



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Protect
Grow
Innovate



Annual Report 2023-24

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: The department launched its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan in February

Cover photo: Horticulture Research Scientist Sarah Nolan inspects a commercial cotton crop at Frank Wise Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Kununurra



Statement of compliance

For year ended 30 June 2024

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 2024.

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*.



Heather Brayford PSM

Director General

19 September 2024

Contact

Postal: Locked Bag 4, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

Street address: 1 Nash Street, Perth 6000

Internet: dpird.wa.gov.au

Email: enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au

Telephone: +61 1300 374 731

ISSN 2209-3427 (Print)

ISSN 2209-3435 (Online)

Creative Commons Licence

The DPIRD annual report is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australian Licence.

You are free to reuse the work under that licence on the condition that you attribute the State of Western Australia ([Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development](#)) as an author; indicate if changes were made; and otherwise comply with these licence conditions.

License URL: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Attribution: © Copyright State of Western Australia ([Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development](#)) 2024

Notice identifying other material and/or rights in this publication:

The Creative Commons licence does not apply to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development logo or the State Coat of Arms.

Permission to reuse the logo must be obtained from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Compliments/complaints

We would like to receive any feedback you have on this report.

Compliments or complaints can be provided by completing the feedback form on our website or by emailing us at enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au.

Copies of this document may be available in alternative formats upon request.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, you can contact us through the National Relay Service:

- TTY or computer with modem users, phone 133 677
- Speak and listen users, phone 1300 555 727
- SMS relay, phone 0423 677 767

If you require the assistance of an interpreter, please contact us through Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) National on 131 450.

Contents

Overview	1
Year at a glance	2
Director General’s report.....	4
Who we are.....	6
Agency performance	19
Report on operations	20
Agency Capability Review	41
Shared responsibilities with other agencies.....	44
Statement from the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation	50
Financial targets and results.....	52
Performance management framework	56
Key performance indicator targets and results	57
Significant issues impacting the agency	61
Disclosures and legal compliance	65
Independent auditor’s report.....	66
Financial statements	72
Additional key performance indicator information.....	165
Other financial disclosures.....	191
Additional disclosures	197
Other reporting requirements	213

Appendices	219
Appendix 1: Acronyms and initialisms.....	220
Appendix 2: Administered legislation	222
Appendix 3: Statement from the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation	223
Appendix 4: Breeding stock status, catch and effort ranges for Western Australia’s major commercial and recreational fisheries	245
Appendix 5: State register of authorisations, exemptions and aquaculture leases.....	265



Overview

Year at a glance



Disbursed **\$1.1 billion** towards **353 projects** through the Royalties for Regions (RfR) program to support economic, business and social development in regional WA (p.27)



Successfully **eradicated Queensland fruit fly** from Bayswater and surrounding areas to help protect WA's **\$1.49 billion** horticultural industries (p.32)



Launched a new **\$3.2 million** fisheries research vessel to boost the state's science and research capabilities and improve fisheries sustainability (p.24)



Upgraded **173 weather stations** across WA from 3G to 4G, ensuring they continue to provide timely, relevant weather data to help growers make more-informed decisions (p.33)



Launched **4 multi-year grains transformation projects** as part of the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration to boost grower resilience, profitability and sustainability (p.38)



Launched a **comprehensive dry season response** to help landholders navigate challenging conditions by making informed management decisions (p.31)



Launched Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to **improve Aboriginal outcomes** across the department and the industries and regions we serve (p.202)



Welcomed **22** trainee Fisheries and Marine Officers – the biggest-ever cohort – to help ensure recreational and commercial fishers follow the rules (p.26)



Facilitated avocado exports to Thailand and India to support the growth of WA's avocado industry, which reached record production of **65,000 tonnes** in 2023-24 (p.36)



Undertook **biggest ever surveillance campaign** for the pest polyphagous shot-hole borer beetle to help protect our local trees and urban canopy (p.32)



Funded the new **\$12.2 million** Sustainable, Innovative Food Technologies Centre to boost local food and beverage manufacturing (p.36)



Appointed a **new Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation** to lead the stewardship of WA's soil and land resources (p.50)



Hosted AgriFutures evokeAG. 2024 that attracted **more than 1,800 delegates**, allowing WA businesses to showcase their products, services and innovation (p.36)



Helped facilitate a **5,400-hectare development lease** near Kununurra to expand a sustainable and vibrant cotton industry in the Kimberley (p.28)

Director General's report



Our department has this year focused on building our capability as a strong, valued and forward-looking agency that effectively delivers for our state's regions, primary industries and WA community.

Our involvement in the Public Sector Commission's (PSC's) Agency Capability Review (ACR) Program provided a launchpad to help lift us to a better-

performing organisation, giving us a greater understanding of what we are doing well and areas where we can improve.

The executive summary of the review report published in August 2023 identified 3 key areas to focus on: enhancing biosecurity preparedness and capability; establishing greater clarity of priorities and strategic focus on primary industries and regional development; and designing a workforce for continuity of service delivery. We made a commitment to address the ACR findings, including through our own Corporate Executive priorities, and made good headway during the year (see p.41).

In the emergency management space, we welcomed Meghan Barnes as our Director Emergency Management Capability and Culture, a role established through the PSC's Women in Executive Leadership Experience program.

Given the increasing number and complexity of incidents and emergencies, Meghan helped us to be better prepared as a Hazard Management Agency by developing strategy, policy and

processes to ensure we have a robust emergency management function. This work will continue in 2024-25.

On the ground, we continued to respond to a range of biosecurity incursions, including successfully eradicating Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) from Bayswater and surrounding areas, as well as undertaking the biggest surveillance program in our department's history to help eradicate the destructive polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB).

We also launched a comprehensive response to support landholders affected by dry seasonal conditions during 2023-24, providing resources and information to help them make informed management decisions, as well as administering grants and loans to those most in need. This was a great example of strong collaboration across the department to address community needs.

This is on top of our work to build more resilient and sustainable farming systems in WA, including through carbon farming initiatives, to help support the state's efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Our fisheries sustainability work continued, with our management activities seeing the metro garfish fishery reopen in March 2024, with stocks recovering to sustainable limits after a 7-year closure, and the pearl oyster fishery being recertified as sustainable through the Marine Stewardship Council in 2023.

We also welcomed our biggest-ever cohort of trainee Fisheries and Marine Officers to help ensure fishers continue to follow the rules, including catch limits.

To support sustainability efforts on the land, we appointed Dr Melanie Strawbridge as our new Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, replacing Cec McConnell who was last year appointed Deputy Director General Primary Industries Development.

We continued to boost our research and development capacity, including through the launch of a new \$3.2 million fisheries research vessel, completing upgrades to agricultural research facilities in Albany and Kununurra, and progressing design for a new metropolitan biosecurity and research facility.

Our commitment to developing the regions was as strong as ever, working closely with the 9 Regional Development Commissions on the WA Regional Development Framework released in October 2023, and to administer the Royalties for Regions Program, which disbursed \$1.1 billion towards 353 projects. We advanced opportunities for agriculture in the Ord, collaborating with growers and Traditional Owners to create new farmland to expand a sustainable cotton industry.

To support businesses across WA, we were privileged to host AgriFutures evokeAG. 2024 – the Asia-Pacific region's premier agrifood technology event – in Perth, which provided a platform for our state's food and agricultural technology sector to connect with a wide range of key stakeholders.

We also progressed our reconciliation journey with the launch of our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan and helped achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal people, businesses and communities, including by growing Aboriginal contracts and procurement, unlocking fishing opportunities in the state's north, and developing Aboriginal career pathways in the pastoral industry.

These are just some of the achievements that would not have been possible without the passion, knowledge, hard work and resilience of our amazing staff across WA.

We are fostering a respectful culture where leadership is demonstrated at all levels. This was on show with our staff leading the development of a new set of values this year that better reflect our beliefs and aspirations. We also developed a new Workforce Strategy as well as an Access and Inclusion Plan, which will help make DPIRD a more diverse and inclusive workplace where wellbeing is paramount.

I acknowledge there have been challenges throughout the year, including the decision to restrict access to the ageing South Perth facility in mid-June. This had a significant impact and I would like to recognise our staff who continue to act with professionalism to get the job done. Restoring our impacted business areas will be a high priority as we move into 2024-25.

It has also been a privilege to work with our Ministers, the Hon Don Punch and Hon Jackie Jarvis, who are strong advocates for our regions and industries and the work DPIRD does. I thank them for their support.

I look forward to the year ahead where we will continue the important work we do to develop industries, help protect and manage WA's land and aquatic resources, and grow our regions.

Regards



Heather Brayford PSM
Director General

Who we are

Enabling legislation

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

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 Strategy

Strategic Intent 2022–26

The Strategic Intent 2022–26 guides our work outlining our department's role, purpose, approach and priorities.

Our role

DPIRD leads sustainable development of WA's regions and agriculture, aquaculture, food and fisheries sectors.

We **unlock and guide economic opportunities** for these sectors and regions, balanced with the **stewardship of our land and aquatic resources**.

In everything we do we take the approach of:

- **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.

Our strategic outcomes

We draw on our grow, protect, innovate approach to deliver priorities under 3 outcomes areas:

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

The Strategic Intent is guiding staff in their business planning, priority setting and decision making.

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

Our values

Our values guide our business, interactions with one another and our engagement with our stakeholders and the community. They help fuel DPIRD's purpose and strategic outcomes.

Our values are:

- Responding with purpose
- Acting with integrity
- Aspiring for a better future
- Embracing curiosity and creativity
- Working together

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.

Primary producers (farmers/growers of grain, wool, meat, cattle, fruit, veg, dairy, fisheries, etc.) make up 26% of this value at nearly \$11 billion per annum¹.

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 \$16.22 billion in 2022-23, with cereal grains representing 55% (\$8.9 billion), oilseeds 20% (\$3.2 billion) and meat and live export 9% (\$1.5 billion) of total exports².

WA is free from many pests, diseases and weeds that are present in many other parts of the world. Geographical isolation and a robust biosecurity system help maintain this unique status which allows for access to profitable international markets.

Agriculture and food

Grains are the largest agricultural sector with the 2023 season crop covering an area of just under 8.5 million hectares producing an estimated 14.5 million tonnes³.

The state's sheep industry (meat and wool) had a local value⁴ of \$1.14 billion in 2022-23.

The state's cattle and dairy industries (cattle disposals and milk) had a local value of \$1.19 billion in 2022-23.

The value of horticulture produce at the wholesale level was \$1.66 billion in 2023.

WA's growing food and beverage industry has a total sales and services value of around \$8.55 billion⁵.

¹ Source: DPIRD Industry Economic Analysis 2023

² Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2024

³ Source: GIWA Crop Report of February 2024

⁴ Note: Local values – the ABS is modernising the way it produces agricultural statistics. Broadly speaking, local values represent farm gate values, and gross values are the value at first point of sale. At present, local value data is available for only 2022-23.

⁵ Source: Food and beverage industry sales: Australian Industry, ABS 2024

Fisheries

WA has an extensive coastline that extends approximately 12,890 km (~20,780 km including islands).

The value of WA's commercial fisheries and aquaculture is about \$815 million (2022-23). WA's approximately 750,000 recreational fishers make a significant contribution to state economy (estimated \$1.1 billion⁶) and support the economy in many regional towns.

⁶ 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 2 key plans contributing to the government goal of diversifying the state's economy.

- **Primary Industries Plan 2020–24** – sets priorities for investment and establishes a platform for strengthened collaboration between government and primary industries.
- **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 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 **\$145 billion⁷** (36%) of WA's Gross State Product (GSP) of approximately **\$402 billion**, largely driven by the resources and primary industries sectors.

Populations across the regions continue to grow. Approximately 727,000⁸ residents call regional WA their home, making up 25% of the state's population.

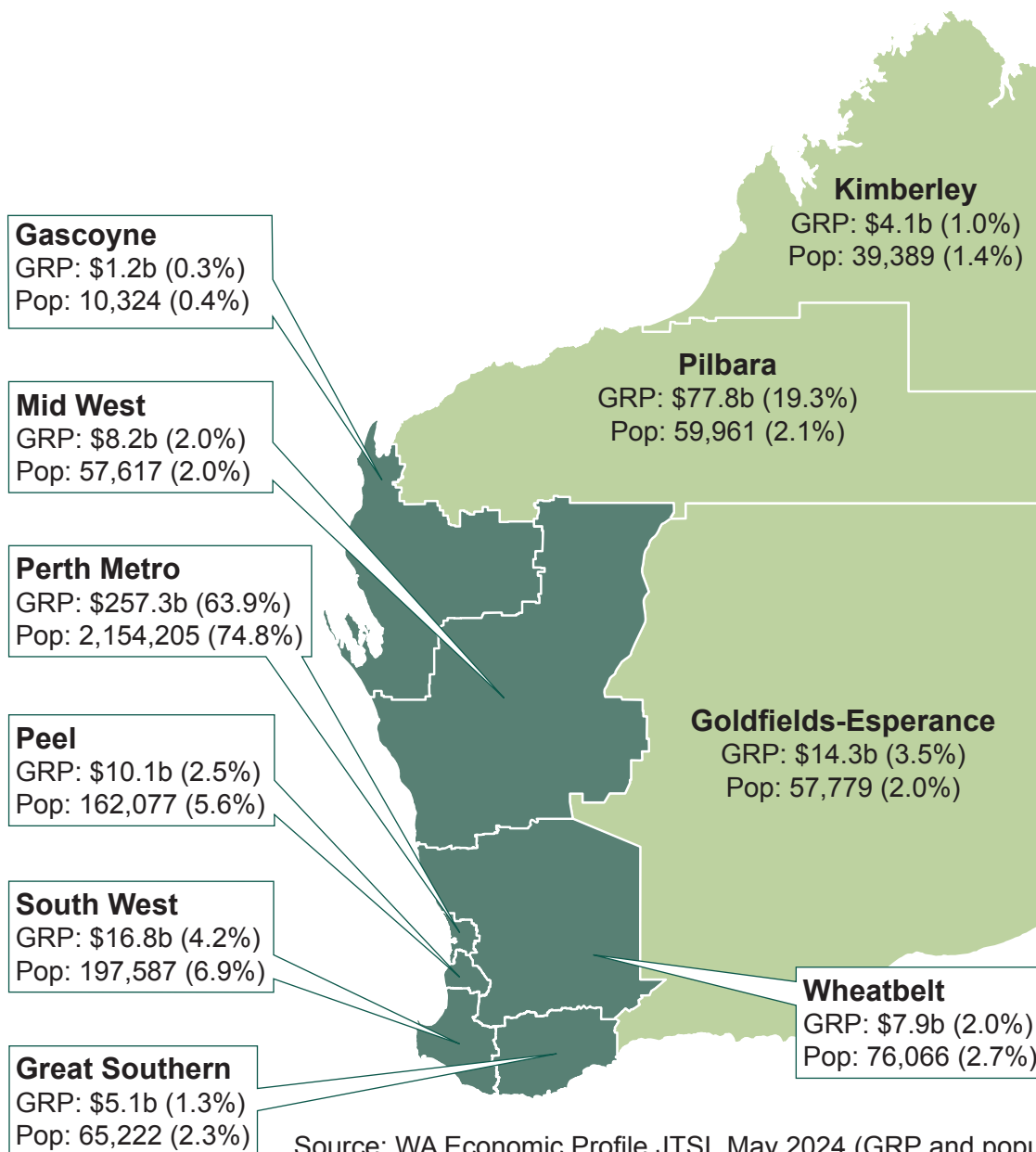
WA's regions are internationally renowned for hosting major industries such as iron ore, energy, grains and livestock, along with significant economic assets. Most of the state's merchandise exports and economic activity originates from production in regional areas.

⁷ Source: WA Economic Report, JTSI, May 2024

⁸ Estimated residential population, ABS, December 2023

Gross regional product (GRP)
= \$145 billion; 36% of GSP

Regional population
= 727,000; 25% of WA population



Working for our regions

DPIRD plays a crucial role in the delivery of regional programs and services that prioritise the wellbeing of communities, businesses and investors in our regions. This focus strengthens local economies and builds a lasting future for WA.

As the state lead agency for regional development, DPIRD works collaboratively across all levels of government, regional industries and community organisations in the development and delivery of regional programs, policy and services, including administration of the Royalties for Regions Fund.

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

WA Regional Development
Framework vision –
That WA has sustainable,
vibrant and liveable regional
communities, supported by strong
and prosperous economies.

Our organisation

Staff and locations

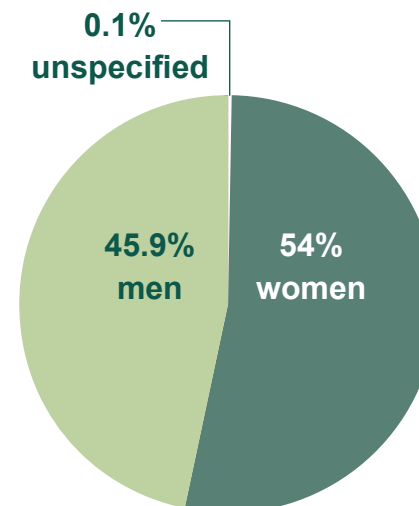
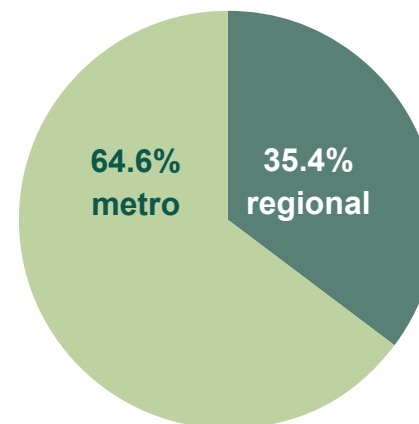
At 30 June 2024, DPIRD had:



1947.9 paid FTE staff

At more than **60** locations

- **8** metro offices
- **24** regional offices
- **12** research and aquaculture facilities
- **6** quarantine, checkpoint and stockyards locations
- **19** RDC offices



Organisational structure

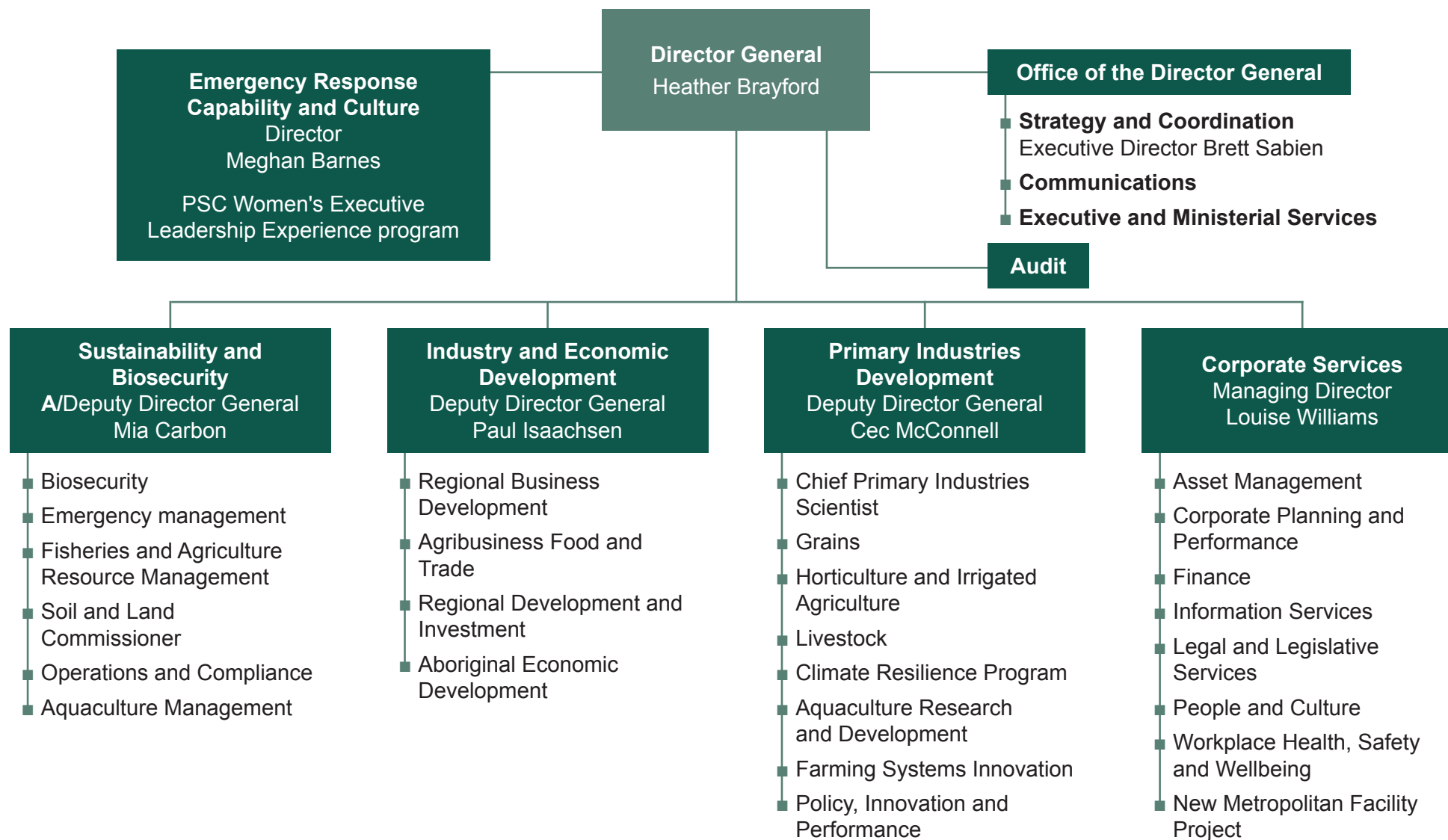


Figure 1: Organisational structure listing senior officers and key functions as at 30 June 2024

Senior officers



Heather Brayford PSM
Director General

Heather has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the public sector, with a long career spanning public policy, regulation, industry development, 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 the department's Deputy Director General Sustainability and Biosecurity, and prior to that as Director General of the former Department of Fisheries. 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.



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 through the delivery of policy, science, operational and regulatory programs. Before this, she held several clinical and teaching roles in the private veterinary industry and university sector. She is passionate about working with others to protect 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 industries, communities and the environment. Mia holds degrees in veterinary sciences and an MBA.



Paul Isaachsen
Deputy Director General
Industry and Economic Development

Paul is an experienced public sector executive having spent several years with the Department of Communities. 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

Cec has been part of DPIRD's Executive team since 2020, when she was appointed as the Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation. In 2022, Cec was appointed as the Deputy Director General, Primary Industries Development. She held both roles until August 2023. Cec has previously held senior leadership roles with the former 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.



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
Executive Director
Strategy and Coordination

Brett Sabien has experience working in the public sector spanning 39 years. He has previously been Director of DPIRD's Investment Management function, which included being responsible for the administration of the Royalties for Regions Fund, grants management across the department and evaluation of programs and services. Brett's extensive experience in regional development includes working in the Pilbara and Wheatbelt regions, and undertaking extended research into regional development in Japan on a WA Government exchange program. Brett also has broad experience in matters relating to the governance and administration of public funds and public policy and strategy.



Meghan Barnes
Director
Emergency Response Capability and Culture

Meghan joined the Corporate Executive team in 2023 as part of the Public Sector Commission's Women in Executive Leadership Program. She has more than 15 years' experience working in the public sector across regional and economic development and natural resource management, and been responsible for delivering complex, strategic projects and programs. Meghan has held senior management and leadership roles in the regions and has delivered on key strategic projects for the department. As the Manager of Strategy in the Office of the Director General, Meghan has led delivery of a range of key initiatives including a new Strategic Intent in 2020 and was a senior liaison for DPIRD's agency capability review in 2023. As Director Emergency Response Capability and Culture, Meghan is providing leadership to guide and develop strategy, policy and processes in respect of a robust and sustainable emergency management function within the department.



Agency performance

Report on operations

Management and stewardship of Western Australia's land and aquatic resources

We are focused on keeping our land and aquatic assets healthy and productive, now and into the future. We help build buoyant primary industries and a community that enjoys WA's natural resources responsibly, understanding that everyone has a role to play.

Management of a robust biosecurity system for the state supports our industries and businesses, our land and aquatic resources, and our enviable environment and lifestyle.

We help position our primary industries and regions to adapt to the challenges of climate change, staying productive and viable amid changing conditions.

Underpinning all that we do is a dedication to the health and longevity of the land and sea through a monitoring, management and compliance program that is risk based and research driven.

We protect WA every day.

Biosecurity management

DPIRD minimises the risks and impact from biosecurity threats to WA's people, environment and economy. We are the frontline defence to incursions related to exotic animal and plant pests and diseases.

Our sophisticated biosecurity prevention, detection, response and recovery services play an important role in maintaining market access for WA's food industry.

Intercepting and identifying biosecurity risks

Our Quarantine WA service continued its work to ensure WA maintained area freedom from many pests and diseases found in other states and territories. A total of 54,687 kg of quarantine risk material was surrendered at road and air checkpoints. The service inspected 124,387 lines of imported plant material and machinery, 19,727 interstate livestock consignments, and 809 export consignments. Ninety-five prohibited pests and diseases were prevented from entering the state as a result of these inspection activities.

DPIRD Diagnostic and Laboratory Services conducted 246,990 tests, comprising 98,189 animal and 30,977 plant pathology tests and 117,824 insect identifications, to ensure early diagnosis of exotic or notifiable pests and diseases as well as facilitating market access for our agrifood and seafood industries.

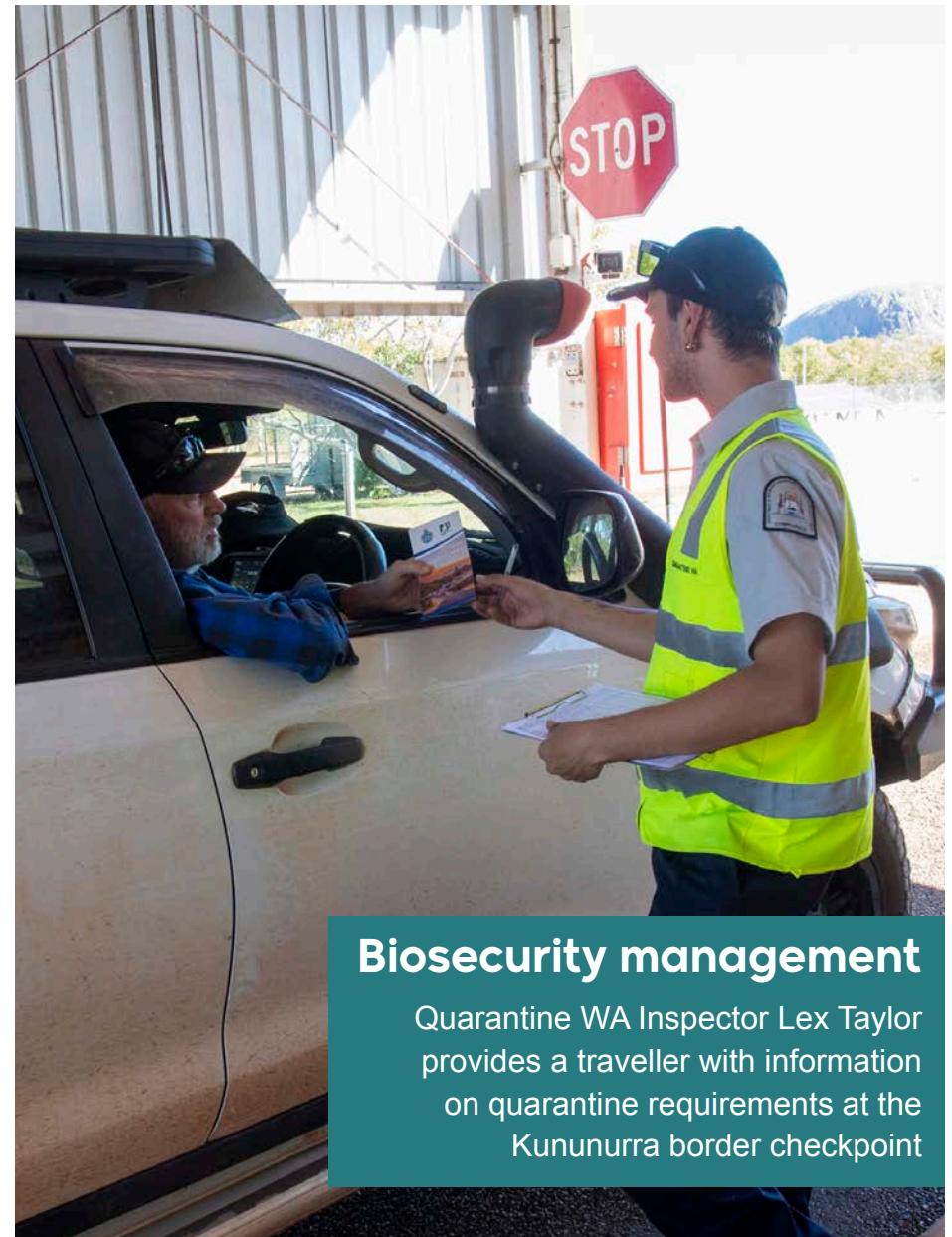
Our department's Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) received and screened more than 7,500 enquiries from industry and the public for biosecurity concerns, resulting in more than 80 detections of animal and plant pests of concern.

Keeping pest threats at bay

Our department conducted its annual European wasp surveillance program, deploying more than 3,000 traps throughout Perth and at several regional ports, to stop this invasive insect pest from establishing in WA.

This year's program resulted in the detection and destruction of 94 nests, including 31 in Napier and Albany – after DPIRD responded swiftly to the first reported incursion of the pest in the Albany region in 20 years.

DPIRD also commenced aerial surveys over agricultural properties and conservation areas near Esperance, Harvey and Muccea to gather information on the population densities of feral deer – an emerging animal pest threat impacting agricultural production, the environment and social amenity, and posing a risk to spreading emergency animal diseases. The data collected will inform best practice control measures as part of a Western Australian Deer Action Plan.



Biosecurity management

Quarantine WA Inspector Lex Taylor provides a traveller with information on quarantine requirements at the Kununurra border checkpoint

We also ran our annual Biosecurity Blitz campaign, encouraging people to use their mobile phones to take photos of and report pests in their backyards. This year, 533 people sent 1,202 pest reports which our department reviewed and followed up where required. There were approximately 9 reports of declared prohibited pests.

Reviewing biosecurity legislation

DPIRD supported an independent panel of experts to complete the first review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* to ensure WA has the right tools to manage increasing biosecurity risk, and to help future-proofing our biosecurity system.

The review process involved 3 stages of stakeholder consultation which engaged more than 250 people, including representatives from across 140 organisations.

The panel considered broader biosecurity system issues beyond legislation, and its final report provides an opportunity to modernise WA's biosecurity system through a range of contemporary policy and legislative reforms. The government is now considering the panel's report and recommendations to determine what action it will take into the future.

Land resource management

We support WA's diverse agricultural industries by facilitating sustainable management of the unique soil and water resources on which they rely. We work with key government, industry and community stakeholders and draw on our research outcomes to support ecologically sustainable development and balance competing uses.

Increasing carbon farming and emissions reduction

DPIRD continued to help build more resilient and sustainable farming systems in WA, while supporting the state's efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Our Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program is supporting over 20 new soil and vegetation projects in the agricultural region that will sequester carbon, while diversifying farm income and generating carbon credits.

The Carbon for Vouchers Program is assisting more than 100 landholders to investigate farming projects.

Carbon sequestration activities expanded at the Katanning Research Station, a demonstration site to help landholders adopt carbon farming and emissions reduction strategies.

Genetic research continues at the station to breed more productive animals that emit less greenhouse emissions.

Our department's new GreenFeed machines and Portable Accumulation Chambers are measuring methane emitted from livestock to aid greenhouse gas emissions reduction research.

We also completed the agricultural component of the WA Government's Sectoral Emissions Reduction Strategy and are developing a Primary Production Sector Adaptation Plan for 2025.



Land resource management

Katanning Research Station is trialling the use of GreenFeed machines to measure sheep and cattle methane emissions in the paddock

Aquatic resource management

Through our work, we conserve, sustainably develop and share the use of WA's aquatic resources for the benefit of current and future generations. We undertake assessment and monitoring of fish stocks, manage fisheries and aquatic ecosystems, licence commercial and recreational fishing activities and provide compliance and education programs.

Our ecologically sustainable approach to the management of WA's fisheries is recognised globally, lifting the reputation of the state.

Stocking up on fisheries sustainability

As a result of DPIRD's sustainable fisheries management, 96% of the state's stocks are not at risk or vulnerable to fishing. More than 90% of WA's fishery value is from fisheries certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), and the Pearl Oyster fishery was recertified in 2023 across a wider scope that now includes its hatchery component.

Our effective fisheries management also saw the metro garfish fishery reopen in March 2024, with stocks recovering to sustainable limits after a 7-year closure.

The latest scientific assessment shows Gascoyne oceanic pink snapper stock is recovering, while pink snapper and other demersal finfish in the West Coast are being managed under a \$10 million recovery package.

This includes a reduction in commercial fishing effort and seasonal closures and other measures for recreational boat fishers to enable stock recovery, including working with fishers to encourage recording demersal catches in the DPIRD-developed FishCatchWA app, which is available on the ServiceWA app.

Modernising our fisheries fleet

Our department launched a new \$3.2 million modern fisheries research vessel to boost the state's science and research capabilities.

In consultation with Noongar Elders, the vessel was named Djildjit Kaartadjiny, meaning knowledge and understanding of aquamarine fish or fisheries research. Operating as the RV Djildjit, it has replaced the ageing RV George Cassels.

The construction of the vessel in the Mid West showcased WA's regional manufacturing capability, which helps to generate jobs and grow regional economies.

Maintaining a fit-for-purpose fleet of research and patrol vessels is essential to the sustainability of the WA fishing industry and MSC certification. The current DPIRD fleet includes 2 large research vessels and 3 large patrol vessels.



Aquatic resource management

The new RV Djildjit fisheries research vessel is being used to monitor the health of WA's valuable fisheries

Enhancing recfishing opportunities

Fish aggregation devices (FADs), which are buoys or floats that attract fish, are enhancing WA's popular fishing and outdoor lifestyle. In 2023-24, DPIRD has operated up to 42 FADs statewide in line with seasonal conditions.

Our department also worked with Recfishwest, the Carnarvon Chamber of Commerce and Shire of Carnarvon on the development WA's eighth artificial reef, which will be installed off Carnarvon's coast. Using \$1.4 million funded from recreational licence fees, the reef will create an exciting Gascoyne region fishing hot spot.

In Perth metro waters, 46,964 yellowtail kingfish were stocked in 2023-24. DPIRD has released about 135,000 yellowtail kingfish over this multi-year program, with some of the earliest releases now well above the minimum size limit and providing anglers with great sportfish catches.

For popular freshwater fishing locations, DPIRD's new tanker truck and trailer is delivering the right-sized trout to the right locations at the right time in excellent condition, with over 70,600 trout of varying sizes stocked across south-west WA.

Boosting compliance

In December 2023, DPIRD welcomed the biggest-ever cohort of trainee Fisheries and Marine Officers, with 22 new officers joining the effort to ensure recreational and commercial fishers continue to follow the rules.

This recruitment helped us to continue important compliance activities across the fisheries, soil and land conservation, biosecurity, and animal welfare portfolios in 2023-24 to help protect our state's resources and biosecurity status and give the community and international markets confidence in WA as a reliable producer of premium, clean and ethical food and products.

Our Operations and Compliance teams conducted 4,001 land and sea patrols, leading to 83,022 fisher contacts and inspections. Additionally, officers attended 276 locations and carried out 1,614 inspections in relation to animal welfare. A total of 1,646 warnings and 1,455 infringements were issued, with an additional 357 offences being prosecuted across animal welfare, fishing and biosecurity.

Capable and empowered communities

We help drive bustling, vibrant and sustainable regional communities where families and businesses can prosper. Each region's strength is in their uniqueness, and we help to capitalise on their points of difference. Our vision for WA's future is one where Aboriginal businesses are flourishing, empowered by their place in the economy and the ability to drive their direction.

Our work is undertaken in partnership and collaboration with the 9 Regional Development Commissions and key government, industry and community stakeholders.

We are driven by shared success.

Thriving regional communities

We work across government and with industry to deliver initiatives that build business capability and meet the workforce needs of regions, including our primary industry sectors. Our work facilitates opportunities, creates connections, and builds capability for local businesses to prosper and local people to thrive.

Funding regional development

DPIRD continued to administer the Royalties for Regions Program, which disbursed \$1.1 billion towards 353 projects in 2023-24 to support economic, business and social development in regional WA.

This included working with the 9 RDCs to deliver Round 6 of the Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants program, which allocated \$4.94 million towards 42 locally driven projects to stimulate job creation and economic growth in the regions including across multiple industries. The seventh round was also opened, offering \$10 million in funding to support locally driven projects in regional WA.

Backing regional businesses and communities

DPIRD remained committed to developing regional communities and connecting people by advocating for local content outcomes and supporting the state's 101 Community Resources Centres (CRCs).

Our department continued to deliver the Local Content Area Network (LCAN) to support opportunities for regional businesses to supply to the WA Government. A notable indicator of the network's growing maturity is that 21% (by value) of government procurements in 2022-23 were local supply, up from the 6-year average of 18%.

The CRCs deal with 76,000 government service enquiries annually. Some of the services provided to regional people through their CRCs included drought response for farmers, the renamed Regional Pensioner Travel Card, child dental health, legal assistance for seniors and health screening programs.

Growing opportunities in the north

Our department progressed work with government agencies, growers and Traditional Owners to diversify the economy and create new job opportunities in the East Kimberley.

DPIRD helped facilitate a development lease for the Knox farmlands near Kununurra that will pave the way for the expansion of a sustainable and vibrant cotton industry.

The 5,400-hectare lease agreement, granted to Kimberley Agricultural Investment Pty Ltd (KAI), marks another step forward since the original 2014 Ord Development Agreement to cultivate fertile land for agricultural production.

KAI is partnering with Keep Farming Pty Ltd to develop the Knox farmland, which is set to play an important role in building scale for cotton production and processing in the region. Construction is already underway of Kimberley Cotton Company's cotton gin in Kununurra.

The Knox development will deliver Native Title benefits as negotiated by the Miriung Gajerrong peoples under the Ord Final Agreement.



Thriving regional communities

DPIRD is supporting the development of a cotton gin in Kununurra which will expand the cotton industry in the East Kimberley and create jobs

Aboriginal empowerment

We partner with Aboriginal people to deliver economic and social outcomes that result in tangible change. We identify opportunities within our primary industries and regions and provide support to ensure they can be capitalised on.

Developing Aboriginal businesses and careers

DPIRD supported development opportunities for Aboriginal businesses including the pioneering Aboriginal Pastoral Academy, which brings together Aboriginal training providers with the pastoral industry to build career pathways for young people. Twenty-eight graduates from pre-employment training programs were employed on Kimberley and Pilbara cattle stations during the 2023-24 season, with training set to expand into the East Kimberley region.

Not-for-profit organisation Morrgul continued to deliver the statewide Aboriginal Procurement Advisory Service, which was established by DPIRD to support Aboriginal business owners to build capacity and compete for tenders to supply goods and services to local and state governments. From September 2023 to February 2024, Morrgul supported 93 Aboriginal businesses across WA, leading to 31 contracts valued at \$10.85 million being awarded and the creation of an estimated 77 new jobs.

The Gascoyne Aboriginal Business Leadership Initiative Program, aimed at improving business knowledge and skills, oversaw 13 program graduates.

Opening up Aboriginal fishing opportunities

DPIRD collaborated with Aboriginal Traditional Owners to unlock fishing opportunities in the state's north.

A partnership between DPIRD and the Indigenous Salt Water Advisory Group, comprising 9 Kimberley Traditional Owner groups based on saltwater country, will drive key Aboriginal fishing initiatives including marine research, customary fishing, and economic development opportunities for mud crab, sea cucumber and black lip oyster.

We also announced an expansion of mud crab surveys in collaboration with Traditional Owners, as part of continued efforts to develop a Kimberley Aboriginal mud crab fishery. Collaborative surveys carried out to date have provided an opportunity to test data collection methods and exchange local cultural knowledge and western science.

A new Accord between Yawuru as the Traditional Owners of Nagulagun Roebuck Bay and DPIRD recognised unique customary fishing rights, as well as the common responsibilities of both parties to look after fish resources – the first of its kind in WA.



Aboriginal empowerment
DPIRD's Danielle Linardopoulos (left) and Warren Benjamin (right) celebrate the new customary netting Accord with Yawuru Prescribed Body Corporate Director Dean Mathews

Emergency response

We are the first responder to incursions and emergencies related to exotic animal and plant pests and diseases.

We play an important role responding to shark incidents, aiding in economic recovery from natural disasters, and managing animal welfare in emergencies.

Keeping freight afloat in the Kimberley

DPIRD successfully delivered the Kimberley Freight Assistance Program during 2022-23 and into 2023-24 on behalf of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).

The program was set up to reduce freight costs for Kimberley businesses impacted by the damage to road networks caused by the unprecedented flooding from Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie in January 2023.

The program paid the additional cost of freight over and above the pre-flood cost and resulted in 222 applications or \$4.9 million being paid to ensure the area did not become economically isolated as a result of the loss of the Fitzroy River bridge.

Boosting community confidence in the water

As well as continuing to support responses to shark incidents during the year, DPIRD worked with the City of Melville to install a beach enclosure at Bicton Baths to provide a protected swimming area for the community – the first of its kind to be installed in the Swan River.

Through our department, the WA Government contributed \$300,000 towards the construction and installation of the enclosure as part of the state's Shark Hazard Mitigation Strategy.

We also installed 3 Shark Monitoring Network receivers in the Swan River at East Fremantle, Blackwall Reach and near Canning Bridge to provide near real-time notifications of tagged shark activity to the community via the SharkSmart WA app and website.

The WA Government announced an additional \$17.3 million over 4 years for shark hazard mitigation, including \$12.6 million to continue helicopter patrols and \$4.7 million for Beach Emergency Numbers (BEN) signage, the SharkSmart WA app, the Shark Monitoring Network, beach enclosures, bull shark research and the white shark tagging program, which has tagged a total of 189 sharks, including 8 so far in 2024.

Helping farmers navigate dry season

DPIRD has supported landholders affected by dry seasonal conditions during 2023-24 to navigate challenging times by making informed management decisions.

Our department's Season 2024 webpages were updated regularly with timely, relevant information, spanning livestock production, grains, land management and animal welfare.

This was supported by a multi-faceted communications campaign to extend important management, financial and social wellbeing messages.

DPIRD joined with the Bureau of Meteorology to deliver a regular Weather Matters video, providing a short but in-depth discussion on the 10-day outlook and climate forecast.

Staff expertise contributed to numerous industry and cross-government collaborations to ensure all stakeholders were equipped with the latest intelligence and advice.

Our department provided executive support to the Minister for Agriculture's Dry Season Taskforce and curated the Drought Response WA website and 24/7 hotline.

We administered the WA Government's Hardship Support Grants, which provided \$2 million to 400 farmers, and have opened applications for Interest Free Loans.

Responding to biosecurity incursions

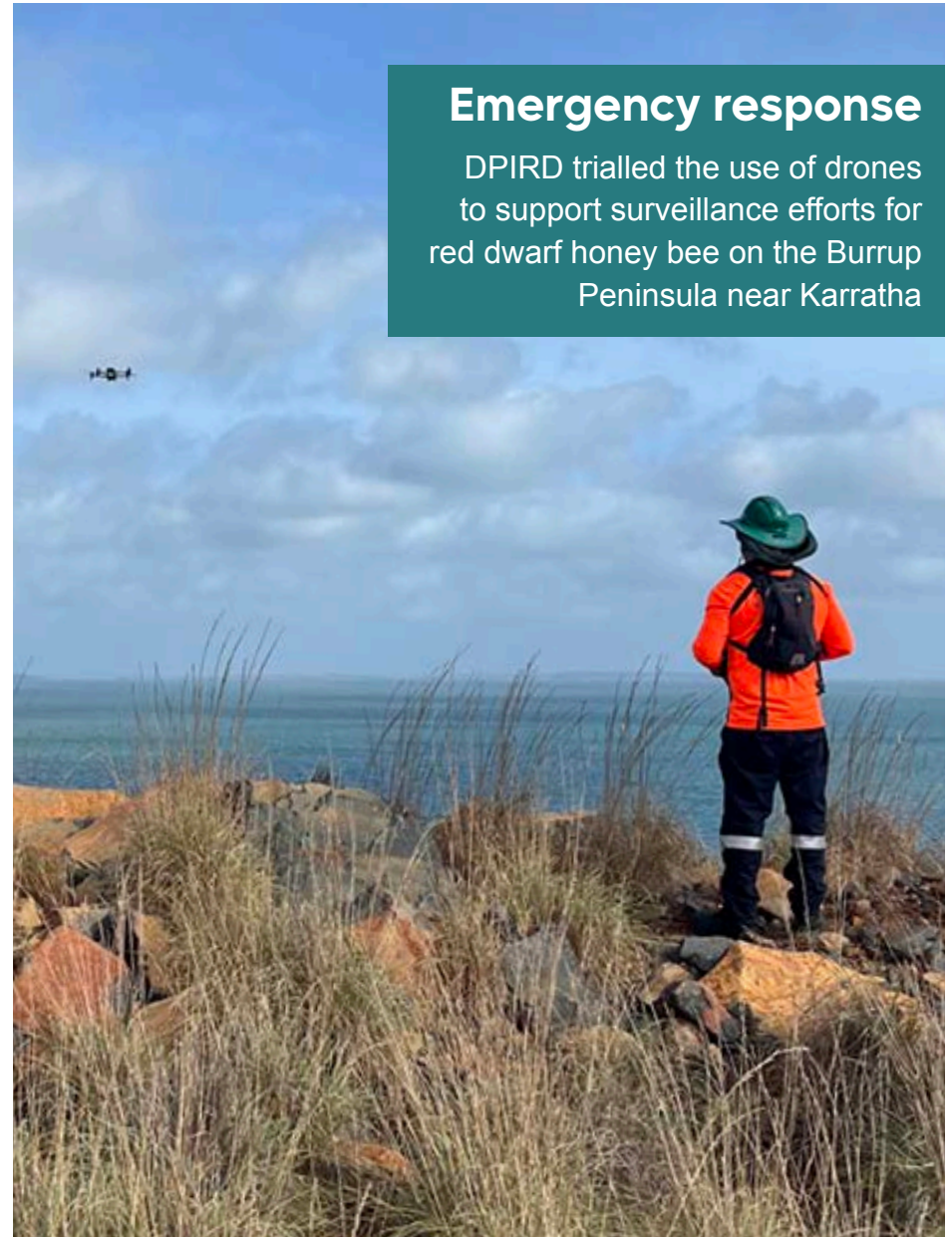
In 2023-24 DPIRD led a range of responses to biosecurity incursions to protect the state's agricultural production, our environment and our communities from damaging pests. This included the successful eradication of Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) from Bayswater and surrounding areas, which involved regular visits to more than 5,500 properties and testing of about 3,000 fruit samples. Qfly attacks a wide range of fruit and fruiting vegetables and poses a threat to WA's \$1.49 billion horticultural industries.

We also continued efforts to eradicate the serious declared pest polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) as part of a nationally coordinated and funded biosecurity response. Since August 2021, DPIRD response staff have inspected more than 1.75 million trees on over 60,000 properties – the biggest surveillance program in the department's history.

Drone technology was engaged as part of ongoing efforts to eradicate red dwarf honey bee from WA, which poses a risk to local European honey bees, covering hard to reach areas in the Pilbara to boost surveillance for suspect bee colonies.

Emergency response

DPIRD trialled the use of drones to support surveillance efforts for red dwarf honey bee on the Burrup Peninsula near Karratha



Dynamic regions and primary industries

Through strategic planning and economic initiatives, DPIRD fosters sustainable growth of regional economies and primary industries. This includes supporting small and medium enterprises, creating employment opportunities, and facilitating infrastructure development to support the diversification of regional economies.

Our people are curious and research is future focused, helping WA's primary industries to leverage the state's unique trade and export opportunities and move confidently into the future.

We connect across government and industry to open trade and export opportunities for businesses, identify opportunities for growth and help unpick sticky issues.

Our technological innovations are supporting digital solutions in the regions, helping remove barriers to success.

We connect opportunities to outcomes.

Facilitating infrastructure

We facilitate regional telecommunication and infrastructure initiatives that support the diversification of regional economies and sustainability of primary industries.

Our partnerships with Regional Development Commissions and key government, industry, research, local government and community stakeholders drive regional growth.

Transforming our weather station network

DPIRD upgraded its weather station network in preparation for Telstra's switch to the 4G network, ensuring the popular service continued to operate effectively and provide a high-quality, reliable service.

A total of 173 weather stations across WA were transformed from 3G to 4G – an additional 19 existing stations in the network were already 4G.

Locally made Unidata hardware using CatM-1 technology – a form of Low Power Wide Area Network technology – was installed, providing superior coverage and increased data transfer speeds for Internet of Things devices and applications.

The weather data, available for free via the department's website, includes air temperature, humidity, rainfall, solar radiation, wind speed and direction, with many stations also measuring soil temperature.

DPIRD's weather webpages attract about 20,000 visitors per year.

A new iOS version of the weather stations app was released in late 2023, with the Android version released in June 2024.

Facilitating infrastructure

A new 40m tower in Wokalup is delivering fixed wireless broadband internet to the Harvey agriculture region and surrounding areas



Bridging the digital divide

The department continued to manage the WA Government's investment in high-quality mobile and fixed broadband services for rural and remote communities together with the Australian Government and network operators.

Sixteen mobile base stations were installed or upgraded across WA under the Regional Telecommunications Project and WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program.

A further 13 towers to deliver fixed wireless broadband were established in the Gascoyne and Wheatbelt and a repeater tower at Wilbinga Beach, north of Perth.

Free public wi-fi has been installed at the Aboriginal communities of Tjuntjuntjara, Bidyadanga and 9 outstations in the Kimberley.

Battery and power systems have been upgraded at 29 mobile base stations in the Peel, Wheatbelt, South West, Great Southern and Goldfields-Esperance regions under the Regional Telecommunications Project.

Australian Government and industry co-funding has been secured for 41 new projects covering mobile broadband, public wi-fi and fixed wireless installations, as well as mobile network resilience improvements at 71 locations across the state.

Enabling businesses to thrive

We join the dots across government and industry to open trade and export opportunities for businesses, identify opportunities for growth, build local capability and help unpick sticky issues.

Our programs support the competitiveness of the food and agribusiness sector including:

- trade development
- capital investment
- capacity building
- market access.

Supporting food producers

DPIRD showcased and supported WA's food and beverage producers throughout the year. Buy West Eat Best (BWEB) celebrated its 15-year milestone in October, making it the nation's longest-running voluntary state-of-origin food labelling program. BWEB's annual trade event Meet the Buyer featured more than 80 exhibitors showcasing over 530 WA food and beverage products to around 200 prospective buyers, generating positive feedback as well as a raft of commercial transactions.

Round 4 of the Agrifood and Beverage Voucher Program allowed 58 local businesses to share in \$431,934 of funding with an industry co-contribution of \$726,246 to drive business growth, resilience and sustainability. The third round of Value Add Investment Grants opened, valued at up to \$6 million, with 2 funding streams aiming to build capability within the agribusiness, food and beverage industries.

Championing innovation and technology

The DPIRD-funded \$12.2 million Sustainable, Innovative Food Technologies Centre (SIFT) opened in the Food Innovation Precinct within the Peel Business Park. The centre will help boost local food and beverage manufacturing and drive growth in the state's value-add food production. SIFT offers WA's food and beverage industry a unique opportunity to test and refine products under a common use agreement, before deciding to invest in large-scale operation, commercialisation and equipment.

DPIRD also facilitated the delivery of the Asia-Pacific region's premier agrifood technology event, AgriFutures evokeAG. 2024 in Perth. The event attracted a record attendance of more than 1,800 delegates, bringing together some of the best minds in agriculture to focus on topics such as sustainability, productivity, food security and renewable energy. It also provided an unprecedented opportunity for the state's food and agricultural technology sector to connect with a wide range of key stakeholders such as international investors, research bodies and corporate agribusinesses, offering a platform for WA organisations, including dozens of startup and scaleup businesses, to showcase their products, services and innovations.

Realising export opportunities

DPIRD supported industry efforts to capture new trade opportunities for Western Australian agrifood and beverage exports.

Our department assisted WA avocado exports to Thailand, following new trade protocols, via trade missions, customer introductions, retail promotions and exhibitions. DPIRD also facilitated avocado exports to India, following the removal of tariffs on the Hass variety under the new Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement. Avocados are WA's highest value fruit industry, reaching record production of 65,000 tonnes in 2023-24, while supply continues to build as orchards come to full maturity.

Our department also worked closely with Wines of WA and 216 industry partners, through the Wine Industry Export Growth Partnership, to increase the value and volume of wine exports.

After China announced the removal of wine trade tariffs in March 2024, the partnership moved quickly to reconnect key customer relationships and sale channels. The government provided a \$500,000 package to help meet the costs of re-engaging with Chinese retailers and distributors, including hosting Chinese trade delegations and participating in the region's premier wine and spirits trade exhibitions – Vinexpo Asia in Hong Kong and ProWine in Shanghai.

Before the introduction of tariffs, China was WA's largest international wine market, importing 2.1 million litres in 2019-20, valued at \$18.3 million.



Enabling businesses to thrive

DPIRD Principal Trade Consultant Fiona Goss and Ben Norrish from Delroy Orchards welcomed the export of Hass avocados to India following the removal of tariffs

Research and innovation

Our work in research, development and innovation boosts international competitiveness of our aquaculture, horticulture, grains and livestock industries.

DPIRD supports the creation and application of new knowledge and technology across primary industry sectors. Our energy comes from seeing our trials turn into practice. Our programs boost industry capability enabling international competitiveness, profitability and sustainable practices.

Upgrading agriculture research facilities

DPIRD opened a new \$1.3 million high-tech glasshouse at our Albany site to support agricultural research. The facility has a controlled environment to enable year-round use by scientists across grains, horticulture, entomology and soils research. The fit-for-purpose building with modern equipment allows for collaborative research focused on WA production systems.

We also unveiled a \$2.5 million research facility upgrade at the Frank Wise Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Kununurra to support irrigated agriculture and beef production across the Kimberley and Pilbara. This included 4 refitted laboratories that support research across horticulture cropping systems, cotton, grain and fodder production.

Strengthening research collaboration

The WA Agricultural Research Collaboration (WAARC) welcomed the appointment of its inaugural director Dr Kelly Pearce, along with a team of 6 agricultural leaders to head up its applied research and development programs.

The collaboration, which was established last financial year, comprises DPIRD, the CSIRO, Grower Group Alliance (GGA) and the state's 4 major universities. It is working with industry to build applied research programs focused on emerging industry issues.

Four projects were launched in 2023-24 under WAARC's grains transformation program – the 5-year Lupin Disease Resistance project, 4-year Harvestable Annual Legume Options initiative, 3.5-year N-ABLE project investigating ways to maximise legume crop use, and a 5-year Wheat Nitrogen Use Efficiency project. WAARC also announced its Postgraduate Research Scholarship Program to inspire the next generation of leading scientists across WA's agriculture and food sector.



Research and innovation

Inaugural WAARC Director Dr Kelly Pearce (left) at the launch of the Lupin Disease Resistance and Harvestable Annual Legume Options (HALO) projects with DPIRD's Darshan Sharma and Ron Yates, and GRDC's Peter Bird

Driving agricultural innovation

DPIRD wrapped up a series of innovative projects for broadacre grains, which delved into soil management strategies aimed at boosting resilience, optimising crop water and nutrient use, all while navigating the complexities of mounting heat and drought pressures. The work unveiled crucial insights for sustainable cropping on ameliorated soils while investigating more cutting-edge soil profile re-engineering techniques.

Our department led collaborative research projects to improve breeding outcomes for the sheep industry. The Genetic Resource Flock project delivered phenotypic, genetic and genomic reference data to improve the accuracy of Australian sheep breeding values for eating quality, meat yield and multi-trait breeding indices. The Sustainability Traits project developed breeding values and selection indices for new sustainable traits via comprehensive feed intake and methane measurements.

We also completed our first avocado project, a 5-year industry capacity building project for WA with Hort Innovation, with the exceptional outputs recognised nationally and internationally. Outstanding capability has led to additional funding, with DPIRD re-engaged for 6 active avocado projects over the next 2 to 5 years with value of \$2.65 million combined investment.

WA led the national Modern Soil Moisture Monitoring project, funded by SW Drought Hub. This project trialled soil moisture monitoring technology to enhance water management, crop productivity and resource conservation for growers, to assist with greater resilience against future drought events and decreasing water availability.

Growing sustainable aquaculture

DPIRD continued to help grow a more resilient, productive and sustainable aquaculture industry for WA by investing in research and development.

In May 2024, our department's Fremantle finfish hatchery team was recognised for its work in developing sustainable aquaculture feeds and effective parasite management receiving the Western Australian Seafood Industry Research Development and Extension Award.

We partnered with One Sea Pty Ltd and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation on a \$2.7 million project to develop innovative techniques to spawn and grow saucer scallops in a hatchery environment to support stock enhancement of the wild capture fishery, resulting in successful release of around 5,000 hatchery-reared juvenile scallops off the coast of Rottnest Island in April 2024.

Our Albany Shellfish Hatchery will receive a \$3.6 million upgrade to support the development of the WA shellfish industry and capitalise on increasing market demand for edible oysters, including rock oysters and akoya.

Local Albany company Colab Construction Pty Ltd is expected to complete the upgrades by the end of 2024.

Agency Capability Review

DPIRD participated in the Public Sector Commission (PSC) Agency Capability Review program from December 2022 to June 2023, with the executive summary of the review report published in August 2023. The program takes a comprehensive, whole-of-sector approach to improvement, and sets standards based on clear understanding of what constitutes a high-performing public sector agency in Western Australia.

Staff contributed to the review through a survey, capability questionnaire, interviews and site visits. Sixty-six external stakeholder consultations also helped shape findings of the review.

The review was invaluable to provide an independent view highlighting capabilities required to create a forward-looking agency focused on delivering programs and services for the community, regions and primary industries.

The reviewers commended DPIRD for its ecologically sustainable approach to the management of WA's fisheries, which is recognised globally. DPIRD's effective approaches to leading research and development, resulting in the successful commercialisation and trade of WA products, and the effective approach to grants management were also recognised as areas of strength.

The report identified several opportunities for strengthening our capability with DPIRD's response outlined in an Agency Commitment Statement. The table on the following page provides an overview of the commitments made to address key observations and progress that has been made to 30 June 2024.

Table 1: Agency Capability Review commitments, actions and progress

Commitment	Actions and progress
Driving stability, including strengthening leadership and support for staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPIRD developed an implementation plan to adopt the PSC Leadership Expectations framework, strengthening the leadership behaviours of our employees. • DPIRD finalised its Workforce Strategy 2024–28 and associated action plan which will enable data-based decision making to meet current and future workforce needs and ensure we have the right mix of skills and people to drive the future development of the agency.
Growing the financial health of the agency to support our future delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department is continuing to develop its strategic budget program and enhanced reporting and budgeting processes. • DPIRD has developed a finance transformation strategy and roadmap, including system and process improvements.
Ensuring staff have the right systems, assets and tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPIRD continues to progress the concept design for a new fit-for-purpose facility to deliver the state’s biosecurity diagnostic services and primary industries metropolitan-based research and development functions. • DPIRD is developing the foundations for establishing a more contemporary and adaptable information technology and digital environment, which includes implementing the ‘Right Size and Rationalise’ project to reduce the number of applications in use and modernise services.
Creating a workplace where staff feel safe, valued and supported to thrive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following input from staff and the department’s Culture and Values Board, new organisational values were launched in March 2024 to support a healthy values framework reflective of the present day and into the future. • A safe and healthy workplace for all staff continues to be a priority for the department. A Work Health, Safety and Wellbeing roadmap has been developed with initiatives well progressed. These include a proposed model of governance, interactive training sessions for managers, review and update of associated policies, and a Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan.

Table 1: Agency Capability Review commitments, actions and progress (continued)

Commitment	Actions and progress
Enabling Aboriginal people in the regions and primary industries to improve outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPIRD’s new Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-25 was finalised in December 2023 with a dedicated Senior Project Officer appointed to coordinate activities across the department. • Procurement processes and strategies to drive Aboriginal outcomes are ongoing with a stretch procurement target of 6% of overall procurement established.
Increase our capacity and capability in incident and emergency management and preparedness to deliver a large-scale biosecurity response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPIRD appointed an Emergency Management Capability and Culture Director for a 12-month period as part of the PSC Women in Executive Leadership program to develop an internal culture to support our role as a hazard management agency. • The department delivered an Introduction to Australian Inter-service Incident Management System training package to active incident teams. The training is open to all staff via an online training program. • DPIRD progressed the development of an Emergency Animal Disease recovery framework in partnership with the DFES.
Provide clarity of role, purpose and priorities for our stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Development Commissions and DPIRD launched the WA Regional Development Framework in October 2023. This framework represents the desire to achieve meaningful outcomes for regional WA by collaborating, coordinating and aligning actions, which draw on our collective expertise and are tailored to accommodate the unique differences between regions. • DPIRD has progressed a review of the Primary Industries Plan 2020–24, which will guide the future development of WA’s primary industries. The new plan is expected to be completed in 2025.

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 also work as a member and current chair of the North West Aboriginal Housing Fund that aims to create pathways towards social and economic independence and wellbeing for Aboriginal people in the Pilbara and Kimberley.

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), Australian Government 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. This work includes the department's lead role in administering the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, promoting livestock stewardship and ensuring 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.

Biosecurity

We work with Australian, 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 Organisation 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 Australian, 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 Net Zero Working Group – a component of the Ministerial Taskforce on Climate Action – on 2 key actions under the Climate Change Bill 2023. Firstly, the Sectoral Emissions Reduction Strategy for Western Australia (SERS) was launched 13 December 2023. The Working Group is developing a reporting framework to demonstrate business, industry, research institutions and the community activities to transition our economy to net zero emissions. Secondly, we have commenced planning for a Primary Production Sector Adaptation Strategy. Subject to Ministerial approval, the plan is likely to include agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Consultation is expected with industry stakeholders over 2 phases – a vulnerability assessment and developing response actions. The plan is intended to be finalised during 2025-26.

Collie industry development

Our department continues to work with DPC, the South West Development Commission and the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) to deliver the Collie Industry Attraction and Development Fund, Collie Futures Industry Development Fund and the Collie Futures Small Grant Program to attract new industries to Collie to diversify its economy and develop new industries to support local jobs, with a reduced reliance on any one sector.

Emergency management/ natural disaster relief

Our department continues to work closely with the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), DFES, other hazard management agencies, local government and relevant 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*.

On behalf of DFES, our department continues to deliver a range of packages, including a freight assistance scheme, to support industry and community recovery from Tropical Cyclone Ellie.

We are also part of the WA Regional Telecommunications Resilience Improvement Working Group, along with DFES and power companies, that aims to boost telecommunications reliability and resilience to natural disasters.

Land and water development

DPIRD works with DPLH, DBCA, DPC and the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) to progress opportunities in carbon farming and clean energy.

We are the lead agency for the Ord development, working with DBCA, DWER, DPLH, Horizon Power and Traditional Owners to support the continued development of new agricultural land and meet obligations under the Ord development agreement with Kimberley Agricultural Investment.

Our department also works with DWER on the Southern Forests Infrastructure Support Scheme, which provides funding to horticulture producers in the Warren-Donnelly region of WA to help them improve their water security.

Additionally, we work with Treasury, DWER, JTSI, DBCA, Forest Products Commission and DEMIRS on the Wellington for Agriculture initiative to help achieve an innovative and long-term outcome for sustainable use of the Wellington Dam water resource to support horticulture production and regional development.

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*. In conducting our work in some of the northern marine parks, DPIRD supports the activity of Commonwealth partner agencies, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and Maritime Border Command. DPIRD also has collaborative arrangements in place to provide services 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 on management of the pastoral estate, including enhanced monitoring and assessment.

DPIRD provides support to many Aboriginal-owned and run pastoral leases assisting with governance and training programs, including the East Kimberley Pastoral Academy launched in 2024.

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.

Regional connectivity

We work with the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts and across the WA Government to deliver the WA Regional Connectivity Program, which provides funding to telecommunication operators to deliver telecommunications infrastructure to improve digital connectivity across regional, rural and remote Australia.

DPIRD has also provided grants to local telecommunication operators to provide nice connectivity improvement for farm businesses, campgrounds and popular tourist sites. We are also collaborating with the Office of Digital Government to develop a State Digital Connectivity Plan.

We are working with DBCA to provide telecommunications to our popular remote surf beaches in our national parks, the first of which was commissioned in 2024.

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.

Statement from the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation



The past 12 months have been busy, with a continued interest in deep drainage for salinity management. Pleasingly, the recognition by landholders of the importance of protecting land systems was demonstrated by the placement of voluntary Conservation Covenants, protecting 1,934 ha of vegetation.

No Soil Conservation Notices were issued, however multiple landholders continue to be engaged through a voluntary compliance approach. This includes the provision of advice by staff from my office and from the Agriculture Resource Management and Assessment branch. Voluntary compliance provides an opportunity for land managers to undertake required actions to address land degradation issues in the first instance, without regulation.

The Soil and Land Conservation Council continued its oversight of the implementation of the Dryland Salinity – Future Directions Government Response (2020) and, after consultation with agri-industry organisations, made recommendations to the Minister for priority actions for salinity management. The council also oversees the implementation of the WA Soil Health Strategy through annual reporting, monitoring of key deliverables, and evaluation of potential delivery partnerships. The strategy has an important role in identifying priority issues for soil health investment in WA and in supporting soil and land condition policy linked to the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (the Act).

Work has begun on developing a Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Management based on the Framework for Sustainable Pastoral Management (2022). Standards are being developed for consistent assessment, monitoring and response to wind erosion risk in the agricultural regions. Lack of summer ground cover continues to be unacceptably high across the grainbelt, with the West Midlands Ag Soil zone having the greatest proportion of land at extreme erosion hazard for the ninth consecutive year.

It is expected the wind erosion standards will be ready for use for the 2026 summer period. This approach will be extended to other areas of soil and groundwater management regulated under the Act.

Rangeland Condition Assessments were conducted on 22 pastoral stations, with 13 being found at risk for land degradation. My office, in consultation with the Pastoral Lands Board, has commenced working with lessees to address the identified issues and map a pathway back to productive and stable land systems. Varying rainfall across the rangelands impact the levels of soil water and the ability of vegetation to recover from sustained livestock grazing. Stocking rates, particularly in the Pilbara and Southern Rangelands, will need to be decreased in line with fodder availability to manage degradation and animal welfare risks.

The close of 2023-24 marks the end of my first year as Commissioner. I would particularly like to thank the Deputy Commissioner for his support and advice during this time.

One of the highlights of the year was being invited to deliver the 2023 World Soils Day opening address 'Soil and Water: A Source of Life'. It is a continued privilege to work with such a wide range of people who have the management of WA's soil and land resource at the heart of what they do.

My full report for 2023-24 can be found in Appendix 3.

Melanie Strawbridge

Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation

Financial targets and results

Table 2a: Financial targets 2023-24

	2024 Target ¹ (\$'000)	2024 Actual ² (\$'000)	Variation (\$'000)	Explanation of variation ³
Total cost of services (expense limit) (details from Statement of comprehensive income)	657,334	590,950	66,384	Total cost of services Actual is \$66.384 million lower than target primarily driven by lower-than-expected take-up for the ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie Freight Subsidies Assistance Package and project delays including Farm Business Resilience Program, Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Parks - BAMP Industry Package, Agriculture Climate Resilience Fund – Administration, WA Agricultural Research Collaboration, Pilbara Aboriginal town Based Reserves – Stage 2, Busselton Jetty Marine Discovery Centre and Implementation of Sheep and Goat Electronic Identification Program. Carryovers to 2024-25 and out years have been approved in the 2024-25 WA State Government budget process, with further carryovers being requested through the 2024-25 WA State Government Mid-year review.

¹ As specified in the 2023-24 DPIRD Budget Statements and resource agreement, which includes the department and the 9 RDCs.

² To enable comparison against the 2023-24 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 2023-24 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 2a: Financial targets 2023-24 (continued)

	2024 Target ¹ (\$'000)	2024 Actual ² (\$'000)	Variation (\$'000)	Explanation of variation ³
Net cost of services (details from Statement of comprehensive income)	545,125	450,835	94,290	Net cost of services Actual is \$94.290 million lower than target, partially driven by the reduction of \$66.384 million in Total cost of services as per above and an increase in Other Income of \$27.906 million above target relating partially to National Cost Share agreements for WA incidents (\$16.5 million), increased rent received (\$2.2 million), interest revenue (\$1.9 million), recoups and recoveries (\$5.3 million) with an offset as a result of a reduction in Western Rock Lobster access fees (\$8.4 million) and other non-government grants.
Total equity (details from Statement of financial position)	728,230	746,221	(17,991)	Actual equity is higher than target as a result of the revaluation of land and buildings of \$22 million which is not budgeted, combined with a higher opening balance in reserves and an improvement in the accumulated deficit of \$18.9 million, offset by a reduction in contributed equity for the New Metropolitan Facility and Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park.

¹ As specified in the 2023-24 DPIRD Budget Statements and resource agreement, which includes the department and the 9 RDCs.

² To enable comparison against the 2023-24 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 2023-24 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 2a: Financial targets 2023-24 (continued)

	2024 Target ¹ (\$'000)	2024 Actual ² (\$'000)	Variation (\$'000)	Explanation of variation ³
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held (details from Statement of cash flows)	(41,566)	50,816	(92,382)	Cash held (both restricted and non-restricted) was \$92.382 million higher than target. This is mainly as a result of supplementary funding (\$21.7 million), the receipt of a \$19.36 million Treasurer's advance related to biosecurity incident cost-share arrangements (refer to commentary below with respect to the agreed borrowing limit) and a reduction in both capital and operating expenditure which is greater than the reduction in the associated funding which has been carried over to 2024-25 and the outyears through the WA State Government 2024-25 Budget process with further carryovers requested through thhe 2024-25 WA State Government Mid-year review.
Approved salary expense level	213,518	224,707	(11,189)	Salary expense level is \$11.189 million higher than target, mainly due to Building WA Grains Research and Development Capacity reclassification of 108 positions from Services and Contracts to Salaries to reflect the service delivery model. The transfer from services and contracts expenditure to salary expense was approved by Treasury during the 2023-24 financial year.
Agreed Borrowing Limit	3,000	22,360	(19,360)	Borrowings is \$19.36 million higher than target due to a treasury advance received in 2023-24 relating to expenditure on WA Incident and Emergency response activities incurred in 2022-2023 and 2023-24 which is expected to be recovered in 2024-25. The recovery of costs is in accordance with National Cost Sharing agreements in place.

¹ As specified in the 2023-24 DPIRD Budget Statements and resource agreement, which includes the department and the 9 RDCs.

² To enable comparison against the 2023-24 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 2023-24 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 2b: Working cash targets

	2024 Agreed Limit ¹ \$'000	2024 Target / Actual ² \$'000	Variation (\$'000)	Explanation of variation ³
Agreed working cash limit (at Budget)	23,578	23,578	–	Not applicable
Agreed working cash limit (at Actuals)	23,578	49,038	(25,460)	The actual cash balance is \$25.46 million higher than target as the final payment run for 2023-24 was processed in July 2024.

¹ As specified in the 2023-24 DPIRD Budget Statements and resource agreement, which includes the department and the 9 RDCs.

² To enable comparison against the 2023-24 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 2023-24 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

No changes were made to our OBM in 2023-24.

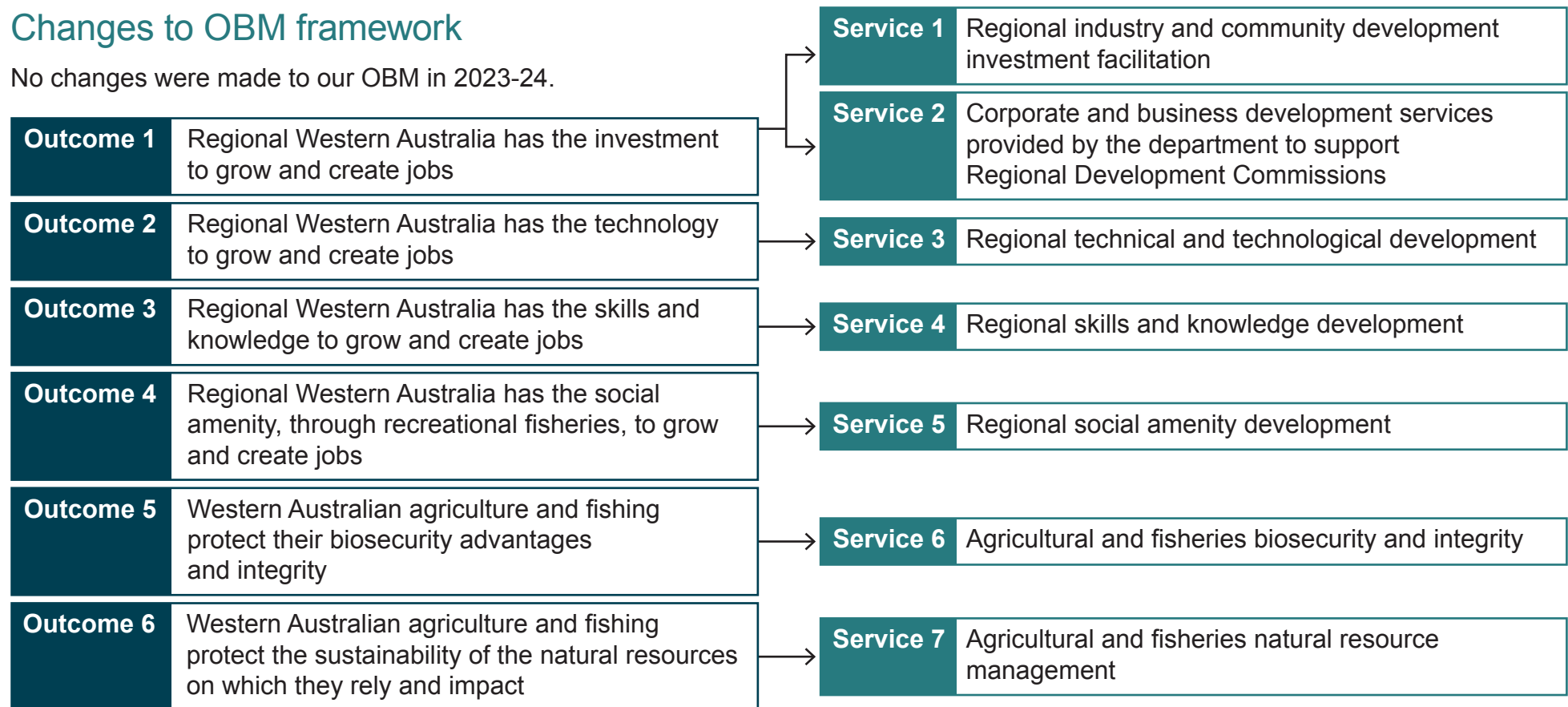


Figure 2: Outcome-based management framework – Agency level desired outcomes and effectiveness indicators

Key performance indicator targets and results

This section summarises our results against our KPI targets in 2023-24. Detailed explanations of the results are provided in the 'Additional key performance indicator information' section that has been audited by the Auditor General.

Table 3: Key effectiveness indicator targets, results and variations

		2022-23		2023-24	
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	1:1.63	1:1	1:1.37	+37%
2 Regional WA has the technology to grow and create jobs	2 Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's technology initiatives	94%	80%	85%	+5%
3 Regional WA has the skills and knowledge to grow and create jobs	3 Percentage of clients satisfied with the department's capability initiatives	70%	70%	77%	+7%
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	83%	85%	89%	+4%

Table 3: Key effectiveness indicator targets, results and variations (continued)

		2022-23		2023-24			
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	37.5%	60%	44.4%	-15.6%
	5.2	Percentage of invasive aquatic pests and exotic diseases resolved appropriately	0%	60%	0%	-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	6.1%	0%	6.1%	+6.7%
		6.2	Number of soil health extension workshops held	84	30	90	+200%
		6.3	Proportion of fish stocks identified as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation	96%	95%	91%	-4%
		6.4	Percentage of commercial and recreational fisheries where acceptable catches (or effort levels) are achieved	92%	90%	83%	-7%

Table 4: Key efficiency indicator targets, results and variations

				2022-23	2023-24		
Outcome		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	\$240.39	\$370.10	\$263.47	-29%
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	\$171.96	\$199.40	\$167.23	-16%
3	Regional technical and technological development	3	Average cost per hour to deliver regional technical and technological development	\$156.60	\$198.79	\$152.05	-24%
4	Regional skills and knowledge development	4	Average cost per hour to deliver regional skills and knowledge development	\$223.93	\$295.61	\$201.29	-32%
5	Regional social amenity development	5	Average cost per hour to deliver regional social amenity development	\$163.19	\$223.44	\$191.93	-14%
6	Agricultural and aquatic biosecurity and integrity	6	Average cost per hour to deliver agricultural and fisheries biosecurity and integrity	\$138.80	\$143.90	\$146.22	2%
7	Agricultural and fisheries natural resource management	7	Average cost per hour to deliver agricultural and fisheries natural resource management	\$138.41	\$180.53	\$157.28	-13%



Significant issues impacting the agency



Climate change

Climate change is impacting the state's regions and primary industries, including through reduced rainfall in many areas, changes in sea temperatures and increased climate-related events. To help address the challenges and create opportunities presented by climate change, the department is leading the development of management practices to support climate resilience and aligning its broader climate change responses to whole-of-government climate change objectives. This includes investment in research and development with a focus on resilience, reducing emissions and sustainable management of land and aquatic natural resources.



Biosecurity threats

Biosecurity threats to WA's economy, industries, environment and communities continue to increase. The department is responding to multiple incursions of significant pests, including polyphagous shot-hole borer. The borer is impacting trees throughout metropolitan Perth and could have devastating long-term impacts if not managed. DPIRD is partnering with industry, the community and local, state and federal agencies to protect our primary industries, environment and lifestyle from biosecurity risks and to maintain market access for our primary producers. Government investment in early detection of emergency pests and diseases, biosecurity response capacity and capability, and modern traceability systems is ongoing.



Disclosures and legal compliance

Independent auditor's report



Auditor General
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

2024

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 (Department) which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, 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 2024 and administered income and expenses by service for the year then ended
- notes comprising a summary of material 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 2024 and the financial position as at the end of that period
- in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Emphasis of Matter – Restatement of Comparative Balances

I draw attention to Note 1(i) of the financial statements which states that the amounts reported in the previously issued 30 June 2023 financial statements have been restated and disclosed as comparatives in this financial statements. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Page 1 of 6

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.

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 they determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website. This description forms part of my auditor's report and can be found at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

Report on the audit of controls

Basis for Qualified Opinion

I identified significant weaknesses in the design and implementation of expenditure controls by the Department. The controls were inadequate in ensuring that approvers have appropriate delegation limits or to ensure changes to delegation levels are appropriate and approved within the procurement process. In addition, there were no periodic user reviews in place during the year to ensure delegation levels are appropriate. These weaknesses increase the risk of unauthorised payments and could result in misappropriation of public monies.

Qualified 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 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development are those policies and procedures established to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State's financial reporting framework (the overall control objectives).

In my opinion, in all material respects, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, the controls exercised by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the controls within the system were suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives identified as at 30 June 2024, and the controls were implemented as designed as at 30 June 2024.

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 Engagements ASAE 3150 Assurance Engagements on Controls issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain

reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and were implemented as designed.

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

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

Limitations of controls

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

Report on the audit of the key performance indicators

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for the year ended 30 June 2024 reported in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions (legislative requirements). 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 report of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for the year ended 30 June 2024 is in accordance with the legislative requirements and the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Department's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2024.

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 2024, but not the financial statements, key performance indicators and my auditor's report.

My opinions on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators do 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

This 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 2024 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
19 September 2024

Financial statements

Certification of financial statements

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (the Department) 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 financial year ended 30 June 2024 and the financial position as at 30 June 2024.

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



Ms Carolyn Gibbon
Chief Financial Officer
19 September 2024



Ms Heather Brayford PSM
Accountable Authority
19 September 2024

Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$'000	Restated * 2023 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expenses	3.1.1	251,298	236,250
Supplies and services	3.3	147,867	143,856
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.3.1	22,303	17,513
Finance costs	7.3	547	456
Accommodation expenses	3.3	18,845	16,969
Other expenses	3.3	7,516	3,983
Grants and subsidies	3.2	138,974	94,459
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	-	108
Total cost of services		587,350	513,594
Income			
User charges and fees	4.2	52,987	57,621
Commonwealth grants and contributions	4.3	12,306	8,740
Non-government grants and subsidies	4.4	23,292	9,855
Other revenue	4.5	44,500	29,241
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	259	-
Share of gain in joint venture entities using the equity method	6.6.1	4,581	4,718
Total income		137,925	110,175
NET COST OF SERVICES		449,425	403,419
Income from State Government			
Service appropriations	4.1	293,420	232,063
Services received free of charge	4.1	1,810	1,805
Royalties for Regions Fund	4.1	146,063	145,619
Income from other public sector entities	4.1	6,207	5,038
Total income from State Government		447,500	384,525
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(1,925)	(18,894)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		22,062	34,030
Gains/(losses) recognised directly in equity		-	29
Total other comprehensive income		22,062	34,059
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		20,137	15,165

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

*See note 1(i) – 'Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$'000	Restated * 2023 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7.4.1	44,977	10,081
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.4.2	139,235	117,645
Biological assets	6.5	743	600
Inventories	6.4	2,061	1,497
Receivables	6.1	28,351	19,857
Amounts receivable for services	6.2	6,178	6,974
Other current assets	6.3	3,708	3,178
Total Current Assets		225,253	159,832
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.4	-	4,671
Amounts receivable for services	6.2	230,727	211,490
Receivables	6.1	8,433	3,263
Other non-current assets	6.3	3,598	4,129
Investments accounted for using the equity method	6.6	43,564	35,984
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1	377,379	353,632
Intangible assets	5.2	2,495	3,729
Right-of-use assets	5.3	12,878	8,898
Total Non-Current Assets		679,074	625,796
TOTAL ASSETS		904,327	785,628
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	6.7	54,231	26,451
Contract liabilities	6.8	35,511	29,164
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	59,774	53,250
Borrowings	7.1	20,360	1,000
Lease liabilities	7.2	4,551	3,171
Other current liabilities	6.9	2,789	662
Total Current Liabilities		177,216	113,698
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	4,724	8,368
Borrowings	7.1	2,000	3,000
Lease liabilities	7.2	6,311	3,726
Other non-current liabilities	6.9	4,240	6,185
Total Non-Current Liabilities		17,275	21,279
TOTAL LIABILITIES		194,491	134,977

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024 (continued)

	Notes	2024 \$'000	Restated* 2023 \$'000
NET ASSETS		709,836	650,651
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	9.11	670,401	631,353
Reserves	9.11	93,268	71,206
Accumulated deficit	9.11	(53,833)	(51,908)
TOTAL EQUITY		709,836	650,651

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

*See note 1(i) – ‘Correction of prior period errors’ for additional information on prior period restatement.

Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	Contributed equity \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2022		607,794	37,176	(31,205)	613,765
Effect of restatement of prior year	1 (i)	-	-	(1,838)	(1,838)
Restated balance at 1 July 2022		607,794	37,176	(33,043)	(611,927)
Surplus/(deficit) as previously reported		-	-	(5,151)	(5,151)
Correction of prior period errors	1 (i)	-	-	(13,743)	(13,743)
Surplus/(deficit) as currently reported		-	-	(18,894)	(18,894)
Other comprehensive income		-	34,030	29	34,059
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	34,030	(18,865)	15,165
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	(51,908)	650,651
Balance at 1 July 2023		631,353	71,206	(51,908)	650,651
Surplus/(deficit)		-	-	(1,925)	(1,925)
Other comprehensive income		-	22,062	-	22,062
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	22,062	(1,925)	20,137
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:	9.11				
Capital appropriations		19,841	-	-	19,841
Other contributions from owners					
- Drawdowns from Treasury Special Purpose Accounts		10,769	-	-	10,769
- Royalties for Region funding		11,737	-	-	11,737
Contributions from owners		-	-	-	-
Distributions to owners		(3,299)	-	-	(3,299)
Total		39,048	-	-	39,048
Balance at 30 June 2024		670,401	93,268	(53,833)	709,836

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

See note 1(i) – 'Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$'000	Restated * 2023 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriations		268,005	207,713
Capital contributions		19,841	13,910
Drawdowns from special purpose accounts		10,769	6,674
Holding account drawdown		6,974	4,617
Royalties for Regions Fund		157,800	148,552
Funds from other public sector entities		6,207	5,038
Net cash provided by State Government		469,596	386,504
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(254,180)	(229,206)
Supplies and services		(140,128)	(134,174)
Accommodation		(17,134)	(16,969)
Finance costs		(547)	(456)
GST payments on purchases		(28,014)	(24,588)
Other payments		(7,914)	(3,785)
Grants and subsidies		(115,350)	(94,651)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		50,270	58,468
Commonwealth grants and contributions		12,306	8,846
Interest received		2,701	(70)
GST receipts on sales		4,281	3,828
GST receipts from taxation authority		24,492	20,853
Non-government grants and subsidies		23,292	20,820
Other receipts		36,966	27,178
Net cash used in operating activities	7.4.3	(408,959)	(363,906)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Investment in joint ventures		(2,999)	(3,001)
Purchase of non-current assets		(17,202)	(12,775)
Other Payments for investing activities		(1,100)	-
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		579	68
Other Receipts from investing activities		182	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(20,540)	(15,708)

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2024 (continued)

	Notes	2024 \$'000	Restated* 2023 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Principal elements of lease payments		(5,442)	(4,311)
Distribution of monies to the Rural Business Development Corporation		(2,200)	-
Advance (Repayment) of borrowings		-	(1,465)
Receipts			
Proceeds from borrowings		19,360	-
Net cash used in financing activities		11,718	(5,776)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		51,815	1,114
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		132,397	131,283
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	7.4.3	184,212	132,397

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

*See note 1(i) – 'Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Administered schedules for the year ended 30 June 2024

Administered income and expenses by service

	Co-operative loans		Commonwealth grants		Natural Resource Management Program		Regional Reform Fund		Infringements		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ADMINISTERED ITEMS												
Income												
Interest revenue	763	1,427	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	763	1,427
Other revenue	-	-	75	587	254	19	-	-	-	-	329	606
Royalties for Regions	-	-	-	-	5,400	7,375	-	4,000	-	-	5,400	11,375
Service appropriations	-	-	-	-	1,550	1,550	-	-	-	-	1,550	1,550
Regulatory fees and charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	326	266	326	266
Total administered income	763	1,427	75	587	7,204	8,944	-	4,000	326	266	8,368	15,224
Expenses												
Employee benefits expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants & subsidies	-	-	-	532	7,241	6,622	12,246	28,368	-	-	19,487	35,522
Interest payments	862	762	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	862	762
Supplies and services	193	266	-	587	366	387	-	-	326	266	885	1,506
Other expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total administered expenses	1,055	1,028	-	1,119	7,607	7,009	12,246	28,368	326	266	21,234	37,790

Administered schedules for the year ended 30 June 2024 (continued)

Administered assets and liabilities

	2024 \$'000	Restated* 2023 \$'000
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,492	7,429
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	10,792	19,633
Receivables	10,107	6,661
Total administered current assets	24,391	33,723
Non-current assets		
Loan	18,343	15,089
Total administered non-current assets	18,343	15,089
TOTAL ADMINISTERED ASSETS	42,734	48,812
Current liabilities		
Payables	669	1,082
Borrowings	10,032	6,086
Total administered current liabilities	10,701	7,168
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	18,343	15,089
Total administered non-current liabilities	18,343	15,089
TOTAL ADMINISTERED LIABILITIES	29,044	22,257

*See note 1(i) – 'Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Index of notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

Subject	Note	Note title
Basis of preparation	1	
Department outputs	2.1	Department objectives
Department outputs	2.2	Schedule of income and expenses by service
Department outputs	2.3	Schedule of assets and liabilities by service
Use of our funding	3.1.1	Employee benefits expense
Use of our funding	3.1.2	Employee related provisions
Use of our funding	3.2	Grants and subsidies
Use of our funding	3.3	Other expenditure
Our funding sources	4.1	Income from State Government
Our funding sources	4.2	User charges and fees
Our funding sources	4.3	Commonwealth grants and contributions
Our funding sources	4.4	Non-government grants and subsidies
Our funding sources	4.5	Other revenue
Our funding sources	4.6	Gains/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets
Key assets	5.1	Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment
Key assets	5.1.1	Depreciation and impairment
Key assets	5.2	Intangible assets
Key assets	5.2.1	Amortisation and impairment
Key assets	5.3	Right-of-use assets
Key assets	5.3.1	Depreciation and impairment of right-of-use assets
Other assets and liabilities	6.1	Receivables
Other assets and liabilities	6.1.1	Movement in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables
Other assets and liabilities	6.2	Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)
Other assets and liabilities	6.3	Other assets
Other assets and liabilities	6.4	Inventories
Other assets and liabilities	6.5	Biological assets
Other assets and liabilities	6.6	Joint arrangements
Other assets and liabilities	6.6.1	Investments accounted for using the equity method
Other assets and liabilities	6.6.2	Jointly controlled assets
Other assets and liabilities	6.7	Payables
Other assets and liabilities	6.8	Contract liabilities
Other assets and liabilities	6.9	Other current liabilities
Financing	7.1	Borrowings
Financing	7.2	Lease liabilities
Financing	7.3	Finance costs
Financing	7.4	Cash and cash equivalents

Subject	Note	Note title
Financing	7.4.1	Reconciliation of cash
Financing	7.4.2	Restricted cash and cash equivalents
Financing	7.4.3	Reconciliation of net cost of services
Financing	7.5	Capital commitments
Risks and contingencies	8.1	Financial risk management
Risks and contingencies	8.2	Contingent assets and liabilities
Risks and contingencies	8.2.1	Contingent assets
Risks and contingencies	8.2.2	Contingent liabilities
Risks and contingencies	8.3	Fair value measurements
Other disclosures	9.1	Events occurring after the end of the reporting period
Other disclosures	9.2	Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards
Other disclosures	9.3	Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative
Other disclosures	9.4	Key management personnel
Other disclosures	9.5	Related party transactions
Other disclosures	9.6	Related bodies
Other disclosures	9.7	Affiliated bodies
Other disclosures	9.8	Special purpose accounts
Other disclosures	9.9	Remuneration of auditor
Other disclosures	9.10	Services provided free of charge
Other disclosures	9.11	Equity
Other disclosures	9.12	Supplementary financial information
Other disclosures	9.13	Indian Ocean Territories Service Level Agreement
Explanatory statements	10.1	Explanatory statement for controlled operations
Explanatory statements	10.1.1	Statement of comprehensive income variances
Explanatory statements	10.1.2	Statement of financial position variances
Explanatory statements	10.1.3	Statement of cash flow variances
Explanatory statements	10.2	Explanatory statement for administered items

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

1. Basis of preparation

The Department is a Western Australian (WA) Government non for profit 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 19 September 2024.

a) Statement of compliance

The financial statements constitute general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statement of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by Treasurer's instructions. Several of these are modified by Treasurer's instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The *Financial Management Act 2006* (the Act) and Treasurer's instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statement of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. 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.

b) 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).

c) 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.

d) 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 2024

1. Basis of preparation (continued)

d) 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.

e) 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.

f) 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.

g) 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 2006* (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.

h) 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 Australian Accounting Standards have been adopted.

1. Basis of preparation (continued)

i) Correction of prior period errors

During the 2023/24 financial year the Department commenced a review of revenue recognised under AASB 15, 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers'. In doing so, it was identified that a portion of revenue recognised was incorrect under the AASB 15. A further error was identified in the distribution of cash between unrestricted and restricted cash and cash equivalents balances. Finally, the Department also corrected a capital contribution that was incorrectly classified as restricted to unrestricted cash. The estimated errors in the treatment of AASB 15 and Cash and Cash Equivalents have been corrected by restating each of the affected financial statement line items as of the 30 June 2023. The impact of the rectification of errors on the relevant balances is as follows:

Controlled

	Notes	As reported previously \$'000	Adjustment \$'000	Restated \$'000
Statement of financial position				
As at 30 June 2023				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	7.4.1	3,918	6,162	10,080
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.4.2	125,225	(7,579)	117,646
Other current assets	6.3	10,877	(7,699)	3,178
Current Liabilities				
Contract Liabilities	6.8	22,699	6,465	29,164
NET ASSETS		666,232	(15,581)	650,651
Equity				
Accumulated deficit	9.11	(36,327)	(15,581)	(51,908)

1. Basis of preparation (continued)

i) Correction of prior period errors (continued)

	Notes	As reported previously \$'000	Adjustment \$'000	Restated \$'000
Statement of Comprehensive Income year ended 30 June 2023				
Grants and subsidies	3.2	94,880	(421)	94,459
Total cost of services		514,015	(421)	513,594
Non-government grants and subsidies	4.4	24,019	(14,164)	9,855
Total income		124,339	(14,164)	110,175
NET COST OF SERVICES		389,676	13,743	403,419
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(5,151)	(13,743)	(18,894)

Administered

The Department is responsible for administering Small Business Grants relating to Tropical Cyclone Seroja recovery. The Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) is the lead agency and the Department pays claims on direction from the SBDC. The \$2.5million funding received with respect to this Scheme and the related expenditure should be classified as administered, not controlled. The adjustment to transfer from controlled to administered has had the following impact on administered restricted cash and cash equivalents at 30 June 2023:

	As reported previously \$'000	Adjustment \$'000	Restated \$'000
Administered Asset and Liabilities			
As at 30 June 2023			
Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	18,216	1,417	19,633

	As reported previously \$'000	Adjustment \$'000	Restated \$'000
Administered income and expenses by service			
Grants & subsidies - Commonwealth grants	111	421	532

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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
Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service	2.3

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 Administered financial information and at note 10.2 'Explanatory statement for administered items'.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

2.2. Schedule of income and expenses by service for the year ended 30 June 2024

	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	
	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
COST OF SERVICES								
Expenses								
Employee benefits expenses	38,258	36,060	17,977	18,232	52,256	49,045	17,705	16,436
Supplies and services	26,576	27,110	9,393	7,715	29,618	31,019	18,360	18,736
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	4,551	3,519	1,636	1,611	4,180	3,502	1,779	1,598
Finance costs	88	55	57	40	98	110	34	25
Accommodation expenses	3,461	3,066	2,793	2,606	3,245	3,162	1,377	1,423
Other expenses	(330)	618	(608)	(192)	2,431	2,610	416	583
Grants and subsidies	48,472	35,017	7,226	7,593	19,089	14,365	7,452	9,273
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	-	41	-	15	-	41	-	19
Total cost of services	121,076	105,486	38,474	37,620	110,917	103,854	47,123	48,093
Income								
User charges and fees	539	720	126	89	1,268	3,156	350	1,069
Commonwealth grants and contributions	5,398	3,815	-	-	798	206	4,785	707
Non-government grants and subsidies	1,127	(192)	1	1	18,683	10,833	2,051	22
Other revenue	4,908	795	194	136	4,416	4,251	6,717	7,359
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	29	-	1	-	50	-	25	-
Share of gain in joint venture entities using the equity method	4,581	4,718	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	16,582	9,856	322	226	25,215	18,446	13,928	9,157
NET COST OF SERVICES	104,494	95,630	38,152	37,394	85,702	85,408	33,195	38,936
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT								
Service appropriations	58,861	47,170	18,704	16,755	53,922	46,255	23,584	22,045
Services received free of charge	373	372	119	132	342	365	145	169
Royalties for Regions Fund	39,286	48,310	24,553	23,624	30,458	35,606	15,212	11,892
Income from other public sector entities	4,371	3,471	17	105	396	1,020	682	27
Total income from State Government	102,891	99,323	43,393	40,616	85,118	83,246	39,623	34,133
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	(1,603)	3,693	5,241	3,222	(584)	(2,162)	6,428	(4,803)

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

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

2.2. Schedule of income and expenses by service for the year ended 30 June 2024 (continued)

	Regional Social Amenity Development		Agricultural and Aquatic Biosecurity and Integrity		Agricultural and Fisheries Natural Resource Management		Total	
	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
COST OF SERVICES								
Expenses								
Employee benefits expenses	21,243	17,831	62,276	58,087	41,583	40,559	251,298	236,250
Supplies and services	9,606	7,947	35,625	36,139	18,689	15,190	147,867	143,856
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	2,005	1,248	4,838	3,641	3,314	2,394	22,303	17,513
Finance costs	39	20	94	57	137	149	547	456
Accommodation expenses	1,669	1,296	3,682	3,191	2,618	2,225	18,845	16,969
Other expenses	(472)	(245)	(215)	(379)	6,294	988	7,516	3,983
Grants and subsidies	18,898	9,452	22,518	8,844	15,319	9,915	138,974	94,459
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	-	(42)	-	34	-	-	-	108
Total cost of services	52,988	37,507	128,818	109,614	87,954	71,420	587,350	513,594
Income								
User charges and fees	2,039	9,622	6,520	8,635	42,145	34,330	52,987	57,621
Commonwealth grants and contributions	382	194	(45)	2,721	988	1,097	12,306	8,740
Non-government grants and subsidies	(46)	30	1,526	(1,917)	(50)	1,079	23,292	9,855
Other revenue	270	775	25,803	13,793	2,192	2,132	44,500	29,241
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	18	-	58	-	78	-	259	-
Share of gain in joint venture entities using the equity method	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,581	4,718
Total income	2,663	10,621	33,862	23,232	45,353	38,638	137,925	110,175
NET COST OF SERVICES	50,325	26,886	94,956	86,382	42,601	32,782	449,425	403,419
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT								
Service appropriations	25,760	16,705	65,328	51,321	47,261	31,812	293,420	232,063
Services received free of charge	163	132	397	385	271	250	1,810	1,805
Royalties for Regions Fund	14,766	7,951	9,448	12,962	12,340	5,274	146,063	145,619
Income from other public sector entities	73	11	211	155	457	249	6,207	5,038
Total income from State Government	40,762	24,799	75,384	64,823	60,329	37,585	447,500	384,525
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	(9,563)	(2,087)	(19,572)	(21,559)	17,728	4,803	(1,925)	(18,894)

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

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

2.3. Schedule of assets and liabilities by service for the year ended 30 June 2024

	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	
	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Assets								
Current assets	46,433	32,932	14,755	11,698	42,537	32,293	18,072	14,955
Non-current assets	139,983	128,938	44,481	45,800	128,238	126,437	54,482	58,552
Total assets	186,416	161,870	59,236	57,498	170,775	158,730	72,554	73,507
Liabilities								
Current liabilities	36,531	23,426	11,608	8,321	33,466	22,972	14,218	10,638
Non-current liabilities	3,561	4,384	1,132	1,557	3,262	4,299	1,386	1,991
Total liabilities	40,092	27,810	12,740	9,878	36,728	27,271	15,604	12,629
NET ASSETS	146,324	134,060	46,496	47,620	134,047	131,459	56,950	60,878

	Regional Social Amenity Development		Agricultural and Aquatic Biosecurity and Integrity		Agricultural and Fisheries Natural Resource Management		Total	
	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023	2024	Restated 2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Assets								
Current assets	20,321	11,662	49,403	34,084	33,732	22,208	225,253	159,832
Non-current assets	61,263	45,661	148,935	133,452	101,692	86,956	679,074	625,796
Total assets	81,584	57,323	198,338	167,536	135,424	109,164	904,327	785,628
Liabilities								
Current liabilities	15,988	8,296	38,867	24,246	26,538	15,799	177,216	113,698
Non-current liabilities	1,558	1,553	3,789	4,538	2,587	2,957	17,275	21,279
Total liabilities	17,546	9,849	42,656	28,784	29,125	18,756	194,491	134,977
NET ASSETS	64,038	47,474	155,682	138,752	106,299	90,408	709,836	650,651

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

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'000
Employee benefits expenses	3.1.1	251,298	236,250
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	64,498	61,618
Grants and subsidies	3.2	138,974	94,459
Supplies and services	3.3	147,867	143,856
Accommodation expenses	3.3	18,845	16,969
Other expenses	3.3	7,516	3,983

3.1.1. Employee benefits expense

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Employee benefits expenses		
Employee benefits	195,264	182,990
Termination benefits	480	326
Superannuation-defined contribution plans	24,118	22,204
Long service leave	7,883	7,633
Annual leave	19,475	19,101
Other related expenses	4,078	3,996
Total employee benefits expenses	251,298	236,250
Add: AASB 16 Non-monetary benefits	5,542	4,610
Less: Employee Contribution	(1,429)	(1,286)
Net employee benefits	255,411	239,574

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 2024

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, that have been provided 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.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Annual leave ^(a)	26,718	26,078
Deferred and purchased leave ^(b)	289	231
Long service leave ^(c)	32,084	26,232
	59,091	52,541
Other provisions		
Employee on-costs ^(d)	683	709
Total current employee related provisions	59,774	53,250
Non-current		
Employee benefits provisions		
Long service leave ^(c)	4,665	8,257
Total non-current employee benefits provision	4,665	8,257
Other provisions		
Employee on-costs ^(d)	59	111
Total non-current employee benefits provision	4,724	8,368
Total employee related provisions	64,498	61,618

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	15,852	14,982
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	10,866	11,096
	26,718	26,078

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:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	289	231
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	-	-
	289	231

- (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:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	10,057	9,051
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	26,692	25,438
	36,749	34,489

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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 on-cost provisions

Movements in on-cost provisions during the financial year, other than employee benefits are set out below:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Employment on-cost provision		
Carrying amount at start of period	820	745
Additional provisions recognised	(78)	75
Carrying amount at end of period	742	820

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 2024

3.2. Grants and subsidies

	Restated	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Recurrent		
Regional Community Services Fund	20,338	25,419
Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund	32,494	3,086
Small Grants Program	4,403	1,557
Other grant payments	81,739	64,397
Total grants and subsidies	138,974	94,459

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 2024

3.3. Other expenditure

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Professional services	63,632	65,597
Travel	6,977	5,864
Communications	5,190	5,799
Consumables	16,377	16,683
Lease, rent and hire costs	4,275	2,926
Consultancies expense	1,728	1,335
Utilities, rates and charges	4,400	3,570
Insurance	2,752	2,199
Licences, fees and registration	8,435	6,857
Advertising	1,199	670
Minor equipment and maintenance	17,227	19,853
Services purchased from non-government agencies	14,951	11,013
General administration costs	724	1,490
Total supplies and services expenses	147,867	143,856
Rental	13,188	12,245
Repairs and maintenance	5,657	4,724
Total accommodation expenses	18,845	16,969
Expected credit losses expense	(398)	981
Donations and sponsorships	759	765
Employment on-costs	499	(7)
Return of unused grants	-	642
Miscellaneous other	(27)	1,602
Fisheries adjustment scheme buybacks	6,683	-
Total other expenses	7,516	3,983
Total other expenditure	174,228	164,808

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 2024

3.3. Other expenditure (continued)

Rental: 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.

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	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'000
Income from State Government	4.1	447,500	384,525
User charges and fees	4.2	52,987	57,621
Commonwealth grants and contributions	4.3	12,306	8,740
Non-Government grants and subsidies	4.4	23,292	9,855
Other revenue	4.5	44,500	29,241
Gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	259	(108)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

4.1. Income from State Government

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Appropriations received during the period:		
Service appropriations	293,420	232,063
	293,420	232,063
Resources received free of charge from other State government agencies during the period:		
Landgate	49	37
State Solicitor's Office	935	902
Department of Finance	722	692
Department of Transport	31	43
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	1	1
Western Australia Treasury Corporation	33	51
Western Australian Meat Industry	27	26
WA Museum	11	-
Main Roads	1	-
Water Corporation	-	53
Total resources received	1,810	1,805
Income received from other public sector entities during the period:		
Department of Transport	26	6
Fremantle Ports Authority	22	22
Kimberley Ports Authority	19	19
Pilbara Ports Authority	67	66
Southern Ports Authority	37	36
Mid West Ports Authority	22	22
Agriculture Produce Commission	9	-
Department of Biodiversity, Conversation and Attractions	764	301
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	-	3,392
Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation	325	100
Main Roads	161	74
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	955	1,000
Department of Treasury	3,200	-
Public Transport Authority of Western Australia	600	-
Total other income from State Government	6,207	5,038
Royalties for Regions Fund		
Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account	1,374	9,874
Regional Community Services Account	89,845	79,998
Regional and Statewide Initiatives	54,844	55,747
Total Royalties for Regions Fund	146,063	145,619
Total income from State Government	447,500	384,525

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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 equivalent to the fair value of the assets received or the fair value of 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 2024

	2024 Budget estimate \$'000	2024 Supplementary funding \$'000	2024 Section 25 Transfers \$'000	2024 Revised budget \$'000	2024 Actual \$'000	2024 Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services						
Item 43 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	249,698	37,113	9	286,820	286,820	-
Amount authorised by Other Statutes						
<i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>	3,378	-	-	3,378	3,378	-
<i>Salaries & Allowances Act 1975</i>	3,222	-	-	3,222	3,222	-
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	256,298	37,113		293,420	293,420	-
Capital						
Item 120 Capital appropriations	74,886	30		74,916	19,841	55,075
Treasury Advance		19,360		19,360	19,360	-
Administered Transactions						
Item 44 Administered grants, subsidies and other transfer payments	1,550	-	-	1,550	1,550	-
GRAND TOTAL	332,734	56,503	-	389,246	334,171	55,075

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

4.2. User charges and fees

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Access fees	32,004	27,157
Recreational licence fees	8,862	9,031
Sale of Goods	1,439	1,231
Other user charges and fees	10,682	20,202
Total user fees and charges	52,987	57,621

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 2023/24 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$.95.5 million in 2023/24 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 2024

4.3. Commonwealth grants and contributions

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Commonwealth National Partnership Agreements	8,997	1,217
Federation Funding Agreement	1,850	3,750
Director National Park	444	50
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	638	638
Other grants from the Commonwealth	109	1,978
Indian Ocean Territories	268	1,107
Total Commonwealth grants and contributions	12,306	8,740

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 2024

4.4. Non-government grants and subsidies

	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'000
Agrifutures Australia	335	-
Animal Health Australia	-	584
Australian Grain Technologies Pty Ltd	-	241
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	1,025	367
Field Applied Research Australia Ltd	177	472
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	48	569
Grains Research and Development Corporation	11,664	3,458
Grower Group Alliance	363	417
Horticulture industry	63	-
Longreach Plant Breeders	242	248
Meat and Livestock Australia	786	1,603
Murdoch University	291	889
Plant Health Australia Ltd	130	203
Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation	260	334
WA Marine Science Institution	175	440
CRC For Developing Northern Australia Limited (CRCNA)	534	-
Pilbara Iron Company (Services) Pty Ltd	554	-
Curtin University	441	-
Primary Industries And Regions South Australia (PIRSA)	400	-
Seedpurity Pty Ltd	212	-
University Of New England	198	-
Woodside Energy Technologies Pty Ltd	119	-
Other grants and subsidies	5,275	30
Total non-government grants and subsidies	23,292	9,855

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 2024

4.5. Other revenue

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Levies and rates	6,038	6,775
Return of grant allocations	266	60
Royalties	2,184	4,018
Rents and leases	3,306	2,742
Interest revenue	2,006	848
Recoups and recoveries	5,259	2,185
Cost share recovery	16,551	8,884
Other	8,890	3,729
Total other revenue	44,500	29,241

Levies and rates are 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.

Recoups and recoveries are recognised on the issuance of the bills or when cash is received.

Cost share recovery is accounted for in accordance with AASB 1058 when the Department receives the confirmation to claim the expenditure incurred.

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 2024

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

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Net Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets		
Buildings	-	27
Vehicles and buses	269	-
Equipment	10	-
Plant and machinery	60	34
Marine vessels	179	71
	518	132
Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed		
Buildings	(159)	(74)
Vehicles and buses	-	(166)
Equipment	-	-
Plant and machinery	(100)	-
Marine vessels	-	-
	(259)	(240)
Net (loss)/gain on disposal	259	(108)

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.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1	377,379	353,632
Intangible assets	5.2	2,495	3,729
Right-of-use assets	5.3	12,878	8,898

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 2024											
1 July 2023											
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)
Accumulated impairment loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount at start of period	146,979	118,700	362	322	2,372	18,665	5,003	1,435	36,949	22,845	353,632
Additions	-	3,158	63	361	453	4,083	7,463	252	5,162	(1,774)	19,221
Transfers	496	(2,005)	11	(28)	(68)	1,080	(18)	27	11	(1,949)	(2,443)
Disposals	-	(178)	-	-	-	(122)	-	-	(20)	-	(320)
Revaluations increments/(decrements)	32,110	12,897	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,007
Impairment losses ^(a)	-	(16,506)	-	(34)	(62)	(2,778)	-	(23)	(86)	(3,455)	(22,944)
Depreciation	-	(6,728)	(46)	(148)	(588)	(3,663)	(1,303)	(462)	(1,836)	-	(14,774)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2024	179,585	109,338	390	473	2,107	17,265	11,145	1,229	40,180	15,667	377,379
Gross carrying amount	179,585	111,464	490	15,026	8,813	63,359	26,198	13,051	56,088	15,667	489,741
Accumulated depreciation	-	(2,126)	(100)	(14,553)	(6,706)	(46,094)	(15,053)	(11,822)	(15,908)	-	(112,362)
Accumulated impairment loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(a) Due to the increased risk associated with Asbestos Containing Materials including the psychosocial risks, the Department has restricted access to the facilities at South Perth with immediate effect from 14 June 2024. Consequently, an impairment loss has been recognised for the buildings and equipment's in accordance with the requirement under the Australian Accounting Standards AASB 136 – *Impairment of Assets*.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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 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)
Accumulated impairment loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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
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)
Accumulated impairment loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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 2024

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 2023 by Landgate. The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2024 and recognised at 30 June 2024. In undertaking the valuation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land \$179.6 million (\$147.0 million in 2022/23) and buildings \$109.3 million (\$118.7 million in 2022/23). 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 2024

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

5.1.1. Depreciation and impairment

Charge for the period	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Buildings	5.1	6,728	4,365
Computer and communications equipment	5.1	148	147
Office and other equipment	5.1	588	651
Plant and machinery	5.1	3,663	3,083
Lease improvements	5.1	46	48
Marine vessels	5.1	1,303	388
Infrastructure	5.1	1,836	1,804
Vehicles and buses	5.1	462	464
Total depreciation for the period		14,774	10,950

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 2024

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.

South Perth facility (Kensington Site)

The department has been managing the ageing South Perth facility for many years, most recently as part of the Kensington Site Project. The site is experiencing increasing structural issues and safety risks as time passes. In recent years, the department has carried out significant monitoring and remediation works at South Perth and closed several structurally compromised buildings on the site, with some high-risk structures demolished, to ensure the health and safety of staff remaining on site. However, due to the increased risk associated with Asbestos Containing Materials including the psychosocial risks, the department has restricted access to the facilities at South Perth with immediate effect from 14 June 2024.

The department is working to find safe and fit-for-purpose alternative locations as most functions will not be returning to the Kensington site as it is ageing and no longer fit for purpose. Consequently, the department has determined that an impairment loss should be recognised for the buildings and equipment's in accordance with the requirement under the Australian Accounting Standards *AASB 136 – Impairment of Assets*. For details on the impairment amount, refer to note 5.1 – Infrastructure property, plant and equipment.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

5.2. Intangible assets

	Computer software \$'000	Capital works in progress \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 30 June 2024			
1 July 2023			
Gross Carrying amount	36,408	52	36,460
Accumulated amortisation	(32,731)	-	(32,731)
Carrying amount at start of period	3,677	52	3,729
Additions	419	491	910
Transfer from capital works in progress	-	(42)	(42)
Amortisation expense	(2,102)	-	(2,102)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2024	1,994	501	2,495
Gross Carrying amount	36,827	501	37,328
Accumulated amortisation	(34,833)	-	(34,833)
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	52	36,460
Accumulated amortisation	(32,731)	-	(32,731)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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; and
- 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

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
	2,102	1,809
	2,102	1,809

As at 30 June 2024 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 2024

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 2024

5.3. Right-of-use assets

	Employee housing \$'000	Vehicles \$'000	Other ^(a) \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 30 June 2024				
1 July 2023				
Gross carrying amount	4,709	10,026	19,006	33,741
Accumulated amortisation	(2,344)	(6,368)	(16,131)	(24,843)
Carrying amount at start of period	2,365	3,658	2,875	8,898
Additions	6,727	3,831	56	10,614
Disposals	(1,175)	(32)	-	(1,207)
Depreciation	(2,803)	(2,289)	(335)	(5,427)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2024	5,114	5,168	2,596	12,878
Gross carrying amount	7,404	12,373	19,062	38,839
Accumulated amortisation	(2,290)	(7,205)	(16,466)	(25,961)
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)

(a) The other right-of-use assets relate to \$2.25 million (\$2.45 million in 2022/23) for the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre and \$0.35 million (\$0.48 million in 2022/23) 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 2024

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:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Employee housing	2,803	2,141
Vehicles	2,289	2,202
Other	335	411
Total right-of-use depreciation	5,427	4,754
Lease interest expense (included in Finance Cost)	454	279

The total cash outflow for leases in 2023/24 was \$5,084,526 (2022/23 was \$4,590,306). At 30 June 2024 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 2024

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	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'000
Receivables	6.1	36,784	23,120
Amounts receivable for services (holding account)	6.2	236,905	218,464
Other assets	6.3	7,306	7,307
Inventories	6.4	2,061	1,497
Biological assets	6.5	743	600
Joint arrangements	6.6	43,564	35,984
Payables	6.7	54,231	26,451
Contract liabilities	6.8	35,511	29,164
Other current liabilities	6.9	7,029	6,847

6.1. Receivables

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Trade receivables	24,665	16,857
Allowance for impairment of trade receivables	(836)	(1,234)
Accrued revenue	-	18
GST receivable	3,450	2,404
Interest receivable	12	707
Other debtors	1,060	1,105
Total current	28,351	19,857
Non-current		
Accrued salaries account ^(a)	6,205	-
Other debtors	2,228	3,263
Total non-current	8,433	3,263
Total receivables	36,784	23,120

(a) 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. This account is classified as non-current except for the year before the 27th pay year.

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.

The Agency recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses (ECLs) on a receivable not held at fair value through profit or loss. The ECLs based on the difference between the contractual cash flows and the cash flows that the entity expects to receive. Individual receivables are written off when the Agency has no reasonable expectations of recovering the contractual cash flows.

Accrued salaries account contains amounts paid annually into the Treasurer's special purpose account. It is restricted for meeting 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. The account has been reclassified from 'Cash and cash equivalents' to 'Receivables' as it is considered that funds in the account are not cash but a right to receive the cash in future. Comparative amounts have not been reclassified.

6.1.1. Movement in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Reconciliation of changes in the allowances for impairment of trade receivables:		
Opening balance	1,234	263
Expected credit losses expense	(398)	971
Balance at end of period	836	1,234

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(c) '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)

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current	6,178	6,974
Non-current	230,727	211,490
Balance at end of period	236,905	218,464

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 2024

6.3. Other assets

	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'000
Current		
Prepaid goods and services	1,244	378
Doppler radar maintenance ^(a)	530	532
Contract assets	1,934	2,268
Total current assets	3,708	3,178
Non-current		
Doppler radar maintenance ^(a)	3,547	4,078
Unlisted shares	51	51
Total non-current assets	3,598	4,129
Balance at the end of period	7,306	7,307

(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

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Inventories held for resale		
Agricultural produce	6	135
Raw materials and stores	2,055	1,362
Balance at end of period	2,061	1,497

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 2024

6.5. Biological assets

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Livestock	309	333
Field crops	434	267
Balance at end of period	743	600
Balance at 1 July	600	1,186
Purchases	167	-
Sales of livestock	(24)	(586)
Balance at 30 June	743	600

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

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Share of gain/(loss) in joint venture entity using the equity method	4,581	4,718
	4,581	4,718
Investments in joint ventures at initial cost of investment	56,939	53,939
Share of profit/(loss) using the equity method	(13,375)	(17,955)
Investment in joint ventures	43,564	35,984

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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 2024, 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 2024, 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:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
	InterGrain	InterGrain	AEGIC	AEGIC
Current assets	71,919	60,259	4,152	3,609
Non-current assets	17,566	17,271	2,065	2,889
Total assets	89,485	77,530	6,217	6,498
Current liabilities	11,953	13,028	2,956	3,555
Non-current liabilities	4,165	4,574	1,204	526
Total liabilities	16,118	17,602	4,160	4,081
Net assets	73,367	59,928	2,057	2,417
Revenue	51,284	49,490	11,519	10,409
Expenses	(37,845)	(35,919)	(11,879)	(10,809)
Net gain/(loss)	13,439	13,571	(360)	(400)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Non-current assets		
Land	2,355	11,695
Building	2,152	2,065
Balance at end of period	4,507	13,760

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 \$405,000 in 2023/24 (\$9.9 million in 2022/23).
- (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 2023/24 at \$4.1 million (land \$2 million and buildings \$2.1 million), (\$3.9 million in 2022/23; land \$1.8 million and buildings \$2.1 million).

6.7. Payables

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Trade payables	34,339	11,253
Accrued expenses	13,918	9,382
Accrued salaries	4,958	4,594
Other payables	1,016	1,222
Balance at end of period	54,231	26,451

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 15-20 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.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

6.8. Contract liabilities

	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'000
Current	35,511	29,164
Non-current	-	-
Total contract liabilities	35,511	29,164

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

	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'000
Reconciliation of changes in contract liabilities		
Opening balance	29,164	11,455
Additions	22,026	28,307
Revenue recognised in the reporting period	(15,679)	(10,598)
Balance at end of period	35,511	29,164

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

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Native Title Settlements payable	2,789	662
Total current liabilities	2,789	662
Non-Current		
Native Title Settlements payable	4,240	6,185
Total non-current liabilities	4,240	6,185
Balance at end of period	7,029	6,847

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

7. Financing

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

	Notes	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'000
Borrowings	7.1	22,360	4,000
Lease liabilities	7.2	10,862	6,897
Finance costs	7.3	547	456
Reconciliation of cash	7.4.1	44,977	10,081
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.4.2	139,235	122,316
Capital commitments	7.5	347,948	14,578

7.1 Borrowings

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current		
Treasury advance ^(a)	19,360	-
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation ^(b)	1,000	1,000
	20,360	1,000
Non-current		
Borrowings from Western Australian Treasury Corporation ^(b)	2,000	3,000
	2,000	3,000
Balance at end of period	22,360	4,000

(a) Treasury advance (non-interest bearing) refers to repayable advance under section 28(1) of the *Financial Management Act 2006* to meet cost already expended in 2023-24 and prior years for ongoing emergency responses. This advance will not require repayment in 2023-24 and will subsequently be renewed into 2024-25 to temporarily cover the upfront costs.

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

Treasury advances and 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 2024

7.2. Lease liabilities

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Current	4,551	3,171
Non-current	6,311	3,726
Total lease liabilities	10,862	6,897

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); and
- 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 2024

7.3. Finance costs

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Finance costs		
WATC borrowing charges	74	111
Foreign Exchange Differences	19	66
Lease interest expense	454	279
Finance costs expensed	547	456

'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

	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents		
Reconciliation of cash		
Cash advances	9	10
Cash at bank ^(a)	44,968	10,071
Total cash and cash equivalents	44,977	10,081

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.

(a) Includes cash received as capital contributions remaining unspent at year-end of \$13.8 million (2023: \$9.4 million).

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

7.4.2. Restricted cash and cash equivalents

	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'000
Current		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
Royalties for Regions fund ^(a)	36,694	46,090
Commonwealth fund & other restricted	18,265	6,079
Trust Account	403	56
Special purpose accounts ^(b)		
Agriculture Research Grants Account No. 1 (non-interest bearing)	21,020	19,593
Agriculture Research Grants Account No. 2	8,774	9,487
Commonwealth Agriculture Activity Grants (non-interest bearing)	7,935	5,934
Plant Research and Development	4,934	5,456
Cattle Industry Funded Scheme	5,652	5,346
Declared Pest Account	4,006	4,022
Land Conservation Districts Fund	146	75
Grain, Seeds and Hay Industry Funded Scheme	4,470	6,242
Sheep and Goats Industry Funded Scheme	3,162	2,763
Fisheries Research and Development	11,908	5,870
Recreational Fishing Account	10,628	535
Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Trust Account	1,238	97
Total current	139,235	117,645
Non-current		
Accrued salaries suspense account	-	4,671
Total non-current	-	4,671
Total restricted cash and cash equivalents	139,235	122,316

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

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

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

	Notes	Restated *	
		2024 \$'000	2023 \$'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	44,977	10,081
Restricted cash and cash equivalents: current	7.4.2	139,235	117,645
Restricted cash and cash equivalents: non-current	7.4.2	-	4,671
		184,212	132,397
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities			
Net cost of services		(449,425)	(403,419)
Non-cash items			
Net (gain)/loss on sale of assets	4.6	(259)	108
Depreciation and amortisation expense	5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.3.1	22,303	17,513
Expected credit loss expense		(398)	981
Resources received free of charge	4.1	1,810	1,805
Other non-cash items		-	(895)
Share of net (profit)/loss in joint ventures using equity method	6.6.1	(4,581)	(4,718)
(Increase)/decrease in assets			
Biological assets		(143)	586
Inventories		(564)	(178)
Receivables		(12,618)	(4,192)
Other assets		1	551
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities			
Payables		24,747	6,769
Contract liabilities		6,347	17,168
Provisions		2,880	5,628
Native Title Settlement payable		182	(1,706)
Net GST receipts/(payments)		759	93
Net cash used in operating activities		(408,959)	(363,906)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

7.5. Capital commitments

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
The commitments below are inclusive of GST where relevant.		
Within 1 year	8,426	14,578
Later than 1 year	339,522	-
Total capital commitments	347,948	14,578

At 30 June 2024, the Department had a commitment with respect to the design and construction of the New Metro Facility. The commitment of \$330 million is still expected to occur but at a time which is yet to be determined. Refer Note 9.1 Events occurring after end of the reporting period for further information.

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.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

8.1. Financial risk management (continued)

(a) Summary of risk and risk management (continued)

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 and 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.

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(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:

	2024 \$'000	Restated* 2023 \$'000
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	44,977	10,081
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	139,235	122,316
Receivables ^(a)	23,841	16,348
Available for sale financial assets	51	51
Loans and advances	3,288	4,368
Amounts receivable for services ^(b)	236,905	218,464
Total financial assets	448,297	371,628
Financial liabilities		
Payables	54,231	26,451
Lease liabilities	10,862	6,897
Borrowings	22,360	4,000
Other liabilities	7,029	6,847
Total financial liabilities	94,482	44,195

(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 2024

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 2024						
Expected credit loss rate		0.34%	0.24%	4.05%	2.70%	7.40%
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	21,972	3,814	4,648	74	3,930	9,506
Expected credit losses	(836)	(13)	(11)	(3)	(106)	(703)
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)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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
2024											
Financial assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	-	44,977	-	-	44,977	44,977	44,977	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	3.99	139,235	-	30,998	108,237	139,235	139,235	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	-	23,841	-	-	23,841	23,841	23,841	-	-	-	-
Lease prepayments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Available for sale financial assets	-	51	-	-	51	51	-	-	-	51	-
Loans and advances	1.31	3,000	3,000	-	-	3,000	-	-	1,000	2,000	-
Amounts receivable for services	-	236,905	-	-	236,905	236,906	515	1,545	4,119	24,712	206,015
		448,009	3,000	30,998	414,011	448,010	208,568	1,545	5,119	26,763	206,015
Financial liabilities											
Payables	-	54,231	-	-	54,231	54,231	54,231	-	-	-	-
Lease liabilities ^(b)	-	10,862	-	-	10,862	10,862	379	1,138	3,034	6,265	46
WATC borrowings	1.31	3,000	3,000	-	-	3,000	-	-	1,000	2,000	-
Other Liabilities	2.10	7,029	7,029	-	-	6,847	-	-	662	6,185	-
		75,122	10,029	-	65,093	74,940	54,610	1,138	4,696	14,450	46

(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 \$5.356 million from leased vehicles, \$5.184 million from residential accommodation leases, and \$0.322 million from other commercial leases.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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
2023											
Financial assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	-	10,081	-	-	10,081	10,081	10,081	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2.62	117,645	-	33,316	84,329	117,645	117,645	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	-	16,348	-	-	16,348	16,348	16,330	-	18	-	-
Lease prepayments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Available for sale financial assets	-	51	-	-	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	218,464	581	1,744	4,649	27,896	183,594
		366,389	3,800	33,316	329,273	366,389	144,637	1,744	5,467	30,947	183,594
Financial liabilities											
Payables	-	26,451	-	-	26,451	26,451	26,451	-	-	-	-
Lease liabilities ^(b)	-	6,897	-	-	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	47

(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 2024

8.1. Financial risk management (continued)

(e) Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The Department is exposed to interest rate risk on its restricted cash \$31.0 million in 2023/24 (\$33.3 million in 2022/23) 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 \$309,980 depending upon whether interest rates increased/decreased. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

	Interest rate sensitivity analysis				
	Carrying amount \$'000	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000	Surplus \$'000	Equity \$'000
2024					
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	30,998	(310)	(310)	310	310
Total increase/(decrease)	30,998	(310)	(310)	310	310
2023					
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	33,316	(333)	(333)	333	333
Total increase/(decrease)	33,316	(333)	(333)	333	333

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

As at 30 June 2024, there are four pending litigation claims in progress. Two of these claims concern reviews of decisions of the CEO in the State Administrative Tribunal. The potential financial effect should these claims be successful cannot be reliably measured at this time.

The other two pending claims are proceedings in the Supreme Court challenging legislative instruments made by the Minister for Fisheries. The total estimated cost to the department is approximately \$70,000 if the Minister was to be unsuccessful on both claims.

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 one 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 2024

8.3. Fair value measurements

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
2024				
Land (note 5.1)	-	3,032	176,553	179,585
Buildings (note 5.1)	-	3,842	105,496	109,338
	-	6,874	282,049	288,923
	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

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
2024		
Fair value at start of period	130,548	113,585
Additions	-	3,158
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other comprehensive income	31,961	12,480
Transfers (from/(to) Level 2)	13,288	1,528
Other transfers	756	(2,008)
Impairment losses	-	(16,506)
Disposals	-	(178)
Depreciation expense	-	(6,563)
Fair value at end of period	176,553	105,496
Total gains or losses for the period included in profit and loss	-	-

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

8.3. Fair value measurements (continued)

	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	-	-

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.

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.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

8.3. Fair value measurements (continued)

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 2024

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.

On 8 August 2024, the Government announced that it is revising the location of the New Metropolitan Facility (NMF), which will no longer go ahead at the original Murdoch site. This decision was taken considering the immediate priority to deliver alternative accommodation for the Department to resume business operations following closure of the South Perth site (refer note 5.1) and to also meet future needs. The Government remains fully committed to providing a new, fit-for-purpose, long-term metropolitan facility within the approved \$320 million budget, and alternative locations within the metropolitan area will be identified and assessed. Importantly, the work to date on the NMF will not go to waste, with the development and design work already completed helping to inform the planning for the future facility.

9.2. Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards

There were no new Australian Accounting Standards effective for the year end 30 June 2024 that applied to the Department.

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 2024		
<i>AASB 2020-1</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current</i>	
	This Standard amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current.	1 Jan 2024
	There is no financial impact.	
<i>AASB 2022-5</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback</i>	
	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.	1 Jan 2024
	There is no financial impact.	

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.

1 Jan 2024

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.

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.

1 Jan 2024

The Department has not assessed the impact of the Standard.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

		Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
Operative for reporting periods on/after 1 Jan 2025		
<i>AASB 17</i>	<p><i>Insurance Contracts</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Department has not assessed the impact of the Standard.</p>	1 July 2026
<i>AASB 2021-7C</i>	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 and Editorial Corrections</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Department has not assessed the impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2025
<i>AASB 2022-9</i>	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance Contracts in the Public Sector</i></p> <p>This Standard amends AASB 17 and AASB 1050 to include modifications with respect to the application of AASB 17 by public sector entities.</p> <p>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</p> <p>There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2026

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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:

	2024	2023
Compensation band (\$)		
50,001 - 100,000	-	2
100,001 - 150,000	-	1
150,001 - 200,000	-	2
200,001 - 250,000	3	2
250,001 - 300,000	2	1
400,001 - 450,000	1	-
	6	8
	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,489	1,195
Post-employment benefits	117	118
Other long-term benefits	36	142
Total compensation of senior officers	1,642	1,455

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 2024

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	\$550,531
- Department of Finance	\$279,363
- Department of Jobs Tourism Science and Innovation	\$2,000,000
- Goldfields Esperance Development Commission	\$606,750
- Great Southern Development Commission	\$556,549
- Kimberley Development Commission	\$516,750
- Mid West Development Commission	\$849,000
- Peel Development Commission	\$496,500
- Pilbara Development Commission	\$586,500
- South West Development Commission	\$907,814
- Gascoyne Development Commission	\$361,000
- Wheatbelt Development Commission	\$522,750

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

9.5 Related party transactions (continued)

Significant transactions with government-related entities (continued)

- Supplies and services (note 3.3) includes:

- Agricultural Produce Commission	\$80,980
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions	\$125,000
- Department of Finance	\$6,355,212
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services	\$12,185
- Department of Health of WA	\$12,000
- Department of Jobs Tourism Science and Innovation	\$162,989
- Department of The Premier and Cabinet	\$1,271,647
- Department of Transport	\$506,947
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	\$14,000
- Fremantle Port Authority	\$52,415
- Gascoyne Development Commission	\$19,055
- Horizon Power	\$313,494
- Kimberley Port Authority	\$100,443
- Landgate	\$23,118
- Main Roads Western Australia	\$20,000
- Mid West Ports Authority	\$50,054
- Peel Development Commission	\$91,854
- Riskcover	\$2,800,558
- Small Business Development Corporation	\$24,000
- Synergy	\$425,745
- Water Corporation	\$615,393
- Western Australian Treasury Corporation	\$102,369

- Accommodation lease payments (note 3.3) includes:

- Department of Finance	\$14,935,373
- Department of Water & Environmental Regulation	\$93,436
- Fremantle Port Authority	\$226,315
- Department of Fire & Emergency Services	\$6,292

- Service appropriation (note 4.1)
- Resources received free of charge (note 4.1)
- Income from other public sector entities (note 4.1)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

9.5. Related party transactions (continued)

- Royalties for Regions Fund (note 4.1)
- User charges and fees (note 4.2)
- Other revenue (note 4.5) includes:

- Central Regional Tafe	\$28,055
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions	\$144,167
- Department of Fire & Emergency Services	\$3,398,573
- Department of Jobs Tourism Science & Innovation	\$77,763
- Department of Water & Environmental Regulation	\$502,700
- Development WA	\$24,894
- 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 \$13.8 million (\$10.4 million in 2022/23) and grant funding of \$0 (\$0.1 million in 2022/23) 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 \$0.8 million in support from the Department in 2023/24 (\$1.1 million in 2022/23). The Grower Group Alliance is not subject to operational control by the Department.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

9.8. Special purpose accounts

	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'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	19,593	15,584
Receipts	27,628	20,222
Payments	(26,201)	(16,213)
Balance at end of period	21,020	19,593
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	9,487	9,503
Receipts	3,331	2,802
Payments	(4,044)	(2,818)
Balance at end of period	8,774	9,487
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	5,934	10,210
Receipts	7,687	6,202
Payments	(5,686)	(10,478)
Balance at end of period	7,935	5,934
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	5,456	5,104
Receipts	1,181	2,161
Payments	(1,703)	(1,809)
Balance at end of period	4,934	5,456

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

9.8. Special purpose accounts (continued)

	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'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	5,346	5,509
Receipts	591	116
Payments	(285)	(279)
Balance at end of period	5,652	5,346
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	4,022	3,732
Receipts	6,959	5,958
Payments	(6,975)	(5,668)
Balance at end of period	4,006	4,022
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	75
Receipts	71	70
Payments	-	(70)
Balance at end of period	146	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	6,242	8,346
Receipts	4,714	5,492
Payments	(6,486)	(7,596)
Balance at end of period	4,470	6,242

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

9.8. Special purpose accounts (continued)

	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'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	2,763	2,342
Receipts	1,386	1,101
Payments	(987)	(680)
Balance at end of period	3,162	2,763
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	5,870	100
Receipts		
Contribution from Consolidated Account	40,108	23,023
Royalties for Regions	12,162	-
Fisheries Access Fees	29,575	35,487
Grants and Contributions	2,253	4,238
Other Receipts	1,681	8,363
Interest	514	-
Payments		
Contributions to Fisheries WA operations	(80,255)	(65,341)
Balance at end of period	11,908	5,870

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

9.8. Special purpose accounts (continued)

	2024 \$'000	Restated 2023 \$'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	535	500
Receipts		
Contribution from Consolidated Account	14,664	16,049
Recreational Fishing Licences	8,773	9,031
Royalties for Regions - recurrent	10,912	-
Other Receipts	99	-
Payments		
Expenditure on recreational fishing related activities	(24,355)	(25,045)
Balance at end of period	10,628	535
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	97	824
Receipts		
Contribution from Consolidated Account	4,500	
Repayments from Industry for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	1,000	1,512
Other Receipts	804	-
Payments		
Loan repayment, Interests and guarantee fees to WATC for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes	(1,062)	(1,791)
Unit buy back State Scheme	(4,101)	(448)
Balance at end of period	1,238	97

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Balance at start of period	18,216	42,584
Receipts	-	4,000
Payments	(12,246)	(28,368)
Balance at end of period	5,970	18,216

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

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
	961	937
	961	937

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

9.10. Services provided free of charge

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'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	2,100	1,882
Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission	2,229	2,015
Great Southern Development Commission	2,031	1,913
Kimberley Development Commission	2,529	2,501
Mid West Development Commission	1,881	1,382
Peel Development Commission	1,978	1,886
Pilbara Development Commission	3,802	3,001
South West Development Commission	5,757	4,603
Wheatbelt Development Commission	1,585	1,374
Agricultural Produce Commission (APC)	72	56
Rural Business Development Corporation (RBDC)	53	40
Department of Communities	10	20
Department of Finance	-	30
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	6	13
Department of Health	14	29
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety	13	13
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	9	2
Department of Premier and Cabinet	68	30
Department of Transport	16	15
Department of Water	7	11
Landgate WA	4	3
Main Roads of Western Australia	12	17
Public Transport Authority of Western Australia	1	2
Department of Education	1	-
Legal Aid WA	1	-
Lottery Commission WA	2	-
	24,181	20,838

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

9.11. Equity

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Contributed equity		
Balance at start of period	631,353	607,794
Contributions by owners		
Capital appropriations	19,841	13,910
Other contributions by owners		
Drawdowns from Treasury Special Purpose Account	10,769	6,674
Transfer of net assets from other departments	-	642
Royalties for Regions Fund - Regional Community Services Account	1,000	4,033
Royalties for Regions Fund - Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account	10,737	400
Distributions to owners		
Rural Business Development Corporation	(2,200)	(1,500)
Department of Conservation Biodiversity and Attractions	(839)	-
Department of Planning Lands and Heritage	(260)	(600)
Balance at end of period	670,401	631,353
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Asset revaluation surplus		
<i>Net revaluation increments/(decrements)</i>		
Balance at start of period	71,206	37,176
Land	32,110	21,161
Buildings	(7,065)	12,869
Plant, Equipment & Vehicles	(2,983)	-
Balance at end of period	93,268	71,206
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Balance at start of period	(51,908)	(31,205)
Result for the period	(1,925)	(5,151)
Correction of prior period error	-	(15,581)
Other comprehensive income	-	29
Balance at end of period	(53,833)	(51,908)
Total equity at end of period	709,836	650,651

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

9.12. Supplementary financial information

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'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	-	-
	-	-
(b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes		
Losses of public moneys and public and other property through theft or default	3	12
Amounts recovered - insurance	(118)	(118)
	(115)	(106)

9.13. Indian Ocean Territories Service Level Agreement

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
The provision of services to the Indian Ocean Territories are recouped from the Commonwealth Government		
Opening balance	973	669
Receipts	268	1,107
Payments ^(a)	(682)	(803)
Closing balance	559	973

a) The (682K) payments include 2024 expenses for (841K) and an adjustment of the opening balance of \$159K for prior year expenditures.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

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 2024, and between the actual results for 2024 and 2023 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 \$656.970 million being \$6.570 million), and
 - Total Assets of the annual estimate for the Statement of financial position (1% of \$806.226 million being \$8.062 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 \$513.594 million being \$5.136 million), and
 - Total Assets for the Statement of financial position (1% of \$785.628 million being \$7.856 million).

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

10.1.1. Statement of comprehensive income variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2024	Actual 2024	Restated Actual 2023	Variance between actual and estimate	Variance between actual results for 2024 and 2023
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
COST OF SERVICES						
Expenses						
Employee benefits expenses		241,679	251,298	236,250	9,619	15,048
Supplies and services	1	183,512	147,867	143,856	(35,645)	4,011
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		23,035	22,303	17,513	(732)	4,790
Finance costs		689	547	456	(142)	91
Accommodation expenses		17,551	18,845	16,969	1,294	1,876
Other expenses	2	26,573	7,516	3,983	(19,057)	3,533
Grants and subsidies	3,A	163,931	138,974	94,459	(24,957)	44,515
Loss on disposal of non-current assets		-	-	108	-	(108)
Total cost of services		656,970	587,350	513,594	(69,620)	73,756
Income						
User charges and fees	4	61,387	52,987	57,621	(8,400)	(4,634)
Commonwealth grants and contributions		13,870	12,306	8,740	(1,564)	3,566
Non-government grants and subsidies	5,B	30,136	23,292	9,855	(6,844)	13,437
Other revenue	6,C	6,561	44,500	29,241	37,939	15,259
Gain on disposal of non-current assets		255	259	-	4	259
Share of gain in joint venture entities using the equity method		-	4,581	4,718	4,581	(137)
Total income		112,209	137,925	110,175	25,716	27,750
NET COST OF SERVICES		544,761	449,425	403,419	(95,336)	46,006
Income from State Government						
Service appropriations	7,D	256,298	293,420	232,063	37,122	61,357
Services received free of charge		1,849	1,810	1,805	(39)	5
Royalties for Regions Fund	8	227,198	146,063	145,619	(81,135)	444
Income from other public sector entities	9	15,039	6,207	5,038	(8,832)	1,169
Total income from State Government		500,384	447,500	384,525	(52,884)	62,975
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(44,377)	(1,925)	(18,894)	42,452	16,969
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss						
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		-	22,062	34,030	22,062	(11,968)
Gains/(losses) recognised directly in equity		-	-	29	-	(29)
Total other comprehensive income		-	22,062	34,059	22,062	(11,968)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(44,377)	20,137	15,165	64,514	5,001

The estimates are as published in accordance with T1 953 Annual Estimates and 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 2024

10.1.1. Statement of comprehensive income variances (continued)

Major Estimate and Actual (2024) Variance Narratives

- 1) Supplies and Services Actual is \$35.6 million lower due to delays in major projects including Farm Business Resilience Program, Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Parks - BAMP Industry Package, Agriculture Climate Resilience Fund – Administration and WA Agricultural Research Collaboration. Furthermore, there was a reclassification of \$9.3 million from supplies and services expense to salaries and wages for the Building WA Grains Research project. Advertising, insurance, equipment repairs and maintenance, other administration expenditure and motor vehicle fleet expenses totalling \$22.2 million are included in other expenses in the budget papers (refer note 2 below).
- 2) Actual Other Expenses is \$19.1 million lower partially due to expenses of \$22.2 million budgeted under supplies and services (refer note 1 above). Additionally, unexpected movement in the Fair Value of Investments and Doubtful Debt Expense contributed to the lower actuals.
- 3) Grants and subsidies is \$25.0 million lower than Estimates and primarily driven by lower-than-expected take-up for the ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie Freight Subsidies Assistance Package, and project delays such as the Pilbara Aboriginal town Based Reserves – Stage 2, Busselton Jetty Marine Discovery Centre and Implementation of Sheep and Goat Electronic Identification Program. Carryovers to 2024-25 and out years have been approved in the 2024-25 WA State Government budget process, with further carryovers being requested through the 2024-25 WA State Government Mid-year review.
- 4) User charges and fees reduced by \$8.4 million mainly due to a lower gross value of product for Western Rock Lobster. An adjustment to the Estimates of \$6.5 million was approved during 2023-24 reducing the user fees and charges budget, with a corresponding increase in service appropriation.
- 5) Non-government grants and subsidies are \$6.8 million lower than Estimates, mainly as a result of revenue received from Grain Research Development Corporation and Horticulture Innovation Australia deferred to future years to be recognised as revenue as milestones are met.
- 6) Other Revenue is \$37.9 million higher than the budget estimate due to revenue received for National cost share agreements for WA Incidents (\$16.5 million), increased rent received (\$2.2 million), interest revenue (\$1.9 million), recoups and recoveries (\$5.3 million) with the balance being other sundry income.
- 7) Service Appropriation is \$37.1 million higher than the budget due to additional appropriation received through supplementary funding for Biosecurity incidents. Additional appropriation was also received during the year for cost pressures including Kensington site, Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC), Licence Fees & Registration and fees paid to professional services addressing audit recommendations.
- 8) Royalties for Regions (RfR) Fund is \$81.1 million lower than budget as a result of delays in RfR funded programs such as Implementation of Sheep and Goat Electronic Identification, Grains Management – Building Western Australian Grains Research, SATIF Regional Connectivity Program Round 1, WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program (Round 2), Natural Resource Management Program, Agriculture Climate Resilience Fund - Administration, Pilbara Aboriginal Town Based Reserves - Unallocated, Collie Industry Attraction Fund, North West Aboriginal Housing Initiative - Unallocated, Regional Telecommunications Project, SATIF Digital Farm - Round 3,

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

10.1.1. Statement of comprehensive income variances (continued)

Major Estimate and Actual (2024) Variance Narratives (continued)

Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme, Total Solar Eclipse, Greenbushes Lithium Supply Chain, Myalup - Wellington Water for Growth RfR.

Carryovers to 2024-25 and out years have been approved in the 2024-25 WA State Government budget process.

- 9) Income from other public sector entities is \$8.8 million lower than budget due to the lower-than-expected take-up for the ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie Freight Subsidies Assistance Package.

Major Actual (2024) and Comparatives (2023) Variance Narratives

- A) Grants and subsidies has increased by \$44.5 million as a result of the underspend of grants for Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund in prior year.
- B) Non-government grants and subsidies received has increased by \$13.4 million compared to prior year due to the application of AASB15 contract liability resulting in transferring revenues to Unearned Revenue in the prior year.
- C) Other revenue has increased by \$15.3 million due to the increase in Cost Share Recovery (\$8 million), as well as the increase in other revenue such as rental income and interest revenue.
- D) Service appropriations has increased by \$61.3 million in the current year due to 2023-24 budget adjustments and additional appropriation received through supplementary funding for Biosecurity incidents. Additional appropriation was also received during the year for cost pressures including Kensington site, Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC), Licence Fees & Registration and costs associated with addressing audit recommendations.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

10.1.2. Statement of financial position variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2024	Actual 2024	Restated Actual 2023	Variance between actual and estimate	Variance between actual results for 2024 and 2023
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	10,E	(1,311)	44,977	10,081	46,288	34,896
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	11,F	80,012	139,235	117,645	59,223	21,590
Biological assets		1,186	743	600	(443)	143
Inventories		1,319	2,061	1,497	742	564
Receivables	12,G	8,302	28,351	19,857	20,049	8,494
Amounts receivable for services		5,743	6,178	6,974	435	(796)
Other current assets	13	12,426	3,708	3,178	(8,718)	530
Total Current Assets		107,677	225,253	159,832	117,576	65,421
Non-Current Assets						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		3,035	-	4,671	(3,035)	(4,671)
Amounts receivable for services		232,622	230,727	211,490	(1,895)	19,237
Receivables		1,762	8,433	3,263	6,671	5,170
Other non-current assets		3,839	3,598	4,129	(241)	(531)
Investments accounted for using the equity method	14,H	28,265	43,564	35,984	15,299	7,580
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		414,722	377,379	353,632	(37,343)	23,747
Intangible assets		3,748	2,495	3,729	(1,253)	(1,234)
Right-of-use assets		10,556	12,878	8,898	2,322	3,980
Total Non-Current Assets		698,549	679,074	625,796	(19,475)	53,278
TOTAL ASSETS		806,226	904,327	785,628	98,101	118,699
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Payables	15,I	9,062	54,231	26,451	45,169	27,780
Contract liabilities	16	11,415	35,511	29,164	24,096	6,347
Employee related provisions	17	50,982	59,774	53,250	8,792	6,524
Borrowings	18,J	1,000	20,360	1,000	19,360	19,360
Lease liabilities		3,471	4,551	3,171	1,080	1,380
Other current liabilities		10,178	2,789	662	(7,389)	2,127
Total Current Liabilities		86,108	177,216	113,698	91,108	63,518
Non-Current Liabilities						
Contract liabilities		2,547	-	-	(2,547)	-
Employee related provisions		8,280	4,724	8,368	(3,556)	(3,644)
Borrowings		2,960	2,000	3,000	(960)	(1,000)
Lease liabilities		4,789	6,311	3,726	1,522	2,585
Other non-current liabilities		-	4,240	6,185	4,240	(1,945)
Total Non-Current Liabilities		18,576	17,275	21,279	(1,301)	(4,004)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		104,684	194,491	134,977	89,807	59,514
NET ASSETS		701,542	709,836	650,651	8,294	59,185

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

10.1.2. Statement of financial position variances (continued)

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2024	Actual 2024	Restated Actual 2023	Variance between actual and estimate	Variance between actual results for 2024 and 2023
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
EQUITY						
Contributed equity		738,178	670,401	631,353	(67,777)	39,048
Reserves	19,K	36,224	93,268	71,206	57,044	22,062
Accumulated deficit	20	(72,860)	(53,833)	(51,908)	19,027	(1,925)
TOTAL EQUITY		701,542	709,836	650,651	8,294	59,185

The estimates are as published in accordance with TI 953 Annual Estimates and will not agree to the published budget papers which incorporate the nine Regional Development Commissions with the Department.

Major Estimate and Actual (2024) Variance Narratives

- 10) Cash and cash equivalents is \$46.3 million higher due to \$21.7 million of supplementary funding from Treasury for expenditure cost pressures experienced by the agency in 2023-24 and the final payment run for 2023-24 being processed in July 2024 resulting in higher payables (refer note 15 below).
- 11) Restricted cash and cash equivalents is \$59.2 million higher partially due to a repayable Treasurers' advance obtained to offset costs incurred by the agency and recognition of Commonwealth contribution towards incident responses and partially as a result of revenue received from external funding bodies and Royalties for Regions in advance of milestones being met.
- 12) Receivables is \$20.0 million higher due to several large invoices for services that are outstanding, predominantly from other State and Federal government agencies.
- 13) Other assets are \$8.7 million lower due to a reduction in the recognition of revenue relating to customer contracts where expenditure has been incurred prior to the receipt of contract revenue.
- 14) Investments accounted for using the equity method is \$15.3 million higher due to movements within the financial statements of the joint venture partners.
- 15) Payables is \$45.2 million higher due to the increase in trade payables due to timing of the final payment run at the end of financial year and additional accrual for salaries related to the 27th pay which is due to be paid in 2027.
- 16) Contract liabilities is \$24.1 million higher due to an increase in revenue received relating to customer contracts for which performance obligations are expected to occur in 2024-25 and an increase in fisheries commercial access fees received in advance.
- 17) Employee related Provision liabilities is \$8.8 million higher due to an increase in annual and long service leave accruals compared to Estimates.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

10.1.2. Statement of financial position variances (continued)

Major Estimate and Actual (2024) Variance Narratives (continued)

- 18) Borrowings is \$19.3 million higher than budget due to a treasury advance of \$19.36 million in 2023-24. DPIRD is expected to recover the \$19.36 million in revenue/cash for expenditure on WA Incident and Emergency response activities incurred in 2022-2023 and 2023-24. The recovery of costs is in accordance with National Cost Sharing agreements in place.
- 19) Reserves is \$57.0 million higher due to the revaluation increment of land and buildings.
- 20) Accumulated deficit is \$19.0 million lower than budget due to the deficit for the 2023-24 financial year being \$42.5 million lower than estimated, partially offset by a higher opening balance than estimated.

Major Actual (2024) and Comparatives (2023) Variance Narratives

- E) Cash and cash equivalents is \$34.9 million higher due to \$21.7 million of supplementary funding from Treasury for expenditure cost pressures experienced by the agency in 2023-24 and the final payment run for 2023-24 being processed in July 2024 resulting in higher payables (refer note I below).
- F) Restricted cash and cash equivalents is \$21.6 million higher partially due to a repayable Treasurers' advance obtained to offset costs incurred by the agency and recognition of Commonwealth contribution towards incident responses.
- G) Receivables has increased by \$8.5 million due to several large invoices for services that are outstanding, predominantly from other State and Federal government agencies.
- H) The value of Investments accounted for using the equity method has increased by \$7.6 million due to movements within the financial statements of the joint venture partners.
- I) Payables is \$27.8 million higher due to the increase in trade payables at the end of financial year and additional accrual for salaries related to the 27th pay which is due to be paid in 2027.
- J) Borrowings is \$19.3 million higher than budget due to a treasury advance of \$19.36 million in 2023-24. DPIRD is expected to recover the \$19.36 million in revenue/cash for expenditure on WA Incident and Emergency response activities incurred in 2022-2023 and 2023-24. The recovery of costs is in accordance with National Cost Sharing agreements in place.
- K) Reserves is \$22.1 million higher due to the revaluation increment of land and buildings.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

10.1.3. Statement of cash flows variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate 2024	Actual 2024	Restated Actual 2023	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2024 and 2023
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriations	21,L	230,325	268,005	207,713	37,680	60,292
Capital contributions	22,M	74,886	19,841	13,910	(55,045)	5,931
Drawdowns from special purpose accounts		11,712	10,769	6,674	(943)	4,095
Holding account drawdown		6,974	6,974	4,617	-	2,357
Royalties for Regions Fund	23	242,897	157,800	148,552	(85,097)	9,248
Funds from other public sector entities	24	14,243	6,207	5,038	(8,036)	1,169
Net cash provided by State Government		581,037	469,596	386,504	(111,441)	83,092
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Employee benefits	N	(241,398)	(254,180)	(229,206)	(12,782)	(24,974)
Supplies and services	25	(177,775)	(140,128)	(134,174)	37,647	(5,954)
Accommodation		(17,551)	(17,134)	(16,969)	417	(165)
Finance costs		(522)	(547)	(456)	(25)	(91)
GST payments on purchases	26	(15,668)	(28,014)	(24,588)	(12,346)	(3,426)
Other payments	27	(27,024)	(7,914)	(3,785)	19,110	(4,129)
Grants and subsidies	28,O	(166,066)	(115,350)	(94,651)	50,716	(20,699)
Receipts						
User charges and fees	29,P	61,406	50,270	58,468	(11,136)	(8,198)
Commonwealth grants and contributions		13,870	12,306	8,846	(1,564)	3,460
Interest received		441	2,701	(70)	2,260	2,771
GST receipts on sales		6,558	4,281	3,828	(2,277)	453
GST receipts from taxation authority	30	9,110	24,492	20,853	15,382	3,639
Non-government grants and subsidies	31	30,162	23,292	20,820	(6,870)	2,472
Other receipts	32,Q	2,530	36,966	27,178	34,436	9,788
Net cash used in operating activities		(521,927)	(408,959)	(363,906)	112,968	(45,053)

The estimates are as published in accordance with TI 953 Annual Estimates and 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 2024

10.1.3. Statement of cash flows variances (continued)

	Estimate 2024	Actual 2024	Restated Actual 2023	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2024 and 2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Payments					
Investment in joint ventures	-	(2,999)	(3,001)	(2,999)	2
Purchase of non-current assets	33	(97,175)	(12,775)	79,973	(4,427)
Other Payments for investing activities	-	(1,100)	-	(1,100)	(1,100)
Receipts					
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets	255	579	68	324	511
Other Receipts from investing activities	-	182	-	182	182
Net cash used in investing activities	(96,920)	(20,540)	(15,708)	76,380	(4,832)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Payments					
Principal elements of lease	(4,272)	(5,442)	(4,311)	(1,170)	(1,131)
Distribution of monies to the Rural Business Development Corporation	-	(2,200)	-	(2,200)	(2,200)
Repayment of borrowings	(1,000)	-	(1,465)	1,000	1,465
Receipts					
Proceeds from borrowings	34,R	19,360	-	19,360	19,360
Proceeds from industry	1,508	-	-	(1,508)	-
Net cash used in financing activities	(3,764)	11,718	(5,776)	15,482	17,494
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(41,574)	51,815	1,114	93,389	50,701
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	123,309	132,397	131,283	9,088	1,114
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	81,735	184,212	132,397	102,477	51,815

The estimates are as published in accordance with T1 953 Annual Estimates and will not agree to the published budget papers which incorporate the nine Regional Development Commissions with the Department.

Major Estimate and Actual (2024) Variance Narratives

- 21) Service Appropriation is \$37.7 million higher due to additional appropriation received through supplementary funding for Biosecurity incidents. Additional appropriation was also received during the year for cost pressures including Kensington site, Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC), Licence Fees & Registration and costs associated with addressing audit recommendations.
- 22) Capital Contributions are \$55 million lower due to delays in the progress and completion of capital projects, projects include the New Metro Facility and the Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

10.1.3. Statement of cash flows variances (continued)

Major Estimate and Actual (2024) Variance Narratives (continued)

- 23) Royalties for Regions (RfR) Fund is \$85.1 million lower as a result of delays in RfR funded programs such as Implementation of Sheep and Goat Electronic Identification, Grains Management – Building Western Australian Grains Research, SATIF Regional Connectivity Program Round 1, WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program (Round 2), Natural Resource Management Program, Agriculture Climate Resilience Fund - Administration, Pilbara Aboriginal Town Based Reserves - Unallocated, Collie Industry Attraction Fund, North West Aboriginal Housing Initiative - Unallocated, Regional Telecommunications Project, SATIF Digital Farm - Round 3, Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme, Total Solar Eclipse, Greenbushes Lithium Supply Chain, Myalup - Wellington Water for Growth RfR. Carryovers to 2024-25 and out years have been approved in the 2024-25 WA State Government budget process
- 24) Funds from other public sector agencies is \$8.0 million lower than budget due to a reduction in expenditure with respect to Tropical Cyclone Ellie.
- 25) Supplies and Services is \$37.7 million million lower than budget due to delays in major projects including Farm Business Resilience Program, Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Parks - BAMP Industry Package, Agriculture Climate Resilience Fund – Administration.
- 26) GST payment on purchases is \$12.4 million higher as the budget calculation understated the value of GST payments. However, this is offset by GST receipts from taxation authority (refer note 31 below).
- 27) Other Payments is \$19.1 million lower as administration expenses is budgeted under supplies and services. Additionally, unexpected movement in the Fair Value of Investments and Doubtful Debt Expense contributed to the lower actuals.
- 28) Grants and subsidies paid is \$50.7 million lower than budget due to delays in expenditure on projects (\$23.0 million) such as the Pilbara Aboriginal town Based Reserves (\$5.0 million), Busselton Jetty Marine Discovery Centre (\$7.0 million) and Implementation of Sheep and Goat Electronic Identification Program (\$11.0 million) and lower than expected take-up for the Tropical Cyclone Ellie Freight Subsidies Assistance Package (\$10.0 million). Carryovers to 2024-25 and out years have been approved in the 2024-25 WA State Government budget process.
- 29) User charges and fees is \$11.1 million lower due to a lower gross value of product for Western Rock Lobster. A budget adjustment was approved during 2023-24 reducing the user fees and charges budget, with a corresponding increase in service appropriation. In addition, lower sale of goods was recognised.
- 30) GST receipts from taxation authorities is \$15.4 million higher than budget as the budget assumptions understated the value of GST payments which are received back from the tax authorities (refer note 27 above).
- 31) Non-government grants and subsidies are \$6.9 million lower than Estimates, mainly as a result of a reduction in external funding received.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

10.1.3. Statement of cash flows variances (continued)

Major Estimate and Actual (2024) Variance Narratives (continued)

- 32) Other Receipts is \$34.4 million higher due to recoveries for National Cost Share agreements, royalties received, and rates & levies included in the user fees and charges budget line.
- 33) Purchase of non-current assets is \$80.0 million lower than budget due to re-cash flowing of programs into forward estimates such as the Pilbara Aboriginal Town Based Reserves, Frank Wise Tropical Research, Busselton Jetty Marine Discovery Centre, The XTC Ellie Freight Subsidies Assistance Package and the Sheep and Goat Electronic Identification program.
- 34) Proceeds from borrowings relate to a \$19.36 million repayable treasury advance for WA Incident and Emergency response activities amounts can be recovered in accordance with National Cost Sharing agreements.

Major Actual (2024) and Comparatives (2023) Variance Narratives

- L) Service appropriations has increased by \$60.3 million in the current year due to 2023-24 budget adjustments and additional appropriation received through supplementary funding for Biosecurity incidents. Additional appropriation was also received during the year for cost pressures including Kensington site, Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC), Licence Fees & Registration and costs associated with addressing audit recommendations.
- M) Capital Contributions is higher by \$5.9 million due to project costs associated with the New Metro Facility and procurement of additional building materials for works to address the Wild Dog Action Plan.
- N) Employee benefits has increased by \$25 million as a result of annual salary increases, increased activities for incident and emergency responses and implementation of new projects including the Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Parks and Kensington South Perth site management.
- O) Grants and subsidies has increased by \$20.7 million due to payments relating to initiatives including the Fresh and Secure Trade Alliance, RSPCA, Collie Steel Mill Bankable Feasibility Study, Waroona Town Centre Revitalisation, Kalgoorlie Boulder Youth Precinct and Hub, Dry Season response and the Regional Drought Resilience Program.
- P) User charges and fees were \$8.2 million lower due to receipt of \$5.4 million in 2022-23 from the sale of forfeited West Coast Rock Lobster and a reduction in revenue from services provided as the laboratories have been focussed on incident and emergency responses, which are not all cost recovered.
- Q) Other receipts is \$9.8 million higher due to the increase in recoveries from National Cost Share Agreements and other receipts such as rental income and interest received.
- R) Proceeds from borrowings relate to a \$19.36 million repayable treasury advance for WA Incident and Emergency response activities amounts can be recovered in accordance with National Cost Sharing agreements.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

10.2. Explanatory statement for administered items

This explanatory section explains variations in the financial performance of the Department undertaking transactions that it does not control but has responsibility to the government for, as detailed in the administered schedules.

All variances between annual estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2024, and between the actual results for 2024 and 2023 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 \$92.682 million being \$0.927 million)
2. Actual results for the current year and prior year actual
 - Total administered income (1% of \$15.224 million being \$0.152 million)

		Variance Notes	Estimate 2024	Actual 2024	Restated* Actual 2023	Variance estimate and actual	Variance actual 2024 and 2023
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ADMINISTERED ITEMS							
Income							
Interest revenue	A		753	763	1,427	10	(664)
Other revenue	B		-	329	606	329	(277)
Royalties for Regions	1,C		6,600	5,400	11,375	(1,200)	(5,975)
Revenue from Regional and Statewide Initiatives	2		(101,585)	-	-	101,585	-
Service appropriations			1,550	1,550	1,550	-	-
Regulatory fees and charges			-	326	266	326	60
Total administered income			(92,682)	8,368	15,224	101,050	(6,856)
Expenses							
Employee benefits expense			-	-	-	-	-
Grants & subsidies	3,D		55,645	19,487	35,522	(36,158)	(16,035)
Interest payments	4,E		544	862	762	318	100
Supplies and services	5,F		209	885	1,506	676	(621)
Royalties for Regions Program Underspend Provision	6		(132,315)	-	-	132,315	-
Total administered expenses			(75,917)	21,234	37,790	97,151	(16,556)

Major Estimate and Actual (2024) Variance Narratives

- 1) The State Natural Resource Management Program received funding of \$5.7 million in 2024, \$0.9k less than the estimated Royalties for Regions funding as a result of carryovers from 2023.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024

10.2. Explanatory statement for administered items (continued)

Major Estimate and Actual (2024) Variance Narratives (continued)

- 2) 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.
- 3) Lower than budgeted administered grants expenses (down \$36.2 million), is mainly due to the reallocation of funding from the Government Strategic Priorities to specific agency initiatives (a budget only adjustment).
- 4) Interest payments are \$0.3 million higher than estimated due to two mainly additional loans to Co-operative Companies.
- 5) Supplies and services is \$0.6 million higher than estimated due to mainly the payment of fisheries infringements \$0.3 million to Treasury.
- 6) 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 (2024) and Comparatives (2023) Variance Narratives

- A) Interest revenue is \$0.6 million lower this year due to the new loans under the Co-operative loan scheme, offset by the reversal of a prior year accrual.
- B) The decrease of \$0.2 million in Other revenue is due to the receipt of cash contributions from Austral Fisheries in 2023.
- C) A decrease of \$6 million relates to the \$4 million for the Regional Reform Fund in 2023 and reduction in funding received for the State Natural Resource Management Program of \$1.975 million in 2024 as monies were carried over from 2023.
- D) The decrease in payments of \$16 million in 2024 relates to the Essential and Municipal Services Improvement project in remote Aboriginal areas in 2024 compared to 2023.
- E) Interest payments are \$0.1 million higher than the prior year due to new loans under the Co-operative loan scheme.
- F) The decrease of \$0.6 million in Supplies and services for 2024 relates to there being no Industry payments to the FRDC in 2024 compared to 2023.

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 2024.



Ms Heather Brayford PSM

Accountable Authority

19 September 2024

Table 5: 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-Western Australian (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

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
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		
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 the department for industry and community development initiatives to the value of co-contributions committed by non-Western Australian (WA) 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 adaptation 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 WA 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 6: Key effectiveness indicator 1 results

2022-23 Actual	2023-24		Variance	
	Target	Actual	2022-23 (YoY variance in Actuals)	Target (2023-24 variance actual to target)
1:1.63	1:1	1:1.37	-16%	+37%

Table 6 shows the variance from 2022-23 actual, and variance from the target. The Year on Year (YoY) variance from 2022-23 is less 0.26 (16% lower). The variance from the target in 2023-24 is 0.37 (37% higher).

Analysis

During 2023-24, DPIRD's Industry and Economic Development (IED) pillar executed 270 grant agreements for community and industry development initiatives outside Perth, valued at \$23,848,026, across 11 grant schemes. For the purpose of analysing the value of the co-contributions, all 11 IED schemes that executed grant agreements were assessed, regardless of achievement. Ten of the 11 schemes secured \$32,863,457 in cash co-contributions from non-WA Government recipients and third parties. One scheme did not receive any cash co-contribution (see Table 7). All 11 schemes were validated through signed agreements. The schemes that secured third party cash co-contributions can be further validated through letters of surety or contracts signed by the contributing parties.

The target ratio of cash awarded to co-contributed was 1:1. The actual ratio of cocontribution in 2023-24 is 1:1.37. This indicates for every \$1.00 DPIRD awarded in grants facilitated \$1.37 in non-WA Government co-contribution. The total ratio was calculated on all 11 IED schemes. The ratio of DPIRD grants to cash co-contribution is summarised by scheme in Table 7.

Table 7: Key effectiveness indicator 1 results by IED Pillar Grant Scheme

	Name of DPIRD IED Pillar Grant Scheme	Total Awarded DPIRD Grant Amount in Executed Grant Agreement (\$)	Total non-state government Cash Co-contribution at Executed Grant Agreement (\$)	Ratio
1	Aboriginal Governance and Leadership Development Program	422,078	623,697	1:1.48
2	Agrifood and Beverage Voucher Program	449,328	597,806	1:1.33
3	Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program – Carbon for Farmers Voucher Program	591,389	122,379	1:0.21
4	Kimberley Community Action Fund	817,841	571,700	1:0.70
5	Collie Futures Fund	651,176	71,386	1:0.11
6	Small Grants Program – 2021 Election Commitments	480,000	1,041,665	1:2.17
7	Natural Resource Management Program – Community Stewardship Grants	4,636,121	933,431	1:0.20
8	Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants	5,150,189	13,212,492	1:2.57
9	WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program (WARDCP)	8,644,904	15,373,901	1:1.78
10	Regional Telecommunications Project	105,000	315,000	1:3
11	Regional Traineeship Program Grants	1,900,000	-	1:0
	Total	23,848,026	32,863,457	1:1.37

In 2022-23 the actual ratio was 1:1.63. In 2023-24 the actual ratio is 1:1.37.

In 2023-24, the actual ratio (1:1.37) exceeds the target ratio (1:1) by 37%. However, this ratio is lower at 16% compared to the 2022-23 ratio of 1:1.63 (see Table 6).

Reasons for exceeding the target ratio in 2023-24

- The 37% higher-than-target ratio this year is primarily due to the success of schemes like the 'WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program (WARDCP)' and the 'Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants'.
- The WARDCP scheme secured \$15,373,901 in co-contributions, exceeding the awarded amount of \$8,644,904 with a ratio of 1:1.78.
- Similarly, the RED Grants scheme secured \$13,212,492 in co-contributions, exceeding the awarded amount of \$5,150,189 with a ratio of 1:2.57.

Why the ratio decreased in 2023-24 compared to the previous year

- The decrease in the co-contribution ratio in 2023-24 compared to the previous year is mainly because of the 'Small Grants Program – 2021 Election Commitment'. This scheme had a ratio of 1:8.53 in 2022-23.
- This decrease was further compounded by 3 schemes that achieved a co-contribution lower than 50% of the awarded grant amount this year and 1 scheme not receiving any co-contributions (see Table 7).

Conclusion

The year highlighted notable success in exceeding co-contribution targets by 37% to the ratio of 1:1.37. This is mainly attributed to key schemes like the 'WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program' and 'Regional Economic Development Grants'.

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 actively shares data collected and maintained during its 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 2 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.

Results

An external market research provider was engaged to conduct the satisfaction survey.

Table 8: Key effectiveness indicator 2 results

2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24		Variance	
				Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from Target
86%	87%	85%	94%	80%	85%	-9%	+5%

Analysis

A sample of 48 responses was achieved from the 87 registered active users of the API within the 2023-24 financial year. This provided a confidence interval of $\pm 9.6\%$ at the 95% confidence level, a slight decrease over the corresponding 2023 review period. The department considers the sample to be representative of the population.

The eConnect Business Systems team continue to monitor the currency of the contact information of all active users, requiring all new users 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 48 respondents, 18 submitted online survey responses while 30 surveys were completed via telephone.

The survey indicated that 54% of respondents were very satisfied with the system and the information provided, the same as 2023. The survey also found that 31% of respondents were satisfied with the system, a 9% decrease in overall satisfaction over the 2023 results.

Of respondents, 58% felt that the information contributes towards profitability with 90% of commercial users indicating that the service improved their decision making. Furthermore, 35% use the information for research and computer modelling; 60% for online services to clients; 20% to provide apps to clients and 20% to inform farming decisions.

The clients who have used DPIRD’s APIs in 2023-24 range from a few requests to those who made over a million requests (8% of clients surveyed). This year 54% of users used the information for scientific or government use. One in 5 survey participants worked for DPIRD, but in an area unrelated to the management of the APIs.

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.

Description

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:

- Aboriginal groups and businesses
- Agribusiness, including packing sheds, marketers, exporters and food and beverage producers
- Agricultural Produce Commission committees
- Aquaculture Council of WA
- Grower groups
- Local government areas
- Relevant WA Government agencies
- Relevant land and water development stakeholders
- WA Farmers Federation

This indicator aligns with the activities of our Industry and Economic Development (IED) 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 a comprehensive stakeholder 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 653 stakeholders from 468 organisations, 235 stakeholders responded resulting in a response rate of 36%. This represents a decrease from the previous year's response rate of 47% based on 75 responses out of 160 viable contacts.

The results from this survey provided a confidence interval of $\pm 5\%$ at the 95% confidence level. The department considers this sample to be representative of the population.

Results

Table 9: Key effectiveness indicator 3 results

2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24		Variance	
			Target	Actual	% \pm from 2022-23	% \pm from target
73%	66%	70%	70%	77%	+7%	+7%

Analysis

Overall, the majority of respondents stated they were very satisfied (13%) or satisfied (64%). The 2023-24 result exceeds the target outcome by 7% and demonstrates an improvement from the 2022-23 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 between mid-February and March 2024. Survey respondents were asked about their experiences and views for the 12-month period prior to their interview date. From a total of 3,547 in-scope respondents (Western Australian residents aged 18 years and older), 703 interviews were completed which comprised:

- 560 respondents from major cities
- 62 respondents from inner regional areas
- 81 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 5-point Likert scale comprising ‘very poor’, ‘poor’, ‘fair’, ‘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 ‘fair’, ‘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 2023-24 satisfaction weighted to reflect the estimated resident population based on January 2024 Labour Force Survey estimates from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, with the survey providing estimates for the 2023-24 financial year.

Results

Table 10: Key effectiveness indicator 4 results

2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24		Variance	
			Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from Target
89%	86%	83%	85%	89%	+6%	+4%

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 2023 (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 rounded to 753,000 (95% confidence interval (CI) [663 000, 842 000]). The participation rate of 27.7% is slightly higher than the participation rates of recent years and lies within the 95% confidence limits for recent annual participation rate.

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 89% (95% CI [85.2%, 92.3%]) by the community on managing recreational fishing activities in 2023-24. This rate was higher than the rate for last year but similar to 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 ±5% around the target level has been set based on the variability in satisfaction over the past decade.

The department’s 2023-24 target satisfaction rating by the broader community is 85% compared to the actual 89%. The maintenance of community satisfaction near the target level is noteworthy given the significant management changes that occurred in 2023, including 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 to biosecurity incursions and incidents according to state, national and international biosecurity requirements and agreements.

Not all incidents will be resolved within the space of a year, with many requiring ongoing or seasonal activity before a resolution is reached. 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 incidents that may impact WA agriculture, the environment and/or communities as directed by government.

This KPI provides an 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 declared incidents to terrestrial weed, pest and disease incursions that were resolved and closed 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 at a national level, resolved means according to state policy.

For pests and diseases that are present in Australia but not considered to be established 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 in these cases may include ongoing controls and/or transition to management if this is in keeping with national or state agreements and policies.

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

A declared incident is considered to be:

- opened when a declaration form is completed and signed by the appropriate delegated authority
- resolved when a close-out form is completed and signed by the appropriate delegated authority.

The database is interrogated and the percentage determined annually.

Results

Table 11: Key effectiveness indicator 5.1 results

2021-22 Actual	2022-23		2023-24		Variance	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23 actual	%± from 2023-24 target
66.6%	60%	37.5%	60%	44.4%	+6.9%	-15.6%

Analysis

From a total of 9 incidents in 2023-24, 4 incident responses to terrestrial weed, pest and disease threats were resolved during the year. The remaining 5 are still subject to ongoing response and will carry over into 2024-25. This has resulted in a variance of -15.6% against the target for 2023-24.

While the 2023-24 result is closer to the target than the previous year, it is consistent with the increasing biosecurity risk globally due to drivers such as climate change, increased movements of people and cargo, and changes in land use. These pressures have resulted in an increasing number of biosecurity incursions into WA requiring a response. Additionally, responses are becoming larger and more complex. It is expected that an increasing number of responses will take multiple years to resolve, which will impact this KPI as incursions compound over several years.

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 established 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 one 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 declared incidents to aquatic pest and disease incursions that were resolved and closed during the financial year.

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

A declared incident is considered to be:

- opened when a declaration form is completed and signed by the appropriate delegated authority
- resolved when a close-out form is completed and signed by the appropriate delegated authority.

The database is interrogated and the percentage determined annually.

Results

Table 12: Key effectiveness indicator 5.2 results

2021-22 Actual	2022-23		2023-24		Variance	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23 actual	%± from 2023-24 target
N/A	60%	0%	60%	0%	0%	-60%

Analysis

There was one declared aquatic biosecurity incident in 2023-24 that is still subject to transition to management and will carry over into 2024-25. As with KPI 5.1, large nationally significant aquatic biosecurity incursions, such as the one for *Didemnum vexillum* in 2023-24, may increasingly take multiple years to resolve appropriately due to their complexity.

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 2023-24 were compared to the median ground cover from the previous 10 years (2013–23).¹

The KPI (percentage change in area of the cropping region maintaining sufficient ground cover) is calculated using the following formula within each of the 4 seasons:

- The per cent of arable land with adequate cover in 2023-24, minus the median per cent land area with adequate cover from 2013 to 2023 all divided by the median per cent land area with adequate cover from 2013 to 2023. The result is multiplied by 100 to give the percentage difference.

A value of zero or larger (the KPI target) indicates no change or increasing groundcover, compared to the 10-year median.

Because different satellite pixels are excluded from analysis each year due to cloud cover, comparisons use percentage of cropping land in the southwest agricultural region per year, rather than absolute area (hectares).

¹ Version 3 fractional ground cover product has replaced the version used in previous published reports. The calculations for all years have been re-run to ensure consistent comparisons through time.

Results

The area of the southwest cropping region with adequate ground cover in autumn 2023 (exceeding the 40% threshold) covered 97% of arable land (Figure 3). This area represents more than the 10-year median of 91% and the highest percentage of sufficient ground cover for that 10-year autumn period. The KPI was therefore 6.7% above the target of 0% and an improvement from the previous year (2022). All other seasons in 2023-24 had more ground cover than the 10-year median.

Table 13: Key effectiveness indicator 6.1 results

2020 (Autumn) Restated	2021 (Autumn) Restated	2022 (Autumn) Restated	2023 (Autumn)	
Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Actual
-4.8%	-0.5%	+6.1	0%	+6.7%

Table 14: Arable land maintaining sufficient ground cover

Arable land maintaining sufficient ground cover (%)	2013–2023 Baseline	2023-24 Actual	Change in area
Autumn 2023	91.0%	97.1%	6.7%
Winter 2023	98.8%	99.4%	0.6%
Spring 2023	98.7%	98.6%	-0.1%
Summer 2023-24	94.0%	95.1%	1.2%

Analysis

In 2022, above-average winter rainfall significantly boosted crop and pasture production, resulting in substantial ground cover that persisted through the summer, into autumn 2023 and the rest of the year. This previous year's ground cover played a role in maintaining ground cover through a very dry (low growth) winter and spring.

However, about 80% of the land classified as having inadequate ground cover was situated north of the latitude of Merredin, predominantly in regions characterised by sandy soils.

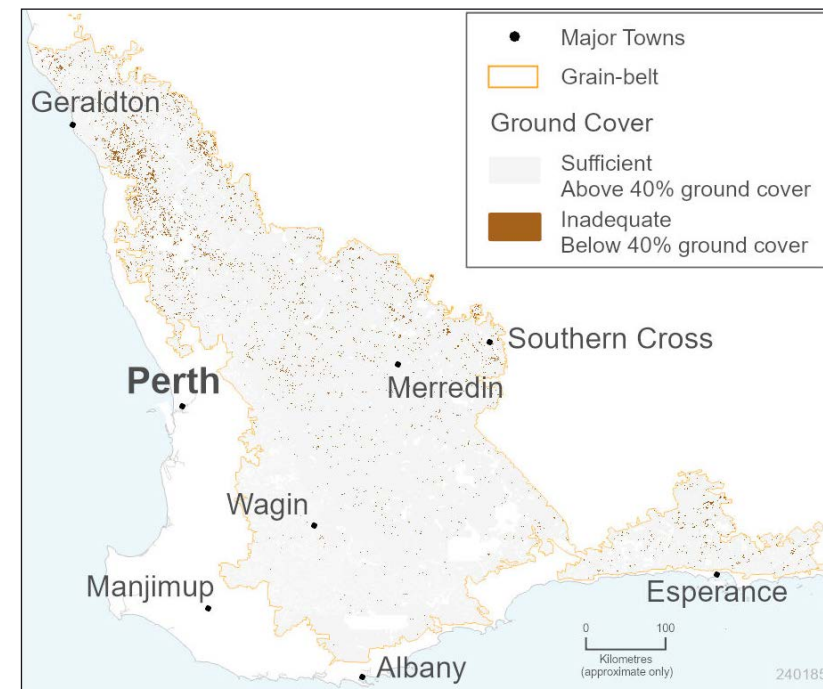


Figure 3: Area of the southwest cropping region with sufficient ground cover in autumn 2023

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 partnered 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 15: Key effectiveness indicator 6.2 results

2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24		Variance	
			Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from Target
46	63	84	30	90	+7.14%	+200%

Analysis

In the 2023-24 financial year, the number of soil health workshops exceeds the target of 30 workshops per year and is an increase from the total number delivered in the previous year.

Most of the events were face-to-face together with several delivered in conference-style formats focusing on soil research outcomes. Prominent soil health events that catered to a broader audience included the Grains Research Updates, the Healthy Estuaries and Soil Wise programs, several Carbon Farming information sessions, and DPIRD-sponsored visiting specialists.

The maintained interest in soil health-related workshops can be attributed to the continued promotion of soil information through initiatives such as the WA Soil Health Strategy, the National Soil Strategy and associated National Soil Action Plan, and DPIRD’s Climate Resilience program with an emphasis on regenerative agriculture.

The steady rise in the number of workshops can also be attributed to DPIRD’s Carbon Farming Land Restoration program which undertakes extensive community engagement events to promote carbon sequestration and emission reduction opportunities.

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:

- [number of stocks maintained or recovering] divided by [total number of stocks].

Results

Table 16: Key effectiveness indicator 6.3 results

2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24		Variance	
			Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from Target
98%	96%	96%	95%	91%	-5%	-4%

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 2023-24.

Status updates were undertaken during March–June with 47 resource and fishery combinations reviewed for 2023-24. The one fishery not examined is northern shark which has not operated since 2009.

Of the 46 assessments, 37 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 7 remaining fisheries, 3 were identified as having stocks that are environmentally limited: the Cockburn Sound Crab Managed Fishery, the Cockburn Sound Fish Net Managed Fishery (garfish) and the South West Beach Net Fishery (whitebait).

Four fisheries (the Abalone Managed Fishery, the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery [WCDSF], the South Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery [SCDSF] and the Pilbara Demersal Scalefish Fishery [PDSF]) have stocks that are considered inadequate as a result of exploitation. Management actions have already been implemented to assist stock recovery in the Abalone Managed Fishery and the WCDSF. Discussions are underway regarding management considerations in the SCDF and PDSF.

The department's 2023-24 target for the proportion of fish stocks not at risk from fishing is 95%. For the 2023-24 reporting period, the proportion of the assessed groups identified as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation is 91%, which is below the target level. Due to reasons explained above, the department considers it has not 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:

- $\frac{\text{[number of fisheries achieving acceptable levels]}}{\text{[total number of fisheries]}}$

Results

Table 17: Key effectiveness indicator 6.4 results

2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24		Variance	
			Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from Target
90%	90%	92%	90%	83%	-9%	-7%

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 47 resource and fishery combinations, comparisons between actual catches (or effort) with acceptable ranges have been undertaken for 35 commercial fisheries and an additional 19 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 19 assessed recreational fisheries, only 6 currently have formal acceptable catch ranges developed and another 13 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 5 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. The catch of red emperor in the recreational sector of the PDSF and snapper in the SCDSF were assessed as unacceptable from assessments of fishing mortality.

Of the 35 commercial fisheries, 13 were primarily catch-quota managed, with 22 subject to effort-control management. Of the 13 individually transferable catch-quota managed fisheries, 2 operated within, 10 were acceptably below and one was unacceptably below (greenlip and brownlip abalone in the Abalone Managed Fishery) their effort/catch ranges. In the 22 effort-controlled fisheries, 12 were within, one was above and 6 were acceptably below their catch ranges. Catch/effort above or below their acceptable ranges were determined acceptable due to adequate resource sustainability. Three fisheries (WCDSF, PDSF and SCDSF) had stocks that were unacceptable for their formal or informal catch ranges.

In summary, 14 of the 19 recreational fisheries and 31 of the 35 commercial fisheries (45 of the 54 fisheries overall) assessed were considered to have met their performance criteria.

The department's 2023-24 target is 90% for all major recreational and commercial fisheries. For the 2023-24 reporting period, the percentage of fisheries where acceptable catches are achieved is 83%, which is below the target level. Due to reasons mentioned above, the department considers it has not 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.

Calculation

For 2023-24, DPIRD adopted a common calculation method for all efficiency indicators: average cost per hour to deliver each service.

Each employee 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:

- TCoS/total paid work hours attributed to the service.

2022-23 Restated Actuals

Migration to the department's new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system (FIN Hub) in September 2022 resulted in changes to the department's Chart of Account hierarchy. A revision of cost centres and projects to meet new ERP structures resulted in a shift in activities in each costing string.

During 2023-24, a further review was conducted to align allocations used in the calculation of efficiency indicators, to service definitions in the department's KPI manual. Comparatives were restated based on the revised calculation methods, to enable a direct comparison between years.

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 18: Key efficiency indicator 1 results

2022-23 Restated Actual	2023-24		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from target
\$240.39	\$370.10	\$263.47	10%	-29%

Analysis

The 2023-24 actual cost per hour is higher than the 2022-23 actual cost per hour mainly due to expenditure on new or expanding projects, including the Food Technology Facility in the Peel, projects funded through the Food and Beverage Fund or Regional Drought Resilience Planning – Future Drought Fund, and the WA Government's dry season response.

The cost per hour differential between the 2023-24 Target to 2023-24 Actual is due to a range of projects seeking carryover of funds to 2024-25 through the 2024-25 WA Government budget process, including for Busselton Jetty Marine Discovery Centre, Regional Recovery Partnerships programs, Pilbara Aboriginal Town Based Reserves, Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme, Greenbushes Lithium Supply Chain, Regional Development Leverage Unit, Managed Aquifer Recharge, and Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program. In addition, the uptake of grants relating to Tropical Cyclone Ellie was less than target, lowering the actual cost per hour for 2023-24.

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 19: Key efficiency indicator 2 results

2022-23 Restated Actual	2023-24		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from target
\$171.96	\$199.40	\$167.23	-3%	-16%

Analysis

The cost per hour for 2023-24 is in line with 2022-23 restated actual.

The difference between the actual and the target for 2023-24 relates to RDC operational funding that has been carried over to 2024-25. The 2023-24 actual is also impacted by fewer vacancies across the RDCs in 2023-24 as well as an increase in the corporate services hours allocated to this service.

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 20: Key efficiency indicator 3 results

2022-23 Restated Actual	2023-24		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from target
\$156.60	\$198.79	\$152.05	-3%	-24%

Analysis

A review of the reporting structure has resulted in a realignment of service activities and output allocations for this efficiency indicator, resulting in a slight decrease in cost per hour from 2022-23 Actual to 2023-24 Actual.

The 2023-24 Actual cost per hour is lower than the 2023-24 Target due to an increase in the number of employees in this service, as a result of a reclassification of the Building WA Grains Program budget from professional services expense to employee benefits, approved through the 2023-24 WA Government Mid-year review process.

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 21: Key efficiency indicator 4 results

2022-23 Restated Actual	2023-24		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from target
\$223.93	\$295.61	\$201.29	-10%	-32%

Analysis

The 2022-23 Actual to 2023-24 Actual variance is mainly as a result of an increase in the hours worked in biosecurity related incidents relating to polyphagous shot-hole borer and the red dwarf honey bee at Pilbara Ports.

The actual cost per hour for 2023-24 is lower than the target due to changes in delivery and timing of the Western Australian Agricultural Research Collaboration program, Future Drought Fund and the Industry Growth Partnership Processed Oats Industry project. Some 2023-24 funds for these projects will be carried over to the next financial year. In addition, the total hours worked increased compared to the budget for 2023-24, thus further decreasing the actual cost per hour.

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 22: Key efficiency indicator 5 results

2022-23 Restated Actual	2023-24		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from target
\$163.19	\$223.44	\$191.93	18%	-14%

Analysis

The higher cost per hour in 2023-24 Actual compared to 2022-23 Actual is a result of an increase in the total cost of services, with the commencement of, and increased costs for initiatives, including the Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park, Peel Regional Trails, Nannup Cycle Trail Network, Newman Waste Water Treatment Plant, Dawesville Community Centre, Waroona Town Centre Revitalisation Stage 2, Kalgoorlie Boulder Youth Precinct, Collie Steel Mill Bankable Feasibility Study and Collie Magnesium Refinery Definitive Feasibility Study.

The difference in cost per hour between the 2023-24 Actual and 2023-24 Target is the result of hours worked. The increase in service hours has resulted from prior year activities being moved into the current financial year.

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 23: Key efficiency indicator 6 results

2022-23 Restated Actual	2023-24		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from target
\$138.80	\$143.90	\$146.22	5%	2%

Analysis

The 2023-24 Actual cost per hour is higher than 2022-23 Actual. This was mainly due to increased plant pathology costs incurred for biosecurity-related incidents, including polyphagous shot-hole borer and the Qfly Bayswater response as well as an increase in funding to the RSPCA and new projects including the Australian horticultural market access research partnership.

The 2023-24 Actual cost per hour is consistent with 2023-24 Target.

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 24: Key efficiency indicator 7 results

2022-23 Restated Actual	2023-24		Variance	
	Target	Actual	%± from 2022-23	%± from target
\$138.41	\$180.53	\$157.28	14%	-13%

Analysis

The 2023-24 Actual cost per hour is higher than in 2022-23 due to an increase in costs associated with new initiatives and the finalisation of Fisheries Adjustment Schemes, including West Coast Demersal Scalefish.

The 2023-24 Actual is below target partially due to increases in hours delivered due to new initiatives such as Fisheries Digital Transformation Project and Shark Notification and Response System Upgrade, and RfR projects like the Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park creation, combined with the delay in arrangements for the Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park Fisheries Adjustment Scheme.

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 2023-24 list of fees and charges was implemented on 1 July 2023 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 to enable the department to meet its corporate and operational needs in regional and metropolitan locations.

Table 25: Completed capital projects in 2023-24

Project	Actual Total Cost \$'000	Estimated Total Cost \$'000	Variance \$'000
DPIRD Katanning Research Facility	282	300	-18

Table 26: Outstanding capital projects in 2023-24

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
Abrolhos Island Activation	2024-25	250	250	0	250	New
Abrolhos Islands General Rolling Program	2027-28	1,220	4,044	4,044	0	
Albany Shellfish Hatchery	2024-25	2,920	3,733	3,733	0	
Aquaculture Development Plan for WA	2026-27	895	1,000	1,000	0	
Asset Maintenance Fund – incl. Eucla and Kununurra Checkpoints	2025-26	8,250	8,250	8,250	0	
Boosting Biosecurity Defences	2024-25	631	631	0	631	Reclassification of Recurrent to Capital
Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Parks Vessel	2024-25	9,356	9,393	9,393	0	
Building Grains Research and Development Capacity	2027-28	4,929	9,951	9,951	0	
Climate Adaptation – Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Project Expansion	2024-25	150	150	150	0	
Collie Industry Attraction and Development Fund	2024-25	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	
Computing Hardware and Software Rolling Program	2027-28	600	3,734	3,734	0	

Table 26: Outstanding capital projects in 2023-24 (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
Digital Foundations Program	2024-25	2,979	5,817	5,817	0	
DPIRD New Metropolitan Facility	2027-28	310,999	319,981	319,981	0	
Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness – DDLS	2025-26	2,519	2,550	2,550	0	
Equipment Replacement Program	2027-28	16,484	53,859	53,859	0	
Frank Wise Tropical Research Institute (FWTRI) Refurbishment	2024-25	667	1,449	1,449	0	
Houtman Abrolhos Islands Sustainable Development Activation Plan	2025-26	7,418	7,418	7,418	0	
Information System Development Rolling Program	2027-28	2,000	3,270	3,270	0	
Laboratory Upgrades - Kensington Site	2024-25	3,163	18,114	18,114	0	
Large Vessel Replacement Program	2024-25	7,721	11,473	11,473	0	
Modern Biosecurity and Product Integrity	2024-25	4,649	4,750	4,750	0	
Northern Beef Industry Strategy	2024-25	838	1,487	1,487	0	
Ord – Environmental Obligations Project	2024-25	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	

Table 26: Outstanding capital projects in 2023-24 (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
Pilbara Hydrogen Hub (Administered)	2026-27	64,233	64,233	64,233	0	
Plant and Equipment – Externally Funded Projects	2027-28	857	3,527	3,527	0	
Rat Island Jetty – Abrolhos Island	2024-25	23	250	250	0	
Regional Natural Resource Management Program	2024-25	3,635	13,813	13,813	0	
Shark Monitoring Network	2024-25	284	1,753	1,753	0	
Shark Notification and Response System Upgrade	2024-25	3,930	3,930	3,930	0	
Small Boats and Trailers Rolling Program	2027-28	6,388	23,226	23,226	0	
Truck Washdown Facilities – FMD and LSD	2024-25	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	
West Coast Demersal Scalefish Recovery Plan Digital Reporting	2024-25	350	350	350	0	
Wild Dog Action Plan	2027-28	4,509	15,089	15,089	0	
PFRC Headworks and RAS – Freshwater hatchery	2024-25	8,250	8,250	8,250	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 27: Unauthorised use of credit cards 2023-24

Description	Quantity/value
Number of instances the Western Australian Government purchasing card has been used for personal use expenditure	149
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure	\$11,892.68
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled by due date	\$3,521.13
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled after the period required	\$8,371.55
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure outstanding at the end of the period	\$0
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 2023-24, DPIRD paid \$55,198 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 2023-24, a payment of \$750 was made to Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative Pty Ltd and a payment of \$1,000 was made to a Mr Luke Reilly in relation to incorrect issue of fisheries infringement notices.

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 2023-24 was \$1,199,438.

Table 28: Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising in 2023-24

Advertising	\$	Media advertising organisations	\$
EUSO Digital Pty Ltd	-100	Carat Australia Media Services Pty Ltd	5,050
LinkedIn	2,552	Facebook	18,732
Norseman Today Newspaper Group Inc.	50	Farm Weekly	5,810
Potato Growers' Association of WA Inc.	555	Gumption	5,510
RACWA Holdings Pty Ltd	3,500	Initiative Media Australia Pty Ltd	296,385
Tangibility	42,488	IPrint Plus	110
Jack in the Box	1,080	SW Precision Print	6,033
Centre For Invasive Species Solutions	282	WA Newspapers Ltd	12,635
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	532,919	Morawa Community Resource Centre Inc.	55
ASB Marketing	4,494	Dongara-Denison Rag (Inc.)	538
Informa Australia Pty Ltd	5,000	Seaport Nominees Pty Ltd	850
Vegetables WA	2,096	Perenjori Community Resource Centre Inc.	55
Shearwell Australia Pty Ltd	2,361	Spencer Signs	974
BK Signs	1,049	Rural Press Pty Ltd	1,946
Telstra Limited	11,395	Promotion Products Pty Ltd	5,539
City of Bunbury	7,500	RTRFM 921 Limited	1,800
Total	617,219	Watershed News Inc.	45
Market research organisations	\$	Matrix Graphic Design (WA) Pty Ltd	300
Advantage Communications & Marketing Pty Ltd	14,640	Initiative Media Australia Pty Ltd	15,306
Total	14,640	The West Australian	2,973
Polling organisations	\$	Total	380,646
Nil	-		
Direct mail organisations	\$		
Nil	-		

Additional disclosures

Staff development

DPIRD undertook a range of key initiatives in 2023-24 to develop its workforce and support our diversity and inclusion commitments. These included:

- developing pipelines of talent and increasing the youth representation at DPIRD by piloting a graduate program. This led to a youth hackathon, where young employees worked alongside more senior experts to generate innovative solutions to a real work issue
- targeting senior female leaders to apply for the Public Sector Commission’s Elev8 program and supporting new managers from underrepresented diversity groups to join the Propel program
- incorporating the Personal Leadership e-modules and the Development Maps for each of the Building Leadership Impact contexts into the Progi learning management system and making these available to all employees
- piloting virtual training on Indigenous Culture and Intellectual Property (ICIP) as part of broadening cultural awareness and appropriate use of intellectual property to support DPIRD’s strategic outcomes and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and businesses
- developing and piloting a series of ‘Manager 101’ training modules. These are delivered by DPIRD’s subject matter experts across a range of corporate service functions and aim to upskill managers and supervisors in the systems, policies and practices needed to effectively navigate the industrial and employment landscape.

Employment and industrial relations

Table 29: Staff profile

Staff profile	2022-23 Average FTE ¹	2023-24 Average FTE ¹
Permanent full time	1,253.9	1,346.2
Permanent part time	154.7	161.6
Contract full time	284.7	338.3
Contract part time	55.3	55.7
Total	1,748.6	1,901.8

¹ Full-time equivalent (FTE)

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

Compliance issues that arose during 2023-24 regarding public sector standards are documented in Table 30.

Table 30: Compliance issues/breach claims

Breach claims lodged	2022-23	2023-24
Claims carried over	0	0
New claims received	2	3
Relevant standard		
Employment	2	3
Performance management	0	0
Redeployment	0	0
Termination	0	0
Grievance resolution	0	0
Handling of claims		
Withdrawn in agency	1	0
Resolved in agency	0	3
Still pending in agency	0	0
Referred to Public Sector Commission	1	0
Total claims completed	1	3

In 2023-24, the department initiated 20 disciplinary processes under Part 5 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

Twenty-one disciplinary processes were completed in 2023-24 and actions taken as an outcome of those processes ranged from issuing a warning as improvement action through to the imposition of a fine 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 from March 2022 and the department responded by ensuring a legislatively up-to-date Work Health and Safety Framework was drafted, endorsed and published by December 2022.

Although not in effect during the reporting year, the *Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023* and the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Regulations 2024 were updated from 1 July 2024, with DPIRD prioritising the development of the Injury Management System, as well as the Injury Management policy and procedure and the Fitness for Duty policy and procedure, set for completion by 31 December 2024.

The department continues to increase capacity within the Work Health Safety and Wellbeing (WHS&W) directorate, with current key focuses on hazard and incident management, risk management, training, audit and injury management.

The data for 2023-24 indicates that although the Lost Time Injury/Disease (LTI/D) incidence rate continues to decrease, the LTI/D severity rate is recorded as 53.3 (see Table 31). The LTI/D severity rate is calculated by considering the total number of LTI/D claims, as well as the total number of severe LTI/D claims.

A promising result for 2023-24 has been the significant increase to the lead indicator of hazard reporting, with an additional 42 hazards being proactively reported across the department (see Table 32).

The department continued to participate in a range of proactive safety and wellbeing initiatives as per the DPIRD Wellbeing and Inclusion Calendar 2023-24. The WHS&W directorate worked with People and Culture on several events and promotions, including the celebration of Safe Work Month 2023 which delivered 15 events for staff, ranging from lunch and learn sessions on safety and wellbeing-related topics to presentations on mindfulness and developing a healthy relationship with technology.

An external audit of the department's safety management system was conducted from October to December 2023 and the results were consistent with the internal gap analysis that continues to drive the strategic and operation direction of the WHS&W directorate. Continuous improvement remains the fundamental driver for the WHS&W directorate and ongoing engagement with the business continues to be encouraging with active engagement across the department.

Performance

Our performance against key indicators for Work Health and Safety and Injury Management is outlined in Table 31.

Table 31: Work health and safety and injury management performance against key indicators

Measures	Results, targets and commentary for DPIRD				
	Results 2021-22	Results 2022-23	Results 2023-24	Targets	Comments on progress towards targets
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	0	Target achieved
Lost time injury and disease incidence rate	0.70	1.60	0.77	0 or 10% reduction in incidence rate	Target achieved
Lost time injury and disease severity rate	33	13.3	53.3	0 or 10% reduction in severity rate	Target not achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work (i) within 13 weeks	75%	95.8%	60%	Greater than or equal to 60%	Target achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work (ii) within 26 weeks	92%	95.8%	60%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Target not achieved
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities, including refresher training within 3 years	78%	47%	49%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Target not achieved

Table 32: Hazards and incidents

	2022-23	2023-24
Total number of hazards reported	36	68
Total number of incidents reported	336	338

Injury management

Injury management (IM) is a service that covers workers compensation, fitness for work, return to work and engagement with external service providers to ensure staff are best placed to return to work post-injury as well as consult on accommodations to ensure staff are able to maintain productive working arrangements where possible.

Table 33: Workers compensation and lost time injury

	2023-24
Total number of approved claims submitted during reporting period	31
Total number of lost time injury claims submitted during reporting period	15
Total number of severe claims reported during the reporting period	8

Employee Assistance Program

DPIRD facilitates an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with 3 providers. It is an independent, professional and completely confidential counselling service available to staff and managers. Family members are also able to attend.

Table 34: EAP service provision

EAP provider	Hours of EAP provision	
	2022-23	2023-24
Converge International	51	71
PeopleSense	275	277
Access Wellbeing Services	136	136
Total	462	484

Asbestos management

DPIRD maintains a proactive and legislatively compliant approach to asbestos management of department sites across the state. In consultation with the [Asbestos National Strategic Plan](#), DPIRD is aware of and committed to the 3-phase approach to asbestos management and awaits the endorsement of the third phase via the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council.

The department consistently reviews the asbestos registers and asbestos management plans for its respective sites and consults with industry leaders within occupational hygiene and environmental health to assist the appropriate management of asbestos, within the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, *Work Health and Safety Regulations (General) 2022* and the Code of Practice – How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace.

Workforce inclusiveness statement

DPIRD is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace and enhancing our strategies to promote organisational inclusiveness. As part of the WA Public Sector Census, our workforce exhibits diversity, with staff members from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds, resulting in a uniquely diverse workforce. A considerable number of employees have demonstrated a willingness to share their diverse backgrounds, leading to an increased sharing of diversity information within our workforce.

Our department's participation in the recent Australian Workplace Equity Index survey has helped identify gaps and areas for improvement, allowing us to refine our strategies for inclusiveness.

To support our commitment to diversity and inclusion in 2023-24, we:

- launched the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for the period January 2024 to December 2025 to guide our department's reconciliation journey by setting out important goals, responsibilities and actions that apply to all staff
- developed the Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan for 2023-24, aligning it with the PSC Workforce Diversification and Inclusion Strategy, including subsequent action plans for underrepresented groups
- finalised our new DPIRD Access and Inclusion Plan 2024–29, which highlights our commitment to creating an inclusive environment for all employees and stakeholders, including people with a disability

- introduced our Workforce Strategy and Action Plan 2024–28, with actions incorporated to target diversity and inclusion
- continued to implement the DPIRD Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework 2021–26
- continued to celebrate, promote and educate on days and weeks of significance, including NAIDOC Week, National Reconciliation Week, Wear it Purple Day, the Pride Parade, International Women's Day and International Day of People with Disability
- commenced a review and revitalisation of our existing employee exit survey with the lens of diversity and inclusion
- enabled staff the option to update their profile in Microsoft 365 to include their pronouns.

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 supporting the 7 access and inclusion outcomes outlined in its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2018–23.

These included ongoing consultation in the development of DPIRD's forthcoming new website to ensure information is accessible to people with disability; an enhanced focus on considering the suitability of venues and locations for accessibility when organising events, including non-strobe lighting and dietary considerations; and liaison with school groups to determine any access needs and/or additional adjustments to ensure an inclusive, educational environment for students.

During the development of our new DPIRD Access and Inclusion Plan (AIP) 2024–29, the actions specified in the existing plan remained active.

This year featured a strong focus on reviewing the existing plan and consulting with external stakeholders and the wider community to determine the key areas for the next iteration of our plan.

Our new strategies reflect evolving good practices in accessibility standards to better serve the needs of our stakeholders and employees with disability. These strategies are outlined in the new DPIRD AIP. The new plan has an increased commitment to monitoring, reporting and evaluation to set it up for success.

This has been complemented with the appointment of a broader implementation working group, including a representative from the Regional Development Commissions (RDCs) and the addition of people with disability, giving the plan a lived perspective and wider reach into the department and the RDCs.

Our Agents and Contractors Guide helps to identify what contracts require reporting against the DAIP. Contractual terms are outlined on our intranet and available to all contractors.

The Procurement team assesses all new contracts to determine whether our 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 has not awarded any contracts where the DAIP was required within the reporting period.

WA Multicultural Policy Framework

In 2023-24, DPIRD continued to make progress against the 3 priority areas in the WA Multicultural Policy Framework:

- **Policy priority 1** – Harmonious and inclusive communities
- **Policy priority 2** – Culturally responsive policies, programs and services
- **Policy priority 3** – Economic, social, cultural, civic and political participation.

Harmonious and inclusive communities

During the reporting period, we acknowledged International Migrants Day to honour the rich cultural diversity within our workforce, with more than 17% of our people identifying as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD). This acknowledgement highlighted our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and encouraging people to reflect on their journeys. We also marked Harmony Day, reinforcing our dedication to fostering a respectful and inclusive workplace.

Culturally responsive policies, programs and services

In support of Ramadan, we provided practical tools and guidance to create a respectful environment for our Muslim colleagues, promoting understanding and inclusivity. This initiative aimed to accommodate the needs of staff during Ramadan and was part of our broader effort to implement culturally responsive policies and programs. Additionally, we integrated a video featuring a CALD staff member into our diversity training, showcasing the value of diverse perspectives in driving creativity and innovation.

Economic, social, cultural, civic and political participation

Our commitment to inclusivity is reflected in the increased representation of CALD people within our workforce, rising from 16.7% to 17.5% over the past 12 months. This growth underscores our dedication to support diverse participation in the workplace and our commitment to enhancing the delivery of services to the community by integrating diverse perspectives into our workplace practices.

Substantive equality

In 2023-24, the department implemented the following initiatives aligned with substantive equality principles:

- Employed a Vietnamese-speaking development officer to support Vietnamese growers with improving their water use efficiency in Gnangara
- Worked with vegetablesWA (vWA) and Berries Australia development officer to assist growers where Vietnamese is their first language to access support and recovery services after the Mariginiup fires
- Worked with dual language vWa officer to deliver an audit of waste management practices on Carnarvon horticultural properties that resulted in a significant improvement in the disposal of chemical drums.
- Produced 2 new signs for abalone fishing days, featuring minimal words and easy-to-understand images, so they can be understood by all fishers, including those from CALD backgrounds.
- Created new and updated signage for the Miaboolya Habitat Protection Area near Carnarvon, with a Vietnamese-translated version.
- Created a CALD fishing flyer that was sent to TAFEs and migrant education centres. This was translated into 6 languages to help reach inform people new to WA about fishing rules and where to find the information.
- Visited several South Metropolitan TAFE campuses to speak to CALD students learning English about fishing rules and safety.

The department also undertook several initiatives to raise awareness and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including:

- launching the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan and formalising the role of the 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
- announcing a focus on Aboriginal outcomes as one of 6 priority areas of the Corporate Executive in 2023-24
- hosting Aboriginal traineeships through the Public Sector Commission Solid Futures Program and creating a new position to transition an Aboriginal trainee into permanent employment in the department's Industry and Economic Development pillar
- using Section 50D of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA)* to design, recruit and fill several positions
- delivering a range of cultural capability building training, including in Indigenous cultural intellectual property, Aboriginal cultural heritage, and celebrating key events such as NAIDOC Week and National Reconciliation Action Week
- attending an educators' cultural workshop at Boola Bardip (WA Museum) around 'Connection to Country' to better understand how to include information about traditional use of the land and waters when officers present to school groups
- including an Acknowledgement of Country and information about the 6 Noongar seasons as part of our introductory session for school groups attending educational sessions at DPIRD's Hillarys office
- establishing an Aboriginal staff alliance to provide a forum for employees to safely raise issues and provide feedback to the Aboriginal Outcomes Task Team and Corporate Executive and develop a culturally safe working environment.

Board and committee remuneration

DPIRD supported 10 government boards or committees in 2023-24.

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 2023-24 was \$366,968.30.

Table 35: Animal Ethics Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	B Mullan	N/A	Jul-2023	Mar-2024	NA
Chair	K May	Per meeting	Apr 2024	Jun-2024	\$0.00
Member	Prof I Robertson	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$3,984.00
Member	S Vanstan	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$2,940.00
Member	S Leitch	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$3,984.00
Member	G Mabury	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$2,881.50
Member	M Paton	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$3,307.50
Member	M Zampogna	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$3,249.00
Member	S Zulsdorf	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$2,940.00
Total					\$23,286.00

Note: Chair B Mullan being an internal staff member did not claim. K May will be paid retrospectively in the next financial year.

Table 36: Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	J Bellanger	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	27,212.90
Member	B Adams	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	7,143.26
Member	A Dean	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	13,656.24
Member	R Flugge	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	315.14
Member	J Mackenzie	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	315.14
Member	O Nevin	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	11,502.76
Member	R Paliskis	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	11,502.76
Member	K Pearce	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	13,656.24
Member	S Sharma	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	6,512.98
Member	T Sullivan	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	13,656.24
Member	M Thomas	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	13,656.24
				Total	\$119,129.90

Note: IFS committees are industry funded. Member contributions are collected by industry and these funds are managed by our department. The Cross Communications Working (CCW) Group comprises IFS committee members.

Table 37: Cattle Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	D Dowden	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$4,730.00
Deputy Chair	D Jarvie	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$2,780.00
Member	P Hall	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$3,100.00
Member	W Brockhurst	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$3,364.00
Member	T Michalek	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$1,820.00
Member	R McFerran	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$1,920.00
Member	C Wyhoon	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$1,600.00
Total					\$19,314.00

Note: Gross remuneration for W Brockhurst includes \$264 for sitting on the CCW group.

Table 38: 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-2023	Jun-2024	\$4,240.00
Deputy Chair	H McTaggart	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$3,044.00
Member	P Harkness	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$2,780.00
Member	J Foss	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$2,504.00
Member	M Dagostino	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$2,140.00
Member	P Kelly	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$1,500.00
Member	J Alvaro	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$1,500.00
Total					\$17,708.00

Note: Gross remuneration for H McTaggart and J Foss includes \$264 for sitting on the CCW group.

Table 39: 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-2023	Jun-2024	\$3,260.00
Deputy Chair	K Pearce	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$1,180.00
Member	C Jacobson	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$1,500.00
Member	M Griffiths	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$2,404.00
Member	A Day	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$1,820.00
Member	S Pickering	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$1,352.00
Member	J Sullivan	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$1,500.00
				Total	\$13,016.00

Note: Gross remuneration for M Griffiths includes \$264 for sitting on the CCW group.
Gross remuneration for S Pickering includes \$72 for sitting on the CCW group.

Table 40: Soil and Land Conservation Council

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	Dr H Norman	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	NA
Deputy Chair	Dr R George	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	NA
Member	Dr R Young	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	NA
Member	Dr M Strawbridge	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	NA
Member	W Bradshaw	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$13,032.24
Member	E Foulkes-Taylor	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$13,032.24
Member	D Mallard	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$13,032.24
Member	R Nixon	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$13,032.24
Member	N Schoknecht	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$13,032.24
Member	R Turton	Per fortnight	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$13,032.24
				Total	\$78,193.44

Note: Dr H Norman (Chair), Dr R George (Deputy Chair) and Dr R Young (member) are not remunerated for this board as they are government employees. Dr Melanie Strawbridge (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation) has an Ex Officio role on Council and did not claim any fees.

Table 41: 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-2023	Jun-2024	NA
Member	M Carbon	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	NA
Member	M Sweetingham	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$2,207.00
Member	B Christie	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$6,659.92
Member	A Ciffolilli	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$9,115.25
Member	C Winfield	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$7,122.73
Total					\$25,104.90

Note: Chair K Gulich, government employee and M Carbon, internal employee did not claim any fees.

Table 42: Wildlife Animal Ethics Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	K Morris	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$18,740.96
Member	J Dunlop	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$3,474.00
Member	Dr M Paton	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$5,378.00
Member	Prof I Robertson	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$2,380.00
Member	S Webb	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$5,236.00
Member	M Zampogna	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$6,330.00
Member	S Zulsdorf	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$5,019.00
Member	C Monaghan	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$5,854.00
Total					\$52,411.96

Table 43: Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	C Phillips	Per meeting	Jul-2023	6-Feb-24	\$5,230.00
Member	S Glyde	Per meeting	Jul-2023	6-Feb-24	\$2,040.00
Member	D Huxley	Per meeting	Jul-2023	6-Feb-24	\$3,162.00
Member	D Lowe	Per meeting	Jul-2023	6-Feb-24	\$3,400.00
Member	M Sheehy	Per meeting	Jul-2023	6-Feb-24	\$1,122.00
Member	J Williams	Per meeting	Jul-2023	6-Feb-24	\$1,360.00
				Total	\$ 16,314.00

Note: Gross remuneration for Chair C Phillips includes \$1,046 from last financial year. Gross remuneration for D Huxley, D Lowe and M Sheehy includes \$680 each from last financial year.

Table 44: Abalone Managed Fishery (Ocean Reef Marina) Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership		Gross remuneration
			From	To	
Chair	R Donald	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$1,090.10
Member	L Graham	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$700.00
Member	K Hodson-Thomas	Per meeting	Jul-2023	Jun-2024	\$700.00
				Total	\$2,490.10

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 has completed an extensive review of its Recordkeeping Plan, ensuring compliance with the principles and standards governing recordkeeping by state organisations. DPIRD's updated Recordkeeping Plan was submitted to the State Records Commission in May 2024.

Recordkeeping awareness and training

DPIRD continues to promote the importance of sound record and information management practices. Training modules on Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Recordkeeping Awareness are published on DPIRD's learning management system (LMS) with further modules dealing with Information Management and Information Classification to be published in the second half of 2024. Additionally, in-person training is provided by subject matter experts where additional or specialised training is required. All staff are required to undertake Recordkeeping training – new staff on commencement with DPIRD and all staff on a regular, ongoing basis. Training completion is managed and reported within DPIRD's LMS.

Record Management Systems

DPIRD has commenced a major project, to be completed in 2024, to upgrade its electronic document and records management system (EDRMS), ensuring DPIRD has the tools and systems to appropriately manage its records and information.

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.

Financial management control improvements

DPIRD received an unqualified audit opinion on its financial statements and KPIs for 2022-23. However, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) found that implementation of a new financial system resulted in DPIRD not making sufficient progress to address underlying issues in 3 control qualifications reported in 2021-22, and 2 new control deficiencies in 2022-23. This resulted in the OAG providing an adverse opinion on controls in DPIRD.

Over the past year, DPIRD undertook a series of remediation and assurance processes to improve controls over the receipt, expenditure and the investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, incurring of liabilities, as well as improving its overall audit position. These include automation of key processes, investment in technology and cyber security uplift and a detailed review of its finance operating model, structure and resourcing.

The OAG has finalised the audit for 2023-24 and confirmed DPIRD has made significant progress on addressing audit qualifications. As a result, the adverse opinion on controls has been lifted, including the relevant qualifications.

DPIRD only estimates (excluding Regional Development Commissions)

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	\$'000s		\$'000s
Expenses			
Employee benefits	250,973	Service appropriations	273,220
Grants and subsidies	194,316	Resources received free of charge	1,849
Services received free of charge	-	Major Treasurer's Special Purpose Account(s):	
Supplies and services	145,554	Asset Maintenance Fund	5,901
Accommodation	17,568	Royalties for Regions Fund:	
Depreciation and amortisation	23,223	Regional and Statewide Initiatives	63,450
Finance and interest cost	653	Regional Community Services Fund	162,736
Other Expenses	27,850	Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund	20,051
TOTAL COST OF SERVICES	660,137	Other appropriations	611
		Other revenues	6,526
		TOTAL INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT	534,344
Income			
Sale of goods and services	9,062	SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY) FOR THE PERIOD	(15,418)
Regulatory fees and fines	45,985		
Grants and subsidies	32,595		
Other revenue	22,733		
Total Income	110,375		
NET COST OF SERVICES	549,762		
Income from State Government			

Statement of Financial Position

	\$'000s		\$'000s
Current Assets		Current Liabilities	
Cash assets	11,399	Employee provisions	56,526
Restricted cash	49,158	Payables	12,719
Amounts receivable for services	7,447	Borrowings and leases	5,411
Receivables	15,712	Other	33,608
Other	12,131	Total current liabilities	108,264
Total Current Assets	95,846	Non-Current Liabilities	
Non-Current Assets		Employee provisions	8,450
Amounts receivable for services	248,127	Borrowings and leases	7,704
Property, plant and equipment	471,262	Other	1,143
Intangibles	10,180	Total noncurrent liabilities	17,297
Restricted cash	4,699	TOTAL LIABILITIES	125,561
Other	41,089	Equity	
Total Non-Current Assets	775,357	Contributed equity	756,251
TOTAL ASSETS	871,203	Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	(90,439)
		Reserves	79,830
		Total Equity	745,642
		TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	871,203

Statement of Cash Flows

	\$'000s
Cashflows from State Government	
Service appropriations	248,383
Capital appropriation	66,660
Holding account drawdowns	6,178
Major Treasurer's Special Purpose Account(s)	
Asset Maintenance Fund	5,901
Climate Action Fund	5,738
Digital Capability Fund	2,945
Royalties for Regions Fund:	
Regional and Statewide Initiatives	63,450
Regional Community Services Fund	167,108
Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund	47,339
Other	6,178
Administered appropriations	611
Net cash provided by State Government	620,491
CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Payments	
Employee benefits	(250,468)
Grants and subsidies	(197,103)
Supplies and services	(140,320)
Accommodation	(17,568)
GST payments	(15,254)
Finance and interest costs	(525)
Other payments	(28,430)

	\$'000s
Receipts	
Regulatory fees and fines	45,985
Grants and subsidies	32,621
Sale of goods and services	9,062
GST receipts	15,254
Other receipts	18,978
Net cash from operating activities	(527,768)
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Purchase of noncurrent assets	(108,091)
Proceeds from sale of noncurrent assets	255
Net cash from investing activities	(107,836)
CASHFLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Repayment of borrowings and leases	(17,485)
Proceeds from borrowings	10,000
Other proceeds	1,516
Net cash from financing activities	(5,969)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	(21,082)
Cash assets at the beginning of the period	86,337
Cash assets at the end of the period	65,255



Appendices

Appendix 1: Acronyms and initialisms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACR	Agency Capability Review
API	Application Program Interface
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
CCW	Cross Communications Working (Group)
CI	Confidence Interval
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CRC	Community Resource Centre
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (former department)
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)
FADs	Fish aggregation devices
FTE	Full-time equivalent (staff hours)
FRMA	Fish Resources Management Act 1994
GGA	Grower Group Alliance
GIWA	Grain Industry Association of Western Australia
GRDC	Grains Research and Development Corporation
GRP	Gross regional product
GSP	Gross state product
IED	Industry and Economic Development (pillar)
IFS	Industry funding scheme
JTSI	Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (WA)
KPI	Key performance indicator

LAA	Land Administration Act 1997
LCD	Land Conservation District
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NA	not applicable
NRM	natural resource management
OBM	Outcome Based Management framework
PDSF	Pilbara Demersal Scalefish Fishery
PLB	Pastoral Lands Board
PSC	Public Sector Commission
Qfly	Queensland fruit fly
R&D	research and development
RAP	Reconciliation Action Plan
RDC	Regional Development Commission
RfR	Royalties for Regions

RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
RV	Research vessel
SCDSF	South Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery
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
WAARC	WA Agricultural Research Collaboration
WAFIC	Western Australian Fishing Industry Council
WCDSF	West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery
WHS&W	Work Health Safety and Wellbeing (directorate)

Appendix 2: Administered legislation

The department assists the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Minister for Regional Development; Fisheries 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: Statement from the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation

A report on the Commissioner's operations for 2023-24 is submitted in accordance with Section 25 F of the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (the Act). It contains summaries of the compliance activities carried out by the Commissioner's office and the condition of the resource base across the state. It also provides an update of the activities of the Soil and Land Conservation Council, research projects and policy development undertaken to support the Act.

Delegations

The Commissioner continues to have delegated authority from the Minister for the Environment to issue woodchip permits. No woodchips permits were issued in 2023-24.

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 audits.

DPIRD, in partnership with Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH), completed development of a contemporary risk-based Framework for Sustainable Pastoral Management in 2019 with a revised edition in 2022.

Implementation actions for the framework in 2023-24 include:

- development of land condition standards for the Kimberley region with a presentation to the Cattle and Cotton forum in Kununurra in 2024. Two industry workshops were run in the west Kimberley in 2023 and a final workshop is planned for the east Kimberley in 2024
- development of quantitative measures of pasture condition for Kimberley pastures and identification of 100 new sites for data collection and model validation in 2024
- development (in progress) of quantitative measures of pasture condition for Nullarbor pastures with data collection and analyses well advanced
- commencement of a collaborative project with CSIRO to develop state and transition models for the Mulga woodlands and shrublands in 2023 that will end in 2024
- publication of pasture condition guides for pastures of the southern rangelands (available on the DPIRD website from 2023 and in hard copy)
- publication of the Southern Goldfields land resource survey (available in hard copy).

DPIRD completed development of the Dryland Salinity – Future Directions Government Response (2020). The 2023-24 implementation actions to deliver the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) salinity management recommendations were:

- updated the 2013 groundwater trends and salinity risk assessment, reported in the 2022-23 annual report
- published an interactive [groundwater map](#) that displays groundwater level trends, groundwater salinity and yield, dryland salinity extent and valley hazard for the south-west agricultural region.
- provided regional and catchment summaries of the updated groundwater trends and salinity risk assessment to stakeholder groups
- consulted with partner agencies on impacts on water and conservation assets.
- supported the Commissioner and the Soil and Land Conservation Council to:
 - update peak bodies on the extent and trends in dryland salinity and seek guidance on gaps and opportunities for communication, research and development
 - advise on changes to the assessment and regulation of groundwater drainage
 - review opportunities for revegetation with development of new incentives (carbon, nature, biodiversity, energy)
 - develop new projects to use excess saline groundwater as a source of water for agriculture (WaterSmart Farms).

Soil and Land Conservation Council

The Soil and Land Conservation Council (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, in consultation with agri-industry lead organisations, made recommendations to the Minister for priority actions to continue the WA Government's response to dryland salinity management in the south-west agricultural zone.

The SLCC continued to receive updates of current matters relating to the conservation of soil and land resources and the mitigation of land degradation. Updates included compliance matters, soil and land conservation programs including progress on the monitoring and assessment methods being developed for the Framework for Sustainable Pastoral Management and the implementation of the Western Australian Soil Health Strategy 2021–31 – Sustaining Western Australia's Agricultural, Horticultural and Pastoral Soils. The SLCC is also examining the emerging and growing markets for natural capital, carbon and biodiversity as new drivers for the adoption of landscape restoration activities and improving soil health in WA. Focus areas have included updates on the programs that support improvements in pastoral land condition, the whole farm nutrient management program to support catchment health, and the risks of climate change to soil health.

The Commissioner has sought SLCC advice on the administration and operational policy of the Act to improve outcomes from compliance, streamline process, mitigate disputes, communication of land manager responsibilities, and improved processes to reduce offsite impacts of drainage and desalination.

The SLCC met 5 times in 2023-24, including a 2-day regional visit to sites in the Mid West to receive firsthand accounts of innovative and best management practices for pastoral and agricultural lands, including restoration practices, Aboriginal knowledge and land condition management opportunities, land

condition monitoring and assessment of the pastoral resource and carbon farming in the rangelands. Members also participated in topic working groups.

Cabinet approved the renewal of the membership of Mr Bob Nixon, Mr Rhys Turton, Mr Dwayne Mallard, Ms Wendy Bradshaw and Dr Richard George (Deputy Chair) until 30 June 2027 in accordance with section 9A of the Act. Dr Hayley Norman (Chair), Ms Emma Foulkes-Taylor, Mr Noel Schoknecht and Dr Renee Young are appointed until 30 June 2025. The Commissioner has an ex officio role on the SLCC.



The SLCC with Minister Jarvis (centre) and (l-r) Bob Nixon, Dr Hayley Norman (Chair), Dr Richard George (Deputy Chair), Dr Melanie Strawbridge (Commissioner), Emma Foulkes-Taylor, Minister Jackie Jarvis, Noel Schoknecht, Dr Renee Young, Dwayne Mallard, Wendy Bradshaw and Rhys Turton

Compliance and regulation

Work has begun on developing a Framework for sustainable agricultural management based on the Framework for sustainable pastoral management (2022). Standards are being developed for assessing, monitoring and responding to wind erosion risk in the agricultural regions in the first instance. It is expected the wind erosion standards will be ready for use for the 2026 summer period. This approach will be extended to other areas of soil and groundwater management regulated under the Act.

Land clearing assessments

Thirty-three land clearing applications were assessed for land degradation with advice on 14 provided to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) for agriculture purpose clearing and 19 to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety (DMIRS) for mining-related activities and infrastructure development.

Complaints

Twenty-five complaints were registered during the year with 17 related to drainage, 6 to soil erosion resulting from overgrazing by livestock and 2 to flooding. Ten compliance checks were undertaken for remedial works on un-notified drains identified previously.

Soil Conservation Notices

No Soil Conservation Notices (SCNs) were issued during 2023-24. There are 6 existing SCNs on leases in the pastoral area and 4 on agricultural properties in the south-west agricultural area. Compliance checks were carried out on all 6 leases in the pastoral area under a SCN.

Additionally, 13 pastoral stations were visited that had been identified by the Rangelands Science Group in previous condition assessments as requiring attention. The Commissioner is actively working with these lease holders and several landholders in the agricultural area to mitigate land degradation and improve land condition.

Drainage

Between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024, 10 Notices of Intent to Drain (NOID) were received for sub-surface drainage works. Eight received letters of no-objection, 2 are being assessed.

Agreements to Reserve and Conservation Covenants

During the 2023-24 financial year, 16 Conservation Covenants were negotiated with 14 registered on title protecting 1,934 ha of vegetation. Two of the Conservation Covenants are pending lodgement at Landgate, with 11 new applications currently in negotiation.

In this period, 7 Conservation Covenants and 5 Agreements to Reserve reached their 30-year set term end date and were discharged from titles after application from landholders, a total of 581.94 ha.

Land Conservation District Committees

Land Conservation District Committees (LCDCs) are statutory committees created under Part III (a) of the Act to manage projects and to promote practices that mitigate or prevent land degradation. At the year's close, there were 143 gazetted members of 12 LCDCs active in the agricultural and rangeland regions of the state.

Land use planning

In 2023-24, DPIRD responded to 252 land use planning referrals. Most were from local government (64%) and DPLH (30%). Six per cent of referrals came from DWER.

Most referrals sought advice about proposed development. Development referrals related to rural pursuits (mainly horses on small rural holdings), extractive industries, tree farms (including carbon plantings), horticulture and poultry farms. Referrals were also received from DPLH's Lands division in relation to hydrogen production, gas exploration and production, and workforce accommodation.

Large-scale renewable energy hydrogen project proposals, mostly in the Mid West, and brewery proposals have become more frequent referrals, and DPIRD is closely examining the associated land degradation risks.

Other routine referrals for advice related to draft local planning schemes and strategies, region and local planning scheme amendments (rezoning proposals), rural subdivision and requests for mapping of high-quality agricultural land.

Requests from DWER were mainly seeking advice regarding prescribed premises, including waste facilities, piggeries, cattle feedlots and abattoirs.

A quarter of the referrals related to the South West Planning Region, followed by the Perth Metro (21%), Wheatbelt (17%) and Great Southern (10%). The remaining regions each had less than 10% of referrals.

Desalination – WaterSmart Farms

Between September 2023 and May 2024, many areas of the south-west land division experienced the driest conditions on record. While farm businesses increased their investment in traditional water supply options, many more began to seek emerging, alternative and more resilient options to cope with this and future dry seasons. Large numbers of farmers attended Wagin Woolorama and field days across the year, with peak phone enquires at 40–80 per month in late summer.

Support for WaterSmart Farms (\$1.5 million), WaterSmart Dams (\$4.3 million) and the recently commenced \$5 million WaterSmart Industry projects has increased, with both greater engagement and participation.

In 2024-25, the project will complete the review of 30 farmer-led desalination systems along with continued evaluation of case studies with 3 shires and one school-based (Wongutha Christian Aboriginal Parent-directed School) purpose-built desalination systems. These 4 systems received no objections from the Commissioner to allow trialling of several reject water disposal options. Progress will be reported after 2 years of operation.

WaterSmart Farms (WSF) also completed its planned second phase of 18 exploration prospects for unconventional water supplies from fractured rock aquifers. The project has demonstrated success at over 50% of sites, finding stock quality water of yields above 86 kL/day. Testing the aquifers will take place in 2024-25.

WaterSmart Dams (WSD) led by UWA has partnered with the Grower Group Alliance (GGA) and 4 other 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 WET (WaterSmart Evaluation Tool) 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. An 80,000-ha aerial electro-magnetic survey was flown in May 2024, with results expected later in the year. An application to improve the methodology of finding palaeochannels and expand the number of survey areas has been submitted to the National Water Grid Authority.

Continued development of regulation, research and industry engagement processes will be critical to manage impacts under the Act. 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.

WA Soil Health Strategy

The WA Soil Health Strategy is a 10-year plan for sustainable soil management in WA, with a focus on agricultural and pastoral soils. It outlines key goals and activities aimed at improving landscapes and soil condition to mitigate the risk of land degradation.

The SLCC oversees the implementation of the strategy through annual reporting, monitoring of key deliverables, and evaluation of potential partnerships as outlined in the strategy's implementation plan. The strategy has been pivotal in identifying priority issues for soil health investment in WA and in supporting soil and land condition policy linked to the Act.

Activities have included projects connected with the WA Carbon Farming Land Restoration Fund, the State NRM Program, WA Landcare, RegenWA, together with initiatives aligned with the GGA and WA Regional Soil Coordinator, SoilsWest and co-investment or partnerships with various industry R&D programs. Opportunities will continue to align with joint initiatives through the National Soil Action Plan (2023), together with key priorities linked to the WA Climate Policy, and events of significance such as the Global Sandy Soils Conference to be hosted in WA in 2025.

Table A1: WA Soil Health Strategy Actions 2023-24

Activity	Strategy goals
Eighty-plus (government sponsored) prominent and topical soil engagement workshops, across multiple industries and locations in WA.	1, 2 and 5
Partnership with the Australian Government, promoting community funding opportunities through Round 1 of the the Climate Smart Agriculture Program – aligned with soil priorities identified in the WA strategy.	2, 3 and 5
Thirty-strong contingent of cross-sector WA based soil scientists represented at the National Soil Science Conference in Darwin (June 2023).	1, 2 and 4
WA hosted the 22nd Australian Rangeland Society Conference, Broome WA (September 2023)	1, 2 and 4
Hosted National Regional Soil Coordinators network and tour through southwest WA (August 2023).	1, 2 and 5
Visiting soil science/engagement specialists: author and entrepreneur – Matthew Evans (September 2023) and biochar specialist – Prof. Stephen Joseph (June 2024).	2 and 5
World Soil Day (5 December 2023) symposium ‘Soil & Water – Source of Life’ (opening presentation delivered WA Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation), Kings Park.	1, 2, 4 and 5
Compendium of ‘WA soil-related projects, recent past and present’ compiled by SoilsWest for the southwest Regional Soil Coordinator (May 2023). Over 400 projects are identified and categorised by soil and ag system themes.	1, 2 and 5
Prominent list of soil agronomy and landscape publications released through 2023-24 – many hosted on DPIRD’s online library (e.g. Procedural guidelines for the assessment of rangeland condition in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Southern Rangelands; Guidelines for better soil and fertiliser management for orchards; eBook series by SoilsWest on sodic and alkaline soils, gravel soils and plant nutrition; matters addressing soil amendment and tillage to reduce phosphorus loss in coastal WA; and AgZero 2030 – measuring soil carbon).	1, 2, 4 and 5
Development of WA stakeholder reference group for protecting peatland ecosystems and addressing threats in south-western Australia.	4 and 5

Table A1: WA Soil Health Strategy Actions 2023-24 (continued)

Activity	Strategy goals
Development of WA specific soil science training, hosted through Soil Science Australia, targeting agricultural advisers and agronomists as part of the Registered Soil Practitioner (RSP) program.	1 and 2
Policy preparation addressing soil erosion (wind and water) and nutrient export thresholds, supporting the Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation.	3, 4 and 5
Extensive ongoing partnerships between DWER and DPIRD for the delivery of the Healthy Estuaries WA and Soil Wise DIY community soil sampling program.	2 and 3
National survey on soil health, initiated and led by the RSC network, inclusive of WA input (January and February 2024).	1 and 2
Launch of the (WA) Soil Quality Knowledge Base – an online compendium of soil information with insights and snapshots from the current evidence base of soil knowledge.	1, 2, 4 and 5
Developing WA partnership with CSIRO and the Australian Government to implement the National Soil Monitoring Program (NSMP) in WA.	3, 4 and 5
Partnership developed with the Australian Government to implement the National Soil Action Plan (2023) through 2 prominent projects in the south-west and south coast of WA.	2, 3 and 5

Condition of the resource base – agricultural region

Soil acidity

Soil acidity is one of multiple soil constraints to agricultural production which combine to decrease the capacity of crops to achieve the rain-limited grain yield potential.

In 2023-24, the amount of lime, from Lime WA suppliers, applied in the south-western agricultural region of WA was 632,000 tonnes (Lime WA pers. comm. July 2024). This is a decrease of approximately 16.5% compared to 757,000 tonnes supplied in 2022-23 by the same suppliers and almost a 20% decline over the past 2 years. These figures do not include lime from suppliers who are not Lime WA members or lime from on-farm sources used by farmers. It is not possible to calculate the actual total amount applied each year, but the trend is concerning especially given the record grain production years of 2021 and 2022.

There are many factors that can affect the annual purchase of agricultural lime by WA growers. For example, in years of record grain production, the decreased availability of road transport to deliver lime was implicated in the reduction of lime sales. In years following decreased grain production, a shift in spending to more immediate inputs has been implicated. There are other possibilities that may contribute to the decline in sales. Leading growers have transitioned to a lime maintenance program rather than a recovery program. Many of the same group have adopted strategic tillage, which addresses several soil constraints, including soil acidity through the incorporation of lime remaining in the topsoil from previous applications.

Strategic tillage has delivered substantial increases in operating profit to growers of \$100 per hectare per year for 10 years compared to those who have not adopted, or are not able to adopt, this practice (Newman et al. 2024).

Soil salinity

Excess soil salinity affecting crops, pasture and remnant vegetation occurs either as the result of a fundamental change in land use (e.g. clearing for agriculture that results in a shallow water table: dryland salinity) or as a subsoil constraint in clay rich soils (transient salinity). Once developed, dryland salinity is exacerbated by wet seasonal conditions and transient salinity by dry conditions.

Groundwater trends and salinity risk assessment

DPIRD monitors a network of up to 750 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 informs an assessment of the risk of salinity expansion.

The updated groundwater trends and salinity risk assessment described in the 2022-23 annual report was based on groundwater data to May 2021 (Raper et al. in prep) and the remotely sensed extent of saline land in 2018 (Caccetta et al. 2022). The conclusions of that work were that 1.75 million hectares \pm 345,000 hectares were salt affected.

Groundwater trend analysis indicated the risk of salinity expanding was higher than suggested by the 2013 assessment (Simons et al. 2013) in 5 of 26 hydrozones in the south-west agricultural area, but lower than the previous estimate in only one hydrozone.

Continued groundwater monitoring since May 2021 suggests that:

- in the dissected, western portion of the south-western agricultural area, close to average winter rainfall in 2021 and 2022 and the extended dry period between spring 2023 and autumn 2024 have had minimal impact on longer-term rates of groundwater rise at bores with previously strong rising trends. A small but significant number of these display artesian groundwater levels. There is a significant portion of bores in this area displaying signs of reaching a new hydrological equilibrium, especially at depths between 2 m and 7 m below ground
- there has been little or no change in established groundwater trends in the western south coast and central agricultural areas since the 2012–21 trend assessment. Here rising trends are apparent in upland catchments, especially in areas later cleared (post 1950s)
- in some south-eastern Wheatbelt and eastern south coast areas that experienced below average rainfall in late 2023 and early 2024, groundwater levels stabilised as they have done during previous dry periods. Overall, however, groundwater levels exhibited a rising trend since 2021

- the rising groundwater trends exhibited throughout the northern sandplain regions since the 2021 trend assessment, began to level off by the end of 2022, generally stabilised during 2023 and began declining in 2024 as drier conditions prevailed. Substantial rainfall across the northern sandplain areas in June 2024 (Kalbarri 317 mm, Geraldton 157 mm) has caused shallow groundwater levels to increase significantly. Widespread episodic recharge is anticipated with an associated spread of salt-affected land.

Salinity responses

- DPIRD water science staff continue to field regular enquires from landholders and agribusinesses reporting expansion of dryland salinity in the Wheatbelt and eastern south coast. These recent enquiries appear to have been triggered by wetter winters of 2021 and 2022.
- The impact of new farming systems, using controlled traffic, extended herbicide control of weeds, and fallowing, driven by a rapid increase in the area cropped, appears to be a potential contributor to increased salinisation. Consultation with agribusiness and the SLCC is continuing to understand the risk and options for management.
- Groundwater drainage continues to be the most common first response by landholders, driven by external advisers. The trend to drainage is likely to continue as the preferred option, especially as saltland pasture use reduces as the WA sheep flock diminishes, and cropped area expands.

Soil erosion

The northern grainbelt contributes disproportionately to erosion hazard on arable land. Despite the northern grainbelt comprising only 44% of the arable south-west agricultural region (SWAR), over the summer of 2023-24, it contributed 69% of all extreme hazard area, 77% of all wind erosion hazard area, and 66% of all water erosion hazard area. Summer groundcover north of the Great Eastern Highway was in the lowest quartile for the decade. In contrast, summer groundcover south of the Great Eastern Highway was average, despite seasonal rainfall being below to very much below average.

The trend of groundcover underperformance of the northern grainbelt compared to the southern grainbelt was again apparent, and the West Midlands Ag Soil zone had the greatest proportion of land at extreme erosion hazard for the ninth consecutive year.

Wind erosion in the SWAR was mostly localised, and largely due to inappropriate tillage and soil amelioration, overgrazing, and crop and pasture failure over the very low rainfall season. The low occurrence of erosion despite the high hazard was largely because the summer and autumn winds were more gentle than usual.

The unusually high proportion of the SWAR at risk of water erosion is likely a consequence of the poor season, curtailing spring growth that generates dense groundcover.

Intense summer thunderstorms across a wide swath of the western and central-southern grainbelt in January and in early March caused flash flooding and localised water erosion. Minor water erosion also occurred in northern grainbelt areas during heavy June rainfall.

DPIRD uses satellite data, climate information and regional reports of erosion to assess wind and water erosion hazard and erosion on arable land in the SWAR.

Groundcover assessments of erosion hazard

Satellite groundcover information is used to determine how much arable land is susceptible to wind and water erosion (Laycock et al. 2022; DES and JRSRP 2022). Erosion hazard is reported for summer 2023-24 as the proportion of land in 4 hazard classes. Erosion hazard is summarised for the south-west as a whole and regionally by Ag Soil Zones (DAFWA 2013).

The northern grainbelt – comprising the Ag Soil zones of Mid West, Mullewa to Morowa, West Midlands and Central Northern Wheatbelt – and the Salmon Gums mallee Ag Soil zone dominate the area of arable land at extreme erosion hazard and with insufficient cover to prevent both wind and water erosion (Figure A1). This pattern continues a trend apparent over the 30-plus year satellite record.

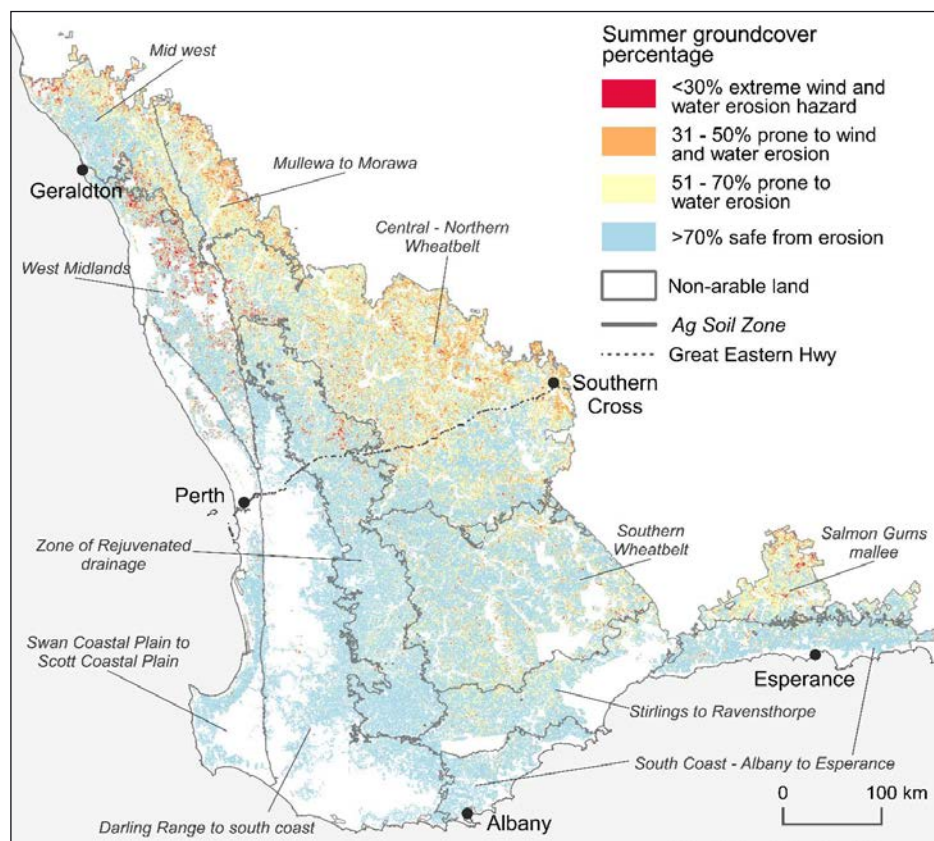


Figure A1: 2024 summer groundcover on arable land. Satellite data classified using DES & JRSRP (2022), and groundcover classification according to Laycock et al. (2022)

Land with less than 30% groundcover is classified as having an extreme erosion hazard. A total of 250,400 ha (1.6%) of the arable SWAR had an extreme erosion hazard and 70% was located north of the Great Eastern Highway. The West Midlands Ag Soil Zone had 69,600 ha (7.6%) of its total arable land at extreme hazard, more than its decadal median of 6.8%. The West Midlands occupies only 13% of the northern grainbelt area but it accounted for 40% of this area at extreme erosion hazard. Mullewa to Morowa and Salmon Gums mallee zones also had areas at extreme erosion hazard that were larger than their decadal median values (Figure A2a).

Across the SWAR, 1.7 million ha (11.0%) of arable land had insufficient groundcover (<50%) to prevent wind erosion, a threefold increase from the 0.58 million ha (3.9%) at risk the previous year (Figure A2b). The northern grainbelt contributed 1.3 million ha (77%) of the total area at risk. This equates to 19.1% of the northern grainbelt at insufficient cover to prevent wind erosion. The Mullewa to Morowa zone was the most affected, with 206,000 ha (30.5% of its arable area) at risk, although the much larger Central-Northern Wheatbelt had a far greater area at risk: 769,000 ha. By contrast, the southern grainbelt had 400,000 ha (<5%) of arable land with insufficient cover. In the southern grainbelt, only the low rainfall Salmon Gums Mallee zone had greater than 10% of area (79,000 ha) with insufficient cover (Figure A2b).

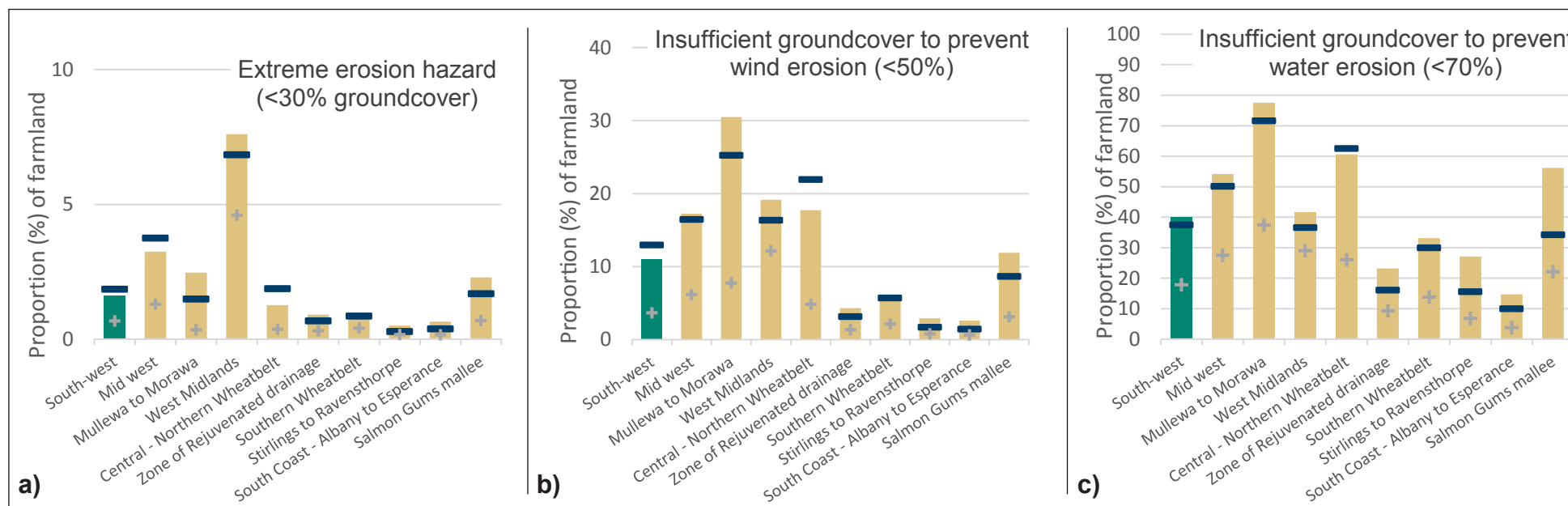


Figure A2: Proportion of land below threshold values that minimise erosion across the arable south-west agricultural area and in each Ag Soil Zone

Columns represent the proportion of farmland over summer in each hazard class. Blue lines represent 2013–2022 median for relevant area and groundcover threshold. Grey symbols represent the proportion of farmland over the previous summer (Dec 2022–Feb 2023) for relevant area and groundcover threshold

- a) shows proportion having extreme hazard
- b) shows proportion having wind and water erosion hazard
- c) shows proportion having water erosion hazard

Across the SWAR, 6.2 million ha (40%) of arable land had insufficient groundcover (<70%) to prevent water erosion (Figure A2c), up from 2.8 million ha (18%) at risk last year. The Mullewa to Morawa zone had the highest proportion of land with insufficient groundcover (77%). Notably, the proportion of most Ag Soil zones with insufficient cover to prevent water erosion was greater than their respective decadal median values (Figure A2).

Seasonal conditions

Most of the south-west received very much below to below average rainfall during the 2023 growing season. Seasonal rainfall north of the Great Eastern Highway was mostly decile 1, and summer groundcover here was in the lowest quartile for the 36-year satellite record. In contrast, summer groundcover south of the Great Eastern Highway was close to average, despite seasonal rainfall here being below to very much below average. The poor growing season rainfall and dry spring curtailed the spring growth that generates dense groundcover and resulted in an unusually high proportion of the SWAR at risk of water erosion.

Potentially erosive summer and autumn winds were similar or slightly less prevalent than last season (DPIRD 2024). Prefrontal winds during seeding were gentle, thus mitigating erosion over this period. Dust from Salmon Gums mallee was reported in Esperance in September 2023, and there were reports of localised wind erosion from the northern grainbelt.

Intense summer thunderstorms across a wide swath of the western and central-southern grainbelt in January and in early March caused flash flooding and localised water erosion, which was mostly limited to waterways on hillslopes, and along tracks and firebreaks. Erosion was noted across the western part of Kulin Shire, through Hyden Shire, and on water repellent sands along the south coast. Minor water erosion also occurred in northern grainbelt areas during heavy June 2024 rainfall.

Farming systems and management practices

Management is a critical driver of inadequate cover and subsequent erosion. Retaining stubble and pasture is the best way to protect soil from erosion. Keeping stubble from previous seasons' exceptional crops, supplements protection that recent stubble provides. Deep ripping through stubble of sufficient density to prevent wind erosion has consistently improved subsequent yields with minimal erosion. Soil inversion and amelioration on moist soil prior to seeding in 2023 allowed crops to germinate, but still resulted in erosion in sandy soils of the Mid West where high evaporation and subsequent dry conditions caused crop failure. DPIRD soil management researchers identified these issues and developed extension messages. Consequently, most farmers have this season been more circumspect in conducting soil inversion prior to seeding. However, some managers still conducted extensive soil inversion at an inappropriate time. Overgrazing has occurred due to several factors: poor pasture growth over the 2023 season; large flocks that have been hard to sell down due to market conditions; and restricted off-farm feed supplies to supplement confinement feeding. Complete burns were fewer than in previous years but remain popular in some higher rainfall areas. Dry seeding remains popular, despite a significant false break followed by up to 2 months of dry conditions.

Implications

The northern Wheatbelt has consistently produced sparser groundcover over the 36 years of satellite records. This trend is conspicuous during the past seasons' low rainfall. However, rainfall alone is insufficient to explain the difference in groundcover between the grainbelt north and south, as both areas received very low rainfall.

Assessment of the relatively high rainfall West Midlands Ag Soil zone shows that it has consistently had the greatest proportion of land with extreme erosion hazard for the past 9 seasons, despite the high proportion of this zone that regularly remains safe from erosion. The prominent bimodal distribution of groundcover proportion in West Midlands and the regular under-performance in groundcover of the northern grainbelt more generally, suggests a systemic reduction in resilience of parts of the northern grainbelt under the current farming system. Some parts of the southern grainbelt, namely the low rainfall Salmon Gums mallee and Southern Cross-Mukinbudin area also show concerning groundcover trends that may betray a reduction of resilience under the current farming system.

A provisional analysis of monthly spring groundcover data shows a history of high inter-seasonal variability of spring growth in northern grainbelt and Salmon Gums mallee.

By contrast, the southern and western grainbelt generally display inter-seasonal uniformity of spring groundcover over seasons with varying rainfall. This provides further tentative data to suggest lower resilience of low rainfall farming systems compared to the longer growing season areas.

The unusually high proportion of the SWAR at risk of water erosion is likely a consequence of the poor growing season rainfall, curtailing spring growth that generates dense groundcover. Predictions of more frequent and more intense summer storms appear to be playing out. DPIRD's recommendation of at least 70% cover may be insufficient to prevent water erosion under these more severe conditions.

Farmers in the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR) were contacted to seek information about the on-farm costs of 2 significant wind erosion events that occurred in 2020. Seventeen farmers responded to the survey and the average on-farm costs of wind erosion per arable hectare were about \$100. Local governments and the Water Corporation were contacted about the costs to infrastructure from wind erosion in the survey area in 2020. The total estimated costs were about \$100,000. However, local governments acknowledged that general maintenance programs also include clean-up costs associated with wind erosion. These 'hidden' costs were not included in the estimated costs.

Health costs of the wind erosion events were also estimated for the greater Geraldton area – the only location in the NAR where dust measurements were recorded. The costs were estimated to be around \$3 million (or about \$80 per person) and one event contributed 80% of these costs.

The total health costs for the NAR arising from wind erosion will be higher because the area and consequently the population affected by wind erosion during 2020 is much bigger than the City of Greater Geraldton.

Other costs include siltation of waterways, cleaning (businesses and homes), transport disruptions, clogging machinery, sandblasting of infrastructure, potential pollution of food and on-farm water sources, soil movement, and weed, seed, chemical and nutrient movement into streams and the broader environment.

Given the limitations in data collection and accuracy, this research is intended to provoke discussion in industry and rural WA about the costs and management of wind erosion. More detailed work is needed to accurately reflect the costs of wind erosion.

Eutrophication of rivers and wetlands

In 2023-24, 3,315 soil samples were collected from farm paddocks under the Healthy Estuaries WA and Soil Wise programs in the Peel, Leschenault, Lower Blackwood, Vasse Geographe, Scott River, Oyster Harbour, Wilson Inlet, Torbay, Blackwood, Donnelly, Esperance, Swan Avon and Warren River catchments. Of these, 60% of samples had soil phosphorus concentrations in excess of pasture growth requirements and 81% had soil acidity problems. The sampling also identified that potassium and sulphur deficiency were reducing productivity, exacerbating phosphorus losses.

There is a high level of confidence with these findings, confirmed by scrutiny of historical soil testing records. Since 2009, under this program, some 33,445 soil samples have been collected from 1,901 farms covering 376,500 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% and 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 90% of the state, with pastoral leases covering about 34% (857,538 km²) and Unallocated Crown Lands (UCL) plus land vested for conservation and Indigenous purposes making up the balance.

There are 431 registered pastoral stations on 490 pastoral leases. There are 149 stations in the northern rangelands with 92 in the Kimberley and 57 in the Pilbara, while 283 stations are located in the southern rangelands (shrublands).

Under s137(1) of the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA), the Commissioner and the Pastoral Lands Board (PLB) are to establish an administrative mechanism to ensure that any information relevant information in relation to land under pastoral lease is exchanged between them.

This is effected through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commissioner, the PLB and the Directors General of DPIRD and DPLH. The most recent MoU was signed in December 2023.

Under s137(2) of the LAA, the Commissioner must provide by 31 December each year, a report to the PLB on the current condition of land under pastoral leases. The report Status of the Western Australian pastoral rangelands 2023: total vegetative cover and cover risk was provided to the PLB in December 2023.

Referrals for advice

Advice and information were provided to DPLH and the PLB, regarding 10 permit applications for diversification activities, 8 requests for carrying capacity estimates and 2 applications for lease renewal.

Rangeland resource condition assessments

The Rangelands Science team conducted Rangeland resource condition assessments (RCAs) on 22 pastoral stations (15 in 2023) and follow-up inspections on 2 pastoral stations on behalf of the Commissioner. Land degradation risk was identified as high on 7 stations and extreme on 6 stations.

On the 13 at-risk leases identified, requests for action have been made to the lessees in line with the DPIRD Compliance Strategy, seeking voluntary compliance in the first instance.

Seasonal conditions

Cover risk was calculated using remotely sensed total cover data available to the end of October 2023, rainfall data to the end of November 2023 and Stock Return data reported in 2022 (the most recent available) to determine cover risk.

Cover risk at the land conservation district (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 groundcover and consequent susceptibility to erosion and the relative availability of stock forage.

Reported stock numbers relative to potential carrying capacity (PCC) are used as an indicator of grazing pressure and this may lead to underestimating cover risk because the current carrying capacity (CCC) is often significantly less than PCC.

Total cover in June–August 2023 was strongly influenced by rainfall in the preceding 2 years. The risk of the total cover of a key pasture or vegetation functional group falling to or remaining at below average or very much below average levels was high or very high in 17 LCDs; this is up from the estimate of 11 LCDs in the 2022 annual report (Table A2).

In the Kimberley, rainfall and flooding associated with ex-tropical cyclone Ellie in 2022-23 resulted in generally above-average total cover. Summer rainfall across the Kimberley LCDs ranged from 130% to 173% of the long-term average.

Pastures had average to very much above-average total cover, which combined with 2022 stocking rates at, or below, PCC puts all LCDs at moderate or low risk of total cover declining to below-average or very much below-average levels (Table A2). This represents a reduction in risk compared to the estimate in the 2022 annual report.

In the Pilbara, rainfall was average or above average in eastern areas, but below average in western areas in 2022–23. Rainfall was just above average (111 to 103%) for the East Pilbara, Ashburton and De Grey LCDs and below average (82%) for the Roebourne–Port Hedland LCD. All LCDs had vegetation functional groups considered to be at high risk of cover declining to, or remaining at, below-average or very much below-average levels. Alluvial plain tussock pastures in the De Grey LCD are at very high risk if stock numbers remain in excess of PCC; stock numbers in this LCD should be reduced to allow pasture recovery.

In the Upper Southern Rangelands, rainfall in the 12 months to November 2023 was below average, ranging from 37% of the long-term average in Gascoyne–Wooramel LCD to 94% in Gascoyne–Ashburton Headwaters LCD. Conditions were generally wetter in the northeast and drier in the south-west. Total cover of pastures was average to below average, and the risk of cover declining to, or remaining, below-average or very much below-average levels, ranged from moderate in the Gascoyne–Ashburton Headwaters LCD to very high in the Upper Gascoyne LCD. The very high risk in the Upper Gascoyne LCD reflects very much below-average total cover and 2022 stock numbers near PCC.

Stock numbers in the Upper Gascoyne LCD will require very conservative management to avoid animal welfare issues in 2024 and allow pasture recovery. Stock numbers in other LCDs are below PCC but will still require conservative management. The risk of cover decline increased in 2024 compared to the estimate in the 2022 annual report for all LCDs except the Gascoyne–Ashburton Headwaters LCD where it has decreased.

In the Lower Southern Rangelands, rainfall in the 12 months to November 2023 was below average, ranging from 34% of the long-term average in Shark Bay LCD to 95% in Cue LCD. Total cover of pastures ranged from average to very much below average, and the risk of cover declining to, or remaining at, below-average or very much below-average levels, ranged from moderate to high in the Shark Bay and Yalgoo LCDs to very high in all other LCDs. The risk of cover decline has increased compared to estimates in the 2022 report for all LCDs except the Kalgoorlie and North-eastern Goldfields LCDs where risk remained at very high levels. Stocking rates across the LCDs ranged from 14% of PCC for the Cue LCD to 57% for the North-eastern Goldfields LCD. The 2022 stocking rate in the North-eastern Goldfields and Nullarbor LCDs was 57% and 50% of PCC respectively and will need to be further reduced if significant rain does not fall early in 2024 to increase vegetation cover and fodder.

Unless rainfall is significantly above average over the coming months, low levels of vegetation cover and soil water mean stocking rates in the Pilbara and Southern Rangelands will need to be decreased in line with fodder availability to manage degradation and animal welfare risks.

Table A2: LCDs and pastures that have high or very high risk of cover remaining at, or declining to, low or very low levels

Region	LCD	Pastures with high cover risk	Pastures with very high cover risk
Kimberley	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pilbara	Ashburton	Alluvial plain shrub; Alluvial plain tussock; River tussock	Nil
	De Grey	River tussock; Soft spinifex	Alluvial plain tussock
	East Pilbara	Alluvial plain shrub; Alluvial plain tussock	Nil
	Roebourne–Port Hedland	Alluvial plain shrub; Alluvial plain tussock; River tussock; Soft spinifex	Nil
Upper Southern Rangelands	Gascoyne–Wooramel	Soft spinifex	Stony plain halophyte
	Lyndon	Alluvial plain; Alluvial plain halophyte; Stony plain halophyte	Nil
	Meekatharra	Low hills halophyte; Mesas shrub	Nil
	Upper Gascoyne	Nil	Mesas shrub; River tussock; Stony plain halophyte
Lower Southern Rangelands	Cue	Alluvial plain; Low hills halophyte; Mesas shrub	Nil
	Kalgoorlie	Nil	Alluvial plain; Alluvial plain halophyte; Fringing salt lake; Mesas shrub; Stony plain halophyte
	Mount Magnet	Alluvial plain halophyte	Mesas shrub Stony plain halophyte
	Murchison	Mesas shrub; Stony plain; halophyte	Alluvial plain

Table A2: LCDs and pastures that have high or very high risk of cover remaining at, or declining to, low or very low levels (continued)

Region	LCD	Pastures with high cover risk	Pastures with very high cover risk
Lower Southern Rangelands	North-eastern Goldfields	Nil	Alluvial plain halophyte; Fringing salt lake; Mesas shrub; Stony plain halophyte
	Nullarbor–Eyre Highway*	Nil	Bluebush mixed chenopod Monitoring Assessment Unit (MAU); Eucalypt mixed chenopod MAU; Myall mixed chenopod MAU; Saltbush MAU
	Sandstone	Nil	Alluvial plain halophyte; Mesas shrub; Stony plain halophyte; Fringing salt lake
	Shark Bay	Calcrete shrub	Nil
	Yalgoo	Stony plain halophyte	Nil

* No winter 2023 data was available for Nullarbor–Eyre Highway LCD so the risk assessment was based on April 2023 total cover.

Remote Sensing Monitoring System for WA Pastoral Rangelands

DPIRD uses remotely sensed cover data in a number of ways to monitor landscape condition across WA's pastoral leases: (1) total cover data are used to estimate degradation risk in the Commissioner's annual report for the PLB; (2) total cover data are among the indices used to determine which stations should be subject to RCA; (3) NDVI data are reported in RCAs; and (4) remotely sensed data are among the datasets being used to predict and map pasture distribution.

- Validation data has been collected during 2023-24 to validate pasture mapping for the Kimberley and Pilbara.
- 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.

Melanie Strawbridge

Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation

References

Caccetta PA, Simons J, Furby S, Wright N, and George R (2022). *Mapping salt-affected land in the South-West of Western Australia using satellite remote sensing*, CSIRO Report Number EP2022-0724, CSIRO, Australia.

DAFWA (Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia) (2013) *Report card on sustainable natural resource use in agriculture: status and trend in the agricultural areas of the south-west of Western Australia*, DPIRD, Western Australia, Perth. Book

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2022) *National Soil Action Plan*, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra.

Department of Environment and Science, Queensland Government & Joint Remote Sensing Research Program (2022) *Seasonal Ground Cover - Landsat, JRSRP Algorithm Version 3.0, Australia Coverage*. Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network. (Dataset).

DPIRD (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) (2020) *Dryland Salinity – Future Directions Government Response*.

DPIRD (2021) *State Soil Health Strategy, Western Australia*. DPIRD, Perth.

DPIRD (2023) *Status of the Western Australian pastoral rangelands 2023: total vegetative cover and cover risk*, DPIRD, Western Australian Government.

DPIRD (2024) *Weather API 2.0*, Accessed June 2024.

Fletcher R (2022) *Framework for sustainable pastoral management*, revised edition, DPIRD, Western Australian Government.

Laycock J, Middleton N and Holmes K (2022) *'Using Landsat satellite imagery to estimate groundcover in the grainbelt of Western Australia'*, Resource Management Technical Report 428, DPIRD, Western Australian Government.

Newman P, Sands R, Curtin B, Ryan K, Bunny H and Davies S (2024) *How WA growers are practising soil amelioration*. Grains Research and Development Corporation Research Updates 2024.

Office of the Auditor General (2017) *Management of Pastoral Lands in Western Australia*. Western Australian Auditor General's Report, Perth, Western Australia.

Office of the Auditor General (2018) *Management of Salinity*. Western Australian Auditor General's Report, Perth, Western Australia.

Raper GP, Bennett DL, Simons JA, Speed RJ, Killen AL, Paul RJ and George RJ (in prep) *'Groundwater trend analysis and salinity risk assessment for the south-west agricultural region of Western Australia, 2021 long-term update'*, Resource Management Technical Report, DPIRD, Perth, Western Australia.

Richards AE, Abbott BN, Sudmeyer R, Fletcher M, Ryan K, Prober SM, Thomas P, Ramzi P, Hayward J, Hetherington C, Reeves K and Fletcher W (2023) *State and transition models for tussock grasslands and woodlands of the Kimberley: Final project report*. CSIRO and DPIRD, Western Australian Government, Australia.

Simons JA, George RJ and Raper GP (2013) *Dryland salinity in Report card on sustainable natural resource use in agriculture*, Western Australian Agriculture Authority, Perth, Western Australia.

Weaver, D and Summers, R (2013) *Nutrient status (phosphorus)*, In: *Report card on sustainable natural resource use in agriculture*, DAFWA, Perth.

Western Australian Government (2020) *Western Australian Climate Policy*, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Perth, Western Australia.

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 A3: 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: 4,367 t (TACC: 6-month transitional season) Recreational: 585 t (TARC: 12-month season)	Commercial: 4,361 t Recreational -licensed: 401–476 t (95% CI); Charter: 17 t	Acceptable Commercial: Catch within TACC plus 1.5% water loss. Recreational: Catch within acceptable range on a 5-year rolling average.

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 (Roe's) Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 70.7 t (Q) (530–640 days) Recreational: 22–26 t Perth Metro area	Commercial: 25.9 t (208 days) Recreational: 20–24 t Perth Metro area; 23.3–27.9 t Other	Acceptable Commercial: Catch was below TACC due to commercial economic decisions (low value, overseas market issues and high fishing costs). Recreational: Perth Metro catch range within TARC range.
Statewide Cephalopod	Octopus Interim Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 2	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 500–1,000 t Catch range revised Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 777 t Recreational: 0–4 t (95% CI, boat only in 2020-21)	Acceptable Commercial: Catch at record highs due to new vessels and maximised efficiency. Recreational: Catch levels are considered a negligible 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
South Coast and West Coast Scallop	Abrolhos Islands and Mid-West Trawl Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 95–1,830 t	Commercial: 1,317 t	Acceptable Scallop survey index improved markedly to above the threshold level.
	South Coast Trawl Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Recreational: NA Catch range to be developed.	Commercial: 140 t (90 days)	Acceptable
	South West Trawl Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Catch range to be developed.	Commercial: Not reportable	Commercial: Catch within historical range. Acceptable
						Commercial: Catch within historical range.
West Coast Estuarine and Nearshore Scalefish and Invertebrates	Cockburn Sound Crab Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 4	Environmentally limited	Commercial: Closed Recreational: Partially closed (northern extent open)	Commercial: 0 t Recreational: 0.5 t	Commercial: NA Recreational: NA The majority of Cockburn Sound has remained closed since 2014 and stock levels have stabilised. This indicates that the stock is likely at a carrying capacity which is below that recorded in the 2000s. This change is a result of changes in the environment.

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: 36–72 t (Peel Harvey crab) <150 t sea mullet (Peel Harvey), <12 t yellowfin whiting (Peel Harvey) Recreational: Informal (Peel Harvey crab) Not developed (finfish)	Commercial: 39 (Peel Harvey crab) 84 t (sea mullet Peel Harvey), 8 t (yellowfin whiting Peel Harvey) Other West Coast Estuarine crab fisheries not reported due to confidentiality requirements. Recreational: 22–38 t (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: Level 1 and 2	Sustainable: Adequate – whiting/salmon (state)/ tailor/herring (state)	Commercial: <25 t (informal whitebait) Not developed (southern garfish)	Commercial: 18 t (whitebait), 0.2 t (southern garfish – WCB)	Acceptable
	South West Beach Seine	Periodic: Level 3 – whitebait, southern garfish	Environmentally limited – whitebait/ southern garfish	Recreational: Not formal	Recreational: 62–94 t (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				Recreational: Catch levels are not considered a risk to stocks.
	South West Coast Salmon Managed Fishery	Herring – 2021 Salmon – 2023				
	West Coast Beach Bait					

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)	West Coast Purse Seine Managed Fishery and development zones	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 0–5,700 t (Q) Recreational: NA	Commercial: 214 t (all species) Recreational: <1 t	Acceptable
South Coast and West Coast Demersal Finfish	West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery	Annual: Level 1 Periodic: Level 5 – 2024	Inadequate	Commercial: <240 t* in 2023 Recreational (including charter): <135 t* in 2023 (<270 t* prior to 2023) *Retained catch + post-release mortality (PRM)	Commercial: 282 t* (261 t catch + 21 t PRM) in 2023 Recreational: (incl. charter) 342 t* (293 t catch + 49 t PRM) in 2020-21. Charter: 38 t (35 t catch + 3 t PRM) in 2022-23 *Retained catch + PRM – post release mortality	Not acceptable Commercial: Total removals (retained catch + PRM) of demersal suite, snapper, WA dhufish, breaksea cod, and redfish species were above their updated Harvest Strategy recovery benchmarks in 2023. Recreational: Total removals (retained catch + PRM) of demersal suite, snapper, WA dhufish, baldchin groper, and offshore species were above their original Harvest Strategy recovery benchmarks in 2020-21.

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: 1,350–2,150 t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 866 t	Acceptable Commercial: western king and brown tiger prawn catches below their acceptable range in part due to additional in-season measures implemented to protect breeding stocks, including reducing the total number of fishing nights, implementing area closures, and reducing the fleet headrope allocation by 33%.
Northern Invertebrates	Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 436–1,347 t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 653 t	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
Shark Bay Invertebrate	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: Quota 862.2 t (362.2 t Denham Sound and 500 t northern Shark Bay) Recreational: NA	Commercial: 862.2 t	Acceptable Commercial: Quota season to 30 April 2024. 100% of quota achieved for Denham Sound and northern Shark Bay.
Shark Bay Invertebrate	Shark Bay Crab Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 600 t (Q) Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 368.7 t Recreational: 1–4 t (95% CI, boat only in 2020-21)	Acceptable Commercial: Quota not attained due to effort restrictions on the trawl fleet, which limited their capacity to obtain their allocation. There has been a marked improvement in relative biomass, with the stock currently above the indicative target level. Recreational: Catch levels are stable.

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 Nearshore Scalefish	Shark Bay Beach Seine and Mesh Net Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 2 Periodic: Level 3 Yellowfin whiting – 2014	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 235–335 t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 135 t	Acceptable Commercial: Catch below the acceptable range due to ongoing very low levels of effort.
South Coast and West Coast Crustacean	West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 5	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: Class A: 123.2 t (Q); Class B: 20 t (Q); Class C: 1 t (Q); 60,000–105,000 pot lifts (crystal crab) Recreational: NA	Commercial: Class A: 123.1 t Class B: 0 t Class C: 0.14 t (74,867 pot lifts crystal crab)	Acceptable Commercial: TAC achieved and integrated model indicates that overall biomass is above provisional target levels.

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	Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1 Periodic: Level 5 Snapper – 2022 Goldband – 2022	Snapper – Sustainable: Recovering Goldband – Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: Snapper 51.4 t (Q) Other demersals 227 t (Q) Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: Snapper 48.3 t Other demersals 96.7 t Charter: Snapper 13.7 t Recreational: 74–112 t (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.
Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish	Inner Shark Bay Demersal (Snapper)	Annual: Level 1 Periodic: Level 5 2015	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 3.8 t Eastern Gulf (EG), 3.8 t Denham Sound (DS), 1.2 t Freycinet Estuary (FE) Recreational: 11.2 t EG, 11.2 t DS, 3.8 t FE	Commercial: <0.5 t Charter: 0.5 t EG, 2.1 t DS, 1.4 t FE Recreational: 2.1 t EG (95% CI 0.8–3.4 t), 4.6 t DS (95% CI 3.4–5.9 t), 11.5 t FE (95% CI 4.3–18.7 t) (boat only, assumed same as in 2018)	Not acceptable Commercial: NA Incidental catch. Recreational: Not Acceptable Catch in Freycinet above 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
North Coast Bioregion						
Northern Invertebrates	Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 60–180 t Recreational: NA	Commercial: <60 t	Acceptable Commercial: Low effort in 2023.
Northern Invertebrates	Nickol Bay Prawn Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 90–300 t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 89 t	Acceptable Low effort in 2023, due to low rainfall and low catch prediction.
Northern Invertebrates	Broome Prawn Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 55–260 t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 0 t	NA No commercial fishing occurred in 2023.
Northern Invertebrates	Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 240–500 t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 108 t	Acceptable Low levels of effort in 2023. High catches in the Northern Prawn Fishery in 2023 resulted in fewer vessels making the trip to fish in the KPMF.

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 Estuarine and Nearshore Scalefish and Invertebrates	Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 2	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 33–44 t (barramundi) Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 58.3 t (barramundi) 86.8 t (total) Recreational: 12–23 t (95% CI, boat only in 2020–21, top 10 species)	Acceptable Commercial: Catch is above the acceptable range but is considered acceptable as the catch rate remains high. Noting that in 2022 the landed catch was below the limit reference range. Recreational: Catch levels considered appropriate.
Northern Demersal Scalefish	Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 2 Periodic: Level 5 – 2018	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 440–533 t (goldband snapper) 121–154 t (red emperor) Catch range review is in progress Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 1,450 t (total) 457 t (goldband snapper) 161 t (red emperor) Recreational: 41–63 t (95% CI, boat only in 2020–21, top 15 species)	Acceptable Commercial: Acceptable Recreational: Acceptable (Catch levels are combined for Kimberley and Pilbara).

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 Fish Trawl (Interim) Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 1 and 2 Periodic: Level 3 and 5	Sustainable: Inadequate	Commercial: Under review Recreational: Under review	Commercial: 1,907 t (all species, trawl) 150 t (red emperor, combined commercial, recreational and charter)	Not acceptable Fishing mortality of red emperor and goldband snapper are above their Harvest Strategy tolerance ranges. Management actions are being implemented.
Northern Demersal Scalefish	Pilbara Demersal Trap Managed Fishery and Pilbara Line Fishery	Annual: Level 1 and 2 Periodic: Level 3 and 5	Sustainable: Inadequate	Commercial: Under review Recreational: Under review	Commercial: 573 t (all species, trap) 114 t (all species, line) 150 t (red emperor, combined commercial, recreational and charter)	Not acceptable Fishing mortality of red emperor and goldband snapper are above their Harvest Strategy tolerance ranges. Management actions are being implemented.

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 Large Pelagic Scalefish	Mackerel Managed Fishery	Annual: Level 2 Periodic: Level 3 – 2023	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 246–430 t (Q, Spanish Mackerel) Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 225 t Recreational: 89–138 t (95% CI, boat only in 2020–21, top 15 species)	Acceptable Commercial: Overall catch is below the target range, Area 1 is within the range. Recreational: Catch levels remain appropriate. Charter/FTO: Catch is within historical range.
Northern Shark	Northern Shark Fishery	No assessment	NA	<20 t (sandbar)	0	NA No fishing since 2008-09.
Pearl Oyster (<i>P. maxima</i>)	Pearl Oyster Wildstock Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 4	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 978,110 oysters (Q) (14,071–20,551 dive hours) Recreational: NA	Commercial: 798,217 oysters (10,641 dive hours)	Acceptable Commercial: Catch rates similar to 2022, currently near 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) 0–100 t Sandfish (Pilbara) 0–80 t Redfish 0–150 t Recreational: NA	Commercial: Sandfish (Kimberley): 12.2 t Sandfish (Pilbara): 0 t Redfish (Pilbara): 105.6 t Redfish (Gascoyne):8.3 t	Acceptable Overall breeding stocks acceptable for redfish and one sandfish stock. Closures implemented in 2023 for Pilbara sandfish fishery to promote recovery.

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 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) – 35 t Zone 2 (crystal crab) – 6.53 t Zone 3 (southern rock lobster) – 16 t Zone 4 (southern rock lobster) – 14 t	Commercial: Zone 1: 5.5 t (western rock lobster) Zone 2: 5.29 t (crystal crab) Zone 3: 13.2 t (southern rock lobster) Zone 4: 0.06 t (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.
Statewide Abalone	Abalone (Greenlip/Brownlip) Managed Fishery (MSC)	Annual: Level 4	Inadequate	Commercial: 33.3 t (Q) (3,440–5,270 hours) Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 27 t (875 hours) Recreational: 11.6–17.2 t	Not Acceptable Commercial: Although catch was below the TACC set for the 2023 season, catch rates were poor indicating unacceptably high effort to achieve that catch. Recreational: Catch levels require 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
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 – 2023 Cobbler – 2018	Sustainable: Adequate Cobbler (Wilson Inlet), herring (state), salmon (state) mullet/ bream/ whiting	Commercial: <40 t cobbler (Wilson Inlet – informal). <300 t Herring (state – informal) Salmon under revision Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 11 t cobbler (Wilson Inlet), 99 t herring (state), 35 t salmon (state). 25 t blue swimmer crab (South Coast estuaries) Recreational: finfish 17-31 t (95% CI, boat only in 2020-21, top 10 species)	Acceptable Catch of cobbler in Wilson Inlet maintained below the <40 t tolerance level. Herring catch is similar to previous year and below tolerance level. 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.
Statewide Small Pelagic Scalefish (Purse Seine)	King George Sound Purse Seine (Zone 1)	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 2,162 t (Q) Recreational: NA	Commercial: 1,088 t	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
Statewide Small Pelagic Scalefish (Purse Seine)	Wider Albany, Bremer Bay and Esperance Purse Seine (Zones 2, 3 and 4)	Annual: Level 1	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: 3,521 t (Q) Combined Recreational: NA	Commercial: 534 t	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 725–1,095 t Recreational: NA	Commercial: 661 t (key species only) 766 t (total sharks and rays)	Acceptable Commercial: Catch of the total shark and ray species is within acceptable catch ranges. Relative lower catches in 2022-23 are attributed to a reduction in the number of fishing trips, particularly in Zone 2, where most of the gummy shark catch is derived. 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 Line and Trap Managed Fishery, South Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery, TDGDLF	Annual: Level 1 Periodic: Level 3 – 2016	Sustainable: Adequate	Commercial: Not formal Recreational: Not formal	Commercial: 213 t Recreational: 34–60 t (95% CI, boat only in 2020–21, top 10 species). Charter: 3 t (indicator 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: 93–180 t Recreational: NA	Commercial: Not reportable.	Acceptable Commercial: Catch is below the target 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) has been within the acceptable range since 2003. Review of the inclusion of fish catch estimates is required as this is a stocked (put and take) fishery.

¹ Commercial and recreational catch figures supplied for latest year/season available.

² Where there are 3 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 2024, the following items were recorded on the State Register:

- 155,510 recreational fishing licences of 229,060 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)
- 19 aquaculture leases
- 438 aquaculture licences
- 6,145 commercial authorisations of varying licence types.

Licensed recreational fishing activities consisted of the activities listed in Table A4.

Table A4: Recreational fishing licensed activities

Activity	Number of activities
Recreational fishing from boat	126,024
Rock lobster	51,625
Abalone	17,446
Marron	10,003
Net fishing	14,269
South West freshwater angling	9,693
Total	229,060

Table A5: Commercial authorisations

Permits	Number of permits
Managed Fishery Licence	1,593
Interim Managed Fishery Permit	121
Other Licences	4,431
Total	6,145

Table A6: State register of exemptions 2023-24

Note: this register refers to additional schedules, tables and figures that are not provided in this document.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251134123	1/09/2026	Gascoyne Demersal scalefish Managed Fishery Licence Holders	To permit the take of snapper (pink snapper) of a size not less than 380 mm in the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery and to allow snapper (pink snapper) of a size not less than 380 mm taken in the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery to be held and sold by Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery Licence holders, processors and retailers.
EXEM 251136123	31/07/2024	North Regional TAFE CEO and Others in Schedule 1	To collect the species listed in Attachment 1 Table 1 for broodstock and training purposes only; from the collection zones indicated at Attachment 1 Table 2 and using the collection methods specified at Attachment 1 Table 3.
EXEM 251136223	7/07/2025	Adam Harman of Lateral Environmental Pty Ltd	To determine the baseline aquatic ecosystem health conditions (characterise current conditions and conservation values) of 2 river pools (Kennedy's and Mundalup pools) within the Alcoa Huntly Mine Study area.
EXEM 251136523	30/06/2024	Persons fishing with the use of authorised boats endorsed on a South West Trawl Managed Fishery Licence	To fish with the use of otter boards, of which the measurements of a single otter board being attached to each end of the headrope does not exceed: a) a height of 1.07 metres or b) a surface area of 2.084 square metres.
EXEM 251137123	10/07/2024	Brendan Goggins of Albany Senior High School	To investigate the relationships between marine and estuarine organisms in the region around Oyster Harbour, specifically factors affecting seagrass growth and health. Collection of cuttings of seagrasses (<i>Posidonia australis</i> , <i>Posidonia sinuosa</i> and <i>Halophila ovalis</i>) from Oyster Harbour, specifically Lower King Bridge and Emu Point.
EXEM 251137323	2/05/2024	Ryan Crossing of CSIRO and Others in Schedule 1	WA Integrated Marine Observing Systems; Australian Mooring Network – Long-term project monitoring coastal oceanographic and biogeochemical processes using moored sensor arrays and water sampling regimes. Collection of invertebrate zooplankton and vertebrate ichthyoplankton from Rottnest Island National Reference Station 32° 00.00S, 115° 25.00E.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251137723	31/03/2024	Steve Raaymakers of EcoStrategic Consultants	Field studies to support Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under Western Australian <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
EXEM 251138223	30/06/2024	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 Western Australia's jurisdiction.
EXEM 251138823	30/06/2024	Nicola Browne of Curtin University	To investigate how rates of microbioerosion vary between different coral taxa by collection of dead samples of the following corals: <i>Acropora</i> , <i>Cyphastrea</i> , <i>Echinopora</i> , <i>Goniastrea</i> and <i>Montipora</i> from Bill's Bay, Coral Bay, Lat: S23.136 and Long: E113.769.
EXEM 251140923	26/07/2026	Jessica Delaney	To undertake targeted surveys for Carter's freshwater mussel (<i>Westralunio carteri</i>) in the Huntly Mine (Myara region) and Willowdale Mine (Larego region) within Alcoa's mining lease 1SA (ML1SA). Measuring maximum length and maximum width, then release all mussels alive at the site of capture.
EXEM 251142823	1/09/2024	Nicole Said of Edith Cowan University (ECU)	To study predicting climate resilience of tropical seagrasses through estimating optimum and maximum temperature ranges.
EXEM 251142923	6/08/2023	Marshall Thompson of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC)	To assess how the Australian wild prawn industry addresses animal welfare and identify risks and gaps to animal welfare.
EXEM 251143023	30/06/2024	David Juskiewicz of Curtin University	Using integrated taxonomy, to provide new perspectives on massive coral growth rates in rapidly changing oceans.
EXEM 251143223	31/07/2024	Luke Thomas of Australian Institute of Marine Science	To assess the viability of restoration approaches targeting stocks of heat resistant corals and artificial structures at Ningaloo Reef WA.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251145023	10/07/2024	Oceane Attlan of The University of Western Australia (UWA)	Collection of the following corals: <i>Plesiastrea</i> , <i>Coelastrea</i> , <i>Pocillopora</i> , <i>Turbinaria</i> and <i>Acropora</i> from Marmion Marine Park and Port Gregory to study the effects of coral migration on temperate reef ecosystems.
EXEM 251145123	1/08/2024	Teresa Bednarek of UWA	Collection of and tag <i>Acropora spp.</i> from Ningaloo Marine Park between Coral Bay and Pelican Point to study effects of fish-coral interactions on coral physiology and ecology.
EXEM 251145223	31/08/2023	Kate Quigley of Minderoo Foundation	Collection of coral (<i>porites sp.</i> and <i>acropora sp.</i>), seagrass, water and sediment and live rock from Ningaloo and Exmouth Gulf to study unlocking the microbial ecology of porites species along the Western Australian coastline, and natural and assisted levels of stress tolerance in coral reefs and in sea grass meadows.
EXEM 251145323	1/07/2024	Damian Thomson of CSIRO	Collection of hard coral (<i>acropora spp.</i>) and teleosts from General Use Zones in northern Ningaloo Marine Park (Osprey to Jurabi) to study fish abundance and diversity, and measure macrocalcification.
EXEM 251145623	5/08/2024	Rohan Brooker of Australian Institute of Marine Science	Collection of <i>Acropora spp.</i> fragments from Ningaloo Reef within 10 km south of Coral Bay, see attached map to study enrichment of fish communities for the restoration of degraded coral reef systems.
EXEM 251145723	31/07/2024	Holly Emery-Butcher of the Wetlands Centre, Cockburn	Collection from specified waterways of macroinvertebrates for teaching.
EXEM 251147123	7/08/2025	Employees of: Wylie Bay Abalone Pty Ltd, Canopy Blue Pty Ltd, Rare Foods Australia Pty Ltd, Ocean King Fishing Pty Ltd and UWA	The collection of macroalgae broodstock for aquaculture.
EXEM 251148623	15/08/2024	Dr Valentina Hurtado-McCormick of CSIRO	To study microalgal bioplastics production: to explore the potential of microalgae.
EXEM 251148723	30/11/2025	Ms Bonita Clark of SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	Field studies to monitor environmental impact assessments.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251149323	30/06/2024	Nominated Port Authority personnel acting at the direction of authorised DPIRD officers	Enabling the Port Authority personnel to undertake surveillance activities under the direction of department officers for the protection of the state's aquatic resources from introduced marine species.
EXEM 251149423	31/07/2024	Mark Bannister of ECU	Collection of seagrasses, macroalgae, mussels and ascidians from authorised locations.
EXEM 251149523	31/07/2024	Mark Bannister of ECU	Collection of seagrass and macroalgae from authorised locations.
EXEM 251150223	30/06/2024	Central Regional TAFE	For staff and students of Central Regional TAFE participating in the Fishing Operations course on board the training vessel 'Masterclass' to conduct demersal wetline fishing operations during the closed season for recreational fishing for demersal scalefish in the West Coast Region.
EXEM 251151023	31/08/2026	Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery licence holders	To allow Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery licence holders to fillet pink snapper and demersal scalefish while fishing in the waters of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery for use as bait.
EXEM 251151123	31/08/2026	Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery licence Holders	To allow persons fishing under the authority of a Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery licence to land pink snapper and demersal scalefish taken from the waters of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery, outside the waters of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery.
EXEM 251151323	20/08/2024	James Tweedley of Murdoch University and Others in Schedule 1	To study using fish communities to determine estuarine health in the Swan-Canning Estuaries by the collection of entire fish community from the locations marked on the attached map in the Swan-Canning estuaries.
EXEM 251151423	17/09/2024	James Tweedley of Murdoch University and Others in Schedule 1	To study the spatial drivers of fish composition in the Swan-Canning Estuary. Collection of entire fish community from the locations marked on the attached map in the Swan-Canning estuaries.
EXEM 251151923	31/12/2025	SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	Field studies to support Environmental Impact Assessment at Newmont Boddington Gold (NBG) mine.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251152223	31/12/2023	Aquafarms Pty Ltd	The take of smooth marron (<i>Cherax cainni</i>) from Harvey Dam as a source of broodstock for the Harvey Dam marron stocking project.
EXEM 251152323	31/07/2024	Michael Taylor of Murdoch University	To study collection of fish species for teaching purposes in the College of Environmental and Life Sciences, Murdoch University.
EXEM 251153723	31/07/2026	Tasmanian Seafoods Pty Ltd	The take of sea cucumber (class <i>Holothuroidea</i>) for a commercial purpose.
EXEM 251154023	31/08/2026	Masters of an authorised boat in the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery	To allow the Catch and Disposal Record forms to be sent to DPIRD via Australia Post.
EXEM 251155023	30/09/2026	Water Corporation	Survey of potential desalination plant sites.
EXEM 251155323	30/11/2025	SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	Baseline assessment surveys of aquatic environmental values and fish diversity and abundance surveys at the Alcoa Huntly Mine.
EXEM 251156423	1/07/2024	Employees of DPIRD	To extend previous exemption to release of 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.
EXEM 251156523	31/08/2024	University of Texas	Collection of coral reef fishes and water samples from Recreational Zones near Bundegi and the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp, Ningaloo Marine Park.
EXEM 251156623	30/09/2026	Main Roads	To survey and relocate Carter's mussels on Serpentine River.
EXEM 251156723	30/11/2023	Bjorn Stokke, Kjell Stokke and Nils Stokke	To operate 160 commercial rock lobster pots with closed escape gaps for 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 (Lancelin).

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251156823	30/11/2023	John Servaas	To operate 130 commercial rock lobster pots with closed escape gaps for 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 (Jurien Bay).
EXEM 251156923	30/11/2023	Matthew Fong	To operate 130 commercial rock lobster pots with closed escape gaps for 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 (Abrolhos Islands and Big Bank).
EXEM 251157023	30/11/2023	Bruce Cockman and Nathan Cockman	To operate 160 commercial rock lobster pots with closed escape gaps for 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 (Kalbarri).
EXEM 251157123	30/11/2023	Bruce Cockman and Nathan Cockman	To operate 130 commercial rock lobster pots with closed escape gaps for 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 (Dongara).
EXEM 251157223	30/11/2023	Peter Bailey	To operate 160 commercial rock lobster pots with closed escape gaps for 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 (Abrolhos Islands).
EXEM 251157323	30/09/2023	Hollie Williams and Paul Lavey of ECU	To study sediment natural isotope survey – Walpole Inlet.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251157423	1/10/2024	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 251157523	8/08/2026	Stantec Australia Pty Ltd	To undertake aquatic pest biosecurity surveillance to detect the presence of introduced marine pests from Barrow Island, including Marine Offloading Facility (MOF), Shark Point and Bandicoot Bay WA.
EXEM 251158223	30/06/2024	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, or being in possession of demersal finfish without the master of the charter boat being in possession of unused quota tags for the purpose of taking or being in possession of a reasonable quantity of fish to be consumed by those persons on board the vessel while the tour is being undertaken.
EXEM 251158423	31/12/2025	Persons involved in, or under written instruction from DPIRD members of the Hairy Marron Captive Breeding Working Group	To study collect and culture hairy marron from the wild and undertake appropriate research to support the Hairy Marron Captive Breeding Program.
EXEM 251158823	17/03/2024	Tidal Moon Aquaculture Pty Ltd	Short-term access to allow commercial fishing for sea cucumber in the Shark Bay area while longer-term access arrangements are determined in line with the department’s Aboriginal Community Fishing Licence Policy.
EXEM 251159923	24/09/2024	Maria Jung of UWA	To study elucidating microbial and metabolite interactions in seagrass under sulfide stress.
EXEM 251160223	2/03/2024	Juliette Tariel-Adam of Macquarie University	Collection of hard-shelled bivalves and gastropods, and sea urchins from Exmouth Gulf and Ningaloo Reef, from the northern tip to Coral Bay.
EXEM 251160323	30/09/2024	South Metropolitan TAFE	The collection of macroalgae for training purposes in the aquaculture qualifications offered at South Metropolitan TAFE Fremantle.
EXEM 251160923	14/11/2023	South Regional TAFE	To collect and remove redfin perch and common carp from Upstream Minninup Pool using recreational line fishing method.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251161023	30/10/2024	Central Regional TAFE	To enable the collection of marine life for education and training.
EXEM 251161123	1/11/2023	The persons operating the authorised boat specified on Fishing Boat Licence 1172	To assist DPIRD Aquatic Science and Assessment staff to collect samples that will provide a better understanding of the fishery's stock status and bycatch composition and inform sustainable management of the fishery.
EXEM 251161723	31/05/2026	Persons on board a fishing boat operating under the authority of a West Coast Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Interim Managed Fishery Permit or Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fishery Licence	To enable commercial operators in the Temperate Shark Fisheries to better preserve product quality and reduce product discard under FNA legislation.
EXEM 251162023	31/12/2024	The master and crew of the licensed fishing boats: 'Tracey Lea' (registration LFBE35) and 'Fatal Attraction' (registration LFBE56)	For the purpose of undertaking data collection as part of Parks Australia Research Project titled 'Investigating future opportunities for Western Australia's Temperate Shark Fisheries (Chartered Field Study and Electronic Monitoring Trial)', a Western Australian Government and WAFIC Project, Grant Activity ID 4-BH9FB58.
EXEM 251162123	31/12/2024	The master and crew of the licensed fishing boats: 'Viking Spirit' (registration LFBF100) and 'Viking Legend' (registration LFBF399)	For the purpose of undertaking data collection as part of Parks Australia Research Project titled 'Investigating future opportunities for Western Australia's Temperate Shark Fisheries (Chartered Field Study and Electronic Monitoring Trial)', A Western Australian Government and WAFIC Project, Grant Activity ID 4-BH9FB58.
EXEM 251162823	9/01/2024	Michael Klunziger of Griffith University	The collection of glochidia from freshwater mussels for taxonomic study.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251162923	30/09/2024	Alan Cottingham of Murdoch University	To monitor water quality using mussel shell gaping behaviour in the Peel Harvey Estuary including its rivers (Serpentine, Murray and Harvey) and dams (Waroona and Harvey), Cockburn Sound, and Swan-Canning Estuary.
EXEM 251163023	30/09/2024	South Metropolitan TAFE	The collection of macroalgae for training purposes in the aquaculture qualifications offered at South Metropolitan TAFE Fremantle.
EXEM 251163123	23/10/2023	Persons fishing recreationally	To promote freshwater fishing and provide community education regarding freshwater angling.
EXEM 251163223	31/10/2026	Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation (trading as Synergy)	To undertake the annual outfall biomonitoring program for the Collie power station at the outfall in Buffalo Rd, Leschenault.
EXEM 251163323	30/06/2024	Dianne McLean of Australian Institute of Marine Science	To assess marine communities associated with Woodside’s Angel Platform and surrounds to help determine how decommissioning may affect marine ecosystems by capturing and retaining up to 350 common commercially targeted finfish.
EXEM 251163423	31/10/2026	Fisheries officers and persons assisting fisheries officers	To allow fisheries and marine officers to collect and/or possess fish, including totally protected fish, to conduct and assist with education, training, communication and promotional activities approved by DPIRD.
EXEM 251166623	30/04/2024	Dr Shannon Dee of ECU	To estimate primary productivity in space and time for algal (cyanobacterial) mat and other benthic communities and habitat for the Mardie Project.
EXEM 251166723	31/12/2023	Dr James Tweedley of Murdoch University	To identify the pathway for transfer of nutrients and energy from benthic communities and habitat to other communities and habitats (e.g. from the intertidal mosaics to the subtidal), which includes trophic transfer (flow of energy) and nutrient transfer.
EXEM 251167123	16/10/2025	Fremantle Seaweed Pty Ltd	To enable Fremantle Seaweed Pty Ltd to collect macroalgae broodstock.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251168823	31/01/2024	City of Gosnells	Survey, collection and relocation of Carter’s freshwater mussels (<i>Westralunio carteri</i>) from the Station Street Bridge project footprint in Martin into comparable habitat a few hundred metres upstream in the Canning River.
EXEM 251171223	30/05/2024	Stephen Beatty of Murdoch University	To study baseline ecological condition of Roley Pool, Canning River.
EXEM 251172823	30/06/2024	Master and crew of the authorised boat on West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery Permit No. 2798 and staff of the Aquatic Science and Assessment Branch of DPIRD	For the purpose of undertaking biological data collection to support the recovery of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource.
EXEM 251175023	1/11/2024	Murdoch University	To study the influence of submerged plant species and their structural characteristics on the species richness and composition of aquatic macroinvertebrates.
EXEM 251175123	15/10/2024	University of Adeliade	To study interactions between the paired diet-microbiome of the Kimberley Region’s top predators.
EXEM 251175223	5/12/2024	UWA	Seeds for Snapper Project: to engage the recreational fishing and diving community in seagrass fruit/seed collection for the purposes of doing large scale restoration of seagrass in Cockburn Sound.
EXEM 251175323	1/12/2026	Andrew Joseph and Tracey Lee Basile	To enable Basile to collect soft coral for aquaculture broodstock purposes.
EXEM 251175423	30/10/2024	Manea Senior College	Monitoring crab populations in the Bunbury Region.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251175523	30/06/2026	Murdoch University	Provide current data on distribution of Carter’s freshwater mussel in the lower Vasse River, to ensure that the species is considered in management decisions for implementation of the Lower Vasse River Waterway Management Plan.
EXEM 251175923	30/11/2024	Persons operating in the South Coast Crustacean Managed Fishery	To store crustaceans in holding tanks onboard the authorised boat until the crustaceans are consigned for transport or sold direct to the public.
EXEM 251176023	30/11/2024	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 251176123	30/11/2024	Persons operating in the South Coast Crustacean Managed Fishery	To provide the option to fish more efficiently under the Individual Transferable Quota system.
EXEM 251176223	30/11/2024	Persons operating in the South Coast Crustacean Managed Fishery	To provide the option to land crustaceans in a different zone to that fished when catching crustaceans from Zone 1, 2, 3 or 4.
EXEM 251177023	1/11/2025	The master of an authorised boat in the Shark Bay Crab Managed Fishery	To provide a standardised and reliable nomination method for the Shark Bay Crab Managed Fishery, for a commercial purpose pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251178023	24/12/2023	Persons operating a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence as listed in Schedule 1	To provide for the supply of rock lobster to the WA community prior to Christmas.
EXEM 251178123	24/12/2023	Persons operating a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence as listed in Schedule 1	To provide for the supply of rock lobster to the WA community prior to Christmas.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251179923	31/03/2024	Rhys Johnson – Busselton Surf Life Saving Club	To permit the use of a drag net to clear the water of south western stingers, prior to scheduled swimming events and dispose of stingers in metropolitan waste.
EXEM 251180823	31/12/2024	Staff of DPIRD and OneSea Pty Ltd	To support scallop industry to grow and become sustainable and mitigate challenges of heat waves and climate change.
EXEM 251181023	31/12/2024	ECU	To study benefits of seagrass restoration at Shark Bay for carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement.
EXEM 251181123	31/01/2024	Antonino Paratore	To study trial efficiency of various rock lobster pot designs.
EXEM 251181223	7/01/2025	Murdoch University	To study susceptibility of black bream to climate warming: considerations of body size, populations and seasonality.
EXEM 251181423	1/12/2024	Murdoch University	To study spatial sand temporal changes in the benthic invertebrate faunas of the Swan-Canning and Peel-Harvey estuaries – indicators of climate change and anthropogenic degradation.
EXEM 251181623	30/11/2026	Dean Thorburn – Indo-Pacific Environmental Pty Ltd	To assess how sawfish utilise Finucane Island to understand the potential impacts from the construction and operational phases of the proposed Asian Renewable Energy Hub.
EXEM 251181723	31/12/2026	Stantec Australia Pty Ltd	To annually monitor Carter’s freshwater mussel populations at Freshwater Lake and along the Augustus River, to detect adverse impacts from the South32 operation, in comparison to nearby reference sites. To undertake a one-off regional baseline survey of other South32 tenements.
EXEM 251181823	31/12/2024	Victoria University of Wellington	To study physiological pathways of the impacts of ocean acidification on corals and coralline algae.
EXEM 251181923	30/11/2024	Looma Remote Community School	To study a 2-way science initiative involving DPIRD and the Kimberley Schools Project (Department of Education) where the students will learn about fish biology, fisheries management and fisheries rules and regulations.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251182023	31/12/2024	Fred Wells of Curtin University	To study potential effects of climate change on intertidal invertebrates on Perth coastal platforms.
EXEM 251182123	31/01/2024	The holder of a West Coast Demersal Scalefish Permit	To defer the due date for first payment by instalment plus surcharge for West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery permit holders.
EXEM 251182223	31/12/2024	Murdoch University	To study amorphous and ordered microstructures in echinoderms: using materials analysis and 3D microscopy to study genesis, development, form and function of sea urchin microstructures.
EXEM 251182323	30/09/2024 (Revoked)	Kate Quigley of Minderoo Foundation	Examining stress tolerance in coral reefs and in sea grass meadows.
EXEM 251182423	31/12/2026	Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence Holders specified in Schedule 1	To permit the use of gear with alternative dimensions to that specified in clause 3 of the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Management Plan 1994 for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251182523	31/12/2024 (Revoked)	The master of an authorised boat operating under the authority of a Shark Bay Crab Managed Fishery Licence	This exemption is granted for a commercial purpose pursuant to section 7(2)(e) to facilitate more efficient operations within the Shark Bay Crab Managed Fishery by providing greater flexibility with respect to the process for submitting duplicates of CDR forms.
EXEM 251182623	31/12/2024	Those persons authorised to operate under a Class A Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery Licence	To provide gear consistency across the Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery when fishing for commercial purposes, pursuant to Section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251182723	1/07/2026	Staff of DPIRD working in the positions: Fisheries Management Officer, Senior Fisheries Management Officer, Principal Fisheries Management Officer or Manager Aquatic Resource Management	This exemption is granted for a commercial purpose pursuant to section 7(2)(e) to enable current authorisation holders in the Pilbara Fish Trawl Interim Managed Fishery and Pilbara Trap Managed Fishery to access confidential information relating to a period when they were not the holder of the relevant authorisation.
EXEM 251182823	31/12/2026	Persons fishing from an authorised boat specified on a Managed Fishery Licence granted in accordance with the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery Management Plan 2000 or the Pilbara Trap Limited Entry Fishery Notice 1992	To allow persons fishing in Area 2 of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery to use handlines with up to 30 hooks attached, to more effectively target species not readily taken by trap fishing methods.
EXEM 251182923	31/12/2025	Persons fishing with the use of an authorised boat on a Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery Licence	This instrument of exemption has been granted for a commercial purpose to allow persons fishing in Area 2 of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery to use handlines with up to 30 hooks attached, to more effectively target species not readily taken by trap fishing methods.
EXEM 251185124	23/02/2024	Murdoch University	Collection of fish, seagrasses, macroalgae and macroinvertebrates from Shoalwater Islands Marine Park; adjacent to Garden Island Causeway, Mangles Bay for the purposes of teaching.
EXEM 251185224	20/01/2025	UWA	To study unveiling the ecological significance of macroalgal meadows as nurseries for juvenile tropical fish.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251185324	18/03/2024	Nominated operators on specified West Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery Licences	To allow West Coast Estuarine Managed Fishery Area 2 operators to take blue swimmer crabs for supply to Christmas seafood markets and Mandurah Crab Fest.
EXEM 251186124	30/06/2025	Persons operating in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery	To allow the continuation of commercial nearshore net fishing and purse seining in the waters of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery.
EXEM 251186224	30/06/2025	Persons operating in the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery	To allow continued commercial nearshore net fishing along the coast of the Carnarvon region, which is an area within the waters of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery.
EXEM 251186824	31/12/2024	Persons operating in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery	To permit a reduced minimum debit amount of 6 hours in respect of each fishing trip in an area of the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery for a commercial purpose.
EXEM 251187024	30/04/2024	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.
EXEM 251187124	30/04/2024	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.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251187224	30/04/2024	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 251187324	30/04/2024	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 251187424	30/04/2024	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.
EXEM 251187524	30/04/2024	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.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251188524	5/01/2027	Andrew Joseph and Tracey Lee Basile	Collection of hard coral broodstock for aquaculture purposes.
EXEM 251188624	15/11/2026	Person operating a South West Coast Trawl Licence specified in schedule 1	To permit the use of a vessel greater than the prescribed 375 boat units.
EXEM 251188724	31/12/2024	South Metropolitan TAFE	To provide commercial fishing practice, education and training, pursuant to section 7(2)(f) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> to students undertaking the following courses provided at the South Metropolitan TAFE located at 1 Fleet Street, Fremantle WA 6160: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime Youth Program: Certificate I in Fishing Operations (National ID: SF110119) • Certificate II in Fishing Operations (National ID: SF120219).
EXEM 251189224	27/01/2027	Batavia Coral Farm Pty Ltd	To enable the collection hard coral broodstock.
EXEM 251189424	31/12/2024	The master of an authorised boat operating under the authority of a Shark Bay Crab Managed Fishery Licence	To send the duplicate copy of the completed catch and disposal record (CDR) form to the office of DPIRD via Australia Post.
EXEM 251189924	31/12/2026	The master of an authorised boat in the Exmouth Gulf Prawn, Nickol Bay Prawn, Onslow Prawn, and/or Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fisheries	Permit the use of vessels exceeding 375 boat units for commercial fishing in the following fisheries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery • Nickol Bay Prawn Managed Fishery • Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery • Shark Bay Scallop Manage Fishery.
EXEM 251190924	1/01/2025	The University of New South Wales	The Cold Water Coral Project Australia: exploring cup-coral diversity and distribution.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251191024	12/02/2025	The Australian Institute of Marine Science	To collect macroalgae from 21 sites within Ningaloo Marine Park.
EXEM 251191124	31/12/2024	DPIRD staff	Collection of deploy saucer scallop (<i>Ylistrum balloti</i>) spat from in the waters of the South West Trawl Fishery, adjacent to Rottnest Island.
EXEM 251191224	29/02/2024	Water Corporation	To protect the turtles during emergency remediation works to cease leakage from the basin.
EXEM 251191324	30/06/2024	MPA Fish Farms Pty Ltd	To enable MPAFF to undertake land-based aquaculture of juvenile barramundi at the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park.
EXEM 251191924	29/02/2024	Water Corporation	To relocate turtles within the grounds of the Morley Galleria compensation ponds.
EXEM 251192024	31/03/2026	SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	To use fishing gear to remove exotic fish.
EXEM 251192924	31/12/2024	Victoria University of Wellington	To study physiological pathways of the impacts of ocean acidification on corals and coralline algae.
EXEM 251193024	28/02/2026	WA Marine Pty Ltd (T/A O2 Marine)	Blue mussels for biomonitoring in Fremantle Port.
EXEM 251197324	1/01/2025	UWA	For the purpose of teaching.
EXEM 251197124	1/01/2025	UWA	For the purpose of teaching.
EXEM 251198424	31/10/2028	Western Australia Maritime Museum	The take of marine aquarium fish, including hard coral, for display in aquarium exhibits in development by the Western Australian Maritime Museum.
EXEM 251198524	7/01/2025	Murdoch University	For the purpose of research.
EXEM 251198724	31/10/2024	AECOM Australia	Chemical and radionuclide sampling of Cockburn Sound sediments and biota for a baseline survey.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251199424	1/02/2025	UWA	For the purpose of research.
EXEM 251200324	19/02/2026	Anais Pages of Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	To collect seagrass and macroalgae, cores or entire plants from these locations: Leschenault Estuary, Peel Harvey Estuary, Wilson Inlet, Hardy Inlet, Oyster Harbour, Princess Royal Harbour.
EXEM 251200424	19/02/2025	Claude Spencer of UWA	For the purpose of research.
EXEM 251200524	28/02/2025	Kristy Brown of UWA	For the purpose of research.
EXEM 251201124	1/02/2025	Angus Lawrie of Curtin University	For the purpose of research.
EXEM 251201824	28/02/2025	Curtin University	For the purpose of research.
EXEM 251202524	31/12/2026	SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	To identify change (if any) to water availability, identify (if any) the longer temporal responses of these ecosystems, validate and update EWP (Environmental Water Provision) regimes and adaptive management processes.
EXEM 251202824	20/03/2024	Nominated operators on specified West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licences	To assist the department in conducting the shallow water lobster abundance survey. This data will be used to assess the level of juvenile settlement and survival that occurs throughout the fishery.
EXEM 251203024	3/04/2025	UWA	Collection of seaweed from Cape Peron, Wylie Bay, Lucky Bay, Little Wharton Beach, Watermans Bay and Cone Bay in WA for research.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251203124	31/01/2025	Person(s) fishing in accordance with the Marine Aquarium Fish Managed Fishery Management Plan 2018	The take of hard coral (Order Scleractinia) for a commercial purpose within the waters of the Abrolhos Islands.
EXEM 251203324	15/05/2024	Person(s) fishing with the use of a Fishing Boat Licence with condition 42 imposed	Permit use of G-trap nets to take up to 70 t of Australian herring in 2024.
EXEM 251203724	1/03/2027	Nominated employees of Lateral Environmental Pty Ltd	Aquatic fauna field surveys of the Ridley Magnetite Project.
EXEM 251203824	4/01/2025	Murdoch University	To study sawfish tracking in the Pilbara.
EXEM 251203924	30/06/2027	The holders of nominated West Coast Rock Lobster Licences	To enable nominated licence holders to operate with less than the minimum 300 units required under clause 10 of the Management Plan.
EXEM 251204624	15/03/2025	UWA	Collection of catch measure and count freshwater mussels (<i>Westralunio inbisi</i>) from authorised locations between the Blackwood River and Waychinicup Creek.
EXEM 251204724	3/04/2025	Curtin University	Collection of Yellowtail scad (<i>Trachurus novazelandiae</i>) and Skipjack trevally (<i>Pseudocaranx wright</i>) from Royal Princess Harbour, Albany and Busselton Jetty, Busselton to study heavy metal levels in fish collected.
EXEM 251204924	18/12/2024	Persons fishing using the authorised boat endorsed on the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery Licence EGPR1104	Permit fishing using the authorised boat endorsed on the Exmouth Gulf Prawn Managed Fishery Licence EGPR1104 to sell, or deal with, or attempt to sell, or deal with, any fish taken from the fishery, landed, or otherwise dealt with, that have been taken in the process of collecting fish for research.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251205024	30/10/2024	Persons fishing using the authorised boat endorsed on the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery Licence SBPR1121	Permit fishing using the authorised boat endorsed on the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery Licence SBPR1121 to sell, or deal with, or attempt to sell, or deal with, any fish taken from the fishery, landed, or otherwise dealt with, that have been taken in the process of collecting fish for research.
EXEM 251206424	1/05/2025	Luke Thomas of Australian Institute of Marine Science	Scott Reef long-term monitoring by collection of a small 1 cm ³ of non-lethal tissue sample of scleractinian coral from up to 20 colonies at each of 12 long-term monitoring sites, one species of fish and one species of snail from South Scott, North Scott, Seringapatam reefs and Rowley Shoals (Figure 1).
EXEM 251206624	18/04/2025	Merrick Ekins Of Queensland Museum Network	Collection of coral and sponges from Rottneest Island – Parakeet Bay, Salmon Bay and Little Armstrong Bay; Houtman Abrolhos Islands – Wallabi, Easter and Pelsaert groups.
EXEM 251023922	24/03/2025	Dr James Tweedley of Murdoch University	Collection of intertidal benthic communities from the coast through the tidal creeks up to the cyanobacteria mats at 4 sites from each of 3 locations in the Pilbara, i.e. Giralia, Urala and Cape Preston.
EXEM 251206824	30/04/2025	Shannon Dee of ECU	To study feeding strategies of corals and their trophic connectivity to intertidal habitats in a turbid coastal system.
EXEM 251206324	9/03/2024	Persons fishing for a recreational purpose	To allow the holder of a current Recreational Fishing Licence for abalone to recreationally fish for abalone and sea urchins in Abalone Zone 1 between 7 am and 8 am on Saturday 9 March 2024.
EXEM 251207324	17/03/2026	Employees of Tidal Moon Aquaculture Pty Ltd	To fish for sea cucumber for a commercial purpose pursuant to section 7(2) (e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251207724	27/05/2024	Water Corporation	To undertake core sediment samples along potential pipeline for the proposed Water Corporation Alkimos desalination plant.
EXEM 251207824	15/01/2025	Stephen Beatty of Murdoch University	Alien fish research, monitoring and control in south-western Australia by collection of fish and crayfish from locations as listed in Table 2.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251207924	28/03/2024	Glenn Hyndes of ECU	Soft-sediment biodiversity survey of Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park 2024 by collection of soft-sediment invertebrate fauna from 14 sites in Nornalup Inlet and 1 site in Walpole Inlet.
EXEM 251208224	31/10/2025	The master of an authorised boat and all persons operating under the authority of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence	To ensure small entitlement fishers remain in the industry by assisting small entitlement fishers during whale season restrictions by permitting the use of additional rock lobster pots pursuant to section 7(2)(e).
EXEM 251208424	31/03/2025	Oliver Jewell of UWA	Tracking marine megafauna with telemetry and eDNA by collection of catch, tag, finclip, take blood sample and release tiger sharks (<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>) from locations as listed in Table 2.
EXEM 251208724	31/03/2027	DPIRD	To collect and display nearshore finfish, crabs and specimen shells for educational DPIRD displays.
EXEM 251209424	31/03/2027	PASES Aqua Pty Ltd	Eradicate feral fish in City of Swan waterways.
EXEM 251209524	28/02/2025	Arvid Hogstrom of DBCA	Wadjemup/Rottnest seagrass monitoring by collection of seagrass from 10 sites around Rottnest Island (map attached).
EXEM 251210024	21/07/2024	Jason Kennington of UWA	Field-based experience in zoological techniques by collection of touch and gently handle marine fauna from south of Coral Bay township, Bill's Bay and Five Fingers Reef.
EXEM 251210824	31/12/2024	Ana Sequeira of Australian National University	Gathaagudu Animal Tracking Project – Tiger sharks Shark Bay by collection of catch, tag, finclip, take blood sample and release tiger sharks (<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>) from Shark Bay World Heritage Area.
EXEM 251211824	22/03/2026	George Sutton, Shane Sutton, Warwick Archer and Michael Layton	To trial prawn click-nets as potential recreational fishing gear in the Peel-Harvey Estuary.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251212924	31/03/2025	Murdoch University	To study aquatic communities in different habitats of the Peel region from catchments to the coast.
EXEM 251213124	30/06/2024	The master and crew of Nominated Pilbara Trap Licences	For the purpose of undertaking biological data collection to support the recovery of the Pilbara Demersal Scalefish Resource.
EXEM 251213424	31/01/2026	Source Certain Operations Pty Ltd	To establish a reference material database to assist in determining the origin of seized material for the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries.
EXEM 251213724	31/12/2025	Persons fishing recreationally for octopus	To allow up to a maximum of 6 octopus trigger traps to be used for recreational fishing for octopus by persons holding a RFBL and all persons operating under the authority of a FTOL to provide information for implementation of more permanent management arrangements for the recreational fishery pursuant to section 7(2)(e).
EXEM 251215324	14/04/2025	CSIRO	Collection of sessile and mobile invertebrates from Ningaloo Marine Park between Jurabi and Coral Bay.
EXEM 251216924	31/03/2026	Persons fishing under the authority of a Specimen Shell Managed Fishery Licence	To provide operators with the ability to operate with additional divers and collect otherwise prohibited species.
EXEM 251218724	4/03/2027	Employees of PASES Aqua Pty Ltd	To remove feral fish from 10 lakes within the City of Swan.
EXEM 251219224	30/04/2026	SeaStock Pty Ltd	To enable SeaStock to undertake a research and development trial and associated broodstock collection from Rottnest Island and western side of Garden Island.
EXEM 251221024	28/04/2024	Geraldton Fishermen's Co-Operative Ltd	To store and/or purchase back-of-boat lobsters during the Shore Leave Festival in Geraldton.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251221124	28/04/2024	Persons operating under the authorisation of the boat specified on the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence WCLL1507	To provide for the supply of rock lobster to the WA community for the Shore Leave Festival in Geraldton.
EXEM 251224724	29/04/2027	Mackerel Managed Fishery	To allow persons fishing under the authority of a Mackerel Managed Fishery Licence to enter a port area without making a nomination to enter a port area, and instead require persons fishing under the authority of a Mackerel Managed Fishery Licence to make a nomination to land mackerel within a specified timeframe in each Area of the Fishery, prior to landing mackerel.
EXEM 251224324	31/12/2027	United States Navy	Chemical and radionuclide sampling of Cockburn Sound sediments and biota for a baseline survey.
EXEM 251227924	30/04/2027	Lateral Environmental Pty Ltd and others listed in Schedule 1	Catch and release various native fish using electro-fishing, gill and seine nets along the Fortescue River, Jiblebar Creek and/or Jigalong Creek.
EXEM 251229424	1/05/2025	Murdoch University	Collection of all finfish and decapod crustacean species from specified locations.
EXEM 251229524	10/05/2027	Nathan Boothman	To enable Boothman to collect hard and soft coral broodstock. Given the potential economic benefits of aquaculture and employment prospects, granting the exemption is considered in the better interests of the WA aquaculture industry.
EXEM 251230324	13/10/2024	Sea Harvest Fishing Company Pty Ltd	To trial the use of 'beam-trawl' nets in the Shark Bay Prawn Managed Fishery.
EXEM 251230524	31/12/2024	Ana Sequeira of Australian National University	Gathaagudu Animal Tracking Project – Tiger sharks Shark Bay by collection of catch, tag, finclip, take blood sample and release tiger sharks (<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>) from Shark Bay World Heritage Area.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251231124	30/04/2025	Correia Fishing Co (WA) Pty Ltd, CSBS Fishing Pty Ltd, Seafresh Holdings Pty Ltd and Fabron Holdings Pty Ltd	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to take of scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251231224	30/04/2025	Elmwood Holdings Pty Ltd and Far West Scallops Industries Pty Ltd	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to take of scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251231324	30/04/2025	Far West Scallops Industries Pty Ltd, Laburnum Pty Ltd and Scallop Nominees Pty Ltd	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to take of scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251231424	30/04/2025	Isle Holdings Pty Ltd and KB Takari Pty Ltd	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to take of scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251231524	30/04/2025	Puresea Investments Pty Ltd	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to take of scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251231624	30/04/2025	Sea Harvest Fishing Company Pty Ltd and Far West Scallops Industries Pty Ltd	To enable the holder of a Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence or persons acting on behalf of a licence holder to take of scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251232424	27/09/2024	Euan Harvey, Caleb Newton, Karl Schramm, Laura Fullwood, Rowan Kleindienst, Brooke Marshall, Ben Saunders and Lewis Haines of Curtin University	For the purpose of research.
EXEM 251234124	31/12/2024	Ana Sequeira of Australian National University	Gathaagudu Animal Tracking Project – Tiger sharks Shark Bay by collection of catch, tag, finclip, take blood sample and release tiger sharks (<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>) from Shark Bay World Heritage Area.
EXEM 251234324	31/05/2026	Future Feed Pty Ltd	Land-based aquaculture research and development trials on red algae species.
EXEM 251234424	31/05/2024	Queensland Museum and James Cook University	To study taxonomic diversity of sessile benthic invertebrates in the subtropical WA.
EXEM 251235124	1/05/2027	Lateral Environmental Pty Ltd and others listed in Schedule 1	To undertake aquatic fauna monitoring; to capture and release alive a range of native freshwater/estuarine fishes of Pilbara drainages.
EXEM 251239724	31/05/2024	Rohan Brooker of Australian Institute of Marine Science	To study supplementation of fish communities to assess effects on coral growth by collection of catch and release juvenile damselfish from within 20 m of the 60 patch reefs established between Coral Bay and Pelican Point, as per attached maps.
EXEM 251239824	31/08/2024	Nina Ho of UWA	To study seed-based restoration techniques for tropical seagrasses by collection of seagrasses from those locations listed in Table 2
EXEM 251240024	9/07/2024	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.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251241224	17/03/2027	Tidal Moon Aquaculture Pty Ltd	To provide for ongoing commercial take of sea cucumber in the Shark Bay area while longer-term access arrangements are determined in line with departmental policy. To allow the take of sea cucumber (<i>Class Holothuroidea</i>) for a commercial purpose by employees of Tidal Moon Aquaculture Pty Ltd.
EXEM 251242124	31/05/2024	Adam Harman of Lateral Environmental Pty Ltd	To fish for finfish and crustaceans for a commercial purpose pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251242924	30/04/2025	Persons fishing using Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licence SBSC2124	To permit the take of scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251243024	30/04/2025	Persons fishing using the authorised boats on the following Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences: SBSC2110, SBSC2111, SBSC2115, SBSC2116, SBSC2117, SBSC2118, SBSC2119, SBSC2121, SBSC2122, SBSC2123, SBSC2123, SBSC2097	To permit the take of scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251243124	30/04/2025	Persons fishing using the authorised boats on the following Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences: SBSC2102, SBSC2104, SBSC2094, SBSC2109	To permit the take of scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251243224	30/04/2025	Persons fishing using the authorised boats on the following Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences: SBSC2093, SBSC2126, SBSC2100	To permit the take of scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251243424	30/04/2025	Persons fishing using the authorised boats on the following Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery Licences: SBSC2127 and SBSC2128	To permit the take of scallops in the Shark Bay Scallop Managed Fishery for commercial purposes pursuant to section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .
EXEM 251245124	1/08/2024	The master of an authorised boat and all persons operating under the authority of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence	To assist commercial fishers during season transition by permitting the use of additional rock lobster pots while transfers of entitlements are pending pursuant to section 7(2)(e).
EXEM 251245324	1/06/2025	Murdoch University	To survey Gascoyne River for presence of freshwater bivalves.
EXEM 251245724	30/06/2025	Approved Port Authority personnel as listed in Schedule 1 and Authorised department officers as listed in Schedule 2	To collect from the waters under Western Australia's jurisdiction any species of fish necessary to carry out aquatic pest surveillance approved by the department and directed by department officers listed.
EXEM 251246424	15/06/2025	DBCA	Environmental protection: dolphin capture and disentanglement, Milya Nature Reserve.
EXEM 251246924	31/05/2029	Geotechnical Services Pty Ltd and others ss listed in Schedule 1	To permit Intertek Group to take sea urchin for commercial environmental monitoring of effluent discharge.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251249724	30/06/2025	DBCA staff	To enable the personnel of 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 251249824	30/06/2025	DPIRD staff	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 251250424	1/10/2024	Ross Camilleri while using vessel with LFB F367	To trial a new concept of octopus trap that increases fishing efficiency. Collection of western rock octopus (<i>Octopus djinda</i>) from coastal waters north of the North Mole, Fremantle.
EXEM 251250824	31/08/2025	Brendon Osorio of UWA	To study the sensitivity of biogeochemical cycles in Shark Bay to future climate change and seagrass loss. Collection of seagrass, sediments, surface water samples, and microbial mats from those locations listed in Table 2, see attached map (Figure 1).
EXEM 251250924	1/06/2025	David Haig of UWA	To study habitats of living foraminifera (<i>Chromista, Harosa, Rhizaria</i>) on submerged coastal rock platforms in southwest Western Australia recognising tropical, temperate and invasive species. Collection of foraminifera, algae and sand from coastal rock platforms from those locations as listed in Table 2.
EXEM 251251024	3/08/2024	Alexandra Carter of James Cook University and others listed in Schedule 1	To study a targeted mapping expedition in Karajarri sea country to identify marine plant species present and benthic invertebrates that live among them. Collection of seagrass from Cape Gourdon to 40 nm south of Cape Jaubert, extending about 30 nm offshore and including the inshore intertidal zone within Karajarri sea country.

No.	Expiry	Persons – Schedule 1	Purpose
EXEM 251251124	31/07/2025	Rob Czarnik of ECU	Macrophyte epifauna assessment – studies in ecology. Collection of seagrass and macroalgae from those location listed in Table 2.
EXEM 251251424	30/09/2024	MPA Fish Farms Pty Ltd	To enable MPAFF to undertake land-based aquaculture of juvenile barramundi at the Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park. Given the potential economic benefits of aquaculture and employment prospects, granting the exemption is considered in the better interests of the WA aquaculture industry.
EXEM 251251524	31/07/2025	Rob Czarnik of ECU	To study macrophyte epifauna assessment – Marine and Fisheries Biology. Collection of seagrasses, macroalgae, mussels and ascidians from those locations listed in Table 2.
EXEM 251252424	15/06/2026	Jessica Delaney, Biologic Environmental Survey Pty Ltd	To undertake a 2-season aquatic ecology assessment of inland waters in the Gascoyne River catchment on behalf of Delta Lithium Ltd, as part of development of the Yinnetharra Lithium Project.
EXEM 251252724	31/08/2024	Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Resource Biological Monitoring	To fish for a commercial purpose in accordance with Section 7(2)(e) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> to undertake biological data collection to support the recovery of the Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Resource.
EXEM 251252824	20/06/2025	Anthony Santoro of Murdoch University	To study population status of the oblong turtle throughout the southwest of WA. Collection of catch and release fish or freshwater crayfish while undertaking a study of the population status of the oblong turtle (<i>Chelodina oblonga</i>) from inland waterbodies from Jurien Bay south and east along the coast to Fitzgerald River National Park.
EXEM 251253724	31/05/2025	Kate Quigley of Minderoo Foundation	To collect coral, seagrass, water, sediment and live rock from all waters of the Ningaloo Marine Park north of Pelican Point including Sanctuary Zones and Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park.
EXEM 251253824	30/04/2027	Shire of Exmouth – Ningaloo Aquarium and Discovery	To take marine aquarium fish for marine aquarium display for commercial and community education purposes, pursuant to s 7(2)(e) and 7(2)(f) of the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> .

Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) 2024

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

+61 1300 374 731 | enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au | dpird.wa.gov.au

ABN: 18 951 343 745