

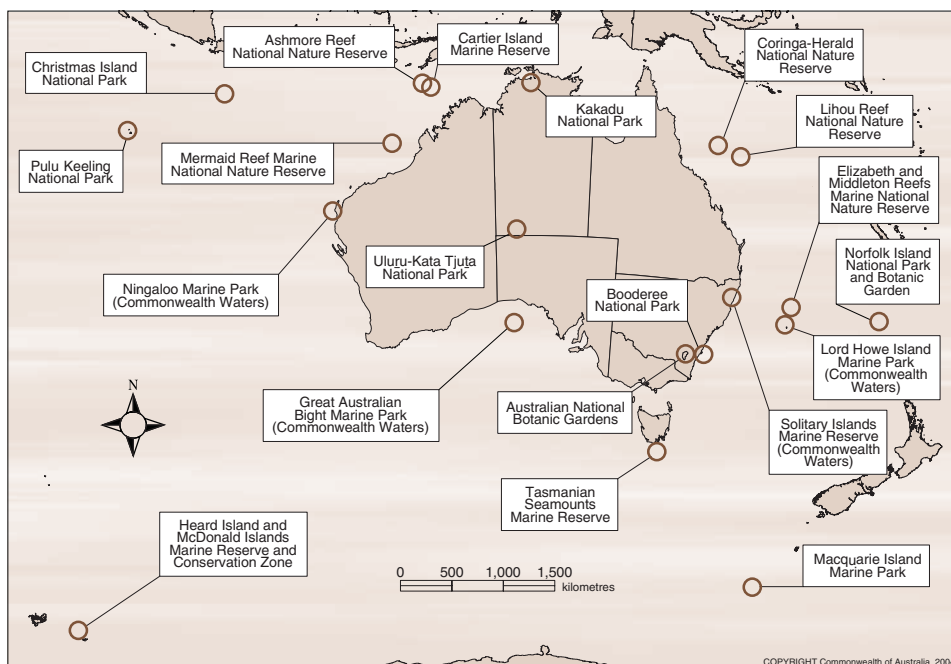
An Organisational Snapshot

The Director of National Parks is the statutory agency responsible for the Australian Government's protected area estate, both terrestrial and marine. The Director is assisted by Parks Australia, a division of the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage, in carrying out the Director's responsibilities for management of terrestrial reserves. Management of marine reserves is undertaken by the Department's Marine Division and Australian Antarctic Division.

In 2004–05, the Director of National Parks:

- managed seven terrestrial reserves comprising six national parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens
- managed 13 marine reserves
- managed Calperum and Taylorville Stations via a contract with Austland Services Pty Ltd
- employed 263.8 full-time equivalent staff around Australia
- recorded a total price of outputs of \$58.965 million
- progressed several new marine protected area proposals.

Figure 1: Locations of Commonwealth parks and reserves managed by the Director of National Parks in 2004–05



Managing the Australian Government's protected areas

Our mission

To assist the Minister and the Department of the Environment and Heritage in the conservation and appreciation of Australia's biological diversity and associated cultural heritage, through leadership and cooperation in the management of the Australian Government's protected areas.

Highlights for 2004–05

- Developed a shared tourism vision for Kakadu to reposition the park, emphasising sustainable tourism and Indigenous culture
- Celebrated Australia Day at Uluru with the Governor-General
- No significant disruptions to business by wildfire or other major natural events
- Improved cooperation with state-based managers who assist in the management of Commonwealth marine reserves
- Adopted a performance assessment framework, including agency-level indicators to inform future reporting
- Developed and introduced ParkSafe, an integrated occupational health and safety management system specifically tailored to park workforce requirements
- Consolidated the Australian National Parks Fund's financial position

About this report

This annual report was prepared in accordance with the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, Finance Minister's Orders under that Act and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The Director's review and the rest of this annual report, except the financial statements for the Australian National Parks Fund and the Auditor-General's report on those financial statements, constitutes the Director of National Parks' report of operations.

The holder of the office of the Director of National Parks is responsible under section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* for the preparation and content of the report of operations in accordance with Finance Minister's Orders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Cochrane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Peter Cochrane

Director of National Parks

12 September 2005