



Department of **Planning,
Lands and Heritage**



Annual Report 2022-23

Acknowledgment of Country

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of land and waterways across Western Australia. The Department is committed to reconciliation to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to work together to provide a culturally-safe and inclusive environment.

About this report

This report covers the operations of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and presents the Department's audited financial statements and performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Pursuant to *Treasurer's Instruction 104C – Annual Reporting 2022-23 Exemption*, the Department has opted to submit a reduced annual report for the 2022-23 financial year.

Statement of compliance

Hon John Carey MLA BA (Hons) Minister for Planning; Lands

In accordance with section 63 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, I hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the annual report of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.



Anthony Kannis PSM
Director General
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
15 September 2023



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Message from the Director General



Kaya

I am pleased to present the 2022-23 Annual Report for the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. This report reflects a recent change we have made to provide individual reports for the Department, the Western Australian Planning Commission, the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority.

Together, the four reports capture the breadth and diversity of work in the planning, lands, built heritage and Aboriginal cultural heritage portfolios.

With broad responsibilities that cross numerous policy and portfolio settings, the Department supports the State Government and private sector to deliver outcomes that directly benefit the people of Western Australia. We also continue to support the activities of each of our boards and committees.

This past year has seen many highlights for the Department. We have finalised more than \$44 million in Crown land sales to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits for the State. The Australian Red Cross Lifeblood program received approval through the Market-led Proposal policy to expand its life-saving microbiota for transplant program to help hundreds of people suffering from the *Clostridioides difficile* condition each year.

We worked closely with native title parties on Indigenous Land Use Agreement negotiations including one which will see around 165,000 hectares of land at El Questro Station in the Pilbara region returned to the Ngarinyin people. We helped manage the assessment and entry of eight new places into the State Register of Heritage Places and oversaw the final stages of a 20-month conservation program at Fremantle Prison.

Most importantly we maintained our commitment to consulting with the Western Australian community to help progress key initiatives and State Government priorities.

In the first half of 2023, staff from our Land Use Planning team hit the road to undertake consultation that will feed into the development of eight new regional planning strategies. More than 380 people attended workshops throughout the State to share ideas and identify opportunities aimed at developing a future direction for each region.

Between September 2022 and February 2023, we held community and stakeholder meetings and workshops in Perth and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands towards development of a Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan.

We also consulted widely on lands reforms and amendments to the *Land Administration Act 1997* that will deliver a range of benefits, including increased opportunities and greater security for the pastoral industry and a new form of non-exclusive tenure, the diversification lease.

Likewise, we consulted extensively on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage framework, with thousands of people attending education workshops held across the State from Esperance to Kununurra and further afield.

I would like to acknowledge our staff who worked tirelessly on these regulations and guidelines. It was apparent that there was a lot of interest in the laws and demonstrated just how important this discussion is for our State.

This year we also supported the State Government's cyclone recovery efforts following flooding and extensive damage from ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie in the Kimberley and Severe Tropical Cyclone Ilsa in the Pilbara region. We assisted the delivery of services and infrastructure by granting access rights and tenure and worked closely with the Department of Communities and other agencies on the deployment of emergency housing. Our Land Use Management division also worked hard to progress rent relief applications for pastoralists affected by cyclones.

In March we launched our new *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)* which outlines our commitment to reconciliation and effective service provision between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Western Australian communities, our staff and stakeholders.

Our RAP also shares our commitment to increasing employment of Aboriginal people and supporting the training of Aboriginal youth and emerging leaders. Shannon Lockyer, who we welcomed to the Department in May 2023, joined the Broome team under our First Nations Australians Planning Program. He is a proud Kija and Bardi man with connections throughout the Kimberley, where he has spent most of his life growing up in the remote Aboriginal community of Wuggubun in the East Kimberley.

This year the Department was one of six agencies chosen to participate in the Public Sector Commission's Agency Capability Review trial program. The review was an opportunity to identify what we are doing well as an agency and where we can improve. The report acknowledged that we are operating under considerable pressure and found that we can build capacity in several areas including our workforce strategy. Importantly it also found we have a strong and supportive workplace culture and a track record of successful change management which can be built on to engage staff in future change. We will work across the Department to implement a number of projects to address the findings.

Our new Planning Minister, the Hon John Carey MLA, was sworn in during June 2023 and we look forward to working with him closely to deliver the State Government's extensive planning reform agenda. We thank the Hon Rita Saffioti MLA for her stewardship over the past six and a half years.

The Department has taken several steps to remediate the issues that resulted in the late tabling of our 2021-22 annual report and qualified financial statements. We have implemented new procedures and controls, undertaken recruitment to increase the capacity of our finance division and brought a tier 1 accounting firm on board to help with the preparation of this year's financial statements and audit process. We will continue to review our finance function, undertake targeted upskilling in our finance team, invest in our financial system to improve processes and review our asset accounting processes.

As we head into a new financial year, we are looking forward to progressing the State Government's planning and lands reform agendas and working with the Government on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage framework.

I'd like to thank the Department's Corporate Executive team for supporting me in my first full year as Director General. Thank you also to staff across the State for continuing to drive positive change, deliver better outcomes and provide exceptional services to the Western Australian community.

Anthony Kannis PSM

Director General
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

Year at a glance



FREMANTLE PRISON
The Convict Establishment

199,039
visitors through
Fremantle Prison
gates.

521
historical objects
and artefacts added
into the Fremantle
Prison Collection.



\$350,000
in funding to help preserve,
promote and protect our
Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.



\$44.05 million
in Crown land sales to help
deliver economic, environmental
and social values for Western
Australia.



382 people
took part in eight
regional planning
strategy workshops.



\$6.48 million
in contracts awarded
to registered
Aboriginal businesses.




17 workshops
were held to progress
Aboriginal Lands Trust estate
divestment.




WHITEMAN PARK
CONSERVATION • RECREATION • EDUCATION

23%
increase in visitor
numbers to
Whiteman Park since
2021-22.




13,563 m²
in underutilised Crown land
transferred to the City of
Karratha for development
of service worker
accommodation.



Hundreds of Western Australians
to benefit from Australian Red
Cross Lifeblood's microbiota for
transplant program with
\$2.5 million
allocated through the
Market-led Proposals process.



**165,000
hectares**
to be converted from
pastoral lease to freehold
tenure and Crown
reserve under a historic
El Questro Indigenous
Land Use Agreement.



**42
applications**
received in the first
three months of
the Infrastructure
Development Fund.



8 places
added to the State
Register of Heritage
Places.

About the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

Formed in 2017, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (Department) brings all land use and heritage responsibilities under the one umbrella to shape the future of Western Australia's cities, regions and towns.

Responsible for State level land use planning and management and oversight of Aboriginal cultural heritage and built heritage matters, the Department administers a wide range of legislation and supports Ministers across the portfolios of Planning, Lands, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs.

We plan how to make best use of the State's natural and built assets for the sustainable and responsible development of all Western Australian communities, through evidence-based research, integrated policy development and stakeholder engagement.

Our key focus areas are:

- Aboriginal heritage and lands management.
- Crown land administration.
- Historic heritage conservation services.
- Integrated land and infrastructure policy development.
- Land use planning and policy development.

Our vision

- To respect our past.
- To create opportunities today.
- To plan our future.

Our purpose

Planning and managing land and heritage for all Western Australians.

Our values

- **Respect** — we respect that our work is personal to our stakeholders and that every piece of land and site has a story.
- **Collaboration** — we engage and collaborate to build prosperous places and connected communities.
- **Integrity** — our ethics and integrity guide our actions with every piece of land, site and opportunity to enable us to deliver great outcomes for Western Australia.
- **Innovation** — we enable innovation, implementing innovative approaches to the way we work to create value for our stakeholders.
- **Professionalism** — our professionalism empowers us to use our specialised knowledge and skills to deliver our work to the highest standards.

Ministers



Hon John Carey
BA MLA (Hons)
Minister for Planning (from 8 June 2023);
Lands

[Hon John Carey](#)



Hon David Templeman
Dip Tchg BEd MLA
Minister for Heritage

[Hon David Templeman](#)



Hon Dr Tony Buti
BPE, DipEd, MIR, LLB DPhil MLA
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

[Hon Dr Tony Buti](#)



Hon Rita Saffioti
BBus MLA
Minister for Planning (until 8 June 2023)

[Hon Rita Saffioti](#)



Statutory boards and committees

The Department provides support to the following boards and committees:

- Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
 - Statutory Planning Committee
 - Executive, Finance and Property Committee
 - Capital City Planning Committee
 - Future of Fremantle Planning Committee
 - Swan Valley Statutory Planning Committee
 - State Design Review Panel
- Heritage Council of Western Australia
- Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority
 - Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT)
- Pastoral Lands Board (PLB)
- Development Assessment Panels (DAPs)
- Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council.

Organisational structure



Anthony Kannis PSM
Director General

- Ministerial services.
- Government relations.
- Development Assessment Panels.
- Government Architect Western Australia.
- Internal audit.

[Anthony Kannis PSM](#)



Kathy Bonus
Chief Planning Advisor
Reform, Design and State Assessment

- Design and built environment.
- Reform delivery.
- State Development Assessment Unit.
- Planning appeals.

[Kathy Bonus](#)



Vaughan Davies
Assistant Director General
Heritage and Property Services

- Aboriginal heritage conservation.
- Historic heritage conservation.
- Review and reform.
- Stakeholder engagement.
- WA Recovery projects.
- WAPC property services.
- Fremantle Prison.
- Whiteman Park.

[Vaughan Davies](#)



Jaime Lundberg
Assistant Director General
Strategy and Engagement

- Policy and research.
- Infrastructure planning and policy.
- Legal Services.
- Major projects facilitation office.
- Precincts and projects.
- Cross-government strategic projects.
- Housing Diversity Pipeline.
- Data analytics.

[Jaime Lundberg](#)



Matt Darcey
Assistant Director General
Land Use Management

- Property and risk management.
- Crown land administration.
- Pastoral and Aboriginal lands.
- Agreement implementation and land services.
- Land management and land divestment.

[Matt Darcey](#)



Jennifer Marston
Assistant Director General
Business and Corporate Services

- Financial services.
- Business information services.
- Human resources services.
- Governance and performance.
- Communications and engagement.
- Corporate project management.
- Investigations of breaches of administered legislation.
- Market-led Proposals.

[Jennifer Marston](#)



David Saunders
Assistant Director General
Land Use Planning

- Strategic planning instrument preparations, proposal assessment, determination, and implementation (delegation from WAPC).
- Statutory planning proposal assessment and determination (delegation from WAPC).
- Planning advice, assistance and administration.
- Regional planning policy preparation and implementation.

[David Saunders](#)



Strategic Plan 2019-2024

Our Strategic Plan 2019-2024 outlines the Department's priorities and targets. The five strategies guiding us to 2024 are:

- **Places** — a quality environment with liveable and affordable communities and thriving regions.
- **Community** — improved customer outcomes and stakeholder relationships enabling a whole of sector approach.
- **People** — strengthened capability and organisational culture through leadership, workforce planning and development.
- **Services** — outstanding practices that deliver results and exceed expectations.
- **Frameworks/Reform** — institutional changes that enable a contemporary and effective system for planning communities, administering lands and conserving cultural heritage in Western Australia.

[Our Strategic Plan 2019-2024](#)



Legislation

Enabling legislation

The Department was established as an agency on 1 July 2017, under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

Administered legislation

The Department assists the Minister for Planning in administration of the following Acts:

- *Forrest Place and City Station Development Act 1985*
- *Hope Valley-Wattleup Redevelopment Act 2000*
- *Machinery of Government (Planning and Infrastructure) Amendment Act 2002*
- *Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax Act 1959*
- *Metropolitan Region Scheme (Beeliar Wetlands) Act 2021*
- *Metropolitan Region Scheme (Fremantle) Act 1994*
- *Perry Lakes Redevelopment Act 2005*
- *Planning and Development Act 2005*
- *Planning and Development (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2005*
- *Port Kennedy Development Act 2017*
- *Road closure acts (various)*
- *Swan Valley Planning Act 2020 (formerly the Swan Valley Planning Act 1995 repealed 1 August 2021)*

The Department assists the Minister for Lands in administration of the following Acts:

- *Anglican Church of Australia Diocesan Trustees and Lands Act 1918*
- *Anglican Church of Australia Lands Vesting Act 1892*
- *Anglican Church of Australia School Lands Act 1896*
- *Browse (Land) Agreement Act 2012*
- *Cambridge Endowment Lands Act 1920*
- *Canning Lands Revestment Act 1954*
- *Chevron-Hilton Hotel Agreement Act 1960*
- *City of Perth (Lathlain Park Reserves) Act 1950*
- *City of Perth (Leederville Park Lands) Act 1950*

- *Dampier to Bunbury Pipeline Act 1997 (administered by the Energy Police WA)*
- *East Carey Park Land Vesting Act 1957*
- *Fremantle City Council Lands Act 1929*
- *Fremantle Endowment Lands Act 1929*
- *Fremantle Reserves Surrender Act 1912*
- *Geraldton Agricultural and Horticultural Society's Land Act 1914*
- *Geraldton Sailors and Soldiers' Memorial Institute Lands Vesting Act 1933*
- *Jennacubbine Sports Council (Incorporated) Act 1965*
- *Land Administration Act 1997*
- *Land Administration Amendment Act 2000*
- *Land Administration (South West Native Title Settlement) Act 2016*
- *Parks and Reserves Act 1895*
- *Perth Town Hall Act 1950*
- *Perth Town Hall Agreement Act 1953*
- *Reserves Acts (various)*
- *Roman Catholic New Norcia Church Property Act 1929*
- *Town of Claremont (Exchange of Land) Act 1964*
- *War Service Land Settlement Scheme Act 1954*
- *Wittenoom Closure Act 2022*

The Department assists the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in administration of the following Acts:

- *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972 (administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet)*
- *Aboriginal Communities Act 1979*
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*
- *Aboriginal Heritage (Marandoo) Act 1992 (repealed on 1 July 2023)*

The Department assists the Minister for Heritage in administration of the following Act:

- *Heritage Act 2018*

Other key legislation impacting on the Department's activities

In the performance of its functions, the Department complies with the following relevant written laws:

- *Auditor General Act 2006*
- *Disability Services Act 1993*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Financial Management Act 2006*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992*
- *Industrial Relations Act 1979*
- *Long Service Leave Act 1958*
- *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*
- *Procurement Act 2020*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*
- *State Records Act 2000*
- *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (formerly the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 repealed on 31 March 2022)*

Other specialised legislation impacting on the Department's operation

- *Building Act 2011*
- *Community Titles Act 2018*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Interpretation Act 1984*
- *Maritime Archaeology Act 1973*
- *Mining Act 1978*
- *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*
- *Property Law Act 1969*
- *Public Works Act 1902*

- *Registration of Deeds Act 1856*
- *Strata Titles Act 1985*
- *Superannuation and Family Benefits Act 1938*
- *Transfer of Land Act 1893*
- *Valuation of Land Act 1978*

Legislation that may need to be considered in various planning decisions

- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*
- *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*

Legislation overriding planning legislation

- *City of Perth Act 2016*
- *Mining Act 1978*
- *State Agreement Acts (various — administered by the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation)*

WAPC subsidiary legislation

- *Greater Bunbury Region Scheme*
- *Metropolitan Region Scheme*
- *Peel Region Scheme*



year in review

Performance

Outcome-based management framework

Through the desired outcomes and services listed below, the Department contributes to the Government's goal of "Investing in WA's Future: Tackling climate action and supporting the arts, culture and sporting sectors to promote vibrant communities."

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services
Investing in WA's Future: Tackling climate action and supporting the arts, culture and sporting sectors to promote vibrant communities.	An effective planning system that supports the development of communities in Western Australia.	1. Planning
	An effective system for the administration of Crown land and the ALT estate.	2. Land administration
	An effective system for the conservation of cultural heritage places in Western Australia for the benefit of present and future generations.	3. Historical heritage 4. Aboriginal heritage

Key performance indicators are used to measure the Department's achievement of its desired outcomes, and the efficiency of its services.

Summary of actual results compared to budget targets

Department financial targets	2022-23 target ^(a) \$'000	2022-23 actual ^(b) \$'000	Variation \$'000
Total cost of services (expense limit)	222,508	207,916	(14,592)
Net cost of services	210,317	192,645	(17,672)
Total equity	425,758	352,257	(73,501)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(10,876)	(41,211)	(30,335)
Approved salary expense level	97,618	99,729	2,111
Agreed borrowing limit	Nil	Nil	-

Department financial targets	2022-23 agreed limit ^(a) \$'000	2022-23 target/actual ^(b) \$'000	Variation \$'000
Working cash limit (at budget)	10,283	8,351	(1,932)
Working cash limit (at actuals)	8,351	9,651	1,300

Notes: (a) The targets specified above are as per the 2022-23 budget papers.

(b) Further explanations are contained in Note 8.10 to the financial statements.

Summary of key performance indicators compared to budget targets

Key effectiveness indicators ^(a)	2022-23 target ^(b)	2022-23 actual	Variation ^(c)
Desired outcome: an effective planning system that supports the development of communities in Western Australia.			
Percentage of applications determined within statutory timeframes.	85%	88.8%	3.8%
Percentage of finalised appeals (excluding DAPs) that are not upheld on review by the State Administrative Tribunal.	98%	100%	2%
Percentage of Local Planning Scheme amendments processed by the Department under delegated authority and submitted to the Minister within the statutory timeframe (Basic 42 days, Standard 60 days, Complex 90 days).	85%	86.7%	1.7%
Percentage of DAP applications determined within the statutory timeframe.	76%	75.9%	(0.1%)
Desired outcome: an effective system for the administration of Crown land and the ALT estate.			
Percentage of land tenure change and interest documents validly lodged with the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate).	99%	98%	(1%)
Number of leases or divestments of ALT estate land to direct Aboriginal control.	12	10	(2)
Desired outcome: an effective system for the conservation of cultural heritage places in Western Australia for the benefit of present and future generations.			
Percentage of visitors to Fremantle prison satisfied with services provided by the Department.	97%	95.9%	(1.1%)
Percentage of statutory approvals delivered to the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee within set timeframes.	100%	72.8%	(27.2%)
Percentage of development/planning referrals processed within set timeframes.	90%	91.3%	1.3%
Percentage of nominations progressed to preliminary review within set timeframes.	90%	100%	10%

Key efficiency indicators ^(a)	2022-23 target ^(b)	2022-23 actual	Variation ^(c)
Planning services			
Average cost of planning services.	\$18,336.54	\$21,620.74	\$3,284.20
Land administration services			
Average cost per square kilometre to administer Crown land and ALT estate.	\$26.50	\$25.55	(\$0.95)
Historical heritage services			
Average cost of historical heritage services.	\$4,232.34	\$5,521.69	\$1,289.35
Average cost per visitor to Fremantle Prison.	\$59.35	\$49.12	(\$10.23)
Aboriginal heritage services			
Average cost of Aboriginal heritage management services.	\$6,651.06	\$3,634.88	(\$3,016.18)

Notes: (a) The tables above provide a summary of the Department's key performance indicators for 2022-23. For more detailed information, including explanations, refer to the desired outcome and key performance indicators section of this report at page 143.

(b) The targets specified above are as per the 2022-23 budget papers.

(c) Variations shown in brackets represent a decrease in the actual result compared to the target. Depending on the key performance indicator, a decrease in the actual result does not necessarily mean that the target has not been achieved.

Planning services

The Department provides land use planning services that underpin vibrant, connected and sustainable communities and balance economic, social and environmental considerations.

Market-led Proposals

Market-led Proposals (MLP) provide an innovative pathway for the State Government and the private sector to work together to activate land, create jobs and stimulate Western Australia's economy.

In 2022-23, the Department introduced two updates to the MLP Policy and Supplementary Guidelines to improve efficiency and transparency and better articulate the Problem and Opportunity Statement process.

The making of WA's first screen production facility

The script to bring to life Western Australia's first dedicated screen production facility continues to be written with a site adjacent to the Malaga METRONET station precinct announced in November 2022 as the preferred location.

The proposed facility will provide purpose-built sound stages and other onsite screen production facilities to enable the production of film, TV and screen projects. The Department and other State Government agencies are continuing to progress the proposal with the preferred proponent as part of the MLP process. This project will open up significant economic growth and employment opportunities in the arts and entertainment sector.

Artists impression of the proposed screen production facility.



Image courtesy Australian Red Cross Lifeblood.



Financial boost for life-saving transplant treatment

In May 2023, the State Government announced an allocation of \$2.5 million to help expand the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood's faecal microbiota for transplant (FMT) program.

The investment in the transplant program and Perth manufacturing facility seeks to make a difference to the lives of hundreds of Western Australians who suffer from the debilitating gut infection *Clostridioides difficile* condition (C.diff). FMT uses faeces from eligible donors to create healthy microbiota which is then transplanted into a patient to overwhelm the C.diff infection. The process reduces the length of hospital stays on traditional treatment methods and provides significant cost savings.

The MLP team worked closely with the Department of Health to facilitate this innovative proposal.

\$80 million to help improve housing development

Western Australia's \$80 million Infrastructure Development Fund will help unlock a new pipeline of apartment development in key urban areas, such as METRONET station precincts and Housing Diversity Pipeline sites, as well as worker accommodation in regional areas.

Managed by the Department, the fund was established to address the upfront cost associated with connecting essential infrastructure such as water, sewerage and electricity services. It has three program streams — a targeted apartment rebate; funding to unlock priority infill precincts; and funding to support the delivery of regional worker accommodation. Funding has been allocated equally with \$40 million available for metropolitan projects and \$40 million for regional projects.

Between March and the end of June 2023, 42 applicants, including metropolitan and regional-based companies, local governments and not-for-profit organisations, sought funding for a diverse range of housing developments across all three streams.

In June 2023, an initial funding release of up to \$6.53 million was committed through the targeted apartment rebate stream. The Department entered into funding agreements with 12 apartment developers to support construction of 653 apartments across various projects in Burswood, Cannington, Como, Maylands, Mount Pleasant, Nedlands, North Fremantle, West Leederville, West Perth and Woodlands.

Reforms continue to streamline planning process

Western Australia's bold planning reform agenda continued in 2022-23 with the Department proudly supporting the State Government and Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) to deliver key improvements.

Changes to the DAP system are now in train to reduce the number of panels from five to three, to appoint full or part-time specialist members and make DAPs a completely opt-in process for any non-excluded development over \$2 million. There are no changes to the role of local government elected members.

A key change to DAP reforms was the decision not to progress with the 'Special Matters DAP' and instead establish a permanent assessment pathway for significant development applications. This pathway is to be operational in early 2024.

In response to requests from industry and community consultation, several other new initiatives were announced in 2022-23:

- The Department has established a dedicated unit to oversee development contributions. This will improve coordination, consistency and transparency of the infrastructure delivery process and help ensure plans are well formulated, accurate, fair and reasonable for all parties.
- Referrals to State Government agencies and departments will be streamlined through a State Referral Coordination Unit, whose primary focus will initially be to provide coordinated advice for the proposals being determined under the permanent significant development pathway.
- Centralised preparation and administration of structure plans at the district or regional level where areas are of key strategic importance and/or have fragmented land ownership.

Reform of the planning system is undertaken with key fundamental goals in mind — creating great communities; making planning easier to understand and navigate; ensuring planning systems are consistent and efficient; and supporting the delivery of housing for all.

Shaping our regions

Regional planning strategies establish a vision and basis for decision-making to help guide the future planning and development of land within a region.

In 2022, the WAPC authorised the Department to prepare new regional planning strategies for the State's eight country planning regions. The strategies will replace the current regional planning and infrastructure frameworks which were published between 2010 and 2015 and do not necessarily reflect current trends, opportunities and challenges in each region.

Between February and June 2023, Department staff travelled throughout Western Australia to meet with key stakeholders including local governments, Traditional Owners, other State Government agencies, environmental groups and peak industry bodies.

We held workshops in Bunbury, Albany, Northam, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Karratha and Port Hedland with more than 380 people attending to share ideas and identify opportunities aimed at developing a future direction for each region.

Key topics of discussion so far include measures to promote sustainable ecotourism, land management between current land uses and emerging industries such as renewable hydrogen and carbon sequestration, and measures to address regional housing affordability.

Further workshops are scheduled to be held in August 2023. All feedback received will contribute to the development of draft regional planning strategies, which will be released for public comment before being finalised.

Executive Planning Director Sean Collingwood facilitating a regional planning workshop.



Designing safer places for WA

Most people associate the design of places, spaces and buildings with how something looks and feels. But did you know good design can also help reduce or prevent crime?

In June 2023, the Safer Places by Design: Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Planning Guidelines were released.

These guidelines sit under the Design WA umbrella, a suite of policies that aim to enhance streetscapes and neighbourhoods by promoting developments that contribute to creating vibrant and liveable communities.

Safer Places by Design advocates for incorporating CPTED approaches at the beginning of the design process as the best way to support the creation of great spaces. The policy provides modern CPTED guidelines including the consideration of anti-terrorism measures and outlines four principles — surveillance; territorial definition; space management and access control.

Development of the policy was a collaborative effort guided by comprehensive consultation including in-person meetings and presentations, group workshops and online submissions. On behalf of the WAPC, the Department sought feedback from a range of stakeholders including local government, industry peak bodies, other State Government departments, community organisations and consultant planners.

Department welcomes Swan Valley planning team

In January 2023, the Department welcomed a dedicated Swan Valley Planning Team to administer the *Swan Valley Planning Act 2020* and the Swan Valley Planning Scheme No. 1.

13 out of 15 Planning Investigation Areas now resolved

The *Perth and Peel@3.5 million* planning frameworks identified 15 areas where further detailed planning was required to determine whether any change to current land use and/or zonings was appropriate.

The Department, on behalf of the WAPC, undertook extensive investigations in conjunction with other State Government agencies and, in September 2022, it was announced that the intended future use of 13 Planning Investigation Areas had been resolved.

With resolution of these areas, large expanses of private and State Government-owned land have been determined as suitable for future residential development, industry and environmental protection. This includes 5,600 hectares of land in North Ballajura (Hepburn Avenue - West), Maida Vale, East of Kwinana and Pinjarra Ravenswood.



Cocos (Keeling) Islands coastal planning

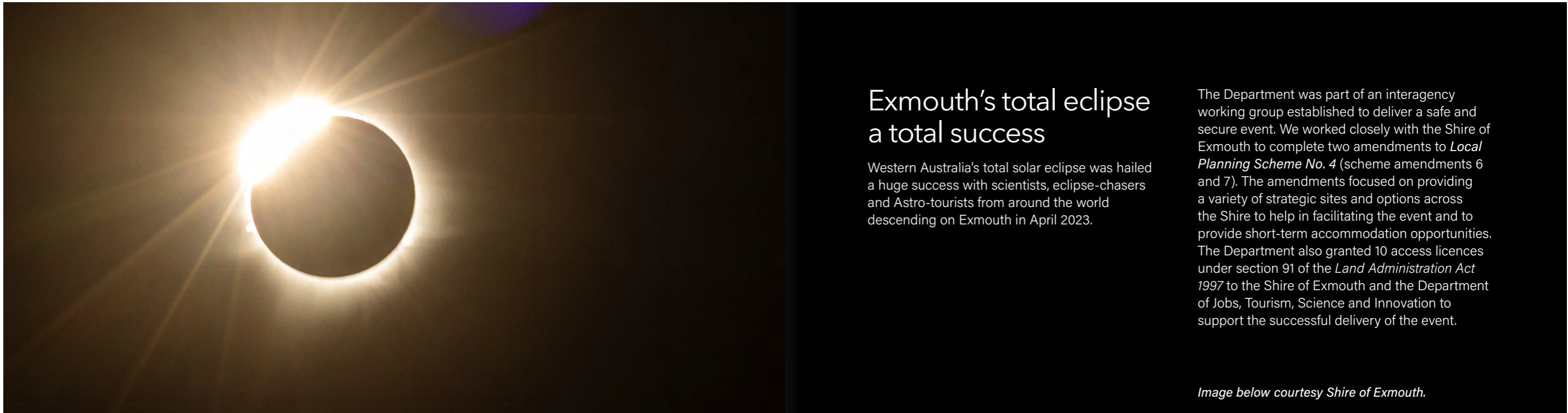
Between September 2022 and February 2023, community and stakeholder meetings and workshops were held in Perth and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to develop a Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP). The Department is leading this project on behalf of the State Government in partnership with the Australian Government and the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The islands' youth, families, business owners and the community's seniors and Elders expressed a strong desire for greater certainty on the short and medium term plan for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands planning and coastal management needs, so that they can make informed decisions about future investment and development.

Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation workshops - Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The CHRMAP engagement outcomes will be a blueprint for coastal adaptation action and lead directly to improvements to the shire's planning system via a new local planning scheme and local planning strategy, which will be a complementary project commencing in 2024.





Exmouth's total eclipse a total success

Western Australia's total solar eclipse was hailed a huge success with scientists, eclipse-chasers and Astro-tourists from around the world descending on Exmouth in April 2023.

The Department was part of an interagency working group established to deliver a safe and secure event. We worked closely with the Shire of Exmouth to complete two amendments to *Local Planning Scheme No. 4* (scheme amendments 6 and 7). The amendments focused on providing a variety of strategic sites and options across the Shire to help in facilitating the event and to provide short-term accommodation opportunities. The Department also granted 10 access licences under section 91 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* to the Shire of Exmouth and the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation to support the successful delivery of the event.

Image below courtesy Shire of Exmouth.



Government Architect of Western Australia

The Government Architect of Western Australia provides design leadership and strategic advice to enhance the quality of our built environment and ensure that good design is at the centre of all development and major projects.

The Department hosts the Government Architect and team (GAWA), previously known as the Office of the Government Architect.

In March 2023, GAWA released its Strategic Plan for 2023-2026 with the vision of 'Better places, by design.'

The Strategic Plan sets out the Government Architect's aims to champion, connect and advise:

- Promote, educate and advocate for design awareness on behalf of the Government, its agencies and partners.
- Facilitate and empower strong relationships and networks that deliver good design – broadening its reach and impact.
- Provide strategic, independent, evidence-based advice and review services which support best practice and quality outcomes for projects.

Advice

The Government Architect provides advice on State significant projects and design related matters in a variety of ways including briefings, desktop reviews, brief establishment, evaluation processes, and as the Chair of the State Design Review Panel (SDRP).

State Design Review Panel

Since it was established in 2019, the SDRP has provided a high level of design advice for significant infrastructure and development projects, including those delivered through METRONET, the Inner City Projects and the significant development pathway. In 2022-23, the SDRP undertook 41 reviews of 33 projects with a combined potential value of \$4.19 billion. Nineteen of these projects were part of the Part 17 significant development pathway.

GANA Conference in Perth

A highlight of our advocacy work was hosting the Government Architects Network of Australia (GANA) Conference in Perth in March 2023. The Conference brought together Government Architects and Associates from Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory to share their knowledge, skills, experience and resources from across Australia. The conference included a lively and engaging panel session at the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip as part of Perth Design Week.

Government Architect Rebecca Moore speaking at Perth Design Week.



Land administration and asset management services

The Department administers and manages Western Australia's Crown land estate, which comprises approximately 92 per cent (233.5 million hectares) of the State including all land (other than freehold) and all coastal and other waters.

This includes resolving complex land tenure matters, the administration of 490 pastoral leases, divestment of surplus State Government land and the assessment and negotiation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) and native title settlements on behalf of the State Government and Traditional Owners.



Lands reform

On behalf of the State Government, the Department is working on reforms that will encourage economic growth and development through diversified land use and facilitate best-practice land management and more effective administration of the pastoral estate.

Amendments to the *Land Administration Act 1997* will deliver a range of benefits, including increased opportunities and greater security for the pastoral industry, and a new form of non-exclusive tenure, the diversification lease.

The grant of a diversification lease will allow large areas of Crown land to be used for multiple purposes for a range of industries, including renewable energy, while supporting the State Government's objective to reach net zero by 2050.

The Department consulted widely on the reforms. In August 2022, public consultation closed on the draft policy framework guiding the use of diversification leases on Crown land.

A large number of submissions were received and considered by the Department and helped refine the final diversification lease policy framework.

The *Land and Public Works Legislation Amendment Act 2023* received Royal Assent on 24 March 2023. The majority of the Act will come into effect on 10 August 2023.

Historic ILUA to create 172,000 hectares of new conservation estate

In December 2022, a major milestone was reached towards the creation of the Fitzroy River National Park, which forms part of the State Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative.

In a signing ceremony at Parliament House, an ILUA for new parks in Bunuba Country surrounding Fitzroy Crossing was signed by the Minister for Lands, the Minister for Environment, and the Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation (Bunuba).

Under the ILUA, the Minister for Lands committed to transferring nine community areas, currently situated on Crown land, to Bunuba. The transfer of these areas will ensure that Bunuba people have the power to manage outcomes in their communities and seek investment into infrastructure and services.

As part of the national park creation process, neighbouring pastoralists were consulted and provided with the opportunity to discuss boundaries, access to water, bores, fencing, and to ensure that opportunities for diversification are not adversely impacted by the park.

Once the ILUA is registered by the National Native Title Tribunal, it will allow for the creation of 172,892 hectares of new conservation estate and ensure the area's unique values are protected and enjoyed for many generations.

The Department's Kimberley team played a significant role in the negotiation of this unique ILUA which facilitates both conservation and community outcomes.

Karratha land transfer paves way for greater housing supply

In July 2022, the State Government signed an agreement with the City of Karratha and transferred 13,563 square metres of underutilised Crown land for the development of service worker accommodation in Bulgarra.

Under the agreement, the State Government provided the land at a 23 per cent discount, equating to around \$470,000 off the market price. The City plans to facilitate the development of approximately 44 medium-density residential dwellings — targeted at medium-income earners — to deliver more affordable housing options for service workers.

The Department worked closely with the City of Karratha to settle the land transfers, paving the way for greater housing supply, choice, and affordability.

El Questro to be returned to Traditional Owners

Long before El Questro Station and Wilderness Park in the State's Pilbara region became a favourite destination among adventurous travellers, it was home to the Ngarinyin people.

In November 2022, an historic ILUA was signed by the Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation (representing the Traditional Owners), the Minister for Lands, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Chief Executive Officer of tourism operator the G'Day Group, which will see the land returned to its Traditional Owners.

Around 165,000 hectares of El Questro, south of the Gibb River Road, will in time be converted from pastoral lease to freehold tenure and Crown reserve.

Under the terms of the agreement, El Questro Station and Wilderness Park will be leased back to the G'Day Group by the Traditional Owners.

As part of the 99-year lease, the tourism operator will contribute to the social and economic growth of the region by providing training, development, and employment opportunities for local young people.

The landmark agreement represents the potential for greater economic independence and self-determination for the Ngarinyin people today and long into the future.

The Department's Kimberley team played a significant role by leading the negotiation of this important ILUA and is working on the land transfers to implement it.



Kimberley recovery housing and community roads package

The Department continues to support the State Government's recovery efforts in the Fitzroy Valley, in the heart of the Kimberley, following flooding from ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie in January 2023.

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie caused widespread damage and the Fitzroy Valley was severely impacted, with extensive isolation and inundation of communities; damage to homes, belongings and vehicles; financial hardship; homelessness; disruption to businesses and pastoral stations; major disruption to roads, bridges and transport routes; damage to utilities infrastructure and the loss of livestock.

Following the cyclone, the Department supported the delivery of services and infrastructure through the grant of access rights and tenure. We also worked closely with the Department of Communities and other agencies on the deployment of emergency housing.

The Department is continuing to support the long-term recovery of the Kimberley region including arranging access to support the rebuilding of flood damaged homes on the ALT estate and Crown land in remote communities and road repairs to restore access to residents and workers.

Department scores a winning goal

The Department scored a goal for football fans in 2022-23 to ensure the State Football Centre had the correct land tenure and management in time for the FIFA Women's World Cup in July 2023.

Teamwork proved the winning formula, with the Department working closely with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and VenuesWest to create a Crown reserve over the State Football Centre site and community playing fields. VenuesWest was then granted a management order with power to lease.

In a great example of the complementary nature of the Department's planning and land services, the State Development Assessment Unit had previously assessed a development application for the \$32.5 million Centre in Queens Park, which was approved subject to conditions, by the WAPC.



Image courtesy Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Pastoral Lands Board

The Pastoral Lands Board (PLB) is a statutory authority established under section 94 of the *Land Administration Act 1997 (LAA)*. It has joint responsibility with the Minister for Lands for administering Western Australian pastoral leases in accordance with Part 7 of the LAA.

In 2022-23, the PLB worked closely with the Department on legislative reforms to Part 7 of the LAA. It also helped ensure pastoralists were across the amendments and understood what the changes would mean for them.

The amendments will provide new opportunities for pastoral lessees, including the ability to extend lease terms to 50 years, transfer diversification permits when the lease is transferred or sold, amend diversification permits (for example, to add additional plant species) and a more transparent and predictable pastoral rent system.

2022-23 was also a big year for the PLB in terms of policy development, with new policies on cultivating non-indigenous plant species, deferring rent for new diversification permits and the continued expansion of the Pastoral Purposes Framework. The PLB would like to thank pastoralists who volunteered to be part of the PLB Policy Reference Group.

Rent relief for Kimberley pastoralists

Many Kimberley pastoralists suffered significant damage from flooding caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie, including losses of livestock, erosion and damage to pastoral infrastructure. In addition, Fitzroy Crossing Bridge on the Great Northern Highway, the only sealed road connecting the East and West Kimberley, was overtopped for the first time since its construction in 1974 resulting in severe structural damage. The resulting disruption to traffic made it difficult for Kimberley pastoralists to move materials and supplies to stations and livestock to market.

In April 2023, Severe Tropical Cyclone Ilsa, one of the most powerful storms to hit Western Australia in recent years, crossed the Pilbara coast bearing winds up to 289 kilometres per hour. Due to its intensity, Severe Tropical Cyclone Ilsa caused widespread destruction to pastoral infrastructure and losses of livestock on pastoral stations across the northern Pilbara.

In both cases, the PLB was quick to respond and recommended the Minister for Lands waive rental payments for the first half of 2023 for affected pastoralists. To date, the PLB has recommended, and the Minister has approved, more than \$900,000 in rent relief for stations in the Kimberley and Pilbara.

Under the recently passed amendments to the LAA the Minister will be able to prescribe a class of pastoral lease (such as for all pastoral leases in a region) for rent relief, removing the requirement for each pastoral lessee to apply individually to the PLB.



Historic heritage services

The Department supports the Heritage Council and the Minister for Heritage to identify, celebrate and promote the conservation and sensitive development of cultural heritage places in the State.

The Department also provides operational management of the World Heritage listed Fremantle Prison.

Fremantle Prison finalises \$3.16 million conservation works

Visitors to Fremantle Prison are bound to be held captive thanks to a \$3.16 million, 20-month conservation program.

In March 2023, extensive conservation works, funded by the State and Federal governments, on the Commissariat, Main Cell Block and Parade Ground were completed.

The conservation program involved restoration work and repairs to original elements of each area, access improvements, and the installation of new interpretative signage.

A universal access platform lift was installed in the Commissariat, allowing visitors using mobility and ambulant devices to enter the basement level for the first time. A compliant staircase was also installed, as well as an audio-loop, handrails and railings on existing steps.

Within the Main Cell Block, two new universal access ramps were installed on a key tour route with other works allowing for wheelchair access through an isolation cell and out to the solitary confinement block. Drainage and service improvements in the Parade Ground will also support ongoing sustainability of this significant building.

Kardan Construction, an Aboriginal business with extensive experience in the refurbishment and renovation of many unique buildings including heritage sites, worked on the Commissariat and Parade Ground (north).

Colgan Industries delivered on conservation works for the Main Cell Block. In partnership with the Prison, Colgan Industries also provided on-site talks and demonstrations to university students on best practice heritage conservation.

Delivery of the conservation works marks the completion of the Prison's significant projects that commenced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Royal red carpet roll out for King Neptune

In the early 1970s, the Sun City Precinct development put Two Rocks and the Yanchep region on the map. The 1980s then saw the arrival of the now infamous King Neptune statue at the precinct, perched overlooking the Atlantis Marine Park.

Fast forward to January 2023, and the treasured precinct, which also includes the Two Rocks Marina and Shopping Centre, has been included in the State Register of Heritage Places.

The listing recognises the significant contribution the seaside precinct has made to our State's heritage as the first residential, commercial, and recreational investment project undertaken by a private company in the 1970s.

Today, the area connects many Western Australians, and particularly the local Two Rocks and Yanchep communities, to the memories and experiences of that time.



Early European settlement site registered

In December 2022, one of Western Australia's earliest known European settlement sites south of Perth was included in the State Register of Heritage Places.

Located within the Beeliam Regional Park in Henderson, the Peel Town Archaeological Sites comprises 43 hectares of coastal vegetation containing a rich suite of archaeological sites dating back to 1829-30, including some sites within the Naval Base Caravan Park area.

First discovered 15 years ago, the sites are considered a rare example of a settlement during the earliest phase of the Swan River Colony.

The place is a significant reminder of the global spread of the British Empire. Material uncovered includes limestone tent pads, porcelain plates, limestone and brick hearths, and other dwelling remains.

Heritage recognition for popular western suburbs beaches

In October 2022, a coastal precinct incorporating two parts of Perth's popular beaches was included in the State Register of Heritage Places.

The listing of the popular City Beach and Floreat Beach Precinct contains a mix of natural features and built structures that reflect Western Australia's distinctive beach culture through multiple eras since the early 1900s.

Stretching 1.3 kilometres along Challenger Parade between Oceanic Drive and The Boulevard in City Beach, the 36-hectare precinct includes the beaches' two stone groynes, lookout tower and Toodyay stone seawall, as well as the two late 20th century brutalist and organic architectural-styled concrete kiosks and a landscaped backdrop of established trees, grass and dunes.

The precinct reflects the work of former City of Perth planner Paul Ritter, who conceived the design of the seawall, and renowned local architect Tony Brand, who was responsible for the design of the kiosks.



WA first as complete stock route heritage listed

History was made in December 2022 when a 1,500 kilometre track that paved the way for pastoralism in the north became the first complete stock route and the longest place to be included in the State Register of Heritage Places.

The De Grey - Mullewa Stock Route No. 9701 (Stock Route) runs from just east of the De Grey River at Pardoo near Port Hedland to north of the Mullewa townsite near Geraldton.

From the late 1860s, the stock route enabled the movement of large numbers of livestock south to Mullewa and onto Perth and, in later years, extended to the Eastern Goldfields.

The route is a physical reminder of the harsh conditions and immense difficulties early pastoralists would have encountered in transporting livestock more than 130 years ago. It instils a profound sense of isolation and provides Western Australians with both a connection to, and understanding of, the enormity and ambitious nature of the journey.

*Included in the State Register of Heritage Places -
De Grey to Mullewa stock route.*

Image: Well 9 - courtesy of Ria and Trevor Baker.



Aboriginal heritage services

The Department works with Traditional Owners and industry to provide advice and support to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council, to manage Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Consulting on Western Australia's Aboriginal heritage*

In developing the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021*, the Department led an extensive consultation and education process, with more than five years of engagement with the community, industry, government and Aboriginal people from across the State.

In 2022-23, the Department held education sessions with thousands of people throughout Western Australia, both online and in-person. We travelled to Bunbury in the State's south, Broome in the north, and inland to Merredin.

From early July to mid-August 2022, under Phase 2 of our co-design engagement schedule, we held 40 workshops at 32 locations. This was followed by Phase 3 from mid-October to mid-December where we held 35 workshops at 33 locations.

** In August 2023 the Government announced its intention to repeal the Aboriginal cultural heritage laws and restore the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. It is proposed that the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council will take on the role of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee established under the 1972 Act.*

Inaugural Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council members welcomed*

In September 2022, the inaugural seven members of Western Australia's new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council were appointed. The Council is the State's peak strategic body on Aboriginal cultural heritage matters.

In June 2023, it was announced that they would be joined by four new members including former Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister and respected Yamatji and Wongi Elder, Ken Wyatt AM.

Council members were selected from more than 70 nominations and were appointed for an initial term of two years. The Council has two Aboriginal chairpersons, one male, Mr Wyatt, and one female, Ms Irene Stainton AO, to allow for the respectful consideration of men's and women's business, and a majority of Aboriginal representation across its members.

Fuel load reduction works completed at Willi Gulli

During 2022-23, the Department worked in partnership with the Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation (YSRC) to reduce the significant fuel load at Willi Gulli.

Willi Gulli is located within the Yamatji Nation ILUA boundary in the State's Mid West region.

Fuel reduction works were undertaken by a locally owned and operated Yamatji Business over a six-month period. While this project served a practical purpose, it also exposed the beautiful natural features and colours located within the marine sandstone outcrop.

The completion of the project in June 2023 provides safe and open access for the Traditional Owners to strategically plan and implement future management processes at Willi Gulli.

The Department will continue to work in collaboration with YSRC to empower and support Yamatji businesses to care for their cultural heritage sites of significance.

Repatriations

The Department plays an important role in the re-burial or repatriation of Aboriginal ancestral remains back to Country in partnership and collaboration with the Traditional Owners of the relevant area.

In March 2023, the Department was contacted by the State Mortuary which had received partial ancestral remains of Aboriginal origin which are believed to have been collected in the 1950s. Based on a newspaper clipping accompanying the remains they originated from the Willandra Lakes region in New South Wales. The Department is currently taking care of the remains which are securely held in the Ossuary at Karrakatta Cemetery while arrangements are made with the relevant Traditional Owners for their return to Country.

In May 2023, the Department was advised by the Carnarvon Police of exposed ancestral Aboriginal remains in the dunes near Gnarloo Station in the Gascoyne. These were reburied in consultation with Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation who are the Native Title Holders for the area.

Discussions are continuing with Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Corporation regarding the repatriation of six sets of Aboriginal remains to Menang Country that were returned from Saxony in Germany to the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip.

Similarly, planning is continuing with the Mirning Traditional Lands Aboriginal Corporation regarding the repatriation of eight sets of ancestral remains back to Country near Eucla. These are also currently held at the museum.

Murujuga nominated for World Heritage Listing

In early 2023, the Australian Government nominated the Murujuga Cultural Landscape for inscription on the World Heritage List.

If accepted, Murujuga would be the second site in Australia listed for World Heritage Status for First Nations cultural heritage.

The nomination was prepared by the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation in partnership with the State Government, with support and advice from the Australian Government and technical experts.

The Department is a member of the Murujuga Interagency Taskforce and the Murujuga Heritage Committee and provided input and advice in the preparation of the nomination.

Murujuga has the densest known concentration of petroglyphs anywhere in the world. The protection afforded by World Heritage status would ensure that Traditional Owners are managing and protecting Murujuga in partnership with the State and Federal governments.



Murujuga
Rock Art Boardwalk.

Agency Capability Review

The Department was one of six agencies to participate in the Public Sector Commission's Agency Capability Review trial program. The program takes a comprehensive, whole of sector approach to improvement, and sets standards based on a clear understanding of what constitutes a high performing public sector agency in Western Australia.

The review, conducted from July 2022 to January 2023, found that the Department has a strong and supportive workplace culture, and a track record of successful change management which can be built on to engage staff in future change.

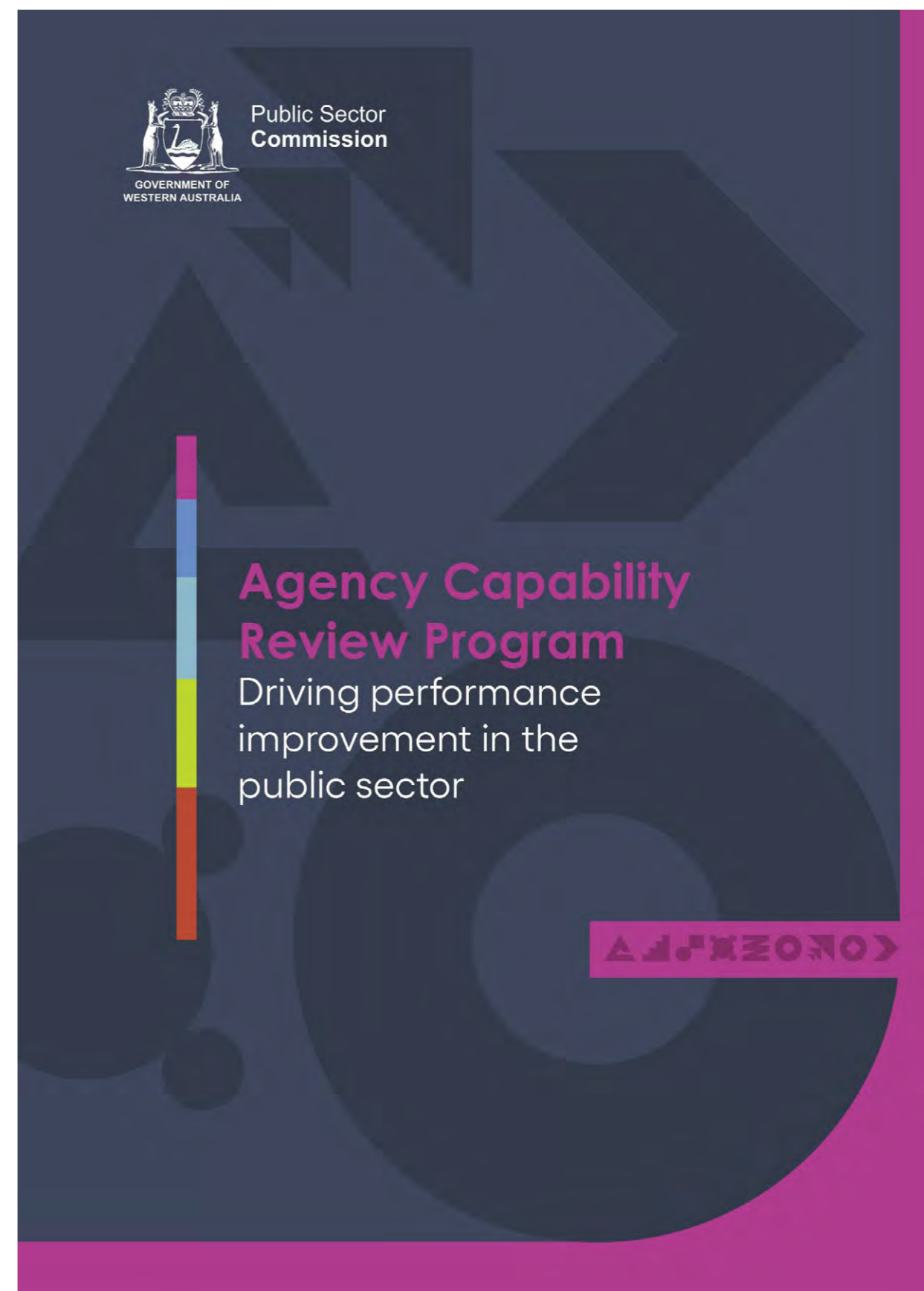
Staff contributed to the review through a survey, capability questionnaire, interviews and workshops. Their involvement was invaluable. More than 90 external stakeholder meetings and submissions also helped shape findings of the review.

The review acknowledged that the Department is operating under considerable pressure with significant legislative reform underway alongside usual core business. It concluded that the Department can build capability by addressing key focus areas to meet its legislative mandate, current and emerging priorities, and community expectations:

- Leadership and coordination — improving planning and land use management.
- Workforce strategy — ensuring a future focus.
- Customer focused services — providing for transparency and efficiency.

The Department is committed to learning from the review and will embrace the opportunity to develop our capability. A range of projects, designed to address the review findings will inform and drive integrated improvements including:

- Developing a four-year strategic plan inclusive of a multi-year program outlook.
- Developing a workforce strategy including a suite of contemporary and actionable plans.
- Developing a transformative human resources operating and resourcing model that delivers effective and efficient services.
- Implementing an engagement framework to embed a risk-based approach to engagement and consultation with stakeholders and community.
- Implementing a comprehensive approach to the Leadership Expectations Program enabling staff to embrace positive behaviours and expectations.
- Delivering a program of legislative, regulatory and policy reforms.
- Leading and actively facilitating State-significant projects including METRONET precincts, Westport and the Future of Fremantle, and whole-of-government priorities.
- Synchronising systems to contribute to Streamline WA reform and enhancing digital customer experience through new systems such as Planning Online and Lands Online.



Department officers meet on site in Boddington with members of the Hotham River Aboriginal Corporation and archaeologists investigating the location of the grave of Dilyan, a skilled Aboriginal tracker who assisted Western Australia's first premier Sir John Forrest in his exploration of the state's North-West.

Grant programs

Regional North Local Government Assistance Program

The \$2 million Regional North Local Government Assistance Program is a one-off grant program introduced in late 2022 for the Gascoyne, Kimberley and Pilbara regions to ensure contemporary local planning frameworks are in place to support the State Government's ongoing investment in regional housing and sustainable communities.

The funds are administered by the Department and will support local governments in the State's north to plan for their future and assist in facilitating future development.

Preserve, Promote and Protect our Aboriginal Sites Grants Program

The Department's Preserve, Promote and Protect our Aboriginal Sites grants program offers funding to Aboriginal not-for-profit organisations to undertake projects that protect and preserve registered Aboriginal heritage sites.

In 2022-23, nine organisations from around Western Australia shared in more than \$350,000 funding:

- Preserving Morgan's Camp Pearling Cottage — Yawuru PBC/Nyamba Buru Limited in the Kimberley received \$40,000 for restoration and preservation of the only remaining pearling cottage situated at Burrugun. Works will replace missing timber shutters and a door, upgrade fencing, painting, install interpretive signage, and engage an Aboriginal carpenter.
- Walga Rock yearly maintenance program — Wajarri Yamatji AC RNTBC received \$37,680 for maintenance works and site visits undertaken by one team leader and two young Wajarri men to care for the condition of site and Protected Area Walga Rock.
- The Cultural Safety Project — Budadee Aboriginal Corporation received \$39,630 for the installation of cultural signage and fencing at Nullagine Engravings and Woodstock Abydos Protected Reserve, which are significant sites connected with the Seven Sisters Songline. This will be followed by a two-day installation program led by Traditional Owners and Budadee Rangers, with cultural supervision from Elders.

[For more information](#)



Local Government Heritage Consultancy Grants Program

Our Local Government Heritage Consultancy Grants Program provides funding to Western Australian local governments to support and encourage the identification and protection of local heritage places through best-practice heritage management frameworks and statutory processes.

In 2022-23, 10 local governments shared in \$110,000 of funding:

- The City of Joondalup received \$10,000 for a review of their Local Heritage Survey.
- The Shire of Kent received \$4,500 to develop a Heritage List and Local Planning Policy and review their Local Heritage Survey.
- The Shire of Mundaring received \$20,000 to review their Local Heritage Survey and develop a Heritage Strategy.

[For more information](#)



Department managed attractions

Fremantle Prison

The World Heritage listed Fremantle Prison is an iconic part of Western Australia's cultural heritage, managed and conserved by the Department on behalf of the Minister for Heritage.

The Prison operates as a dynamic heritage precinct, carefully balancing its cultural significance with activities that contribute to its financial sustainability.

To foster visitor engagement and generate revenue for the ongoing maintenance and operations, Fremantle Prison provides a diverse range of tourism experiences. These include interpretive tours, captivating exhibitions, enticing retail options, a welcoming cafe, and exceptional venue spaces for events.



Key highlights for 2022-23 included:

- The *Denied: Portraits of Wrongful Conviction* exhibition opened on 4 May 2023. An exhibition of portraits by Brisbane based artist Sky Parra of those wrongfully convicted of serious crimes across Australia and those who actively advocate for justice. The exhibition was supported by an insightful artist talk and panel discussion with esteemed legal academics, Dr. Bob Moles, Bibi Sangha, Barrister Tom Percy KC and featured John Button, who was wrongfully convicted of the murder of his girlfriend in 1963 and imprisoned at Fremantle Prison.
- Completion of \$3.16 million conservation works to the Parade Ground, Commissariat and Main Cell Block. The conservation program took 20 months and included restoration work and repairs to original elements of each area, accessibility improvements, and the installation of new interpretative signage.
- The accession of 521 historical objects and artefacts into the Fremantle Prison Collection, including donations such as the personal archive of Alex Stewart, Fremantle Prison Museum's first curator; the personal archive of Ivor Knight, former Superintendent; printing press castings donated by the State Law Publisher; a 1920s sign with Rules and Regulations for the Women's Division donated by the City of Fremantle; and artwork donated by Gordon Lefroy.

Awards received in 2022-23

Fremantle Prison was gold medal winner of the Major Tourist Attractions category at the Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards in November 2022. The Prison also collected a silver medal in the Cultural Tourism category.

Whiteman Park

Whiteman Park is a unique recreation and conservation reserve that covers more than 3,700 hectares of natural bushland and leisure facilities in Perth's northern suburbs.

The Department provides operational management of Whiteman Park on behalf of the WAPC.

In 2022-23, visitor numbers to the park were up 23 per cent from the previous year, with its many facilities and attractions, as well as its community events and celebrations including MiLi's Markets, Children's Week Family Fun Day, Children's Groundwater Festival, EnviroFEST 2023, Ashley Day and Eid Al Adha, attracting an estimated 1.6 million visits.

Capital works completed or in progress at Whiteman Park during the year included:

- Development and opening of the Healing Place shelter at Mussel Pool.
- Aboriginal Culture Art and Signage Program.
- Construction of a radio repeater shed.
- Tramline upgrade.
- BBQ replacement program.
- Splash pool renovations.
- Bike and footpath program.
- Car park and road resurfacing program.
- Limestone fire break program.

A sanctuary to connect, reflect and heal

Whiteman Park marked the International Day of Happiness on 20 March 2023 with the official opening of its Healing Place shelter.

The opening was the culmination of more than three years' work to develop the concept and bring to fruition the construction of the unique structure.

The Healing Place shelter draws on a range of themes to create a calming and contemplative environment, as it nestles among the trees adjacent to Bennett Brook. Its circular shape and seating arrangement form a 'yarning circle' allowing everyone to be seen, heard, respected, and appreciated as equals.

Local landscape architect Grant Donald designed the shelter, which is made of Corten steel to represent the most basic form of protection and safety provided by nature.

The structure itself is formed of eucalyptus leaf-shaped elements and features floral artwork designed by Whadjuk, Ballardong and Arnernte artist, Jade Dolman. The leaves either side of the entry bear the handprints of members of the community and those involved in the project.

Jade was also responsible for the design concept for the path leading to the Healing Place which represents the waterways and landforms of the local area that were created by the Wagyl during the Dreamtime.





our people

First Nations Australians Planning Program

We were thrilled to welcome Shannon Lockyer to the Department in May 2023.

Shannon joined the Broome team as part of our First Nations Australians Planning Program. The program aims to attract, recruit and develop Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (First Nations Australians) in land use planning roles so that a collective knowledge of Country can be embedded within the land use planning system.

The program concept was developed in consultation with Nyamba Buru Yawuru (NBY), a not-for-profit body corporate established by the Yawuru prescribed body corporate, representing the Yawuru native title holders of significant land holdings (both exclusive and non-exclusive) in and around Broome.

Shannon is a proud Kija and Bardi man with connections throughout the Kimberley, where he has spent most of his life growing up in the remote Aboriginal community of Wuggubun in the East Kimberley.

As he grew up watching the small camp grow into a full-fledged community, Shannon realised the importance of adequate infrastructure and planning and its connection to a greater way of life.

Shannon hopes his position with the Department will inspire more Aboriginal people to get involved with our planning, lands and heritage areas and help pave the way for greater inclusion within the system.

Director General Anthony Kannis with Shannon Lockyer.



Staff development

Employee Development Program

Formal staff development grows and supports a capable, future-fit workforce that is responsive to the needs of the Department. The Employee Development Program offers a range of internal and external learning offerings for individual development, management, leadership and technical capabilities. Our MyPlan performance assessment focuses staff and leaders on the importance of continuous learning throughout the employment lifecycle.

In 2022-23, the Department focused on the professional development of women at all levels including through the Public Sector Commission Elev8 and leadership development programs. In a first for the Department, we held a yarning circle with senior female leaders to better understand our culture, and the real and perceived barriers for women developing and/or progressing into leadership roles.

Traineeships

The Department participates in the Public Sector Commission's Solid Futures Aboriginal Traineeship Program and School-Based Traineeship Program. The young people (aged 24 years or under) onboarded through these programs are thoughtfully mentored and provided with exposure across the business to expand their knowledge, skillset and confidence.

In 2022-23, the Department supported three trainees all based in the Perth metropolitan area. Upon successful completion of the program, trainees will receive their Certificate III in Government and be supported to pursue ongoing employment opportunities.

Trainees Ayden Davies-Whitta and Alannah Biondi.



Empower Leadership Program

The Department delivered its in-house leadership development program, Empower, for its fourth year in 2022-23. Empower is an internal values-based program designed to propel high potential employees by unlocking their leadership potential.

Participants were provided with one-to-one coaching to equip them with skills to lead adaptively in a changing work environment.

As part of the program, participants worked on action learning projects sponsored by the Corporate Executive, providing them with practical experience in addressing contemporary workplace issues in a structured learning environment.

Twenty staff successfully graduated the program and benefited from four modules covering self-leadership, leading others, leading business and leading with vision.

Internships

Throughout 2022-23, the Department offered a range of internship programs catering to tertiary planning students in their final year of studies. During the program, interns were provided with invaluable exposure to the Department's functions and operations that foster practical learning to complement academic theory.

Graduate program

The Department launched our new Graduate Development Program in February 2023. We welcomed six graduates from a diverse range of disciplines with qualifications in science, geographical sciences, human geography, planning, environmental science, urban and regional planning, and commerce, accounting and human resource management.

What makes us an employer of choice?

The 12-month Graduate Development Program started with an impactful onboarding experience that showcased the Department's cultural and heritage assets such as Fremantle Prison and Whiteman Park and took the graduates on a Great Race Around DPLH. Our customised program has formalised mentoring and buddy support and provides targeted rotations that offer broad exposure across the Department. Graduates were provided exposure to our regional footprint with a visit to Kinjarling (Albany) which focused on learning about our history and Aboriginal heritage to encourage a strong connection to Country.

Graduates who successfully complete the program are offered permanent employment with the Department and are provided with ongoing support post-program to further their professional and personal development.

Empower Leadership graduates.



*Front row (Left - Right): Taylor Goddard, Rogan Kirk, James Stewart
Back row (Left - Right): Gabriella Gray, Lara Bailey, Trent Meyers*



Work health and safety

Wellness

At the beginning of 2023, the Department released its new Employee Engagement program with a monthly themed calendar designed to support, celebrate and activate a variety of engagement opportunities for staff.

The well-being activations have been chosen to support staff with normal stresses, working productively, and realising your highest potential. The program aligns with the Department's endorsed Days of Observance calendar, with the engagement activations raising awareness on some fewer known observed days around the world. The calendar has been crafted with the involvement of internal and external stakeholders providing employees with engaging experiences that are passionately driven. Staff have participated in activities such as:

- Refresh, Reset, GO!
- Mindfulness Meditation.
- Deaf Awareness Training.
- BeMoved®.

Family and domestic violence

The Department recognises that staff can face difficult situations in their personal life, including family domestic violence. To support our staff we published a new Family and Domestic Violence Policy and Procedure and provided refresher training to Family and Domestic Violence Contact Officers.

The Department has published easily accessible information and offers confidential services to discuss family and domestic violence including access to professional support services, paid leave and safety management planning support. We participated in 16 Days in WA joining with other organisations in a State-wide campaign to end violence against women. Staff donated generously to Zonta House to provide women escaping domestic violence with Christmas gifts and food.

Health and safety performance indicators

The Department is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment and maintaining the safety and health of all our staff, contractors, and visitors.

In 2022-23, we continued to close out audit recommendations on the Work Health and Safety (WHS) management system to improve compliance maturity with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* and relevant regulations. The Department implemented a whole-of-staff consultation process to update WHS policies. We used this feedback to refresh our mandatory WHS training for staff and managers to raise further awareness of increased responsibilities under the legislation. The Department also undertook a comprehensive 'All Hazards' safety risk assessment.

For more information, visit our:

[WHS Statement of Commitment](#)



Training and developing our staff

In 2022-23, we held WHS-related training programs including:

- WHS Awareness training for employees.
- WHS Awareness training for Managers and the Corporate Executive.
- First Aid training including Remote First Aid training for staff traveling and residing in regional locations.
- Learn and Grow staff information sessions on the new WHS legislation.
- Fire Warden Training.
- Health and Safety Representative Training.
- Deaf Awareness Training.

Our Safety Health and Wellness Committee met quarterly throughout 2022-23, providing a forum to facilitate consultation between management and workers on safety matters.

Performance reporting

Measures	Results: base year	Results: prior year	Results: current reporting year	Targets	Comments about targets
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	0	There have been no work-related fatalities over the past three financial years.
Lost time injury and disease incidence rate	0.25%	1.45%	0.53%	0 or 10% reduction in incidence rate	The Department recorded a similar number of incidences in 2022-23 as in previous years, however with an increase in total FTE the incident percentage rate decreased.
Lost time injury and severity rate	50%	0	60%	0 or 10% reduction in severity rate	The Department had an increase in severe lost time injuries in 2022-23 (actual or estimated 60 days or more lost from work).
Percentage of injured workers returned to work (i) within 13 weeks	100%	50%	25%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Due to an increase in severe cases, there was an increase in time taken for workers to return to work.
Percentage of injured workers returned to work (ii) within 26 weeks	100%	50%	50%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Due to an increase in severe cases, there was an increase in time taken for workers to return to work.
Percentage of managers trained in work health and safety injury management responsibilities, including refresher training within three years	78%	79%	92%	Greater than or equal to 80%	92 percent of active managers completed a once-off WHS Managers training.

Hon Dr Tony Buti Minister for Aboriginal Affairs with Director General Anthony Kannis at the launch of the Department's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.



Diversity, access, and inclusion

Diversity and inclusion in our workforce

It is important that we provide a workplace where staff are valued and recognised for their unique qualities, ideas and perspectives and everyone is supported to reach their full potential. We offer a work environment which supports our values, is inclusive and genuinely provides flexible work options to assist all staff in balancing their work and non-work commitments where it is mutually beneficial. We are committed to meeting and exceeding our diversity targets by 2025.

During 2022-23 the Department:

- Developed a Workforce and Diversity Strategy 2024-27 with cascading action plans for each of the six diversity groups outlining initiatives aligned to the Workforce Diversification and Inclusion Strategy for WA Public Sector Employment 2020-25.
- Identified and implemented new ways to attract, retain and develop staff from all diversity backgrounds, including the use of the *Equal Opportunity Employment Act 1984*, using Commissioner's Instruction 39: Interim Arrangements to Fill Public Sector Vacancies Policy and implemented customised employment for people living with disabilities.

For a full list of the Department's 2022-23 diversity, access and inclusion actions please see pages 73 to 74.

Substantive equality reporting

The Department is committed to testing its systems and processes to identify and address potential areas of systemic discrimination among our workforce. We align our policy and practices to the Policy Framework for Substantive Equality across the State Government as best practice for achieving diversity and inclusion with the public sector and Western Australia.

The Department applies sections of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* to prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, young people and people with disability who meet the requirements of the position in recruitment processes.

The Department is focused on proactively building a workforce that reflects the community we serve, and we recognise that employment participation by Aboriginal people is critical to our success in ensuring the preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage, and the appropriate use of Crown land.

In 2022-23 the Department supported substantive equality by:

- Developing and implementing the Action Plans to Improve WA Public Sector Employment Outcomes for each of the six diversity groups which align to the four pillars of the *Workforce Diversification and Inclusion Strategy for WA Public Sector Employment 2020-25*.
- Undertaking robust data analysis to inform internal reporting and initiatives to address gaps in the Department's equity index to ensure that diversity cohorts are represented at all classifications, and to identify actions to remediate gaps.
- Encouraging a culture of inclusivity where staff can self-identify as belonging to diversity groups.
- Offering recruitment panel training (offered face-to-face) covering diversity, managing unconscious bias and inclusive selection processes.

Diversity and inclusion comparison data

Data from December 2022 and June 2023 illustrates the Department's performance against Public Sector Commission targets in workforce diversity and inclusion.

	2025 targets	June 2022 performance	June 2023 performance
Women in senior executive service	50%	48.1%	38.5%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	3.7%	2.5%	3.3%
People with disability	5%	1.8%	3.5%
People of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds	15.5%	22.3%	18.2%
Youth (age < 24)	5.8%	3.7%	5.5%

Customised Employment Trial

In 2022-23, we trialled a customised employment approach which identifies elements of roles that could provide opportunities for people living with a disability. Rather than waiting for candidates with a disability to respond to an advertisement, we partnered with disability employment providers and designed elements of roles that were suited to achieving our shared goal of sustainable and meaningful employment.

We created an innovative approach to our selection process and made adjustments to remove barriers and provide a positive experience for candidates.

The trial has been a success with three employees having entered the workforce. The Department's employment team will leverage the learnings from the trial to continue to seek opportunities for employees with a disability and consider economic empowerment for women escaping domestic violence.

Multicultural Action Plan

The Department is committed to actively growing and supporting culturally diverse communities. Our *Multicultural Action Plan 2021-2025* (MAP) was developed to help establish a clear and future-focused framework to respond to our diverse workforce and stakeholder needs. It was also designed to ensure the intended benefits of the State Government's *Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework 2020* are realised.

2022-23 MAP actions

- In March 2023 we celebrated Harmony Week with various events and promotions throughout the week, including a staff morning tea.
- Activity based working continued to allow staff to work from home, promoting the Department's flexible working arrangements to support an inclusive workplace culture.
- Staff undertook anti-discrimination and anti-bullying training as a part of their onboarding process and completed mandatory Code of Conduct, Accountable and Ethical Decision Making and Cultural Awareness Training.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The Department is committed to ensuring all members of the community have equal access to our facilities, services, and information.

We will continuously review and improve the way we deliver our services to meet this commitment. Our *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan* (DAIP) guides our decision-making and action to improve the inclusiveness and accessibility of services and facilities for people with disability, their families and carers.

Universal access lift to the Commissariat, Fremantle Prison.



2022-23 DAIP actions

- We partnered with disability employment providers to trial a customised employment approach which identifies positions that could be filled by people living with a disability. The trial has been a success with three employees re-entering the workforce and contributing positively to their respective teams.
- Fremantle Prison prepared its first Accessibility and Inclusion Plan, identifying specific policies, areas and actions required to be updated and implemented to ensure the facility is accessible for all.
- Whiteman Park continued to offer the companion card whereby carers receive free entry.
- More than 40 per cent of more than 200 picnic tables within Whiteman Park are now disability-friendly, being designed to accommodate two wheelchair users at each table along with able-bodied users. This proportion will steadily increase as older tables are replaced.
- In our central office at 140 William St, Perth, we installed automatic doors on Levels 5 and 6 to access the bathroom areas where the accessible toilets are located.

Innovate: Reconciliation Action Plan

In April 2023, the Department launched its *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan* (RAP) March 2023 to February 2025.

Our Innovate RAP captures our commitment to reconciliation and effective service provision between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Western Australian communities, our staff, and stakeholders. It also builds on the actions achieved under our previous *Reflect RAP October 2019 to April 2021*, which marked the first stage of our reconciliation journey.

The Department values the unique perspectives and experiences of the oldest continuous living culture in the world. Our vision for reconciliation is for our land and places to acknowledge, celebrate and protect the rich histories of local Aboriginal cultures, to see all First Nations people thriving from opportunity and to see all of our employees building strong, collaborative relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

On behalf of all Western Australians, the Department is playing a key role to help protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, ensure land is rightfully vested with Traditional Owners, support Aboriginal people to care for and manage their land, and provide for truth telling as part of our State's history.

As a Department, we are also committed to increasing employment of Aboriginal people and supporting training for Aboriginal youth and emerging leaders, improving cultural awareness amongst staff, and supporting new supplier arrangements for emerging and established Aboriginal businesses.

[Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan](#)



Staff member Amber Ugle-Hayward speaking at the joint agency NAIDOC Week event.

2022-23 RAP actions

- We designed, developed, and released our Innovate RAP.
- We hosted a joint NAIDOC Week 2022 event with other State Government agencies as well as internal NAIDOC Week 2022 and National Reconciliation Week 2023 events.
- We also participated in Reconciliation WA's National Reconciliation Week Street Banner Program in which we sponsored five banners located in Perth in Elizabeth Quay and Murray Street Mall, as well as regionally in Broome, Bunbury and Albany.





Boards and committee remuneration

Western Australian Planning Commission

The WAPC has state-wide responsibility for urban, rural and regional integrated strategic and statutory land use planning and land development, working in conjunction with both State and local governments. The WAPC is established under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*.

For more information including 2022-23 highlights, performance management, and committee remuneration please refer to the *WAPC Annual Report 2022-23*.

[WAPC Annual Report 2022-23](#)



Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority

The *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972* makes provision for the establishment of an Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority and an Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council to provide consultative and other services for the economic, social, and cultural advancement of Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

For more information, please refer to the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Annual Report 2022-23*.

[APAA Annual Report 2022-23](#)



Heritage Council of Western Australia

The Heritage Council is the State Government's advisory and statutory body on heritage matters. It determines the Department's historic heritage strategy and policies, makes key decisions on places to be entered into the State Register of Heritage Places, and provides specialist advice relating to the development of heritage places. It is established under the *Heritage Act 2018*.

For more information including 2022-23 highlights, performance management, and committee remuneration please refer to the *Heritage Council Annual Report 2022-23*.

[Heritage Council Annual Report 2022-23](#)



Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee

The Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee is established under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* to evaluate places and objects of importance to Aboriginal communities and make recommendations to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on matters related to these places and objects.

2022-23 membership and remuneration

Member	Position	Type of remuneration	Membership period (months)	Gross remuneration	Meetings attended
Vanessa Kickett	Chairperson	Per annum	12	\$24,623	8
Merle Carter	Board member	Sitting fees (per meeting attended)	12	\$3,125	8
Lindsay Dean	Board member	Sitting fees (per meeting attended)	12	\$4,224	10
David Raftery	Board member	N/A	12	Nil	10
Irene Stainton	Board member	Sitting fees (per meeting attended)	12	\$3,972	10
Juliet Jones	Board member	Sitting fees (per meeting attended)	10	\$3,029	6
Anthony Castelli	Board member (Ex-Officio)	N/A	12	Nil	11

For more information, please visit

[Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee](#)



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council*

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council is established under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021*. The Council has seven members**, with a male and female co-chair, and majority Aboriginal representation.

* *In August 2023 the Government announced its intention to repeal the Aboriginal cultural heritage laws and restore the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. It is proposed that the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council will take on the role of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee established under the 1972 Act.*

** *In June 2023, it was announced that the inaugural seven members would be joined by four new members to be appointed in July 2023, taking the total number of Council members to 11.*

2022-23 membership and remuneration

Member	Position	Type of remuneration	Membership period (months)	Gross remuneration	Meetings attended
Irene Stainton	Co-Chairperson	Per annum	10	\$27,439	9
Mark Bin Baker	Co-Chairperson	Per annum	10	\$27,439	8
Graham Castledine	Board member	Per annum	10	\$15,091	7
Belinda Moharich	Board member	Per annum	10	\$15,091	7
Debra Fletcher	Board member	Per annum	10	\$15,091	9
Kevin Walley	Board member	Per annum	10	\$16,269	6
Merle Carter	Board member	Per annum	10	\$15,091	6

For more information, please visit

[Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council](#)



Pastoral Lands Board

The PLB is a statutory authority established under section 94 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA). It has joint responsibility with the Minister for Lands for administering Western Australia's pastoral leases in accordance with Part 7 of the LAA.

2022-23 membership and remuneration

Member	Position	Type of remuneration	Membership period (months)	Gross remuneration	Meetings attended
Timothy Shackleton	Chairperson	Per annum	12	\$34,972	6
Kim Eckert	Board member	Sitting fees (per meeting attended)	12	\$4,939	6
Eric Benning	Board member	Sitting fees (per meeting attended)	12	\$4,332	5
Timothy Meecham	Board member	Sitting fees (per meeting attended)	12	\$8,586	6
Wendy Brockhurst	Board member	Sitting fees (per meeting attended)	12	\$5,861	6
Jane Sale	Board member	Sitting fees (per meeting attended)	12	\$3,702	4

For more information, please visit

[Pastoral Lands Board](#)



Development Assessment Panels

Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) were established in 2011 as part of reforms to streamline and improve the planning approvals process. The role of DAPs is to determine development applications within a certain type and value threshold through consistent, accountable, and professional decision-making.

There are four DAPs in the Perth metropolitan area and one regional DAP covering the northern, central and southern areas of Western Australia.

The Department maintains a DAP Secretariat to ensure professional administrative support to each DAP, publish agendas and minutes, and maintain a database of meetings and member participation.

All DAP meetings are open to the public and members of the media. In 2022-23, 320 DAP applications were received, including 252 new Form 1 applications, 41 Form 2 (minor amendment or cancellation) applications and 27 State Administrative Tribunal appeals.

In February 2023, the State Government announced further changes to the DAP system as part of its Action Plan for Planning Reform. The number of DAP panels will be reduced to three; one each for Perth's inner and outer metropolitan areas, and the third panel to consider regional applications.

More information on Planning Reform, including changes to the DAP system is available on page 26.

Breakdown by DAP area

No. applications received by DAP	Form 1	Form 2	SAT	Total
Perth Local DAP	8	2	0	10
Metro Inner-North Joint DAP	36	12	11	59
Metro Inner-South Joint DAP	46	9	5	60
Metro Outer Joint DAP	110	16	7	133
Regional Joint DAP	52	2	4	58

Cost of development by DAP area for new (form 1) applications

New application cost of development	Mandatory	Optional	Total
Perth Local DAP	\$549,000,000	\$5,100,000	\$554,100,000
Metro Inner-North Joint DAP	\$550,070,000	\$78,600,000	\$628,670,000
Metro Inner-South Joint DAP	\$1,289,850,818	\$96,950,900	\$1,386,801,718
Metro Outer Joint DAP	\$6,075,100,323	\$182,266,942	\$6,257,367,265
Regional Joint DAP	\$2,357,056,000	\$107,998,774	\$2,465,054,774
Total			\$11,291,993,757

2022-23 membership and remuneration

Name	Position	Membership period (months)	Total remuneration
Cr Peter Abetz	Local government member	12	\$2,348.00
Cr Aaron David Adams	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Mayor Carol Adams	Local government member	12	\$3,868.00
Cr Claire Nancy Anderson	Local government member	12	\$1,409.00
Cr Kaara Lyan Andrew	Local government member	12	\$3,757.00
Cr Mary Angus	Local government member	12	\$912.00
Mr John Tony Arias	Presiding member	12	\$24,896.00
Cr Catherine Barlow	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Douglas Barritt	Local government member	12	\$111.00
Ms Lindsay Baxter	A/Deputy presiding member	12	\$6,078.00
Cr Fergus Bennett	Local government member	12	\$1,160.00
Cr Michael Bennett	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr David Binks	Local government member	12	\$1,409.00
Mr Ian Birch	A/Deputy presiding member	4	\$12,416.00
Cr David Bolt	Local government member	12	\$1,409.00
Cr Blane Brackenridge	Local government member	12	\$580.00
Cr Graham Kenneth Broad	Local government member	12	\$442.00
Cr Lorna Buchan	Local government member	12	\$4,269.00
Cr Craig Carbone	Local government member	12	\$2,818.00
Cr Paul Thomas Carter	Local government member	12	\$6,685.00
Cr Carl Celedin	Local government member	3	\$2,348.00
Ms Sheryl Margaret Chaffer	A/Deputy presiding member	4	\$6,369.00
Ms Rachel Chapman	Deputy presiding member	12	\$17,128.00
Cr Rebecca Coghlan	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Cr Amy Collins	Local government member	12	\$111.00
Cr Melvyn Congerton	Local government member	12	\$2,348.00
Cr Georgina Phoebe Corke	Local government member	12	\$3,287.00
Cr Glenn Cridland	Local government member	12	\$1,409.00
Cr Maria Cristoffanini	Local government member	12	\$111.00
Cr Phillip Cronin	Local government member	12	\$939.00

Name	Position	Membership period (months)	Total remuneration
Mr Brian Curtis	A/Deputy presiding member	12	\$5,138.00
Cr Srecko Cvitan	Local government member	12	\$4,337.00
Cr Jennifer Davis	Local government member	12	\$1,409.00
Cr Kirsty Dellar	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Wendy Dickinson	Local government member	12	\$1,879.00
Cr Luke William Ellery	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Catherine Ehrhardt	Local government member	12	\$1,409.00
Cr Joshua Eveson	Local government member	12	\$1,879.00
Cr Felicity Farrelly	Local government member	12	\$4,696.00
Cr Brent Fleeton	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Cr Alexander Fullarton	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Paul Gillett	Local government member	12	\$3,287.00
Ms Diana Goldswain	Third specialist member	12	\$13,122.00
Cr David Goode	Local government member	12	\$7,984.00
Cr Alaine Susan Haddon-Casey	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Mayor Patrick Hall	Local government member	12	\$5,138.00
Cr Robert Hall	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Mr Rene Anton Yohan Haeren	Presiding member	12	\$4,310.00
Cr Rodney Keith Henderson	Local government member	12	\$4,807.00
Cr Grant Henley	Local government member	12	\$2,348.00
Mr Jason Hick	Third specialist member	12	\$22,266.00
Cr Adrian Hill	Local government member	12	\$580.00
Mr Clayton Higham	Presiding member	12	\$46,532.00
Ms Kanella Hope	Deputy presiding member	12	\$12,625.00
Ms Karen Hyde	Deputy presiding member	12	\$17,709.00
Cr Jacqueline Huntley	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Guiseppe Italiano	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Frank Johnson	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Zenda Johnson	Local government member	12	\$442.00
Cr Bryn Jones	Local government member	12	\$2,818.00
Cr Mark Trevor Jones	Local government member	12	\$4,227.00
Cr Nigel Ashley Jones	Local government member	12	\$3,619.00
Ms Jacqueline Jurmann	A/Deputy presiding member	12	\$939.00

Name	Position	Membership period (months)	Total remuneration
Cr John Keogh	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Cr Caroline Knight	Local government member	12	\$1,409.00
Mr Eugene Koltasz	Presiding member	12	\$47,749.00
Cr Garry Kosovich	Local government member	12	\$1,050.00
Mr Paul Kotsoglo	A/Deputy presiding member	12	\$5,111.00
Cr Benjamin Paul Kunze	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Mr Peter Lee	Third specialist member	12	\$5,166.00
Ms Francesca Lefante	Presiding member	12	\$63,608.00
Cr Catherine Lezer	Local government member	12	\$2,818.00
Cr Luana Lisandro	Local government member	12	\$1,879.00
Cr Mary Little	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Cr Paul Macfarlane	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Mayor Philip Marks	Local government member	12	\$4,917.00
Cr Craig Anthony Masarei	Local government member	12	\$2,321.00
Cr Andrew Maurice	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Cr Betty Maxine McCleary	Local government member	12	\$1,879.00
Cr John Douglas Gordon McLarty	Local government member	12	\$442.00
Cr Thomas McLean	Local government member	12	\$3,039.00
Cr Paige McNeil	Local government member	12	\$111.00
Cr John Raymond Mearns	Local government member	12	\$442.00
Cr Julia Meldrum	Local government member	12	\$1,519.00
Cr Suzanne Migdale	Local government member	12	\$6,685.00
Cr Ian Miffing	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Paul Miles	Local government member	12	\$442.00
Cr Robert Nash	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Xuan Vinh Nguyen	Local government member	12	\$3,868.00
Cr Kelly Leanne Nunn	Local government member	12	\$1,879.00
Ms Lee O'Donohue	Deputy presiding member	12	\$28,652.00
Mr Justin Page	Third specialist member	12	\$13,479.00
Cr Nicholas Pazolli	Local government member	12	\$3,868.00
Cr Rachel Pemberton	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Ms Leigh Penney	A/Third specialist member	12	\$1,879.00
Cr Shanavas Peter	Local government member	12	\$939.00

Name	Position	Membership period (months)	Total remuneration
Cr David Pike	Local government member	12	\$442.00
Cr Darren Pool	Local government member	12	\$912.00
Cr Vicki Potter	Local government member	12	\$3,287.00
Cr Richard Powell	Local government member	12	\$1,050.00
Ms Gabriela Renate Poezyn	A/Deputy presiding member	12	\$14,979.00
Ms Neema Ben Premji	A/Third specialist member	3	\$442.00
Cr Tracey Ann Rathbone	Local government member	12	\$425.00
Cr Maria Re	Local government member	12	\$1,989.00
Cr Michelle Rich	Local government member	12	\$2,680.00
Cr Peter Robinson	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Angela Rogers	Local government member	12	\$912.00
Cr Casey Rose	Local government member	3	\$470.00
Cr Carmel Marie Ross	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Clive Michael Ross	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Jarrod Ross	Local government member	12	\$3,729.00
Cr Roberto Rossi	Local government member	12	\$3,508.00
Cr Matthew Rowse	Local government member	12	\$3,868.00
Cr Stephen Russell	Local government member	12	\$1,409.00
Cr Linton Stanley Rumble	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Sara Saberi	Local government member	0	\$470.00
Cr Margaret Sandford	Local government member	12	\$2,348.00
Ms Shelley Jane Shepherd	A/Third specialist member	12	\$1,879.00
Cr Anthony Smith	Local government member	12	\$442.00
Cr Kerry Smyth	Local government member	12	\$801.00
Cr Amanda Spencer-Teo	Local government member	12	\$2,348.00
Cr Chontelle Stone	Local government member	12	\$1,409.00
Cr Lauren Strange	Local government member	12	\$2,210.00
Cr Andrew Charles Sullivan	Local government member	12	\$3,757.00
Cr Judith Sutherland	Local government member	12	\$442.00
Mr John Syme	Third specialist member	12	\$34,697.00
Mr John Taylor	A/Third specialist member	4	\$1,050.00
Cr Peter Telford	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Mayor Margaret Thomas	Local government member	12	\$4,696.00

Name	Position	Membership period (months)	Total remuneration
Cr Shane Van Styn	Local government member	12	\$470.00
Cr Ashley David Wallace	Local government member	12	\$5,636.00
Cr Michael White	Local government member	12	\$111.00
Cr Thomas Widenbar	Local government member	12	\$1,879.00
Mayor Rhys Williams	Local government member	12	\$1,409.00
Cr Serena Maria Williamson	Local government member	12	\$6,078.00
Cr Terrence John Winner	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Cr Sherilyn Wood	Local government member	12	\$939.00
Cr Matthew Woodall	Local government member	12	\$3,398.00
Cr Cosimo Zannino	Local government member	12	\$6,216.00

Note: The type of remuneration for all DAP members listed above is "sitting fees (per meeting attended)".

Board of Valuers

The Board of Valuers provides valuations of properties reserved in planning schemes where the owner of the land wishes to sell the property on the open market at a reduced price and claim compensation for injurious affection from the responsible authority (the WAPC or local government) for the reduction in value. The Board is independent with administrative support provided by the Department.

Member	Position	Type of remuneration	Membership period	Gross remuneration	Meetings attended
Ross Hughes	Chairperson	N/A	12 months	Nil	1
Kate Bingham	Member	Sitting fees (per meeting attended)	5 months	\$177	1
Matthew Garmony	Member	N/A	12 months	Nil	1
Kirsty Lane	Member	N/A	12 months	Nil	1



other disclosures
and legal
compliance

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

Breach of standards claims

During the annual reporting period there were five breach claims lodged against Commissioner's Instruction 1 all of which were successfully resolved. The Department complied fully with the Public Sector Commission's established minimum standards of merit, equity and probity.

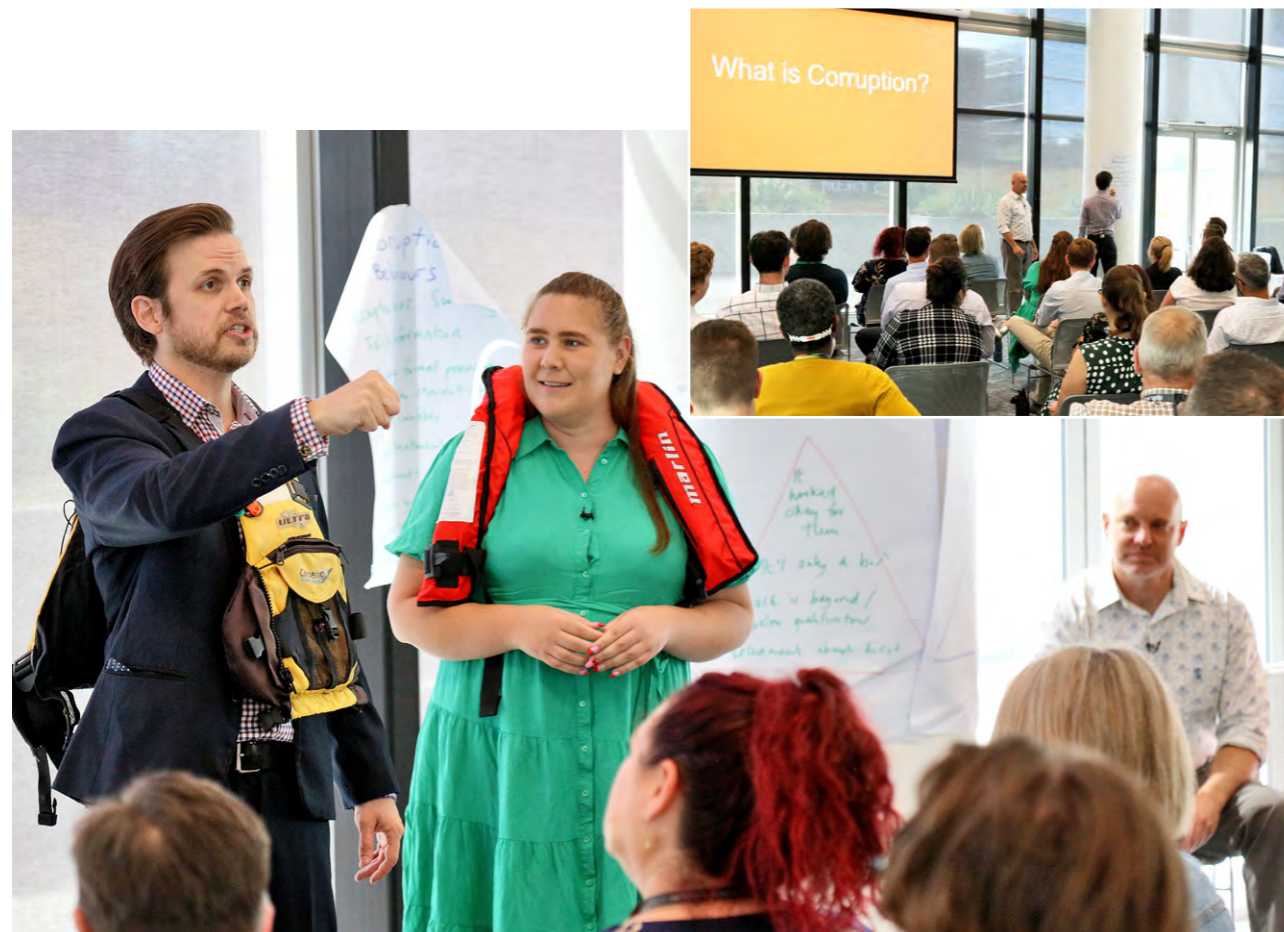
Code of Conduct

In March 2023, after extensive consultation, including peer review by the Public Sector Commission, the Department's new Code of Conduct was launched.

The Code establishes a positive obligation and shared understanding for our employees and promotes a high standard of integrity and accountability by describing professional behaviour consistent with our values. It is a concise and practical document with case studies that allow staff to consider different scenarios if faced with integrity challenges.

Integrity awareness learning event

In the lead up to the launch of its new Code of Conduct, the Department promoted International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2022 with an informative and interactive corporate theatre workshop. This facilitated event was well received and live-streamed across the Department.



Ministerial directions

No ministerial directions were received during the financial year.

Act of grace payments

No act of grace payments were made in 2022-23.

Pricing policies

The Department charges for goods and services rendered on a full or partial cost recovery basis. These fees and charges are determined in accordance with the *Costing and Pricing Government Services: Guidelines for Use by Agencies in the Western Australian Public Sector* published by the Department of Treasury.

Major capital projects

In accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 903(13) (ii), the Department and WAPC identify the following major capital works projects that remain ongoing at the end of the financial year:

Project name	Expected year of completion	Estimated remaining cost to complete as at 30 June 2023	Estimated total cost of project
		\$'000	\$'000
Accommodation refurbishment and sustainability initiatives	2026-27	1,596	7,140
Asset Replacement ICT	2026-27	2,800	21,749
ICT infrastructure	2026-27	2,935	29,645
Fremantle Prison conservation	2025-26	6,455	8,922
Planning Online Program	2024-25	8,557	16,977
Kimberley Flood Recovery	2025-26	21,439	21,439
Ascot Kiln preservation works (WAPC project)	2023-24	4,500	10,201

Department's response to the *National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management 2019-2023*

As part of the *National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management 2019-2023*, Fremantle Prison and Whiteman Park have asbestos registers.

Unauthorised use of credit cards

The Department's officers hold corporate credit cards as required by their position. Each cardholder is reminded regularly of their obligations under the Department's Purchasing Card Policy.

In 2022-23, there were 25 instances where cardholders used their corporate credit card for payments of items not for official use:

Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure for the reporting period	\$1,741.35
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled by the due date (within 5 working days)	\$384.56
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled after the due date (after 5 working days)	\$1,356.79
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure remaining unpaid at the end of the reporting period	Nil
Number of referrals for disciplinary action instigated by the Department during the reporting period	Nil

Each instance was investigated by the Chief Finance Officer where it was found the nature of the expenditure was an honest mistake. Advice was provided to the cardholder and they were supported to ensure prompt settlement of the personal use amount.

Expenditure on advertising, marketing, research, polling, and direct mail

In accordance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Department incurred the following expenditure in advertising, market research, polling and direct mail. Total expenditure for 2022-23 was \$638,803 with most advertising related to statutory requirements to support land sale, leasing opportunities and consultation opportunities.

Expenditure	Organisation	Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
Advertising agencies	N/A	N/A	N/A
Market research organisations	N/A	N/A	N/A
Polling organisations	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct mail organisations	N/A	N/A	N/A
Media advertising organisations	Initiative Media Australia Pty Ltd	343,605	638,803
	Rare Creative Thinking	98,717	
	Matterkind Display & Video	35,844	
	Guru Productions	35,000	
	Wanderlust Communications	32,645	
	Other	92,992	
Grand total			638,803

Recordkeeping

The Department is committed to good record keeping and compliance and strives to implement robust and contemporary recordkeeping processes and systems. In accordance with section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000* the Department has a Recordkeeping Plan that is effective until the end of 2023.

During 2022-23, the Department upgraded its Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS) providing a fully supported environment that facilitates better efficiency, security and information sharing across the agency. Consolidation of usage and enhancement of business processes within the EDRMS is our focus, alongside better ways to use the information that the Department produces, ensuring maximum value is obtained from our information assets.

New staff are given access to training in recordkeeping and the Department's EDRMS during the onboarding process. The Department's induction program covers compliance requirements and relevant legislation, and recordkeeping roles, responsibilities, processes and practices.

Online Records Awareness Training is mandatory for all new staff, with refresher training required every two years. The training modules provide staff with information about their recordkeeping roles and responsibilities as well as compliance updates. In 2022-23, of the 231 staff enrolled for Online Records Awareness Training (including refresher training) the Department recorded a 96 per cent completion rate.

Training for the EDRMS is available through an online course and the Department provides one-on-one targeted support on request.

The Department's Recordkeeping Policy will be reviewed in 2023-24 as part of preparing the submission for our new Recordkeeping Plan. The policy, as well as supporting procedures and EDRMS user guides, are available to all staff via our intranet and within the EDRMS.



Financial statements



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

2023

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

To the Parliament of Western Australia

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage which comprise:

- the Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2023, and the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended
- Administered schedules comprising the Administered assets and liabilities at 30 June 2023 and the Administered income and expenses by service for the year then ended
- Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, the financial statements are:

- based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position at the end of that period
- in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Other revenue – Administered Income and Expenses Schedule

Within the Administered Income and Expenses Schedule for the year ended 30 June 2022 is an unreconciled movement in land of \$259.568 million disclosed as other income.

Management were unable to reconcile this amount in order to determine the appropriate recognition and classification for the year ended June 2022. I was unable to confirm other income by alternative means. Consequently, I was unable to determine whether any adjustments were necessary to other income stated as \$259.568 million in the Administered Income and Expenses Schedule. My opinion on the current period's financial statements is modified because of the possible effect of this matter in the comparability of the current period's figures and the corresponding figures.

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7th Floor Albert Facey House 469 Wellington Street Perth MAIL TO: Perth BC PO Box 8489 Perth WA 6849 TEL: 08 6557 7500

Land at fair value – Administered Assets and Liabilities Schedule

Within the Administered Assets and Liabilities Schedule as at 30 June 2023, management were unable to substantiate the existence of all administered land. This was due to inadequate controls over administered land, as some land was subject to a Management Order and therefore should not be recognised. I was unable to confirm administered land by alternative means. Consequently, I was unable to determine whether any adjustments were necessary to administered land stated as \$2.950 billion (2022: \$2.747 billion) in the Administered Assets and Liabilities Schedule.

Responsibilities of the Director General for the financial statements

The Director General is responsible for:

- keeping proper accounts
- preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions
- such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director General is responsible for:

- assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern
- disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Western Australian Government has made policy or funding decisions affecting the continued existence of the Department.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website. This description forms part of my auditor's report and can be found at

https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf.

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Report on the audit of controls

Qualified Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. The controls exercised by the Director General are those policies and procedures established to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State's financial reporting framework (the overall control objectives).

In my opinion, in all material respects, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the controls exercised by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State's financial reporting framework during the year ended 30 June 2023.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Implementation of controls over acquisition and disposal of administered land

I identified significant weaknesses in the implementation of controls over the annual reconciliation of administered land as well as the recording of acquisitions and disposals of administered land. These weaknesses could result in inaccuracies in the administered land records and thereby in administered financial information as errors and/or fraud may not be detected.

The Director General's responsibilities

The Director General is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining controls to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the Treasurer's Instructions and other relevant written law.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of the controls as designed. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagement ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and were implemented as designed.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the controls design to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of those controls. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including an assessment of the risks that controls are not suitably designed or implemented as designed. My procedures included testing the implementation of those controls that I consider necessary to achieve the overall control objectives.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Limitations of controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure, it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and implemented as designed, once in operation, the overall control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of the suitability of the design of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become unsuitable because of changes in conditions.

Report on the audit of the key performance indicators

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for the year ended 30 June 2023. The key performance indicators are the Under Treasurer-approved key effectiveness indicators and key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the key performance indicators of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Department's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The Director General's responsibilities for the key performance indicators

The Director General is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such internal controls as the Director General determines necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the key performance indicators, the Director General is responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate, having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer's Instructions 904 *Key Performance Indicators*.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators. The objectives of my engagement are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the entity's performance and whether the key performance indicators are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the key performance indicators. It also involves evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators against the criteria and guidance in Treasurer's Instruction 904 for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and the efficiency of service delivery. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments, I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the engagement in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

My independence and quality management relating to the report on financial statements, controls and key performance indicators

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQM 1 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Other information

The Director General is responsible for the other information. The other information is the information in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but not the financial statements, key performance indicators and my auditor's report.

My opinions on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and key performance indicators or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive it, I will read it and if I conclude that there is a material misstatement in this information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request them to correct the misstated information. If the misstated information is not corrected, I may need to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report.

Matters relating to the electronic publication of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators

The auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for the year ended 30 June 2023 included in the annual report on the Department's website. The Department's management is responsible for the integrity of the Department's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Department's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the annual report. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to contact the entity to confirm the information contained in the website version.



Carl Huxtable
Acting Deputy Auditor General
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
18 September 2023



Department of Planning,
Lands and Heritage

Certification of financial statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the reporting period ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position as at 30 June 2023.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included within the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.

Anthony Kannis PSM
Director General
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

15 September 2023

Maurice Hanrahan
Chief Finance Officer
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

15 September 2023

Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 '000	2022 '000
Cost of services			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expenses	2.1	110,678	100,523
Supplies and services	2.4	47,599	36,894
Depreciation and amortisation expense	4.1, 4.2, 4.3	2,275	2,303
Finance costs	6.3	42	17
Accommodation expenses	2.4	8,598	8,308
Grants and subsidies	2.3	16,714	13,015
Cost of sales	3.3	162	67
Other expenses	2.4	21,848	18,472
Total cost of services		207,916	179,599
Income			
User charges and fees	3.2	5,356	3,548
Sales	3.3	3,994	1,829
Rental Revenue	3.4	3,423	3,995
Commonwealth grants and contributions	3.5	783	610
Grants and subsidies	3.6	-	875
Other income	3.7	1,715	1,062
Total Income		15,271	11,919
Net cost of services		192,645	167,680
Income from State Government	3.1		
Service appropriation		81,787	105,859
Income received from other public sector entities		49,712	51,029
Services received free of charge		9,564	10,572
Royalties for Regions Fund		5,822	5,826
Total income from State Government		146,885	173,286
(Deficit)/Surplus for the period		(45,760)	5,606
Other comprehensive income/(loss)			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	8.8	1,292	(51,899)
Total other comprehensive income/(loss)		1,292	(51,899)
Total comprehensive (loss) income for the period	2.1	(44,467)	(46,293)

Statement of financial position

as at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 '000	2022 '000
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6.1	21,754	62,478
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	6.1	1,347	2,640
Inventories		70	80
Receivables	5.1	7,755	6,895
Other current assets	5.3	3,644	4,150
Total Current Assets		34,570	76,243
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	6.1	2,858	2,052
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	51,739	46,391
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	291,760	288,867
Right-of-use assets	4.3	831	912
Intangible assets	4.2	12,078	5,004
Total Non-Current Assets		359,266	343,226
Total Assets		393,836	419,469
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	5.4	9,177	7,303
Lease liabilities	6.2	263	253
Employee related provisions	2.2	22,350	21,513
Other current liabilities	5.5	3,293	2,482
Provisions	5.6	1,034	1,302
Total Current Liabilities		36,117	32,853
Non-Current Liabilities			
Lease liabilities	6.2	593	730
Employee related provisions	2.2	4,869	4,796
Total Non-Current Liabilities		5,462	5,526
Total Liabilities		41,579	38,379
Net Assets		352,257	381,090
Equity			
Contributed equity	8.8	253,308	237,673
Reserves	8.8	150,513	149,221
Accumulated deficit		(51,564)	(5,804)
Total Equity		352,257	381,090

Statement of changes in equity

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	Contributed Equity '000	Reserves '000	Accumulated deficit '000	Total equity '000
Balance at 1 July 2021		235,970	201,120	(11,410)	425,680
Surplus		-	-	5,606	5,606
Other comprehensive loss		-	(51,899)	-	(51,899)
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(51,899)	5,606	(46,293)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		2,373	-	-	2,373
Distributions to owners		(670)	-	-	(670)
Total		1,703	-	-	1,703
Balance at 30 June 2022		237,673	149,221	(5,804)	381,090
Balance at 1 July 2022		237,673	149,221	(5,804)	381,090
Deficit		-	-	(45,760)	(45,760)
Other comprehensive income		-	1,292	-	1,292
Total comprehensive income/ loss for the period		-	1,292	(45,760)	(44,468)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		5,923	-	-	5,923
Other contributions by owners		11,962	-	-	11,962
Distributions to owners		(2,250)	-	-	(2,250)
Total		15,635	-	-	15,635
Balance at 30 June 2023	8.8	253,308	150,513	(51,564)	352,257

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 '000	2022 '000
Cash flows from the State Government			
Service appropriation		76,439	101,022
Capital appropriations		5,923	2,373
Capital contributions from Treasury Special Purpose Accounts		11,962	-
Funds from the other public sector entities		49,866	52,885
Royalties for Regions Fund		5,822	5,826
Net cash provided by State Government		150,012	162,106
Utilised as follows:			
Cash flows from operating activities			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(108,931)	(97,924)
Supplies and services		(38,471)	(26,135)
Finance costs		(43)	(17)
Accommodation		(7,911)	(7,619)
Grants and subsidies		(16,719)	(12,934)
GST payments on purchases		(7,714)	(5,910)
GST payments to taxation authority		(1,350)	-
Other payments		(20,529)	(15,344)
Receipts			
Sales of goods and services		3,816	1,829
User charges and fees		5,357	4,512
Commonwealth grants and contributions		783	610
GST receipts on sales		1,240	1,076
GST receipts from taxation authority		6,956	4,758
Other receipts		4,079	5,260
Net cash (used in) operating activities		(179,437)	(147,838)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current assets		(11,369)	(4,746)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(11,369)	(4,746)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Payments			
Lease repayments		(417)	(331)
Net cash (used in) financing activities		(417)	(331)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(41,211)	9,191
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		67,170	57,979
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the period	6.1	25,959	67,170

Administered Schedules

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Administered income and expenses

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Income		
For Transfer		
Sale of land ^(a)	44,742	52,005
Rent Revenue	25,264	22,197
Reserve transfers ^(b)	54,852	69,223
Revaluation increment	259,927	-
Other income ^(d)	1,513	259,568
Other revenue	3,375	1,155
Total administered income	389,673	404,148
Expenses		
Employee expenses	824	586
Revaluation decrement	-	194,925
Impairment land	3,947	-
Depreciation	4,162	3,451
Costs of goods sold ^(a)	65,914	108,797
Payments to Consolidated Account ^(c)	67,473	77,650
Reserve transfers ^(b)	34,028	13,681
Other expenses	5,061	1,600
Total administered expenses	181,409	400,690
^(a) Sale of administered Crown land and buildings is reported as a net loss on disposal of fixed assets as outlined below:		
Proceeds from disposal of land	44,742	52,005
Cost of disposal of land (at fair value less cost to sell)	(65,914)	(108,797)
Cost of disposal of buildings	-	-
Net loss	(21,172)	(56,792)

^(b) Transfer of reserves to/from government, local government and corporations under management orders.

^(c) This reflects Crown land lease and sale proceeds that were transferred to the State Government Consolidated Accounts during the year.

^(d) Other income primarily represents the adjustment to account for the incorrect recognition of management orders. A Management Order is a statutory right to manage and control Crown land in accordance with the Management Order granted under the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA). They place reserves in trust with management bodies on behalf of the public and do not constitute an interest in the land.

Administered Schedules for the year ended 30 June 2023

Administered assets and liabilities

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	48,607	31,643
Receivables	8,802	2,212
Land and building classified as held for sale	10,137	-
Total Administered Current Assets	67,546	33,855
Non-Current Assets		
Land at fair value ^(a)	2,950,454	2,747,346
Buildings at fair value	6,716	5,801
Infrastructure at cost (less accumulated depreciation)	108,537	112,556
Easements at cost	18,380	18,550
Total Administered Non-Current Assets	3,084,087	2,884,253
TOTAL ADMINISTERED ASSETS	3,151,633	2,918,108
Current Liabilities		
Payables	26,208	4,243
Contract liabilities	4,818	2,429
Employee provisions	139	75
Other liabilities	1,093	3,579
Other provisions ^(b)	3,412	3,451
Total Administered Current Liabilities	35,670	13,777
Non-Current Liabilities		
Employee provisions	55	30
Other provisions ^(b)	38,505	38,550
Total Administered Non-Current Liabilities	38,560	38,580
TOTAL ADMINISTERED LIABILITIES	74,230	52,357

^(a) Notes to the Schedules of Administered Items - Land values

Land is measured at fair value based on independent valuations provided by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2023.

Fair value has been determined on the basis of current market value where an active market exists or current use where no market exists and/or the current land use if specialised in nature. Revaluations are made with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying value of land does not differ materially from its fair value at reporting date.

^(b) Other Provisions relates to Native Title, Contaminated sites and provision for amounts payable to other state government entities for land transactions.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

1. Basis of preparation

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (Department or DPLH) is a Western Australia Government entity and is controlled by the State of Western Australia, which is the ultimate parent. The Department is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective).

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities have been included in the 'Overview' which does not form part of these financial statements.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Director General of the Department on 15 September 2023.

Statement of compliance

These general purpose financial statements are prepared in accordance with:

- 1) The *Financial Management Act 2006* (FMA)
- 2) The Treasurer's Instructions (TIs)
- 3) Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) - Simplified Disclosures
- 4) Where appropriate, those AAS paragraphs applicable for not-for-profit entities have been applied

The FMA and the TIs take precedence over AASs. Several AASs are modified by the TIs to vary application, disclosure format and wording. Where modification is required and has had a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars applying the accrual basis of accounting and using the historical cost convention. Certain balances will apply a different measurement basis (such as the fair value basis). Where this is the case the different measurement basis is disclosed in the associated note. All values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

Accounting for Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except that the:

- (a) amount of GST incurred by the Department as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is recognised as part of an asset's cost of acquisition or as part of an item of expense; and
- (b) receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of cash flows on a gross basis. However, 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.

Contributed equity

Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities* requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, as designated as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to, transfer) be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 955 *Contributions by Owners made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities* and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Administered items

The Department administers, but does not control, certain activities and functions for and on behalf of Government that do not contribute to the Department's services or objectives. It does not have discretion over how it utilises the transactions in pursuing its own objectives.

Transactions relating to the administered activities are not recognised as the Department's income, expenses, assets and liabilities, but are disclosed in the accompanying schedules as 'Administered income and expenses', and 'Administered assets and liabilities'.

The accrual basis of accounting and applicable AASs have been adopted.

Comparative information

Except when an AAS permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is presented in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements. AASB 1060 provides relief from presenting comparatives for:

- 1) Property, Plant and Equipment reconciliations;
- 2) Intangible Asset reconciliations; and
- 3) Right-of-Use Asset reconciliations.

Comparative amounts are reclassified unless the reclassification is impracticable.

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the presentation adopted for the current period and if considered significant DPLH will separately disclose:

- the nature of the reclassification
- the amount of each item or class of items that is reclassified
- the reason for the reclassification.

Judgements and estimates

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements and estimates made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements and/or estimates are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

2. Use of our funding

Expenses incurred in the delivery of services

This section provides additional information about how the Department's funding is applied and the accounting policies that are relevant for an understanding of the items recognised in the financial statements. The primary expenses incurred by the Department in achieving its objectives and the relevant notes are:

	Notes	2023 '000	2022 '000
Employee benefits expenses	2.1	110,678	100,523
Employee related provisions	2.2	27,219	26,309
Grants and subsidies	2.3	16,714	13,015
Other expenditure	2.4	78,045	63,674

2.1 Employee benefits expenses

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Short-term employee benefits	99,729	89,988
Termination benefits	276	1,210
Superannuation - defined contribution plans	10,673	9,325
Total employee benefits expenses	110,678	100,523
Add: AASB 16 Non-monetary benefits (not included in employee benefits expense)	413	380
Less: Employee contributions	(65)	(69)
Net employee benefits	111,026	100,834

Employee benefits include wages, salaries and social contributions, accrued and paid leave entitlements and paid sick leave, and non-monetary benefits recognised under accounting standards other than AASB 16 (such as medical care, housing, cars and free or subsidised goods or services) for employees.

Termination benefits are Payable when employment is terminated before normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. Termination benefits are recognised when the Department is demonstrably committed to terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Benefits falling due more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period are discounted to present value.

Superannuation is the amount recognised in profit or loss of the Statement of comprehensive income comprises employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the WSS, other GESB schemes or other superannuation funds.

AASB 16 non-monetary benefits are non-monetary employee benefits, predominantly relating to the provision of vehicle and housing benefits that are recognised under AASB 16 and are excluded from the employee benefits expense.

Employee contributions are contributions made to the Department by employees towards employee benefits that have been provided by the Department. This includes both AASB 16 and non-AASB 16 employee contributions.

2.2 Employee related provisions

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Annual leave	10,233	10,067
Long service leave	9,780	9,274
Deferred salary scheme	115	94
	20,128	19,435
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs	2,222	2,078
Total current employee related provisions	22,350	21,513
Non-current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Long service leave	4,348	4,285
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs	521	511
Total non-current employee related provisions	4,869	4,796
Total employee related provisions	27,219	26,309

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of annual leave and long service leave for services rendered up to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

Annual leave liabilities are classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. The provision for annual leave is calculated at the present value of expected payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Long service leave liabilities are unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the Department does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because the Department has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

The provision for long service leave is calculated at present value as the Department does not expect to wholly settle the amounts within 12 months. The present value is measured taking into account the present value of expected future payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date. These payments are estimated using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement, and discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Deferred salary scheme liabilities are classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Employment on-costs involve settlements of annual and long service leave liabilities which gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments.

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance premiums, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses, Note 2.4' and are not included as part of the Department's 'employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Employment on-costs provision		
Carrying amount at start of period	2,589	2,139
Additional provisions recognised	154	450
Carrying amount at end of period	2,743	2,589

Key sources of estimation uncertainty - long service leave

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Several estimates and assumptions are used in calculating the Department's long service leave provision. These include:

- Expected future salary rates
- Discount rates
- Employee retention rates; and
- Expected future payments

Changes in these estimations and assumptions may impact on the carrying amount of the long service leave provision. Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of long service leave liabilities is recognised as employee benefits expense.

2.3 Grants and subsidies

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Recurrent		
Government agencies	9,708	10,158
Local Government	4,100	1,000
Community grants	356	492
Non-government organisations	1,283	1,284
Other	1,267	81
Total grants and subsidies	16,714	13,015

Transactions in which the Department provides goods, services, assets (or extinguishes a liability) or labour to another party without receiving approximately equal value in return are categorised as 'Grant or subsidy expenses'. These payments or transfers are recognised at fair value at the time of the transaction and are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid. They include transactions such as: grants, subsidies, personal benefit payments made in cash to individuals, other transfer payments made to public sector agencies, local government, non-government schools, and community groups.

2.4 Other expenditure

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Supplies and services		
Advertising and public relations	490	526
Minor equipment purchases	290	278
Leases and hire charges	362	246
Travel and passenger transport	1,127	511
Communications	1,076	837
Consultants and contractors	39,247	30,023
Insurance	1,178	848
Utilities expenses	1,148	1,040
Supplies and services – other	2,681	2,585
Total supplies and services expenses	47,599	36,894
Accommodation expenses		
Office rental ^(a)	8,244	7,974
Repairs and maintenance	23	9
Cleaning	331	325
Total accommodation expenses	8,598	8,308
Other expenses		
Compensation payments – Native Title	3,183	3,731
Repairs and maintenance	13,966	13,075
Other employee expenses ^(a)	1,313	756
Expected credit losses expense	29	13
Write-off other assets	67	51
Revaluation decrement	-	-
Net gain/loss on disposal of non-current assets	-	50
Other	3,290	796
Total other expenses	21,848	18,472
Total other expenditure	78,045	63,674

^(a) Included within Lease rentals are short-term and low value leases of up to \$5,000. This excludes leases with another wholly-owned public sector entity lessor agency. Refer to note 4.1 for aggregate short-term and low value leases expense.

Supplies and services are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. The carrying amounts of any materials held for distribution are expensed when the materials are distributed.

Office rental is expensed as incurred as Memorandum of Understanding Agreements between the Department and the Department of Finance for the leasing of office accommodation contain significant substitution rights.

Other expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations.

Repairs, maintenance and cleaning costs are recognised as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a significant component of an asset. In that case, the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

Expected credit losses is recognised for movement in allowance for impairment of trade receivables. Please refer to note 5.1. Movement in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables.

Employee on-cost includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liabilities is included at Note 2.2 Employee related provisions. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

3. Our funding sources

How we obtain our funding

This section provides additional information about how the Department obtains its funding and the relevant accounting policy notes that govern the recognition and measurement of this funding. The primary income received by the Department and the relevant notes are:

	Notes	2023 '000	2022 '000
Income from State Government	3.1	146,885	173,286
User charges and fees	3.2	5,356	3,548
Trading profit	3.3	3,994	1,829
Rental revenue	3.4	3,423	3,995
Commonwealth grants and contributions	3.5	783	610
Grants and subsidies	3.6	-	875
Other Income	3.7	1,715	1,062

3.1 Income from State Government

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Appropriation received during the period:		
Service appropriation	81,787	105,859
Total service appropriation received	81,787	105,859
Services received free of charge from other State government agencies during the period:		
Landgate – land data and aerial imagery	6,131	6,870
State Solicitor's Office – legal services	2,366	2,152
Department of Finance – accommodation services	680	680
Department of Transport – technical reviews	62	26
Department of Health – review and plan assessments	-	330
Main Roads Western Australia – planning and technical services	1	178
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development - spatial data	2	-
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation – grand water data	322	336
Total services received	9,564	10,572
Royalties for Regions Fund:		
Regional Community Services Account ^(a)	5,822	5,826
Total Royalties for Regions Fund	5,822	5,826
Income received from other public sector entities:		
Recoupable expense and fees for services rendered ^(b)	44,628	46,818
Western Australian Planning Commission ^(c)	2,584	4,211
Fremantle Ports Authority ^(d)	2,500	-
Total Income received from other public sector entities	49,712	51,029
Total income from State Government	146,885	173,286

- (a) The Regional Community Services Accounts are sub-funds within the over-arching 'Royalties for Regions Fund'. The recurrent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas and are recognised as income when the Department receives the funds. The Department has assessed Royalties for Regions agreements and concludes that they are not within the scope of AASB 15 as they do not meet the 'sufficiently specific' criterion.
- (b) The Department provides various services to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) on an annual and ongoing basis in exchange for funding agreed in accordance with the Published Budget of the Department and WAPC. Revenue is recognised when it can be reliably measured.
- (c) The Department received \$2.584 million of contribution from WAPC for various projects such as Planning Reform (\$618k), State Design Review Panel (\$766k) and Major Projects Facilitation (\$1.2 million).
- (d) The Department received \$2.5 million from the Fremantle Ports Authority for the Victoria Quay Improvement Project.

Service Appropriations are recognised as income at the fair value of consideration received in the period in which the Department gains control of the appropriated funds. The Agency gains control of the appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited in the bank account or credited to the holding account held at Treasury.

Income from other public sector entities are recognised as income when the Department has satisfied its performance obligations under the funding agreement. If there is no performance obligation, income will be recognised when the Agency receives the funds.

Services received from other public sector entities is recognised as income equivalent to the fair value of assets received, or the fair value of services received that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated.

Summary of consolidated account appropriations

	2023 '000		
	Estimate	Actual	Variance
Delivery of Services			
Item 85 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	121,810	81,380	(40,430)
Section 25 Transfer of service appropriation	-	-	-
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes – <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	407	407	-
Total service appropriations	122,217	81,787	(40,430)
Capital			
Item 147 Capital appropriations	5,923	5,923	-
GRAND TOTAL	128,140	87,710	(40,430)

3.2 User charges and fees

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Fees	5,238	3,397
User charges	118	151
Total grants and subsidies	5,356	3,548

Revenue is recognised at the transaction price when the Department transfers control of the services to customers.

Revenue is recognised for the major activities as follows:

Revenue is recognised at a point-in-time for Development Assessment Panel applications and Crown licence option fees. The performance obligations for these user fees and charges are satisfied when services have been provided.

3.3 Sales

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Fremantle Prison Tours, Conferences and Parking Sales	3,654	1,675
Sale of Goods	340	154
Total	3,994	1,829

Sales

Revenue is recognised at the transaction price when the Department transfers control of the goods or services to customers.

3.4 Rental Revenue

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Pastoral land rent	3,423	3,995
Total rental revenue	3,423	3,995

Pastoral land rental rates are set by the Valuer General's Office and are reviewed every 5 years in line with the requirements of the *Land Administration Act 1997*.

3.5 Commonwealth grants and contributions

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Commonwealth contributions		
Indian Ocean Territories ^(a)	640	420
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources ^(b)	143	190
Total Commonwealth contributions	783	610

^(a) Land use planning services and crown land administration for the Cocos Keeling Islands.

^(b) The grant is to improve conservation, preservation and access to the National Heritage List for the Fremantle Prison and other heritage sites.

3.6 Grants and subsidies

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Recurrent grants – other government agencies		
METRONET – High Wycombe and Redcliffe Precinct ^(a)	-	875
Total grants and subsidies	-	875

^(a) Funding is to manage the delivery of a connector road at High Wycombe and extend Central Avenue in Redcliffe.

For non-reciprocal grants, the Department recognises revenue when the grant is receivable at its fair value as and when its fair value can be reliably measured.

The grants have been recognised in their entirety upon receipt as the only condition applying to its use is how it can be expended and it is not subject to performance measures in terms of service delivery.

3.7 Other Income

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Other ^(b)	1,650	993
Employee Contributions ^(c)	65	69
Total other income	1,715	1,062

Other income is recognised at the transaction price when the Department transfers control of the services to customers.

Other income is recognised for the major activities as follows:

^(a) Includes recoups of expenditure, bank interest, royalties, other revenues.

^(b) Income received by the Department from subleasing of right-of-use assets relates to lease payments received from operating leases. The Department has leased a number of right-of-use assets from the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH), which it subleases out to employees at a subsidised rate. Information on the Department's leasing arrangements with GROH can be found in Note 2.1.

4. Key assets

Assets the Department utilises for economic benefit or service potential

This section includes information regarding the key assets the Department utilises to gain economic benefits or provide service potential. The section sets out both the key accounting policies and financial information about the performance of these assets:

	Notes	2023 '000	2022 '000
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	291,760	288,867
Intangibles	4.2	12,078	5,004
Right-of-use assets	4.3	831	912
Total key assets		304,669	294,783

4.1 Property, plant and equipment

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant, and equipment at the beginning and end of the reporting period are set out in the table below.

	Land '000	Buildings '000	Computer and Office Equipment '000	Furniture and Fittings '000	Work in Progress '000	Total '000
Gross carrying amount at 1 July 2022	257,829	23,941	4,551	789	5,589	292,699
Accumulated Depreciation at 1 July 2022	-	(2)	(3,620)	(210)	-	(3,832)
Carrying amount at 1 July 2022	257,829	23,939	931	579	5,589	288,867
Additions	390	-	498	-	3,583	4,471
Disposals	(2,250)	-	(2)	-	-	(2,252)
Transfer to fixed assets	-	-	882	11	(893)	-
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	107	1,185	-	-	-	1,292
Depreciation	-	(1)	(546)	(71)	-	(618)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2023	256,076	25,123	1,763	519	8,279	291,760
Gross carrying amount at 30 June 2023	256,076	25,123	5,929	800	8,279	296,207
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	-	-	(4,166)	(281)	-	(4,447)

Initial Recognition

Items of property, plant and equipment, costing \$5,000 or more are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is valued at its fair value at the date of acquisition. Items of property, plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of comprehensive income (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition of an asset, the revaluation model is used for the measurement of:

- Land; and
- Buildings

Land is carried at fair value.

Buildings are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

All other property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Land and buildings are independently valued annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate Valuations Services) and recognised annually to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from the asset's fair value at the end of the reporting period.

Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2022 by Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate Valuations Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2023 and recognised at 30 June 2023.

In undertaking the revaluation, fair value of land was determined by reference to market values: \$211,618,850 (2022: \$209,665,300). For the remaining balance of land, fair value was determined on the basis of comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility (high restricted use land).

Fair value of all buildings was determined on the basis of current replacement cost.

Depreciation and Impairment

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Depreciation charge		
Buildings	1	2
Computer equipment	546	545
Furniture and fittings	71	62
Total depreciation charge	618	609

As at 30 June 2023, there were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment.

All surplus assets at 30 June 2023 have either been classified as assets held for sale or have been written-off.

Please refer to note 4.2 for guidance in relation to the impairment assessment that has been performed for intangible assets.

Impairment

Non-financial assets, including items of plant and equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised.

Where an asset measured at cost is written down to its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised through profit or loss.

Where a previously revalued asset is written down to its recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement through other comprehensive income.

As the Department is a not-for-profit Department, the recoverable amount of regularly revalued specialised assets is anticipated to be materially the same as fair value.

If there is an indication that there has been a reversal in impairment, the carrying amount shall be increased to its recoverable amount. However this reversal should not increase the asset's carrying amount above what would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised in prior years.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset's depreciation is materially understated, where the replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in useful life. Each relevant class of assets is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation/amortisation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of the asset's future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from declining replacement costs.

The Department shall measure the right-of-use assets at cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. The Department shall apply *AASB 136 Impairment of Assets* to determine and account for impairment losses.

Useful lives

All property, plant and equipment having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits. The exception to this rule includes assets held for sale and land.

Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful life: years
Buildings	40 to 100 years
Software ^(a)	2 to 5 years
Computer hardware	3 to 5 years
Office and other equipment	5 to 10 years
Furniture and fittings	6 to 10 years
Heritage or Culture	Not apply

^(a) Software that is integral to the operation of related hardware.

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

Land which is considered to have an indefinite life, is not depreciated. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of land because its service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

4.2 Intangible assets

	Computer Software '000	Work in Progress '000	Total '000
Gross carrying amount at 1 July 2022	15,702	1,659	17,361
Accumulated Depreciation at 1 July 2022	(12,357)	-	(12,357)
Carrying amount at 1 July 2022	3,345	1,659	5,004
Additions	-	8,360	8,360
Transfer to property, plant and equipment	-	-	-
Amortisation expense	(1,286)	-	(1,286)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2023	2,059	10,019	12,078
Gross carrying amount at 30 June 2023	15,702	10,019	25,721
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2023	(13,643)	-	(13,643)

Initial recognition

Acquisitions of intangible assets costing \$5,000 or more and internally generated intangible assets at a minimum of \$5,000 are capitalised. Costs incurred below these thresholds are immediately expensed directly to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Subsequent measurement

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement of intangible assets, requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation and impairment

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Amortisation charge		
Computer software	1,286	1,331
Total amortisation charge	1,286	1,331

As at 30 June 2023, there were no indications of impairment of intangible assets. The Department held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period.

Amortisation of finite life intangible assets is calculated on a straight-line basis at rates that allocate the asset's value over its estimated useful life. All intangible assets controlled by the Department have a finite useful life and zero residual value. Estimated useful lives are reviewed annually.

The estimated useful lives for each class of intangible asset are:

Asset	Useful life: years
Software ^(a)	2 to 5 years

^(a) Software that is not integral to the operation of any related hardware.

Impairment of intangible assets

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are tested for impairment annually or when an indication of impairment is identified.

The policy in connection with testing for impairment is outlined in Note 4.1 Depreciation and impairment.

4.3 Right-of-use assets

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Right-of-use assets		
Buildings	73	470
Vehicles	758	442
Total right-of-use assets	831	912

The Department has leases for vehicles, and residential housing. The Department subleases residential housing to employees at a subsidised rate. The Department recognises lease payments from operating leases as income on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

The Department has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding Agreements with the Department Finance for the leasing of office accommodation. These are not recognised under AASB 16 because of substitution rights held by the Department of Finance and are accounted for as an expense as incurred.

Initial recognition

At the commencement date of the lease, the Department recognises right-of-use assets and a corresponding lease liability for most leases. The right-of-use assets are measured at cost comprising of:

- the amount of the initial measurement of lease liability;
- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received;
- any initial direct costs, and
- restoration costs, including dismantling and removing the underlying asset.

The corresponding lease liabilities in relation to these right-of-use assets have been disclosed in note 6.2 Lease liabilities.

The Department has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases (with a lease term of 12 months or less) and low value leases (with an underlying value of \$5,000 or less). Lease payments associated with these leases are expensed over a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Subsequent measurement

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets, requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liability.

Depreciation and impairment

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the underlying assets.

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the Department at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

Right-of-use assets are tested for impairment when an indication of impairment is identified. The policy in connection with testing for impairment is outlined in Note 4.1.

Depreciation charge

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Depreciation charge		
Buildings	133	155
Vehicles	238	208
Total depreciation charge	371	363

The total cash outflow for leases in 2023 was \$420,000 (2022: \$331,000).

As at 30 June 2023 there were no indications of impairment of right-of-use assets.

The Department has also entered into Memorandum of Understanding Agreements (MOU) with the Department of Finance for the leasing of office accommodation. These are not recognised under AASB 16 because of substitution rights held by the Department of Finance and are accounted for as an expense as incurred.

5. Other assets and liabilities

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Department's controlled operations and includes other assets utilised for economic benefits and liabilities incurred during normal operations:

	Notes	2023 '000	2022 '000
Receivables	5.1	7,755	6,895
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	51,739	46,391
Other current assets	5.3	3,644	4,150
Payables	5.4	9,177	7,303
Other liabilities	5.5	3,293	2,482
Provisions	5.6	1,034	1,302

5.1 Receivables

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Current		
Trade receivables	6,229	6,205
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(148)	(119)
GST receivable	1,650	799
	7,731	6,885
Loans and advances		
Other debtors	24	10
	24	10
Total current	7,755	6,895
Total receivables	7,755	6,895

The Department does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements as security for receivables.

Receivables are recognised at original invoice amount less any allowances for uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The carrying amount of net trade receivables is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days. Includes \$4.9M (2022: \$5M) receivable from the Western Australian Planning Commission for services provided.

5.2 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Non-current	51,739	46,391
Total amounts receivable for services at end of period	51,739	46,391

Amounts receivable for services represent the non-cash component of service appropriations and are considered not impaired (i.e. there is no expected credit loss of the holding account). It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

The Department receives funding on an accrual basis. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (holding account receivable). The accrued amount receivable is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover leave entitlements and asset replacement.

5.3 Other assets

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Current		
Prepayments	3,424	3,960
Accrued income	220	190
Total other assets	3,644	4,150

Other non-financial assets include prepayments which represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

5.4 Payables

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Current		
Trade payables	3,315	832
Accrued expenses	3,150	4,625
Accrued salaries	2,712	1,846
Total current payables	9,177	7,303

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Department becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as settlement is generally within 30 days.

Accrued salaries represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the reporting period end. The Department considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its fair value.

5.5 Other liabilities

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Current		
Unearned Revenue	715	1,012
Other current liabilities	2,378	625
Receipts on account	200	845
Total other liabilities	3,293	2,482

Unearned revenue includes rental income received in advance.

Other current liabilities includes Pastoral lease rental income received in advance.

Receipts on account include deposits received in advance.

5.6 Provisions

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Current		
Compensation payments	1,034	1,302
Total provisions at end of period	1,034	1,302

Under the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA) the Department has a legal or constructive obligation to compensate on discontinuation of existing pastoral lease.

A provision for compensation is recognised when:

- there is a present obligation where continuing lease expires and is not further continued;
- it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; and
- the amount of the provision can be measured reliably.

The provision for future compensation costs is determined by the Valuer-General to be the market value on the date of expiry of any lawful improvements existing on the land under the lease. Future compensation costs are reviewed annually and any changes in the determination are reflected in the present value of the remediation provision at each reporting date.

6. Financing

This section sets out the material balances and disclosures associated with the financing and cashflows of the Department.

	Notes	2023 '000	2022 '000
Cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash and cash equivalents	6.1	25,959	67,170
Leases	6.2	856	983
Finance costs	6.3	42	17

6.1 Cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash and cash equivalents

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Cash and cash equivalents	21,754	62,478
Restricted cash and cash equivalents:		
- Indian Ocean Territories Service Legal Agreement	439	620
- Kalumburu Roads	227	227
- Remote Indigenous Housing West Kimberley Tripartite Forum	150	150
- Royalties for Regions - Northern Planning Program	431	431
- Wittenoom Relocation Trust Account	-	1,212
- Royalties for Regions Fund (Lands)	100	-
Total cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash and cash equivalents	1,347	2,640
Non-current		
- Accrued salaries suspense account ^(a)	2,858	2,052
Total non-current restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,858	2,052
Total restricted cash and cash equivalents	4,205	4,692
Total cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash and cash equivalents	25,959	67,170

^(a) Funds held in the suspense account for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a reporting period that occurs every 11th year. This account is classified as non-current for the current year.

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents (and restricted cash and cash equivalents) assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

6.2 Lease liabilities

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Current	263	253
Non-current	593	730
Total lease liabilities	856	983

The Department measures a lease liability, at the commencement date, at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at that date. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the Department uses the incremental borrowing rate provided by Western Australia Treasury Corporation.

Lease payments included by the Department as part of the present value calculation of lease liability include:

- Fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable;
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- Amounts expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- The exercise price of purchase options (where these are reasonably certain to be exercised);
- Payments for penalties for terminating a lease, where the lease term reflects the Department exercising an option to terminate the lease.

The interest on the lease liability is recognised in profit or loss over the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period. Lease liabilities do not include any future changes in variable lease payments (that depend on an index or rate) until they take effect, in which case the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset.

Periods covered by extension or termination options are only included in the lease term by the Department if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated).

Variable lease payments, not included in the measurement of lease liability, that are dependent on sales are recognised by the Department in profit or loss in the period in which the condition that triggers those payment occurs.

Subsequent Measurement

Lease liabilities are measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liabilities; reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made; and remeasuring the carrying amount at amortised cost, subject to adjustments to reflect any reassessment or lease modifications.

6.3 Finance Costs

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Lease interest expense	42	17
Total finance costs expensed	42	17

Finance costs includes the interest component of lease liability repayments

7. Financial instruments and contingencies

This note sets out the key risk management policies and measurement techniques of the Department.

	Notes	2023 '000	2022 '000
Financial instruments, net	7.1	74,626	112,354
Contingent liabilities	7.2	-	10,075

7.1 Financial instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	21,754	62,478
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	4,205	4,692
Financial assets at amortised cost ^(a)	57,844	52,487
Total financial assets	83,803	119,657
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost ^(b)	9,177	7,303
Total financial liability	9,177	7,303

^(a) The amount of financial assets at amortised cost excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

^(b) The amount of financial liabilities at amortised cost excludes GST payable to the ATO (statutory payable).

7.2 Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at the best estimate. Contingent liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

The following contingent liabilities are excluded from the liabilities included in the financial statements:

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Litigations in progress	15,000	10,075

8. Other disclosures

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or other pronouncements, for the understanding of this financial report.

	Notes
Events occurring after the end of the reporting period	8.1
Key management personnel	8.2
Related party transactions	8.3
Related bodies	8.4
Affiliated bodies	8.5
Special purpose accounts	8.6
Remuneration of auditors	8.7
Equity	8.8
Supplementary financial information	8.9
Explanatory statement	8.10

8.1 Events occurring after the end of the reporting period

No information has become apparent after the end of the reporting period which would materially affect the financial statements.

8.2 Key management personnel

The Department has determined key management personnel to include cabinet ministers and senior officers of the Department. The Department does not incur expenditures to compensate Ministers and those disclosures may be found in the Annual Report on State Finances.

The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for senior officers of the Department for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

Compensation Band (\$)	2023	2022
400,001 to 450,000	1	-
350,001 to 400,000	-	-
300,001 to 350,000	-	-
250,001 to 300,000	-	-
200,001 to 250,000	6	6
150,001 to 200,000	-	1
100,001 to 150,000	-	1
50,001 to 100,000	-	1
0 to 50,000	-	-
	7	9

	2023 '000	2022 '000
Total compensation of senior officers	1,752	1,770

Total compensation includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Department in respect of senior officers.

8.3 Related party transactions

The Department is a wholly owned public sector entity that is controlled by of the State of Western Australia.

Related parties of the Department include:

- all cabinet ministers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- all senior officers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- other Departments and statutory authorities, including related bodies, that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements (i.e. wholly-owned public sector entities);
- associates and joint ventures of a wholly-owned public sector entity; and
- the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

Material transactions with other related parties

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Department, there were no other related party transactions that involved key management personnel and/or their close family members and/or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities.

Significant transactions with Government related entities

In conducting its activities, the Department is required to transact with the State and entities related to the State. These transactions are generally based on the standard terms and conditions that apply to all agencies.

Such transactions include:

	Notes
Grants and subsidies received from State and other entities	2.3
Services provided to the Western Australian Planning Commission	2.3
Other expenses including accommodation with the Department of Finance	2.4
Service appropriation including insurance payments from the Insurance Commission	3.1
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment including transfer to State and sales to other agencies	4.1
Remuneration of services provided by the Auditor General	8.7

Within the significant transactions referred to above, the following related party transactions are highlighted:

- Amounts payable to DevelopmentWA in relation to land exchanges of \$33.955m.

8.4 Related bodies

The Department had no related bodies during the financial year 2022-2023 and 2021-2022.

8.5 Affiliated bodies

The Department had no affiliated bodies during the financial year 2022-2023 and 2021-2022.

8.6 Special purpose accounts

Wittenoom Relocation Trust Account ^(a)

The purpose of this account is to hold funds for the purpose of purchasing property in the Wittenoom town site, relocating residents, demolition and disposal of acquired property.

	2023 '000	2023 '000
Balance at start of period	1,212	1,617
Payments	(1,212)	(405)
Balance at end of period	-	1,212

Indian Ocean Territories Service Level Agreement ^(b)

The purpose of the agreement is to provide crown land management and planning services.

	2023 '000	2023 '000
Balance at start of period	620	565
Receipts	640	420
Payments	(820)	(365)
Balance at end of period	440	620

Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline Corridor Trust Account (Administered) ^(c)

The purpose of this account is to hold fund received pursuant to section 45(2) of the *Dampier to Bunbury Pipeline Act 1997* for application in accordance with section 45(5) of that Act.

	2023 '000	2023 '000
Balance at start of period	25,759	24,334
Receipts	110	2,976
Payments	(1,655)	(1,551)
Balance at end of period	24,214	25,759

^(a) Established under section 16(1) of FMA

^(b) Commonwealth Service Level Agreement

^(c) Established under section 16(1)(b) of FMA

8.7 Remuneration of auditors

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2023 '000	2023 '000
Auditing the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators	450	389

8.8 Equity

	2023 '000	2023 '000
Contributed equity		
Balance at start of period	237,673	235,970
<i>Contribution by owners</i>		
Capital appropriation	5,923	2,373
Other contributions by owners	11,962	-
Total contributions by owners	17,885	2,373
<i>Distribution to owners</i>		
Land	(2,250)	(670)
Total distributions to owners	(2,250)	(670)
Balance at end of period	253,308	237,673
Asset revaluation surplus		
Balance at start of period	149,221	201,120
Land	107	(53,365)
Buildings	1,185	1,466
Balance at end of period	150,513	149,221

8.9 Supplementary financial information

(a) During the financial year, \$60,780 (2022: \$90,670) was written off the Department's books under the authority of:

	2023 '000	2023 '000
The accountable authority	4	91
The Minister	57	-
Total write-offs	61	91

(b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

During 2022-23 and 2021-22 the Department did not report any losses due to theft, defaults and other causes.

(c) Gifts of public property

There were no gifts of public property provided by the Department during the financial year 2022-23 and 2021-22.

8.10 Explanatory statements for controlled operations

This explanatory section explains variations in the financial performance of the department undertaking transactions under its own control, as represented by the primary financial statements.

All variances between annual estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2023, and between the actual results for 2023 and 2022 are shown below. Narratives are provided for key major variances which vary more than 10% from their comparative and that the variation is more than 1% of the:

- Total Cost of Services for the previous year for the Statements of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows; and
- Total Assets for the previous year for the Statement of financial position.

8.10.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income Variances

	Variance	Estimate	Actual	Actual	Variance	Variance
	Note	2023 '000	2023 '000	2022 '000	between estimate and actual '000	between actual results for 2023 and 2022 '000
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense	A	114,941	110,678	100,523	(4,263)	10,155
Supplies and services	1, B	62,273	47,599	36,894	(14,674)	10,705
Depreciation and amortisation expense	2	4,830	2,275	2,303	(2,555)	(28)
Finance costs		32	42	17	10	25
Accommodation expenses		10,465	8,598	8,308	(1,867)	290
Grants and subsidies	C	15,254	16,714	13,015	1,460	3,699
Costs of sales		156	162	67	6	95
Other expenses	3	14,557	21,848	18,472	7,291	3,376
Total cost of services		222,508	207,916	179,599	(14,592)	28,317
Income						
User charges and fees	4, D	2,753	5,356	3,548	2,603	1,808
Sales	E	3,591	3,994	1,829	403	2,165
Rental revenue		4,249	3,423	3,995	(826)	(572)
Commonwealth grants and contributions		79	783	610	704	173
Grants and subsidies		314	-	875	(314)	(875)
Other income		1,205	1,715	1,062	510	653
Total Income		12,191	15,271	11,919	3,080	3,352
Total income other than income from State Government		12,191	15,271	11,919	3,080	3,352
Net cost of services		210,317	192,645	167,680	(17,672)	24,965
Income from State Government						
Service appropriation	5, F	122,217	81,787	105,859	(40,430)	(24,072)
Income received from other public sector entities	6	61,637	49,712	51,029	(11,925)	(1,317)
Services received free of charge		11,245	9,564	10,572	(1,681)	(1,008)
Royalties for Regions Fund		5,842	5,822	5,826	(20)	(4)
Total income from State Government		200,941	146,885	173,286	(54,056)	(26,401)
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		(9,376)	(45,760)	5,606	(36,384)	(51,366)
Other comprehensive income/(losses)						
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss						
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		-	1,292	(51,899)	1,292	53,191
Total other comprehensive income/(loss)		-	1,292	(51,899)	1,292	53,191
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period		(9,376)	(44,468)	(46,293)	(35,092)	1,825

Major Estimate and Actual (2023) Variance Narratives

- Supplies and services expenses are lower than budget estimate by \$14.67 million (24%) due to deferral of expenditures to occur in the next financial year.
- Depreciation and amortisation expenses are lower than budget estimate by \$2.56 million (53%). This is due to the anticipated increases in the assets balance per the budget estimates did not occur.
- Other expenses are higher than budget estimate by \$7.2 million (50%) due to an increase in Native Title compensation costs along with repairs and maintenance.
- User charges and fees are higher than budget estimate by \$2.6 million (95%) due to additional licence fees received on Crown Land.
- Services appropriations are lower than budget estimate by \$40.43 million (33%) due to a deferral of appropriations.
- Income received from other public sector entities is lower than budget estimate by \$11.93 million (19%) due to the lower fees transferred from the Western Australian Planning Commission and deferral of Precinct Infrastructure Fund to the next financial year.

Major Actual (2023) and Comparative (2022) Variance Narratives

- Employee benefits expenses have increased by \$10.16 million (10%) due to the WA Government's one off cost-of-living payment of \$3k to each employee, across the board salary increases that were back dated to June 2022 and an approximate 8% increase in the staff head count year on year.
- Supplies and services have increased by \$10.71 million (29%) in line with increased budgetary requirements such as the Wittenoom relocation project.
- Grant and subsidy payments have increased by \$3.7 million (28%) as more funds were provided for Royalties for Regions projects in remote areas as well as grants to various WA Local Governments.
- The increase in user charges and fees of \$1.81 million (51%) relates to licence fees charged on Crown land.
- The increase in sales of \$2.17 million (118%) is due the increase in sales at Fremantle Prison.
- The decrease in service appropriations of \$24.07 million (23%) is due to the change in timing of the receipt of appropriations.

8.10.2 Statement of financial position variances

	Variance	Estimate	Actual	Actual	Variance	Variance
	Note	2023	2023	2022	between	between
		'000	'000	'000	estimate	actual
					and actual	results for
					'000	2023 and
						2022
						'000
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		28,034	21,754	62,478	(6,280)	(40,724)
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		2,991	1,347	2,640	(1,644)	(1,293)
Inventories		87	70	80	(17)	(10)
Receivables		8,545	7,755	6,895	(790)	860
Other current assets		3,869	3,644	4,150	(225)	(506)
Total Current Assets		43,526	34,570	76,243	(8,956)	(41,673)
Non-Current Assets						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		2,427	2,858	2,052	431	806
Amounts receivable for services		51,701	51,739	46,391	38	5,348
Property, plant and equipment	7	346,173	291,760	288,867	(54,413)	2,893
Right-of-use assets		810	831	912	21	(81)
Intangible assets	G	13,347	12,078	5,004	(1,269)	7,074
Total Non-Current Assets		414,458	359,266	343,226	(55,192)	16,040
Total Assets		457,984	393,836	419,469	(64,148)	(25,633)
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Payables		70	9,177	7,303	9,107	1,874
Lease liabilities		303	263	253	(40)	10
Employee related provisions		23,461	22,350	21,513	(1,111)	837
Other current liabilities		3,051	3,293	2,482	242	811
Provisions		1,302	1,034	1,302	(268)	(268)
Total Current Liabilities		28,187	36,117	32,853	7,930	3,264
Non-Current Liabilities						
Lease liabilities		586	593	730	7	(137)
Employee related provisions		3,453	4,869	4,796	1,416	73
Total Non-Current Liabilities		4,039	5,462	5,526	1,423	(64)
Total Liabilities		32,226	41,579	38,379	9,353	3,200
Net Assets		425,758	352,257	381,090	(73,501)	(28,833)
Equity						
Contributed equity		254,242	253,308	237,673	(934)	15,635
Reserves		201,118	150,513	149,221	(50,605)	1,292
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		(29,602)	(51,564)	(5,804)	(21,962)	(45,760)
Total Equity		425,758	352,257	381,090	(73,501)	(28,833)

Major Estimate and Actual (2022) Variance Narratives

7. Property, plant and equipment is lower than budget estimate by \$54.4 million (16%) due to a revaluation of land and buildings by the Valuer General.

Major Actual (2023) and Comparative (2022) Variance Narratives

- G. The increase in intangible assets of \$7.07 million (141%) is the result of expenditure on new software.

8.10.3 Statement of Cash Flow Variance

	Variance	Estimate	Actual	Actual	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022
	Note	2023 '000	2023 '000	2022 '000	'000	'000
Cash flows from the State Government						
Service appropriation	8, H	116,907	76,439	101,022	(40,468)	(24,583)
Capital appropriations	I	5,923	5,923	2,373	-	3,550
Capital contributions from Treasury Special Purpose Accounts	J	11,315	11,962	-	11,962	11,962
Funds from other public sector entities	9	60,298	49,866	52,885	(21,747)	(3,019)
Royalties for Regions Fund		5,842	5,822	5,826	(20)	(4)
Net cash provided by State Government		200,285	150,012	162,106	(50,273)	(12,094)
Cash flows from operating activities						
Payments						
Employee benefits	K	(113,913)	(108,931)	(97,924)	4,762	(11,007)
Supplies and services	10, L	(52,615)	(38,471)	(26,135)	14,144	(12,336)
Finance costs		(32)	(43)	(17)	(11)	(26)
Accommodation		(9,868)	(7,911)	(7,619)	1,957	(292)
Grants and subsidies	M	(15,254)	(16,719)	(12,934)	(1,465)	(3,785)
GST payments on purchases	N	(6,240)	(7,714)	(5,910)	(1,474)	(1,804)
GST payments to taxation authority		-	(1,350)	-	(1,350)	(1,350)
Other payments	11, O	(13,658)	(20,529)	(15,344)	(6,871)	(5,185)
Receipts						
Sales of goods and services	P	4,444	3,816	1,829	(628)	1,987
User charges and fees	12	2,753	5,357	4,512	3,287	845
Commonwealth grants and contributions		393	783	610	390	173
GST receipts on sales		1,994	1,240	1,076	(754)	164
GST receipts from taxation authority	13, Q	4,239	6,956	4,758	2,717	2,198
Other receipts		4,609	4,079	5,260	(993)	(1,181)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(193,148)	(179,437)	(147,838)	13,711	(31,599)
Cash flows from investing activities						
Payments						
Purchase of non-current assets	14, R	(17,687)	(11,369)	(4,746)	6,318	(6,623)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(17,687)	(11,369)	(4,746)	6,318	(6,623)
Cash flows from financing activities						
Payments						
Lease repayments		(326)	(417)	(331)	(91)	(86)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(326)	(417)	(331)	(91)	(86)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(10,876)	(41,211)	9,191	(30,335)	(50,402)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		44,328	67,170	57,979	22,842	9,191
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the period		33,452	25,959	67,170	(7,493)	(41,211)

Major Estimate and Actual (2023) Variance Narratives

10. Services appropriation is lower than budget estimate by \$40.47 million (35%) mainly due to deferral of appropriations.
11. Funds from other public sector entities is lower than budget estimate by \$10.43 million (17%) due to the lower fees transferred from the Western Australian Planning Commission and deferral of Precinct Infrastructure Fund to the next financial year.
12. Supplies and services are lower than budget estimate by \$14.14 million (27%) due to deferral of expenditures on projects to occur in the next financial year.
13. Other payments are higher than budget estimate by \$6.87 million (50%) due to an increase in payments for Native Title compensation along with repairs and maintenance.
14. User charges and fees are higher than budget estimate by \$3.29 million (119%) mainly due to additional licence fees received on Crown land.
15. GST receipts from taxation authority is higher than budget estimate by \$2.72 million (64%) mainly due to higher refunds from taxation authority as a result of payments of taxable supplies.
16. Purchase of non-current assets are lower than the estimate by \$6.32 million (36%) due to delays in capital works. These project expenditures will be carried over to 2023-24.

Major Actual (2023) and Comparative (2022) Variance Narratives

- H. The decrease in service appropriation of \$24.58 million (24%) is due to a deferral in appropriations.
- I. The increase of \$3.55 million (150%) in capital appropriations is due to ongoing infrastructure and conservation works at Fremantle Prison.
- J. Capital contributions from Treasury Special Purpose Accounts have increased by \$11.96 million (100%) due to funding received from the Digital Capability Fund for projects related to information and communication technologies.
- K. Employee benefits increased by \$11.23 million (11%) due to increased staffing required to undertake projects under the Digital Capability Fund appropriation.
- L. The increase in Supplies and services of \$12.34 million (47%) is attributable to expenditure incurred on the Wittenoom town project.
- M. Grant and subsidy payments have increased by \$3.79 million (29%) as more funds were provided for Royalties for Regions projects in remote areas as well as grants to various WA Local Governments.
- N. GST paid on purchases increased by \$1.80 million (31%) in-line with operating activities.
- O. The increase in other payments of \$5.19 million (34%) is primarily due to expenditure incurred on new service delivery platforms.
- P. Sales of goods and services increased by \$1.99 million (109%) due to an increase in sales at Fremantle Prison.
- Q. GST receipts from the ATO increased \$2.20 million (46%) in line with taxable sales.
- R. The increase in purchase of non-current assets of \$6.62 million (140%) is in line with capital expenditure undertaken on intangible assets and mainly for the Planning Online Program and ACHKnowledge systems.

9. Administered disclosures

This section sets out all of the statutory disclosures regarding the financial performance of the Department.

	Notes
Explanatory statement for administered items	9.1
Contingent liabilities	9.2

9.1 Disclosure of administered income and expenses

This explanatory section explains variations in the financial performance of the Department undertaking transactions as an agent of the government, as detailed in the administered schedules

All variances between annual estimates and actual results for 2023, and between the actual results for 2023 and 2022 are shown below. Narratives are provided for key major variances which vary by more than 10% from their comparative and that the variation is more than 1% of the of Total Administered Income for the previous year.

	Variance	Estimate	Actual	Actual	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022
	Note	2023 '000	2023 '000	2022 '000	'000	'000
Income						
For transfer:						
Sale of land	1, A	24,000	44,742	52,005	20,742	(7,263)
Rent revenue	2	18,609	25,264	22,197	6,655	3,067
Reserve transfers	3, B	-	54,852	69,223	54,852	(14,371)
Revaluation increment	4, C	-	259,927	-	259,927	259,927
Other income	5, D	-	1,513	259,568	1,513	(258,055)
Other revenue	6	1,569	3,375	1,155	1,806	2,220
Total administered income		44,178	389,673	404,148	345,495	(14,475)
Expenses						
Employee expenses		965	824	586	(141)	238
Revaluation decrement	C	-	-	194,925	-	(194,925)
Impairment land	7	-	3,947	-	3,947	3,947
Depreciation	8	1,567	4,162	3,451	2,595	711
Cost of Goods Sold	9, E	-	65,914	108,797	65,914	(42,883)
Payments to Consolidated Account	10, F	40,737	67,473	77,650	26,736	(10,177)
Reserve transfers	11, G	-	34,028	13,681	34,028	20,347
Other expenses	12, H	2,789	5,061	1,600	2,272	3,461
Total Administered expenses		46,058	181,409	400,690	136,056	(219,281)

Major Estimate and Actual (2023) Variance Narratives

1. Sale of land is higher than budget estimate by \$20.74 million (86%) due to the sale of land parcels undertaken during the year. Accurate estimates are not able to be predetermined given the nature of these transactions.
2. Rent revenue is higher than budget estimate by \$6.66 million (36%) due to increases in rent on Crown land leases.
3. Reserve transfers are higher than budget estimate by \$54.85 million (100%) due to transfers of Crown Land from State Government agencies, local governments, or incorporated communities to the Department when the management orders are removed. Accurate estimates are not able to be predetermined given the nature of these transactions.
4. For 2023 there was a revaluation increment of \$259.93 million (100%) after reporting a revaluation decrement in 2022. The revaluation process is based on values provided by the Valuer General and changes year on year based on their annual assessments.
5. Other income is higher than budget estimate by \$1.51 million (100%) due to no budget estimate provided for other income.
6. Other revenue is higher than budget estimate by \$1.81 million (115%) mainly due to higher Dampier to Sunbury Natural Gas Pipeline Access Right fees.
7. Impairment of land is higher than budget estimate by \$3.94 million (100%) due to movement in the value of land held for sale not budgeted.
8. Depreciation is higher than budget estimate by \$2.60 million (166%) due to the budget estimate being understated.
9. Cost of goods sold is higher than budget estimate by \$65.7 million (100%) which reflects the value of assets sold. Accurate estimates are not able to be predetermined given the nature of these transactions.
10. Payments to Consolidated account are higher than the budget estimate by \$26.74 million (66%) due to an increase in the sale of Crown Land as compared to the budget estimate.
11. Reserve transfers are higher than budget estimate by \$34.95 million (100%) due to reserves Crown Land transferred to State Government agencies, local governments or incorporated communities from the Department when the management orders are issued. Accurate estimates are not able to be predetermined given the nature of these transactions.
12. Other expenses is higher than budget estimate by \$2.27 million (81 %) due to an increase in rates and related expenses for a disposal.

Major Actual (2023) and Comparative (2022) Variance Narratives

- A. Land sales decreased by \$7.26 million (14%) due to the lower aggregate value of land sales.
- B. Reserve transfers decreased by \$14.37 million (21%) due to the lower aggregate value of Crown Land transferred from state government departments, local governments or incorporated community groups to the Department when the management orders are removed.
- C. For 2023 there was a revaluation increment of \$288.56 million (100%) after reporting a revaluation decrement in 2022. The revaluation process is based on values provided by the Valuer General and changes year on year based on their annual assessments.
- D. Other income in 2022 primarily represents the adjustment to account for the incorrect recognition of management orders and was unbudgeted. A Management Order is a statutory right to manage and control Crown Land in accordance with the Management Order granted under the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA). They place reserves in trust with management bodies on behalf of the public and do not constitute an interest in the land.
- E. Cost of goods sold decreased by \$43.09 million (40%) due to the sale of land assets. Given the nature of these transactions, amounts fluctuate year on year.
- F. Payments to the consolidated account decreased by \$10.18 million (13%) due to lower land sales values compared to the prior year.
- G. The reserve transfer increased by \$20.35 million (149%). Reserve transfers are driven by the transfer of Crown Land to state government departments, local governments, or incorporated community groups from the Department when management orders are issued. Given the nature of these transactions the transfer balance will fluctuate year on year.
- H. Other expenses increased by \$3.4 million (216%) due to an increase in rates and related expenses for a disposal.

9.2 Contingent liabilities

Native title claims

Crown land, administered by the Department, is subject to native title rights and interests. There is a potentially large, but as yet unquantified compensation liability for the State, relating to land transactions that constitute "future acts" under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) (NTA), and which have extinguished or affected native title rights and interests over specified parcels of land. Compensation may be claimed under the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA) or the NTA.

Per the land committed up-front in the six Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) that comprise the South West Native Title Settlement (Settlement), the State has handed over a total of 1,113 hectares of land to the Noongar Boodja Land Sub Pty Ltd. These hectares were mostly unallocated Crown land (UCL) and unmanaged reserves (UMR), but it does include 16 properties from the Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) estate. Up to 318,887 additional hectares of land are committed to be transferred before the end of the 2026 calendar year and will be drawn predominantly from the pool of eligible UCL and UMR. Due to insufficient information on land selection, land transfer timeframe, as well as the market value of the land (AASB 137 paras 10), it is not feasible to be quantified as a provision.

The South West Native Title Settlement may be settled in land held currently by either DPLH administered and Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority.

The Tjiwarl Palyakuwa ILUA was registered by the National Native Title Tribunal on 22 May 2023, commencing the work of the State and the Tjiwarl Aboriginal Corporation (TAC) in the delivery of negotiated benefits, including the transfer of ownership of land parcels. Currently only 11 land parcels in the First Stage Lands are committed for handover. The ILUA provides pathways for the future identification, assessment, offer and potential handover of additional land parcels, to be drawn from the Crown land estate. Due to insufficient information on the remaining land parcel information, selection, and scheduling of timeframes, it is not feasible to be quantified as a provision.

Contaminated sites

Under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* (CSA), the Department is required to report known and suspected contaminated sites to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). In accordance with the Act, DWER classifies these sites on the basis of the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values.

The Department is required to recognise a contingent liability in respect of a site where:

- The site has been classified contaminated – remediation required (CRR) under the Act, and remediation costs cannot be reliably estimated;
- The site has been classified possibly contaminated – investigation required (PC-IR) under the Act, and investigation costs cannot be reliably estimated.

Under s29 and s32 of the Act, the Department (on behalf of the State) is the responsible department for any orphaned contaminated sites and contaminated sites that are re-vested back to the State.

DWER approved a reporting program for the Department under section 12 of the CSA for the systematic identification, inspection, reporting and treatment of suspected contaminated sites on Crown land. Under the section 12 program (revised in 2018), there is a requirement for State Land Officers to inspect 30 suspected contaminated sites on unmanaged Crown land per year.

A new contaminated sites management system (CSMS) was initially implemented in December 2019, with the most recent release implemented in April 2021. The CSMS is able to assess the probability of contamination on Crown land and track the progression of desk checks, inspections and investigations for known or suspected contaminated sites. The CSMS identified 'sites' based on single parcel identification numbers (PINS), so there may be several 'sites' within one larger unmanaged reserve (UMR) or unallocated crown land (UCL) parcel of land.

Following an initial Geographic Information System-based Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) process completed in 2019, approximately 35,000 (34,680) sites on unmanaged crown land were identified as representing a potential contamination risk. These lots all required an initial desktop-based review (Desk Check). The Desk Check identifies sites which require Contaminated Sites inspections by State Land Officers. In 2022-2023, a total of 77 sites were inspected.

Following the site inspection, the Department determines whether the site requires further investigation and subsequent reporting to DWER as a suspected or known contaminated site.

Dependent on availability of funding, the Department then engages qualified environmental consultants and contaminated sites auditors to undertake contaminated sites investigations and remediation works as required. The extent of the Department's liability can only be quantified as DWER progressively classifies sites under the program. Over time investigation will be required on each of the sites to clarify whether remediation is required.

The Department recognises provisional liabilities in respect of a site where:

- The site has been classified as possibly contaminated - investigation required or contaminated - remediation required under the Act;
- The Department is responsible for the site under the Act; and
- A reliable estimate can be made of the costs of investigation/remediation of the site."

The Wittenoom area is affected by asbestos contamination derived from historical mining activities. The Wittenoom Asbestos Management Area (WAMA) covers an area of 46,840 hectares of land and has been classified by DWER in 2008 as a contaminated site. Given the extent of contamination in and around Wittenoom and the sheer size of the site at 46,840 hectares, it is extremely unlikely that the entire WAMA site can be fully remediated and any efforts to achieve partial remediation would require significant investment. The Department's position is that 'Contaminated, Remediation Required' for Wittenoom (162 sites), there is no definitive final remediation outcome or liability confirmed in terms of the Department's action and the potential for other liable parties to be involved and contribute towards remediation. The Department's view is that a possible obligation will be raised only when the outcome of remediation action is confirmed, and no reliable estimate can be made for these sites and therefore a contingent liability should be disclosed as opposed to a provision.

During the 2022-2023 financial year, eight (8) sites require remediation or other management and have been classified by DWER as 'contaminated - remediation required'. Provisional liability costs for these sites have been provided.

Remediation costs: \$5,460,039 (2022: \$5,230,000)

An additional 22 sites are classified 'contaminated - remediation required' and are considered unmanaged Crown land sites based on land tenure, however it has been determined that the Department is not responsible under the CSA in respect of those sites. The Department has not recognised provisional liabilities for these sites. In addition, 3,585 sites have been classified by DWER as 'possibly contaminated - investigation required' and require formal investigation. The Department has not recognised any provisional liabilities for these sites as these costs cannot be reliably estimated.



Department of **Planning,
Lands and Heritage**

Certification of key performance indicators

I hereby certify that the key performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

Anthony Kannis PSM
Director General
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

15 September 2023

The Department's desired outcome and key performance indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Relationship to Government goals

The Department is responsible for planning and managing land and heritage for all Western Australians – now and into the future. Through the desired outcomes and services listed below, the Department contributes to the State Government's goal for "Investing in WA's future: Tackling climate action and supporting the arts, culture and sporting sectors to promote vibrant communities."

Government Goal	Desired Outcome	Services
Investing in WA's Future Tackling climate action and supporting the arts, culture and sporting sectors to promote vibrant communities.	An effective planning system that supports the development of communities in Western Australia	1. Planning services
	An effective system for the administration of Crown land and the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate.	2. Land administration services
	An effective system for the conservation of cultural heritage places in Western Australia for the benefit of present and future generations.	3. Historical heritage services
		4. Aboriginal heritage management

The key effectiveness indicators that follow provide information on how well the activities of the Department have contributed to the delivery of its services on the achievement of the desired outcomes. Results are comparable with performance in previous years (where available) and targets published in the Budget Papers. The key efficiency indicators measure the relationship between the services delivered and the resources used to produce the service.

Outcome and key effectiveness indicators

DPLH desired outcome

An effective planning system that supports the development of communities in Western Australia

Effectiveness indicator

Percentage of applications determined within the statutory timeframe

The timely determination of applications is important in supporting the construction industry and the delivery of housing in suitable locations.

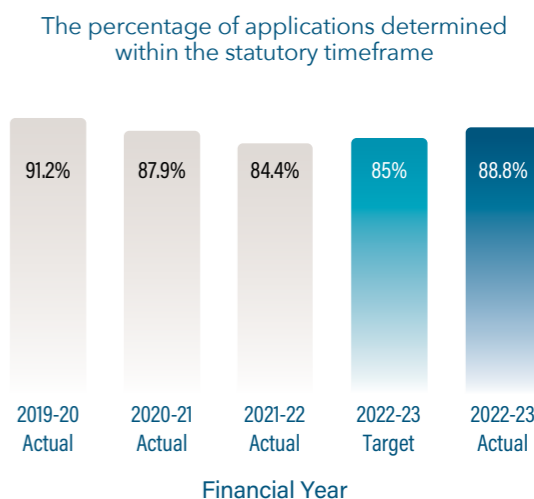
The Department and its officers have the delegated authority to determine subdivision and development applications, or endorse deposited and strata plans, on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC).

Subdivision is the division of land into separate lots but can also include the amalgamation of several lots into a larger lot. For this measure, subdivisions include green title and survey strata subdivisions. A deposited plan defines the boundaries of a green title lot of land while a strata plan contains a detailed pictorial description of lots within a strata arrangement. Development applications detail the proposed development of land. Subdivision applications, deposited and strata plans, and development applications are all determined or endorsed within strategic, legislative and policy frameworks that support the sustainable development of well-planned communities in Western Australia.

This KPI demonstrates the Department's effectiveness in:

- determining subdivision applications within the 90-day statutory timeframe, which is currently 90 days or a longer period with an applicant's written agreement;
- reviewing and endorsing deposited and strata plans within the 30-day statutory timeframe, or a longer period with an applicant's written agreement. This KPI excludes built strata plans that local governments determine under delegated authority; and
- determining region scheme development applications within these statutory timeframes:
 - 60 days for the metropolitan region or a longer period with an applicant's written agreement; and
 - 90 days for the Greater Bunbury and Peel regions or a longer period with an applicant's written agreement.
- endorsed 93.5 per cent of deposited and strata plans within the statutory timeframe; and
- determined 68.1 per cent of development applications within the statutory timeframe.

The following graph shows the combined result for 2022-23.



In 2022-23, the Department:

- determined 86.9 per cent of subdivision applications within the statutory timeframe;

Effectiveness indicator

Percentage of finalised appeals (excluding Development Assessment Panels) that are not upheld on review by the State Administrative Tribunal

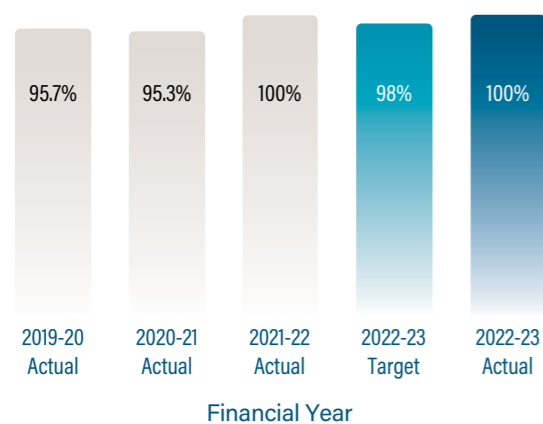
The Department and its officers have the delegated authority to determine or endorse statutory planning applications on behalf of the WAPC. In addition, the Department makes recommendations to the WAPC in relation to statutory planning applications.

Under legislation, applicants have the right to appeal decisions that the Department makes under delegation of the WAPC, as well as decisions of the WAPC. This KPI measures the effectiveness of WAPC's planning policies and how effectively the Department applies these policies in making decisions under delegated authority or formulating recommendations to the WAPC.

If the policies are not effectively applied in the decision-making process, developers may seek review of the decisions at SAT, which can lead to delays in building and additional development costs.

This KPI excludes SAT appeals relating to Development Assessment Panel (DAP) applications. While the Department provides administrative support for each DAP, the decision made by a DAP is independent of the Department and the WAPC.

The percentage of finalised appeals (excluding DAPs) that are not upheld on review by the State Administrative Tribunal



Effectiveness indicator

Percentage of Local Planning Scheme amendments processed by the Department under delegated authority and submitted to the Minister within the statutory timeframe (Basic 42 days, Standard 60 days, Complex 90 days)

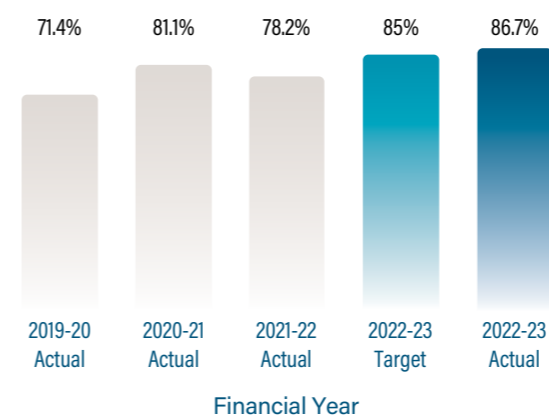
The Department processes local planning scheme amendments and submits to the WAPC for recommendation to the Minister within strategic, legislative and policy frameworks that support the sustainable development of well-planned communities in Western Australia. Local planning schemes outline how Government plans to use and develop land, classify areas for land use and include provisions to coordinate regional infrastructure (traditional and community) in a locality through Development Contribution Plans. Section 75 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* provides for the amendment of local planning schemes, and this KPI demonstrates the Department's effectiveness in processing amendments to local planning schemes within the statutory timeframes.

Unless the Minister approves a longer period, the Department (through the WAPC) must consider the amendment, make any recommendations to the Minister, and submit the documents and recommendations to the Minister:

- within 90 days for complex Local Planning Scheme amendments in accordance with regulation 45 of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015;
- within 60 days for standard Local Planning Scheme amendments in accordance with regulation 55 of the regulations; and
- within 42 days for basic Local Planning Scheme amendments in accordance with regulation 60 of the regulations.

In 2021, changes to the regulations added additional days to the statutory timeframe for processing Local Planning Scheme amendments over Christmas and Easter holiday periods. These changes applied only partially in the 2020-21 reporting period compared with applications processed over all holiday periods in 2021-22 and 2022-23, making the two periods not entirely comparable.

The percentage of Local Planning Scheme amendments processed by the Department under delegated authority and submitted to the Minister within the statutory timeframe



Explanation for significant variance

The variance between the 2022-23 and 2021-22 actuals was mainly due to the Department processing less applications in 2022-23 than the previous year.

Effectiveness indicator

Percentage of DAP applications determined within the statutory timeframe

The DAP system was established under the Planning and Development (Development Assessment Panels) Regulations 2011. As a key component of planning in Western Australia, the intent of DAPs is to enhance planning expertise in decision-making by improving the balance between technical advice and local knowledge. The Department provides coordination and secretariat services to each DAP, while local government authorities host the meetings and take minutes.

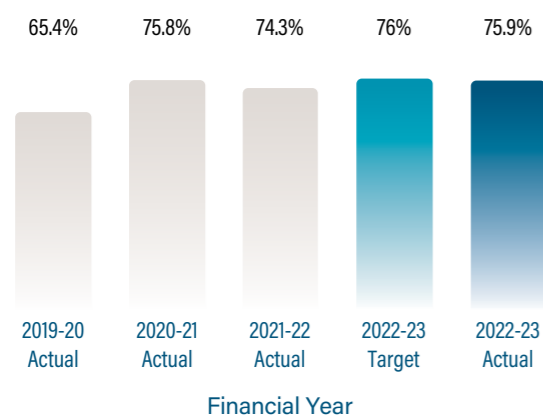
A DAP determines development applications within strategic, legislative and policy frameworks that support the development of well-planned communities in Western Australia. Under the regulations, each DAP will determine development applications that meet set type and value thresholds as if it were the responsible authority under the relevant planning instrument, such as the local or region planning scheme. The regulations state that DAP applications cannot be determined by local government or WAPC.

Under the regulations, a DAP, unless otherwise agreed to in writing between the applicant and responsible authority, is to make a decision within no more than 60 days after receipt of an application, or 90 days if the proposal is subject to public advertising. The overall process from the receipt of a DAP application to a DAP decision involves local government, planning and legal staff from the Department on occasions, the DAP Secretariat, and the DAP itself.

During 2022-23, the five DAPs determined a total of 270 applications (13 applications more than 2021-22).

DAP applications were subject to the same Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 statutory timeframe changes. These changes applied only partially in the 2020-21 reporting period compared with applications processed over all holiday periods in 2021-22 and 2022-23, making the two periods not entirely comparable.

The percentage of DAP applications determined within the statutory timeframe



DPLH desired outcome

An effective system for the administration of Crown land and the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate

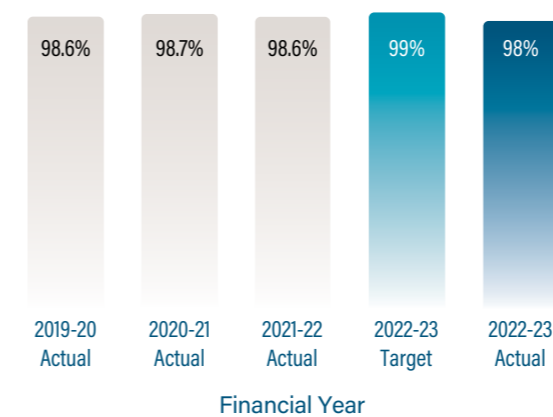
Effectiveness indicator

Percentage of land tenure change and interest documents validly lodged with the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate)

This KPI demonstrates the importance of the Department lodging documents for registration, free of errors, to meet agreed timeframes and to provide security of land tenure.

The Department lodges approximately 2000 documents with Landgate each year including applications for new titles, reserve creations, conveyance and amalgamations, easements, leases, road closures and transfers of land. The lodgement of documents to finalise transactions follows significant negotiation and document preparation processes. The accuracy of documents is imperative to the legal validity of the transactions, and any requisitions received from Landgate due to document errors result in additional fees and time delays.

Percentage of land tenure change and interest documents validly lodged with the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate)



Effectiveness indicator

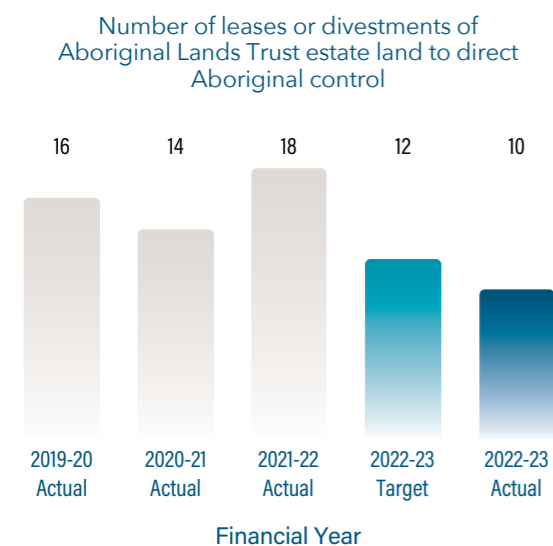
Number of leases or divestments of Aboriginal Lands Trust estate land to direct Aboriginal control

Divestment and transfer of all Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) estate land to Aboriginal people is a priority for the State Government, and a key focus for the Department. The transfer of land into the control of Aboriginal people is critical to achieving social, cultural and economic outcomes.

To date, 23 properties have been transferred to the direct control of Aboriginal people, with 288 properties remaining in the ALT estate. Seventy-five properties have been approved for divestment by the ALT and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and the Department is actively working on divesting these properties.

In addition to the above divestment of the ALT estate, the Department also leases ALT land to Aboriginal bodies, providing them with control of ALT land holdings.

This indicator relates to the number of leases or divestments of ALT estate land during the financial year.



Explanation for significant variance

The variance between the 2022-23 target and actual is due to the extensive consultation required with Aboriginal stakeholders under the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972* (AAPA Act) prior to any decision to progress divestment. The approved divestments over the last four years have been those identified as the 'simplest', and those properties remaining in the ALT estate exist in a complex historical and cultural context with a range of interest holders with differing views on a divestment outcome. The target was raised from 10 in 2021-22 to 12 in 2022-23 due to the significant increase in divestments achieved in 2021-22. However, divestments are engagement-led and are dependent on the willingness and capacity of potential divestees to accept land, making it difficult to estimate how many divestments may eventuate in any year.

The variance between the 2021-22 actual and the 2022-23 actual is due mainly to the commencement of the South-West Native Title Settlement (SWS), the appointment of the Trustee of the Noongar Boodja Trust and the incorporation of the Noongar Boodja Land Sub (the landholding body) shortly before the commencement of the 2021-22 financial year. The appointment of the Trustee and incorporation of the landholding body triggered a request for the divestment of 11 properties and resulted in a higher than usual number of divestments in the 2021-22 financial year.

DPLH desired outcome

An effective system for the conservation of cultural heritage places in Western Australia for the benefit of present and future generations

Effectiveness indicator

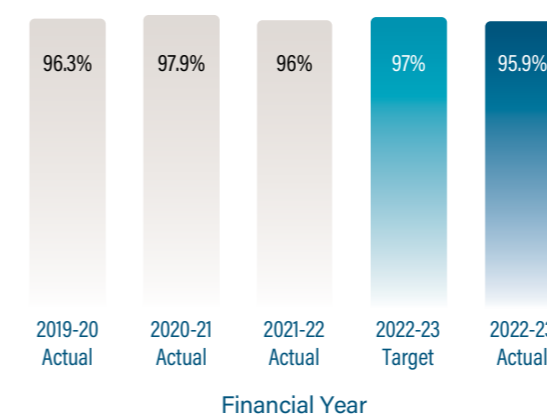
Percentage of visitors to Fremantle Prison satisfied with the services provided by the Department

The Department measures this KPI by surveying visitors to determine their satisfaction with the Department's delivery of heritage education and appreciation activities at Fremantle Prison.

Fremantle Prison is one of Western Australia's most fascinating and significant cultural attractions. The Prison became the first building in Western Australia to be included on the World Heritage list. Its inscription in 2010 was part of a serial nomination with 10 other Australian Convict Sites. Under the guidance of the Heritage Council of Western Australia, the Department's vision is to preserve the heritage values of the Fremantle Prison Precinct through conservation and community engagement. The Department aims to do this by making the Prison one of Western Australia's premier destinations for tourism, cultural and educational activities.

In 2022-23, 938 visitors completed surveys, from a total of 199,039 visitors, providing a confidence level of 95 per cent and a margin of error of ± 3.2 per cent.

Percentage of visitors to Fremantle Prison satisfied with the services provided by the Department



Effectiveness indicator

Percentage of statutory approvals delivered to the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee within set timeframes

An effective and efficient cultural heritage system relates to the timely processing of statutory applications under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (the Act). The Department aims to deliver applications to the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC) pursuant to section 18 of the Act within no more than 40 working days from receipt of the application.

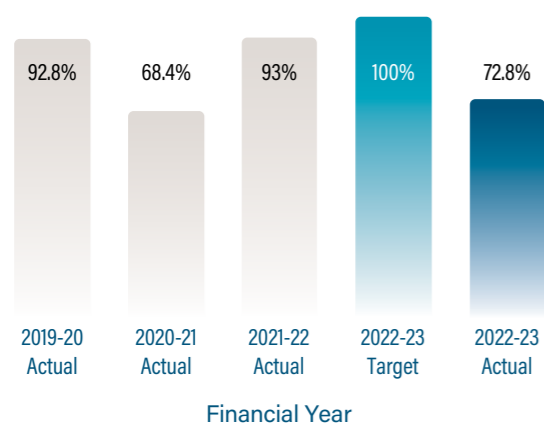
The Department manages Western Australia's Aboriginal heritage under the Act, which provides protection for all places and objects in the State that are important to Aboriginal people because of connections to their culture. On behalf of the community, and in accordance with the Act, the ACMC evaluates the importance and significance of Aboriginal places and objects.

The Department supports the ACMC in:

- evaluating and recording traditional Aboriginal lore related to places and objects;
- processing and assessing statutory applications including registration of sites and objects; and
- processing applications to excavate Aboriginal sites and consent to certain use.

Applicants use section 18 notices to seek the consent of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to harm or alter a site. The Department processes notices received from land users and collates all relevant information for the ACMC's consideration. The ACMC makes a recommendation to the Minister whether to approve a notice. The performance of the section 18 application process is a high priority, acknowledging that a lack of certainty and unnecessary time delays have financial implications and reputational repercussions for stakeholders. Accordingly, the Department considers managing statutory approvals as a key measure of effectiveness in delivering Aboriginal heritage services.

Percentage of statutory approvals delivered to the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee within set timeframes



Explanation for significant variance

The variance between the 2022-23 actual and both the 2022-23 target and 2021-22 actual is due to the increased number of postponed meetings that impacted the processing days for the section 18 notices considered at these meetings.

Effectiveness indicator

Percentage of development/planning referrals processed within set timeframes

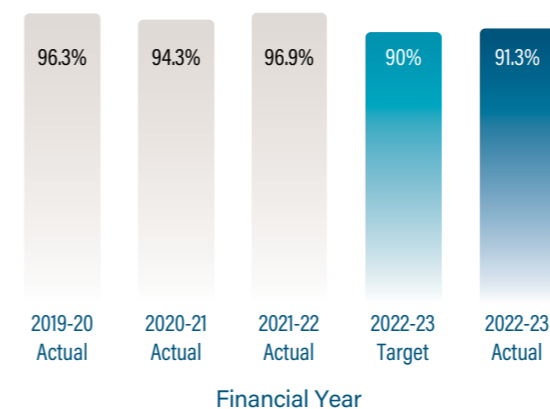
This indicator demonstrates the Department's effectiveness in assessing referrals through planning or development processes within set timeframes, ensuring conservation of cultural heritage places in Western Australia, in accordance with statutory obligations. The timeframes are:

- 42 days for development referrals in accordance with regulation 42(2) of the *Heritage Regulations 2019*; and
- 60 days for planning referrals, as set by the Department.

The Department supports the Heritage Council in carrying out its statutory functions by undertaking day-to-day operations, projects and service delivery (under delegation as required). This includes providing advice on development applications relating to places in the State Register of Heritage Places to ensure retention of their heritage values.

In 2022-23, the Department processed 645 development referrals and 45 planning referrals.

Percentage of development/planning referrals processed within set timeframes



Explanation for significant variance

The variance between the 2021-22 and 2022-23 actuals was due to a restructure of the Department's Heritage and Property Services division, which saw a temporary impact to processing times.

Effectiveness indicator

Percentage of nominations progressed to preliminary review within set timeframes

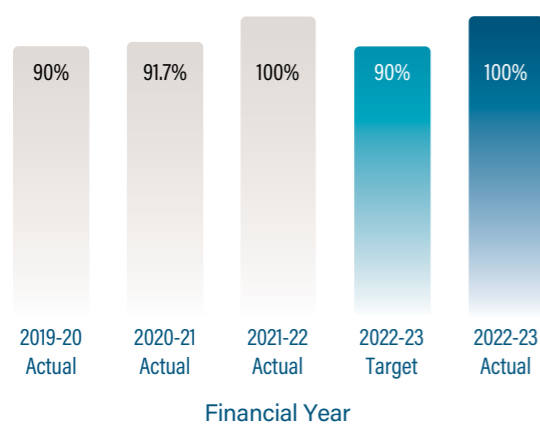
This indicator demonstrates the Department's effectiveness in progressing a heritage nomination to a preliminary review for decision by the Heritage Council. The State Heritage Register is a statutory list of places that represent the story of Western Australia's history and development.

The timely progression of nominated places to the Heritage Council for consideration for inclusion in the State Heritage Register helps ensure the recognition and conservation of cultural heritage places in Western Australia.

The Department supports the Heritage Council in carrying out its statutory functions by undertaking day-to-day operations, projects and service delivery (under delegation as required) including coordinating the assessment and registration of heritage places.

In 2022-23, the Department received seven nominations and progressed seven nominated places to the Heritage Council for consideration within the statutory timeframe of 60 days.

Percentage of nominations progressed to preliminary review within set timeframes



Explanation for significant variance

The target for 2022-23 was based on two years of data and was conservatively set due to potential COVID-19 impacts, however, that was not realised.

DPLH services

Service 1 Planning services

Efficiency indicator

Average cost of planning services

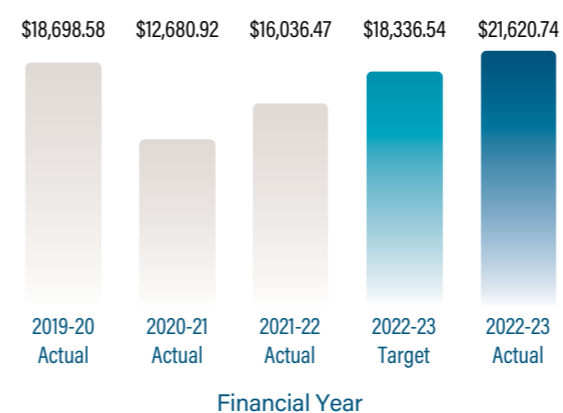
The Department's expenditure on planning services covers a wide range of activities that impact on the entire population of Western Australia. These are set out in the functions of the WAPC under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, and include:

- State Planning Strategy;
- regional and sub-regional planning strategies and frameworks;
- State planning policies;
- coordination of infrastructure priorities;
- processing and determination of statutory applications such as subdivision applications, deposited plans, development applications, local planning schemes, and local planning scheme amendments; and
- general advice and assistance to stakeholders, landowners and their agents, on a range of issues, including local government development matters.

Statutory applications are determined within strategic, legislative and policy frameworks that support the sustainable development of well-planned communities in the State.

This KPI measures the cost of planning services divided by the number of statutory applications processed and determined by the Department during the year.

Average cost of planning services



Explanation for significant variance

The variance between the 2022-23 actual and both the 2022-23 target and 2021-22 actual was mainly due to the normalisation of the market post COVID-19 and the end of the stimulus package, which saw a reduction in the number of applications processed compared to forecast and the prior year.

Service 2 Land administration services

Efficiency indicator

Average cost per square kilometre to administer Crown land and Aboriginal Lands Trust estate

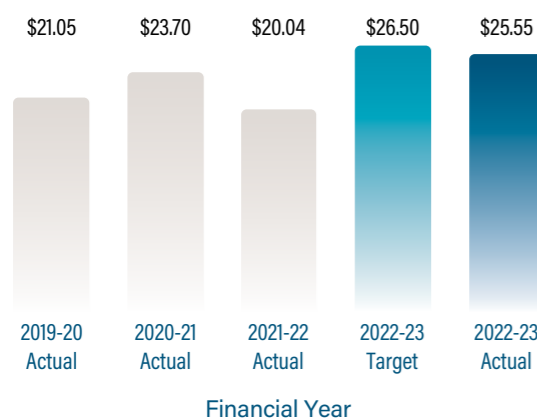
The Department has a responsibility to ensure that Crown land and Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) estate land is being utilised to its full potential and is managed effectively. The Department must also ensure that leases are compliant with lease terms and regular rent reviews are being actioned according to lease conditions.

This KPI captures the total cost of services for the administration of Crown land and Aboriginal land services, which includes the service delivery associated with the administration of the following tenure:

- Aboriginal lands;
- pastoral leases (non-Aboriginal);
- other leases (non-Aboriginal);
- managed reserves;
- unmanaged reserves; and
- miscellaneous Crown land.

The total cost of service includes a corporate overhead allocation, policy development and advice, business process development, administration and delivery of major projects.

Average cost per square kilometre to administer Crown land and Aboriginal Lands Trust estate



Explanation for significant variance

The variance between the 2022-23 actual and 2021-22 actual is due to a carryover of funding from 2021-22 in project expenditure as a result of procurement and COVID-19 delays. These projects mainly related to ALT management, ALT divestment and Wittenoom.

Service 3 Historical heritage services

Efficiency indicator

Average cost of historical heritage services

The Department assists the Heritage Council with various activities, including:

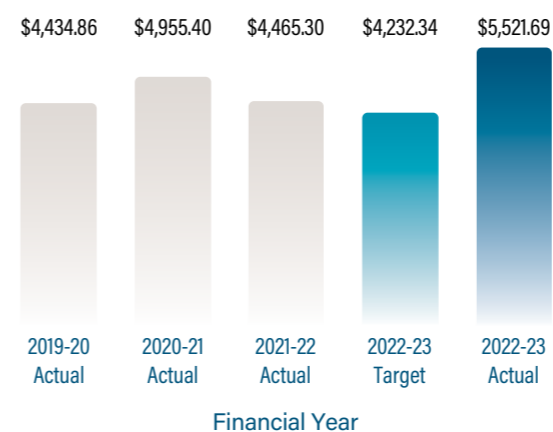
- managing the State Register of Heritage Places;
- development and planning referrals;
- heritage agreements;
- feasibility and disposal strategy projects;
- preliminary reviews;
- assessments and registration activities;
- conservation/protection orders;
- coordination of events and awards; and
- administration of grant funding.

This KPI measures the cost of historical heritage services by the number of services undertaken in each of the activities listed above. These services include:

- promotion of a sustainable future for places under management through an integrated development framework; and
- promotion of heritage success stories and engagement with the State's heritage through media, publications, tourism and interpretation.

The total cost of service for the historical heritage services excludes the costs allocated to services at Fremantle Prison and the heritage services delivered under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. The total cost of service includes a corporate overhead allocation, policy development and advice, business process development, administration and delivery of major projects.

Average cost of historical heritage services



Explanation for significant variance

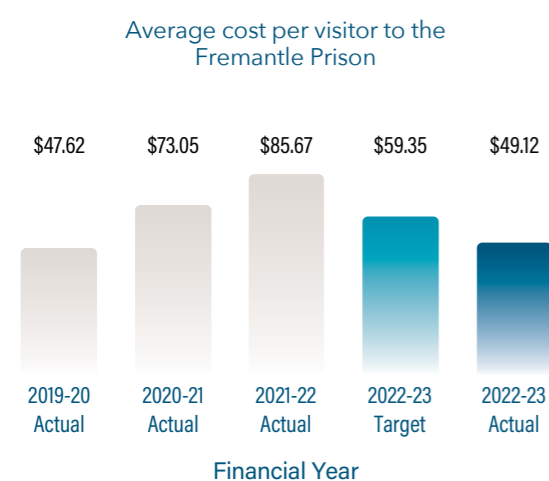
The variance between the 2022-23 actual and both the 2022-23 target and 2021-22 actual was mainly due to a decrease in the number of applications and referrals received by the Department in 2022-23.

Efficiency indicator

Average cost per visitor to the Fremantle Prison

One of the key functions of the Department is to manage cultural heritage, assets and resources, including Fremantle Prison. The Department ensures these places are conserved and appropriately managed, and that their full potential for compatible use and tourism is realised.

This efficiency indicator describes the average cost of administering the Fremantle Prison in relation to the visitors who benefit from these services.



Explanation for significant variance

The variance between the 2022-23 actual and both the 2022-23 target and 2021-22 actual was due to an increase in the number of visitors to the prison following the COVID-19 restrictions being lifted. This saw a 115 per cent increase in visitors compared to the previous year.

Service 4

Aboriginal heritage management

Efficiency indicator

Average cost of Aboriginal heritage management services

The Department is responsible for administering the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. The service outputs that are measured in this include:

- statutory applications under sections 16 and 18 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, and regulation 10 of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974;
- site assessments and audits;
- provision of Aboriginal heritage advice;
- repatriation of Aboriginal objects/ancestral remains;
- coordination of events and workshops; and
- administration of grant funding.

This KPI captures the total cost of services for the Aboriginal heritage management services, and excludes heritage services delivered under the *Heritage Act 2018*. These services include:

- provision of support for the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee;
- provision of advice on matters relating to Aboriginal heritage;
- processing of statutory approvals under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*; and
- administration of the Register of Places and Objects.

The total cost of service includes a corporate overhead allocation, policy development and advice, business process development, administration and delivery of major projects.



Explanation for significant variance

The variance between the 2022-23 actual and target was due to a 55 per cent increase in the number of Aboriginal heritage management services undertaken by the Department over the forecast. Likewise, there was a 17 per cent increase in the same services delivered between 2021-22 and 2022-23 due to an industry shift in seeking advice before submitting statutory applications and increased Aboriginal cultural heritage engagement.