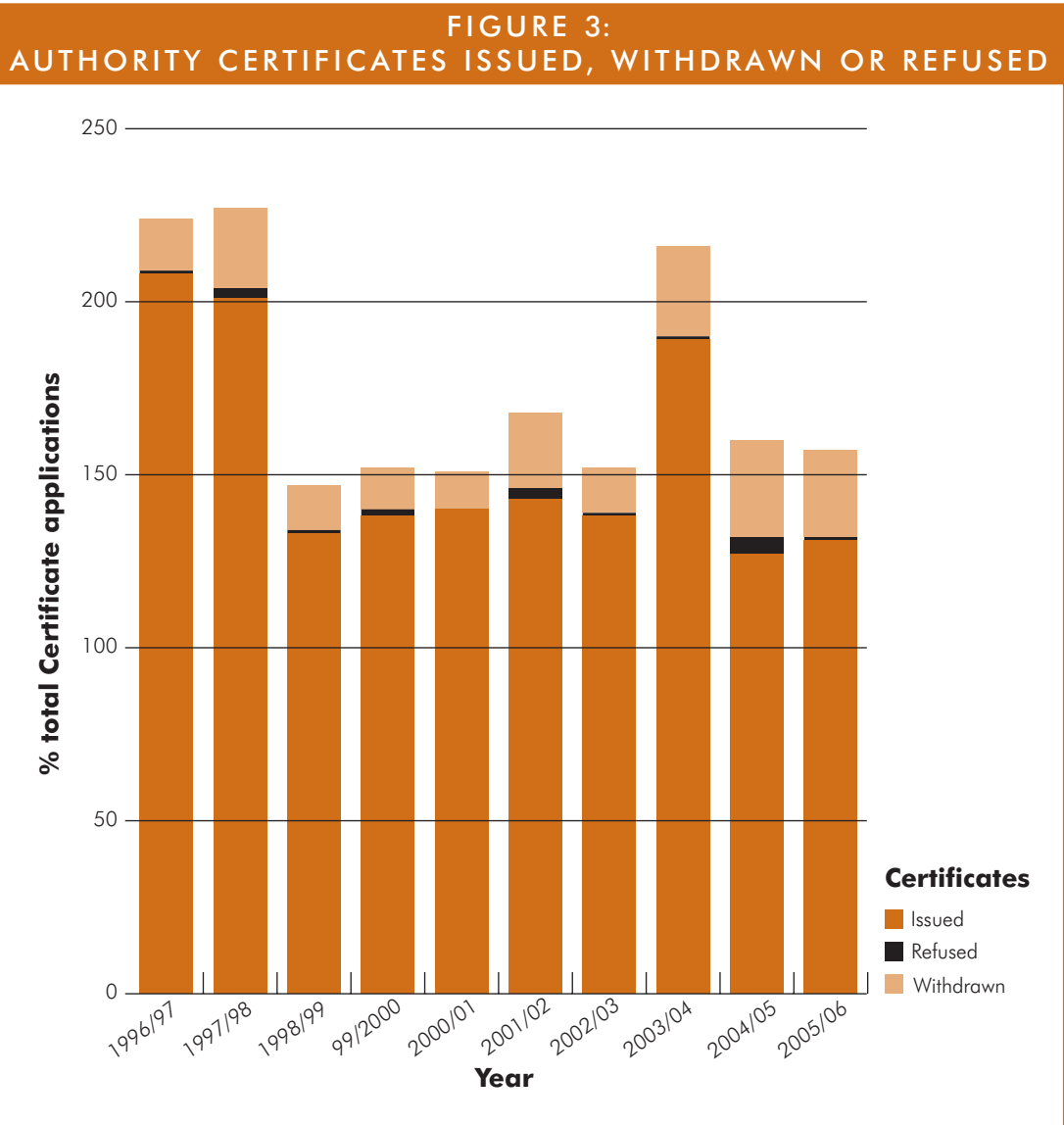
PERFORMANCE REPORTING

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



It can be seen that there are consistent levels of demand for Authority certificates in the Alice Springs Town and Darwin and Hinterland regions. Additionally, major infrastructure projects in the Arnhem Land East, Katherine and Victoria River regions have resulted in high workloads in those areas.

Figure 3 shows the numbers of Authority Certificate applications issued or refused by the Authority, or withdrawn by the applicant. In 2005-2006, of completed Authority Certificate applications, 130 (83%) were issued, 25 (16%) withdrawn and 1 (1%) refused. This compares with 127 (79%) issued, 28 (18%) withdrawn and 5 (3%) refused in 2004-2005.



TIMELINESS

Since 2001-2002 there has been 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 number of custodian and other Aboriginal groups with an interest in the land;
- The certainty of custodian knowledge;
- The certainty provided by the records of sacred sites held by AAPA; and
- The availability of sufficiently experienced anthropological research staff/consultants, within the resources available to AAPA.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

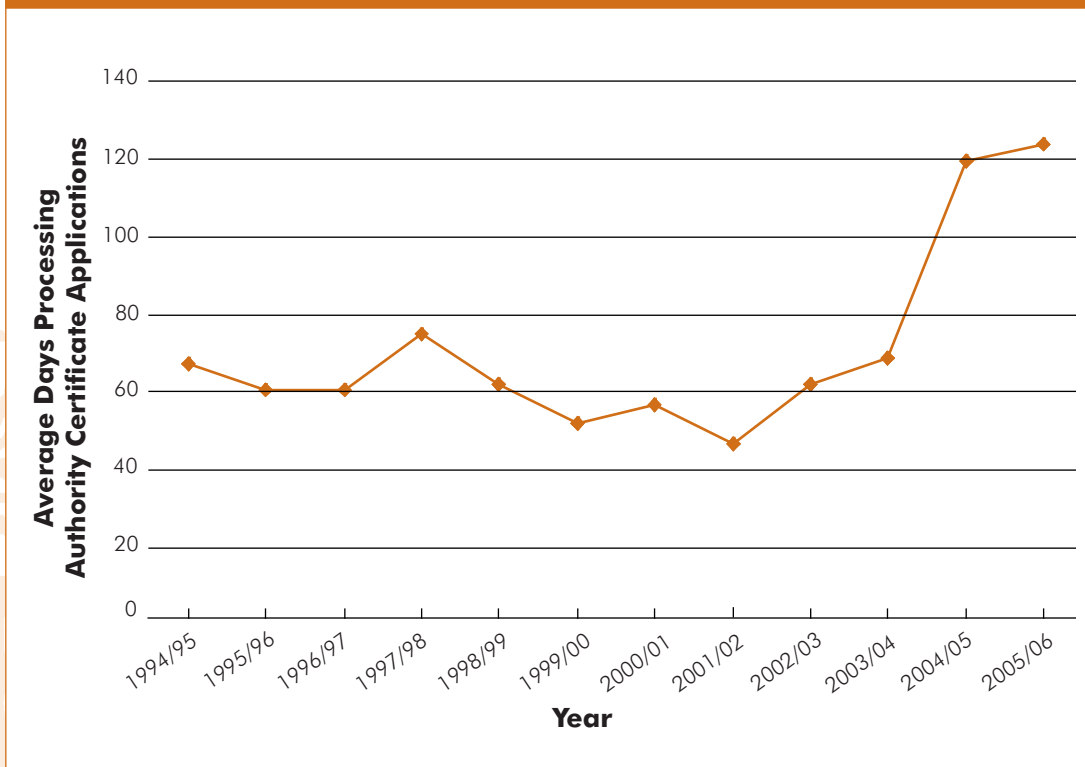
Consultations have been delayed due to factors including an increasing complexity of project proposals and land tenure, and difficulty getting a consistent and timely custodian response. The deaths of senior custodians result in the continuing scattering of traditional knowledge and create a subsequent need for the Authority to consult with a greater range of custodians to obtain the cultural knowledge and certainty about sites that had formerly been held by senior custodians.

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. The high pressure of applications in these areas highlights the urgent need for resources to update the Authority's sites records.

There have been some Certificates issued this year which have been particularly complex and time-consuming. For example a Certificate has been issued to allow the Alice Springs Town Council to undertake necessary emergency work on trees within the municipality. This was a complex process which originally commenced in May 2003 (thus adding nearly 8 days to the average, for this Certificate alone). With the need to ensure that all relevant conditions were considered, the consultations and negotiations involved custodians, the Town Council and the native title organization, Lhere Artepe.

Further, in 2005-06 a number of Authority Certificate applications were outsourced to the Northern Land Council, as a means to encourage a more effective working relationship. Unfortunately the Authority had to resume responsibility for these applications after several months had lapsed.

**FIGURE 4:
TIME TO PROCESS AUTHORITY CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS**

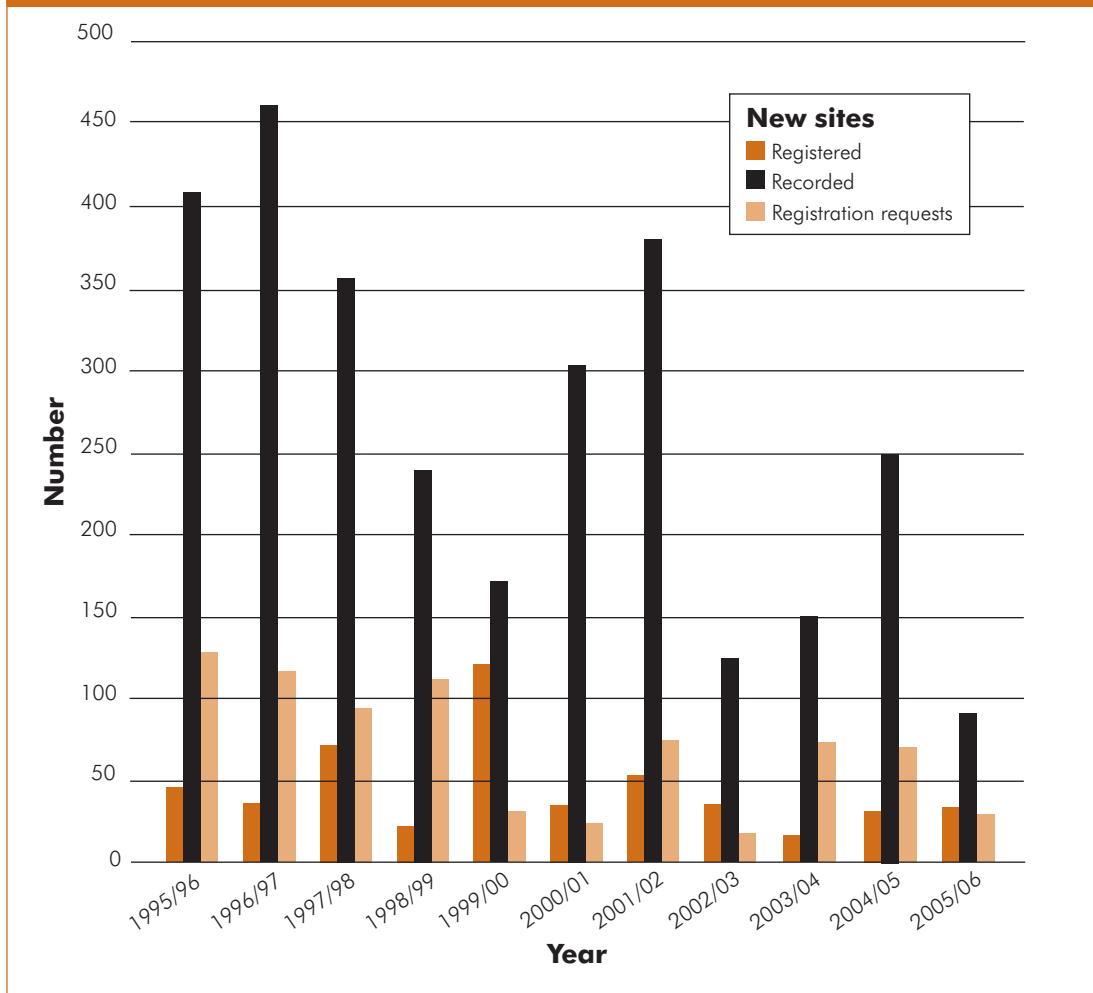


Note: Some long running certificates that have stalled though no fault of the Authority have been removed from the statistics.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

REGISTER OF SACRED SITES

**FIGURE 5:
SITES RECORDED, REGISTERED AND REQUESTS FOR REGISTRATION**



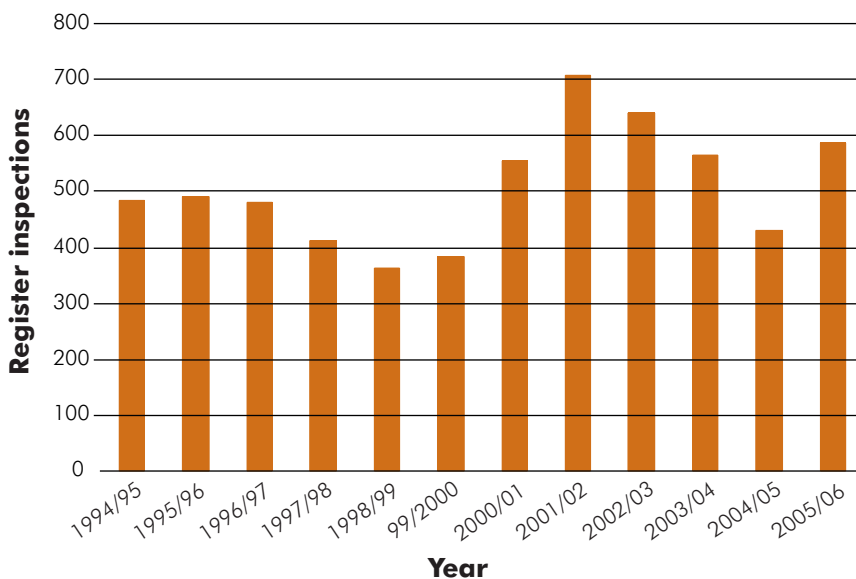
The number of sites requested by custodians for registration decreased from 69 in 2004-05 to 28 in 2005-06. The number of sites registered by the Authority increased from 32 to 34. However, there remains a significant backlog of registration requests. The Authority has established priorities for addressing registration requests, based around threats of damage or desecration, or loss of knowledge. 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.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

REGISTER AND ARCHIVAL INSPECTIONS

In 2004-2005, the Authority responded to 640 requests to inspect the Register of Sacred Sites and other Authority sacred site archives. This compares with 429 in 2004-2005 and 567 in 2003-2004.

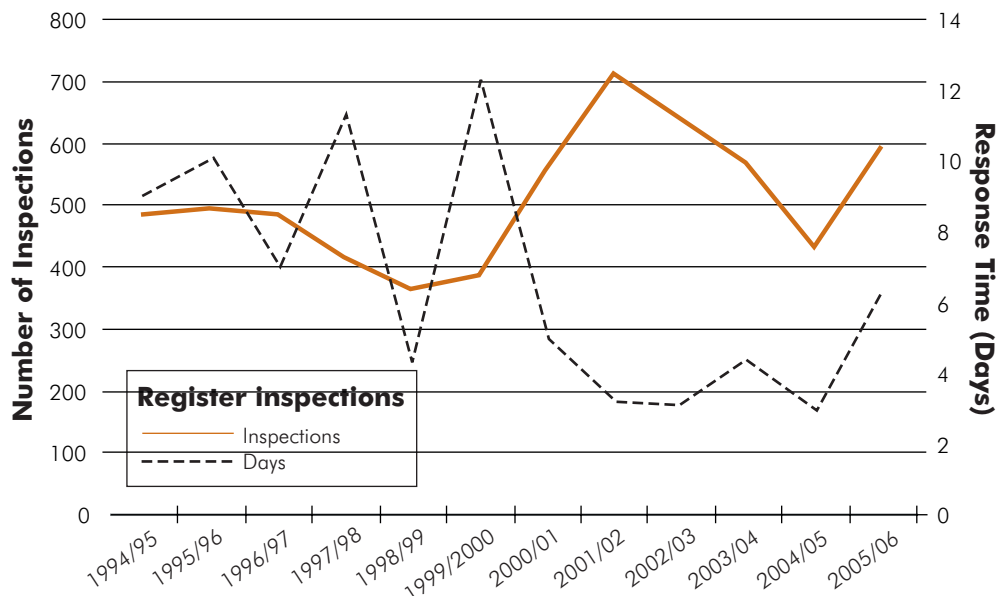
**FIGURE 6:
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS OF THE REGISTER OF SACRED SITES
AND SITES ARCHIVES**



In 2005-06, the average time taken to complete Register Inspection requests was 6 days, compared to 3 days in 2004-2005. This increase in time was due to some particularly complex requests, particularly those which requested access to more information than is provided through Register Inspections. Additionally, there was a need in some cases for the Authority to undertake quality control checks on some of its more historical data, prior to releasing Register Inspections.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

**FIGURE 7:
NUMBER OF REQUESTS TO INSPECT THE REGISTER
AND RESPONSE TIMES**



ADVICE TO CLIENTS AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY

In addition to formal requests to inspect the Register of Sacred Sites and Register of Authority Certificates the Authority also deals with numerous requests for information relating to site protection in the Territory. The provision of information and advice to the public is a very significant element of the Authority's responsibility in carrying out its functions. In the current reporting period the Authority received ongoing and daily requests for information from the registrar.

Responsibilities acquired under the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* can also result in a number of requests associated with both forensic enquiries and the repatriation of skeletal remains. In 2005-06 the Authority received three for forensic assistance on the discovery of skeletal remains.

During the year the Authority undertook a specific project aimed at making inroads into repatriation of Aboriginal ancestral skeletal remains in the Northern Territory. The Authority commenced consultations with a number of communities and custodian groups across the Territory. Many custodian for forensic assistance on the discovery of skeletal remains.

During the year the Authority undertook a specific project aimed at making inroads into repatriation of Aboriginal ancestral skeletal remains in the Northern Territory. The Authority commenced consultations with a number of communities and custodian groups across the Territory. Many custodian groups are still considering their desired outcomes for repatriation of ancestral remains. The Authority negotiated with the Larrakia Nation and Larrakia custodians and traditional owners to enable repatriation of 87 separate items of Larrakia ancestral skeletal remains in a ceremony held at Belyuen on 30 June 2006.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

The Authority also facilitated a workshop on Aboriginal ancestral skeletal remains in the Northern Territory. This workshop involved representatives from the National Museum of Australia, the Australia Museum, the Federal Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination and the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, as well as Aboriginal custodian representatives. One immediate result of the workshop has been the establishment of revised arrangements for protocols and action on discovery of human skeletal remains between the Authority, Heritage Conservation Services, NT Police and the Coroner's Office. The outcomes of the workshop will assist in the development of an improved strategy for repatriation of Aboriginal ancestral remains in the Territory.



GOVERNANCE

AUTHORITY BOARD

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

The Authority comprises twelve members, ten of whom are Aboriginal custodians of sacred sites in equal numbers (five) of males and females. 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 sexes. The Territory Administrator 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 sex, based on nominations from the Authority.

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

APPOINTMENTS

This reporting period saw the completion of appointment of a number of Authority members. The appointments of Mrs Nellie Camfoo, Ms Clementine Puruntatameri, Ms Josie Jones, Mr George Campbell, and Mr Max Kerinauia finished on 28 February 2006.

Ms Lena Pula, Mr Barry Abbott, Mr Pepy Simpson, Mr Dick Kimber were re-appointed for a period of three years from 26 April 2006.

Ms Banduk Marika, Ms Jenny Inmulugulu, Ms Milly Milliwanga, Mr Captain Woditj and Mr Robert Tipungwuti were appointed for three years from 26 April 2006.



Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority Members, June 2006

GOVERNANCE

MEMBERS OF THE ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

MR R HAMMER	Chairman and Northern Land Council nominee, Borrooloola, re-appointed 3 March 2004
MRS N CAMFOO	Deputy Chairman and Northern Land Council nominee, Bulman, appointment completed 28 February 2006
MR G CAMPBELL	Member and Northern Land Council nominee, Yarralin, appointment completed 28 February 2006
MS J INMULUGULU	Member and Northern Land Council nominee. Warruwi (Goulburn Island), appointed 26 April 2006
MS J JONES	Member and Northern Land Council nominee, Timber Creek, appointment completed 28 February 2006
MS B MARIKA	Member and Northern Land Council nominee, Yirrkala, appointed 26 April 2006
MS M MILLIWANGA	Member and Northern Land Council nominee, Wugularr (Beswick), appointed 26 April 2006
MR C WODITJ	Member and Northern Land Council nominee, Palumpa, appointed 26 April 2006
MR B ABBOTT	Member and Central Land Council nominee, Wallace Rockhole, re-appointed 26 April 2006 2003
MS L GRANITES	Member and Central Land Council nominee, Yuendumu, appointed 18 May 2005
MS L PULA	Member and Central Land Council nominee, Utopia, re-appointed 26 April 2006
MR P SIMPSON	Member and Central Land Council nominee, Tennant Creek, re-appointed 26 April 2006
MR M KERINAIUA	Member and Tiwi Land Council nominee, Nguiu, appointment completed 28 February 2006
MS C PURUNTATAMERI	Member and Tiwi Land Council nominee, Nguiu, appointment completed 28 February 2006
MR R TIPUNGWUTI	Member and Tiwi Land Council nominee, Wurankuwu, appointed 26 April 2006
MS O HAVNEN	Member and NT Government nominee, appointed 18 May 2005
MR D KIMBER	Member and NT Government nominee, re-appointed 26 April 2006 4 June 2003

GOVERNANCE

AUTHORITY MEETINGS

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 2005-06 Financial Year:

September 13-15	2005	Timber Creek/Katherine
December 6-8	2005	Darwin
February 14	2006	Alice Springs
March 14-16	2006	Alice Springs
June 6-8	2006	Darwin

Due to delays in responses from Land Councils in providing the Minister with appropriate nominations for members of the Authority (under Section 6 of the *Sacred Sites Act*), a number of members' terms of appointments expired in February 2006, before the Administrator could make appointments to the Authority. Land Councils have unfortunately and regularly not met the requests of the Minister (under Section 6) to provide twice the number of nominations of the appropriate gender, nor met the 60-day timeframe in which to nominate persons for appointment to the Authority.

The Authority met in February 2006, and resolved to delegate its powers to a committee of the Authority, consisting of those members whose terms were not about to expire. Additionally, the Authority also resolved to invite to the following (March 2006) meeting all those members whose appointments had lapsed as admitted persons under Section 12 of the *Sacred Sites Act*, so that relevant advice and discussion could continue to occur.

In order to more effectively deal with the breadth of issues before it, in the past two years the Board of the Authority has extended its usual meetings from two to three days. This extra time has allowed more time for the Board to become familiar with the issues and to give them a full consideration.

SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES AT MEETINGS OF THE AUTHORITY BOARD, 2005-06

Name	Meetings attended
HAMMER Roy (Chairman)	4
CAMFOO Nellie (Deputy Chairman)	3
ABBOTT Bernard	4
CAMPBELL George	3
GRANITES Lynette	4
HAVNEN Olga	4
INMULUGULU Jenny	1
JONES Josie	4
KERINAIUA Max	3
KIMBER Dick	5
MARIKA Banduk	1
MILLIWANGA Milly	1
PULA Lena	4
PURUNTATAMERI Clementine	3
SIMPSON Pepy	4
TIPUNGWUTI Robert	1
WODITJ Captain	1
STEAD Jeffery (CEO, non Board Member)	5

GOVERNANCE

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
- Planning and Development of a Business Plan

HOW AAPA IS GOVERNED

The primary policy and decision-making body is the Authority established at Section 5 of the *Sacred Sites Act*. The Authority is required to meet at least four times in each calendar year. 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 *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* and *Heritage Conservation Act*.

HOW AAPA IS MANAGED

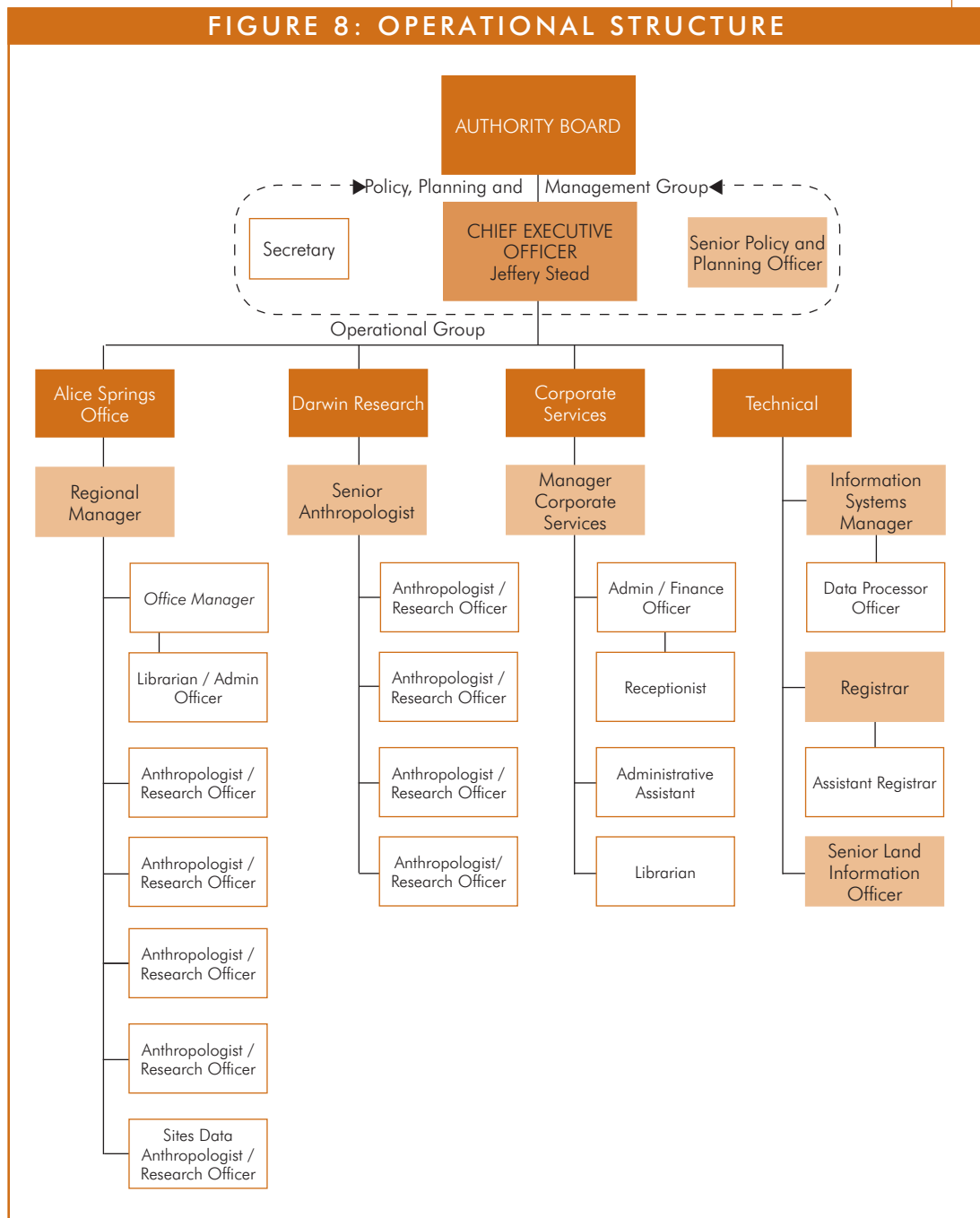
The CEO maintains overall responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the Authority. To ensure the smooth functioning of the offices the CEO chairs weekly coordination meetings with senior managers of the Authority's operational groups. Each operational group also meets regularly to ensure an effective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

The Authority's operational groups comprise: Darwin Research, Corporate Services, Technical and Registry and the Alice Springs Regional office.

Administratively, the Authority divides the Northern Territory into northern and southern regions. The CEO, Senior Policy and Planning Officer, Corporate Services Manager, Senior Anthropologist and Technical/Registry section are all located in the Darwin office. The Regional Manager and staff are located in the Alice Springs office.

GOVERNANCE

FIGURE 8: OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE



GOVERNANCE

BUSINESS PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT

At its meeting in June 2005 the Authority resolved to adopt a draft High Level Business Plan. The Authority adopted a detailed Business Plan at its March 2006 meeting. The plan sets out the guiding principles and business and operational direction for the organisation for the next three years.

KEY EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

Throughout the reporting period the CEO and senior Authority staff have attended meetings with the Northern and Central Land Councils to establish working protocols. Issues under discussion include jurisdiction, cooperation on major projects and possible joint approaches to damage to sacred sites. Throughout the year, it became apparent that little progress was being made on the major issue under discussion, being a clarification of sacred sites protection roles on and off Aboriginal land. Progress was made on agreement to meet regularly and work towards more effective communication.

The Authority has committed to establishing relationships with key industry bodies across the NT. In March 2006, the Board met with the Alice Springs Town Council and in June the NT Cattlemen's Association met with the Board. The CEO also met with the Northern Territory Minerals Council and the NT Seafood Council. The CEO and staff also liaised with other organizations, such as Lhere Artepe (Alice Springs Native Title Body Corporate), Dhimurru Land Management, Larrakia Nation and the Jawoyn Association. The Authority provided a range of support to Dhimurru, including supporting applications for Commonwealth assistance.

The Authority also continued regular meetings with senior staff at the Departments of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI); Natural Resources Environment and the Arts; and Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines for the purpose of discussing matters of common interest. An improved dialogue with DPI is expected to improve site protection in areas of public works.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

In 2005 the Authority initiated a review of its information management and systems. The review was undertaken by Risk Management Services, Department of the Chief Minister and in this period a report was provided to the Authority over systems and processes for the collection, retention and dissemination of the Authority's sacred sites information. The review also reported on the Authority's compliance with the Northern Territory's *Information Act* (Part 9). With the limited resources available, the Authority has commenced work on mapping its information and data flow; sought advice from NT Archives and the Information Commissioner; and worked towards an improved series of agreements relating to the public release and use of sacred sites information.

The Authority continued to progress the development of an effective and secure approach to the provision of sacred site information in conjunction with the register of administrative interests, through the Territory Government's Integrated Land Information System (ILIS). In 2005 the Authority sought legal advice which indicates that improved licensing arrangements need to be in place before the Authority goes ahead with provision of information to ILIS and other users of the Authority's Registers. The Authority's did not complete its projects to finalise appropriate and effective licensing arrangements during 2005-06.

GOVERNANCE

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

ABORIGINAL SACRED SITE PROTECTION IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

ABORIGINAL SACRED SITES

Sacred sites are features of the landscape that hold specific meanings and importance in the traditions of Aboriginal communities. They may include features such as hills, waterholes, rocks, trees and sea features. They may also include rock art or other human artefacts. However, it is usually the natural features that are of most significance according to the body of Aboriginal tradition about how the world was shaped. Ceremony grounds and traditional burial grounds may also be sacred sites according to Aboriginal tradition.

The protection of Aboriginal sacred sites is an integral part of the Northern Territory Aboriginal land rights package under the Commonwealth's *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Land Rights Act)*. Under the *Land Rights Act* a sacred site is defined as:

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

The *Sacred Sites Act* uses the same definition as the *Land Rights Act*.

COMMONWEALTH AND NORTHERN TERRITORY LAWS

Section 69 of the *Land Rights Act* broadly prohibits entry and remaining on any land in the Northern Territory that is a sacred site, except under a law of the Northern Territory. Section 73 of the *Land Rights Act* 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 changes to the *Land Rights Act* introduced to the Federal Parliament in 2005-06 will impact on the operation of the Territory's *Sacred Sites Act* in that the expanded defences for persons to be on Aboriginal land associated with township leasing arrangements will broaden the defences available under the *Sacred Sites Act*.

The Authority will continue to monitor any proposed changes to the *Land Rights Act*, to ensure that it can effectively undertake its roles in protection of sacred sites. The likelihood of proposals to remove the permit system for access to Aboriginal land will have significant impacts on the protection of sacred sites.

GOVERNANCE

AMENDMENTS TO THE SACRED SITES ACT

During this year, the Legislative Assembly passed amendments to the *Sacred Sites Act*. In brief, these amendments:

- Clarified that the Northern Territory Crown was liable for prosecution for offences under the *Sacred Sites Act*;
- Clarified that the secrecy provisions protecting secret sacred information held by the Authority from unauthorised disclosure also applied to a court; and

Provided for a specific period of time of two years in which to bring a prosecution, more accurately reflecting the circumstances under which the *Sacred Sites Act* operates

LANDOWNERS AND DEVELOPERS

The Authority strives to achieve practical outcomes in its operations by respecting the interests of site custodians, landowners and developers. Often custodians, landowners and developers have diverging 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 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 effected is entitled to such compensation as a court may decide.

Under the sacred sites laws applying in the Northern Territory, all sacred sites are protected regardless of underlying land title, whether they are registered or not, or even if they are not known to the Authority. They are protected particularly by Sections 33 (unauthorised entry), 34 (unauthorised works or uses) and 35 (desecration) of the *Sacred Sites Act*, which set out various offences in relation to sacred sites.

Prosecutions may only be brought by the Authority and custodians' views must be taken into account whenever the Authority exercises such powers under the *Sacred Sites Act*.

RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION ACT 1991

Section 10(i) 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, ...". The *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* (hereafter the *Heritage Conservation Act*) places a number of additional duties on the Authority.

Firstly, the *Heritage Conservation Act*, Section 8(d), provides for the Authority to nominate a representative to the Heritage Advisory Council. Regional Manager Alice Springs, Mr Andrew Allan, represented the Authority throughout the reporting period.

GOVERNANCE

Secondly, Section 29(2) of the *Heritage Conservation Act* states:

The Minister or the Minister's delegate shall not permit an action in relation to an archaeological object prescribed for the purposes of Part 6 which is sacred according to Aboriginal tradition unless he or she has sought and taken into account the advice, if any, of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority established by the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act given after consultation with those Aboriginals it considers to be the traditional owners of the object.

Lastly, the CEO of the Authority holds two delegations from the Minister for Conservation relating to the *Heritage Conservation Act*. The first enables the CEO to make decisions about what may happen on an Aboriginal burial site. The second delegation makes the CEO a person who should be advised of the discovery of an Aboriginal burial site or skeletal remains. As a consequence of these delegations the Authority responds to requests from the Coroner's office for advice on whether skeletal remains found in the Northern Territory are likely to be part of a traditional Aboriginal burial. The Authority also acts as a receiving agency and temporary repository in the Northern Territory for skeletal remains repatriated to Aboriginal communities from museums in Australia and overseas.



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 an Occupational 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 2006 there were 28 employees 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*. On the 5th May 2004 the Commissioner for Public Employment approved terms and conditions for staff employed by the Authority as required by the *Sacred Sites Act*.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POLICY OBJECTIVES

The Authority focuses on the following objectives.

The Authority aims to ensure that all staff regardless of sex, 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

Procedures for the resolution of grievances arising in the workplace emphasise conciliation. The procedures were adopted after extensive consultation with stakeholders including staff, Unions, Commissioner for Public Employment and 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 Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. It also provides procedures for the resolution of both formal and informal complaints. Staff with managerial responsibilities are made aware of the Authority's obligations under the *Anti-Discrimination Act* and the principles of equity and merit which 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 (EAP)

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority's EAP is an external program providing professional and confidential counseling for all employees and their immediate family members.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Aboriginal Areas Protection 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. Staff feel they are free to raise any issues with the nominated OH&S officer and receive a prompt response.

OH&S is a standing item on the agenda for the "All Staff" meetings usually conducted once per month.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

There were no worker's 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.

65% of all employees attended some form of training or accreditation during the year. Courses included: defensive four wheel driving, first aid, procure goods and services, first time manager, Indigenous community management, Information Act, program for libraries, women and leadership, new manager's development program, MapInfo and project management.

The Authority spent \$64 000 on training programs in 2005-2006 representing 2% of total expenditure.

STUDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority values its staff as its greatest resource. We are 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.

HUMAN RESOURCES—MANAGING OUR PEOPLE

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.

The Staff Development Framework was introduced in the Authority in May/June 2005.

POLICIES

During this year negotiations continued with staff over the Authority's Time Off In Lieu (TOIL) policy. It is expected that this policy will be confirmed by staff next year, subject to union and Office of the Commissioner of Public Employment support.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

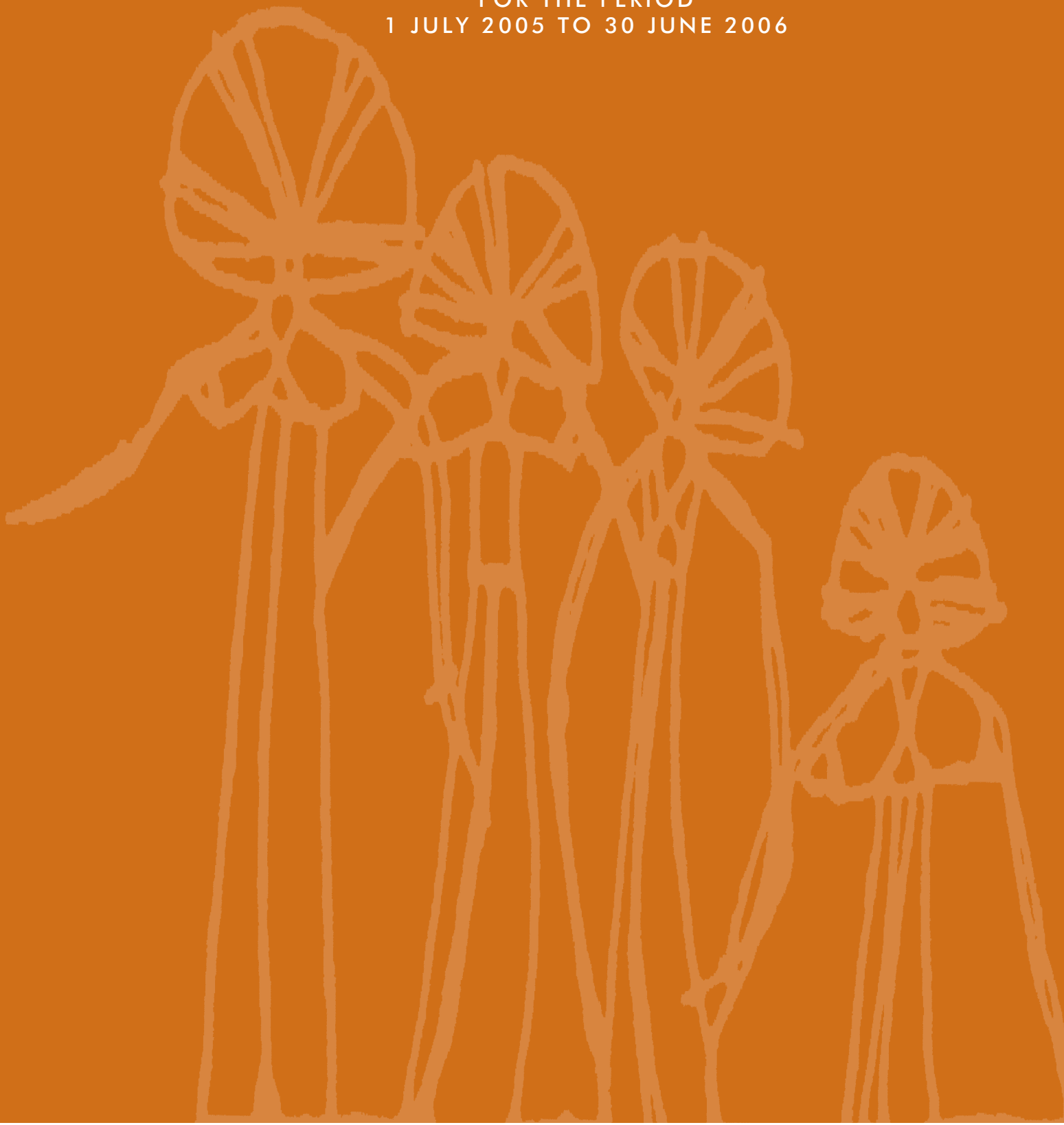
Due to the overcrowding in the Darwin office the Authority engaged the assistance of the NT Properties Management to relocate the Authority's Library. The Library is now located in a building at 68 McMinn Street. This is seen as a temporary arrangement and when the current lease is due for renewal the Authority will be seeking accommodation that will house the entire staff of the Darwin office.



ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD
1 JULY 2005 TO 30 JUNE 2006





ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

GPO BOX 1890
DARWIN NT 0801
TELEPHONE: (08) 8981 4700
FACSIMILE: (08) 8981 4169

30 December 2006

The Hon Elliot McAdam MLA
Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Indigenous Affairs
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Minister

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14 (1) of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report for the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority for the Financial Year, 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006.

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

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the system of internal control provides assurance that:

- a) proper records of all transactions affecting the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority are kept and employees under my control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, the *Financial Management Regulations* and *Treasurer's Directions*;
- b) procedures within the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority afford proper control over expenditure, receipts and public property consistent with my responsibilities as accountable officer and in accordance with Section 13 of the *Financial Management Act*;
- c) there is no indication of malpractice, fraud, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in or omission from the accounts records;
- d) in accordance with the requirements of Section 15 of the *Financial Management Act*, the internal audit capacity available to the Aboriginal Areas Protection was adequate and the results of internal audit were reported to me;
- e) financial statements included in the report were prepared from proper accounts and records were in accordance with Part 2, Section 5 of the *Treasurer's Directions*. All financial statements prepared by the Department of Corporate and Information Services, on behalf of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, were prepared from proper accounts and records; and
- f) all employment instructions issued by the Commissioner for Public Employment were complied with.

Yours sincerely

JEFFERY STEAD

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 Treasurer's Directions.

We further state that the information set out in the 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 2006 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.

J. Stead

.....
JEFFERY STEAD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
31/08/06

Clive Naylor

.....
CLIVE NAYLOR
MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES
31/08/06



FINANCIAL STATEMENT OVERVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority achieved a net operating surplus of -\$63 042 that was a variance of \$0 from the revised approved budget surplus of -\$63 000.

Included in the operating expenses was a Notional Cost of \$82 000 for a project carried out by the Chief Minister's Department (Risk Management Services). The \$82 000 was not included in the operating revenue (Goods and Services Received Free of Charge).

The Authority's approved revenue from its customers was a final estimate of \$350 000 for the year. However, due to several large requests for Authority Certificates the Authority collected in excess of \$429 000 in revenue.

The Authority has the Minister's agreement to approach the Treasurer for approval to utilise Cash Balances of \$66 000 comprising \$12 000 to offset the increased estimate for Minor New Works and \$54 000 to continue the Data Integrity Audit. The Authority is also seeking \$31 000 for Reserved Balances (Advance Account and Petty Cash Floats).



ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATING STATEMENT STATEMENT OF FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006 STATEMENT?????

INCOME			
	NOTE	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
Grants and Subsidies Revenue			
Current		-	20
Output Revenue		2,502	2,324
Other Agency Revenue		429	365
Miscellaneous Revenue		-	1
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	4	301	301
Gain on Disposal of Assets	5	-	1
TOTAL INCOME	3	3,232	3012
EXPENSES			
Employee Expenses		1,887	1906
Administrative Expenses			
Purchases of Goods and Services	6	1,091	923
Repairs and Maintenance		1	1
Depreciation and Amortisation	9	16	20
Other Administrative Expenses ⁽¹⁾		300	302
Grants and Subsidies Expenses			
Current		-	5
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	3	3,295	3,157
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	12	(63)	(145)

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

¹ Includes DCIS service charges.

ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

ASSETS			
	NOTE	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
Current Assets			
Cash and Deposits	7	201	152
Receivables	8	39	46
Prepayments		11	17
Total Current Assets		216	
Non-current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	9	23	39
Total Non-current Assets		39	
TOTAL ASSETS		274	254
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	10	118	41
Provisions	11	205	242
Total Current Liabilities		323	283
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	11	63	58
Total Non-Current Liabilities		63	58
TOTAL LIABILITIES		386	341
EQUITY			
Capital		42	80
Accumulated Funds		70	7
TOTAL EQUITY		112	87

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.



STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

BALANCE OF EQUITY			
	NOTE	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 1 JULY	20	(87)	183
<i>Capital</i>	12		
Balance at 1 July		(80)	45
Equity Injections		38	70
Equity Withdrawals		-	(195)
Balance at 30 June		(42)	(80)
<i>Accumulated Funds</i>	12		
Balance at 1 July		(7)	139
Surplus/(Deficit)forthe Period		(63)	(146)
Balance at 30 June		(70)	(7)
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 30 JUNE		(112)	(87)

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.



ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

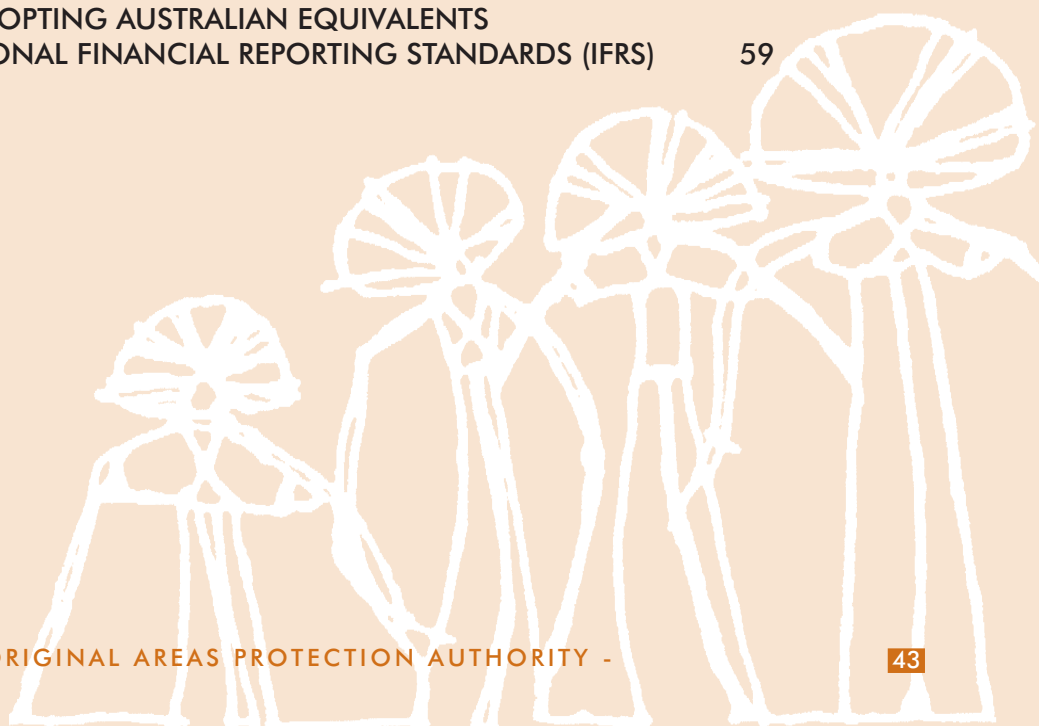
CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
	NOTE	2006 \$'000 (OUTFLOWS) INFLOWS	2005 \$'000 (OUTFLOWS) INFLOWS
Operating Receipts			
Grants and Subsidies Received			
Current		-	20
Output Revenue Received		2,502	2,324
Receipts from Sales of Goods and Services		518	-
Receipts from Customers			351
Other operating Receipts			2
GST Receipts on Sales			28
GST Receipts from Taxation Authority			52
Interest Received			
Total Operating Receipts		3,020	2,777
Operating Payments			
Payments to Employees		1,915	1,816
Payments for Goods and Services		1,094	914
Grants and Subsidies Paid			
Current		-	5
GST Payments on Purchases		-	78
Total Operating Payments		3,101	2,813
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	13	11	(35)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Investing Payments			
Purchases of Assets	9	-	1
Total Financing Receipts		-	1
(1) NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES		-	1
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Financing Receipts			
Capital Appropriation		38	38
Other Equity Injections		-	32
Total Financing Receipts		38	70
Financing Payments			
Equity Withdrawals	13	-	195
Total Financing Payments		-	195
(1) NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES		38	(125)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		49	(161)
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year		152	313
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	7	201	152

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

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

1: OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

The task given to the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority by the Northern Territory Parliament is to implement the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act*.

The Authority is predominantly funded by the Northern Territory Treasury appropriation. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the Authority controls resources to carry on its functions.

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) an 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 form of Authority financial statements is consistent with the accrual budget format and the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, including AASB 101, AASB 107 and AAS 29. The format also requires additional disclosures specific to Territory Government entities.

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.

This is the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority's first financial report prepared following the adoption of Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The adoption of Australian equivalents to IFRS has resulted in minor adjustments to the Authority's financial statements. Further information in relation to the Authority's adoption of Australian equivalents to IFRS may be found in note 20 – Impact of Adopting Australian Equivalents to IFRS.

(b) Central Holding Authority

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

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

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

The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the Authority's financial statements. However, as the Authority is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of Government, these items have been separately disclosed in note 19 - Schedule of Territory Items.

(c) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2004-05 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

In accordance with AASB 1: First Time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to IFRS, comparative information has been adjusted for the adoption of Australian equivalents to IFRS.

(d) 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.

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year.

Any changes to accounting policies that have been required as a result of the adoption of Australian equivalents to IFRS are not accounting policy changes for the purposes of AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Estimates and Errors. Note 24 provides information in relation to changes in accounting policies required following the adoption of Australian equivalents to IFRS.

(e) 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.

(f) **Income Recognition**

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

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

Output Revenue

Output revenue represents Government funding for Authority operations and is calculated as the net cost of Agency outputs after taking into account funding from Authority income. The net cost of Authority outputs for Output Appropriation purposes does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation.

Revenue in respect of this funding is recognised in the period in which the Authority gains control of the funds.

Grants and Other Contributions

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the Authority 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.

Rendering of Services

Revenue from rendering services is recognised on a stage of completion basis.

Interest Revenue

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

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.

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 Authority obtains control of the asset or contribution. Contributions are recognised at the fair value received or receivable.

(g) **Repairs and Maintenance Expenses**

Funding is received for repairs and maintenance works associated with Authority assets as part of Output Revenue. Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on Authority assets are expensed as incurred.

(h) Interest Expenses

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

(i) 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. Cash at bank includes monies held in the Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA) that are ultimately payable to the beneficial owner.

(i) Receivables

Receivables include accounts receivable and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any allowance for uncollectible amounts. The collectibility of receivables is reviewed regularly, and part of this process is to assess, at reporting date, whether an allowance for doubtful debts is required.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 30 days and other receivables within the same time frame.

(k) Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$5,000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$5,000 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 Authority 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.

Revaluations

Plant and equipment are carried at cost.

Depreciation and Amortisation

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:

	2006	2005
Computer Equipment	2-4 Years	2-4 Years
Plant and 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.

Assets Held for Sale

Assets held for sale consist of those assets which 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.

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 Operating Statement 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 Reserve for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

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 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 Reserve. Note 12 provides additional information in relation to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

(e) Leased Assets

Leases under which the Authority 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 leased asset and a lease liability equal to the present value of the minimum lease payments are recognised at the inception of the lease.

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.

(f) 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 Authority. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

(g) Employee Benefits

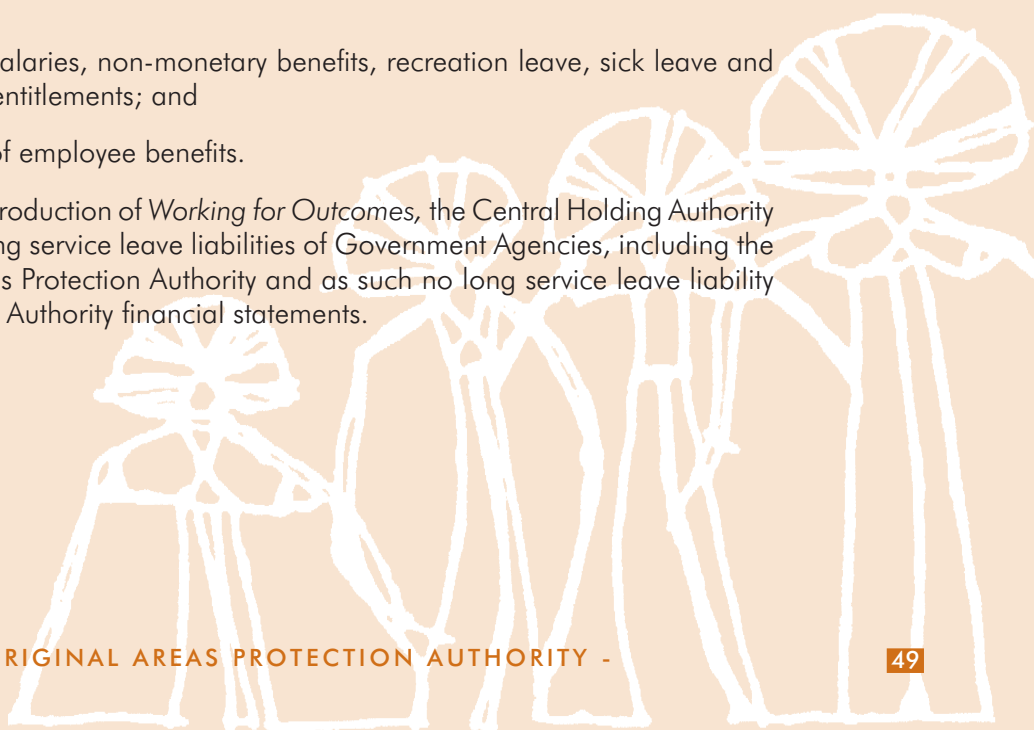
Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries and recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that 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.

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 introduction of *Working for Outcomes*, the Central Holding Authority assumed 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 Authority financial statements.



(h) Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- NT Government and Public Authorities Superannuation Scheme (NTGPASS);
- Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS); or
- non-government employee nominated schemes for those employees commencing on or after 10 August 1999.

The Authority 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 Authority financial statements.

(i) Contributions by and Distributions to Government

The Authority may receive contributions from Government where the Government is acting as owner of the Authority. Conversely, the Authority 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 Authority as adjustments to equity.

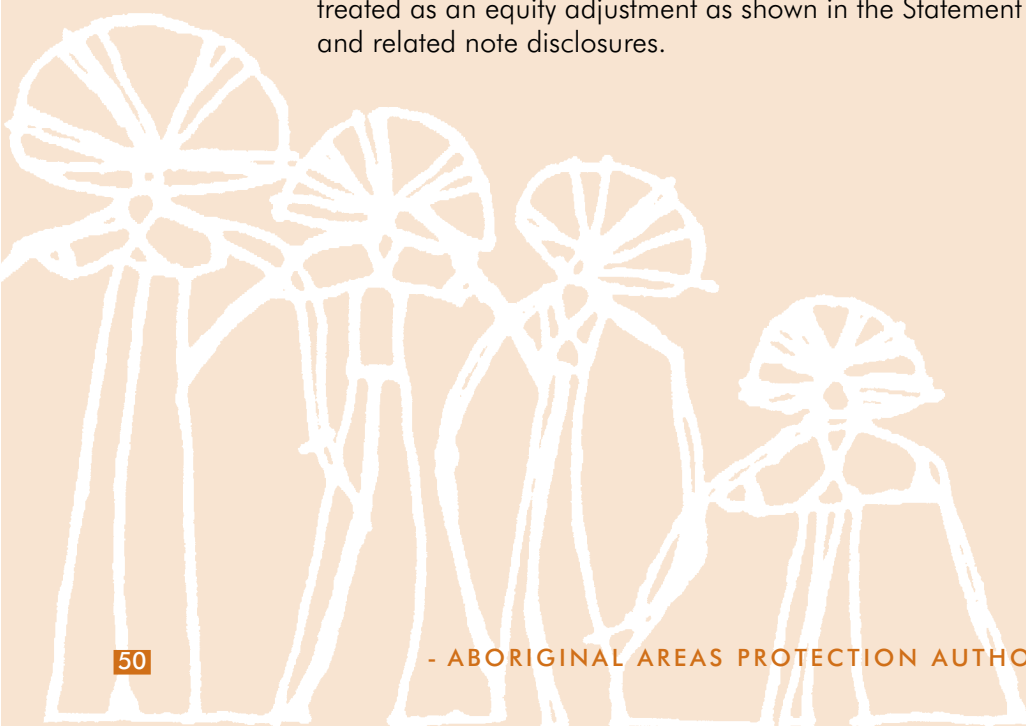
The Statement of Changes in Equity and note 12 provide additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, Government.

(j) Commitments

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at note 15 and are consistent with the requirements contained in AASB 101, AASB 117 and AAS 29.

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

In accordance with Treasurer's Directions, the recognition of net assets was treated as an equity adjustment as shown in the Statement of Changes in Equity and related note disclosures.



ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

3. OPERATING STATEMENT BY OUTPUT GROUP

	NOTE	PROTECTION OF SACRED SITES		TOTAL	
		2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
INCOME					
Grants and Subsidies Revenue					
Current		-	20	-	20
Output Revenue		2,502	2,324	2,502	2,324
Sales of Goods and Services ^(b)		429	365	429	365
Miscellaneous Revenue		-	1	-	1
Goods and Services Received					
Free of Charge	4	301	301	301	301
Gain on Disposal of Assets ^(c)	5	-	1	-	1
Total Income		3,232	3,012	3,232	3,012
EXPENSES					
Employee Expenses		1,887	1,906	1,887	1,906
Administrative Expenses					
Purchases of Goods and Services	6	1,091	923	1,091	923
Repairs and Maintenance		1	1	1	1
Depreciation and Amortisation	10	16	20	16	20
Other Administrative Expenses ⁽¹⁾		300	302	300	302
Grants and Subsidies Expenses					
Current		-	5	-	5
Total Expenses		3,295	3,157	3,295	3,157
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	15	(63)	(145)	(63)	(145)

This Operating Statement by Output Group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

4. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
Corporate and Information Services	(301)	(301)
Internal Audits and Reviews	(82)	
	(383)	(301)

5. GAIN^(A) ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

Net proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets (b)	-	1
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed (b)	()	()
Gain ^(a) on the disposal of non-current assets (b)	-	1

6. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES

The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses

Goods and Services Expenses:

Consultants ⁽¹⁾	193	137
Advertising ⁽²⁾	1	1
Marketing and Promotion ⁽³⁾	2	-
Document Production	11	11
Legal Expenses ⁽⁴⁾	18	18
Recruitment ⁽⁵⁾	16	17
Training and Study	23	13
Official Duty Fares	34	19
Travelling Allowance	20	22

⁽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.

7. CASH AND DEPOSITS

Cash on Hand	1	1
Cash at Bank	200	152
On Call or Short Term Deposits		
	201	152

8. RECEIVABLES

Current		
Accounts Receivable	35	41
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts Receivable	(5)	(7)
	30	34
Interest Receivables		
GST Receivables	9	12
Other Receivables		
	9	12
Non-Current		
Other Receivables	-	-
TOTAL RECEIVABLES	39	46

9. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
Plant and Equipment		
At Cost	49	49
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(33)	(26)
	16	23
Computer Hardware		
At Cost	48	48
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(41)	(32)
	7	16
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	23	39

Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations

The fair value of these assets was determined based on any existing restrictions on asset use. Where reliable market values were not available, the fair value of Authority assets was based on their depreciated replacement cost.

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

Authority plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2006. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2005-06 is set out below:

	PLANT & EQUIPMENT \$'000	COMPUTER HARDWARE \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2005	23	16	39
Additions	-	-	
Disposals	-	-	
Depreciation and Amortisation	(7)	(9)	(15)
Additions/(Disposals) from Administrative Restructuring	-	-	
Additions/(Disposals) from Asset Transfers	-	-	
Revaluation Increments/(Decrements)	-	-	
Impairment Losses ^(a)			
Impairment Losses Reversed ^(a)			
Other Movements			
Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2006	16	7	23

Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2004-05^(a) is set out below:

	33	27	60
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2004			
Additions			
Disposals	(1)	-	(1)
Depreciation and Amortisation	(9)	(11)	(20)
Additions/(Disposals) from Administrative Restructuring			
Additions/(Disposals) from Asset Transfers			
Revaluation Increments/(Decrements)			
Impairment Losses (b)			
Impairment Losses Reversed (b)			
Other Movements			
Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2005	23	16	39

ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

10. PAYABLES

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
Accounts Payable	25	35
Accrued Expenses	93	6
	118	41

11. PROVISIONS

Current		
Employee Benefits		
Recreation Leave	135	164
Leave Loading	25	27
Recreation Leave fares	22	22
Other Current Provisions		
Other Provisions	23	29
	205	242
Non-Current		
Employee Benefits		
Recreation Leave	63	58
	63	58
TOTAL PROVISIONS	268	300

The Authority employed 28 employees as at 30 June 2006 (27 employees as at 30 June 2005).

12. EQUITY

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. The Government's ownership interest in the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority is held in the Central Holding Authority as described in note 2(b).

Capital

Balance as at 1 July	(80)	45
Equity Injections		
Capital Appropriation	38	70
Equity Transfers In ^(a)	-	-
Equity Withdrawals		
Capital Withdrawal ^(b)	-	(195)
Equity Transfers Out ^(a)	-	-
Net Effect of Administrative Restructure ^(c)	-	-
Balance as at 30 June	(42)	(80)
Accumulated Funds		
Balance as at 1 July	(7)	139
Surplus /(Deficit) for the Period	(63)	(145)
Changes in Accounting Policies ^(a)	-	-
Correction of Prior Period Errors ^(a)	-	-
Gains/(losses) recognised Directly to Equity ^(a)	-	-
Net Adjustment on Transition to IFRS ^(a)	-	-
Balance as at 30 June	(70)	(7)

13. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
Reconciliation of Cash		
The total of Authority Cash and Deposits of \$201 000 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)	(63)	(145)
Non-Cash Items:		
Depreciation and Amortisation	16	20
(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of Assets	-	(1)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables	7	(10)
Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments	6	(5)
(Decrease)/Increase in Payables	78	21
(Decrease)/Increase in Provision for Employee Benefits	(27)	60
(Decrease)/Increase in Other Provisions	(6)	23
(Decrease)/Increase in Other Liabilities		
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	11	(37)

14. 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) Credit Risk

The Authority has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the Authority 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 Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

(b) Net Fair Value

The carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements approximates their respective net fair values. Where differences exist, these are not material.

(c) Interest Rate Risk

The Authority is not exposed to interest rate risk.

ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS continued...

	Weighted Average interest rate %	Variable Interest \$'000	Fixed Interest Maturity			Non- Interest bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
			Under 1 year \$'000	1 to 5 ^(a) years \$'000	Over 5 years \$'000		
2006 Financial Assets	5.08						
Cash and Deposits		201	-	-	-	-	201
Receivables		-	-	-	-	-	-
Advances and Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Assets:		201	-	-	-	-	201
Financial Liabilities							
Deposits Held		-	-	-	-	-	-
Payables		-	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowings and Advances		-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance Lease Liabilities		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Liabilities:		-	-	-	-	-	-
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS/(LIABILITIES):		201					201
2005 Financial Assets^(b)	5.08						
Cash and Deposits		152	-	-	-	-	152
Receivables		-	-	-	-	-	-
Advances and Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Assets:		152	-	-	-	-	152
Financial Liabilities							
Deposits Held		-	-	-	-	-	-
Payables		-	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowings and Advances		-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance Lease Liabilities		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Liabilities:		-	-	-	-	-	-
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS/(LIABILITIES):		152	-	-	-	-	152



ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

15. COMMITMENTS

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
(i) Capital Expenditure Commitments	0	0
(ii) Other Expenditure Commitments	0	0
(iii) Operating Lease Commitments The Authority leases items of plant and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases. Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable later than one year and not later than five years – Renal agreement – Xerox Printer (DCC240CPFS) Connected Solutions Group.	5	5
(iv) Finance Lease Commitments		
Total Finance Lease Liabilities	0	0

16. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

a) Contingent liabilities

b) Contingent assets

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority had no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2006 or 30 June 2005.

17. 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.

18. WRITE-OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS AND WAIVERS

Write-offs, postponements and Waivers Under the Financial Management Act

Nil for this reporting period.

ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY

19. SCHEDULE OF TERRITORY ITEMS

	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
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(b)).		
TERRITORY INCOME AND EXPENSES		
Income		
Taxation Revenue		
Grants and Subsidies Revenue		
Current		
Capital		
Fees from Regulatory Services	16	14
Interest Revenue		
Royalties and Rents		
Other Income		
Total Income	16	14
Expenses		
Central Holding Authority Income Transferred	16	14
Doubtful debts		
Bad Debts		
Other Administrative Expenses		
Total Expenses	16	14
TERRITORY INCOME LESS EXPENSES	0	0
TERRITORY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Assets		
Taxes Receivable	0	0
Grants and Subsidies Receivable		
Royalties and Rent Receivable		
Other Receivables		
Total Assets	0	0
Liabilities		
Central Holding Authority Income Payable	0	0
Unearned CHA Income		
Total Liabilities	0	0
NET ASSETS		

The adoption of Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) did not result in any adjustments to Territory items managed by the Authority on behalf of the Government.

20. IMPACT OF ADOPTING AUSTRALIAN EQUIVALENTS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS)

**WHAT DETAIL
BELOW???**

As discussed at note 2(b), this is the first financial report prepared following the adoption of Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The transition to IFRS has only resulted in minor adjustments to the Authority's financial performance and financial position as discussed in greater detail below.

The Authority's cash flows were not impacted. In accordance with AASB 1, the Authority was required to separately adjust 1 July 2004 opening balances and 2004-05 comparative financial information as summarised below.

IFRS adjustment for non-current recreation leave for AAPA resulted in an adjustment of \$323.00.



