



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.

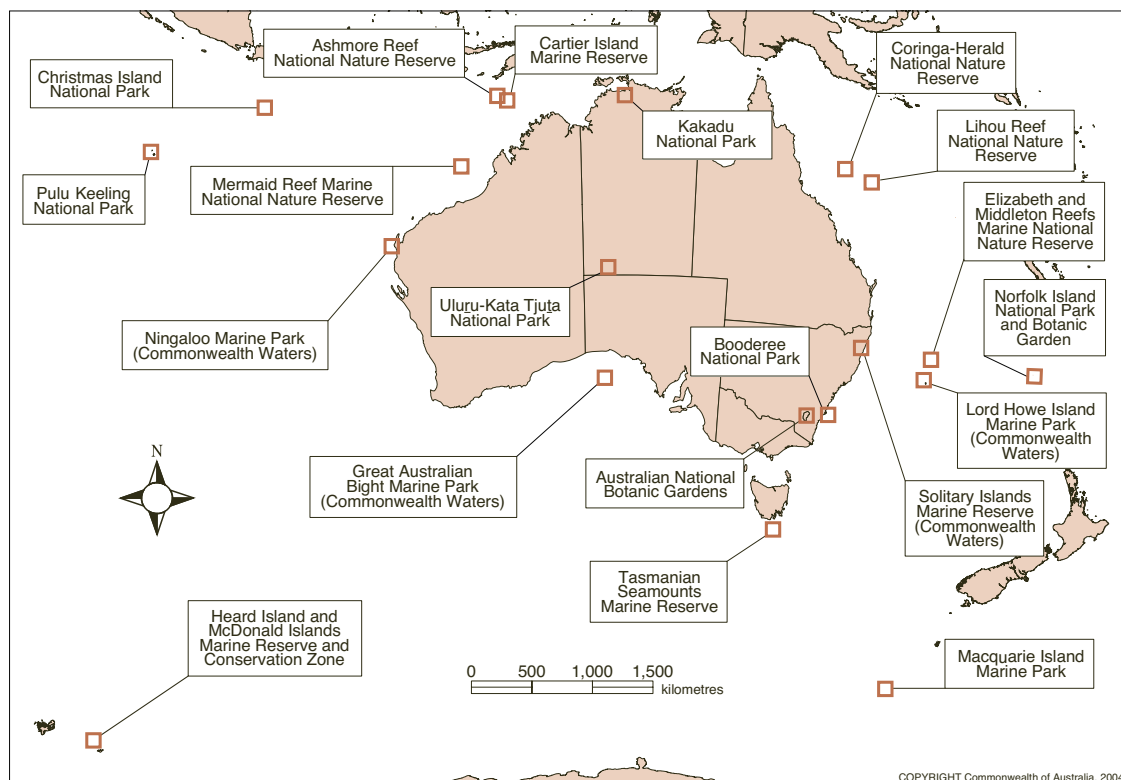
An organisational snapshot

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 2005–06, the Director of National Parks:

- managed seven terrestrial reserves comprising six national parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens
- through the Marine and Australian Antarctic Divisions of the Department of the Environment and Heritage, managed 13 marine reserves
- managed Calperum and Taylorville Stations via a contract with Austland Services Pty Ltd
- employed 274.5 full-time equivalent staff around Australia
- recorded a total price of outputs of \$56.980 million.

Figure 1: Locations of Commonwealth parks and reserves managed by the Director of National Parks in 2005–06



Managing the Australian Government's protected areas

Highlights for 2005-06

- Implementation of the Shared Tourism Vision for Kakadu. New Indigenous tourism ventures started up
- Four-year project to rehabilitate old uranium mining sites in Kakadu National Park funded
- Strong partnerships continued with neighbours, tourism industry, state and territory parks agencies, research institutions and volunteers
- Collaboration with Northern Territory Government, particularly on tourism and natural and cultural resource management
- Anniversaries of handback of Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Booderee National Parks
- Outstanding staff performance
- Effective response to the impact of Cyclone Monica on Kakadu National Park
- Sound financial outcome
- Thirteen new marine protected areas announced, covering 22 million hectares in the south-east marine region
- Uluru sunrise project commenced to create a major new visitor node

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.



Peter Cochrane
Director of National Parks
13 September 2006