



northern territory  
environment protection authority

ntepa  
2012/2013  
annual report



Copyright Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority  
GPO Box 3675  
Darwin NT 0801  
ntepa@nt.gov.au  
www.ntepa.nt.gov.au  
+61 8 8924 4218

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Dredge



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, NT EPA TO MINISTER

The Hon Peter Chandler MLA  
Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment  
Parliament House DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present you with the annual report of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority for the year ended 30 June 2013 as required under section 33 of the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act* (NT EPA Act).

The report describes the performance of NT EPA's functions during the 2012-2013 financial year. The NT EPA Act commenced on 1 January 2013. This first Annual Report for the NT EPA is for the 6 months to 30 June 2013.

**Bill Freeland**

Chair NT EPA  
Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority  
30 September 2013



West MacDonnell Ranges  
Central Australia

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) was officially established as an independent regulatory authority following the commencement of the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act* (the Act) on 1 January 2013. This event is remarkable in several ways. First it was the fulfilment of a long held wish of Northern Territorians for an independent environmental authority that provided open and accurate advice on environmental matters to the Minister and community, and transparent management of environmental issues without fear or favour. It is remarkable for the support of the Northern Territory Government in facilitating its rapid transition from electoral promise to drafting instructions for legislation, to a draft Bill, passage of the Bill through the Legislative Assembly, assent by the Administrator, appointment of the five NT EPA members and commencement all in only 119 days.

It is also remarkable because of the combinations of duties

it performs. Unlike virtually all other environmental protection authorities its functions encompass all matters from provision of advice on legislative and policy matters, to environmental assessment of development projects and the day to day issues associated with regulation and management of pollution, waste and environmental impacts.

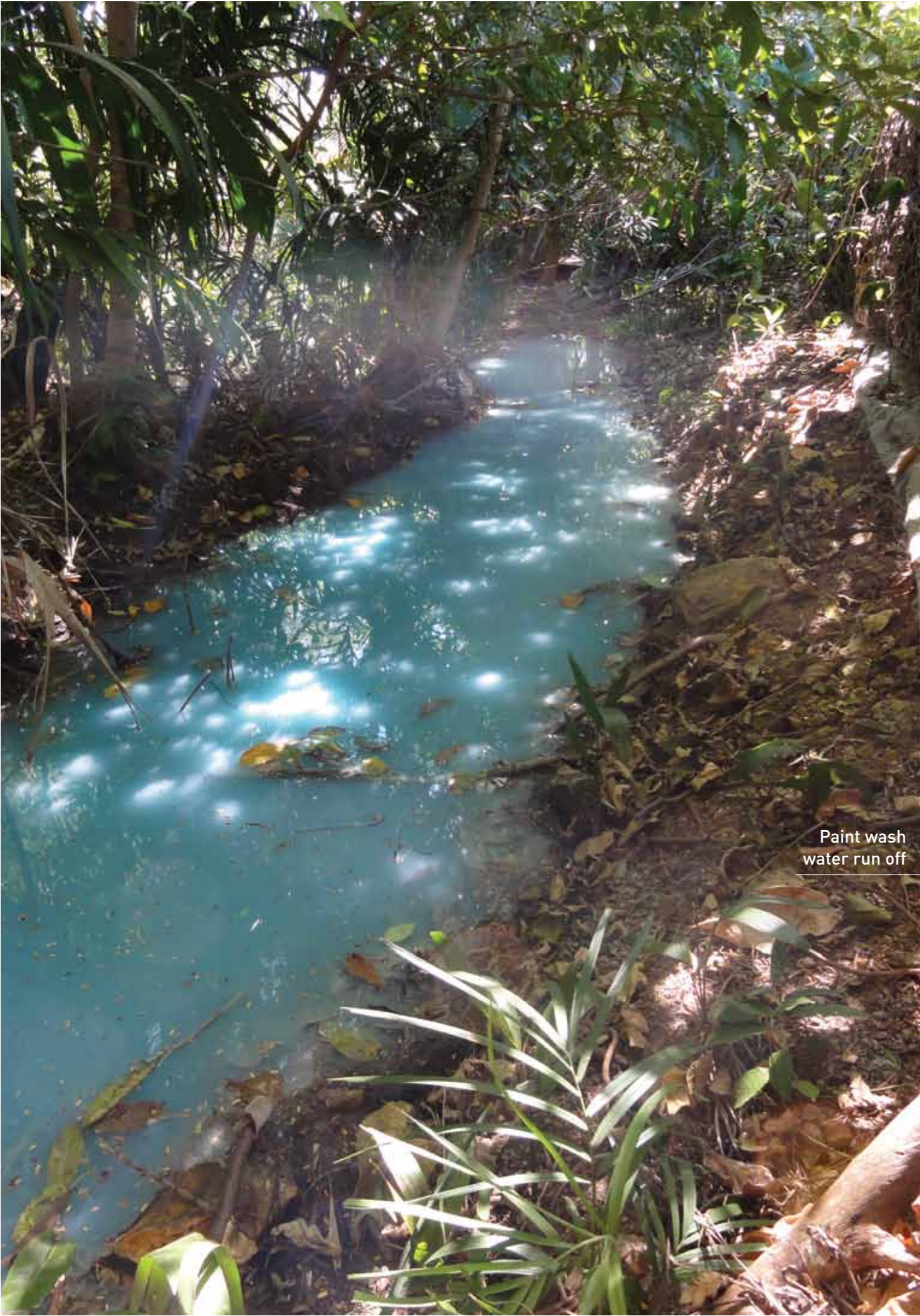
This possibly unique combination of responsibilities could not be performed without the active participation, and experience and knowledge of the NT EPA members. Collectively they provide a wide range of skills and expertise in environmental law, science, environmental management and business. Members are actively involved in formal meetings and site visits, as well as regular out of session agenda papers, and provide robust input and propose improvements. Many issues have been resolved and frameworks and guidelines put in place that clarify environmental issues and requirements and offer solutions to industry, and the community.

Major challenges during the first six months of operation include overcoming the unfortunate difficulties experienced by the container deposit scheme, support for government in the development of major revisions to the *Environmental Assessment Act*, beginning review of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*, building a new NT EPA website to meet the challenges of open communication and transparency in the provision of information, planning a new database to better enable us to serve our clients in business, development of guidelines that provide clarity on factual matters and the requirements of environmental management, and conducting in depth investigations into three environmental matters of significant concern to the community.

Significant matters lie ahead. The reviews and proposed revisions of Acts need to be developed and presented to government and the community. These will prove critical to the NT EPA being able to fully meet community

expectations of a well managed and sustainable environment. The issues of stormwater pollution and management, longstanding concerns as to the status of waste management and recovery in the Northern Territory, and ever increasing demands caused by a growing economy on services in environmental assessment, and pollution and waste management are all challenges the NT EPA will be addressing. Community and business awareness, support and involvement in these processes are critical to ensuring equitable and environmentally appropriate outcomes in these endeavours.

The NT EPA, supported by the essential and seemingly endless energy, enthusiasm and professionalism of its staff, will continue to work with people to solve problems, and with community and industry support, work towards keeping the Territory as unpolluted and clean as it ever was.



Paint wash  
water run off

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Dry paint  
residue

## PART 1 – OVERVIEW

### About 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*. The NT EPA consists of a Chairperson and four members appointed by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, and the Chair of the NT 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.

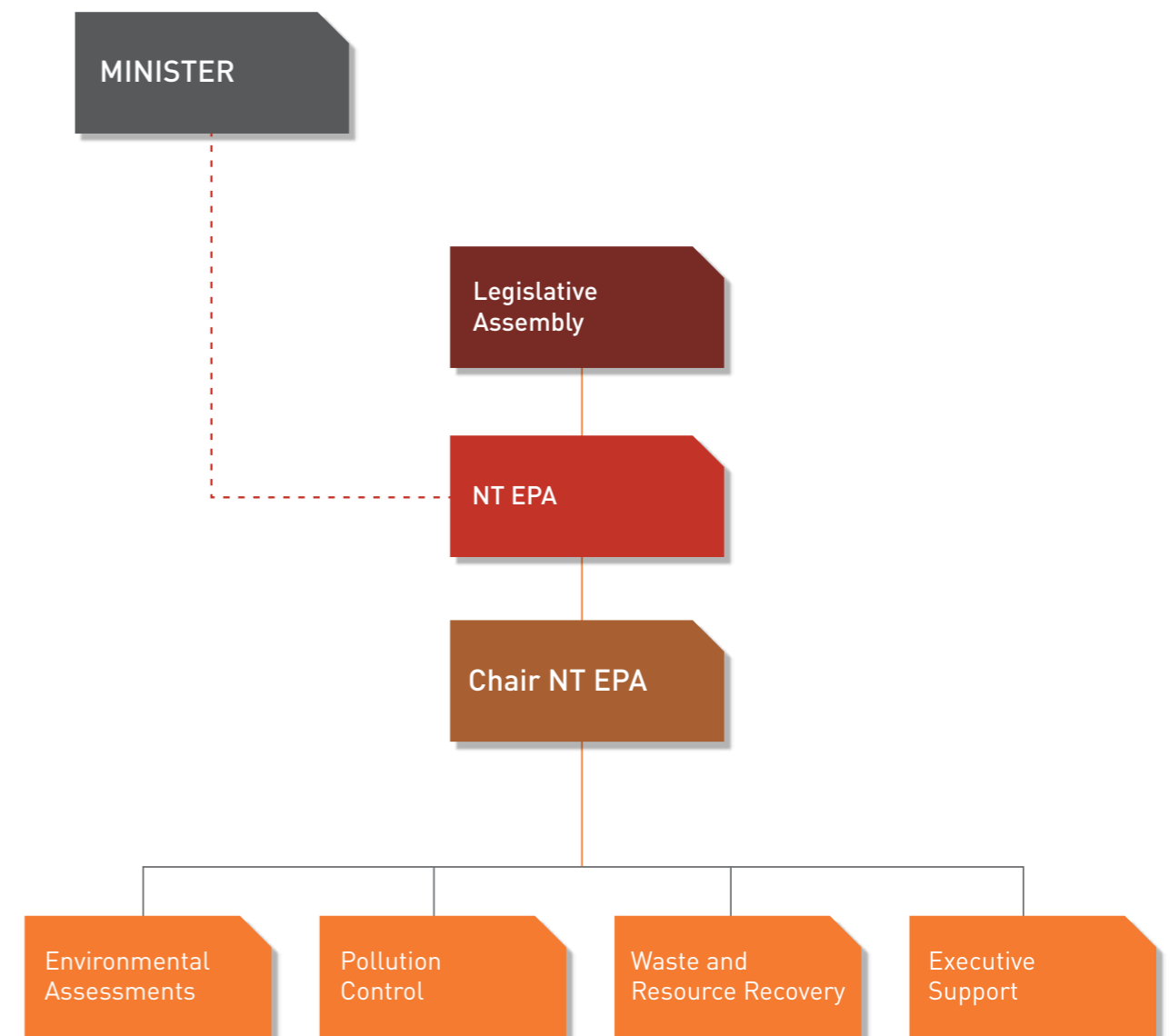
The NT EPA is responsible for providing advice on the environmental impacts of development proposals and policy advice and regulatory services to provide for effective waste management, pollution control and sustainable practices.

### NT EPA Activities

The NT EPA met twice in this period and considered 38 out-of-session papers. The Members agreed to procedures for the operation of the Board. The NT EPA provided 11 new and updated Environmental Guidelines relating the *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* for public comment. The guidelines will promote a contemporary and consistent environmental protection regime for the Territory.

During February 2013 there were public concerns about uncontrolled released of acidic, and possibly toxic waste water from the Mt Todd mine site near Katherine. The NT EPA visited the site to gain a firsthand understanding of the environmental issues on the mine. The visit also provided a solid basis for the NT EPA's consideration and assessment of the Environmental Impact Statement developed for renewal of gold-mining at the site.

### Organisational Chart





## MEMBERS

Membership of the NT EPA.



### Chair 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 was a former Director of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory and Director of Conservation Strategy with the Queensland Government.

Dr Freeland has spent 30 years of his career in the Northern Territory. He has considerable knowledge and understanding of environmental issues in the Territory. Dr Freeland has over 20 years experience in research and management roles with the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory including working with the community.

His experience in the 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 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 over fifty scientific papers and consultancy work in the fields of conservation management, environmental impacts, waste management, ecologically sustainable development and tourism development. Dr Freeland brings a breadth of experience to the position of Chair of the NT EPA.



### Professor David John Williams

After obtaining his initial degree in Civil Engineering from Monash University, Professor David Williams obtained his doctorate in Soil Mechanics at the University of Cambridge.

Professor Williams is currently the Director of the Geotechnical Engineering Centre within the School of Civil Engineering at The University of Queensland. Professor Williams has been based at The University of Queensland for most of his 30-year career, and enjoys an international reputation for applying geotechnical principles to mine waste disposal and mined landform design. He has researched and published extensively in this field and is highly sought for his advice and for peer reviews of operating mines within Australasia and worldwide.



### 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 having worked in the New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage and its predecessors (formerly known as the State Pollution Control Commission, then Environment Protection Authority to Department of Environment and Conservation, to more recently the Office of Environment and Heritage). During this time, he has been involved in research, supervision and management and has produced numerous reports and advice in the area of chemicals and the impacts of contamination on the environment.

John 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.



### 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. She has a strong commercial background as a senior executive in ASX listed industrial companies combined with environmental experience.

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 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.



**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, and was a researcher at various Universities and laboratories in the UK and USA.

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.



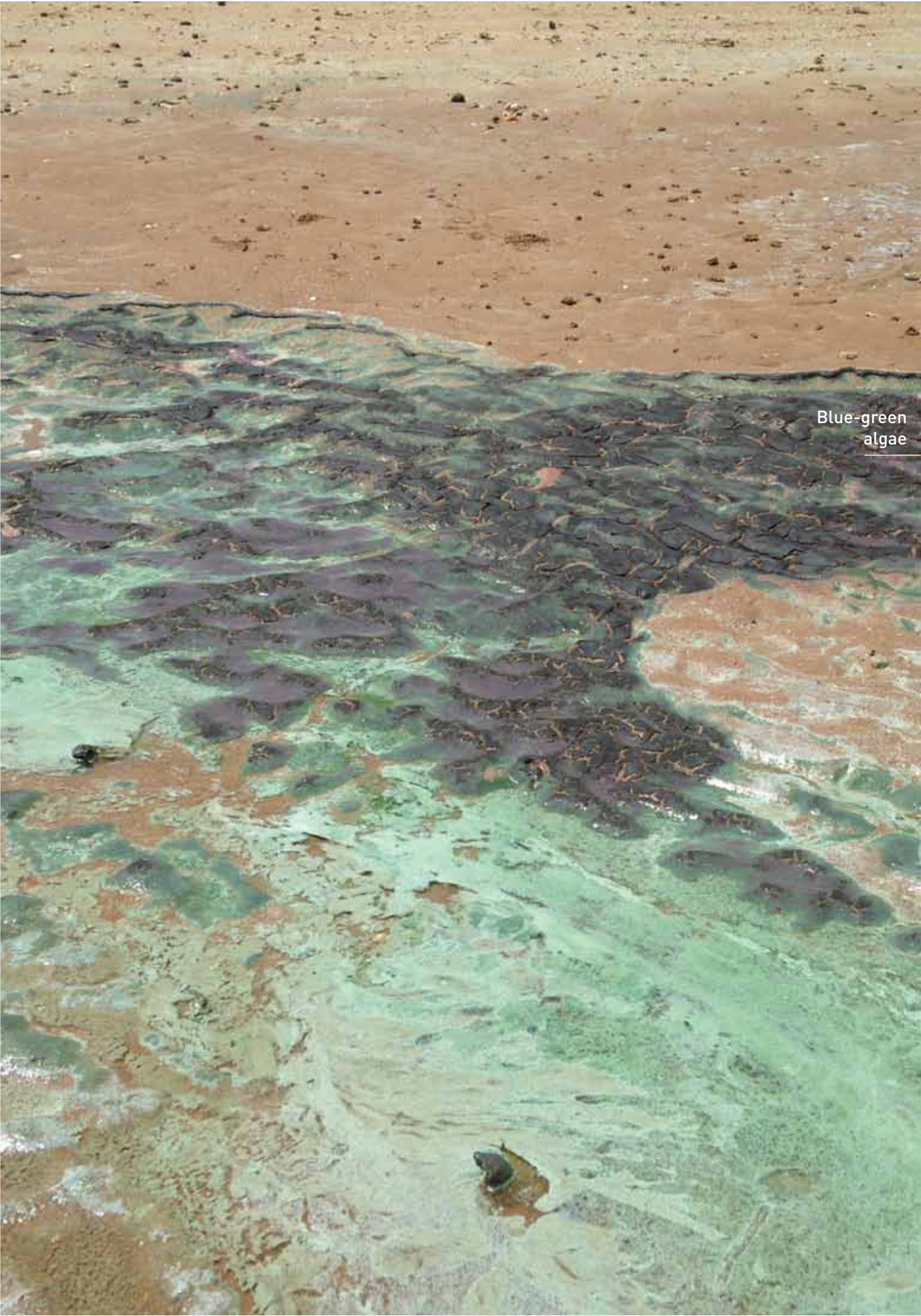
**Chair of the NT Planning Commission, Mr Gary Nairn**

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

Mr Nairn has a background in land surveying and mapping. He currently operates his own consultancy business specialising in business development, spatial information and property matters.

Mr Nairn lived in the Northern Territory for 15 years during the 1980s and 1990s. During this time, he was involved in the planning and design of key developments including Bayview, Palmerston, Cullen Bay and Katherine East.

Mr Nairn served in the Australian Parliament as the Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister John Howard from 2004 to 2006, with responsibility for water reform and the Science, Engineering and Technology Unit. He was the Special Minister of State from 2006 to 2007.



Legislation Administered

- Environmental Assessment Act
- Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures
- Environmental Offences and Penalties Act
- Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Objective
- Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act
- Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Regulations
- Litter Act
- Marine Pollution Act
- Marine Pollution Regulations
- National Environment Protection Council (Northern Territory) Act
- Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act
- Nuclear Waste, Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Act
- Waste Management and Pollution Control Act
- Waste Management and Pollution Control (Administration) Regulations
- Water Act (waste discharge licensing provisions only)
- Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act

Relationship with Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment

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. DLPE provides the NT EPA with support for its corporate functions.





## PART 2: NT EPA OBJECTIVES & FUNCTIONS

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; and
- 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 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 this or any other Act; and
- perform any other functions conferred on it by the NT EPA Act or any other Act.



### Advice and Reports to the Minister under Part 3 of the NT EPA Act

No advice or reports under Part 3 of the NT EPA Act were provided to the Minister during the period 1 January to 30 June 2013.

The following report was prepared by the Environment Division of the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment during establishment of the NT EPA between 1 July and 31 December 2012:

- **Assessment of Harm on Edith River associated with train derailment and wastewater discharges from Mount Todd Gold Mine (27 December 2011 – 5 January 2012), December 2012.**

The following report was progressed under Part 3 of the NT EPA Act:

- **Redbank Mine: Environmental Quality Report**

The NT EPA commenced an investigation into legacy mining issues at Redbank Mine. The NT EPA is preparing an 'Environmental Quality Report' documenting the history of the mine and the results of recent assessment on the mine. Advice to the Minister will focus on providing as complete

a documentation of the mine's history and environmental issues as is possible, and on finding ways to reduce the risk of inadequate mine closure including the role of economic and social impact assessment in future assessments under the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

### Environmental Assessments

#### Projects assessed under the *Environmental Assessment Act*

The NT EPA reviewed 17 Notices of Intent in the period 1 January – 30 June 2013.

During that time period three projects were determined to require assessment at the level of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

- Chandler Salt Mine Project;
- Twin Bonanza 1 Gold Project; and
- Ranger 3 Deeps Uranium Project.

Draft EIS Guidelines for three projects were advertised for public comment, finalised and issued to the proponent:

- Katherine to Gove Gas Pipeline Project;
- Kilimiraka Mineral Sands Project; and

- Sherwin Creek and Hodgson Downs Iron Ore Mine.

Draft EIS Guidelines for the Chandler Salt Mine project were advertised for public comment on 22 June 2013 closing 5 July 2013. Draft EIS Guidelines for the Twin Bonanza 1 Gold Project were advertised on 28 June (closing 12 July 2013).

The Draft EIS for the Katherine to Gove Gas Pipeline Project was made available for public comment from 4 May to 28 June 2013.

No projects were determined to require assessment at the level of a Public Environment Report (PER).

#### Environmental Assessment Guidelines

The NT EPA has prepared a number of Environmental Assessment Guidelines to provide greater clarity and transparency of the environmental assessment process, and to improve efficiencies for developers and the NT EPA. The guidelines were produced in consultation with NT Government agencies, and made available for community consultation until 15 July 2013. The guidelines include:

- Guidelines for the Preparation of an Economic and Social

Impact Assessment;

- Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Marine Dredging in the Northern Territory;
- Guidelines for Environmental Offsets and Associated Approval Conditions;
- Guidelines for Assessment of Impacts on Terrestrial Biodiversity;
- Environmental Assessment Guidelines on Acid and Metalliferous Drainage (AMD);
- Environmental Assessment Guidelines – Development proposals submitted under the *Planning Act*;
- Environmental Assessment Guidelines – Land clearing proposals submitted under the *Pastoral Land Act*;
- Environmental Assessment Guidelines – Mining exploration or production proposals submitted under the *Mining Management Act*; and
- Environmental Assessment Guidelines – Petroleum exploration or production proposals submitted under the *Petroleum Act*.

Management of Waste and Pollution

Environment Protection Approvals and Licences under the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act (WMPC Act)

Environment Protection Approvals and Environment Protection Licences are required for conducting certain activities under the WMPC Act, including disposal of waste by burial (i.e. landfills), handling of listed waste and processing of hydrocarbons to produce liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The NT EPA is responsible for the administration of three Environment Protection Approvals and 60 Environment Protection Licences issued under the WMPC Act. Current Environment Protection Approvals are available on the NT EPA website at: <http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/waste-pollution/approvals-licences/ep-approvals>. Current Environment Protection Licences are available on the NT EPA website at: <http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/waste-pollution/approvals-licences/ep-licences>.

Three new Environment Protection Licences were issued by the

NT EPA since 1 January 2013, including two for the transport of listed waste (Alawa Plumbing Pty Ltd and Mike Excavation Pty Ltd) and one for the treatment of listed waste (Department of Health, Royal Darwin Hospital).

Waste Discharge Licences under Part 7 of the Water Act

Waste discharge licences authorise waste to be discharged to water. The NT EPA is responsible for assessing Waste Discharge Licence applications for approval by the Controller of Water Resources (position currently held by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Land Resource Management) or his/her delegate and for monitoring compliance with waste discharge licence conditions. The NT EPA is responsible for administering 27 waste discharge licences on behalf of the Controller of Water Resources.

Four new waste discharge licences were issued by the NT EPA since 1 January 2013: one to HMAS Coonawarra for the disposal of dredge spoil in Darwin Harbour; one to JKC Australia for discharge from a temporary sewage treatment plant to Darwin Harbour; and two for discharges from mining activities (DAC Enterprises Pty Ltd

and Territory Iron Pty Ltd). Five waste discharge licences were renewed by the NT EPA since 1 January 2013: one to Power and Water Corporation for discharge from the Leanyer Sanderson Waste Water Treatment Facility; and four for discharges from mine sites (Crocodile Gold Australia Operations Brocks Creek and Cosmo Howley Project Area, Crocodile Gold Australia Operations Union Reef Mine, Vista Gold Pty Ltd Mount Todd Mine and McArthur River Mine).

The NT EPA provided advice to the Controller of Water Resources regarding the issue of a waste discharge licence to Vista Gold Australia Pty Ltd (Vista Gold) for discharge from the Mt Todd Mine. Responsibilities for managing the Mt Todd Mine site are established in a 2006 agreement between the NT Government and Vista Gold. Under the agreement the NT Government retains responsibility for rehabilitation of legacy issues while Vista Gold is responsible for water management.

Current waste discharge licences are available at: <http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/waste-pollution/approvals-licences/wd-licences>.



Illegal dumping

Figure 1: Number of Current Approvals and Licences at 30 June 2013

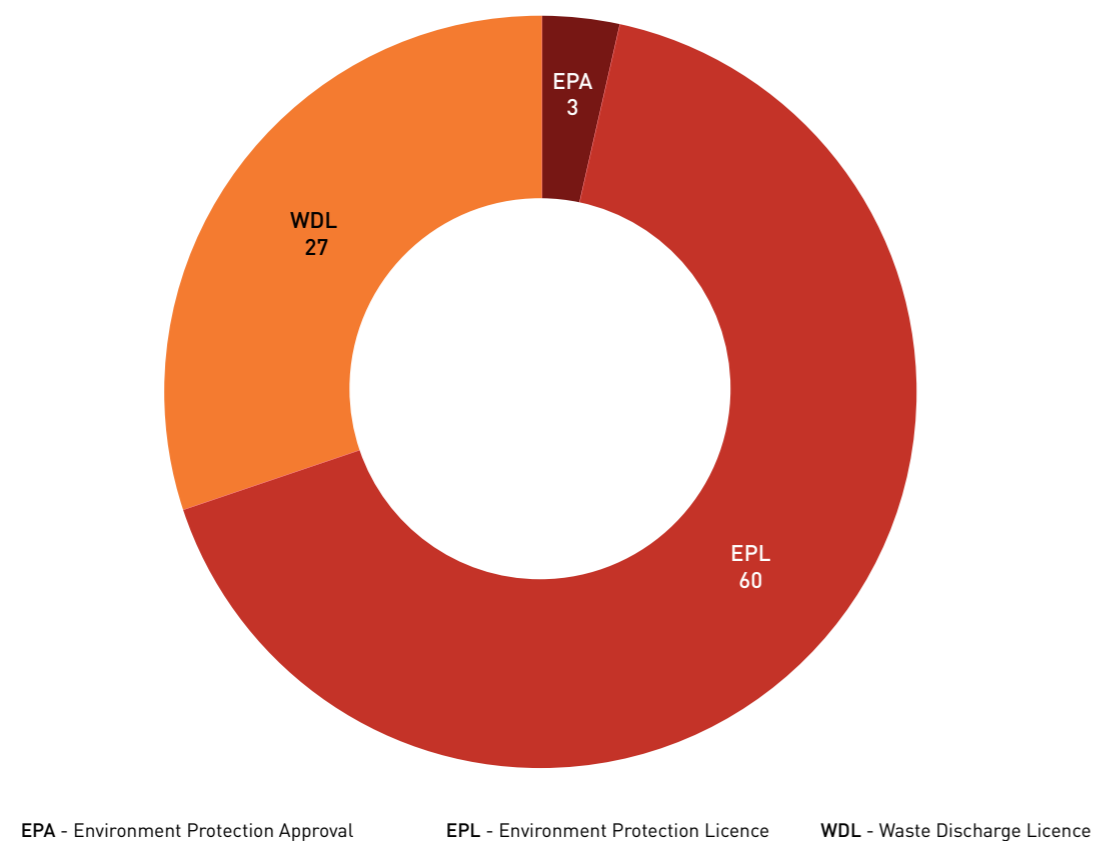
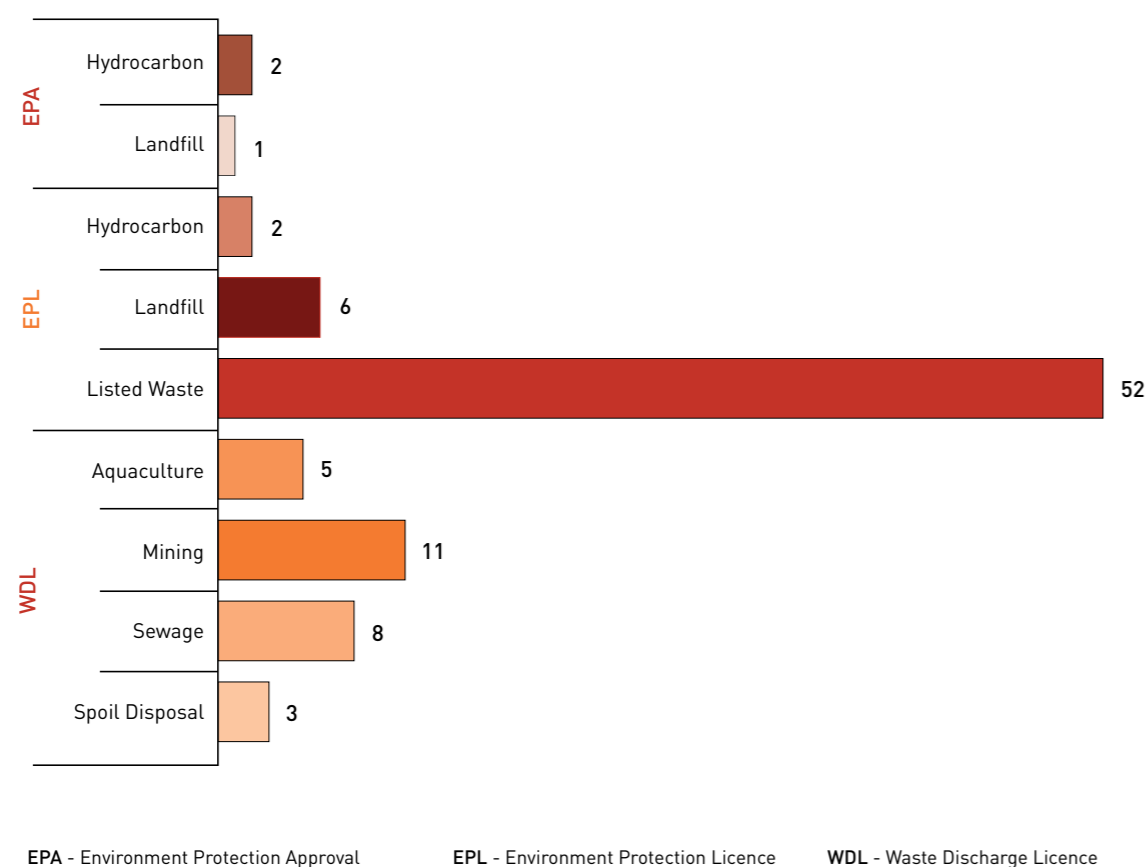


Figure 2: Number of Current Approvals and Licences by Activity at 30 June 2013



Ichthys LNG Project

The NT EPA administers a number of approvals for the Ichthys LNG project, commonly referred to as “INPEX” after the lead proponent for the project.

Approval / Licence	Activity	Supporting Documentation
EPA7 (WMPC Act)	Blaydin Point construction	Construction Environmental Management Plan
EPA8 (WMPC Act)	Darwin Harbour dredging	Dredge Spoil Disposal Management Plan (DSDMP) Nearshore Environmental Monitoring Plan (NEMP)
WDL186 (Water Act)	Darwin Harbour dredging spoil disposal	Dredge Spoil Disposal Management Plan (DSDMP) Nearshore Environmental Monitoring Program (NEMP)

The Ichthys LNG Project is a significant project and the administration of approvals and licences demand a lot of attention. The project incorporates the principles of adaptive management which has required the NT EPA to consider a variety of amendments to the documentation supporting the approvals and licences granted to INPEX. INPEX has proposed amendments to the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (EPA7) to accommodate different stages of the project, and the Dredge Spoil Disposal Management Plan (DSDMP) (EPA8) and Nearshore Environmental Monitoring Plan (NEMP) (EPA8 and WDL186) in response to new information that has been collected during the dredging project. There have been three amendments to the CEMP, four amendments to the DSDMP and four amendments to the NEMP approved by the NT EPA.

The NT EPA is represented on the Ichthys Project Dredging Expert Panel (IPDEP) established to provide advice to the NT EPA,

the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and INPEX. The IPDEP has held a number of forums to discuss technical aspects of the DSDMP and NEMP. The NT EPA has been represented at each of these forums.

Vista Gold Mt Todd Project

The Vista Gold Mt Todd Project has demanded significant attention from the NT EPA this year. The Controller of Water Resources granted a new waste discharge licence to Vista Gold Pty Ltd on 5 February 2013, on advice from the NT EPA. The first discharges under this licence occurred in February 2013 and the NT EPA undertook monitoring of the Edith River to assess Vista Gold’s compliance with licence conditions. Further information is available on the NT EPA website at: <http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/news/2013/vista-gold-wdl>.

Environmental Audits

The NT EPA required the Darwin Port Corporation to undertake an environmental audit of the East Arm Wharf Quarantine Incinerator under section 48 of the WMPC Act. The audit was required due to concerns that there may be a risk to human health or the environment relating to emissions of dioxins and furans from the incinerator. The audit was conducted by an independent auditor who concluded that the concentrations of dioxins and furans in soil and sediment attributable to the former DPC quarantine waste incinerator do not pose an increased risk to marine fauna or human health. The incinerator will remain closed as it has been demonstrated that it is incapable of emitting dioxins at an appropriate level. The final audit report was provided to the NT EPA on 20 June 2013. The audit report is available on the NT EPA website at: <http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/waste-pollution/compliance/audits>.

Pollution Incidents

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.

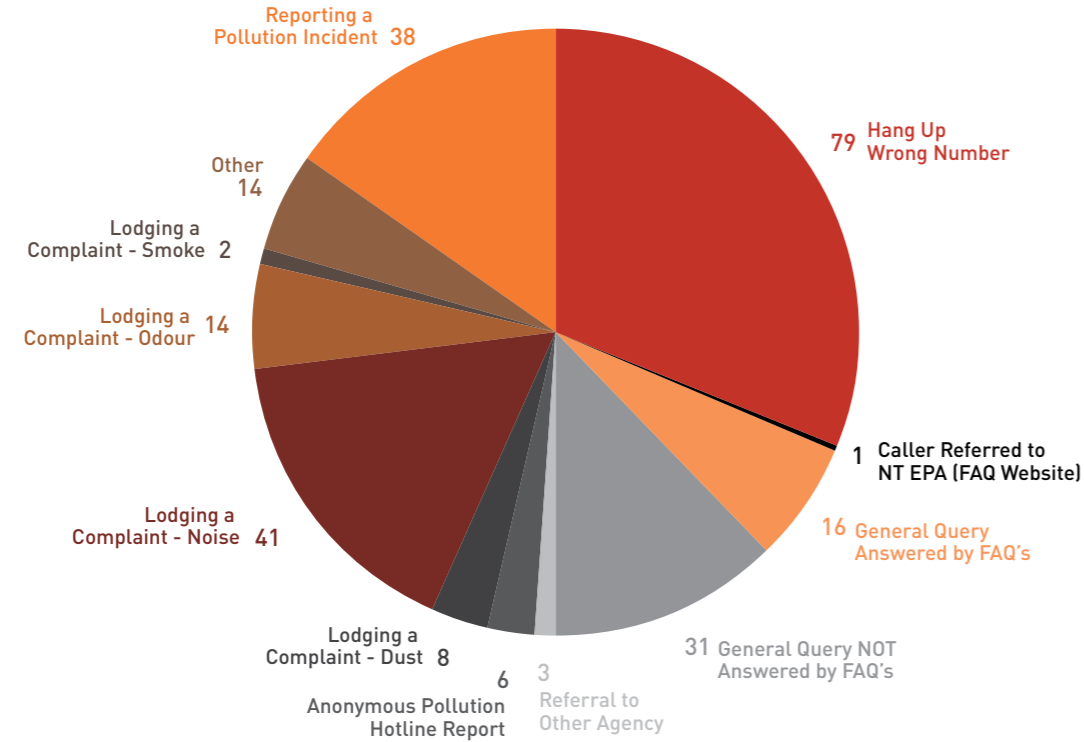
A Section 14 Incident Report was received from Vista Gold Pty Ltd

on 22 February 2013 in relation to an uncontrolled discharge from the MT Todd mine site. The NT EPA investigated the incident and prepared an investigation report. The NT EPA is considering the findings of the report under the WMPC Act. The report will be provided to the Controller of Water Resources for consideration under the *Water Act*. The report and administrative advice will be provided to the Minister.

Pollution Hotline

The Pollution Hotline is a 24 hour free call service for reporting pollution incidents requiring urgent attention. On average the Pollution Hotline receives 700 calls a year. 253 calls were received during the period 1 January to 30 June 2013, as summarised in Figure 3.

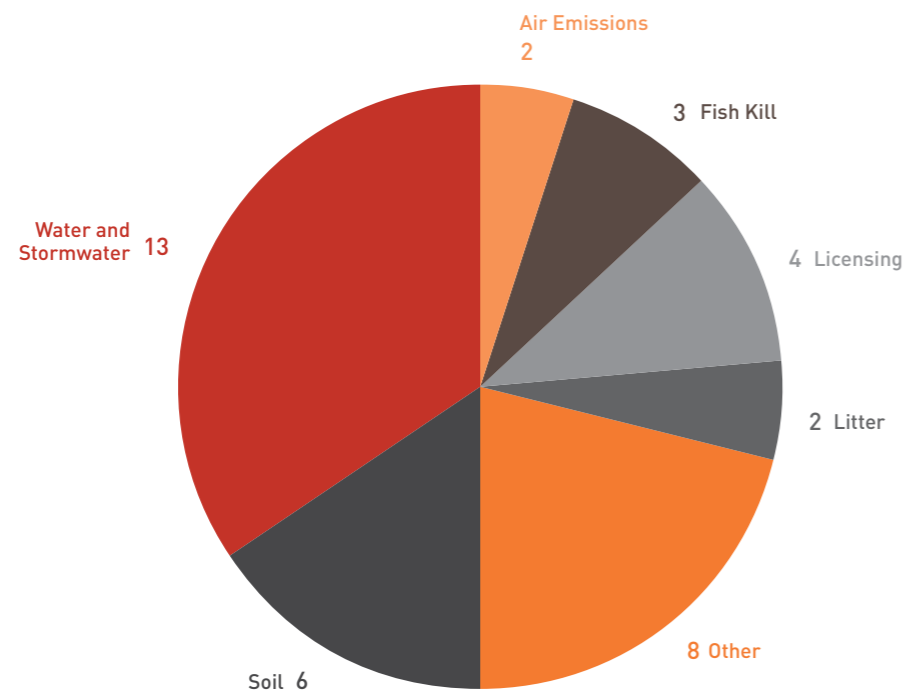
Figure 3: Pollution Hotline Calls received 1 January 2013 – 30 June 2013 by category



The majority of the calls received are generally low level environmental nuisance complaints and queries. Thirty-eight calls were categorised as 'pollution incidents', as summarised in Figure 4. Pollution incidents are recognised by the NT EPA as calls to the Pollution Hotline other than those related to noise, dust, smoke, fumes or odour.

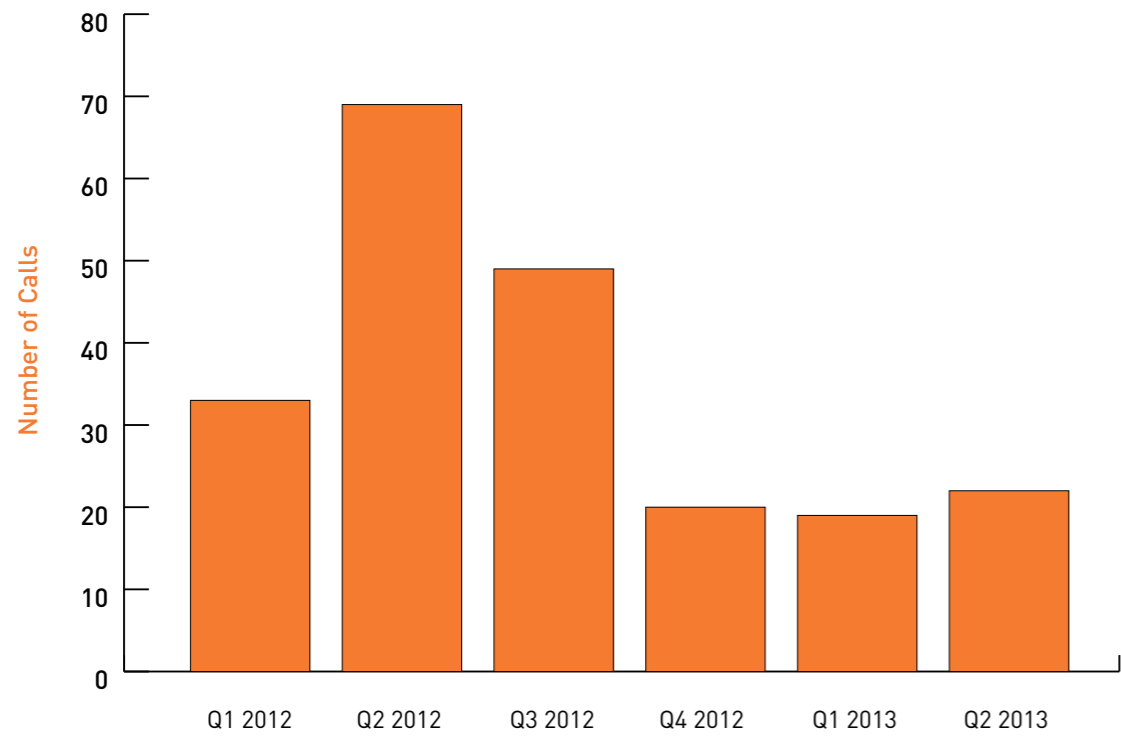


Figure 4: Pollution Hotline Calls Received 1 January – 30 June 2013 categorised as a Pollution Incident



The number of calls to the Pollution Hotline relating to noise has reduced by 60% compared with the same period in 2012 (Figure 4). This result may in part be attributed to the publication of noise guidelines and factsheets in the second half of 2012.

Figure 5: Number of noise complaints received per three month period (or Quarter Q) 1 January 2013 – 30 June 2013



Container Deposit Scheme

The NT EPA is responsible for the administration of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) under the *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act*.

The scheme has continued to grow since its commencement in January 2012. The NT EPA took over the administration of the Scheme in January 2013.

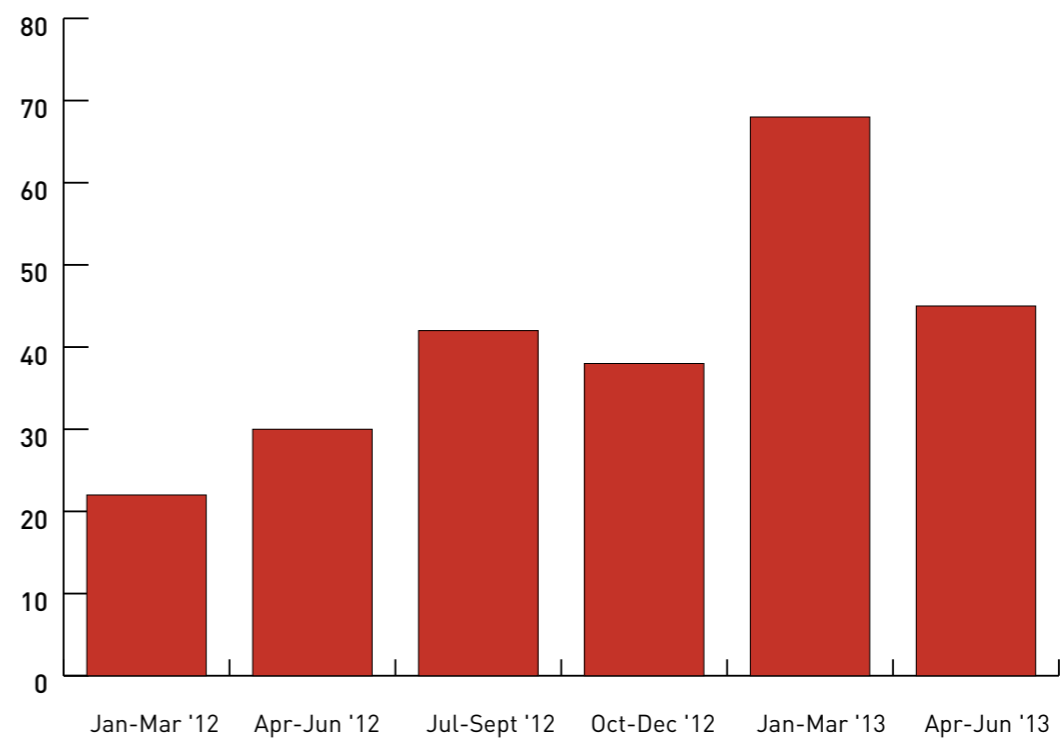
Since that time, the Northern Territory’s application for permanent exemption under the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992* (Cth) was progressed. The Territory

Government provided financial assistance to keep the Container Deposit Scheme in operation until permanent exemption was granted.

During the first quarter of administration (January to March 2013), 18 377 633 containers were returned to CDS Coordinators, achieving a return rate of 67.6%. This correlated with an unusually high amount of containers redeemed at Collection Depots. This was due to communities redeeming all of their stored containers as there was a perception of uncertainty surrounding the future of the CDS

at the time of the Federal Court ruling on the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992* (Cth). Following the Federal Court ruling, the Northern Territory Government commenced underwriting the CDS on 27 March 2013. Therefore, CDS Coordinators did not provide data for the second quarter (April to June 2013). Based on sales figures from April to June 2012, it is approximated that a 45.4% return rate was achieved in the April to June 2013 quarter.

Figure 6: Container Return Rate % 2012-13



A total of 20 955 527 containers were redeemed at collection depots during the January to March 2013 quarter, equating to over \$2 million dollars in deposits that have been paid out to families, schools, communities organisations and commercial operators in the Northern Territory. 17 649 419 containers were redeemed during the April to June 2013 quarter, equating to a further \$1.7 million dollars in redemptions paid to the community.

Environment Grants

The Environment Grants program has provided funding to schools and community groups since 2004, supporting a range of small to medium sized environmental projects. All funding provided through this program addresses four specific environmental themes of Water, Waste, Energy and Ecosystems. In 2012-13, \$731,000 in grant funding was provided to 49 projects, comprising 14 schools and 35 community groups. More details on the program and past grant recipients can be found at <http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/grants-and-rebates/grants>.

Ambient Air Quality Monitoring

The NT EPA is responsible for two ambient air quality monitoring stations in the Darwin region (Winnellie and Palmerston), with operational support provided by Charles Darwin University. In the reporting period the NT EPA established a live web application that allows community and industry access to real time data collected from the two monitoring stations in the Darwin region. Live and historical air quality data can be accessed from the NT EPA website at: <http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/waste-pollution/air>.

Community Involvement and Engagement

Guidelines

The NT EPA has published new guidelines and factsheets to assist industry and the community to understand regulatory requirements and NT EPA expectations. Guidelines finalised or released for consultation since 1 January 2013 include:

**Guidelines on Mixing Zones** - the objective of these guidelines is to assist industries proposing a mixing zone as part of a project undergoing environmental impact assessment, or seeking to apply for a mixing zone as part of a waste discharge licence

(WDL) under the *Water Act*, or an environment protection approval (EPA) or licence (EPL) under the WMPC Act.

**Guideline for Disposal of Waste by Incinerators** – defines the legislative framework underpinning the approval and regulation of waste incinerators in the NT.

**Guidelines on Conceptual Site Models** – assists industry in developing a conceptual site model for the purposes of a licence or approval issued under the *Water Act* or WMPC Act.

**Register of Qualified Persons, Frequently Asked Questions** - this factsheet provides answers to common questions about the Register of Qualified Persons established under section 68 of the WMPC Act.

**Administrative Guidelines on the granting of Environment Protection Licences and Environment Protection Approvals and Administrative Guidelines on the Issue of Pollution Abatement Notices** - The guidelines describe the administrative processes by which delegated officers will implement relevant sections of the WMPC Act as they relate to licences and approvals and pollution abatement notices respectively.



PART 3:  
FUTURE PRIORITIES

The NT EPA’s future priorities for 2013-14 include:

- Review the WMPC Act and provide advice to the Minister under Part 3 of the NT EPA Act.
- Support Government in the development of a new *Environmental Assessment Act*.
- Establish the NT EPA’s responsibilities in the administration of the *Marine Pollution Act* and review the implications of enacting Part 5 and Section 30 to 35 of the Act.
- Provide advice to the Minister in the form of a Stormwater Strategy for the Darwin Harbour Region. The strategy will ensure an effective, co-ordinated and consistent approach to stormwater management across the catchment area.
- Prepare a report on the environmental status of Redbank Mine located in the Roper Gulf Shire near the Queensland border.
- Implementation of an NT EPA customer relationship management system to ensure integrated assessment and regulation of environmental matters.
- Development of further guidelines on environmental assessment and regulation under the WMPC Act and *Water Act* to provide greater clarity and transparency to industry and the community, and more effective processes within the NT EPA.
- Continue to assess the environmental impacts of major developments in the Northern Territory, including the Mt Todd Gold Project and Katherine to Gove Gas Pipeline Project.
- Commence the drafting of a Northern Territory Waste Strategy.
- Review the *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act* to increase efficiencies and expand into remote areas.

PART 4: FINANCIAL  
SNAPSHOT

The NT EPA is financially supported by the DLPE. The following financial data have been extracted from the DLPE to provide detail on the financial resourcing of the NT EPA.

The NT EPA had an annual budget of \$10.5 million dollars in the 2012-13 financial year largely funded through NT Government

appropriation. The total expenses incurred by the NT EPA of \$10.2 million was within 3% of the budget target. The Budget was increased in 2012-13 by additional government funding to subsidise the Container Deposit Scheme until federal regulation could be enacted to validate the NT scheme.

The NT EPA recorded a net surplus of \$0.2 million for the financial year due to reduced consultancy expenses incurred throughout the year.

	2012-13 Published Budget \$000	2012-13 Final Estimate \$000	% change	2012-13 Actuals \$000	% change to Final Estimate
NT Environment Protection Authority	8 095	10 538	30%	10 181	-3%

Revenue:

The NT EPA receives one small grant from the Federal Government of \$36,000 to fund the National Pollutant Inventory program. All other funding of \$10.388 million is provided by the NT Government as appropriation to DLPE.

Expenses:

The NT EPA incurred expenses of \$10.2 million in 2012-13, the major expense item was employee expenses of \$4.9 million to remunerate 38 full time equivalent staff. The NT EPA also reported \$3.9 million of administrative expenses, with the major expense being \$2.7 million to support the Container Deposit Scheme. Grant expense of \$1.4 million has been recorded to fund a range of community

environment programs such as:

- Environment grants
- Cool Community grants
- Community Climate Change grants
- Keep Australia Beautiful and
- Energy Smart rebates

An annual operating statement has been prepared from DLPE accounts to reflect the financial activity of the NT EPA.

NT Environment Protection Authority  
Operating Statement

	2012 13 \$'000
INCOME	
Grants and Subsidies Revenue	
Current	36
Appropriation	
Output	10 388
Other Income	
TOTAL INCOME	10 424
EXPENSES	
Employee Expenses	4 916
Administrative Expenses	
Purchases of Goods and Services	3 838
Depreciation and Amortisation	49
Other Administrative Expenses	2
Grants and Subsidies Expenses	
Current	1 376
TOTAL EXPENSES	10 181
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	243



