



Annual Report 2014–2015







ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to the many people who assisted in the production of this report.

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PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Our Annual Report describes the achievements, performance and priorities of the department's staff during 2014–15.

It also corroborates our mission to work with our partners to stimulate and sustain our minerals and energy industries throughout the Territory.

As such, the report provides an account of our functions and responsibilities, our resource use and outputs, our fiscal management and performance against budget to inform Parliament, our industry stakeholders, staff and Territorians



Chief Executive

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The Hon David Tollner MLA Minister for Mines and Energy Parliament House DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present you with the annual report for the Department of Mines and Energy for the year ended 30 June 2015. The report describes the operational performance and key achievements of each of the department's output groups, pursuant to section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*.

I advise in respect to my duties as Accountable Officer, to the best of my knowledge and belief that:

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

Yours sincerely

RON KELLY
Chief Executive

2 8 August 2015

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Introduction and Overview



Chief Executive's Message

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Department of Mines and Energy (DME) for the year ending 30 June 2015.

While the resources sector has experienced difficulties with falling commodity prices in the market, 2014-15 has been another productive year for the department and one I have been very proud to be a part of.

The department underwent a change of Chief Executive Officers, as well as a change of Minister in the first quarter of 2015 and the smooth changeover has been a testament of the professional and hardworking staff and the procedures we have in place.

There have been some great outcomes for this year across the department. I thank all DME staff for their support, professionalism and commitment to ensuring we continue to deliver the industry support and regulatory monitoring that is required by both industry and the Northern Territory community.

We as a department have the responsibility to support the development of mining and petroleum activities in the Northern Territory, which in turn supports economic growth, the creation of local employment opportunities, and the building of industry capacity.

The Department of Mines and Energy is helping to achieve this through the extremely successful initiatives of our industry investment attraction team. Supporting companies to secure the investment they need to move into production is achieved through continued hosting of trade delegations and departmental presence with our major trading partners of Japan, Korea and China. The department has also begun working with representatives of Taiwan and more recently started exploring opportunities with India.

A key aspect of our investment attraction activities is the continued support of our \$23.8 million successful CORE initiative. The department also awarded nearly \$850,000 to ten successful companies in grants for co-funding of exploration, as part of the Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations initiative to provide vital publicly available data that helps unlock the Territory's untapped minerals and energy potential.

The Department of Mines and Energy has achieved many milestones this financial year, including successful field trips to East Arnhem Land, McArthur River Basin, Victoria River District as well as across central Australia, the launch of a new global web application which greatly assists the mineral and petroleum industry called STRIKE and hosting the successful AGES conference attracting hundreds of interstate and international delegates to Alice Springs.

The other critical function performed by the department is the approval and monitoring of mining operations and in particular, the environmental responsibilities on mine operators. Mining and petroleum developments deliver significant economic benefits to the Northern Territory and also have an impact upon the environment. Our environmental assessment team have worked hard to manage acceptable impacts and are working to provide greater public transparency into the decision making process and outcomes.

An important initiative associated with our environmental management of mining that has continued to develop and flourish during this financial year has been the Legacy Mines Unit. Financed by a levy set on mining companies introduced in 2013, the unit successfully undertook rehabilitation planning and remedial work at the Redbank and Mt Todd sites as well as former sites at Tennant Creek and other regions in the Territory. This levy and the dedicated fund that has been created will fund rehabilitation works that will reduce the impact of past practices and reinforcing the NT Government's intent of promoting and supporting environmentally sustainable mining developments. The Legacy Mines Unit has been a great asset to our department.

Oil and gas exploration has continued to grow in the Northern Territory with the NT firming as one of the best potential shale gas development opportunities in Australia. Since the public release of the Hawke Inquiry Report, a community engagement strategy has been developed to assist with the government's consultation with community and other stakeholders regarding the development of the onshore oil and gas industry and the legislation and regulations that will guide developments.

This strategy will be a priority for the Energy Directorate during the development of the legislation process and is an ongoing priority for our department.



RON KELLY
Chief Executive Officer



About the Department

The Department of Mines and Energy, created on 4 September 2012 by an Administrative Arrangements Order, provides strategic services that promote exploration and responsible development of mineral, geothermal and energy resources.

OUR VISION

The Northern Territory is the preferred destination for resource investment and development.

OUR MISSION

To enhance the wealth of the Northern Territory through responsible stewardship of its minerals and energy resources.

OUR VALUES

These are aligned to the Northern Territory Public Service values of:

- Commitment to Service professional, hardworking, efficient and effective, innovative and work collaboratively to achieve the best results for the Northern Territory
- Ethical Practice upholding the highest standards of practice and acts with integrity in all that we do
- Respect respecting all people and in particular their rights as individuals
- Accountability transparency and accountability in all our actions
- Impartiality providing advice that is objective, timely and based on the best available evidence
- Diversity diversity of our workforce, as well as, the NT population that we serve

OUR SERVICE COMMITMENT

We aim to be viewed by:

- Resource Industries as proactive, consistent, accountable and innovative
- Our Colleagues as cooperative and knowledgeable
- Our Critics as rational, decisive and honest

These aims will be achieved by:

- Capturing and disseminating geological information to encourage the responsible development of the Northern Territory's minerals and petroleum resources
- Attracting local and international business investment partnerships
- Administration and granting of tenure and facilitating land access for mining, petroleum and geothermal exploration and development
- Regulating the exploration, mining and production of minerals and petroleum
- Managing the residual risks associated with legacy mine sites
- Supporting economic development and participation for Indigenous people.

Departmental Overview

OUR BUSINESS UNITS

The department has three main business units, namely Northern Territory Geological Survey, Mines and Energy Directorates, which provide strategic services to support exploration and responsible development of mineral and energy resources. They regulate mining and petroleum activities, and conduct inspections and audits to ensure best practice in environmental management and the evaluation and reduction of environmental impacts arising from exploration and development activities.

OUR CORPORATE GROUPS

Strategic services and corporate support is provided to the Department of Mines and Energy through a shared services arrangement with the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries. This is formalised through a Service Level Agreement between the two departments.

Executive and Communications Services supports the senior management group, provides high-quality services to the Minister's office and the Legislative Assembly, as well as assists staff to effectively disseminate information about the work and operations of the department, and promotes a positive corporate profile.

Finance provides a range of corporate support and related services, including strategic advice and training on its core business of budget management, financial reporting, accounting, travel, procurement and infrastructure and asset management.

Human Resources provides strategic client-focused support services for the effective management of employees.

Information Management and Information Technology manages and implements appropriate systems and technologies to capture, track and analyse information generated and gathered by the department, including freedom of information and privacy issues.

OUR COMMITTEES

The Executive Management Committee provides effective leadership and guidance on strategic and performance issues. It is the department's principal strategic planning body; it provides guidance for decisions-makers and sets and monitors the goals, strategies and performance targets for the department.

Advisory Committees assist the Executive Management Committee and include:

- 1. Risk Management and Audit Committee
- 2. Information Management Committee
- 3. Workplace Health and Safety Steering Committee.

The committees evaluate and monitor these particular areas, all of which contribute to good governance and assist the department in meeting its government and corporate obligations.

Key Industry Sectors – Trends and Analysis

INTRODUCTION

The Northern Territory economy is dominated by the mining sector, which includes minerals and petroleum. In 2013-14 the construction industry accounted for 19.0% of the Territory economy, with the next largest sector being the mining sector at 16.4%, followed by public administration and safety accounting for 9.5% of the NT economy.

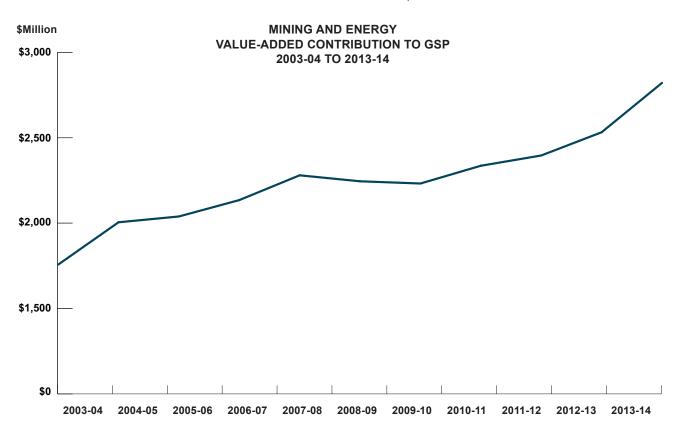
TABLE 1: INDUSTRY SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NT GROSS STATE PRODUCT, (GSP) \$ MILLION, 2013- 14.

INDUSTRY	VALUE (\$ MILLION)	% CHANGE	CONT. TO GDP (%)
Construction	3,991	43.2%	19.0%
Mining	3,436	-6.6%	16.4%
Public administration and safety	1,997	14.7%	9.5%
Health care and social assistance	1,298	6.6%	6.2%
Transport, postal and warehousing	1,020	24.4%	4.9%
Rental, hiring and real estate services (b)	940	0.3%	4.5%
Manufacturing	848	-18.1%	4.0%
Education and training	696	-3.1%	3.3%
Professional, scientific and technical services	629	2.3%	3.0%
Retail trade	621	-2.1%	3.0%
Financial and insurance services	545	10.5%	2.6%
Administrative and support services	521	21.7%	2.5%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	453	30.5%	2.2%
Accommodation and food services	378	2.4%	1.8%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	358	53.0%	1.7%
Wholesale trade	348	20.4%	1.7%
Other services	315	6.4%	1.5%
Information media and telecommunications	248	14.3%	1.2%
Arts and recreation services	234	9.3%	1.1%

Source: ABS Cat No. 5220.0

The mining sector is capital intensive, and its growth pattern over the last two decades has been tracking with the NT economy. Industry trends show that after a period of stability up to the late 1990s, the mining sector contribution to the Territory economy rapidly expanded almost four fold, initially on the back of oil and mineral expansions and then more recently through gas and condensate.

FIGURE 1: MINING SECTOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE NT ECONOMY, 2003-04 TO 2013-14.



YEAR	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
VALUE (\$M)											
Mining	1,757	2,005	2,039	2,135	2,280	2,245	2,232	2,336	2,396	2,532	2,821

Source: ABS Cat No. 5220.0

EMPLOYMENT

Table 2 (below) shows almost 4.3% of the NT workforce (full-time and part-time) is employed in the mining sector. The vast majority of jobs are located in the regional and remote areas of the NT that provide employment opportunities for rural and remote Territorians.

TABLE 2: EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR 2013-14

INDUSTRY	FULL TIME	PART TIME	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
Public administration and safety	20,878	2,349	23,227	17.3%
Health care and social assistance	12,115	3,591	15,706	11.7%
Construction	14,428	1,011	15,439	11.5%
Education and training	9,139	2,634	11,773	8.8%
Retail trade	7,012	3,250	10,262	7.7%
Accommodation and food services	4,620	2,797	7,417	5.5%
Other services	5,259	1,559	6,818	5.1%
Professional, scientific and technical services	5,349	1,226	6,575	4.9%
Transport, postal and warehousing	5,259	1,172	6,432	4.8%
Mining	5,677	56	5,732	4.3%
Manufacturing	4,357	340	4,696	3.5%
Administrative and support services	3,307	1,304	4,611	3.4%
Arts and recreation services	2,850	713	3,563	2.7%
Wholesale trade	2,688	203	2,891	2.2%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1,934	330	2,264	1.7%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1,966	93	2,059	1.5%
Financial and insurance services	1,537	195	1,732	1.3%
Information media and telecommunications	1,173	258	1,431	1.1%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,102	328	1,430	1.1%
TOTAL AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT	110,650	23,409	134,060	

Source: ABS Cat No. 6291.0.55.003 (1). Figures are averages.

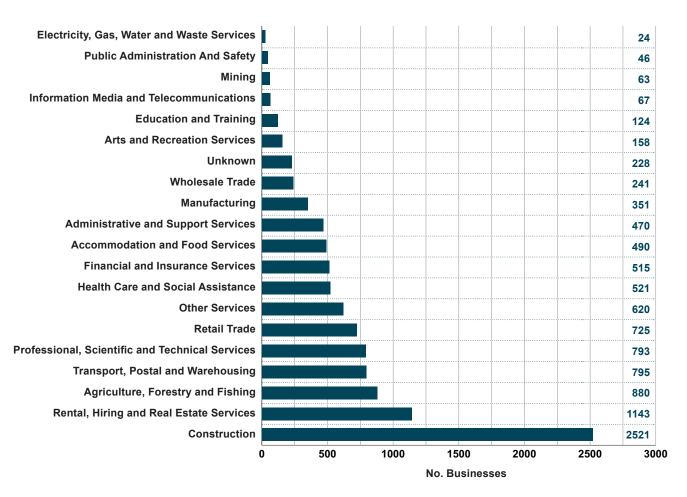
Please note all figures here have been rounded respectively and may not tally to totals.

BUSINESSES

Figure 2 (below) shows 63 NT businesses engaged in mining in June 2014, which is the third smallest number of businesses by a sector in the NT economy.

The mining sector is represented by 33 employing businesses or 0.8% of total employing Territory businesses in June 2014, while the mining sector has 30 non-employing businesses or 0.3% of the total non-employing business in the NT. Low numbers for employing businesses is reflective of mining enterprises being listed as businesses in other jurisdictions outside the Northern Territory.

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF NT BUSINESSES BY SECTOR, JUNE 2010-14



Source: ABS cat. no. 8161.0. Counts of Businesses 2010-2014

MINERALS AND ENERGY

In 2013-14, the total value of mineral and energy production (extraction) and processing (manufacturing) was estimated to decrease by 6.4% to \$6,474 million before decreasing by a further 27.3% in 2014-15 with modest growth forecasted in the following year for 2015-16 (see Figure 3). The value of uranium production is forecast to rise to \$266 million in 2014-15 (see Table 3).

Drivers of growth are the (LNG) manufacturing plant at Wickham Point, condensate out of the Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA), manganese and uranium which are expected to offset declines in oil production, on-shore gas production and alumina. These estimates include half of the value of production arising out of the JPDA and Black-tip gas field in the Timor Sea.

TABLE 3: VALUE OF TERRITORY MINING (MINERALS AND ENERGY) AND MANUFACTURING 2013-14 TO 2015-16(F)

	2013-14 (\$ MILLION)	2014-15 FORECAST (\$ MILLION)	2015-16 FORECAST (\$ MILLION)
Mining and Energy	5,086	4,467	4,033
Manganese	1,024	1,020	1,052
Other Minerals	693	742	480
Gold	770	676	545
Zinc / Lead concentrate	301	469	411
Total Mining	2,787	2,907	2,489
Oil	216	185	165
Gas and liquids	1948	1,110	1,109
Uranium	136	266	270
Total Energy	2,299	1,560	1,544
Liquefied natural gas	861	212	1,189
Alumina	527	29	26
Total Manufacturing	1,388	241	1,216
Total Mining and Energy and Manufacturing	6,474	4,708	5,249

Source: Department Mines and Energy data collections 2014. NB Figures include Blacktip and JPDA

Please note all figures here have been rounded respectively and may not tally to totals.

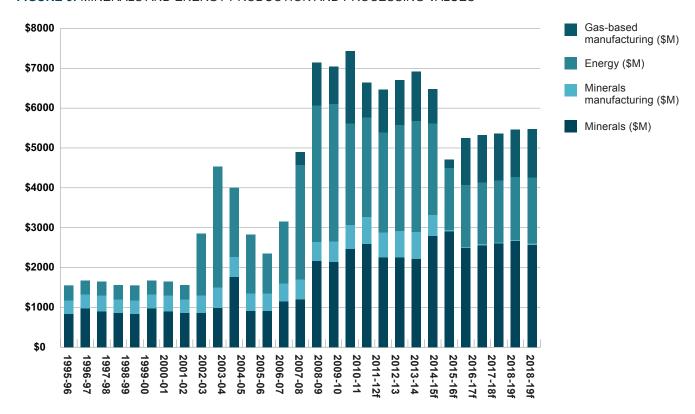


FIGURE 3: MINERALS AND ENERGY PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING VALUES

(a) 2007-08 figures have been revised due to input data revisions

Source: Northern Territory Minerals & Energy Forecasts, 2010

f = forecasts

REGIONAL LOCATION

Arid Zone Research Institute

The department's regional headquarters in Central Australia is at the Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI), and houses staff from the Department of Mines and Energy, under the shared-resources agreement with the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

As well as AZRI, the department also has staff based at the Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) Core Store on Power Street, Alice Springs. NTGS staff undertake activities related to regional geological programs as well as maintaining information services through the Minerals and Energy InfoCentre.

Mining Environmental Compliance staff from the Mines Directorate make up the 'Mining Team –Central Australia'. These officers are responsible for the enforcement of all aspects of the *Mining Management Act* in Central Australia which covers an area of about 570,000 square kilometres. This includes assessing and regulating extractive and exploration operations as well as active and remediated mine sites.



CHAPTER 2 Corporate Governance



Corporate Governance Introduction

The department strives to achieve good corporate governance so our stakeholders have confidence in the decisions and actions that are taken in achieving our overall outcomes.

The department's risk management strategy underpins our performance and delivery of services and programs, as well as ensuring the department conforms to the laws, regulations, standards and community expectations of probity, accountability and openness.

The department's governance structure comprises an Executive Management Committee and subsidiary committees that include a Risk and Audit Committee, Executive Work Health and Safety Committee and an Information Management Committee.

The department and its employees are guided by our values, being; commitment to service, ethical practice, respect, accountability and impartiality. DME also strives to ensure the department reflects the diversity of the NT population that we serve.

The department strives to ensure maximum efficiency and accountability and makes the best use of resources to deliver its priorities.

SHARED CORPORATE SERVICES

The department has corporate services provided by the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) where services are delivered to the department in the areas of:

- · Budgets, Finance and Travel
- Human Resources
- Information Management and Technology
- · Infrastructure and Assets
- Media and Communications
- · Risk and Audit.

In order to be effective strategic business partners, DPIF corporate directors attend the Mines and Energy's Executive Management Meetings and meet regularly with the DME Chief Executive. Both departments' priorities and business are supported in a proactive and collaborative manner.

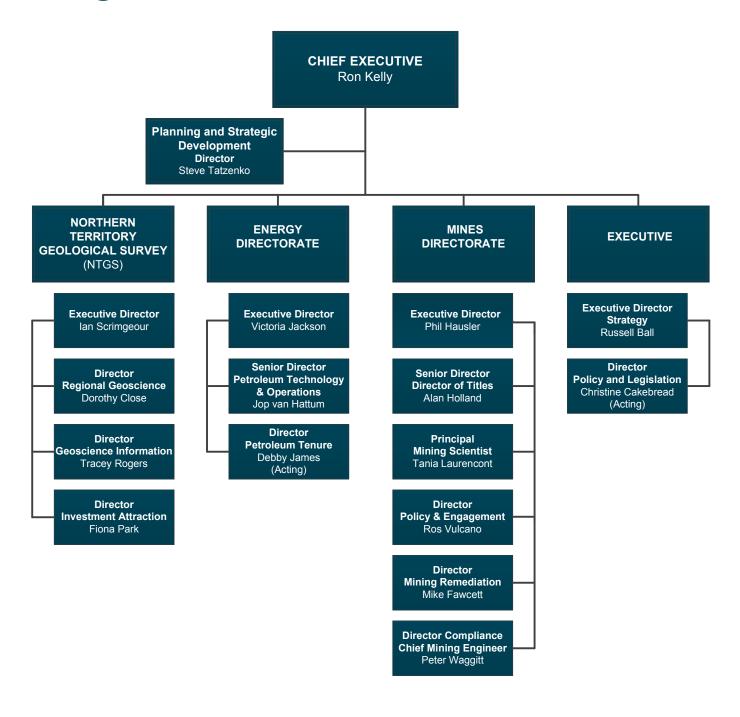
An annual strategic assessment of services occurs together with a client satisfaction survey, with results included in consideration of service improvements of changes.

Organisational Governance

The governance structure for the department is outlined below:

- 1. The Minister is appointed by the Administrator as per the Self Government Act
- 2. The Chief Executive is appointed by the Minister of the day and is responsible for the department
- 3. The Executive Management Committee consists of senior managers and officers of the department
- 4. The Administrator has the authority to declare the powers and functions of the department through the Administrative Arrangements Order. The statutory responsibilities as per this order are described on page 34. The department's priority is to serve the elected Government and the people of the Territory. Employees contribute to the objectives of the department's Strategic Plan (see page 133) and administer the legislation described on pages 34 and 35
- 5. Community, industry and other stakeholders, including other government departments, provide input into the department's decision-making
- 6. The Risk and Audit Committee, and the Work Health and Safety Steering Committee, report to the Executive Management Committee and/or the Chief Executive on a regular basis. Their activities are described on pages 26 and 28 respectively
- 7. The Information Management Committee is an internal Shared Corporate Services committee and their activities are detailed on page 27
- 8. The Mining Board is formed under the *Mining Management Act* and is an independent body that provides advice to government and also a decision review function. Its status is described on page 29
- 9. The department's progress towards delivering its objectives is contained in the Performance Reporting section commencing on page 54

Organisational Chart at 30 June 2015



Executive Management Committee

The Executive Management Committee, which is made up by the Executive Directors and Corporate Services Directors, is chaired by the Chief Executive and meets monthly.

The role of Executive Management Committee includes:

- · Providing a forum to coordinate activities
- Setting goals and strategic direction
- Prioritising attention to meet objectives of the 2014-17 Strategic Plan and other government initiatives
- Providing an opportunity for each Directorate and Corporate Services Directors to formally communicate achievements, critical issues, policy changes, budget position and human resources issues
- · Granting approval for internal policies and procedures to be adopted and implemented.

The Chief Executive also produces a newsletter, which is emailed to all staff and posted on the Intranet. It includes information on departmental issues, individual and group achievements and projects and staff movements.



RON KELLY
Chief Executive Officer

Ron Kelly has more than 15 years' experience in public policy development and implementation with both the Northern Territory and Australian Governments. This has included both high level discussions and negotiations with foreign and domestic governments and companies, as well as community engagement and consultations.

As Chief of Staff to the NT Chief Minister Ron Kelly managed ministerial liaison functions for oil and gas, mining and major infrastructure investment projects within the Chief Minister's office. The primary objective was to liaise with ministers, relevant department officials and industry representatives to facilitate project successes.

Prior to entering the public sector, Mr Kelly was area manager for Telstra in Katherine, including at the time of the 1998 Katherine flood, where he managed the installation, repair and servicing of Telstra infrastructure and customer equipment across the Katherine service delivery district.

Mr Kelly served with the Royal Australian Air force with qualifications in electronic engineering.



RUSSELL BALL
Executive Director Strategy
- Executive Group

Russell Ball leads the Strategy and Policy unit within the Executive Services Group. The unit has broad responsibilities to support the operational directorates on matters such as policy, legislation and cross-agency and cross-government matters. It also includes communications and marketing, including a new responsibility for a public campaign about onshore oil and gas. It also hosts the Ministerial liaison function.

Russell previously led the mining regulatory area from 2008 - 2014.

Russell participates in the Executive Management Committee and was the senior departmental nominee to the Information Management Committee, one of three key governance committees for the department.

During 2014-15, Russell continued his studies towards the Executive Masters of Public Administration through the Australian and New Zealand School of Government. He completed the Public Sector Management Program in 2005.



IAN SCRIMGEOUR
Executive Director
- NT Geological Survey

After moving to the Territory in 1994, Ian spent a year working in gold exploration around Pine Creek. In 1995, Ian joined NTGS as a regional mapping geologist based in Alice Springs, working in the Musgrave Province and Arunta Region in Central Australia. From 2002, he managed the survey's geoscience programs as Program Leader, Mineral Prospectivity, before being appointed Director of NTGS in December 2006. In this role Ian has been responsible for overseeing the Territory's initiatives to grow the exploration sector, including the current CORE initiative.

lan has a PhD in geology from the University of Adelaide.



PHILIP HAUSLER
Executive Director

- Mines Directorate

Moving from regional NSW to the Northern Territory in 1989, it was the outdoor lifestyle and abundant opportunities that the Territory had to offer that saw Philip stay in the place he now calls home, with his wife and three children.

With a keen interest in the land, Philip took the opportunity to study and earn his Degree in Applied Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, before embarking on his career in the Territory. A background in agriculture equips Philip well to deal with the challenges of land use impacts that face the Department of Mines and Energy.

Philip has been intimately involved in high level policy and planning in the mines and energy sector and brings a strong level of experience to his role. He previously worked in the mining and resources industry for five years, including for the Northern Territory Government Minister for Mines and Energy as Chief of Staff. Philip also worked in major project development with the former Department of Resources.

Philip is committed to best practice resource management to achieve balanced development and environmental outcomes and to achieving a strong economic future for the Northern Territory.



VICTORIA JACKSON
Executive Director
- Energy Directorate

As Executive Director, Energy, Victoria has responsibility for managing exploration and development of the Territory's petroleum and geothermal resources as well as managing the coordination of NT energy policy.

Victoria has more than 25 years' experience in private and public sector minerals and energy organisations. In addition to her management roles, Victoria's technical and policy responsibilities have included: oil and gas regulator, government and community relations, director of a resource industry geological consultancy, heritage and native title management and facilitator for Western Australian major projects, including several key LNG and iron ore developments, and port developments.

Victoria holds a Bachelor of Science (Geology) from Canterbury University, New Zealand, and a Diploma in Cartography from Wembley Technical College, Western Australia.

Our Committees

RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Risk and Audit Committee (RAC) assists the Chief Executive to meet the Accountable Officer's statutory responsibilities and the management of the department's internal control arrangements.

Its objective, authority, roles, reporting and administrative responsibilities are set out in its Terms of Reference, which are approved by the Chief Executive and reviewed annually. Membership of the Committee is representative of the department's business and corporate areas.

The department has developed its Strategic Risk Register to document its risks, current controls, planned risk reduction initiatives to minimise risks to the achievement of its 2014-17 Strategic Plan.

The Auditor-General conducted one compliance audit for the year ending June 2015 which examined the existence and functioning of selected aspects of the department's internal financial control systems. The audit concluded that the controls tested provided reasonable assurance that the responsibilities of the Accountable Officer will be met if those systems continue to operate in the manner identified in the audit.

The Committee engaged a consultant to provide audit assurance of its remote fieldwork capacity, management, asset management and communications.

Achievements for 2014-15

- Developed a Strategic Risk Register
- · Conducted an audit of Work Health and Safety remote fieldwork policies and procedures

Priorities for 2015-16

- · Review and update the Strategic Risk Register
- Ensure internal audits include a strong focus on identifying business process improvement opportunities as well as compliance control improvements
- Establishment of a register to track implementation of audit recommendations

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Information Management Committee (IMC) has a key role in governance of strategic information management; including reviewing and approving all Information Management (IM) and Information Technology (IT) project submissions and advising on investment in information technology.

This year the composition and charter of IMC was changed to oversee related activity in DME and DPIF, consistent with the shared delivery of corporate services. The committee comprises three representatives from each department who work with the Chief Information Officer to set the strategic direction and review, approve and prioritise individual project submissions.

This year IMC considered 13 individual project proposals, using a fully electronic system, and met on five occasions.

Achievements for 2014-15

- Reviewed and considered 13 individual project proposals
- Oversaw the development of new and replacement of several end-of-life business systems, with projects running within timeframes and budget
- Implemented technologies to improve staff mobility through external trusted access to our systems.

Priorities for 2015-16

- · Development of IT and IM Strategic Plans.
- Complete a comprehensive review of Business Continuity Plans.
- Oversee the replacement of key DPIF and DME business systems.
- Continue to develop solutions and systems to allow greater web-based and mobile access for our external clients.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE

The Work Health and Safety Steering Committee (WH&SSC) develops and ensures the maintenance of work health and safety (WH&S) policies and programs within relevant legislation.

It also:

- Ensures adherence to all corporate, Territory and national health and safety legislation, regulations, policies, procedures and programs
- Ensures effective systems are in place to safeguard the health and safety of all staff, contractors, customers and the public
- Approves all new or revised WH&S policies and other related documents
- Ensures the development and analysis of performance data and trends to inform continuous improvement of health and safety
- Ensures progress of WH&S Management systems through an agreed set of DME corporate standards, policies or guidelines, together with specific Business Unit procedures where required
- Ensures safety and environmental processes are integrated into all core business processes
- Ensures activities are in place to raise staff awareness of WH&S and the effectiveness of these activities are measured, monitored and reported
- Oversees the functions of workplace safety committees and makes recommendations on issues referred by the workplace safety committees
- Convenes and oversees sub-committees and working parties responsible for tackling WH&S issues
- Reviews reports on external workplace work health and safety inspections and audits.

Achievements in 2014 - 15

- Continued to fulfil the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 requirements
- · Flowcharts and forms for online incident reporting developed and placed on intranet
- Implemented WHS policies on PPE and Quad Bike use
- Implemented WHS policy on Remote and Isolated Fieldwork and developed Guidelines for each Directorate
- Undertook external audit of Remote and Isolated Fieldwork WHS policy and guidelines
- · Informed and consulted with staff on WH&S matters
- · Conducted meetings every two months.

Priorities for 2015 - 16

- Continue to fulfil the new Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 requirements
- · Implement recommendations of the audit into Remote and Isolated Fieldwork WHS policy and guidelines
- · Undertake audits of other policies and guidelines
- Complete updating of the DME WH&S Management System to ensure compliance with relevant legislation
- Implement an improved communication strategy on WH&S issues
- Ensure risk registers are updated.

WH&SSC members consist of senior representatives of each Directorate, the Executive Officer DME and the Director Human Resources. The Committee reports monthly to the DME Executive Management Committee. Members are usually appointed for two years.

NORTHERN TERRITORY MINING BOARD

The Northern Territory Mining Board is established under Part 6 of the *Mining Management Act* (MMA). The Mining Board is also known as the Mining Advisory Committee. The Board has functions and powers outlined in section 50 of the MMA, including forming a Review Panel if a person applies for review of a decision made under the MMA by the Minister or his delegate.

The members are appointed for their individual skills and knowledge of the mining or related industries.

The current members were appointed by the Minister in May 2015 for a two year period.

They are:

- Mr Brian Hearne (Chair)
- Mr Brian Fowler
- Mr Duncan Hedditch
- Mr Richard Jackson
- Mr Keith Joy
- Ms Andrea Sutton
- Mr David Warriner

Insurance Arrangements

The department is covered by the NT Government's policy of self-insurance and has developed a strengthened Risk Management Framework to formalise identifying, evaluating and mitigating specific risks relating to its business.

Strategies include a range of policies and procedures, as well as the purchase of commercial insurance for overseas travel. An overview of the department's insurance arrangements, cost, number and value of claims is detailed in Table 4.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' compensation covers workers' medical expenses, lost income, compensation for incapacitation and compensation for dependents (in the case of death) arising from a workplace incident. The department is bound by the *Northern Territory Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act*, the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act*, as well as the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations, and is required to have appropriate WH&S strategies and processes in place to identify and minimise risks to workers, which are:

- Policies and procedures to reduce the risk to workers in specific work situations including: remote travel, working alone, using dangerous goods, first aid, office ergonomics and office safety
- A WH&SSC, whose members include senior executives, that meets regularly to monitor and guide WH&S management activities across the department; meeting minutes are published on the department's Intranet
- Active workplace WH&S Committees
- An Employee Assistance Program that provides employees with up to five visits annually to a counselling service or specialist advisory expert to provide services such as workplace conflict or stress management coaching
- A performance management system, known as the Personal Development Process that provides an opportunity for managers and staff to discuss and review processes, including safety related training matters
- Policies, procedures, manuals and activity specific work-plans have been established, maintained and reviewed to minimise risk to workers. Specific policies address remote travel, safety items and related safety awareness training
- Travel policies for employees travelling in and out of Australia, and guidelines on Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel warning travel risk categories
- Commercial travel insurance to cover employees travelling overseas
- Workplace nominated first aid officers and fire wardens. Posters with nominated officer details are displayed in work areas and on the department's intranet
- · Emergency response procedures, including cyclone and flood, are in place and reviewed annually
- · Maintenance of an asbestos register for all sites owned by the department;
- Inspections are conducted to identify unsafe or deteriorating sites where, if necessary, safe removal is carried out via the works programming process

TABLE 4: INSURANCE COSTS

PROPERTY AND ASSETS SUMMARY	2013-14	2014-15
Total Costs	\$1 062	0
New		
Vehicle & Fixed	1	0
Asset Incidents	0	0

WORKERS COMPENSATION SUMMARY*	2013-2014	2014-2015
Total Costs	\$18 080	\$11 686
New		
Incidents	7	13
Claims	0	1

INSURANCE PREMIUM SUMMARY**	2013-2014	2014-2015
Travel Insurance	\$1 153	\$650
Motor Vehicle Insurance	\$11 620	***

^{*} Source: BOXI-HR WHS002 Report, Department of Corporate and Information Services

^{**} Excluding GST; Source: Government Accounting System

^{*** 2013-14} and 2014-15 premium expensed in 2013-14 – no premium expensed in 2014-15

PROPERTY AND ASSETS

The department's assets primarily consist of land, buildings, vehicles, plant and equipment, and include financial assets. These assets require management to prevent damage, loss or theft.

The department has the following mitigation strategies and processes in place:

- · Policy on portable and attractive assets to ensure accountability and custodianship
- Property and Assets are managed through a shared corporate service arrangement provided by DPIF
- · Internal audit processes and controls to foster compliance with the treasurer's directions
- Accountability protocols for the control of allocating and recording security swipe cards and keys for access to buildings
- · Commercial insurance to cover property damage for expensive specialised equipment
- Comprehensive vehicle management policy and procedures for governing all aspects of the vehicle fleet
- Emergency procedures, including cyclone and flood, updated annually and reviewed after each emergency event to ensure best practice
- Internal security systems in the Centrepoint building that lock individual floors or buildings after hours or as necessary
- · Policies for use of corporate credit cards, credit control, debt management and entertainment
- Regular inspections and/or stock-take of property and assets.

PUBLIC LIABILITY

Public liability relates to the liability owed to a third party who suffers loss or damage by reason of the department's activities. Therefore, the following mitigation strategies and processes are in place:

- Facilitated rectification in partnership with Northern Territory Property Management for issues such as pest control, air quality testing and water filter replacements
- Policy on maintenance contractors requiring compliance with sign-in/sign -out procedures, WH&S standards and observance of applicable warning signage
- Risk assessments conducted for property and equipment use
- Compliance with relevant legislation
- Commercial insurance purchased to cover liability risk when volunteers are engaged by the department
- In compliance with Procurement Directions under the NT Government Procurement Framework, quotes and tenders are required to address public liability. Risk assessment processes may also identify the need for additional cover for issues such as marine and aviation liability.

INDEMNITY

An indemnity is an agreement that provides protection from the consequences of a breach of duty of care or negligence, provided acts have been done in good faith. Issuing an indemnity rather than purchasing commercial insurance is in line with Government's policy of self-insurance. As such the department has the following mitigation strategies and processes in place:

- Where it is possible to reach an agreement with another party, clauses imposing an indemnity on the department are removed from contracts before entering into them
- The agency legal advisers are engaged to review contracts containing indemnity clauses and are frequently asked to advise on any other risks associated with the terms and conditions of contracts
- Where an indemnity clause is included in a contract an assessment of the risk of an indemnity provision being relied on is conducted and checked by senior executives
- · Application of WH&S processes as applicable
- Promote compliance with all applicable legislation, such as the *Information Act*
- Formal adoption of the indemnity process at the Treasurer's direction on externally funded projects.

During the financial year no party has called upon the Territory Government to indemnify them against losses or damage arising from a contract under which the department provided an indemnity.

Statutory Responsibilities and Acts

STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the Administrative Arrangements Order, the department is responsible for the following principal areas of government:

- · Energy operations regulation
- · Energy policy
- · Environmental management of mining and energy operations
- · Geothermal industry development
- · Geothermal titles administration
- · Mining development
- · Mining titles administration
- Northern Territory Geological Survey
- · Petroleum industry development
- · Petroleum titles administration
- · Pipeline industry development
- Pipeline operation regulation
- · Pipeline title administration

ACTS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT

The department is responsible for administering 15 Acts and eight pieces of subordinate legislation.

- Bonaparte Gas Pipeline (Special Provisions) Act
- · Energy Pipelines Act
- · Energy Pipelines Regulations
- Geothermal Energy Act
- · Geothermal Energy Regulations
- McArthur River Project Agreement Ratification Act (except provisions about royalties)
- Merlin Project Agreement Ratification Act (except provisions about royalties)
- Mineral Titles Act
- · Mineral Titles Regulations
- Minerals (Acquisition) Act
- Mining (Gove Peninsula Nabalco Agreement) Act (except provisions about royalties)
- · Mining Management Act
- Mining Management Regulations
- · National Gas (Northern Territory) Act
- Petroleum Act (except provisions about royalties)
- Petroleum Regulations

- Petroleum (Prospecting and Mining) Regulations
- Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act
- Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Regulations
- Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Application of Commonwealth Laws) Regulations
- Tanami Exploration Agreement Ratification Act
- Trans-Territory Pipeline and Blacktip Gas Projects (Special Provisions) Act
- Validation (Mining Tenements) Act

LEGISLATIVE REVIEWS IN 2014-15

Petroleum Act

In early 2014 the Northern Territory Government commissioned Dr Allan Hawke AC to conduct an independent inquiry into the use of hydraulic fracturing as a method to extract oil and gas resources in the NT.

The inquiry determined that NT laws were sufficient for the current level of oil and gas activities in the NT, but they needed to be updated and strengthened as the oil and gas industry grew. In light of this, the *Petroleum Act* will be reviewed over the next 18 months and public comments will be sought during this time.

Petroleum (Environment) Regulations

The Schedule of Onshore Petroleum Exploration and Production Requirements assists with the regulation of petroleum exploration and production activities for onshore and inland waters of the Territory. It has its force in law from the *Petroleum Act* via a direction or condition of grant of tenure. It contains provisions detailing the requirements for the regulation and audit of all petroleum activities including seismic survey, drilling, workovers, reporting, production operations and data submissions.

The schedule has worked well since 1993 and had mirrored the Commonwealth and Western Australian regimes in most parts. It can be amended quickly to adapt, address and assist in regulating new technologies and activities emerging in the Territory, particularly with the increased interest in unconventional oil and gas.

However, contemporary regulatory views and best practice suggest that governments should regulate with strong, well defined and well written regulations to assist industry and the public to have confidence in the administration and exploitation of resources. Also, the department engaged an independent expert from the Faculty of Law at Bond University to undertake a review of the petroleum regulations and one of the recommendations of that review was that the provisions of the schedule should be in regulation.

The process to incorporate the provisions of the schedule into the new Petroleum (Environment)
Regulations is underway and a draft of the proposed legislation will be made available for public comment.

Mineral Titles Act and Mineral Titles Regulations

The *Mineral Titles Act* replaced the *Mining Act* on 7 November 2011 and while it has been working well, it requires amendments to deal with minor issues that have been discovered by clients and staff during implementation. These issues include removing now redundant provisions, clarifying wording and altering provisions that are not operating as originally intended.

The department's intention to make amendments to the *Mineral Titles Act*, and consequently the Mineral Titles Regulations was announced at the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar held in Alice Springs in March 2015. It was stated in the announcement that, due to the extensive consultation undertaken during the development of the Act, only selected stakeholders would be asked to provide feedback on the amendments.

It is anticipated that a draft of the amendments will be provided to Government towards the end of 2015 or early 2016.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN 2014-15

There were no legislative changes or amendments in 2014-15.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Under Section 11 of the *Information Act*, the department is required to annually prepare a report that details its:

- Structure and functions
- Types of Government information it usually holds
- Procedures for providing access under Part 3 (Access and Correction Rights) to Government information it holds
- Procedures for correcting personal information it holds under Part 3.

This information may be published in a document, a database or any other material form, and must be available in at least one of those forms for inspection and purchase by members of the public.

ACCESSING INFORMATION

The department's guidelines and procedures that enable access to information and to request corrections to personal information are available at www.minerals.nt.gov.au/foi.

Government information held by the agency

During 2014-15, the department continued to improve record management practices, procedures and policies to ensure compliance with Part 9 of the *Information Act*. Part 9 requires the department to develop and implement plans and processes to ensure full and accurate records are created, captured, retrievable, secure and, where appropriate, disposed of in line with approved disposal schedules.

During the year:

- Two new disposal schedules were developed, one for Mineral Title Regulation and the other for Mining Management; work on another for the Geological Survey is almost complete
- Seven thousand records of permanent value were transferred to NT Archives Service.

For a comprehensive list of the agency's statement of information refer to: www.minerals.nt.gov.au/foi

Requests for access to information in 2014-15

Two information requests were carried over from 2013-14 and finalised in 2014-15. There were 13 new requests for information during 2014-15.

In all, three requests were finalised, two were not accepted, five were withdrawn and five were carried over into 2015-16. Two requests for internal review were received. One was finalised and one was withdrawn.

POLICIES, PROTOCOLS, GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

The department maintains a comprehensive set of policies, protocols, guidelines and procedures as part of its corporate governance framework.

They cover a range of different business activities, including Work Health and Safety, Human Resources, Information Management, Risk Management, Communications, Asset Management and Finance. These help ensure regulatory compliance and staff accountability.

Regular reviews are undertaken to make sure the documents align with the department's governance framework, comply with legislation and other government policies, and to monitor the effectiveness of the controls in place to address the strategic and operational risks that can arise.

All departmental policies, protocols, guidelines and procedures reside on the intranet to improve document review processes, enhance the regularity of updates and to make the department's electronic Service Centre the single source for up-to-date information.



CHAPTER 3 Our People



Introduction

OUR PEOPLE

The Department of Mines and Energy continued to attract and retain a passionate, professional workforce of scientists, engineers, researchers, technicians and administration staff from many different cultural backgrounds and age groups.

The department's services are delivered to a wide range of stakeholders and industries in a culturally diverse environment. It is central to our success that our people effectively engage with all stakeholders and maintain the skills and capabilities to meet government and core business priorities.

The majority of the department's staff are located in the major cities of Darwin and Alice Springs.

The Department of Mines and Energy Strategic Plan 2014–17, containing five strategic themes that include "Our People", continues to be the focus of the department.

As part of the commitment towards implementing this strategic theme, the department has continued to achieve activities as set out in "Our People" Plan. The People Plan is a key part of the DME Strategic Plan 2014–17 and outlines the four objectives relating to "Our People".

The Executive Management Committee report each month on their progress against the business plan and how that relates to the department's strategic plan, as well as any progress against the "People Plan". The department will further implement the actions contained within the "People Plan" over 2015 -17.

STAFFING PROFILE

The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent staff in the department as at 30 June 2015.

TABLE 5: STAFFING

DIVISIONS	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Mines & Energy	126	123	147	165
Total	126	123	147	165

TABLE 6: STAFFING BY CLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION	PERCENTAGE %
Administration	46
Professional	36
Executive	7
Technical	11
recriffical	1.1

OUR MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR

DME People Plan and Survey Response Plan

Continuing from last year and as a key part of the DME Strategic Plan 2014–17, the department has achieved key actions and activities that underpin the "Our People" Plan. Significant achievements include establishing business plans across the department by using a consultative approach, directorates reporting on their "People Plan Progress" as part of a standing agenda item at the Executive Management Committee meetings, improving consultation and feedback across the department by establishing regular team meetings and a strong focus on recognition and rewards for existing staff.

The NTPS People Matters Survey carried out during 2014 highlighted the key areas for the department to maintain and improve. A response plan was developed in relation to what the employees said, containing relevant actions and dates.

Relevant actions include promotion of the Personal Development Plan tracker via the Intranet news, revision of various policies and guidelines to increase employees understanding of various matters such as grievance, disclosure of interest and outside employment.

Energy Directorate

Due to the highly specialised nature of the required positions, external expertise has been sought. The Energy Directorate continues to consolidate its functions using the job evaluation system to establish positions. Several advertising processes were undertaken to recruit to the senior positions to the division.

Indigenous Employment and Special Measures

The department has obtained approval to implement a Special Measures plan where consideration will be given whether to apply a special measure to a vacancy as it arises. Additionally, the department has provided strong leadership to the NTG's Indigenous employment initiatives, which included the delivery of a cultural awareness programs and discussions with Charles Darwin University Indigenous Academic support.

Monthly Recognition Awards

The department continues to support its employees for their accomplishments and achievements through its monthly recognition award program.

During the reporting period 22 employees were recognised either as an individual or as part of a team nomination. Further information can be found in the Rewards and Recognition section of this report.

A Professional, Capable Workforce

To ensure the department has a professional capable workforce, the following programs were continued:

EARLY CAREERS PROGRAMS

The department continues to take part in key programs as part of its Early Careers initiative. These programs include;

1. Indigenous Cadetship Support Program (ICS)

The ICS program provides financial support to full-time students with a living allowance while studying, paid vocational employment for 12 weeks annually and reimbursement of successfully completed units of study.

During the reporting period the department had two cadets completing degrees in Environmental Science and Engineering.

2. Graduate Development Program

The Graduate Development Program graduates are employed in a one or two year program combining onthe-job training along with professional and personal development opportunities.

During the reporting period the department had one Environmental Engineering graduate who was successfully employed on an ongoing basis.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The department is committed to ensuring staff have the necessary skills and, therefore, actively encourages our staff to attend courses offered internally, as well as to seek greater education via external programs and work collaboratively with peers in other organisations.

The department provided the following courses during 2014-15:

TABLE 7: TRAINING COURSES

COURSE	TARGET AUDIENCE	NO. PARTICIPANTS
Respect In The Workplace	All	11
Cross Cultural - General	All	42
Cross Cultural Senior Managers	Senior Managers SAO1 equivalent and above	21
Ministerial Writing	Various staff involved with presenting Ministerial documents	15
Job Evaluation System	Professional/Technical	6

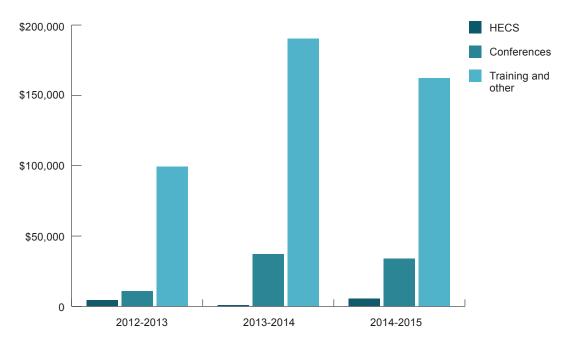
TRAINING EXPENDITURE COMPARISON

The table below shows the investment made by the department in training and development, including study assistance for its employees.

TABLE 8: TRAINING EXPENDITURE COMPARISON

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
HECS	\$4 408.30	\$968.00	\$5 513.00
Conferences	\$10 995.79	\$37 296.90	\$33 890.00
Training and other	\$99 467.04	\$190 189.65	\$162 245.00
Total	\$114 871.13	\$228 454.55	\$201 648.00

FIGURE 4: DME TRAINING EXPENDITURE COMPARISON



Financial Year

A Safe, Positive and Diverse Workplace

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO) INFORMATION

EEO information is recorded by employees' self-identifying in the following categories:

- · Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI)
- Non-English Speaking Background (NESB)
- · Person with a Disability (PWD).

As this is voluntary, the data in the table below cannot be guaranteed as completely reflecting the diversity within the department.

Employees are encouraged to enter their EEO details through myHR (an online human resource system that allows employees to access their own salary, leave and other personal information via the Intranet). The department regularly reminds employees to update their details through the HR newsletter and intranet news items.

TABLE 9: EEO GROUPS BY YEAR

CLASSIFICATION	2014	2015
		r
ATSI	5	5
NESB	5	10
PWD	2	1

TABLE 10: EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION BY GENDER

CLASSIFICATION	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
Admin	56	24	80
Professional	26	37	63
Executive	4	9	13
Technical	8	12	20

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The department maintained its Employee Assistance Program, which provides employees and their families with free access to confidential counselling and related services on issues such as interpersonal conflicts, relationship or family problems, stress, financial or vocational issues, grief, trauma, alcohol and other substance abuse problems.

The program's main areas of use continue to be management coaching and traditional employee counselling services, with both services being used. The department will continue to maintain this program to assist employees to meet personal and professional challenges. This program provides suggestions to support the department's continuous improvement.

No usage trends of significance occurred in the reporting period, with employees accessing the service consistently and within normal organisational parameters.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMS

WH&S is a key focus for the department. DME has established the:

- Work Health & Safety Steering Committee (WH&SSC), which will provide a cohesive, senior leadership commitment to lasting WHS performance across the Department
- WH&S Management System, incident reporting process, the updating of existing WH&S policies and establishment of workplace committees, and
- Induction Program that ensures all employees are informed of WH&S on commencement.

Rewards and Recognition

STAR AWARDS

The department's reward and recognition program, the STAR Awards, annual ceremony was held on 19th November, 2014.

An acronym for Service, Teamwork, Achievement and Results, the STAR Awards recognises outstanding work from individuals or teams with the department.

Award nomination categories are strategically aligned to government priorities, the department's Strategic Plan and People Plan.

Categories include;

- · Outstanding contribution in supporting economic development
- Outstanding contribution to effective regulatory activities, reducing red tape and improving regulatory process
- Service excellence for the department's clients
- · Outstanding contribution to Work Health and Safety
- · Outstanding contribution to leadership within the department
- Outstanding professional, administrative, technical or other contribution to the Territory or region.

Presented by the Minister, the Hon Willem Westra van Holthe MLA, winners receive a perpetual trophy and winner's certificate.

Additionally, major individual winners receive \$4,000 or for a winning team \$10,000. Moreover, secondary placed individual winners receive \$2,500 or for a team \$5,000. Monetary rewards are for the specific purpose of personal development or the purchase of office based equipment. All nominees receive a certificate of recognition.

Major Award Winner 2014

The award was presented to the STRIKE/TIS Development Team for their outstanding performance during the STRIKE/TIS redevelopment project.

This project involved an essential replacement, upgrade and improved integration of the online Titles Information System (TIS) and geoscientific STRIKE (Spatial Territory Resource Information Kit for Exploration) web mapping systems. The team demonstrated a high level of creativity and innovation in providing an improved essential system to both internal and industry clients alike.

The team comprised of Ed Fernandez, Lisa Heard, Daniel Atkins, Mark Asendorf, Rohan Hawthorne, Imran Abedin, Tracey Rogers and Brian Schmid.



From left to right: the Hon Willem Westra van Holthe MLA, Brian Schmid, Ed Fernandez, Imran Abedin, Tracey Rogers and Mark Asendorf.

Secondary Award Winner

The secondary award was presented to Dominic Marozzi, Ben McNeil and Greg MacDonald for their outstanding team work, motivation and quality of work during the DME Hydraulic Fracturing Enquiry Submission.

Overall six STAR Awards nominations were received. A high level of recognition and participation is a testament to all employees and the department's Rewards and Recognition program.

Service Milestones

In conjunction with the STAR Awards presentation the department also recognises employee 10, 20, 30 and 40 year service milestones.

Presented by the Minister, the Hon Willem Westra van Holthe MLA recipients receive either a certificate or recognition plaque, dependent on their service milestones.

Milestone presentations included;

10 Years' Service

- Nicole Wear
- Josie Silipo
- Carla McConachy

20 Years' Service

- · Rebecca Lee
- Michelle Kemp
- Andrew Hurwood

MONTHLY RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The Monthly Recognition Program looks to recognise the accomplishments and achievements of employees and teams within the department. Winning nominations are announced and presented with a letter of commendation by the Chief Executive.

Winning nominations for the reporting period include:

NOMINEE	MONTH
Deborah Josling	October
Brooke Cawood	December
Peter Campbell and Ken Satour	December
Andrew Hurwood and Annette Hughes	February
Jonathan Summer, Dominic Marozzi, Zoe Malone and Nicky McMaster	March
Dominic Marozzi	March
Lauren Cameron	April
Estimates Briefing Team: Desirée Ng, Jane Fraser, Robyn Holt, Lana Luders, Fanny Hermanus, Annette Hughes, Michelle Caden and Elizabeth Ash.	May
Denise Turnbull, Debby James and Gina Graham	June



The Hon Willem Westra van Holthe MLA and 10 Years' Service recognition recipient **Josie Silipo**



The Hon Willem Westra van Holthe MLA and 20 Years' Service recognition recipient $\bf Rebecca\ Lee$



The Hon Willem Westra van Holthe MLA and 10 Years' Service recognition recipient **Carla McConachy**



The Hon Willem Westra van Holthe MLA and 20 Years' Service recognition recipient $\bf Andrew\ Hurwood$

Public Sector Employment and Management Act Compliance

In accordance with section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* (PSEMA) there is a requirement for the Chief Executive to report on **Public Sector Principles** in regards to measures taken to ensure they are upheld and any significant failures to uphold them. The following information is provided in this regard:

REQUIREMENTS IN PSEMA	MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE THEY ARE UPHELD:
Administration Management	
Providing effective, efficient and appropriate services	
to the community and the government	
Ensuring the effective, efficient and appropriate use of public resources	
Informing, advising and assisting the government objectively, impartially and with integrity	
Ensuring that in carrying out their functions Agencies:	
Are responsive to the changing needs of the community and the government; and	The department has in place numerous
2. Work cooperatively with each other	measures to ensure compliance with this
Ensuring the Public Sector is structured and administered so that:	principle. These measures are detailed under the Governance section and in other relevant areas of the Annual Report.
Responsibilities are clearly defined	of the Affidal Nepolt.
Appropriate levels of accountability are in place	
Excessive formality and delay are minimised; and	
4. Innovation is encouraged	
Ensuring proper standards of financial management and accounting are maintained.	

Human Resource Management		
	Previous to the introduction of the NTPS simplified recruitment selection processes in DME, it required that the Chairperson was formally approved, which required undertaking training or recognition of prior learning.	
Employment is based on merit	Prior to the introduction of the NTPS Simplified recruitment processes on 1 July 2015 Recruitment and selection procedures and information for panels were on the department's intranet site and HR provides advice and support on this subject. Training has been carried out for panel members, 20 DME staff have attended	
	NTPS Simplified Recruitment was introduced in DME with an across NTPS Recruitment Policy and promoting OCPE training for panel members	
	Indigenous Employment activities continue. Discussions have occurred with students at CDU to take on further cadets. DME have introduced a Special Measures plan and intend to take on five Indigenous Employment Program Trainees to commence on 10 August 2015. Sixty three DME employees attended Cross cultural training. Recruitment practices have a strong focus on merit.	
Equality of employment opportunity	Both Policy and Procedures for Appropriate Workplace Behaviours are available on the department's intranet.	
	The Employability strategy developed includes initiatives to increase participation in the Disability Employment Program, generating marketing information (posters) and raising the profile of the strategy with the Executive Directors.	
Working environments in which employees:	Appropriate Workplace Behaviours Policy and Procedures promote a workplace that meets the requirements of this principle.	
 Are treated fairly, reasonably and in a non- discriminatory way 	The department's Performance Management process called Personal Development Program	
Are remunerated at rates appropriate to their responsibilities	(PDP) identifies the employee's training needs aligned to individual work plans and career aspirations.	
Have reasonable access to training and development; and	Positions are evaluated through Job Evaluation System or the Work Content process	
 Have reasonable access to redress when adversely affected by improper or unreasonable decisions. 	(Physical positions). The department has a Grievance Policy and Procedures which provide employees with the opportunity to seek reasonable redress.	

Performance and conduct

Carry out the officer's duties as follows:

- Objectively, impartially, professionally and with integrity
- 2. To the best of the officer's ability
- 3. In accordance with the Act and any code of conduct applicable to the officer under section 16(2)(c)

Treat other public sector officers, other persons in the workplace and members of the public fairly, equitably and with proper courtesy and consideration

Ensure effective, efficient and appropriate use of public resources

Avoid actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal or other interests and duties as a public sector officer

Ensure the officer's personal conduct does not:

- Adversely affect the performance of the officer's duties as a public sector officer; or
- 2. Bring the Public Sector into disrepute.

An online induction provides employees with information on the code of conduct and these principles. Reminder emails are sent to new starters who have not completed their inductions which are reported every quarter.

The PDP process provides employees the opportunity to understand what is expected of them and develop a learning plan.

During 2014-2015 11 DME employees attended training called "Respect in the Workplace".

There was no significant failure to uphold these principles during 2014–15.



Performance Reporting

The Department of Mines and Energy assess its overall performance against Directorate specific measures. These are outlined in Table 11 below:

TABLE 11: MINES AND ENERGY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

KEY DELIVERABLES	2014-15 ESTIMATE	2014–15 ACTUAL
Energy Directorate		
Energy Title applications received and administered	10	11
Energy Title applications outstanding – total	136	134
Energy Titles granted	8	8
Energy Titles granted – total ¹	55	56
Energy Activity applications received	28	13
Energy Activity applications approved	28	22
Energy Exploration Activities Assessed	750	966
Energy Activities Site visits/inspections	10	19
Geological Survey		
Statutory industry report and sample submissions processed ²	2500	3530
Geoscientific data products developed or updated ³	85	141
Industry delegates at Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar ⁴	165	154
Target rating for geological database in FIAS ⁵	10th	20th
Information and product request responses within five days	90%	91%
International investment attraction events ⁶	6	7
Mines Directorate		
Mine planning documents assessed	363	442
Authorisations granted	150	155
Total rehabilitation securities held (\$M)	750	978
Audits conducted ⁷	7	10
General inspections conducted ⁸	200	296
Number of Authorised Sites	360	379
Sites monitored by Environmental Monitoring Unit	35	24
Number of legacy mine projects commenced	3	6
Mineral exploration licences granted	1300	988
Application for mineral exploration licences outstanding	900	802
Corporate and Governance		
Client satisfaction with services	95%	92%

- 1 Cumulative total granted as at 30 June.
- 2 New performance measure.
- 3 Number larger than predicted due to increased resources under the CORE initiative.
- 4 Includes all delegates from the private sector, including explorers, and exploration and mining service providers.
- 5 The FIAS (Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies) is an annual worldwide survey of mining companies to rate the relative mineral exploration attractiveness of 122 jurisdictions, an increase of 10 over the 2013-14 survey.
- 6 This measure is a combination of two previous measures separating events held domestically and overseas.
- 7 An audit is the formal examination of the environmental management system in accordance with ISO14001.
- 8 An inspection is any visit to a site by a mining officer and includes audits, environmental monitoring & legacy mines (Excludes Rum Jungle).

Energy Directorate

The Northern Territory Government's Economic Development Strategy identifies energy resources as a priority opportunity to develop a prosperous economy, with the supply of domestic energy as one of six key economic enablers.

In its commitments to the following, the Economic Development Strategy provides clear direction for the Energy Directorate's 2014-15 priorities and goals for 2015-16:

- 1. Actively working with project proponents to ensure there is a clear awareness of opportunities to develop projects in the Territory.
- 2. Providing regulatory certainty to facilitate project development, including an inquiry into hydraulic fracturing to provide certainty for future onshore unconventional gas developments.
- 3. Improving land tenure management systems to encourage exploration and development, including provisions for a competitive process for granting new permits.

We can look back on what the directorate's achievements in 2014 -15 were against these priorities and look ahead to set our priorities for 2015 -16

Firstly, engagement with potential and existing proponents is a continuous requirement. The directorate ensures these goals are met through the provision of accurate information about how to do business under the NT's petroleum legislation and the timing of land releases through attendance at industry forums and conferences, as well as through direct engagement with proponents.

Secondly, the Public Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing was delivered to the NTG on 26 February 2014. The Energy Directorate's provision of information to the inquiry about the existing legislation and regulatory processes was well received by the inquiry's lead Dr Allan Hawke, AC. The directorate also played a key role in advising the Chief Executive's Working Group and reporting to government on planning for implementation of the inquiry's recommendations and findings. For the coming year, a key focus for the Energy Directorate is implementing government's key priority actions in response to the inquiry. This will include legislative reforms and a new approach to transparency and community engagement.

Thirdly, in 2014, for the first time, the Energy Directorate released land under a competitive bidding process. Looking ahead, the legislative review process will include investigation into the most appropriate land tenure systems to accommodate the long lead times required to prove up shale gas exploration targets.

The Energy Directorate continues to carry out regulation of onshore upstream and downstream energy activities. The Titles, Operations, Pipeline and Environment teams provide professional client services and are set to grow to meet the demands of increased industry activity. Our Titles and Operations teams manage the administrative, assessment and compliance of petroleum activities on a day to day basis. Our Pipelines team continues to deliver pipeline licences to support the development of onshore energy infrastructure, such as the development of the Inpex LNG facilities and the North East Gas Interconnect (NEGI) pipeline. As well as the day to day business activities, the Energy Directorate teams also make substantial contributions to the legislative reform process and to the development of the Energy Directorate Information System, building secure and contemporary business processes and data management systems.

ENERGY POLICY

The Northern Territory is uniquely placed as a new frontier for energy development across the conventional and shale oil and gas as well as the renewable spectrum. While major offshore projects such as Prelude and Ichthys are underway to deliver major gas production activity to the region, significant investment is being poured into exploration to identify recoverable reserves shale gas in the McArthur Basin in particular. Major projects such as the NEGI pipeline project will enable the commercialisation of Territory gas supplying east-Australian markets. Availability and reliability of sunlight coupled with growing regional communities are driving opportunities for the development of renewable energy sources using solar power. If realised, these opportunities will create significant economic growth for the Northern Territory.

All Territorians will be able to share in the benefits of this economic growth and reform through greater investment into better services such as health and education development of infrastructure and the creation of jobs, especially in regional areas.

To facilitate realisation of the Northern Territory's longer term economic growth the Energy Directorate will work across government to deliver an energy policy that sets out a clear direction to achieve energy security, affordability and sustainability over the next 20 years.

Energy policy will focus on creating awareness of the opportunities to invest in the Northern Territory, developing market access and removing barriers to investment and development, implementation of contemporary regulatory frameworks and compliance systems and balancing economic growth with ecologically sustainable development.

Energy policy development will also align with the federal government's policy of 'Developing the North'. This policy has created opportunities through the availability of a \$5.5 billion infrastructure development fund to be spread across the North of Australia.

The policy framework will consider a range of actions across the entire energy supply chain, including:

- Promoting the Northern Territory as a destination for onshore and offshore oil and gas exploration
- Encouraging investment in gas infrastructure
- Diversifying the Northern Territory's energy mix, including the development and adoption of economically viable alternative energy sources and technology
- Undertaking energy market reform and creating an environment which encourages investment and competition
- Ensuring that policy and regulatory frameworks are sufficiently flexible to accommodate changes in economic, social, environmental, technological and national settings
- Leading by example and adopting best practice energy management and sustainable energy technologies for power generation and use; and
- Creating and building industry capacity to drive economic development in our regions, and provide significant employment opportunities.

PETROLEUM PROMOTION

The Chief Executive and the Energy Directorate hold the primary responsibility for delivering accurate advice to the Minister, industry and the community on matters relating to the Territory's onshore oil and gas industry. Industry needs accurate advice and information on petroleum legislation and regulation, including any proposed changes to legislation. Of recent times, elevated community interest in the potential environmental risks posed by petroleum activities has created a need to provide the community with access to clear and accurate information about the real versus perceived risks and how the real risks are managed and regulated. A range of mechanisms assist in the delivery of this advice and information. These include:

- The provision of advice to the Minister on territory, national and international policy and operational issues and trends including in relation to the Council of Australian Government's Standing Council on Energy agenda.
- Content preparation for the communications strategy, including:
 - Preparation of the technical content for a new website https://onshoregas.nt.gov.au/ and for a range of presentations intended for various audiences.
 - Creating a generic email address to capture community requests for information.
- Development and delivery of information about our titles administration and our regulatory environment at key industry conferences in Australia and overseas. This ensures that industry has access to accurate information about how they can participate in the Territory's onshore oil and gas opportunities. These include:
 - The North American Prospect Expo (NAPE) in conjunction with the Australian American Chamber of Commerce event the premier oil and gas deal making Expo in the USA
 - The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) Conference the premier oil and gas event in Australia
 - The Northern Territory Government hosted South East Asia Australia Offshore & Onshore Conference (SEAAOC), which recently expanded to include the emerging onshore oil and gas industry
 - Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) the Northern Territory Geological Survey's key event to promote mineral and petroleum opportunities in the Territory.

PETROLEUM LEGISLATION

A key priority for the Energy Directorate for the 2014 – 15 reporting period was the development of contemporary, risk/outcomes-based Environment and Resource Management Regulations, replacing the Schedule to the *Petroleum Act*. A full review of onshore petroleum legislation, ensuring legislation meets contemporary standards and is able to support Government policy settings, was also a priority.

The Energy Directorate completed substantial preparatory work towards these priorities, with:

- The proposed introduction of new Environment Regulations in the first quarter of 2016 following a six week public comment period of the draft regulations
- A framework of the Resource Management Regulations ready for the next phase towards community and industry discussion
- Ongoing work in identifying changes required to the Petroleum Act, including a substantial review of
 petroleum titles administration to ensure fit for purpose tenure for shale oil and gas exploration
 and development.

Finalisation of these initiatives is contingent on the inclusion of the outcomes of the Public Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing and the structural reform options proposed by the Review of the Northern Territory Environmental Assessment and Approval Processes, also by Dr Allan Hawke AC.

In the meantime, the Energy Directorate finalised the draft Onshore Oil and Gas Guiding Principles, developed in consultation with industry, landholders and the broader community. Government expects the onshore oil and gas industry will adhere to these overarching guiding principles.

The Energy Directorate will use these principles in its permit granting, assessment, approval and compliance monitoring processes, including the requirement for transparency in reporting. While in some cases not explicit, these principles are enforceable under various mechanisms in relevant petroleum legislation and regulations including the Schedule to the *Petroleum Act*. The principles are available at: https://onshoregas.nt.gov.au/

ENERGY TITLES ADMINISTRATION

The Energy Tenure function includes administration of tenure grants and maintenance of energy tenure systems, including:

- Facilitating the grant of all energy tenure in accordance with relevant Northern Territory and Commonwealth legislation
- Maintaining registers for all energy tenure in accordance with relevant Northern Territory legislation including pipeline licences and construction
- Monitoring each title holder's compliance with grant conditions and legislative requirements
- Administering Part IV of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (ALRA) on behalf of the Commonwealth, including Indigenous liaison
- · Developing policies and procedures for land access matters
- Contributing to policy formulation, the development of legislation and the promotion of the Territory's resources
- Administering and ensuring exploration expenditure for energy projects meet or exceed approved levels for work programs
- Ensuring contemporary systems of administration through a process of continual improvement.

PETROLEUM OPERATIONS

Development of the onshore oil and gas industry forms a key component of the Northern Territory Government's "Framing the Future" vision. In particular, the onshore gas industry is seen as a critical contributor to the Territory's future economic growth through the provision of employment, regional development and royalty benefits directly to the NT Government. It is also essential to the Territory's and, in part, the nation's energy security.

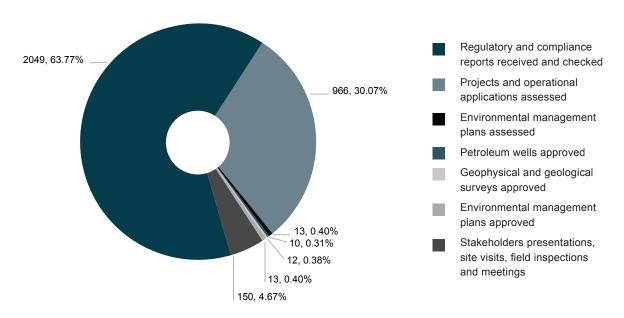
The Petroleum Operations team regulates all petroleum exploration, development and production activities associated with any petroleum tenure in the Northern Territory. The petroleum activities are assessed, approved and monitored to ensure they meet leading practice and are carried out in a manner that is safe and with minimal impact on the environment. These activities include seismic surveys, drilling of wells, well work-overs, regulation of production facilities and all associated environmental assessments.

Approximately \$153 million has been spent on exploration work programs in the last 12 months, with companies planning further exploration activities from July through September 2015. A summary of these activities conducted in 2014-2015 can be found in the following.

Throughout 2014–15 the Petroleum Operations team:

- Received and checked 2049 Regulatory and Compliance reports
- Assessed 966 projects and operational applications
- Assessed 13 Environmental Management Plans
- Approved 13 Environmental Management Plans
- Approved 10 Petroleum Well applications
- Approved 12 geophysical and geological Survey applications
- · Attended 150 stakeholders presentations, site visits, field inspections and meetings

FIGURE 5: 2014-15 YEARLY SUMMARY LEVEL OF ACTIVITY - PETROLEUM OPERATIONS



PIPELINE OPERATIONS

The Energy Directorate is responsible for the licensing and regulation of high-pressure energy transportation pipelines. To ensure they are designed, constructed and operated to achieve and maintain the highest level of integrity, the directorate regulates pipeline owners and operators in accordance with the world-leading Australian Standard 2885: Pipelines - Gas and Liquid Petroleum, and other relevant internationally recognised standards.

There are more than 3,000km of these silent, out-of-sight pipelines supplying natural gas and LPG to the Territory community for power generation and heating. The interconnected and multi-sourced nature of the system ensures a high degree of reliability of supply.

Achievements:

- PL21 Commencement of construction of the Wadeye Lateral Pipeline which will supply gas to the new Wadeye Power Station.
- PL26 A milestone for the \$US34 billion Ichthys LNG project was the completion of the 88km of the gas export pipeline lying within Territory waters
- PL27 Substantial progress on installation of the in-plant portions of the Ichthys LNG project gas export pipeline
- PL30 Practical completion of the Dingo Gas Pipeline in the Amadeus Basin which will serve the Power and Water Power Station at Brewer Estate in Alice Springs.
- PL31 and PL32 Substantial progress on construction of the INPEX Fuel Gas Pipeline
 which will provide gas for initial operations at the INPEX LNG Plant and will later be
 available to supply gas for Darwin power generation in emergencies.

Industry Operations Relying on Energy Pipelines:

- Darwin LNG plant (due to be joined in 2016 by the INPEX LNG plant being developed at Bladin Point)
- Eight power stations (soon to be 10) serving major and small communities
- Industrial and commercial enterprises in Darwin and Alice Springs (through connected low-pressure distribution systems)
- · McArthur River Mine and Darwin Abattoir
- Kleenheat LPG storage and distribution facility in Darwin

Active energy pipelines:

- PL01 Palm Valley to Alice Springs Gas Pipeline
- PL04 Amadeus Gas Pipeline
- PL07 Central Energy Gas Pipeline
- PL10 Elliott Lateral Gas Pipeline
- PL15 Kleenheat LPG Pipeline
- PL17 McArthur River Mine Gas Pipeline
- PL18 Berrimah Gas Pipeline
- PL20 Bayu Undan Gas Pipeline
- PL21 Bonaparte Gas Pipeline
- PL22 Weddell Gas Pipeline
- PL23 Blacktip Gas Pipeline
- PL24 Blacktip Condensate Pipeline
- PL25 Wickham Point Gas Pipeline
- PL28 Darwin Abattoir Gas Pipeline

Energy Pipelines due for Construction in 2015-2016

PL21 Completion of the Wadeye Lateral to Bonaparte Gas Pipeline

PL26 & PL27 Completion of INPEX Gas Export Pipeline

PL30 Dingo Gas Pipeline

PL31 Wickham-INPEX Fuel Gas Pipeline Interconnect

PL32 INPEX Fuel Gas Pipeline



Dingo Gas Development Project – View Dingo-3 and of the ROW looking north

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2014-15

During 2014-15 the NTG held a public inquiry, led by Dr Allan Hawke AC, into the practice of hydraulic fracturing. The Energy Directorate played a key role in preparing a submission on behalf of the department.

In implementing outcomes of the Hawke Inquiry the Energy Directorate:

- Completed the draft Environment Regulations ready for release for public comment.
- Finalised the Onshore Oil and Gas Guiding Principles
- · Contributed to the development of
 - the onshore and gas advertising program
 - two onshore oil and gas websites
 - a comprehensive community engagement program
- Delivered information talks at community meetings to provide accurate information about industry and how we regulate to ensure industry meets government requirements
- Continues to implement or contribute to other government commitments in response to the Inquiry

Additionally, in 2014 -15, managing the day to day business, the Energy Directorate achieved the following:

- The first two petroleum exploration permits were granted on Aboriginal Freehold land in the northern region of the NT - EP154 to Minerals Australia Pty Ltd and Jacaranda Minerals Limited and EP187 to Imperial Oil & Gas Pty Ltd
- Production Licence 7 to Central Petroleum (NT) Pty Ltd was granted
- Under the new land release regime assessed and awarded Petroleum Exploration Application submitted by Inpex Oil and Gas Pty Ltd.
- Met industry timeframes in granting licences and/or overseeing construction compliance for five pipelines
- · Met industry timeframes for assessment and approval for petroleum activities
- Met compliance monitoring responsibilities for petroleum activities.

PRIORITIES FOR 2015–16

The Energy Directorate priorities for the coming year focus on implementing the Northern Territory Government's priority actions resulting from the inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing (HFI) and on continuous business improvement within the directorate. A key priority for the Energy Directorate for the 2014 – 15 reporting period is to deliver a new contemporary suite of legislation to guide and manage the emerging onshore industry.

Legislation Onshore

- Replace the schedule to the *Petroleum Act* with contemporary, risk/outcomes-based Environment Regulations and Resource Management Regulations
- Review the *Petroleum Act* and *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Acts* including tenure review to better manage the onshore shale oil and gas industry.

Policy

- · Working across government to deliver a whole of government energy policy
- Provide quality policy advice in relation to matters affecting upstream petroleum resources, including initiatives derived from the Council of Australian Government's Standing Committee on Energy
- Implement the Reserve Blocks Policy (exclusion areas); ensuring areas of significant cultural and biodiversity conservation value and residential areas are protected from petroleum exploration.
- Implement the Land Access Policy
- Complete the whole of government position paper on the proposal to consider conferral of powers on the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Management Authority for government's consideration

Governance and Business Systems – Energy Directorate Information System

- Finalise business systems and rules to support data management in a new electronic system. The new system will:
 - Replace the Petroleum Administration System, providing a single point of truth for petroleum titles and energy operational data and processes
 - Review and enhance reporting capacity of energy tenure data
 - Provide for improvements to meet current demands of the Energy Directorate business needs
 - Ensure Energy Directorate input into the department's Business Process Management and Business Systems Initiative meets organisational needs

Regional Development and Community Engagement

- Implement the stakeholder engagement plan to increase transparency and community confidence in the department's regulation of the oil and gas industry
- Engage with Regional Development Offices and Land Councils to create a greater understanding of how the oil and gas sector operates, how it is regulated and the business opportunities it presents
- As the North East Gas Interconnector Pipeline project advances, manage the licensing approvals process.

NT Geological Survey

The NT Geological Survey grows the mineral and petroleum industries by attracting and supporting exploration through the acquisition, delivery and promotion of geoscience data and information.

NTGS achieves this by the following:

- Implementing Government's CORE (Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration) pre-competitive geoscience initiative
- · Providing high-quality geoscience products and data to industry in contemporary formats
- · Management and delivery of historical exploration data, reports and drillcore
- Undertaking field-based geoscientific investigations to enhance and promote prospectivity.

CORE is a Territory Government initiative designed to maximise opportunities for the exploration, discovery and development of new mineral and petroleum resources. The four year, \$23.8 million exploration initiative was announced in the 2014 Budget, and includes a continuation of the existing CORE initiative (\$3.95 million per annum, launched in 2013) with an additional \$2 million per annum from 2014-2018 for an accelerated program to assess the Territory's shale gas resources and potential.

The initiative focuses on acquiring new precompetitive geoscience information to stimulate exploration, collaborative regional assessments of shale gas potential, industry grants for greenfields exploration and programs to attract investment into resources projects in the Territory.

Key priorities under the CORE initiative include to:

- Provide the first rigorous independent assessments of the potential of the Territory's shale gas and oil resources based on all available geoscientific data;
- Provide baseline geoscientific data and interpretations to underpin exploration decision-making, make exploration more effective and identify potential new opportunities for economic development in key regions such as eastern Arnhem Land, the greater McArthur Basin and central Australia
- Upgrade knowledge and interpretations of the copper and zinc endowment and potential of key provinces to attract and support exploration for these commodities
- Co-fund innovative exploration programs that test new areas, techniques or exploration concepts, to encourage and support companies willing to take on higher risk to open up new areas for exploration.
- Increase the coverage of the Northern Territory with modern gravity geophysical data from 50% to 80% of the Territory to assist the interpretation of undercover geology
- Attract new investment into minerals and petroleum exploration and emerging resources projects in the Territory from international and domestic markets through proactive investment attraction and promotional strategies
- Leverage geoscience expertise and resources into the Territory from Commonwealth agencies such as CSIRO and Geoscience Australia
- Upgrade the online delivery of information and data to the minerals and petroleum exploration industry

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2014-15

CORE Initiative

- Completion and release of the West Amadeus Gravity Survey, covering 45,000km² in the southwestern corner of the Northern Territory
- New field-based geological campaigns commenced in East Arnhem Land, McArthur Basin and Amadeus Basin
- Implementation of the seventh round of exploration grants under the Geophysical and Drilling Collaborations program
- Acquisition and release of the Northern McArthur Basin Gravity Survey, covering more than 70,000km² in East Arnhem Land
- Release of the Dunmarra Airborne Magnetic and Radiometric Survey, covering an area of over 36,000km² in central Northern Territory between Katherine and Tennant Creek
- Completion and release of the West Amadeus Gravity Survey, covering more than 45,000km² in the south-west corner of the NT
- Release of four new Digital Information Packages to support exploration in the McArthur Basin, including shale resource data, petrophysical data and 3D geological model
- Acquisition of 60km of seismic data across the Tennant Creek mineral field, in collaboration with industry
- Petroleum well completion reports made available on GEMIS, a system to search and download open file statutory exploration company reports.
- Public launch of the STRIKE web mapping system, redeveloped in conjunction with the Mines and Energy Directorates
- Exploration reports from 1991 to 1997 released to the public under the five year sunset clause in the *Mineral Titles Act*
- Reports and data from 1993 back to 1990 added to the mineral exploration reports collection on GEMIS.

Promotion

- Attendance of 217 delegates at the AGES 2015 conference in Alice Springs in March, including 154 industry delegates
- · Promotion of the Territory as an exploration destination at industry forums in Darwin, Brisbane and Perth
- Promotion of the Territory's mineral potential at key international events including PDAC (Toronto) and China Mining (Beijing)
- Promotion of the Territory's petroleum potential at North American Prospect Expo (NAPE), in Houston, Texas.

PRIORITIES FOR 2015-16

CORE Initiative

- Implementation of the eighth round of the Geophysical and Drilling Collaborations under CORE, totalling \$778,000 of funding for 10 greenfields projects
- Acquisition and release of the Northern Wiso and Victoria Basin Gravity Surveys
- Completion and release of the Delamere and Spirit Hills Airborne Magnetic and Radiometric Survey
- · Completion of mapping of the Arnhem Province in East Arnhem Land
- Interpretation and release of the Tennant Creek seismic survey
- · Incorporation of NTGS publications into GEMIS web delivery system
- Release of further results from McArthur Basin project including analysis of prospective shales and 3D model of the McArthur Group
- Commencement of major collaboration with CSIRO in McArthur Basin
- Release of new geological maps from projects in the Arunta Region in central Australia and East Arnhem Land
- · Cataloging of legacy petroleum reports and data to improve client discovery and access
- Continued release of exploration reports under the five year sunset clause of the *Mineral Titles Act* and upload of legacy mineral reports to GEMIS.

Promotion

- Organise the AGES 2016 conference to be held in Alice Springs in March 2016
- Promotion of the Territory as an exploration destination at national and international forums, along with contribution to international investment attraction in East Asia.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

- Attracting investment into minerals and energy exploration and development projects
- Promoting the Northern Territory's mineral and energy investment opportunities to potential international investors
- Assisting Territory explorers to access investment from the international market
- Providing services to identify and introduce potential investors, promoting Territory businesses and assisting local industry with business liaison
- · Developing strategic partnerships with key international organisations in China, Japan and South Korea
- Making regular Ministerial and Departmental trade missions to key markets for Northern Territory minerals and energy resources in China, Japan and South Korea
- Holding Northern Territory investment seminars and promotional events in Australia and overseas
- Building and growing relationships with key domestic organisations and companies, and leveraging those relationships to raise the profile of the Territory as an investment destination
- · Hosting visiting international delegations of potential investors
- Producing communication materials to promote the Territory as an attractive resources investment destination

Achievements for 2014-15

- Actively promoted investment opportunities in 30 Northern Territory minerals projects and four onshore oil and gas projects on behalf of 22 exploration companies
- Made information about the Northern Territory's minerals and energy investment opportunities available to more than 3,000 potential investors

- Local explorers secured five new agreements regarding investment with Chinese companies and one new agreement with a South Korean company
- · Organised an investment delegation to China covering Hong Kong, Beijing and Tianjin
- · Organised an investment delegation to Japan and South Korea
- Organised two Ministerial investment missions to Singapore and one to Taiwan
- Arranged or participated in 17 investment events in seven countries, including seven collaborative events with other States and Territories under the Australia Minerals and Australia Petroleum initiatives
- · Held 48 meetings with high potential investment targets overseas
- Strengthened strategic relationships with Government and industry Associations in China, Japan and South Korea
- Organised and participated in events within Australia at which 11 Territory explorers were able to promote their projects directly to more than 100 international investors
- Delivered expanded geological and investment-related website content in Mandarin, Japanese and Korean
- Producing new single page investor-friendly project sheets to showcase each of the 15 advanced exploration projects seeking investment
- Completing the transition from traditional to digital media for disseminating investment information to overseas investors

Priorities for 2015-16

- Continue successful track record of matching international investors with Territory explorers
- Expand our database of potential investment contacts in China, Japan and Korea to make new partnership opportunities for local explorers, and develop our knowledge of India's investment potential
- Organise international promotional visits to key Asian markets
- Continue to promote our investment attraction capabilities and services at events that target international investors, both overseas and within Australia
- Use technology to enhance our ability to identify potential investment matches from the information we gather during our promotional activities



Chief Executive Ron Kelly, and Tom Connor, Australia's Deputy Head of Mission to Japan with department and industry delegates at a Northern Territory investment event in Tokyo Japan, 11 June 2015



Ian Scrimgeour and Fiona Park meeting with Chinese oil and gas industry representatives at a Northern Territory investment promotion event in Beijing, China 16 October 2014

Mines Directorate

The Mines Directorate deals with the full range of mineral-related regulation, from the first grant of mineral tenure, to the approval of mine operations, closure and rehabilitation.

The focus of the directorate continues to be on regulation and providing related services to clients, including the streamlining of processes and improving the efficiency of our systems.

The Mines Directorate comprises five divisions: Remediation, Rum Jungle, Compliance, Mineral Titles and Mines Policy and Engagement.

Mining Remediation Division

The Mining Remediation Division is made up of the Technical Support Team, the Environmental Monitoring Unit and the Legacy Mines Unit.

The division provides specialist information and strategic advice to the NT Government and industry in relation to environmental management of mining operations, particularly in relation to water management, mine remediation and closure.

The Technical Support team provides specialist scientific advice and support to the Mining Teams, particularly with regards to reviewing the water management components of Mine Management Plans. The majority of the professional staff in this group has specific expertise in water chemistry.

The Environmental Monitoring Unit (EMU) is a specialist unit with practical experience in water sampling and monitoring techniques. Data collected by EMU also serves as a quality analysis/quality control check against data collected by operators. EMU is also involved in investigations into cases of potential environmental harm when required.

The EMU has a range of specialised equipment to enable it to operate effectively in the field, including a Laboratory Truck (designed by EMU), which allows state-of-the-art processing of water samples in the field. The unit spends extensive amounts of time in the field working on operating and abandoned mine sites.

The Legacy Mines Unit (LMU) is focused on developing strategies for managing legacy sites within the Northern Territory and undertaking investigation and/or remedial works at key sites.

The activities of the LMU include:

- Undertaking a risk-based assessment to identify legacy mine sites
- Determining the environmental impact of the identified sites
- Setting a priority ranking for any future remediation works
- Developing site specific remediation plans and project managing remediation works.

Rum Jungle

In May 2013, the Conceptual Rehabilitation Plan (CRP) on the management of the former Rum Jungle Mine site was completed by DME. The CRP represented the final milestone under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) – Stage 1. The CRP was developed in consultation with the joint traditional Aboriginal owners of the site – Kungarakan and Warai. The plan was subsequently accepted by the former Commonwealth Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism and Commonwealth Cabinet, including endorsement of the preferred conceptual rehabilitation strategy.

In September 2013, a further Project Agreement (PA) was signed between the NT and Commonwealth to progress rehabilitation planning at Rum Jungle (Stage 2). Similar to the working arrangements of the NPA – Stage 1, DME is project manager of Stage 2 which aims to develop the preferred rehabilitation strategy from a concept to implementation-ready with detailed designs and tender-ready procurement packages by June 2016.

DME is also managing and maintaining the site, including undertaking site maintenance works, weed and fire management, improving site security, and environmental monitoring. The PA, and the NPA prior to it, includes four distinct sites: the former Rum Jungle mine site, Rum Jungle Creek South, Mt Burton and Mt Fitch.

Mining Compliance Division

The Mining Compliance Division is responsible for the enforcement of compliance issues associated with the *Mining Management Act* (MMA). The division is made up of a combination of professionals and environmental officers many of whom are appointed as Mining Officers under the MMA. Activities undertaken by the division include conducting mine audits and inspections to ensure compliance with Mining Management Plans, legislation and relevant standards.

DME has divided the Northern Territory into 36 Mining Districts based on geographical location with related projects that are assigned to various mining teams for compliance assessment. Projects include exploration and extractive sites as well as smaller mining operations. Major mining operations are also divided between the teams.

The Uranium Team deals with Ranger Mine and almost all other uranium and rare earth related projects. The exceptions are some projects near Alice Springs, which are managed by the Central Australian team.

Mineral Titles Division

The Mineral Titles Division facilitates the grant and maintenance of mineral and extractive mineral exploration licences and mining titles in accordance with relevant Northern Territory legislation.

The Mineral Titles Division also:

- · Maintains the register for all mineral titles
- Monitors title holder's compliance with grant conditions and legislative requirements under the mineral titles legislation and relevant Commonwealth legislation
- Administers Part IV (the exploration and mining provisions) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (ALRA) on behalf of the Commonwealth
- Facilitates the grant and maintenance of offshore mineral exploration licences in Commonwealth waters adjacent to the Territory

Mines Policy and Engagement Division

The Mines Policy and Engagement Division coordinates and contributes to mines policy formulation and assists in facilitating the Directorate's engagement on mines related matters across government agencies and other key stakeholders.

It also provides the secretariat support to the Mining Advisory Committee.

Mines Directorate Achievements for 2014-15

Legislative

- Conducted education sessions for industry at AGES 2014
- Developed and introduced more detailed and transparent information guidance on tenure administration processes
- Introduced a team dedicated to managing mining securities and levies
- Reviewed the *Mineral Titles Act* and Regulations to streamline the processes for the granting and maintenance of exploration and mineral titles
- Continued the transition of 'non-compliant' titles from the repealed Mining Act to the Mineral Titles Act
- · Enhanced fossicking areas of interest by introducing new signage
- Commenced upgrade of the Mining Statutory Register which involves improving links to other relevant systems and enhancement of reporting and notification functions

Economic

- Public launch of the STRIKE web mapping system, redeveloped in conjunction with the Geological Survey and Energy Directorates, replacing the old Titles Information System
- Provided regulatory approvals for a range of mining management plans to allow continued economic development of mineral resources in a sustainable manner
- Commenced the assessment and development of a new departmental Information Technology system to encompass a contemporary Titles Administration System

Community

- Staff training was emphasised during the year with a number of staff members undertaking approved
 process safety and compliance and audit training and others attending specialist conferences and
 workshops to enhance various technical and administrative skills
- Supported government to establish the Mining Advisory Committee, which held its first meeting on 1 June 2015
- Further enhanced the fossicking website, providing up-to-date resources, re-assigned fossicking areas and facilitated greater access to land for fossickers
- Continued to work with the Independent Monitor to review the roles of the regulator and operator at McArthur River Mine

Environment

- A total of 20 environmental incidents under section 29 of the MMA were reported in 2014-2015
- General Inspections of mining sites across the Territory included:
 - Nine close-out inspections
 - 10 environmental audits
 - 13 investigations
- Collected 3,122 water and sediment samples from 583 collection points across the NT
- Successfully worked with the operator responsible for the Mount Todd mine site to treat and release water in line with its Waste Discharge Licence
- Continued to support the activities of the Security Assessment Board, which requires operators to submit
 a rehabilitation security for 100% of environmental liability. The department now holds securities and
 bank guarantees totaling approximately \$978 million as at 30 June 2015
- · Commenced development of a database for legacy mines
- · Continued the development of an inventory of legacy mine sites across the Territory
- Subsequent to the successful completion of the National Partnership Agreement on the management
 of the former Rum Jungle Mine site, a further Project Agreement has been signed between the NT and
 Commonwealth to develop the preferred conceptual rehabilitation strategy to implementation-ready,
 detailed engineering designs and procurement ready tender packages

Priorities for 2015-16

Legislative

- Ensure contemporary systems of administration through a process of continual improvement to the granting process of tenure
- Further introduce four year Mining Management Plans for larger sites, reducing the need for submission of annual Plans
- · Phase in revised security arrangements for the extractive industry
- · Develop and introduce a compliance and enforcement policy and adopt an implementation plan
- Complete a public safety program for legacy mine sites (including shafts) for five projects in Barkly region

- Work within Commonwealth legislative frameworks to reduce timeframes for the grant of titles
- Continue efforts to streamline regulatory processes
- Continue stakeholder consultation and finalise the proposed amendments to the *Mineral Titles Act* to better service the exploration and mining Industry with a more effective and streamlined application of the relevant legislations
- Complete the program for the progression of non-compliant existing interests into the Mineral Titles legislation regime
- Provide detailed comprehensive advice in respect of the review of Part IV of ALRA and Native Title legislations
- Manage statutory processes to meet government objectives for environmentally sustainable development in the mining industry, including a focus on auditing major mines and inspections across all sites

Economic

- Finalise the implementation of the new Mining Securities System
- Roll out the upgrade of the Mining Statutory Register
- Implement legacy mines system covering compliance and remediation
- Continue work towards modernising the Mines Directorate business systems, including the Titles Administration System
- · Departmental collaboration for promoting economic zones of interest for exploration
- Contribute to the continual improvements of the STRIKE web mapping system

Community

- Facilitate greater access and information on fossicking areas
- Provide secretariat and administrative support to the Mining Advisory Committee.
- Ensure the valid and timely grant of exploration licence applications and extractive and mineral titles in accordance with Government policy and legislative requirements
- Promote the Territory in high-level forums through the provision of accurate advice and information to industry and other stakeholders
- Promote and collaborate across agencies within the Territory
- Collaborate across agencies in relation to mineral exploration and extractive minerals
- Provide information and involvement in the Commonwealth Land Access for Resources Working Group
- Support the exploration and mining industry during this economic downturn with flexible and effective management
- Continue consultation with extractive industry representatives to develop and implement new simplified procedures in relation to the preparation of mining management plans and security bonds

Environment

- Provide strategic and scientific advice and independent data to underpin the regulation, inspection and investigation of current, future and legacy mine site environmental performance
- Continue the program of installing remote monitoring stations at key current and historic mining sites across the Territory
- Continue development of engineering designs for the preferred rehabilitation strategy for the former Rum Jungle mine site consistent with the interests of stakeholders, particularly traditional Aboriginal land owners



The Environmental Monitoring Units Labtruck sampling ground water



Old Tailings Dam at historical White Range Gold Mine (Central Australia)

Corporate Shared Services

Communications and Marketing Group

The Communications and Marketing Group provides a range of strategic advice and project support services under a shared services arrangement.

The group is responsible for providing strategic advice, services and project support on media, crisis and issues management, strategic communications, digital and web, internal and stakeholder communications, sponsorship, events, branding and marketing.

The group also provides advice on complying with whole of government policies in close liaison with the Communications and Marketing Bureau.

Achievements for 2014-15

- Developed strategic communications including media and web materials to support major initiatives including work on legacy mines, CORE, the government response to the release of the Hawke Independent Report on Hydraulic Fracturing, draft Guiding Principles, the onshore gas campaign and the release of the McArthur River Mine Independent Monitor's Report
- Provided advice and media support for the AGES conference hosted in Alice Springs
- Provide advice and support with collateral and displays at a range of conferences, including APPEA,
 NAPE, Resources Week and Mining 2014
- · Provided high-quality media advice and services for the department and support for the Minister's office
- Moved distribution of the CE's internal newsletter into an electronic mail format to improve the quality and distribution
- Provided regular contributions to regional NTG newsletters to help promote the work of the department and our staff
- Implemented comprehensive and streamlined daily media monitoring using the whole of government contract
- Provided advice and supported the development of the campaign website for onshore gas and in using the NTG Have your say website to support consultation activities
- · Coordinated media training for key senior staff
- Produced many publications, documents and supporting materials for business areas, including newsletters, booklets, brochures, posters, and major productions such as the Annual Reports

Priorities for 2015-16

- Continuing to provide a high level of media support to the department and the Minister's office and both departments
- Support internal and stakeholder communications
- Migrating the department image library into a new whole of government system
- Update of the department's emergency communications plans including cyclone preparedness
- Supporting the whole of government to redevelop online web content in line with NTG Digital Strategy for public facing websites
- Facilitating the provision of training to agency staff in the fundamentals of developing communications strategies and media training

Finance

The Finance Group leads and coordinates the department's financial management and provides a range of corporate support and related services, including strategic advice and training on its core business of budget management, financial reporting, accounting, travel and close liaison with the Procurement Network in the Department of Business.

The group is responsible for:

Leading and coordinating the department's financial management:

- To ensure statutory obligations, financial principles and accounting standards are maintained for all transactions and financial statements
- To provide strong budget management support to internal operational business divisions so the department will achieve budget through timely and accurate financial reporting.

Management of the following shared corporate services functions, including:

- Management and coordination of the budget
- · Management of the travel system
- Management of Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable functions
- · Management of corporate credit cards.

Providing superior communication, coordination and reporting:

- Maintain close liaison and direct communication with officers from other stakeholder agencies, such as
 the Department of Treasury and Finance, Department of the Chief Minister, the Department of Corporate
 and Information Services and the Department of Business, on budgetary, financial and reporting matters
 and procurement.
- Report to Treasury, the Minister's Office and Parliament as required.

Achievements for 2014-15

Managed the restructure of Agency Outputs

• Facilitated and managed the department's restructure with regard to the Agency's Outputs.

Improved the services provided by the group

• Updated all policies and procedures, including financial delegations.

Budget management in line with emerging priorities

- Managed the reprioritisation of existing budget resources to enable NT Government outcomes to be achieved
- Facilitated and managed end-of-year monitoring processes, which ensured the department achieved budget.

Priorities for 2015-16

- Continue to provide a high standard of advice, support and professional services to the department, under the Shared Services Agreement, from a financial management perspective with a high focus on client service
- Continue to provide a high standard of advice and support to assist the Agency with official travel.

Human Resources

Human Resources (HR) deliver services for the Department of Mines and Energy and the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries. Working in partnership with the clients, the Unit is committed to delivering strategic, client focused and innovative HR services and solutions to assist DME achieve its outcomes.

In designing our programs, Human Resources strives to increase awareness of and align services with Government priorities; to

Meet whole-of-government human resource management objectives; to address specific employee needs; and to maintain legislative compliance and ensure the department continues to be a good place to work.

Key priorities arising from our People Plan for the upcoming year include workforce planning, maintaining our positive workplace culture, maintaining the skills of our managers in merit selection, ensuring that our performance development system is fully utilised and aligned to the Capability and Leadership Framework, and developing the agencies capabilities to meet future needs. Developing our future leaders and implementing Indigenous employment objectives remain key priorities.

A culture of leadership excellence

- Organisational change initiatives through the *People Plan and changes to the Public Sector Employment Management Act* (PSEMA)
- STAR Awards
- Facilitation of leadership development.

A professional capable workforce

- Strategic HR and workforce plans
- · Specialist human resources advisory services to management and staff
- Facilitation of performance management processes
- Project and case management of human resources, industrial relations, grievance, performance and discipline matters
- Early careers coordination relating to Apprenticeships, the Graduate program and Indigenous Cadet Support programs
- Management of service agreements and stakeholder relationships.

A safe, positive and diverse workplace

- Work Health and Safety online induction, training, incident reporting and workers' compensation
- Facilitation of early intervention of workforce and industrial relations issues.

Achievements for 2014-15

Leadership Program

• Five employees across the department are engaged on the Public Sector Management Program and one on the Executive Leadership Program

Machinery of Government

· Managing the NTG Redeployment database and progresses

Rewards and Recognition

• Coordinated the annual STAR Awards and service milestones presentations from the Minister acknowledging individual and team excellence in the pursuit of the department's objectives.

Indigenous employment

 Provided strong leadership to the department's Indigenous employment initiatives, which included the delivery of a cultural awareness programs and discussions with Charles Darwin University Indigenous Academic support.

HR Service Centre review

Simplified and updated policies, procedures and guidelines to model best practice.

Growing our own

• Continued effort to attract entry level recruits through apprentice, cadet and graduate programs through engagement with schools.

Employment Relations

- Actively contributed to and supported sector wide Enterprise Agreement, HR industrial relations, workforce development initiatives, and shared service delivery enhancements
- Facilitated and supported union visits to the department.

HR Support and Advice

- Provided advice and influenced managers in best practice human resource management within the NTPS governance frameworks
- · Revised service delivery within the shared service model. Maintained key services with reduced staffing.

Work Health and Safety

- Supported flexible working arrangements
- Promoted Respect in the Workplace awareness sessions.

Selection and Recruitment

• Communicated and provided information to ensure that simplified recruitment is embedded throughout the department. Continued ongoing arrangements for training for Chairpersons and panel members to ensure selections in DME are undertaken in line with the new merit-based recruitment and selection requirements.

Performance Management

• Supported divisions to comply with the requirement and use the performance management system to ensure we are sustaining and improving our professionalism and capability, good governance, accountability in decision-making and personal responsibility for managing our performance.

Priorities for 2015-16

People Plan 2015-17

• Implement strategies by prioritising key actions of the department's People Plan to achieve the intended outcomes.

Indigenous Employment

 Continue to support a range of initiatives in relation to Indigenous employment and support the Government's emphasis on increasing the number of Indigenous people in the Northern Territory Public Sector. Ensuring successful outcomes for the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) trainees in DME and reviewing the Special Measures Plan.

Enhancing Leadership and culture

• Continue building our leadership by promoting opportunities for DME employees to undertake Office of the Commissioner of Public Employment (OCPE) programs and develop a focus on the agency culture.

Work Health and Safety

- · Maintain a positive, safe and diverse workplace as key elements in induction, recruitment and retention
- Further promote Employee Assistance Program Services available to all staff and flexible work initiatives
- Roll out Respect in the Workplace sessions for DME staff which provides an understanding of Bullying/ Harassment and code of conduct.
- · Selection and Recruitment
- Implement the changes from the whole of government simplified recruitment initiative

Workplace Environment

 Maintain training and development programs that assist with agency compliance and success of sector wide initiatives.

Performance Management

 Maintain our performance management system to ensure we are sustaining and improving our professionalism and capability, good governance, accountability in decision-making and personal responsibility for managing our performance.

Information Management and Information Technology Unit

The Information Management (IM) and Information Technology (IT) Unit, consisting of IT and IM professionals aims to provide to the Department of Mines and Energy (DME) high-quality, innovative information management and information technology solutions and services.

We provide our clients with the right information at the right time and in the right forms to support their review, analysis, reporting and decision-making

We also develop and implement technologies and systems to automate or simplify tasks and deliver business improvements to the department in line with DME Directorate Business Plans. This includes:

Information Management

- Oversee the capture and storage of departmental records and information in electronic systems and hard copy files
- Provide advice and training on best practice record-keeping and assist individual areas to incorporate this into business processes
- Manage the information disposal process in accordance with relevant legislation and standards
- Manage the development and maintenance of departmental disposal schedules and the administration of the records management system (TRIM)
- Manage external contracts for postage and courier services.

Freedom of Information

- Provide advice and training on the Information Act and Freedom of Information (FOI) process
- Accept FOI requests and coordinate the receipt, review, redacting* and release of information within legislated timeframes
- Report all FOI requests and outcomes to the Information Commissioner.

Information Technology and Innovation

- Manage and maintain the department's IT infrastructure, either directly or through outsourced service providers
- Develop or maintain specialist business systems on behalf of individual business areas
- Implement solutions to improve collaboration, automation, workflow tracking, business analysis and reporting
- Oversee a program of system and software upgrades and improvements
- Continue the rollout of online forms and electronic submissions and approvals for internal and external clients
- · Review and management of project requests.

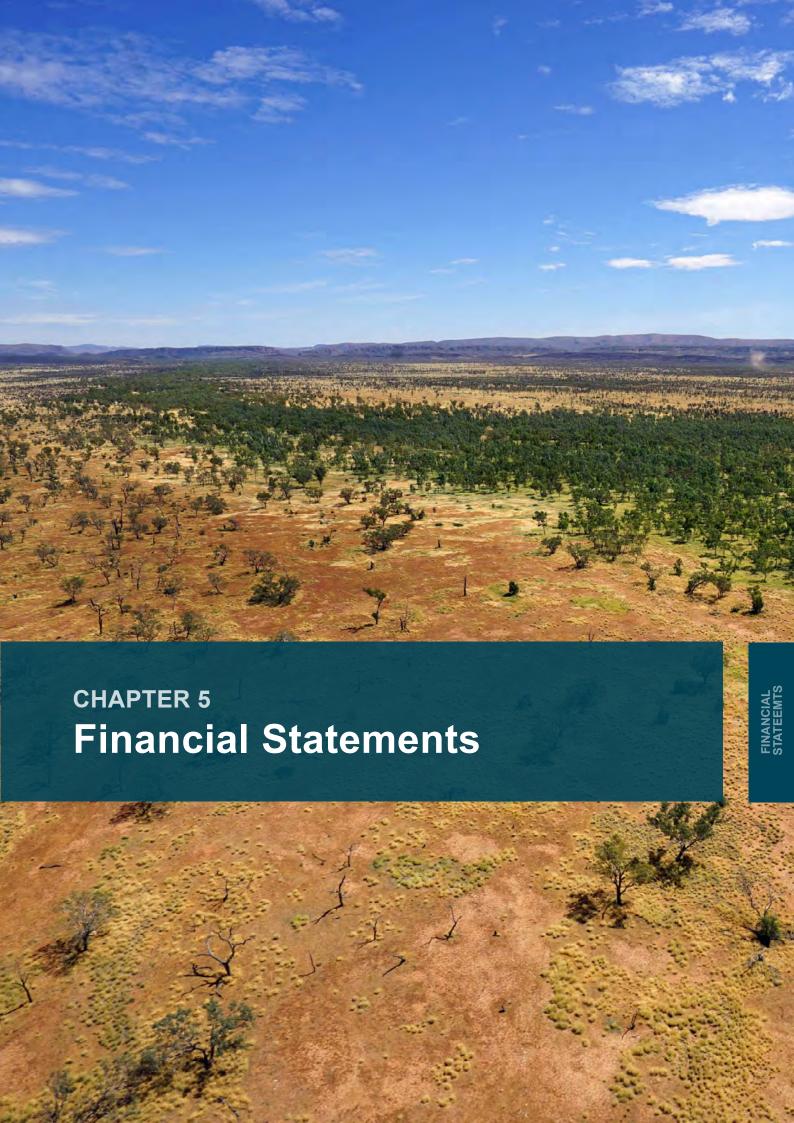
^{*} Redacting is the process of obscuring or 'blacking out' information where there are exemptions that prohibit release. Examples of this are people's names to protect individual privacy, details of commercial-inconfidence transactions or specific Cabinet-related material.

Achievements for 2014-15

- Continued a major project to implement Electronic Document Records Management (EDRM), including training visits to regional centres
- Received and considered 13 individual IT project proposals
- Reviewed Disposal Schedules for selected groups and facilitated development of Retention and Disposal Schedules for key areas within Mines and Energy
- · Managed upgrades and enhancements to a number of specialist business systems
- Disposed of 2,354 records in line with disposal schedules and procedures
- Assessed and transferred 5,900 Pre-Self Government files to the NT Archives Service
- Upgraded SharePoint environment to SharePoint 2013

Priorities for 2015-16

- Oversee the completion of new Retention and Disposal Schedules key areas in Mines and Energy
- Continue to implement new systems and technologies to provide web and mobile access to systems and information
- Assist with the replacement or development of new critical business systems for Mines and Energy
- Assist with the review and development of IT and IM Strategic Plans and departmental Business Continuity Plans
- · Continue to consolidate departmental data bases and data sources to improve access and efficiency
- Continue to rollout the EDRM project
- Introduce Enterprise Search capability



Financial Statement Overview for the Year Ended 30 June 2015

The 2014-15 financial statements and notes for the Department of Mines and Energy (the department) have been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards. The department's financial performance in 2014-15 and comparative financial information for 2013-14 are reported in four financial statements: the Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement.

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT - SUMMARY

	2014-15	2013-14	VARIATION
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Operating Income	34 859	30 518	4 341
Operating Expenses	39 664	29 533	10 131
Net operating surplus/(deficit)	(4 805)	985	(5 790)
Other Comprehensive Income			
Transfers from Reserves	(3)	(24)	21
Comprehensive Result	(4 808)	961	(5 769)

The Operating Statement details the department's financial performance on income and expenditure for the year by detailing the sources and nature of same. The net deficit for the year is calculated by subtracting the expenses from income.

The operating net deficit of \$4.8 million in 2014-15, compared with a net surplus of \$0.98 million in 2013-14, is largely due to unfunded approved expenditure on the management strategy for the Mt Todd mine site, a one off payment for the surrender of mineral titles and the timing of revenue received from the Commonwealth relating to the National Partnership Agreement for the rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site

There was minimal movement in the department's comprehensive result to the net operating result in both 2014-15 and 2013-14. Further details are set out in Note 10 of the Financial Statements.

OPERATING INCOME

	2014-15	2013-14	VARIATION
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Output Appropriation	26 229	23 427	2 802
Commonwealth Appropriation	3 911	3 355	556
Sale of Goods and Services	1 244	1 434	(190)
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	1 953	2 045	(92)
Assets Acquired Below Fair Value	314	-	314
Gain on Disposal of Asset	11	-	11
Other Income	1 197	257	940
Total Income	34 859	30 518	4 341

The department's principle source of revenue is through Northern Territory Parliamentary appropriation, classified as Output Appropriation which was 75 per cent of total income in 2014-15. A further \$3.9 million was received in 2014-15 through Commonwealth Appropriation relating to the National Partnership Agreement for the rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site with the balance of \$2.7 million generated through the Sales of Goods and Services, contributions from industry for gravity surveys and assets bought onto the books from the Mining Remediation Fund.

Included in the department's total income was \$1.95 million of notional income for services received free of charge from the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) which is fully negated by an offsetting expense classified under Administrative Expenses. This relates to centralised corporate services for the processing of accounts payable, payroll and property management services so as to project the true cost of the department delivering its programs and services.

The increase in income in 2014-15 compared to 2013-14 of \$4.34 million, or 14 per cent, is largely due to increased Output Appropriation. This increase predominantly relates to additional ongoing funding to assess the Territory's shale gas potential and resources and salary and Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases. Funding from the Commonwealth for the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project and funding from industry for gravity surveys also added to the increase in income.

Details of department income from Sales of Goods and Services and Other Income can be found in Note 6 of the Financial Statements.

OPERATING EXPENSES

	2014-15	2013-14	VARIATION
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Employee Expenses	17 457	15 106	2 351
Administrative Expenses			
Purchase of Goods and Services	18 375	10 914	7 461
Repairs and Maintenance	151	151	-
Depreciation and Amortisation	943	885	58
Services Free of Charge	1 953	2 045	(92)
Other Administrative Transactions	22	-	22
Grants and Subsidies			
Current Grants	763	432	331
Total Expenses	39 664	29 533	10 131

In 2014-15 employee expenses accounted for 44 per cent of the department's total expenditure and purchases of goods and services accounted for 46 per cent. Non-cash transactions relating to depreciation and notional DCIS charges are the other major expenses recorded by the department with grants and repairs and maintenance (R&M) making up the balance.

Overall expenses in 2014-15, compared to 2013-14 increased by 34 per cent and was due to expenditure on the management strategy for the Mt Todd mine site, a one off payment for the surrender of mineral titles and additional significant expenditure relating to assessment of the Territory's shale gas potential and resources in line with additional funding received. Expenditure relating to the Commonwealth funded Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project also increased significantly in 2014-15. Other increases related to the Energy and Mining Directorates having a full complement of staff in 2014-15 and salary increases relating to the Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) Enterprise Agreement.

Details of expenditure relating to Purchases of Goods and Services can be found in Note 7 while Grant Payments are set out in Appendix 1.

BALANCE SHEET - SUMMARY

	2014-15	2013-14	VARIATION
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Assets	31 302	33 388	(2 086)
Liabilities	27 325	24 918	2 407
Equity	3 977	8 470	(4 493)

The Balance Sheet details the department's financial position on assets, liabilities and equity at balance date.

Assets

Of the department's total assets in 2014-15, 66 per cent relates to cash deposits, with \$2.16 million being pre-committed to the Commonwealth Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project and required to be carried over into 2015-16. The balance is held in the Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA), comprising mostly securities held on behalf of mining companies, the mining remediation contingency fund and Aboriginal Land Rents. The remaining assets relate to the department's holding on property, plant and equipment, receivables and prepayments.

Total assets decreased by \$2.09 million in 2014-15 compared to 2013-14, or 6 per cent, due to a reduction in actual cash held.

Further details on assets can be found in Notes 8, 9, and 10 with details on the AOTA in Note 21.

Liabilities

Of the department's total liabilities in 2014-15, \$23.57 million or 86 per cent relates to deposits held. The remaining liabilities comprise of accounts payable and provisions relating to employee leave entitlements.

The increase in total liabilities in 2014-15 compared to 2013-14, mainly resulted from an increase in cash securities held on behalf of mining companies which are deposited in the AOTA. Accrued expenses also increased in 2014-15.

Further details on liabilities can be found in Notes 12, 13 and 14.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY - SUMMARY

	2014-15	2013-14	VARIATION
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Balance of Equity at 1 July	8 470	6 936	
Equity Injections	315	573	
Accumulated Funds	(4 808)	961	
Balance of Equity at 30 June	3 977	8 470	(4 493)

The Statement of Changes in Equity reflects movements in equity balances during the year.

Equity decreased by \$4.49 million in 2014-15 compared to 2013-14 as reflected by the following movements:

- A net operating deficit of \$4.81 million.
- Transfer in of capital appropriation for the purchase of plant and equipment of \$12,000.
- Transfer in relating to the capitalisation of minor new works of \$0.30 million.
- Prior year correction relating to depreciation of \$3,000.

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS - SUMMARY

	2014-15	2013-14	VARIATION
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Cash at 1 July	22 581	17 982	4 599
Receipts	33 777	28 803	4 974
Payments	(37 601)	(26 730)	(10 871)
Proceeds from the Sale of Assets	11	-	11
Purchase of Assets	(12)	(57)	45
Net Deposits Received	1 848	2 556	(708)
Net Equity Injections/(Withdrawals)	12	27	(15)
Cash at 30 June	20 616	22 581	(1 965)

The Statement of Cash Flows provides information on the movement of cash in and out of the department during the year. The cash balance of \$20.62 million at year end predominantly relates to cash deposits of which \$2.16 million has been pre-committed to the Commonwealth Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project and required to be carried over into 2015-16. The balance relates to deposits held in the AOTA.

Figures in the Cash Flow Statement vary from those in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as the Cash Flow Statement includes only cash transactions, whereas the Comprehensive Operating Statement includes non-cash items such as depreciation, annual non-cash adjustments to employee entitlements and services received free of charge from DCIS.

The significant variation in the cash held at the end of the financial year between 2014-15 and 2013-14 is largely due to approved unfunded expenditure on the management strategy for the Mt Todd mine site and a one off payment for the surrender of mineral titles. Further details on cash flow can be found in Note 16.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY FINANCIAL REPORT

CERTIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Department of Mines and Energy 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 Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2015 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.

RON KELLY

Chief Executive

August 2015

KAREN SIMPSON

Chief Financial Officer

28 August 2015

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	NOTE	2015	2014
		\$000	\$000
Income			
Appropriation			
Output		26 229	23 427
Commonwealth		3 911	3 355
Sales of goods and services	6	1 244	1 434
Goods and services received free of charge ⁽¹⁾	4	1 953	2 045
Assets acquired below fair value		314	-
Gain on disposal of assets	5	11	-
Other income	6	1 197	257
Total Income	3	34 859	30 518
Expenses			
Employee expenses		17 457	15 106
Administrative expenses			
Purchases of goods and services	7	18 375	10 914
Repairs and maintenance		151	151
Depreciation and amortisation	10, 11	943	885
Services free of charge ⁽¹⁾		1 953	2 045
Other administrative expenses		22	-
Grants and subsidies expenses			
Current		763	432
Total Expenses	3	39 664	29 533
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(4 805)	985
Other Comprehensive Income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/(deficit)			
Transfers from Reserves		(3)	(24)
Total Other Comprehensive Income		(3)	(24)
Comprehensive Result		(4 808)	961

⁽¹⁾ DCIS service charges.

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	NOTE	2015	2014
		\$000	\$000
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and deposits	8	20 616	22 581
Receivables	9	572	388
Prepayments		198	159
Other assets		-	25
Total Current Assets		21 386	23 153
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	10, 11	9 916	10 235
Total Non-Current Assets		9 916	10 235
Total Assets		31 302	33 388
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Deposits held		23 573	21 725
Payables	12	1 555	1 114
Provisions	13	1 744	1 592
Other liabilities	14	4	-
Total Current Liabilities		26 876	24 431
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	13	449	487
Total Non-Current Liabilities		449	487
Total Liabilities		27 325	24 918
Net Assets		3 977	8 470
Equity			
Capital		8 300	7 985
Reserves	15	1 655	1 655
Accumulated funds		(5 978)	(1 170)
Total Equity		3 977	8 470

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	NOTE	EQUITY AT 1 JULY	COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS IN THEIR CAPACITY AS OWNERS	EQUITY AT 30 JUNE
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2014-15					
Accumulated Funds					
Accumulated Funds		(1 146)	(4 805)	-	(5 951)
Transfers from reserves		(24)	(3)	-	(27)
Total Accumulated Funds		(1 170)	(4 808)	-	(5 978)
Reserves					
Asset Revaluation Reserve		1 655	-	-	1 655
Total Reserves	15	1 655	-	-	1 655
Capital – Transactions with Owners					
Equity Injections					
Capital appropriation		93	-	12	105
Equity transfers in		10 218	-	303	10 521
Total Equity Injections		10 311	-	315	10 626
Equity Withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		(2 326)	-	-	(2 326)
Total Equity Withdrawals		(2 326)	-	-	(2 326)
Total Capital – Transactions with Owners		7 985	-	315	8 300
Total Equity at End of Financial Year		8 470	(4 808)	315	3 977

	NOTE	EQUITY AT 1 JULY	COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS IN THEIR CAPACITY AS OWNERS	EQUITY AT 30 JUNE
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2013-14					
Accumulated Funds					
Accumulated Funds		(2 131)	985	-	(1 146)
Transfers from reserves		-	(24)	-	(24)
Total Accumulated Funds		(2 131)	961	-	(1 170)
Reserves					
Asset Revaluation Reserve		1 655	-	-	1 655
Total Reserves	15	1 655	-	-	1 655
Capital – Transactions with Owners					
Equity Injections					
Capital appropriation		66	-	27	93
Equity transfers in		9 672	-	546	10 218
Total Equity Injections		9 738	-	573	10 311
Equity Withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		(2 326)	-	-	(2 326)
Total Equity Withdrawals		(2 326)	-	-	(2 326)
Total Capital – Transactions with Owners		7 412	-	573	7 985
Total Equity at End of Financial Year		6 936	961	573	8 470

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

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	NOTE	2015	2014
		\$000	\$000
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Operating Receipts			
Appropriation			
Output		26 229	23 427
Commonwealth		3 911	3 355
Receipts from sales of goods and services		3 637	2 021
Total Operating Receipts		33 777	28 803
Operating Payments			
Payments to employees		(17 212)	(14 893)
Payments for goods and services		(19 626)	(11 405)
Grants and subsidies paid			
Current		(763)	(432)
Total Operating Payments		(37 601)	(26 730)
Net Cash From/(Used in) Operating Activities	16	(3 824)	2 073
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Investing Receipts			
Proceeds from asset sales	5	11	-
Total Investing Receipts		11	-
Investing Payments			
Purchases of assets		(12)	(57)
Total Investing Payments		(12)	(57)
Net Cash From/(Used in) Investing Activities		(1)	(57)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities			
Financing Receipts			
Deposits received		1 848	2 556
Equity injections			
Capital appropriation		12	27
Total Financing Receipts		1 860	2 583
Net Cash From/(Used in) Financing Activities		1 860	2 583
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(1 965)	4 599
Cash at beginning of financial year		22 581	17 982
Cash At End Of Financial Year	8	20 616	22 581

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

INDEX OF NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

The Department of Mines and Energy is responsible for implementing the Northern Territory Government's priorities for mineral and energy resources development and management.

This includes:

- Delivering geoscience and prospectivity assessments to industry to attract exploration investment;
- Regulating minerals from exploration through to development and operation of mines and their closure; and
- Leading energy policy advice and regulating the energy supply chain.

Additional information in relation to the department and its principal activities may be found in chapter four (Performance Reporting) of the Annual Report.

The department is predominantly funded by, and is dependent on, the receipt of Parliamentary appropriations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the department controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs. For reporting purposes, outputs delivered by the department are summarised into four output groups. Note 3 provides a summary financial information in the form of a Comprehensive Operating Statement by output group.

AGENCY OUTPUT GROUP/OUTPUTS:

Industry Development

Industry Reporting

Geoscience and Industry Development Services

Mining Services

Minerals Titles Management

Mining Operations Management

Legacy Mines

Energy Services

Energy Management

Corporate and Governance

Corporate and Governance

Shared Services Received

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 department to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of department financial statements is to include:

- (i) a Certification of the Financial Statements:
- (ii) a Comprehensive Operating Statement;
- (iii) a Balance Sheet;

- (iv) a Statement of Changes in Equity;
- (v) a Cash Flow Statement; and
- (vi) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

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

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

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

AASB 1031 Materiality (2013), AASB 2013-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments, AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (Part C – Materiality)

Revised AASB 1031 is an interim standard that cross-references to other standards and the Framework for the *Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements* that contain guidance on materiality. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 1055 Budgetary Reporting

AASB 1055 sets out budgetary reporting requirements for not-for-profit entities within the General Government Sector. The required disclosures comprise a separate note accompanying the financial statements.

AASB 2013-3 Amendments to AASB 136 – Recoverable Amount Disclosures for Non-Financial Assets

The amendments to AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets* address the disclosure of information about the recoverable amount of impaired assets if that amount is based on fair value less costs of disposal. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (Part A – Annual Improvements 2010-2012 and 2011-2013 Cycles)

Part A of the standard makes amendments to various Australian Accounting Standards (AASB 2, 3, 8, 9, 13, 116, 119, 124, 137, 138, 139, 140 & 1052 and Interpretation 129) arising from the issuance by IASB of *IFRSs Annual Improvements* to *IFRS 2010-2012 Cycle and Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2011-2013 Cycle*. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

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

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

STANDARD/ INTERPRETATION	SUMMARY	EFFECTIVE FOR ANNUAL REPORTING PERIODS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER	IMPACT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AASB 9 Financial Instruments (Dec 2014), AASB 2014- 1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (Part E - Financial Instruments), AASB 2014-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (Dec 2014)	The final version of AASB 9 brings together the classification and measurement, impairment and hedge accounting phases of the IASB's project to replace AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement. This version adds a new expected loss impairment model and limited amendments to classification and measurement for financial assets.	1 Jan 2018	
AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, AASB 2014-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15	AASB 15 outlines a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers. It replaces several Standards and Interpretations, including AASB 111 Construction Contracts, AASB 118 Revenue, Interpretation 15 Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate, and Interpretation 18 Transfers of Assets from Customers.	1 Jan 2017	
AASB 2014-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards — Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 & 138]	Amends AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment and AASB 138 Intangible Assets to provide additional guidance on how the depreciation or amortisation of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets should be calculated.	1 Jan 2016	

STANDARD/ INTERPRETATION	SUMMARY	EFFECTIVE FOR ANNUAL REPORTING PERIODS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER	IMPACT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AASB 2015-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012-2014 Cycle [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 110, 119, 121, 133, 134, 137 & 140]	Amends a number of pronouncements as a result of the IASB's 2012-2014 annual improvements cycle.	1 Jan 2016	
AASB 2015-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101 [AASB 7, 101, 134 & 1049]	Includes narrow-focus amendments to address concerns about existing presentation and disclosure requirements, and to ensure entities are able to use judgement when applying a standard in determining what information to disclose.	1 Jan 2016	
AASB 2015-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards — Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, 124 & 1049]	Extends the scope of AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures to not-for-profit public sector entities.	1 July 2016	

c) Agency and Territory Items

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

Central Holding Authority

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

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

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

The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the department's financial statements. However, as the department is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of Government, these items have been separately disclosed in Note 23 – Schedule of Administered Territory Items.

d) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2013-14 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

e) Presentation and Rounding of Amounts

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts of \$500 or less being rounded down to zero.

f) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2014-15 as a result of management decisions.

g) Accounting Judgments and Estimates

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

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

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

- Employee Benefits Note 2(r) and Note 13: Non-current liabilities in respect of employee benefits are measured as the present value of estimated future cash outflows based on the appropriate Government bond rate, estimates of future salary and wage levels and employee periods of service.
- Allowance for Impairment Losses Note 2(m), Note 9: Receivables and Note 17: Financial Instruments. The allowance represents debts that are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Debtors are grouped according to their aging profile and history of previous financial difficulties.

• Depreciation and Amortisation – Note 2(k), Note 10: Property, Plant and Equipment, and Note 11: Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets.

h) Goods and Services Tax

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

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

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

i) Income Recognition

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

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

Grants and Other Contributions

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

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

Appropriation

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

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

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

Sale of Goods

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

- The significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer;
- The department retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold;

- The amount of revenue can be reliably measured;
- It is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the department; and
- The costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

Rendering of Services

- Revenue from rendering services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The revenue is recognised when:
- The amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- It is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

Goods and Services Received Free of Charge

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

Disposal of Assets

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

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

j) Repairs and Maintenance Expense

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

k) Depreciation and Amortisation Expense

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

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

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

	2015	2014
Buildings	50 years	50 years
Infrastructure Assets	16-25 years	16-25 years
Plant and Equipment	10 years	10 years

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

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 – refer also to Note 21.

m) Receivables

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

The allowance for impairment losses represents the amount of receivables the department estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analysis of the age of the receivables that are past due as at the reporting date are disclosed in an aging schedule under credit risk in Note 17 Financial Instruments. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 90 days.

n) Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions

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

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

Complex Assets

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

Subsequent Additional Costs

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

Construction (Work in Progress)

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

o) Revaluations and Impairment

Revaluation of Assets

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

- · land;
- · buildings; and
- · infrastructure assets.

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

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 department assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis. If an indicator of impairment exists, the department determines the asset's recoverable amount. The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

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

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the asset revaluation surplus. Note 15 provides additional information in relation to the asset revaluation surplus.

p) Leased Assets

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

Operating Leases

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

q) 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 department. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

r) Employee Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

s) Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- Northern Territory 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 department 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 department financial statements.

t) Contributions by and Distributions to Government

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

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

u) Commitments

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at Note 18.

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

v) 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 assets and liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the department becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. The department's financial instruments include cash and deposits; receivables; and payables.

Note 17 provides additional information on financial instruments.

w) Fair Value Measurement

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The highest and best use takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible.

When measuring fair value, the valuation techniques used maximise the use of relevant observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs are used to the extent that sufficient relevant and reliable observable inputs are not available for similar assets/liabilities.

Observable inputs are publicly available data that are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Observable inputs used by the department include, but are not limited to, published sales data for land and general office buildings.

Unobservable inputs are data, assumptions and judgments that are not available publicly, but are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Such inputs include internal department adjustments to observable data to take account of particular and potentially unique characteristics/functionality of assets/liabilities and assessments of physical condition and remaining useful life.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the following fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used:

Level 1 – inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 – inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and

Level 3 – inputs are unobservable.

Note 11 provides additional information on Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets.

3. COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT BY OUTPUT GROUP

		INDUSTRY	INDUSTRY	MINING SERVICES	ERVICES	ENERGY SERVICES	ERVICES	CORPORATE AND	ATE AND	TOTAL	AL
	NOTE	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
		\$000	000\$	000\$	\$000	000\$	000\$	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Income		·	· ·	+	-				- -	+	
Appropriation											
Output		11 107	9 026	8 236	8 424	2 295	2 063	4 591	3 914	26 229	23 427
Commonwealth		1	ı	3 911	3 355	1	ı	ı	ı	3 911	3 355
Sales of goods and services	9	113	222	944	1 028	187	184	ı	ı	1 244	1 434
Goods and services received free of charge ⁽¹⁾	4	723	757	918	096	156	164	156	164	1 953	2 045
Assets acquired below fair value		I	I	314	ı	ı	I	I	I	314	ı
Gain on disposal of assets	5	11	I	ı	ı	ı	I	I	I	11	1
Other income	9	498	22	669	234	ı	ı	ı	_	1 197	257
Total Income		12 452	10 027	15 022	14 001	2 638	2 411	4 7 4 7	4 079	34 859	30 518
Expenses											
Employee expenses		6 109	5 304	7 799	6 816	1 824	1 267	1 725	1 719	17 457	15 106
Administrative expenses											
Purchases of goods and services	7	5 322	4 092	10 050	3 629	399	368	2 604	2 825	18 375	10 914
Repairs and maintenance		125	125	26	26	ı	ı	ı	ı	151	151
Depreciation and amortisation	10, 11	373	345	220	540	1	ı	ı	ı	943	885
Services free of charge ⁽¹⁾		723	757	918	096	156	164	156	164	1 953	2 045
Other administrative expenses		7	ı	11	ı	2	ı	2	ı	22	1
Grants and subsidies expenses											
Current		715	391	3	1	ı	ı	45	41	763	432
Total Expenses		13 374	11 014	19 377	11 971	2 381	1 799	4 532	4 749	39 664	29 533
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(922)	(987)	(4 355)	2 030	257	612	215	(670)	(4 805)	985
Other Comprehensive Income											
Items that will not be reclassified to net											
surplus/(deficit)											
Transfers from Reserves		(3)	(6)	1	(11)	1	(2)	ı	(2)	(3)	(24)
Total Other Comprehensive Income		(3)	(6)	•	(11)	•	(2)	•	(2)	(3)	(24)
Comprehensive Result		(925)	(966)	(4 355)	2 019	257	610	215	(672)	(4 808)	961
(1) DCIS service charges											

(1) DCIS service charges.

This Comprehensive Operating Statement by output group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

4. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Inter-agency notional service revenue/charge (Department of Corporate and Information Services)	1 953	2 045
	1 953	2 045

5. GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Net proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets	11	-
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed	-	-
Total Gain on Disposal of Assets	11	-

6. SALE OF GOODS AND SERVICES AND OTHER INCOME

The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after crediting the following income:

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Sale of Goods and Services		
Application, advertising and dealing fees (licences/titles)	1 128	1 152
Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar	113	100
South McArthur Gravity Survey	-	105
Tanami Exploration Agreement	-	60
Other Goods and Service Charges less than \$50k	3	17
	1 244	1 434
Other Income		
Private Organisations	1 197	257
	1 197	257

7. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES

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

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Goods and services expenses:		
Consultants ⁽¹⁾	3 263	1 375
Advertising ⁽²⁾	164	153
Marketing and promotion ⁽³⁾	142	217
Document production	41	154
Legal expenses ⁽⁴⁾	2 551	418
Recruitment ⁽⁵⁾	176	147
Training and study	202	228
Official duty fares	293	327
Travelling allowance	224	177
Other	11 319	7 718
	18 375	10 914

⁽¹⁾ Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

8. CASH AND DEPOSITS

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Cash on hand	5	3
Cash at bank	20 611	22 578
	20 616	22 581

⁽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.

9. RECEIVABLES

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Current		
Accounts receivable	200	247
Less: Allowance for impairment losses	(19)	-
	181	247
GST receivables	240	141
Other receivables	151	-
	391	141
Total Receivables	572	388

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Land		
At fair value	1 490	1 490
Buildings		
At fair value	12 667	12 364
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(9 128)	(8 772)
	3 539	3 592
Infrastructure		
At fair value	6 895	6 895
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2 762)	(2 345)
	4 133	4 550
Plant and Equipment		
At fair value	1 548	1 350
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(828)	(785)
	720	565
Computer Hardware		
At fair value	96	106
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(62)	(68)
	34	38
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	9 916	10 235

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

2015 Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2014-15 is set out below:

	LAND	BUILDINGS	INFRASTRUCTURE	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	COMPUTER HARDWARE	TOTAL
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2014	1 490	3 592	4 550	565	38	10 235
Additions	-	-	-	314	12	326
Disposals	-	-	-	(2)	-	(2)
Depreciation	-	(353)	(417)	(157)	(16)	(943)
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	-	303	-		-	303
Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	-	(3)	-	-	-	(3)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2015	1 490	3 539	4 133	720	34	9 916

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

2014 Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2013-14 is set out below:

	LAND	BUILDINGS	INFRASTRUCTURE	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	COMPUTER HARDWARE	TOTAL
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2013	1 490	3 467	4 892	664	29	10 542
Additions	-	-	-	31	26	57
Depreciation	-	(317)	(421)	(130)	(17)	(885)
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	-	466	79	-	-	545
Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	-	(24)	-	-	-	(24)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2014	1 490	3 592	4 550	565	38	10 235

11. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

a) Fair Value Hierarchy

Fair values of non-financial assets categorised by levels of inputs used to compute fair value are:

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	TOTAL FAIR VALUE
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2014-15				
Asset Classes				
Land	-	-	1 490	1 490
Buildings	-	-	3 539	3 539
Infrastructure	-	-	4 133	4 133
Plant and Equipment	-	-	754	754
Total			9 916	9 916
2013-14				
Asset Classes				
Land	-	-	1 490	1 490
Buildings	-	-	3 592	3 592
Infrastructure	_	-	4 550	4 550
Plant and Equipment	-	-	603	603
Total			10 235	10 235

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Levels 2 or 3 during 2014-15.

b) Valuation Techniques and Inputs

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value in 2014-15 are:

	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
	Techniques	Techniques
Asset Classes		
Land	-	Cost
Buildings	-	Cost
Infrastructure	-	Cost
Plant and Equipment	-	Cost

There were no changes in valuation techniques from 2013-14 to 2014-15.

Level 3 fair values of specialised buildings, infrastructure and plant and equipment were determined by computing their depreciated replacement costs because an active market does not exist for such facilities. The depreciated replacement cost was based on a combination of internal records of the historical cost of the facilities, adjusted for contemporary technology and construction approaches. Significant judgement was also used in assessing the remaining service potential of the facilities, given local environment conditions, projected usage, and records of the current condition of the facilities.

c) Additional Information for Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

(i) Reconciliation of Recurring Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

	LAND	BUILDINGS	INFRASTRUCTURE	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2014-15				
Fair value as at 1 July 2014	1 490	3 592	4 550	603
Additions	-	-	-	326
Depreciation	-	(353)	(417)	(173)
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	-	303	-	-
Gains/(Losses) recognised in net surplus/deficit	1	-	-	(2)
Gains/(Losses) recognised in other comprehensive income	-	(3)	-	-
Fair value as at 30 June 2015	1 490	3 539	4 133	754
2013-14				
Fair value as at 1 July 2013	1 490	3 467	4 892	693
Additions	-	-	-	57
Depreciation	-	(317)	(421)	(147)
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	-	466	79	-
Gains/(Losses) recognised in other comprehensive income	-	(24)	-	-
Fair value as at 30 June 2014	1 490	3 592	4 550	603

(ii) Sensitivity analysis

Unobservable inputs used in computing the fair value of assets include the historical cost and the consumed economic benefit for each asset. Given the large number of department assets, it is not practical to compute a relevant summary measure for the unobservable inputs. In respect of sensitivity of fair value to changes in input value, a higher historical cost results in a higher fair value and greater consumption of economic benefit lowers fair value.

12. PAYABLES

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Accounts payable	971	672
Accrued expenses	584	442
Total Payables	1 555	1 114

13. PROVISIONS

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Current		
Employee benefits		
Recreation leave	1 196	1 089
Leave loading	230	208
Airfares	9	20
On Cost	283	253
Other Employee Benefits	26	22
	1 744	1 592
Non-Current		
Employee benefits		
Recreation Leave	449	487
	449	487
Total Provisions	2 193	2 079

The department employed 165 employees as at 30 June 2015 (147 employees as at 30 June 2014).

14. OTHER LIABILITIES

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Current		
Unearned Revenue	4	-
Total Other Liabilities	4	-

15. RESERVES

Asset Revaluation Surplus

The asset revaluation surplus includes the net revaluation increments and decrements arising from the revaluation of non-current assets. Impairment adjustments may also be recognised in the asset revaluation surplus.

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Balance as at 1 July	1 655	1 655
Balance as at 30 June	1 655	1 655

16. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Reconciliation of Cash

The total of department 'Cash and deposits' 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

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(4 805)	985
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	943	885
Asset write-offs/write-downs	2	-
Assets acquired below fair value	(314)	-
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of assets	(11)	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(Increase) in receivables	78	(493)
Decrease/(Increase) in prepayments	(39)	7
Decrease/(Increase) in other assets	25	(25)
(Decrease)/Increase in payables	447	437
(Decrease)/Increase in provision for employee benefits	82	72
(Decrease)/Increase in other provisions	32	37
(Decrease)/Increase in other liabilities	(264)	168
Net Cash from Operating Activities	(3 824)	2 073

17. 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 department include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and finance leases. The department has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

a) Categorisation of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of the department's financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below.

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Financial Assets		
Cash and deposits	20 616	22 581
Receivables	572	388
	21 188	22 969
Financial Liabilities		
Deposit held	23 573	21 725
Payables	1 555	1 114
	25 128	22 839

b) Credit Risk

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

Receivables

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

EXTERNAL RECEIVABLES	AGING OF RECEIVABLES	AGING OF IMPAIRED RECEIVABLES	NET RECEIVABLES
	\$000	\$000	\$000
2014-15			
Not overdue	481	-	481
Overdue for less than 30 days	2	-	2
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	19	(19)	-
Overdue for more than 60 days	89	-	89
Total	591	(19)	572
Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses			
Opening		-	
Written off during the year		-	
Recovered during the year		-	
Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss		19	
Total		19	
2013-14			
Not overdue	88	-	88
Overdue for less than 30 days	299	-	299
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	-	-
Overdue for more than 60 days	1	-	1
Total	388	-	388

c) Liquidity Risk

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

2015 MATURITY ANALYSIS FOR FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AYEAR THAN 5 YEARS LITAN 5 YEARS <th></th> <th>VARIABL</th> <th>SLE INTEREST RATE</th> <th>RATE</th> <th>FIXE</th> <th>FIXED INTEREST RATE</th> <th>νте</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>		VARIABL	SLE INTEREST RATE	RATE	FIXE	FIXED INTEREST RATE	νте			
\$000 \$000 		LESS THAN A YEAR	1 TO 5 YEARS	MORE THAN 5 YEARS	LESS THAN A YEAR	1 TO 5 YEARS	MORE THAN 5 YEARS	NON INTEREST BEARING	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
sets		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
sets										
al Assets	ind deposits	ı	ı	ı	ı	I	1	20 616	20 616	ı
al Assets	ables	ı	I	ı	ı	I	1	572	572	I
	inancial Assets	1	-	1	1	•	1	21 188	21 188	•
	ties									
1	its held	ı	ı	1	ı	I	1	23 573	23 573	ı
	es	1	I	1	-	ı	-	1 555	1 555	ı
Total Financial Liabilities	inancial Liabilities	1	•	1	1	•	ı	25 128	25 128	•

2014 MATURITY ANALYSIS FOR FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	VARIABLE	LE INTEREST RATE	RATE	FIXE	FIXED INTEREST RATE	АТЕ			
	LESS THAN A YEAR	1 TO 5 YEARS	MORE THAN 5 YEARS	LESS THAN A YEAR	1 TO 5 YEARS	MORE THAN 5 YEARS	NON INTEREST BEARING	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
Assets									
Cash and deposits	ı	ı	ı	ı	1	1	22 581	22 581	1
Receivables	ı	ı	1	ı	1	ı	388	388	1
Total Financial Assets	•	•	'	•	•	•	22 969	22 969	'
Liabilities									
Deposits held	ı	1	I	ı	1	1	21 725	21 725	1
Payables	1	ı	1	1	-	-	1 114	1 114	1
Total Financial Liabilities	•	•	•	•	•	•	22 839	22 839	'

d) Market Risk

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

(i) Interest Rate Risk

The department is not exposed to interest rate risk as department financial assets and financial liabilities are non interest bearing.

(ii) Price Risk

The department is not exposed to price risk as it does not hold units in unit trusts.

(iii) Currency Risk

The department is not exposed to currency risk as it does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency

e) Net Fair Value

The fair value of financial instruments is determined on the following basis:

• the fair value of cash, deposits, advances, receivables and payables approximates their carrying amount, which is also their amortised cost.

For financial instruments measured and disclosed at fair value, the following table groups the instruments based on the level of inputs used.

	TOTAL CARRYING AMOUNT	NET FAIR VALUE LEVEL 1	NET FAIR VALUE LEVEL 2	NET FAIR VALUE LEVEL 3	NET FAIR VALUE TOTAL
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2015					
Financial Assets					
Cash and deposits	20 616	20 616	-	-	20 616
Receivables	572	572	-	-	572
Total Financial Assets	21 188	21 188	-	-	21 188
Financial Liabilities					
Deposits held	23 573	23 573	-	-	23 573
Payables	1 555	1 555	-	-	1 555
Total Financial Liabilities	25 128	25 128	-	-	25 128
2014					
Financial Assets					
Cash and deposits	22 581	22 581	-	-	22 581
Receivables	388	388	-	-	388
Total Financial Assets	22 969	22 969	-	-	22 969
Financial Liabilities					
Deposits held	21 725	21 725	-	-	21 725
Payables	1 114	1 114	-	-	1 114
Total Financial Liabilities	22 839	22 839	-	-	22 839

The net fair value of cash, receivables, deposits held and payables are based on market value.

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.

18. COMMITMENTS

(i) Operating Lease Commitments

The department leases property under non-cancellable operating leases expiring at various dates. Leases generally provide the department with a right of renewal at which time all lease terms are renegotiated. The department also leases items of plant and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases. Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

	20	15	20	14
	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Within one year	320	6	245	17
Later than one year and not later than five years	543	4	320	13
Later than five years	1	-	6	-
	864	10	571	30

(ii) Other Expenditure Commitments

Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

	20	15	20	14
	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Within one year	3	2 422	-	3 095
	3	2 422	-	3 095

19. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

The department had no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2015 or 30 June 2014.

20. 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

21. ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER'S TRUST ACCOUNT

In accordance with section 7 of the *Financial Management Act*, an Accountable Officer's Trust Account has been established for the receipt of money to be held in trust. A summary of activity is shown below:

NATURE OF TRUST MONEY	OPENING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	CLOSING BALANCE
	1 July 2014			30 June 2015
Aboriginal Land Rents	1 446	2 955	(3 247)	1 154
Cash Securities	18 133	2 805	(2 386)	18 552
Mining Remediation	2 146	2 291	(569)	3 868
	21 725	8 051	(6 202)	23 574

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

	AGE	ENCY	AGE	ENCY		ITORY MS		ITORY MS
	2015	NO. OF TRANS.	2014	NO. OF TRANS.	2015	NO. OF TRANS.	2014	NO. OF TRANS.
	\$000		\$000		\$000		\$000	
Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers Under the <i>Financial Management Act</i> Represented by:								
Amounts written off, postponed and waived by Delegates								
Public property written off	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Written Off, Postponed and Waived by Delegates	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-

23. SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

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

	2015	2014
	\$000	\$000
Territory Income And Expenses		
Income		
Fees from regulatory services	11 191	10 874
Royalties and rents	4 121	3 796
Other income	-	4
Total Income	15 312	14 674
Expenses		
Central Holding Authority income transferred	15 312	14 674
Total Expenses	15 312	14 674
Territory Income less Expenses	-	-
Territory Assets And Liabilities		
Assets		
Royalties and rent receivable	98	18
Other receivables	3 853	4 195
Total Assets	3 951	4 213
Liabilities		
Central Holding Authority Income payable	104	98
Unearned Central Holding Authority income	3 847	4 115
Total Liabilities	3 951	4 213
Net Assets	-	-

24. BUDGETARY INFORMATION

	2014-15	2014-15		
	ACTUAL	ORIGINAL		
COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT		BUDGET	VARIANCE	NOTE
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
Income				
Appropriation				
Output	26 229	26 028	201	1
Commonwealth	3 911	3 911	-	
Sales of goods and services	1 244	1 167	77	
Goods and services received free of charge	1 953	2 020	(67)	
Assets acquired below fair value	314	-	314	2
Gain on disposal of assets	11	-	11	
Other income	1 197	370	827	3
Total Income	34 859	33 496	1 363	
Expenses				
Employee expenses	17 457	14 966	2 491	4
Administrative expenses				
Purchases of goods and services	18 375	17 483	892	5
Repairs and maintenance	151	215	(64)	6
Depreciation and amortisation	943	860	83	
Services free of charge	1 953	2 020	(67)	
Other administrative expenses	22	-	22	
Grants and subsidies expenses				
Current	763	812	(49)	
Total Expenses	39 664	36 356	3 308	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(4 805)	(2 860)	(1 945)	7
Other Comprehensive Income Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/(deficit)				
Transfers from Reserves	(3)	-	(3)	
Total Other Comprehensive Income	(3)	-	(3)	
Comprehensive Result	(4 808)	(2 860)	(1 948)	

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or \$0.02 million, or where multiple significant variances have occurred. The original published budget was revised during 2014-15.

- 1. Output appropriation has increased by \$0.2 million due to additional funding for community stakeholder and industry engagement.
- 2. Gain on disposal of assets has increased by \$0.31 million due to assets being bought into the department's balance sheet which were originally paid from the Mining Remediation Fund in the Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA).
- 3. Other income increased by \$0.83 million including:
 - contributions from industry for gravity surveys of \$0.46 million; and
 - increased activity relating to the Independent Monitor for the McArthur River Mine in 2014-15 resulting in an increase in revenue of \$0.41 million.
- 4. Employee expenses have increased by \$2.49 million, largely due to a reclassification of expenditure from goods and services expenses to employee expenses.
- 5. The increase of \$0.89 million against goods and services is the net effect of the reclassification of expenditure from goods and services expenses to employee expenses, lower than anticipated expenses relating to the Commonwealth funded Rum Jungle mine site rehabilitation project offset by approved unfunded expenses on the management strategy for the Mt Todd mine site and a one off payment for the surrender of mineral titles.
- 6. Repairs and Maintenance decrease of \$0.06 is largely due to a transfer to Minor New Works to supplement a high priority project.
- 7. The increase in the deficit of \$1.95 million is due to approved unfunded expenditure on the management strategy for the Mt Todd mine site and a one off payment for the surrender of mineral titles which were partially offset by lower than anticipated expenditure on the Commonwealth funded Rum Jungle mine site rehabilitation project.

	2014-15	2014-15		
	ACTUAL	ORIGINAL		
BALANCE SHEET		BUDGET	VARIANCE	NOTE
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
Assets				
Current assets				
Cash and deposits	20 616	17 697	2 919	1
Receivables	572	111	461	2
Prepayments	198	166	32	3
Other assets	-	-	-	
Total current assets	21 386	17 974	3 412	
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	9 916	9 464	452	4
Total non-current assets	9 916	9 464	452	
Total Assets	31 302	27 438	3 864	
Liabilities				
Current liabilities				
Deposits held	23 573	19 170	4 403	5
Payables	1 555	718	837	6
Provisions	1 744	1 460	284	7
Other liabilities	4	6	(2)	
Total current liabilities	26 876	21 354	5 522	
Non-current liabilities				
Provisions	449	511	(62)	7
Total non-current liabilities	449	511	(62)	
Total Liabilities	27 325	21 865	5 460	
Net Assets	3 977	5 573	(1 596)	
Equity				
Capital	8 300	8 021	279	
Reserves	1 655	1 655	-	
Accumulated funds	(5 978)	(4 103)	(1 875)	8
Total Equity	3 977	5 573	(1 596)	

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or \$0.5 million, or where multiple significant variances have occurred. The original published budget was revised during 2014-15 which decreased variations significantly.

- 1. Cash and deposits increase of \$2.92 million is largely due to higher than anticipated cash receipts from operating activities, the use of cash balances from 2013-14 and unbudgeted net deposits received into AOTA relating to the Mining Securities levy.
- 2. Receivables increase of \$0.46 million is due to higher than estimated accrued revenue relating to externally funded projects, Goods and Service Tax (GST) receivables from the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and accounts still to be paid as at the 30 June 2015.
- 3. Prepaid expenses were higher than estimated.
- 4. Property plant and equipment increased by \$0.45 million due to the purchase of additional equipment and additions to government owned buildings through minor new works.
- 5. Deposits held increase of \$4.4 million was due to higher than originally estimated net deposits received into the AOTA for the Mining Securities levy, Aboriginal land rents and other cash securities relating to mining, oil and gas exploration.
- 6. Payables increased by \$0.84 million and was largely due to higher than anticipated invoices on hand as at the 30 June and an increase in accrued salaries.
- 7. Provisions increased by \$0.22 million as a result of higher than anticipated provisions for employee recreation leave.
- 8. \$1.88 million higher than estimated deficit was due to approved unfunded expenses on the management strategy for the Mt Todd mine site and a one off payment for the surrender of mineral titles partially offset by lower than anticipated expenses relating to the Commonwealth funded Rum Jungle mine site rehabilitation project.

	2014-15	2014-15		
	ACTUAL	ORIGINAL		
CASH FLOW STATEMENT		BUDGET	VARIANCE	NOTE
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
Cash Flows From Operating Activities				
Operating receipts				
Appropriation				
Output	26 229	26 028	201	1
Commonwealth	3 911	3 911	-	
Receipts from sales of goods and services	3 637	1 537	2 100	2
Total operating receipts	33 777	31 476	2 301	
Operating payments				
Payments to employees	(17 212)	(14 966)	(2 246)	3
Payments for goods and services	(19 626)	(17 698)	(1 928)	4
Grants and subsidies paid				
Current	(763)	(812)	49	
Total operating payments	(37 601)	(33 476)	(4 125)	
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	(3 824)	(2 000)	(1 824)	
Cash Flows From Investing Activities				
Investing receipts				
Proceeds from asset sales	11	-	11	
Total investing receipts	11	-	11	
Investing payments				
Purchases of assets	(12)	-	(12)	
Total investing payments	(12)	-	(12)	
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities	(1)	-	(1)	
Cash Flows From Financing Activities				
Financing receipts				
Deposits received	1 848	-	1 848	5
Equity injections				
Capital appropriation	12	-	12	
Total financing receipts	1 860	-	1 860	
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities	1 860	-	1 860	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(1 965)	(2 000)	35	
Cash at beginning of financial year	22 581	19 697	2 884	6
Cash at End Of Financial Year	20 616	17 697	2 919	

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or \$0.2 million, or where multiple significant variances have occurred. The original published budget was revised during 2014-15.

- 1. Output appropriation has increased by \$0.2 million due to additional funding for community stakeholder and industry engagement.
- 2. Other agency receipts increased by \$2.1 million including:
 - · contributions from industry for gravity surveys of \$0.46 million; and
 - increased activity relating to the Independent Monitor for the McArthur River mine in 2014-15 resulting in an increase in revenue of \$0.41 million.
 - GST Receipts of \$1.27 million.
- 3. Payments to employees have increased by \$2.25 million, largely due to a reclassification of expenditure from goods and services expenses to employee expenses.
- 4. The variation of \$1.93 million against goods and services was largely due to unbudgeted GST Payments of \$1.37 million. The balance is the net effect of the reclassification of expenditure from goods and services expenses to employee expenses, lower than anticipated expenses relating to the Commonwealth funded Rum Jungle mine site rehabilitation project offset by approved unfunded expenses on the management strategy for the Mt Todd mine site and a one off payment for the surrender of mineral titles.
- 5. Deposits received was unbudgeted and is the net movement in the AOTA relating to the Mining Securities levy, Aboriginal land rents and other cash securities relating to mining, oil and gas exploration.
- 6. The original budget for cash at the beginning of the financial year was adjusted during 2014-15 to match actual cash at the beginning of 2014-15.

	2014-15 ACTUAL	2014-15 ORIGINAL		
ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	NOTE
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
Territory Income And Expenses				
Income				
Fees from regulatory services	11 191	9 693	1 498	1
Royalties and rents	4 121	3 000	1 121	2
Other income	-	65	(65)	3
Total income	15 312	12 758	2 554	
Expenses				
Central Holding Authority income transferred	15 312	-	15 312	4
Total expenses	15 312	-	15 312	
Territory income less expenses	-	12 758	(12 758)	
Territory Assets And Liabilities				
Assets				
Royalties and rent receivable	98	56	42	5
Other receivables	3 853	3 943	(90)	
Total assets	3 951	3 999	(48)	
Liabilities				
Central Holding Authority Income payable	104	60	44	6
Unearned Central Holding Authority income	3 847	3 939	(92)	
Total liabilities	3 951	3 999	(48)	
Net assets	-	-	-	

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or \$0.2 million, or where multiple significant variances have occurred.

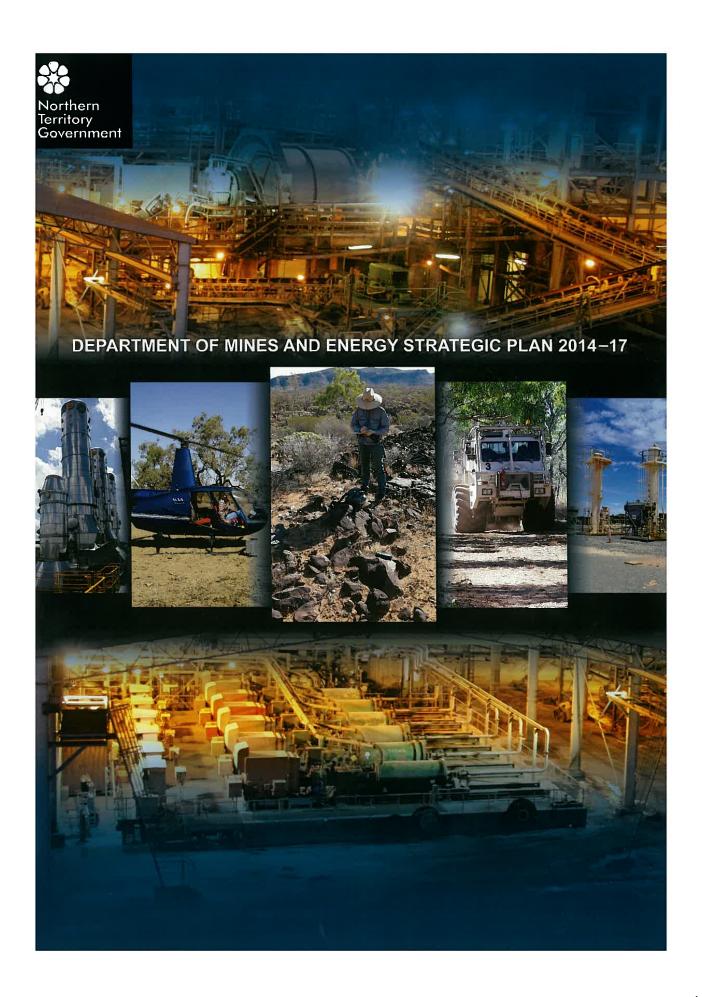
- 1. The increase in Fees from Regulatory Services is largely due to higher than estimated income from mineral exploration licences.
- 2. The increase in Royalties and Rents is largely due to higher than estimated income from mining rents.
- 3. No income was classified as 'Other' in 2014-15.
- 4. All income classified as Territory Income, is expensed by the department and transferred to the Central Holding Authority in the Department of Treasury and Finance. Budgets for expenses are not published.
- 5. The increase in Royalties and Rents receivable is due to higher than estimated mining rents still to be received by the department relating to 2014-15.
- 6. The increase in central holding authority income payable relates directly to the mining rents still to be received.



Appendix 1

Grants and Sponsorships 2014-15

	EXPENDITURE \$
Industry Development Grants	
Welding Technology Institute of Australia	40 000
Total	40 000
Resources Grants	
Geophysics and Drilling Collaboration Program	694 574
Total	694 574
Sponsorship	
Territory Resource Management Inc 2015 Conference and Awards	3 000
Minerals Council of Australia (NT)	2 727
Women in Resources Inc 2015 Awards Student Table	1 500
Charles Darwin University GIS Awards	500
Total	7 727
Earth Sciences / Mining / Petroleum Scholarships	
Adam Johnston	3 000
Brett Lewis	9 000
Ricky Phayer	9 000
Total	21 000
Grand Total	763 301



DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-17

Our Vision

The Northern Territory is the preferred destination for resource investment and development.

Our Mission

To enhance the wealth of the Northern Territory through responsible stewardship of its minerals and energy resources.

Our Service Commitment

We aim to be viewed by:

- Resource Industries—as proactive, consistent, accountable and innovalive
- Our Critics-as rational, decisive and honest knowledgeable

Our Colleagues—as cooperative and

Our Values

The Northern Territory Public Service values are:

hardworking, efficient and effective, innovative and work collaboratively to achieve the best Commitment to Service-professional, results for the Northern Territor

We contribute to the Northern Territory's

priorities for a:

Framing the Future

- Ethical Practice-upholding the highest standards of practice and acts with integrity in all that we do
 - Respect-respecting all people, and in particular their rights as individuals
- Accountability-transparency and accountability Impartiality-providing advice that is objective, timely and based on the best available in all our actions
- Diversity-diversity of our workforce, as well as, the NT population that we serve evidence

Confident Culture by requiring consideration of local social and economic development objectives in development Balanced Environment by implementing contemporary regulatory frameworks wit risk-based compliance assessments Strong Society by encouraging industry to support local skills development and employment Prosperous Economy by facilitating a

Relationships and Stakeholders က်

Balanced Outcomes Implement a review of the

7

Economic Development

Strategic Themes

Our People

Governance and Business Systems

Implement cross-departmenta liaison protocols for issues impacting on multiple government agencies.

Define options for spatial

Deliver a strong service culture.

Deliver a transparent and risk-based approach to regulatory compliance.

Implement case management

Strategic Objectives:

for start up and complex

geoscience and investment attraction initiative.

Deliver an enhanced

for minerals and energy

Implement a management program for legacy mines

Create advisory boards in

mining and energy.

supports economic and social development in remote areas.

. Deliver contemporary minerals and energy policy that reflects the changing economic environment.

- of legislative and policy Constructive and respectful communications with all our
 - Positive and ethical interactions with stakeholders Provision of objective and timely information and advice.
- improved productivity for the department and its clients. Client focussed and easy to

with legislation is based on a transparent its management framework.

New and improved public infrastructure that supports the

Outcomes

communities in regional areas mining and energy sector and

Increased opportunities for employment and skills development for Territorians.

Enforcement of compliance

contemporary regulatory framework for mines and

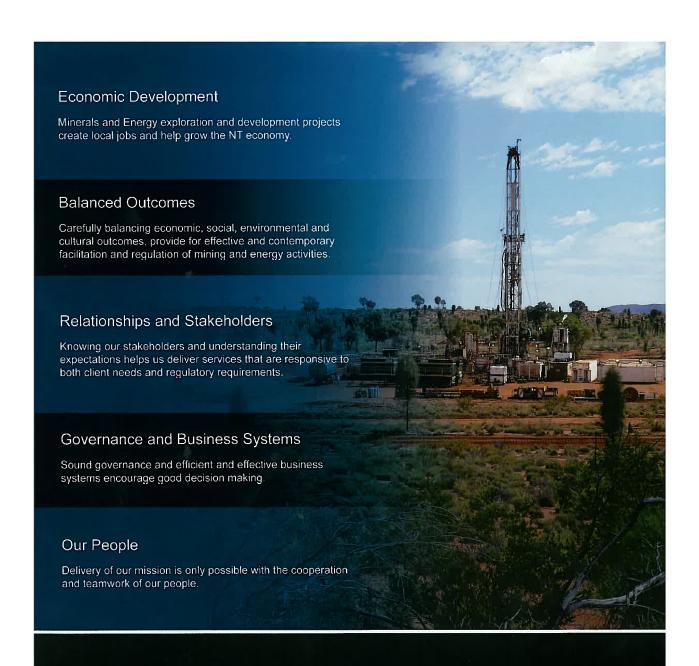
exploration and development

n minerals and energy ncreased investment

Accelerated development of

the NT's regulatory framework Enhanced industry and community understanding of

This Strategic Plan will guide us in determining what is important and what is not, when we are developing and delivering our services. Through actions and lasks against the Strategic Objectives, delegated to specific Executives and Directorates, every one of our people will play a critical role in its delivery as we develop and deliver our services.



For more information

www.minerals.nt.gov.au

or

GPO Box 4550, DARWIN NT 0801

Disclaimer: All care has been taken to prepare the Northern Territory Department of Mines and Energy Strategic Plan (the "Plan") with accurate information. However, changes in circumstances after publication may impact on its accuracy. The Northern Territory of Australia:

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