



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Protect
Grow
Innovate



Annual Report 2022-23

Acknowledgment of Country

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country, the Aboriginal people of the many lands that we work on and their language groups throughout Western Australia, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waters. DPIRD respects the continuing culture of Aboriginal people and the contribution they make to the life of our regions and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Right: DPIRD Director General Heather Brayford joined the Walk for Reconciliation at Kaarta Koomba (Kings Park) as part of National Reconciliation Week 2023

Cover photo: Supervising Fisheries and Marine Officer Ryan Smith and Community Education Officer Jessamy Bennett demonstrate how to catch crabs with care on the Peel Harvey Estuary



Statement of compliance

For year ended 30 June 2023

The Hon Don Punch MLA

Minister for Regional Development; Fisheries

and

The Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC

Minister for Agriculture and Food

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 Primary Industries and Regional Development for the reporting period ended 30 June 2023.

The annual report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and also fulfils reporting obligations under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945*.



Ms Heather Brayford PSM

Director General

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Overview

Director General's report



It was an absolute privilege to be appointed as the department's new Director General in November 2022.

I am fortunate to lead such a talented and dedicated group of people who work in many roles across the state to ensure the sustainable development of Western Australia's regions and agriculture, aquaculture, food and fisheries sectors.

I would like to thank former A/Director General Terry Hill for his leadership and efforts to stabilise and strengthen our department during his 9 months in the chair. Terry returned to his role as CEO of the Pilbara Development Commission and continues to work closely with our department.

The 2022-23 financial year was one of improvement and achievement for DPIRD in the face of ongoing change, challenges and opportunities.

We welcomed a new Minister and portfolio changes, new Corporate Executive team members and other key senior leadership appointments, and participated in several public sector-wide initiatives to help us better serve the WA community as a whole.

This included being asked to take part in the Public Sector Commission's Agency Capability Review Program. This review is designed to give us a greater understanding of what we are doing well and areas where we may need to improve.

It has been a positive process and I look forward to seeing the findings and implementing any recommendations.

We also continued to build our relationship and collaboration with the state's nine Regional Development Commissions (RDCs) and harness their knowledge and expertise to ensure we can get bigger and better gains across the Regional Development portfolio.

It is by building partnerships and exploring ways to improve what we do and how we do it that we will be able to get some great wins – and we had more than a few of those in 2022-23.

Our investment in research and development (R&D) continued to help grow and future-proof WA's valuable grains industry, with growers harvesting the state's second consecutive record crop, surpassing 26 million tonnes in 2022-23.

Our R&D efforts across the agriculture sector will only get stronger through the new Western Australian Agricultural Research Collaboration with the CSIRO, Grower Group Alliance (GGA) and major universities.

To top it off, we welcomed the WA Government's support for our new metropolitan biosecurity and research facility to be built at Murdoch University, with funding allocated in the 2023-24 State Budget to progress design and prepare for the next phases of this important project.

We again proved our ability in emergency response and as a Hazard Management Agency for animal and plant pest and diseases, successfully responding to a range of new and ongoing incursions,

and preparing for the increased threat of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and lumpy skin disease (LSD) entering Australia after detections in Indonesia.

We also continued to protect our natural resources, including new management arrangements to boost our west coast demersal scalefish stocks, and supported response and recovery efforts following natural disasters, including the unprecedented Kimberley floods caused by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie.

As part of our commitment to reconciliation and achieving better outcomes for Aboriginal people, businesses and communities, we progressed development of our second Reconciliation Action Plan (the RAP Innovate) and set up an Aboriginal Outcomes Task team to enable our department to respond to, deliver and report against the targets and reforms under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Ensuring our staff feel supported and empowered is critical to achieving good outcomes across our regions and industries. To that end, we moved to establish a Culture and Values Board to refine and strengthen our values and culture where staff are encouraged to show leadership.

We also launched new streamlined corporate systems, including the FIN Hub finance system and Progi learning management system, to help make it easier for staff to do their jobs and improve their skills, and implemented a new Work Health and Safety framework to formalise a consistent approach to proactively managing work health, safety and wellbeing across DPIRD.

I would like to thank all our people for their ongoing commitment and hard work to get the best results for our regions, industries and the WA community as a whole.

I would also like to acknowledge our Ministers Hon Don Punch and Hon Jackie Jarvis for their support, as well as the contributions of former Agriculture and Food and Regional Development Minister Hon Alannah MacTiernan who retired in November 2022.

DPIRD is very well placed to make significant progress on some priority areas in the next 12 months and beyond, having successfully secured funding in the 2023-24 State Budget for a range of key projects and initiatives relating to emergency animal disease preparedness, climate resilience, R&D, aquaculture and fisheries management.

We will continue to focus on doing the right things, at the right time in the right way, including looking at where we can streamline and simplify functions and processes to get better return for our efforts.

That way, we can help to ensure we are an agency that is valued, respected and recognised for the work we do.

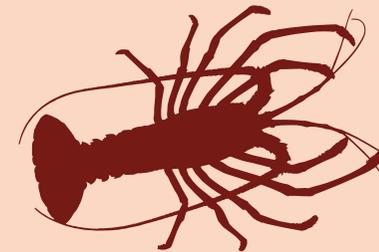


Heather Brayford PSM
Director General

Year at a glance



Allocated **\$984.6** million to **262** projects through the Royalties for Regions (RfR) program to support economic, business and social development in regional WA (p.33)



Supported West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery to be recertified under Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainability accreditation for **world-first fifth time** (p.28)



Provided more than **\$360,000** to **8 Aboriginal enterprises** to build their businesses and satisfy increasing demand for native seeds and plants (p.32)



Released **greenhouse gas calculation resource** to allow growers to understand their own emissions and develop low emissions production systems (p.29)



Undertook targeted R&D that supported a **second consecutive record grains crop**, which surpassed **26 million tonnes** (p.38)



Helped close **key apple and carrot export deals** to support the expansion of WA's horticulture industry into overseas markets (p.41)



Oversaw completion of **283 km Murchison vermin cell fence** to protect 53 pastoral properties from wild dogs, improving livestock productivity and profitability (p.27)



Upgraded Hillarys shellfish hatchery to **expand scallop production** research capability (p.37)



Provided **\$6.3 million** in Value Add Investment Grants to 10 businesses to drive business growth, diversification, resilience and employment (p.42)



Undertook **biggest ever** surveillance campaign for the pest polyphagus shot-hole borer beetle to help protect native vegetation and tree and nut industries (p.24)



Employed **22 more officers** to enhance early warning and detection and boost preparedness for an emergency animal disease outbreak in WA (p.26)



Stopped **55,984 kg** of quarantine risk material from entering the state, protecting WA's area freedom from many pests and diseases (p.26)



Provided **\$549,901** in Animal Welfare Grants to 24 community-based projects which will lead to better care for companion animals and rescued wildlife (p.42)

Who we are

Enabling legislation

DPIRD was established on 1 July 2017 and operates under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

Our role

DPIRD leads sustainable development of Western Australia's regions and agriculture, aquaculture, food and fisheries sectors. We deliver through partnerships in science, research and development, regulation and industry development.

Our purpose

Enable enduring prosperity for all Western Australians through our work with regions and primary industries.

Responsible Ministers



The Hon. Don Punch MLA
Minister for Regional Development; Fisheries



The Hon. Jackie Jarvis MLC
Minister for Agriculture and Food

Our primary industries

WA's primary industries, including agriculture, commercial fisheries and aquaculture, are WA's second largest export sector and provide most of the state's fresh food, including horticulture and meat products.

DPIRD estimates total gross value of production (GVP) in WA's agriculture, forestry, fishing value chains is \$50.5 billion per annum, creating close to 180,000 jobs along the entire value chain.

Primary producers (farmers/growers of grain, wool, meat, cattle, fruit, veg, dairy, fisheries, etc) make up 32% of this value at nearly \$15.9 billion per annum (2021-22).

Due to WA's small domestic market, most primary industries production, typically cereal grains, oilseeds, and meat and live export, is exported overseas, with main markets including China and Japan. Total primary industry exports from WA were around \$12.22 billion in 2021-22, with cereal grains representing 49% (\$6 billion), oilseeds 25% (\$3 billion) and meat and live export 13% (\$1.5 billion) of total exports.

**Primary industries
value chain employment**
= almost 180,000 jobs

**Total WA
primary industry exports**
= around \$12.22 billion in 2020-21

Agriculture and food¹

Grains make up almost half of WA's agricultural production value and cover an area of around 8.9 million hectares².

The state's sheep and lamb flock size were 12.42 million head at the end of the 2021-22 financial year, with a GVP of \$1.35 billion. There were 4,281 sheep producing businesses.

In 2021-22, the beef cattle herd size was 1.9 million head, with 2,594 beef producing businesses. Beef cattle and calves GVP was \$1.03 billion.

The value of horticulture produce at the wholesale level was an estimated \$1.6 billion in 2021-22.

WA's growing food and beverage industry has a total sales and services value of around \$8.16 billion.

Fisheries

WA has an extensive coastline that extends approximately 12,895 km (~20,788 km including islands).

The value of WA's commercial fisheries and aquaculture is about \$750 million (2021-22).

WA's approximately 649,000 recreational fishers make a significant contribution to state economy (estimated \$1.1 billion³) and support the economy in many regional towns.

¹ Source: DPIRD Industry Economic Analysis Branch: using a range of sources of published and verified data e.g. ABS, ABARES, APC, REPLAN, Geoscience Australia

² GIWA Crop Report of February 2023 available at <https://www.giwa.org.au/wa-crop-reports/2022-season/giwa-crop-report-february-2023/>

³ Source: National Social and Economic Survey of Recreational Fishers 2018-2021 (Feb 2023)

Working for our primary industries

DPIRD delivers knowledge, research, policy, regulation and compliance, and industry development capability to support the state's primary industries to grow and prosper for the benefit of both regional and metropolitan communities.

DPIRD, in collaboration with WA's primary industries, and state and federal governments, is implementing two key plans to help our expand and diversify the state's regional economy.

- 1. Primary Industries Plan 2020–24** – sets clear priorities for investment and establishes a platform for strengthened collaboration between government and primary industries.
- 2. Aquaculture Development Plan 2020–30** – provides realistic and achievable targets in the short, medium and long terms to build WA's aquaculture industry and assist local operators to take advantage of the rising global demand for quality seafood over the next 10 years.

Our regions

The regions form the backbone of WA's export-oriented economy.

They play a crucial role in generating economic value, contributing approximately **\$141 billion*** (35%) of WA's Gross State Product (GSP) of approximately **\$404 billion**, largely driven by the resources and primary industries sectors.

Approximately 712,100** residents call regional WA their home, making up 25% of the state's population.

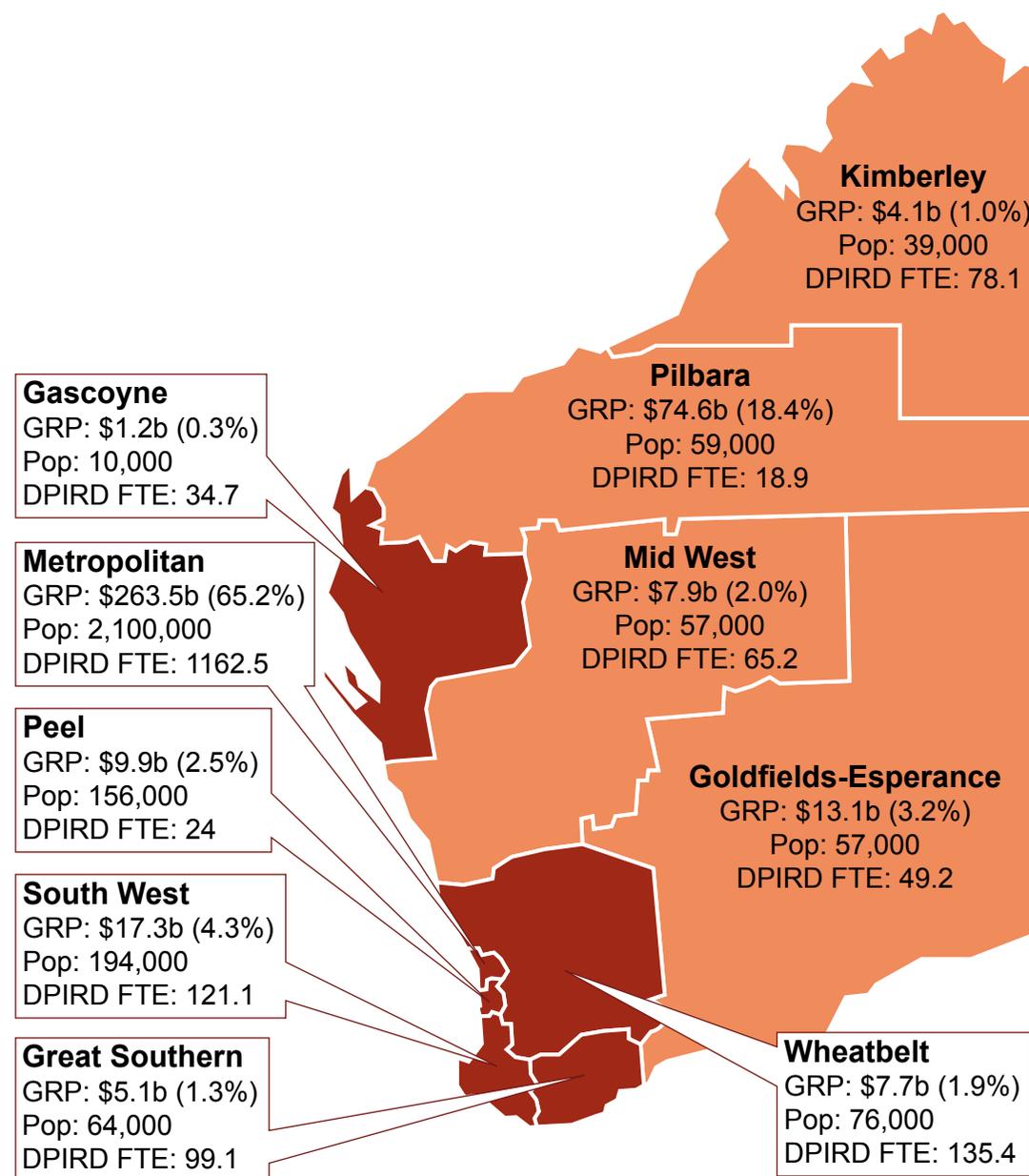
WA's regions are internationally renowned for hosting major industries such as iron ore, energy, grains and livestock, along with significant economic assets.

*Source: JTSI

**Source: REMPLAN

Gross regional product (GRP)
= \$140.6b; 35% of GSP

Regional population
= 700,000; 25% of
WA population



Source: WA Economic Profile JTSI, May 2023 (GRP and population)

Working for our regions

DPIRD plays a pivotal role in the development and delivery of regional programs and services, including Royalties for Regions to ensure sustainable, vibrant and prosperous regional communities.

As part of the Regional Development Portfolio, DPIRD supports the state's 9 RDCs, the Regional Development Council, the WA Regional Development Trust, and the WA Regional Development Alliance to shape and advance the regional development agenda.



Our Strategy

Strategic Intent 2022-26

The Strategic Intent 2022-26 is a key document guiding our work over 5 years.

It outlines our department's role, purpose, approach and priorities.

Launched in November 2021, the Strategic Intent was developed following extensive feedback and input from staff and consideration by Corporate Executive of the broader strategic context in which DPIRD and our stakeholders operate.

The Strategic Intent delivers on our 3 strategic outcomes:

1. Management and stewardship of our land and aquatic resources
2. Dynamic regions and primary industries
3. Capable and empowered communities

The Strategic Intent is guiding all staff in their business planning, priority setting and decision making over the five years.

The 'Report on operations' section of this annual report is aligned to our strategic outcomes.

How we deliver (organisational excellence)

In delivering our Strategic Intent we focus on building relationships and working collaboratively with our partners using 6 key levers:

- Policy, strategy and advocacy
- Regulation and compliance
- Research, development and innovation
- Public investment
- Capacity building programs and infrastructure
- Engagement and partnerships

Delivery of our strategic outcomes is supported by effective corporate functions. This ensures our people have the skills, systems, assets, policies, processes, finances, legislation and structure to deliver. These functions maintain a focus on protecting our reputation, growing our capability and innovating our service delivery to facilitate achievement of our purpose.

Delivering on our Strategic Intent

Our purpose

Enable enduring prosperity for all Western Australians through our work with regions and primary industries

Our approach



Protect through stewardship of our people, land and aquatic resources.

Grow our primary industries and regions through balancing social, economic and environmental drivers.

Innovate through a culture of inquiry and adaptation.

Strategic outcomes

1. Management and stewardship of WA's land and aquatic resources
2. Capable and empowered communities
3. Dynamic regions and primary industries

Significant issues (p.53)

- Climate change
- Biosecurity threats
- Diversification
- Closing the Gap

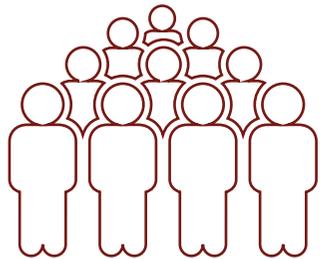
2022-23 highlights

- New greenhouse gas calculation resource (p.29)
- Kimberley floods response and recovery (p.33)
- Boosting emergency preparedness (p.26)
- Murchison vermin cell fence completed (p.27)
- Apple and carrot export deals (p.41)
- Hillarys shellfish hatchery upgrade (p.37)
- Native Seeds and Nursery Development Grants (p.32)
- Aboriginal Pastoral Academy graduates (p.32)

Our organisation

Staff and locations

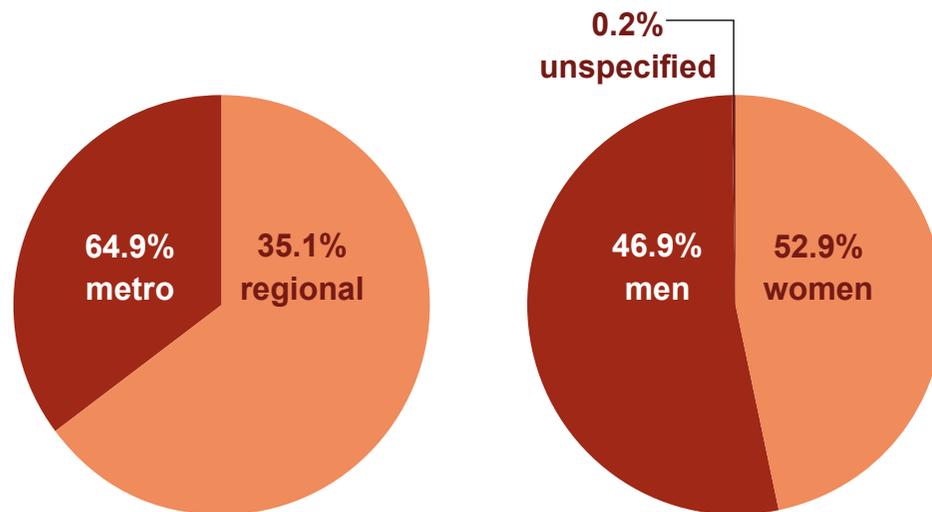
At 30 June 2023, DPIRD had:



**1788.2 paid
FTE staff**

At more than **60** locations

- **8** metro offices
- **25** regional offices
- **11** research and aquaculture facilities
- **4** quarantine/checkpoint locations
- **15** RDC offices



Our values

The following values underpin how we operate:

- We value **relationships** – Our relationships with our clients, colleagues and stakeholders are at the heart of everything we do
- We are **resilient** – We recover from setbacks, embracing and adapting to change because we have a clear focus on the big picture and long-term impact
- We are **responsive** – We understand the needs of our clients, colleagues and stakeholders and add value by tailoring our solutions accordingly
- We focus on **results** – We strive to develop and provide excellent services that delivers meaningful results to the community we serve

DPIRD organisational structure

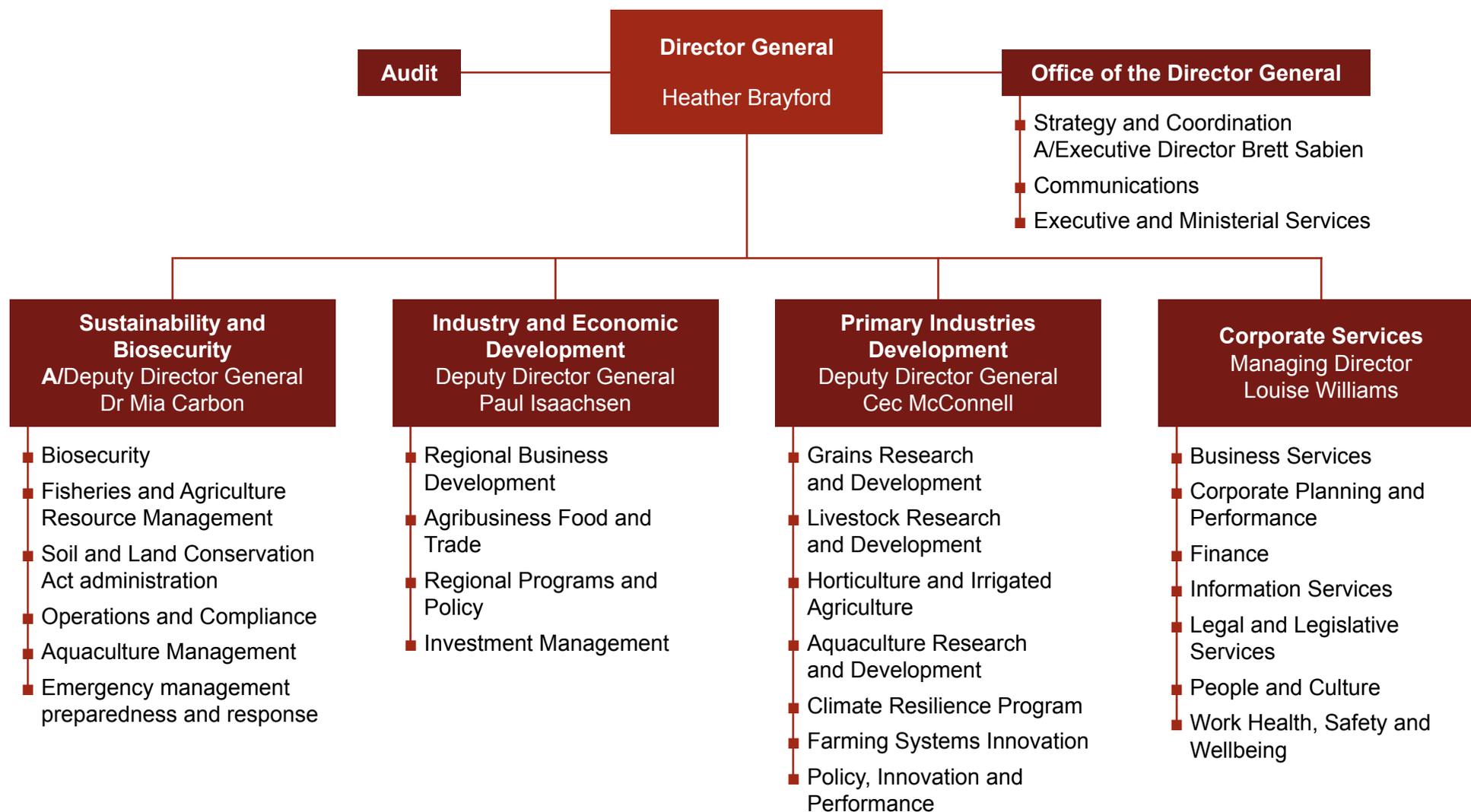


Figure 1: Organisational structure listing senior officers and key functions as at 30 June 2023

Senior officers



Heather Brayford PSM
Director General

Heather has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the public sector, with over 35 years of involvement in fisheries and aquaculture policy, regulation, industry development, biosecurity and natural resource management. Heather thrives on working in partnership with stakeholders and building trust to support positive community outcomes. Before becoming DPIRD's Director General, Heather served as Director General of the former Department of Fisheries and, most recently, as Deputy Director General with DPIRD. As a 2-term Director of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Heather understands the research and development landscape and has developed a strong knowledge of emerging challenges and opportunities for primary industries and the regions. Heather is a recipient of the 2020 Queen's Birthday Public Service Medal for outstanding public service to legislative reform and policy development in WA. She is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds an MBA and Bachelor of Science.



Dr Mia Carbon
A/Deputy Director General
Sustainability and Biosecurity

Mia has more than 14 years' experience in government trade and biosecurity roles in the United Kingdom and Australia. She has worked at DPIRD and the former Department of Agriculture and Food since 2012 in several positions, including Biosecurity Executive Director, Chief Veterinary Officer Western Australia, and Biosecurity Strategy Director. She has played a leading role in strengthening WA's biosecurity system and emergency response preparedness and capabilities over this time. Prior to this she held a number of clinical and teaching roles in the private veterinary industry and university sector. She is passionate about protecting WA's status and reputation as a reliable producer of safe and biosecure agrifood and seafood products, and driving resource management outcomes that deliver long-term benefits for the state's industries, communities and the environment. Mia holds degrees in veterinary sciences and an MBA.



Paul Isaachsen
Deputy Director General
Industry and Economic Development

Paul came to DPIRD during 2022-23 from the Department of Communities where, as Assistant Director General, he held responsibilities for priority initiatives, organisational strategy, data functions and remote Aboriginal communities. He joined Communities in 2017 from the then Department of Regional Development, where he was part of the Regional Services Reform Unit leadership team. Paul has previously worked for the Wunan Foundation in the East Kimberley, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canberra, and law firm Ashurst. He has degrees in arts, law and public policy, and is passionate about sustainable economic and social development in regional WA.



Cec McConnell
Deputy Director General
Primary Industries Development, and
Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation

As WA's Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation, and now as Deputy Director General, Primary Industries Development, Cec has been part of DPIRD's Executive team since 2020, providing scientific and policy leadership, including overseeing the development of WA's first Soil Health Strategy. Prior to becoming Commissioner, Cec ran her own consulting company providing business development, planning and natural resource management (NRM) advice and held board director roles, including with Wheatbelt NRM. She previously held senior leadership roles with the Department of Agriculture and Food, including as a regional director based at Northam. Cec has strong networks in agriculture developed through working and living in regional WA communities over the past 25 years. She holds a degree in geomorphology and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Cec will be working to ensure DPIRD continues to deliver strong research and development outcomes for WA.



Louise Williams
Managing Director
Corporate Services

Louise commenced with DPIRD as the Managing Director of Corporate Services following a career spanning more than 25 years in strategy development and implementation, change management, human resources, organisational development and cultural transformation within the public sector. Before joining DPIRD, Louise held leadership and executive roles at Health Support Services (HSS). Most recently, Louise led the Transformation and Strategy Division at HSS, responsible for developing the new strategic plan and the internal COVID-19 response activities through the pandemic. Louise also led the People, Culture and Capability function. Louise previously held several People and Culture leadership roles at DPIRD and former Department of Fisheries. Louise has a Bachelor of Commerce and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Brett Sabien
A/Executive Director
Strategy and Coordination

Brett Sabien has experience working in the Public Sector spanning 38 years. He was most recently DPIRD's Director of Investment Management, which includes being responsible for the administration of the Royalties for Regions Fund, grants management across the department and evaluation of programs and services. Brett has also worked in the Pilbara and Wheatbelt regions and worked for one year in Japan on an exchange program undertaking research into regional development. Brett has extensive experience in matters relating to the governance and administration of public funds, public policy and strategy, and regional development.

Shared responsibilities with other agencies

DPIRD works closely with a range of national, state and local governments, non-government organisations and industry partners to achieve desired outcomes. Examples of our shared responsibilities under legislation or government direction are outlined below. We value our strong working relationships with these organisations.

In addition, we provide extensive technical expertise across the WA Government.

Aboriginal economic development

We are leaders in the WA Government's delivery of regional Aboriginal economic development initiatives. We work closely with a wide range of agencies, including the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), to activate economic opportunities arising through Native Title agreements and shape Aboriginal policy matters and initiatives to address Closing the Gap targets.

We work with the Department of Finance in supporting the Aboriginal Procurement Policy through our delivery of the Aboriginal Procurement Advisory Service, and with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) in supporting Aboriginal pastoralists and improving economic opportunities and divestment of the Aboriginal Lands Trust estate. Our activities are responsive to, informed by, and delivered in partnership with Aboriginal people, businesses and entities.

Animal welfare

Our department works with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (RSPCA WA), Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Animal Health Australia, state and territory agencies and industry to develop and implement national animal welfare policies, standards and guidelines.

We work with the RSPCA WA, DAFF, WA Police, port authorities, education and research facilities, and state and local governments to administer the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, promote livestock stewardship and ensure ethical use of animals for scientific research.

We also work with hazard management agencies, local government authorities, RSPCA WA, the Australian Veterinary Association, private veterinary industry and many non-government organisations to deliver the State Support Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies.

At-sea safety compliance

Our Fisheries and Marine Officers provide at-sea marine safety compliance and education on behalf of the Department of Transport.

Biosecurity

We work with Commonwealth, state and territory governments, Animal Health Australia, Plant Health Australia and industry to ensure Australia and WA have a strong biosecurity system that can deliver on obligations under World Trade Organization agreements, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity, and national biosecurity emergency response deeds.

We also work with other WA Government agencies, local government, industry bodies, local communities, Aboriginal rangers, Recognised Biosecurity Groups and others to help maintain the State's biosecurity status and reputation for high-quality, safe and reliable products, as well as manage the entry, establishment and control of pests and diseases of significance.

We continue to work with the Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments, other government agencies, industry bodies and local communities to ensure nationally consistent response arrangements are in place to promote the effective and timely management of biosecurity incidents and emergencies, including plant, animal, aquatic and environmental pests and diseases.

We chair the State's Biosecurity Senior Officers Group (comprising DPIRD, the Department of Health, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Western Australian Local Government Association and Forest Products Commission). We also chair the Western Australian Gene Technology Interdepartmental Committee (with membership from the Department of Health and DBCA), and represent the WA Government on the national Gene Technology Standing Committee.

Climate action–emissions reduction

We are working with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and other WA Government agencies as part of the Sectoral Emissions Reduction Strategies (SERS) Steering Group – a component of the Ministerial Taskforce on Climate Action. The Government is developing SERS in consultation with business, industry, research institutions and the community to transition our economy to net zero emissions. We are the lead agency for the agriculture emissions reduction strategy.

Emergency management/natural disaster relief

Our department continues to work closely with the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), other hazard management agencies, local government and identified stakeholders with respect to enhancing the state's emergency management arrangements (legislative and policy framework) and enhancing prevention, preparedness, response and recovery capability and capacity.

We continue to directly support the State Emergency Management Plan and all-hazards emergency management arrangements (Westplans) to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from identified hazards as listed in the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Land and water development

DPIRD works with DPLH, DBCA, DPC and the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) to progress opportunities in carbon farming and clean energy. DPIRD supports the activation of these land and water-related Aboriginal economic development opportunities through its engagement with native title holders across the state.

We are the lead agency for the Ord stage 2 development, working with DWER, DPLH and Traditional Owners to support the continued development of land, meeting obligations under the Ord development agreement with Kimberley Agricultural Investment.

Local Content Program

Our Local Content Team works in collaboration with JTSI to maximise procurement and contract opportunities for regional entities by creating awareness and pathways to accessing WA Government-funded tender and contract opportunities.

Marine park management

While DBCA is the lead agency responsible for establishment and management of state marine reserves, we are responsible for managing fishing, pearling and aquaculture in state marine reserves, including compliance, in accordance with the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. DPIRD also has collaborative arrangements in place for Australian Marine Park compliance.

Pastoral lands management

We support DPLH and the Pastoral Lands Board in the management of pastoral leases through the provision of lease-level and regional-level land condition monitoring, assessment and compliance activities.

This incorporates working cooperatively towards reforms in management of the pastoral estate, including enhanced monitoring and assessment consistent with findings of the Auditor General.

Recreational fishing safety

We work with Recfishwest, DBCA, Surf Life Saving WA, local government, emergency services and WA Police to ensure our fishing safety messages are communicated to recreational fishers through websites, social media, signage and other communication channels.

Royalties for Regions

We assist the Minister for Regional Development to fulfil obligations under the *Royalties for Regions Act 2009* to administer the Royalties for Regions Fund to promote and facilitate economic, business and social development in regional WA. We work collaboratively with the Department of Treasury and across government, providing advice on funds management strategies, budgeting, funds disbursement and reporting to maximise the effectiveness of the Fund.

Shark hazard mitigation

We are involved in both operational response and research initiatives as part of a suite of shark hazard mitigation strategies. We partner with other stakeholders such as Surf Life Saving WA, WA Police, local government and DBCA to make sure response agencies are aware of reported shark sightings and tagged shark detections. This assists with distributing public and first responder notifications as well as the timely closure of beaches where required.

Sustainability and natural resource management (NRM)

Our department supports the State NRM Office, which delivers the State NRM Program on behalf of government. We work closely with DBCA with respect to whale entanglement mitigation strategies.

We work in partnership with the commercial fishing and aquaculture industries through arrangements with the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC), Western Rock Lobster Council and the Aquaculture Council of Western Australia, as well as with recreational fishers through Recfishwest.

Through the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, we work with the Soil and Land Conservation Council on policy, management and conservation of WA's soil and land resources.



Agency performance

Report on operations – key achievements

1. Management and stewardship of Western Australia's land and aquatic resource

Protect

Responding to biosecurity incidents

DPIRD undertook several responses to biosecurity incursions to protect the state's valuable primary industries, environment and unique lifestyle from plant and animal pests and diseases.

More than 100 staff worked to eradicate the tiny but potentially devastating pest polyphagous shot-hole borer from the Perth metropolitan area. This pest could significantly impact trees and some agricultural orchards. DPIRD has surveyed more than 1.3 million trees over 35,000 properties and taken action to contain the borer as part of the department's biggest ever surveillance campaign.

Efforts were also made to eradicate Queensland fruit fly (Qfly), which attacks more than 300 fruits and fruiting vegetables and home gardens, following a detection in the Perth suburb of Bayswater by DPIRD's early detection surveillance system.

The department commenced an extensive surveillance, trapping and treatment regime, backed by DPIRD's vast experience from eradicating the pest 8 previous times.

DPIRD's aquatic biosecurity experts collaborated with a range of stakeholders to contain the spread of the highly invasive marine pest, carpet sea squirt, following a detection at Henderson.

Ongoing surveillance campaigns to support Area Freedom declarations for browsing ant and red imported fire ant in the Perth metropolitan area progressed according to schedule, including the use of a specialist odour detection dog at 5 sites.

The department also led a range of localised responses, including to potato spindle tuber viroid and potato virus Y (NTN) found in potato growing regions of WA, grapevine red blotch virus at Manjimup, and myrtle rust in the East Kimberley.

More than 100 staff worked to eradicate the tiny but potentially devastating pest Polyphagous shot-hole borer from the Perth metropolitan area.



Protect

Biosecurity officers Josh Smith and Marcus Visic (centre and right) worked with Perth Zoo's Josh Laming to help eradicate polyphagous shot-hole borer

Intercepting and identifying biosecurity risks

With a 227% increase in passengers on interstate flights into Perth (2,612,219) and a 99% increase in the number of vehicles entering WA through road checkpoints (159,394) in 2022-23, DPIRD's Quarantine WA service worked hard to ensure WA maintained area freedom from many pests and diseases found in other states. A total of 55,984 kg of quarantine risk material was intercepted, with 65 significant plant diseases and pests identified in the intercepts. The service also inspected and certified 145,195 lines of produce and seed, and 24,265 interstate livestock.

DPIRD Diagnostic and Laboratory Services conducted 247,831 tests, comprising 99,647 animal and 44,013 plant pathology tests and 104,171 insect identifications, to ensure early diagnosis of exotic or notifiable pests and diseases. This data is key to DPIRD's ability to meet national and international biosecurity obligations, verification for market access importation protocols and export of products for the state's agricultural, aquatic and horticultural industries.

The department's Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) received and screened more than 9,000 enquiries from industry and the public for biosecurity concerns. It resulted in more than 100 detections of animal and plant pests of biosecurity and quarantine concern.

Building emergency animal disease preparedness

To further protect WA's primary industries, trade and environment from increasing biosecurity risks, the department employed 22 additional officers to enhance the state's early warning and detection, boost emergency preparedness and build response capacity.

An Industry and Government Preparedness Task Group was established to coordinate WA's preparedness for the emerging threats of foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease. A cross-departmental team of biosecurity, emergency response and industry experts was also formed to support efforts to ensure the department can respond to an emergency animal disease.

DPIRD also supported the rollout of the \$3.4 million package to assist the livestock industry transition to a mandatory electronic identification (EID) system for sheep and goats. EID will provide faster and more accurate tracing of animals in an emergency animal disease outbreak.

Protecting our marine environment

In November 2022, the WA Government unveiled three new management plans to safeguard the Abrolhos Islands' natural habitat, cultural heritage, fishing and recreation, and to support sustainable tourism. DPIRD manages the Class A Abrolhos reserve, to oversee conservation, tourism and fishing activity.

DPIRD also oversees recreational and commercial fishing in marine parks, including the 3 new parks created in the Kimberley's Buccaneer Archipelago. In May 2023, these new marine parks received \$31.3 million in the 2023-24 State Budget, including funding for a new patrol vessel and 11 new DPIRD staff to undertake education, monitoring, compliance, scientific research and fisheries management.

Manage

Taking action on wild dogs

The control of wild dogs remained a priority for DPIRD in 2022-23 to help improve livestock productivity and profitability.

As part of the Western Australian Wild Dog Action Plan, a 283 km vermin cell fence was completed in the Murchison to protect 53 pastoral properties. The fence, officially opened in October 2022, encompasses more than 6.5 million hectares of pastoral land and is one of 4 cells in the pastoral region to give pastoralists confidence to reinvest in sheep and goat production.

Work recommenced on the 660 km Esperance extension to the State Barrier Fence in January 2023 after an Indigenous Land Use Agreement was negotiated with the Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation. To date, 93 km have been constructed and an additional 83 km of land cleared.

The project has supported local Aboriginal employment, with a second panel of Aboriginal contractors set up to undertake fence maintenance, repairs and section replacement.



Manage

Crew from Jalyadi Rural Fencing helped maintain the State Barrier Fence near Yalgoo

Shoring up fisheries sustainability

DPIRD's commitment to managing WA's fisheries to ensure sustainability resulted in 96% of our state's fish stocks assessed as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation (fishing) in 2022-23.

DPIRD science and management activities have assisted 12 of WA's commercial fisheries (equating to more than 80% of WA's fishery value) to achieve and retain Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainability certification – the world's gold standard in fisheries sustainability. In November 2022, the West Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, which was the first fishery in the world to get an MSC eco tick, was recertified sustainable for a world-first fifth time.

Additionally, DPIRD's science-based fisheries management effectively guided the recovery of WA's herring fishery, leading to an announcement in October 2022 to increase the daily bag limit from 12 to 20 herring for recreational fishers and improved access for commercial fishers.

Recovering demersal fish stocks

After extensive research showed West Coast demersal scalefish stocks that extend from Kalbarri to Augusta remained under severe threat, the department worked with the WA Government and sector groups to introduce new management measures to reduce the allowable catch levels for recreational, charter and commercial fishers by 50%. The measures include reduced allowable fishing hours for the commercial sector, reduced fishing periods for recreational fishers and introduction of quota tags for the charter sector.

To help fishers transition to the new measures and boost stocks, DPIRD began rolling out a \$10 million recovery package, including funding for pink snapper restocking and 40 new fish aggregating devices (buoys or floats that attract fish) to provide more sport fishing opportunities. Charter operators can apply for funding to diversify their business into other tourism experiences and commercial fishers will be able to voluntarily surrender units of entitlement for compensation.

Keeping up compliance

DPIRD continued to undertake important regulatory compliance activities across the fisheries, soil and land conservation, biosecurity and animal welfare portfolios to help protect our resources and biosecurity status, and give the WA community and international markets confidence in WA as a reliable producer of premium, clean and ethical food and products.

In 2022-23, its Operations and Compliance team carried out 4,174 land and sea patrols, leading to 81,890 fisher contacts and inspections. Additionally, the team attended 304 locations and carried out 1,341 inspections in relation to animal welfare. These compliance activities resulted in 1,442 warnings and 1,292 infringements being issued and 273 court prosecutions across animal welfare, fishing and biosecurity.

A range of operations to detect illegal fishing activity were conducted, including Operation Freycliff in Port Hedland which detected 19 fisheries offences over a week, involving undersize fish, exceeding the demersal bag limit, fishing without licence and using a crab trap.

Operation Morborough in Albany in September 2022 focused on ensuring livestock in transit were properly identified and accompanied by correct transport documents to help protect the state's valuable livestock industries and important export markets.

To make it easier for the community to report suspicious fishing and biosecurity and agriculture-related activity, the department incorporated its existing FishWatch 24-hour hotline and new AgWatch service into the online Crimestoppers service. Users can now access a simple online tool to make reports.

Adapt

Increasing climate resilience

DPIRD continued to support initiatives that promote climate-resilient primary industries and regional communities and help achieve the WA Government target of net zero emissions by 2050.

Through its five-year, \$20.4 million WA Farming Systems project in partnership with the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), the department established 3 large rotation trials across the Wheatbelt (Northampton, Merredin and Lake Grace) and set up regional innovation groups, comprising local growers and advisors, to identify research priorities and guide trial treatments to build resilient, sustainable and profitable farming businesses.

DPIRD and the Water Corporation announced plans to build three desalination units at Katanning, Merredin and Dumbleyung this coming summer to test desalination technology and brine disposal for on-farm application as part of the \$1.5 million WaterSmart Farms project to improve climate resilience of WA farms. Another plant will be built in Esperance in collaboration with the Australian Government's National Water Grid Authority.

In November 2022, the department released a greenhouse gas calculation resource for growers, with data collated by the Carbon Neutral Grain Pilot Project, Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH) Group and Wide Open Agriculture.

The resource enables growers to understand their own grain emissions and respond to increasing global market demand for grain from low emissions production systems.

The department also provided funding for six innovative projects to rejuvenate the rangelands and improve livestock profitability as part of the inaugural \$2 million Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Drought Resilience Grants program.

Recipients included Challa Station near Mt Magnet, which will use a \$146,880 grant to install virtual fencing, trap yards and biodiversity monitors to improve groundcover and biodiversity through regenerative grazing. An additional \$7 million will expand the program in 2023-24, building livestock management capability of pastoralists and landscape rehabilitation through training and extension, active research, decision tools and models, and ag-tech packages.

Tackling salinity with maps and apps

Dryland salinity is a major issue in the agricultural region, estimated to cost more than \$500 million per year in lost production.

In September 2022, DPIRD and the CSIRO released the 'Mapping salt-affected land in the South-West of Western Australia using satellite remote sensing' report, which calculates the extent of salinity at 1.75 million hectares. The initiative, which used satellite imagery, high resolution topographic data, ground information and geospatial data, supported by ground-truth mapping by DPIRD hydrologists, will support new approaches and priorities to conserve natural assets and agricultural productivity.

The department also worked with Great Southern-based natural resource management group Gillamii Centre to release the Saltland Genie app in March 2023.

The web-based app brings together 8 decision support tools and allows farmers and landholders to enter water and soil salinity measurements to help find practical solutions, access information about on-site implementation and estimate the return on planned rehabilitation investment.

Setting standards for natural resource management

To help assess and improve our state's natural resources, DPIRD developed and released the first set of land condition standards for the pastoral rangelands.

The West Kimberley Standards provide land managers and regulators with clear guidance on what is acceptable, suboptimal or unacceptable land condition – and will help assess the risk of land degradation and inform regulatory responses.

The Standards were developed using years of research, including innovative machine learning that produced predictive maps of pasture distribution. The department will progressively roll out standards for the entire WA pastoral estate.

DPIRD also continued to help the community to conserve and enhance WA's diverse environment, awarding \$7 million in State Natural Resource Management Community Stewardship grants in September 2022 to support 57 community-driven projects. Successful projects involved landcare capacity building, catchment rehabilitation, coastal conservation and invasive species control.



Adapt

The Saltland Genie App was launched in March 2023 and assists farmers design practical solutions to manage salt-affected land

2. Capable and empowered communities

Grow

Boosting Aboriginal economic development

DPIRD supported a range of initiatives to help empower and achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal people, which will also create flow-on social, economic and environmental benefits to the regions and contribute to the state's Closing the Gap commitments.

This included assisting Aboriginal enterprises in the agricultural region to participate in the growing land restoration sector via the Native Seeds and Nursery Development Grants initiative.

Eight successful applicants received a total of more than \$360,000 to build their business and train staff to satisfy the increasing demand for native seeds and plants for the burgeoning carbon land restoration sectors.

The pioneering Aboriginal Pastoral Academy saw 13 participants successfully complete pre-employment programs with 11 of those securing jobs in the northern pastoral industry for the 2023 mustering season, and 5 graduates from the 2022 program continuing employment in their second year with Kimberley pastoral stations. The DPIRD collaboration with Nyamba Buru Yawuru's Warrmijala Murrugurlayi (Rise up to Work) program and Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association (KPCA) is building vital employment pathways, which will generate broad benefits to the pastoral industry and local communities.



Grow

Aboriginal Economic
Development Manager
Melissa Hartmann, with
Talbot Muir at the Native
Seeds and Nursery Forum

Skills development extended to the Wheatbelt, where members of Beemurra Aboriginal Corporation undertook stock handling and leadership training with support from DPIRD, as part of a continual improvement program for cattle management on their Dandaragan property.

Getting the regions 'RED-dy' for growth

DPIRD continued to administer the Royalties for Regions Program, which provided \$985.05 million towards 262 projects in 2022-23 to support economic, business and social development in regional WA.

This included working with the 9 RDCs to deliver Round 5 of the \$50.85 million Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants program, which allocated \$5,523,371 towards 54 locally driven projects to stimulate job creation and economic growth in the regions.

Successful initiatives included industry development, Aboriginal economic development, agricultural diversification and tourism expansion, with individual projects ranging from alternative energy solutions in the Kimberley to a new tourism and entertainment precinct in the heart of Geraldton.

Support

Aiding floods recovery and community safety

The department assisted DFES as part of a whole-of-government emergency response to the unprecedented flooding in the Kimberley caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie over the new year.

DPIRD worked closely with the Kimberley Development Commission, KPCA and local governments to assist impacted stations, stock and pastoral enterprises in the Fitzroy River catchment. This included activating the State Support Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies, which enabled DPIRD to coordinate air surveillance to assess properties, identify stranded animals and organise fodder drops.

The department has since contributed to the broader State Recovery Plan, co-leading the economic domain, which has provided a range of support, including a \$42 million Freight Assistance Package. As of 30 June 2023, the department had received 186 applications for assistance and disbursed more than \$3 million.

Businesses impacted by ex-Tropical Cyclone Ilsa in the Pilbara in April 2023 are also being supported through the Kimberley flood recovery packages.

In further efforts to help to improve community safety, the department's SharkSmart, and Weather Stations online resources were added to the ServiceWA app, allowing the public and businesses to stay up to date on the latest warnings and alerts.

Supporting regional shows

DPIRD continued its long-term support of major regional field days, which bring rural communities together and support on-farm innovation, productivity and profitability through knowledge exchange.

The department has invested in permanent display sheds at Dowerin, Newdegate and Wagin Woolorama where it engaged with a combined regional audience of about 50,000 people in 2022-23, promoting key programs and services around biosecurity, animal welfare, primary industries and regional development.

DPIRD sponsored Wagin Woolorama for the first time in 2023 (its 50th anniversary) to help the event get back on its feet after being cancelled in 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

DPIRD also displays at many regional agricultural shows as well as at the Perth Royal Show and other agriculturally relevant metropolitan shows.



Support

The department was proud to support the 2023 Wagin Woolorama

Enhance

Eclipsing mobile coverage and connectivity

DPIRD ensured more than 20,000 visitors to Exmouth could stay connected and enjoy the 2023 Total Solar Eclipse in April 2023 by investing \$5.4 million to boost telecommunications across the Gascoyne region, including new mobile base stations and the upgrade of base stations. Free public wi-fi was also set up through trailers positioned at key event and accommodation sites.

The department also encouraged telecommunications companies to apply for funding through the Commonwealth's \$160 million Regional Connectivity Program Round 3, with co-investment from the State's \$48.6 million WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program.

DPIRD awarded \$1 million to successful applicant Powertec Telecommunications to upgrade mobile coverage at 18 surf beaches from the Kimberley to the Great Southern. The upgrades will provide better coverage to support emergency responders as well as regional communities and visitors.

DPIRD provided co-funding of \$9.88 million in 2022-23 for regional telecommunications infrastructure across regional WA, with new infrastructure being deployed across 58 locations, including Mowanjuma, Jigalong, Halls Creek, Kununurra, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Nanson, Williams, Dumbleyung, Merredin, Bruce Rock, Narembene, Carburnup and Nannup.

Stocking up for recreational fishing future

Recreational fishing is a very popular pastime in WA and DPIRD worked to ensure high-quality fishing experiences were maintained and enhanced through fish stocking programs.

Researchers at DPIRD's Marine Fish Hatchery in Fremantle received a \$1 million boost over the next 3 years for pink snapper stocking in the West Coast Bioregion. To date over 230,000 juvenile pink snapper have been released under the program.

Recreational fishers are also benefiting from more than 86,000 yellowtail kingfish being released into Perth Metro waters since 2020, including 37,000 this year.

In continuing to support WA's freshwater fishers, DPIRD released around 185,000 rainbow and brown trout fingerlings, yearlings and ex-broodstock at more than 50 trout fishing locations.

Strengthening shark hazard mitigation

DPIRD continued to enhance its shark hazard mitigation program through upgrades to infrastructure, expanded research and community awareness initiatives.

In September 2022, DPIRD upgraded 4 shark detection receivers between South Mullaloo and Ocean Reef to digital technology, linking them to new onshore Shark Warning System towers to boost beach safety.

DPIRD also expanded its successful shark tagging research program to include bull sharks and monitoring in the Swan Canning Estuary.

Community awareness initiatives hit major milestones with more than 1,600 Beach Emergency Number signs in place at beach access points along the WA coastline supporting emergency services to pinpoint where help is needed. The SharkSmart WA app hit almost 130,000 downloads and the total number of rebates claimed for personal shark deterrent devices reached over 8,700.



3. Dynamic regions and primary industries

Innovate

Boosting aquaculture research

DPIRD supported the growth of the state's aquaculture industry through high-quality research and facilities.

It wrapped up 3 years of research in partnership with Maxima Pearling Company to support the development of a commercially viable tropical oyster industry for northern WA. The project successfully produced 2 species of oysters in the Pilbara that are on track to being restaurant size and quality. The department also completed upgrades to its shellfish research facilities at Hillarys to expand research capability to trial the production of southern saucer scallop spat to further grow the shellfish industry.

DPIRD's long-term involvement in aquaculture was highlighted in November 2022, with its Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre celebrating 50 years of government support for freshwater fisheries, in particular trout breeding, to enhance the fishing experience for close to 10,000 anglers annually.



Innovate

Pemberton Freshwater
Research Centre

Investment in research supports record harvest

The department's investment in R&D continued to grow and future-proof WA's grains industry, with growers harvesting the state's second consecutive record crop, surpassing 26 million tonnes in 2022-23. This is estimated to contribute around \$10 billion to WA's economy.

Key research achievements in 2022-23 included the launch of the new Neo barley variety, a product of DPIRD's Cereal Doubled Haploid Program and InterGrain. Neo has a 10% yield advantage over current benchmark variety RGT Planet in medium to high rainfall zones, generating a potential \$110 million per annum boost to the value of the national barley industry.

The department also delivered results from a joint DPIRD-GRDC \$22 million soil reengineering project with the aim to remove multiple soil constraints and lift productivity by up to 80%. Researchers reconstructed soil profiles to a depth of 80 cm at 11 trial sites, incorporating soil amendments and inorganic nutrients to optimise water and nutrient use efficiency. Crop yields increased 2 to 4-fold in the first 2 years of the trials.

In another DPIRD-GRDC project, researchers made a breakthrough in grains plant genetics research to help overcome multiple constraints associated with sodic (high sodium level) soils, which affects an estimated 68% of WA's cropping area and costs Australian grain growers \$1.3 billion per annum in lost yield potential. The project developed an integrated pre-breeding strategy using new genome sequencing technology that can be used to develop more tolerant and high yielding wheat varieties.

Collaborate

Building partnerships to maximise research gains

Recognising the benefits of harnessing the best scientific knowledge and technology, the department welcomed the official launch of the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration in July 2022.

The collaboration, comprising DPIRD, CSIRO, the Grower Group Alliance (GGA) and the state's four major universities, is working with industry to build applied research programs focused on emerging industry issues.

The collaboration's first project – announced in May 2023 – is the \$6 million, three-year Cropping Enabled Cattle project aimed at growing future beef production options in the state's north. It will look at potential for irrigated crops in the Ord, such as cotton meal and seed, maize and other grass silage, to contribute to local cattle finishing systems.

The department also formed a new Pilbara Innovation Partnership research hub with Meat and Livestock Australia and Rio Tinto to drive advances in northern beef industry that will help unlock the potential of the pastoral industry, while creating enduring social benefits. The project will establish demonstration sites at three Rio Tinto pastoral stations to accelerate adoption of beef production innovations, new technology and land management strategies to lift business performance and rangeland condition.



Collaborate

(L-R) Nigel Hart (GRDC), Terry Hill (former DPIRD Director General), Prof. Anna Nowak (UWA), Prof. Caroline Finch (ECU), Prof. Richard Harper (Murdoch University), Dr Ben Biddulph (Chief Scientist, DPIRD), John Woods, (GRDC), Dr Michael Robertson (CSIRO), Cec McConnell (DDG, DPIRD)

In November 2022, DPIRD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Central Regional TAFE to establish a dedicated agricultural training site at the Carnarvon Research Station to help advance vocational training and boost workforce capacity and capability in the area.

Additionally, the department will also benefit from a new partnership between Grains Australia and the Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC) to deliver greater value for grain growers and enhance export opportunities.

Showcasing WA produce to the world

DPIRD worked with businesses and trade offices to promote Western Australian food and beverages through delegations, trade missions, initiatives and key expos across the world during 2022-23.

It helped WA companies showcase their finest produce on a global stage at 5 major food trade events - Salon International de l'Agroalimentaire (France), Food and Hotel Asia (Singapore), FOODEX Japan, Gulfood Qatar and ThaiFex Anuga – as well as at the Prowein Dusseldorf and Vineexpo Asia wine tradeshows, and 'Discover Great Southern - Western Australia's Hidden Gem' tourism showcase in Singapore.

In March 2023, 25 food buyers from overseas markets, including China, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Taiwan, visited WA as part of the Taste WA trade mission, giving WA producers an opportunity to connect directly with buyers.

As part of the Buy West Eat Best initiative's Plating Up WA campaign, Western Australian 'hero dishes' featured on the menus of more than 60 venues throughout the state and in Singapore to support local producers, cafes, restaurants and hospitality venues and celebrate the best of our state's fresh, seasonal and diverse ingredients and beverages.

Developing northern infrastructure

The creation of new agricultural industries and employment in the state's north is progressing, with DPIRD supporting infrastructure development opportunities in the Ord during the year.

The department helped secure a \$77.1 million WA Government investment to upgrade the M1 Channel and other water infrastructure, which will underpin new farmland in the 5,600-hectare Knox Plain development. The works, to be delivered by the Water Corporation, will ramp up water supply to the full delivery requirement for Knox of 570 megalitres per day by 2027.

DPIRD also assisted a lease agreement with the Kimberley Cotton Company (KCC) to establish a \$60 million processing facility (cotton gin) to advance development of a sustainable, profitable cotton industry in the East Kimberley. KCC has ordered the gin with an anticipated commencement of cotton processing in 2025. A study has shown a new cotton gin could create more than 1,000 direct and indirect local jobs in its first 10 years.

In other DPIRD-supported negotiations, the WA Government signed an agreement with Gascoyne Water Cooperative (GWC), and secured \$2.48 million in Commonwealth funding, for GWC to further lift horticulture production in the Carnarvon irrigation area as part of the Gascoyne Food Bowl initiative.

The GWC will maintain and operate 18 new production bores and a 25km pipeline, that will over time see 4 gigalitres of water per annum made available from the new northern borefield.

Expand

Securing export deals

DPIRD helped close 2 key deals to support the expansion of WA's horticulture industry into overseas markets.

WA's popular dark burgundy ANABP 01 apples were launched at Asia's premier fruit expo, Asia Fruit Logistica under a new international trademark for 2023, Soluna™, after DPIRD secured experienced international commercialisation partners to take the locally bred apple global.

The apples, known in Australia as Bravo™, can now be grown and sold in other countries under the Soluna™ brand, with returns generated from commercialisation invested back into WA horticulture research. In 2022, Bravo™ apple exports to Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates doubled.

DPIRD also facilitated a new trade relationship between Bindoon-based Northern Valley Packers and leading Thai importer CP Foods, which led the export of 23 tonnes of naval oranges to Thailand – the first shipment of WA citrus to Thailand in 20 years.



Expand

Principal Legal Officer Chris Mayne and Horticulture Director Rohan Prince celebrate the international commercialisation of Bravo™ apples

Granting opportunities for business development

Ten dynamic Western Australian agrifood and beverage processing businesses shared in \$6.3 million from Round 2 of DPIRD's Value Add Investment Grants Program to drive business growth, diversification, resilience and employment.

Projects include expanding pork, poultry and smallgoods processing, converting crop waste to stock feed, enhancing supplies and range of food ingredients, increasing vegetable processing output, and upgrading wine and brewery facilities. This program is delivering results, with Round 1 recipients investing \$142 million in the sector, creating an estimated 600 new jobs since 2021.

The department also opened Round 4 of the Agrifood and Beverage Voucher Program, with up to \$15,000 available to food and beverage businesses on a matching dollar-for-dollar basis to improve competitiveness, scale, export preparedness, resilience and sustainability. Over the past 5 years, 134 businesses have received 207 vouchers, valued at more than \$950,000.

In May 2023, DPIRD awarded more than \$330,000 to support 44 Community Resource Centres to implement technology and innovation projects across the regions. Pastoral beef producers are also set to benefit through the new \$1 million Producer Innovation Fast Track grants to allow them to adopt new technology and innovation that boost business performance, resilience and sustainability.

Improving animal welfare outcomes

Animal welfare is important to Western Australians, and DPIRD progressed initiatives to ensure all animals receive appropriate standards of care as part of its responsibility to administer the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*.

In December 2022, DPIRD provided \$549,901 in funding for 24 community-based projects which will lead to better care for companion animals and rescued wildlife as part of Round 2 of the Animal Welfare Grant Program. Successful projects included the rehabilitation of western ringtail possums in the Great Southern and South West, and construction of a shed to provide hospital space and rehabilitation area in the Kimberley. An additional \$1.2 million was included in the State Budget 2023-24 to expand the grant program over the next 2 years.

DPIRD also started providing heat stress awareness training to all staff at Boyanup saleyards to improve animal management, as part of a commitment to upgrade the facility by its operators.

Statement from the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation



Government continued its focus on soil and land conservation in 2022-23, including the ongoing efforts to underpin land assessment and sustainable production with good science.

Soils and salinity remained a core focus for me and the Soil and Land Conservation Council in 2022-23. In 2021-22, the extent of salinity was reassessed through a joint research project between DPIRD and the CSIRO producing an updated estimates of the extent of dryland salinity for WA's south-west. In response to this, the Council has commenced a series of industry and community discussions to present the updated mapping and risk assessment and assist in determining management priorities. This work will continue into the 2023-24 period before Council provides its final feedback.

In the pastoral space, range condition assessments have continued. Through my office, I have continued to work with pastoralists to address areas of concern. It has been pleasing that while poor condition land has been identified, the vast majority of land managers have worked with my officers to instigate management actions to address these concerns.

In agricultural areas, the last 2 above-average seasons have seen an increase in drainage and interest in surface water management. There are limited options within the sector for provision of water management advice, which has resulted in some poor decisions and the need for active intervention by my office.

While no Soil Conservation Notices were issued, multiple properties have been actively engaged through an 'informal' compliance approach to address land degradation concerns, reflecting an ongoing policy position of providing the opportunity for land managers to address an issue before reaching a point of requiring regulation.

Disappointingly, and despite the good season, individual paddocks across the grainbelt experienced localised erosion with 0.56 million hectares having insufficient (<50%) groundcover. The West Midlands area continues to have the largest area with an erosion hazard with almost 5% of the area at extreme hazard (<30% cover). Industry has the tools and capacity to maintain soil cover and I would challenge the industry to improve its performance in this space.

During 2022-23, I undertook the role of Commissioner alongside that of Primary Industries Development Deputy Director General. This resulted in a significant workload for the Deputy Commissioner and I recognise the high level of support he has provided during this period. A new Commissioner commenced on 31 July 2023 and I hand the baton over knowing that the Office of the Commissioner has made strong inroads into improved policy, science and on-ground action by industry to maintain its soil and land resource.

Please read my full report for 2022-23 in Appendix 3.

Cecilia McConnell

Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation

Financial targets and results

Table 1a: Financial targets 2022-23

	2023 Target ¹ (\$'000)	2023 Actual ² (\$'000)	Variation (\$'000)	Explanation of variation ³
Total cost of services (expense limit) (details from Statement of comprehensive income)	620,952	514,015	106,937	Grants and subsidies were \$100 million less than budgeted for in 2023 largely due to lower than expected take up for the Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja Assistance Package and delays in expenditure across a range of other projects.
Net cost of services (details from Statement of comprehensive income)	526,323	389,676	136,647	The net cost of services is lower than expected due to the reduction in expenditure mentioned above and also additional revenue received during the year. Other revenue was \$23 million higher than expected due to revenue received for national cost share agreements for WA incidents as well as increases in rates and levies received.
Total equity (details from Statement of financial position)	590,782	666,232	(75,450)	Total equity is higher than budgeted due to the increase in asset revaluation reserves (\$75 million).
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held (details from Statement of cash flows)	(18,848)	693	(19,541)	The variance in the movement in net cash is due to the lower than expected outgoings for grants and subsidies and the higher revenue received during the year.

Table 1a: Financial targets 2022-23 (continued)

	2023 Target ¹ (\$'000)	2023 Actual ² (\$'000)	Variation (\$'000)	Explanation of variation ³
Approved salary expense level	195,308	205,090	(9,782)	No significant variance
Agreed borrowing limit	4,000	4,000	0	On target

¹ As specified in the 2022-23 DPIRD Budget Statements, which includes the department and the 9 RDCs.

² To enable comparison against the 2022-23 DPIRD Budget Statements, the actual figures in this table reflect combined results of the department and the 9 RDCs. The financial information presented in the remainder of this DPIRD annual report 2022-23 does not include the financial information of the RDCs. RDCs each report their financial information in their respective annual reports.

³ Further explanations are contained in note 10 of the financial statements.

Table 1b: Working cash targets

	2023 Agreed Limit ¹ \$'000	2023 Target / Actual ² \$'000	Variation \$'000	Explanation of variation ³
Agreed working cash limit (at Budget)	29,972	29,972	NA	NA
Agreed working cash limit (at Actuals)	26,837	3,811	(23,026)	Monies were received prior to the current financial year for activities relating to the current year.

¹ As specified in the 2022-23 DPIRD Budget Statements, which includes the department and the 9 RDCs.

² To enable comparison against the 2022-23 DPIRD Budget Statements, the actual figures in this table reflect combined results of the department and the nine RDCs. The financial information presented in the remainder of this DPIRD annual report 2022-23 does not include the financial information of the RDCs. RDCs each report their financial information in their respective annual reports.

³ Further explanations are contained in note 10 of the financial statements.

Performance management framework

Outcome-based management (OBM) framework

Our outcome-based management framework aligns to the WA Government’s goal of ‘WA Jobs Plan: Diversifying the WA economy, creating local jobs for the future’. Our performance is measured through the delivery of 6 desired outcomes and 7 services.

Changes to OBM framework

For 2022-23, no changes were made to our OBM.

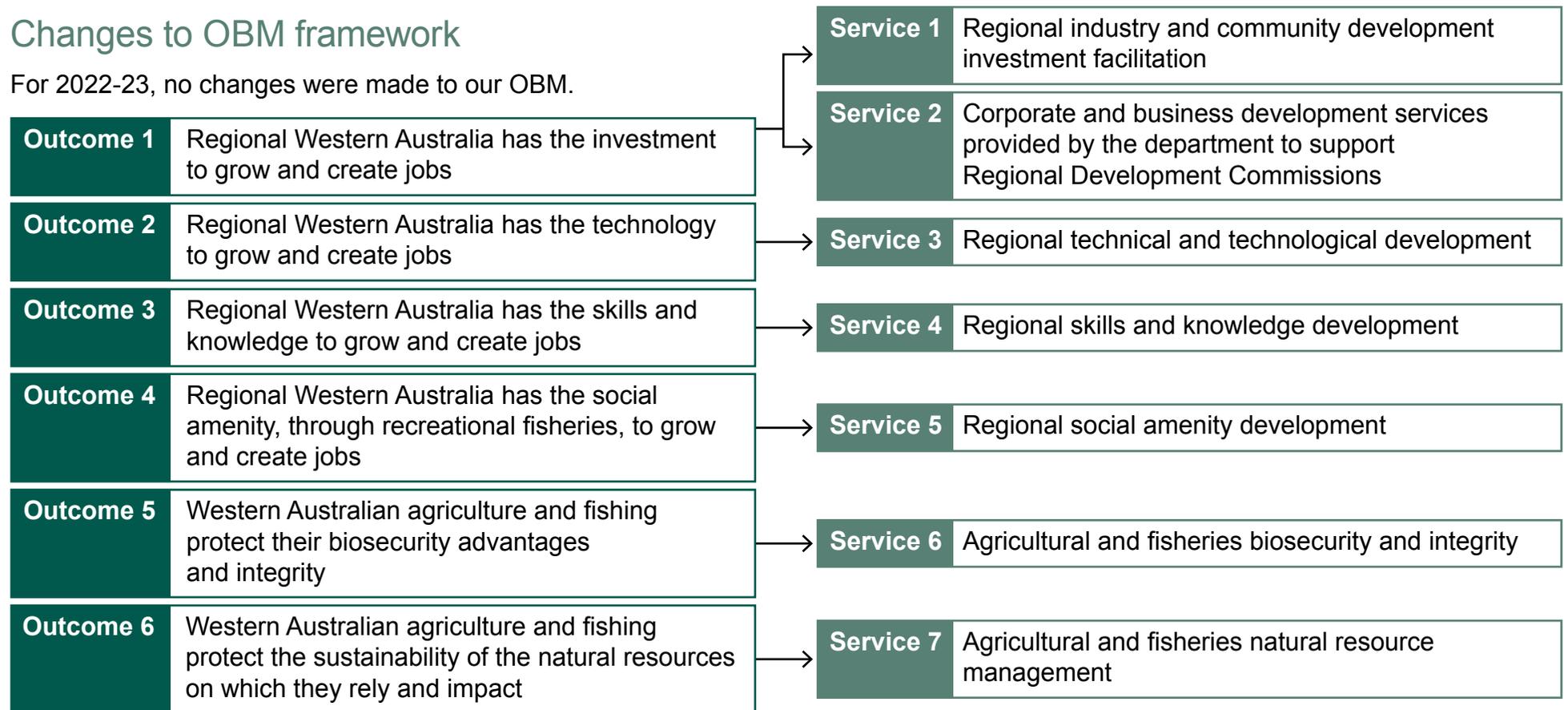


Figure 2: Outcome-based management framework – Agency level desired outcomes and effectiveness indicators

Key performance indicator targets and results

This section summarises our results against our KPI targets in 2022-23. Detailed explanations of the results are provided in the 'Additional key performance indicator information' section that has been audited by the Auditor General.

Table 2: Key effectiveness indicator targets, results and variations

				2021-22	2022-23		
Outcome		Key Effectiveness Indicator		Actual	Target	Actual	%± from target
1	Regional WA has the investment to grow and create jobs	1	Ratio of the value of grants awarded from the department for industry and community development initiatives to the value of co-contributions committed from non-WA Government recipients	1:0.95	1:1	1:1.63	+63%
2	Regional WA has the technology to grow and create jobs	2	Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's technology initiatives	85%	80%	94%	+14%
3	Regional WA has the skills and knowledge to grow and create jobs	3	Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's capability initiatives	66%	70%	70%	Nil
4	Regional WA has the social amenity, through recreational fishing to grow and create jobs	4	Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's management of recreational fishing	86%	85%	83%	-2%

Table 2: Key effectiveness indicator targets, results and variations (continued)

				2021-22	2022-23		
Outcome	Key Effectiveness Indicator			Actual	Target	Actual	%± from target
5	WA agriculture and fishing protect their biosecurity advantages and integrity	5.1	Percentage of exotic terrestrial weed, pest and disease threats resolved appropriately	80%	60%	33%	-27%
		5.2	Percentage of invasive aquatic pests and exotic diseases resolved appropriately	na	60%	Nil	-60%
6	WA agriculture and fishing protect the sustainability of the natural resources on which they rely and impact	6.1	Percentage change in the spatial extent of the south-west cropping region that maintains sufficient year-round ground cover for protecting and improving soil health	-1.3%	0%	+2.4%	+2.4%
		6.2	Number of soil health extension workshops held	63	30	84	+180%
		6.3	Proportion of fish stocks identified as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation	96%	95%	96%	+1%
		6.4	Percentage of commercial and recreational fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved	90%	90%	92%	+2%

Table 3: Key efficiency indicator targets, results and variations

			2021-22	2022-23			
Services	Key Efficiency Indicator		Actual	Target	Actual	%± from target	
1	Regional industry and community development investment facilitation	1	Average cost per hour to deliver regional industry and community development investment facilitation	\$249.36	\$400.78	\$222.31	-45%
2	Corporate and business development services provided by the department to support Regional Development Commissions	2	Average cost per hour to deliver corporate and business development services to support Regional Development Commissions	\$147.82	\$161.38	\$176.96	10%
3	Regional technical and technological development	3	Average cost per hour to deliver regional technical and technological development	\$142.00	\$212.71	\$160.13	-25%
4	Regional skills and knowledge development	4	Average cost per hour to deliver regional skills and knowledge development	\$173.40	\$169.92	\$246.76	45%
5	Regional social amenity development	5	Average cost per hour to deliver regional social amenity development	\$174.60	\$340.38	\$472.48	39%
6	Agricultural and aquatic biosecurity and integrity	6	Average cost per hour to deliver agricultural and fisheries biosecurity and integrity	\$122.99	\$119.84	\$114.27	-5%
7	Agricultural and fisheries natural resource management	7	Average cost per hour to deliver agricultural and fisheries natural resource management	\$115.18	\$152.15	\$153.72	1%



Significant issues impacting the agency

Climate change

Climate change is challenging the state's regions and primary industries, including through reduced rainfall in many areas, increased natural disasters and changes in sea temperatures. DPIRD is responding to this trend through investment in primary industries science and R&D, in collaboration with industry, universities and other partners, and a focus in its projects and regulatory settings on resilience, reducing emissions and sustainable management of natural resources. It also continues to help regions and industry prepare for and recover from natural disasters.

Biosecurity threats

Biosecurity threats to the Western Australian economy are ongoing, with outbreaks of emergency animal diseases in Southeast Asia increasing the risk of disease entry into Australia. DPIRD is partnering with industry, the community and local, state and federal agencies to protect our primary industries from this risk and maintain market access. This includes by investing in early warning and detection systems, biosecurity emergency response capacity and capability, and modern traceability, including enhancement of electronic mechanisms for tracing livestock movement.

Diversification

Economic diversification is a major WA Government focus, which provides significant opportunities for primary industries and regional communities. DPIRD contributes to economic diversity by supporting primary industry competitiveness and market access, facilitating and de-risking investment in those industries and the regions, promoting local agrifood products, improving regional digital connectivity, and assisting to develop nascent industries such as carbon farming and aquaculture.

Closing the Gap

It is imperative all government agencies continue to empower Aboriginal people to Close the Gap. DPIRD and the RDCs have a particular role to play in enabling Aboriginal people, communities and businesses to access and benefit from economic opportunities in primary industries and the state's regions. In addition to key projects through its Aboriginal Economic Development unit, DPIRD is focused on enhancing its approach to reconciliation, building staff cultural awareness and capability, and embedding Aboriginal partnerships in agency initiatives.



Disclosures and legal compliance

Independent auditor's report



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

2023

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

To the Parliament of Western Australia

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development which comprise:

- the Statement of Financial Position as 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 as 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, 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 Primary Industries and Regional Development for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position at the end of that period
- in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

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

Page 1 of 7

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, 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 misstatements, 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.

Report on the audit of controls

Adverse Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. 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).

My opinion has been formed on the basis of the matters outlined in this report.

In my opinion, the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development were inadequate 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 in all material respects.

Basis for adverse opinion

The Department's controls over receipt, expenditure and the investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities were not designed and implemented appropriately. We identified the following significant deficiencies:

Monthly Reconciliations

Month-end reconciliations, such as the bank, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable and fixed asset reconciliations were not prepared throughout the financial year ended 30 June 2023. Although these reconciliations were completed in June 2023, these weaknesses significantly increase the risk that fraud or errors may occur and not be detected in a timely manner.

Controls over Commercial Fishing Licence Fees

Reconciliations between the commercial fishing licencing system and the finance system were not regularly performed throughout the financial year ended 30 June 2023 and it was possible for receipts to be recorded in the commercial fishing licencing system, but not processed in the finance system. This significantly increased the risk that fraud or errors may occur and not be detected in a timely manner.

Monitoring of cash and cash equivalents including restricted cash

The Department did not have sufficient processes in place to identify and prevent inappropriate use of restricted cash throughout 2022-23 to fund shortfalls in operational cash. In addition, the review of end of day bank balances for the reporting year found an operating bank account overdrawn for one day without prior approval of the Treasurer. This is contrary to the requirements of section 14 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.

Payroll

There were weaknesses in payroll controls which could result in salary errors such as overpayments and payments to individuals who are not entitled to receive payment. Consequently, controls to prevent invalid and inaccurate payroll payments were inadequate throughout 2022-23.

General computer controls

There were significant weaknesses in general computer controls throughout the financial year ended 30 June 2023 which, when combined, could result in unauthorised access to sensitive information and increased risk of information loss and expose the Department to vulnerabilities which can undermine the integrity of information in the Department's finance, human resources and other business systems.

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 adverse 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 Primary Industries and Regional Development 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 Primary Industries and Regional Development 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.

Other matter

As reported by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in its report on Key Performance Indicators, the effectiveness indicators No. 2 'Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's technology initiatives' and No 3 'Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's capability initiatives' are based on client surveys taken at a 95% confidence level with sampling errors of 9% and 8% respectively. The Department expressed confidence that the results remain reliable. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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 Instruction 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 Primary Industries and Regional Development 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.



Caroline Spencer
Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
7 November 2023

Financial statements

Certification of financial statements

For the reporting period ended 30 June 2023

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 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 in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Ms Lorraine Williamson
Chief Financial Officer
6 November 2023



Ms Heather Brayford PSM
Accountable Authority
6 November 2023

Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expenses	3.1.1	236,250	210,323
Supplies and services	3.3	143,856	131,475
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.3.1	17,513	18,114
Finance costs	7.3	456	478
Accommodation expenses		16,969	15,771
Other expenses		3,983	1,788
Grants and subsidies	3.2	94,880	82,607
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	108	485
Total cost of services		514,015	461,041
Income			
User charges and fees	4.2	57,621	52,043
Commonwealth grants and contributions	4.3	8,740	18,835
Non-government grants and subsidies	4.4	24,019	20,715
Other revenue	4.5	29,241	21,346
Share of gain in joint venture entities using the equity method	6.6.1	4,718	2,956
Total income		124,339	115,895
NET COST OF SERVICES		389,676	345,146
Income from State Government			
Service appropriations	4.1	232,063	242,012
Services received free of charge	4.1	1,805	1,599
Royalties for Regions Fund	4.1	145,619	115,363
Income from other public sector entities	4.1	5,038	8,163
Total income from State Government		384,525	367,137
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(5,151)	21,991
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		34,030	35,156
Total other comprehensive income		34,030	35,156
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		28,879	57,147

The Statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7.4.1	3,918	26,248
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.4.2	125,225	103,838
Biological assets	6.5	600	1,186
Inventories	6.4	1,497	1,319
Receivables	6.1	19,857	14,759
Amounts receivable for services	6.2	6,974	3,825
Other current assets	6.3	10,877	2,657
Total Current Assets		168,948	153,832
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.4	4,671	3,035
Amounts receivable for services	6.2	211,490	194,906
Receivables	6.1	3,263	4,262
Other non-current assets	6.3	4,129	4,660
Investments accounted for using the equity method	6.6	35,984	28,265
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1	353,632	317,909
Intangible assets	5.2	3,729	5,542
Right-of-use assets	5.3	8,898	9,669
Total Non-Current Assets		625,796	568,248
TOTAL ASSETS		794,744	722,080
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	6.7	26,451	19,682
Contract liabilities	6.8	22,699	11,415
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	53,250	47,692
Borrowings	7.1	1,000	1,465
Lease liabilities	7.2	3,171	3,700
Other current liabilities	6.9	662	2,889
Total Current Liabilities		107,233	86,843
Non-Current Liabilities			
Contract liabilities	6.8	-	40
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	8,368	8,298
Borrowings	7.1	3,000	4,000
Lease liabilities	7.2	3,726	3,470
Other non-current liabilities	6.9	6,185	5,664
Total Non-Current Liabilities		21,279	21,472
TOTAL LIABILITIES		128,512	108,315

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023 (continued)

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
NET ASSETS		666,232	613,765
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	9.11	631,353	607,794
Reserves	9.11	71,206	37,176
Accumulated deficit	9.11	(36,327)	(31,205)
TOTAL EQUITY		666,232	613,765

The Statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	Contributed equity	Reserves	Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	Total equity
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at 1 July 2021		560,324	2,020	(53,196)	509,148
Surplus/(deficit)		-	-	21,991	21,991
Other comprehensive income		-	35,156	-	35,156
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	35,156	21,991	57,147
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:	9.11				
Capital appropriations		33,813	-	-	33,813
Other contributions from owners					
- Drawdowns from Treasury Special Purpose Accounts		10,152	-	-	10,152
- Royalties for Region funding		5,105	-	-	5,105
Distributions to owners		(1,600)	-	-	(1,600)
Total		47,470	-	-	47,470
Balance at 30 June 2022		607,794	37,176	(31,205)	613,765
Balance at 1 July 2022		607,794	37,176	(31,205)	613,765
Surplus/(deficit)		-	-	(5,151)	(5,151)
Other comprehensive income		-	34,030	29	34,059
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	34,030	(5,122)	28,908
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:	9.11				
Capital appropriations		13,910	-	-	13,910
Other contributions from owners					
- Drawdowns from Treasury Special Purpose Accounts		6,674	-	-	6,674
- Royalties for Region funding		4,433	-	-	4,433
Contributions from owners		642	-	-	642
Distributions to owners		(2,100)	-	-	(2,100)
Total		23,559	-	-	23,559
Balance at 30 June 2023		631,353	71,206	(36,327)	666,232

The Statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriations		207,713	222,390
Capital contributions		13,910	33,813
Drawdowns from special purpose accounts		6,674	10,152
Holding account drawdown		4,617	1,434
Royalties for Regions Fund		148,552	120,468
Funds from other public sector entities		5,038	8,163
Net cash provided by State Government		386,504	396,420
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(229,206)	(209,347)
Supplies and services		(134,174)	(130,021)
Accommodation		(16,969)	(15,217)
Finance costs		(456)	(471)
GST payments on purchases		(24,588)	(23,414)
GST payments to taxation authority		-	-
Other payments		(3,785)	(2,374)
Grants and subsidies		(95,072)	(82,607)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		58,468	43,284
Commonwealth grants and contributions		8,846	18,835
Interest received		(70)	234
GST receipts on sales		3,828	3,794
GST receipts from taxation authority		20,853	20,267
Non-government grants and subsidies		20,820	20,031
Other receipts		27,178	15,129
Net cash used in operating activities	7.4.3	(364,327)	(341,877)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Investment in joint ventures		(3,001)	(3,000)
Purchase of non-current assets		(12,775)	(28,458)
Other Payments for Investing Activities		-	-
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		68	65
Net cash used in investing activities		(15,708)	(31,393)

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Principal elements of lease payments		(4,311)	(4,047)
Distribution of monies to the Rural Business Development Corporation		-	(1,600)
Repayment of borrowings		(1,465)	(3,385)
Receipts			
Proceeds from industry		-	3,385
Net cash used in financing activities		(5,776)	(5,647)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		693	17,503
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		133,121	115,618
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	7.4.3	133,814	133,121

The Statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Administered schedules for the year ended 30 June 2023

Administered income and expenses by service

	Co-operative loans		Commonwealth grants		State NRM program		Regional Reform Fund		Infringements		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ADMINISTERED ITEMS												
Income												
Interest revenue	1,427	805	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,427	805
Other revenue	-	-	587	208	19	(2)	-	-	-	-	606	205
Royalties for Regions	-	-	-	-	7,375	5,462	4,000	-	-	-	11,375	5,462
Service appropriations	-	-	-	-	1,550	1,550	-	-	-	-	1,550	1,550
Regulatory fees and charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	266	274	266	274
Total administered income	1,427	805	587	208	8,944	7,010	4,000	-	266	274	15,224	8,296
Expenses												
Employee benefits expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants & subsidies	-	-	111	324	6,622	7,967	28,368	14,985	-	-	35,101	23,276
Interest payments	762	590	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	762	590
Supplies and services	266	258	587	-	387	818	-	-	266	274	1,506	1,350
Other expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total administered expenses	1,028	848	698	324	7,009	8,785	28,368	14,985	266	274	37,369	25,217

Administered schedules for the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)

Administered assets and liabilities

	Total	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,429	5,529
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	18,216	42,584
Receivables	6,661	4,982
Total administered current assets	32,306	53,095
Non-current assets		
Loan	15,089	15,600
Total administered non-current assets	15,089	15,600
TOTAL ADMINISTERED ASSETS	47,395	68,695
Current liabilities		
Payables	1,082	1,343
Borrowings	6,086	4,471
Total administered current liabilities	7,168	5,814
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	15,089	15,600
Total administered non-current liabilities	15,089	15,600
TOTAL ADMINISTERED NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	22,257	21,414

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

1 Basis of preparation

The department is a Western Australian (WA) Government entity and is controlled by the State of Western Australia, which is the ultimate parent. The entity is a not-for-profit entity. A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities has been included in the 'Overview', which does not form part of these financial statements.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Accountable Authority of the department on 06 11 2023.

Statement of compliance

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

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

The FMA and TIs take precedence over AAS. Several AAS 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).

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.

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.

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

1. Basis of preparation (continued)

Accounting for Goods and Services Tax (GST) (continued)

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.

Joint research activities

The department participates in a number of joint research activities, such as Cooperative Research Centres. The department recognises within its financial statements: the assets that it controls, the liabilities and expenses that it incurs and its share of the income that it earns from the joint research activities.

Contributed equity

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, to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior, to transfer) before such transfers can 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.

The transfers of net assets to/from other departments, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal.

Accountability for Western Australian Agriculture Authority (WAAA)

Section 152 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) creates the WAAA and vests in it powers that are appropriate for a statutory authority. However, by virtue of section 156 of the BAM Act, WAAA's exercise of powers is regarded as 'services' under the control of the department for the purposes of the *Financial Management Act* (FMA act). Consequently, pursuant to Part 5 of the FMA Act, the department has included WAAA's income, expenses, assets and liabilities in its financial statements as though they relate to the department. The department does not separately disclose WAAA transactions in its financial statements as the BAM Act does not require it to do so.

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.

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

2. Department outputs

How the department operates

This section includes information regarding the nature of funding the department receives and how this funding is utilised to achieve the department's objectives. This note also provides the distinction between controlled funding and administered funding:

Department objectives	2.1
Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service	2.2
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2.1 Department objectives

Mission

Our department ensures that primary industries and regions are key contributors to the government's agenda for economic growth and diversification, job creation, strong communities and better places.

Services

The department provides the following services:

- Service 1: Regional Industry and Community Development Investment Facilitation
- Service 2: Corporate and Business Development Services Provided by the department to Support Regional Development Commissions
- Service 3: Regional Technical and Technological Development
- Service 4: Regional Skills and Knowledge Development
- Service 5: Regional Social Amenity Development
- Service 6: Agricultural and Aquatic Biosecurity and Integrity
- Service 7: Agricultural and Fisheries Natural Resource Management

The department administers assets, liabilities, income and expenses on behalf of Government which are not controlled by, nor integral to, the function of the department. These administered balances and transactions are not recognised in the principal financial statements of the department but schedules are prepared using the same basis as the financial statements and are presented at note 10.1 'Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service'.

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

2.2 Schedule of income and expenses by service for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Regional Industry and Community Development Investment Facilitation		Corporate and Business Development Services Provided by the Department to Support Regional Development Commissions		Regional Technical and Technological Development		Regional Skills and Knowledge Development	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES								
Expenses								
Employee benefits expenses	41,410	39,996	16,929	16,364	46,446	36,767	14,501	10,113
Supplies and services	28,977	36,287	7,102	7,171	30,077	24,424	16,703	8,555
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	3,796	4,961	1,541	1,522	3,367	2,959	1,444	902
Finance costs	60	67	39	23	108	116	23	20
Accommodation expenses	3,261	3,751	2,532	2,400	3,000	2,431	1,293	733
Other expenses	697	(1,732)	(206)	(694)	2,411	1,980	973	534
Grants and subsidies	36,028	44,866	7,565	5,002	14,322	7,782	8,494	2,452
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	45	135	14	33	39	81	17	25
Total cost of services	114,274	128,331	35,516	31,821	99,770	76,540	43,448	23,334
Income								
User charges and fees	628	955	92	(7)	3,243	2,309	337	754
Commonwealth grants and contributions	3,815	10,349	-	1,335	278	1,664	731	2,303
Non-government grants and subsidies	913	1,115	75	(14)	17,589	14,976	1,627	1,012
Other revenue	1,101	2,038	223	508	8,226	5,073	2,920	484
Share of gain in joint venture entities using the equity method	4,718	2,956	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	11,175	17,413	390	1,822	29,336	24,022	5,615	4,553
NET COST OF SERVICES	103,099	110,918	35,126	29,999	70,434	52,518	37,833	18,781
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT								
Service appropriations	50,896	36,361	15,819	3,806	44,437	50,162	19,351	9,507
Services received free of charge	401	240	125	25	350	331	153	63
Royalties for Regions Fund	48,032	19,777	23,523	18,922	36,197	24,867	11,022	17,448
Income from other public sector entities	3,573	6,677	8	-	1,020	423	26	113
Total income from State Government	102,902	63,055	39,475	22,753	82,004	75,783	30,552	27,131
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	(197)	(47,863)	4,349	(7,246)	11,570	23,265	(7,281)	8,350

The Schedule of income and expenses by service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Please note the results for the current year are not directly comparable to the results for the prior year due to the implementation of a new financial management information system and restructuring of the department's chart of accounts resulting in a realignment of the cost allocation to services.

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

2.2 Schedule of income and expenses by service for the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)

	Regional Social Amenity Development		Agricultural and Aquatic Biosecurity and Integrity		Agricultural and Fisheries Natural Resource Management		Total	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES								
Expenses								
Employee benefits expenses	3,132	11,911	55,197	53,511	58,635	41,661	236,250	210,323
Supplies and services	4,128	6,887	29,907	27,812	26,962	20,339	143,856	131,475
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	587	1,251	2,899	3,777	3,879	2,742	17,513	18,114
Finance costs	9	15	46	44	171	193	456	478
Accommodation expenses	501	1,104	2,601	3,102	3,781	2,250	16,969	15,771
Other expenses	188	(740)	(951)	1,446	871	994	3,983	1,788
Grants and subsidies	9,109	11,892	(2,469)	7,904	21,831	2,709	94,880	82,607
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	7	34	34	103	(48)	74	108	485
Total cost of services	17,661	32,354	87,264	97,699	116,082	70,962	514,015	461,041
Income								
User charges and fees	854	9,344	6,161	12,485	46,306	26,203	57,621	52,043
Commonwealth grants and contributions	194	478	2,589	2,432	1,133	274	8,740	18,835
Non-government grants and subsidies	25	(83)	2,116	2,131	1,674	1,578	24,019	20,715
Other revenue	911	1,037	6,189	7,693	9,671	4,513	29,241	21,346
Share of gain in joint venture entities using the equity method	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,718	2,956
Total income	1,984	10,776	17,055	24,741	58,784	32,568	124,339	115,895
NET COST OF SERVICES	15,677	21,578	70,209	72,958	57,298	38,394	389,676	345,146
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT								
Service appropriations	7,866	22,505	38,866	51,665	54,828	68,006	232,063	242,012
Services received free of charge	62	149	306	341	408	450	1,805	1,599
Royalties for Regions Fund	6,633	8,679	11,615	12,842	8,597	12,828	145,619	115,363
Income from other public sector entities	8	-	152	181	251	769	5,038	8,163
Total income from State Government	14,569	31,333	50,939	65,029	64,084	82,053	384,525	367,137
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	(1,108)	9,755	(19,270)	(7,929)	6,786	43,659	(5,151)	21,991

The Schedule of income and expenses by service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Please note the results for the current year are not directly comparable to the results for the prior year due to the implementation of a new financial management information system and restructuring of the department's chart of accounts resulting in a realignment of the cost allocation to services.

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

2.3 Schedule of assets and liabilities by service for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Regional Industry and Community Development Investment Facilitation		Corporate and Business Development Services Provided by the Department to Support Regional Development Commissions		Regional Technical and Technological Development		Regional Skills and Knowledge Development	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets								
Current assets	37,560	42,819	11,674	10,618	32,792	25,538	14,280	7,785
Non-current assets	139,124	158,172	43,240	39,222	121,466	94,336	52,896	28,758
Total assets	176,683	200,991	54,913	49,840	154,258	119,874	67,176	36,543
Liabilities								
Current liabilities	23,839	24,173	7,409	5,994	20,814	14,417	9,064	4,395
Non-current liabilities	4,731	5,976	1,470	1,482	4,130	3,564	1,799	1,087
Total liabilities	28,570	30,149	8,880	7,476	24,944	17,981	10,862	5,482
NET ASSETS	148,113	170,842	46,034	42,364	129,314	101,893	56,313	31,061

	Regional Social Amenity Development		Agricultural and Aquatic Biosecurity and Integrity		Agricultural and Fisheries Natural Resource Management		Total	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets								
Current assets	5,804	10,795	28,682	32,598	38,156	23,678	168,948	153,831
Non-current assets	21,500	39,876	106,240	120,418	141,332	87,466	625,796	568,248
Total assets	27,305	50,671	134,921	153,016	179,488	111,144	794,744	722,079
Liabilities								
Current liabilities	3,684	6,094	18,205	18,403	24,218	13,367	107,233	86,843
Non-current liabilities	731	1,507	3,612	4,550	4,806	3,305	21,279	21,471
Total liabilities	4,415	7,601	21,817	22,953	29,024	16,672	128,512	108,314
NET ASSETS	22,890	43,070	113,104	130,063	150,464	94,472	666,232	613,765

The Schedule of assets and liabilities by service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Please note the results for the current year are not directly comparable to the results for the prior year due to the implementation of a new financial management information system and restructuring of the department's chart of accounts resulting in a realignment of the cost allocation to services.

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

3. 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	3.1.1	236,250	210,323
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	61,618	55,990
Grants and subsidies	3.2	94,880	82,607
Supplies and services	3.3	143,856	131,475
Accommodation expenses		16,969	15,771
Other expenditure		3,983	1,788

3.1.1 Employee benefits expense

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Employee benefits expenses		
Employee benefits	182,990	170,051
Termination benefits	326	2,278
Superannuation-defined contribution plans	22,204	18,793
Long service leave	7,633	2,536
Annual leave	19,101	12,624
Other related expenses	3,996	4,041
Total employee benefits expenses	236,250	210,323
Add: AASB 16 Non-monetary benefits	4,610	3,578
Less: Employee Contribution	(1,286)	(939)
Net employee benefits	239,574	212,962

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: 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.

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

3.1.1 Employee benefits expense (continued)

Superannuation: The amount recognised in profit or loss of the Statement of Comprehensive Income comprises employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the WSS, the GESBs, or other superannuation funds.

Other related expenses: Other related expenses include costs associated with the reimbursement of employee entitlements, government regional housing leases, staff training and development and advertising for the recruitment of employees.

AASB 16 Non-Monetary Benefits: Employee benefits in the form of non-monetary benefits, predominantly relate to the provision of vehicles and housing benefits, are measured at the cost incurred by the department.

Employee Contributions: 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.

3.1.2 Employee related provisions

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, 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.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Annual leave ^(a)	26,078	23,463
Deferred and purchased leave ^(b)	231	254
Long service leave ^(c)	26,232	23,340
	52,541	47,057
Other provisions		
Employee on-costs ^(d)	709	635
Total current employee related provisions	53,250	47,692
Non-current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Long service leave ^(c)	8,257	8,188
Total non-current employee benefits provision	8,257	8,188
Other provisions		
Employee on-costs ^(d)	111	110
Total non-current employee benefits provision	8,368	8,298
Total employee related provisions	61,618	55,990

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

3.1.2 Employee benefits provision (continued)

- (a) **Annual leave liabilities:** Classified as current, as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	14,982	13,990
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	11,096	9,473
	26,078	23,463

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.

- (b) **Deferred salary scheme liabilities:** Classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	231	254
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	-	-
	231	254

- (c) **Long service leave liabilities:** 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.

Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	9,051	8,576
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	25,438	22,952
	34,489	31,528

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

3.1.2 Employee benefits provision (continued)

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 present 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.

(d) Employment on-costs: The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities 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, 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 3.3 apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost)' and are not included as part of the department's 'employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

Movements in other provisions

Movements in each class of provisions during the financial year, other than employee benefits are set out below:

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Employment on-cost provision		
Carrying amount at start of period	745	748
Additional provisions recognised	75	(3)
Carrying amount at end of period	820	745

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.

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

3.2 Grants and subsidies

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Recurrent		
Regional Community Services Fund	25,419	26,765
Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund	3,086	5,590
Small Grants Program	1,557	10,419
Other grant payments	64,818	39,833
Total grants and subsidies	94,880	82,607

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 expenses'. Grants can either be operating or capital in nature.

Grants can be paid as general purpose grants which refer to grants that are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Alternatively, they may be paid as specific purpose grants which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

Grants and other transfers to third parties (other than contribution to owners) are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable. They include transactions such as grants, subsidies, personal benefit payments made in cash to individuals, other transfer payments made to public sector departments, local government, non-government schools, and community groups.

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

3.3 Other expenditure

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Professional services	65,597	67,852
Travel	5,864	4,607
Communications	5,799	4,968
Consumables	16,683	12,273
Lease, rent and hire costs	2,926	1,904
Consultancies expense	1,335	614
Utilities, rates and charges	3,570	3,445
Insurance	2,199	2,277
Licences, fees and registration	6,857	9,375
Advertising	670	974
Minor equipment and maintenance	19,853	12,508
Services purchased from non-government agencies	11,013	9,111
General administration costs	1,490	1,567
Total supplies and services expenses	143,856	131,475
Rental	12,245	13,216
Repairs and maintenance	4,724	2,555
Total accommodation expenses	16,969	15,771
Expected credit losses expense	981	(15)
Donations and sponsorships	765	789
Employment on-costs	(7)	(165)
Return of unused grants	642	987
Miscellaneous other	1,602	133
Fisheries adjustment scheme buybacks	-	59
Total other expenses	3,983	1,788
Total other expenditure	164,808	149,034

Supplies and services expenses: 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.

Minor equipment and maintenance: Minor equipment and maintenance 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.

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

3.3 Other expenditure (continued)

Office rental: 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.

Building and infrastructure maintenance: Building and infrastructure repairs and maintenance 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.

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

Expected credit loss: Expected credit losses is recognised for movement in allowance for impairment of trade receivables. Please refer to note 6.1.1. Movement in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables.

Employee on-costs: Employee on-costs include 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 3.1.2 Employee related provisions. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

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

4 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	4.1	384,525	367,137
User charges and fees	4.2	57,621	52,043
Commonwealth grants and contributions	4.3	8,740	18,835
Non-Government grants and subsidies	4.4	24,019	20,715
Other revenue	4.5	29,241	21,346
Gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	(108)	(485)

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

4.1 Income from State Government

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Appropriations received during the period:		
Service appropriations	232,063	242,012
	232,063	242,012
Resources received free of charge from other State government agencies during the period:		
Landgate	37	54
State Solicitor's Office	902	831
Department of Finance	692	698
Department of Transport	43	16
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	1	
Western Australia Treasury	51	-
Western Australian Meat Industry	26	
Water Corporation	53	-
Total services received	1,805	1,599
Income received from other public sector entities during the period:		
Department of Transport	6	11
Fremantle Ports Authority	22	24
Kimberley Ports Authority	19	19
Pilbara Ports Authority	66	65
Southern Ports Authority	36	36
Mid West Ports Authority	22	21
Agriculture Produce Commission	-	160
Department of Biodiversity, Conversation and Attractions	301	5
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	3,392	6,500
Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation	100	25
Department of Justice	-	310
Main Roads	74	-
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	-	150
Development WA	-	110
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	1,000	611
Westport	-	116
Total other income from State Government	5,038	8,163
Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account	9,874	2,457
Regional Community Services Account	79,998	52,578
Regional and Statewide Initiatives	55,747	60,328
Total Royalties for Regions Fund	145,619	115,363
Total income from State Government	384,525	367,137

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

4.1 Income from State Government (continued)

Service appropriations are recognised as income at fair value of consideration received in the period in which the department gains control of the appropriated funds. The department gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited to the department's bank account or credited to the 'Amounts receivable for services' (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 department receives the funds.

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

The Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account, Regional Community Services Accounts and Regional Statewide Initiative are sub funds within the overarching 'Royalties for Regions Fund'. The recurrent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas and are recognised as revenue when the department gains control on receipt of the funds. The department has assessed Royalties for Regions agreements and concludes that they are not within the scope of AASB15 as they do not meet the 'sufficiently specific' criterion.

Summary of consolidated account appropriations

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 Budget estimate \$'000	2023 Supplementary funding \$'000	2023 Revised budget \$'000	2023 Actual \$'000	2023 Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services					
Item 45 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	240,641	10,331	250,972	225,729	25,243
Amount authorised by Other Statutes					
<i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>	2,569	555	3,124	3,124	-
<i>Salaries & Allowances Act 1975</i>	3,210	-	3,210	3,210	-
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	246,420	10,886	257,306	232,063	25,243
Capital					
Item 120 Capital appropriations	28,066	-	28,066	13,910	14,156
Administered Transactions					
Item 44 Administered grants, subsidies and other transfer payments	1,550	-	1,550	1,550	-
Total administered transactions	1,550	-	1,550	1,550	-
GRAND TOTAL	276,036	10,886	286,922	247,523	39,399

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

4.2 User charges and fees

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Access Fees	27,157	24,699
Recreational licence fees	9,031	9,375
Sale of Goods	1,231	6,647
Other user charges and fees	20,202	11,322
Total user fees and charges	57,621	52,043

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

Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Provision of services

Revenue for recreational licence fees and access fees other than West Coast Rock Lobster is recognised at the time of receipt. West Coast Rock Lobster Access fees are recognised by reference to the actual catch to date as a proportion of total quota for the access period.

Sale of Goods

Revenue is recognised at the transaction price when the department transfers control of the goods to the customer.

Other User charges and fees

Revenue for other user charges and fees relates mainly to the provision of services and regulatory fees. Revenue is recognised at the time of receipt.

Net appropriation determination

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed receipts to be retained for services under the control of the department.

In accordance with the determination specified in the 2022/23 Budget Statements, the department retained \$79.0 million in 2022/23 from the following:

- proceeds from fees and charges
- sale of goods
- Commonwealth – specific purpose grants and contributions
- one-off gains with a value of less than \$10,000 derived from the sale of property other than real property
- revenues from services provided through the establishment of memorandum of understandings
- other departmental revenue.

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

4.3 Commonwealth grants and contributions

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Commonwealth National Partnership Agreements	1,217	8
Commonwealth Agriculture Activity Grants	-	1
Federation Funding Agreement	3,750	15,041
Director National Park	50	648
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	638	415
Other grants from the Commonwealth	2,429	2,026
Indian Ocean Territories	656	696
Total Commonwealth grants and contributions	8,740	18,835

Where an enforceable agreement exists between the department and the Government to transfer sufficiently specific goods or services to a customer, the department recognises grant revenue as and when goods and services are transferred. Revenue is recognised based on the department's input (cost) to the satisfaction of a performance obligation over the total expected input.

When the department has not yet met the performance obligations, amounts received are treated as contract liability in the Statement of Financial Position.

Where there is no identified enforceable agreement or performance obligation is not sufficiently specific, revenue is recognised:

- Where the grant does not relate to capital funding, immediately when the department has the contractual right to receive the grant.
- Where the grant is to acquire or construct a non-financial asset, over time, as the building or facility is constructed. Income is recognised to the extent of costs incurred to-date because the costs of construction are the best measure of the stage of completion of the building.

Grants can further be split between:

- General purpose grants
- Specific purpose grants.

General purpose grants refer to grants which are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Specific purpose grants are received for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

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

4.4 Non-government grants and subsidies received

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Agrifutures Australia	-	716
Animal Health Australia	753	-
Australian Grain Technologies Pty Ltd	241	
Commercial grants	-	1,865
CSIRO	367	
Field Applied Research Australia Ltd	472	-
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	577	455
Grains Research and Development Corporation	10,901	8,979
Grower Group Alliance	417	-
Horticulture industry	-	930
Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd	274	
Longreach Plant Breeders	248	
Meat and Livestock Australia	1,959	1,110
Murdoch University	912	484
Plant Health Australia Ltd	203	-
Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation	353	200
University of Adelaide	-	16
University of Western Australia	-	12
WA Marine Science Institution	440	-
Other grants and subsidies	5,902	5,948
Total non-government grants and subsidies	24,019	20,715

Consultancy and contract research

Research grants that are considered within the scope of AASB 15 due to the existence of an enforceable agreement and the promise to transfer goods or services to, or on behalf of the customer, are sufficiently specific as the department has the obligation to provide:

- A refund if the goods or services are not provided
- Comprehensive academic paper with the results of the research after completion
- Intellectual property
- Perpetual and royalty-free licence to the developed intellectual property

Depending on the nature of the promise, the department either recognises revenue over time as the services are performed or at a point in time when the obligation is delivered.

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

4.5 Other revenue

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Levies and rates	6,775	6,341
Return of grant allocations	60	252
Royalties	4,018	1,902
Rents and leases	2,742	2,098
Interest revenue	848	299
Other	14,798	10,454
Total other revenue	29,241	21,346

Levies and rates relate to levies and rates received under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* Industry Funded Scheme. Revenue is recognised upon entitlement usually being when cash is received.

Return of grant allocations relate to return of unspent Royalties for Regions funds provided to grants' recipients in previous years. Revenue is recognised upon entitlement usually being when cash is received.

Royalties relates to royalties collected from third parties who bought the rights to sell and produce products that the department developed such as apples and other horticultural products. The revenue is recognised at the point in time when a product is sold by the licensee in accordance with AASB 15.

Other relates to miscellaneous recoups and cost recoveries from the department's operation. The revenue is recognised upon entitlement usually being when cash is received.

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

4.6 Gains/(Loss) on disposal of non-current assets

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Net Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets		
Buildings	27	-
Plant and machinery	34	65
Marine vessels	71	-
	132	65
Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed		
Buildings	(74)	-
Vehicles and buses	(166)	(38)
Equipment	-	(51)
Infrastructure	-	(54)
Marine Infrastructure	-	(208)
Plant and machinery	-	(56)
Marine vessels	-	(143)
	(240)	(550)
Net loss on disposal	(108)	(485)

Gains and losses on the disposal of non-current assets are presented by deducting from the proceeds on disposal the carrying amount of the asset and related selling expenses. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss in the Statement of Comprehensive Income (from the proceeds of sale).

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

5 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
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1	353,632	317,909
Intangible assets	5.2	3,729	5,542
Right-of-use assets	5.3	8,898	9,669

5.1. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Leasehold improvements \$'000	Computer and communications equipment \$'000	Office and other equipment \$'000	Plant and machinery \$'000	Marine vessels \$'000	Vehicles and buses \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Capital works in progress \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 30 June 2023											
1 July 2022											
Gross carrying amount	125,777	110,895	-	14,608	8,513	59,027	18,911	12,609	50,880	13,335	414,555
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	(14,326)	(5,537)	(39,825)	(13,556)	(11,102)	(12,300)	-	(96,646)
Carrying amount at start of period	125,777	110,895	-	282	2,976	19,202	5,355	1,507	38,580	13,335	317,909
Additions	642	-	410	191	322	2,760	37	733	247	10,767	16,109
Transfers	(1)	(697)	-	(4)	(275)	(214)	(1)	(165)	(74)	(1,257)	(2,688)
Disposals	(600)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(176)	-	-	(776)
Revaluations increments/(decrements)	21,161	12,867	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34,028
Write-off of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(4,365)	(48)	(147)	(651)	(3,083)	(388)	(464)	(1,804)	-	(10,950)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2023	146,979	118,700	362	322	2,372	18,665	5,003	1,435	36,949	22,845	353,632
Gross carrying amount	146,979	119,924	410	14,798	8,510	61,571	18,947	12,966	51,021	22,845	457,971
Accumulated depreciation	-	(1,224)	(48)	(14,476)	(6,138)	(42,906)	(13,944)	(11,531)	(14,072)	-	(104,339)

(a) The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is the only agency with the power to sell Crown Land. The land is transferred to DPLH for sale and the agency accounts for the transfer as a distribution to owner.

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

5.1. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

	Land	Buildings	Leasehold improvements	Computer and communications equipment	Office and other equipment	Plant and machinery	Marine vessels	Vehicles and buses	Infrastructure	Capital works in progress	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Year ended 30 June 2022											
1 July 2021											
Gross carrying amount	100,342	87,635	-	14,603	8,052	58,581	19,009	12,613	46,339	12,121	359,295
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	(14,426)	(5,678)	(37,811)	(12,925)	(11,119)	(11,118)	-	(93,077)
Accumulated impairment loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount at start of period	100,342	87,635	-	177	2,374	20,770	6,084	1,494	35,221	12,121	266,218
Additions	-	6,388	-	142	1,410	218	-	468	555	18,470	27,651
Transfers	-	11,911	-	111	(190)	1,231	(17)	-	4,806	(17,256)	596
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(51)	(56)	(143)	(38)	(262)	-	(550)
Revaluations increments/(decrements)	25,435	9,721	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,156
Impairment losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses reversed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Write-off of assets	-	-	-	(5)	(5)	(10)	-	-	(40)	-	(60)
Depreciation	-	(4,760)	-	(143)	(562)	(2,951)	(569)	(417)	(1,700)	-	(11,102)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2022	125,777	110,895	-	282	2,976	19,202	5,355	1,507	38,580	13,335	317,909
Gross carrying amount	125,777	110,895	-	14,608	8,513	59,027	18,911	12,609	50,880	13,335	414,555
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	(14,326)	(5,537)	(39,825)	(13,556)	(11,102)	(12,300)	-	(96,646)
Accumulated impairment loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(a) The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is the only agency with the power to sell Crown Land. The land is transferred to DPLH for sale and the agency accounts for the transfer as a distribution to owner.

Initial recognition

Items of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment costing \$5,000 or more are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired for no cost or significantly less than fair value, the cost is valued at its fair value at the date of acquisition. Items of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment costings 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).

The cost of a leasehold improvement is capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the remaining term of the lease or the estimated useful life of the leasehold improvement.

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

Infrastructure, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

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

5.1. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

Land and buildings are independently valued annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Landgate) 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 Landgate. The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2023 and recognised at 30 June 2023. In undertaking the valuation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land \$16.4 million (\$15.2 million in 2021/22) and buildings \$5.1 million (\$4.8 million in 2021/22). For the remaining balance fair value of buildings were determined on the basis of current replacement cost and fair value of land was determined on the basis of comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility (high restricted used land).

Key sources of estimation uncertainty – Measurement of fair values

A number of the department's accounting policies and disclosures require the measurement of fair values, for both financial and non-financial assets and liabilities.

Landgate provide valuation services for the department's land and buildings.

The department provides the remaining useful life and depreciated book value to Landgate to assist them in their calculation of Level 3 fair value. When measuring the fair value of an asset or a liability, the department uses market observable data as far as possible.

Fair values are categorised into different levels in a fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used in the valuation techniques as follows:

- Level 1: quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2: inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices)
- Level 3: inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs)

If the inputs used to measure the fair value of an asset or a liability might be categorised in different levels of the fair value hierarchy, then the fair value measurement is categorised in its entirety in the same level of the fair value hierarchy as the lowest level input that is significant to the entire measurement.

The department recognises transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy at the end of the reporting period during which the change has occurred.

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

5.1. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

5.1.1 Depreciation and impairment

Charge for the period	Notes	2023	2022
		\$'000	\$'000
Buildings	5.1	4,365	4,760
Computer and communications equipment	5.1	147	143
Office and other equipment	5.1	651	562
Plant and machinery	5.1	3,083	2,951
Lease improvements	5.1	48	-
Marine vessels	5.1	388	569
Infrastructure	5.1	1,804	1,700
Vehicles and buses	5.1	464	417
Total depreciation for the period		10,950	11,102

Finite useful lives

All non-current assets 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 exceptions to this rule include land.

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

Asset	Useful life: years
Buildings	20 to 40 and/or estimated useful life
Computer and communications equipment	3 to 5
Office and other equipment	5 to 10
Plant and machinery	5 to 20
Marine vessels	5 to 6
Infrastructure	10 to 40
Vehicles and buses	5 to 10

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments should be made where appropriate. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives.

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

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

5.1.1 Depreciation and impairment (continued)

Impairment

Non-financial assets, including items of infrastructure, plant and equipment, are tested for any indication of 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 and loss.

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

As the department is a not-for-profit entity, 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 has 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.

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

5.2. Intangible assets

	Computer software \$'000	Capital works in progress \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 30 June 2023			
1 July 2022			
Gross Carrying amount	36,424	40	36,464
Accumulated amortisation	(30,922)	-	(30,922)
Carrying amount at start of period	5,502	40	5,542
Additions		12	12
Transfer from capital works in progress	(16)		(16)
Amortisation expense	(1,809)	-	(1,809)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2023	3,677	52	3,729
Gross Carrying amount	36,408	-	36,408
Accumulated amortisation	(32,731)	-	(32,731)
Year ended 30 June 2022			
1 July 2021			
Gross Carrying amount	34,859	203	35,062
Accumulated amortisation	(28,198)	-	(28,198)
Carrying amount at start of period	6,661	203	6,864
Additions	1,565	-	1,565
Transfer from capital works in progress	-	(163)	(163)
Amortisation expense	(2,724)	-	(2,724)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2022	5,502	40	5,542
Gross Carrying amount	36,424	40	36,464
Accumulated amortisation	(30,922)	-	(30,922)

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

5.2. Intangible assets (continued)

Initial recognition

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

An internally generated intangible asset arising from development (or from the development phase of an internal project) is recognised if, and only if, all of the following are demonstrated:

- The technical feasibility of completing the intangible asset so that it will be available for use or sale
- An intention to complete the intangible asset and use or sell it
- The ability to use or sell the intangible asset
- The intangible asset will generate probable future economic benefit
- The availability of adequate technical, financial and other resources to complete the development and to use or sell the intangible asset
- The ability to measure reliably the expenditure attributable to the intangible asset during its development

Acquisitions of intangible assets costing \$5,000 or more and internally generated intangible assets costing \$50,000 or more that comply with the recognition criteria as per AASB 138.57 (as noted above) are capitalised.

Costs incurred below these thresholds are immediately expensed directly to profit or loss in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Costs incurred in the research phase of a project are immediately expensed.

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.

5.2.1 Amortisation and impairment

Charge for the period

Intangible assets

Total amortisation for the period

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
	1,809	2,724
	1,809	2,724

As at 30 June 2023 there was no impairment to intangible assets. The department held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period.

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

5.2.1 Amortisation and impairment (continued)

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 expected useful lives for each class of intangible asset are:

Asset category	Life (years)
Development costs	3 to 5
Software ^(a)	3 to 10
Website costs	3 to 5

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

Impairment of intangible assets

Intangible assets with finite 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 5.1.1.

Development costs

Research costs are expensed as incurred. Development costs incurred for an individual project are carried forward when the future economic benefits can reasonably be regarded as assured and the total project costs are likely to exceed \$50,000. Other development costs are expensed as incurred.

Computer software

Software that is an integral part of the related hardware is treated as property, plant and equipment. Software that is not an integral part of the related hardware is treated as an intangible asset. Software costing less than \$5,000 is expensed in the year of acquisition.

Website costs

Website costs are charged as expenses when they are incurred unless they relate to the acquisition or development of an asset when they may be capitalised and amortised. Generally, costs in relation to feasibility studies during the planning phase of a website, and ongoing costs of maintenance during the operating phase are expensed. Costs incurred in building or enhancing a website, to the extent that they represent probable future economic benefits that can be reliably measured, are capitalised.

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

5.3. Right-of-use assets

	Employee housing \$'000	Vehicles \$'000	Other ^(a) \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 30 June 2023				
1 July 2022				
Gross carrying amount	3,602	9,237	19,062	31,901
Accumulated amortisation	(1,537)	(4,975)	(15,720)	(22,232)
Carrying amount at start of period	2,065	4,262	3,342	9,669
Additions	3,367	1,824	-	5,191
Disposals	(926)	(226)	(56)	(1,208)
Depreciation	(2,141)	(2,202)	(411)	(4,754)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2023	2,365	3,658	2,875	8,898
Gross carrying amount	4,709	10,026	19,006	33,741
Accumulated amortisation	(2,344)	(6,368)	(16,131)	(24,843)
Year ended 30 June 2022				
1 July 2021				
Gross carrying amount	2,441	8,297	18,870	29,608
Accumulated amortisation	(995)	(3,745)	(15,518)	(20,258)
Carrying amount at start of period	1,446	4,552	3,352	9,350
Additions	2,570	1,820	399	4,789
Disposals	(170)	(12)	-	(182)
Depreciation	(1,781)	(2,098)	(409)	(4,288)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2022	2,065	4,262	3,342	9,669
Gross carrying amount	3,602	9,237	19,062	31,901
Accumulated amortisation	(1,537)	(4,975)	(15,720)	(22,232)

(a) The other right-of-use assets relate to \$2.45 million (\$2.65 million in 2021/22) for the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre and \$0.48 million (\$0.891 million in 2021/22) for other commercial leases.

Initial recognition

At the commencement date of the lease, the department recognises right-of-use assets at cost, comprising:

- 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 7.2 Lease Liabilities.

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

5.3. Right-of-use assets (continued)

The department has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases (with a lease of 12 months or less) and low value leases (with 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 the cost less any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liability.

5.3.1 Depreciation and impairment of right-of-use assets

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 of outlined in note 5.1.1.

The following amounts relating to leases have been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income:

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Employee housing	2,141	1,781
Vehicles	2,202	2,098
Other	411	409
Total right-of-use depreciation	4,754	4,288
Lease interest expense (included in Finance Cost)	279	210

The total cash outflow for leases in 2022/23 was \$4,590,306 (2021/22 was \$3,919,641). At 30 June 2023 there was no indication of impairment to right-of-use assets.

The department's leasing activities for and how these are accounted for:

The department has leases for residential accommodation, vehicles and other, comprising offices and infrastructure.

The department has also entered in a 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 incurred.

The department recognises leases as right-of-use assets and associated lease liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position.

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

6 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	6.1	23,120	19,021
Amounts receivable for services (holding account)	6.2	218,464	198,731
Other assets	6.3	15,006	7,317
Inventories	6.4	1,497	1,319
Biological assets	6.5	600	1,186
Joint arrangements	6.6	35,984	28,265
Payables	6.7	26,451	19,682
Contract liabilities	6.8	22,699	11,455
Other current liabilities	6.9	6,847	8,553

6.1 Receivables

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current		
Trade receivables	16,857	5,908
Allowance for impairment of trade receivables	(1,234)	(263)
Accrued revenue	18	5,013
GST receivable	2,404	2,497
Interest receivable	707	88
Other debtors	1,105	1,516
Total current	19,857	14,759
Non-current		
Other debtors	3,263	4,262
Total non-current	3,263	4,262
Total receivables	23,120	19,021

Trade receivables are recognised at original invoice amount less any allowances for uncollectable 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.

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

6.1.1 Movement in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Reconciliation of changes in the allowances for impairment of trade receivables:		
Opening balance	263	356
Expected credit losses expense	971	(15)
Amounts written off during the period	-	(78)
Balance at end of period	1,234	263

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period for trade receivables is the carrying amount of the asset inclusive of any allowance for impairment as shown in the table at Note 8.1(b) 'Financial instruments disclosures'.

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

6.2 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current	6,974	3,825
Non-current	211,490	194,906
Balance at end of period	218,464	198,731

Amounts receivable for services represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

Amounts receivable for services are considered not impaired (i.e. there is no expected credit loss of the holding accounts).

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

6.3 Other assets

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current		
Prepaid goods and services	378	409
Doppler radar maintenance ^(a)	532	531
Contract asset	9,967	1,717
Total current assets	10,877	2,657
Non-current		
Doppler radar maintenance ^(a)	4,078	4,609
Unlisted shares	51	51
Total non-current assets	4,129	4,660
Balance at the end of period	15,006	7,317

(a) Prepaid value of future maintenance associated with Doppler radars. The department owns Doppler radars, situated in the Wheatbelt, which are designed to provide more precise weather information to help growers in their decision making.

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

6.4 Inventories

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Inventories held for resale		
Agricultural produce	135	160
Raw materials and stores	1,362	1,159
Balance at end of period	1,497	1,319

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventory is based on the first-in first-out basis.

Inventories not held for resale are measured at cost unless they are no longer required, in which case they are valued at net realisable value.

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

6.5 Biological assets

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Livestock	333	876
Field crops	267	310
Balance at end of period	600	1,186
Balance at 1 July	1,186	1,072
Purchases	-	88
Sales of livestock	(586)	26
Balance at 30 June	600	1,186

Biological assets are valued at fair value less estimated point of sale costs and costs necessary to get them to market. A gain or loss on valuation is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

6.6 Joint arrangements

The department has interests in a number of joint arrangements, some of which are classified as joint operations and others as joint ventures.

A joint venture is an arrangement in which the department has joint control, whereby the department has rights to the net assets of the arrangement, rather than rights to its assets and obligations for its liabilities. The department recognises its investment in joint ventures using the equity method of accounting (refer to note 6.6.1).

A joint operation is an arrangement in which the department has joint control, whereby the department has direct rights to its assets and obligations for its liabilities. The department recognises its share of any joint operation assets and liabilities to the extent of its interest (refer to note 6.6.2).

6.6.1 Investments accounted for using the equity method

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Share of gain/(loss) in joint venture entity using the equity method	4,718	2,956
	4,718	2,956

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Investments in joint ventures at initial cost of investment	53,939	50,939
Share of profit/(loss) using the equity method	(17,955)	(22,674)
Investment in joint ventures	35,984	28,265

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

6.6.1 Investments accounted for using the equity method (continued)

The Western Australian Agriculture Authority (WAAA), a body corporate established under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, is a joint venturer in:

InterGrain Pty Ltd was incorporated on 26 October 2007 and is resident in Australia. The principal activity of the joint venture is to commercialise the research from wheat and barley breeding. At 30 June 2023, WAAA holds a 58% equity interest in InterGrain Pty Ltd. The department regards the investment in InterGrain Pty Ltd as a joint venture, due to the contractually agreed sharing of control over economic activity and the financial and operating decisions relating to the activity requiring the unanimous consent of the shareholders.

Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre Ltd (Limited by Guarantee) (AEGIC) was incorporated on 24 October 2012. The primary aim of the joint venture is to lead the establishment and operation of a centre of science, technology and innovation to facilitate the competitiveness of the Australian grains industry with a particular focus on export markets. As at 30 June 2023, the department holds a 50% equity interest in AEGIC.

The department has no obligations with respect to liabilities incurred by InterGrain Pty Ltd and AEGIC.

Summary financials of equity accounted investees

The following is not adjusted for the percentage ownership by the department:

	2023 \$'000 InterGrain	2022 \$'000 InterGrain	2023 \$'000 AEGIC	2022 \$'000 AEGIC
Current assets	60,259	38,528	3,609	4,943
Non-current assets	17,271	21,723	2,889	1,376
Total assets	77,530	60,251	6,498	6,319
Current liabilities	13,028	12,602	3,555	2,783
Non-current liabilities	4,574	1,292	526	756
Total liabilities	17,602	13,894	4,081	3,539
Net assets	59,928	46,357	2,417	2,780
Revenue	49,490	44,091	10,409	9,471
Expenses	(35,919)	(33,640)	(10,809)	(9,675)
Net gain/(loss)	13,571	10,451	(400)	(204)

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

6.6.2 Jointly controlled assets

The department has shared ownership of Crown land and buildings, with the following amounts representing the fair value thereof:

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Non-current assets		
Land	11,695	10,795
Building	2,065	1,968
Balance at end of period	13,760	12,763

The department's share of these assets has been included in infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

The shared ownership of Crown land and buildings relates to the following sites:

- (a) The department owns 100% of the land at Forrestfield. Forrestfield was established in 1993 to protect fauna and flora located on the site and the department has been responsible for all costs in regards to maintaining the site and any proposed future developments. It was valued by Landgate at \$9.9 million in 2022/23 (\$9.0 million in 2021/22).
- (b) The department has a 50% share of ownership of Crown land and building with the Department of Transport in the Fremantle Marine Operations Centre. It was valued by Landgate in 2022/23 at \$3.9 million (land \$1.8 million and buildings \$2.1 million), (\$3.8 million in 2021/22; land \$1.8 million and buildings \$2.0 million).

6.7 Payables

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current		
Trade payables	11,253	5,510
Accrued expenses	9,382	10,105
Accrued salaries	4,594	3,178
Other payables	1,222	889
Balance at end of period	26,451	19,682

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.

The accrued salaries suspense account (See Note 7.4.2 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents') consists of amounts paid annually, from departmental appropriations for salaries expense, into a Treasury suspense account to meet the additional cash outflow for employee salary payments in reporting periods with 27 pay days instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

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

6.8 Contract liabilities

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current	22,699	11,415
Non-current	-	40
Total contract liabilities	22,699	11,455

The department's contract liabilities mainly relate to research contracts yet to be performed and access fees revenue received in advance.

Movement in contract liabilities

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Reconciliation of changes in contract liabilities		
Opening balance	11,455	21,746
Additions	18,608	4,012
Revenue recognised in the reporting period	(7,364)	(14,303)
Balance at end of period	22,699	11,455

The department expects to satisfy the performance obligations unsatisfied at the end of the reporting period within the next 12 months.

6.9 Other current liabilities

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current		
Native Title Settlements payable	662	2,889
Accrued West Australian Treasury Corporation charges	-	-
Total current liabilities	662	2,889
Non-Current		
Native Title Settlements payable	6,185	5,664
Total non-current liabilities	6,185	5,664
Balance at end of period	6,847	8,553

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

7 Financing

This section sets out the material balances and disclosures associated with the financing and cash flows of the department.

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Borrowings	7.1	4,000	5,465
Lease liabilities	7.2	6,897	7,170
Finance costs	7.3	456	478
Reconciliation of cash	7.4.1	3,918	26,248
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.4.2	129,896	106,873
Capital commitments	7.5	14,578	10,243

7.1 Borrowings

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current		
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation ^(a)	1,000	1,465
	1,000	1,465
Non-current		
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation ^(a)	3,000	4,000
	3,000	4,000
Balance at end of period	4,000	5,465

(a) 'Borrowings' refer to interest bearing liabilities mainly raised from public borrowings raised through the Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC) and other interest bearing arrangements.

Borrowings are classified as financial instruments. All interest-bearing borrowings are initially recognised at the fair value of the consideration received less directly attributable transaction costs. The measurement basis subsequent to initial recognition depends on whether the department has categorised its interest-bearing liabilities as either 'financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss', or financial liabilities at 'amortised cost'. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the interest-bearing liabilities.

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

7.2 Lease liabilities

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current	3,171	3,700
Non-current	3,726	3,470
Total lease liabilities	6,897	7,170

Initial measurement

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 payments occurs

This section should be read in conjunction with note 5.3.

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.

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

7.3 Finance costs

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Finance costs		
WATC borrowing charges	111	162
Foreign Exchange Differences	66	7
Lease interest expense	279	309
Finance costs expended	456	478

'Finance costs' includes costs incurred in connection with the borrowing of funds and short-term and long-term borrowings, amortisation of discounts or premiums relating to borrowings, interest component of lease repayments, and the increase in financial liabilities and non-employee provisions due to the unwinding of discounts to reflect the passage of time.

7.4 Cash and cash equivalents

7.4.1 Reconciliation of cash

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents		
Reconciliation of cash		
Cash advances	10	13
Cash at bank	3,908	26,235
Total cash and cash equivalents	3,918	26,248

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

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

7.4.2 Restricted cash and cash equivalents

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
Royalties for Regions fund ^(a)	40,714	30,170
Funds for capital purposes ^(b)	9,435	3,110
Commonwealth fund	7,362	8,660
Trust Account	56	69
Special purpose accounts ^(c)		
Agriculture Research Grants Account No. 1 (non-interest bearing)	20,014	15,584
Agriculture Research Grants Account No. 2	9,639	9,503
Commonwealth Agriculture Activity Grants (non-interest bearing)	7,500	10,210
Plant Research and Development	5,470	5,104
Cattle Industry Funded Scheme	5,346	5,509
Declared Pest Account	4,031	3,732
Land Conservation Districts Fund	75	75
Grain, Seeds and Hay Industry Funded Scheme	6,232	8,346
Sheep and Goats Industry Funded Scheme	2,763	2,342
Fisheries Research and Development	5,870	100
Recreational Fishing Account	535	500
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account	183	824
Total current	125,225	103,838
Non-current		
Accrued salaries suspense account ^(d)	4,671	3,035
Total non-current	4,671	3,035
Total restricted cash and cash equivalents	129,896	106,873

(a) Unspent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas.

(b) Funds for capital purposes are restricted by the fact that these amounts are specifically appropriated by Treasury for capital spend.

(c) Receipts and disbursements are disclosed in note 9.8 (Special Purpose Accounts) in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 1103(15).

(d) Funds held in the suspense account are to be used only for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years.

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

7.4.3 Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Reconciliation of cash			
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:			
Cash and cash equivalents	7.4.1	3,918	26,248
Restricted cash and cash equivalents: current	7.4.2	125,225	103,838
Restricted cash and cash equivalents: non-current	7.4.2	4,671	3,035
		133,814	133,121
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities			
Net cost of services		(389,676)	(345,146)
Non-cash items			
Net (gain)/loss on sale of assets	4.6	108	485
Depreciation and amortisation expense	5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.3.1	17,513	18,114
Expected credit loss expense		981	(15)
Resources received free of charge	4.1	1,805	1,599
Other non-cash items:		(895)	2,402
Recognition of the Gwoonwardu Mia Cultural Centre		-	(6,352)
Share of net (profit)/loss in joint ventures using equity method	6.6.1	(4,718)	(2,956)
(Increase)/decrease in assets			
Biological assets		586	(114)
Inventories		(178)	-
Receivables		(4,192)	82
Other assets		(7,689)	1,565
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities			
Payables		6,769	(1,549)
Contract liabilities		11,244	(10,291)
Provisions		5,628	53
Native Title Settlement payable		(1,706)	(225)
Net GST receipts/(payments)		93	647
Other liabilities			(176)
Net cash used in operating activities		(364,327)	(341,877)

7.5 Capital commitments

The commitments below are inclusive of GST where relevant.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Within 1 year	14,578	10,243
Later than 1 year	-	-
Total capital commitments	14,578	10,243

8 Risks and contingencies

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

	Notes
Financial risk management	8.1
Contingent assets and liabilities	8.2
Fair value measurements	8.3

8.1 Financial risk management

Financial instruments held by the department are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, loans and receivables, payables, Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC)/bank borrowings, finance leases, and Treasurer’s advances. The department has limited exposure to financial risks. The department’s overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

(a) Summary of risk and risk management

Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the department’s receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the department.

Credit risk associated with the department's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amount receivable for services (holding accounts). For receivables other than government, the department trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. The department has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the department's exposure to bad debts is minimal. Debt will be written-off against the allowance account when it is improbable or uneconomical to recover the debt. At the end of the reporting period there was no significant concentration of credit risk.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises when the department is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

The department is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business.

The department has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows, including drawdown of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

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

8.1 Financial risk management (continued)

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates will affect the department's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The department does trade in foreign currency but values are not considered material. The department is not materially exposed to other price risks (for example, equity securities or commodity prices changes). The department's exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relates primarily to the long-term debt obligations.

All borrowings are due to the WATC and are repayable at fixed rates with varying maturities. Other than as detailed in the interest rate sensitivity analysis table at Note 8.1(e), the department is not exposed to interest rate risk because the majority of cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash are non-interest bearing and it has no borrowings other than WATC borrowings and finance leases (fixed interest rate).

(b) Categories of 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	3,918	26,248
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	129,896	106,873
Receivables ^(a)	16,348	10,746
Available for sale financial assets	51	51
Loans and advances	4,368	5,778
Amounts receivable for services ^(b)	218,464	198,731
Total financial assets	373,045	348,427
Financial liabilities		
Payables	26,451	19,682
Lease liabilities	6,897	7,170
Borrowings	4,000	5,465
Other Liabilities	6,847	8,553
Total financial liabilities	44,195	40,870

(a) The amount of Receivables/Financial assets at amortised cost excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(b) Service appropriations fund the net cost of services delivered. Appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (Holding Account) comprises the budgeted depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liabilities during the year.

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

8.1 Financial risk management (continued)

(c) Credit risk exposure

The following table details the credit risk exposure on the department's trade receivables using a provision matrix.

	Days past due					
	Total \$'000	Current \$'000	<30 days \$'000	31-60 days \$'000	61-90 days \$'000	>91 days \$'000
30 June 2023						
Expected credit loss rate		0.27%	0.38%	4.96%	8.03%	34.15%
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	21,811	11,992	5,804	242	461	3,312
Expected credit losses	(1,234)	(32)	(22)	(12)	(37)	(1,131)
30 June 2022						
Expected credit loss rate		1.9%	1.7%	1.6%	19.8%	26.5%
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	5,542	3,562	663	640	88	589
Expected credit losses	(263)	(68)	(12)	(10)	(17)	(156)

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

8.1 Financial risk management (continued)

(d) Liquidity risk and interest rate exposure

The following table details the department's interest rate exposure and the contractual maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities. The maturity analysis section includes interest and principal cash flows. The interest rate exposure section analyses only the carrying amounts of each item.

	Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities										
	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount \$'000	Interest rate exposure			Nominal amount \$'000	Maturity dates				
			Fixed interest rate \$'000	Variable interest rate \$'000	Non-interest bearing \$'000		Up to 1 month \$'000	1 to 3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1 to 5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2023											
Financial assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	-	3,918	-	-	3,918	3,918	-	-	-	-	
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2.62	129,896	-	40,144	89,752	129,896	-	-	-	-	
Receivables ^(a)	-	16,348	-	-	16,348	16,330	-	18	-	-	
Lease prepayments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Available for sale financial assets	-	51	-	-	51	-	-	-	51	-	
Loans and advances	1.54	3,800	3,800	-	-	3,800	-	-	800	3,000	
Amounts receivable for services	-	218,464	-	-	218,464	581	1,744	4,649	27,896	183,594	
		372,477	3,800	40,144	328,533	372,477	150,725	1,744	5,467	30,947	
Financial liabilities											
Payables	-	26,451	-	-	26,451	26,451	-	-	-	-	
Lease liabilities ^(b)	-	6,897	-	-	6,897	264	793	2,114	3,679	47	
WATC borrowings	1.54	3,800	3,800	-	-	4,000	-	-	1,000	3,000	
Other Liabilities	2.10	6,847	6,847	-	-	6,847	-	-	662	6,185	
		43,995	10,647	-	33,348	44,195	26,715	793	3,776	12,864	

(a) The amount of Receivables/Financial assets at amortised cost excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(b) The amount of lease liabilities includes \$4.012 million from leased vehicles, \$2.391 million from residential accommodation leases, and \$0.494 million from other commercial leases.

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

8.1 Financial risk management (continued)

(d) Liquidity risk and interest rate exposure (continued)

The following table details the department's interest rate exposure and the contractual maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities. The maturity analysis section includes interest and principal cash flows. The interest rate exposure section analyses only the carrying amounts of each item.

	Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities										
	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount \$'000	Interest rate exposure			Nominal amount \$'000	Maturity dates				
			Fixed interest rate \$'000	Variable interest rate \$'000	Non-interest bearing \$'000		Up to 1 month \$'000	1 to 3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1 to 5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2022											
Financial assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	-	26,248	-	-	26,248	26,248	26,248	-	-	-	
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	0.50	106,873	-	36,035	70,838	106,873	106,873	-	-	-	
Receivables ^(a)	-	10,746	-	-	10,746	10,746	5,733	-	5,013	-	
Available for sale financial assets	-	51	-	-	51	51	-	-	-	51	
Loans and advances	1.78	5,778	5,465	313	-	5,778	-	-	1,516	4,262	
Amounts receivable for services	-	198,731	-	-	198,731	198,731	1,458	-	4,373	17,734	
		348,427	5,465	36,348	306,614	348,427	140,312	-	10,902	22,047	
Financial liabilities											
Payables	-	19,682	-	-	19,682	19,682	19,682	-	-	-	
Lease liabilities ^(b)	-	7,170	-	-	7,170	7,170	299	574	2,335	3,942	
WATC borrowings	1.78	5,465	5,465	-	-	5,465	-	-	1,465	4,000	
Other Liabilities	2.10	8,552	8,552	-	-	8,552	-	-	2,889	5,663	
		40,869	14,017	-	26,852	40,869	19,981	574	6,689	13,605	
										20	

(a) The amount of Receivables/Financial assets at amortised cost excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(b) The amount of lease liabilities includes \$4.391 million from leased vehicles, \$2.072 million from residential accommodation leases, and \$0.707 million from other commercial leases.

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

8.1 Financial risk management (continued)

(e) Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The department is exposed to interest rate risk on its restricted cash \$40.1 million in 2022/23 (\$36.0 million in 2021/22) which earns interest at a variable rate (note 8.1 (d)). A 1% change in interest rates at reporting period end would result in an increase/decrease in profit or loss and equity of \$338,000 depending upon whether interest rates increased/decreased. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

	Carrying amount \$'000	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000	Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000
2023					
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	40,144	(401)	(401)	401	401
Total Increase/(Decrease)	40,144	(401)	(401)	401	401
		Interest rate sensitivity analysis			
		-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
	Carrying amount \$'000	Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000	Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000
2022					
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	36,035	(360)	(360)	360	360
Total Increase/(Decrease)	36,035	(360)	(360)	360	360

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

8.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent asset and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at the best estimate.

Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

8.2.1 Contingent assets

There are currently no contingent assets.

8.2.2 Contingent liabilities

Litigation in progress

The department has seven pending litigation matters in progress. Two of the matters are complex prosecution matters being run by the State Solicitor's Office, which have potential cost liabilities.

Two of the matters are claims for compensation under the *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997*. The potential financial effect should these claims be successful cannot be reliably measured at this time.

Two other matters relate to reviews of decisions of the CEO in the State Administrative Tribunal. The final matter is a judicial review regarding the Minister Fisheries in the Supreme Court.

Contaminated sites

Under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 (the Act), the department is required to report 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 environment values. Where sites are classified as 'contaminated – remediation required' or 'possibly contaminated – investigation required', the department may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation purposes.

The department currently has 26 sites registered with DWER as possibly contaminated and two site registered as contaminated. These have yet to be classified. The department is unable to assess the likely outcome of the classification process, and accordingly, it is not practicable to estimate the potential financial effect or to identify the uncertainties relating to the amount or timing of any outflows. While there is no possibility of reimbursement of any future expenses that may be incurred in the remediation of these sites, the department may apply for funding from the Contaminated Sites Management Account to undertake further investigative work or to meet remediation cost that may be required.

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

8.3 Fair value measurements

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
2023				
Land (note 5.1)	-	16,431	130,548	146,979
Buildings (note 5.1)	-	5,115	113,585	118,700
	-	21,546	244,133	265,679
	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
2022				
Land (note 5.1)	-	15,209	110,567	125,776
Buildings (note 5.1)	-	4,815	106,081	110,896
	-	20,024	216,648	236,672

There were no transfers between Levels 1, 2 or 3 during the current period.

Valuation techniques to derive Level 2 fair values

Level 2 fair values of land and buildings are derived using the market approach. Market evidence of sales prices of comparable land and buildings in close proximity is used to determine price per square metre. Non-current assets held for distribution to owners have been written down to fair value less costs to sell. Fair value has been determined by reference to market evidence of sales prices of comparable assets.

Fair value measurement using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000
2023		
Fair value at start of period	110,567	106,081
Additions	-	59
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other comprehensive income	20,064	12,388
Transfers (from/(to) Level 2)	-	-
Other transfers	(83)	(761)
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(4,182)
Fair value at end of period	130,548	113,585
Total gains or losses for the period included in profit and loss	-	-

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

8.3 Fair value measurements (continued)

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000
2022		
Fair value at start of period	86,062	83,080
Additions	-	6,388
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other comprehensive income	24,505	9,084
Transfers (from/(to) Level 2)	-	-
Other transfers	-	12,074
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(4,545)
Fair value at end of period	110,567	106,081
Total gains or losses for the period included in profit and loss	-	-

Valuation processes

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.

Transfers in and out of a fair value level are recognised on the date of the event or change in circumstances that caused the transfer. Transfers are generally limited to assets newly classified as non-current assets held for distribution as Treasurer's Instructions require valuations of land and buildings to be categorised within Level 3 where the valuations will utilise significant Level 3 inputs on a recurring basis.

Land (Level 3 fair values)

Fair value for restricted use land is based on comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility (high restricted use land). The relevant comparators of land with low level utility is selected by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuations and Property Analytics) and represents the application of a significant Level 3 input in this valuation methodology. The fair value measurement is sensitive to values of comparator land, with higher values of comparator land correlating with higher estimated fair values of land.

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

8.3 Fair value measurements (continued)

Buildings (Level 3 fair values)

Fair value for existing use specialised buildings is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. current replacement cost. Current replacement cost is generally determined by reference to the market observable replacement cost of a substitute asset of comparable utility and the gross project size specifications, adjusted for obsolescence. Obsolescence encompasses the physical deterioration, functional (technological) obsolescence and economic (external) obsolescence.

Valuation of using current replacement cost utilises the significant Level 3 input, consumed economic benefit/obsolescence of asset which is estimated by Landgate. The fair value measurement is sensitive to the estimate of consumption/obsolescence, with higher values of the estimate correlating with lower estimated fair values of buildings and infrastructure.

Basis of valuation

In the absence of market-based evidence, due to the specialised nature of some non-financial assets, these assets are valued at Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy on an existing use basis. The existing use basis recognises that restrictions or limitations have been placed on their use and disposal when they are not determined to be surplus to requirements. These restrictions are imposed by virtue of the assets being held to deliver a specific community service.

9 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	9.1
Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards	9.2
Future impact of Australian standards issued not yet operative	9.3
Key management personnel	9.4
Related party transactions	9.5
Related bodies	9.6
Affiliated bodies	9.7
Special purpose accounts	9.8
Remuneration of auditor	9.9
Services provided free of charge	9.10
Equity	9.11
Supplementary financial information	9.12
Indian Ocean Territories Service Level Agreement	9.13

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

9.1 Events occurring after the end of the reporting period

There were no events that occurred after the end of the reporting period that would materially affect the financial statements or disclosures.

9.2 Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards

There were no new Australian Accounting Standards effective for the year end 30 June 2023 that applied to the department.

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

9.3 Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

The department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements or by an exemption from TI 1101. Where applicable, the department plans to apply the following Australian Accounting Standards from their application date.

**Operative for
reporting periods
beginning on/after**

Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after 1 Jan 2023

AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates

This Standard amends: (a) AASB 7, to clarify that information about measurement bases for financial instruments is expected to be material to an entity's financial statements; (b) AASB 101, to require entities to disclose their material accounting policy information rather than their significant accounting policies; (c) AASB 108, to clarify how entities should distinguish changes in accounting policies and changes in accounting estimates; (d) AASB 134, to identify material accounting policy information as a component of a complete set of financial statements; and (e) AASB Practice Statement 2, to provide guidance on how to apply the concept of materiality to accounting policy disclosures.

1 Jan 2023

There is no financial impact.

AASB 2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards

This Standard amends: (a) AASB 1049, to require entities to disclose their material accounting policy information rather than their significant accounting policies; (b) AASB 1054 to reflect the updated accounting policy terminology used in AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements; and (c) AASB 1060 to required entities to disclose their material accounting policy information rather than their significant accounting policy and to clarify that information about measurement bases for financial instruments is expected to be material to an entity's financial statements.

1 Jan 2023

There is no financial impact.

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

9.3 Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative (continued)

	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
<p><i>AASB 2022-7 Editorial Corrections to Australian Accounting Standards and Repeal of Superseded and Redundant Standards</i></p> <p>This Standard makes editorial corrections to various Australian Accounting Standards and AASB Practice Statement 2 Making Materiality Judgements.</p> <p>There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2023
<p><i>AASB 2022-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance Contracts: Consequential Amendments</i></p> <p>This Standard amends: (a) AASB 1; (b) AASB 3; (c) AASB 5; (d) AASB 7; (e) AASB 9; (f) AASB 15; (g) AASB 17; (h) AASB 119; (i) AASB 132; (j) AASB 136; (k) AASB 137; (l) AASB 138; (m) AASB 1057; and (n) AASB 1058, to permit public sector entities to continue applying AASB 4 and AASB 1023 to annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 but before 1 July 2026.</p> <p>There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2023
Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after 1 Jan 2024	
<p><i>AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current</i></p> <p>This Standard amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current.</p> <p>These is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2024
<p><i>AASB 2022-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback</i></p> <p>This Standard amends AASB 16 to add measurement requirements for sale and leaseback transactions that satisfy the requirements in AASB 15 to be accounted for as a sale.</p> <p>There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2024

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

9.3 Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative (continued)

**Operative for
reporting periods
beginning on/after**

AASB 2022-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Non-current Liabilities with Covenants

This Standard amends AASB 101 to improve the information an entity provides in its financial statements about liabilities arising from loan arrangements for which the entity's right to defer settlement of those liabilities for at least twelve months after the reporting period is subject to the entity complying with conditions specified in the loan arrangement.

The Standard also amends an example in Practice Statement 2 regarding assessing whether information about covenants is material for disclosure.

There is no financial impact.

1 Jan 2024

AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities.

This Standard amends AASB 13 including adding authoritative implementation guidance and providing related illustrative examples, for fair value measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit public sector entities not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows.

The department has not assessed the impact of the Standard.

Operative for reporting periods on/after 1 Jan 2025

1 Jan 2024

AASB 17 Insurance Contracts

This Standard establishes principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of insurance contracts. It was amended by AASB 2022-8 to take effect for Not-For-Profit insurance contracts from 1 July 2026.

The department has not assessed the impact of the Standard.

1 July 2026

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

9.3 Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative (continued)

Operative for
reporting periods
beginning on/after

AASB 2021-7C Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 and Editorial Corrections

This Standard further defers (to 1 January 2025) the amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 relating to the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture.

The standard also includes editorial corrections.

The department has not assessed the impact of the Standard.

1 Jan 2025

AASB 2022-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance Contracts in the Public Sector

This Standard amends AASB 17 and AASB 1050 to include modifications with respect to the application of AASB 17 by public sector entities.

This Standard also amends the following Standards to remove the temporary consequential amendments set out in AASB 2022-8 since AASB 4 and AASB 1023 do not apply to public sector entities for periods beginning on or after 1 July 2026: (a) AASB 1; (b) AASB 3; (c) AASB 5; (d) AASB 7; (e) AASB 9; (f) AASB 15; (g) AASB 119; (h) AASB 132; (i) AASB 136; (j) AASB 137; (k) AASB 138; (l) AASB 1057; and (m) AASB 1058

There is no financial impact.

1 Jan 2026

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

9.4 Key management personnel

The department has determined that key management personnel include Cabinet Ministers and senior officers of the department. However, the department is not obligated to reimburse for the compensation of Ministers and therefore no disclosure is required. The disclosures in relation to Ministers' compensation may be found in the Annual Report on State Finances.

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

	2023	2022
Compensation band (\$)		
50,001 - 100,000	2	-
100,001 - 150,000	1	-
150,001 - 200,000	2	3
200,001 - 250,000	2	4
350,001 - 400,000	1	1
	8	8

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,195	1,407
Post-employment benefits	118	133
Other long-term benefits	142	160
Total compensation of senior officers	1,455	1,700

Total compensation includes the superannuation expense incurred by the department in respect to senior officers.

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

9.5 Related party transactions

The department is a wholly owned and controlled entity 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 their related bodies, that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements
- Associates and joint ventures of an entity that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements, and the
- Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

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 standards terms and conditions that apply to all agencies; such transactions include:

- Superannuation payments to GESB (note 3.1.1)
- Staffing housing costs to the Department of Communities (note 3.1.1)
- Grants and subsidies paid (note 3.2) includes:

- Agricultural Produce Commission	\$100,000
- Department of Finance	\$23,877
- DevelopmentWA	\$99,300
- The Western Australian Museum	\$1,400,000
- Supplies and services (note 3.3) includes:

- Central Regional TAFE	\$10,659
- Department of Finance	\$3,624,264
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services	\$49,499
- Department of Health	\$11,000
- Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation	\$62,007
- Department of Premier and Cabinet	\$768,612
- Department of Training and Workforce Development	\$12,960

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

9.5 Related party transactions (continued)

- Supplies and services (note 3.3) includes:

- Department of Transport	\$91,950
- Horizon Power	\$179,756
- Kimberley Port Authority	\$10,089
- Landgate	\$86,475
- Main Roads WA	\$14,848
- Pilbara Development Commission	\$28,079
- Public Sector Commission	\$90,000
- RiskCover	\$2,079,905
- Southern Ports Authority	\$41,188
- State Solicitor's Office	\$911,643
- Synergy	\$947,251
- Western Australian Treasury Corporation	\$55,718
- Water Corporation	\$822,166

- Accommodation lease payments (note 3.3) includes:

- Central Regional TAFE	\$61,235
- Department of Finance	\$10,226,792
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	\$23,588
- Fremantle Port Authority	\$130,174

- Service appropriation (note 4.1)

- Resources received free of charge (note 4.1)

- Income from other public sector entities (note 4.1)

- Royalties for Regions Fund (note 4.1)

- User charges and fees (note 4.2)

- Other revenue (note 4.5) includes:

- Agricultural Produce Commission	\$31,000
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services	\$172,711
- Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation	\$176,000
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	\$23,178
- DevelopmentWA	\$13,145
- Forest Products Commission	\$17,271
- North Regional TAFE	65,474

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

9.5 Related party transactions (continued)

- Remuneration for services provided by the Auditor General (note 9.9)
- Service provided free of charge (note 9.10)
- Capital appropriations (note 9.11)

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.

9.6 Related bodies

The following industry funding schemes are deemed to be related bodies by the Treasurer:

- The Cattle Industry Funded Scheme
- The Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funded Scheme
- The Sheep and Goat Industry Funded Scheme

The funds of the three schemes are reported as restricted cash and cash equivalents (note 7.4.2) and movements in Special Purpose Accounts (note 9.8).

The transactions and results of these related bodies have been included in the financial statements.

9.7 Affiliated bodies

The Community Resource Centre Network is an affiliated body that received administrative support through contracts for service for \$10.4 million (\$9.1 million in 2021/22) and grant funding of \$0.1 million (\$3.0 million in 2021/22) from the department. The Community Resource Centres are not subject to operational control by the department.

The Grower Group Alliance is an affiliated body that received \$1.1 million in support from the department in 2022/23 (\$0.783 million in 2021/22). The Grower Group Alliance is not subject to operational control by the department.

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

9.8 Special purpose accounts

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Special purpose accounts		
Agriculture Research Grants Account No. 1 (non-interest bearing)		
The purpose of the fund is to receive and disperse funds from industry and other organisations in support of agricultural research projects.		
Balance at start of period	15,584	18,097
Receipts	20,222	22,147
Payments	(15,792)	(24,660)
Balance at end of period	20,014	15,584
Agriculture Research Grants Account No. 2		
The purpose of the fund is to receive and disperse funds from industry and other organisations in support of agricultural research projects.		
Balance at start of period	9,503	9,037
Receipts	2,802	3,166
Payments	(2,666)	(2,700)
Balance at end of period	9,639	9,503
Commonwealth Agriculture Activity Grants (non-interest bearing)		
The purpose of the fund is to receive and disperse funds to conduct Commonwealth-funded activities.		
Balance at start of period	10,210	4,234
Receipts	6,202	10,713
Payments	(8,912)	(4,737)
Balance at end of period	7,500	10,210
Plant Research and Development		
The purpose of the fund is to receive and disperse funds to conduct plant research and development in Western Australia.		
Balance at start of period	5,104	4,128
Receipts	2,161	2,367
Payments	(1,795)	(1,391)
Balance at end of period	5,470	5,104

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

9.8 Special purpose accounts (continued)

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cattle Industry Funded Scheme		
The purpose of the fund is to receive and disperse funds from the cattle industry to enable industry to self-determine and self-fund appropriate responses to serious pest and disease incursions which predominantly impact on the industry sector and which are not otherwise covered under existing arrangements at the national level.		
Balance at start of period	5,509	5,580
Receipts	116	162
Payments	(279)	(233)
Balance at end of period	5,346	5,509
Declared Pest Account		
The purpose of the fund is to receive and disperse funds collected to carry out measures to control declared pests on and in relation to areas for which the rates were collected.		
Balance at start of period	3,732	2,955
Receipts	5,958	5,921
Payments	(5,659)	(5,144)
Balance at end of period	4,031	3,732
Land Conservation Districts Fund		
The purpose of the fund is to promote soil conservation through research and implementation of soil and conservation measures and practices.		
Balance at start of period	75	74
Receipts	70	71
Payments	(70)	(70)
Balance at end of period	75	75
Grain, Seeds and Hay Industry Funded Scheme		
The purpose of the fund is to receive and disperse funds from the grain, seeds and hay industry to enable the industry to self-determine and self-fund appropriate responses to serious pest and disease incursions which predominantly impact on the industry sector and which are not otherwise covered under existing arrangements at the national level.		
Balance at start of period	8,346	6,310
Receipts	5,492	5,148
Payments	(7,606)	(3,112)
Balance at end of period	6,232	8,346

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

9.8 Special purpose accounts (continued)

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Sheep and Goats Industry Funded Scheme		
The purpose of the fund is to receive and disperse funds from the sheep and goats industry to enable the industry to self-determine and self-fund appropriate responses to serious pest and disease incursions which predominantly impact on the industry sector and which are not otherwise covered under existing arrangements at the national level.		
Balance at start of period	2,342	2,137
Receipts	1,101	1,037
Payments	(680)	(832)
Balance at end of period	2,763	2,342
Fisheries Research and Development Account		
The Fisheries Research and Development Account, which was established under the Fisheries Act 1905 (repealed), was continued under the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA 1994). The purpose of the Account is to hold funds in accordance with section 238 of the FRMA 1994 which may be used and applied by the Minister in such manner and in such proportion as the Minister thinks fit for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 238(5) of the FRMA 1994 and section 37(3), 41 and 55(4) and (5) of the Pearling Act 1990. All revenue and expenditure relating to commercial fishing, fish and fish habitat protection, pearling and aquaculture services is transacted through this account. AFMA Account and Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Account no longer exist in 2011-12. The balances of the two funds were transferred to Fisheries Research and Development Account in 2011-12.		
Balance at start of period	100	100
Receipts		
Contribution from Consolidated Account	20,151	53,818
Fisheries Access Fees	35,487	14,960
Grants and Contributions	4,238	619
Other Receipts	8,363	4,324
Payments		
Contributions to Fisheries WA operations	(62,469)	(73,721)
Balance at end of period	5,870	100

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

9.8 Special purpose accounts (continued)

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Recreational Fishing Account		
The Recreational Fishing Account is established under the FRMA 1994. The purpose of the account is to hold funds in accordance with section 239 of the FRMA 1994 which may be applied by the Minister for all or any of the purposes prescribed by section 239(4) of the FRMA 1994. The main revenue sources include contributions from the Consolidated Account and revenue from recreational fishing licences. The funds support activity relating to recreational fishing.		
Balance at start of period	500	500
Receipts		
Contribution from Consolidated Account	15,945	6,646
Recreational Fishing Licences	9,031	9,375
Other Receipts	-	149
Payments		
Expenditure on recreational fishing related activities	(24,941)	(16,170)
Balance at end of period	535	500
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account		
The purpose of this account is to hold funds in accordance with section 5 of the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Act 1987 which shall be applied by the Minister for the purposes prescribed by section 6 of that Act.		
Balance at start of period	824	510
Receipts		
Repayments from Industry for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	1,512	3,991
Payments		
Loan repayment, Interests and guarantee fees to WATC for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	(1,705)	(3,659)
Unit buy back State Scheme	(448)	(18)
Balance at end of period	183	824

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

9.8 Special purpose accounts (continued)

Regional Reform Fund Special Purpose Account (Administered)

The purpose of this account is to hold capital and recurrent funds for expenditure on approved Regional Reform Fund projects as authorised by the Treasurer and the Minister, pursuant to section 9(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the *Royalties for Regions Act 2009* to be charged to the Royalties for Regions Act Fund and credited to the account.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Balance at start of period	42,584	57,569
Receipts	4,000	-
Payments	(28,368)	(14,985)
Balance at end of period	18,216	42,584

9.9 Remuneration of auditor

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators is as follows:

Auditing the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Auditing the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators	873	868
	873	868

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

9.10 Services provided free of charge

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Services provided free of charge		
During the period the following services were provided to other agencies free of charge for functions outside the normal operations of the department.		
Gascoyne Development Commission	1,882	1,874
Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission	2,015	1,939
Great Southern Development Commission	1,913	1,943
Kimberley Development Commission	2,501	1,907
Mid West Development Commission	1,382	1,646
Peel Development Commission	1,886	1,657
Pilbara Development Commission	3,001	2,690
South West Development Commission	4,603	3,874
Wheatbelt Development Commission	1,374	1,542
Agricultural Produce Commission (APC)	56	48
Rural Business Development Corporation (RBDC)	40	38
Department of Communities	20	59
Department of Finance	30	192
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	13	-
Department of Health	29	142
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety	13	-
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	2	-
Department of Premier and Cabinet	30	-
Department of Transport	15	-
Department of Water	11	-
Landgate WA	3	-
Main Roads of Western Australia	17	-
Public Transport Authority of Western Australia	2	-
	20,838	19,551

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

9.11 Equity

Contributed equity

Balance at start of period

Contributions by owners

Capital appropriations

Other contributions by owners

Drawdowns from Treasury Special Purpose Account

Transfer of net assets from other departments

Royalties for Regions Fund - Regional Community Services Account

Royalties for Regions Fund - Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account

Distributions to owners

Transfer of assets to other agencies:

Rural Business Development Corporation

Department of Planning Lands and Heritage

Balance at end of period

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
	607,794	560,324
	13,910	33,813
	6,674	10,152
	642	
	4,033	3,209
	400	1,896
	(1,500)	(1,600)
	(600)	-
Balance at end of period	631,353	607,794

Asset revaluation surplus

Net revaluation increments/(decrements)

Balance at start of period

Land

Buildings

Non-current assets held for distribution to owners

Balance at end of period

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
	37,176	2,020
	21,161	25,435
	12,869	9,721
	-	-
Balance at end of period	71,206	37,176

Accumulated surplus/(deficit)

Balance at start of period

Result for the period

Other comprehensive income

Balance at end of period

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
	(31,205)	(53,196)
	(5,151)	21,991
	29	-
Balance at end of period	(36,327)	(31,205)
Total equity at end of period	666,232	613,765

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

9.12 Supplementary financial information

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
(a) Write-offs		
Non-current assets		
During the financial year \$0 was written off the Department's asset register under the authority of: The accountable authority	-	163
	-	163
(b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes		
Losses of public moneys and public and other property through theft or default	12	146
Amounts recovered - insurance	(118)	(70)
	(106)	76

9.13 Indian Ocean Territories Service Level Agreement

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
The provision of services to the Indian Ocean Territories are recouped from the Commonwealth Government		
Opening balance	669	560
Receipts	1,107	697
Payments	(803)	(588)
Closing balance	973	669

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

10 Explanatory statements

This section explains variations in the financial performance of the department.

	Notes
Explanatory statement for controlled operations	10.1
Explanatory statement for administered items	10.2

10.1 Explanatory statement 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 following variance analyses for the:

1. Estimate and actuals for the current year
 - Total Cost of Services of the estimate for the Statement of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (1% of \$620.952 million being \$6.210 million), and
 - Total Assets of the estimate for the Statement of financial position (1% of \$703.740 million being \$7.037 million).
2. Actual results for the current year and prior year actual
 - Total Cost of Services for the Statements of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (1% of \$461.041 million being \$4.610 million), and
 - Total Assets for the Statement of financial position (1% of \$722.080 million being \$7.221 million).

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

10.1.1 Statement of comprehensive income variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2023 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Actual 2022 \$'000	Variance between actual and estimate \$'000	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES						
Expenses						
Employee benefits expenses	A	216,043	236,250	210,323	20,207	25,927
Supplies and services		145,344	143,856	131,475	(1,488)	12,381
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	1	24,044	17,513	18,114	(6,531)	(601)
Finance costs		528	456	478	(72)	(22)
Accommodation expenses		16,927	16,969	15,771	42	1,198
Other expenses	2	22,752	3,983	1,788	(18,769)	2,195
Grants and subsidies	3	195,314	94,880	82,607	(100,434)	12,273
Loss on disposal of non-current assets		-	108	485	108	(377)
Total cost of services		620,952	514,015	461,041	(106,937)	52,974
Income						
User charges and fees	B	54,122	57,621	52,043	3,499	5,578
Commonwealth grants and contributions	C	8,658	8,740	18,835	82	(10,095)
Non-government grants and subsidies	D	25,404	24,019	20,715	(1,385)	3,304
Other revenue	4,E	6,190	29,241	21,346	23,051	7,895
Gain on disposal of non-current assets		255	-	-	(255)	-
Share of gain in joint venture entities using the equity method		-	4,718	2,956	4,718	1,762
Total income		94,629	124,339	115,895	29,710	8,444
NET COST OF SERVICES		526,323	389,676	345,146	(136,647)	44,530
Income from State Government						
Service appropriations		246,420	232,063	242,012	(14,357)	(9,949)
Services received free of charge		1,849	1,805	1,599	(44)	206
Royalties for Regions Fund	5,F	227,683	145,619	115,363	(82,064)	30,256
Climate Action Fund		2,774	-	-	(2,774)	-
Digital Capability Fund		3,900	-	-	(3,900)	-
Income from other public sector entities	6	28,522	5,038	8,163	(23,484)	(3,125)
Total income from State Government		511,148	384,525	367,137	(126,623)	17,388
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(15,175)	(5,151)	21,991	10,024	(27,142)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss						
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		-	34,030	35,156	34,030	(1,126)
Total other comprehensive income		-	34,030	35,156	34,030	(1,126)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(15,175)	28,879	57,147	44,054	(28,268)

The estimates will not agree to the published budget papers which incorporate the nine Regional Development Commissions with the Department.

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

10.1.1 Statement of comprehensive income variances (continued)

Major Estimate and Actual (2023) Variance Narratives

- 1) Application of the IFRS IC Agenda Decision SaaS (Software as a Service) arrangements has resulted in a change in the classification of costs for several projects. Reduction in the capital costs has resulted in lower depreciation and amortisation than budget.
- 2) Other expenses is \$18.8 million below budget mainly due to budgeted administration expenses (\$16.6 million) being reported under supplies and services in the 2022-23 actuals. In addition, the original budget had an amount of \$1.5 million for the Fisheries adjustment scheme buy backs which did not eventuate.
- 3) Grants and subsidies paid is below budget by \$100.4 million and primarily driven by lower than expected take-up for the Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja Assistance Package (\$24 million), as well as the bring forward of payment for Yamatji Nation Native Title Agreement to 2021-22 (\$4.5 million). Additionally, delays in expenditure across a range of projects (\$71.6 million) such as the Australian Underwater Discovery Centre (\$8.5 million), Regional Recovery Partnerships (\$7.5 million), Regional Telecommunications Project and Continuation (\$6.9 million); State Agriculture Telecommunication Infrastructure Fund (\$5.9 million) and the Industry and Attraction Fund - Collie (\$5.4 million) also contributed to lower than budgeted expenses. Carryovers to 2023-24 and out years have been approved in the 2023-24 WA State Government budget process. Adjustments to address changes in deliverables since this process will be addressed through the Mid-year review.
- 4) Other Revenue is \$23 million higher than the budget estimate due to revenue received for National cost share agreements for WA Incidents - Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (\$8.8 million), increased royalties received (\$4 million), and rates and levies (\$6.8 million) included in the user fees and charges estimate line.
- 5) Royalties for Regions (RfR) Fund is \$82 million below budget as a result of an adjustment to the treatment of Treasury SPA drawdowns (\$6.7 million) and delays in RfR funded programs such as Regional Development Leverage Fund (\$8.3 million); Myalup-Wellington Water for Growth (\$25.6 million); AgriFood Activation Fund (\$3.5 million); Collie Industry Attraction Fund (\$5.5 million); Regional Telecommunication Projects (\$5.9 million); Carnarvon One Mile Jetty (\$4.5 million); Greenbushes Lithium Supply Chain (\$3.8 million); Albany Trails (\$3.2 million); Pilbara Aboriginal Town Based Reserves (\$4.4 million); Total Solar Eclipse (\$2.4 million); Building WA Grains Research & Development Capacity (\$1.8 million); Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme (\$1.6 million) Carryovers to 2023-24 and the out-years have been approved in the 2023-24 WA State Government budget process.
- 6) Income from public sector agencies is \$23.5 million below budget due to reduction in funding for Tropical Cyclone Seroja (\$26.4 million) offset by expenditure on new programs - Freight Assistance package – Ex-tropical cyclone Ellie (\$3.4 million).

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

10.1.1 Statement of comprehensive income variances (continued)

Major Actual (2023) and Comparatives (2022) Variance Narratives (continued)

- A) Employee Benefits expense has increased \$26.0 million due to a 3% pay increase and cost of living payments (\$10.3 million). In addition, DPIRD migrated from three legacy agency Finance systems into one system in September 2022.
- B) User charges and fees has increased \$5.6 million compared to prior year as the result of a successful prosecution of a commercial rock lobster fisher, as well as the collection of deferred fishing license fees during covid.
- C) Commonwealth Grants and contributions decreased \$10.1 million from 2022. The primary driver of the decrease is the reduction in Federation Funding Agreement revenue related to the National Water Grid Program (\$11.3 million).
- D) Non-government grants and subsidies increased by \$3.3 million due to increased revenue received primarily from Grain Research Development Corporation (\$2.0 million), Meat and Livestock Australia (\$0.9 million), Field Applied Research Australia Ltd (\$0.4 million) and Murdoch University (\$0.4 million).
- E) Other revenue increased \$7.9 million due to increases in National Cost share agreements for WA Incidents - Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (\$8.8 million), royalties revenue (\$2.0 million); rental income (\$0.6 million) and interest revenue (\$0.6 million) offset by an accounting adjustment in 2022 (\$6.3 million).
- F) Royalties for Regions Fund increased by \$30.3 million mainly due to additional funding provided in 2022-23 for programs such as Regional Telecommunications Project (\$3.0 million); Sheep and Goat Electronic Identification (\$3.4 million); WA Regional Digital Connectivity (Round 2) (\$2.3 million); (Ord Channel Expansion (\$9.0 million), Ord Channel Upgrade (\$2.4 million); Pilbara Town Based Reserves (\$2.5 million); Natural Resource Management Program (\$1.8 million); Halls Creek Town Development Masterplan (\$1.5 million); Kimberley Community Action Fund (\$1.0 million).

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

10.1.2 Statement of financial position variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2023 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Actual 2022 \$'000	Variance between actual and estimate \$'000	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022 \$'000
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	G	5,320	3,918	26,248	(1,402)	(22,330)
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7,H	77,591	125,225	103,838	47,634	21,387
Biological assets		1,072	600	1,186	(472)	(586)
Inventories		1,319	1,497	1,319	178	178
Receivables	8	8,612	19,857	14,759	11,245	5,098
Amounts receivable for services		9,594	6,974	3,825	(2,620)	3,149
Other current assets	I	11,215	10,877	2,657	(338)	8,220
Total Current Assets		114,723	168,948	153,832	54,225	15,116
Non-Current Assets						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		3,034	4,671	3,035	1,637	1,636
Amounts receivable for services		207,656	211,490	194,906	3,834	16,584
Receivables		2,885	3,263	4,262	378	(999)
Other non-current assets		5,038	4,129	4,660	(909)	(531)
Investments accounted for using the equity method	9,J	15,456	35,984	28,265	20,528	7,719
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	10,K	323,467	353,632	317,909	30,165	35,723
Intangible assets		21,547	3,729	5,542	(17,818)	(1,813)
Right-of-use assets		9,934	8,898	9,669	(1,036)	(771)
Total Non-Current Assets		589,017	625,796	568,248	36,779	57,548
TOTAL ASSETS		703,740	794,744	722,080	91,004	72,664
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Payables	11,L	6,903	26,451	19,682	19,548	6,769
Contract liabilities	M	20,822	22,699	11,415	1,877	11,284
Employee related provisions		50,152	53,250	47,692	3,098	5,558
Borrowings		500	1,000	1,465	500	(465)
Lease liabilities		3,372	3,171	3,700	(201)	(529)
Other current liabilities	12	12,678	662	2,889	(12,016)	(2,227)
Total Current Liabilities		94,427	107,233	86,843	12,806	20,390
Non-Current Liabilities						
Contract liabilities		1,867	-	40	(1,867)	(40)
Employee related provisions		8,910	8,368	8,298	(542)	70
Borrowings		4,461	3,000	4,000	(1,461)	(1,000)
Lease liabilities		3,293	3,726	3,470	433	256
Other non-current liabilities		-	6,185	5,664	6,185	521
Total Non-Current Liabilities		18,531	21,279	21,472	2,748	(193)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		112,958	128,512	108,315	15,554	20,197
NET ASSETS		590,782	666,232	613,765	75,450	52,467

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

10.1.2 Statement of financial position variances (continued)

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2023 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Actual 2022 \$'000	Variance between actual and estimate \$'000	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022 \$'000
EQUITY						
Contributed equity		643,152	631,353	607,794	(11,799)	23,559
Reserves	13,N	1,997	71,206	37,176	69,209	34,030
Accumulated deficit		(54,367)	(36,327)	(31,205)	18,040	(5,122)
TOTAL EQUITY		590,782	666,232	613,765	75,450	52,467

The estimates will not agree to the published budget papers which incorporate the nine Regional Development Commissions with the Department.

Major Estimate and Actual (2023) Variance Narratives

- 7) The value of restricted cash is higher than estimated due to the timing of payments made for Royalty for Regions and other projects.
- 8) Receivables are higher than estimated due to a number of large invoices for services that are outstanding predominantly from other state and federal government agencies.
- 9) The value of investments accounted for using the equity method is higher than estimated due to movements within the financial statements of the joint venture partners, in part due to the recognition of previously unrecognised deferred tax assets.
- 10) Actual Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment is higher than estimated as a result of the revaluation increment for land and buildings. Land and building values increased \$30.2 million in 2022-23. There was no provision for revaluation increment in the Estimates.
- 11) Payables is higher than estimated due to the increase in trade payables at year end and additional accrual for salaries related to the 27th pay which is due to be paid in 2027.
- 12) Estimated other current liabilities included a higher value for native title settlements than was experienced in 2023.
- 13) The value of reserves has increased in 2022-23 due to the revaluation increment of land and buildings (\$34 million) which had not been provided for in the Estimates.

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

10.1.2 Statement of financial position variances (continued)

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

- G) Net Cash provided by Government decreased \$20.9m in 2023 and this has contributed to the lower cash balance in the current year. Additionally, more cash has been recognised as restricted cash than in the previous year.
- H) Restricted cash has increased in recognition of unspent funds related to Royalty for Regions and other projects.
- I) Other current assets has increased over the previous year due to the increase in the recognition of contract assets which rose \$8.2 million in 2022-23.
- J) The value of investments accounted for using the equity method has increased due to movements within the financial statements of the joint venture partners.
- K) The revaluation of land and buildings has increased the value of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. DPIRD recognised an increase of \$34 million in the value of it's land and buildings in 2023.
- L) At year end DPIRD had outstanding trade payables of \$12.1 million, an increase of \$6.6 million over the same period last year. DPIRD also accrues salary costs relating to the 27th pay period which occurs every eleven years. The increase in the accrual was \$1.4 million in 2023.
- M) Contract liabilities has increased over the prior year as commercial fishing licences were paid in June but related to the 2023-24 financial year.
- N) The value of reserves has increased due to the revaluation increment of land and buildings (\$34 million) in 2022-23.

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

10.1.3 Statement of Cash Flows variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2023 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Actual 2022 \$'000	Variance between estimate and actual \$'000	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriations		222,070	207,713	222,390	(14,357)	(14,677)
Capital contributions	14,O	28,066	13,910	33,813	(14,156)	(19,903)
Drawdowns from special purpose accounts	P	-	6,674	10,152	6,674	(3,478)
Holding account drawdown		5,831	4,617	1,434	(1,214)	3,183
Royalties for Regions Fund	15,Q	255,200	148,552	120,468	(106,648)	28,084
Climate Action Fund		2,774	-	-	(2,774)	-
Digital Capability Fund		3,900	-	-	(3,900)	-
Funds from other public sector entities	16	27,889	5,038	8,163	(22,851)	(3,125)
Net cash provided by State Government		545,730	386,504	396,420	(159,226)	(9,916)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Employee benefits		(216,463)	(229,206)	(209,347)	(12,743)	(19,859)
Supplies and services		(137,765)	(134,174)	(130,021)	3,591	(4,153)
Accommodation		(16,480)	(16,969)	(15,217)	(489)	(1,752)
Finance costs		(439)	(456)	(471)	(17)	15
GST payments on purchases	17	(15,496)	(24,588)	(23,414)	(9,092)	(1,174)
GST payments to taxation authority		-	-	-	-	-
Other payments	18	(24,691)	(3,785)	(2,374)	20,906	(1,411)
Grants and subsidies	19	(197,082)	(95,072)	(82,607)	102,010	(12,465)
Receipts						
User charges and fees	R	54,115	58,468	43,284	4,353	15,184
Commonwealth grants and contributions	S	8,658	8,846	18,835	188	(9,989)
Interest received		-	(70)	234	(70)	(304)
GST receipts on sales	20	15,522	3,828	3,794	(11,694)	34
GST receipts from taxation authority		-	20,853	20,267	20,853	586
Non-government grants and subsidies		25,665	20,820	20,031	(4,845)	789
Other receipts	21,T	2,393	27,178	15,129	24,785	12,049
Net cash used in operating activities		(502,063)	(364,327)	(341,877)	137,736	(22,450)

The estimates will not agree to the published budget papers which incorporate the nine Regional Development Commissions with the Department.

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

10.1.3 Statement of Cash Flows variances (continued)

	Estimate 2023 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Actual 2022 \$'000	Variance between estimate and actual \$'000	Variance between actual results for 2023 and 2022 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Payments					
Investment in joint ventures	-	(3,001)	(3,000)	(3,001)	(1)
Purchase of non-current assets	22,U (57,522)	(12,775)	(28,458)	44,747	15,683
Receipts					
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets	255	68	65	(187)	3
Net cash used in investing activities	(57,267)	(15,708)	(31,393)	41,559	15,685
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Payments					
Principal elements of lease	-	(4,311)	(4,047)	(4,311)	(264)
Distribution of monies to the Rural Business Development Corporation	-	-	(1,600)	-	1,600
Repayment of borrowings	(5,798)	(1,465)	(3,385)	4,333	1,920
Receipts					
Proceeds from industry	550	-	3,385	(550)	(3,385)
Net cash used in financing activities	(5,248)	(5,776)	(5,647)	(528)	(129)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(18,848)	693	17,503	19,541	(16,810)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	104,787	133,121	115,618	28,334	17,503
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	85,939	133,814	133,121	47,875	693

The estimates will not agree to the published budget papers which incorporate the nine Regional Development Commissions with the Department.

Major Estimate and Actual (2023) Variance Narratives

- 14) Capital contributions decreased by \$14.2 million due to carryovers of capital expenditure for the Large Vessel Program (\$5.6 million); Laboratory upgrades – Kensington site (\$3.4 million), Digital Foundations Program (\$2.8 million), Modern Biosecurity and Product Integrity (\$2.2million), Geraldton FinFish Nursery (\$0.9 million); and Albany Shellfish Hatchery (\$2.2 million) into 2023-24. The carryovers were offset by additional approved funding for the New Metro Facility (\$1.7 million).

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

10.1.3 Statement of Cash Flows variances (continued)

Major Estimate and Actual (2023) Variance Narratives (continued)

- 15) Royalties for Regions (RfR) Fund is \$106.5 million below budget as a result of delays in RfR funded Recurrent programs such as Industry and Attraction Development Fund – Collie (\$25.9 million); Myalup – Wellington Water for Growth (\$25.6 million); Regional Development Leverage Fund (\$7.1 million); State Agricultural Telecommunications Project (\$3.3 million); Greenbushes Lithium Supply Chair (\$3.8 million); Albany Trails (\$3.2 million); Carnarvon One Mile Jetty (\$3.2 million); Halls Creek Town Development Master Plan (\$2.0 million); Digital Farm (\$2.4 million); Riverview Residents - upgrade to over 55 estate (\$2.0 million); Climate Resilience Fund (\$3.0 million); Northern Beef Industry (\$1.4 million); Building WA Grains and Research Capacity (\$2.3 million); Industry Growth Partnerships Processed Oats Industry (\$3.3 million); AgiFood Activation Fund (\$1.3 million); Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme (\$1.9 million); State Natural Resource Management (\$3.9 million); and were re-cashflowed into 2023-2024 and across the outyears through the 2023-24 WA State Government budget process.
- 16) Funds from public sector agencies is \$22.9 million below budget due to reduction in funding for Tropical Cyclone Seroja (\$26.4 million) offset by expenditure on new programs - Freight Assistance package – Ex-tropical cyclone Ellie (\$3.4 million).
- 17) GST payment on purchases is \$9.1 million higher than budgeted as the budget calculation understated the value of GST payments. However, this is offset by GST receipts from taxation authority.
- 18) Other payments are \$19.7 million below budget mainly due to budgeted administration expenses (\$16.6 million) being reported under supplies and services in the 2022-23 actuals. In addition, the original budget had an amount of \$1.5 million for the Fisheries adjustment scheme buy backs which did not eventuate.
- 19) Grants and subsidies paid decreased by \$109.0 million driven by lower than expected take-up for the Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja Assistance Package (\$24 million), as well as the bring forward of payment for Yamatji Nation Native Title Agreement to 2021-22 (\$4.5 million). Additionally, delays in expenditure across a range of projects (\$71.6 million) such as the Australian Underwater Discovery Centre (\$8.5 million), Regional Recovery Partnerships (\$7.5 million), Regional Telecommunications Project and Continuation (\$6.9 million); State Agriculture Telecommunication Infrastructure Fund (\$5.9 million) and the Industry and Attraction Fund - Collie (\$5.4 million) also contributed to lower than budgeted expenses. Carryovers to 2023-24 and out years have been approved in the 2023-24 WA State Government budget process. Adjustments to address changes in deliverables since this process will be addressed through the Mid-year review.
- 20) GST receipts on sales is lower than budget as the budget assumptions overstated the value of GST on grants and subsidies received.
- 21) Other receipts is \$23.4 million higher than the budget estimate due to revenue received for National Cost share agreements for WA Incidents - Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (\$8.8 million), increased royalties received (\$4.0 million), and rates and levies (\$6.8 million) included in the user fees and charges estimate line.
- 22) Purchase of Non-current assets is \$44.7 million below budget due to re-cashflowing of programs into forward estimates such as the seven Kensington Laboratory upgrades (\$3.4 million), Industry and Attraction Development Fund – Collie (\$20.4 million); Large Vessel Replacement (\$5.6 million); Equipment Replacement Rolling Programs (\$3.6 million); Digital Foundations Program (\$2.8 million), Natural Resource Management (\$1.9 million); Modern Biosecurity and Product Integrity (\$2.3 million); Small, Boats and Trailers Rolling Program (\$1.2 million); and Albany Shellfish Hatchery (\$2.2 million) into 2023-24.

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

10.1.3 Statement of Cash Flows variances (continued)

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

- O) Capital Contributions decreased by \$19.9 million due to a reduction in Laboratory upgrades – Kensington budget from prior year (\$9.0 million). In addition, re-cashflowing of the Kensington Laboratory upgrades (\$3.4 million), Digital Foundations Program (\$2.8 million), Modern Biosecurity and Product Integrity (\$2.3 million); and Albany Shellfish Hatchery (\$2.2 million) into 2023-24. The carryovers were offset by additional approved funding for the New Matero Facility (\$1.7 million).
- P) Drawdowns from special purpose accounts has decreased \$3.5 million due to a reclassification of drawdowns to align with estimate reporting. In 2023 Digital Capability Fund (\$3.9 million) and Climate Action Fund (\$2.8 million) are included in Service appropriations.
- Q) Royalties for Regions Fund increased by \$28.1 million from the prior year mainly due to additional funding provided in 2022-23 for programs such as Regional Telecommunications Project (\$3.0 million); Sheep and Goat Electronic Identification (\$3.4 million); WA Regional Digital Connectivity (Round 2) (\$2.3 million); (Ord Channel Expansion (\$9.0 million), Ord Channel Upgrade (\$2.4 million); Pilbara Town Based Reserves (\$2.5 million); Natural Resource Management Program (\$1.8 million); Halls Creek Town Development Masterplan (\$1.5 million); Kimberley Community Action Fund (\$1.0 million)
- R) User charges and fees has increased \$18.1 million compared to prior year as the result of a successful prosecution of a commercial rock lobster fisher, as well as the collection of fishing license fees collected in FY23 that relate to FY24.
- S) Commonwealth Grants and Subsidies decreased \$10.0 million from 2022. The primary driver of the decrease is the reduction in Federation Funding Agreement revenue related to the National Water Grid Program (\$11.3 million).
- T) Other Receipts increased by \$12 million from prior year due to an increase in revenue received for National Cost share agreements for WA Incidents - Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (\$8.8 million) and royalties revenue (\$2.0 million).
- U) Purchase of Non-current Assets is \$15.7 million lower due to completion of significant works in prior year on Laboratory Upgrades - Kensington (\$12.5 million) and Ord River Irrigations area (0.8 million). In addition, lower expenditure was incurred on the Digital Foundations Program (\$0.6 million); Small Boats and Trailers Rolling Program (\$ 0.8 million); and Externally funded Plant and Equipment (\$0.5 million).

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

10.2 Explanatory statement for administered items

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 following variance analyses for the:

1. Estimate and actuals for the current year
 - Total administered income (1% of \$12.232 million being \$0.122 million)
2. Actual results for the current year and prior year actual
 - Total administered income (1% of \$8.296 million being \$0.830 million)

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2023 \$'000	Actual 2023 \$'000	Actual 2022 \$'000	Variance estimate and actual \$'000	Variance actual 2023 and 2022 \$'000
ADMINISTERED ITEMS						
Income						
Interest revenue	1,A	639	1,427	805	788	622
Other revenue	B	-	606	205	606	401
Royalties for Regions	2,C	7,318	11,375	5,462	4,057	5,913
Revenue from Regional and Statewide Initiatives	3	(21,739)	-	-	21,739	-
Service appropriations		1,550	1,550	1,550	-	-
Regulatory fees and charges		-	266	274	266	(8)
Total administered income		(12,232)	15,224	8,296	27,456	6,928
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense		-	-	-	-	-
Grants & subsidies	4,D	80,888	35,101	23,276	(45,787)	11,825
Interest payments	5,E	440	762	590	322	172
Supplies and services	6,F	199	1,506	1,350	1,307	156
Royalties for Regions Program Underspend Provision	7	(59,590)	-	-	59,590	-
Total administered expenses		21,937	37,369	25,217	15,432	12,152

Major Estimate and Actual (2023) Variance Narratives

- 1) Interest revenue is higher than estimated due to the advent of two new additional loans in 2023.
- 2) The variance relates to the receipt of the Regional Reform Fund revenue of \$4 million.
- 3) Revenue from Regional and Statewide Initiatives is a budget adjustment applied by Treasury to take into account the expected underspend in the entire Royalties for Regions fund. This is a budget adjustment only.

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

10.2 Explanatory statement for administered items (continued)

Major Estimate and Actual (2023) Variance Narratives (continued)

- 4) Lower than budgeted administered grants expenses by the department (down \$45 million), is mainly due to the reallocation of provisional expenditure to specific agency initiatives, including the Perdaman Urea project, Yerriminup Agribusiness Precinct Activation, Food Technology Facility fit-out in the Peel Business Park, Ord Channel Upgrade, Strategic Industrial Areas in the Pilbara, the Mira Mar Landslide long-term remediation options and remedial works and the Pilbara Hydrogen Hub, together with the retiming of expenditure for a number of initiatives such as Western Australia Regional Digital Connectivity Program, the Leedal - Fitzroy Affordable Housing Project, Regional Telecommunications Project and the state contribution to Natural Resource Management.
- 5) Interest payments is higher than estimated due to the advent of two additional loans in 2023.
- 6) Supplies and services is higher than estimated due to the payment of fisheries infringements \$0.3 million to Treasury, \$0.6 million payment to the Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC) and the cost of running the office for the State Natural Resource Management Office (\$0.4 million).
- 7) Royalties for Regions Program Underspend Provision is a budget adjustment applied by Treasury to take into account the expected underspend in the entire Royalties for Regions Fund. The impact is on the budget only.

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

- A) Interest revenue is higher this year due to the advent of two additional loans in 2023.
- B) The increase in Other revenue is due to the receipt of cash contributions from Austral Fisheries.
- C) An increase of \$5.913 million represents receipt of \$4 million for the Regional Reform Fund and \$1.913 million being carried over from the previous financial year for the Natural Resource Management Program.
- D) An increase in payments of \$12 million in 2023 relates to increased payments for the Essential and Municipal Services Improvement project in remote Aboriginal areas.
- E) Interest payments is higher than the prior year due to the advent of two additional loans in 2023.
- F) The increase in Supplies and services for 2023 relates to the increase in Industry payments to the FRDC.

Additional key performance indicator information

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 Primary Industries and Regional Development's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the department for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.



Ms Heather Brayford PSM

Accountable Authority

7 November 2023

Table 4: Outcome-based management framework

Government goal – WA jobs plan: Diversifying the WA economy, creating local jobs for the future.			
Agency outcome	Key effectiveness indicators	Agency services	Key efficiency indicators
1. Regional WA has the investment to grow and create jobs	1. Ratio of the value of grants awarded from the department for industry and community development initiatives to the value of co-contributions committed from non-WA government recipients	1. Regional industry and community development investment facilitation	1. Average cost per hour to deliver regional industry and community development investment facilitation
		2. Corporate and business development services provided by the department to support Regional Development Commissions	2. Average cost per hour to deliver corporate and business development services to support Regional Development Commissions
2. Regional WA has the technology to grow and create jobs	2. Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's technology initiatives	3. Regional technical and technological development	3. Average cost per hour to deliver regional technical and technological development
3. Regional WA has the skills and knowledge to grow and create jobs	3. Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's capability initiatives	4. Regional skills and knowledge development	4. Average cost per hour to deliver regional skills and knowledge development
4. Regional WA has the social amenity, through recreational fishing to grow and create jobs	4. Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's management of recreational fishing	5. Regional social amenity development	5. Average cost per hour to deliver regional social amenity development
5. WA agriculture and fishing protect their biosecurity advantages and integrity	5.1 Percentage of exotic terrestrial weed, pest and disease threats resolved appropriately	6. Agricultural and fisheries biosecurity and integrity	6. Average cost per hour to deliver agricultural and fisheries biosecurity and integrity
	5.2 Percentage of invasive aquatic pests and exotic diseases resolved appropriately		

Table 4: Outcome-based management framework (continued)

Government goal – WA jobs plan: Diversifying the WA economy, creating local jobs for the future.			
Agency outcome	Key effectiveness indicators	Agency services	Key efficiency indicators
6 WA agriculture and fishing protect the sustainability of the natural resources on which they rely and impact	6.1 Percentage change in the spatial extent of the south-west cropping region that maintains sufficient year-round ground cover for protecting and improving soil health	7 Agricultural and fisheries natural resource management	7 Average cost per hour to deliver agricultural and fisheries natural resource management
	6.2 Number of soil health extension workshops held		
	6.3 Proportion of fish stocks identified as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation		
	6.4 Percentage of commercial and recreational fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved		

Key effectiveness indicators

1. Ratio of the value of grants awarded from DPIRD for industry and community development initiatives to the value of co-contributions committed by non-Western Australian Government entities

Description

This KPI provides an indicator of DPIRD's effectiveness in leveraging grant schemes to facilitate non-WA Government funding into projects and services that grow, protect and innovate our primary industries and regional communities.

DPIRD utilises public investment to partner with not-for-profit, industry, private and government entities to deliver impactful projects to support our strategic goals. Investment supports projects that will positively impact Western Australian primary industries adaption to climate change, stewardship of our non-renewable assets, agribusiness adaptation and international competitiveness. Investment also supports local community development projects and regional service delivery.

Calculation

Grants are defined as 'the total State Government secured funding amount awarded to the project recipient'. Co-contribution is defined as 'the additional cash funding committed to the project from non-WA Government recipients and third parties'.

This includes funding from not-for profit, industry, private, Australian Government and local government entities. The calculation excludes in-kind project support.

The result is expressed as a ratio to show the extent to which DPIRD leverages WA Government funding. The result is the ratio of the value awarded to the value of co-contributions committed expressed as \$awarded: \$co-contributed (i.e. every \$x DPIRD grants secures \$x non-WA Government cash co-contribution).

Table 5: Key effectiveness indicator 1 results

2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
	Target	Actual	2021-22 (YoY variance in Actuals)	Target (2022-23 variance actual to target)
1:0.95	1:1	1:1.63	+71%	+63%

Table 5 shows the variance from 2021-22 is 0.68 higher which is 71% increase in 2022-23. Similarly, variance from the target is 0.63, which is 63% higher in 2022-23.

Analysis

During 2022-23, DPIRD's Industry and Economic Development (I&ED) pillar executed **284** grant agreements for community and industry development initiatives outside Perth, valued at **\$27,068,977**, across **17** grant schemes. However, 11 of the 17 schemes secured **\$44,178,738** cash co-contribution from non-WA Government recipients and third parties, while 6 did not receive any cash co-contribution. The 11 schemes are validated through signed agreements which state that co-contribution is a condition of the funds provided. These can be validated through letters of surety or contracts signed by the party providing the co-contribution.

The target ratio of cash awarded to co-contributed was **1:1**. The actual ratio of the value of grants awarded to the value of co-contribution was **1:1.63** (i.e., for every \$1.00 DPIRD awarded in grants facilitated **\$1.63** in non-State Government co-contribution). The ratio was calculated on all 17 schemes that included 6 schemes with no cash co-contribution. The ratio of cash awarded to cash co-contributed is summarised by scheme in Table 6.

In 2021-22, the actual ratio was **1:0.95**. In 2022-23, the Actual ratio is **1:1.63**.

The 71% increase from 2021-22 to 2022-23 was due to a number of grant schemes securing higher co-contribution against awarded amount including 'Small Grants Program - 2021 Election Commitments' – (ratio 1:8.53), 'Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants' – (ratio 1:2.41), and WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program (WARDCP) – (ratio 1:2.30).

Table 6: Key effectiveness indicator 1 results by I&ED Pillar Grant Scheme

	Name of DPIRD I&ED Pillar Grant Scheme	Total Awarded DPIRD Grant Amount in Executed Grant Agreement (\$)	Total Non-WA Government Cash Co-Contribution at Executed Grant Agreement (\$)	Ratio
1	Aboriginal Governance and Leadership Development Program	\$159,958	\$0	1:0
2	Aboriginal Pastoral Program	\$150,029	\$0	1:0
3	Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program – Future Carbon	\$512,892	\$57,288	1:0.11
4	Collie Futures Fund	\$419,257	\$352,008	1:0.84
5	Community Resource Centre Service Agreements	\$339,034	\$0	1:0
6	International Competitiveness Co-Investment Fund	\$204,000	\$274,000	1:1.34
7	Kimberley Community Action Fund	\$845,657	\$1,250,860	1:1.48
8	Kimberley Residential Facilities for Youth At-Risk – EOI for Business Case	\$235,780	\$0	1:0
9	Natural Resource Management Program – Community Collaboration Grants 2021	\$296,482	\$129,200	1:0.44
10	Natural Resource Management Program – Community Stewardship Grants	\$5,009,848	\$883,993	1:0.18
11	Non-Scheme Agreements (Ad hoc grant)	\$263,640	\$0	1:0
12	Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants	\$5,477,282	\$13,194,849	1:2.41
13	Regional Telecommunications Project	\$4,147,643	\$8,862,210	1:2.14
14	Regional Traineeship Program Grants	\$2,014,000	\$0	1:0
15	Small Grants Program – 2021 Election Commitments	\$565,000	\$4,822,123	1:8.53
16	State Agricultural Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (SATIF)	\$605,902	\$981,092	1:1.62
17	WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program (WARDCP)	\$5,822,573	\$13,371,115	1:2.30
	TOTAL	\$27,068,977	\$44,178,738	1:1.63

2. Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's technology initiatives

Technological change drives long-term economic growth and improved living standards. Historically, this process has led to net job creation by generating more new job opportunities than the low-skilled jobs it displaces.

Description

This KPI demonstrates our effectiveness in providing technology initiatives that support the success of our state's agrifood businesses through services and partnerships that help increase industry profitability and sustainability, while safeguarding our state's precious natural resources.

Through research, development and extension activities with partners around Australia and throughout the world, DPIRD strives to harness the best knowledge and technical excellence available. DPIRD is committed to sharing data that is collected by and maintained by DPIRD during these activities.

Client satisfaction with the department's technology initiatives is measured by undertaking an annual perception survey. The survey is designed to collect client feedback in relation to the use of our APIs. API is the acronym for Application Programming Interface, which is a software intermediary that allows two applications to talk to each other. For example, each time a person uses an app like Facebook, sends an instant message or checks the weather on their phone, they are using an API.

Calculation

An external market research provider was engaged to conduct the satisfaction survey. A sample of 83 API users was provided, and 51 surveys were completed, giving a response rate of 61%. The 95% confidence interval was +/- 9%.

Results

Table 7: Key effectiveness indicator 2 results

2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
				Target	Actual	2021-22	Target
95%	86%	87%	85%	80%	94%	+9%	+14%

Analysis

A sample of 51 responses was achieved from the 83 registered active users of the API within the 2022-23 financial year. This provided a confidence interval of $\pm 9\%$ at the 95% confidence level, an improvement over the corresponding 2022 review period. To achieve a maximum error level of +5% at the 95% confidence level the department would have needed to receive responses from 68 of the 83 users. However, the department still considers the results reliable.

The eConnect Business Systems team have continued to monitor the currency of the contact information of all active users with all new users now being required to provide contact details (including email addresses and contact telephone numbers). Contact details for existing legacy users are updated when the team becomes aware of any related updates.

However, a number of legacy users/organisations continue to not advise DPIRD of changes to their primary contact details.

Of the 51 respondents, 25 submitted online survey responses whilst 26 surveys were completed via telephone.

The survey indicated that 54% of respondents were very satisfied with the system and the information provided, a 9% decrease from 63% in 2022. However, the survey also found that 40% of respondents were satisfied with the system, a 17% increase over the 2022 results (23%).

Of respondents, 50% felt that the information contributes towards profitability and 78% indicated that the service improved their decision making. Furthermore, 25% use the information for research and computer modelling; 45% for online services to clients; 25% to provide apps to clients and 40% to inform farming decisions.

The clients who have used DPIRD's APIs in 2022-23 range from a few requests to those who made over a million requests (4% of clients surveyed) in 2022-23. This year 45% of users used the information for scientific or government use, half of these worked for DPIRD. The increased use by DPIRD staff, can be attributed to an increase in DPIRD initiatives such as the Farm Data Sharing Exchange and Soils initiatives. The agency has several legitimate non-developer, non-project team consumers, that rely on the DPIRD APIs to further compensate existing data sets. It is expected that legitimate DPIRD API consumption will continue to increase.

3. Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's capability initiatives

Developing skills and knowledge across industries, communities and government is critical to the resilience and further development of regional WA.

This KPI focuses on our role and effectiveness in developing and extending the skills, knowledge and qualities that regional industries and communities need to grow and create jobs. This links to our strategic priorities regarding regional opportunities, research and development, and an enabling environment.

The survey sample was drawn from the following representative bodies:

- Grower groups
- Agricultural Produce Commission committees
- WA Farmers Federation
- Aquaculture Council of WA
- Relevant state government agencies
- Aboriginal groups and businesses
- Agribusiness, including packing sheds, marketers, exporters and food and beverage producers.

This indicator aligns with the activities of our Industry and Economic Development (I&ED) and Primary Industries Development (PID) pillars. The indicator does not include events where DPIRD is a financial sponsor but does not have a role in determining content.

Calculation

The KPI is reported as the percentage of surveyed clients satisfied with our efforts in building the capability of regionally significant industries and communities.

DPIRD provided the sample list to the consultant who conducted a combined online and telephone assisted survey. All stakeholders were contacted up to 3 times by email and or phone. Out of 160 viable contacts, 75 responded resulting in a response rate of 47%. The 95% confidence interval was 8.27%. However, to achieve a maximum error level of +5% at the 95% confidence level the department would have needed to receive responses from 113 of the 160 contacts. The department still considers the results reliable.

Results

Table 8: Key effectiveness indicator 3 results

2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
			Target	Actual	%± from 2021-22	%± from target
75%	73%	66%	70%	70%	+4%	Nil

Analysis

Overall, the majority of respondents stated they were very satisfied (9%) or satisfied (61%). The 2022-23 result matches the target outcome and demonstrates an improvement from the 2021-22 result.

4. Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's management of recreational fishing

Description

This KPI helps stakeholders to understand the department's role and effectiveness in facilitating the development of the social amenities that regional communities and industries need to grow and create jobs. Specifically, it focuses on the department's recreational fishing management activities.

Recreational fisheries provide social and economic benefits for the Western Australian community. These may include social benefits such as spending time with family or friends and/or economic benefits such as the sale of tackle, boats and other gear, and economic support for boating and tourism industries based on fishing. The level of participation in recreational fishing is a measure of the use of this community resource and influences the estimation of satisfaction through the level of community knowledge of resource management issues.

The KPI is reported as client satisfaction regarding the department's recreational fishing initiatives and used to monitor, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the department's programs, activities and functions.

Calculation

The information used to assess our performance against this effectiveness indicator is derived from an annual telephone-based community survey.

This survey is conducted to assess the understanding and satisfaction of the community on our management strategies and examine the key aspects of fishing and appreciation of the aquatic environment by the community.

An external research company contracted by the department conducted the community survey in late February—April 2023. Survey respondents were asked about their experiences and views for the 12-month period prior to their interview date. From a total of 5,294 in-scope respondents (Western Australian residents aged 18 years and older), 714 interviews were completed which comprised:

- 553 respondents from major cities
- 60 respondents from inner regional areas
- 101 respondents from outer regional/remote/very remote areas or who were migratory residents.

As part of the community survey, respondents were asked to rate the department in its management of recreational fishing. Rating options were measured on a 4-point Likert scale comprised 'very poor', 'poor', 'good' or 'very good'. Only respondents who were aware the department (either DPIRD, or DPIRD Fisheries, or the Department of Fisheries) was responsible for a management area, were asked to rate our performance for that management area.

Satisfaction rates were calculated as the proportion of respondents who ranked management of a particular area as 'good' or 'very good'. Responses of 'can't say' and 'neither' were considered to be missing at random and were excluded from calculation of satisfaction rates.

The KPI calculation is the 2022-23 satisfaction weighted to reflect the estimated resident population based on February 2023 Labour Force Survey estimates from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, with the survey providing estimates for the 2022-23 financial year.

Results

Table 9: Key effectiveness indicator 4 results

2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
			Target	Actual	2021-22	Target
90%	89%	86%	85%	83%	-3%	-2%

Analysis

The level of participation in recreational fishing is a measure of the use of this community resource and is based on the Estimated Resident Population of aged 5 and older at 30 June 2022 (Australian Bureau of Statistics). The number of people in Western Australia who participated in recreational fishing at least once in the previous 12-month period was approximately 649,000 (95% confidence interval (CI) [566 000, 732 000]).

The participation rate of 25% is similar to the participation rates of recent years and lies within the 95% confidence limits for annual participation rate since 2006-07, with the exception of 2008-09 and 2012-13 where lower confidence limits were only marginally above this value.

The estimation of satisfaction through the level of community knowledge of resource management issues is based on the community survey data. The department was given a satisfaction rate of 83% (95% CI [78.9%, 87.8%]) by the community on managing recreational fishing activities in 2022-23. This rate was slightly lower than those reported for recent years, ranging 86–90% since 2011-12. Given the high level of satisfaction achieved over recent years and significant management changes that are underway, ongoing annual increases are difficult to attain. A tolerable range of $\pm 5\%$ around the target level has been set based on the variability in satisfaction over the past decade.

The department's 2022-23 target satisfaction rating by the broader community is 85% compared to the actual 83%. The 2022-23 result lies in the tolerable range of $\pm 5\%$ around the target level of satisfaction. The maintenance of community satisfaction near the target level is noteworthy given the significant management changes that occurred shortly before the survey was completed that included extended closures for boat-based recreational fishers in the West Coast to assist recovery of demersal scalefish stocks in this region.

5.1 Percentage of exotic terrestrial weed, pest and disease threats resolved appropriately

Protecting the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests and diseases, weeds and contaminants is everyone's responsibility. DPIRD is required to respond according to local, national and international biosecurity threats and requirements.

Not all threats will be resolved within the space of a year, with many requiring ongoing or seasonal surveillance before a resolution is declared. In some circumstances, this may take a number of years.

Description

This KPI helps stakeholders understand our role and effectiveness in ensuring the appropriate management of biosecurity threats that may impact WA agriculture, the environment and/or communities as directed by government.

This KPI provides a key indicator of the extent to which DPIRD ensures that WA complies with its most critical local, national and international biosecurity responsibilities, and the extent to which our industries, communities and environment are protected from significant biosecurity threats.

Calculation

The KPI is a measure of the percentage of exotic terrestrial weed, pest and disease approved incidents, declared incidents and emergencies that were closed-out during the financial year.

For pests and diseases that are not considered to be present in Australia, and that are considered to be an emergency pest under the appropriate national deed, resolved means according to national agreement. This may include pest and disease incidents in other jurisdictions to which WA is required to respond.

For pests and diseases that are not considered to be present in Australia, and that are not considered to be an emergency pest on a national level, resolved means according to state policy.

For pests and diseases that are present in Australia but not considered to be present in WA or parts of WA, resolved means according to state policy.

Appropriate resolution of an incursion or incident does not necessarily imply eradication of the pest or disease.

It may include pests and diseases that are determined to be not technically or economically feasible to eradicate. Appropriate resolution may include ongoing controls and/or transition to management if this is in keeping with national or state agreements and policies.

All incidents, declared incidents and emergencies are recorded on DPIRD's Incident Management Database.

An incident, declared incident or emergency is considered to be:

- approved when a declaration form is completed and signed by an authorised staff member
- resolved when a close-out form is completed and signed by an authorised staff member.

The database is interrogated and the percentage determined annually.

Results

Table 10: Key effectiveness indicator 5.1 results

2020-21 Recast Actual	2021-22		2022-23		Variance	
	Target	Recast Actual	Target	Actual	%± from 2021-22 actual	%± from 2022-23 target
33.3%	60%	66.6%	60%	37.5%	-29.1%	-22.5%

A data cleansing review associated with a change over between incident management databases was conducted on the data set which supports KPI 5.1, which identified issues requiring correction. For 2020-21 and 2021-22, 2 incident responses, which were nationally cost-shared, were not formally declared in the database. These incidents were included in the 2022-23 data, and have now been included in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 data. In addition, another response has been removed from the 2022-23 figures as a closure form from 2020 was located.

All issues identified have been resolved.

DPIRD has developed an interim manual database while the new system is fully delivered. This will enable accurate reporting going forward.

Analysis

From a total of 8 incidents in 2022-23, 3 exotic terrestrial weed, pest and disease threats were resolved during the year. The remaining 5 are still subject to ongoing surveillance and/or response and will carry over into 2023-24. This has resulted in a variance of 22.5% against the target for 2022-23. Given the increasing biosecurity risk globally, and the resultant increase in biosecurity incursions into WA requiring a response, this is not unexpected and can be expected to remain into the future. Responses to plant pest and disease incursions in particular can routinely be expected to take multiple years to achieve resolution and so will impact this KPI.

5.2 Percentage of invasive aquatic pests and exotic diseases resolved appropriately

Description

This KPI helps stakeholders to understand our role and effectiveness in ensuring the appropriate management of biosecurity threats that may impact commercial or recreational fishing, aquaculture and the aquatic environment in WA.

The intent is that aquatic pests and exotic diseases are resolved appropriately.

For pests and diseases that are not considered to be present in Australia, and that are considered to be nationally significant, resolved means according to national and state policy. This may include pest and disease incidents in other jurisdictions to which WA is required to respond.

For pests and diseases that are not considered to be present in Australia, and that are not considered to be an emergency pest on a national level, resolved means according to state policy.

For pests and diseases that are present in Australia but not considered to be present in WA or parts of WA, resolved means according to state policy.

Appropriate resolution of an incursion or incident does not necessarily imply eradication of the pest or disease.

It may include pests and diseases that are determined to be not technically or economically feasible to eradicate. Appropriate resolution may include ongoing controls and/or transition to management if this is in keeping with national or state agreements and policies.

This KPI provides an indication of the extent to which DPIRD ensures that WA complies with its most critical local, national and international biosecurity responsibilities, and the extent to which our industries, communities and environment are protected from significant biosecurity threats.

Calculation

This KPI is a measure of the percentage of aquatic pest and disease approved incidents, declared incidents and emergencies that were closed out during the financial year.

All incidents, declared incidents and emergencies are recorded on DPIRD's Incident Management Database.

An incident, declared incident or emergency is considered to be:

- approved when a declaration form is completed and signed by an authorised staff member
- resolved when a close-out form is completed and signed by an authorised staff member.

The database is interrogated and the percentage determined annually.

Results

Table 11: Key effectiveness indicator 5.2 results

2020-21	2021-22		2022-23		Variance	
	Target	Recast Actual	Target	Actual	%± from 2021-22 actual	%± from 2022-23 target
N/A	60%	N/A	60%	0%	0%	-60%

Analysis

There was one declared aquatic biosecurity incident in 2022-23 that is still subject to ongoing surveillance and/or response and will carry over into 2023-24. This has resulted in a variance of 60% against the target for 2022-23.

6.1 Percentage change in the spatial extent of the southwest cropping region that maintains sufficient year-round ground cover for protecting and improving soil health

Description

Sustainable resource management and use is essential to protect and grow WA's primary industries.

This KPI assists stakeholders to understand our role and effectiveness in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the soil resources on which WA agriculture relies. It links to our strategic priorities regarding sustainability, research and development and an enabling environment.

The intent is for cropping land to maintain adequate groundcover, preventing loss of carbon and other nutrients through soil erosion, and where possible, accumulating organic matter in these agricultural soils.

Ground cover on arable land in WA's southwest cropping region is dependent on seasonal weather and land management activities such as grazing, tillage and burning. Inadequate ground cover increases the likelihood of wind and water erosion which impacts the sustainability of our soils, decreases agricultural productivity and therefore longer-term agricultural industry outcomes.

Calculation

Adequate ground cover is defined as 40% or more of the land surface covered with living or dead vegetation. When ground cover is lower than 40%, erosion hazard is severe.

Autumn is the best time to measure erosion hazard because this is when the ground cover is at an annual minimum, the landscape is dry, and strong pre-frontal winds and storms increase in frequency as winter approaches.

The KPI compares the current year's (autumn through summer) level of adequate ground cover to the seasonal medians for the previous 10 years.

The KPI is measured using satellite imagery obtained from the Joint Remote Sensing Research Program, whereby a time series of representative seasonal (4 per year) fractional ground cover products for 2022-23 were compared to the median ground cover from the previous 10 years (2012–22).

The KPI (percentage change in area of the cropping region maintaining sufficient ground cover) is calculated using the following formula within each of the four seasons:

- The per cent of arable land with adequate cover in 2022-23, minus the median per cent land area with adequate cover from 2012 to 2022 all divided by the median per cent land area with adequate cover from 2012 to 2022. The result is multiplied by 100 to give the percentage change.

A value of zero or larger (the KPI target) indicates no change or increasing groundcover.

Because different satellite pixels are excluded from analysis each year due to cloud cover, comparisons use % of cropping land in the southwest agricultural region per year, rather than absolute area (hectares).

Results

The area of the southwest cropping region with adequate ground cover in autumn 2022 (exceeding the 40% threshold) covered 97% of arable land (Fig 3). This area represents more than the 10-year median of 95.1%. The KPI was therefore 2.4% above the target of 0% and an improvement from the previous year (2021). All other seasons in 2022-23 also had more ground cover than the 10-year median.

Table 12: Key effectiveness indicator 6.1 results

2018 (Autumn)	2019 (Autumn)	2020 (Autumn)	2021 (Autumn)	2022 (Autumn)	
Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Actual
-2.5%	-0.4%	-2.5%	-1.3	0%	+2.4%

Table 13: Arable land maintaining sufficient ground cover

Arable land maintaining sufficient ground cover (%)	2012-22 Baseline	2022-23 Actual	Change in area
Autumn 2022	95.1%	97.4%	2.4%
Winter 2022	98.9%	99.8%	0.9%
Spring 2022	98.5%	99.4%	0.9%
Summer 2022-23	95.4%	98.7%	3.4%

Analysis

Above average winter rainfall in 2021 increased crop and pasture production, and generally provided ample groundcover over summer and into autumn 2022.

It is notable that a third of all arable land with insufficient ground cover was located between Perth and Geraldton. DPIRD and the West Midlands Group have investigated this issue, and determined that a depleted seedbank, overgrazing, soil constraints and grasshoppers together contributed to reduced plant density and growth in this region. Subsequent extension messaging promoted proactive management to increase groundcover and prevent degradation (DPIRD 2022).

Some locations require further investigation to ascertain the root cause for persistently poor ground cover.



Figure 3: Area of the southwest cropping region with sufficient ground cover in autumn 2022

Reference: DPIRD (16 May 2022) [West Midlands producers reminded to monitor sandy soils with low groundcover](#) [media release], Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, accessed 19 May 2022.

6.2 Number of soil health extension workshops held

This KPI promotes the WA Government’s role and effectiveness in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the land, soil and water resources upon which WA agriculture relies.

Healthy soil is vital to WA’s economic prosperity, boosting regional and local economies across the state. A good understanding of soil health is essential to long-term, sustainable agricultural systems. The intent is that DPIRD supports capability development through soil health workshops, promoting sustainable natural resource use.

Calculation

Soil health extension workshops are supported and/or sponsored by DPIRD to address a range of soil constraints, nutrient management, climate resilience, carbon farming, soil testing and land management practices. Workshops in this KPI include interactive educational and awareness-raising seminars, presentations, events, and formal workshops that are supported and/or sponsored by DPIRD.

In some instances, DPIRD may partner with other organisations to deliver the event but remain a major sponsor or contributor.

Workshop data (date presented, number of attendees and where delivered) is documented and collated across DPIRD from any section of the organisation that has delivered a soil health workshop.

Results

Table 14: Key effectiveness indicator 6.2 results

2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
			Target	Actual	2021-22	Target
46	46	63	30	84	+33%	+180%

Analysis

In 2022-23 there were 84 soil health-related workshop events delivered by DPIRD staff or sponsored by DPIRD, marking a significant increase from the previous year.

Among these events, the majority (76) were face-to-face events, indicating a shift back to ‘in-person’ gatherings post COVID-19. There was also a notable return to conference style presentations focusing on soil research outcomes.

Prominent soil health events that catered to a broader audience also returned in 2022-23, including the Perth Royal Show’s Dirt Pavilion, Grains Research Updates and various Carbon Farming Information sessions.

The rise in workshops can be attributed to the intensified promotion of soil information and the emphasis on soil health through initiatives like the National Soil Strategy and the WA Soil Health Strategy. These efforts were accompanied by funding for soil sampling and soil health extension through the National Smart Farms Small Grants program. WA’s matching funding to support GRDC Soil Management projects, and renewed

partnership programs like Healthy Estuaries WA and the Carbon Farming Initiative, have also supported more workshops and related community/industry extension events.

6.3 Proportion of fish stocks identified as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation

Description

This KPI helps stakeholders to understand our role and effectiveness in ensuring the long-term sustainability of natural resources on which WA fishing relies and impacts.

The department undertakes annual assessments of fisheries that are subject to management. These assessments have been used to determine the sustainability status of the state's most significant commercial and recreational fisheries.

Calculation

Performance is measured as the proportion of all fisheries (that have sufficient data) for which the breeding stocks of each of the major target or indicator species:

- a) are being maintained at levels that ensure catches could be sustained at desirable levels, given effort levels and normal environmental conditions; or
- b) are recovering from a depleted state at an appropriate rate following management intervention.

The indicator is derived from annual assessments and trends in catch and fishing activity. The calculation of the proportion of fish stocks identified as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation is:

- $\frac{\text{[number of stocks maintained or recovering]}}{\text{[total number of stocks]}}$.

Results

Table 15: Key effectiveness indicator 6.3 results

2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
			Target	Actual	2021-22	Target
98%	98%	96%	95%	96%	0%	+1%

Analysis

Aquatic resource status assessments are based on all information up to and including the most recent fishing season. Because aquatic resources have various levels of available information, resource status is based on all available data using a risk-based weight-of-evidence assessment approach, full details of which are in the companion Status Reports on Western Australia's Fisheries and Aquatic Resources 2022-23.

Status updates were undertaken during March–June with 48 resource and fishery combinations reviewed for 2022-23. The one fishery not examined is northern shark which has not operated since 2009.

Of the 47 assessments, 40 were considered to have adequate breeding stock levels and a further 2 fisheries (the Temperate Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery [TDGDLF] and the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery) had breeding stocks considered to be recovering at acceptable rates. The TDGDLF targets relatively long-lived species so recovery is expected to take decades to complete.

Of the 5 remaining fisheries, the Cockburn Sound Crab Managed Fishery and the West Coast Beach Bait Fishery continue to be environmentally limited following the 2010-11 marine heatwave, and the scallop stock in the Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl Managed Fishery is environmentally limited following a moderate marine heatwave in 2020-21.

Two fisheries (the Abalone Managed Fishery and the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery [WCDSF]) have stocks that are considered inadequate as a result of exploitation with management actions already implemented to assist stock recovery.

The department's 2022-23 target for the proportion of fish stocks not at risk from fishing is 95%. For the 2022-23 reporting period, the proportion of the assessed groups identified as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation is 96%, which is above the target level. The department considers it has met this indicator.

6.4 Percentage of commercial and recreational fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved

Description

This KPI helps stakeholders to understand our role and effectiveness in ensuring the long-term sustainability of natural resources on which WA fishing relies and impacts. It provides an assessment of the success of the department's management plans and regulatory activities in keeping fish catches at appropriate levels (including those in a recovery phase).

Where management is operating effectively, annual catches by each fishery should vary within an acceptable range. The extent of this range reflects the degree to which normal environmental variations affect the recruitment of juveniles to the stock that cannot be 'controlled' by fishery management. Additional factors may result in ongoing changes to the amount of effort expended in a fishery, which will in turn influence the appropriateness of acceptable catch ranges for individual fisheries.

Calculation

For most fisheries in WA, each management plan seeks to directly control the amount of fishing pressure applied to stocks, with the level of catch taken providing an indication of the effectiveness of the plan. Where the plan is operating effectively, the catch by the fishery should fall within an acceptable range.

For quota-managed fisheries, the measure of success of management arrangements is that the majority of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is achieved and that it has been possible to take this catch using an acceptable amount of fishing effort.

If an unusually large expenditure of effort is needed to take the TAC, or fails to achieve the TAC by a significant margin, this may indicate that the abundance of the stock is significantly lower than anticipated. For these reasons, an appropriate range of fishing effort to take a TAC has also been incorporated for assessing the performance of quota-managed fisheries.

Acceptable levels of catch are also determined for each of the major recreational fisheries.

The KPI shows the percentage of commercial and/or recreational fisheries achieving acceptable catches or effort levels (i.e. the number of days taken to achieve the catch). The calculation of the proportion of fisheries achieving acceptable catches or effort levels is:

- [number of fisheries achieving acceptable levels] divided by [total number of fisheries].

Results

Table 16: Key effectiveness indicator 6.4 results

2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
			Target	Actual	2021-22	Target
91%	90%	90%	90%	92%	2%	2%

Analysis

Fisheries catch and effort information are provided by commercial and charter fishers through mandatory returns and recreational fisheries through surveys. Fisheries catch and effort data are dependent on the fishers' accuracy and completeness of data reporting, which is based on the most recent fishing season or most recent survey estimate.

Status updates were undertaken during March–June and for the purpose of this indicator, of the 48 resource and fishery combinations, comparisons between actual catches (or effort) with acceptable ranges have been undertaken for 34 commercial fisheries and an additional 17 have been identified as having a 'material' recreational catch share. A relatively high number of fisheries were not assessed due to a combination of ongoing environmentally induced stock issues or poor economic conditions resulting in minimal or no material levels of catches during this reporting period. Over time, if the sectoral share of a fishery or stock changes markedly for various reasons (e.g. fishery development and/or expansion, changes to allocation and/or access rights), it may be appropriate to expand the indicator to include reference to fisheries or stocks for which there are other 'material' sectoral shares (e.g. customary fishing).

Of the 17 assessed recreational fisheries, only 6 currently have formal acceptable catch ranges developed and another 11 were assessed based on non-formal ranges related to resource sustainability. Estimates of recreational catch available from data collected in periodic surveys (including the most recent statewide

survey of boat-based recreational fishing conducted in 2021-22 and additional annual surveys) had levels for 14 fisheries that were within acceptable catch ranges and three that were unacceptably above or below the acceptable catch range. These included demersal scalefish species, which were unacceptably above or below their acceptable catch ranges for the recreational sector within the WCDSF, and pink snapper, which exceeded the recreational catch range within Inner Shark Bay. The recreational catch of greenlip abalone in the statewide abalone resource exceeds the informal recreational catch range.

Of the 34 commercial fisheries, 13 were primarily catch-quota managed, with 21 subject to effort-control management. Of the 13 individually transferable catch-quota managed fisheries, 3 operated within, 9 were acceptably below and one was unacceptably below (greenlip and brownlip abalone in the Abalone Managed Fishery) their effort/catch ranges. In the 21 effort-controlled fisheries, 13 were within, one was above, 7 were acceptably below their catch ranges. Catch/effort above or below their acceptable ranges were determined acceptable due to adequate resource sustainability. In summary, 14 of the 17 recreational fisheries and 33 of the 34 commercial fisheries (47 of the 51 fisheries overall) assessed were considered to have met their performance criteria.

The department's 2022-23 target is 90% for all major recreational and commercial fisheries. For the 2022-23 reporting period, the percentage of fisheries where acceptable catches are achieved is 92%, which is at the target level. The department considers it has met this performance indicator.

Key efficiency indicators

Description

Our efficiency indicators are a representation of the efficiency with which the department delivers its services. They demonstrate the productivity of our staff in delivering our services. A lower dollar value demonstrates that services are being delivered with fewer resources (i.e. more efficiently). Conversely, a higher dollar value demonstrates that services are being delivered with additional resources (i.e. less efficiently).

Calculation

For 2022-23, DPIRD adopted a common calculation method for all efficiency indicators: average cost per hour to deliver each service.

Each position is allocated to a service and the paid hours of work (including ordinary hours, overtime hours and commuted overtime, as well as contract and casual staff) are used in the calculation of the efficiency indicators. Leave hours are excluded. The hours worked by corporate staff are distributed across services using a weighted average approach.

Total cost of service (TCoS) is determined by attributing all project codes and cost centres to a service. Corporate overheads are attributed across services on a weighted average basis.

The calculation is:

- $\text{TCoS} / \text{total paid hours attributed to the service}$

The department has implemented a new financial management information system during the financial year 2022-23 which involved a review of the chart of account structure. This review has resulted in a realignment of cost allocation to services. Consequently, the results for the efficiency indicators for year 2023 are not directly comparable to the target or prior year result.

1. Average cost per hour to deliver regional industry and community development investment facilitation

This service facilitates high-impact regional development and primary industry initiatives that contribute to economic growth, diversification, job creation and strong communities, with a focus on attracting the investment needed to grow regional WA.

Results

Table 17: Key efficiency indicator 1 results

2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
	Target	Actual	2021-22	Target
\$249.36	\$400.78	\$222.31	-11%	-45%

Analysis

The decrease in cost per hour from 2021-22 Actual to 2022-23 Actual was due to several Election Commitments coming to an end, including the Small Grants Program, Mandurah Eastern Foreshore Redevelopment, Bunbury Speedway Upgrade and Bridge Street Affordable Housing projects.

The decrease in cost per hour from the 2022-23 Target to 2022-23 Actual is due to a lower 2022-23 total cost of service, mainly Grants and Subsidies. This was a result of the delay in Regional Recovery Partnerships programs, including the Food Organics, Garden Organics and Compost Facility, Busselton Jetty Marine Discovery Centre, Albany Trails, and the Dawesville Community Centre.

2. Average cost per hour to deliver corporate and business development services to support Regional Development Commissions (RDCs)

This service focuses on the department providing operational resources and services to the 9 RDCs.

This KPI helps stakeholders understand the efficiency of our service to RDCs. The intent is that the net cost of this service as a factor of RDC support trends down.

Results

Table 18: Key efficiency indicator 2 results

2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2021-22	%± from target
\$147.82	\$161.38	\$176.96	20%	10%

Analysis

The increase in cost per hour from 2021-22 Actual to 2022-23 Actual is due to an increase in the total cost of services for Service 2, mainly relating to the timing of payments of operational funding to the Regional Development Commissions, resulting in an 8% increase in the total cost of services. The hours worked decreased from 2021-22 to 2022-23 mainly due to vacancies across regions, the employee benefits for service 2 remained relatively consistent.

The increase in actual against target for 2022-23 mainly relates to a reduction in hours worked as a result of vacancies.

3. Average cost per hour to deliver regional technical and technological development

This service includes agronomic and business development activities, including updating the technologies needed to retain the competitiveness of regionally significant businesses as they exist today; and developing new technologies that they need to increase their contribution to WA's economic diversity and jobs.

Results

Table 19: Key efficiency indicator 3 results

2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2021-22	%± from target
\$142.00	\$212.71	\$160.13	13%	-25%

Analysis

A review of the reporting structure has resulted in a realignment of service activities and output allocations for service 3 resulting in an increase in cost per hour from 2021-22 Actual to 2022-23 Actual. In addition, expenditure for new programs including the Total Solar Eclipse Project, Processed Oats Industry Growth Program as well as increased activities in Horticulture Netting and Vegetable programs, Crop Protection, Field Research Services, Regional Digital Connectivity and Regional Telecommunications Projects have also contributed to the increase.

The lower cost per hour of the 2022-23 Actual compared to the 2022-23 Target is a result of a delay in the delivery of programs such as the Western Australian Agricultural Research Collaboration, Regional Telecommunications Project, Greenbushes Lithium Supply Chain Project, Processed Oats Industry Growth program and the State Agricultural Telecommunications Infrastructure program.

4. Average cost per hour to deliver regional skills and knowledge development

This service aims to develop skills and knowledge in primary industries and regions. It includes developing, conducting, contracting and/or encouraging training and education programs and workshops; and making information available in a range of user-friendly and integrated formats, including websites, presentations, publications and decision-support applications.

Results

Table 20: Key efficiency indicator 4 results

2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2021-22	%± from target
\$173.40	\$169.92	\$246.76	42%	45%

Analysis

The 2022-23 Actuals to 2021-22 Actuals were higher due a reallocation of Community Resource Centres (CRC) in part to efficiency indicator 4. CRC costs in the main comprise payments and contracts awarded to other agencies, there was also a 30% increase in the number of hours worked and overall payments from 2021-22 to 2022-23.

The increase in cost per hour from the 2022-23 Target can be attributed to a reallocation of Community Resource Centres (CRC) from indicators 1 and 3 to efficiency indicators 1, 3 and 4 reflecting the services provided.

5. Average cost per hour to deliver regional social amenity development

This service focuses on facilitating the development of amenities, in areas such as recreational fishing, education, health and connectivity, to support regional growth and resilience. This involves working collaboratively across governments, industries and communities to identify, define, champion, support and/or fund development initiatives.

Results

Table 21: Key efficiency indicator 5 results

2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2021-22	%± from target
\$174.60	\$340.38	\$472.48	171%	39%

Analysis

A review of the reporting structure has resulted in a significant realignment of service activities and output allocations for service 5. Although there has been a decrease in actual total cost of services from 2021-22 to 2022-23 the average cost per hour 2022-23 Actuals to 2021-22 Actuals is substantially higher as there has been a greater reduction in the ratio of total paid hours, this is due to a review of workload activities being performed.

The higher 2022-23 Actuals to 2022-23 Target cost per hour is driven by a decrease in actual total cost of services stemming from a reduction in workload hours. However, due to an additional review of workload activities, the workload hours reduced at a higher rate than total cost of service.

6. Average cost per hour to deliver agricultural and fisheries biosecurity and integrity

This service focuses on maintaining and enhancing WA's biosecurity status and meeting WA's national and international biosecurity commitments.

Activities in this service span a wide range of research, monitoring, analytical, educational and policy activities in both legislated and non-legislated aspects of terrestrial and aquatic biosecurity risk management. It also includes integrity matters such as animal welfare regulatory obligations.

Results

Table 22: Key efficiency indicator 6 results

2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2021-22	%± from target
\$122.99	\$119.84	\$114.27	-7%	-5%

Analysis

Due to a change in the structure of the Chart of Accounts, a review of output service allocation percentages was undertaken, which resulted in a reallocation of costs between efficiency indicator 6 and efficiency indicator 7 resulting in a reduction in 2022-23 Actuals versus 2021-22 Actuals.

7. Average cost per hour to deliver agricultural and fisheries natural resource management

This service supports the productive capacity of terrestrial and aquatic natural resources that underpin WA's primary industries. It is also strongly linked to WA's national and international natural resource management commitments.

Activities related to this service span a wide range of research, monitoring, analytical, educational, assessment and policy activities in both legislated and non-legislated aspects of terrestrial and aquatic natural resource management.

Results

Table 23: Key efficiency indicator 7 results

2021-22 Actual	2022-23		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2021-22	%± from target
\$115.18	\$152.15	\$153.72	33%	1%

Analysis

Due to a change in the structure of the Chart of Accounts, a review of output service allocation percentages was undertaken, which resulted in a reallocation of costs between efficiency indicator 6 and efficiency indicator 7 resulting in an increase in 2022-23 Actuals vs 2021-22 Actuals.

The increase from 2021-22 Actual to 2022-23 Actual is due to the increase in Total Cost of Services. Drivers of the increase included the reallocation of costs across services and a review of staff activity resulting in an increased allocation of worked hours by 21% compared to 2021-22. Significant increases in Employee Benefits and Grants with smaller specific increases Professional Services for Aquatic Science and Assessment Ecosystems and Licencing and Registrations.

End of audited section.

Other financial disclosures

Pricing policies of services provided

DPIRD charges on a full or partial cost recovery basis for some goods and services, with fees and charges 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 and statutory requirements.

The 2022-23 list of fees and charges was implemented on 1 July 2022 with no amendment to the charges from the prior year.

DPIRD receives a significant proportion of own source revenue from regulatory fees and charges related to commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture and biosecurity services.

The level of cost recovery for all fees and charges is based on the nature of the transaction. For example, commercial access to fish resources is determined to reflect an appropriate payment to the community for access to that resource. Similarly, some services may be exempted from charges in certain circumstances. This may include, but not be limited to, where the service relates to an outbreak of a suspected exotic disease or where the service involves approved research or surveillance.

Priority Start policy

The department does not manage any contracts in scope of the WA Government's Priority Start policy, as the Department of Finance is managing all our building construction, civil construction and maintenance contracts valued over \$5 million (including GST) on our behalf.

Capital works

Capital works undertaken during the year focused on a range of building, infrastructure, equipment and information technology projects. This was to enable us to meet our corporate and operational needs in regional and metropolitan locations.

Table 24: Completed capital projects in 2022-23

Project	Actual Total Cost \$'000	Estimated Total Cost \$'000	Variance \$'000
Agricultural Sciences Research and Development Fund	1,800	1,400	-400
DPIRD Hillarys Upgrade	522	563	41
Geraldton Marine Finfish Nursery Facility	688	742	54

Table 25: Outstanding capital projects in 2022-23

Project	Expected period of completion	Estimated cost to complete \$'000	Current period estimated total cost \$'000	Previous period estimated total cost \$'000	Variance \$'000	Explanation
Regional Natural Resource Management Program	2023-24	3,819	13,787	13,787	0	
Help Grain Growers to Better Manage Risk (e-Connected Grainbelt)	2023-24	300	3,446	3,446	0	
Laboratory Upgrades – Kensington Site	2023-24	3,357	18,116	18,116	0	
Frank Wise Tropical Research Institute (FWTRI) Refurbishment	2023-24	247	1,449	1,449	0	
Albany Shellfish Hatchery	2023-24	3,343	3,733	3,733	0	
Northern Beef Industry Strategy	2023-24	618	1,487	1,487	0	
Digital Foundations Program	2023-24	2,733	5,817	5,817	0	
DPIRD Katanning Research Facility	2023-24	300	650	650	0	
Climate Adaptation – Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Project Expansion	2023-24	150	150	150	0	
Large Vessel Replacement Program	2024-25	11,473	11,473	11,473	0	
Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Parks Vessel	2024-25	7,520	7,520	7,520	0	
Truck Washdown Facilities – FMD and LSD	2024-25	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	

Table 25: Outstanding capital projects in 2022-23 (continued)

Project	Expected period of completion	Estimated cost to complete \$'000	Current period estimated total cost \$'000	Previous period estimated total cost \$'000	Variance \$'000	Explanation
Shark Notification and Response System Upgrade	2024-25	3,930	3,930	3,930	0	
Pilbara Hydrogen Hub (Administered)	2025-26	50,625	64,233	64,233	0	
Manuwarra Red Dog Highway Stage 4	2025-26	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	
North West Aboriginal Housing Initiative	2025-26	26,633	26,633	26,633	0	
Modern Biosecurity and Product Integrity	2025-26	4,650	4,750	4,750	0	
Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness – DDLS	2025-26	2,550	2,550	2,550	0	
Computing Hardware and Software Rolling Program	2026-27	600	3,734	3,734	0	
Abrolhos Islands General Rolling Program	2026-27	1,808	3,787	3,787	0	
Information System Development Rolling Program	2026-27	2,519	3,789	3,789	0	
Small Boats and Trailers Rolling Program	2026-27	7,440	21,665	21,665	0	
Equipment Replacement Program	2026-27	15,919	51,089	51,089	0	

Table 25: Outstanding capital projects in 2022-23 (continued)

Project	Expected period of completion	Estimated cost to complete \$'000	Current period estimated total cost \$'000	Previous period estimated total cost \$'000	Variance \$'000	Explanation
Wild Dog Action Plan	2026-27	4,000	14,087	14,087	0	
Building Grains Research and Development Capacity	2026-27	4,472	9,011	9,011	0	
DPIRD New Metropolitan Facility	2026-27	316,431	319,138	319,138	0	
Aquaculture Development Plan for WA	2026-27	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	

Unauthorised use of corporate credit cards

DPIRD is required to report on instances where a DPIRD-issued government purchasing card ('a credit card') was used for personal use.

Table 26: Unauthorised use of credit cards 2022-23

Description	Quantity/value
Number of instances the Western Australian Government purchasing card has been used for personal use expenditure	87
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure	\$4,885.19
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled by due date	\$1,172.35
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled after the period required	\$3,622.84
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure outstanding at the end of the period	\$90.00
Number of referrals for disciplinary action instigated by the notifiable authority during the reporting period	0

Shares held by the department

Our department does not hold shares in any subsidiary body as defined by section 60 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.

Director indemnity insurance

In 2022-23, DPIRD paid \$58,122 to indemnify any director (as defined in Part 3 of the *Statutory Corporations (Liability of Directors) Act 1996*) against a liability incurred under sections 13 or 14 of that Act.

Act of Grace payments

The department from time to time processes Act of Grace Payments on behalf of the Government. In 2022-23, a payment of \$105,775 was made to Largo Holdings Pty Ltd in relation to the Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme for the Mandurah to Bunbury Developing Crab Fishery

Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail

In accordance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the department reports incurring expenditure in relation to advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising organisations. Total expenditure for 2022-23 was \$502,370.

Table 27: Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising in 2022-23

Advertising	\$	Market research organisations	\$
Broome Advertiser	2,499.97	Advantage Communications & Marketing Pty Ltd	2,232.50
Collie Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.	410.00	Key2Creative Pty Ltd	4,361.00
Collie Community Publishing Pty Ltd	328.00	Total	6,593.50
Euso Digital Pty Ltd	100.00	Polling organisations	\$
Kimberley Echo	658.99	Nil	-
LinkedIn	19,596.26	Direct mail organisations	\$
Norseman Today Newspaper Group Inc.	90.00	Australia Post	1,675.10
Perth Munchkin	2,000.00	Quickmail	1,934.69
Potato Growers' Association Of WA Inc.	1,100.00	Total	3,609.79
RACWA Holdings Pty Ltd	11,500.00	Media advertising organisations	\$
Scott Print	250.00	Block Branding Pty Ltd	5,386.25
SJ Arnold-Eyers & D Pereira	10,170.00	Carat Australia Media Services Pty Ltd	277,202.91
Tangibility	9,375.00	Clarity Corporate Communications Pty Ltd	292.50
The Judith Treby Family Trust	4,900.00	Coffey Communications Pty Ltd	6,000.00
The Trustee for D'Arcy Family Trust	2,200.00	Facebook	10,778.62
The Trustee for The Kirkpatrick Family Trust	1,641.00	Farm Weekly	7,641.71
Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc.	500.00	Initiative Media Australia Pty Ltd	95,021.61
Total	67,319.22	Iprint Plus	170.00
		JP Promotions Pty Ltd	11,887.50
		SW Precision Print	3,398.27
		WA Newspapers Ltd	7,067.75
		Total	424,847.12

Additional disclosures

Staff development

To meet the needs of its dispersed workforce, DPIRD engaged in several key initiatives in 2022-23. These included:

- the successful implementation and rollout of a new Progi learning management system (LMS). With its enhanced capabilities, the LMS can also be used to securely provide e-learning to our external stakeholders. This will mean DPIRD has one integrated system to manage learning across all its stakeholders
- the procurement, development and deployment of a suite of corporate e-learning courses that are interactive, bespoke and based on adult learning principles
- the continued development and refinement of DPIRD's management development program to incorporate the Public Sector Commission's new Leadership Expectations framework
- recognition of the interplay between the psychosocial hazards and risk management requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, psychological safety, and inclusivity at work. This resulted in DPIRD developing and delivering a series of online micro-sessions addressing both psychological safety at work and how diversity and inclusion improves business, team and personal outcomes.

Employment and industrial relations

Table 28: Staff profile

Staff profile	2021-22 Average FTE ¹	2022-23 Average FTE ¹
Permanent full time	1266	1253.9
Permanent part time	139	154.7
Contract full time	259	284.7
Contract part time	43	55.3
Total	1707	1748

¹ Full-time equivalent (FTE)

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

Compliance issues that arose during 2022-23 regarding public sector standards are documented in Table 29.

Table 29: Compliance issues/breach claims

Breach claims lodged	2021-22	2022-23
Claims carried over	0	0
New claims received	3	2
Relevant standard		
Employment	3	2
Performance management	0	0
Redeployment	0	0
Termination	0	0
Grievance resolution	1	0
Handling of claims		
Withdrawn in agency	1	1
Resolved in agency	0	0
Still pending in agency	0	0
Referred to Public Sector Commission	2	1
Total claims completed	2	1

In 2022-23, the department initiated 19 disciplinary processes under Part 5 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

Fourteen disciplinary processes were completed in 2022-23 and actions taken as an outcome of those processes ranged from issuing a warning as improvement action through to dismissal as disciplinary action.

Work Health and Safety (WHS) and injury management

Commitment to health, safety and wellbeing

The department continues to strive to provide a safe and healthy work environment for all staff at all sites across WA. The *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* and the Work Health and Safety Regulations (General) 2022 came into effect in March 2022 and the department responded by ensuring an up-to-date Work Health and Safety Framework was drafted, endorsed and published by December 2022.

The Work Health Safety and Wellbeing (WHSW) directorate, which is responsible for WHS, injury management (IM) and wellbeing service provision to DPIRD was boosted during the year with the recruitment of a manager and additional contract positions, providing much-needed support across the directorate and department. Key achievements from January 2023 have been the gap analysis of the safety management system and the subsequent development of the WHSW roadmap for 2023-24.

Key items included within the WHSW roadmap include:

- ensuring increased capacity to provide compliant, pragmatic and timely feedback to business areas
- review of governance and escalation to ensure clear direction and information sharing is occurring across pillars

- improved communication and intranet presence; support for volunteer positions, including health and safety representatives (HSRs); regional visitation schedule to improve service delivery outside of the metropolitan area
- engagement with the Incident and Emergency Management team to ensure robust safety considerations are a foundation of an incident response
- wellbeing initiatives to be delivered via the Wellbeing and Inclusion Calendar 2023-24
- enhancement of current training programs that are now available via the LMS.

Continuous improvement remains the fundamental driver for the WHSW directorate and engagement with the business has been very encouraging to ensure this is a journey taken together.

Performance

Our performance against key indicators for Work Health and Safety and injury management is outlined in Table 30.

Table 30: Work Health and Safety and injury management performance against key indicators

Measures	Results, targets and commentary for DPIRD				
	Results 2020-21	Results 2021-22	Results 2022-23	Targets	Comments on progress towards targets
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	0	Target achieved
Lost time injury and disease incidence rate	0.49	0.70	1.60	0 or 10% reduction in incidence rate	Target not achieved
Lost time injury and disease severity rate	0%	33%	13.3%	0 or 10% reduction in severity rate	Target achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work (i) within 13 weeks	100%	75%	95.8%	Greater than or equal to 60%	Target achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work (ii) within 26 weeks	100%	92%	95.8%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Target achieved
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities, including refresher training within three years	53%	78%	47%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Target not achieved

Table 31: Hazards and incidents reported 2022-23

	Number
Total number of hazards reported	26
Total number of incidents reported	336

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

DPIRD facilitates an EAP with three providers. It is an independent, professional and completely confidential counselling service available to staff and managers. Family members are also able to attend.

Table 32: EAP service provision 2022-23

EAP provider	Hours of EAP provision
Converge International	51
PeopleSense	275
Access Wellbeing Services	136
Total	462

Workers' compensation

The department manages workers' compensation claims in accordance with the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981* and the *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Regulations 1982*. During 2022-23, the department assisted 24 employees with their claim process and was able to finalise 10 claims during the same time period. The priority of injury management is to provide a supportive and efficient workers' compensation process to ensure employees can return to work as soon as medically appropriate and engage with the workplace with meaningful duties. DPIRD remains committed to providing support to all our staff to return to work, for both work and non-work-related injuries and conditions.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan outcomes

DPIRD is committed to ensuring clients and staff have access to our information, services and facilities. In accordance with the *Disability Services Act 1993* and Schedule 3 of the *Disability Services Regulations 2004*, the department continued to implement strategies and initiatives in support of the 7 access and inclusion outcomes identified in its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2018–23.

DPIRD made significant progress during 2022-23, demonstrating its ongoing commitment towards improving our service delivery and outcomes for people with disability.

Key achievements included:

- continued improvement of education accessibility measures to identify disability adjustment requirements for students with physical and/or sensory considerations
- completed audit of existing buildings to ensure they meet minimum accessibility requirements and evacuation procedures address accessibility requirements in accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*.
- implemented a new learning management system (LMS) which meets Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) accessibility requirements.
- increased disability awareness by implementing a bespoke diversity and inclusion course with an emphasis on inclusivity; and incorporating disability awareness into our corporate induction, procurement training and emergency management training.

Promotion of DAIP to agents and contractors

DPIRD's Agents and Contractors Guide is designed to ensure all access and inclusion requirements are met when carrying out services on behalf of the department.

It outlines how agents and contractors are expected to take the needs of people with disability into account when providing a service to the community on behalf of DPIRD, and how it aligns with the department's DAIP.

It is available on the DPIRD intranet and provided to all contractors where required.

DPIRD's Procurement team assesses all new contracts to determine whether the department's DAIP is applicable and ensures relevant contract clauses are included within the contract.

Reports are submitted at the end of each contract to detail what services were provided. DPIRD did not award any contracts where the DAIP was required within the reporting period.

WA Multicultural Policy Framework

In 2022-23, DPIRD continued to make progress against the three priority areas outlined in the WA Multicultural Policy Framework.

Policy priority 1 – Harmonious and inclusive communities

DPIRD continued to promote and encourage cultural inclusivity and produced a short video profiling a senior scientist from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) background. They share their journey on how they commenced at DPIRD and the advantages of working in a multicultural workplace.

The video will be incorporated into DPIRD's online learning diversity and inclusion modules and promoted across the organisation in celebration of the department's diverse workforce.

Policy priority 2 – Culturally responsive policies, programs and services

An important part of DPIRD's role is engaging with the Western Australian community. Its frontline quarantine service includes a multilingual team who have worked with the community as part of the emergency management response to eradicate Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) in the metropolitan area.

The department has also developed information for various CaLD communities around handling and measuring blue swimmer crabs and provided information on our website in seven languages.

Policy priority 3 – Economic, social, cultural, civic and political participation

The representation of people who identify as culturally and linguistically diverse at DPIRD has increased from 15.7% (March 2022) to 16.5% at the end of the March 2023 quarter. (Source: PSC Diversity Dashboard)

Substantive equality

In 2022-23, the department implemented the following initiatives aligned with substantive equality principles:

- Published information flyers in Vietnamese and made translation services available at industry events to support local growers in the horticulture sector.
- Published the blue swimmer crab recreational fishing guide in 8 languages and abalone recreational fishing guide in 5 languages.
- Made a video on recreational crabbing rules and how to handle and measure crabs available in four languages.
- Added demographic questions to recreational fishing surveys to best understand the target audience (e.g. language spoken at home, country of birth).

The department also undertook several initiatives to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including:

- establishing an Aboriginal Outcomes Task Team to drive and embed reconciliation and Closing the Gap priorities; to facilitate Aboriginal workforce development and employment; and to promote procurement of Aboriginal businesses with the intent of reporting on and fostering substantive equality outcomes for Aboriginal people across DPIRD's business operations
- hosting Aboriginal traineeships through the Public Sector Commission Solid Futures Program, and creating a new position in 2022-23 to transition an Aboriginal trainee into permanent employment within the Fisheries Aquatic Science and Assessment branch
- using Section 50D of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA)* to design, recruit and fill several positions during 2022-23
- simplifying Aboriginal Economic Development grants processes to improve accessibility for Aboriginal applicants
- using graphic recording techniques to capture and share technical and industry information in an accessible format for Aboriginal persons.

The department is also moving forward on a refresh of its values and its service profile.

Board and committee remuneration

DPIRD supported 10 government boards or committees in 2022-23.

These bodies provide essential services and advice regarding fish resource allocation, the ethical use of animals in science, biosecurity policy and the management of industry funding schemes (IFS).

Total remuneration across all boards for 2022-23 was \$363,890.

Table 33: Animal Ethics Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	Dr B Mullan	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	NA
Deputy Chair	J Smith	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	NA
Member	Dr K Kelman	Per meeting	Apr-2023	Jun-2023	\$735.00
Member	Prof I Robertson	Per meeting	Nov-2022	Nov-2022	\$2,572.50
Member	S Vanstan	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,102.50
Member	R Moore	Per meeting	Jul-2022	May-2023	\$2,572.50
Member	S Leitch	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$2,572.50
Member	G Mabury	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$2,572.50
Member	M Paton	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$2,940.00
Member	S Zulsdorf	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,102.50
Total					\$16,170.00

Note: Gross remuneration for R Moore, S Leitch and M Paton includes \$367.50 from last financial year.

Table 34: Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	J Bellanger	Per fortnight	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$20,331.82
Chair (retired)	S McKirdy	Per fortnight	Jul-2022	Dec 2022	\$14,653.10
Member	B Adams	Per fortnight	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$14,128.96
Member	A Dean	Per fortnight	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$13,393.62
Member	R Flugge	Per fortnight	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$14,128.96
Member	J Mackenzie	Per fortnight	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$14,128.96
Member	K Pearce	Per fortnight	Apr-2022	Jun-2023	\$16,755.16
Member	T Sullivan	Per fortnight	Apr-2023	Jun-2023	\$3,098.92
Member	M Thomas	Per fortnight	Apr-2023	Jun-2023	\$3,098.92
Member	N Batten	Per fortnight	Jul-2022	Dec-2022	\$9,244.22
Total					\$122,962.64

Note: S McKirdy retired as Chair in December 2022 and then J Bellanger took over as Chair in January 2023 after being a Member. Gross remuneration for K Pearce includes \$472.72 from last financial year.

Note: Industry Funding Schemes (IFS) committees are industry funded. Member contributions are collected by industry and these funds are managed by our department.

Table 35: Industry Funding Scheme Appointments Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	I Longson	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	0
Member	E Brennan	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	0
Member	J Hassell	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	0
Member	R Kelly	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	0
Member	A Seabrook	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$180.00
Total					\$180.00

Note: I Longson, E Brennan, J Hassell and R Kelly are yet to receive remuneration for this financial year. Their gross remuneration in 2023-24 will include backpay.

Table 36: Cattle Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	D Dowden	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$2,280.00
Member	W Brockhurst	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,500.00
Member	L Craig	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,280.00
Member	P Hall	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,280.00
Member	D Jarvie	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,280.00
Member	C Wyhoon	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$960.00
Total					\$8,580.00

Table 37: Grains, Seed and Hay Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	A Wilkins	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,790.00
Deputy Chair	H McTaggart	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,720.00
Member	P Harkness	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,180.00
Member	J Foss	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,720.00
Member	M Dagostino	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,180.00
Member	R Birch	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$740.00
Member	J Alvaro	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$1,180.00
Total					\$9,510.00

Table 38: Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	K Smith	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$2,380.00
Member	A Day	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$1,280.00
Member	P Boyle	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$320.00
Member	M Donaldson	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$320.00
Member	M Griffiths	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$1,820.00
Member	K Pearce	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$960.00
Member	S Pickering	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$1,180.00
Member	J Sullivan	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$1,920.00
Total					\$10,180.00

Table 39: Soil and Land Conservation Council

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	Dr H Norman	Per fortnight	Oct-2022	Jun 2023	NA
Deputy Chair	Dr R George	Per fortnight	Oct-2022	Jun 2023	NA
Member	Dr R Young	Per fortnight	Oct-2022	Jun 2023	NA
Member	W Bradshaw	Per fortnight	Oct-2022	Jun 2023	\$9,473.44
Member	E Foulkes-Taylor	Per fortnight	Oct-2022	Jun 2023	\$9,473.44
Member	D Mallard	Per fortnight	Oct-2022	Jun 2023	\$9,473.44
Member	R Nixon	Per fortnight	Oct-2022	Jun 2023	\$9,974.68
Member	N Schoknecht	Per fortnight	Oct-2022	Jun 2023	\$9,473.44
Member	R Turton	Per fortnight	Oct-2022	Jun 2023	\$9,473.44
				Total	\$57,341.88

Note: Gross remuneration for R Nixon includes \$501.00 from last financial year.

Table 40: Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act Review Panel

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	K Gulich	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	NA
Member	M Carbon	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	NA
Member	B Christie	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$9,207.00
Member	A Ciffolilli	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$16,536.50
Member	M Sweetingham	Per Meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$9,196.80
Member	C Winfield	Per meeting	Jul-2022	Jun-2023	\$22,058.86
Total					\$56,999.16

Note: Gross remuneration for B Christie includes \$3,222.00 from last financial year. Gross remuneration for C Winfield includes \$2,148.00 from last financial year.

Table 41: Wildlife Animal Ethics Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	K Morris	Per meeting	Jun-2023	Feb-2023	\$13,376.10
Member	J Dunlop	Per meeting	Jun-2023	Feb-2023	\$3,741.50
Member	H Mills	Per meeting	Jun-2023	Feb-2023	\$367.50
Member	Dr M Paton	Per meeting	Jun-2023	Feb-2023	\$6,272.00
Member	Prof I Robertson	Per meeting	Jun-2023	Feb-2023	\$6,639.50
Member	S Vanstan	Per meeting	Jun-2023	Feb-2023	\$5,729.50
Member	S Webb	Per meeting	Jun-2023	Feb-2023	\$5,904.50
Member	M Zampogna	Per meeting	Jun-2023	Feb-2023	\$6,639.50
Member	S Zulsdorf	Per meeting	Jun-2023	Feb-2023	\$7,742.50
Member	C Monaghan	Per meeting	Jun-2023	Feb-2023	\$952.00
Total					\$573,64.60

Note: Remuneration for Mr Robertson is inclusive of \$367.50 from last year.

Table 42: Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	C Phillips	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$6,276.00
Member	S Glyde	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$2,924.00
Member	D Huxley	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$4,080.00
Member	D Lowe	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$4,080.00
Member	M Sheehy	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$4,080.00
Member	J Williams	Per meeting	Jul-2021	Jun-2022	\$3,162.00
Total					\$24,602.00

Note: Gross remuneration for C Phillips includes \$2,092.00 from last financial year. Gross remuneration for S Glyde includes \$1,122.00 from last financial year. Gross remuneration for D Huxley, D Lowe and M Sheehy includes \$2,720.00 each from last financial year.

Other reporting requirements

Ministerial directives

No ministerial directives were received during the financial year.

Recordkeeping Plan

Evaluation of recordkeeping systems

In accordance with section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000*, DPIRD's Recordkeeping Plan was approved in 2018 by the State Records Commission and was valid until May 2023. The agency requested an extension to this timeline from the State Records Commission due to the extensive nature of the review required. The updated Recordkeeping Plan is now due for submission by June 2024. DPIRD is currently reviewing its recordkeeping program to ensure compliance with the principles and standards governing recordkeeping by State organisations.

Recordkeeping training program

DPIRD has introduced a new learning management system (LMS) and is developing a new course initially consisting of three modules. These modules are Introduction to Information Management, Records Awareness Training and Freedom of Information. Additional modules around Information Classification and Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing will also be developed. The recordkeeping training program integrates best practice standards, core recordkeeping processes, electronic document and record management system (EDRMS) functionality and workflow management activities.

Evaluation of the recordkeeping training program DPIRD regularly reviews its recordkeeping training initiatives and materials to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and standards, in addition to ensuring staff are well informed with changes in recordkeeping systems.

Recordkeeping induction program

DPIRD's recordkeeping induction program will be delivered to all new staff upon their commencement once the new course is developed and available via the LMS. The records management component of the corporate induction provides guidance and awareness training to ensure staff roles and responsibilities are clear in accordance with the approved Recordkeeping Plan.

EDRMS

The department has completed the implementation of a consolidated EDRMS, which replaced three existing legacy agency systems with one simplified, streamlined records and document management tool. The system assists all staff to meet current record statutory and legislative recordkeeping requirements.

Fish Resources Management Act 1994

Additional reporting required under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* is contained in Appendices 4 and 5 of this report.

DPIRD only estimates (excluding Regional Development Commissions)

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	\$'000s
Expenses	
Employee benefits	241,679
Grants and subsidies	163,931
Supplies and services	183,513
Accommodation	17,551
Depreciation and amortisation	23,035
Finance and interest costs	689
Other expenses	26,573
TOTAL COST OF SERVICES	656,970
Income	
Sale of Goods and Services	9,040
User charges and fees	52,347
Non-government grants and subsidies	44,006
Other revenue	6,816
Total Income	112,209
NET COST OF SERVICES	544,761

	\$'000s
Income from State Government	
Service appropriations	256,298
Resources received free of charge	1,849
Royalties for Regions Fund	227,627
Other revenues	14,610
TOTAL INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT	500,384
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	(44,377)

Statement of Financial Position

	\$'000s		\$'000s
Current Assets		Current Liabilities	
Cash assets	(1,311)	Employee provisions	50,982
Restricted cash	80,012	Payables	9,062
Amounts receivable for services	5,743	Borrowings and leases	4,471
Receivables	8,302	Other	21,593
Other	14,931	Total Current Liabilities	86,107
Total Current Assets	107,677	Non-Current Liabilities	
Non-Current Assets		Employee provisions	8,280
Amounts receivable for services	232,622	Borrowings and leases	7,749
Property, plant and equipment	425,278	Other	2,547
Intangibles	3,748	Total Non-Current Liabilities	18,576
Restricted cash	3,035	TOTAL LIABILITIES	104,683
Other	33,866	Equity	
Total Non-Current Assets	698,549	Contributed equity	738,178
TOTAL ASSETS	806,226	Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	(72,859)
		Reserves	36,224
		Total Equity	701,543
		TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	806,226

Statement of Cash Flows

	\$'000s
Cashflows from State Government	
Service appropriations	229,896
Capital appropriation	74,886
Holding account drawdowns	6,974
Climate Action Fund	5,756
Digital Capability Fund	5,956
Royalties for Regions Fund:	242,897
Other	14,672
Total Cash flows from State Government	581,037
Cashflows from Operating Activities	
Payments	
Employee benefits	(241,398)
Grants and subsidies	(166,066)
Supplies and services	(177,775)
Accommodation	(17,551)
GST payments	(15,668)
Finance and interest costs	(522)
Other payments	(27,024)

	\$'000s
Receipts	
User charges and fees	52,347
Grants and subsidies	44,032
Sale of goods and services	9,059
GST receipts	15,668
Other receipts	2,971
Total Cashflows from Operating Activities	(521,927)
Cashflows from Investing Activities	
Purchase of non-current assets	(97,175)
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	255
Net cash from investing activities	(96,920)
Cashflows from Financing Activities	
Repayment of borrowings and leases	(5,273)
Other proceeds	1,508
Net cash from financing activities	(3,765)
Net decrease in cash held	(41,575)
Cash assets at the beginning of the period	123,309
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	81,734



Appendices

Appendix 1: Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
API	Application Program Interface
CI	Confidence Interval
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (former department)
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (WA)
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (WA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA)
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (WA)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (WA)
ECU	Edith Cowan University
EDRMS	Electronic document and records management system
FTE	full-time equivalent (staff hours)
FRMA	Fish Resources Management Act 1994
GRDC	Grains Research and Development Corporation
IFS	Industry funding scheme
JTSI	Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (WA)
KPCA	Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
KPI	key performance indicator
LAA	Land Administration Act 1997
LCD	Land Conservation District

LCDC	Land Conservation District Committee
LMS	learning management system
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NA	not applicable
NOID	Notice of Intention to Drain or Pump
NRM	natural resource management
OBM	Outcome Based Management framework
PLB	Pastoral Lands Board
R&D	research and development
RDC	Regional Development Commission
RED	Regional Economic Development (grants program)
RIFA	red imported fire ant
RfR	Royalties for Regions
RSPCA WA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia
SLCA	Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945
SLCC	Soil and Land Conservation Council
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TACC	Total Allowable Commercial Catch
UWA	The University of Western Australia
WA	Western Australia
WAFIC	Western Australian Fishing Industry Council
WARDA	Western Australia Regional Development Alliance
WHS	work health and safety

Appendix 2: Administered legislation

The department assists the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Minister for Fisheries; Regional Development to administer the following Acts:

Minister for Regional Development

- *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*
- *Royalties for Regions Act 2009* (except Part 2, excluding sections 9 and 10, which is administered by the Treasurer principally assisted by the Department of Treasury)

Minister for Agriculture and Food

- *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Taxing) Act 1995*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Act 1995*
- *Agricultural Produce Commission Act 1988*
- *Animal Welfare Act 2002*
- *Biological Control Act 1986*
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Rates and Charges Act 2007*
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Repeal and Consequential Provisions) Act 2007*
- *Bulk Handling Act 1967*
- *Exotic Diseases of Animals Act 1993*
- *Gene Technology Act 2006*

- *Industrial Hemp Act 2004*
- *Loans (Co-operative Companies) Act 2004*
- *Ord River Dam Catchment Area (Straying Cattle) Act 1967*
- *Royal Agricultural Society Act 1926*
- *Royal Agricultural Society Act Amendment Act 1929*
- *Rural Business Development Corporation Act 2000*
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945*
- *Tree Plantation Agreements Act 2003*
- *Veterinary Chemical Control and Animal Feeding Stuffs Act 1976*
- *Veterinary Practice Act 2021*
- *Western Australian Meat Industry Authority Act 1976*

Minister for Fisheries

- *Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016*
- *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*
- *Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987*
- *Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997*
- *Fishing Industry Promotion Training and Management Levy Act 1994*
- *Pearling Act 1990*

Appendix 3: Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation report

A report on the Commissioner's operations for 2022-23 is submitted in accordance with Section 25 F of the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (SLCA).

Delegations

The Commissioner continues to have delegated authority from the Minister for the Environment to issue woodchip permits. No woodchips permits were issues in 2022-2023.

Auditor General's performance audits

The Auditor General tabled performance audit reports for the sustainable management of the state's rangelands and salinity in Parliament in October 2017 and April 2018 respectively (see references). The Commissioner has continued to assist in implementing the Government response to these audit reports.

DPIRD, in partnership with Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH), completed development of a contemporary risk-based Framework for Sustainable Pastoral Management (2019). Implementation actions for the framework in 2022-23 included:

- development of West Kimberley land condition standards. Workshops were held in the Kimberley and Perth to inform industry and provide the opportunity for feedback

- development of quantitative measures of pasture condition for Kimberley pastures. Work to develop measures for Nullarbor pastures has commenced
- pasture condition guides for pastures in the southern rangelands were finalised and are available on the DPIRD website.

DPIRD responded to the key Office of the Auditor General (2018) salinity management recommendations through:

- development of a quantitative risk assessment that integrates groundwater trend data with salinity extent mapping to determine potential for future expansion of salinity. The methodology provides a more objective and repeatable process than the expert opinion-based methodology used previously
- reporting to the Soil and Land Conservation Council on the current extent of salt affected land and risk assessment
- commencing a series of briefings with industry, community, natural resource management organisations and other non-government stakeholders on salinity extent and risk.

Soil and Land Conservation Council (SLCC)

The SLCC provides independent advice to the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation on policy, management and conservation of WA's soil and land resources.

The SLCC, under Ministerial direction, is overseeing the implementation of the Dryland Salinity – Future Directions Government Response (2020). The SLCC is currently consulting with key stakeholders on the results of the updated Land Monitor on salinity extent in the South-West of Western Australia (2023) and to refine the management priorities recommended by the SLCC and supported by the Minister for Agriculture and Food.

The SLCC continued to receive updates of current matters relating to the conservation of soil and land resources and the mitigation of land degradation. It received updates on compliance matters, soil and land conservation programs, including the implementation of the Western Australian Soil Health Strategy 2021–31 – Sustaining Western Australia's Agricultural, Horticultural and Pastoral Soils. The Council is keeping informed on emerging opportunities for climate resilience and on-farm biodiversity and the 'Restoration Economy' opportunity.

The SLCC is working with DPIRD to consider the implications of the updated salinity extent update, groundwater trends and salinity risk. It is providing input to DPIRD's policy to improve outcomes from compliance, streamline process, mitigate disputes, and improve processes to reduce offsite impacts of drainage and desalination.

The SLCC met three times in 2022-23, including a 2-day regional visit to sites at Kojonup, Cranbrook and Albany to get firsthand accounts of salinity management, innovative farming systems and programs that support land managers.

On 3 October 2023, Cabinet approved the appointment of the members by the Minister for Agriculture and Food to the SLCC in accordance with the new provisions set out in section 9A of the SLCA. Dr Hayley Norman (Chair), Emma Foulkes-Taylor, Noel Schoknecht and Dr Renee Young are appointed until 30 June 2025. Dr Richard George (Deputy Chair), Rhys Turton, Robert Nixon, Wendy Bradshaw and Dwayne Mallard are appointed until 30 June 2024. The Commissioner has an ex officio role on the SLCC.



The Soil and Land Conservation Council at Cranbrook, March 2023: Dr Richard George (Deputy Chair), Bob Nixon, Cec McConnell (Commissioner), Dr Hayley Norman (Chair), Dwayne Mallard, Noel Schoknecht, Wendy Bradshaw, Dr Renee Young, Emma Foulkes-Taylor and Rhys Turton

Compliance and regulation

Land clearing assessments

Thirty-three land clearing applications were assessed for land degradation, with advice provided to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) for agriculture-purpose clearing and to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety (DMIRS) for mining-related activities and infrastructure development. Four are under assessment.

Compliance

The Commissioner registered 11 complaints during the year with 8 related to drainage, 2 to soil erosion and one to clearing. Three compliance checks were undertaken for remedial works on unnotified drains.

Agreements to Reserve and Conservation Covenants

During the 2022-23 financial year, 17 Conservation Covenants and one Agreement to Reserve were negotiated with 6 registered on title protecting 1740 ha of vegetation. Eleven of the Conservation Covenants are pending lodgement at Landgate.

Soil Conservation Notices

No Soil Conservation Notices (SCNs) were issued during 2022-23. There are 6 SCNs on leases in the pastoral area and 4 on agricultural properties in the south-west. The Commissioner is actively working with three pastoralists and 2 agricultural landholders who have agreed to undertake works to address soil degradation.

Land drainage and desalination

Between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023, the Office of the Commissioner received 16 Notices of Intent to Drain (NOID) for sub-surface drainage works. Four were later withdrawn, 8 received letters of no-objection and four are pending. Seven Notices of Intent to Pump (NOIP) for desalination plants were processed. Six received letters of no-objection and one a letter of objection.

Land Conservation District Committees (LCDCs)

LCDCs are statutory committees created under Part III (a) of the SLCA to manage projects and to promote practices that mitigate or prevent land degradation. At the year's close, there were 143 gazetted members of 13 LCDCs active in the agricultural and rangeland regions of the state.

Land use planning

In 2022-23, DPIRD responded to 263 planning and related environmental referrals. Most referrals were from local government (63%), the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and DPLH (15%). About 10% of referrals were requests from DWER for advice about prescribed premises, including piggeries, abattoirs, stockholding yards, cattle and sheep feedlots.

Overall, more than half of referrals sought DPIRD's advice about proposed or existing (retrospective) development. Development referrals concerned rural pursuits, mainly horses on small rural holdings, extractive industries, tree farms including carbon plantings, horticulture and poultry farms.

Referrals also involved workforce and tourist accommodation, breweries and distilleries and renewable energy facilities (wind and solar).

Other common referrals for advice included draft local planning scheme or strategies, region and local planning scheme amendments (rezoning proposals), rural subdivision and identification of high-quality agricultural land.

DPIRD made submissions on proposed reforms to the land use planning framework and on policies for the Peel-Harvey and Swan-Canning catchments.

DPIRD received 26 referrals from DPLH in relation to the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA), including 14 requests for comment about proposals to change land tenure or renew leases. Eight DPLH referrals related to Section 91 licences under the LAA to access pastoral leases and State land to investigate opportunities for renewable energy and green hydrogen, to repair the flood levee at Carnarvon, and to temporarily expand tourist accommodation on a pastoral lease near Exmouth for the Total Solar Eclipse.

Desalination – WaterSmart Farms

Conditions in 2021 and 2022 have seen average rainfall and runoff for large parts of the south-west agricultural area after two seasons of very low rainfall. Despite this, farmers and allied businesses are investing in alternative water supply options or improving the resilience and capacity of existing systems to cope in expected future dry seasons.

DPIRD and partners have developed participative and applied research to develop alternative and adaptive water supply options. Much of this work is under the \$1.5 million umbrella project called WaterSmart Farms (WSF), initiated in 2021 (ends June 2024). This is supported by the WaterSmart Dams (WSD) (\$4.3 million), co-managed by The University of Western Australia (UWA), Grower Group Alliance (GGA) and DPIRD, initiated in 2022 (end 2024-25) and finally WSF Phase 2, \$5 million WaterSmart Farms 'Industry Growth' that was recently funded till July 2027.

Using a research consortia model, comprising UWA, Murdoch University, Curtin University, Water Corporation, the Geological Survey of Western Australia and DWER along with the RDCs, local government, industry partners and participating farmers, each of these projects is underway but at varying progress.

WSF is documenting the progress of over 30 farmer-led desalination systems. It is working with 3 shires and Wongutha Christian Aboriginal Parent-Directed School to implement and monitor 4 purpose-built desalination systems. These systems couple small (<10 kL/day) to medium (up to 50 kL/day) sized reverse osmosis desalinators to bores drilled into weathered zone aquifers on the Yilgarn Block, largely in unproclaimed groundwater areas.

The desalination units were supplied from 3 Perth-based companies. The project is also looking at prospects for unconventional water supplies from fractured rock aquifers completing phase one drilling with encouraging results.

Finally, the project is investigating reject or brine disposal systems to ensure adequate management of downstream impacts, including the development of an evaporation basin calculator. These projects are supporting the Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation to develop effective regulation of the industry.

WSD led by UWA has partnered with GGA and four groups to demonstrate up to 12 surface water catchment systems and has established monitoring systems on most trial sites. It is also developing so-called WaterSmart Evaluation Tools (WET) software systems that will complement those developed by WSF (GeoMap and HydroGuide) to deliver joint farm hydrology and economics assessment tools.

WSF 'Industry Growth' was initiated in June 2023 and is working to demonstrate advanced geophysical tools to find water, planning systems and implementing desalination with industry – mainly animal and grain-based food processors in the Great Southern.

Continued development of regulation, research and community (industry) engagement processes will be critical to manage impacts under the SLCA. These enabling systems will protect the natural resources but allow more adaptive and resilient water supply options for agribusinesses and the community under future dry conditions that optimise available brackish groundwater and adapt with saline landscapes.

Condition of the resource base

Agricultural Region Soil – the WA Soil Health Strategy

The WA Soil Health Strategy is a 10-year plan for sustainable soil management in WA. It has a specific focus on agricultural and pastoral soils and includes key activities that aim to enhance landscape and soil condition to mitigate the risk of land degradation.

Implementation of the strategy is overseen by the WA Soil and Land Conservation Council through annual reporting and monitoring of proposed key deliverables and potential partnerships represented in the strategy's Implementation Plan (2023). Activity to date has included projects linked with the WA Carbon Farming Land Restoration Fund, the State NRM Program, and co-investment with various industry R&D programs. Going forward, opportunities will align with key priorities through the National Soil Action Plan (2023) and WA Climate Policy.

Activities initiated in 2022-23 included:

- close to 100 prominent and topical soil engagement workshops across multiple industries and locations in WA
- WA visiting 'systems scientist' program (e.g. WA Soil Master Class sessions)
- launch of the Regional Soil Coordinator program in WA, hosted through the GGA, SoilsWest, South-West Drought Hub, with funding from the Australian Government
- Healthy Estuaries WA 'Do It Yourself' soil sampling, and best management practices publication on nutrient export

- launch of a revised 'Saltland Genie' salinity decision support tool (Gillammi Group, State NRM and DPIRD)
- World Soil Day (5 December 2022) presentation 'Soil – Where Food Begins' at WA State Library
- WA Water Repellence Symposium (sponsored through Soil Science Australia, GRDC and DPIRD)
- framework for sustainable pastoral management published (DPIRD 2022)
- policy preparation addressing soil erosion thresholds, supporting the Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation
- WA Government catalogue of WA soil resource data collated.

Soil acidity

Soil acidity is one of multiple soil constraints to agricultural production that combine to decrease the capacity of crops to achieve the rain-limited grain yield potential.

In 2022-23, the amount of lime, from Lime WA suppliers, applied in the south-western agricultural region of WA was 757,000 tonnes (Lime WA pers. Comm. July 2023). This is a decrease of approximately 4% compared to the adjusted value of 789,000 tonnes supplied in 2021-22 by the same suppliers. This figure does not include lime from suppliers who are not Lime WA members or from on-farm sources used by farmers. It is not possible to calculate the actual total amount applied each year.

A recently completed project between DWER and DPIRD has identified that soil condition with respect to soil pH in the central grainbelt, covered by the Avon River Basin, has improved over the past 9 years. The project found that 56% of topsoil samples (2020–23) were above the minimum recommended pHCa target of 5.5 compared to only 30% (2005–12). Subsurface soil pH also improved from 55% of samples above the minimum target of pHCa 4.8 to 70% above.

There are many factors which can affect the annual purchase of agricultural lime by WA growers. Lime sales remained relatively static. However, grain production for the last 2 years was at an all-time high. Lime use needs to increase further to continue to maintain and improve the soil pH.

Soil salinity

Soil salinity occurs either as the result of proximity of a shallow watertable (dryland salinity) or as a subsoil constraint in clay rich soils (transient salinity). Dryland salinity is exacerbated by wet seasonal conditions and transient salinity by dry conditions.

Dryland salinity

To address the recommendations of the 2018 Office of Auditor General report on the management of salinity, DPIRD has, in 2022-23:

- developed a quantitative risk assessment that integrates groundwater trend data with salinity extent mapping to determine potential for future expansion of salinity. The methodology provides a more objective and repeatable process than the expert opinion-based methodology used previously
- reported to the SLCC on the current extent of salt affected land and risk assessment
- commenced a series of briefings with industry, community, and natural resource management organisations and other non-government stakeholders on salinity extent and risk.

Groundwater trends and salinity risk assessment

DPIRD monitors a network of surveillance bores distributed across the south-west agricultural region to determine groundwater trends. Together with remotely sensed data on the current extent of salt affected land, this data informed an assessment of the risk of salinity expansion. The last salinity risk assessment for the south-west agricultural region was documented in the Report card on sustainable natural resource use in agriculture (Simons et al. 2013). DPIRD has reassessed the salinity risk for the south-west agricultural region based on an updated estimate of the current extent of salt-affected land and groundwater trends.

During 2012–21, rising groundwater trends were dominant or co-dominant in 14 of 26 hydrozones; during 2007–12 rising trends were dominant or co-dominant in 11 hydrozones. In most hydrozones, bores with rising trends were rising at greater rates during 2012-2021 than during 2007-2012.

Salinity risk was determined by applying a recently developed, quantitative methodology using groundwater trends determined for bores with at least a 20-year record to May 2021 and the 2018 Land Monitor salinity extent mapping (Caccetta et al. 2022) that reported 1.75 million hectares \pm 345,000 hectares affected.

The salinity risk assessment for each of the 26 hydrozones are shown in the right-hand panel of Figure A1, also shown are the 2012 risk assessments (Simons et al. 2013). The figure shows the salinity risk level has risen from moderate to high for 3 hydrozones and from low to moderate in 2 hydrozones. Only one hydrozone, Kalbarri Sandplain has had its salinity risk reduced from moderate to low.

Figure A2 shows the salinity risk confidence rank by hydrozone; only 4 of 26 hydrozones have a low confidence ranking.

Together, the changes in salinity risk assessment and confidence rankings demonstrate an increase in the veracity of the data used and methodology applied to the risk assessment. This is largely due to the longer time series of data available for groundwater trend analyses. Despite 7 of 26 hydrozones having less than the threshold number of bores required for application of the quantitative methodology, only 4 hydrozones were assigned a low salinity risk confidence rank following the expert opinion assessment utilising other data sources.

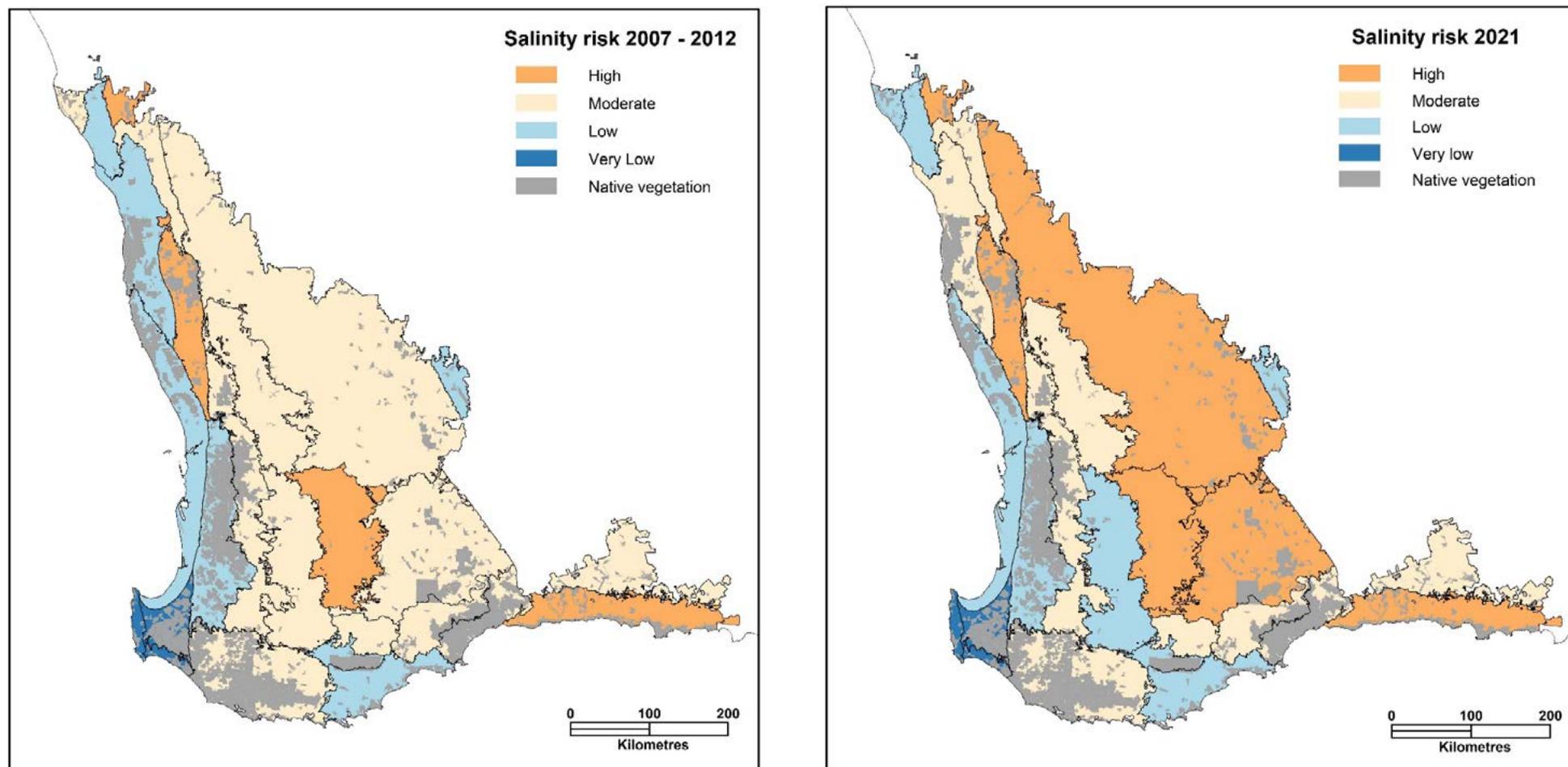


Figure A1: The risk of salinity expanding beyond its current extent: 2021 assessment compared to 2007–12 assessment (Simons et al. 2013)

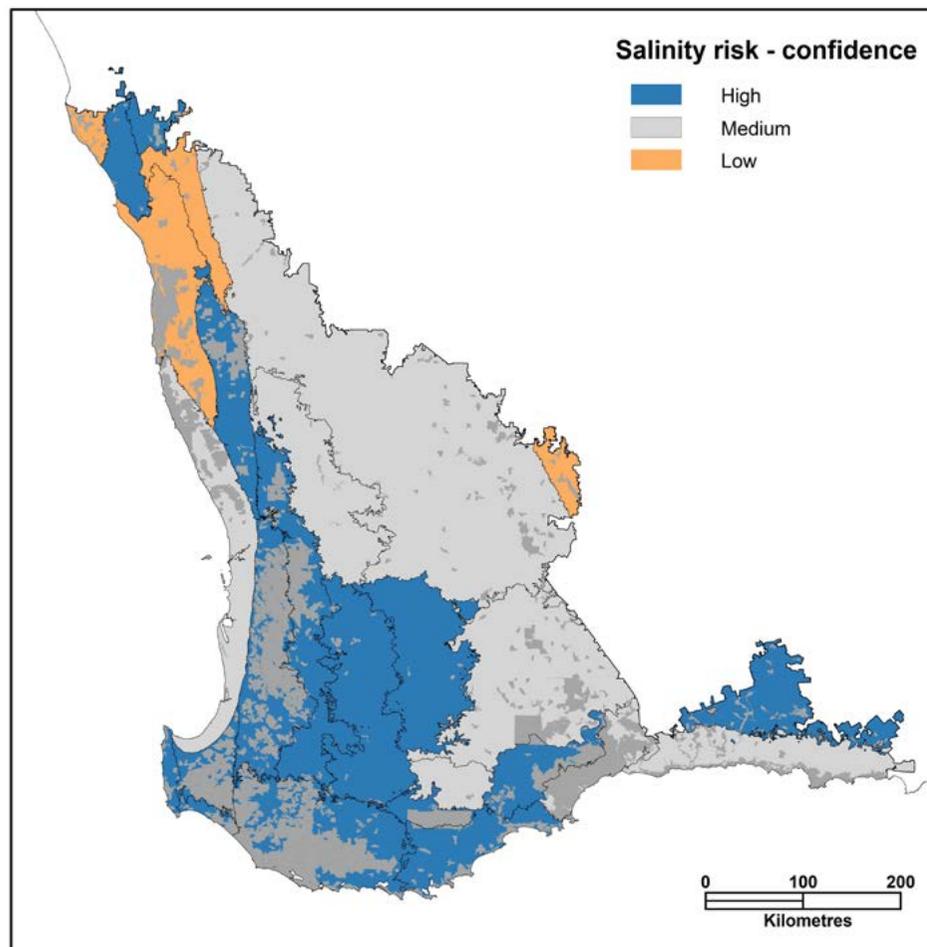


Figure A2: Salinity risk confidence ranking for the 2021 assessment

Salinity is increasing in susceptible areas of the Wheatbelt but stabilising in dissected, mostly western higher rainfall hydrozones. Upland valleys in catchments more recently cleared and near extensive areas of sandplain appear to be at highest risk. Salinity will continue to develop in moderate and high-risk zones at a rate dependent on seasonal rainfall, for the foreseeable future. The rate of development is expected to diminish with time.

Soil erosion

A combination of regional intelligence, climate information, and satellite imagery analysis allows DPIRD to report on erosion and erosion hazard on arable land.

Summer Landsat satellite groundcover products are used to determine how much arable land is susceptible to wind and water erosion using methods described in Laycock et al (2022). Erosion hazard is reported for summer 2022-23 as the proportion of land in three hazard classes and compares the current season to the previous season and to the 10-year median. Erosion hazard (Figure A3) is summarised for the grainbelt as a whole and regionally by Ag Soil Zones (Figure 3a; DAFWA 2013).

Most of the grainbelt received average to above-average (Decile 8) rainfall during the 2022 growing season, resulting in high biomass levels and excellent groundcover. New methods of stubble management, such as stubble incorporation rakes, are being adopted more widely, reducing complete burns and therefore maintaining groundcover.

Potentially erosive summer and autumn winds were similar or slightly less prevalent than last year (2021-22) (DPIRD Weather API 2.0). Autumn storms in March and April caused intense rainfall over isolated parts of the central grainbelt. Widespread low intensity rain in late March enabled early plant growth, which stabilised previously bare soils. A dry period over May delayed germination of some crops and resulted in some pastures dying, leading to inadequate groundcover.

Extreme erosion hazard

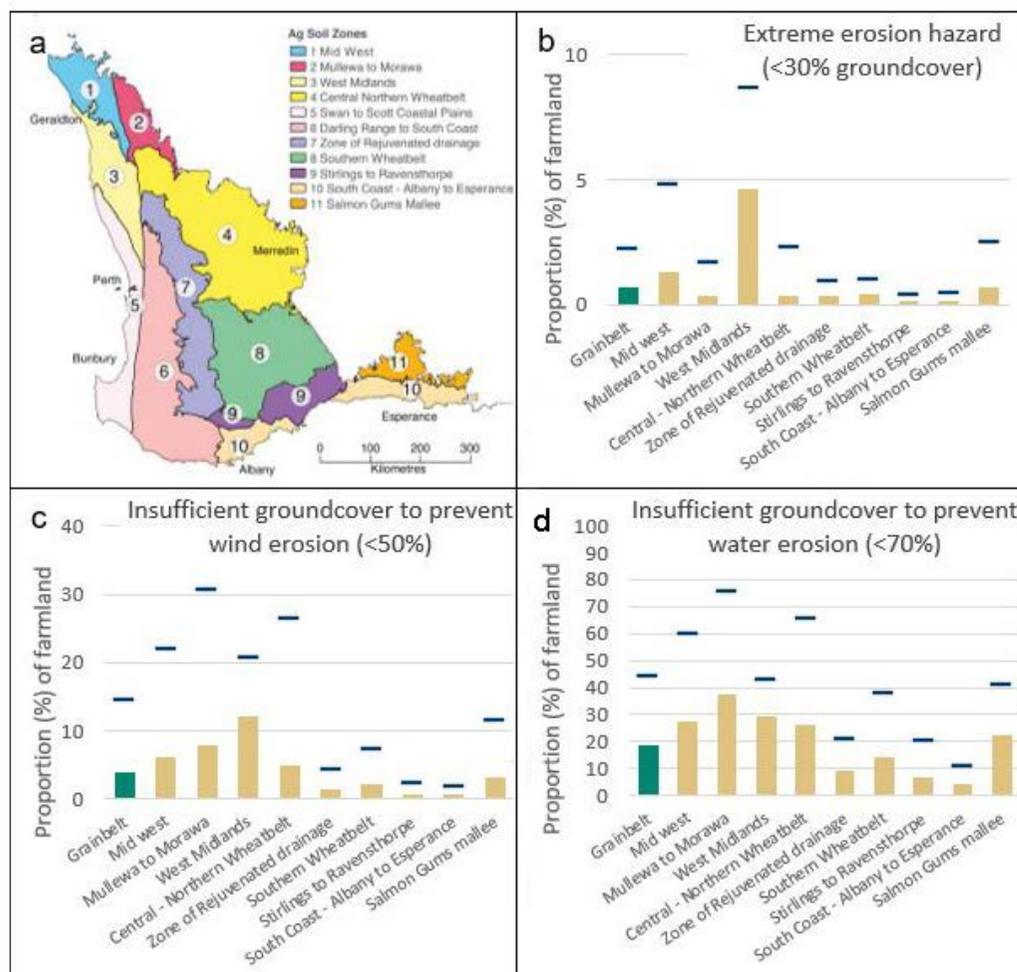
The West Midlands Ag Soil Zone has the highest erosion hazard, with almost 5% of arable land at extreme hazard (<30% groundcover), more than 3 times the next worst performing Ag Soil Zone (Figure A3b). This region has had the largest proportion of land with extreme hazard for 8 consecutive years. DPIRD and the West Midlands group have been working with local producers to promote better management and increase groundcover (DPIRD media release, 16 May 2022).

Wind erosion

Localised wind erosion occurred on individual paddocks, primarily caused by overgrazing or soil inversion. Across the grainbelt, 0.56 million ha (3.9%) had insufficient (<50%) groundcover to prevent wind erosion (Figure A3c), an improvement over the previous year when 1.06 million ha (7.2%) was at risk. All Ag Soil Zones had less land at risk than has been typical over the past decade (10-year median).

Water erosion

Heavy autumn rain along the south coast and in the southern grainbelt caused isolated water erosion, mostly on sloping land with sandy duplex soils. Erosion scours were most prevalent in cropped paddocks where tracks and headlands concentrated surface water flows. This erosion was reported in popular media (ABC rural, 27 March 2023). Across the grainbelt, 2.8 million ha (19%) had insufficient groundcover (<70%) to prevent water erosion (Figure A3d), an improvement over the 3.8 million ha (26%) at risk last year. The Mullewa to Morawa zone had the most land with insufficient groundcover (37%).



Blue bars represent 2012–2021 median for relevant area and groundcover threshold.

Each bar in b to d represents the proportion of farmland over the summer period (Dec 2022–Feb 2023) in the grainbelt and Ag Soil zones with b) extreme erosion hazard (<30% groundcover); c) insufficient groundcover to prevent wind erosion (<50% groundcover); d) insufficient groundcover to prevent water erosion (<70% groundcover).

Note: Blue bars represent 2012–21 median for relevant area and groundcover threshold.

Figure A3: a. Ag Soil zones of the southwest of Western Australia; b–d. Columns represent the proportion of farmland over the summer period (Dec 2022-Feb 2023) in the grainbelt and Ag Soil zones with the three hazard classes discussed.

Eutrophication of rivers and wetlands

In 2022-23, 2,932 soil samples were collected from farm paddocks under the Healthy Estuaries WA program in the Peel, Leschenault, Lower Blackwood, Vasse Geographe, Scott River, Oyster Harbour, Wilson Inlet and Torbay catchments. Of these, 59% of samples had soil phosphorus concentrations in excess of pasture growth requirements and 82% had soil acidity problems. The sampling also identified that potassium and sulphur deficiency were reducing productivity, exacerbating phosphorus losses. These results show a small reduction from 2021-22.

There is a high level of confidence with these findings, confirmed by scrutiny of historical soil testing records. Since 2009, under this program, some 31,100 soil samples have been collected from 1,632 farms covering 347,000 ha. The recently completed uPtake project has used 50 phosphorus response trials over 4 years to validate the critical soil phosphorus values used to make this assessment. The validation trials show the critical phosphorus values to be robust and applicable to south-west WA soils and contemporary pasture species. A recent assessment indicated a potential for reduction in phosphorus loss of between 24–59% following full compliance with critical soil phosphorus values (net).

The cost of unnecessary phosphorus application in the south-west agricultural region was estimated at \$400 million per annum (Weaver and Summers 2013).

Pastoral Rangelands

WA's rangelands cover 87% of the state, with pastoral leases covering about 35% (857,800km²) and Unallocated Crown Lands (UCL) plus land vested for conservation and Aboriginal purposes making up the balance.

There are 435 registered pastoral stations on 490 pastoral leases. There are 152 stations in the northern rangelands with 92 in the Kimberley and 60 in the Pilbara, while 283 stations are located in the southern rangelands (shrublands).

Management of pastoral lands in WA

To address the recommendations of the 2017 Office of Auditor General Report, the Framework for sustainable pastoral management (2020) has been developed.

In 2022-23:

- land condition standards were developed for the West Kimberley and workshops run in 2023 to inform industry and provide the opportunity for feedback (2 Kimberley and one Perth). These standards have been extended to cover the entire Kimberley and consultation workshops will be run for the east and north Kimberley in early 2024.
- quantitative measures of pasture condition were developed for Kimberley pastures and data collection undertaken for validation in 2023
- quantitative measures of pasture condition for Nullarbor pastures were in development and data collection and analysis are well advanced

- state and transition models for Kimberley tussock grass pastures were developed and this information is being used to inform quantitative measures development and recovery trajectories for degraded pastures (State and Transition models for tussock grasslands and woodlands of the Kimberley, Richards et al. 2023)
- pasture condition guides for pastures in the southern rangelands were developed and this information was made available on the DPIRD website in 2023.

Compliance

In 2022-23, officers from the Office of the Commissioner met onsite with the lessees of 4 pastoral stations. The purpose of the visits was to inspect areas of concern identified in the Rangeland Condition Assessment (RCA) reports and to reach agreement with the lessees on actions required to improve range condition across their lease. Compliance inspections are ongoing.

Diversification permits

DPIRD, through the Office of the Commissioner, provided advice and information to DPLH and the Pastoral Lands Board (PLB) on 6 diversification permit applications and 9 reviews of existing permits.

Rangeland Resource Condition Assessment (RCA)

DPIRD conducted RCAs on 15 pastoral stations and follow-up inspections on three pastoral stations on behalf of the Commissioner. Where required, the Commissioner is taking action under the SLCA and providing advice for the consideration of the PLB for appropriate actions under the LAA.

Seasonal conditions

Total rainfall over the 12 months from 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2022 was average or above-average over most of the pastoral rangelands with the exception of eastern parts of the Southern Rangelands that included the Nullarbor-Eyre Highway, Kalgoorlie, North-Eastern Goldfields, Sandstone, and eastern parts of the Wiluna and Meekatharra LCDs. Parts of the Gascoyne and Gascoyne-Wooramel Land Conservation Districts (LCDs) also received below-average rainfall. In the Pilbara, north-western areas of the De Grey and Roebourne-Port Hedland LCDs received below-average rainfall.

The report 'Western Australian pastoral rangelands total cover and cover risk 2022' was provided to the PLB to meet reporting obligations under the LAA. The 2022 report uses remotely sensed total cover data available to the end of October 2022, rainfall data to November 2022 and Stock Return data reported in 2021 to determine cover risk. Cover risk at the LCD level is an indicator of the likelihood of total cover declining to, or remaining at, low or very low levels. Total cover and cover risk may not be indicative of vegetation condition and are best regarded as indicators of relative levels of ground cover and consequent susceptibility to erosion and the relative availability of stock forage.

Total cover in October 2022 was strongly influenced by rainfall in the preceding 2 years. Seasonal conditions in 2020-21 and 2021-22 were generally favourable and total cover of vegetation functional groups was at the upper range of values in most LCDs.

The risk of the total cover of a key pasture or vegetation functional group falling to or remaining at low or very low values was high or very high in 13 LCDs (Table A1).

Cyclical values of total cover have been declining over several years in the Meekatharra, Wiluna, Cue, Kalgoorlie, North-Eastern Goldfields and Nullarbor-Eyre Highway LCDs, reflecting below-average rainfall and despite stocking rates below potential carrying capacity (PCC). Total cover in the East Pilbara LCD declined despite above average rainfall, possibly because of stock numbers in excess of PCC. Given the generally good seasonal conditions and reported below PCC stocking levels, Low cover levels warrant further on-ground investigation in the Halls Creek-East Kimberley and North Kimberley LCDs.

The risk of further cover decline is considered to be very high in the East Pilbara, De Grey, Wiluna, Kalgoorlie, North-Eastern Goldfields and Nullarbor-Eyre Highway LCDs if rainfall is average or below average and stock numbers need to be managed accordingly.

Rainfall and flooding associated with ex-tropical cyclone Ellie occurred after data analysis for this report was completed and the impacts from these events will be considered in the 2022-24 annual report – it can be expected that affected areas will see a general increase in vegetation cover.

Table A1: LCDs and pastures that have High or Very high risk of cover remaining at, or declining to, low or very low levels

Region	LCD	High cover risk	Very high cover risk
Kimberley	Halls Creek – East Kimberley	Alluvial Monitoring Assessment Unit (MAU); Frontage pasture; Ribbon grass pasture	
	North Kimberley	Alluvial MAU; Ribbon grass pasture	
Pilbara	De Grey		Alluvial; River tussock; Soft spinifex
	East Pilbara		Alluvial plain shrub; Alluvial plain tussock; River tussock
	Roebourne – Port Hedland	Soft spinifex	
Upper Southern Rangelands	Gascoyne – Ashburton	Mesas shrub; River tussock	
	Meekatharra	Calcrete shrub; Mesas shrub; Low hills halophyte	
	Wiluna	Low hills halophyte; Stony plain halophyte	Fringing salt lake; Mesas shrub
Lower Southern Rangelands	Kalgoorlie	Alluvial plain halophyte	Alluvial plain; Fringing salt lake Mesas shrub; Stony plain halophyte
	North-eastern Goldfields		Alluvial plain; Alluvial plain halophyte; Fringing salt lake; Mesas shrub; Stony plain halophyte
	Nullarbor – Eyre Highway	Myall mixed chenopod MAU; Saltbush MAU	Bluebush mixed chenopod; Eucalypt mixed chenopod
	Sandstone	Alluvial plain halophyte; Mesas shrub; Stony plain halophyte	

Remote Sensing Monitoring System for WA Pastoral Rangelands

DPIRD is developing a system to monitor landscape condition across WA's pastoral leases which combines field observations with satellite derived remote sensing products. The rangelands remote sensing work carried out to date has 4 main components:

1. Investigating Landsat Vegetation Indices (VIs) trend analysis for condition monitoring
2. Mapping priority environments, specifically key pasture types, to direct condition monitoring and field inspections
3. Evaluating readily available Fractional ground Cover (FC) products for condition monitoring
4. Providing evidence of vegetation change to inform field inspections.

Validation data is being collected during 2023 to validate pasture mapping for the Kimberley developed using applied machine learning techniques. The validated mapping will be available at the end of 2024.

Applied machine learning techniques have been used to extend pasture mapping to the Nullarbor and Pilbara regions.

Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) sites continue to be installed in the Kimberley and Nullarbor and data submitted to the national database to improve the calibration of remote sensed products for WA.

DPIRD is continuing to develop improved remote sensed products to assist with on-ground monitoring and to provide estimates of land condition and degradation risk.

Cecilia McConnell

Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation

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Appendix 4: Breeding stock status, catch and effort ranges for Western Australia's major commercial and recreational fisheries

This information underpins the 4 KPIs measuring the effectiveness of the department's management plans and regulatory activities in:

- ensuring the sustainability status of the state's aquatic resources
- the success of keeping fish catches (or effort) at appropriate levels for commercial and recreational fisheries
- ensuring that sustainably managed commercial fisheries provide benefits to the state as a result of significant local sales and export earnings from fish and fish products.

The term 'sustainable' is given where the breeding stocks are considered adequate as well as breeding stocks that are recovering. Terms 'inadequate' or 'environmentally limited' include where additional actions need to be taken or confirmation is required to ensure the breeding stocks are either adequate or are now recovering. The term 'overfished' is only given where breeding stocks are inadequate due to exploitation (i.e. overfishing) that have been identified but for which definitive management actions have yet to be fully implemented.

An acceptable catch or effort range may be determined for each of the major commercial and recreational fisheries.

Commercial ranges 'under revision' or 'under development' are not assessed. Recreational ranges 'not developed' or 'under revision' are not assessed, however, 'not formal' ranges are assessed.

Acronyms

- NA – Not applicable
- Q – Quota management
- TAC – Total Allowable Catch
- TACC – Total Allowable Commercial Catch
- TARC – Total Allowable Recreational Catch
- MSC – Certified by Marine Stewardship Council
- CI – Confidence Interval
- SE – standard error.

Assessment level (and method)

- Level 1 – Catch data and biological/fishing vulnerability
- Level 2 – Level 1 plus fishery-dependent effort
- Level 3 – Levels 1 and/or 2 plus fishery-dependent biological sampling of landed catch (e.g. average size, fishing mortality, etc. estimated from representative samples)
- Level 4 – Levels 1, 2 or 3 plus fishery-independent surveys of relative abundance, exploitation rate, recruitment
- Level 5 – Levels 1 to 3 and/or 4 plus outputs from integrated simulation, assessment model

Table A2: Breeding stock status, catch and effort ranges for Western Australia’s major commercial and recreational fisheries

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
West Coast Bioregion						
Western Rock Lobster	West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 5	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 6615t (TACC) extended to 9000t (~18 month season TACC) Recreational: 585t (TARC)	Commercial: 8621t (12 month) Recreational – licensed: 401–476t (95% CI); Charter: 17t	Acceptable Commercial: Catch within TACC plus 1.5% water loss (i.e. 9135t) Recreational: Catch within acceptable range on a five-year rolling average.
Statewide Abalone	Abalone (Roe’s) Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 70.7t (Q) (530–640 days) Recreational: 21–25t Perth Metro area	Commercial: 28.9t (251 days) Recreational: 21–25t Perth Metro area; 23.3–27.9t Other	Acceptable Commercial: Catch was below TACC due to economic impacts of COVID-19 on overseas markets. Recreational: Perth Metro catch range within TARC range.
Statewide Cephalopod	Octopus Interim Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 2	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 500–1000t Catch range reviewed Recreational: Not developed	Commercial: 744t Recreational: 0–4t (95% CI, boat only in 2020-21)	Acceptable Commercial: Catch at record highs due to new vessels and maximised efficiency.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
South Coast and West Coast Scallop	Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl Managed Fishery South Coast Trawl Fishery	Annual: Level 4 Annual: Level 1	Inadequate (environmentally limited) Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: Closed Recreational: NA Catch range to be developed	Commercial: 0t Commercial: 29t (184 days)	Scallop survey index reference level below the limit so in line with the Harvest Strategy, the fishery was closed. Acceptable Commercial: Catch within historical range
West Coast Estuarine and Nearshore Scalefish and Invertebrates	Cockburn Sound Crab Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 4	Inadequate (environmentally limited)	Commercial: Closed Recreational: Closed	Commercial: 0t Recreational: 0t	NA Cockburn Sound fishery closed since 2014. Despite a marginal increase in the 2021 egg production index and the 2022 juvenile index, both metrics remain below limit reference levels. The overall decline and lack of recovery in stocks is consistent with an environmentally limited stock.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
West Coast Estuarine and Nearshore Scalefish and Invertebrates	West Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery (Area 1 Swan Canning, Area 2 Peel Harvey (MSC), Area 3 Hardy Inlet)	Annual: Levels 1 and 2 Periodic: Level 3 to 4 sea mullet, yellowfin whiting	Sustainable: Adequate – crabs/ sea mullet/ yellowfin whiting	Commercial: 45–107t (Peel Harvey crab) <150t sea mullet (Peel Harvey), <12t yellowfin whiting (Peel Harvey) Recreational: Informal (Peel Harvey crab) Not developed (finfish)	Commercial: 58t (Peel Harvey crab) 79t (sea mullet Peel Harvey), 11t (yellowfin whiting Peel Harvey) Other West Coast Estuarine crab fisheries not reported due to confidentiality requirements. Recreational: 22–38t (95% CI, boat only in 2020–21, crabs in Perth Metro Zone)	Acceptable Commercial: Catch of crabs and finfish within acceptable ranges. Recreational: Catch levels are not considered a risk to stocks.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
West Coast Estuarine and Nearshore Scalefish and Invertebrates	Cockburn Sound Fish Net Managed Fishery	Annual: Levels 1 and 2	Sustainable: Adequate – whiting/salmon (State)/	Commercial: <25 t (informal whitebait)	Commercial: 23t (whitebait), 0.2t (southern garfish – WCB)	Acceptable Metro Zone Garfish fishery closed in 2017.
	South West Beach Seine	Periodic: Level 3 – whitebait, southern garfish	(State)/ tailor/herring (State)	Not developed (southern garfish)	Recreational: 62–94t (95% CI, boat only in 2020-21, top 10 species)	Declines in southern garfish and whitebait consistent with an environmentally limited stock.
	West Coast Nearshore Open Access Net Fishery	Periodic: Levels 3 to 5	Inadequate – (environmentally limited) whitebait/ southern garfish	Recreational: Not developed		Recreational: Catch levels are not considered a risk to stocks.
	South West Coast Salmon Managed Fishery	Herring – 2021 Salmon – 2017				
West Coast Beach Bait						
Statewide Small Pelagic Scalefish (Purse Seine)	West Coast Purse Seine Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 0–5700t (Q) Recreational: NA	Commercial: 259t (all species) Recreational: <1t	Acceptable

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
South Coast and West Coast Demersal Finfish	West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery	Annual: Level 1 Periodic: Level 5 – 2021	Inadequate	Commercial: 360–480t* Recreational (including charter): 201–270t* *Retained catch + post-release mortality (PRM)	Commercial: 294t* (272t catch + 22t PRM) in 2021-22 Recreational: (incl. charter) 342t* (293t catch + 49t PRM) in 2020-21 Charter: 55t (49t catch + 6t PRM) in 2021-22 *Retained catch + PRM	Commercial: Acceptable – total fishing mortality (retained catch + PRM) of demersal suite, WA dhufish, Baldchin groper, Emperors and Offshore species were below their Harvest Strategy tolerance ranges in 2021-22 due to stock status. Management actions are being taken and tolerance range is under revision. Recreational: Not acceptable – total fishing mortality (retained catch + PRM) of demersal suite, Snapper, WA dhufish, Baldchin groper and Offshore species were above their Harvest Strategy tolerance ranges in 2020-21, with Redfish species below their Harvest Strategy tolerance range in 2020-21. Tolerance range is under revision.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
Gascoyne Coast Bioregion						
Shark Bay Invertebrate	Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 1350–2150t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 831t	Acceptable Commercial: Western king and brown tiger prawn catches below their acceptable range in part due additional in season measures implemented to protect breeding stocks including reducing total fishing nights and implementing area closures.
Northern Invertebrates	Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 436–1347t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 898t	Acceptable
Shark Bay Invertebrate	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: Quota 180t (180t Denham Sound and 0t northern Shark Bay) Recreational: NA	Commercial: 177t	Acceptable Commercial: Quota season to 30 April 2023. Ninety-nine per cent of quota achieved. No quota set in northern Shark Bay as catch taken in 2020-21 season.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
Shark Bay Invertebrate	Shark Bay Crab Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 600t (Q) Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 401t Recreational: 1–4t (95% CI, boat only in 2020-21)	Acceptable Commercial: Spawning and recruitment levels have notably declined under the current environmental conditions and harvest levels. Recreational: Catch levels are stable.
Gascoyne Nearshore Scalefish	Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 2 Periodic: Level 3 Yellowfin whiting – 2014	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 235–335t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 131t	Acceptable Commercial: Catch below the acceptable range due to ongoing very low levels of effort. Fishery review to be undertaken in late 2023.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
South Coast and West Coast Crustacean	West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 5	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: Class A: 123.2t (Q); Class B: 20t (Q); Class C: 1t (Q); 60,000–105,000 pot lifts (crystal crab) Recreational: NA	Commercial: Class A: 123.2t; Class B: 10t; Class C: 0.1t (78,473 pot lifts crystal crab)	Acceptable Commercial: TAC achieved and integrated model indicates that overall biomass is above provisional target levels.
Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish	Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 2 Periodic: Level 5 Snapper – 2022 Goldband – 2022	Snapper – Sustainable: Recovering Goldband – Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: Snapper 51.4t (Q) Other demersals 227t (Q) Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: Snapper 41.8t Other demersals 124.5t Charter: Snapper 5t Recreational: 74–112t (95% CI, boat only in 2020–21, top 15 species)	Acceptable Commercial: Acceptable Recreational: Acceptable Snapper spawning biomass recovering following additional management action undertaken in 2018, including TACC reduction and targeted protection of spawning aggregations.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish	Inner Shark Bay Demersal (Snapper)	Annual: Level 1 Periodic: Level 5 2015	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 3.8t Eastern Gulf (EG), 3.8t Denham Sound (DS), 1.2t Freycinet Estuary (FE) Recreational: 11.2t EG, 11.2t DS, 3.8t FE	Commercial: <2t Charter: 0.5t EG, 1.7t DS, 1.3t FE Recreational: 2.1t EG (95% CI 0.8–3.4t), 4.6t DS (95% CI 3.4-5.9t), 11.5t FE (95% CI 4.3–18.7t) (boat only, assumed same as in 2018)	Not acceptable Commercial: NA Incidental catch. Recreational: Not Acceptable Catch in Freycinet above acceptable range.
North Coast Bioregion						
Northern Invertebrates	Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 60–180t Recreational: NA	Commercial: <60t	Acceptable Commercial: Low effort in 2022.
Northern Invertebrates	Nickol Bay Prawn Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 90–300t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 51t	Acceptable Low effort in 2022 due to low rainfall and low catch prediction.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
Northern Invertebrates	Broome Prawn Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 55–260t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 0t	Commercial: No fishing occurred in 2022.
Northern Invertebrates	Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 240–500t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 239t	Acceptable
Northern Estuarine and Nearshore Scalefish and Invertebrates	Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 2	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 33–44t (barramundi) Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 47t (barramundi) 65t (total) Recreational: 12–23t (95% CI, boat only in 2020-21, top 10 species)	Acceptable Commercial: Catch is above the acceptable range but within the limit reference range. Catch is considered acceptable as the catch rate remains high. Recreational: Catch levels considered appropriate.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
Northern Demersal Scalefish	Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 2 Periodic: Level 5 – 2018	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 440–533t (goldband snapper) 121–154t (red emperor) Catch range review in progress Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 1458t (total) 491t (goldband snapper – not including other jobfish) 141t (red emperor) Recreational: 41–63t (95% CI, boat only in 2020-21, top 15 species)	Acceptable Commercial: Acceptable Recreational: Acceptable (catch levels are combined for Kimberley and Pilbara)
Northern Demersal Scalefish	Pilbara Fish Trawl (Interim) Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 2, 3 Periodic: Level 5 – Underway	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 136-244t (red emperor, combined trawl, trap and line) Recreational: NA	Commercial: 1784t (all species, trawl) 158t (red emperor, combined trawl, trap and line)	Acceptable Commercial: Acceptable Combined trawl, trap and line commercial catch of indicator species red emperor within acceptable range.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
Northern Demersal Scalefish	Pilbara Demersal Trap Managed Fishery and Pilbara Line Fishery	Annual: Level 2, 3 Periodic: Level 5 – Underway	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 136-244t (red emperor, combined trawl, trap and line) Recreational: NA	Commercial: 597t (all species, trap) 104t (all species, line) 158t (red emperor, combined trawl, trap and line)	Acceptable Commercial: Acceptable Combined trawl, trap and line commercial catch of indicator species red emperor within acceptable range
Statewide Large Pelagic Scalefish	Mackerel Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 2 Periodic: Level 3 – Underway	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 246–430t (Q, spanish mackerel) Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 197t Recreational: 89-138t (95% CI, boat only in 2020-21, top 15 species)	Acceptable Commercial: Catch below range, Area1 within range. Recreational: Catch levels remain appropriate. Charter/FTO: catch in historical range.
Northern Shark	Northern Shark Fishery	No assessment	NA	<20t (sandbar)	0	NA No fishing since 2008-09.
Pearl Oyster (P. maxima)	Pearl Oyster Wildstock Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial 786,170 oysters (Q) (14,071–20,551 dive hours) Recreational: NA	Commercial: 756,531 oysters (10,906 dive hours)	Acceptable Commercial: Catch rates similar to 2021, currently at record highs.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
Statewide Hand Collection	Western Australian Sea Cucumber Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 2	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: Sandfish (Kimberley) 0–100t Sandfish (Pilbara) 0–80t Redfish 0–150t Recreational: NA	Commercial: Sandfish (Kimberley): 45.2t Sandfish (Pilbara): 0t Redfish (Gascoyne): 10.8t	Acceptable Overall breeding stocks acceptable for redfish and one sandfish stock. Closures recommended for Pilbara sandfish fishery to promote recovery.
South Coast Bioregion						
South Coast and West Coast Crustacean	South Coast Crustacean Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 2 – 5	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: Quota Zone 1 (western rock lobster) – 35t Zone 2 (crystal crab) – 6t Zone 3 (southern rock lobster) – 16t Zone 4 (southern rock lobster) – 14t	Commercial: Zone 1: 3.2t (western rock lobster) Zone 2: <0.1t (crystal crab) Zone 3: 5.2t (southern rock lobster) Zone 4: <0.1t (southern rock lobster)	Acceptable Commercial: Catch has been constrained through the transition of the fishery to quota management. Recent reduced catches have been market driven. A harvest strategy is in development to aid in future TAC setting processes.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
Statewide Abalone	Abalone (Greenlip/Brownlip) Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 4	Inadequate	Commercial: 45t (Q) (3440–5270 hours) Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 40.1t (1334 hours) Recreational: 11.6–17.2t	Not acceptable Commercial: Catch below TACC due to commercial industry decisions. TACC reduced to 29.9t and Area 3 closed to Greenlip abalone fishing for the 2023 season. Recreational: Catch levels require review.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
South Coast Estuarine and Nearshore Scalefish and Invertebrates	South Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery South Coast Salmon Managed Fishery South Coast Nearshore Net Managed Fishery (including herring g-net exemption)	Annual: Levels 1 and 2. Periodic: Levels 3 to 5 Herring – 2021 Salmon – 2017 Cobbler – 2018	Sustainable: Adequate – Cobbler (Wilson Inlet), herring (State), salmon (State) mullet/bream/whiting	Commercial: <40t Cobbler (Wilson Inlet – informal). <300t Herring (State – informal). Salmon under revision. Recreational: Not developed	Commercial: 17t cobbler (Wilson Inlet) 94t herring (State) 137t salmon (State) 16t blue swimmer crab (South Coast estuaries) Recreational: finfish 17-31t (95% CI, boat only in 2020-21, top 10 species)	Acceptable Catch of cobbler in Wilson Inlet maintained <40t tolerance level. G-netting was allowed for first time since 2014 with catch (36t) directed to markets for human consumption. Salmon remains lightly exploited by commercial fishers due to market demand. Stock abundance of blue swimmer crabs in the south coast bioregion is influenced by the strength of the warm, southward flowing Leeuwin Current and overall water temperatures, resulting in highly variable catch and effort. Recreational: Catch levels are not considered a risk to stocks.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
Statewide Small Pelagic Scalefish (Purse Seine)	Albany/King George Sound Purse Seine	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 2683t (Q) Recreational: NA	Commercial: 1,020t	Acceptable
Statewide Small Pelagic Scalefish (Purse Seine)	Bremer Bay and Esperance Purse Seine	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 3000t (Q) Combined Recreational: NA	Commercial: 616t	Acceptable
South Coast and West Coast Demersal Finfish	Temperate Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Joint Authority Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery	Annual: Level 1 Periodic: Gummy and whiskery: Level 5 – 2017 Dusky and sandbar: Level 4 – 2017	Sustainable: Adequate – Gummy and whiskery Sustainable: Recovering – Dusky and sandbar	Commercial: shark 725–1095t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 799t (key species only) 924t (total sharks and rays)	Acceptable Standardised catch rates remain stable for the key shark species.

Resource	Fishery	Assessment level	Breeding stock assessment	Catch (and effort) range	Catch, effort and catch rate for season reported ^{1,2}	Catch (or effort or catch rate) level acceptable and explanation if needed
South Coast and West Coast Demersal Finfish	South Coast Open Access Line, Trap and Net, South Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery, TDGDLF	Annual: Level 1 Periodic: Level 3 – 2014	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: Not formal Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 175t Recreational: 34–60t (95% CI, boat only in 2020–21, top 10 species)	Acceptable Current commercial and recreational catches are at acceptable levels.
Northern Inland Bioregion						
Northern Inland Freshwater Scalefish and Invertebrates	Lake Argyle Silver Cobbler Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 93–180t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 42t	Acceptable Commercial: Catch is below acceptable level due to low levels of effort.
Southern Inland Bioregion						
South and West Coast Inland Freshwater Resource	South West Recreational Freshwater Angling Fishery Recreational Marron Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: NA Recreational: 50,000–100,000 (marron) 50,000–120,000 (fish)	54,006 marron (± 3,768 se) 106,507 fish (±10,754 se)	Acceptable Catch (marron) within acceptable range since 2003. Review of acceptable catch range (fish) is required as stocking protocols have changed.

¹ Commercial and recreational catch figures supplied for latest year/season available.

² Where there are three or fewer licences operating in the fishery, annual catch levels are not reported due to confidentiality requirements.

Appendix 5: State register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases

The State Register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases is available to the public on application to the Registrar and payment of appropriate fees – see section 125 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA).

At 30 June 2023, the following items were recorded on the State Register:

- 155,675 recreational fishing licences of 230,119 varying fishing activities (note: although details of recreational fishing licences are recorded on the State Register, the Registrar is prohibited from making these available for public search – see section 125(6) of the FRMA)
- 18 aquaculture leases
- 410 aquaculture licences
- 6,159 commercial authorisations of varying licence types.

Licensed recreational fishing activities consisted of the activities listed in Table A3.

Table A3: Recreational fishing licensed activities

Activity	Number of activities
Recreational fishing from boat	126,414
Rock lobster	53,083
Abalone	16,513
Marron	10,225
Net fishing	14,142
South West freshwater angling	9,742
Total	230,119

Table A4: Commercial authorisations

Permits	Number of permits
Managed Fishery Licence	1,598
Interim Managed Fishery Permit	128
Other Licences	4,433
Total	6,159

Table A5: State register of exemptions 2022-23

Note: this register refers to additional schedules, tables and figures that are not provided in this document.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
251044222	30-Jun-23	Approved Port Authority personnel as listed in Schedule 1 and authorised department officers as listed in Schedule 2	For the purposes of enabling the Port Authority personnel (listed in Schedule 1) to undertake surveillance activities under the direction of department officers (listed in Schedule 2) for the protection of the state's aquatic resources from introduced marine species associated with the Statewide Array Surveillance Program.
251044322	30-Nov-22	Matt Ottersen	For the purposes of assisting the department in conducting the annual rock lobster independent breeding stock survey, and in obtaining the data required to facilitate stock assessment and associated biological studies into demersal scalefish.
251044622	31-Mar-24	All persons holding a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL); or all persons operating under the authority of a Fishing Tour Operator's Licence (FTOL)	Recreational fishing for octopus by the way of trigger traps.
251045122	31-Oct-25	Athair Aquaculture Pty Ltd	To permit Athair Aquaculture Pty Ltd to undertake broodstock collection of flat oyster species for laboratory culture to produce juveniles for deployment onto existing artificial reefs in Oyster Harbour for the Nature Conservancy Australia existing Shellfish Restoration Project in Oyster Harbour, Albany.
251047522	31-Aug-24	Joel Wynhorst of Curtin University	To collect <i>Gracilariaria cliftonii</i> and <i>Hypnea musciformis</i> from Point Peron and Bathers Beach, as shown in the attached maps.
251048622	31-Oct-25	George Wood of The University of Western Australia (UWA)	To collect <i>Ecklonia radiata</i> and <i>Scytothalia dorycarpa</i> from 3 sites within each of the following locations: Port Gregory, Geraldton, Jurien Bay and between Marmion and Lancelin.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
251048722	31-Dec-24	Employees of Harvest Road Oceans	To undertake land-based aquaculture research and development trials of <i>Asparagopsis spp</i> at the DPIRD Marine Fish Hatchery (MFH), Fremantle WA and at a facility at the Jurien Bay Boat Harbour, Jurien Bay WA.
251048922	31-Dec-25	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)	To collect fish and freshwater crayfish from all rivers in WA, primarily Geraldton to Esperance.
251049022	02-Apr-23	Zoe Richards of Curtin University	Collection of hard corals (Order Scleractinia), echinoderms and molluscs from locations as listed in Table 3.
251049322	30-Jun-24	West coast rock lobster 1312,1414,1597,1631,1779,2241, 2245, 2259	Confer not less than 300 units of current entitlement.
251049522	15-Nov-24	Employees of Coastal Farms Australia Pty Ltd	To collect up to 20 kilograms wet weight per annum of golden kelp (<i>Ecklonia radiata</i>) by hand collection methods for the purposes of broodstock collection at the area defined at Schedule 3.1.
251050322	30-Nov-25	Krzysztof Wienczugow of Murdoch University	To collect fish samples from the Bunbury Port inner and outer harbours to investigate the presence of introduced species.
251052322	01-Jul-23 (Revoked)	Masters of WCLL authorised boats	Interim measure to increase supply of rock lobster to domestic market by allowing masters to land up to a maximum of 200 back-of-boat lobsters in respect of a trip, except during the month of December where up to a maximum of 400 back-of-boat lobsters may be landed in respect of a trip. Also, to consign up to 50 back-of-boat lobsters to a registered receiver per trip.
251051522	31-Mar-23	Rare foods	To collect octopus while working the 'Abitats' habitats located in the RFA Abalone sea ranch in the Augusta region.
251054522	30-Nov-23	Registered Receivers of Rock Lobster – WCLL Fishery	An interim mechanism to increase the supply of local rock lobster to the WA community.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
251054722	30-Jun-23	Peter Stanich LFB F27	To be in possession of two rock lobster pots modified in line with designs as described in Table 2, approved by DPIRD staff, in the waters of the Western Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
251054922	31-Oct-22	Marie Windstein of Murdoch University	To collect green sawfish (<i>Pristis zijsron</i>), dwarf sawfish (<i>Pristis clavata</i>) and stingrays (family Dasyatidae) from Lagrange Bay (approximately 10 km south of Port Smith) on Karajarri Sea Country.
251055222	31-Dec-22	Ben Deeley of DPIRD	To undertake a targeted single survey of pouched lamprey (<i>Geotria australis</i>) and Carter’s freshwater mussel (<i>Westralunio carteri</i>) and identify potential habitats for those species at two water offtake points and one upstream reference point within the Harvey River Diversion Drain between Harvey and Myalup as part of DPIRD’s Myalup Managed Aquifer Recharge Pilot Study. Sampling will use non-destructive catch and release methods.
251055422	31-Oct-25	Edwin Chester of Murdoch University	Exemption to collect aquatic macroinvertebrates for research.
251055522	19-Mar-23	Nominated Operators on specified West Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery Licences	To permit crab pots to be set, remain and be pulled in the waters of Area 2 of the West Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery (between 6 pm on Friday 23 December 2022 and 3:30 am on Monday 26 December 2022; and between 6 pm on Friday 17 March and 9 am on Sunday 19 March 2023.
251056222	01-Jan-26	Stephen Robinson of UWA	Collection of fish from Swan and Canning rivers from Garvey Park to Claremont Jetty and Riverton Bridge to Claremont Jetty to study Comparative Neurobiology Practical classes.
251056322	01-Jan-26	Stephen Robinson of UWA	Collection of marine invertebrates from various locations to facilitate 1st, 2nd and 3rd year Zoology Undergraduate classes.
251056422	30-Dec-25	Mark Thiele of Murdoch University	Collection of small benthic invertebrates to facilitate teaching.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
251056922	30-Nov-23	South Coast Crustacean Managed Fishery	To permit the use of additional gear.
251057222	30-Nov-25	Andrew Storey of SLR Consulting Pty Ltd	Temporary relocation of Carter’s freshwater mussel in rivers impacted by the Bunbury Ring Road construction.
251058022	30-Nov-24	Fishing Tour Operator Licence Holders	Recreational Rock Lobster – rock lobster pot trial on charter boats.
251058122	31-Dec-25	Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery	To fish for prawns within the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery.
251058422	05-Dec-25	Savannah Killerby-Smith	To conduct an aquatic ecological survey of 13 remnant pools on the Mindy Creek.
251060722	31-Dec-25	Leah Beesley, Chris Keogh, Oliver Pratt, Bradley Pusey and Masters students of UWA	Collection of fish and freshwater crayfish from riverine habitats of the Donnelly River, exact sites to be determined in relation to site access and in consultation with DWER staff, landowners and Traditional Custodians.
251061422	12-Dec-23	Jorja Clayton of Hydrobiology	To undertake an Invasive Marine Species (IMS) survey in the Cape Lambert area.
251063122	15-Mar-23	Authorised masters of licensed fishing boat operating in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery	To assist fishers transitioning between seasons by permitting the use of additional rock lobster pots while applications to transfer entitlement are being processed by DPIRD.
251063822	31-Dec-25	John Leyland Craike and Harold Richard Hoult	To allow the commercial take of bivalve molluscs (cockles, pipis, venus clams, and bivalves of the families <i>Tellinidae</i> , <i>Mactridae</i> and <i>Mesodesmatidae</i>) by hand raking in Western Australian waters between 24° 00’ south latitude and 27° 00’ south latitude.
251066023	01-Mar-24	Nicola Browne of Curtin University	To collect coral from Coral Bay, Lat: S23.136 and Long: E113.769.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
251066323	20-May-23	John Statton of the University of Western Australia	Collection of <i>Asparagopsis taxiformis</i> and <i>Asparagopsis armata</i> from those locations listed in Table 2.
251066823	17-May-23	Employees of Fremantle Seaweed Pty Ltd	To collect up to 20 kg combined wet weight per annum of <i>Asparagopsis taxiformis</i> and <i>Asparagopsis armata</i> , and up to 20 kg wet weight per annum of <i>Caulerpa lentillifera</i> by hand collection methods for the purpose of broodstock for aquaculture.
251067923	31-Dec-25	Central Regional TAFE CEO	To collect those species listed in Attachment 1 for aquaculture broodstock and training purposes only.
251069323	28-Feb-25	Fred Wells of Curtin University	To collect potential marine pest species (invertebrates and marine algae) or closely related species from Pilbara ports, Princess Royal Harbour and Woodman Point.
251069723	31-Jan-23	The holder of a West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery Permit	To defer the due date of payment of the first instalment of permit renewal fee for the 2023 licensing period and surcharge to on or before 31 January 2023.
EXEM 251069823	31-Dec-23	Employees of Harvest Road Oceans Pty Ltd	To transfer up to 30,000 adult individual rock oyster species <i>Saccostrea glomerata</i> from aquaculture gear within IDCA 1425 licensed aquaculture sites in Oyster Harbour for the purpose described in Schedule 2.2.
EXEM 251070223	31-Jul-23	James Tweedley of Murdoch University	To collect entire fish community from the Swan-Canning Estuary and Peel Harvey Estuary, see Attachment 1 for figures showing sampling sites.
EXEM 251070323	30-Jun-23	Using LFB F563 Larissa C from ports in C Zone, Nina Paratore	To be in possession of one rock lobster pot modified in line with the design described in Table 2, approved by DPIRD staff, in the waters of the Western Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.
EXEM 251070523	17-Aug-24	Harvest Road Oceans Pty Ltd	To collect up to 20 kg wet weight per annum of <i>Asparagopsis sp.</i> by hand collection methods for the purposes of broodstock for aquaculture.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251071623	01-May-24	Graham Allen Short of Australia Museum	To collect seahorses (<i>Hippocampus tuberculatus</i>) from locations as listed in the attached table.
EXEM 251072023	19-Jan-26	Alan Cottingham of Murdoch University	To collect stakes seeded with blue mussels from 3 mussel reefs located in the Swan-Canning Estuary as per attached map.
EXEM 251071923	31-Jan-26	Dean Thorburn – Indopacific Environmental	Ongoing monitoring of the biodiversity of aquatic fauna in the Fortescue River and river health in response to potential impacts from mining activity.
EXEM 251073123	31-Mar-23	Michael Amor	To collect octopus from Windy Harbour to Hopetoun
EXEM 251073323	23-Feb-23	Mike Van Keulen of Murdoch University	To collect seagrasses, macroalgae, benthic invertebrates and fish from Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, adjacent to Garden Island Causeway, Mangles Bay.
EXEM 251075823	01-Jan-26	Bryony Palmer of Australian Wildlife Conservancy	To study aquatic survey targeting fish, crayfish and turtles at Karakamia and Paruna Wildlife Sanctuaries, WA
EXEM 251075923	15-Jan-26	Brandan Goggins of Albany Senior High School	Collection of finfish and marine invertebrates for the Albany Senior High School Marine Science Project.
EXEM 251076023	31-Dec-24	James Tweedley of Murdoch University, and Kurt Krispyn	To study Integrated Ecological Monitoring in the Vasse-Wonnerup Wetlands.
EXEM 251076223	30-Nov-23	Persons operating in the South Coast Crustacean Managed Fishery	To enable crustaceans to be stored in holding tanks onboard the authorised boat or in a holding croft in the ocean during a multiday fishing trip, until the point of weighing.
EXEM 251076323	30-Nov-23	Persons operating in the South Coast Crustacean Managed Fishery	To temporarily store crustaceans in holding tanks on board the authorised boat until the crustaceans are consigned.
EXEM 251076823	14-Feb-25	Dr Elizabeth Sinclair of UWA	To study Shark Bay seagrass restoration project.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251076923	28-Feb-26	Jamie Seymour of James Cook University	To collect stonefish from Broome.
EXEM 251081923	08-Feb-26	Dr Rob de Roach of BMT Commercial Australia Pty Ltd	This exemption is granted to undertake surveillance of flora and fauna to detect the presence of IMP.
EXEM 251083923	31-Dec-25	Adam Harman of Lateral Environmental Pty Ltd	The assessment of aquatic ecosystem health condition and Inland Waters values, which may potentially be impacted by the proposed Nyidinghu Iron Ore Mine, Mindy South Iron Ore Mine, and Nyidinghu Rail and Infrastructure Corridor Study (NIOM, MSIOM and NRIC) area(s), to better understand relevant Inland Waters values, conservation assessments and management goals of the NIOM, MSIOM and NRIC Study area(s), and to meet EPA's objective for Inland Waters as part of the environmental approvals process.
EXEM 251085923	30-Jan-25	Colby Bignell of CSIRO	To catch, tag and release sharks from Mangrove Bay in Ningaloo Marine Park.
EXEM 251086023	15-Aug-23	Mark Meekan of Australian Institute of Marine Science	To collect Acropora coral fragments from 60 patch reefs, 2 m in diameter, scattered along Ningaloo Reef within 10 km south of Coral Bay, see attached maps.
EXEM 251086123	01-May-26	Kate Quigley of Minderoo Foundation	To collect coral, seagrass, water, sediment and live rock from those locations listed in Table 2.
EXEM 251086223	31-Mar-23	Jessica Billingham of Edith Cowan University	To collect mesograzers, seagrass and macroalgae from Point Peron, Penguin Island and Safety Bay within the Shoalwater Island Marine Park.
EXEM 251086323	31-May-23	Thea Linke of Murdoch University	To collect fish from Upper Swan River – Sandy Beach Reserve Bassendean, Fish Market Reserve Guildford and Viveash Reserve Viveash and Upper Canning River – south of Shelley Bridge.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251086423	05-Mar-24	Conrad Speed of Australian Institute of Marine Sciences	To collect, tag and release Spangled Emperor (<i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i>) from Maud’s Recreation Zone (between Five Fingers Reef and Point Anderson) in close proximity of acoustic receivers as shown in Figure 1.
EXEM 251086523	15-May-23	A person fishing with the use of Fishing Boat Licence notated with Condition No. 42	To permit the use of a G trap net (G-net) to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. target Australian herring, <i>Arripis georgianus</i> (herring) 2. retain incidental catches of other scalefish species of the Class Osteichthyes and cephalopods with the common name squid, from the beach specified in Schedule 3, using the Fishing Boat Licence in the column adjacent to the beach named in that Schedule for the period specified in Schedule 4 and subject to condition in Schedule 5.
EXEM 251086623	28-Feb-25	Miquel Vila Farreé of Max Plank Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences	To collect planarian flatworms, including <i>Cura pinguis</i> , from locations between Perth and Albany, focusing on major rivers and tributaries.
EXEM 251086723	19-Feb-26	Anais Pages of DWER	To collect seagrass and macroalgae, cores or entire plants, from those locations listed in Table 2.
EXEM 251086923	30-Nov-23	John Statton of UWA	Collection of <i>Asparagopsis taxiformis</i> and <i>Asparagopsis armata</i> from those locations listed in Table 2.
EXEM 251087023	01-Mar-26	Matthew Rose of University of Tasmania	To collect <i>Ecklonia radiata</i> and <i>Sargassum sp.</i> from Rottneest Island and Coral Bay.
EXEM 251087123	06-Apr-23	Paul Lavery of Edith Cowan University	To collect soft-sediment invertebrate fauna from 14 sites in Nornalup Inlet and one site in Walpole Inlet.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251087223	31-May-23	A fisher licensed in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery nominated in writing (email) by DPIRD Aquatic Science and Assessment staff	To be in possession of, and set according to instructions from DPIRD staff, 102 rock lobster batten pots, without escape gaps, from 12 locations, Table 1, in the waters of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Management Plan 2012.
EXEM 251087323	30-Jun-25	Rita Melo Franco Santos of UWA	To collect sediment and macrophytes from the locations listed in Table 2.
EXEM 251088423	30-Oct-23	Persons fishing with the use of the authorised boat endorsed on the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery Licence SBPR1121	To enable the licence holder facilitating surveys conducted by DPIRD to sell fish caught in the process of conducting these surveys which would otherwise be permitted in the course of operating under the authority of a Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery licence.
EXEM 251088523	18-Dec-23	Persons fishing with the use of the authorised boat endorsed on the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery Licence EGPR1102	To enable the licence holder facilitating surveys conducted by DPIRD to sell fish caught in the process of conducting these surveys which would otherwise be permitted in the course of operating under the authority of an Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery licence.
EXEM 251088623	13-Mar-23	Persons operating with the use of the authorised boat endorsed on the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery Licence SBPR1121	To enable the licence holder to undertake gear trialling in specified parts of the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery to facilitate surveys conducted by DPIRD.
EXEM 251098523	30-Mar-23	Water Corporation	To undertake core sediment samples along potential pipeline for the proposed Water Corporation Alkimos desalination plant.
EXEM 251098623	01-Apr-24	Kate Tuohey of Deakin University	To characterise eDNA particle size of various invasive marine species, in order to target sampling and filtration to increase the likelihood of detecting these species at Garden Island.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251098923	16-Oct-24	Thomas Wernberg of UWA	Collection of corals to study the effects of ocean climate on corals.
EXEM 251100423	22-Mar-26	Glenn Hyndes of Edith Cowan University	The study of field methods in marine biology, allowing the collection of seagrasses, kelp and benthic invertebrates from Swan-Canning Estuary, Cockburn Sound and Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.
EXEM 251102223	01-Mar-25	Lateral Environmental Pty Ltd	To undertake surveys on the Harvey River Diversion Drain for Carter's freshwater mussel (<i>Westralunio carteri</i>).
EXEM 251104023	01-May-25 (Revoked)	Kylie Pitt of Griffith University	To investigate the relationship between larval/juvenile fish and jellyfish at Ningaloo Reef.
EXEM 251104123	14-Mar-24	David Morgan of Murdoch University	To study feral fish control – Swan Coastal Plain.
EXEM 251104223	01-May-24	Teresa Bednarek of UWA	To understand fish-coral interactions in the Ningaloo Marine Park.
EXEM 251104523	30-Mar-26	Stephen Beatty of Murdoch University	Ecological monitoring of Harvey River.
EXEM 251105323	30-Apr-23	Persons operating under the authority of West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence No. WCLL 1327 (Kempton Fisheries Pty Ltd)	To supply rock lobster to the WA community for the Shore Leave Festival in Geraldton.
EXEM 251105423	30-Apr-23	Geraldton Fishermen's Co-Operative Pty Ltd (Operating PROL 1013 and PROL 1015)	To process rock lobster to supply to the WA community for the Shore Leave Festival in Geraldton.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251105823	14-May-24	Benjamin Titus of University of Alabama	To study phylogenetic reconstruction of tropical sea anemones and the influence of clownfish-hosting anemones on the colour patterns of clownfish specimens to be collected from Coral Bay and Exmouth Gulf.
EXEM 251105923	31-May-24	Jessica Goodheart of American Museum of Natural History	Study evolution of sequestration for metabolism and defence in marine invertebrates by collection of marine heterobranch gastropods and polyclad flatworms and their prey items, including cnidarians, sponges, ascidians, bryozoans, algae and crustaceans from between Geraldton and Albany.
EXEM 251106423	30-Apr-24	Persons fishing with the use of the authorised boats endorsed on the following Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences: SBSC2087, SBSC2088, SBSC2089, SBSC2096, SBSC2099, SBSC2101, SBSC2091	To fish for scallops for a commercial purpose using the methods described in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Management Plan 1994.
EXEM 251106523	15-May-23	Jessica Thomas Thorpe of Wellcome Sanger Genome Institute	To collect Isopods from those locations listed in Table 2.
EXEM 251106623	01-Jul-23	Staff of DPIRD working in the positions: Fisheries Management Officer, Senior Fisheries Management Officer, Principal Fisheries Management Officer and Director, Aquatic Resource Management	To release information pertaining to a particular Fishing Tour Operator's Licence, including catch returns and summaries of that information as calculated by DPIRD to the holder of that authorisation.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251106723	01-May-24	Calvin Fidge of Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group	To collect all aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates from those locations listed in Table 2.
EXEM 251106823	30-Apr-24	Mat Vanderklift of CSIRO	To collect seagrass and mangrove species from between Lighthouse Bay and Coral Bay in Ningaloo Marine Park as per attached map.
EXEM 251107023	01-May-24	Stephen Beatty of Murdoch University	To collect all fish and decapod crustacean species from those locations listed in Table 2, see attached map.
EXEM 251107123	01-Mar-25	Ben Deeley of DPIRD	To undertake surveys on the Harvey River Diversion Drain for Carter's freshwater mussel (<i>Westralunio carteri</i>).
EXEM 251107223	01-May-25	Kylie Pitt of Griffith University	To collect drifting organisms, including jellyfish and algae, and the fish and invertebrates associated with them, algal rafts and plankton from Ningaloo Marine Park and Exmouth Gulf, within 20 nautical miles of the following facilities: Tantabiddi Boat Ramp, Bundegi Boat Ramp, the Exmouth Marina and the Coral Bay Boat Launch Facility.
EXEM 251107423	30-Apr-24	Persons fishing with the use of the authorised boats endorsed on the following Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences: SBSC2124	To fish for scallops for a commercial purpose using the methods described in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Management Plan 1994.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251107523	30-Apr-24	Persons fishing with the use of the authorised boats endorsed on the following SB Scallop Licences: SBSC2110, SBSC2111, SBSC2115, SBSC2116, SBSC2117, SBSC2118, SBSC2119, SBSC2121, SBSC2122, SBSC2123, SBSC2097	To fish for scallops for a commercial purpose using the methods described in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Management Plan 1994.
EXEM 251107623	30-Apr-24	Persons fishing with the use of the authorised boats endorsed on the following Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences: SBSC2102, SBSC2104, SBSC2094, SBSC2109	To fish for scallops for a commercial purpose using the methods described in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Management Plan 1994.
EXEM 251107723	30-Apr-24	Persons fishing with the use of the authorised boats endorsed on the following Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences: SBSC2093, SBSC2126, SBSC2100, SBSC2107	To fish for scallops for a commercial purpose using the methods described in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Management Plan 1994.
EXEM 251107823	30-Apr-24	Persons fishing with the use of the authorised boats endorsed on the following Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences: SBSC2127, SBSC2128	To fish for scallops for a commercial purpose using the methods described in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Management Plan 1994.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251108323	01-Oct-24	Ben D'Antonio of UWA	To study investigating the vertical and horizontal movements of tiger sharks (<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>) at world heritage area Ningaloo Reef, WA.
EXEM 251108523	01-May-26	Nic Green of Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation	To monitor fish populations of Inland Waters as part of a healthy country assessment of sustainable breeding and/or recruitment in the Yule and Turner River systems.
EXEM 251109323	31-Dec-24	West Coast Estuarine Nominated Operators	To allow for the combined incidental take of up to 5 tonne of west Australian salmon (<i>Arripis truttaceus</i>) within the West Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery.
EXEM 251109423	31-Dec-24	South Coast Estuarine Nominated Operators	To allow for the combined incidental take of up to 5 tonne of west Australian salmon (<i>Arripis truttaceus</i>) within the South Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery.
EXEM 251110223	30-Oct-23	Marthe Monique Gagnon of Curtin University	To Investigate long term heavy metal trends in Yellowtail Scad (<i>Trachurus novazelandiae</i>) and Skipjack Trevally (<i>Pseudocaranx wright</i>) collected in Royal Princess harbour, Albany.
EXEM 251110523	10-Mar-24	Paige Wilson of Edith Cowan University	To study Micro Distribution of Aestivating Fish in Acidic Wetlands of Windy Harbour, southwestern Australia by collection of and release salamanderfish (<i>Lepidogalaxias salamandroides</i>), black-stripe minnow (<i>Galaxiella nigrostriata</i>) and western mud minnow (<i>Galaxiella munda</i>) from D'Entrecasteaux National Park – Lake Florence and a system of separate wetlands moving across the highway horizontally, and their associated habitats.
EXEM 251111123	30-Jun-24	Chapman Valley Capital Pty Ltd	To take sea urchin, by hand, for a commercial purpose as part of a continued exploration (trial) for the sea urchin resource in WA.
EXEM 251111223	30-Jun-24	Wildsea Fisheries Pty Ltd	To take sea urchin, by hand, for a commercial purpose as part of a continued exploration (trial) for the sea urchin resource in WA.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251111423	30-Jun-24	Nathan Boothman and Sanna Boothman	To take sea urchin, by hand, for a commercial purpose as part of a continued exploration (trial) for the sea urchin resource in WA.
EXEM 251111523	30-Jun-24	David Sutcliffe	To take sea urchin, by hand, for a commercial purpose as part of a continued exploration (trial) for the sea urchin resource in WA.
EXEM 251111623	07-May-24	Jian Qin of Flinders University	To study <i>Asparagopsis</i> . Research scope: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Genetic testing 2. Chemical composition analysis 3. Segmentation analysis for laboratory life testing 4. Collecting biological and environmental data 5. Monitor growth cycle stages and its effect on bromoform and phycoeryth.
EXEM 251113923	28-May-24	Dean Tysdale of UWA	To study 'Going with the flow: Population genomics of reef-associated fish in Australia' by collection of banded humbug (<i>Dascyllus aruanus</i>) from Ningaloo Reef, Abrolhos Islands and Ashmore Reef, as per Table 2 and attached maps.
EXEM 251118323	29-May-26	Worley Services Pty Ltd	Benthic epifauna and infauna collection for environmental surveys for oil and gas clients.
EXEM 251118623	31-Dec-24	Fremantle Seaweed Pty Ltd	Collection of aquaculture broodstock.
EXEM 251119623	30-Jun-24	Persons fishing with the use of the authorised boats endorsed on West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Managed Fishery Licences with Boat Registrations LFB E46, LFB A001 and LFB G124	For the purposes of assisting DPIRD Aquatic Science and Assessment in determining the complete size range of crabs present in the various water depths and areas of the fishery.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251119723	01-Jun-24	Rohan Brooker of Australian Institute of Marine Science	To study supplementation of fish communities to assess effects on coral growth.
EXEM 251119823	31-Aug-24	Christopher R. Hemingson of University of Texas	To study assessing the structure, function and value of Ningaloo's coral reef fish communities.
EXEM 251119923	31-May-26	Hydrobiology WA Pty Ltd	A baseline aquatic ecology survey of 7 pools in the FMG at Iron Bridge (Pilbara region) to facilitate approvals and implementation of environmental management plans.
EXEM 251120023	31-May-24	Main Roads WA	Surveys of Carter's freshwater mussel in Busselton environs.
EXEM 251120523	31-May-26	OzFish Unlimited	Monitor the population of feral goldfish in the lower Vasse River over a three-year period and evaluate the efficacy of community driven pest species removal.
EXEM 251120623	15-Jun-26	Biologic Environmental Survey Pty Ltd	Aquatic ecosystem surveys across Chalice farmland and Julimar state forest on behalf of Chalice Mining.
EXEM 251122623	08-Jun-26	888 Abalone Pty Ltd	To enable 888 Abalone Pty Ltd to take greenlip and brownlip abalone as broodstock for aquaculture purposes.
EXEM 251122723	01-Dec-24	Persons fishing with the use of authorised boats endorsed on a Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery Licence	To address inconsistencies in the management plan and improve sustainability and economic performance for commercial purposes.
EXEM 251122923	30-Jun-24	Masters of WCLL authorised boats	Interim measure to increase supply of rock lobster to domestic market by allowing masters to land up to a maximum of 200 back-of-boat lobsters in respect of a trip, except during the month of December where up to a maximum of 999 back-of-boat lobsters may be landed in respect of a trip. Also, to consign up to 50 back-of-boat lobsters to a registered receiver per trip.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251126823	10-Jul-23	Mike Van Keulen of Murdoch University	To study third year undergraduate marine ecology field camp by collection of macroalgae and benthic invertebrates from Five Finger Reef (23°10'51"S 113°45'56"E) and Point Maud (23°07'19"S 113°45'35"E) around the Coral Bay townsite.
EXEM 251127023	31-Dec-25	The Holders of WCEL 2911	To fish with crab pots in Hardy Inlet for a commercial purpose.
EXEM 251127323	30-Jun-26	Ardyaloon Incorporated	For the commercial take of trochus (<i>Rochia spp.</i> , <i>Cittarium spp.</i> and <i>Tectus niloticus</i>) by hand in the waters of King Sound and the Buccaneer Archipelago.
EXEM 251127823	30-Jun-24	Officers of DPIRD	To enable the personnel of the department to undertake research and conservation projects for the sustainable management and development of the State's fish resources and the protection of fish habitats. Collection of any species of fish necessary to carry out research and conservation projects approved by the department for the purposes from the waters under WA's jurisdiction.
EXEM 251127923	30-Jun-24	Officers of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)	To enable the personnel of the DBCA to undertake research and monitoring projects to support adaptive management of the state's marine parks and reserves and aquatic environment, and to conserve marine fauna across WA. Collection of any species of fish necessary to carry out research and conservation projects approved by the department from the waters under WA's jurisdiction.
EXEM 251128023	11-Feb-24	Persons fishing under the authority of an octopus interim managed fishery permit	Octopus Interim Managed Fishery – baited trap trial extension.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251129823	01-Aug-23	The master of an authorised boat and all persons operating under the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence	To fish for rock lobster from an authorised boat with more pots than the licence permits under clause 68(1) of the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Management Plan 2012 while start of season temporary transfer applications are considered.
EXEM 251129923	30-Jun-24	The master of an authorised boat and all persons operating under the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence	To land up to a maximum of 999 back-of-boat lobsters in respect of a trip. To consign up to 50 back-of-boat lobsters per landing to a registered receiver.
EXEM 251130623	30-Jun-24	The master of a charter boat, while conducting a fishing tour in the West Coast Region	To allow the master of a charter boat, while conducting a fishing tour in the West Coast Region, to fish for demersal finfish, or allow a person on a charter boat to fish for demersal finfish, without being in possession of unused quota tags, and where the purpose of the tour is for the taking of a reasonable quantity of fish to be consumed by those persons on board the vessel while the tour is being undertaken.
EXEM 251132723	31-Mar-24	Jennifer Verduin of Murdoch University	To study determining the carbon content of seagrass species in Cockburn Sound using remote sensing and ground truthing, overlaid with a temperature profile by collection of seagrass cores from Point Peron and Southern Flats, see attached map.
EXEM 251132823	14-Aug-24	Gary Kendrick of UWA	To study WAMSI Westport sediment capping experiment by collection of seeds and sprigs of the seagrass <i>Posidonia australis</i> from Woodman Point, Cockburn Sound.
EXEM 251132923	01-Jul-24	Tyler Dornan of University of Adelaide	To study the distribution and movement of the critically endangered sawfish <i>Pristis pristis</i> by collection of freshwater sawfish (<i>Pristis pristis</i>) from the Fitzroy River and within King Sound and associated estuaries.

Important disclaimer

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