

9 DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

AGENCY OUTLINE

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment is responsible for the sustainable management, sensible development, promotion, use and protection of the State's natural resources and cultural heritage, for the benefit of the Tasmanian community.

The Department's objectives are to:

- improve access to, and condition of, Tasmania's natural resources;
- promote and facilitate sensible and sustainable development within Tasmania's natural assets;
- help to grow Tasmania's primary industries and food sectors;
- ensure a healthy environment for all Tasmanians;
- sustainably manage Tasmania's national parks and reserve system;
- support the recognition, protection and management of Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage;
- support the recognition, protection and management of Tasmania's historic heritage;
- build on and protect the Tasmanian brand credentials;
- maintain the security of land tenure in Tasmania;
- provide ready access to accurate and meaningful land and resource information; and
- drive the integrity and animal welfare priorities of the racing industry.

The Department reports to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, and the Minister for Racing, Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP and the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, Hon Matthew Groom MP.

This chapter provides the Department's financial information for 2015-16 and the Forward Estimates period (2016-17 to 2018-19). Further information on the Department is provided at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au.

Table 9.2: Output Group Expense Summary (continued)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
	Budget	Budget	Forward Estimate	Forward Estimate	Forward Estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Output Group 7 - Environment Protection and Analytical Services					
7.1 Environmental Management and Pollution Control	14 029	13 915	14 162	14 471	14 762
7.2 Analytical Services	4 355	4 685	4 832	4 882	4 961
	18 384	18 600	18 994	19 353	19 723
Output Group 8 - Parks and Wildlife Management					
8.1 Parks and Wildlife Management ⁹	56 572	60 784	60 722	61 350	52 958
8.2 Crown Land Services	11 572	11 288	11 451	11 537	11 574
	68 144	72 072	72 173	72 887	64 532
Grants and Subsidies	3 395	3 496	3 629	3 767	3 895
Capital Investment Program¹⁰	556	1 436	556	556	556
Minister for Racing					
Output Group 9 - Racing Regulation and Policy¹¹					
9.1 Racing Regulation and Policy	3 380	3 225	3 288	3 367	3 426
	3 380	3 225	3 288	3 367	3 426
Grants and Subsidies	29 231	29 699	30 175	30 175	30 175
TOTAL	223 095	223 476	223 304	224 480	216 256

Notes:

1. Output 1.3 *Service Tasmania* has been transferred into the existing *Service Tasmania* Output within the Department of Premier and Cabinet to take effect from 1 July 2015. The 2015-16 Budget and Forward Estimates are available within chapter 8 of *Government Services Budget Paper No 2*.
2. The decrease in *AgriGrowth Tasmania* in 2015-16 reflects the cessation of the Assistance Package to King Island Beef Producers initiative. The decrease in 2018-19 reflects the cessation of the Cultivating Prosperity in Agriculture Policy - Implementation initiative.
3. The decrease in *Water Resource Management* in 2015-16 and 2016-17 reflects a reduction in Australian Government funding for the Compliance Project under the Water for the Future program.
4. The decrease in *Policy Advice* in 2015-16 reflects the implementation of 2014-15 Budget Saving Strategies.
5. The increase in *Biosecurity* in 2015-16 reflects additional funding received for the Increasing Biosecurity Services with Detector Dog Teams initiative and a reassessment of corporate overhead costs to better reflect the provision of expenditure for this Output. This is partially offset by the cessation of the Intensive Animal Farming Industry Development initiative.
6. The increase in *Product Integrity* in 2015-16 reflects the transfer of funding for the Tasmanian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program from Output 2.2 *Marine Resources*. The decrease in 2017-18 reflects the cessation of funding for the Tasmanian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program.
7. The decrease in *Resource Management and Conservation* in 2015-16 reflects the cessation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan funding, a reduction in Australian Government funding for the Save the Tasmanian Devil program and a reassessment of corporate overhead costs to better reflect the provision of expenditure for this Output.

8. The decrease in Historic Heritage Services in 2018-19 reflects the cessation of the Development of Woolmers Estate Visitor Centre initiative.
9. The increase in Parks and Wildlife Management in 2015-16 is primarily due to an increase in funding for the Fuel Reduction Program. The decrease in 2018-19 reflects the cessation of the Fuel Reduction Program.
10. The increase in Capital Investment Program in 2015-16 reflects additional funding for the West Coast Trails Projects initiative. The decrease in 2016-17 reflects the cessation of the West Coast Trails Projects initiative.
11. Output Group 9 - Racing Regulation and Policy has been transferred to the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment from the Department of State Growth to take effect from 1 July 2015.

2. The number of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) reviewed each year is subject to variability depending on when industries provide these plans for review. The preferred approach in recent years has been to require issue-specific management plans to target particular issues, for example odour management plans, waste management plans, monitoring plans. The focus on more onerous and wide ranging triennial and five yearly EMPs has therefore diminished, as a risk based approach to review is adopted.
3. This measure identifies the number of key types of notices issued under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*. These notices are issued as required and the target figure therefore represents an expected number based on current practice rather than a desirable target.
4. This measure relates to activity that is driven by client demand, which is subject to large variation and cannot be predicted accurately. It is anticipated that the number of analyses performed in 2015-16 will increase as Analytical Services Tasmania is currently experiencing an increase in analyses submitted due to rising demand for, in particular, water quality analysis.

Output Group 8: Parks and Wildlife Management

8.1 Parks and Wildlife Management

This Output aims to protect, promote and manage Tasmania's world-renowned parks and reserve system. These areas provide significant environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits and experiences. This Output provides for their sustainable use through maintenance, appropriate infrastructure, high-quality visitor experiences and a culture that promotes visitor safety. It also manages significant biodiversity restoration programs complemented by the development and implementation of enhanced biosecurity measures.

8.2 Crown Land Services

This Output manages Crown land, ensuring its suitable use and development. It also provides specialist Crown property-related advice to government and the private sector.

Table 9.10: Performance Information - Output Group 8

Performance Measure	Unit of Measure	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Target	2015-16 Target
Management Plans					
Reserves covered by management plans ¹	Number	59	59	82	82
Protected land covered by approved management plans ²	%	67	60	65	65
Strategic fire management³					
Fuel reduction burns - reserved land	Number	20	39	36	45
Area covered by fuel reduction burns:					
Reserved land	Hectares	6 650	13 400	10 000	18 000
Other land ⁴	Hectares	17 000	24 000
Level of volunteer support⁵					
Registered volunteer partner organisations	Number	90	100	100	100
WILDCARE Inc. registered members	Number	5 688	6 039	6 000	6 000

Table 9.10: Performance Information - Output Group 8 (continued)

Performance Measure	Unit of Measure	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Target	2015-16 Target
Visitor numbers^{6,7}					
Mt Field	'000	100	141	148	155
Freycinet	'000	191	217	228	239
Cradle Mountain	'000	170	182	186	200
Lake St Clair	'000	71	69	72	76
Gordon River	'000	67	69	72	76
Mole Creek Caves	'000	44	49	51	54
Crown Land Services					
Value of sales completed per year ⁸	\$ million	0.06

Notes:

1. This measure refers to public land reserves (in whole or in part) under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. All but three of the reserves are managed by PWS. It does not include private sanctuaries or private nature reserves. Protected land includes both reserved inland and marine waters. As at 30 April 2015, there were approximately 805 reserves managed by PWS (the total number of reserves is largely unchanged from June 2014). As in 2014-15, the 2015-16 target is set on the basis that there will be a new approved management plan for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
2. The figure for 2013-14 has been reviewed and revised down from 62 per cent to take account of the fact that land which forms part of extensions of reserves with existing management plans is not covered by those plans. As in 2014-15, the 2015-16 target is set on the basis that there will be a new approved management plan for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.
3. These measures provide information about the strategic Fuel Reduction Program, which is statewide and 'tenure blind', including fuel reduction burns conducted on reserved and private land. Planned burning is undertaken in support of three possible objectives: asset protection, strategic fuel management and ecological burning (which also has fuel reduction benefits). The measure only includes burns that have fuel reduction benefit. The program's funding builds up over four years, and there is also a need to develop the relevant capabilities and resources. The level of activity can be impacted by weather.
4. The planned burning of private land is integrated into the statewide burning program. The burning completed on Forestry Tasmania land, where it is specifically related to Fuel Reduction Program activity only, is also included in this 'Other land' category.
5. These measures provide information on volunteer activity. Volunteers and volunteer organisations contribute around 200 000 hours of time annually to the PWS, with an estimated value of approximately \$6 million. This includes support provided through WILDCARE Inc., the PWS volunteer management partner. Volunteerism supports the development of a high level of community engagement with, and the sustainable use of, Tasmania's parks and reserve system.
6. Visitor numbers are collated by ongoing monitoring at selected sites including:
 1. Mt Field, estimated from vehicle counts and bus passengers;
 2. Freycinet, estimated from vehicle counts and bus passengers;
 3. Cradle Mountain, estimated from vehicle counts, shuttle bus and bus passengers. The figure for 2013-14 has been revised upwards slightly to reflect confirmed results for the full financial year;
 4. Lake St Clair, estimated from vehicle counts and bus passengers;
 5. Gordon River, visitors to Tasmania only (does not include Tasmanians). Source: *Tasmanian Visitor Survey* (Tourism Tasmania). The figure for 2012-13 has been revised downward slightly on a review of the data; and
 6. Mole Creek Caves, estimated from cave ticket sales.
7. Visitor number targets have been set to reflect the target set by the Government for the tourism industry in general.
8. Sales revenue fluctuates depending on market conditions. Properties prepared for sale may be held back due to oversupply or lack of demand in particular areas or properties placed on the market may fail to sell.