



Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FISHERIES AND MINES

Annual Report

2007–2008



DEPARTMENT OF **PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FISHERIES AND MINES**

ANNUAL REPORT
2007—08

Acknowledgements

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

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The Hon Konstantine Vatskalis MLA
Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources
Parliament House
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Dear Minister

In accordance with section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, I submit to you a report on the operations of the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines (DPIFM) for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

In respect to my duties as Accountable Officer, pursuant to section 13 of the *Financial Management Act*, I advise to the best of my knowledge and belief that:

- a) Proper records of all transactions affecting the agency are kept, including the recording of this agency's transactions undertaken by the Department of Corporate and Information Services. Employees under my control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, the *Financial Management Regulations* and the *Treasurer's Directions*;
- b) Procedures within the agency afford proper internal control and a current description of such procedures is recorded in the accounting and property manual which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act*;
- c) No indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in or omission from the accounts and records exists;
- d) In accordance with the requirements of section 15 of the *Financial Management Act*, the internal audit capacity available to the agency is adequate and the results of internal audits have been reported to me;
- e) The financial statements included in the annual report have been prepared from proper accounts and records and are in accordance with *Treasurer's Directions*; and
- f) All Employment Instructions issued by the Commissioner for Public Employment have been satisfied.

Yours sincerely



JOHN CARROLL
Chief Executive
22 September 2008

Purpose of the annual report

Our annual report describes the achievements, performance and priorities of all staff in the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines during 2007–08. It reflects our business which is to facilitate industry development to ensure the sustainable use of the Territory's fisheries, primary industries, mineral and energy resources.

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.

Table of contents

Introduction & overview	1
Chief Executive's message	3
About the department	7
Our structure	9
Key industry sectors	13
Trends and analysis	13
Industry sectors outlook and priorities	15
Key achievements and priorities	21
Minerals and Energy	21
Fisheries	31
Primary Industries	33
Regional Development	37
Finance	40
Marketing and Communications	41
Human Resources	42
Information Management	43
Policy, Planning and Review	44
Corporate governance	45
Committees	55
Boards	58
Statutory responsibilities and legislation	60
Reviews	62
Information Act	62
Our people	63
Indigenous employment	66
Equal Employment Opportunity	68
Equity and diversity	69
Staffing profile	70
Employee learning	71
DPIFM strategic human resources plan	72
DPIFM's compliance with employment instructions	74
Performance management	74
Employee Assistance Program	75
Recognition and rewards	77

Performance reporting	81
Output group one: resource industry development	84
Minerals and Energy	84
Fisheries	93
Primary Industries	95
Output group two: resource industry management	101
Minerals and Energy	101
Fisheries	107
Financial reports	111
Financial statement overview	113
Certification of the Financial Statements	115
Financial statements	116
Operating statement	116
Balance sheet	117
Statement of changes in equity	118
Cash flow statement	119
Notes to the financial statements	120
Appendices	145
Appendix 1 - Contact details	147
Appendix 2 - Glossary	149
Appendix 3 - Performance, efficiency and compliance reviews	151
Appendix 4 - Statement of information held by the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, July 2008	155
Appendix 5 - Grants and sponsorships 2007–08	163
Appendix 6 - Pastoral Water Enhancement Scheme	166

List of figures

Figure 1	Industry sector contribution to NT GSP, \$ million, 2006–07	13
Figure 3	Number of NT businesses by sector, June 2007	14
Figure 2	Mining and agriculture and forestry and fishing sector contributions to NT GSP, \$ millions	14
Figure 4	NT minerals and energy production and processing values	15
Figure 5	NT fisheries production values	17
Figure 6	NT primary industry production values (excluding fisheries)	19
Figure 7	EEO groups by year	68
Figure 8	Staffing by classification as at 30 June 2008	70
Figure 9	Employee classification by gender as at 30 June 2008	70
Figure 10	Training expenditure comparison	71

List of tables

Table 1	Northern Territory Mining Production for the period July 2007 - June 2008	16
Table 2	Northern Territory primary industry and fisheries value of production (\$m)	18
Table 3	Staffing establishment by output group fulltime equivalent (FTE)	70
Table 4	Output group one: Northern Territory Geological Survey performance measures	85
Table 5	Rebates Approved 2007–08	90
Table 6	Rebates Paid 2007–08	91
Table 7	Output group one: Aquaculture development performance measures	94
Table 8	Output group one: Biosecurity and market access performance measures	100
Table 9	Exploration licence and mining tenement statistics by financial year	103
Table 10	Output group one: Authorisations performance measures	106
Table 11	Output group one: Research services performance measures	107

Introduction and overview



Chief Executive's message

In 2007–08 DPIFM consolidated the developments of the previous years.



The year under review was mixed for the industries the department worked with. Dry conditions prevailed for the pastoral industry and the drought declaration for the south east region continued. The Barkly Tableland experienced extremely dry conditions causing considerable difficulties for producers in the region. Live cattle exports held up well however and continued to grow. The value of the horticulture industry was down from previous years due to the normal biennial production cycle of mango trees and the sector as a whole continued to consolidate. A notable development during the year was the strong interest in plantation forestry opportunities in the Douglas Daly region.

A major issue for the department and the commercial and recreational fishing industries it serves was the Blue Mud

Bay case, which was resolved by the High Court decision handed down on 30 July 2008. A number of initiatives, including the review of the *Fisheries Act*, were reliant on the final court case decision and could not be substantially progressed during the year as a result. However, the department was able to administer the buyback of a number of commercial fishing licences and implement the Government's policy of expanding areas set aside for recreational fishing, with the closure of Darwin Harbour and Shoal Bay to the Coastal Net and Bait Net fisheries. Commercial fishing did not grow substantially during the year and rising input costs such as fuel prices impacted on many operations. The department continued its support for the aquaculture industry.

The minerals exploration and mining industries continued to grow as the value of commodities increased throughout the year. This greatly increased the workload of the Minerals and Energy staff as did the increase in offshore oil and gas activities and transactions, which the department administers on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. As provided elsewhere in this report, continued emphasis was placed on attracting investment in mineral exploration from Australian and international companies, resulting in additional interest and activity. In the May 2008 Budget the Government funded a drilling initiative which will also contribute to positioning the Territory as jurisdiction of choice for exploration.

During the year the department undertook a large body of work to assist its work with industry as it positions itself for adapting to climate change. A group of experts from within the department prepared a detailed discussion paper, culminating in the development of an action agenda which will inform clients about what the department is doing and how they can incorporate it as they adapt and develop their own businesses. To some extent this work has been subsumed into the development of the wider climate change policy being led by the Chief Minister. The department will continue to have a strong voice in the development of policy in this area and will be working with industry on adaptation strategies to ensure that the Territory achieves the best possible outcomes in this changing environment.



Improving Indigenous outcomes continued to be a priority for the department and considerable effort was made by many people across the organisation to attract and retain Indigenous employees. Highlights of the year included an Open Day, attended by a large number of Indigenous people, at Berrimah Farm as part of NAIDOC week celebrations and the drafting of an *Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Policy*, which will be finalised early in 2008/09. The Indigenous Pastoral Program continued to assist Indigenous landowners to bring their country back into production and was expanded to provide skills development opportunities for Indigenous people in the pastoral industry. Work commenced on the development of a new concept for assisting Indigenous people to become engaged in horticulture. The initiative, known as *A Box of Veg*, will enable people on communities to obtain regular supplies of fresh vegetables and encourage skill development and entrepreneurship. Further information about the work the department is undertaking in this area is outlined elsewhere in this report.

Another major issue for the department was its relationship with its clients and stakeholders. Accordingly, a client survey was undertaken by independent consultants during the year.

The survey generally found that the department is responsive and effective in dealing with clients' concerns, although it identified a number of areas where improvements could be made in the way the department interacts and listens to the concerns of its stakeholders. The consultants made six recommendations for action to improve the relationship between the department and its stakeholders, all of which will be implemented in 2008/09. There has been consultation with participants in the survey about the most effective ways for the department to improve its consultation with them. The assistance of those who participated in the survey is appreciated as the department can only improve the effectiveness of its services if it fully understands the needs of clients.

The department is a diverse organisation and to ensure that its services and organisational structure continues to meet contemporary needs, there is a rolling program of reviews, details of which are set out later in this report. The major review commenced during the year was a comprehensive review of the primary industries function – the first for many years. The review is being conducted by an external consultant who has sought opinions from a wide group of staff and clients. At the end of

the period under review, a draft Issues Paper had been prepared for consultation with industry and it is expected that the final report and recommendations will be available for the Government's consideration before the end of the year. As soon as the report is finalised, implementation of the adopted recommendations will commence. At the end of the reporting period work was advanced on the preparation of the terms of reference for a review of the Minerals and Energy function, as it has been four years since the last review of this function was finalised.

The department continued to identify ways to improve its communication with clients. Innovations in the year included placing seminars delivered by our staff on our website and *You Tube* so that the information was made as widely available as possible. Also, wherever we are able to do so, the department communicates through electronic means to speed communication, allowing clients to access as much relevant information as possible and reduce costs.

After the end of the period under review the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines was restructured as part of a number of changes to the Administrative Arrangements Order on 18 August 2008. The new department includes regional development, creating a range of new opportunities for building on the work already being done and to identify new ways to improve outcomes in the regional and remote areas of the Territory.

I would like to thank the former Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries and Minister for Mines and Energy, Mr Chris Natt, for his support during the time he worked with the department.

The achievements outlined in this report would not be possible without the professionalism and dedication of all the staff of the department and I take this opportunity to thank each of them for their continued support. Delivery of effective services requires an understanding of clients' needs and the support and cooperation the department



has received from its clients, industry groups and other government agencies has been greatly appreciated.

As the department moves into a new era with a new name – the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources – it looks forward to building on the foundations that have been established and working closely with all those who are involved in the development of the Territory.

John Carroll

September 2008

About the department

DPIFM was created by an Administrative Order in July 2005.

During the year, DPIFM was responsible to the Minister for Mines and Energy and the Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries. Both portfolios were held by Mr Chris Natt MLA.

Our vision

Successful resource based industries that operate to benefit Territorians.

Our Strategy

To facilitate the optimal use of the fisheries, primary industries, minerals and energy resources in the Northern Territory.

We will do this innovatively by:

- facilitating industry development;
- having appropriate regulatory frameworks;
- encouraging participation of Indigenous and regional Territorians; and
- providing quality information.

Our approach reflects our commitment to optimising social, economic and environmental benefits, in line with Government's priorities.

Our strategy is linked to the services we provide to our clients and is illustrated in the following diagram. How we measure our services is detailed in our Performance Reporting section.

Our Goals

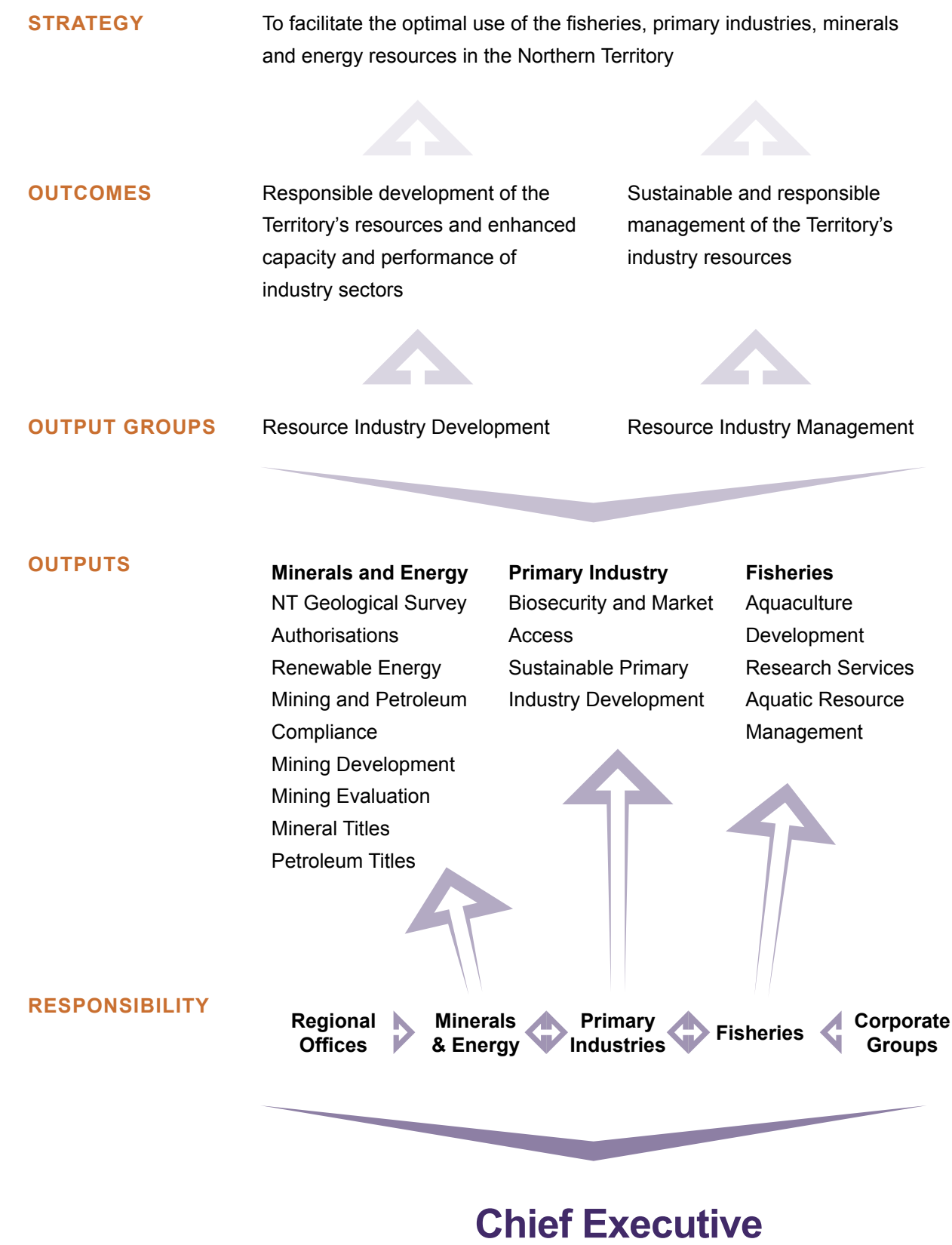
- We will actively engage in two-way consultation and communication with our community, industry and other stakeholders to better understand one another's

needs and expectations.

- We will support resource based industries that are successful through the provision of information and a simple regulatory framework with reinforcement of best practice management, in line with Government and community expectations.
- We will, with a focus on economic development for Indigenous and regional Territorians, work with industry and other key stakeholders, to identify development opportunities, including greater market access, and attract and support industry growth.
- We will build a responsive and adaptable organisation by having the right people, systems and processes to enable us to fulfil our strategic business objectives.



Outcomes Structure



Our structure

DPIFM has three main business divisions that develop, advise and service the needs of primary industry, fisheries, and minerals and energy stakeholders in the Northern Territory.

The organisational structure of the divisions is designed to achieve:

- a management system based on modern principles of public administration.
- natural and supportive points of reference and contacts for staff, clients and the public.
- more democratic, collaborative and delegated management styles.
- a comprehensive approach to service delivery, ensuring all inter-related aspects of sustainable and responsible resource management and development in the Territory work together.

Minerals and Energy

The Minerals and Energy group provides strategic services to support exploration and sustainable development of mineral and petroleum resources and the efficient and economic use of energy.

It regulates mining and petroleum tenure, and conducts inspections and audits to ensure best practice in environmental management and the evaluation and reduction of environmental impacts arising from mine sites.

The main services are:

- investment attraction, promoting mineral prospectivity and mining opportunities to explorers and investors;
- facilitate development projects;



- supply of new and historical geoscientific data to prospective explorers and investors, through publications, maps and reports, online and on loan;
- management of, and access to, offsite drill core collections;
- support for companies in the application, granting and maintenance of exploration licences, petroleum and mining titles;
- administering the granting and maintenance of exploration licences, mining and petroleum titles;
- assistance and advice in Indigenous liaison to facilitate land access and ensure compliance with the *Commonwealth Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT)* and the *Native Title Act 1993*;

- promotion of opportunities in energy-related areas, including oil, gas, petroleum, geothermal and alternative energy;
- enforcing the mining and petroleum legislation, conducting audits and inspections to ensure compliance with Mining Management Plans and relevant standards;
- maintaining records of all granted exploration, mining and petroleum titles; and
- authorisation, assessment and review of mining and petroleum documentation, rehabilitation security liabilities, and monitoring and evaluation of data to identify environmental aspects associated with operational activities to enable early intervention and minimise post operational legacies.

Fisheries

The Fisheries group works in partnership with commercial and recreational fishers, fishing organisations, the aquaculture sector and Indigenous communities to manage aquatic resources on an ecologically sustainable basis.

The main services are:

- protecting and managing fisheries and aquatic resources, using innovative research and management;
- administration of licences and permits;
- research and development programs to nurture industry growth in commercial fishing, aquaculture, recreational fishing and fishing-based tourism;
- minimising the risk of introduction of aquatic pests;
- undertaking aquaculture research and development including supplying barramundi fingerlings for commercial and recreational needs, and mud crabs to assist Indigenous and other groups;
- liaising with coastal Indigenous communities, including assistance with the marine ranger program;
- assisting in the protection of fisheries resources from illegal foreign fishing; and
- delivering education and extension services.

Primary Industry

This group delivers strategic services that support profitable and sustainable primary production.

It works in partnership with producers, industry bodies, community groups and related agencies to promote industry growth and ensure access to markets for animals, plants, and animal and plant products.

The main services are:

- inspection, treatment and certification services for animals and animal products;
- inspection, treatment and certification for plant and plant products;
- research and extension programs to help producers sustainably lift crop and stock yields and capacity;
- development of best-practice farming methods and new crop products;
- Indigenous pastoral and horticultural development;
- biosecurity and laboratory services for plant and animal health; and
- monitoring of, and response to, emergency and endemic animal and plant pests and diseases.

Our support groups

Five corporate groups provide strategic services and support to these three sectors.

These groups are:

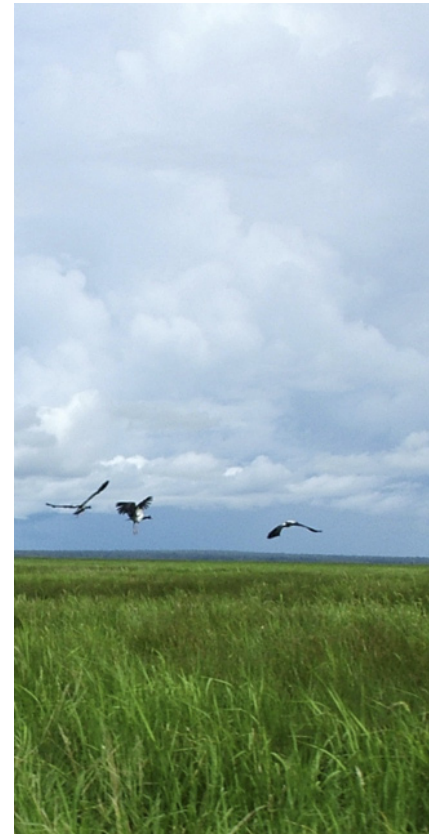
- **Finance:** Provides a range of corporate support and related services, including strategic advice and training on its core business of budget management, financial reporting, accounting, travel, procurement, infrastructure and asset management.
- **Human Resources:** Provides strategic client-focused support services for the effective management of DPIFM employees.
- **Information Management:** Manages and implements appropriate systems to keep track of information generated by the department, including freedom of information and privacy issues.

- **Marketing and Communications:** Works to promote DPIFM products and services through advertising and public relations.
- **Policy, Planning and Review:** Delivers internal governance and planning advice, provides analysis and advice on cross-portfolio policy issues, as well as whole-of-government policy issues affecting the primary industries, fisheries and minerals and energy sectors, and coordinates internal reviews.

Our committees

Strategic Leadership Team

The role of the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) is to provide effective leadership and guidance on strategic and performance issues. It is the department's principal strategic planning body, provides guidance for decision-makers and sets and monitors the goals, strategies and performance targets for the department.



Advisory committees

Three advisory committees have been formed to assist the SLT. They are:

- Risk Management and Audit Committee
- Information Management Committee
- Occupational Health and Safety Steering Committee

These 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

The Northern Territory economy is dominated by the mining sector, which includes minerals and petroleum.

In 2006–07 the mining sector accounted for 24.5% of the Territory economy, with the next largest sector being government administration and defence, accounting for 7.8% of the economy. The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is one of the smaller sectors, accounting for 2.2% of the Territory economy in 2006–07.

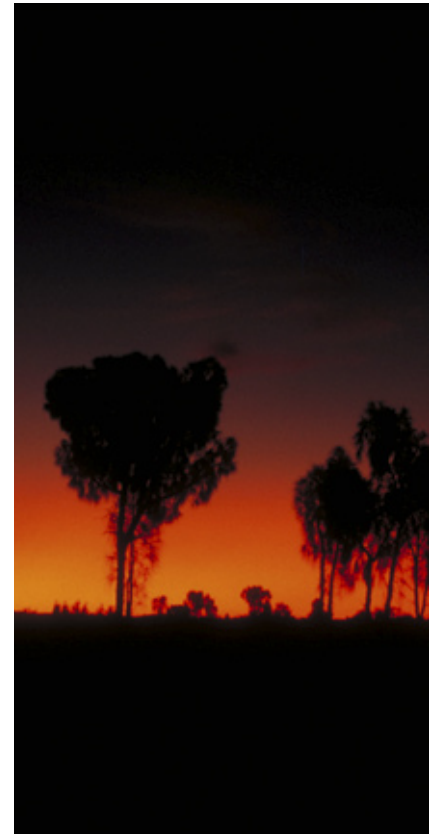
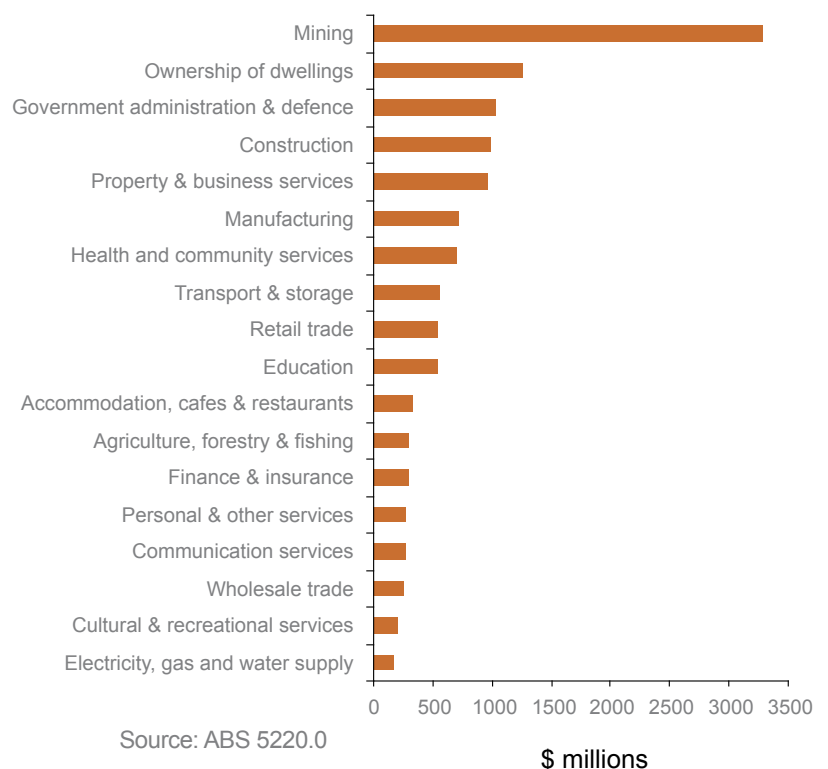
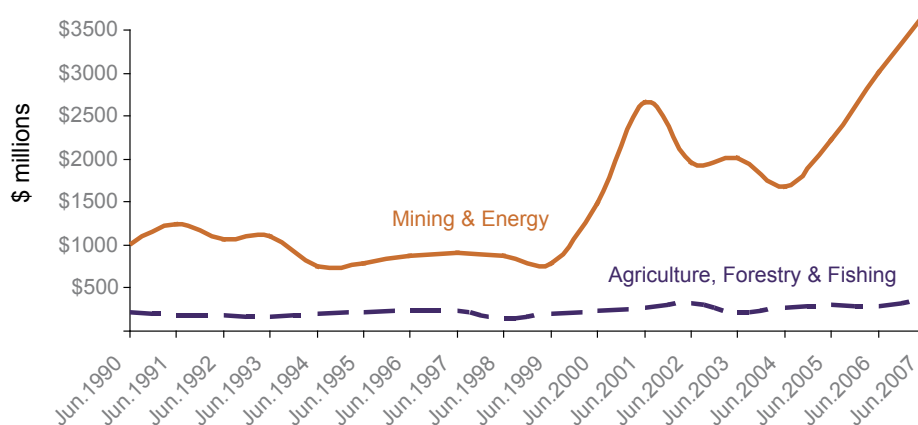


Figure 1 Industry sector contribution to NT GSP, \$ million, 2006–07



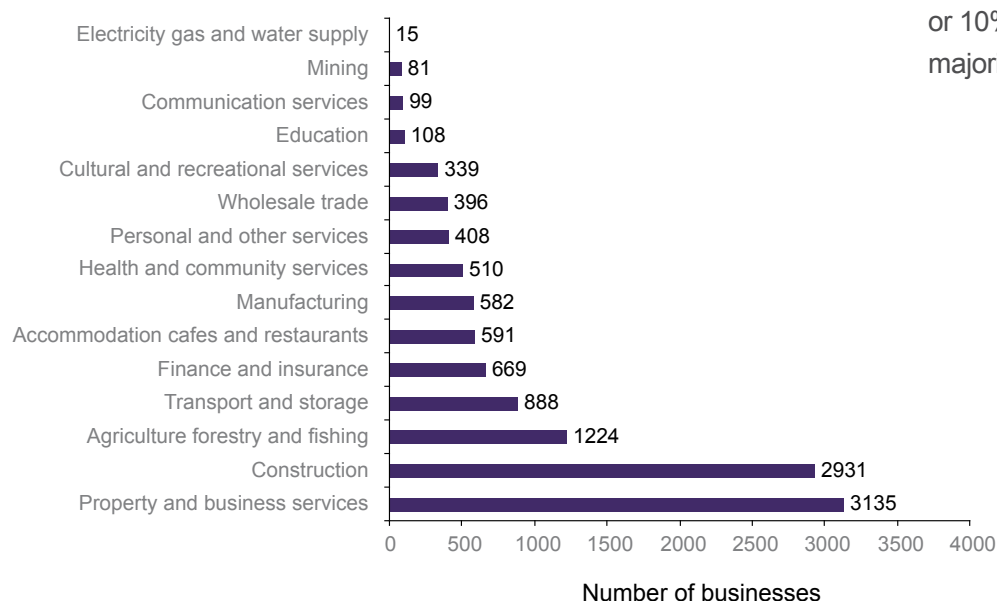
While both the mining and agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors are capital intensive, their growth patterns over the last decade and a half have been markedly different. Industry trends show that after a period of stability in the 1990's, the mining sector's contribution to the Territory economy has rapidly expanded, initially on the back of oil, and more recently gas and mineral expansions. In contrast, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector has been relatively stable over the entire period.

Figure 2 Mining and agriculture and forestry and fishing sector contributions to NT GSP, \$ millions



The mining sector is represented by very few individual businesses, with only 81 active businesses, or 1% of total Territory businesses in June 2007. In contrast the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector has 1224 active businesses or 10% of the total, with the majority in the horticulture industry.

Figure 3 Number of NT businesses by sector, June 2007



Source: ABS 8165.0 - Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2003 to Jun 2007

Industry sectors outlook and priorities

Minerals and petroleum

In 2007–08 the total value of mineral and energy production (extraction) and processing (manufacturing) is estimated to increase by around 0.3% to \$6277 million. The small increase is mainly due to a decrease in energy production value (oil) which is offset by higher production values for minerals and energy manufacturing (LNG). The value of mineral and energy production is forecast to rise by a further 21.3% in 2008–09 followed by an easing of production values in 2009–10 and beyond (see Figure 4). These estimates include half of the value of production arising out of the Joint Petroleum Development Area.

In 2007–08, the value of (non-uranium) mineral production and processing is estimated to rise by 19.5%, with mineral production rising by 16.0% and minerals manufacturing by 27.0%. Over the next two years the total value of minerals is forecast to rise by 17.3% with production rising by

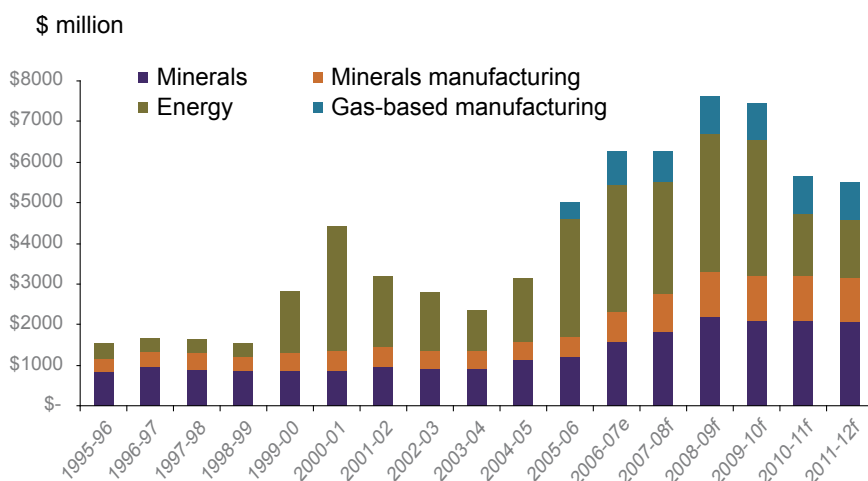
16.1% and processing by 19.7%. The expansion of existing mines, new mines and expanded mineral manufacturing are all contributing to the forecast rise in value to the end of this decade.

In 2007–08, the value of energy resource production and processing is estimated to decrease by 10.9% before increasing by 22.3% in 2008–09 and easing in the following years. The main driver of growth in energy production and processing is the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) manufacturing plant at Wickham Point which is offsetting any declines in oil production. During the next two



years, energy production value is forecast to increase by 20.4%, mainly due to 20.5% increase in LNG manufacturing (as volume and price increase) and a 20% increase in the value of oil production. Uranium production value is estimated to increase by 4.8% in 2007–08 and forecast to rise by a further 14% over the next two years.

Figure 4 NT minerals and energy production and processing values



Source: Territory Futures Minerals & Petroleum Economic Outlook 2007

e = estimate, f = forecast

Table 1 Northern Territory Mining Production for the period July 2007 - June 2008

	Total 2007/2008 Quantity	Total 2007/2008 Value	Total 2006/2007 Quantity	Total 2006/2007 Value
Metallic Minerals				
Alumina (t) (a)	2 150 310	\$516 956 253	1 655 730	\$483 397 730
Bauxite (t)	5 250 989	\$267 256 793	4 352 141	\$166 891 740
Copper Concentrate (t)	2	\$2 584		
Gold (g)	13 574 910	\$322 234 761	15 499 655 (r)	\$402 236 256 (r)
Iron Ore (t)	741 055	\$56 844 535	1 612	\$96 720
Lead Concentrate (t)				
Manganese (t)	3 727 470	\$937 911 128	3 661 472	\$982 113 850
Mineral Sands Concentrate (t)	24 400	\$10 764 706	5 200	\$1 996 800
Silver (g)	1 434 799	\$437 110	1 636 410 (r)	\$487 351 (r)
Tin/Tantalite Concentrate (t)				
Zinc Concentrate (t)				
Zinc/Lead Concentrate (t)	299 616	\$331 584 007	309 953	\$565 504 254
Sub Total:		\$2 443 991 877		\$2 602 724 701
Non-Metallic Minerals				
Barite (t)				
Crushed Rock (t)	697 824	\$12 940 522	533 060	\$7 308 969
Diamonds (ct)				
Dimension Stone (t)	1 176	\$120 000	1 749	\$141 600
Gemstones (Kg)				
Gravel (t)	39 438	\$368 692	319 406 (r)	\$2 194 093 (r)
Limestone (t)	81 318	n.p.	92 731	n.p.
Quicklime (t) (a)	27 650	n.p.	24 236	n.p.
Salt (t)				
Sand (t)	226 718	\$3 261 129	320 144 (r)	\$1 403 815 (r)
Soil (t)	16 152	\$231 748	11 494 (r)	\$55 391 (r)
Vermiculite (t)	8 319	\$3 195 396	8 900	\$3 375 796
Sub Total:		\$18 329 620		\$24 109 340
Energy Minerals				
Crude Oil (ML)				
Natural Gas (GL)				
Uranium Oxide (t)	5 254	\$423 318 710	5 278	\$273 255 126
Sub Total:		\$423 318 710		\$273 255 126
Totals		\$2 885 640 206		\$2 900 089 168

(a) Value is nett value - after accounting for feedstocks

(r) Figures revised since previous issue

n.p. denotes not available for publication but included in totals

An element of rounding is applied to figures

\$ values are estimates

The data contained in this report is determined only from formal production returns lodged by Authorised operators, under Mining Management Regulation 4

Fisheries

In 2007–08 the estimated total value of NT fishing (wild catch fish, wild catch crustaceans, wild catch molluscs and echinoderms, and aquaculture) production increased by 2.4% to \$142.6 million. This represents 26.4% of the total estimated value of all rural industries and fisheries. The outlook is for a small increase in value in 2008–09 by 2.4% to \$146.2 million.

- **Fish** (barramundi, shark, gold band snapper, other snapper, tuna, threadfin salmon, mackerel, jewfish, emperor, cod, Spanish mackerel and sea perch). In 2007–08, the estimated value of wild catch fish production was \$20.6 million, a small increase

from the previous year. The outlook for the next two years is for a steady rise. This is the third consecutive year of recovery in the value of fisheries in the Territory, since changes to shark production in 2004–05 significantly reduced fish production values.

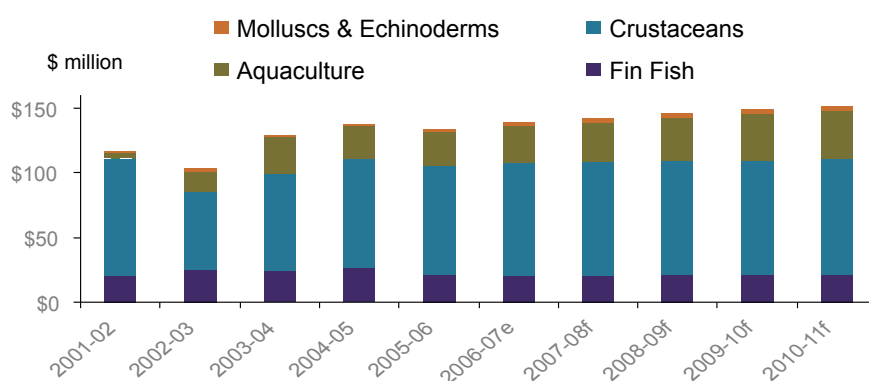
- **Crustaceans** (prawns, lobster and mud crab). The estimated value of wild catch crustacean production in 2007–08 was \$87.7 million, a small increase over the previous year. The value of crustaceans has been increasing gradually since 2002–03. The outlook for the next two years is a continuing rise in production value.
- **Molluscs and echinoderms** (squid, octopus, cuttlefish



and scallops) – in 2007–08, the estimated value of wild catch mollusc and echinoderm production was \$3.6 million, a doubling in production value from the previous year, is mainly due to a bumper trepang harvest. The outlook for the next two years is for an estimated production value of \$3.6 million per year.

- **Aquaculture** (farmed aquatic organisms including prawns, barramundi, pearls, and aquarium and micro algae). In 2007–08 the estimated value of aquaculture production was \$30.9 million, an increase of 8.4% from the previous year. The outlook for the value of aquaculture production is promising with a forecast expansion by 7.4% in 2008–09 to \$33.2 million. The positive outlook is influenced by a number of potential developments in the farmed barramundi and trepang industry.

Figure 5 NT fisheries production values



Source: Territory Futures Rural Industries & Fisheries Economic Outlook 2007

e = estimate, f = forecast

Table 2 Northern Territory primary industry and fisheries value of production (\$m)**Value of NT horticulture**

	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08f
Mangoes	30.2	43.0	30.7	53.4	57.7
Table grapes	11.1	8.3	5.8	9.0	9.7
Bananas	7.8	4.7	3.5	10.9	11.8
Melons	6.4	6.4	8.6	25.0	27.0
Other fruits	5.5	4.8	3.2	2.9	3.1
Vegetables	11.7	14.5	26.9	26.9	29.0
Nursery & cut flowers	15.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	18.4
Total	87.7	98.7	95.7	145.1	156.7

Note: Data for horticulture is for the previous calendar year

Value of NT fisheries

	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07e	2007–08f
Fish	24.0	27.0	20.9	20.3	20.5
Crustaceans	75.7	83.8	84.9	86.9	87.7
Aquaculture	27.8	24.8	26.0	28.5	30.9
Molluscs & echinoderms	0.9	1.2	1.8	3.6	3.6
Total	128.4	136.8	133.6	139.3	142.7

Value of NT Cattle, Other Livestock and Mixed Farming

	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08f
Cattle	228.8	257.4	202.6	192.6	204.9
Other livestock	10.7	10.0	7.6	10.2	10.6
Field crops	11.0	12.0	15.4	18.9	23.1
Forestry	2.7	5.0	1.3	1.5	1.5
Total	253.2	284.4	226.9	223.2	240.1

Total NT rural industries and fisheries

	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08f
Horticulture	87.7	98.6	95.7	145.1	156.7
Fisheries	128.4	136.8	133.6	139.3e	142.8
Cattle	228.8	257.4	202.6	192.6	204.9
Other livestock	10.7	10.0	7.6	10.2	10.6
Field crops	11.0	12.0	15.4	18.9	23.1
Forestry	2.7	5.0	1.3	1.5	1.5
Grand Total	469.3	519.8	456.2	507.6	539.6

Notes: e = estimate, f = forecast; numbers have been rounded

Source: Territory Futures Rural Industries & Fisheries Economic Outlook 2007

Primary industries

Northern Territory primary industries (cattle, other livestock, horticulture and mixed farming) in 2007–08 had an estimated total value of production of \$396.8 million, a rise of 7.7% from \$368.3 million for the previous year. The outlook is for an increase in value of 7.7% to \$428.0 million in 2008–09, followed by an 8.0% rise to \$462.4 million by 2009–10.

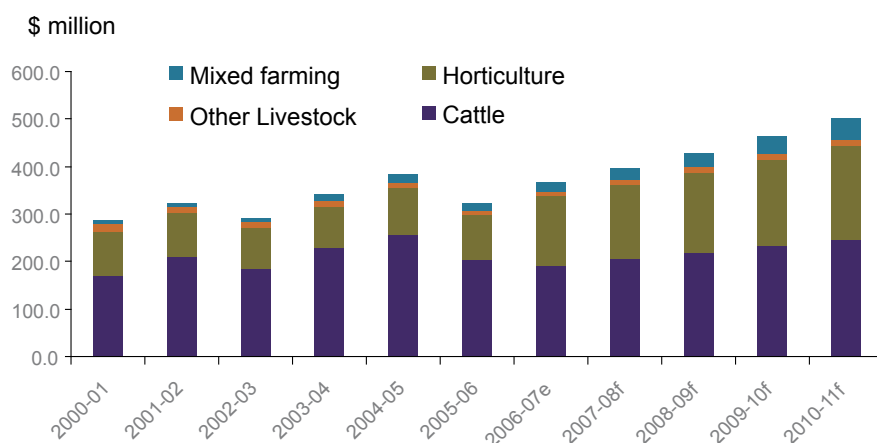
- **Cattle.** In 2007–08, the estimated value of the NT cattle industry production was \$204.9 million, a rise of 6.4% from the previous year. This was mainly due to an increase in both live cattle exports and the movement of cattle interstate. In addition, the slaughter of NT cattle has ceased with the closure of the Northern Territory's last operating commercial abattoir. The outlook for the cattle industry in the Territory is heavily dependent on the economic conditions facing interstate and international



markets and on-going drought conditions. In 2008–09 an estimated 6.0% increase in cattle value to \$218.0 million is expected, and a further rise to \$231.9 million by 2009–10.

- **Other livestock** (buffalo, crocodiles, poultry, pigs and camels). In 2007–08 the estimated value of other livestock production was \$10.5 million, an increase of 3.9% over the previous year. This is mainly due to increased exports of buffalo, and goats. The outlook for 2008–09 is estimated to be \$10.9 million, with continued growth in the crocodile, goat and buffalo industries.

Figure 6 NT primary industry production values (excluding fisheries)



Source: Territory Futures Rural Industries & Fisheries Economic Outlook 2007

e = estimate, f = forecast

- **Mixed farming** (field crops, hay and seeds and forestry). In 2007–08 the estimated value of mixed farming production was \$24.6 million. The outlook for 2008–09 is estimated at \$29.8 million, an increase of 21.3% from 2007–08. This increase is mainly dominated by hay/fodder crops grown in the Katherine, Douglas-Daly and Darwin areas for the live cattle export industry. With ongoing advancement in biodiesel technologies, and the success of corn, soy and sugar cane crops used in US and Brazil in the production of ethanol, there will be growing interest in producing a soy crop in the Territory for biodiesel manufacture.
- **Horticulture** (fruit, vegetables, nursery and cut flowers). In 2007–08 the estimated value of horticulture production was \$156.7 million, a growth of 7.9% over the previous year. This increase was largely driven by increased prices for mango, banana, table grapes and other fruit production. The outlook for 2008–09 is for an 8% increase in the value of production to \$169.2 million due to the biennial production cycle of mango trees, and continued growth in the value of banana, mango and melon production.

Key achievements and priorities

DPIFM delivered an impressive range of achievements to the Territory and beyond in 2007–08. The following is a summary of the major achievements by each division, together with an outline of the priorities for 2008–09.

Minerals and Energy

Key achievements for 2007–08

Resource Development and Policy

- Five new mining and processing operations were progressed to authorisation and production stages:
 - OM Manganese Pty Ltd's manganese operation at Bootu Creek mine.
 - Territory Resources' iron ore mine at Frances Creek.
 - Compass Resources' polymetallic (copper, cobalt, nickel) Browns Oxide mine.
 - GBS Gold's open pit gold operations at Mottrams and Chinese South.

- Seven mining development proposals were progressed to environmental assessment and/or mining authorisation submission stage:
 - GBS Gold's North Point and Princess Louise gold projects.
 - GBS Gold's Maud Creek gold project.
 - Olympia Resources' garnet sands project at Harts Range.
 - Thor Mining PLC's molybdenum and tungsten project.
 - Redbank Mines Limited's oxide copper project expansion.
 - Compass Resources' Browns Oxide project new tailings storage facility.

a. Ore-struck Campaign

In October 2007, a new campaign titled Ore-struck was launched to promote the Northern Territory Government's new \$12 million



exploration initiative titled *Bringing Forward Discovery (BFD) 2007–2011* and to promote the Northern Territory as a competitive destination for exploration, mining and investment. The main target market for this campaign was Australia, Canada and Japan.

- The campaign reached over 21 000 people at the following events, in four Australian jurisdictions and two international markets
- Australia Mining Investment Seminar (Tokyo)
- Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) 2008 (Canada)
- Mining 2007 (Brisbane)
- Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) 2008 (Perth)
- Ore-struck Launch (SA, QLD and WA)
- NT Investment Seminar (Tokyo).

- Quarterly Investment Alerts were sent to over 600 executives and the Ore-struck website received over 4 000 hits a month.
- At event promotions 500 sales kits were distributed, 1 500 promotional items were distributed and Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) report distribution increased by 30% in the 12 month period, from 9 785 to 14 019.
- KPMG supported the launch of the campaign in Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth by providing catering and the venue. Mithril Resources provided a presentation at the Adelaide launch.
- 40 exploration projects were submitted for promotion to Chinese investors and 20 industry representatives from nine companies travelled to China with the Department.

b. China Minerals Investment Attraction Strategy

The China Minerals Investment Attraction Strategy 2007–2011 was endorsed by Cabinet in March 2007. The strategy is a key element of the Northern Territory Government's exploration attraction initiative *Bringing Forward Discovery*.

- Two visits were made to China in 2007–08. In November 2007, the Minister for Mines and Energy led a delegation to Beijing to attend the China Mining Congress and a series of meetings with key Chinese contacts. In May 2008, John Carroll, the department's Chief Executive, led a delegation to China to run a NT Investment Seminar and hold a series of meetings. The delegations to China included industry representatives from Western Desert, Proto Resources, Arafura Resources, Truscott Mining, and Environmental Research and Design (ERD) and Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) Rio Tinto Uranium.
- The department signed official cooperation agreements with the China Chamber of Commerce Metals, Minerals and Chemicals (CCCCMC) and the China Mining Association (CMA) in November 2007. The CCCCCMC and CMA have been

strong supporters and ran the NT Investment seminars in Beijing during the November and May delegation visits.

- The China Strategy is also supported by local service providers, including Clayton Utz, Minter Ellison and GHD. These companies play an important role in sponsoring events for both inbound and outbound visits and providing information on how to do business in Australia.
- Since its inception, the China Strategy has been successful in matching local exploration projects with Chinese investors. As at June 2008:
 - 42 visits have been made to Darwin by 29 Chinese companies
 - 39 project profiles have been submitted by NT exploration companies, highlighting an increase in interest in promoting NT projects to potential investors
 - 15 confidentiality agreements have been reached between NT exploration companies and Chinese companies
 - 3 business announcements were made being a joint venture between Nupower and Legend Investment, a company takeover of ERD from Jerry Ren and an off-take agreement for Thor Mining with CITIC.

c. Japan Investment Attraction Activities

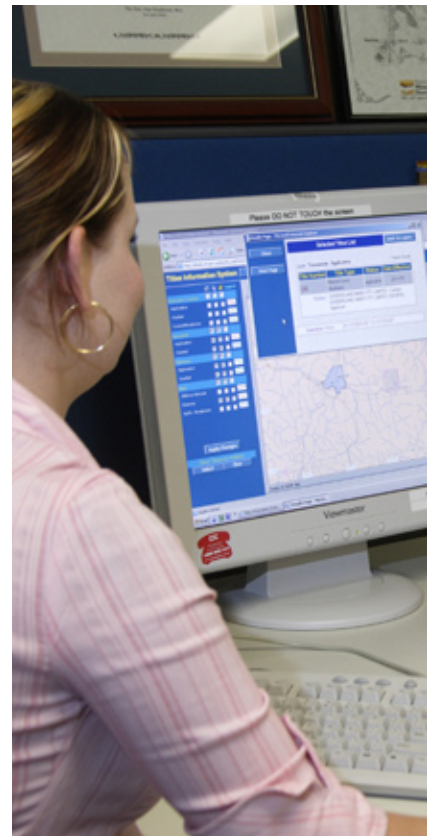
The department visits Japan each February with Team Australia (Geoscience Australia and all the state Geological Surveys) to present at an Australian Investment Seminar, supported by the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals Corporation (JOGMEC). Prior to this, departmental representatives travelled to Tokyo in November 2007 to investigate and prepare a specific investment attraction strategy for Japan.

In January 2008, Cabinet approved the department's proposal to undertake an annual Territory investment seminar in Japan, and in May 2008 the department led a delegation to Tokyo. The visit was supported by the Australian Embassy in Beijing and JOGMEC. The delegation included industry representatives from ERD, ERA Rio Tinto, Clayton Utz, Proto Resources, Arafura Resources and Western Desert Resources.

During the visit, in addition to the NT Investment Seminar, over 23 meetings were arranged for DPIFM and the industry delegation, with over 17 Japanese companies. The companies included JOGMEC, JFE Steel, Itochu Corporation, Sumitomo Metal, Mitsubishi Corporation, Sojitz, Mitsui Mining, Iwatani International, Nichia Corporation, Hitachi Metals and Showa Denko.

Since the visit, there have been a number of confidentiality agreements signed between Japanese companies and NT exploration companies and Itochu has made a number of visits to specific companies.

JOGMEC works with a range of Japanese companies and is actively seeking exploration opportunities in the Territory. They recently invested \$4.5 million over three years in a joint venture with Mincor, for their Georgina Basin Project.



Northern Territory Geological Survey

- The four-year \$14.4 million *Bringing Forward Discovery* initiative commenced, including the largest gravity survey ever undertaken in the Territory, covering 150 000 km² of central Australia.
- Numerous new geoscientific maps and datasets were released, covering areas such as the southern Georgina Basin, Arunta Region and Mount Drummond area.
- 2007–08 saw a continued significant increase in exploration expenditure in the Territory.

Energy Policy and Renewable Energy

a. Renewable Energy

- Rebates for a total of 113 renewable energy projects were approved in 2007–08 under the Australian Government funded Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (RRPGP), resulting in committed funding of about \$12.56 million. Of these projects, 43 were for Indigenous outstations and 51 for pastoral properties. These approved projects will collectively save over 1.3 million litres of diesel fuel and 3 731 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.
- In addition to providing rebates for installation of renewable energy technology, projects that provide wider benefits to the renewable energy industry were also supported under the RRPGP:
 - \$83 000 for the promotion of renewable energy to pastoralists through NT Cattlemen's Association
 - \$100 455 for the study of renewable energy options for 24 large NT pastoral station homesteads through NT Cattlemen's Association
 - Administration of \$2.97 million towards establishment of a solar technology demonstration and training facility in the Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) precinct in Alice Springs. Demonstration technologies selected and contracts signing for phase 1 and phase 2 completed.
- A total of 89 solar power generation and water pumping projects were completed and rebates totalling about \$5.43 million were paid out.
- Under the RRPGP program, 20 inspection visits of solar power installations were conducted in the Alice Springs region and Darwin and Katherine region in order to assess compliance with the RRPGP guidelines.
- The Remote Area Power Supply (RAPS) Training Project (Certificate II in Remote Area Power Supply Maintenance Training Package) funded for \$365 000, is complete. The Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) is now an authorised registered training organisation (RTO) for Certificate II in Remote Area Power Supply Maintenance training in NT.

- An agreement was signed with the Australian Government for the funding of three major projects in NT:

- Alekarange: 24 solar dishes (840 kW), \$4.37 million
- Ti Tree: 8 solar dishes (280 kW), \$1.14 million
- Kalkarindji: 8 solar dishes (280 kW), \$1.14 million.

b. Alice Springs Solar City

- An agreement was signed with the Alice Springs Town Council for \$8.3 million as the Territory's RRPGP contribution towards the Alice Springs Solar City. A float funding of \$0.5 million was provided to Alice Springs Town Council.
- Represented the NT Government on the Alice Springs Solar City Consortium group and administered the NT Government funding contribution of \$3.439 million towards the Alice Springs Solar City Project.
- Launch of the Alice Springs Solar City.
- Alice Springs Solar City Consortium Agreement signed by all parties.

c. Energy Policy

- Contributed to the development and implementation of projects endorsed by the Ministerial Council of Energy endorsed projects.
- Engaged with Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Power and Water Corporation and other agencies to facilitate economic and efficient use of energy.
- Inter-governmental agreement for managing a national liquid fuel emergency signed by Cabinet.
- Convened a Fuel Emergency Advisory Committee and successfully engaged in the national liquid fuel emergency exercise, Operation Catalyst.
- Provided NT input into projects progressed by the National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee.

Minerals and Energy Titles Division

- In September 2007 the total number of exploration licences granted at one point in time reached 1 000, marking a significant milestone in exploration for the Territory. At the end of July 2008 there were a total of 1 254 granted exploration licences.
- Drafting of a revised *Mining Act* commenced and is expected to be released in the first quarter of 2009. The new Act will provide more efficient processes for the granting of exploration and mineral titles in the Territory.
- A number of recommendations were implemented following a review of Titles Division in 2006, to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of titles management processes.
- As part of the reform of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory)*, the department assumed a significant role in the administration of exploration and mining titles under this Act. This role was a



devolution of Commonwealth responsibilities.

- Titles Division continued to provide information and advice to a range of industry clients and associations. This included a booth display at the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) in Perth, attendance at South East Asian Oil Conference (SEAOC), Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) and Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA).
- In conjunction with Territory and Commonwealth Governments, undertook a comprehensive selection process of 37 exploration licence applications over the Angela and Pamela uranium prospects, located approximately 25 kilometres south of Alice Springs.

Petroleum

- 15 new offshore and onshore Petroleum Exploration Permits were granted during the year. One new Production Licence and one Retention Lease were also granted.
- 10 new exploration applications were received, 8 of which were granted, the most in the Territory's history.
- The pipeline licence for Wickham Point interconnect was granted on 30 July 2008 and construction is expected to commence in September 2008.
- Pipeline licences for the Blacktip and Bonaparte pipelines were granted.

Mining and Petroleum Compliance

- Undertook 17 field trips, which included inspections of 73 sites authorised under the *Mining Management Act*, 10 non-authorised sites and 10 investigations.
- Completed assessment of 166 mining management plans for exploration, mining and extractive operation activities across the Northern Territory, including calculation of environmental security bonds for 100% of the rehabilitation liability.
- Regulated uranium mining in the NT under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth.
- Provided advice to industry and the wider public on *Mining Management Act* issues.
- Assessed and approved 66 offshore petroleum projects, including surveys, drilling and pipelines, under NT and Commonwealth legislation.
- Assessed and approved 24 onshore petroleum projects, including drilling and pipelines, under NT legislation.
- Inspected the Mereenie and Palm Valley gas operations to ensure compliance with legislative requirements.
- Completed transfer of legislative and administrative responsibility to NT WorkSafe for occupational health and safety matters on Northern Territory mine sites.

Authorisations and Evaluations

- 68 new mining authorisations were issued of which 40 were to new operators.
- Maintained the ongoing functionality of the Security Assessment Board, which is instrumental in the implementation of policy requiring mining operators to submit rehabilitation security for 100% of known environmental liability.
- Completion of the monitoring and evaluation of subsequent data on high-risk mine sites.
- Environmental Earth Sciences Victoria was appointed to independently monitor the environmental performance of the McArthur River Mine for a five year contracted period.
- Scoping and letting of tenders to determine the most appropriate long term rehabilitation strategy for the Mount Todd mine site.

Priorities for 2008–09

Resource Development and Policy

- Provision of assistance and advice to all resource projects in the Northern Territory that seek help with preparation of documents for submission for environmental, mining and other government approvals.
- Facilitation of all resource projects through provision of assistance and advice and establishment of Project Working Groups, where appropriate.

a. Ore-struck campaign

- Promotions and events will target Australia (Perth, Brisbane and Darwin), Canada and Japan.
- The Ore-struck campaign will be updated to launch the new geophysics and drilling collaboration program.
- The Ore-struck campaign will focus promotional efforts on *Bringing Forward Discovery* and will:

- Include the tagline “Bringing Forward Discovery in Australia’s Northern Territory” in all the promotions
- Increase promotion of NTGS products and services
- Improve the Ore-struck web link with NTGS products and services

b. China Minerals Investment Attraction Strategy

- Promotion of the Northern Territory as a competitive destination for mineral investment will continue with a Ministerial visit to China in November 2008 and a follow-up visit by the department in May 2009.
- Matching NT exploration projects with potential Chinese investors will be a key objective and will include:
 - encouraging inbound visits by Chinese companies to meet with NT exploration companies
 - securing industry delegations for the annual China visits in May and November
 - promotion of NT exploration projects at events and through the China website and blog



- working with the Chinese partners CCCMC and CMA to match opportunities.
- Educating China investors on how to do business in the Northern Territory at seminar and events. This includes developing information in conjunction with:
 - local tenement managers on land access issues and the application for exploration licenses process
 - local legal firms on the process for joint venture and structuring a business deal.
- Strengthening strategic partnerships in China by signing cooperation agreements with the China Development Bank and the Hunan Government

c. Japan Investment Attraction activities

- Promotion of the Northern Territory as a competitive destination for mineral investment will continue with participation in the JOGMEC seminar in February 2009 with Team Australia and a visit by the Department in May 2009.
- A Japanese mission proposes to visit in conjunction with Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) Uranium Conference in June 2009. This would be supported by the Australian Embassy in Japan.

Northern Territory Geological Survey

- The first round of geophysical and drilling collaborations will occur under the *Bringing Forward Discovery* initiative, with \$800 000 of investment in exploration geophysics and drilling in greenfields areas.
- Release of new geoscientific maps, datasets and publications, including the first edition of *The Geology and Mineral Resources of the Northern Territory*.
- Release of the first edition of the Metallogenic Map of the Northern Territory.
- Continue promotion of the Territory as an exploration destination at national and international forums.

Energy Policy and Renewable Energy

a. Renewable Energy

- Continue support for residential and medium scale renewable remote power generation and water pumping program in the Northern Territory.

b. Alice Springs Solar City

- Continued support for the successful implementation of the Alice Springs Solar City Project.

c. Energy Policy

- Develop draft NT energy policy objectives and elements and seek Minister's endorsement.
- Contribute to the development of draft NT Energy Policy and recommendations for policy implementation.
- Review and update NT Fuel Emergency Plan as agreed.
- Participate in Council of Australian Government Climate Change and Water Working Group, Ministerial Council on Energy, Energy Efficiency Working Group, and NT Climate Change Strategy working group.

Minerals and Energy Titles Division

- Ensure the valid and timely grant of mineral and petroleum titles in accordance with government policy and legislative requirements.
- Monitor compliance of mining tenements.
- Develop and implement strategies to improve the number of exploration licences granted over Aboriginal freehold land.
- Continue to develop and foster positive and cooperative relationships with all stakeholders, including land councils.
- Finalise and issue a revised *Mining Act* which will provide a more efficient process for the granting of exploration and mineral titles in the Territory.
- Finalise the implementation of recommendations from the review of Titles Division to ensure efficient and effective management of titles.

Mining and Petroleum Compliance

- Continue to work with industry to further develop and refine mining management plan arrangements as required under the *Mining Management Act* (MMA).
- Deliver a program of audits and inspections to ensure compliance with activities detailed in approved mining management plans.
- Continue to ensure all operating sites provide sufficient financial security to cover 100% of the assessed total rehabilitation cost.
- Assist the *Independent Monitor* with its activities to monitor the environmental performance of the McArthur River mine.
- Continue to provide appropriate assessment and approval of petroleum and energy pipeline projects.

Authorisations and Evaluations

For 2008–09 Authorisations and Evaluations will continue to take into account the expectations

and requirements of stakeholder groups and work to facilitate and encourage industry to implement best practice. The division will continue managing the environmental aspects associated with operational activities to minimise post operational legacy and maximise the economic return to the community.

Activities to be undertaken include:

- Assessing new mining, extractive and exploration project proposals within the Territory for the purpose of granting or refusing Authorisations under section 36 of the NT MMA.
- The assessment of new and ongoing mining and extractive project planning proposals for referral to other regulatory agencies.
- Review of proposals being assessed under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA).
- Evaluation of the scientific integrity of technical information provided by mining operators and independent verification and assessment of company



environmental and operational data.

- Collection and analysis of monitoring data to assess mine site environmental performance, and if required, intervention and notification in the event of potential environmental impacts/breaches relating to mining activities, or both.
- Maintaining a framework for assessing the required levels of mining rehabilitation securities.
- Managing and maintaining mining production data and maintaining an auditable system of new authorisation and approval actions for mining activities.
- Progress the development of a rehabilitation strategy for Mount Todd.

Indigenous Economic Development

Key achievements for 2007–08

- The Minerals Titles team took over roles delegated to the Territory as a result of the review of *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* (ALRA).
- Developed and implemented strategies to increase the number of exploration licences granted over Aboriginal freehold land.

- Assisted the Central Land Council in a series of on country mining presentations.
- Developed a team in conjunction with NTGS to assist surveyors and explorers when interacting with land councils.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Expand the function of the Titles and NTGS teams to improve regional economic outcomes.
- Work with industry to increase Indigenous participation in the mining sector.

Further detail about Minerals and Energy management and development, achievements and priorities can be found in the Performance Reporting section of this report.

Fisheries

Key achievements for 2007–08

Fisheries Management

- Finalised buy-back of coastal net fishery licences.
- Obtained export accreditation for the mud crab, Timor reef, Spanish mackerel and aquarium fisheries under Commonwealth legislation.
- Held management advisory committee meetings for mud crab, Timor Reef, Spanish mackerel and Offshore Net and Line fisheries, and reviewed management arrangements.

Fisheries Research

- Conducted 2007 *Barracade* research project on the Mary River.
- Completed the black jewfish research projects.
- Completed the mud crab fishery stock assessment including size limit review.
- Completed the Spanish mackerel stock structure project.

Aquatic Pest Management

- Implemented a revised pest monitoring program.
- Successfully detected and treated marine pest species on three incoming vessels.

Recreational Fishing

- Commenced planning for large-scale recreational fishing survey.
- Established the Recreational Fishing Access Working Group.
- Expanded the artificial reef network.
- Commenced development of a management plan for fishing tour operators.

Aquaculture

- Publication of the *NT Barramundi Farming Handbook*.
- Supported successful hatchery trials for sea cucumber.
- Produced more than 1.5 million barramundi fingerlings.



Priorities for 2008–09

Fisheries Management

- Buy-back of commercial barramundi licences.
- Finalisation of management arrangements for the Timor Reef fishery.
- Establish a long term management framework for the mud crab fishery.

Fisheries Research

- Complete the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) Genetag project.
- Complete the FRDC project on revision of National Strategy for Mud Crab Research.
- Complete the FRDC/GIS and spatial modelling of Timor Reef Fishery.

Aquatic Pest Management

- Continue vessel inspection and monitoring protocols.
- Participate in an emergency response exercise.
- Continue progressing the implementation of a national system for prevention and management of marine pests.

Recreational Fishing

- Commence a large scale recreational fishing survey across the Territory
- Commence preparation of a recreational fishing development plan.
- Finalise a management plan for fishing tour operators.

Aquaculture

- Commence commercialisation trials for sea cucumber.
- Assist the NT barramundi industry to formulate a marketing plan.
- Continue support for research of Aquatic animal diseases.

Indigenous Economic Development

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Funding granted for two further Marine Ranger Programs — Anindilyakwa and Numbulwar.
- Roll out of the National Heritage Trust (NHT) survey on Indigenous fishing impacts on sharks and rays, including turtles and dugongs.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Commence development of an Indigenous Fisheries development strategy and action plan.
- Host the annual workshop for Marine Ranger Groups.
- Restructure and standardise reporting mechanisms between all Marine Ranger Programs and stakeholders.

Further details about Fisheries management and development, achievements and priorities can be found in the Performance Reporting section of this report.

Primary Industries

Key achievements for 2007–08

Crops, Forestry and Horticulture

- Conducted a public pilot Scenario Planning program to highlight land use issues potentially impacting on the Territory to 2050.
- Undertook a review of industry environmental impact research and extension information available and commenced review of irrigation management knowledge for plant industries in the Territory.
- Continued provision of accurate mango crop forecasting, supply chain development and targeted extension services.
- Regional development and support for plantation forestry enterprises through the provision of improved high value timber products.
- Continued research into the domestication of bush tomatoes in central Australia with the Desert Knowledge CRC.

- Commenced research trials of maize varieties with the Peanut Company of Australia in Katherine.
- Finalised mango rootstock research in the Katherine region.
- Published a compilation of maize research findings.
- Commenced the Delivering Mango Technology research trials in Katherine and Darwin.

Pastoral Production

- Completed the Katherine Region Pastoral Industry Best Practice Manual in partnership with Meat and Livestock Australia.
- Launched the National Landcare Program funded Front Gate Web Site aimed at providing primary producers with access to a range of information and services to assist them in business.
- Developed and launched the Northern Livestock transporter short course.
- Initiated research into improving the live weight gain of cattle in partnership with



Meat and Livestock Australia.

- Initiated the North Australian Beef Fertility Project, identifying the contributing factors to fertility in large herds, in partnership with Meat and Livestock Australia.
- Continued Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) funded buffalo industry research and development projects, to increase buffalo production.
- In conjunction with the pastoral industry, facilitated best practice management of drought to protect natural resources and assist viability of pastoral enterprises.
- Undertook market development and maintenance work for Northern Territory cattle and buffalo in a range of markets throughout south east Asia.

Biosecurity and Product Integrity

- Completed the implementation of the National Livestock Identification System (Cattle) within the Northern Territory.
- Consolidated the livestock and plant legislation, in preparation for introduction into the Legislative Assembly.
- Responded effectively to the threat of equine influenza.
- Implemented emergency response training of departmental staff for terrestrial and aquatic animal and plant pests and diseases.

Diagnostic Services

- Established orchard trials to identify the most effective integrated pre- and post-harvest chemical treatments to control post-harvest diseases in mangoes.
- Improved diagnostic capability through expanding the range of rapid molecular tests for Bovine Ephemeral Fever and Equine Influenza, detection and speciation of chlamydiae in a range of animal hosts and for the causative agent of mango malformation.

- Initiated implementation of a new laboratory information system compatible with national standards in the veterinary laboratory.
- Determined the key epidemiological features of chlamydial infection, which has been associated with significant farmed crocodile deaths in the Territory, in partnership with RIRDC.

Primary Industry Services

- Promoted sustainable business development and natural resource management practices through the FarmBis program.
- Provided support for the development of new waters and water storage through the Northern Territory Government Pastoral Water Enhancement Scheme.
- Delivered NT Drought Assistance to central Australian pastoralists declared in 'severe drought' for 2007.
- Delivered Exceptional Circumstances (EC) business support to producers in the south east Alice Springs EC declared area.

Priorities for 2008–09

Crops, Forestry and Horticulture

- Conduct crop water use research, including improved irrigation management systems development and research into the impact of re-use water on crop growth.
- Conduct rainwater interception research in African Mahogany.
- Conduct research and extension to improve the water use and nutrition management of mango crops in the Top End.
- Develop rapid tropical hardwood species through Smart Forests Alliance Queensland.
- Improve irrigation efficiency, nutrient and land management in intensive farming systems.
- Improve sustainable practices in the NT Plant Industries.
- Evaluate new crop opportunities.

Pastoral Production

- Continue to research and develop Best Management Practice for sustainable rangeland utilisation.
- Continue with research and development projects for sustainable mixed farming production for the Katherine and Daly region.

- Continue research projects focussed on gaining productivity efficiencies in the extensive cattle herd.
- Continue buffalo industry research and development projects to increase buffalo production.
- Continue to work with the pastoral industry to facilitate best practice management in a variable climate, to protect natural resources and assist the viability of pastoral enterprises.
- Monitor rangeland conditions and provide advice to the Minister on the impact of drought on pastoral properties.
- Provide advisory support for the pastoral industry in all aspects of drought management.
- Continue market development activities.

Biosecurity and Product Integrity

- Implement in consultation with industry, an enhanced chemical residue testing regime.
- Continued development of a risk-based NT Biosecurity System including the integration of a new database, provision of specialist training and the establishment of a whole of government process to support emergency responses.
- Implement the Livestock and Plant Health legislation, including training for staff and education for stakeholders.

Diagnostic Services

- Complete implementation of a new laboratory information management system incorporating advances in reporting, retrieval and exchange of data. The system will facilitate improved monitoring of disease trends and rapid access to laboratory test results during an outbreak of an Emergency Animal Disease.



- Improve diagnostic capability through further development of molecular testing and the introduction of new viral culture and parasitological techniques in the veterinary laboratory.
- Identify integrated control options for pest and post-harvest disease control in mangoes.
- Identify the pathogenicity of unknown species of *Fusarium* associated with mango malformation, to ascertain its risk to the mango industry.
- Complete National Association of Testing Authorities accreditation for each of the water chemistry and water microbiology laboratories by December 2008.

Primary Industry Services

- Deliver second tranche Exceptional Circumstances (EC) business support to producers in the south east Alice Springs EC declared area.
- Participate in the development of a new national drought policy.
- Facilitate opportunities for Northern Territory primary industries emerging from new Australian Government policies and programs.

Indigenous Economic Development

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Continued to increase cattle production and facilitate Indigenous participation in the cattle industry through the Indigenous Pastoral Program, funded by the Indigenous Land Corporation and the Federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. This includes a strategy directly aimed at attracting Aboriginal people into the mainstream pastoral workforce and the addition of business development officers to increase Indigenous enterprise capacity
- Commenced a multi agency community assisted agriculture project entitled “Box of Veg” which intends to provide access to locally produced fresh fruit and vegetables in Indigenous communities.
- Finalised generic Environmental Management Plans for Centrefarm Aboriginal Horticulture Limited’s (Centrefarm) projects.
- Supported Centrefarm’s Indigenous Horticultural Limited through mentorship of trainees and hosting training activities at Ti Tree Research Farm.
- Commence the “Box of Veg” project in two Top End Indigenous communities.
- Support Indigenous horticultural training, commercial development and community garden initiatives.
- Develop strategic alliances and Memoranda of Understanding with key organisations to deliver plant-based Indigenous economic and community development.
- Continue to increase the number of Indigenous staff employed by the Primary Industries Group.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Review the strategic plan for the Indigenous Pastoral Program and continue its implementation and further the progress of the Indigenous Trainee Scheme.

Further details about Primary Industries development, achievements and priorities can be found in the Performance Reporting section of this report.

Regional Development

DPIFM maintains regional offices in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, which deliver a variety of the department's programs and services. Many of these programs and services support industries across the Territory and, as such, some regional highlights will be detailed in other sections of the Annual Report.

Katherine

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Completion of a review of Katherine Research Station (KRS)
- A particularly active and successful field day program was undertaken across the region, including a number of new events.
- Completion of larger conference room facilities at KRS, which has led to greater use of KRS by industry groups for meetings and training.
- The establishment of research links with the Peanut Company of Australia.

- The completion of a major pastoral research program at Pigeonhole and the launch of major new pastoral projects on cattle fertility and growth.
- Publication of the Best Practice Guide for Katherine cattle producers bringing together research results and practical managers' knowledge.
- Promotion of DPIFM science and holding the first regional science forum.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Conduct a review of Victoria River Research Station and the development of a new cattle research program there.



- Rebuild the Phillips Building at KRS to provide facilities for more diagnostic work to be carried out locally.
- Development of a major crop research program in conjunction with the Peanut Company of Australia.
- Increase emphasis on regional development.
- Increase focus on agricultural development and the challenge of climate change.
- Ensure stability and develop a succession plan for staff in the region, particularly in biosecurity.

Tennant Creek

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Preliminary work was completed for the NT Liveweight Gain Project, the aim of which is to determine the main factors causing variation in growth rates for animals within cattle herds on Territory cattle stations.
- The Barkly Rangeland Management Course on sustainable land management was held with start-up data collected for an early commencement next season.
- The Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) running at Mungalawurru, west of Tennant Creek, produced a very high quality mob of steers. Branding figures in the high 80% mark were achieved.
- A small herd was also established at Robinson River.
- The mapping of aquifers as part of the Drought Preparedness initiative, sponsored by DPIFM and NRETA, was completed at Neutral Junction and Philip Creek Stations, with preliminary work done at Kurundi. Tennant Creek Station is keen to be included in any further plans for this project.

- The National Livestock Identification System was introduced to the pastoral industry with minimal problems due to the information sessions held prior.

Priorities for 2008–09

- To work with the various pastoral agencies and pastoralists to improve stakeholder relationships within our jurisdiction.
- Continue with and expand the Drought Preparedness project.
- Participate in the department's Indigenous Engagement program. This will underpin the following priorities:
 - explore the possibilities of restarting the "Indigenous Stockman's" project
 - continue to support Centrefarm's activities in the Indigenous Land Use farming sector
 - additional involvement in IPP projects with post establishment support and mentoring.
- Reinstate the Barkly Rangeland Management Course and expand the venue to include self help disease investigation. This will assist with the provision of veterinary expertise in the region.
- Deliver programmed outcomes in line with the department's strategic plan.

Alice Springs

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Conducted a detailed review of DPIFM facilities in the region, including Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI), Ti Tree Research Farm and Old Man Plains Research and Demonstration Station.
- Continued the Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP). Five Indigenous properties have now successfully returned to pastoral production and the project has since been introduced to communities on other properties.
- The Alice Springs Water Reuse project continued with two million litres infiltrating underground daily at AZRI. A video presentation on the project was made to the World Conference on Intellectual Capital for Communities in Paris.
- Two staff attended the joint International Rangeland and Grassland Conference in Inner Mongolia, China, presenting on the Grazing Land Management and Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre (DK CRC) 21st Century Pastoralism Projects.

- Finalised the DK CRC Water Smart project. The project improved the skills and knowledge of pastoralists by demonstrating, through workshops, field days and trial display sites, new and innovative stock water management technologies and stock management practices to improve the economic, environmental and overall production sustainability of pastoral enterprises.
- The first harvest of fruit from DK CRC bush tomato (*Solanum centrale*) trial at AZRI yielded 4.5 kg.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Review the NT Drought Assistance Arrangements to focus on drought preparedness and continue the review of Exceptional Circumstances, rare and severe events outside those a farmer could normally be expected to manage using responsible farm management strategies.
- Achieving National Association of Testing Authorities accreditation at the Water Microbiological Laboratory at AZRI, as required by the main client of the service, Power and Water Corporation.
- Attract and facilitate minerals and petroleum exploration.
- Continue to focus on Indigenous engagement and employment in primary industries in the region.
- Commence recycled water commercial horticultural development at AZRI.
- Further develop DK CRC 21st Century Pastoralism's automated cattle Walk Over Weighing and automated cattle drafting.
- Further develop production systems for bush tomato.



Finance

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Managed DPIFM's appropriated funds for personnel, operational and grants expenditure for 2007–08 to within 0.01% of approved budget.
- Various units of Finance received positive feedback on regional visits made to provide training and disseminate information and developments in finance related matters.
- Successfully participated in the "Meet the Buyers Expo" in Darwin and regional centres.
- Initiated and implemented a range of improved processes, procedures and guidelines for travel, credit control and debt management, movement requisitions, externally funded programs, vehicle management and divisional procurement plans.
- Oversaw the department's reduction in overall energy consumption by 12.4% against the NT Government Energy Smart Building Policy target of 3% for the 2007–08, which exceeds the Government's policy target of 10% for 2010–11.

- Increased the department's Future Tender Opportunity process compliance to 100%, compared to the whole of government average of 55%, being one of only two agencies to achieve this result, from a previous year of 60%.
- Implemented RePS (electronic receipting) in the Darwin area.
- Organised and co-ordinated two Executive Officers Forum.
- No significant issues emerged from the Auditor-General's Agency Compliance Audit and review of credit and controls and usage during the year.
- 12 tenders and 53 Tier 3 (\$10k–\$50k) procurements were awarded for a combined value of \$4.6m, including significant projects such as the McArthur River Mine (MRM) Independent Monitoring, Mt Todd Materials Source Assessment, ANDI replacement, PI Review and video conferencing equipment.
- The replacement of the Berrimah Agricultural Laboratory air-conditioning plant was completed on time, on budget and with no disruptions or downtime to staff.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Manage Agency expenditure within approved budget.
- Integrate budgetary, reporting and other changes arising from NT Public Sector Agencies restructuring.
- Formulate a 5-year Fixed Assets Replacement Schedule.
- Develop and deliver training packages and modules on procurement specifically tailored to suit the unique requirements of the Agency.
- Monitor the progress of projects identified in the Divisional Procurement Plans and provide support to nominated Project Officers.
- Oversee the implementation of RePS to regional centres.
- Commence a comprehensive review of the Entertainment and Hospitality Guidelines and Policy.
- Implement the Auditor-General's recommendations.

Marketing and Communications

Key achievements 2007–08

- Developed on-line publications portal in which all departmental newsletters, reports, fact sheets, videos and news releases are available
- Show circuit displays reflective of regions and undertaken on reduced budget.
- Designed and implemented “Work4Us” campaign to attract potential Indigenous employees to department
- Continued development of scientific videos and BARC seminars
- Attended Indigenous Careers Days with departmental information
- Mounted major NAIDOC day display at Berrimah Farm
- Developed display material and assisted various sections with set up and running of various events throughout the year.
- Handled media and communications for Exercise Wild Boar
- Developed and managed all media and public information materials in response to the Equine Influenza outbreak.
- Continued to provide day to day marketing and production services and advice to staff across the department.
- Developed policy for use of third party media
- Finalised image library with embedded information and talent release forms. Made available to other government agencies
- Met all CAC and CCC reporting requirements for department



Priorities for 2008–09

- Continue development of “electronic extension” for Primary Industry and Fisheries divisions
- Undertake a review of the departmental intranet
- Develop toolbox for use in Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) situations and exercises
- Expand reach and role of media section with regional focus
- Initiate new project tracking system that includes AAs and estimates reporting

Human Resources

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Produced Our People Plan 2008.
- Recruited seven Indigenous trainees.
- Refined and continued implementation of our Indigenous Mentoring program.
- Formalised our Indigenous Employment Strategy.
- Organised our annual employee achievement STAR Awards and Milestone recognition ceremony.
- Delivered several elements of our practical middle management skills program.
- Five employees completed the Public Sector Management program.
- Revised the Achievement Review policy and process.
- Implemented a conflict coaching network.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Finalise a Succession Planning framework.
- Recruit up to fifteen Indigenous trainees.
- Implement a scholarship for Indigenous persons.
- Develop an Indigenous employment web page.
- Continue delivery of the practical middle management skills program.
- Implement a Senior Officer Development program.

Information Management

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Continued the major project to update DPIFM's file titling thesaurus and associated disposal schedules that govern the life of departmental records. Five schedules for Primary Industries and one for Fisheries were completed. Preliminary work began in the Minerals and Energy group.
- Completed a pilot program to test electronic document records management (EDRM) within the department involving 14 staff using TRIM to store, manage and retrieve email and selected documents. The pilot provides a useful benchmark for further planning with regards to technological issues, storage requirements and governance.
- Commenced disposal program with 2656 records destroyed between July 2007 and June 2008.
- Email mail box size quotas implemented resulting in significant cost savings.
- Commenced a project to restructure file server directories in line with the departmental thesaurus to take advantage of new Distributed File Server (DFS) technology provided through the desktop transformation program. This activity will assist business areas to transition to electronic document and records management (EDRM).
- Video conferencing equipment was purchased and installed at the five main DPIFM offices. Preliminary training was organised and guidelines on use developed.



Priorities for 2008–09

- Complete the review of and update the department thesaurus and disposal schedules.
- Further evaluation of the EDRM pilot and in conjunction with the whole of government project, plan for EDRM implementation.
- Complete the file server directory restructure.

Policy, Planning and Review

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Engaged and coordinated independent consultants to undertake a customer satisfaction survey to independently measure and evaluate client satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of the department's services.
- Engaged independent consultants, via public tender, to undertake a review of the Primary Industries function and coordinated the process. The review is being undertaken to determine how the delivery of services can be improved, in the context of overall government policies and priorities.
- Administered the Industry Development Support Program, providing grant funding to seven industry associations and thereby contributing to the sustainable development of the Territory.

- Completed a number of reviews of industry associations, including a review of the Northern Territory Livestock Exporter's Association.
- Coordinated the facilities program with the aim of achieving greater efficiencies by better aligning the physical facilities and resources of DPIFM with its strategic direction and policy of continuous improvement.
- Developed a Climate Change Action Plan and Background Paper for staff and stakeholders.
- Commenced development of a plan for how the department can increase Indigenous participation.
- Organised the department's Senior Managers and Stakeholders Conference at Charles Darwin University.
- Updated the Rolling Review program.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Engage an independent consultant via public tender to undertake a review of the Resources (Minerals and Energy) function and coordinate the process.
- Provide high level policy advice to the Chief Executive, Ministers and Cabinet.
- Coordinate the 2008–09 legislative program.
- Coordinate the flow of information between the Minister's office and the department.
- Finalise the Indigenous Engagement and Participation Plan.
- Coordinate the department's response to Climate Change.
- Deliver an audit program that meets Government requirements and mitigates against risk.
- Coordinate legal advice and agreements.
- Coordinate the department's grants and sponsorships programs.

Corporate governance



Corporate governance

Organisational principles and values

DPIFM has implemented a series of principles and values underpinning its organisational structure. The aim is to ensure the department fulfils its vision and achieves its core business.

Principles

- Employ a flat management structure with reduced hierarchy.
- Align services with close synergies and responsibilities under the same management structure.
- Provide program structures that align with interstate and national arrangements.
- Increase opportunity for collaborative working relationships in groups and teams that provide similar programs or services.
- Increase strategic policy, planning and review capacity across DPIFM while retaining specific policy expertise within key industry groups.

- Provide capacity for independent investigations of DPIFM's regulatory responsibilities.
- Increase the profile for human resources management and development.
- Increase staff development opportunities by reducing 'silos'.
- Establish clear individual and collective accountabilities.

Corporate values

D Dedicated Professionalism
P Passion with Purpose
I Individual Accountability
F Fun and Celebrating Success
M Motivation to Lead

A full statement of DPIFM's values appears on page 48.

Risk management process

The risk management process incorporates internal control, and forms part of the strategic management practices that operate within DPIFM's corporate governance framework.



Once corporate goals are defined, the risk management process commences with the performance of a strategic business risk assessment, carried out by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT), to determine and assess the strategic business risks to the department. A risk management plan is then developed to counter or "treat" such risks, incorporating timeframes and responsibilities. As business risks can include a range of threats from events to failures in systems, people and compliance, a broad range of treatment initiatives are required.

DPIFM values

D	<i>Dedicated Professionalism</i>	<p>Maintains highest professional standards and delivers excellent customer service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to serving the Government of the day • Takes a whole of government approach • Maintains diverse, positive relationships • Achieves outcomes in our culturally diverse working environment • Presents self and information in a culturally appropriate and convincing manner • Provides advice based on unbiased and accurate information
P	<i>Passion with Purpose</i>	<p>Demonstrates drive, energy and enthusiasm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to be the best • Actively engages stakeholders in planning projects • Inspires others • Innovates with creative and workable solutions • Willing to invest effort to tackle challenges • Embraces flexibility and individual differences
I	<i>Individual Accountability</i>	<p>Acts ethically and genuinely and accepts personal responsibility for their actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upholds DPIFM's values and NTPS Code of Conduct • Ensures a safe and healthy workplace • Understands how personal effort contributes to DPIFM's outcomes • Accepts responsibility for delivering individual and team outcomes • Committed to self management and learning • Embraces change as a normal way of doing business
F	<i>Fun and Celebrating Success</i>	<p>Has fun and celebrates success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives credit for good work • Takes the time to celebrate achievements • Communicates the wins • Enjoys the challenge • Promotes pride in our work • Enjoys positive team dynamics
M	<i>Motivation to Lead</i>	<p>Takes an active leadership role regardless of formal position or level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values and promotes equity and diversity • Challenges tradition and looks for better ways • Inspires and influences positive change • Ensures that resources are focused on priorities • Actively promotes positive team involvement • Invests in training and development • Provides encouragement and support

Our values are underpinned by mutual respect and ethical behaviour.

The Rolling Review Program is one of the department's risk treatment processes. It is a planned proactive schedule of reviews whereby the procedures and activities of an area or section of the department are scrutinised. The reviews also provide information on whether departmental initiatives are still achievable, or whether policy objectives, scope, timing or resources need to be reassessed.

The Internal Audit Plan, which reviews internal control, is a detailed appraisal process where an operation or activity is assessed for compliance against legislation and regulations, departmental policies and procedures, audit recommendations, and includes reviews of the actions and behaviour of staff.

The Risk Management and Audit Committee's functions are to implement and monitor the risk treatment strategies of the department.

Strategic Leadership Team

The Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) was created in July 2006 and provides, through the adoption of a structured and integrated approach, effective leadership and guidance on strategic and performance issues.

The SLT achieves this by:

- setting the goals, strategies and performance targets for DPIFM by delivering and reviewing its Strategic Corporate Plan and Annual Business Plan.
- concentrating on whole-of-DPIFM strategic issues, within the framework of the Strategic Corporate Plan, to ensure the department's:
 - affairs and resources are managed in the most efficient, effective and ethical way;
 - future developments and initiatives are identified well in advance and plans adjusted accordingly; and
 - management of organisational development and the conduct of regular core business are appropriately integrated.



- working within a coherent and consistent governance framework, which includes the:
 - formation and use of relevant subcommittees;
 - ongoing evaluation of the department's roles and responsibilities; and
 - facilitation of the leadership capacity and development of staff.
- communicating SLT decisions, progress and outcomes to staff and others as appropriate.

Role and responsibilities of the members

In their role as an SLT member, every individual is required to act with due diligence, good faith and be committed to working in the best interests of DPIFM as a whole.

Each member has a responsibility to read and understand the papers prior to each meeting, and where necessary seek additional information and advice; raise concerns, contribute to debate on issues and indicate agreement or otherwise during decision making processes.

This process supports and assist the DPIFM Chief Executive in undertaking his responsibility to allocate resources and determine the strategic directions for DPIFM, and in discharging his role as the accountable officer.

Meetings are held on average every two months. In each year, at least one meeting is held in each of the regions serviced by the Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin offices. These meetings coincide with meetings with staff and key clients. In 2007-08 the SLT met at a range of venues including the Tiwi Islands, Katherine, Alice Springs and Darwin.

The agenda and meeting report are provided on the SLT intranet site for all staff to access.

Members of the SLT are:

- the Chief Executive
- Executive Directors for Primary Industries, Minerals and Energy, and Fisheries
- Directors of Finance, Human Resources, Information Management, Marketing and Communications, and Policy, Planning and Review.
- Regional Directors (Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs)
- Professor Ian Thynne, Professor of Governance at Charles Darwin University as an independent non-executive member
- a staff member from the Future Leaders Advisory Group

Members of the Strategic Leadership Team



Chief Executive
John Carroll

John was appointed Chief Executive of DPIFM when the department was created on 11 July 2005. He was previously Deputy Chief Executive and General Manager of Minerals and Energy, of the former Department of Business, Industries and Resource Development (DBIRD). John was also that department's General Manager of Business and Trade Development from November 2001 to 2002.



Executive Director
Minerals and Energy
Richard Sellers

Richard has extensive experience with the management of natural resources and working specifically with business, regional and Indigenous groups on development programs. He joined Minerals and Energy in 2005. He has previously held roles as Executive Director of Fisheries and Director of Legal and Policy within the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.



Executive Director
Primary Industries
Rod Gobbey

Rod joined the NT Government in early May 2005, having held several senior positions with the Tasmanian Government, including Director of Food Quality and Safety and Director of Agriculture. In addition, Rod acted for significant periods as Manager of Animal Health and Manager of the Tasmanian Animal Health Laboratory. Rod commenced his career in government in 1975 as a technical officer in the AQIS meat inspection program and has spent all of his adult working life to date in primary industry roles in government.



Executive Director
Fisheries

Heather Brayford

Heather joined DPIFM in February 2007. For the previous 20 years Heather held a variety of positions with the WA Department of Fisheries. These included a range of fisheries management roles encompassing commercial and recreational fisheries, Manager of the Pearling Program, and Manager of Strategic Planning and Policy.



Director
Finance

Bernard Ho

Bernard has extensive experience in commercial accounting and financial management, having spent a considerable length of time as Chief Accountant of TIO. He has also been a senior accountant with Coopers and Lybrand, a firm of chartered accountants, and an assistant financial planning analyst with Mt Newman Mining Pty Ltd. Bernard holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Business Administration. He is also a Fellow of the Australian Society of CPA's.



Director
Marketing and Communication

Stephen Yates

Stephen joined the department after a 30-year media career. He has worked as a journalist, newsreader and News Director for regional radio, has been Creative Director and General Manager for an award winning advertising agency, and has stage managed some of the largest events held in Australia, including the Brisbane Commonwealth Games, the return to Fremantle of the America's Cup, and numerous concerts. Stephen is a communications expert and author of three books and is dedicated to moving the department forward using the most modern technologies available.



Director
Human Resources
Helen Jones

Helen has a long career in human resource management in the NT across a range of former agencies including the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, Transport and Works, Attorney General's Department, Darwin Port Authority, Lands Housing and Local Government, NT Treasury, Department of Industry and Business and Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development. She is proud to be leading the HR team in DPIFM.



Director
Policy, Planning and Review
Roslyn Vulcano

Prior to joining DPIFM, Ros was the Director of Environment and Greenhouse Policy in the former Department of Planning, Infrastructure and the Environment. She has extensive experience in the management of natural resources and the supply of water and energy, from both a government and industry perspective, including the development and implementation of practical solutions for remote and Indigenous communities. Ros has a Masters Degree in Environmental Management and qualifications in Business Management.



Regional Director
Central Australia
Phil Anning

Phil was Regional Director with the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and DBIRD before becoming Regional Director of Central Australia, when DPIFM was formed. He moved to the Territory in 1999 after working throughout northern Queensland with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. He has experience in rangeland research, extension agronomy, horticultural development and agribusiness as well as international consultancy experience in Asia and Africa for the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organisation and private agribusiness consortiums.



Regional Director
Katherine

Neil MacDonald

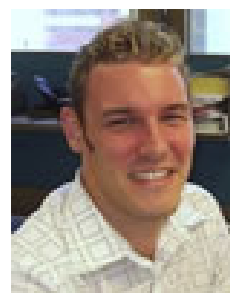
Neil has lived in Katherine and worked in the Pastoral Division since 1990, firstly as a researcher in cattle and rangeland management, and then as Manager of the Pastoral Production program and in 2005 as acting Director of the Pastoral Division. His earlier career took him to Nigeria, Scotland and Papua New Guinea and included commercial agriculture and wildlife management. He has studied at the University of Queensland and the University of Aberdeen.



Regional Director
Tennant Creek

Paul Black

Paul joined the NT Public Service in March 2005 as Regional Director of DBIRD, having been involved for many years with the Australian Meat Industry as state manager in Western Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales. He has been a member of several agripolitical groups, including the Sheepmeat Council of Australia Board, Flockcare Ltd. (as chair), National Farmers Federation and Australian Animal Health Laboratories. Paul's knowledge in quality assurance systems saw him become involved in the formation of the cattle Industry's Cattlecare manual and the sheep Industry's Flockcare manual.



SLT Future Leaders Advisory
Group (FLAG) Representative
Policy Development and
Project Officer

Evan Tyrell

Evan joined DPIFM in early 2004 to work in Human Resources after working in recruitment and payroll in the former Department of Corporate and Information Services. Evan is currently a Policy and Project Officer in Policy, Planning and Review and a member of the Future Leaders Advisory Group (FLAG). FLAG is an advisory group consisting of future leaders within the department. The Group reports directly to the SLT and provides advice on strategic issues across the Department. Evan also holds a Bachelor of Business, with a major in management.

Committees

Risk Management and Audit Committee

The Risk Management and Audit Committee (RMAC) assists the Chief Executive, through the SLT, to meet statutory (*Financial Management Act* sections 13 and 15) and accountability (Treasurer's Directions part 3 sections 2 and 3) responsibilities, and management of internal control arrangements.

The committee's functions are to monitor:

- strategic business risk assessments and to undertake gap analyses to identify likely areas of priority for risk assessments, reviews and audits.
- the adequacy of the department's internal control arrangements related to policies, practices, procedures and other internal controls established to manage identified risks.

- the implementation of internal and external audit recommendations.
- the review and evaluation of the department's statutory responsibilities including related programs.
- the adequacy of the department's public accountability documents such as annual reports.

Membership

The RMAC membership is drawn from senior staff across the regions, representing all of the department's corporate and operational groups.

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Development of a charter for RMAC, incorporating operating and reporting procedures, reviewed and endorsed by the Chief Executive.
- Recruitment of an Internal Auditor with associated duties of Executive Officer for RMAC.



- Development of an internal audit charter and a two-year strategic internal audit program, endorsed by Chief Executive.
- Undertook a business risk assessment against the department's Strategic Plan and identified strategic business risks and prepared a risk management plan.
- Achieved satisfactory outcomes from the NT Auditor General's Compliance and Credit Card Audits of the department.
- Received favourable reports from the NT Auditor General on the department's Internal Audit capacity.
- Updated the internal audit program.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Refine the department's corporate governance framework.
- Undertake audits and implement agreed recommendations in accordance with the two-year audit plan.
- Settle the strategic business risk assessment and ensure treatments and controls are in place or progressed.

Information Management Committee

The Information Management Committee (IMC) has a key role in the governance of strategic information management across the department, including advising on investment in information technology.

Membership

The IMC is chaired by the Director of Information Management and includes representatives from the following groups:

- Primary Industries
- Minerals and Energy
- Fisheries
- Information Management
- Marketing and Communications
- Policy, Planning and Review
- Central Australia Regional Office

Key achievements for 2007–08

The IMC has pursued implementation of the projects and priorities identified in the Strategic Information Management Framework 2007–10 by recommending and endorsing proposals for funding. This has included a pilot of Electronic Document Records Management (EDRM) and the commencement of the implementation of Labware, the replacement for ANDI – the Animal Disease Information system.

The EDRM pilot involved a small group of staff using TRIM to store, manage and retrieve email and selected other documents. The pilot identified some technological and governance issues and is an important step in planning the move towards EDRM.

During the year the department investigated and purchased a video conferencing system for installation in the five major offices. This project addresses another key recommendation of the Strategic Information Management Framework - the investigation of collaborative tools.

Priorities for 2008–09

The IMC will continue to ensure implementation of the recommendations and projects identified in the Strategic Information Management Framework. These include the consolidation of business systems in Minerals and Energy plus the redevelopment of FishDat. The former will commence through a scoping study to identify and document master data sources in both Minerals and Energy and Primary Industries, while the FishDat project involves migration to a more robust and contemporary operating environment.

Microsoft Sharepoint will be progressively introduced as a collaborative tool and planning for migration of websites will also commence.

EDRM continues to be a priority project and the committee will monitor relevant whole of government projects impacting the project, including the TRIM software upgrade. The IMC will contribute to the development of business rules and a comprehensive plan for the introduction of EDRM.

Occupational Health and Safety Steering Committee

The Occupational Health and Safety Steering Committee develops and ensures the maintenance of occupational health and safety policies and programs within the relevant legislation.

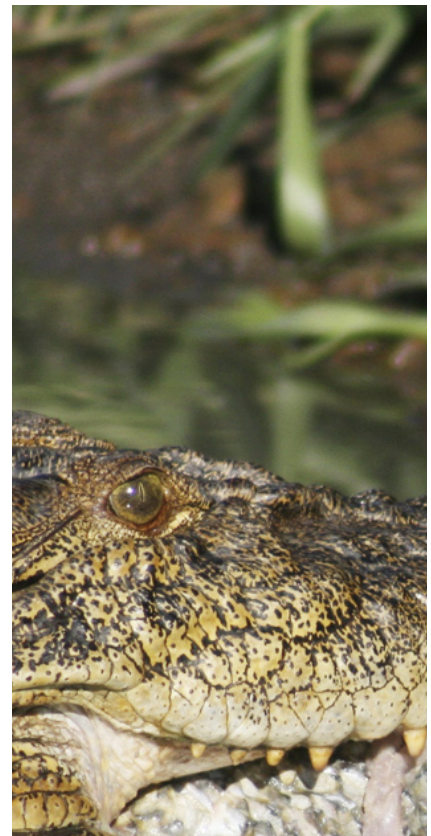
It also:

- 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 formed for the purpose of resolving specific issues on occupational health and safety.
- reviews and analyses statistics from reports relating to accidents, injuries, hazardous incidents and compensation. The committee makes recommendations for appropriate action to reduce workplace injuries and the costs associated with them.

- oversees policies relating to introduction, safety training and emergency procedures, ensuring all staff receive regular, relevant and effective training information.
- reviews reports on programmed external workplace occupational health and safety inspections.
- keeps informed about standards recommended in other agencies.

Membership

Members are senior executives, chairs of workplace committees, a staff representative, regional representative and DCIS OH&S Consultants.



Key achievements for 2007–08

- Commenced implementation of and updated the DPIFM OH&S Management System and priority areas were allocated to senior executives to action.
- Developed new policies and guidelines for overarching OH&S policy, first aid, zoonosis and animal based hazards, snake awareness, office air-conditioning failure and the use of quad bikes.

Priorities for 2008–09

- To consider the implications of the new *Workplace Health and Safety Act* and develop, in consultation with staff, an appropriate action plan.

Boards

DPIFM provides administrative support services for two independent Boards established by legislation.

Northern Territory Mining Board

The Northern Territory Mining Board is established under Part 6 of the *Mining Management Act 2001* (MMA).

The functions and powers of the Board are detailed in section 50. These include the provision of advice to the Minister for Mines and Energy on matters relating to mining activities and as a review panel for the purposes of Part 8 of the MMA. Part 8 of the MMA provides that a person may apply for review of a decision made under the Act by the Minister or by a mining officer.

Membership of the Board is defined by sections 51 to 55 of the MMA. In essence the Board:

- comprises at least five members appointed by the Minister.
- contains a majority of representatives nominated by industry organisations at the invitation of the Minister. Other members may be directly appointed by the Minister without nomination from industry organisations.
- has members with appropriate industry experience.

- has members who hold office for up to three years. Members are eligible for reappointment.
- has a chairperson appointed by the Minister from Board membership, but this person cannot be a public servant. Where the chairperson is absent, the Board elects one of its members as chair for that meeting.

The Board is required to meet at least once a year, but in practice meets several times each year.

Membership of the Northern Territory Mining Board as at June 2008

Member	Position/Employer	Nominated by
Ms Christine Charles (Chairperson)	Regional Director, Environmental and Social Responsibility, Newmont Asia Pacific	Minister
Mr Chris Salisbury (Acting Chairperson)	Chief Executive, Energy Resources Australia	Minerals Council
Mr Brian Hearne	General Manager, McArthur River Mine	Minerals Council
Ms Gillian Jan	Director, Mining and Petroleum Authorisations and Evaluations	DPIFM
Ms Jennifer Parks	Exploration Manager, Cameco Australia	Minerals Council
Mr Michael Delosa	Environmental Consultant, Inchyra Holdings Pty Ltd	DPIFM
Mr Brian Fowler	Manager, Sustainability Arafura Resources	DPIFM
Ms Sharon Wilson	Secretary/Public Officer, Extractive Industry Assoc	Extractive Industry Association
Mr Alan Paton	Delegate, Electrical Trades Union – Representative, NT Trades and Labour Council	Unions NT

Veterinary Board of the Northern Territory

The Veterinary Board of the Northern Territory is established under the *Veterinarians Act* with the following prescribed functions:

- promoting high standards of professional conduct in the provision of veterinary services.
- determining applications for registration from veterinarians and veterinary specialists wishing to practise in the Northern Territory.
- exercising the disciplinary powers conferred by the Act.
- investigating matters relating to the professional conduct of registered veterinarians or veterinary specialist, or the provision of veterinary services.
- issuing guidelines in relation to standards to be observed by registered veterinarians and veterinary specialists in, and in connection with, the provision of veterinary services.

- making the public aware of its existence and its functions.
- giving advice, where requested, on matters relating to the professional conduct of a registered veterinarian or veterinary specialist or the provision of veterinary services.
- investigating suspected offences against the Act and prosecuting such offences.

Membership of the Board includes veterinarians appointed by the Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries, veterinarians elected by their peers by postal ballot and a non-veterinarian appointed by the Minister, to represent the public interest.



The Board's five members are:

Diana Leeder – President
(appointed member)

Danny Atkins – Vice President
(elected member)

Matt Bolam – Member
(elected member)

Lorna Melville – Member
(appointed member)

Kenneth Cohalan – Public
Interest Representative
(appointed member)

Administrative support is provided by a board registrar/executive officer employed by DPIFM.

Statutory responsibilities and legislation

Statutory responsibilities

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

- Primary Production (including pastoral, agricultural and horticultural industries).
- Fisheries Management and Research.
- Aquaculture Development.
- International Agricultural Quarantine.
- Interstate Agricultural Quarantine.
- Mining Development.
- Mining Titles Administration.
- Northern Territory Geological Survey.
- Mining Occupational Health and Safety
- Environmental Management of Mining Operations.
- Petroleum Industry Development.
- Petroleum Occupational Health and Safety.
- Environmental Management of Petroleum Operations.
- Administration of Petroleum Industry Operations (Onshore and Offshore)
- Energy Policy, Planning and Development.

Acts administered by the department

The department is responsible for administering 25 Acts and 24 pieces of subordinate legislation.

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 2004

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Northern Territory) Act

Barramundi Fishery Management Plan

Biological Control Act

Brands Act
Brands Regulations

Doctors Gully Aquatic Life Reserve Management Plan

East Point Aquatic Life Reserve Management Plan

Energy Pipelines Act
Energy Pipelines Regulations

Exotic Diseases (Animals) Compensation Act
Exotic Diseases (Animals) Compensation Regulations
Exotic Diseases (Animals) (Screw Worm Fly Infestation) Compensation Regulations

Fisheries Act

Fisheries Regulations

Gas Pipelines Access (Northern Territory) Act 1998 (Repealed 1 July 2008)

McArthur River Project Agreement Ratification Act

Meat Industries Act
Meat Industries Regulations

Merlin Project Agreement Ratification Act

Minerals (Acquisition) Act

Mining Act
Mining Regulations

Mining Management Act
Mining Management Regulations

Mining (Gove Peninsula NABALCO Agreement) Act

Mud Crab Fishery Management Plan

National Gas (Northern Territory) Act 2008

Pearl Oyster Culture Industry Management Plan

Petroleum Act
Petroleum Regulations
Petroleum (Occupational Health and Safety) Regulations
Petroleum (Prospecting and Mining) Regulations

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act
Petroleum (Submerged Lands)
Regulations

Petroleum (Submerged Lands)
(Application of Commonwealth
Laws) Regulations

Plant Diseases Control Act

Spanish Mackerel Fishery
Management Plan

Stock Diseases Act

Stock Diseases Regulations

*Stock Routes and Travelling
Stock Act*

Stock Routes and Travelling
Stock Regulations

*Stock (Control of Hormonal
Growth Promotants) Act*

Stock (Control of Hormonal
Growth Promotants) Regulations

*Tanami Exploration Agreement
Ratification Act 2004*

Validation (Mining Tenements) Act

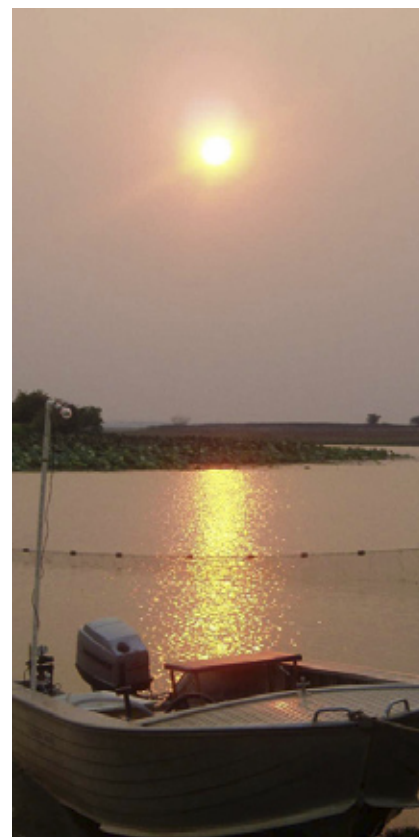
Veterinarians Act

Veterinarians Regulations

Legislative Changes in 2007–08

*The National Gas (Northern
Territory) Act 2008* (the Act)
was passed by the Legislative
Assembly during May and
June, with the new legislation
commencing on 1 July 2008, the
nationally agreed start up day
for similar legislation in all other
jurisdiction across Australia.

The Act applies the National Gas
Law (NGL) as passed by South
Australia as a law of the Northern
Territory. The NGL was developed
on behalf of the Ministerial Council
on Energy (MCE), as part of the
national Energy Reform Agenda
with South Australia being
appointed as the lead legislator for
this national legislation.



The NGL establishes a revised
third party access regime to
cover certain natural gas pipeline
services and represents a
significant step in promoting the
benefits of competition in the
areas of essential infrastructure.

The introduction of this new
legislation replaces the previous
third party access legislation that
was earlier passed a decade
ago, the *Gas Pipelines Access
(Northern Territory) Act 1998*.

Reviews

The department has a three-year program of reviews and audits covering statutory compliance, risk management, audit efficiency and legislative review. This program assists the department to focus its efforts on meeting statutory obligations and in continuous improvement of its systems and processes.

In 2007–08, DPIFM finalised the program of reviewing industry associations that receive grants from the department. The aim of the program was to ensure that the activities of the associations align with government priorities and are undertaken efficiently.

All the reviews undertaken in 2007–08 are listed in Appendix 3.

Information Act

The department continues to comply with Part 9 and section 11 of the *Information Act*. The information held by DPIFM is identified in Appendix 4. This information and details about how to lodge an application can be found on the department's website at www.nt.gov.au/drdpifr.

Our people



Our people

DPIFM has a professional, passionate workforce of scientists, engineers, researchers, technicians and supporting administration staff, from many different cultural backgrounds and age groups.

The department is committed to the strategic management of its people in achieving the goals of the DPIFM Strategic Plan 2006–2015. Underpinning the strategic plan is the *Our People Plan 2008* which details the projects, challenges, capabilities and ongoing strategies that support it. With input from the analysis of responses from the annual Human Resource (HR) employee survey, *Our People Plan 2008* refines several strategic projects and better defines the department's human resource challenges, leadership capability needs and values.

Accordingly, the HR team provides the following strategic client-focused support services:

- organisational change initiatives through delivery of the Strategic People Plan;
- specialist human resources advisory service to management and staff;
- facilitation of the performance management cycle;
- project and case management of human resource, industrial relations, workers compensation matters and investigations;
- facilitation of early intervention workforce and industrial relations strategies;
- improved governance standards; and
- management of Service Level Agreements and service delivery from other agencies.



Through these services and various human resources programs the department has continued to increase awareness of and ensure alignment to government priorities, meet whole of government human resource management objectives, address specific employee needs and maintain legislative compliance.

Indigenous employment

Increasing the number of identified Indigenous employees is a high priority for DPIFM. It features as a goal in the DPIFM Strategic Plan and is a major project in the Our People Plan 2008. This commitment is driven by a Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) project team, which formed in late 2006.

One initiative of the SLT project team was the establishment of the Indigenous Apprentice Program. The aim of the program is to increase the number of employees identified as Indigenous in DPIFM and to establish stepping stones, giving Indigenous people the opportunity to obtain careers in the department, the industries we service or the wider Public Sector.

The program has strong underlying principles including providing apprentices with support to enable them to be successful and aligning apprentice disciplines with our business. It features an induction program specifically for apprentices and a culturally appropriate mentoring program, focused on retention.

The program has had a number of successes during the year with the number of Indigenous employees increasing by 14 to 30 (as at 30 June 2008). Nine out of ten apprentices from the 2007 year graduated and all have ongoing employment either

in the department or elsewhere in the NT Public Sector. In addition, the apprentice program received a commendation in the Commissioner for Public Employment Equity Awards in 2007.

In 2008, seven new Indigenous apprentices were recruited, with the first Indigenous apprentice employed in Alice Springs, and training is now offered for apprentices wishing to be Seafood Deckhands. Unfortunately one apprentice resigned due to illness.

The SLT project team also provided the impetus for the creation of the DPIFM Indigenous Employment Strategy 2007 to 2009.

2008 has become, for the department, the year of Indigenous Engagement with a focus on increasing identified Indigenous employees in main stream employment. Employees across the department were asked to nominate Indigenous employment strategies and this information is being collated and considered for a revitalized Indigenous Employment Strategy.

Indigenous apprentice mentoring program

The purpose of the program is to provide support and to increase retention of the Indigenous apprentices. The mentoring program was introduced in 2007 and has continued in 2008. The mentoring program is culturally appropriate and focuses on retention rather than career development. It provides training for mentors in cross cultural management skills, rather than providing knowledge, and encourages mentors to consider the mentee from a whole of life perspective — such as family.



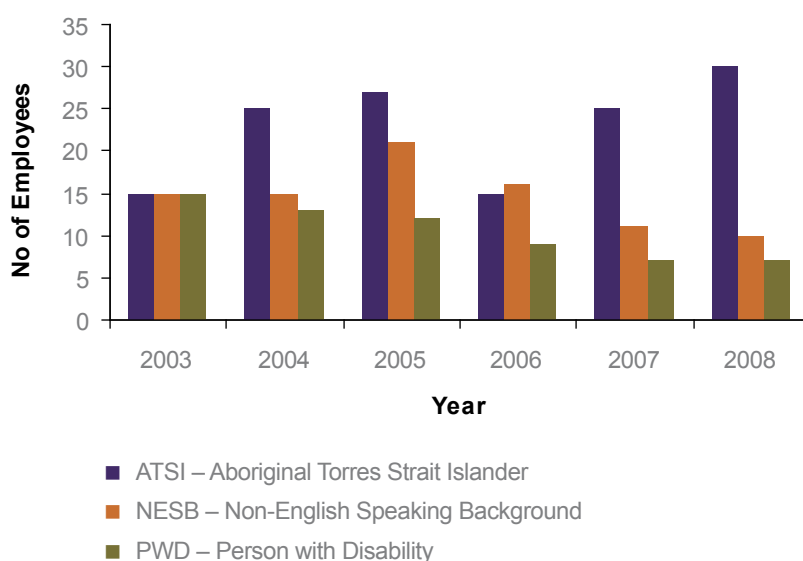
Clockwise from top left: Rhys Higgins, Daniel Costa, Ashley Perez, Rebecca Ormond-Allen and Lee Hewitt.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Employees are encouraged to add their EEO details into the MyHR database, an online human resource system that allows employees to access their own salary, leave and other personal information via the Intranet. The department held MyHR days in October to encourage employees to update their details.

As identifying as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI), or from a Non-English Speaking Background (NESB), or being a Person with a Disability (PWD) remains voluntary, the data in the table below cannot be guaranteed to accurately reflect the diversity in the agency. The MyHR statistics do however indicate that 278 employees have recorded their personal details in MyHR and efforts will continue to encourage greater participation.

Figure 7 EEO groups by year



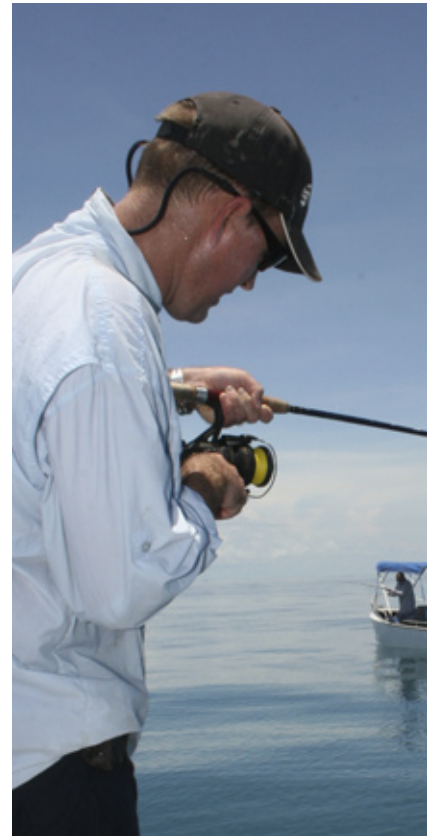
Equity and diversity

In November 2007, the department's Indigenous apprenticeship program received a commendation at the Commissioner for Public Employment Awards for Equity and Diversity. The Commissioner's Awards for Equity and Diversity are a biennial event that recognise and celebrate successful equity and diversity programs within NT Government agencies. The awards night was co-hosted by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment and the Institute of Public Administration Australia (NT). The winning nominations were presented by the Minister for Public Employment, Hon. Paul Henderson MLA, and the Commissioner for Public Employment, Mr Ken Simpson.

Senior Reference Group on Multicultural Affairs

The department continues to be represented on the Senior Reference Group on Multicultural Affairs, whose role includes providing strategic input to the coordination of the NT migrant intake.

Consistent with the objectives of the multicultural policy for migrant and ethnic Territorians, all departmental programs and activities are developed with the diversity of the Northern Territory population in mind. Cross cultural references and influences are prominent in publications and information prepared for public consumption. Employees are trained cross culturally and the department is aiming for all employees to undertake this training during the next two years.



Grievances and appeals

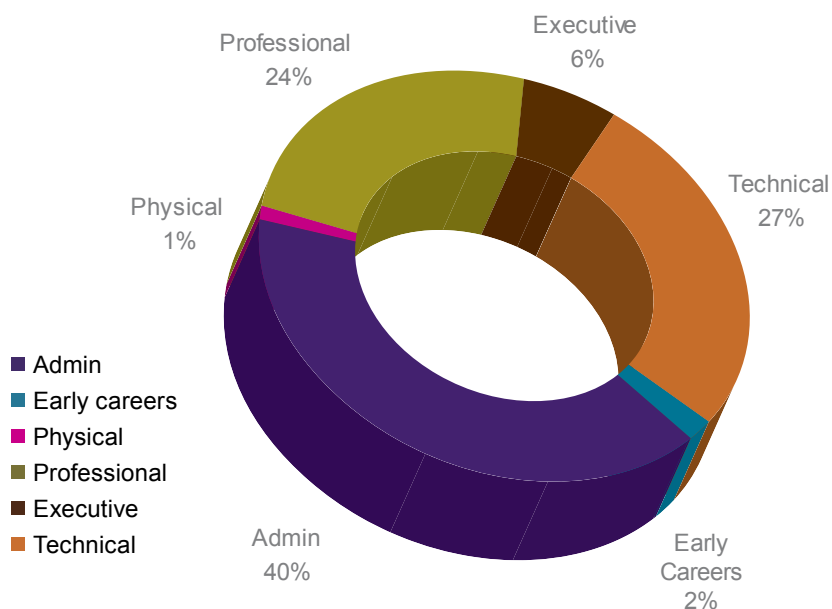
The department maintained its early intervention strategy of addressing issues of workplace conflict and appeals, advocating mediation and respectful interaction of parties. Where formal processes are required to be employed, matters are attended to in a timely fashion with a strong focus on natural justice and achieving positive outcomes.

To support this approach the department introduced a conflict coaching program and has trained 14 employees as conflict coaches.

Staffing profile

The total number of actual staff in the department as at 30 June 2008 was 449. This is a decrease of 23 on the previous year and in part reflects the impact of national and global labour and skills shortages.

Figure 8 Staffing by classification as at 30 June 2008

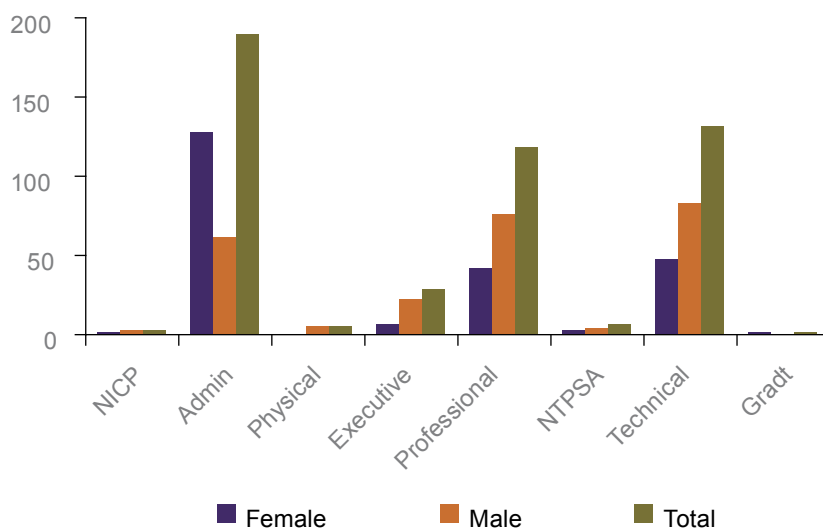


Note: Early careers includes apprentices, graduates and National Indigenous Cadetship Program (NICP) Cadets

Table 3 Staffing establishment by output group fulltime equivalent (FTE)

Output group 1: development	
Minerals and energy	55
Primary industry	202
Fisheries	12
Output group 2: management	
Minerals and energy	69
Fisheries	37
Overhead staffing/corporate support	74
TOTAL	449

Figure 9 Employee classification by gender as at 30 June 2008



Employee learning

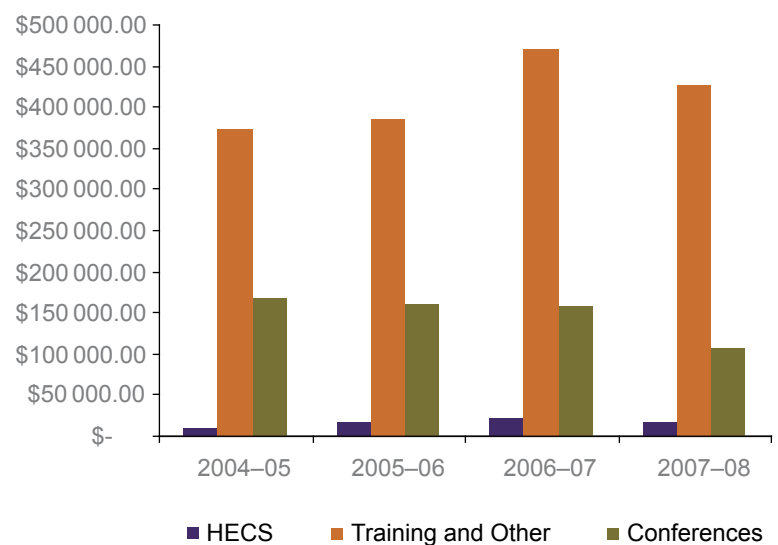
Total expenditure on formal training activities in 2007–08 was:

HECS	\$17 956.64
Training and development	\$426 656.77
Conferences	\$107 354.74

These figures show a slight decrease in the level of study assistance provided to staff who were undertaking tertiary studies and in training and development activities, however this is consistent with the reduced FTE level.

Five employees graduated from the Public Sector Management Program in August 2007. A further two employees are participating in the current programs.

Figure 10 Training expenditure comparison



DPIFM strategic human resources plan

The department's human resources plan, *Our People Plan 2008*, supports the goals of the DPIFM Strategic Plan 2006 – 2015 and details the projects, challenges capabilities and ongoing strategies that support the Strategic Plan. This strategic human resources plan was updated in late 2007 after wide ranging discussions on priority areas, examining employment data and a detailed analysis

of the results from the Human Resources employee survey.

The following projects were set for the 2008 calendar year.

- DPIFM's Indigenous employment and career development strategy
- Implement a practical middle management skills development strategy
- Implement revised induction processes

- Develop and implement a succession planning framework for identified critical positions
- Conduct an analysis of future skills needs and implement recruitment processes

During this reporting period the following was achieved in relation to the 2008 projects, in addition to the Indigenous achievements detailed above.

Practical middle management program

In support of our practical middle management program the following programs were specifically designed and delivered by the Department:

- Finance for non Finance Managers
- Emotional Intelligence (managing workplace relations was attended by 15 senior managers)
- Intensive Negotiation Skills
- Good Decision Making
- Conflict Coaching

Succession planning

A Senior Managers Workshop was conducted at Charles Darwin University in March 2008. This included a succession planning session during which criteria for determining critical positions were developed and each Executive Director and Corporate Directors were tasked with drafting succession plans. These plans required matching positions with the criteria, identifying actions and planning for succession for each of the identified positions. The draft plans were presented at the subsequent Strategic Leadership Team meeting in May 2008 and are due for finalisation in the second half of 2008.

Induction

Three induction programs were conducted in the reporting period. In 2007 there was a revamp of the induction program structure, reducing the face to face component from two half days to one half day. The programs conducted under the new structure saw improved attendance and coordination.

The current program includes a tour of Berrimah Farm, with a presentation from a representative of each Group on their respective areas. An induction program was also held in Alice Springs in May and was well attended by both new and existing staff. More regional presentations are planned with the introduction of video conferencing facilities in all major centres, markedly improving communications.

Our People Plan

A key part of
Building our Organisation and Strategic Plan 2006–2015

Projects for 2008

- DPIFM's Indigenous Employment Strategy
- Implement practical middle management skills development programs
- Implement revised induction processes
- Develop and implement a succession planning framework for identified critical positions
- Conduct an analysis of future skill needs and implement in recruitment processes

Our Challenges

- Succession planning
- Knowledge management
- Workforce planning for new skill-sets
- Attracting and retaining the best to all NT centres
- Managing change and transition
- Owning and aligning with the DPIFM Strategic Plan 2006–15

Leadership Capability

- Living our Values
- Taking an active leadership role regardless of formal position
- Actively promoting the outcomes we achieve and the value we add
- Encouraging networks and strategic partnering
- Leading others to their full potential
- Encouraging ideas and innovation
- Developing our middle managers

Ongoing HR Strategies

- Recruitment and retention
- Achievement review, feedback and reward systems
- Learning and personal development
- Work life balance
- Innovative work arrangements
- Employee Assistance Program

**Dedicated
professionalism**

**Passion
with purpose**

**Individual
accountability**

**Fun and
celebrating
success**

**Motivation
to lead**

DPIFM's compliance with employment instructions

The department promotes and implements human resources action in accordance with the requirements and intentions of the Employment Instructions. Selected examples include:

No.1 Advertising, selection, appointment, transfer and promotion

Our recruitment policy requires that all selection panels are lead by an appropriately trained chairperson who is accredited by the Chief Executive. Currently 93 employees have been trained and are accredited to lead selection panels.

No.2 Probation

All new employees are advised of the probation processes. The workplace induction process is used to ensure probation is understood, that timeframes are set in advance for appropriate feedback and to ensure mandatory reports are completed as required.

No.4 Performance management

A working group reviewed and updated our performance management policy and documentation known as the Achievement Review Process. The revised process has the following objectives:

- To assist in maintaining a culture aligned to DPIFM's values
- To assist in managing, aligning and enhancing work performance in accordance with priorities and business plans
- To assist ongoing learning and career development
- Compliance with the principles of good governance and legislative requirements

No.7 Discipline

The department continues to address breaches of discipline formally, as appropriate. To support efforts to maintain the overall compliance of the organisation, employees are regularly reminded of the obligations detailed in the *Code of Conduct*, through the establishment and implementation of good governance practices.

No.8 Management of grievances

As discussed above, employees, supervisors and managers are encouraged to employ early intervention strategies to address and resolve workplace grievances, to minimise the negative impacts of such processes on the individuals involved and the workforce as a whole.

Performance management

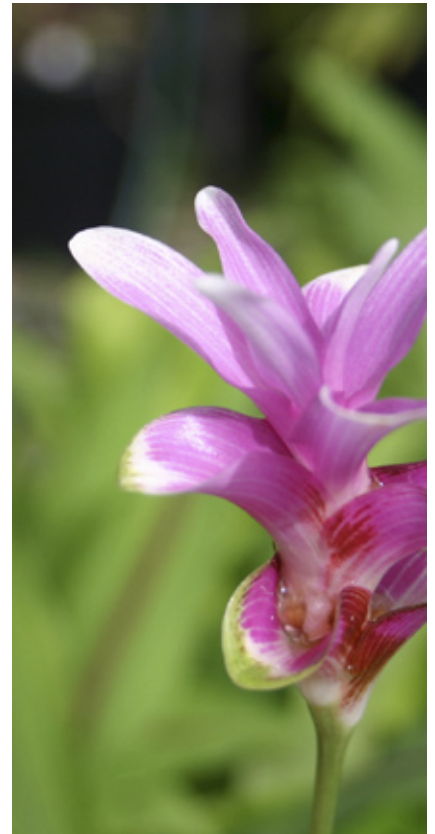
During the second half of 2007 a working group revised the performance management policy and documentation of the Achievement Review Process to ensure both best practice and legislative compliance. Revisions were communicated to all employees.

No.12 Occupational health and safety programs

The Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Policy was reviewed and revised by the OH&S Steering Committee during the reporting period to ensure its currency. In addition the Steering Committee has continued its efforts to raise the level of compliance and generally improve awareness and best practice across all agency functions and workplaces.

No.13 Code of Conduct

The department continues to maintain and develop its accountable and professional culture. Specific strategies include introducing new employees to the Code and the Chief Executive writing to each and providing them with a copy of the department's values. The values are an element in routine performance management discussions, with employees asked to consider their contribution to the values.



No.14 Part-time employment

The department has 39 employees on part time arrangements. Consistent with this Instruction the department actively encourages and supports flexible working arrangements in many forms, including home-based work.

Employee Assistance Program

The department maintained its Employee Assistance Program utilising two providers who offer face-to-face services in the regional centres. The most frequently used services continue to be management coaching and traditional employee counselling services. The department intends to continue to maintain this program in future years to assist employees to meet personal and professional challenges.



Northern
Territory
Government

2007
**STAR
AWARDS**

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FISHERIES AND MINES

FEBRUARY 2008

Recognition and rewards

Star Awards

An employee awards ceremony was held in February 2008.

STAR is an acronym representing Service, Teamwork, Achievement and Results.

The aim of the awards scheme is to encourage and acknowledge outstanding performance by individual staff members or teams in their pursuit of the department's objectives. The scheme comprises a main award and two secondary awards.

The main award winner receives \$4000 in the case of an individual or \$10 000 in the case of a team. The secondary awards consist of \$2500 for an individual or \$5000 for a team. The award money is to be used for personal and professional development opportunities, equipment for the group or wellness programs.

One of the secondary awards, titled the Chief Executive's living our values award, is directly linked to the departmental values and recognises how employees are living our values in their everyday employment. The winner of this award in 2007–08 was Mr Mark Christie who consistently demonstrated the department's values in his role with the Marketing and Communications unit, with his innovative flare and passion exhibited daily in his communications with clients and colleagues.



Mark Christie



Minister Chris Natt with Jenny Saunders and Wendy Prichard representing the Minerals and Energy Information Centre Team



Dr John Humphrey

The winner of the 2007 STAR Award was the Minerals and Energy Information Centre Team – Jenny Saunders (Project Manager), Wendy Prichard, Russell Copley, Meg Ripper, Julie Adams, John Dunster, Carmel Newman, Lorrell Watt, Carmel Leonard and Sharna Richards. This group was nominated under the category of Service Excellence to the department's clients.

The Minerals and Energy Information Centre is located in Darwin and Alice Springs. Staff at both sites work together as a team to provide a one-stop shop service for clients. Wherever possible, service provision and

delivery is the same from both sites. This is achieved through development and use of web-based delivery systems, common access and procedures, and the ever increasing trend towards digital products. The team was nominated for its excellent ongoing work and provision of quality, efficient and timely service to all clients, particularly those in industry. This has brought about widespread recognition within the exploration industry and is regularly compared favourably against other jurisdictions.

The runner up in the STAR Awards was Dr John Humphrey whose contribution to the Northern Territory is widely acknowledged and appreciated by the aquaculture industry. Dr Humphrey was instrumental in developing improved on-farm disease management strategies and also in increasing the capacities of the farmer to recognise and appropriately respond to disease threats.

The calibre of nominations was so high that two additional nominees received special commendations for their highly regarded endeavours and achievements in 2007. Firstly “The China Team” consisting of Lisa Mutch, Gao Guanhua, Ian Scrimgeour, Steve Tatzenko, Cindy McIntyre and Ross Trevena successfully raised the Northern Territory’s profile and position as a competitive destination for mining and exploration investment.



Minister Chris Natt with Sharon Kearney, Greg Scott and Kel Small of the NLIS Implementation Team

The second nomination to receive a special commendation was the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) implementation team, comprising Kel Small,

Adele Kluth, Sharon Kearney, Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Greg Scott, Ted Martin and Greg Crawford. This team successfully introduced and implemented an electronic identification system for cattle. The technical challenge and high costs to cattle producers made the implementation a controversial issue for industry organisations and governments across Australia. The team worked closely with the NT cattle industry to develop an implementation plan which was supported by all industry players. This also required a commitment by the nominees to provide training and assistance to all industry participants, as the system required the mandatory uptake of new technology.



Minister Chris Natt with “The China Team”: Lisa Mutch, Cindy McIntyre, Steve Tatzenko, Ross Trevena and Gao Guanhua

Other staff achievements recognised: (non exhaustive list)

Dr Lorna Melville was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for her 34 years of service to veterinary science, in the field of virology through research, advisory roles and surveillance programs in the area of arbovirus infection. Lorna's work has made a significant contribution to safeguarding market access for livestock from the Territory, to both interstate and international markets.



Dr Lorna Melville

The equine influenza outbreak impacted heavily on the Eastern States of Australia, with the eradication program running from August 2007 through to February 2008. Territory staff provided considerable support to the Queensland and NSW disease control centres and 20 biosecurity and diagnostics staff made a total of 39 interstate trips, covering 452 working days.

Plant Health staff coordinated a national quarantine response to the discovery of mango malformation disease and achieved cross divisional involvement to undertake wide scale on-farm surveys.

Kieren McCosker recently completed a research project on the animal welfare implications of spaying cows in varying environments. The results of the research are still being considered, however the research was considered to be of such a standard, that Kieren has now been offered a PhD to undertake the Meat and Livestock Australia funded Cash Cow project, which looks at variability of fertility in northern beef herds.

Lanni Zhang was awarded a Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry diagnostic scholarship to receive specialist diagnostic training in mite identification in China.

Andrew Daly was awarded a Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry diagnostic scholarship to receive specialist diagnostic (microscopy) training in the identification of the cause of grapevine leaf rust in Japan.

Performance reporting



Performance reporting

Working for Outcomes is the Northern Territory Government's financial and performance management framework.

Its principal objective is to provide a better basis for allocation of the Territory's resources by:

- focusing on the services provided or goods produced for the community
- measuring performance to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of output delivery and budgeting
- accounting and reporting on an accrual basis.

DPIFM's performance framework emphasises measurement of our outputs, to improve resource allocation and reporting on the department's efficiency and effectiveness in delivering government priorities and outcomes.

DPIFM's priorities have been structured around two output groups, both focused on achieving outcomes.

The groups are:

- resource industry development
- resource industry management.



Output group one: resource industry development

This output group includes Minerals and Energy, Primary Industries and Fisheries. It brings together strategic programs and activities with a focus on developing and enhancing capacity, performance and sustainability of the Territory's economy and resource industry sectors.

Minerals and Energy

The Minerals and Energy group provides strategic services to support the acceleration of exploration and sustainable development of Northern Territory mineral (and onshore petroleum) resources and facilitation of efficient and economic use of energy.

1. Resource development and policy

The Resource Development and Policy Division contributes to the progress of major projects by facilitating proposals and developments through to the authorisation stage.

The division is also responsible for the promotional component of the *Bringing Forward Discovery* (previously Building the Territory's

Resource Base) program. This includes the highly successful Ore-struck (previously Top End Secret) campaign, the China Minerals Investment Attraction Strategy and the Japan Investment Attraction Activities.

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Five new mining and processing operations were progressed to authorisation and production stages:
 - OM Manganese Pty Ltd's manganese operation at Bootu Creek mine
 - Territory Resources' iron ore mine at Frances Creek
 - Compass Resources' polymetallic (copper, cobalt and nickel) Browns Oxide mine
 - GBS Gold's open pit gold operations at Mottram and Chinese South.

- Seven mining development proposals were progressed to environmental assessment or mining authorisation, or both submission stage:
 - GBS Gold's North Point and Princess Louise gold projects
 - GBS Gold's Maud Creek gold project
 - Olympia Resources' garnet sands project at Harts Range
 - Thor Mining PLC's molybdenum and tungsten project
 - Redbank Mines Limited's Oxide Copper Project Expansion
 - Compass Resources' Browns Oxide Project new tailings storage facility.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Provision of assistance and advice to all resource projects in the Northern Territory that seek help with preparation of documents for submission for environmental, mining and other government approvals.
- Facilitation of all resource projects through provision of assistance and advice and establishment of Project Working Groups, where appropriate.

Table 4 Output group one: Northern Territory Geological Survey performance measures

Performance Measures		2006–07 Actual	2007–08 Estimate	2007–08 Actual	2008–09 Estimate
Northern Territory Geological Survey					
Quantity	New geospatial data sets and publications requested by key client group	406	400	488	400
	Geoscientific data products developed	120	150	130	150
	Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) products (under 5mb) and geoscientific databases online*	100%	100%	100%	100%
Quality	Target rating for Mineral Potential Index in Fraser Institute Annual Survey	11	6	21	25
	Target rating for geological database in Fraser Institute Annual Survey	5	16	10	10
	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	NM	88%
Timeliness	Information and product request responses within agreed timeframes	90%	90%	95%	90%
	Quarterly advice of data product releases to key clients	100%	100%	100%	100%
Renewable Energy					
Quantity	Rebate applications approved	78	100	113	110
Quality	Client satisfaction	85%	80%	95%	90%
Timeliness	Applications and rebate payments processed within agreed timeframes	92%	80%	85.6%	90%
Mining Development					
Quantity	Project leads generated or progressed	25	20	30	25
	Promotion and investment attraction activities completed	15	10	15	10
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	NM	80%
Timeliness	Information and advice provided within agreed timeframes	90%	90%	95%	90%

* Note: A percentage has been used because NTGS has numerous products and up to six databases on-line. All are available on-line.

1.a Ore-struck campaign

In October 2007, a new campaign titled Ore-struck was launched to promote the Northern Territory Government's new \$12 million exploration initiative titled *Bringing Forward Discovery (BFD) 2007–2011* and to promote the Northern Territory as a competitive destination for exploration, mining and investment. The main target markets for this campaign were Australia, Canada and Japan.

Key achievements for 2007–08

- The campaign reached over 21 000 people at the following events, in four Australian jurisdictions and two international markets:
 - Australia Mining Investment Seminar (Tokyo)
 - Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) 2008 (Canada)
 - Mining 2007 (Brisbane)
 - Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) 2008 (Perth)
 - Ore-struck launch (SA, QLD and WA)
 - NT Investment Seminar (Tokyo).
- Quarterly Investment Alerts were sent to over 600 executives and the Ore-struck website received over 4 000 hits a month.

- At event promotions 500 sales kits were distributed, 1 500 promotional items were distributed and Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) report distribution increased by 30% in the 12 month period, from 9 785 to 14 019.
- KPMG supported the launch of the campaign in Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth by providing catering and the venue. Mithril Resources provided a presentation at the Adelaide launch.
- 40 exploration projects were submitted for promotion to Chinese investors and 20 industry representatives from nine companies travelled to China with the Department.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Promotions and events will target Australia (Perth, Brisbane, Darwin), Canada and Japan.
- The Ore-struck campaign will be updated to launch the new Geophysics and Drilling Collaboration program.
- The Ore-struck campaign will focus promotional efforts on *Bringing Forward Discovery* and will:
 - Include the tagline "Bringing Forward Discovery in Australia's Northern Territory" in all the promotions
 - Increase promotion of NTGS products and services

- Improve the Ore-struck web link with NTGS products and services.

1.b China Minerals Investment Attraction Strategy

The China Minerals Investment Attraction Strategy 2007–2011 was endorsed by Cabinet in March 2007. The strategy is a key element of the Northern Territory Government's exploration attraction initiative *Bringing Forward Discovery*.

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Two visits were made to China in 2007–08. In November 2007, the Minister for Mines and Energy led a delegation to Beijing to attend the China Mining Congress and a series of meetings with key Chinese contacts. In May 2008, John Carroll, DPIFM Chief Executive, led a delegation to China to run a NT investment seminar and hold a series of meetings. The delegations to China included industry representatives from Western Desert, Proto Resources, Arafura Resources, Truscott Mining, and ERD and ERA Rio Tinto Uranium.
- The department signed official cooperation agreements with the China Chamber of

Commerce Metals, Minerals and Chemicals (CCCCMC) and the China Mining Association (CMA) in November 2007. The CCCCCMC and CMA have been strong supporters and ran the NT Investment seminars in Beijing during the November and May delegation visits.

- The China Strategy is also supported by local service providers, including Clayton Utz, Minter Ellison and GHD. These companies play an important role in sponsoring events for both inbound and outbound visits and providing information on how to do business in Australia.
- Since its inception, the China Strategy has been successful in matching local exploration projects with Chinese investors. As at June 2008:

- 42 visits have been made to Darwin by 29 Chinese companies
- 39 project profiles have been submitted by NT exploration companies, highlighting an increase in interest in promoting NT projects to potential investors

- 15 confidentiality agreements have been reached between NT exploration companies and Chinese companies
- three business announcements were made being a joint venture between Nupower and Legend Investment, a company takeover of ERD from Jerry Ren and an off-take agreement for Thor Mining with CITIC.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Promotion of the Northern Territory as a competitive destination for mineral investment will continue with a Ministerial visit to China in November 2008 and a follow-up visit by the department in May 2009.
- Matching NT exploration projects with potential Chinese investors will be a key objective and will include:
 - encouraging inbound visits by Chinese companies to meet with NT exploration companies
 - securing industry delegations for the annual China visits in May and November



- promotion of NT exploration projects at events and through the China website and blog
- working with the Chinese partners CCCCCMC and CMA to match opportunities.
- Educating China investors on how to do business in the Northern Territory at seminars and events. This includes developing information in conjunction with:
 - local tenement managers on land access issues and the application for exploration licenses process
 - local legal firms on the process for joint venture and structuring a business deals.
- Strengthening strategic partnerships in China by signing cooperation agreements with the China Development Bank and the Hunan Government

1.c Japan investment attraction activities

The department visits Japan each February with Team Australia (Geoscience Australia and all the state Geological Surveys) to present at an Australian Investment Seminar, supported by the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals Corporation (JOGMEC). Prior to this, departmental representatives travelled to Tokyo in November 2007 to investigate and prepare a specific investment attraction strategy for Japan.

Key achievements for 2007–08

In January 2008, Cabinet approved the department's proposal to undertake an annual Territory investment seminar in Japan, and in May 2008 the department led a delegation to Tokyo. The visit was supported by the Australian Embassy in Beijing and JOGMEC. The delegation included industry representatives from ERD, ERA Rio Tinto, Clayton Utz, Proto Resources, Arafura Resources and Western Desert Resources.

During the visit, in addition to the NT Investment Seminar, over 23 meetings were arranged for DPIFM and the industry delegation, with over 17 Japanese companies. The companies included JOGMEC, JFE Steel,

Itochu Corporation, Sumitomo Metal, Mitsubishi Corporation, Sojitz, Mitsui Mining, Iwatani International, Nichia Corporation, Hitachi Metals and Showa Denko.

Since the visit, there have been a number of confidentiality agreements signed between Japanese companies and NT exploration companies and Itochu has made a number of visits to specific companies.

JOGMEC works with a range of Japanese companies and is actively seeking exploration opportunities in the Territory. They recently invested \$4.5 million over three years in a joint venture with Mincor, for their Georgina Basin Project.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Promotion of the Northern Territory as a competitive destination for mineral investment will continue with participation in the JOGMEC Seminar in February 2009 with Team Australia and a visit by the Department in May 2009.
- A Japanese mission proposes to visit in conjunction with Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) Uranium Conference in June 2009. This would be supported by the Australian Embassy in Japan.

2. Northern Territory Geological Survey

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Programs commenced under the NT Government's new four-year \$14.4 million exploration investment attraction program, named *Bringing Forward Discovery*. The budget allocation for this program for pre-competitive geoscience in 2007–08 was \$2.75 million.
- The largest ever gravity survey in the Territory was undertaken in central Australia, with the acquisition of over 12000 gravity stations over 150000km² north and east of Alice Springs.
- The Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) was convened in Alice Springs in March, and attracted a record number of delegates.
- The geology and resources of the Territory were promoted at a number of national and international promotional conferences.
- Data from the Tanumbirini airborne magnetic and radiometric survey was released.
- Release of a major report and geographical information system (GIS) on the geology and resource potential of the southern Georgina Basin.

- Release of a full upgrade of the Territory's mineral occurrence database (MODAT).
- A NTGS special publication on the proceedings of the Central Australian Basins Symposium was released.
- Fourteen new GIS datasets of 1:250 000-scale geological mapsheets were released.
- Explanatory notes for three new geological maps were published.
- Mineral exploration activity continued to increase. The Australian Bureau of Statistics reported mineral exploration expenditure in the Territory for the first three quarters of 2007–08 was \$94.5 million, an increase of 38% over the same period in 2006–07.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Completion of the first round of geophysical and drilling collaborations under the *Bringing Forward Discovery* initiative, totalling \$800 000 of expenditure on assisting greenfields exploration.
- Release of a digital first edition of the flagship volume of the NTGS, entitled *Geology and Mineral Resources of the Northern Territory*.
- Release of the first edition of the Metallogenic Map of the Northern Territory.
- Continuing promotion of the Territory as an exploration destination at national and international forums.
- Major regional geoscientific programs in the Arunta Region, western Arnhem Land and the Calvert Hills area will continue.



- Ongoing release of new mapping and geoscience data from the Georgina Basin, Arunta Region and western Arnhem Land.
- Release of an updated volume of the Gold Deposits of the NT.
- Coverage of a further 100 000–150 000 km² of central Australia with regional gravity stations to assist undercover exploration.
- AGES 2009 conference to be held in Alice Springs in March.

3. Energy policy and renewable energy

3.a Renewable energy

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Rebates for a total of 113 renewable energy projects were approved in 2007–08 under the Australian Government funded Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (RRPGP), resulting in committed funding of about \$12.56 million. Of these projects, 43 were for Indigenous outstations

and 51 for pastoral properties. These approved projects will collectively save over 1.3 million litres of diesel fuel and 3731 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year (Table 5).

- Rebates totalling \$8000 were paid under the Photo Voltaic Rebate Program. Administration of this program ceased in December 2007.
- In addition to providing rebates for installation of renewable energy technology, projects that provide wider benefits to the renewable energy industry were also supported under the RRPGP.

Approvals were given for:

- \$83000 for the promotion of renewable energy to pastoralists through NT Cattlemen's Association,
- \$100455 for the study of renewable energy options for 24 large NT pastoral station homesteads through NT Cattlemen's Association
- administration of \$2.97 million towards establishment of a solar technology demonstration and training facility in the Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) precinct in Alice Springs. Demonstration technologies selected and contracts signing for phase 1 and phase 2 completed.

Table 5 Rebates approved 2007–08

Approved rebates	Renewable capacity of projects approved (kW)	Number of rebates	Amount of rebates approved (\$)	Expected savings per annum	
				Diesel fuel (L)	Greenhouse (tonne CO2)
Target group:					
Bushlight projects	152.16	15	2 336 787.30	147 913	427
Government operations	7.93	2	122 106.00	13 356	39
Households	8.64	4	104 517.00	12 878	37
Farming operations	15.00	1	223 730.00	15 050	43
Large indigenous	31.27	4	416 228.00	30 598	88
Major projects	1 400.00	3	6 648 000.00	773 427	2233
Pastoral properties	90.43	51	912 242.08	137 890	398
Roadhouses	0.90	1	9 600.50	1 921	6
Small indigenous	135.47	28	1 552 662.35	133 312	385
Tourism operations	21.71	4	237 430.00	26 010	75
Totals	1 863.51	113	12 563 303.23	1 292 355	3 731

- Of these amounts, \$0.66 million was paid during 2007–08 with the remainder to be paid, when due, in the future.
- A total of 89 solar power generation and water pumping projects were completed and rebates totalling about \$5.6 million were paid out (Table 6).



Table 6 Rebates paid 2007–08

Rebates paid	Renewable capacity of projects approved (kW)	Number of rebates	Amount of rebates approved (\$)	Expected savings per annum	
				Diesel fuel (L)	Greenhouse (tonne CO2)
Target group:					
Bushlight projects	119.06	18	2015034.87	129248	373
Government operations	11.73	2	150286.00	18868	54
Households	8.54	6	91276.45	14152	41
Farming operations	-	0	0	0	0
Large indigenous	9.82	3	142565.00	10937	32
Major projects	-	0	1820520.00	0	0
Pastoral properties	79.25	44	870731.30	119621	345
Roadhouses	0.90	1	9600.50	1921	6
Small indigenous	23.97	11	335365.25	35802	103
Tourism operations	16.71	4	163430.00	21439	62
Totals	269.97	89	5598809.37	351988	1016

- Under the RRP GP program, 20 inspection visits of solar power installations were conducted in the Alice Springs region and Darwin and Katherine region in order to assess compliance with the RRP GP guidelines.
- The Remote Area Power Supply (RAPS) Training Project (Certificate II in Remote Area Power Supply Maintenance Training Package) funded for \$365 000, is complete. The Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) is now an authorised registered training organisation (RTO) for Certificate II in Remote Area Power Supply Maintenance training in NT.
- Agreement signed with the Australian Government for the funding of three major projects in NT
 - Alekarrange: 24 solar dishes (840 kW), \$4.37 million
 - Ti Tree: 8 solar dishes (280 kW), \$1.14 million
 - Kalkarindji: 8 solar dishes (280 kW), \$1.14 million.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Continue support for residential and medium scale renewable remote power generation and water pumping program in the Northern Territory.

3.b Alice Springs Solar City

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Agreement signed with the Alice Springs Town Council for \$8.3 million as the Territory's RRP GP contribution towards the Alice Springs Solar City. A float funding of \$0.5 million was provided to Alice Springs Town Council.
- Represented NT Government on the Alice Springs Solar City Consortium group and administered the NT Government funding contribution of \$3.439 million towards the Alice Springs Solar City Project.
- Launch of the Alice Springs Solar City.
- Alice Springs Solar City Consortium Agreement signed by all parties.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Continued support for the successful implementation of the Alice Springs Solar City Project.

3.c Energy Policy

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Contributed to the development and implementation of

Ministerial Council of Energy endorsed projects.

- Engaged with Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Power and Water Corporation and other agencies and to facilitate economic and efficient use of energy.
- Inter-governmental agreement for managing a national liquid fuel emergency signed by Cabinet.
- Convened a Fuel Emergency Advisory Committee and successfully engaged in the national liquid fuel emergency exercise, Operation Catalyst.
- Provided NT input into projects progressed by the National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Develop draft NT energy policy objectives and elements and seek Minister's endorsement.
- Contribute to the development of draft NT Energy Policy and recommendations for policy implementation.
- Review and update NT Fuel Emergency Plan as agreed.
- Participate in Council of Australian Government Climate Change and Water Working Group, Ministerial Council on Energy, Energy Efficiency Working Group, and NT Climate Change Strategy working group.

Fisheries

The Aquaculture Division of the Fisheries group offers a high level of industry support, including case management of large-scale aquaculture proposals, development of a policy framework, extension of technical knowledge and specific scientific research projects in support of industry growth and sustainability.

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Publication of the *NT Barramundi Farming Handbook*.
- Supported successful aquaculture trials for sea cucumber.
- Produced more than 1.5 million barramundi fingerlings.
- Commercial barramundi production from pond-based farms increased to more than 500 tonnes.
- Conducted disease transmission trials on behalf of the pearl industry for pearl oyster industry development.
- Conducted further commercialisation trials of mud crab aquaculture with an industry partner.
- Developed a draft policy on the use of bait in NT fisheries and aquaculture.
- Continued to conduct research into fish diseases of significance to the NT aquaculture industry.
- Published information on the use of fishmeal and fish oil in the aquaculture industry.
- Continued case management of significant projects.
- Increased Indigenous economic extension activities.
- Held a workshop with the aquaculture industry to discuss future legislative requirements as part of the review of fisheries legislation.
- Continued to investigate the feasibility of farming mud crabs in a netted enclosure in the mangroves at Maningrida.
- Conducted the first successful spawning and juvenile production of giant clams in the NT.



Priorities for 2008–09

- Commencement of commercialisation trials for sea cucumber, including trials of sea cucumber aquaculture in Indigenous communities.
- Assist NT barramundi industry formulate a marketing plan.
- Continued support for research of Aquatic animal diseases.
- Commence development of an Indigenous fisheries development strategy.
- Continue to conduct research into diseases of significance for the NT barramundi industry.
- Assist the farmed barramundi industry increase production to more than 750 tonnes.
- Continue to assist Indigenous communities engage in commercial fishing.
- Continue case management of significant projects.

- Produce more than one million barramundi fingerlings for the barramundi farming industry as well as restocking Top End freshwater impoundments.
- Assist the NT Seafood Industry develop market strategies.
- Assist industry with the development of techniques to improve aquaculture production efficiencies.
- Finalisation of the trial investigating the feasibility of farming mud crabs in the mangroves at Maningrida.
- Facilitate trials involving pearl oyster culture at Darwin Aquaculture Centre (DAC).
- Submit completed final report to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) on the three-year collaborative mud crab larval rearing project.
- Continue investigations into appropriate techniques for giant clam aquaculture in the NT.
- Finalisation of the NT bait policy.
- Publication of a comprehensive review of diseases of aquatic animals in the NT.

Table 7 Output group one: Aquaculture development performance measures

Performance measures		2006–07 Actual	2007–08 Estimate	2007–08 Actual	2008–09 Estimate
Aquaculture development					
Quantity	Current aquaculture development projects	28	24	24	24
	Presentations made and scientific and technical articles published	5	8	8	10
	Aquaculture licences issued	16	18	22	19 ¹
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	90%	85%	90%
Timeliness	Milestones completed within agreed timeframes	90%	90%	85%	90%

¹ Reduction reflects non-renewal of aquaculture licences. The estimate cannot be confirmed until January 2009 (last day of licence renewal is 31 December 2008). Several operations are known to be prospective for future development.

Primary Industries

The Primary Industries group provides a range of strategic services that facilitate profitable and sustainable primary industries in the Northern Territory and maintain access to markets for animals, plants, and animal and plant products.

Strategic outcomes are achieved through focused research and development programs, specific programs that support Indigenous pastoral and horticultural development, effective extension services and maintaining targeted programs to monitor, detect and respond to emergency and endemic animal and plant pests and diseases.

1. Biosecurity and market access

a. Diagnostic services

i. Plant pathology

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Identified reduced fungicide regimes for the control of leaf spot diseases of peanuts (in partnership with the Grains Research and Development Corporation).
- Evaluated the use of strobilurins as a post-harvest dip, to control post-harvest diseases in mangoes (in partnership with the Australian Mango Industry Association and Horticulture Australia).
- Identified an outbreak of mango malformation disease, an emergency plant pest in the Darwin region.



Priorities for 2008–09

- Improve post-harvest disease control methodologies for mangoes.
- Develop methods to avoid the spread of Panama disease of bananas in the Territory.
- Conduct studies to better understand mango malformation disease.

ii. Veterinary laboratory

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Expanded the range of rapid molecular tests for significant animal viral pathogens to include Bovine Ephemeral Fever and Equine Influenza.
- Introduced new molecular techniques for the detection and speciation of chlamydiae in a range of animal hosts. Determined the key epidemiological features of chlamydial infection in farmed crocodiles (in partnership with the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation [RIRDC]).
- Identified a new serotype of Bluetongue virus now circulating in Top End cattle and developed a test procedure to monitor the occurrence of this virus (in partnership with the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program).
- Identified a ranavirus causing mortalities in captive Australian frog species and representing a potential threat to the barramundi farming industry.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Complete the implementation of a new laboratory information management system incorporating advances in reporting, retrieval and

exchange of data. The system will facilitate improved monitoring of disease trends and rapid access to laboratory test results during an outbreak of an Emergency Animal Disease.

- Improve diagnostic capability through further development of molecular testing and the introduction of new viral culture and parasitological techniques. Use of these methods to improve disease control strategies in farmed animals including aquatic species.

iii. Water laboratories

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Continued to provide an efficient and effective microbiological and chemical testing service in Darwin and Alice Springs to help ensure safe drinking water and facilitate environmental health.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Obtain National Association of Testing Authorities accreditation for each of the water chemistry and water microbiology laboratories.

iv. Agricultural chemistry

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Continued provision of diagnostic plant and sap analysis to the horticultural and agricultural industries and associated research programs.
- Continued provision of pesticide residue analysis for the horticulture and agriculture industries, primarily for quality assurance, monitoring and diagnostic programs.
- Continued provision of cattle dip testing for the pastoral industry.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Increase the provision of a plant nutrition analytical service, leading potentially to less fertiliser wastage and off-site nutrient run-off.

v. Entomology

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Identified the effect of mango flower pests on fruit in the Katherine area.
- Provided two mango Integrated Pest management workshops to growers (in partnership with the Australian Mango Industry Association and Horticulture Australia).
- Monitored the spread of the spiralling whitefly. Introduced and assisted the establishment of the Encarsia wasp parasite to control populations of the whitefly.
- Provided an insect diagnostic service and advice on pest management to NT agricultural, horticultural and forestry industries, government and the general public. Curated specimens to meet obligations in relation to the national online Australian Plant Pest Database.
- Provided technical training on pest lists development for trade purposes through the AusAID funded ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Program.



Priorities for 2008–09

- Continue evaluation of the effect of mango flower and fruit pests on fruit quality in Australia and Indonesia in partnership with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).
- Evaluate chemical control options for pre- and post-harvest pests of mangoes and other fruit crops for Australia and Indonesia in partnership with ACIAR.
- Develop an industry supported research project to control giant termites in forestry plantations in the Territory.

2. Biosecurity and product integrity

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Completed the implementation of the National Livestock Identification System (Cattle) within the Northern Territory.
- Completed consolidation of Livestock and Plant legislation in preparation for introduction into the Legislative Assembly.
- Responded effectively to the threat of equine influenza.
- Tested 24 samples of Territory grown horticultural produce taken from packing sheds for a range of pesticides.
- Performed targeted and general surveillance for plant pests which detected exotic pests in mangoes, citrus, coconuts and structural timber and for which four emergency responses were mounted.
- Implemented emergency response training for key departmental staff for terrestrial and aquatic animal and plant pests and diseases in accordance with the NT Biosecurity System.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Following passing and commencement of the *Livestock and Plant Health Acts*, implement the legislation including training for staff and education for stakeholders.
- Continued development of the NT Biosecurity System including the integration of BioSIRT, the provision of specialist training to managers and generic emergency management training, personnel development through exercise Wild Boar participation and the establishment of the whole of Government processes to support emergency responses.
- Achieve industry acceptance for the increased chemical residue testing regime.
- Progress the national BioSec agreement, a framework to manage exotic pests and diseases that affect agricultural production and environment sector.

3. Sustainable primary industry development

a. Pastoral production

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Progressed a range of interrelated projects aimed at establishing objective methods of estimating carrying capacity for livestock over different landtypes.
- Initiated research into improving the live weight gain of cattle.
- Initiated the North Australian Beef Fertility Project in identifying the contributing factors to fertility in large herds.
- Continued buffalo industry research and development projects to increase buffalo production.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Continue to research and develop Best Management Practice for sustainable rangeland utilisation.
- Continue herd performance and productivity improvement related research projects.
- Continue with research and development projects for sustainable mixed farming production for the Katherine and Daly region.

- Continue buffalo industry research and development projects to increase buffalo production.
- Work with the pastoral industry to facilitate best practice management of drought in order to protect natural resources and assist viability of pastoral enterprises.
- Continue market development activities.

b. Crops, forestry and horticulture

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Finalisation of a generic Environmental Management Plan for use on Indigenous horticultural enterprises in Central Australia.
- Publication of the Maize Production System report.
- Publication of the Plant Industry Profile 2006, including production statistics.
- Completion of a pilot project to assess the use of scenario planning in agribusiness futures development.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Conduct a gap analysis of environmental impact research relating to plant based industry in the Territory.
- Review of baseline research information on irrigation management in the NT.
- Develop a pilot program of community supported agriculture on Indigenous communities.
- Assessment and commercial trial of improved tropical hardwood species resulting from the African Mahogany Tree Improvement Program.

c. Research and demonstration farms

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Maintained research farm capacity and capabilities at: Berrimah, Douglas and Daly, Katherine, Victoria River, Ti Tree and Alice Springs to support primary industries research and development activities.



Priorities for 2008–09

- Continue to provide research farm capacity and capabilities to support primary industries research and development activities.
- Consider the findings of the facilities review and implement the agreed recommendations.

d. Primary industry services

Key achievements for 2007–08

- 838 technical publications and information packages were made available to industry and the general public.
- Continued the provision of library and information services in Darwin and Alice Springs, and Biometric services and

Business Systems Analysis to support sustainable primary industry development research, development and extension projects and Diagnostic Services.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Continue to develop and maintain quality technical publications and information packages to support the development of primary industries in the Northern Territory.

- Continue to provide library and information services in Darwin and Alice Springs, and Biometric services and Business Systems Analysis to support sustainable primary industry development research, development and extension projects and Diagnostic Services.

Table 8 Output group one: Biosecurity and market access performance measures

Performance measures		2006–07 Actual	2007–08 Estimate	2007–08 Actual	2008–09 Estimate
Biosecurity and market access					
Quantity	Continuing animal disease and residue projects	7	7	7	6
	Plant pest and disease biosecurity plans developed	0	1	0	1
Quality	Compliance with national animal health system performance standards	90%	90%	90%	90%
	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	NM	80%
Timeliness	Project milestones met	90%	90%	90%	90%
	Plan milestones met	50%	100%	90%	100%
	Response time for animal and plant pest and disease incursions	24 hrs	24 hrs	24 hrs	24 hrs
Sustainable primary industry development					
Quantity	Research, development and extension projects in progress	29	30	32	35
	Technical publications and information packages available to clients	955	908	838	910
	New and improved agricultural products produced through research, development and extension projects*	5	4	6	4
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	NM	80%
Timeliness	Research and development project milestones completed on time	90%	90%	70%	90%
	Technical publications and information packages, produced or updated within specified timeframes	85%	85%	90%	85%
	New and improved product commercialisation timelines met	90%	90%	90%	*NIL see note

* Note: none of the new and improved products to be delivered in the 2008–09 year are products that will be commercialised.

Output group two: resource industry management

This output group includes Minerals and Energy and Fisheries.

It brings together strategic programs and activities focused on resource management, safety and sustainability. The outcome is sustainable and responsible management of Territory resources.

Minerals and Energy

The Minerals and Energy group has primary responsibility for delivering strategic services that regulate mining and petroleum tenure and operational activities. This includes assessment and evaluation to minimise environmental liability and inspections and audits to ensure best practice in environmental management, and radiation safety, on mining and petroleum tenure.

1. Titles Division

Minerals

Key achievements for 2007–08

- In September 2007 the total number of exploration licences granted at one point in time reached 1 000, marking a significant milestone in exploration for the Territory. At the end of July 2008 there were a total of 1 254 granted exploration licences.



- Drafting of a revised *Mining Act* commenced and is expected to be released in the first quarter of 2009. The new Act will provide more efficient processes for the granting of exploration and mineral titles in the Territory.
- A number of recommendations were implemented following a review of Titles Division in 2006, which will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of titles management processes.
- As part of the reform of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory)*, the department assumed a significant role in the administration of exploration and mining titles under this Act. This role was a devolution of Commonwealth responsibilities.

- Titles Division continued to provide information and advice to a range of industry clients and associations. This included a booth display at the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) in Perth, attendance at South East Asian Oil Conference (SEAOC), Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) and Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA).
- In conjunction with Territory and Commonwealth Governments, undertook a comprehensive selection process of 37 exploration licence applications over the Angela and Pamela uranium prospects, located approximately 25 kilometres south of Alice Springs.

Petroleum

Key achievements for 2007–08

- 15 new offshore and onshore Petroleum Exploration Permits were granted during the year. One new Production Licence and one Retention Lease were also granted.
- 10 new exploration applications were received, 8 of which were granted, the most in the Territory's history.
- The pipeline licence for Wickham Point interconnect was granted on 30 July 2008 and construction is expected to commence in September 2008.
- Pipeline licences for the Blacktip and Bonaparte pipelines were granted.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Ensure the valid and timely grant of mineral and petroleum titles in accordance with government policy and legislative requirements.
- Monitor compliance of mining tenements.
- Develop and implement strategies to improve the number of exploration licences granted over Aboriginal freehold land.
- Continue to develop and foster positive and cooperative relationships with all stakeholders, including land councils.
- Finalise and issue a revised Mining Act which will provide a more efficient process for the granting of exploration and mineral titles in the Territory.
- Finalise the implementation of recommendations from the review of Titles Division to ensure efficient and effective management of titles.

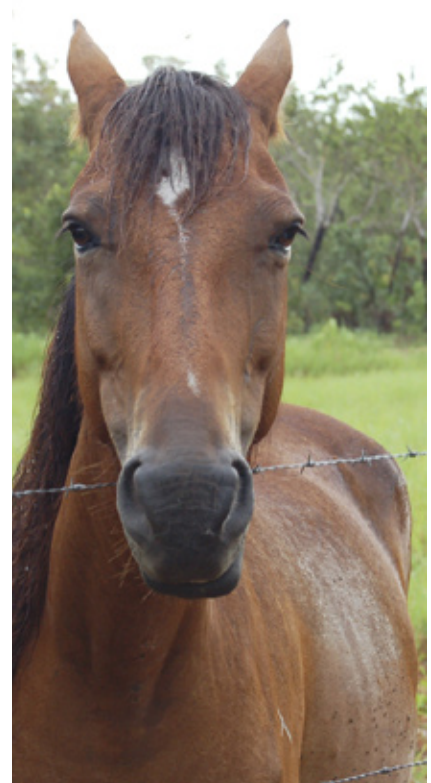


Table 9 Exploration licence and mining tenement statistics by financial year

	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08
Exploration licence applications received	198	224	468	643	405
Mining tenement applications received	14	51	40	8	22
Total number of applications received within the year	212	275	508	651	427
Exploration licences granted	173	133	180	257	396
Mining tenements granted	16	29	9	19	33
Total number of titles granted within the year	189	162	189	276	429
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Exploration licence applications outstanding at 30 June (ALRA)	702 (544)	696 (529)	857 (571)	1138 (687)	981 (752)
Mining tenement applications outstanding at 30 June	230	176	184	168	154
Total number of applications outstanding at 30 June	928	864	1041	1301	1135
Granted exploration licence at 30 June (ALRA)*	756 (214)	773 (241)	757 (240)	928 (234)	1233 (210)
Granted mining tenements at 30 June	1449	1453	1445	1430	1466
Total number of titles granted at 30 June	2205	2226	2212	2358	2699

* Note: Total includes explorations licence applications subject to ALRA moratorium

2. Mining and petroleum compliance

The mining and petroleum compliance division has responsibility for:

- The inspection and audit of mining and petroleum (onshore and offshore) operations to ensure adherence to Northern Territory and Commonwealth legislation and operating approvals.
- Ensuring the use of best practice and due diligence in environmental management.

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Undertook 17 field trips, which included inspections of 73 sites authorised under the *Mining Management Act* (MMA), 10 non-authorised sites and 10 investigations.
- Completed assessment of 166 mining management plans for exploration, mining and extractive operation activities across the Northern Territory, including calculation of environmental security bonds for 100% of the rehabilitation liability.
- Regulated uranium mining in the NT under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth.
- Provided advice to industry and the wider public on MMA issues.

- Assessed and approved 66 offshore petroleum projects, including surveys, drilling and pipelines, under NT and Commonwealth legislation.
- Assessed and approved 24 onshore petroleum projects, including drilling and pipelines, under NT legislation.
- Inspected the Mereenie and Palm Valley gas operations to ensure compliance with legislative requirements.
- Completed transfer of legislative and administrative responsibility to NT WorkSafe for occupational health and safety matters on Northern Territory mine sites.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Continue to work with industry to further develop and refine mining management plan arrangements as required under the MMA.
- Deliver a program of audits and inspections to ensure compliance with activities detailed in approved mining management plans.
- Continue to ensure all operating sites provide sufficient financial security to cover 100% of the assessed total rehabilitation cost.
- Assist the *Independent Monitor* with its activities to monitor the environmental performance of the McArthur River Mine.

- Continue to provide appropriate assessment and approval of petroleum and energy pipeline projects.

3. Authorisations and evaluations

Key achievements for 2007–08

- As part of the division's role to ensure the ongoing functionality of the Security Assessment Board, the division was instrumental in the implementation of a policy requiring mining operators to submit rehabilitation security for 100% of known environmental liability in the form of cash or a bank guarantee. As of the end of June 2008, \$168 million is being held by the department under the MMA and \$2.2 million under the *Petroleum Act*.
- Assessed in excess of 290 mine planning documents.
- Issued 68 new mining authorisations, of which 40 were to new operators. New authorisations issued included 54 for exploration, 7 for mining, 6 for extractive and quarrying activities, and one for other mining related activity.
- Completed monitoring and evaluation of data on high risk mine sites.

- Reviewed and assessed 6 non-mining and 3 mining related documents which were being assessed under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). Mining operations which underwent assessment under the EAA included:

- Terra Gold Mining Ltd:
Maud Creek Gold Project
Underground Mine
Environmental Impact
Statement
- Burnside Operations Pty Ltd:
North Point and Princess
Louise Project Open Cut Public
Environmental Report
- Matilda Minerals Limited: Tiwi
Islands Mineral Sands Project
Aircraft Landing Area Public
Environmental Report.

- Appointment by tender of Environmental Earth Sciences Victoria to independently monitor the environmental performance of the McArthur River Mine for a five year contracted period.
- Initiated the development of a rehabilitation strategy and environmental monitoring activities for the Mount Todd mine site in response to the NT Government's

commitment to carrying out a range of environmental and other studies to determine the appropriate long term rehabilitation of Mount Todd.

Priorities for 2008–09

For 2008–09 Authorisations and evaluations will continue to take into account the expectations and requirements of stakeholder groups and work to facilitate and encourage industry to implement best practice. The division will continue managing the environmental aspects associated with operational activities to minimise post operational legacy and maximise the economic return to the community.

Activities to be undertaken include:

- Assessing new mining, extractive and exploration project proposals within the Territory for the purpose of granting or refusing Authorisations under section 36 of the NT MMA.



- The assessment of new and ongoing mining and extractive project planning proposals for referral to other regulatory agencies.
- Review of proposals being assessed under the EAA.
- Evaluation of the scientific integrity of technical information provided by mining operators and independent verification and assessment of company environmental and operational data.
- Collection and analysis of monitoring data to assess mine site environmental performance, and if required, intervention and notification in the event of potential environmental impacts/ breaches relating to mining activities.

- Maintaining a framework for assessing the required levels of mining rehabilitation securities.
- Managing and maintaining mining production data and maintaining an auditable system of new authorisation and approval actions for mining activities.
- Progress the development of a rehabilitation strategy for Mount Todd.

Table 10 Output group one: Authorisations performance measures

Performance measures		2006–07 Actual	2007–08 Estimate	2007–08 Actual	2008–09 Estimate
Authorisations					
Quantity	Planning documents assessed	271	250	298	250
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	NM	80%
Timeliness	Plans assessed within established timeframes	97%	90%	96%	90%
Compliance					
Quantity	Site reported incidents	1964	150 ¹	58 ¹	60 ¹
	Site Category 1 non-conformances identified	Nil	3	5	3
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	80%	80%
Timeliness	Site reported incidents finalised within agreed timeframes	100%	90%	100%	90%
	Site Category 1 non-conformances finalised within specified timeframes	NM	100%	100%	100%
Mining evaluation					
Quantity	Projects dealing with long-term mining issues	9	15	14	15
	Mining site monitoring programs actioned	64	50	61	55
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	NM	80%
Timeliness	Project milestones completed within agreed timeframes	90%	90%	80%	90%
	Sites monitored according to the agreed schedule	90%	90%	100%	90%
Mineral titles					
Quantity	Mineral exploration licences granted ²	928	1250	1233	1350
	Applications for mineral exploration licences	968	850	796	750
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	80%	80%
Timeliness	Mineral exploration licence applications determined within specified timeframes	NM	80%	80%	80%
Petroleum titles					
Quantity	Petroleum exploration permits granted	12	20	20	25
	Applications for petroleum exploration permits	32	30	35	25
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	80%	80%
Timeliness	Petroleum exploration permit applications determined within specified timeframes	28%	90%	90%	90%

¹ The change between 2007–08 and 2008–09 reflects the transfer of responsibility and related resources for dealing with safety incidents to NT WorkSafe.

² Re assessment of the 07/08 estimates (increase of 250) due to the increase in the number of exploration licences granted. Reflecting the high level of applications received throughout the year. This trend is expected to continue in 2008/09.

Fisheries

The Fisheries group manages the Northern Territory's aquatic resources through the provision of information and assistance to the community, Territory Government and the fishing industry sectors to support sustainable development. Services include policy

development and implementation, research, the granting and maintenance of licences, the development and implementation of fishery management arrangements and the monitoring and control of aquatic pest and disease issues.



Table 11 Output group one: Research services performance measures

Performance measures		2006–07 Actual	2007–08 Estimate	2007–08 Actual	2008–09 Estimate
Research services					
Quantity	Current research projects	15	17	17	17
	Presentations made and scientific and technical articles published ¹	54	57	57	45
	Aquatic pest management projects	3	3	5	4
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	NM	80%
Timeliness	Milestones completed within agreed timeframes	90%	90%	90%	90%
Aquatic resource management					
Quantity	Recreational fisheries management projects ²	8	8	4	4
	Commercial fisheries management projects ³	3	3	5	5
	Indigenous fisheries projects	3	2	2	3
	Fisheries accredited	8	8	8	8
	Other aquatic resource management projects ⁴	2	4	0	0
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	NM	80%
Timeliness	Project milestones completed within agreed timeframes	90%	90%	90%	90%

¹ Due to planned staffing issues and finalisation of several major projects in 07–08 marginally less reports expected in 08–09.

² Outputs rationalised and several linked to simplify reporting in line with business plan. In addition reduction reflects the processes in the final year of a three year buy-back process.

³ As per #2 – also combined with outputs from #4.

⁴ Outputs now combined with #2 above.

1. Management

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Finalised buy back of coastal net fishery licences.
- Closed Shoal Bay and Darwin Harbour to the Coastal Net and Bait Net fisheries.
- Obtained continued export accreditation for the mud crab, Timor reef, Spanish mackerel and aquarium fisheries under Commonwealth legislation.
- Management advisory committee meetings held for mud crab, Timor Reef, Spanish mackerel and Offshore Net and Line fisheries, including a review of management arrangements.
- Progressed transferability of licences in the aquarium fishery.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Buy-back of commercial barramundi licences.
- Finalisation of management arrangements for the Timor Reef fishery.
- Establish longer term management arrangements for the mud crab, Spanish mackerel and coastal line fisheries.

2. Research

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Conducted 2007 'Barracade' research project on the Mary River.
- Completion of black jewfish research projects.
- Completion of mud crab fishery stock assessment including size limit review.
- Completion of Spanish mackerel stock structure project.
- Completion of on-ground work funded by East Timorese Government to develop complementary fisheries reporting and management arrangements in the East Timorese snapper fishery.
- Pilot study to develop methodology to determine Indigenous fishing impacts on sharks and rays in the Northern Territory.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Complete Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) Genetag project.
- Complete FRDC project on revision of National Strategy for Mud Crab Research.
- Complete FRDC/GIS and spatial modelling of Timor Reef Fishery.
- Establish research priorities for coastal line resources

through Coastal Line Fishery Management Advisory Committee, including consideration of golden snapper barotrauma project.

- Assist in Northern Territory Seafood Council project for monitoring of juvenile mud crabs.
- Continue juvenile red snapper habitat project.

3. Aquatic pest management

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Implemented revised pest monitoring program.
- Successful detection and treatment of marine pest species on three incoming vessels.
- Continue project of including Indigenous marine rangers in coordinated marine pest monitoring activities.
- Participation in national forums relating to *Marine Freshwater Pest Management Act*.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Continuation of vessel inspection and monitoring protocols.
- Participation in an emergency response exercise.
- Continued progress on implementation of a national

system for prevention and management of marine pests.

- Finalise the National Heritage Trust (NHT) project involving Indigenous marine rangers in marine pest monitoring.
- Increase public education and awareness associated with pest fish such as Tilapia.

4. Indigenous liaison

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Funding granted for two further Marine Ranger Programs, being Anindilyakwa and Numbulwar.
- Roll out of the NHT survey on Indigenous fishing impacts on sharks and rays, including turtles and dugongs.
- Finalise recommendations to restock the pilot mud crab aquaculture program grow out enclosure for the benefit of the community.

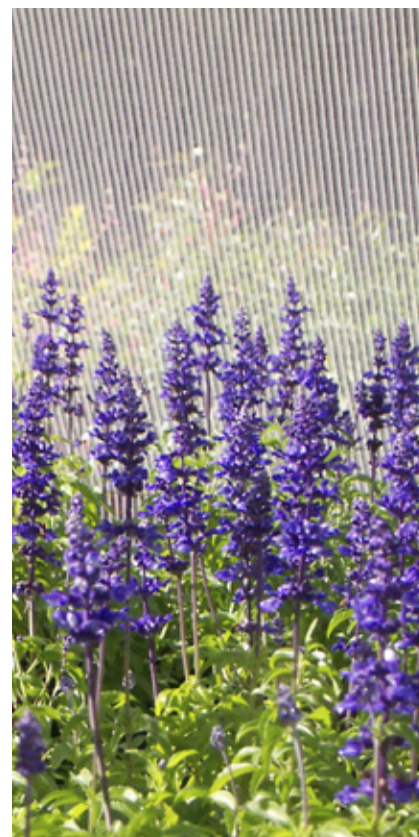
Priorities for 2008–09

- Commence development of an Indigenous fisheries development strategy and action plan.
- Host the annual workshop for Marine Ranger Groups.
- Restructure and standard reporting mechanisms between all Marine Ranger Programs and stakeholders.
- Review current legislation to tailor appropriate fishing strategies for community requirements.

5. Recreational fishing

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Commenced planning for a large-scale recreational fishing survey.
- Recreational Fishing Access Working Group established.



- Expansion of the artificial reef network.
- Commenced development of a management plan for fishing tour operators.
- Undertake regional visits promoting awareness of recreational fishing controls.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Commencement of a large-scale recreational fishing survey.
- Commence preparation of a recreational fishing development plan.
- Finalisation of a management plan for fishing tour operators.

6. Licensing and logbooks

Key achievements for 2007–08

- Collected, entered and validated 2007 commercial catch and fishing tour operator data to assist with research and management of the Territory's aquatic resources.
- Maintained the database for retrieval of logbook data information for report generation and assessment.
- Provision of information and licensing services for the grant and renewal of licences, registrations and permits.

Priorities for 2008–09

- Undertake licence and permit renewals and vessel registrations.
- Commence review and update of licensing policies and procedures.
- Commence review of logbook data collection and management requirements.



Financial reports

Financial statement overview

For the year ended 30 June 2008

The Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines recorded a surplus of \$14.2 million for the 2007–08 financial year compared with a deficit of \$3.4 million in 2006–07, resulting in a variation of \$17.6 million. This was due to an increase in recognition of revenue of \$21.2 million over that recognised in 2006–07, while expenditure only increased by \$3.6 million.

The major revenue variations in 2007–08 compared with 2006–07 are:

- Increased revenue of \$5.6 million received from the Commonwealth for the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program and Solar Cities Project.
- Additional one-off dealing fees of \$13.5 million relating to the administration of offshore petroleum titles on behalf of the Commonwealth, which was not linked to expenditure capacity.
- Additional \$0.7 million generated through other fees and charges, predominantly relating to the sale of livestock, produce, miscellaneous externally funded programs and additional Commonwealth grant funding for drought relief.
- Net additional Output Appropriation of \$1.4 million in 2007–08. This related to one-off funding of \$0.6 million for the Mt Todd Rehabilitation Strategy, \$0.7 million for the Solar Cities Project, \$0.2 million for the Repairs and Maintenance Program, a further \$0.2 million for the Marine Ranger Program and parameter adjustments for the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and CPI. These were offset by a \$0.6 million transfer to DEET for the Mine Safety unit.

The increased expenditure of \$3.6 million was due mainly to the payment of grants for the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program, Solar Cities Project, drought subsidies and the increased expenditure on the Repairs and Maintenance Program.

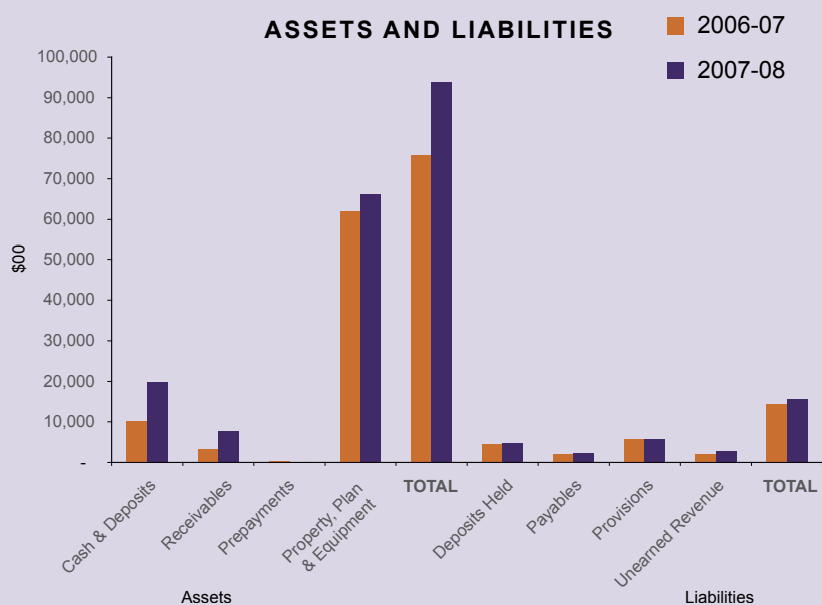
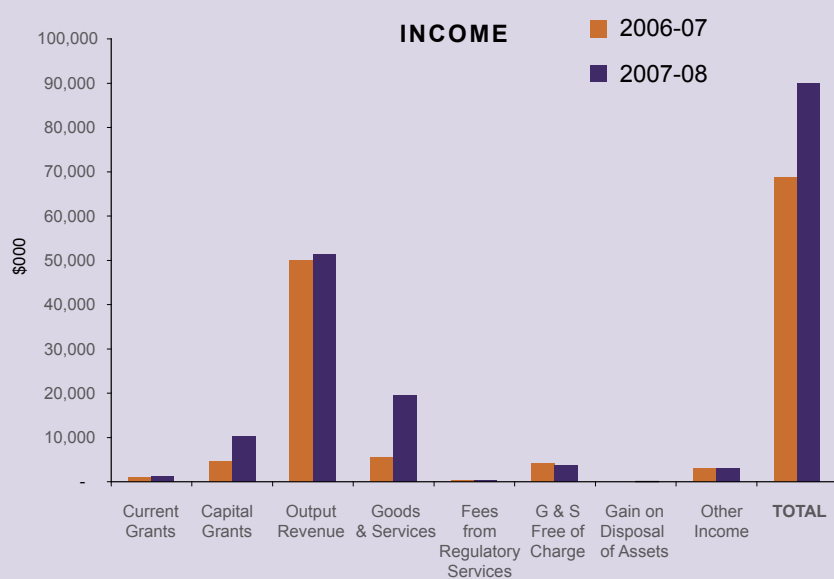
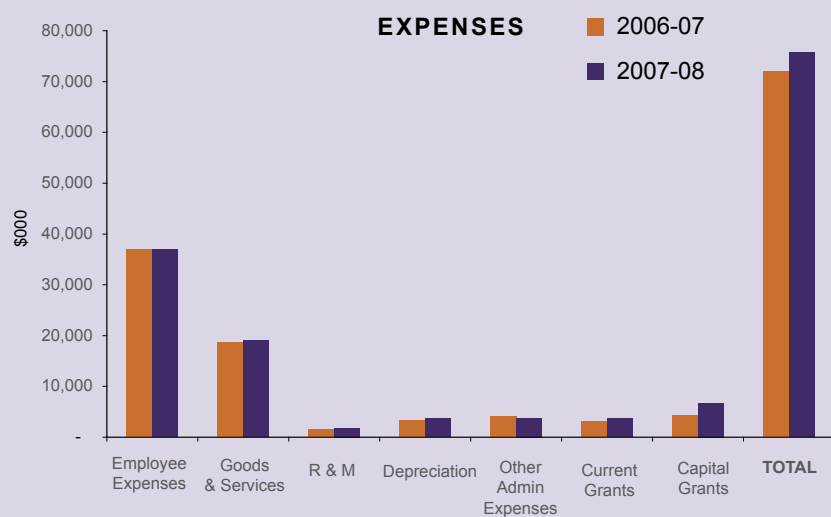
The improvement in DPIFM's net asset position by \$16.8 million in the 2007–08 financial year was attributed to the net effect of the following major movements:

Assets

- An increase of \$9.4 million in cash and deposits, predominantly from revenue received for offshore petroleum dealing fees.
- An increase in receivables of \$4.4 million, mainly from the Commonwealth for the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program.
- An increase in the carrying value of property, plant and equipment due to the completion of infrastructure works.

Liabilities

- An increase of \$0.4 million in deposits held, predominantly cash securities from mining companies.
- An increase of \$0.6 million in unearned revenue from externally funded projects.
- An increase of \$0.3 million in payables.
- A decrease of \$0.1 million in employee provisions.

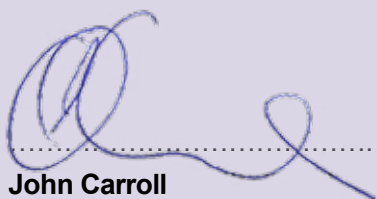


Certification of the Financial Statements

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines have been prepared from proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the Financial Management Act and Treasurer's Directions.

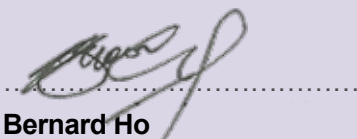
We further state that the information set out in the Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2008 and the financial 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.



John Carroll
Chief Executive

27/08/2008



Bernard Ho
Chief Finance Officer

27/08/2008

Financial statements

Operating statement

	Note	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
INCOME			
<i>Grants and subsidies revenue</i>			
Current		1 341	1 105
Capital		10 229	4 638
Output revenue		51 433	49 995
Sales of goods and services	6	19 459	5 489
Fees from regulatory services	6	465	392
Interest revenue		5	9
Goods and services received free of charge	4	3 824	4 091
Gain on disposal of assets	5	70	18
Other income	6	3 085	2 939
TOTAL INCOME	3	89 911	68 676
EXPENSES			
Employee expenses		36 978	36 970
<i>Administrative expenses</i>			
Purchases of goods and services	7	18 972	18 710
Repairs and maintenance		1 843	1 516
Depreciation and amortisation	10	3 624	3 388
Assets written off			53
Other administrative expenses ⁽¹⁾		3 850	4 092
<i>Grants and subsidies expenses</i>			
Current	23	3 698	3 080
Capital	23	6 765	4 262
TOTAL EXPENSES	3	75 730	72 071
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	14	14 181	3 395

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

Balance sheet

	Note	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
ASSETS			
<i>Current assets</i>			
Cash and deposits	8	19 743	10 303
Receivables	9	7 631	3 203
Prepayments		96	232
Total current assets		27 470	13 738
<i>Non-current assets</i>			
Property, plant and equipment	10	66 258	62 100
Total non-current assets		66 258	62 100
TOTAL ASSETS		93 728	75 838
LIABILITIES			
<i>Current liabilities</i>			
Deposits held	20	4 774	4 402
Payables	11	2 329	2 193
Provisions	12	3 815	3 777
Unearned revenue	13	2 737	2 152
Total current liabilities		13 655	12 524
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>			
Provisions	12	2 063	2 092
Total non-current liabilities		2 063	2 092
TOTAL LIABILITIES		15 718	14 616
NET ASSETS		78 010	61 222
EQUITY			
	14		
Capital		76 714	74 107
Reserves		2 274	2 274
Accumulated funds		(978)	(15 159)
TOTAL EQUITY		78 010	61 222

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

Statement of changes in equity

	Note	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 1 JULY		61 222	63 337
<i>Capital</i>	14		
Balance at 1 July		74 107	72 827
Equity injections		7 207	1 369
Equity withdrawals		(4 600)	(89)
Balance at 30 June		76 714	74 107
<i>Reserves</i>	14		
Balance at 1 July		2 274	2 274
Increase/(Decrease) in asset revaluation reserve ^(a)		0	0
Balance at 30 June		2 274	2 274
<i>Accumulated funds</i>	14		
Balance at 1 July		(15 159)	(11 764)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		14 181	(3 395)
Balance at 30 June		(978)	(15 159)
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 30 JUNE		78 010	61 222

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

Cash flow statement

	Note	2008 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows	2007 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Operating receipts</i>			
Grants and subsidies received			
Current		1 341	1 105
Capital		10 229	4 638
Output revenue received		51 433	49 995
Receipts from sales of goods and services		21 850	11 308
Interest received			9
Total operating receipts		84 853	67 055
<i>Operating payments</i>			
Payments to employees		(37 025)	(37 027)
Payments for goods and services		(23 064)	(23 258)
Grants and subsidies paid			
Current		(3 698)	(3 080)
Capital		(6 765)	(4 262)
Total operating payments		(70 552)	(67 627)
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	15	14 301	(572)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Investing receipts</i>			
Proceeds from asset sales	5	64	22
Total investing receipts		64	22
<i>Investing payments</i>			
Purchases of assets	10	(1 360)	(539)
Total investing payments		(1 360)	(539)
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities		(1 296)	(517)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Financing receipts</i>			
Deposits received		372	1 015
Equity injections	14		
Capital appropriation		463	482
Total financing receipts		835	1 497
<i>Financing payments</i>			
Equity withdrawals	14	(4 400)	
Total financing payments		(4 400)	
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities		(3 565)	1 497
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		9 440	408
Cash at beginning of financial year		10 303	9 895
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	8	19 743	10 303

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

Notes to the financial statements

Index of notes to the financial statements

1. Objectives and Funding
2. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies
3. Operating Statement by Output Group

Income

4. Goods and Services Received Free of Charge
5. Gain on Disposal of Assets
6. Sale of Goods and Services

Expenses

7. Purchases of Goods and Services

Assets

8. Cash and Deposits
9. Receivables
10. Property, Plant and Equipment

Liabilities

11. Payables
12. Provisions
13. Other Liabilities

Equity

14. Equity

Other disclosures

15. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
16. Financial Instruments
17. Commitments
18. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
19. Events Subsequent to Balance Date
20. Accountable Officer's Trust Account
21. Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers
22. Schedule of Territory Items
23. Grants and Subsidies

1. Objectives and funding

The Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines has a critical role in supporting a strong, vibrant and growing Northern Territory economy. To this end the department's key functional responsibilities are to facilitate the optimal use of the fisheries, primary industries, minerals and energy resources in the Northern Territory through facilitating industry development, within appropriate regulatory frameworks, encouraging participation by Indigenous and regional Territorians and the provision of quality information to stakeholders. In addition, the department provides a wide range of research and industry support programs coupled with financial support to resource based industry organisations in the Territory.

The department's budget capacity is predominantly funded by Parliamentary appropriations with the balance being sourced from the agency's own revenue base. In 2007–08, \$14.8m was derived from external corporations and Commonwealth and State agencies while \$5.4m was raised through the sale of goods and services, fees and charges and other miscellaneous income.

Agency Output Groups/Outputs:

Resource Industry Development

- Minerals and Energy
- Primary Industry
- Fisheries

Resource Industry Management

- Minerals and Energy
- Fisheries

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

- i. a Certification of the Financial Statements;
- ii. an Operating Statement;
- iii. a Balance Sheet;
- iv. a Statement of Changes in Equity;
- v. a Cash Flow Statement; and
- vi. applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

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

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

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

(b) Agency and Territory Items

DPIFM'S financial statements include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the agency has control (Agency items). Other items, while managed by the agency, are controlled and recorded by the Territory (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 DPIFM's financial statements. However, as the agency is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of Government, these items have been separately disclosed in note 22 - Schedule of Territory Items.

(c) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2007–08 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

(d) Presentation and Rounding of Amounts

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

(e) Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2007–08 as a result of management decisions.

(f) Goods and Services Tax

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net 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.

(g) 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 exchanged are not recognised as income.

Where money is received in advance of providing a good, service or fulfilment of a contracted obligation for which the advance payment was received, the amount is classified as unearned revenue and recorded as a liability in the balance sheet.

Output Revenue

Output revenue represents Government funding for agency operations and is calculated as the net cost of agency outputs after taking into account funding from agency income. The net cost of

agency outputs for Output Appropriation purposes does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation.

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

Grants and other contributions

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

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

Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised (net of returns, discounts and allowances) when control of the goods passes to the customer and specified conditions associated with the sale have been satisfied.

Rendering of services

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

Interest revenue

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

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

(h) Repairs and maintenance expenses

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

(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 20.

(j) Receivables

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

The allowance for impairment losses represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analyses of the age of the receivables that are past due as at the reporting date are disclosed in an aging schedule in Note 9. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 90 days.

(k) Property, plant and equipment

Acquisitions

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$5000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$5000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

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

Complex assets

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

Subsequent additional costs

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

Construction (work in progress)

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

Revaluations

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

- Land
- Buildings
- Infrastructure Assets
- Biological Assets.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arms length transaction. Other classes of non-current assets are not subject to revaluation and are measured at cost.

Depreciation and amortisation

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

Amortisation applies 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:

	2008	2007
Buildings	50 Years	50 Years
Infrastructure Assets	16 - 25 Years	N/A
Plant and Equipment	10 Years	10 Years
Biological Assets**	-	-

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

** Relates to brood stock for fingerling production. Retirement of brood stock does not depend on age but on breeding suitability and potential. This can vary from fish to fish.

Impairment of assets

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

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

Impairment losses are recognised in the Operating Statement unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the Asset Revaluation Reserve for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the Operating Statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the Asset Revaluation Reserve. Note 14 provides additional information in relation to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

(l) 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.

(m) Payables

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

(n) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries and recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities, that fall due within twelve months of reporting date, are classified as current liabilities and are measured at amounts expected to be paid. Non-current employee benefit liabilities that fall due after twelve months from 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
- 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 DPIFM, and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in agency financial statements.

(o) Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

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

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

(p) Contributions by and distributions to Government

The agency may receive contributions from Government where the Government is acting as owner of the agency. Conversely, the agency may make distributions to Government. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions, certain types of contributions and distributions, including those relating to administrative restructures, have been designated as contributions by, and distributions to, Government. These designated contributions and distributions are treated by the agency as adjustments to equity.

The Statement of Changes in Equity and note 14 provide additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, Government.

(q) Commitments

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at note 17 and are consistent with the requirements contained in AASB 101, AASB 116 and AASB 117.

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

3. Operating statement by output group

	Note	Resource Industry Development		Resource Industry Management		Total	
		2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
INCOME							
Grants and subsidies revenue							
Current		1 338	1 105	3		1 341	1 105
Capital		10 229	4 638			10 229	4 638
Output revenue		34 578	37 986	16 855	12 009	51 433	49 995
Sales of goods and services ^(b)	6	3 605	3 019	15 854	2 470	19 459	5 489
Fees from regulatory services	6	16	19	449	373	465	392
Interest revenue		5	9			5	9
Goods and services received free of charge	4	2 715	2 945	1 109	1 146	3 824	4 091
Gain on disposal of assets ^(a)	5	67	18	3		70	19
Other income ^(b)	6	2 375	2 246	710	693	3 085	2 939
TOTAL INCOME		54 928	51 985	34 983	16 691	89 911	68 676
EXPENSES							
Employee expenses		26 914	26 912	10 064	10 058	36 978	36 970
Administrative expenses							
Purchases of goods and services	7	14 383	14 766	4 589	3 944	18 972	18 710
Repairs and maintenance		1 692	1 465	151	51	1 843	1 516
Depreciation and amortisation	10	3 110	3 114	514	274	3 624	3 388
Asset written off			4				4
Other administrative expenses ⁽¹⁾		2 741	2 996	1 109	1 145	3 850	4 141
Grants and subsidies expenses							
Current	23	2 490	2 180	1 208	900	3 698	3 080
Capital	23		4 248	6 765	14	6 765	4 262
Community service obligations							
TOTAL EXPENSES		51 330	55 685	24 400	16 386	75 730	72 071
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		14	3 598	(3 700)	305	14 181	(3 395)

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

1 Includes DCIS service charges.

< Additional note disclosures for material income or expenses may be included as required. Line items (excluding summary headings) with no current year or comparative year figures may be removed. Line item disclosures are to be consistent with those shown in the agency Operating Statement and are to give a realistic view of Output Group Income, Expenses and Net Result.>

<(a) Where a net loss on asset disposal occurs, this line item would be included under expenses as "Loss on Disposal of Assets">

<(b) Additional note disclosures that provide a breakdown of key components of a line item would be necessary where the reader may be uncertain as to what is included in that line item, and the line item is a material Income or Expense.>

4. Goods and services received free of charge

Corporate and information services

2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
3 824	4 091
3 824	4 091

5. Gain on disposal of assets

Sale of minor assets

Gain/(loss) on sale of transport equipment

Gain/(loss) on sale of buildings

6	5
34	13
30	
70	18

6. Sale of goods and services and other income

The net surplus has been arrived at after crediting the following income:

Sale of goods and services

Research farms (sale of livestock and produce)

Water analysis testing

Livestock and export diagnostic testing

Sale of fingerlings

Offshore petroleum rents

One-off dealing fees offshore

Application and advertising fees -titles management - mines

Other goods and services charges

935	500
1 069	965
159	244
566	745
988	940
14 378	830
391	526
973	739
19 459	5 489

Fees from regulatory services

Fishing licence fees

Veterinary licence fees

Freedom of information

450	373
14	17
1	2
465	392

Other income

Private research & development corporations/organisations

Other

Asset acquired below fair value

3 030	2 078
55	624
	237
3 085	2 939

2008	2007
\$'000	\$'000

7. Purchases of goods and services

The net surplus has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:

Goods and Services Expenses:

Consultants ⁽¹⁾	1 105	1 118
Advertising ⁽²⁾	275	257
Marketing and Promotion ⁽³⁾	157	125
Document Production	366	306
Legal Expenses ⁽⁴⁾	61	89
Recruitment ⁽⁵⁾	228	272
Training and Study	441	493
Official Duty Fares	742	791
Travelling Allowance	543	518
Other Operating Expenses	15 054	14 741
	18 972	18 710

(1) Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

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

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

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

(5) Includes recruitment related advertising costs.

8. Cash at bank

Cash on Hand	25	11
Cash at Bank	19 718	10 292
Total Cash and Deposits	19 743	10 303

9. Receivables

Current

Accounts Receivable	6 419	2 593
Less: Allowance for Impairment Losses	(87)	(74)
Interest Receivables	5	
GST Receivables	616	124
Accrued Revenue	678	560
Total Receivables	7 631	3 203

Aging of Receivables

Not Overdue	3 355	2 304
Overdue for less than 30 Days		
Overdue for 30 to 60 Days	2 567	186
Overdue for more than 60 Days	497	103
Total Receivables	6 419	2 593

Aging of Impaired Receivables

Impaired Receivables for 30 to 60 Days	3	0
Impaired Receivables for more than 60 Days	92	85
Total Impaired Receivables	95	85

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
10. Property, plant and equipment		
Land		
At Fair Value	14 744	14 944
	14 744	14 944
Buildings		
At Fair Value	113 618	112 306
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(70 477)	(67 574)
	43 141	44 732
Infrastructure		
At Fair Value	5 321	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(237)	
	5 084	
Plant and Equipment		
At Cost	6 788	5 541
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(3 902)	(3 640)
	2 886	1 901
Computer Software		
At Cost	392	392
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(389)	(385)
	3	7
Computer Hardware		
At Cost	270	282
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(235)	(230)
	35	53
Transport Equipment		
At Cost	2 465	2 523
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(2 121)	(2 082)
	344	441
Biological Assets		
At Fair Value	22	22
	22	22
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	66 258	62 100

Impairment of property, plant and equipment

Agency property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2008. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

10. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Property, plant and equipment reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2007–08 is set out below:

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Plant & equipment \$'000	Transport equipment \$'000	Computer software \$'000	Computer hardware \$'000	Cultural assets \$'000	Biological assets \$'000	Total \$'000
Carrying amount as at 1 July 2007	14 944	44 732	0	1 901	441	7	53		22	62 100
Additions										
Disposals			5 321	1 323	19		18			6 681
Depreciation and amortisation										
Additions/(disposals) from administrative restructuring		(2 893)	(237)	(339)	(116)	(4)	(36)			(3 625)
Additions/(disposals) from asset transfers	(200)	1 302								1 102
Revaluation increments/(decrements)										
Impairment losses ^(a)										
Impairment losses reversed ^(a)										
Other movements										
Carrying amount as at 30 June 2008	14 744	43 141	5 084	2 885	344	3	35		22	66 258

10. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Property, plant and equipment reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2006–07 is set out below:

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Plant & equipment \$'000	Transport equipment \$'000	Computer software \$'000	Computer hardware \$'000	Cultural assets \$'000	Biological assets \$'000	Total \$'000
Carrying amount as at 1 July 2006	15 008	46 601		1 591	558	72	98	49	22	63 999
Additions		6		526	7					539
Disposals				(9)						(9)
Depreciation and amortisation				(322)	(123)	(65)	(40)			(3 387)
Additions/(disposals) from administrative restructuring		(2 837)								
Additions/(disposals) from asset transfers	(64)	962		115			(6)	(49)		958
Revaluation increments/(decrements)										
Impairment losses ^(a)										
Impairment losses reversed ^(a)										
Other movements										
Carrying amount as at 30 June 2007	14 944	44 732		1 901	441	7	53	0	22	62 100

<Classes of assets are to be consistent with agency changes that are otherwise made to this prescribed format. Additional note disclosures for material assets and asset movements may be included as required. Line items with no current year or comparative year figures may be removed. Additional line items may be required for such items as: Assets Reclassified as Assets Held for Sale and Assets reclassified as Investment Property where these items represent material agency movements.>

< (a) For use where impairment losses are recognised (or reversed) in the Operating Statement. Agency asset impairment losses relating to revalued assets are recorded as revaluation decrements to the extent that a balance exists in the Asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset.>

11. Payables

Accounts payable
Accrued expenses
Payroll tax
FBT

2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
1 570	748
689	1 212
	170
70	63
2 329	2 193

12. Provisions

Current

Employee benefits

Recreation leave
Leave loading
On costs

3 044	3 063
440	489
331	225
3 815	3 777

Non-current

Employee benefits

Recreation leave
On costs

1 900	1 968
163	124
2 063	2 092

Total provisions	5 878	5 869
-------------------------	--------------	--------------

The agency employed 449 full time equivalent employees as at 30 June 2008 (472 FTE employees as at 30 June 2007).

13. Other liabilities

Current

Unearned revenue

2 737	2 152
--------------	--------------

14. Equity

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines. The Government's ownership interest in Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines is held in the Central Holding Authority as described in note 2(b).

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Capital		
Balance as at 1 July	74 107	72 827
<i>Equity injections</i>		
Capital appropriation	463	482
Equity transfers in	6 744	887
<i>Equity withdrawals</i>		
Capital withdrawal	(4 812)	0
Equity transfers out	212	(89)
Balance as at 30 June	76 714	74 107
Reserves		
Asset revaluation reserve		
(i) <i>Nature and purpose of the asset revaluation reserve</i>		
The asset revaluation reserve 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 Reserve.		
(ii) <i>Movements in the asset revaluation reserve</i>		
Land	15	15
Buildings	2 259	2 259
Balance as at 1 July	2 274	2 274
Land	15	15
Buildings	2 259	2 259
Balance as at 30 June	2 274	2 274
Accumulated funds		
Balance as at 1 July	(15 159)	(11 764)
Surplus /(deficit) for the period	14 181	(3 395)
Balance as at 30 June	(978)	(15 159)

The large surplus is attributed to one-off dealing fees relating to the agency's administration of offshore petroleum titles.

15. Notes to the cash flow statement

Reconciliation of cash

The total of agency cash and deposits of \$19.743 million recorded in the balance sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'cash' in the cash flow statement.

Reconciliation of net surplus/(deficit) to net cash from operating activities

Net surplus/(deficit)	14 181	(3 395)
<i>Non-cash items:</i>		
Depreciation	3 620	3 388
Amortisation	4	0
Asset written down	0	4
Assets written down		49
(Gain)/loss on disposal of assets	(64)	(250)
Repairs and maintenance and minor new works	122	23
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities:</i>		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(4 428)	(725)
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	136	(93)
(Decrease)/increase in payables	282	(338)
(Decrease)/increase in provision for employee benefits	(136)	(51)
(Decrease)/increase in other provisions	(1)	(1)
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities	585	817
Net cash from operating activities	14 301	(572)

16. 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 of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines include cash and deposits, receivables and payables. The Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

(a) Credit risk

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

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

(b) Liquidity risk

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

(c) 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. The Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines is not exposed to interest rate risk as agency financial assets and financial liabilities are non-interest bearing.

(d) Net fair value

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

2008	2007
\$'000	\$'000

17. Commitments

(i) Capital Expenditure Commitments

Capital expenditure commitments relate primarily to plant and equipment. Capital expenditure commitments contracted for at balance date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

Within one year

Later than one year and not later than five years

Later than five years

125	30
125	30

(ii) Other Expenditure Commitments

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

Within one year

Later than one year and not later than five years

Later than five years

2 359	3 762
2 359	3 762

(iii) Operating Lease Commitments

The agency leases property under non-cancellable operating leases expiring from 1 to 9 years. Leases generally provide the agency with a right of renewal at which time all lease terms are renegotiated. The agency also leases items of plant and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases. Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

Within one year

Later than one year and not later than five years

Later than five years

1 334	1 447
1 078	1 365
24	31
2 436	2 842

18. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

No contingent liabilities or contingent assets existed at balance date.

19. 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

20. 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 1 July 2007	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance 30 June 2008
Aboriginal land rents	620	1 476	1 551	545
Compensation liabilities	711	108	1	818
Cash securities	2 687	845	504	3 028
Employee award scheme	25	15	9	31
Remote workforce development	17		5	12
Unclaimed money	33			33
BTEC	180			180
NT seafood council levy	129	194	196	127
	4 402	2 638	2 266	4 774

21. Write-offs, postponements and waivers

	Agency		Agency		Territory Items		Territory Items	
	2008 \$'000	No. of Trans.	2007 \$'000	No. of Trans.	2008 \$'000	No. of Trans.	2007 \$'000	No. of Trans.
Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers Under the <i>Financial Management Act</i>								
Represented by:								
<i>Amounts written off, waived and postponed by delegates</i>								
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an agency written off	5	16	1	1				
Losses or deficiencies of money written off								
Public property written off			53	4				
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property								
Impairment losses								
Total written off, waived and postponed by Delegates	5	16	54	5				
<i>Amounts written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer</i>								
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an agency written off	9	1						
Losses or deficiencies of money written off								
Public property written off								
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property								
Impairment losses								
Total written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer	9	1						
Write-offs, postponements and waivers authorised under other legislation								

22. Shedule of Territory items

The following Territory items are managed by the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines on behalf of the Government and are recorded in the Central Holding Authority (refer note 2(b)).

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Territory income and expenses		
Income		
Fees from regulatory services	1 893	1 629
Royalties and rents	839	1 123
Other income	134	11
Total income	2 866	2 763
Expenses		
Central holding authority income transferred	2 866	2 763
Total expenses	2 866	2 763
Territory income less expenses	0	0
Territory assets and liabilities		
Assets		
Other receivables	7 557	4 557
Total assets	7 557	4 557
Liabilities		
Unearned CHA income	7 557	4 557
Total liabilities	7 557	4 557
Net assets	0	0

23. Grants and subsidies

Current Grants		
Grants	3 698	3 080
Total Current Grants	3 698	3 080
Capital Grants		
Capital	1 159	162
Rebates	5 606	4 099
Total Capital Grants	6 765	4 262
Total Grants	10 463	7 342

Appendices



Appendix 1

Contact details

General inquiries

Tel: (08) 8999 5511
Fax: (08) 8982 1725
Email: info.DPIFM@nt.gov.au
Post: GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801
Office Hours: 8:00am to 4:21pm,
Monday to Friday (CST)

Minerals and Energy

Darwin

Tel: (08) 8999 6443
Fax: (08) 8999 5221
Post: GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801
Location: Centrepont Building,
Smith Street Mall, Darwin NT

Alice Springs

Tel: (08) 8951 8177
Fax: (08) 8951 8193
Post: GPO Box 8760, Alice Springs NT 0871
Location: Arid Zone Research Institute,
Stuart Highway South, Alice Springs NT

Fisheries

Tel: (08) 8999 2144
Fax: (08) 8999 2065
Post: GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801
Location: Berrimah Research Farm,
29 Makagon Road, Berrimah NT

Primary Industries

Tel: (08) 8999 2007
Fax: (08) 8999 2010
Post: GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801
Location: Berrimah Research Farm,
29 Makagon Road, Berrimah NT

Regional Offices

Alice Springs

Tel: (08) 8951 8111
Fax: (08) 8951 8112
Post: GPO Box 8760, Alice Springs NT 0871
Location: Arid Zone Research Institute,
Stuart Highway South, Alice Springs NT

Katherine

Tel: (08) 8973 9739
Fax: (08) 8973 9777
Post: GPO Box 1346, Katherine NT 0851
Location: Katherine Research Station,
4km east of Katherine, Stuart Highway,
Katherine NT

Tennant Creek

Tel: (08) 8962 4488
Fax: (08) 8962 4480
Post: GPO Box 159, Tennant Creek NT 0861
Location: Barkly House, 99 Paterson Street,
Tennant Creek

Research and Demonstration Farms

Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI)

Tel: (08) 8951 8111
Fax: (08) 8951 8112
Post: GPO Box 8760, Alice Springs NT 0871
Location: Stuart Highway South,
Alice Springs NT

Beatrice Hill Farm

Tel: (08) 8988 1612
Fax: (08) 8988 8008
Location: 110 Middle Point Road,
Middle Point NT

Berrimah Research Farm

Tel: (08) 8999 2011
Fax: (08) 8999 2043
Post: GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801
Location: 29 Makagon Road, Berrimah NT

Coastal Plains Horticulture Research Farm

Tel: (08) 8988 8085
Fax: (08) 8988 8014
Location: Near Adelaide River and
Fogg Dam Conservation Area,
Middle Point NT

Douglas Daly Research Farm

Tel: (08) 8978 2442
Fax: (08) 8978 2473
Post: PMB 105, Winnellie NT 0821
Location: Jungwa Road, Douglas Daly NT

Katherine Research Station (KRS)

Tel: (08) 8973 9739
Fax: (08) 8973 9777
Post: GPO Box 1346, Katherine NT 0851
Location: Katherine Research Station,
4km east of Katherine, Stuart Highway,
Katherine NT

Old Man Plains Research Station

Location: Owen Springs, via Alice Springs NT

Ti Tree Research Farm

Tel: (08) 8956 9739
Fax: (08) 8956 9825
Post: PMB 106, via Alice Springs NT 0871
Location: Woodforde Road, Ti Tree Farm NT

Victoria River Research Station

Tel: (08) 8975 0762
Fax: (08) 8975 0875
Post: PMB 48, Katherine NT 0852
Location: 3847 Buchanan Highway,
via Katherine NT

Emergency contacts**Minerals and Energy****Mining Incidents**

0401 119 450 (a/h)

Petroleum Incidents

0401 119 456 (a/h)

Fisheries**Aquatic Pest Management**

0413 381 094 (a/h)

Pollution Hotline

(Berrimah Police Station)
1800 064 567 (24hrs)

Fishwatch

(Reporting Fisheries Offences)
1800 891 136 (24hrs)

Primary Industries**Exotic Animal Disease**

1800 675 888 (free call)

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

1800 084 881 (free call)

Chemical Services

(emergency spray drift notification)
0427 700 956

Chief Veterinary Officer

0401 115 836

Stock Inspection, Vet Services and Brands

Darwin: 0427 003 600 (a/h)
Alice Springs: 0401 118 181 (a/h)
Katherine: 0418 985 084 (a/h) or
0407 498 003 (a/h)

Appendix 2

Glossary

A	AAPEA	Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association
	ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
	AFANT	Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory
	AGES	Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar
	AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
	ALRA	Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act
	AMEC	Association of Mining and Exploration Companies
	ANDI	Animal disease information (internal)
	AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
	ARP	Achievement Review Process (internal)
	ATSI	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
	AZRI	Arid Zone Research Institute, Alice Springs
B	BTEC	Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign
	BTRB	Building the Territory's Resource Base
	BRF	Berrimah Research Farm
C	CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
	CDU	Charles Darwin University
	CLC	Central Land Council
	CRC	Cooperative Research Centre
D	DAC	Darwin Aquaculture Centre
	DBERD	(former) Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development (NT)
	DCIS	(former) Department of Corporate and Information Services (NT)
	DEET	(former) Department of Employment, Education and Training (NT)
	DPI	Department of Planning and Infrastructure (NT)
	DPIFM	(former) Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines (NT)
E	EC	Exceptional Circumstances, relating to drought assistance
	EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
	EAP	Employee Assistance Program (internal)
	EDRM	Electronic document and records management (internal).
F	FoI	Freedom of Information
	FRDC	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (Commonwealth)
	FTE	Fulltime equivalent
G	GEMCO	Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd, one of the world's leading suppliers of manganese ore.
	GIS	Geographic Information System, a computer application used to store, view, and analyse geographical information, especially maps.
H	HECS	Higher Education Contribution Scheme
	HR	Human Resources (internal)
I	ILC	Indigenous Land Corporation
	IMC	Information Management Committee (internal)
	IPP	Indigenous Pastoral Program

J	<i>JDPA</i>	Joint Development Petroleum Area
K	<i>KRS</i>	Katherine Research Station
L	<i>LNG</i>	Liquid Natural Gas
M	<i>Minerals and Energy</i>	One of the three main DPIFM business groups
	<i>Mines and Energy</i>	A portfolio held by the NT Minister
	<i>MLA</i>	Member of the Legislative Assembly (NT)
	<i>MMP</i>	Mining Management Plan
	<i>MoU</i>	Memorandum of Understanding
	<i>MyHR</i>	Intranet human resource link
N	<i>NAIDOC Week</i>	A week-long celebration by the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee
	<i>NESB</i>	Non English Speaking Background
	<i>NHT</i>	Natural Heritage Trust
	<i>NICP</i>	National Indigenous Cadetship Program
	<i>NLC</i>	Northern Land Council
	<i>NLIS</i>	National Livestock Identification Scheme
	<i>NRETA</i>	(former) Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts, Department of (NT)
	<i>NTAgA</i>	Northern Territory Agricultural Association
	<i>NTCA</i>	Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
	<i>NTDAA</i>	Northern Territory Drought Assistance Arrangements
	<i>NTGS</i>	Northern Territory Geological Survey, a division within the Minerals and Energy group
	<i>NTHA</i>	Northern Territory Horticultural Association
O	<i>OCPE</i>	Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (NT)
P	<i>PDAC</i>	Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada
	<i>PER</i>	Public Environmental Report
	<i>PIMI</i>	Primary Industry Market Indicator
	<i>PP&R</i>	Policy, Planning and Review (internal)
	<i>Primary Industries</i>	One of the three main business groups in DPIFM
	<i>Primary Industry and Fisheries</i>	A portfolio held by the NT Minister
	<i>PWD</i>	Person With a Disability
	<i>PWES</i>	Pastoral Water Enhancement Scheme
R	<i>RePS</i>	Receipts electronic Processing System (internal)
	<i>RIRDC</i>	Rural Industries and Research Development Corporation
	<i>RRPGP</i>	Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (Commonwealth)
S	<i>STAR</i>	Service, Teamwork, Achievement and Results. DPIFM staff awards
	<i>SLT</i>	Strategic Leadership Team, within DPIFM. Formerly the Board of Management
T	<i>TRIM</i>	Tower Records Management System (internal record-keeping system)
	<i>TFAP</i>	Tuberculosis Freedom Assurance Program
W	<i>Working For Outcomes</i>	The NT Public Service financial and performance management framework

Appendix 3

Performance, efficiency and compliance reviews

Review of Primary Industries Group

Objective: To review and evaluate Primary Industries with respect to its role, objectives, strategies, services, supporting functional/organisational arrangements and systems, and resources.

Status: Consultants have finalised extensive consultations with key stakeholders including industry representatives, other government departments, and DPIFM staff. An Issues Paper to be released early in 2008/09 for consultation purposes, prior to the review being finalised.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

Objective: To independently measure and evaluate DPIFM's client satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of the department's services. The results of the survey are intended to form part of the measurement of the department's performance as required under the Working for Outcomes framework.

Status: Review completed and implementation of recommendations underway.

Review of Industry Associations

- NT Livestock Exporters Association (NTLEA)
- Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory (AFANT)

Objective: To review and evaluate the progress of Associations that receive grants from DPIFM against their stated core business activities, objectives, key performance indicators, goals and plans to determine if they are operating efficiently and effectively, and the current level of Government funding is appropriate.

Status: Review of NTLEA completed. The AFANT review report is still to be finalised.

Review of Library and Information Services at AZRI

Objective: To identify issues and provide options to assist in ensuring that the most effective and efficient services continue to be delivered.

Status: Review completed and implementation of recommendations is underway.

Facilities Review

- Kidman Springs and Douglas Daly Research Programs
- Beatrice Hill and Coastal Plains
- Water Analysis Function

Objective: The purpose of the program is to determine the alignment of facilities and resources with DPIFM's strategic direction.

Status: Water Analysis Function Review complete and implementation of recommendations underway. Reviews of remaining facilities are progressing with reports due for completion in late 2008.

Review of Mines and Energy Earth Sciences Scholarship

Objective: To review the current format of the Minister for Mines and Energy Earth Sciences/Geology Scholarship funded by the Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) and determine if a new round of scholarships should be awarded for a further three years.

Status: Review completed.

Minerals and Energy Review of Administration Systems

Objective: To review and evaluate the adequacy and appropriateness of current administration systems and practices within the Minerals and Energy business group to determine if they align with internal and external reporting requirements and provide efficient and effective support services to the program areas.

Status: Review completed and recommendations implemented.

Review of Implementation of Business Process Improvements in Minerals and Energy Titles Division

Objective: To review the implementation of changes to the business operations of the Minerals and Energy Group Titles Division and the level of resources to evaluate their efficiency and effectiveness in delivering improved titles services.

Status: Review completed.

Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory Review

Objective: To review the overall appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of services provided, and functions undertaken, by the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory within DPIFM, to ensure alignment with existing obligations and needs, and to meet emerging issues and trends.

Status: Ongoing. Preliminary report received and the final report is expected in late August 2008.

Review of Information Technology and Web Content Resources

Objective: To review the structure and management of Information Technology and Web content resources and make recommendations on the most appropriate structural and management arrangements to meet current and emerging business needs.

Status: Review underway.

Legislative Reviews

Veterinarians Act Review

Objective: To assess the suitability of the Veterinarians Act 1984, against the regulatory needs of current veterinary practice in the Territory. This assessment will form a recommendation to the Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries regarding the ongoing regulatory needs for veterinary practice for the Territory.

Status: The preliminary planning work is well advanced. Formal consultation is scheduled to start in September 2008.

Mining Act Review

Objective: Conduct a thorough review into all aspects of the current NT Mining Legislation (Act, Regulations and other subordinate legislation).

Status: Review completed with Bill being drafted.

Fisheries Act Review

Objective: To review current *Fisheries Act* to:

- develop a holistic framework for the management of aquatic resources in the NT;
- enshrine the principles of ecologically sustainable development with respect to fisheries resources; and
- promote areas of Indigenous development.

Status: On hold pending the High Court decision on Blue Mud Bay due in August 2008.

Appendix 4

Statement of information held by the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, July 2008

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) may be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1)(b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b)(iii) Distributed free of charge?
Agribusiness development	Records relating to advancing major agribusiness development projects and identifying new agribusiness opportunities in the Northern Territory. Includes new strategic directions in agribusiness development projects, investments, trading infrastructure, water storage, animal feeds and fertiliser resources.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.
Agri-food safety	Records relating to working with peak food industry at the national level and Northern Territory level to ensure the safety of the food chain.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No.	No.	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.
Animal biosecurity	Records relating to protecting animals against disease and other biological threats in the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Information may be provided under Commonwealth and NT legislation dealing with biosecurity issues	No	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.
Chemical services regulation	Records relating to providing legislative control over agricultural and veterinary chemical products, fertilisers and stock feeds by administering the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) may be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b) (iii) Distributed free of charge?
Community relations	Records relating to establishing rapport with the community and raising and maintaining the organisation's broad public profile.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.
Compensation	Records relating to providing compensation to personnel and visitors injured while proceeding to or from work, during working hours or on the organisation's premises.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Diagnostic services	Records relating to providing a range of diagnostic services through laboratory facilities to clients relating to animal and plant health, seed and water testing for quality assurance and biosecurity purposes.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	Some tests are undertaken on a fee-paying basis.	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms. Some tests conducted free of charge (for Plant Pathology and Entomology)
Energy management	Records relating to managing renewable energy programs and energy policy. Includes developing, coordinating and implementing Northern Territory Energy Policy; administering the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (RRPGP) and the Photovoltaic Program (PVRP); promoting wider use of renewable energy.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No. (Access to records is however provided for an independent audit of the rrpgp each year)	No	Yes – Information and advice is made available in various forms.
Equipment & stores	Acquiring, supplying, maintaining, repairing and disposing of equipment and stores stocked and used by the organisation.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Establishment	Establishing and changing the organisational structure through establishing and reviewing jobs.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – organisation charts may be available through the internet
Exploration operations	Records relating to searching or evaluating deposits of minerals or extractive minerals within the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) may be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b) (iii) Distributed free of charge?
Extractive operations	The activities associated with monitoring individual extractive operators for compliance under the NT Mining Management Act within the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Financial management	Managing the organisation's financial resources.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – Annual accounts published in accordance with Public Sector Employment and Management Act and Financial Management Act	No	Yes – Annual accounts available in annual report and Budget papers
Fisheries management and development	Records relating to providing regulation, conservation and management of fisheries and fishery resources so as to maintain their sustainable utilisation. Includes development of commercial, recreational, indigenous fishing and aquaculture industries; provision of research; information and advice to business, industry and the community; granting and maintenance of licences; development and implementation of management plans; monitoring and control of aquatic pests.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No.	Yes – Some (Maps & Posters)	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Fleet management	Records relating to acquiring, managing, maintaining, repairing and disposing of vehicles.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Gene technology	Records relating to developing and maintaining systems, policies and legislation in the Northern Territory, and at the national level, in regard to technology to alter the genetic material of living cells or organisms.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) may be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b) (iii) Distributed free of charge?
Geology	The function to identify, collect, interpret, synthesise and disseminate geoscientific data to attract and render more effective mineral and onshore petroleum exploration, and also to provide geoscientific advice on resource policy formulation.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Some information, including statutory reports and data submitted by companies, can be inspected or distributed under the Mining Act, the Petroleum Act, the NT Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act or the Commonwealth Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms. At present all reports, maps and data produced by NTGS, and the statutory reports and data submitted by companies are available free of charge
Government relations	Records relating to administering the formal relationship between the organisation and other areas of government.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Plant industries	Records relating to the development and promotion of sustainable plant industries such as crops, forestry and horticulture in the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	Yes – Some (Posters)	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Industrial relations	Records relating to establishing formal relations with the organisation's employees and their representatives to achieve a harmonious workplace.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Information management	Managing the organisation's information resources.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Legal services	Provision of legal services to the organisation.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) may be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1)(b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b)(iii) Distributed free of charge?
Livestock exports development	Records relating to enhancing offshore trade and development opportunities for the Northern Territory livestock sector.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information is published in various forms.
Meat industries regulations	Records relating to providing a regulatory role to control the slaughter of animals and processing of meat for human consumption in order to ensure the wholesomeness of meat and meat products and to foster export and domestic markets for all sectors of the Northern Territory meat industry. Also includes records relating to licensing of abattoirs and processing premises, provision of training and approval of quality control systems.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – Some information may be available under the Meat Industries Act	No.	Yes – Some information is published in various forms.
Mineral titles	The function is to manage exploration and minerals tenure applications, and granted tenure, with minimal delay such that the maximum amount of land and sea possible is being actively explored or mined, as governed under the NT Mining Act.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – Mineral titles are available for inspection under the Mining Act	Yes – Searches of titles are available for inspection under Mining Act Regulations	Yes – Mineral titles are available for inspection under the Mining Act
Mines operations	The activities associated with monitoring individual mine operators for compliance under the NT Mining Management Act within the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Mining management	The functions and activities associated with managing mining in a broader, industry focused sense, within the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information is published in various forms.
Occupational health & safety	Implementing and co-ordinating occupational health and safety and associated legislation throughout the organisation.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) may be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b) (iii) Distributed free of charge?
Personnel	Records relating to managing all employees in the organisation. Employees include Ministerial, permanent, temporary and part-time employees, people working under scholarships, traineeships, apprenticeships and similar relationships.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – access to personal records may be provided in accordance with the Public Sector Employment and Management Act	No	No
Petroleum and minerals development	The function is to identify, evaluate, promote and facilitate opportunities to develop the Northern Territory's petroleum and mineral resource.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Petroleum operations	The activities associated with monitoring individual petroleum related operations for compliance under the NT Petroleum Act, NT Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act, Commonwealth Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act and Energy Pipelines Act within Northern Territory administered areas.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Petroleum operations	The function is to facilitate increased and sustainable economic growth for the Territory through exploration and production of petroleum resources.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Petroleum titles	The function is to manage petroleum exploration and production applications, and granted licences and permits, with minimal delay such that the maximum amount of land and sea possible, is being actively explored or producing.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – Petroleum titles are available for inspection	Yes – Searches of Petroleum titles are available and copies available at a fee set by legislation	Yes – Petroleum titles are available for inspection only

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) may be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1)(b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b)(iii) Distributed free of charge?
Plant biosecurity	Records relating to protecting plants against disease and other biological threats through strong interstate and post barrier regulatory actions in the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No – In the process of writing Plant Health Bill superseding (Disease Control Act)	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Plant industries	Records relating to facilitating plant based industry development in the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Property management	Records relating to managing land and working, storage or living space within premises, and of acquiring, constructing, fitting-out, managing, maintaining, protecting and disposing of property.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Publishing	Documents of various formats issued for sale or for general distribution internally or to the public.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	Yes – Some	Yes – Some
Research farm management	Records relating to providing Research and Demonstration farm facilities for Government, industry and the community for the implementation of best farming production systems and best management practices that underpin successful profitable and sustainable primary industry.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	Yes – Some (Technical Information)	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Staff development	Records about encouraging staff to develop their skills and abilities (through activities, programs and events) to maximise their potential and increase their productivity.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Strategic management	Records relating to applying broad systematic management planning for the organisation.	No	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Sustainable business development	Records relating to delivering and managing the development of a prosperous primary industry business group through the sustainable management of natural resources and land.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) may be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b) (iii) Distributed free of charge?
Sustainable land management	Records relating to promoting opportunities to diversify and develop primary industry within a framework of integrated programs for sustainable land management.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Sustainable pastoral development	Records relating to increasing the long term productivity of the pastoral industry in a sustainable manner by providing relevant information to producers and conducting research into improving rangeland management and animal production; husbandry techniques; pastures; nutrition; animal welfare; animal behaviour and genetic improvement of cattle in the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	Yes – Some (Technical Bulletins)	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Technology & telecommunications	Developing or acquiring, testing and implementing applications and databases to support the business needs of an organisation to capture, store, retrieve, transfer, communicate and disseminate information through automated systems.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Uranium mining	The functions associated with the regulation and monitoring of uranium mining and processing operations within the Northern Territory, under both the NT Mining Management Act (NT) and Commonwealth Legislation.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – some information is published under Commonwealth and NT legislation.	No	Yes – Some information is published in various forms.
Veterinary regulation	The functions of registering veterinarians and veterinary specialists and regulating the provision of veterinary services in the Northern Territory. Includes determining applications for registration, promoting high standards of professional conduct, providing advice, issuing guidelines, exercising disciplinary powers, investigating complaints and prosecuting offences.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information is published in various forms.

Appendix 5

Grants and sponsorships 2007–08

Industry development grants

	\$ Expenditure
Amateur Fishing Association of the NT	170 000.00
NT Agriculture Association	100 000.00
NT Buffalo Industry Council	54 500.00
NT Horticulture Association	179 000.00
NT Livestock Exporters Association	53 000.00
Welding Technology Institute of Australia	35 000.00
NT Seafood Council	295 000.00
NT Guided Fishing Industry Association Inc	40 000.00
Extractive Industry Association	3 500.00
CRC Tropical Savannas	17 000.00
TOTAL	947 000.00

Indigenous marine ranger grants

	\$ Expenditure
Anindilyakwa Sea Rangers Program	60 000.00
Djelk Ranger Program	60 000.00
Lithanwirriyarr Sea Ranger Program	60 000.00
Mardbalk Marine Ranger Program	60 000.00
Numbulwar Numburindi Ama-Lhagaya-Yinyung Ranger Program	60 000.00
Thamarrurr Sea Ranger Program	60 000.00
Tiwi Sea Ranger Program	60 000.00
TOTAL	420 000.00

Drought grants

	\$ Expenditure
Ailbern Pty Ltd and J&P Kilgariff	20 000.00
Deep Well Investments	14 495.00
Neutral Junction Properties	20 000.00
Undoolya Holdings Pty Ltd	10 000.22
TOTAL	64 495.22

Miscellaneous grants

	\$ Expenditure
National Livestock Identification Scheme	320 000.00
A total of \$320 000.00 was paid to NT Cattlemen's Association Inc as the Territory's contribution to the National Livestock Identification Scheme.	
NT Fishing Industry Research and Development Fund	130 000.00
A total of \$130 000 was paid to the Commonwealth Fishing Research and Development Corporation, as the Territory's contribution to investment in research and development activities in the commercial, recreational and indigenous sectors of the fishing industry.	
Exceptional Circumstances Drought NT	540 604.00
\$540 604.00 was paid to six pastoral producers by the Territory as its contribution towards the Exceptional Circumstances Interest Rate Subsidy Scheme. An additional \$486 543.60 was also paid to the same six properties that were funded by the Commonwealth Government, as its contribution towards the scheme.	
NTG Solar Cities Contribution	395 000.00
\$395 000.00 was paid as the Territory's contribution to the Alice Springs Solar City project. Alice Solar City, part of the Australian Government's Solar Cities program, is a \$37 million project designed to explore how solar power, energy efficient technologies and new approaches to electricity supply and pricing can encourage the residents of Alice Springs to become energy champions and develop a sustainable energy future.	
Charles Darwin University – ARC Linkage Project	10 000.00
\$10 000.00 was paid to Charles Darwin University as the Territory's contribution into research on managing acid mine drainage in northern Australia.	
TOTAL	1 395 604.00

Sponsorship

	\$ Expenditure
NT Horticultural Association	8 297.36
Royal Agricultural Society of the Northern Territory	8 750.00
Nuffield Australia	5 000.00
Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association	1 500.00
Australian Culinary Federation NT Chapter	1 000.00
Freds Pass Show	1 400.00
Science Schools Foundation	863.64
Institute of Public Administration Australia	1 000.00
Agentur Marketing and Event Management – 3rd Indigenous Economic Development Forum, "Partnerships & Pathways"	1 818.18
Pine Creek Community Government	1 000.00
NT Minerals Council Inc	21 181.82
Charles Darwin University	477.27
Casuarina Senior College	250.00
Australia & New Zealand Solar Energy Society – Solar 07 Conference	5 000.00
TOTAL	57 538.27

Scholarships

	\$ Expenditure
J Nowland – Earth Science/Geology	12 000.00
S Farquhar – Earth Science/Geology	6 000.00
J Abbott-Wightman – Earth Science/Geology	12 000.00
TOTAL	30 000.00

Capital grants

	\$ Expenditure
Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (RRPGP)	6 256 950.45
A total of \$6.257 million in rebates and industry support for renewable energy projects was paid during 2007/08.	
RRPGP Contribution for Solar Cities	500 000.00
Photovoltaic Rebate Program	8 000.00
TOTAL	6 764 950.45

Appendix 6

Pastoral Water Enhancement Scheme

	\$ Expenditure
Andado Station	10 000
Anningie Station	10 000
Banibi Pty Ltd	10 000
Bullo River Pty Ltd	10 000
Deep Well Investment Pty Ltd	10 000
DK Grazing Company	10 000
Elkedra Station	10 000
Erlunda Station	10 000
Gowest Cattle Company Pty Ltd	10 000
Hamilton Downs Station	10 000
Hughenden Station Pty Ltd	10 000
Kalala Station	10 000
Katherine Downs Station	10 000
Kilgour Cattle Partners	10 000
Kostowski, Nicholas	10 000
L W Miller	10 000
Middle Creek Station	10 000
Mt Doreen Station	10 000
Mt Ebenezer Station	10 000
Mt Ringwood Station	10 000
Murray Downs Station	10 000
Neutral Junction Station	10 000
New Crown Station	10 000
Orange Creek Station	10 000
PR & JR Morphett	10 000
Palmer Valley Station	10 000
Phillip Creek Station	10 000
Riveren Nominees Pty Ltd	10 000
Tarlee Station	10 000
Whites Pastoral Co Pty Ltd	10 000
Total Expenditure	300 000