



2015–16

ANNUAL REPORT

ntepa





Letter from the Chairperson NT EPA to the Minister

The Hon Lauren Moss MLA
Minister for Environment and Natural Resources
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present you with the annual report of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) for the year ended 30 June 2016, as required under section 33 of the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act* (NT EPA Act).

The report describes the performance of the NT EPA's functions during the 2015-16 financial year.

Dr William (Bill) Freeland

Chairperson
Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority
11 October 2016



Chairperson's Message



This annual report documents the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority's (NT EPA's) actions to continue the previous year's increasing attention to regulatory compliance and enforcement, while dealing with gradually increasing numbers of

referrals of projects for environmental impact assessment, applications for licences and approval under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* (WMPC Act), and discharge licences for wastes under the *Water Act*. Both the NT EPA and those applying for licences and approvals have benefited greatly from the continuing improvements to NT EPA Online, the NT EPA's online licence and approval application and management system. More improvements are anticipated in the coming year.

Return of drink containers under the container deposit scheme has reached an all-time high. It is hoped that this will continue with added impetus following the final implementation of the legislative improvements passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2014. These provide for added efficiencies that will greatly assist depot operators.

The NT EPA responded to the Minister's request for advice on a waste strategy for the Northern Territory. The strategy was adopted by the Minister and is being implemented by the NT EPA. The NT EPA also provided the Minister with an environmental quality report on the biodiversity of the Howard sand plains, and advice on its preservation and future management. The coming year will see the NT EPA provide additional advice to the Minister on water quality in Rapid Creek, remote incinerators, recommendations for reform of the WMPC Act, on-site waste water treatment, seabed mining, addressing the per and poly fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) issue, and in a response to the Minister's request for advice on Dr Allan Hawke's *Review of the Northern Territory's Environment Assessment and Approval Processes*.



The NT EPA continues to actively address the need for improved public understanding of our processes, procedures and environmental requirements. The number of guidelines, fact sheets and policies is now more than three times what it was on 1 January 2013. The coming year will add critically important new guidelines such as one on contaminated lands. These will further improve proponent and community understanding of and capacity to manage environmental issues.

The public is central to the successful operation of the NT EPA. The Pollution Hotline is one of our major means of communicating with the public, and effectively addressing their concerns. Community use of the Hotline has increased at an average of approximately 150 per year over the past three years, and in 2015-16, we received 811 notifications. The NT EPA greatly appreciates this high level of response and thanks the public for their involvement. We recently implemented a new on-line reporting tool to further facilitate community reporting of pollution incidents and other environmental concerns.

It has been a very busy and productive year. The agenda for 2016-17 is even more challenging. The NT EPA's recent achievements and those proposed for the future are only possible because of the extraordinary commitment of the staff and the growing involvement of the community. Together we are making, and will continue to make a difference.

Dr William (Bill) Freeland

Chairperson

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Our vision

Ecologically sustainable development in the Northern Territory.

Our purpose

To be an effective, independent and influential authority on environmental management.

Our values

- Accountable
- Responsive
- Innovative
- Proactive

Our principles

- Transparent processes and independent decision making.
- A strong focus on collaboration and partnerships.
- Science and evidence underpins decision making.

1 Overview

1.1 What is the NT EPA?

The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) is an independent body corporate established under the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act* (NT EPA Act).

Under section 7 of the NT EPA Act the objectives of the NT EPA are to:

- promote ecologically sustainable development
- protect the environment, having regard to the need to enable ecologically sustainable development
- promote effective waste management and waste minimisation strategies
- enhance community and business confidence in the environmental protection regime of the Territory.

The functions of the NT EPA are to:

- advise and report to the Minister for the Environment (the Minister) under Part 3 of the NT EPA Act
- undertake functions associated with environmental assessments and the management of waste and pollution conferred on the NT EPA under the NT EPA Act or any other Act
- perform any other functions conferred on it by the NT EPA Act or any other Act.



1.2 Membership

The NT EPA consists of five members appointed by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, one of whom is appointed as Chairperson, and the Chairperson of the Northern Territory Planning Commission. Appointed members to the NT EPA are required to collectively provide knowledge and experience in a broad range of environmental, business and social disciplines.

1.2.1 Chairperson of the NT EPA, Dr William Freeland



Dr William Freeland gained his Masters degree in Science at the University of Queensland before obtaining a PhD in Zoology from the University of Michigan. Prior to his appointment, Dr Freeland was an environmental consultant working with business and industry in environmental management in the Northern Territory. He is a former Director of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (PWCNT) and Director of Conservation Strategy with the Queensland government.

Dr Freeland has spent 30 years of his career in the Northern Territory and has considerable knowledge and

understanding of environmental issues in the Northern Territory. Dr Freeland has over 20 years' experience in research and management roles with the PWCNT including working with the community. His experience in the Northern Territory has given Dr Freeland an extensive understanding and appreciation of the issues relevant to regional areas and the Indigenous community.

Dr Freeland has represented the Northern Territory on various national environmental groups such as the National Standing Committee for Water, Land and Biodiversity, Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, and the Standing Committee to the Australian and New Zealand Environment Council.

During his career, Dr Freeland has published scientific papers and consultancy work in the fields of conservation management, environmental impacts, waste management, ecologically sustainable development and tourism development. Dr Freeland has been Chairperson of the NT EPA since its inception on 1 January 2013.

1.2.2 Dr Ian Geoffrey Wallis



Dr Ian Wallis brings 30 years' experience as an environmental engineer providing advice to water and sewerage authorities and industries. He has been a registered environmental auditor for 17 years providing advice in the form of environmental studies, audits, investigations and inputs into environmental impact assessments.

Dr Wallis conducted postgraduate research at Monash University in sediment transport, the dispersion of wastes in estuarine and ocean waters, and the social and technical issues involved in managing pollution. Dr Wallis has been a researcher at various Universities and laboratories in the United Kingdom and United States of America.

Dr Wallis has extensive experience in environmental assessments, air quality, water quality and oceanographic studies, and is recognised as one of Australia's experts in these fields. He was a member of the Expert Panels on Desalination and on dredging in Darwin harbour.

1.2.3 Ms Janice van Reyk



Ms Janice van Reyk is an experienced non-executive director on a number of boards in the infrastructure and utilities sector including Port of Melbourne, Lochar Energy and Citywide. She previously served on the audit, risk and finance committee of Sustainability Victoria and the three person Ministerial Advisory Committee to inquire into the future strategic role of the Environment Protection Authority Victoria.

Ms van Reyk's environmental experience includes advising on a range of socio-economic assessments, stakeholder consultations, environmental and remediation issues. Together with her executive management experience in industry she brings great depth to the NT EPA.

Ms van Reyk is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has a Master of Environment specialising in water, energy and urban issues; a Master of Commerce specialising in corporate finance, economics and accounting; and a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws.



1.2.4 Dr John Chapman



Dr John Chapman completed his PhD in Organic Chemistry at the University of Sydney and subsequently obtained a diploma in environmental studies at the Macquarie University.

Dr Chapman brings over 30 years' experience in the field of ecotoxicology and environmental protection having worked in the New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and its predecessors. During this time, he has been involved in ecotoxicology research, supervision and management and has produced numerous reports and advice in the area of chemicals and the impacts of contamination on the environment. Dr Chapman is currently an Honorary Scientific Fellow with OEH.

Dr Chapman was involved in developing the toxicant guidelines for the Australian & New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC 2000) and is on the team for the current revision of these guidelines. He currently undertakes occasional consulting in ecotoxicology and honorary work with OEH.

1.2.5 Dr Paul Vogel



Dr Paul Vogel was appointed to the NT EPA on 1 January 2016.

Dr Vogel has a PhD in chemistry from the University of Western Australia and has extensive knowledge and experience across a broad range of environmental issues and sustainability, in organisational and regulatory reform and in the delivery of strategic environmental and business outcomes. Dr Vogel was Chairman of Western Australia's Environmental Protection Authority from 2007 – 2015. Dr Vogel was also the inaugural Chief Executive and Chairman of the South Australian Environment Protection Authority from 2002 – 2007 and prior to that held senior executive positions in the Western Australian Departments of the Premier and Cabinet and Environmental Protection.

Dr Vogel is also chairman of a national Cooperative Research Centre on Contamination and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE); a director of the Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) Australian Research Impact Advisory Board and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

1.2.6 Chairperson of the NT Planning Commission, Hon Gary Nairn AO



The Hon Gary Nairn AO is the Chairperson of the Northern Territory Planning Commission.

After a 25 year career as a surveyor in Australia, United Kingdom and Europe, including 13 years as Managing Director of his Darwin based surveying and mapping consultancy, Mr Nairn served as the Federal Member for Eden-Monaro from 1996 to 2007.

During his parliamentary career Mr Nairn was the Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Howard from 2004 to 2006 and Special Minister of State from 2006 to 2007. His responsibilities in these roles included water reform, e-Government, Commonwealth properties, the Australian Electoral Commission and five Government Business Enterprises.

Mr Nairn lived in the Northern Territory from 1980 to 1995 and was involved in the planning, design and survey of many major developments including Palmerston, Cullen Bay, Bayview and Katherine East.

Mr Nairn remains involved in the spatial industry, is chair of the Tasmanian Spatial Information Council (TASSIC) and is the immediate past chairman of the Spatial Industries

Business Association (SIBA). Mr Nairn was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the June 2015 Queens Birthday Honours.



1.3 Relationship with DLPE

Under section 37 of the NT EPA Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment (DLPE) must provide the NT EPA with staff and facilities to enable it to properly exercise its powers and perform its functions.

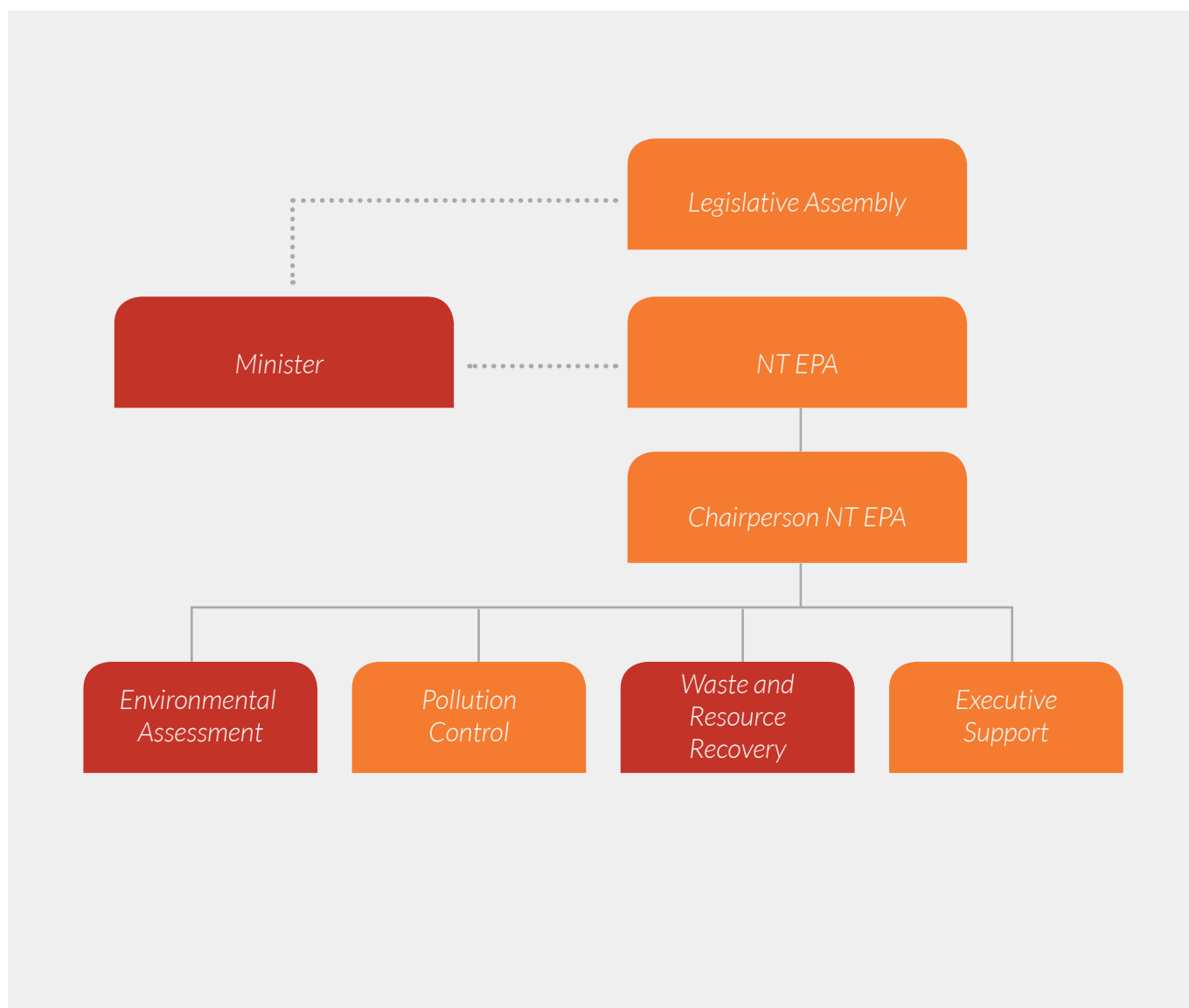
As at 30 June 2016 there were 36 full time equivalent staff working with the NT EPA in accordance with this requirement. The majority of staff were located in the Darwin region. One staff member was based in Alice Springs and one staff member was based interstate.



1.4 NT EPA organisation chart

The NT EPA's organisational structure as at 30 June 2016 is presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1: NT EPA organisation chart



1.5 NT EPA strategic plan

The NT EPA Strategic Plan 2013-16 outlines the NT EPA's key goals:

1. **Address priority environmental issues** to ensure important issues, including environmental legacies, are identified and effectively managed.
2. **Minimise environmental impacts** through improved compliance and enforcement of environmental legislation, assessing potential impacts of proposed development to ensure impacts have been identified and mitigated to an acceptable level and promoting best practice in environmental management.
3. **Engage and inform government, community and business** to enhance understanding of the NT EPA's role, to ensure environmental information is more accessible and easier to understand, and to support public awareness and community involvement in the NT EPA's processes.
4. **Build organisational capability and capacity** to ensure staff have the appropriate competencies and expertise to achieve NT EPA outcomes, and that the NT EPA is a financially accountable and safe work environment.

Information on the NT EPA's achievements in relation to these goals is detailed in this report.

1.6 NT EPA governance

Under the NT EPA Act, the NT EPA is required to meet at least four times a year.

In 2015-16 the NT EPA members formally met eight times (including one teleconference), considered 75 out-of-session papers and attended four site visits. The increased number of meetings is due to an increase in consideration of topical and priority strategic environmental issues.

In early 2016, the NT EPA approved a revised *Strategic Plan 2016-2018* to guide its activities.





2 Goal 1: Address priority environmental issues

2.1 Waste management strategy

2015-16 PRIORITY

Finalise the drafting of a *Northern Territory Waste Strategy*.

COMPLETE

In July 2013 the Minister requested advice on opportunities for improving waste management practices in the Northern Territory from the NT EPA under Part 3 of the NT EPA Act.

The NT EPA subsequently established the Northern Territory Waste Management Advisory Committee (the Committee) under section 11 of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* (WMPC Act) to provide advice to the NT EPA in formulating its response to the Minister.

The Committee comprised representatives from the NT EPA, the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory, various Northern Territory Government agencies, local government and regional councils. Industry members were also consulted throughout the Waste Strategy's development. The final Strategy was provided to the Minister on 31 August 2015.

The Minister's response to the Strategy, as required by section 27 of the NT EPA Act, was provided on 8 June 2016. The Minister endorsed the Strategy as providing a sound basis for the NT EPA to lead operational improvements to waste management practices across the Territory.

The NT EPA has identified five priority management actions to achieve under the Waste Strategy:

1. Landfill waste management, including engagement with Indigenous Land Councils to facilitate approvals required under the WMPC Act
2. Improve waste data collection, monitoring, tracking and analysis
3. Planning for future waste management options
4. Emergency waste management preparedness
5. Improving the waste management regulatory framework.

These are significant undertakings and the NT EPA will take a stepped approach. During 2016-17 the focus will be on developing implementation plans for improving waste management in remote areas, online waste tracking and developing an Emergency Waste Management Strategy.

2016-17 PRIORITIES

Landfill waste management, including engagement with Indigenous Land Councils to facilitate approvals required under the WMPC Act.

Improve waste data collection, monitoring, tracking and analysis.

Emergency waste management preparedness.

To facilitate these activities the NT EPA has been actively engaging with the Big Rivers and Central Australian Waste Management Working Groups to gain a better understanding of the issues facing waste management in remote areas and visiting remote centres to see landfill operations including operations in Jabiru and Gunbalanya.

To facilitate improved waste data collection, monitoring, tracking and analysis, the NT EPA has been busy investigating options for online waste tracking systems, including reviewing systems introduced by New South Wales and South Australia. The NT EPA will engage with industry in the development of an implementation plan for online waste tracking in 2016-17.

The Strategy and the Minister's response are available from <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au>.

2.2 Stormwater Strategy for the Darwin Harbour Region

2016-17 PRIORITY

Implement a Stormwater Strategy for the Darwin Harbour Region.

In 2014-15 the NT EPA finalised its *Stormwater Strategy for the Darwin Harbour Region*. The Strategy provides a basis for improving management of the quality of stormwater entering Darwin Harbour.

In 2015-16 the NT EPA developed an implementation plan to document how the NT EPA and the community can achieve the objectives of the Strategy.

The activities to be achieved within the first six months of the plan included:

- an analysis of the regulatory framework for its contribution to improvements to stormwater quality
- the development of guidance material for the community and industry.

An analysis of the regulatory framework is ongoing. The NT EPA will seek to finalise its analysis of existing legislative offences and their application to point source discharges in 2016-17. The NT EPA will use this analysis to

identify gaps in the stormwater regulatory framework and prepare recommendations to improve it.

To inform development of appropriate guidance material the NT EPA has been conducting inspections of activities that do not require licensing but may pose an environmental risk to stormwater such as building sites, concrete batching facilities and the motor vehicle service industry. The NT EPA will continue to conduct these inspections throughout 2016-17.

During 2015-16, the NT EPA developed stormwater guidance material to assist the building industry as outlined in section 4.4. The NT EPA will seek to engage with industry in the development of guidance material for concrete batching facilities, the vehicle service industry and the crocodile farm industry in the coming year.

The NT EPA has undertaken other stormwater initiatives to improve environmental practices on residential building sites which are discussed later in sections 3.7.3 and 3.7.4 of this report.

2.3 Review of packaged on-site and community waste water treatment systems

2015-16 PRIORITY

Advise the Minister about on site and community waste water treatment and reuse options in the rural and peri urban areas of the Northern Territory.

ONGOING

The Northern Territory's rapid rural and peri urban development has resulted in a demand for alternate methods of treating sewage. These include on site and community scale waste treatment facilities that are less



capital intensive than traditional reticulated sewage systems. This demand, together with concerns as to the potential for these facilities to generate serious health and environmental impacts, has led the NT EPA to initiate a report about the use of these facilities to the Minister under Part 3 of the NT EPA Act.

During 2014-15 the NT EPA commissioned an independent investigation of current and proposed wastewater treatment systems for developments in the Northern Territory's rural and peri urban environments. The investigation also reviewed the regulatory framework for wastewater management in the Northern Territory.

During 2015-16, the NT EPA has, with the assistance of an interdepartmental working group, been developing draft advice to the Minister on sustainable wastewater treatment options in the Northern Territory.

It is expected that the NT EPA's advice will be delivered to the Minister in late 2016 following public consultation. Once complete the report will be available on the NT EPA's website and tabled by the Minister in the Legislative Assembly.

2.4 Seabed mining report

2015-16 PRIORITY

Advise the Minister on the impacts of seabed mining on the environment and other resource industries and methods for managing the impacts of seabed mining.

ONGOING

Seabed mining focusses on exploiting mineral deposits on and under the seabed floor. Seabed mining activities are diverse, ranging from sand mining for beach replenishment, sand mining of mineral sands, dredging for diamonds, to mining of sulphide deposits containing

copper, gold, silver and zinc. Seabed mining can occur in shallow coastal waters or in deep seas.

In response to community concerns about potential seabed mining activities in Northern Territory waters, a three year moratorium on seabed mining was introduced on 6 March 2012.

In May 2012 the then Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage requested the former Environment Protection Authority (former EPA) and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) undertake reviews to inform government consideration of the possible future development and sustainability of the seabed mining industry. In November 2012 the former EPA delivered its *Interim Report: Seabed Mining in the Northern Territory* (available from <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au>).

In 2015 the moratorium was extended for a further three years until 5 March 2018 to allow the NT EPA and the AAPA to complete their reviews.

The NT EPA anticipates completing its report during 2016-17. Once complete the report will be available on the NT EPA's website and tabled by the Minister in the Legislative Assembly.

2.5 Contaminated land management

2015-16 PRIORITY

Review the Northern Territory's approach to contaminated land management.

ONGOING

The NT EPA manages contaminated land under the WMPC Act and in accordance with the *National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999* to ensure that land used for potentially contaminating

activities does not pose a risk to the environment and human health. Some land use activities within the Northern Territory that pose a risk to the environment and human health include bulk fuel storage facilities, waste handling and landfills, defence land, sites with historical asbestos burial and former mango farms/orchards that are being changed to intensive residential use.

2016-17 PRIORITY

Release the Contaminated Land Guideline for public consultation.

2.6 Howard sand plains biodiversity

The NT EPA delivered its *Environmental Quality Report: Biodiversity of the Howard Sand Plains Site of Conservation Significance and Recommendations Concerning Preservation of the Threatened Biodiversity of the Howard Sand Plains Site of Conservation Significance* to the Minister on 30 September 2015.

The Howard sand plains is a site of conservation significance because of its globally significant, species-rich communities of bladderworts (carnivorous plants), and nationally and Territory listed threatened species.

2015-16 PRIORITY

Prepare an environmental quality report and advice for the Minister under Part 3 of the NT EPA Act on the biodiversity of, and threats to, the Howard sand plains.

COMPLETE

The report provides background on the significance and vulnerabilities of the sand plains' biodiversity to disturbance and threats to the biodiversity. It documents the absence of effective ways to restore the biodiversity following impacts of existing threats and documents requirements for preservation of the biodiversity. It reviews five options to establish a protected area which it identifies as the only effective measure to preserve the biodiversity of the sand plains.

The accompanying advice provides information on the existing regulatory framework and its capacity to protect and manage the sand plains. It makes a number of recommendations for the protection of the sand plains' biodiversity and ongoing management.

The report and advice are available from <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au>.

As of 30 June 2016, the Minister's response to the advice had not been received.

2.7 PFAS investigation

2016-17 PRIORITY

Investigate the extent of contamination from the historical use of fire-fighting foams.

Per and poly fluorinated alkyl substances (PFASs) are a group of chemicals that are manufactured for their unique properties in repelling oil, grease and water. They have been used in a range of products, including carpet and cleaning products and fire-fighting foams. The PFAS of concern in fire-fighting foams are perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS).

In September 2015 the Department of Defence and NSW Environment Protection Authority released information



about the discovery of chemical contamination from PFASs in surface water, ground water and fish, around Williamtown Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) base in the Hunter Valley. Further contamination has been identified around the Oakey RAAF base in Queensland and the former Country Fire Authority (CFA) Training College in Fiskville, Victoria.

In February 2016, in response to concerns that PFASs may be detected in waterways abutting the RAAF Base Darwin similar to what has been detected from Defence installations in other jurisdictions, the NT EPA and the Department of Health undertook a joint investigation of some of Darwin's waterways surrounding the RAAF Base Darwin and Darwin International Airport, including Rapid Creek and Ludmilla Creek. The investigation identified some PFOS and PFOA contamination in those waterways.

An interagency working group of relevant government agencies, the Department of Defence, Darwin International Airport and Air Services Australia was established subsequent to the investigation and in response to community concerns.

The working group will implement a co-ordinated approach for a more expanded investigation into the presence of PFASs in water and soils at locations where they may have been used in large quantities. These include airports, firefighting training facilities and some industrial sites.

It is expected that this investigation will take up to 12 months to complete. Information, including the approach, will be released on the NT EPA's website as the investigation progresses. The investigation will allow Government to respond appropriately to any potential health or environmental impacts.

3 Goal 2: Minimise environmental impacts

3.1 Improving the regulatory framework

DLPE is responsible for preparing amendments to legislation administered by the NT EPA in accordance with Government's directions (see Appendix 1). The NT EPA may provide advice to the Minister about, and recommendations for, improvements to its legislation.

3.1.1 *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act* amendments

2015-16 PRIORITY

Implement changes to the EP(BC&PB) Act to increase efficiencies.

ONGOING

The *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act* (EP(BC&PB) Act) establishes the Northern Territory's container deposit scheme. The container deposit scheme is an industry run scheme that is regulated by the NT EPA.

In 2013-14 the NT EPA assisted DLPE to review and implement legislative changes to the container deposit scheme. This saw a substantial overhaul of the container deposit scheme to address operational inefficiencies experienced over the first two and a half years of the scheme's operation.

In 2015-16 the NT EPA continued to progress implementation of the amendments. It is expected that implementation of the changes will be finalised during 2016-17.

3.1.2 WMPC Act and Litter Act review

2015-16 PRIORITY

Continue to review the WMPC Act and provide advice to the Minister about the Act under Part 3 of the NT EPA Act.

ONGOING

The WMPC Act is the primary legislation to manage waste and pollution in the Northern Territory. It is supported by topic specific legislation in the *Litter Act*, the *Marine Pollution Act* and the EP(BC&PB) Act.

During 2014-15 the NT EPA developed and released an Issues Paper as the first step in its review of the WMPC Act and the *Litter Act*. The Issues Paper sought comment on a limited number of topics relevant to the management of waste and pollution in the Northern Territory. The NT EPA received 18 submissions on its paper.

During 2015-16, the NT EPA continued to consider improvements to the regulatory framework. The NT EPA will seek to make recommendations to Government on improvements during 2016-17.

3.1.3 Environmental Assessment Act amendments

2015-16 PRIORITY

Continue to support Government in the development of a new *Environmental Assessment Act*.

ONGOING

The *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act) establishes the Northern Territory's environmental impact assessment framework. The framework ensures that proposals that may have a significant impact on the environment are appropriately assessed, and that impacts on the environment are avoided or mitigated to the extent possible during the design of development proposals. It assists regulatory authorities to identify appropriate conditions to manage the environmental impacts of proposals as they are implemented.

In early 2015, the Government engaged Dr Allan Hawke AC to undertake a review of the Territory's environmental assessment and approvals system. It released Dr Hawke's report, *Review of the Northern Territory's Environmental Assessment and Approvals Process* (Review), and its Response to the Review in late 2015.

The Minister sought advice from the NT EPA under Part 3 of the NT EPA Act, concerning Dr Hawke's Review.

The Minister specifically sought comment on:

- each of the Review's 22 recommendations
- 'a model for a single environmental approval as envisaged in the Review, that is appropriate for the Northern Territory, and including options for a process to implement the model'; and
- a process for transition from a sectoral environmental approval to a single environmental approval.

A *single environmental approval* involves an environmental approval by the Minister for the Environment following environmental impact assessment by the NT EPA. The Review viewed a single environmental approval (the Review's Option 2) as the 'aspirational regime' for environmental management that might be implemented following temporary implementation of a sectoral environmental approval option (the Review's Option 3).

The *sectoral environmental approval* involves environmental approvals by sectoral agencies (when the Environment



Minister has accredited them to do so), along with an environmental approval by the Environment Minister for projects not subject to an accredited sectoral approval. The Review recommended adoption of the sectoral environmental approval.

The NT EPA's draft advice is expected to be released for public comment during September 2016.

3.2 Environmental assessment

CORE BUSINESS

Undertake environmental assessments.

3.2.1 Assessments

The NT EPA received notice of 48 projects for consideration under the EA Act during 2015-16 (Figure 2). The NT EPA decided that nine projects required assessment at the level of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Six of these projects also required assessment under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). No projects were determined to require assessment at the level of a Public Environmental Report. The NT EPA decided that 28 projects did not require assessment during 2015-16 and the remaining decisions will be carried over to future reporting periods. Decisions made under the EA Act are detailed in Appendix 2.

The NT EPA prepares Terms of Reference, initially as a draft for public consultation, to define the matters relating to the environment which the proponent is required to address in the EIS. During 2015-16 the NT EPA advertised for public comment, finalised and issued to the proponent Terms of Reference for seven projects, including two projects for which the decision to require an EIS was made in 2014-15.

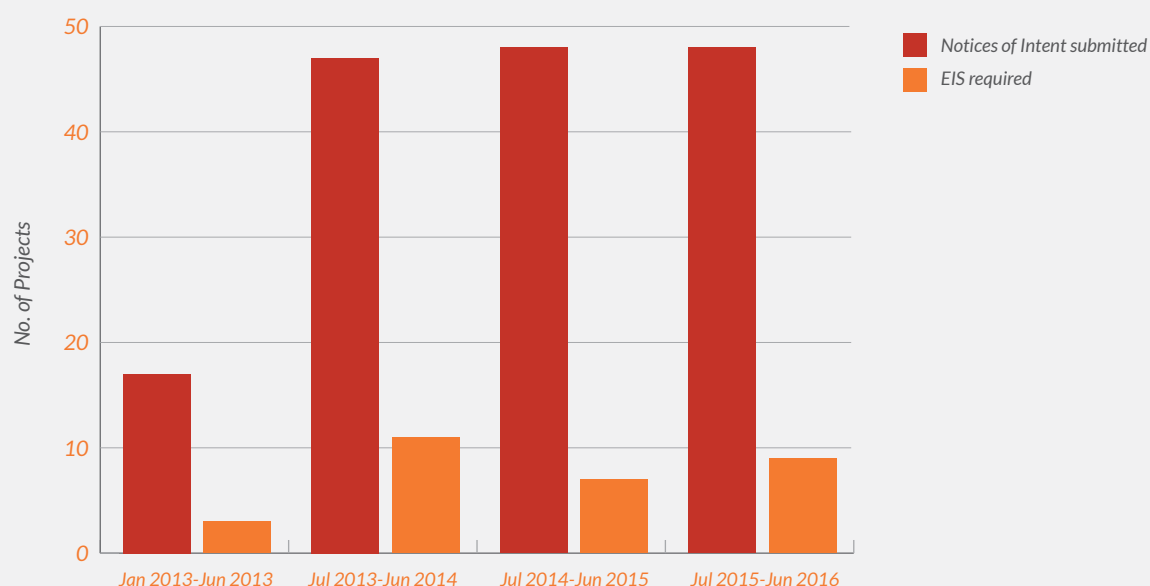
As at 30 June 2016, there were 15 projects for which proponents were preparing an EIS based on Terms of Reference issued by the NT EPA. At the same time, the NT EPA was developing Terms of Reference for two projects and reviewing two EISs.

Once assessment of the EIS and any supplementary information is complete, the NT EPA publishes an Assessment Report which summarises the findings of the environmental impact assessment process and provides recommendations for matters to be addressed in environmental management procedures and approval conditions. Assessment Reports for the following projects were completed in 2015-16:

- Wellard Rural Exports – Live Cattle Export Facility (Livingstone)
- Groote Eylandt Mining Company – Eastern Leases Project.



Figure 2: Projects assessed under the Environmental Assessment Act



3.3 Approvals and licences

CORE BUSINESS

Administer approvals and licences.

The NT EPA issues and administers licences and approvals under the WMPC Act and the EP(BC&PB) Act (see Figures 3 and 4). The Chairperson holds a delegation from the Controller of Water Resources to issue and administer waste discharge licences (WDLs) under the *Water Act*.

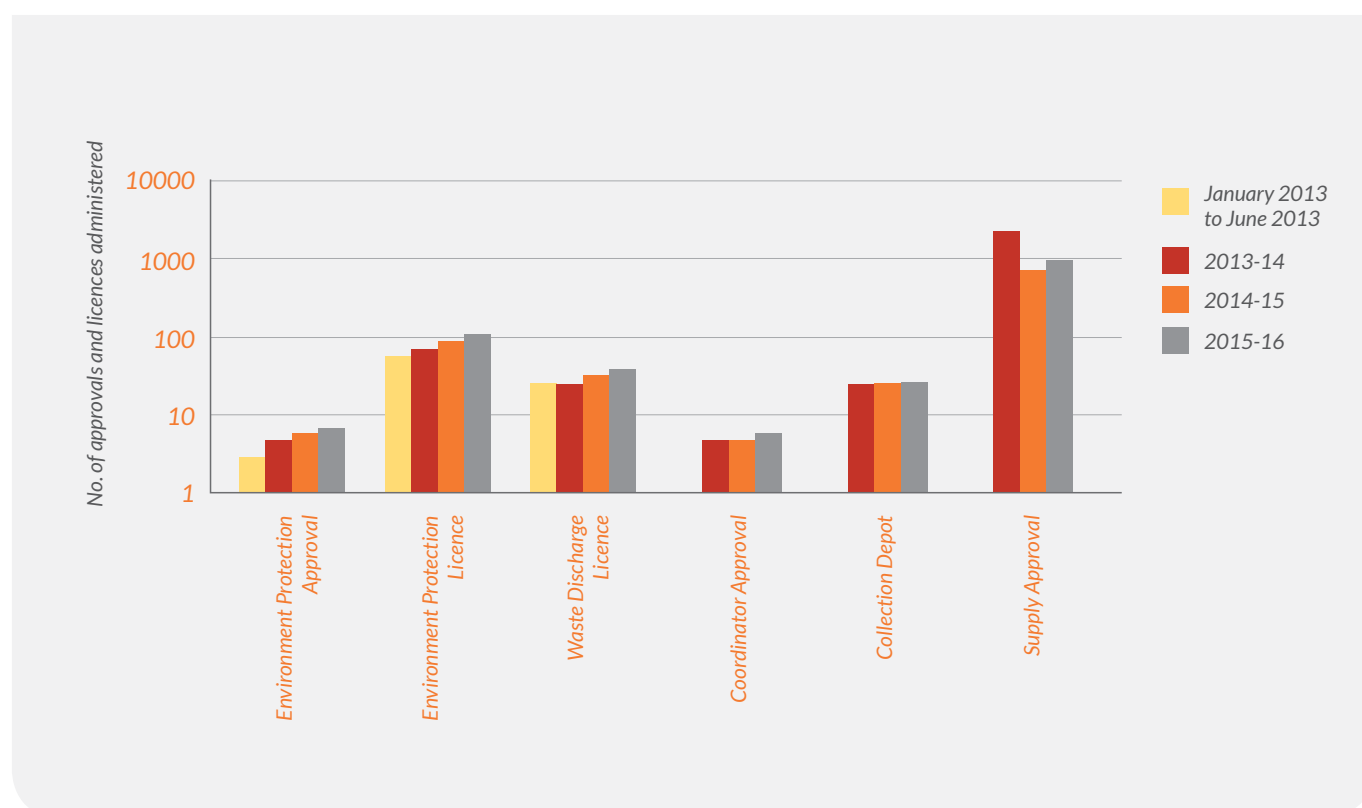
During 2015-16 the NT EPA issued:

- three new Environment Protection Approvals and 23 new Environment Protection Licences under the WMPC Act
- one container deposit scheme (CDS) coordinator approval, nine CDS collection depot approvals and 215 CDS supply approvals under the EP(BC&PB) Act.

In addition, the Chairperson issued 13 new WDLs in accordance with his delegation under the *Water Act*.



Figure 3: Approvals and licences administered



Note for Figure 3: EP(BC&PB) Act supply approvals data for 2012-13 approvals are not reliable and have not been included.

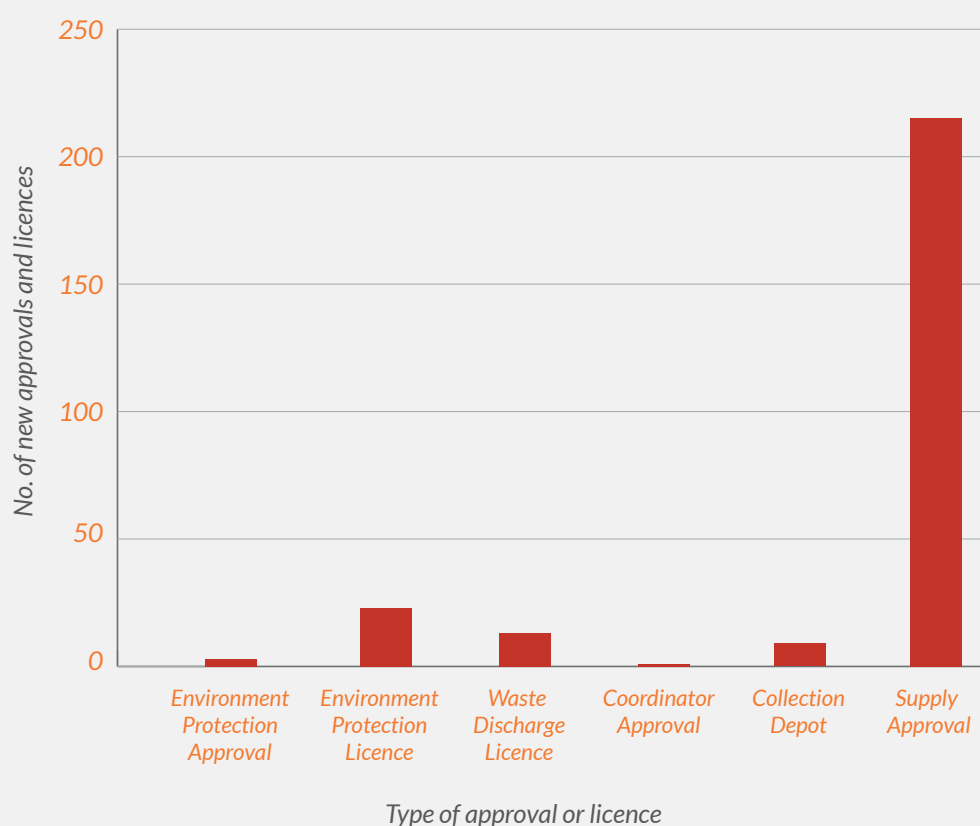
A substantial number of licence amendments and renewals were made throughout the year to existing licences.

For a full list of new approvals and licences issued under the WMPC Act and Water Act in 2015-16 see Appendix 3. Details of approvals issued under the EP(BC&PB) Act are contained in the annual report published by the NT EPA under that Act.

Current environment protection approvals and licences and waste discharge licences are available from <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au>.



Figure 4: New approvals and licences issued during 2015-16



3.3.1 Regulating remote sewage treatment plants

2015-16 PRIORITY

Finalise WDLs for all remote community Sewage Treatment Plants

ONGOING

The NT EPA has supported Indigenous Essential Services Pty Ltd (acting on behalf of the Power and Water Corporation) to complete risk assessments of sewage

management facilities across 72 remote communities. It included assessment of 56 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). Twenty-eight STPs were identified as discharging to waterways and requiring a WDL under the *Water Act*.

During the 2015-16 reporting period the Chairperson issued WDLs for the STP discharges from 18 of the 28 remote communities. It is expected that the remaining 10 STPs without a WDL will be issued by the first quarter of 2016-17. A risk assessment process will then be undertaken to determine if any of the 28 remaining remote STPs will require WDLs.



2016-17 PRIORITY

Conduct a risk analysis of remote sewage treatment plants (STPs) to determine whether WDLs are required for the remaining remote treatment plants.

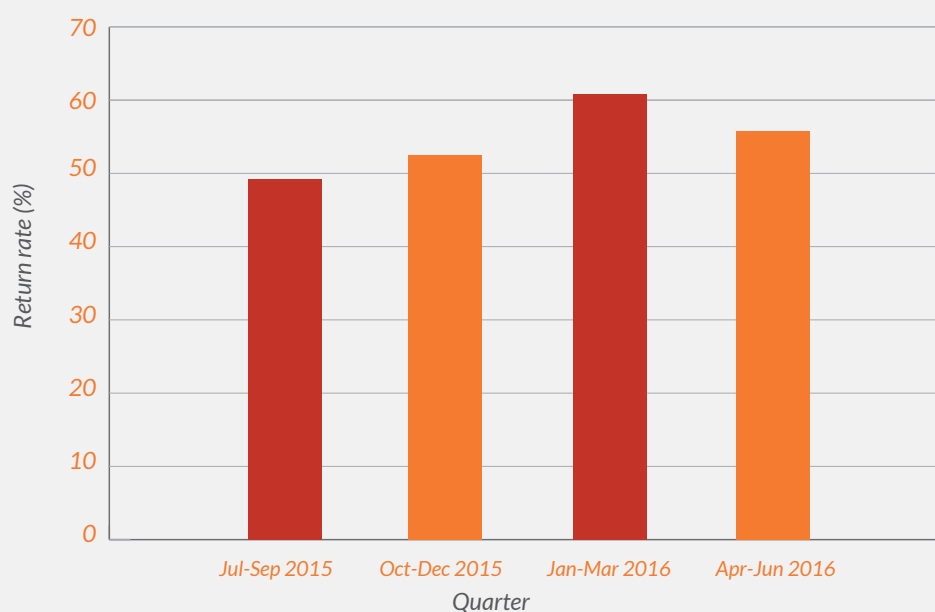
Issuing of WDLs for identified discharges to waterways will provide better monitoring and assessment of any environmental impact with a key driver being improved environmental performance overall for remote communities.

3.4 Container deposit scheme

During 2015-16, 151 153 382 approved containers were sold in the Northern Territory. Of the containers sold, 81 939 191 were returned¹ to container deposit scheme (CDS) coordinators. An overall return rate of 54.21% was achieved for 2015-16.

Figure 5 indicates an increasing trend in quarterly return rates during 2015-16 from 49.18% in the July to September 2015 quarter to 55.79% in the April to June 2016 quarter with the return rate peaking at 60.88% in the January to March 2016 quarter. The January to March peak is most likely a result of less than average container sales into the Territory during that quarter.

Figure 5: 2015-16 quarterly container return rate (%)



¹ Containers returned by a collection depot to a coordinator and available for reuse and recycling.

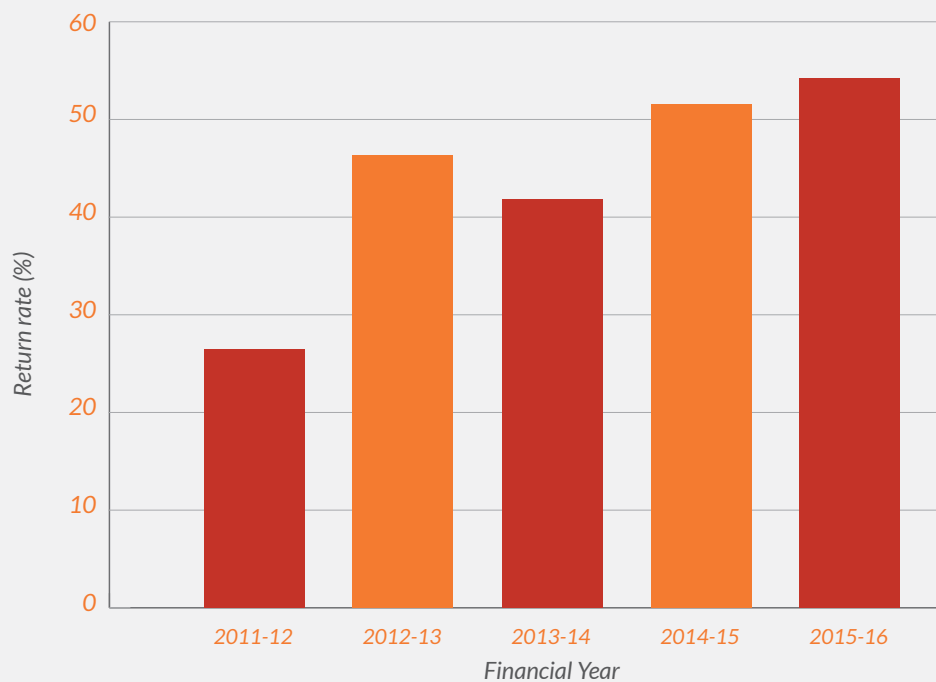
A total of 83 633 947 containers were redeemed² at collection depots during 2015-16. 61 870 006 containers were redeemed in the Darwin Region (73.98%) and 21 763 941 in areas outside of Darwin (26.02%).

This equates to over \$8.3 million in deposits that have been paid out to families, schools, communities, organisations and commercial operators in the Northern Territory.

Figure 6 indicates an increasing trend in annual return rates from commencement of the scheme.



Figure 6: Annual return rate since CDS commenced in 2012 (%)



² Not all containers redeemed at a collection depot are returned to a coordinator in the same reporting period in which they are redeemed.



The NT EPA prepares an annual report on the administration of the EP(BC&PB) Act each year. These reports are available from <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au>.

2016-17 PRIORITY

Expand community access to the container deposit scheme in remote areas.

3.5 Managing noise

2015-16 PRIORITY

Review the Northern Territory's approach to the management of noise.

ONGOING

During the reporting period, the NT EPA continued to develop a guideline on noise emissions in the Northern Territory to:

- provide clarity around which agency regulates which type of noise
- specify recommended limits for noise emissions for different land use zones and specific noisy activities.

2016-17 PRIORITY

Release the noise emissions guideline for public consultation.

Undertake public consultation to inform advice to the Minister regarding future management of noise in the Northern Territory.

It is anticipated that the noise guideline will be released for public consultation during the first quarter of 2016-17.

The NT EPA also determined to provide advice to the Minister about the development of an Environment Protection Objective (EPO) under the WMPC Act to regulate noise in the Northern Territory.

Significant progress has been made on the draft advice in the reporting period, including the development of a noise issues paper. It is anticipated that the issues paper will be released for public comment in the second quarter of 2016-17.

3.6 Addressing air quality

3.6.1 Review of air emissions

2015-16 PRIORITY

Develop and implement a new approach to the management of emissions to air.

ONGOING

The NT EPA is continuing to review requirements for an air regulatory framework to manage emissions into the air environment. Current activities have focussed on the development of a guideline to inform and advise industry and the public on the range of air related issues relevant to the Northern Territory.

This guideline will cover issues such as the management of industrial point source pollution, diffuse source air pollutants, odour, air dispersion modelling, air monitoring and standards to be applied in the Northern Territory. It is anticipated that the guideline will be released for public consultation in the third quarter of 2016-17.

2016-17 PRIORITY

Release the noise emissions guideline for public consultation.

Undertake public consultation to inform advice to the Minister regarding future management of air issues in the Northern Territory.

3.6.2 Ambient air quality monitoring in Darwin and Palmerston

There are two ambient air quality monitoring stations in the Darwin region as part of the Territory's commitments under the *National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure* (AAQ NEPM). The first station is located

at the Bureau of Meteorology site in Winnellie and has operated since 2013. The second station is located near Palmerston and has operated since 2012.

There is evidence to conclude that long term and short term exposure from particulate matter (PM) is associated with health effects. Monitoring provides information on the health of the air environment to the general public and assists policy makers and regulators in devising strategies and measures that improve air quality in the Darwin region so that it remains at a suitable standard for public health.

Figures 7 and 8 show PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} data from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 for both stations. The significant impact of prescribed burning and wild fires on Top End air quality is evident in the elevated levels of particulate matter at both stations during the months of the Dry season.

Figure 7: Palmerston air monitoring results 2015-16

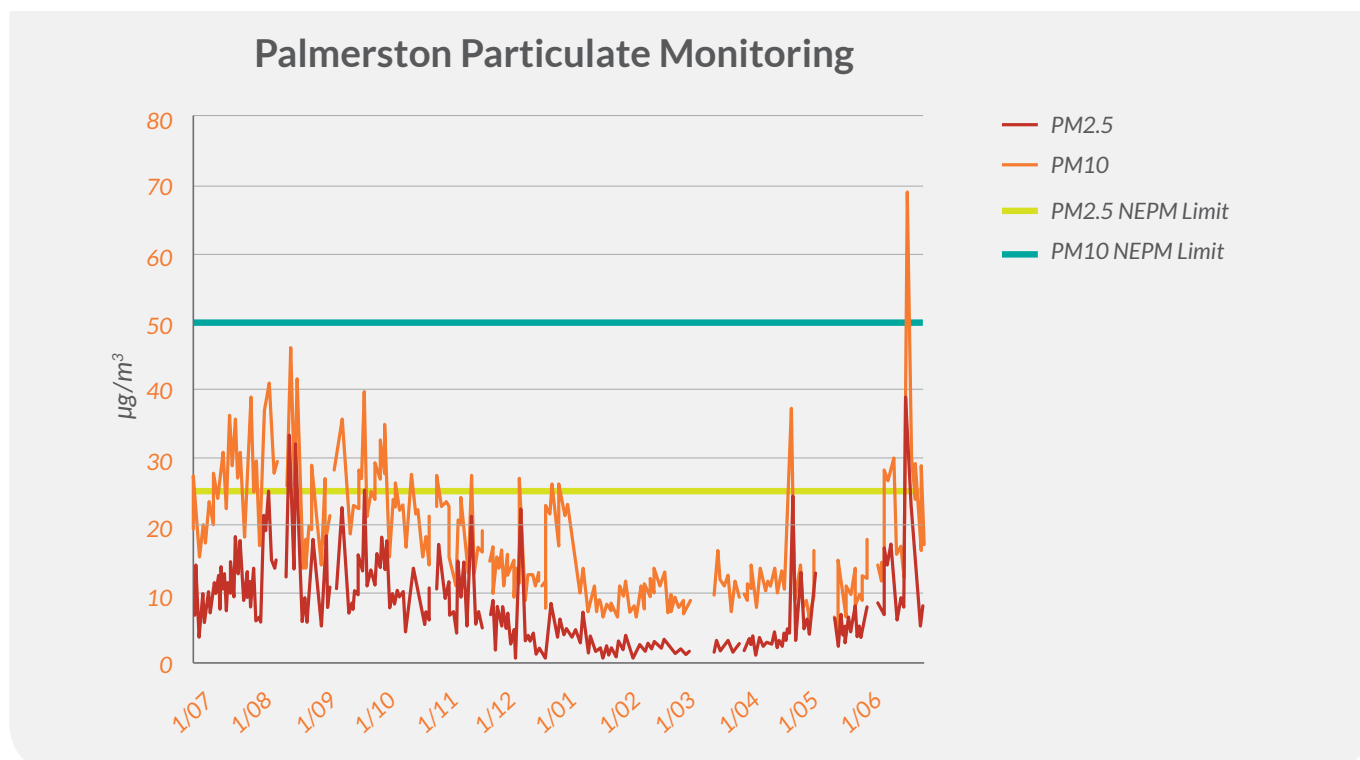




Figure 8: Winnellie air monitoring results 2015-16

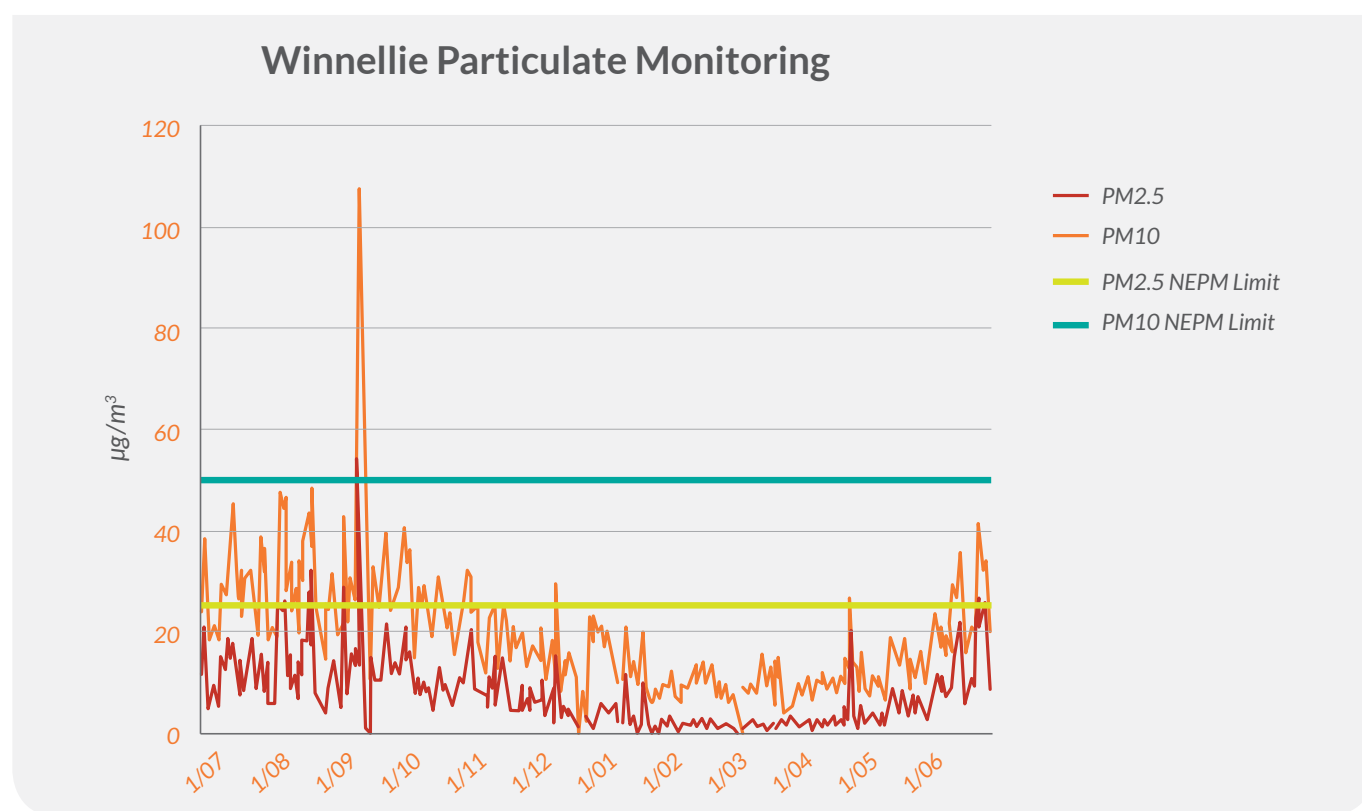


Table 1 shows the number of exceedances of the AAQ NEPM particulate standards at both stations in financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16. Both years had a below average number of exceedances and air quality in the Darwin region was generally good over the 2015-16 period.

Table 1: Exceedances of AAQ NEPM Standards

	Palmerston (2014-15)	Palmerston (2015-16)	Winnellie (2014-15)	Winnellie (2015-16)
PM _{2.5} ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	11	5	12	5
PM ₁₀ ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	3	1	6	1

3.6.3 New ambient air quality monitoring station for Darwin CBD

With the addition of a second Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility within line of site of the Darwin central business district (CBD) and the ongoing development in the greater Darwin area, the NT EPA considers it necessary to improve understanding of air quality in the Darwin CBD and surrounds.

2016-17 PRIORITY

Install a new ambient air quality monitoring station near Stokes Hill Wharf.

In late 2015-16, the INPEX Ichthys Project provided support for the purchase, installation and operation of an AAQ NEPM compliant ambient air quality monitoring station near Stokes Hill Wharf. Data from the station will be transmitted to the Territory's air quality monitoring network for analysis and subsequent public display via the NT EPA's website.

The new station will be integrated with the two existing monitoring stations and will provide more surety and transparency on the quality of the air for residents living in the CBD. It is expected that the station will be online by the end of October 2016.

3.6.4 Air quality monitoring at McArthur River Mine

In October 2014, McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd (MRM) was issued with a notice to carry out an environmental audit program to ensure accurate and appropriate evaluation and reporting of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) from the Northern Overburden Emplacement Facility (NOEF) and identify if there were impacts beyond the mine site

boundary. The notice was issued in response to community reports that SO₂ was being emitted from the mine site.

A second notice was issued in April 2015 to reflect changes to timeframes imposed on MRM.

MRM commissioned two ambient air quality monitoring stations to monitor SO₂ in late June 2015. These stations are located at Borroloola and Devils Spring; two populations that were identified as possible receptors of SO₂ emissions from the mine site.

During 2015-16 MRM provided monthly monitoring reports for the two monitoring stations. MRM also provided 12 monthly reports which summarised the SO₂ air quality detected at the air monitoring stations. All reports submitted by MRM indicate SO₂ levels did not exceed the AAQ NEPM for SO₂ at either Borroloola or Devils Spring.

While monitoring was formally scheduled to finish in June 2016, MRM agreed to continue the monitoring at both Borroloola and Devils Spring until August 2016. The final monitoring reports are expected in October 2016.

In addition, MRM has agreed to install a permanent SO₂ ambient air quality monitoring station near the boundary of its mine lease. This will allow for the early detection and notification of elevated levels of SO₂ leaving the site.

3.6.5 National Pollutant Inventory (NPI)

The Northern Territory is a signatory to the *National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Measure 1998* (NPI NEPM). The NPI NEPM provides the framework for the development and establishment of the NPI, which is an internet database designed to provide publicly available information on the types and amounts of certain substances emitted to air, land and water environments. The goals of the NPI are to:



- collect a broad base of information on emissions and transfers of substances
- disseminate the information collected to all sectors of the community in a useful, accessible and understandable form.

The Northern Territory has 110 facilities reporting to the NPI. Together, these facilities emit or handle the majority of polluting substances in the Northern Territory. NPI reports provide the community, industry and government with information about substance emissions including usage and emission estimates for 93 toxic substances and the source and location of these emissions. Facilities reporting to the NPI include mines, sewage treatment plants, gas processing plants, galvanising plants and power stations.

The most commonly reported substances in the Darwin region during 2015-16 were total volatile organic compounds (TVOC), benzene, toluene, xylenes and carbon monoxide. These substances were also the most commonly reported in 2014-15.

Data collected by the NPI are available on the NPI website: www.npi.gov.au.

3.7 Compliance and enforcement actions

CORE BUSINESS

Undertake compliance and enforcement activities.

3.7.1 Compliance and enforcement planning

2014-15 PRIORITY

Develop and implement a two year Compliance Plan

COMPLETE

In 2014-15 the NT EPA developed its first *Annual Compliance Activity Plan* and implementation schedule. Monitoring of planned activities commenced in January 2015 and continued through to 30 June 2016.

The plan details anticipated compliance and enforcement activities under the WMPC Act, the *Water Act* and the EP(BC&PB)Act. Targeted goals were set to measure activities including strategic projects, compliance maintenance and pollution response.

3.7.2 Compliance and enforcement statistics

In conjunction with the *Annual Compliance Activity Plan*, the NT EPA's *Compliance and Enforcement Policy* expresses the NT EPA's commitment to undertaking its regulatory role and the principles it follows when conducting compliance or enforcement activities. The Policy is available from <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au>.

A range of compliance actions took place as a result of increased focus on long standing, unresolved issues and problem premises. The campaign to address activities in major housing construction areas such as erosion and sediment control on development sites resulted in an increase in authorised officer activities throughout the reporting period.

A more strategic approach to compliance and enforcement and an improvement in the training of authorised officers has resulted in a number of measures being implemented to improve compliance and communication with the public and other regulators.

Figure 9 identifies an increase in overall compliance actions in every year since the NT EPA's inception.

Appendix 4 identifies companies or individuals that have been issued multiple Penalty Infringement Notices in the reporting period. The purpose of this list is to provide transparency and accountability of the offenders and to improve environmental performance.

Figure 9: Number of compliance actions by type from 2013-14 to 2015-16

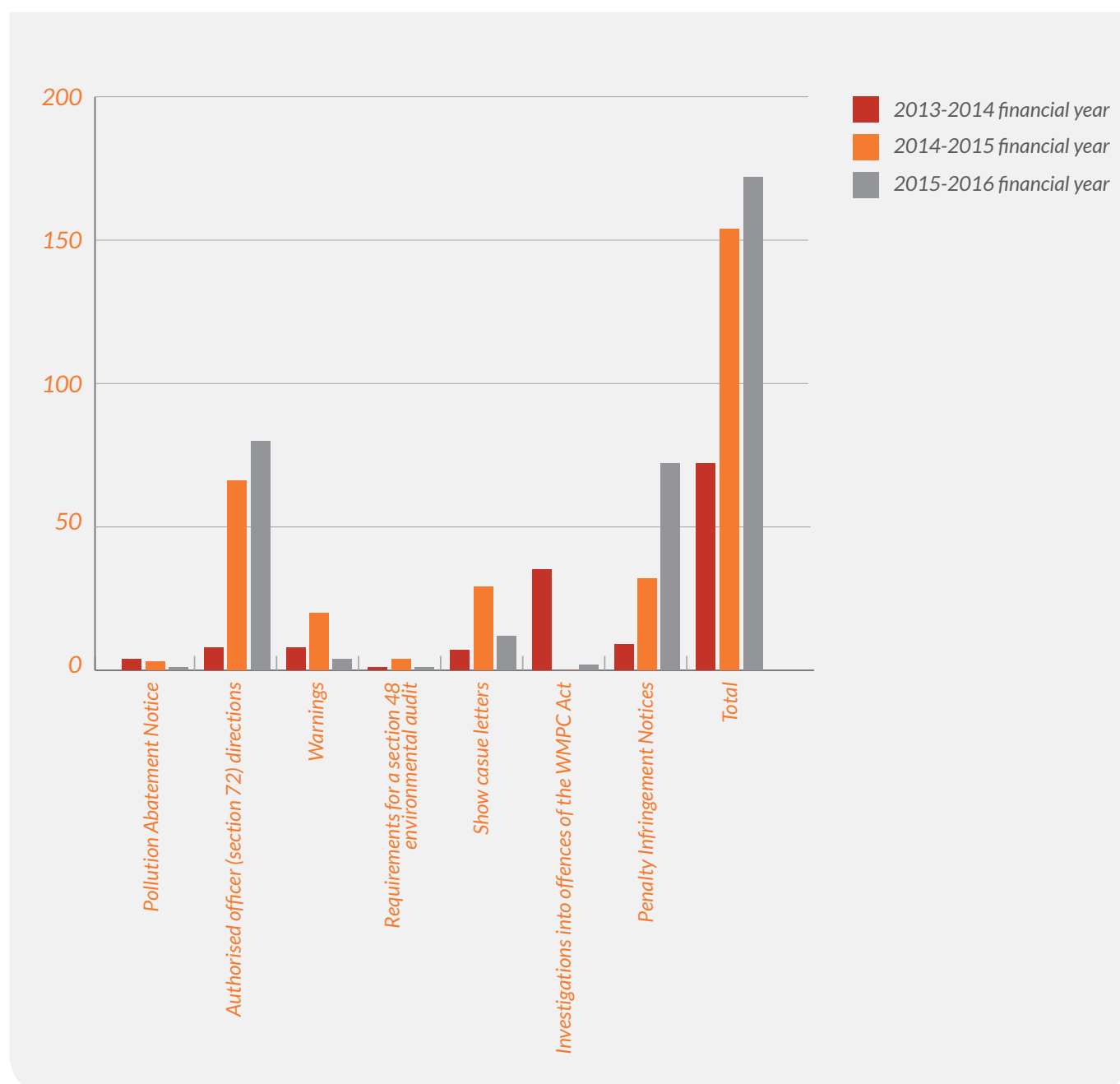




Table 2 identifies an increase each year in the number of infringement notices issued over three reporting periods.

Table 2: Penalty infringement notices by reporting period

Penalty Infringement Notice Type	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Conducting an activity without an Environment Protection Approval or Licence.	1	0	2
Failure to comply with licence condition	5	3	1
Inappropriate storage of contaminant or waste	1	0	5
Failure to comply with Authorised Officer direction	1	22	50
Causing an environmental nuisance	1	7	11
Failure to notify within 24Hrs of incident			3
Total	9	32	72

3.7.3 Stormwater industry campaign

In line with the NT EPA's commitments in the *Darwin Harbour Stormwater Implementation Strategy* the NT EPA has continued to identify industries and activities with known or likely impacts to stormwater. In 2015-16 inspections of a number of sites in the greater Darwin region were undertaken to ascertain current industry practices, which were then evaluated against national, interstate and industry best practice guidelines and procedures.

During late 2015 the concrete production industry and businesses that conduct vehicle or plant washing were targeted for inspections and assessment. Over 30 targeted inspections have been conducted across the Darwin Harbour region.

A key outcome of the inspections was that additional environmental guidance needs to be developed to aid industry to meet their environmental obligations.

As a result, the NT EPA will continue to work with and engage both Territory businesses and wider industry

groups to develop or adopt appropriate industry support material for these and other activities.

The campaign will continue to be rolled out across further industry sectors during 2016-17.

3.7.4 Campaign to improve environmental practices on residential building sites

The 2015-16 Wet season marked the second year of the NT EPA's campaign to improve environmental practices on building sites in the Top End.

A key component of the campaign has been awareness raising and education. In response to requests from the building industry during 2015-16, the NT EPA hosted a workshop on best practice in erosion and sediment control for residential building sites. The workshop was well received and outlined simple measures that could be used to manage sediment and waste leaving building sites.

3.7.5 Prosecution of NT Recycling Solutions Pty Ltd

In 2015-16, NT Recycling Solutions Pty Ltd (NTRS) and its Director were prosecuted by the NT EPA as a result of a discharge from the NTRS licensed premises in Winnellie of a significant quantity of oil, degreasers and other contaminants into the stormwater drainage system and from there into a waterway and Reichardt Creek.

The petroleum hydrocarbon mixture discharged from the premises on 24 March 2014 had the potential to cause harmful impacts to freshwater and marine life, both plant and animal, in the Charles Darwin National Park and beyond into other parts of Darwin Harbour.

The court convicted NTRS of polluting the environment, resulting in material environmental harm (being the potential to have an adverse effect on the environment), and imposed a fine of \$55 440.

The court also convicted and fined the Director \$1000 for storing a contaminant or waste in a manner from which it was reasonably likely to escape and cause environmental harm, and a further \$1000 for not complying with the company's environment protection licence.



3.8 Pollution response

2015-16 PRIORITY

Encourage improved reporting under section 14 of the WMPC Act through industry education and information.

ONGOING

3.8.1 Pollution Incident Notifications

Section 14 of the WMPC Act requires that where an incident occurs in the conduct of an activity and the incident causes, or is threatening or may threaten to cause, pollution resulting in material or serious environmental harm, the person conducting the activity must notify the NT EPA within 24 hours. The NT EPA refers to a report of this nature as a Section 14 Incident Report (Figure 10).

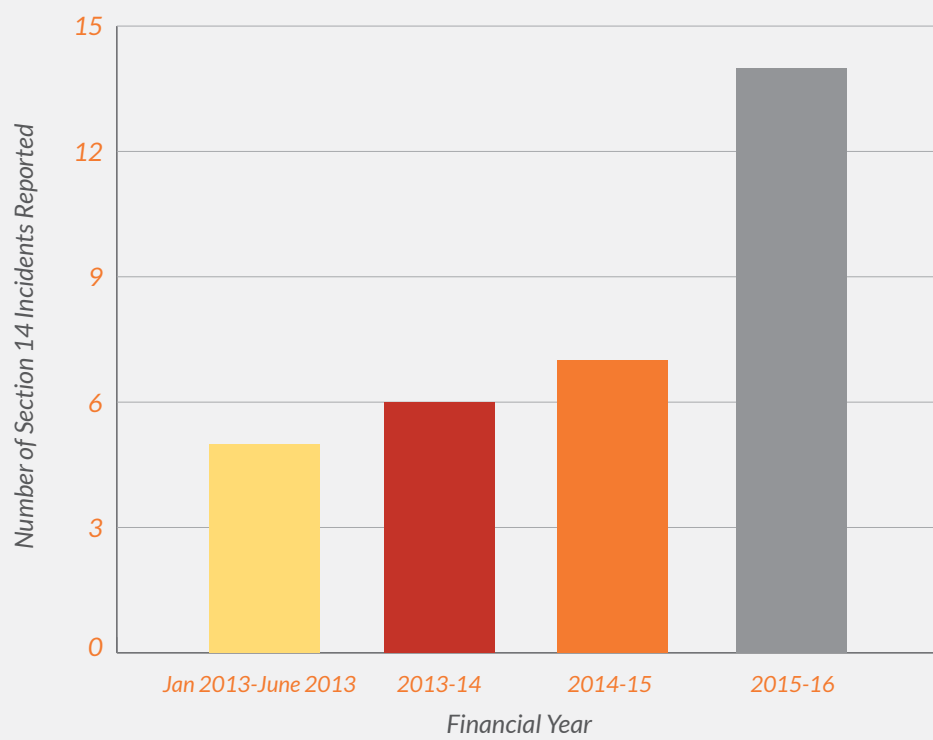
In 2015-16, 14 Incident Reports were received:

- five reports from Power and Water Corporation for pump station overflow at various locations
- Northern Australian Beef Limited (AACo) – burial ground containing listed waste
- Northline Pty Ltd – Nitric acid leak within warehouse
- Mt Todd Mine uncontrolled overflow from site
- four reports from BHP Billiton Manganese Australia (GEMCO) for discharges of stormwater
- Teras Australia Pty Ltd for discharge of leachate into Apsley Straight.
- Cleanaway Darwin discharge of used oil off premises.

Ongoing discussions are taking place with industry regarding their responsibilities under section 14.



Figure 10: Section 14 incidents reported



3.8.2 Pollution reports

The community plays a critical role in identifying environmental offences and is encouraged to report all pollution incidents. To facilitate pollution reporting there are a number of different ways to report. The NT EPA maintains a 24 hour Pollution Hotline as its main method of reporting. In March 2016, the NT EPA introduced an online pollution report form to complement the 24 hour Pollution Hotline. Other methods for reporting include emails, telephone and in person at our NT EPA office.

The total number of reports received in 2015-16 was 811 compared to less than 700 in the previous reporting period.

Figures 11 and 12 illustrate the increased demand for community reporting compared to previous years. Figure 13 provides a breakdown of the methods by which the NT EPA receives pollution reports.

Figure 11: Pollution reports

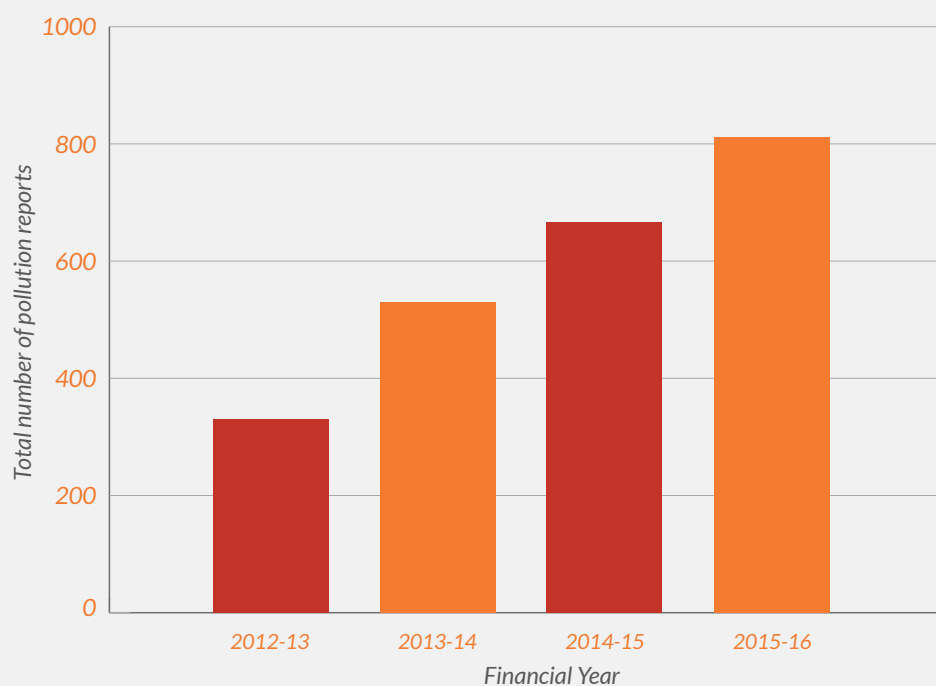




Figure 12: Pollution notifications by type

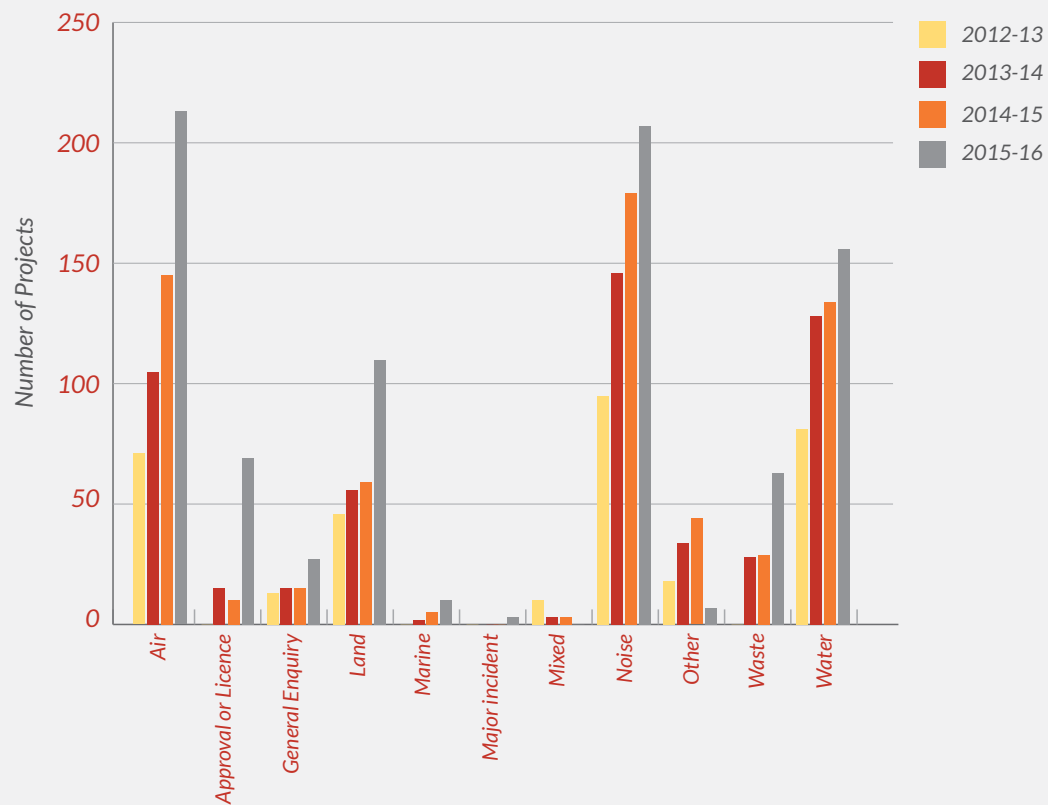
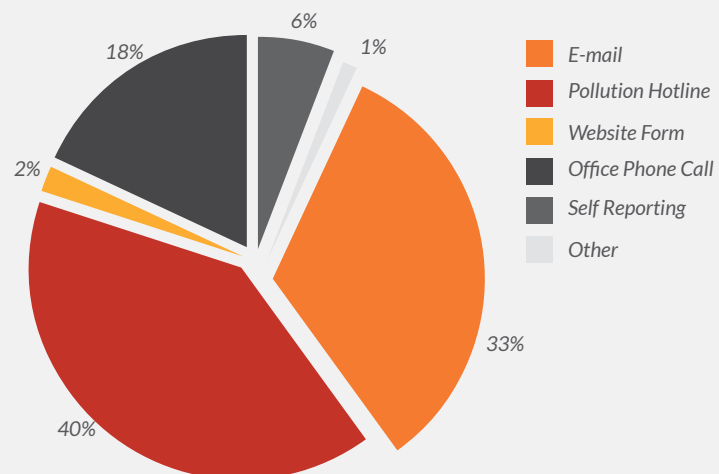


Figure 13: Breakdown of communication reporting methods



4 Goal 3: Engage and inform government, community and business

CORE BUSINESS

Provide advice.

4.1 Engaging with clients and partners

As part of its regular meeting program the NT EPA visits various project and development sites. Site visits provide the NT EPA with a first-hand understanding of the environmental management issues faced by industry in the Northern Territory. 2015-16 visits included:

- Power and Water Corporation Head Office; Howard East Borefield and Darwin River Reservoir
- Nolans Rare Earth Mine, Alice Springs
- Noonamah Ridge Estate, Noonamah
- Alice Springs Town Council landfill, Alice Springs.

At its meetings the NT EPA has met with, and sought briefings from, various stakeholders. The NT EPA received presentations in relation to:

- Government's draft Balanced Environment Strategy by the Department of the Chief Minister
- Dr Hawke's *Review of Environmental Assessment and Approval Processes* by the Department of the Chief Minister
- Proposed Petroleum (Environment) Regulations and Guideline by the Department of Mines and Energy
- Rehabilitation of mine sites by the Department of Mines and Energy
- Environmental assessment reforms by the Minister for the Environment

- Project Sea Dragon by the Seafarms Group.

During 2015-16, the Chairperson made presentations about the NT EPA and its priority projects to industry and community representatives including the Minerals Council of Australia (NT Branch) and Greening Australia.

4.2 Inform government, community and industry

Urbanisation in the territory presents challenges as new proposals impact on existing community living and the environment.

The NT EPA provides expert advice to Development Assessment Services which aims to promote change management in attitudes towards environmental nuisance or pollution and to educate industry on historical contaminating land use.

Officers have provided over 130 recommendations to development applications in the development assessment process over the past year. Recommendations were designed to inform proponents of their environmental responsibilities prior to project approval and implementation.

4.3 Grants

CORE BUSINESS

Administer grants.

The NT EPA provides grants to fund community based projects to help reduce the impacts of waste and



pollution on the environment, and to safeguard the Northern Territory's unique environment. In 2015-16 grants totalling in excess of \$450 000 were issued to 30 organisations.

4.3.1 Container deposit scheme infrastructure grants

The Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grants program has provided funds to community groups and businesses since 2011. It provides assistance in establishing infrastructure for collection depot or collection points within the container deposit scheme. The program aims to support regional and remote areas to further establish the scheme across the Territory. \$76 023 in funding was provided to three organisations in 2015-16.

4.3.2 Environment grants

The Environment Grants program has provided funding to schools and community groups since 2004. The program supports a range of small to medium sized environmental projects.

Funding provided through the 2015-16 program addressed the environmental theme of waste and pollution. \$377 001 in grant funding was provided to 35 projects, comprising six school projects and 29 community projects.

4.4 Developing advisory material

2015-16 PRIORITY

Develop guidelines on environmental assessment and regulation under the WMPC Act and EP(BC&PB) Act to provide greater clarity and transparency to industry and the community, and more effective processes within the NT EPA.

ONGOING

The NT EPA develops guidelines, factsheets and other material to assist the community and industry to understand its policies and processes and to provide certainty to the community and industry.

Since its commencement on 1 January 2013, the NT EPA has prepared a total of 21 different factsheets, guidelines and policies (Table 3).

Table 3: Guidance material

	Pre NT EPA (pre 1 January 2013)	Post NT EPA (post 1 January 2013)	Total
Factsheets	5	5	10
Guidelines	7	20	27
Policies	0	4	4
Total	12	29	41

All material developed by the NT EPA is available from <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au>.

4.4.1 Guidelines developed during 2015-16

The NT EPA prepared eight pieces of guidance material during 2015-16:

- The *Guideline for the Preparation of a Notice of Intent* provides advice on the role of a notice of intent in the environmental impact assessment process and the minimum information requirements for the NT EPA to determine if a proposal requires assessment under the EA Act.
- The *Guidelines to Prevent Pollution from Building Sites* was developed to address the lack of environmental guidance for the building industry in the Northern Territory. This is a first for the Northern Territory and the guideline provides information that the construction and building industry needs to comply with its general environmental responsibilities.
- The *Keeping Our Stormwater Clean* guideline was adopted for the Northern Territory with the consent of the Victorian Environment Protection Authority and Melbourne Water. The guideline is a simple pictorially based and easy to read on the run guide for the building industry. It provides practical advice to the industry with regard to best practice erosion and sediment control measures for their sites.
- The *Guideline – Noise Nuisance from Bird Scaring Devices* was developed to address the increasing number of noise nuisance complaints the NT EPA has received in relation to bird scaring devices (scare guns). The guideline was developed in consultation with the community.
- The *Guideline for Reporting on Environmental Monitoring* was developed to address the monitoring requirements of licensees, approval holders and anyone issued with a formal NT EPA instrument.
- The flow chart *Framework for Contaminated Sites Assessment, Remediation and Audit Involving Planning Applications under the Planning Act in the Northern Territory* was developed to provide assistance to the community, developers, planners and government on how contaminated land is addressed under the Northern Territory planning process.
- A fact sheet, *How to Avoid the Dangers of Accepting Illegal Fill Onto Your Land* was developed to warn the community about the dangers of unwittingly accepting contaminated waste onto their properties and the potential financial and environmental repercussions that this may have on them.
- A fact sheet titled: *Illegal Dumping - What You Need to Know* was developed to address the increasing instances of reports of illegal dumping made to the NT EPA.





5 Goal 4: Build organisational capability and capacity

5.1 NT EPA Online

2015-16 PRIORITY

Continue to develop and implement *NT EPA Online*, an NT EPA customer relationship management system to ensure integrated assessment and regulation of environmental matters.

ONGOING

NT EPA Online continued to grow in 2015-16. Environment protection licence applications and now environment protection approval applications can all be completed using this online application system.

NT EPA online provides a single point of entry for developers and businesses conducting business within the Northern Territory. Clients are able to submit applications, track the progress of their applications and continue to report on compliance activities within the system. The system allows greater independence for clients, allowing businesses to maintain their own client accounts and to manage multiple licences under one account. The online system has full financial functionality.

Further development of the system is ongoing in a staged consultative process with further modules to include environmental impact assessments and reports, contaminated site information, pollution reporting and online waste tracking.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Legislation administered

The NT EPA has regulatory responsibilities under the following legislation and statutory instruments:

- *Environmental Assessment Act*
- Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures
- Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Objective
- *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act*
- Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Regulations
- *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act*
- *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*
- Waste Management and Pollution Control (Administration) Regulations.

The NT EPA assists DLPE with its responsibilities under the following legislation:

- *Environmental Offences and Penalties Act*
- Environmental Offences and Penalties Regulations
- *Litter Act*
- *Marine Pollution Act*
- Marine Pollution Regulations
- *National Environment Protection Council (Northern Territory) Act*
- *Nuclear Waste, Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Act*
- *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (National Uniform Legislation) Act*.

The Chairperson holds a delegation from the Controller of Water Resources to issue waste discharge licences under the *Water Act*.



Appendix 2: Decisions made under the *Environmental Assessment Act*

Table 4: Decisions that assessment is required at the level of an Environmental Impact Statement in 2015-16

Proponent	Project	Date
Tellus Holdings Ltd	Chandler Facility (14A Variation)	10 May 2016
Tellus Holdings Ltd	East Arm Storage and Transfer Facility (withdrawn)	26 April 2016
Defence Housing Australia	Lee Point Master-Planned Urban Development	18 January 2016
TNG Limited	Darwin Refinery	15 January 2016
All Earth Industries	Darwin Region South (withdrawn)	3 December 2015
McArthur River Mining Pty Ltd	McArthur River Mine - Central West Northern Overburden Emplacement Facility (14A Variation) (withdrawn)	2 December 2015
Jemena Northern Gas Pipeline Pty Ltd	Jemena Northern Gas Pipeline	29 October 2015
Project Sea Dragon Pty Ltd	Project Sea Dragon Stage 1 Legune Grow-out Facility	14 September 2015
APA Group	NT Link (withdrawn)	10 August 2015

Table 5: Decisions that assessment is not required in 2015-16

Proponent	Project	Date
East Arnhem Regional Council	Koolatong River Crossing Upgrade	30 June 2016
Department of Infrastructure	Dundee Boat Ramp Upgrade	24 June 2016
MasterPlan NT	Hidden Valley Subdivision	8 June 2016
NT Barramundi	Barramundi Farm Expansion	8 June 2016
Department of Infrastructure	Ludmilla Creek Catchment Flood Mitigation Works	11 May 2016
Newmont Tanami Pty Ltd	Tanami Exploration Program	15 April 2016
ABM Resources NL	Tanami Exploration Program	15 April 2016
Energy Metals Ltd	Bigrlyi Project	3 March 2016
Ceccon Transport Pty Ltd	Sunday Creek Project	2 March 2016
Innocente Pty Ltd	Sunday Creek Project	23 February 2016
Merchant Commodities	Mini Oil Refinery Project	10 February 2016
All Earth Industries	Darwin Region North Project	10 February 2016
Core Exploration Ltd	Inkheart Project 2015 Mining Management Plan	10 February 2016
Allan King and Sons Construction Pty Ltd	Gunn Point and Koolpinyah Project	10 February 2016
Toll Remote Logistics Pty Ltd	Interim Custom Berthing Facility	3 February 2016
Alan James Birch	ABT One Project	4 December 2015
Ocean Farm Group	Sea Cage Prawn Farm	6 November 2015
Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment	Palmerston Hospital Services and Headworks	4 November 2015
Toll Remote Logistics Pty Ltd	Interim Berthing Facility Alteration	30 October 2015
Mousellis Civil Contractors Pty Ltd	Middle Arm Project	26 October 2015
Allan King and Sons Construction Pty Ltd	Middle Arm Project	26 October 2015
Ezion Offshore Logistics Hub (Tiwi) Pty Ltd	Port Melville	19 October 2015
Incinerwaste Pty Ltd	Clinical and Related Waste Incinerator for the Alice Springs Region	16 October 2015



Pangaea (NT) Pty Ltd	Stimulation and Testing Birdum Creek 1 and Wyworrie 1 - EMP	21 September 2015
Koolpinyah Station Pty Ltd	Pastoral Land Clearing Application	14 September 2015
Tri-star Coal Operations LLC	Pedirka Basin Project	9 September 2015
ABM Resources NL	Twin Bonanza Alteration	27 July 2015
Pangaea (NT) Pty Ltd	2015 Avago Seismic Survey	9 July 2015

Appendix 3: Licences and approval issued

Table 6: New Environment Protection Approvals issued under the WMPC Act in 2015-16

Approval Number	Issued To	Date of Issue
19	Inpex Operations Australia Pty Ltd	29 July 2015
20	Northern Beef Australia Limited	30 October 2015
21	NT Recycling Solutions	25 February 2016

Table 7: New Environment Protection Licences issued under the WMPC Act in 2015-16

Licence Number	Issued To	Type of Activity	Date of Issue
152	McMahon Services Australia	Listed waste collection, storage, treatment, recycling and disposal.	1 July 2015
153	Marshall Power Pty Ltd	Listed waste collection, transport and storage.	27 July 2015
154	JSM Civils Pty Ltd	Listed waste collection and transport.	26 July 2015
155	Patriot Tankers	Listed waste collection and transport.	24 July 2015
156	David Martin T/A The Martin Family Trust	Listed waste collection and transport.	05 November 2015
157	JendeR Services Pty Ltd	Listed waste collection and transport.	12 August 2015
159	Harker Haulage Pty Ltd	Listed waste collection and transport.	12 August 2015
160	GC Cable	Listed waste collection and transport.	19 August 2015
163	Shorrlong Pty Ltd	Listed waste collection and transport.	1 October 2015
164	JJ Richards & Sons Pty Ltd	Listed waste storage.	23 September 2015
165	Enston Pty Ltd	Listed waste collection and transport.	21 October 2015
166	Australian Heavy Logistics	Listed waste collection and transport.	19 October 2015
167	Maitland Contracting (SA) Pty Ltd	Listed waste collection and transport.	14 October 2015
168	NT Recycling Solutions Pty Ltd	Listed waste collection, transport and storage.	16 November 2015
169	Central Australian Driving School	Listed waste collection, transport and storage.	19 October 2015
171	Pipeline Renovations Pty Ltd	Listed waste collection and transport.	5 November 2015
172	John Bedwell Management Pty Limited	Listed waste collection and transport.	30 October 2015
173	Ingkerreke Outstation Resource Service Aboriginal Corporation	Listed waste collection and transport.	18 November 2015
174	Central Desert Regional Council	Listed waste disposal by burial	1 December 2015
176	Australian Enviro Services Pty Limited	Listed waste collection and transport.	14 December 2015
180	Lavery Plumbing Pty Ltd	Listed waste collection and transport.	4 April 2016
181	Toll Energy Logistics Pty Ltd	Listed waste collection, transport and storage.	12 August 2015
184	Charles Mullany	Listed waste collection and transport.	14 June 2016



Table 8: New Waste Discharge Licences issued under the Water Act in 2015-16

Licence Number	Issued To	Date of Issue
210	Darwin Port Corporation - East Arm	1 August 2015
211	JKC Australia LNG Pty Ltd - Ichthys Project Onshore LNG Facility Wickham Point	31 August 2015
212	Territory Generation - Channel Island Power Station	25 November 2015
214	Power and Water Corporation - Barunga WWTP	25 November 2015
215	Power and Water Corporation - Belyuen WWTP	25 November 2015
216	Power and Water Corporation - Gunbalanya WWTP	25 November 2015
217	Power and Water Corporation - Milikapiti WWTP	25 November 2015
218	Power and Water Corporation - Numbulwar WWTP	25 November 2015
219	Power and Water Corporation - Nganmaryanga WWTP	25 November 2015
220	Power and Water Corporation - Peppimenarti WWTP	25 November 2015
221	Power and Water Corporation - Pirlangimpi WWTP	25 November 2015
222	Power and Water Corporation - Warruwi WWTP	25 November 2015
223	Power and Water Corporation - Wurrumiyunga WWTP	25 November 2015

Appendix 4: Offenders issued multiple penalty infringement notices

- Alcan Gove Pty Ltd
- Damian Craig Golding
- Kassiou Constructions Pty Ltd
- Killarney Homes (NT) Pty Ltd
- Manolis Kavouklis Nominees Pty Ltd
- MPN Construction Pty Ltd
- Supreme Homes NT Pty Ltd
- Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd



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