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**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE**

14 Nov 2023

**Government
of South Australia**

**DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER
2022-23 Annual Report**

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

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To:

Hon Dr Susan Close MP

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of *Public Sector Act 2009*, *Public Sector Regulations 2010* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the Department for Environment and Water by:

Ben Bruce

A/Chief Executive

Date 28/09/2023

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials 'BB' followed by a horizontal line.

From the Chief Executive



The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) works to help South Australians conserve, sustain and prosper. In partnership with a diverse cohort of boards and councils, stakeholders and volunteers, DEW manages natural resources and places, water and heritage assets vital to the future social, environmental and economic prosperity and wellbeing of all South Australians.

The department delivers its policies and programs through three complementary goals:

- A healthy, resilient environment – South Australia's biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife are conserved, restored and resilient to climate change.
- Improved liveability and wellbeing – Natural resources and cultural heritage provide for the needs of our communities and are used to deliver enhanced lifestyle and cultural values for all peoples.
- A prosperous South Australia for current and future generations – Sustainably managed natural resources underpin the growth of a climate-resilient economy through increased productivity, competitiveness, innovation and private investment.

During 2022-23 DEW played a key role, working closely with other government agencies, including collaborating with local governments along the River Murray, to support an extensive River Murray flood response, providing flood mapping and forecasting advice, collecting data, supporting the SES to undertake levee inspections, managing impacts on wildlife, establishing and administering grant programs and managing impacted infrastructure.

Other highlights for the year include the establishment of a Citizen Science Fund to engage with the citizen science community to contribute to and enhance knowledge of South Australia's biodiversity. In addition, DEW continues to support relationships with First Nations people with 5 new Aboriginal rangers recruited, and a co-management agreement signed with Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation for the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park — Winaityinaityi Pangkara, Aldinga Conservation Park and Torrens Island Conservation Park.

The new Nilpena Ediacara National Park was opened which features a world-first audio-visual experience and is the centrepiece of South Australia's nomination of the Flinders Ranges World Heritage bid. DEW also successfully hosted the inaugural SA Industry Climate Change Conference and continues its important work in driving the delivery of the government's action to further reduce emissions, support adaptation and build a climate smart economy.

I am pleased to present the Department for Environment and Water's 2022-23 annual report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Schutz', written over a light blue circular stamp that is partially visible.

John Schutz

Chief Executive, Department for Environment and Water

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Overview: about the agency

Our strategic focus

| | |
|---|---|
| Our Purpose | <p>To help South Australians conserve, sustain and prosper.</p> <p>To achieve our purpose, we've adopted four goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 1: A healthy, resilient environment. • Goal 2: Improved liveability and wellbeing. • Goal 3: A prosperous South Australia for current and future generations. • Foundational goal: A high performing agency. |
| Our Vision | A thriving state built on sound stewardship of our environment and water. |
| Our Values | <p>Our behaviours and practices are guided by the South Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and the South Australian Public Sector Values shared across government encompassing:</p> <p><i>Services; Professionalism; Trust; Respect; Collaboration and Engagement; Honesty and Integrity; Courage and Tenacity; Sustainability.</i></p> |
| Our functions, objectives and deliverables | <p>Our work is critical to South Australia's future social, environmental and economic prosperity. The way we manage, conserve, and sustain our environment and cultural resources is vital for the wellbeing of all South Australians.</p> <p>We manage our national parks, botanic gardens and heritage places for their intrinsic value and for people's benefit and enjoyment now and into the future.</p> <p>We are an authority on the state's environment and natural resources, helping community, industry, and government make good long-term decisions.</p> <p>We drive the sustainable development of South Australia's natural resources and heritage, to deliver economic prosperity and a vibrant and healthy society.</p> |

Our organisational structure

As at 30 June 2023, DEW comprised of the following divisions:

- Environment, Heritage and Sustainability (**EHS**)
- Strategy, Science and Corporate Services (**SSCS**)
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (**NPWS**)
- Water and River Murray (**WaRM**)

The DEW organisational chart is available on the following page.

DEW structure

May 2023

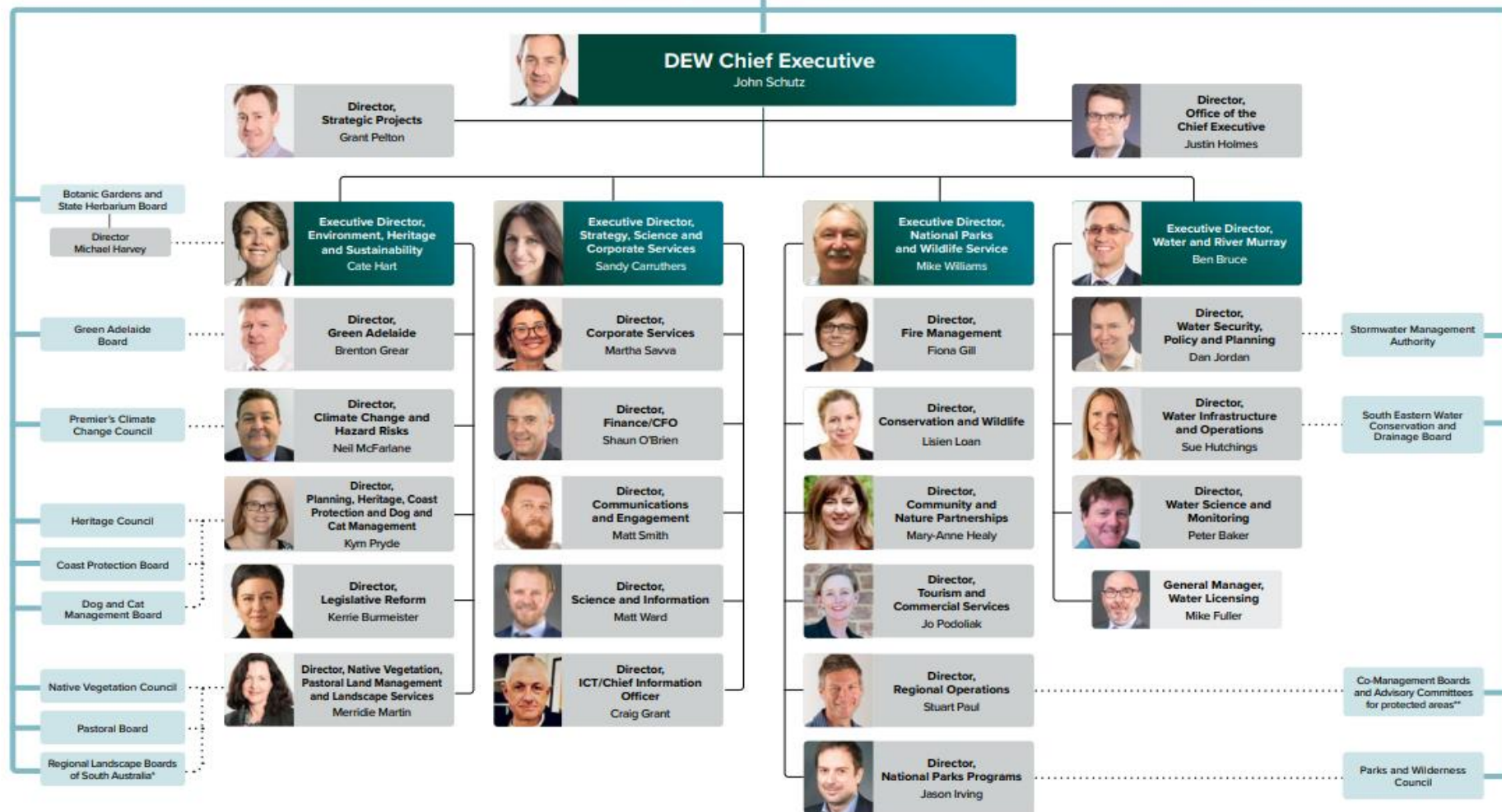


**Minister for Climate,
Environment and Water**

Hon Susan Close MP



Government
of South Australia
Department for
Environment and Water



All boards, councils and authorities shown have a direct reporting line to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and a reporting line to the Executive Director, Environment, Heritage and Sustainability.

Acknowledgment of Country. The South Australian Government acknowledges Aboriginal peoples as the state's first peoples and nations, and that Aboriginal peoples' deep knowledge and relationship with Country continues to be critical in sustainably caring for our lands and waters.

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Changes to the agency

The following changes occurred during 2022-23 as a result of machinery of government changes:

- As a result of administrative arrangements outlined in the South Australian Government Gazette on 30 June 2022, DEW assumed responsibility for the Pastoral Unit as a business unit of the department from 1 July 2022. Responsibility for employees, assets, rights and liabilities relating to the Pastoral Unit has been transferred from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions as of 1 July 2022.

Our Minister

DEW is a portfolio agency of the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, the Hon Dr Susan Close MP (**the Minister**).

Our Executive team

Ms Cate Hart, Executive Director, EHS

The EHS division develops and delivers policy and projects that protect built and natural heritage and native vegetation, supports climate change adaptation and mitigation, and delivers a greener, more resilient Adelaide. The division leads on the management of the state's coastline and flood risks, establishes arrangements for pastoral land management and landscape management as well as conservation, and promotes effective and responsible dog and cat ownership.

The division also provides governance leadership for the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium (BGSH) Board, Landscape Boards and Green Adelaide Board, Pastoral Board, Coast Protection Board, South Australian Heritage Council, Premier's Climate Change Council, Native Vegetation Council and the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Ms Sandy Carruthers, Executive Director, SSCS

The SSCS division provides the foundation for organisational excellence to support DEW in delivering policies, programs and services.

The division leads and coordinates agency strategies, communications and engagement, and provides the evidence base that ensures informed decision-making. The division partners and collaborates across the agency to find solutions to business needs, ensures the business and staff have the information, systems and support needed to be effective and efficient in delivering their services, and ensures the agency is compliant with state government corporate requirements.

Mr Mike Williams, Executive Director, NPWS

NPWS is a division that conserves nature, parks and places that enrich our identity and benefit our community. With over 350 reserves covering 20% of South Australia, the

work of the division supports broad goals associated with conservation and scientific endeavour, nature-based tourism and visitor services, animal welfare, community health and wellbeing, and reconciliation.

The division's business is delivered through seven regions, where park staff work with the community and key partners to manage the protected area estate and Crown land, which includes diverse terrestrial, marine and riverine environments. Regions maintain a focus on the delivery of park management programs, which span the fields of conservation and wildlife management, fire, visitor services, planning, project and asset management, on-ground volunteering efforts and the co-management of reserves with Aboriginal community partners. The central branches of the division provide strategic leadership and program direction to support regional business delivery, the day to day management of the public land estate and tourism interests and operations.

Mr Ben Bruce, Executive Director, WaRM

The WaRM division is responsible for leading the achievement of the South Australian Government's priorities in relation to the use, management and conservation of the state's water resources. The division delivers this through developing and implementing water related policies, strategies and programs; managing the state's water licensing and permitting system; leading the operation of the River Murray in South Australia; undertaking water science and monitoring to sustainably manage the state's water resources; overseeing the construction of major water related infrastructure projects; and supporting the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board and the Stormwater Management Authority. The division has the added specific responsibility for driving the delivery of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Legislation administered by the agency

- *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005*
- *Animal Welfare Act 1985*
- *Arkaroola Protection Act 2012*
- *Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium Act 1978*
- *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*
- *Coast Protection Act 1972*
- *Coorong Environmental Trust Act 2021*
- *Crown Land Management Act 2009*
- *Crown Rates and Taxes Recovery Act 1945*
- *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*
- *Ground Water (Qualco-Sunlands) Control Act 2000*
- *Groundwater (Border Agreement) Act 1985*
- *Heritage Places Act 1993*
- *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981*
- *Irrigation Act 2009*
- *Lake Eyre Basin (Intergovernmental Agreement) Act 2001*
- *Lands for Public Purposes Acquisition Act 1914*
- *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*
- *Local Government Act 1999 (Schedule 1A - Implementation of Stormwater Management Agreement)*
- *Local Government (City of Enfield Loan) Act 1953 **
- *Local Government (City of Woodville West Lakes Loan) Act 1970 **
- *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984 (Division 1A - Co-management board for Mamungari Conservation Park)*
- *Marine Parks Act 2007*
- *Metropolitan Area (Woodville, Henley and Grange) Drainage Act 1964 **
- *Metropolitan Drainage Act 1935*
- *Murray-Darling Basin Act 2008*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
- *National Trust of South Australia Act 1955*
- *Native Vegetation Act 1991*
- *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*
- *Renmark Irrigation Trust Act 2009*
- *River Murray Act 2003*
- *River Murray Waters Agreement Supplemental Agreement Act 1963*
- *River Murray Waters (Dartmouth Reservoir) Act 1971*
- *South-Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Act 1992*
- *South-Western Suburbs Drainage Act 1959*
- *Water (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2008*
- *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (South Australia) Act 2013*

- *Water Industry Act 2012*
- *Water Resources Act 1997*
- *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*

*Denotes Act of limited application.

Other related agencies (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)

- Environment Protection Authority (**EPA**)
- Green Industries SA (**GISA**)
- South Australian Water Corporation (trading as **SA Water**)

The agency's performance

Performance at a glance

DEW's goals are set out in the Corporate Plan 2022-2026:

Goal 1: A healthy, resilient environment

South Australia's biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife are conserved, restored and resilient to climate change. We run world-class national parks and botanic gardens to protect our iconic places and recognise the intrinsic value of nature.

Goal 2: Improved liveability and wellbeing

Our natural resources and cultural heritage provide for the needs of our communities and are used to deliver enhanced lifestyle and cultural values for all peoples.

Goal 3: A prosperous South Australia for current and future generations

Our sustainably managed natural resources underpin the growth of a climate-resilient economy through increased productivity, competitiveness, innovation and private investment.

Foundational goal: A high-performing agency

Effective policy, programs and assets delivered by a capable workforce equipped with strong governance and robust systems. Stakeholders are supported to sustainably manage and enhance South Australia's natural and built environment and make sound long-term decisions for the benefit of all.

Agency specific objectives and performance

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|---|---|--|
| Goal 1: A healthy, resilient environment | | |
| Reversal of declines in biodiversity and repair of past impacts | Provision of grant funding from the Coast Protection Board for coastal restoration projects | The Coast Protection Grant program was delivered in 2022-23 providing approximately \$1 million in grants to councils. |
| | Surveys completed monitoring beach conditions | Survey programs assessed beach profiles at priority locations across the state, adding to the dataset of beach change. Saltmarsh surveys conducted on Eyre Peninsula, in partnership with the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board, to assess ecosystem health and the impacts of rising sea levels. Beach surveys were successfully conducted along the Adelaide managed beaches to inform beach management operations. |
| | Facilitate and support the delivery of a broad range of pest plant and animal control programs, as well as restoration activities | DEW worked with Landscape Boards, environmental non-government organisations, local councils and Friends of Parks volunteers to deliver a variety of ongoing pest management and restoration activities across the state. |
| | Deliver the review of Adelaide beach management | The independent scientific review is on schedule to be completed by December 2023. |
| | Maintain Adelaide's beaches through sand pumping and beach replenishment during the review process | During 2022-23 beach management operations delivered 100,000 cubic metres of quarry sand to West Beach and 80,000 cubic metres from Glenelg to Kingston Park, |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|--|---|---|
| | | meeting the Government's commitment. |
| Transformation of biodiversity to adapt to climate change | Amendments to planning instruments | DEW provided input into the Miscellaneous Technical Amendment to the Planning and Design Code which was made operational in May 2023. This amendment refined coastal policies, improving their interpretation and application. DEW contributed to the Regional Planning process under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> , to identify conservation, blue carbon and hazard risk coastal areas. |
| | Development responses for coastal ecosystems and retreat | DEW responded to 149 referred development applications on behalf of the Coast Protection Board, applying Board policies, which incorporate ecosystem considerations. These included applications for coastal restoration projects. |
| Sustainable management of our rivers, watercourses, wetlands, ground water and floodplains | Percentage of time that there is connectivity between the Lakes and Coorong | Connectivity between the Lower Lakes and Coorong was maintained 100% of time. |
| | Support the delivery of the Basin Plan in full | South Australia has been actively working with Murray-Darling Basin Officials to develop pathways to deliver the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in full in line with the South Australian and Commonwealth governments' commitments. Policy advice is regularly provided to the Minister to support participation at the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council and other bilateral interactions with Basin water ministers. |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|---|--|--|
| | Appoint a commissioner for the River Murray | Mr Richard Beasley SC was appointed as the Commissioner for the River Murray in South Australia on 23 August 2022. To date, Mr Beasley has provided the government with interim reports and advice as part of this role to advocate for the health of the Murray and assist in securing the delivery of the 450 gigalitres. |
| | Delivery of <i>Healthy Coorong Healthy Basin (HCHB)</i> Phase 1B and 2 | Outcomes from the HCHB \$10.9 million 'Scientific Trials and Investigations project' (2020-2022) were synthesised into science communication products such as the 'Trials and Investigations Project key findings' document, and integrated into decision-making tools. Updates to the 'Coorong Dynamics Model' have provided a sophisticated hydrological and ecological modelling tool to assess the feasibility of new infrastructure options and improve management of environmental water delivery to the Coorong. DEW also led the development of a strategic 'Coorong Restoration Roadmap' in consultation with the community and First Nations to guide the development and implementation of Coorong restoration actions. |
| Protection of privately owned natural/conservation areas to conserve natural heritage | Pastoral Amendment Bill developed for introduction into Parliament | The Pastoral Amendment Bill was developed for introduction into Parliament in July 2023. The Bill will ensure pastoral leases can be used for conservation with approval of the Pastoral Board. |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|--|--|--|
| | Number of heritage agreements finalised contributing to privately owned conservation estate. | 37 Heritage Agreements covering a total area of 892.55 hectares were finalised. Of these, 5 Heritage Agreements were established as a means of achieving Significant Environmental Benefit requirements. |
| Protection of existing biodiversity | Percentage of DEW managed land with a high fire risk covered by fire management plans | 56% of DEW managed land with a high fire risk covered by fire management plans. |
| Goal 2: Improved liveability and wellbeing | | |
| Improved access to and connection with nature and heritage | Visitation to Botanic Gardens | Visitation to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens is at a seven year high. Overall visitation across Adelaide Botanic Gardens, Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens and Wittunga Botanic Gardens has met 2.5 million visitation target. |
| | Number of visitors staying overnight in parks | 984 bookings made for accommodation which saw visitors enjoy staying overnight in parks. 2,870 visitors stayed overnight in parks. |
| | Number of visitors to commercial sites | Over 389,000 visitors at DEW's top five commercial sites. |
| | Improved visitor experiences and connection with nature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of Visitor Centre well advanced in Flinders Chase National Park. New Nilpena Ediacara National Park opened by the Minister in April 2023, with state of the art AV fossil experience in renovated pastoral building. |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|--|---|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day visitor facilities and campgrounds being progressively reopened in parks of the River Murray following the River Murray Flood Event. |
| Enhanced visitor experiences | Host events in parks and provide regular communication to encourage park visitation | A wide range of Park of the Month activities are held across SA parks showcasing park and habitat conservation values and projects, and engaging a broad audience in park activities, including cultural events, ranger guided walks, art, outdoor therapy and snorkelling events. In 2022-23 a total of 124 events with 1635 attendees. A monthly email is sent to 40,000 subscribers. |
| Enhanced visitor experiences | Net promoter score | Regular customer feedback is received after staying in parks which has allowed teams across the state to review and address any issues. DEW achieved a net promoter score of 56.5% on average for the last 15 months, against a target of 30%. |
| | Activation of Botanic Gardens State Herbarium through creative partnerships | New Illuminate Adelaide project (Resonate) and projects with Nature Festival, Adelaide Festival, Adelaide Fringe and Dino-Fest events provided to the community through partnerships. |
| Enhanced connection to Country for First Nations Australians | Percentage of DEW-led environmental watering events where First Nations communities have been engaged in the planning | 100% - First Nations engagement was undertaken at all of DEW's watering sites during the development of watering proposals and in the preparation of the Annual Environmental Watering Plan for 2022-23. Through workshops on country, the |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|-------------------|---|---|
| | | <p>Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation and First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region provided significant input to the development of environmental water priorities for 2023-24.</p> <p>These organisations were also engaged during operations and watering actions at the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth and managed floodplains, to incorporate their interests, visions and aspirational goals.</p> |
| | First Nations engagement built into % of project plan | 100% - Aboriginal engagement has been built into all required planning processes for key initiatives including for the Sustaining Riverland Environments Program, Constraints Measures Program, HCHB Program and the Enhanced Environmental Water Delivery Project. |
| | Employ Aboriginal Rangers | DEW has committed to employing 15 new Aboriginal Rangers from 2022-2025. In 2022-23 DEW employed 5 new Aboriginal Rangers. |
| | Co-managed parks | In July 2022, the state entered into co-management arrangements with the Kaurna People, bringing the number of co-management arrangements with First Nations to 13, covering 37 parks, including 2 parks which are First Nations' owned. 65% of the area of the state's parks, or 13% of the total land area of the state is managed in partnership with First Nations peoples. |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|---|--|---|
| Effective fire management to manage fuel loads | Delivery of annual prescribed burning program | <p>DEW delivered a successful prescribed burning program across both seasons. With the influence and challenges of La Nina weather patterns across both seasons, the burns were conducted to reduce bushfire hazards and manage native vegetation in strategic areas across the state.</p> <p>In 2022-23, 87 prescribed burns were planned across 4,525 hectares. 66 burns at approximately 2,500 hectares were completed over the spring and autumn burning periods.</p> |
| Effective and coordinated flood risk management | Availability of timely information from flood warning sites. | <p>Water levels in the River Murray are measured at 42 locations between Lock 9 to Lock 1 and nine locations around the Lakes through telemetry sensors and uploaded directly onto the publicly accessible Water Connect site.</p> <p>During the 2022-23 River Murray Flood, a proportion of the department's water level monitoring sites had to be removed due to high river level and velocity. However, others continued to operate and be maintained throughout the flood, including some relocated to higher locations. Monitoring staff focused efforts on the invaluable opportunity to obtain data for determining river flow through measurement (gauging) of velocity and level at key river locations (e.g. Overland Corner), visiting these sites at up to twice per week.</p> |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|--|--|---|
| Animal welfare standards reflect community expectations | Phase 1 of <i>Animal Welfare Act 1985</i> review completed | Phase 1 consultation completed. |
| State heritage is protected | Number of new State Heritage Places confirmed | 8 additional State Heritage Places included in the South Australian Heritage Register. |
| | Number of State Heritage Places and Objects | 2,324 State Heritage Places and 29 Objects. |
| | Number of State Heritage Areas protected | 17 State Heritage Areas. |
| | Number of Historic Shipwrecks protected in state waters | 482 Historic Shipwrecks. |
| Goal 3: A prosperous South Australia for current and future generations | | |
| Support for climate risk management and emissions reduction | Percentage reduction in state greenhouse gas emissions reported annually | <p>South Australia has achieved a 42% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the 2005 financial year. In 2022-23 DEW continued to deliver a range of actions to support emissions reduction, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of amendments to the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i> to strengthen climate action and update targets. • Commencement of work on developing a world leading net zero emissions reduction strategy for South Australia. • Release of a carbon farming roadmap with the Department for Primary |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|--|--|---|
| | | <p>Industries and Regions in November 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencement of work on a state-wide climate risk assessment to inform future adaptation planning. • South Australia's inaugural Industry Climate Change Conference (20-21 April 2023), engaging business and industry on the opportunities and challenges of a net zero emissions future. With over 900 delegates it positioned South Australia as a national leader in climate change. • DEW supported the Minister to participate in COP27, held in Sharm El Sheikh from Thursday 10 - 17 November 2022. Attendance at COP27 enabled the Minister to build and strengthen relationships with other government, industry and climate change experts and representatives, and investigate opportunities for collaboration. • Progress on climate ready government measures to improve how government agencies reduce emissions and address climate related risks. |
| Sustainable availability of an appropriate quantity and quality of water | <p>Percentage of water allocated that is metered and accounted for</p> <p>Percentage of water allocated that is compliance monitored</p> | <p>96.1%</p> <p>96.1%</p> |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| | Percentage of licence holders compliant with licensed allocations | 98% of licence holders in the River Murray and 99% across the remainder of the state. |

Corporate performance summary

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|--|---|--|
| Foundational Goal: A high-performing agency | | |
| Strong corporate governance and risk management | Work Health and Safety Risk - develop and maintain safety framework | A new first aid policy and guideline was implemented, work health and safety training for staff and leaders was implemented. |
| | Timeliness of preparation of corporate performance reports, including reports on legislative compliance register actions | 100% of corporate performance and legislative compliance action reports were prepared within required timeframes. |
| Efficient systems and processes | Progress on delivery of identified action plans, such as adoption of new grants management system, payment gateways, completion of TM1 implementation project | A new Grants Management System (Smarty Grants) was adopted and implemented in 2022-23. TM1 Budget Management System remediation was completed. Project for replacement of Masterpiece and Point of Sale/Revenue systems commenced. |
| Efficient systems and processes | Percentage of development referrals processed within statutory timeframes | 75% of heritage development referrals processed within statutory timeframes (20 days). |
| | Percentage of shipwreck development applications responded to within statutory timeframes | 100% shipwreck referrals processed within statutory timeframes. |
| | Percentage of heritage development referral response within 40 days | 90% heritage development referrals processed within 40 days. |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|--|---|--|
| Efficient fair and timely administration of regulation | Total number of water licenses | 14,0771 in the River Murray and 925 across the remainder of the state with a value of \$7.7 billion. |
| | Total number of applications processed in last financial year | 5,822 River Murray Entitlement applications were processed in 2022-23. |
| | Percentage of applications processed within customer service standards (River Murray Trade and Well construction permits) | 99.64% Interstate River Murray allocation trade applications processed within customer service standards. 86.89% Intrastate River Murray allocation trade applications processed within customer service standards. |
| | Percentage of <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> referrals considered on time | 100% of referrals considered on time. |
| Data is fit for purpose, useful, authoritative and is readily accessed | Flood Awareness and other flood intelligence products are updated and maintained | Funding has been secured to undertake a significant update of flood awareness tools over three years from July 2023. All flood study data is made available to hydrologists for incident management support. Catchment summaries and incident summaries have been developed to complement and enhance resources. |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|---|--|--|
| Leverage of funding and expertise | Number and quality of SA applications and success rate | <p>DEW was successful in receiving funding from the Disaster Ready Fund for three projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data quality of flood monitoring \$366,436.78 2. Climate hazard forecasting and risk \$492,873.56 3. Improved levee bank planning and management \$3,001,436.78. <p>In addition, DEW was awarded \$245,000 Disaster Risk Reduction grant funding to improve riverine flood forecasting and pilot flash flood forecasting.</p> |
| Effective stakeholder engagement and coordination | <p>Number of of active Friends of Parks (FoP) groups</p> <p>Number of of active Volunteer Rangers</p> <p>Number of of active Camp Ground Hosts</p> | <p>Volunteer Programs: There are currently 142 registered FoP groups with an estimated 3,000 active members.</p> <p>There are approximately 114 active volunteer rangers.</p> <p>There are approximately 65 active campground hosts.</p> |
| Effective stakeholder engagement and coordination | Citizen Science grants are awarded and administered | Citizen science: The Environmental Citizen Science Small Grants were awarded in June 2023. |

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|--|--|---|
| Effective relationships with First Nations | Appropriate trained staff mentor Aboriginal employees in the workplace | DEW's Investigation and Compliance Unit work closely with staff from Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation regarding training in the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988</i> . As the numbers of Aboriginal wardens are increasing, DEW is training a greater percentage of Aboriginal staff through warden and general regulators training. All Investigators are now authorised under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988</i> . DEW has delivered 13 days training to Aboriginal and Torres Islander staff. |
| Strategies to promote First Nations Businesses | Regular promotion of opportunities to engage with First Nations Businesses | The DEW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Strategy continued to be promoted during 2022-23. DEW attended the First Nations Business Showcases on a regular basis. |

Employment opportunity programs

| Program name | Performance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|----------|--------|---|---|-------------|----------|---|---|-------------|----------|---|---|-------------|----------|
| Aboriginal Workforce Plan | <p>The Reconciliation Action Plan sets an agency target of 4% Aboriginal Workforce Participation across classification levels by January 2024.</p> <p>As of 30 June 2023, 3.5% of employees identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.</p> <p>The percentage of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander employees by classification stream was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASO1-ASO3* – 7.1%• ASO4-ASO6* – 2.1%• ASO7-MAS3* – 0.7%• EXEC & SAES – 0.0% <p>*Includes equivalent classifications from other streams determined by comparable salaries.</p> <p>The percentage of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander employees on ongoing contracts, when compared to the broader DEW average was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 47.9% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander employees• 55.5% Non-Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander employees | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aboriginal Ranger Program | <p>As a part of the DEW Protecting Our Parks program and recent election commitments, DEW is committed to employing 15 new Aboriginal rangers by 31 December 2024, via three recruitment intakes.</p> <table><tr><th>Intake</th><th>No. Rangers</th><th>Due Date</th><th>Status</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>31 Dec 2022</td><td>Complete</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>31 Dec 2023</td><td>On track</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>31 Dec 2024</td><td>On track</td></tr></table> | Intake | No. Rangers | Due Date | Status | 1 | 4 | 31 Dec 2022 | Complete | 2 | 6 | 31 Dec 2023 | On track | 3 | 5 | 31 Dec 2024 | On track |
| Intake | No. Rangers | Due Date | Status | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 4 | 31 Dec 2022 | Complete | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 6 | 31 Dec 2023 | On track | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 5 | 31 Dec 2024 | On track | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aboriginal Traineeship Program | The Aboriginal Traineeship Program is under review. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Skilling SA | OCPSE’s Skilling SA project concluded in 2022-23. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employees with a declared disability | The percentage of employees with a declared disability as of 30 June 2023 was 2.2%. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Agency performance management and development systems

| Performance management and development system | Performance |
|--|---|
| DEW Performance Review and Development (PRD) Process | <p>Managers are required to undertake two formal PRD conversations with their employees each year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022, 81.6% of active DEW employees had a PRD discussion recorded in the Corporate Human Resource Information System (CHRIS). Between 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023, 84.6% of active DEW employees had a PRD discussion recorded in CHRIS. |

Work health, safety and return to work programs

| Program name | Performance |
|---|---|
| Work Health and Safety Management System Improvements and Employee Health and Wellbeing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous reporting improvements at the divisional and branch level to ensure leaders can make informed decisions to improve worker health and wellbeing. 466 DEW workers accessed DEW provided flu vaccinations to prevent the spread of the seasonal influenza. |

| Workplace injury claims | 2022-2023 | 2021-2022 | % Change (+ / -) |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| Total new workplace injury claims | 45 | 41 | +10% |
| Fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Seriously injured workers* | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE) | 10.1 | 10.22 | -1% |

*number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment of 30% or more under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)

| Work health and safety regulations | 2022-2023 | 2021-2022 | % Change (+ / -) |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Number of notifiable incidents (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3</i>) | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i>) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Return to work costs** | 2022-2023 | 2021-2022 | % Change (+ / -) |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$) | \$787,905.36 | \$512,448.57 | +54% |
| Income support payments – gross (\$) | \$169,912.98 | \$188,899.58 | -10% |

**before third party recovery

Data for previous years is available at: [DEW Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au)

Executive employment in the agency

| Executive classification | Number of executives |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| EXEC | 1 |
| SAES1 | 21 |
| SAES2 | 4 |

Data for previous years is available at: [DEW Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au)

The [Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment](#) has a [workforce information](#) page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Financial performance

Financial performance at a glance

The following is a brief summary of the overall financial position of the agency. The information is unaudited. Full audited financial statements for 2022-2023 are attached to this report.

| Statement of Comprehensive Income | 2022-23 Budget* \$000s | 2022-23 Actual \$000s | Variation \$000s | 2021-22 Actual \$000s |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Total Income | 358,431 | 354,628 | 3,803 | 395,633 |
| Total Expenses | 355,219 | 344,753 | 10,466 | 335,711 |
| Net Result | 3,212 | 9,875 | 6,663 | 59,922 |
| Total Comprehensive Result | 3,212 | 61,003 | 57,791 | 65,646 |

*Revised Budget

The table above shows that for the financial year ended 30 June 2023, DEW's net result was an operating surplus of \$9.9 million, which was \$6.7 million favourable compared to budget.

Major variations included:

- Total income was \$3.8 million lower than budget primarily due to funding being re-profiled for various Commonwealth projects to be received in 2023-24.
- Total expense was \$10.5 million lower than budget primarily due to underspends in various Commonwealth and State Cabinet approved projects.
- Total Comprehensive Result was \$57.8 million higher than budget primarily due to the revaluation of groundwater monitoring wells in 2022-23.

| Statement of Financial Position | 2022-23 Budget* \$000s | 2022-23 Actual \$000s | Variation \$000s | 2021-22 Actual \$000s |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Current assets | 233,261 | 250,826 | 17,565 | 262,889 |
| Non-current assets | 896,012 | 937,740 | 41,728 | 875,580 |
| Total assets | 1,129,273 | 1,188,566 | 59,293 | 1,138,469 |
| Current liabilities | 55,349 | 56,742 | 1,393 | 66,342 |
| Non-current liabilities | 47,734 | 43,696 | 4,038 | 47,549 |

| Statement of Financial Position | 2022-23 Budget* \$000s | 2022-23 Actual \$000s | Variation \$000s | 2021-22 Actual \$000s |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Total liabilities | 103,083 | 100,438 | 2,645 | 113,891 |
| Net assets | 1,026,190 | 1,088,128 | 61,938 | 1,024,578 |
| Equity | 1,026,190 | 1,088,128 | 61,938 | 1,024,578 |

*Revised Budget

The table above shows that for the financial year ending 30 June 2023, DEW's net assets were \$62.0 million higher than budget. This is largely due to the revaluation of groundwater monitoring wells in 2022-23 and higher than budgeted cash balance resulting from underspends in various Commonwealth and State Cabinet approved projects.

Consultants disclosure

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

Consultancies with a contract value below \$10,000 each

| Consultancies | Purpose | \$ Actual payment |
|--|---------|-------------------|
| All consultancies below \$10,000 each - combined | N/A | Nil |

Consultancies with a contract value above \$10,000 each

| Consultancies | Purpose | \$ Actual payment |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Deloitte Financial Advisory | Emissions reduction pathway analysis and planning. | \$ 216,581.00 |
| Richard Beasley SC | Commissioner for the River Murray in South Australia. | \$ 71,194.13 |
| | Total | \$ 287,775.13 |

Data for previous years is available at: [DEW Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au)

See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

Contractors disclosure

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for work undertaken during the financial year.

Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000

| Contractors | Purpose | \$ Actual payment |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|
| All contractors below \$10,000 each - combined | Various | \$68,493.84 |

Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each

| Contractors | Purpose | \$ Actual payment |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Hays Specialist Recruitment Pty Ltd | Temporary staff for Regional Programs, Environmental Science, Native Vegetation Management, Corporate Services. | \$1,123,603.93 |
| Randstad Pty Ltd | Temporary staff for Environmental Science, Water Science and Monitoring, Coastal Protection, River Murray Operations, Water Licensing, Regional Programs. | \$1,016,314.92 |
| Maxima Tempskill / Recruitment | Temporary staff for Coastal Protection, the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium and Regional Programs | \$373,650.56 |
| Modis Staffing Pty Ltd | Temporary staff for Information Technology and Water Licensing. | \$270,384.62 |
| Paxus Aust Pty Ltd | Temporary staff for Information and Technology. | \$174,453.97 |
| GRAMAC Solutions | Temporary staff for fire management. | \$142,584.47 |

| Contractors | Purpose | \$ Actual payment |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| TH Network Solutions | Temporary staff for Information and Technology. | \$75,330.00 |
| Hoban Recruitment Pty Ltd | Temporary staff for CE's office. | \$54,633.28 |
| Hudson Global Resources | Temporary staff for Information Technology, Regional Programs, Environmental Science, and Corporate Services. | \$47,408.44 |
| Pinnacle People | Temporary staff for Cleland Wildlife Park. | \$44,196.09 |
| Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation | Temporary staff for Regional Operations and Land Management. | \$29,736.25 |
| DFP Recruitment Services | Temporary staff for Conservation and Wildlife. | \$29,097.67 |
| KPP Ventures Pty Ltd | Temporary staff for Information and Technology. | \$20,865.59 |
| Art of Staff Pty Ltd | Temporary staff for Water Infrastructure and Operations. | \$15,200.00 |
| Gramac Solutions | Temporary staff for fire management. | \$13,454.25 |
| Corestaff SA Pty Ltd | Temporary staff for Cleland Wildlife Park. | \$12,789.15 |
| | Total (all contractors) | \$3,512,197.03 |

Data for previous years is available at: [DEW Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au)

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. [View the agency list of contracts.](#)

The website also provides details of [across government contracts.](#)

Risk management

Risk and audit at a glance

The DEW Risk and Performance Committee (the RPC) is an independent committee that advises the DEW Chief Executive on strategic risk, audit and performance matters. The RPC comprises an independent Chairperson, three independent members and four DEW staff members. The RPC met five times during 2022-23 to consider matters relating to agency performance and monitoring and core governance, as well as receiving presentations on:

- Asset Management Framework,
- Capital Projects,
- Water and River Murray,
- Conservation and Wildlife, and
- Cybersecurity.

Fraud detected in the agency

| Category/nature of fraud | Number of instances |
|---|---------------------|
| Dishonest activity causing actual or potential financial loss | 1 |

NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

DEW has a Fraud and Corruption Procedure which establishes roles and responsibilities in relation to the identification of and response to fraud, including the process for reporting and managing incidents of fraud and corruption. The Procedure was developed with reference to, and to ensure DEW's compliance with, the South Australian Public Sector Fraud and Corruption Control Policy, and evidences DEW's zero tolerance for such conduct.

All internal audits undertaken within the agency are conducted with an appreciation for, and awareness of the possibility of fraud.

DEW Executive regularly communicates expectations regarding acceptable business practices and ethical behaviours in accordance with the Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector.

Data for previous years is available at: [DEW Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au)

Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

Nil

Data for previous years is available at: [DEW Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au)

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1 July 2019.

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

| Act or Regulation | Requirement |
|--|---|
| <i>Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005</i> (ADS Act) | <p>Section 26 - Annual report</p> <p>(1) The Minister must on or before 30 September in each year prepare a report on the operation of this Act for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June.</p> <p>(2) The annual report must include -</p> <p>(a) information on the extent to which the objects and objectives of this Act are being achieved; and</p> <p>(b) reports on the following matters for the preceding financial year:</p> <p>(i) the referral of matters to the Minister under any related operational Act; and</p> <p>(ii) the enforcement of the general duty of care; and</p> <p>(iii) action taken by the Minister or authorised officers under Part 6; and</p> <p>(c) a programme setting out the Minister's proposals for the implementation of the ADS Management Plan during the current financial year.</p> |

Objective 1 - Protection of the Dolphins

- NPWS Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) marine parks rangers completed three boat-based scientific surveys of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary (ADS) dolphin population, collecting demographic, locational and photo identification data. Photo identification data is available to the ADS Action Group volunteers through the 'Discover-a-dolphin' citizen science monitoring program. Volunteers assisted rangers by undertaking regular observations and monitoring individual dolphins.
- Two dolphin entanglements were reported.
- Six dolphin deaths were recorded in the ADS during the reporting period, three of which could be collected. The University of Adelaide performed necropsies.
- Several new calves were born, including 1 to a resident female.
- At 7 months old, 'Rocket' became abandoned after its mother became emaciated and subsequently died. Rocket has since taken up residence within and around the marinas of the Port's inner harbour, allowing ample opportunities for monitoring by NPWS Rangers and volunteers.
- DEW initiated a scientific investigation in 2021 after three unexplained dolphin deaths in succession.
- A series of workshops following up the investigation were undertaken to finalise the public report. The final report was released in September 2022. Key findings of the investigation include that there are likely to be multiple

contributors to dolphin morbidity and mortality and that dolphins using inner ADS waters are likely to have compromised immune systems. Recommendations from the investigation and current research projects are listed within the report:

<https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/images/927956-NPWS-Investigation-into-Dolphins-Deaths-Report-WEB-Version-v2.pdf>

- The Gulf St Vincent Research Advisory Group was established following the investigation. DEW staff have participated in several meetings, which are currently focusing on continuing research on ADS dolphins and their health.
- DEW staff appeared twice before the Select Committee on Dolphins in the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary and Port River and provided detailed written submissions to this inquiry.
- The Minister requested DEW to facilitate a workshop with key stakeholders including NPWS Dolphin Veterinary Advisory Group, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Australian Marine Wildlife and Rescue organisation and Seaworld. The workshop aimed to assess all feasible options for possible intervention for any future dolphins exhibiting signs of 'wasting' in the ADS.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (**PIRSA**) facilitated a consultation process on the review of the risks posed to ADS dolphins by heavy gauge fishing gear and large and/or live baits. As the state's fisheries manager, PIRSA is leading this process, supported by DEW.
- DEW worked with PIRSA to develop interim restrictions on fishing activity within the ADS. From 1 October 2022 to 1 February 2023, recreational fishers were required to bring in their hand line, rod and line or teaser line if they were within 50 metres of a visible dolphin within the sanctuary.
- Rangers completed 402 land and water patrols to ensure compliance with Section 68 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and *Marine Mammal Regulations 2010*.
- Rangers investigated and/or responded to three incidents of breaching approach distances to dolphins.
- Marine safety officers from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (**DIT**) conducted 702 vessel checks, visual inspections and public interactions in the ADS. These inspections were conducted on vessels launching, retrieving and on water.
- An additional four marine mammal compliance signs were installed at Garden Island boat ramp and carpark.
- Temporary corflute signage was installed at Garden Island to inform park visitors about drone usage around marine mammals.
- NPWS Rangers ran training sessions for the Volunteer Ranger Program. Volunteer Rangers undertook weekend shifts at Garden Island, speaking with boaters and kayakers prior to launching about marine mammal approach distances and speed restrictions. Volunteer rangers also provided interpretative material during Garden Island kayak tours.
- NPWS Rangers worked with community stakeholders and Renewal SA to reduce potential risks to dolphins from the Dock One rock revetment construction project.
- An Adelaide Speedboat Club incident occurred in March when dolphins swam into the racecourse. DEW and DIT met with the speedboat club to discuss possible improvements to practice and race events.

Objective 2 - Protection of key habitat features

- NPWS Rangers coordinated on-ground works across ADS and Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara (**AIBS**). Park presentation activities such as rubbish removal has been ongoing and regular. Volunteer activities have been coordinated on site including with the Friends of AIBS.
- In the northern section of the ADS, the installation of the Port Gawler beach double gate, double horse access gateway and fencing between the Port Gawler Off Road Park and AIBS has significantly reduced the number of vehicles accessing the beach area. It has also reduced the amount of rubbish dumped. Ranger compliance patrols have resulted in reduced expiations for driving/riding in unauthorised areas and for dogs off-lead.
- Within and adjacent to the ADS, AIBS Rangers undertook African boxthorn control. Warren and den mapping was undertaken at both Port Gawler and Buckland Park. NPWS Rangers, Landscape Board staff and volunteers supported a feral deer control program from Buckland Park to the Light River Estuary in May 2023 and successfully removed 373 deer from the area. This effort has been complemented by volunteer ground shooting activities removing 54 deer, totalling in 427 removed from an estimated population of 500 deer.
- Conservation works funded by Green Adelaide included weed control undertaken on Torrens Island, Bird Island and at Mutton Cove. Pest control was also undertaken at these sites, using the conservation dog, den fumigation and Felixer (fox control).
- Green Adelaide planted a range of critically endangered and threatened plant species to add to existing populations on Torrens Island. A further 600 spinifex were planted on Bird Island to help with dune stabilisation.
- A meeting was held at Torrens Island Conservation Park with Kaurna Parks Advisory Committee members to discuss co-management arrangements of Torrens Island.
- BirdLife Australia coordinated shorebird population counts in Upper Gulf St Vincent. 31 participants completed a total of 264 surveys. Gulf St Vincent is known to be one of the most species diverse shorebird areas in Australia: 52 species of shorebird were documented in the region.
- Sharing our Shores coordinated a weekly census of the endangered Fairy Tern with Coastal Wildlife Project staff and BirdLife Australia. 23 trips were made to Bird Island during the 2022-23 breeding season, from October 2022 to March 2023. 7 colonies were recorded and monitored during this time, with a total of 123 adult birds, 90 nests and 24 chicks, with 15 confirmed as fledged.
- Estuary Care Foundation (**ECF**) continued to monitor the extension of seagrass along the west side of Torrens Island. ECF also contributed to the third year of '*Seeds for Snapper*', seagrass restoration project.
- ECF collaborated with OzFish to trial their Robust Oyster Baskets for shellfish reef restoration. NPWS Rangers assisted ECF with the transfer of mature native oysters onto the reef.
- Flinders Ports maintenance dredging and sweeping operation in the Inner and Outer Harbors of the Port River resulted in the removal of 2.3 tonnes of

rubbish, which included rubber tyres, an anchor, scrap metal, steel, rope and other miscellaneous items.

Objective 3 – Improvement of water quality

- Aquatic Activity Licences referred to DEW under the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993* were assessed in terms of possible water quality impacts and risks to dolphins. Developments, activities and planning documents were referred to DEW and were assessed for their potential impact on water quality through sediment disturbance and appropriate actions were recommended to minimise any disturbance.
- Staff continued to remove floating marine debris while on patrols.
- Flinders University is continuing to undertake water quality and microbial community analysis of the Port River system. Flinders University is also undertaking research to determine the state of harmful algal blooms in the ADS and Port River System.
- EPA is repeating its 'Metals in Mussels' research study. This project involves deploying blue mussels into estuarine and coastal environments across South Australia, including within the ADS. Mussels are recovered after a period of time and analysed for total metal load. Results from the current study will be compared to previous study undertaken in 2009.
- EPA has engaged PIRSA to collect fish from sites within the ADS to test for metals and persistent organic pollutants. Results will be compared to previous sampling in 2012.
- In March 2023, a small fuel spill occurred in the Inner Port. The Metropolitan Fire Service and DIT responded to contain and clean the spill.
- DEW contributed to the initial discussions regarding a long-term restoration project for the Port River Ecosystem, which is likely to involve multiple government agencies, researchers, industry, non-government organisations and community groups.

Objective 4 – Recognition of local interests and participation in management processes

- DEW has engaged independent community organisations, such as Whale and Dolphin Conservation and the Australian Marine Wildlife Research and Rescue Organisation, and local university academics and students in the ongoing investigation process.
- Rangers work with registered Friends of Parks groups including the ADS Action Group, Estuary Care Foundation (**ECF**), Friends of Torrens Island Quarantine Station and Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries.
- Rangers have offered to deliver training sessions for commercial tour staff. These sessions offer an introduction to the ADS and marine parks, information on dolphin ecology and compliance with marine mammal regulations.
- Rangers provided advice for existing and new ADS Commercial Tour Operator permit applications under the Marine Mammal Tour Permitting Policy, in support of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Protected Animals - Marine Mammals) Regulations 2010*.

Objective 5 – Promotion of public awareness of ecological importance of the area

- The values and purpose of the ADS and the state's marine parks were promoted to the community at a range of events and public forums, for example:
 - Dockside Festival
 - Victor Harbor Whale Festival
 - Coastal Ambassadors program (Green Adelaide).
- Rangers held on-site sessions for primary school students from Prospect North Primary and year 12 students from Ocean View College, discussing the relationship between environmental needs and human uses of the ADS.
- Rangers and ECF presented at lunchtime seminars to the Department of Treasury and Finance.
- To ensure transparency and a high level of public awareness, regular updates, frequently asked questions and published reports regarding the investigation into dolphin health issues will continue to be posted on the website: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/plants-and-animals/living-with-wildlife/whales-dolphins/adelaide-dolphin-sanctuary-investigation>
- The DEW marine parks caravan continued to be used throughout the year to promote the ADS and marine parks at community events and ranger 'pop-ups'.
- Rangers have a regular presence at key boat ramps in the Port River and Barker Inlet, distributing 'Boating around marine mammal' stickers and educating park users about environmental issues and regulations. Staff distributed ADS visitor guide maps and boating stickers at numerous community outlets.
- Rangers continue to organise electronic sign boards for Garden Island boat ramp over busy and good weather periods. The sign boards are an additional means to inform visitors about dolphin approach distances and speed restrictions.
- Volunteer Rangers have joined commercial tour operators on tours of the ADS, providing additional interpretative information about the park, dolphins and marine habitats.
- ECF presented to various groups including Tennyson Dunes Open Day, members of the Butterfly Conservation SA, TAFE students, Flinders University students, Portside Christian College, Coastal Ambassadors and Royal Geographic Society of SA.
- ECF conducted a guided Port River Eco Walk in collaboration with the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.
- The ADS and its dolphins were featured in a number of radio, newspaper and TV stories.
- Rangers ran a tour of the ADS for staff in the Office of the Executive Director NPWS.

Objective 6 – Promotion of the principles of ecological sustainable development

- Staff provided advice on 9 referrals under the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993* and 9 referrals under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*. Comments

were also provided on a range of development related projects or plans under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* occurring within and adjacent to the ADS.

Objective 7 – Enforcement of general duty of care

No instances involving breaches of general duty of care were reported.

Objective 8 – Issuance of protection or other orders

No protection or reparation orders/authorisations were issued.

Objective 9 – Annual implementation program for management plan

Section 26(2)(c) of the ADS Act requires the preparation of a program setting out the Minister's proposals for the implementation of the ADS Management Plan for the current financial year. The Management Plan is a 7-year document and includes a broad description of activities to be considered over this time period.

The Annual Implementation Program for 2023-24 is provided below and has been prepared in line with the strategies and actions outlined in the ADS Management Plan.

ADS annual implementation program 2023-24

DEW's NPWS AMLR Region Marine Parks Program will work with supporting agencies during 2023-24 to achieve the objectives of the ADS Act and strategies outlined in the ADS Management Plan 2008. A statutory review of the ADS Management Plan is underway, with a public consultation process and finalisation of the new plan expected following the conclusion of the Select Committee Inquiry into the ADS. The implementation program may be adjusted to meet the requirements of the new management plan during the 2023-24 reporting period.

Objective 1 - 'The protection of the dolphin population of the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet from direct and physical harm is to be maintained and improved' ADS Act Section 8(1)(a)

Issue 1.1 Lack of scientific knowledge about ADS dolphins

Actions:

- Continue scientific monitoring surveys to track the local dolphin population.
- Support ongoing research into ADS dolphins and their habitats and maintain partnerships and collaborations with universities, SA Museum and other researchers.
- Maintain involvement with the Gulf St Vincent Research Advisory Group.
- Seek advice from the Dolphin Veterinary Reference Group in relation to dolphin health and welfare incidents.
- Continue the collection of deceased dolphins for post mortem examination by partner research institutions to build on our knowledge base.

Issue 1.2 Vessel strike (commercial shipping, fishing and recreational vessels)

Actions:

- DEW and DIT will continue enforcement of vessel speed limits to ensure safety for dolphins and for recreational users of the area.

Issue 1.3 Entanglement in vessel and fishing gear

Actions:

- Continue to work with PIRSA to risk assess and review fishing practices in the ADS.
- Engage park users and work with existing education programs to increase awareness of marine debris and its impacts on dolphins and their habitat.
- Develop signage to educate the community about responsible fishing practices around dolphins.

Issue 1.4 Intentional harm

Actions:

- Continue regular land and sea patrols to ensure compliance with the *National Parks and Wildlife (Protected Animals—Marine Mammals) Regulations 2010*.
- Maintain education programs to increase awareness of dolphins and support members of the public who report observations of potential incidents.

Issue 1.5 Impacts from human interaction

Actions:

- Work with volunteers to maintain regular observation of resident animals to observe any significant behavioural changes.
- Support research (and promote findings) that investigate potential impacts of human-induced threats.

Objective 2 - 'The key habitat features in the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet that are necessary to sustain the dolphin population are to be maintained, protected and restored' ADS Act Section 8(1)(b)

Issue 2.1 Food Supply

Actions:

- Support research (and promote findings) to determine the specific prey species of ADS dolphins.

Issue 2.2 Loss of vegetation: seagrass, mangroves and supporting species

Actions:

- Building on existing work, support research on seagrasses, mangroves and associated vegetation (including saltmarsh) in the ADS to determine overall health and possible areas for rehabilitation action; and to monitor possible impacts of a changing climate.
- Support government agencies, local council and community group efforts to rehabilitate and re-establish vegetation and habitats, such as native oyster reefs.
- Support ongoing seagrass research and rehabilitation programs undertaken by external partner agencies and groups.

Issue 2.3 New developments

Actions:

- Continue to work with proponents of new and existing developments to ensure that objectives of the ADS Act and the management plan are appropriately considered.
- Work with DIT and local councils to develop performance guidelines for development to support achievement of ADS objectives.

Issue 2.4 Marine pests: *Caulerpa taxifolia*, *Caulerpa racemosa* and others

Actions:

- Support PIRSA initiatives and research in identifying and controlling introduced species.

Objective 3 - 'Water quality within the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet should be improved to a level that sustains the ecological processes, environmental values and productive capacity of the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet' ADS Act Section 8(1)(c)

Issue 3.1 Discharges - nutrients

Actions:

- Work with the EPA to implement the Port Waterways Water Quality Improvement Plan and address recommendations outlined in the Adelaide Coastal Waters Study which are relevant to the ADS.
- Work with the EPA to monitor water quality at points throughout the Port River and Barker Inlet as required.

Issue 3.2 Discharges - pollutants

Actions:

- Support the use of best practice methods for dredging and other sediment disturbance activities to minimise distribution of possibly contaminated sediments and introduced species such as *Caulerpa taxifolia*.
- Maintain litter management activities including collection of marine debris on patrols and clean up days with the ADS Action Group and other local environment groups.

Issue 3.3 Turbidity and release of toxins from sediment

Actions:

- Undertake work on vegetation protection to support stabilisation of sediments.
- Ensure aquatic licence assessments address activities with the potential to cause turbidity.

Objective 4 - 'The interests of the community are to be taken into account by recognising indigenous and other cultural, and historical, relationships with the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet and surrounding areas, and by ensuring appropriate participation in processes associated with the management of the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet' ADS Act Section 8(1)(d)

Issue 4.1 Inclusion of all stakeholders

Actions:

- Public consultation on the ADS Management Plan and/or amendments will follow statutory processes.
- DEW will continue to work with key stakeholders and community volunteers to protect the dolphins and improve their environment and will continue to seek new opportunities for partnerships.
- The Parks and Wilderness Council community representatives will provide the Minister with advice as required by the ADS Act.
- The online presence of the ADS will be updated as required.

Issue 4.2 Support of recreational users

Actions:

- DEW will continue ongoing assessment of referrals for aquatic licences (under section 26 of *Harbours and Navigation Act 1993*).
- DEW will collaborate with DIT in relation to the management of recreational uses and the achievement of ADS objectives.

Issue 4.3 Support of industry interests

Actions:

- DEW will provide advice to industries on how to best achieve ecologically sustainable development outcomes.

Issue 4.4 Protection of indigenous values in the area

Actions:

- Support Kaurna aspirations in developing co-management arrangements for the Torrens Island Conservation Park.
- Ensure Kaurna cultural values are respected, nurtured and conserved through working cooperatively with the Kaurna community.
- Ensure Kaurna are key partners for engagement and participation in major projects and decision making processes.

Issue 4.5 Support for tourism activities

Actions:

- Work with commercial tour operators to develop appropriate interpretative information.
- Work with operators and the public to ensure understanding of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Protected Animals - Marine Mammals) Regulations 2010* and support compliance with these.
- Support the growth of sustainable nature based tourism to ensure activities are compatible with the Act and management plan objectives.

Objective 5 - 'Public awareness of the importance of a healthy Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet to the economic, social and cultural prosperities of the local communities, and the community more generally, is to be promoted' ADS Act Section 8(1)(e)

Issue 5.1 Supply of informative, timely and accessible information about the ADS

Actions:

- Work with relevant government agencies, including PIRSA Fisheries, DIT and EPA to ensure consistent delivery of messages.
- Continue to support the Park of the Month and distribute interpretative materials.
- Work with stakeholders to maximise communication opportunities.
- Utilise various forms of media, as appropriate, to distribute information.

Issue 5.2 ADS Signage

Actions:

- Update signage to address key management needs.

Objective 6 - 'The principles of ecological sustainable development in relation to the use and management of the Port Adelaide River estuary and Barker Inlet are to be promoted' ADS Act Section 8(1)(f)

Issue 6.1 Promote the implementation of economically sustainable development (ESD) principles with local industries and new developments**Actions:**

- In conjunction with other agencies, work with new and existing industries to support the achievement of ESD principles.
- Prepare and deliver industry-specific information as required.

| Act or Regulation | Requirement |
|---|---|
| <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i> | <p>20 - Administrative unit report</p> <p>(1) The annual report of the Minister's department must include a report on work undertaken within the department in relation to the development of climate change policy and related initiatives.</p> <p>(2) The Chief Executive of the Minister's department must consult with the Premier's Climate Change Council in connection with the preparation of the report required under subsection (1).</p> |
| <i>Refer to 'Agency Specific Objectives and Performance' section, Support for climate risk management and emissions reduction, on pages 21-22, for work undertaken in relation to the development of climate change policy and related initiatives.</i> | |

| Act or Regulation | Requirement | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <i>Crown Land Management Act 2009</i> | <p>25—Disposal by transfer or grant of fee simple</p> <p>(3) If, during a financial year, the Minister—</p> <p>(a) disposes of Crown land other than by public auction, public tender or other open competitive process on the basis that he or she is satisfied that special circumstances exist in accordance with subsection (1)(f); or</p> <p>(b) disposes of Crown land for less than the market value of the Crown's interest in the land or for no consideration on the basis that he or she, and the Treasurer, are satisfied that special circumstances exist in accordance with subsection (2)(d), the Minister must ensure that details of the disposal (including a description of the land, the market value of the Crown's interest in the land and the consideration, if any, for the disposal) are set out in the annual report presented by the Department to the Minister under the Public Sector Act 2009 in relation to that financial year.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>The following parcel was dedicated to the Yorke Peninsula Council for camping and caravan park purposes. The park was leased by Council. Approval was granted to sell the land to the lessee under special circumstances.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <table><tr><th>Land Description</th><th>Total Market Value</th><th>Consideration Paid</th></tr><tr><td>Section 170, Hundred of Muloowurtie</td><td>\$240,000.00 (GST excl)</td><td>\$240,000.00 (GST excl)</td></tr></table> | Land Description | Total Market Value | Consideration Paid | Section 170, Hundred of Muloowurtie | \$240,000.00 (GST excl) | \$240,000.00 (GST excl) | |
| Land Description | Total Market Value | Consideration Paid | | | | | |
| Section 170, Hundred of Muloowurtie | \$240,000.00 (GST excl) | \$240,000.00 (GST excl) | | | | | |
| <p>The following parcel was dedicated to Kangaroo Island Council for Harbour purposes. The land was leased by Council. Approval was granted to sell the land to the lessee under special circumstances.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <table><tr><th>Land Description</th><th>Total Market Value</th><th>Consideration Paid</th></tr><tr><td>Allotment 101 in Deposited Plan 93296</td><td>\$180,000.00 (GST exempt)</td><td>\$180,000.00 (GST exempt)</td></tr></table> | Land Description | Total Market Value | Consideration Paid | Allotment 101 in Deposited Plan 93296 | \$180,000.00 (GST exempt) | \$180,000.00 (GST exempt) | |
| Land Description | Total Market Value | Consideration Paid | | | | | |
| Allotment 101 in Deposited Plan 93296 | \$180,000.00 (GST exempt) | \$180,000.00 (GST exempt) | | | | | |

| Act or Regulation | Requirement | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> | <p>13—Information to be included in annual report</p> <p>(1) The annual report of the Department must include the following information:</p> <p>(a) the aggregate amount of fees paid for entrance to reserves during the relevant year; and</p> <p>(b) the aggregate amount paid pursuant to leases, licences and other agreements referred to in section 35 during the relevant year; and</p> <p>(c) the aggregate amount of fees and other charges paid for camping and other accommodation on reserves during the relevant year; and</p> <p>(d) the aggregate amount paid for Guided tours during the relevant year.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Aggregated totals of park revenue for 2022-23 are categorised below:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Admissions and Guided Tours</td><td>\$ 9,432,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Property Rental and related income</td><td>\$ 1,433,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sale of Goods</td><td>\$ 3,274,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Camping, Accommodation, Parking and Hire fees</td><td>\$ 2,332,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Levies, Licences and Other</td><td><u>\$ 215,000</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Park Revenue</td><td>\$16,686,000</td></tr> </table> | | Admissions and Guided Tours | \$ 9,432,000 | Property Rental and related income | \$ 1,433,000 | Sale of Goods | \$ 3,274,000 | Camping, Accommodation, Parking and Hire fees | \$ 2,332,000 | Levies, Licences and Other | <u>\$ 215,000</u> | Total Park Revenue | \$16,686,000 |
| Admissions and Guided Tours | \$ 9,432,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Property Rental and related income | \$ 1,433,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sale of Goods | \$ 3,274,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Camping, Accommodation, Parking and Hire fees | \$ 2,332,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Levies, Licences and Other | <u>\$ 215,000</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Park Revenue | \$16,686,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Act or Regulation | Requirement |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>River Murray Act 2003</i> | <p><u>10 – Annual report</u></p> <p>(1) The Minister must on or before 30 September in each year prepare a report on the operation of this Act for the Financial year ending on the preceding 30 June.</p> <p>(2) The report must include –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) information on the implementation of this Act (taking into account the provisions of the Implementation Strategy); and b) information on the extent to which the objects of this Act and the ORMs are being achieved; and c) reports on the following matters for the relevant financial year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the referral of matters to the Minister under any related operational Act; and (ii) the enforcement of the general duty of care; and (iii) action taken by the Minister or an authorised officer under Part 8 <p><u>11 – Three-yearly reports</u></p> <p>(1) The Minister must, on a three-yearly basis, undertake a review of this Act.</p> <p>(2) The review must include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An assessment of the interaction between this Act, the related operational Acts, and any other Act considered relevant by the Minister; and b) An assessment of the state of the River Murray, especially taking into account the ORMs, and may include other matters determined by the Minister to be relevant to a review of this Act. |

- | | |
|--|---|
| | (3) The review must be undertaken so as to coincide with the end of a financial year and the outcome of the review must be reported on as part of the Minister's annual report to Parliament for that financial year. |
|--|---|

Section 10 – Annual Report

Implementation of the Act

A healthy River Murray balances long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability and recognises the interconnectedness of these elements. To this end, an Implementation Strategy has been developed to protect, restore and enhance the health of the River Murray. The Implementation Strategy was developed to align with both the Objects of the River Murray Act and the objectives of the Basin Plan Implementation Strategy and support the former State Natural Resources Management Plan and Planning Strategy.

Following reforms to South Australia's Planning System, the commencement of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* including the State Landscape Strategy and extended implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, DEW had identified the need for a comprehensive review of the Implementation Strategy to be undertaken in 2022-23. The review was postponed due to the impact of the 2022-23 River Murray flood on communities.

Subsequent activity surrounding the flood, in relation to levee banks and development approvals under the River Murray Act and Planning System has highlighted the need for a comprehensive review of the River Murray Act rather than a review of the Implementation Strategy. Review of the River Murray Act will provide an opportunity for River Murray communities to contribute their experiences and knowledge into future management of the River Murray. The review is expected to commence in 2024-25 and will address the requirements of the River Murray Act, consider issues relating to the recent flood event and future Basin Plan implementation. The review may result in recommendations for legislative reform.

Objectives and the Objectives for a Healthy River Murray (ORMs) of the River Murray Act

This section provides information on the extent to which the Objects of the River Murray Act and the ORM's in relation to the health of the river, environmental flows, water quality and good community outcomes were achieved in the 2022-23 year.

River health and environmental flow

The 2022-23 River Murray flood was the largest flooding event since 1956 and the third highest flood ever recorded in South Australia with flow peaking at around 190,000 megalitres per day at the South Australian border on 23 December 2022. During the flood, the river, floodplain and estuarine environments became fully reconnected with no impediment (such as weirs and barrages) to the flow of water or the movement of fish and other biota throughout the system.

Significant environmental benefits of the flood have already been observed along the length of River Murray in South Australia including:

- improved salinity conditions in the Lower Lakes and Coorong

- scouring of the Murray Mouth
- breeding and improved condition of Murray cod and golden perch
- breeding of birds, frogs and other flood dependent species
- inundation of many thousands of hectares of stressed floodplain and wetland habitat
- improved condition of long-lived floodplain vegetation including river red gums and black box and flourishing flood dependent understorey vegetation, including a range of threatened species, and
- flushing of salt from floodplain soils

The river health and environmental flow objectives were met in 2022-23.

Water quality

South Australia remains committed to the ongoing delivery of salinity and water quality management obligations under the Basin Plan and Basin Salinity Management 2030 Strategy. The Basin Plan establishes the Water Quality and Salinity Management Plan, which sets out water quality objectives for Basin water resources and water quality targets. The salinity targets relevant to South Australia are:

- River Murray at Lock 6 – 580 EC
- River Murray at Morgan – 800 EC
- River Murray at Murray Bridge – 830 EC
- Lower Lakes at Milang – 1,000 EC

In 2022-23 salinity levels remained within the targeted Basin Plan salinity range.

Human dimension

Incorporating the experience and knowledge of the local community and First Nations is critical to successfully restoring the health of the River Murray. The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board held two community workshops with water users in early November 2022 to ask water licence holders and other community members to offer ideas for how concerns regarding the sustainability of the water resource and the environment could be addressed.

An Indigenous ranger team had been a long-held aspiration for the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation that came to fruition in 2022-23. The team works to protect and preserve their Country's unique cultural and environmental values, covering an area from Morgan, South Australia, to the New South Wales / Victoria border. Rangers look after Indigenous burial sites, cultural heritage sites of significance, tree health, fencing and they monitor wildlife. The program also aims to create positive social outcomes for the rangers, their families, the local Aboriginal community and the broader community.

Referral of matters under related operational Acts

In 2022-23 there were 400 statutory referrals made to the Minister with the majority of referrals made through the Planning and Design Code under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

Referrals were received for statutory authorisations including applications proposing the construction of buildings and structures, earthworks, land division, mining exploration and leases, aquatic activity licences and fisheries permits and exemptions. No statutory instruments were referred under the related operational Acts.

Referral of matters under related operational Acts

| Act | Statutory Authorisations | Statutory Instruments |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i> | 18 | 0 |
| <i>Harbors and Navigation Act 1993</i> | 23 | 0 |
| <i>Mining Act 1971</i> | 15 | 0 |
| <i>Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000</i> | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 / Development Act 1993</i> | 344 | 0 |
| Total | 400* | 0 |

*For comparison, 339, 439 and 457 referrals were received in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively.

Referrals under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and *Development Act 1993*

Statutory Authorisations

Under delegation from the Minister, advice and direction was provided on 344 development application referrals received in 2022-23 to ensure that development activities in the River Murray Protection Areas complied with the Objects of the River Murray Act and its ORMs. The majority of development referrals were mandatory referrals under the new Planning and Design Code, while a small number of historical applications were received under the *Development Regulations 2008*, being those lodged prior to the Code coming into operation in the relevant local Government area. The vast majority of referrals were addressed within the statutory time frame.

A range of applications for statutory authorisations were referred to the Minister, including buildings (e.g. dwellings or outbuildings), river structures (e.g. jetties, pontoons, mooring posts, and boat ramps), earthworks within the floodplain, activities requiring River Murray water (e.g. irrigation, intensive animal keeping, or aquaculture) and land divisions. All referrals were assessed against the River Murray Act Objects and its ORMs.

Applications received were initially reviewed to examine any key issues and decide whether specific advice would be required. Where required, advice on the referrals was sought from a range of specialist staff and groups within DEW and other agencies as part of the one stop shop service. This advice resulted in referrals

being examined in relation to their impact on a range of natural resource assets, for example water resources, environmental flows, vegetation and cultural heritage.

One Stop Shop service

Applicants were also advised of their obligations under related operational Acts including the *Crown Land Management Act 2009*, the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, the *Coast Protection Act 1972*, the *Heritage Places Act 1993*, the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981*, the *Environment Protection Act 1993* and the *Harbours and Navigation Act 1993*. Advice regarding obligations under legislation not directly related to the River Murray Act was also provided, including the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (**EPBC Act**).

For the majority of mandatory referrals, conditions were attached to the approval. The conditions generally required, as a minimum, that during works, the site be appropriately maintained, that waste material be properly contained and disposed of, and that the potential for erosion and sedimentation of water resources be minimised through responsible stormwater management. There were only two directions to refuse development applications during 2022-23 however many assessments included requests or advice to the applicant for proposal amendments such that a more appropriate outcome would be achieved, and a favourable referral response provided to the Planning Authority. The majority (96%) of mandatory referrals during 2022-23 related to activities occurring within the River Murray Floodplain Area. The River Murray Tributaries Area accounted for approximately 3.5% of referred development proposals, while less than 1% of referrals (0.5) received were pertaining to activities outside of those areas but within the Murray-Darling Basin.

Statutory Instruments

No statutory instruments were referred to the Minister for the River Murray Act in 2022-23.

Update on *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* Planning Reforms

On 19 March 2021, the final 'phase' of the Planning and Design Code was rolled out, applying over the whole of South Australia. The Code includes the River Murray Flood Plain Protection Area Overlay and the River Murray Tributaries Protection Area Overlay (which align with the River Murray Protection Areas) as well as the Murray-Darling Basin Overlay, which covers the SA portion of the Basin. As well as spatially identifying these River Murray areas, the Overlays also contain the development assessment policies and the triggers for referring development applications to the Minister. By the end of the 2022-23 financial year, the vast majority of development application referrals received were through the new planning system.

Since its inception, the referral process under the Planning and Design Code as it relates to the *Heritage Places Act 1993*, *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981*, *Coast Protection Act 1972*, *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* has resulted in referrals to the authorities responsible for the administration of those Acts directly, rather than the River Murray Minister (who in some circumstances may also receive the same referral).

During 2022-23, DEW continued to work with the Planning and Land Use Services in the Department of Trade and Investment to identify issues and improvements to the Planning and Design Code, which culminated in the finalisation of the Miscellaneous Technical Enhancement Code Amendment, which has resulted in several policy improvements and reduction in referrals.

DEW has also had input to the River Murray Flood Resilience Code Amendment, which is aiming to ensure that development in the Floodplain is more resilient to future flood events. Consultation on the River Murray Flood Resilience Code Amendment commenced on 29 June 2023.

Referrals under the *Mining Act 1971* and *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000*

A total of 15 mining applications were referred in 2022-23 including exploration licences and mining leases in accordance with the *Mining Act 1971*. In all instances, advice was provided to applicants regarding their obligations on matters such as water use and native vegetation. No referrals were received under the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000*.

Referrals under the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993*

A total of 23 Aquatic Activity Licence applications were referred in 2022-23 in accordance with the regulations of the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993*. Activity licences typically included closing off part of the river for special activities such as regattas, dinghy racing and wakeboarding and water-skiing competitions. The role of the referral process in this respect is to provide education regarding relevant responsibilities to the organisers and the public for protecting the river. Consistent with that and reported since 2019-20, a higher level of consultation with DIT and applicants has occurred where activities were proposed within Ramsar reserves, such as the creeks of the Murray River National Park, north of Renmark.

Referrals under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*

The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development must consult with the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water prior to issuing a licence, permit, or an exemption from the requirement for a licence under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* for activities that relate to waters within the River Murray system. In 2022-23, 18 such matters were referred in relation to projects conducted for research, scientific, or conservation purposes that were found to further the ORMs and Objects of the River Murray Act.

Enforcement of the general duty of care

DEW has accountability across various aspects of compliance in relation to the River Murray Act. These business groups collaborate to assist in identifying and addressing compliance concerns, particularly with respect to the 'general duty of care' provisions of the River Murray Act. In 2022-23 these groups supported the River Murray flood response.

DEW assesses any activity that proposes to take or return water to the river which has the potential to impact negatively on the river and its users. In 2022-23, 12 applications across 25 sites (some being multi-site applications) were approved following assessments conducted by the River Murray Operations Working Group (comprising DEW, PIRSA, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research

Organisation, SA Water, EPA and the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board).

Action under Part 8

In 2022-23 no action was taken by the Minister or an authorised officer under Part 8 of the River Murray Act in 2022-23.

Section 11 – Three-yearly reports

The River Murray Act requires the Minister to undertake a Triennial Review that includes an assessment of the interaction between the River Murray Act and the related operational Acts, and the state of the River Murray, especially the ORMs. This section covers the review period 2020-21 to 2022-23.

State of the River Murray

Climatic conditions

Following three consecutive dry years, the water year of 2020-21 saw moderate flow conditions throughout the Murray Darling Basin. The water years of 2021-22 and 2022-23 experienced wet climatic conditions across the basin, leading to high to very high unregulated flow volumes.

River Health

The river health objectives include the protection and restoration of high value floodplains and wetlands of national and international importance, enhancement of ecological processes, prevention of the extinction of native species and the avoidance of barriers to the migration of native species.

The implementation of environmental watering regimes and the completion of key infrastructure on the Katarapko and Pike Floodplains has supported the ongoing improvement of condition and resilience in keystone aquatic and riparian vegetation and fauna assemblages. Managed overbank flows and the strategic use of water for the environment have supported improvements in floodplain tree condition, Murray cod population age structure and stable Golden perch population age structure. Monitoring within the Coorong, Lower Lakes, and Murray Mouth (**CLLMM**) indicates that flows are contributing to the continuing improvement in the condition of both aquatic and littoral vegetation and diadromous fish recruitment.

Summary of monitoring results on the state of the River Murray for each of the reporting years of the triennial review are provided below:

2020-21: Approximately 980 gigalitres of environmental water were delivered to South Australia during this year. Notable environmental watering events included the pumping of 20 gigalitres to wetlands and floodplains, operation of two floodplain regulators, management of 123 environmental sites, and a coordinated spring flow through the river channel.

Environmental water, in conjunction with unregulated flow, resulted in a spawning event of silver perch and increased zooplankton species richness in the main river channel. Floodplain and wetland monitoring indicated improved conditions of vegetation (River red gum, Black-box, and Lignum), presence of diverse frog populations (including higher numbers of Southern bell frog, listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act), and presence of 29 waterbird species (including four species listed as rare under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*).

Environmental watering delivered 906 gigalitres of water to the CLLMM. When combined with unregulated flow, this resulted in 1,330 gigalitres of continuous flow through the barrages, exporting salt from the Basin, and maintaining salinities in Lake Alexandrina below 1,000 EC. Fishways operated year-round, facilitating the upstream migration of pouched and short-headed lamprey, with one individual travelling over 878 kilometres upstream past Lock 11.

Environmental water also supported the migration of Congolli into the Coorong and a significant spawning event of southern pygmy perch. The combination of environmental and unregulated flows also supported the largest flowering event of *Ruppia tuberosa* in the CLLMM since the Millennium drought. However, the impacts of filamentous green algae prevented the flowering event from translating into any increase in seed density.

2021-22: Approximately 1,214 gigalitres of environmental water were delivered to South Australia during 2021-22, complemented by 5,312 gigalitres of unregulated flow. Successful environmental watering events included the pumping of 14 gigalitres to wetlands and floodplains, operation of three floodplain regulators, management of 109 environmental sites, and a Lower Lakes water level cycling event.

Environmental water in the river channel, along with unregulated flow, supported the ongoing survival of Murray Cod spawned in 2019-20 and resulted in the largest Golden perch recruitment events since 2010-2014. Monitoring indicated that managed and unregulated flow continued to support stable populations of Murray cod, Silver perch, and freshwater catfish, as well as the spawning of Golden perch, Carp gudgeon, Flathead gudgeon, and Unspeckled hardyhead. Diverse populations of frog species were recorded across floodplains and wetlands. Notably, a successful recruitment event of the southern bell frog was observed. The inundated areas of wetlands and floodplains supported the good condition of River red gum, Black box, River coobah, and Lignum.

Environmental watering delivered 1,174 gigalitres of water to the CLLMM, with an additional 5,223 gigalitres of unregulated flow. A total of 6,161 gigalitres of continuous flow was released through the barrages, exporting salt from the Basin and ensuring continuous connectivity between the River Murray and Coorong Estuary. The flow supported moderate recruitment of migrating Congolli and Common galaxias, recruitment of Smallmouth hardyhead and the highest numbers of Southern pygmy perch recorded since the Millennium drought. Widespread distribution of *Ruppia sp.* was observed in the north and south lagoon of the Coorong, along with a successful flowering and fruiting event in the south lagoon.

2022-23: This year was characterised by very high unregulated flows, resulting in the majority of the South Australian River Murray floodplain being inundated. The flow peaked at around 190,000 megalitres per day at the South Australian border on 23 December 2022, marking the highest flow since 1956. The high flow necessitated the opening of regulators and removal of weirs as the flow exceeded infrastructure operational capacity.

The high unregulated flow volumes, in combination with environmental watering, resulted in significant environmental benefits along the length of the River Murray in South Australia. Highlights include improved salinity conditions in the Lower Lakes and Coorong, scouring of the Murray Mouth, widespread growth of aquatic

vegetation in the Coorong and high abundances and diversity of Coorong fish (with some areas recording the highest species diversity in 20 years).

Along the river channel and floodplain highlights included breeding and improved condition of Murray cod and Golden perch, breeding of birds, frogs, and other flood-dependent species, inundation of many thousands of hectares of floodplain and wetland habitat, improved condition of River red gum, Black box, and Lignum (including signs of seedling germination and recruitment), significant breeding events of large waders, and flushing of salt from floodplain soils.

Environmental flows

The environmental flow objectives include the reinstatement and maintenance of the ecologically significant elements of the natural flow regime, an open Murray Mouth and improvements in the connectivity between the environments of the River Murray system.

Major environmental infrastructure works were commissioned on Katarapko Floodplain and Pike Floodplain in 2020 to reinstate significant elements of the natural flow regime, remove barriers and banks to improve fish passage and flow and enable managed inundations of the landscape when the river is lower than naturally required to inundate those areas. These works were constructed through the Riverine Recovery Project, which was funded 90% by the Australian Government and 10% by the South Australian Government, and the South Australian Riverland Floodplains Integrated Infrastructure Program, which was 100% funded by the Australian Government.

The Basin Plan has provided around 1000 gegalitres of water for the environment each year. Along with unregulated flows this water has helped to maintain connectivity between the Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth for 13 years and improved the resilience of some critical habitats including the Lakes and Coorong and those parts of the floodplain that have been actively managed with infrastructure.

Water Quality

The water quality objectives include the minimisation of potential pollutants, salinity and algal blooms and improvement of water quality to a level that sustains ecological processes, environmental values and productive capacity of the system.

The ongoing management of salinity and water quality in the Murray-Darling Basin is critical to continue to protect the environment, irrigated agriculture, industry and critical human water needs from adverse effects of high salinities and other water quality issues. South Australia remains committed to the ongoing delivery of salinity and water quality management obligations under the Basin Plan and Basin Salinity Management 2030 strategy. The Basin Plan establishes the Water Quality and Salinity Management Plan, which sets out water quality objectives for Basin water resources and water quality targets. The salinity targets relevant to South Australia are:

- River Murray at Lock 6 – below 580 EC
- River Murray at Morgan – below 800 EC
- River Murray at Murray Bridge – below 830 EC

- Lower Lakes at Milang – below 1,000 EC

In 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 salinity levels remained within the targeted Basin Plan salinity range for the majority of the period. However, daily average salinity at Milang exceeded 1,000 EC for 16 days during the reporting period (1% of days) with a significant salinity spike observed in June 2022 due to sea water entering the Lower Lakes during a severe weather and high tide event. Although the period of seawater incursion was brief and more than 20 gigalitres per day (GL/day) was flowing through the mouth at the time, a body of saline water became stubbornly trapped in a corner of Lake Alexandrina near Milang and thus was not representative of salinity conditions for the whole lake. Average Lake Alexandrina salinity exceeded 1000 EC for around half the duration observed at Milang, around 7 days. All other sites remained well below target levels. The disconnection and subsequent reconnection of higher-salinity water held in Lake Bonney with the River Murray during the 2022-23 flood recession resulted in a salinity spike in the Murray channel which passed all the way to the Lower Lakes. Salinity at Lock 3 reached a peak of 989 EC, with even higher readings recorded by some water users. However, mixing and dilution had reduced the peak salinity of the spike to 620 EC by the time it reached Morgan, which is well below the Basin salinity target at Morgan of <1000 EC for 95% of the time.

Human Dimension

The human dimension objectives include a responsive and adaptable approach to the management of the River Murray system, gathering, considering and disseminating the community's knowledge and understanding of the River Murray system, recognising indigenous and other cultural and historical relationships with the River Murray and its surrounding areas and the importance of a healthy river to the economic, social and cultural prosperity of the community.

The following operational plans and policies were developed during the reporting period and involved regular engagement with the community around how the River Murray is managed and provided opportunities to participate in planning processes and on-ground activities.

- Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse
- Murray River National Park Management Plan
- Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Lakes and Coorong Fishery
- Master plans for the Lock 3 Reach and Bookmark Creek Complex.

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board's Citizen Science Strategy 2021-2026 sets a vision for citizen science in the Murraylands and Riverland to enable the community to get involved in and be passionate about science and the regional landscapes. Projects that have enabled participants to share their local knowledge include surface water quality monitoring, waterbug bioblitz events, bird monitoring, bat monitoring, frog monitoring and fungi monitoring.

The Coorong Environmental Trust established under the *Coorong Environmental Trust Act 2021* will provide an additional opportunity for the community's knowledge and understanding of the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland Ramsar site to be gathered, considered and disseminated.

DEW continues to issue a weekly River Murray Flow Report. River Murray Flow Reports contain information about water levels, flow rates and barrage operations as well as any navigation issues and construction activities. This information is valued by commercial and recreational users of the River Murray and by residents and communities in close proximity to the River and floodplains.

Interaction between the *River Murray Act 2003* and related operational Acts

This section provides an assessment of the interaction between the *River Murray Act 2003* and Acts identified in the *River Murray Act 2003* as related operational Acts.

Aquaculture Act 2001

Development applications and development of marine aquaculture zone policies relating to aquaculture activities within the Murray-Darling Basin area must be referred to the Minister. During the reporting period, no development applications were referred to the Minister. Amendments made to the *Aquaculture Act in 2021* for tourism development in aquaculture zones do not apply to the River Murray.

Coast Protection Act 1972

The *Coast Protection Act 1972* requires the Coast Protection Board to take into account and seek to further, the Objects and objectives of the River Murray Act. Under the provisions of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* development applications affecting coastal land are no longer referred to the Minister responsible for the *River Murray Act 2003*.

Crown Land Management Act 2009

The objectives of the River Murray Act are reflected in the policies, procedures and guidelines of DEW's Crown Land Program. Crown Land licence applications or renewals within the Murray-Darling Basin must take account of the ORMs and Objects of the River Murray Act. The Program places conditions on, or recommends refusal of, applications for Crown land tenure that are incompatible with the ORMs. Amendments made to the *Crown Lands Management Act 2009* in 2021 for regarding tourism development in aquaculture zones do not apply to the River Murray.

Environment Protection Act 1993

The *Environment Protection Act 1993* requires the Minister to seek to further the ORMs and Objects of the River Murray Act. When issuing an authorisation, making an environment protection policy, or providing advice on development applications, the EPA takes into account the ORMs and Objects of the River Murray Act. The State of the Environment Report is also required to include a specific assessment of the state of the River Murray. The interaction between the two Acts contributes significantly to the water quality objective. For example, the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015 sets the environmental values for the River Murray, sets the criteria for discharges to the River and uses codes of practice to manage diffuse sources of pollution to the river, including nutrient inflows. The interaction between the two Acts is working well to the extent that there is little duplication, and the River Murray Act continues to facilitate increased EPA input into planning decisions.

Fisheries Management Act 2007

As a result of the interactions between the River Murray Act and the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, 39 applications under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* were referred to the Minister between 2020-21 and 2022-23. A new Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Lakes and Coorong Fishery was released in 2022. Regulations remain in place that allow for a Murray cod catch and release fishery. The implementation of catch and release fisheries has promoted greater awareness of the importance of the Murray cod to the river's ecological sustainability, while also recognising its importance to the River Murray community. The interactions between the River Murray Act and the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* assist in ensuring that the environmental impacts of recreational fishing in the River Murray are well managed.

Harbors and Navigation Act 1993

The *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993* allows the Chief Executive of DIT to grant a licence for an aquatic activity. If the licence is for waters within a River Murray Protection Area, the Chief Executive must consult with the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and comply with the Minister's directions. Between 2020-21 and 2022-23, 74 applications for aquatic licences were referred. The interaction between the River Murray Act and the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993* promotes the River Health ORM, as the Minister is able to direct that a licence is not granted, or be granted with specified conditions, if the Minister is concerned that a proposed activity may detrimentally affect the health of the River Murray. Licences may also be granted for activities that involve closing part of the river, such as rowing and water-skiing.

Heritage Places Act 1972

When permit applications made under the *Heritage Places Act 1993* relate to an area within the River Murray Protection Area, the South Australian Heritage Council must take into account the ORMs and Objects of the River Murray Act. Under the provisions of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* development applications affecting heritage places are no longer referred to the Minister responsible for the *River Murray Act 2003*.

Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981

When permit applications are made under the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981* relate to the River Murray, they must be referred to the South Australian Heritage Council which must take into account the ORMs and Objects of the River Murray Act. Under the provisions of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* development applications affecting permits under the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981* are no longer referred to the Minister responsible for the River Murray Act.

Irrigation Act 2009

The *Irrigation Act 2009* requires that an Irrigation Trust must not breach a duty or requirement under the River Murray Act, in determining terms and conditions on the supply or drainage of water. The interaction between the River Murray Act and the *Irrigation Act 2009* has facilitated consistency between legislative and other instruments, including the *Renmark Irrigation Trust Act 2009* for more efficient and streamlined practices.

Landscape South Australia Act 2019

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* commenced on 1 July 2020 and seeks to further the Objects and the ORMs of the River Murray Act through the Regional Landscape Plans and Water Allocation Plans that apply to the Murray-Darling Basin. The Minister also has the ability under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* to amend a plan to further the Objects of the River Murray Act and the ORMs. Under the provisions of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* development applications affecting permits under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* are no longer referred to the Minister responsible for the River Murray Act.

Mining Act 1971

Under the *Mining Act 1971*, the Objects of the River Murray Act and ORMs must be taken into account when considering applications for certain types of mining operations in the Murray-Darling Basin. With any application for mining operations that relate to an area within or adjacent to a specially protected area (which includes the River Murray Protection Area), the relevant authority must, before making a decision on the application, refer the application to the relevant Minister and consult with the relevant Minister in relation to the matter. Between 2020-21 and 2022-23, 33 referrals were made pursuant to the *Mining Act 1971*. The majority of these being for mining lease application assessments related to extractive minerals. Other referrals included applications for exploration licences and renewals. Amendments to modernise the *Mining Act 1971* came into effect on 1 January 2021.

Murray-Darling Basin Act 2008

The *Murray-Darling Basin Act 2008* facilitates the operation of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement 2008 to promote and coordinate effective planning and management for the equitable, efficient and sustainable use of water and other natural resources of the Murray-Darling Basin, including by implementing arrangements agreed between contracting governments to give effect to the Basin Plan, the Commonwealth *Water Act 2007* and state water entitlements.

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* provides for the conservation of listed flora and fauna and the management of a network of South Australian parks. The Objects of this Act are furthered by a range of activities including floodplain restoration, pest animal management, pest plant management, recreation and fire management. These activities are complementary to the ORMs of the River Murray Act. The interaction between the two Acts is limited to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water being consulted when a plan of management is being prepared for a reserve location within the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin. The Murray River National Park Management Plan was adopted by the Minister on 26 June 2023.

Native Vegetation Act 1991

The principles of clearance in the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* state the clearance of the vegetation should not occur if in the opinion of the Native Vegetation Council it would cause significant harm to the River Murray within the meaning of the River Murray Act. Applications for the clearance of vegetation within a River Murray Protection Area are referred to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water to

assess against the ORMs and Objects of the River Murray Act. The draft guidelines for the application of assistance and the management of native vegetation relating to land in the Murray-Darling Basin seek to further the Objects and ORMs of the River Murray Act. Under the provisions of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* development applications affecting native vegetation are no longer referred to the Minister responsible for the River Murray Act.

Opal Mining Act 1995

Under the provisions of the *Opal Mining Act 1995*, if a declaration of a designated area applies to any part of a River Murray Protection Area, the Minister for the *Opal Mining Act 1995* must consult with the Minister responsible for the River Murray Act. Currently there are no designated areas or exclusion zones that apply to the River Murray Protection Area.

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 and Development Act 1993

The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* replaces the *Development Act 1993* and has been coming into operation progressively since 2017. On 19 March 2021, the final 'phase' of the Planning and Design Code was rolled out, applying over the whole of South Australia. The key changes along the River Murray corridor were the replacement of River Murray Zones (e.g. River Murray Flood Zone and River Murray Fringe Zone) with overlays. The Code includes a River Murray Flood Plain Protection Area Overlay and the River Murray Tributaries Protection Area Overlay. These areas align with the River Murray Protection Areas established under the River Murray Act. As well as spatially identifying these River Murray areas, the overlays contain the development assessment policies and triggers for referring development applications to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. The referral trigger mirrors that under the *Development Act 1993*, with minor changes to reduce minor development types from requiring referral. Various zones sit under the overlays and further guide development assessment, for example the Conservation Zone currently applies to most of the floodplain areas. There were 439 development applications referred in 2020-21, 398 in 2021-22 and 400 in 2022-23.

Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000

If an application for the grant or renewal of a licence relates to an area within or adjacent to the River Murray Protection Area, the Minister responsible for the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000* must refer the application to and consult with the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water before making a decision. No applications were referred during the review period.

South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Act 1992

The Objects of the *South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Act 1992* specifically identify the requirement for the Act to be administered consistently with and seek to further the ORMs of the Objects of the River Murray Act. DEW manages releases from the regional drainage network into the Coorong South Lagoon at Salt Creek on behalf of the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board. This is the primary interaction between the *South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Act 1992* and the River Murray Act.

| Act or Regulation | Requirement |
|--|--|
| <i>Water Industry Act 2012</i> | <p>87—Consumer Advocacy and Research Fund</p> <p>(6) The administrative unit of the Public Service that is, under the Minister, responsible for the administration of this Act must, on or before 30 September in each year, present a report to that Minister on the operation of the Fund during the previous financial year.</p> <p>(7) A report under subsection (6) may be incorporated into the annual report of the relevant administrative unit.</p> |
| <p>The Consumer Advocacy and Research Fund (CARF) is established under section 87 of the <i>Water Industry Act 2012 (WI Act)</i>. The purposes of the Fund are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support research or advocacy to promote the interests of water consumers with a disability, consumers on a low-income, or consumers who are located within a regional area of the state. • Support projects that advance the interests of consumers from an advocacy perspective. <p>The CARF received deposits totalling \$306,000 in 2022-23 from licence fees payable by water entities under Section 24 of the WI Act. Arrangements for deposits to the fund are described in Section 87(3) of the WI Act.</p> <p>Funding from the CARF totalling \$256,758 was provided in 2022-23 to the SA Council of Social Service (SACOSS) to provide advocacy and research services for disadvantaged communities, in accordance with an agreement between DEW and SACOSS.</p> <p>A competitive funding round was also held. Two projects were approved for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council on the Ageing, SA: \$60,000 for a project to understand the water use and needs of older people in regional SA; and • Uniting Communities: \$70,650 for a project to engage with and respond to the SA Water Regulatory Determination 2024 process. | |

| Act or Regulation | Requirement |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Wilderness Protection Act 1992</i> | <p>7 - Annual report</p> <p>(1) The Minister must cause a report to be prepared annually setting out the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the names and locations of the wilderness protection areas and wilderness protection zones constituted under this Act and the extent to which the wilderness criteria are met by each area and zone; and (b) the name or some other identification of the former reserves or parts of reserves that have been constituted as wilderness protection areas or zones; and (c) the extent of mining operations in wilderness protection zones; and (d) information as to the management of wilderness protection areas and zones and particulars of any activities to restore land and its ecosystems to their condition before European colonisation; and (e) a list of management plans adopted under this Act; and (f) the portions (if any) of wilderness protection areas or zones that the Minister has declared to be prohibited areas and the reasons for making those declarations; and (g) an account of money received and expended in relation to the management of wilderness protection areas and wilderness protection zones; and (h) in the case of wilderness protection zones, an account of the royalties (if any) received in respect of the mining tenements in force in those zones and the money expended in administering those mining tenements by an administrative unit of the Public Service. <p>(2) The report must include a copy of the Wilderness Code of Management in force under Division 3.</p> |

Section 7(1)(a)

The following information is provided in accordance with section 7(1)(a) of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992 (WP Act)*.

Billiatt Wilderness Protection Area (WPA)**Location:**

- 59,125 hectares comprising Sections 13 and 26-28, Hundred of Auld, Sections 14-16, 18, 19 and 21-30, Hundred of Billiatt, and Sections 42-45, 48, 49 and 53, Hundred of Kingsford.
- Excised from the Billiatt Conservation Park and is located approximately 30 kilometres north of Lameroo.
- Proclaimed on 24 July 2008.

Wilderness Quality:

- Key component of a biological corridor connecting mallee areas in southern and eastern Australia.
- The area consists of large sand dunes dominated by mallee vegetation and open shrub land, providing habitat for the fauna of the Murray Mallee Region including a number of nationally threatened birds.
- In 2014, approximately 98% of the WPA was burnt by extensive regional fires. Recovery has included active pest management.

Cape Bouguer WPA**Location:**

- 5,190 hectares comprising Allotment 150 of DP 38341.
- Excised from the Kelly Hill Conservation Park, approximately 65 kilometres south-west of Kingscote, Kangaroo Island.
- Proclaimed on 15 October 1993.

Wilderness Quality:

- Untracked native vegetation and biological diversity.
- High wilderness quality over the entire area, except in the south-western corner where the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail connects Hanson Bay with Kelly Hill Caves. This trail is compatible with management provisions of the WP Act, protection of the wilderness quality of the environment.
- Approximately 98% of the WPA, including significant stands of old growth native vegetation was burnt and lost during the December 2019 Kangaroo Island bushfires.
- Extensive feral animal and weed control programs are being undertaken along with other recovery activities.

Cape Gantheaume WPALocation:

- Excised from the Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park, approximately 35 kilometres south-west of Kingscote, Kangaroo Island.
- 20,095 hectares comprising Section 52, Hundred of Seddon, Sections 66-67, 100-101 Hundred of Macgillivray, Sections 258, 277-279 and 375, Hundred of Haines.
- Proclaimed on 15 October 1993.

Wilderness Quality:

- Prime coastal wilderness with high ecological and aesthetic integrity.
- Excellent cover of mallee vegetation and diverse coastal landscapes with high scenic and habitat value.
- Wilderness quality is high except for a narrow strip on the east coast where it is affected to a minor extent by the presence of a rough track along the eastern coastline.
- The management provisions of the WP Act will ensure the impacts of this track on wilderness quality will be minimised.
- No evidence elsewhere in the WPA of the impacts of modern technology.
- No feral animals or pest plants have been recorded.

Cape Torrens WPALocation:

- Eight kilometres west of Western River WPA, and approximately 12 kilometres east of Cape Borda, Kangaroo Island.
- 1,060 hectares comprising Sections 10 and 12, Hundred of Borda, and Allotment 100 of Deposited Plan 31584, formerly the Cape Torrens Conservation Park, as well as Allotment 1 in Deposited Plan 23502 added in September 2018.
- Proclaimed on 15 October 1993.

Wilderness Quality:

- Known for biological integrity of native forest and woodland, and for its wild coastal scenery.
- Contains habitat for the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo.
- The wilderness quality is high, undisturbed by structures and impacts of modern technology.
- No internal tracks and the vegetation is virtually pristine.
- Approximately 98% of the WPA, including significant stands of old growth native vegetation and camping grounds were burnt during the December 2019 Kangaroo Island bushfires.
- Glossy Black Cockatoo habitat has been severely impacted.

- Extensive feral animal and weed control programs are being undertaken along with other recovery activities.

Danggali WPA

Location:

- Approximately 70 kilometres north of Renmark.
- 202,815 hectares comprising Sections 729 and 730, Out of Hundreds (Chowilla), and Allotment 100 of Deposited Plan 78460.
- Proclaimed on 28 May 2009.

Wilderness Quality:

- Largest relatively intact natural areas in the southern pastoral zone of Australia.
- The large size and relatively undisturbed condition of the WPA provides highly significant habitat for the fauna of the Danggali area.
- Has a rich diversity of bats, with 10 species having been recorded.

Hambidge WPA

Location:

- Approximately 140 kilometres from Port Lincoln and 15 kilometres from Lock on the Yorke Peninsula.
- 37,891-hectare reserve, originally Hambidge Conservation Park under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (NPW Act)*.
- Comprises Section 7, Hundred of Hambidge, Section 35, Hundred of Palkagee, and Section 364, Out of Hundreds (Kimba).
- Proclaimed on 30 September 2004.

Wilderness Quality:

- Extensive system of parallel dunes with ridges (6 to 12 metres in height) running north west to south east, comprised of a low mallee scrub association
- Clay pans are scattered throughout the inter-dunal area.
- Home to a wide variety of mallee birds, including the endangered malleefowl, vulnerable blue-winged parrot, and the rare shy heathwren.

Hincks WPA

Location:

- Approximately 85 kilometres from Port Lincoln and 30 kilometres from Lock on Eyre Peninsula.
- 66,657-hectare reserve, excised from the Hincks Conservation Park and comprises Sections 2 and 3, Hundred of Hincks, Sections 11-14, Hundred of Nicholls, Sections 46- 48, Hundred of Tooligie, Section 25, Hundred of Murlong, and Section 365, Out of Hundreds (Kimba).
- Proclaimed on 30 September 2004.

Wilderness Quality:

- Originally set aside as a flora and fauna reserve in 1941.
- One of the largest expanses of mallee on Eyre Peninsula.
- Over 450 species of vascular plants have been recorded within the WPA, including at least 35 orchids, four plant species listed as vulnerable and a further 24 as rare in South Australia under the NPW Act.
- Dominated by mallee, with a small portion covered by forest, woodland, or shrub land.
- Visitors occasionally travel through the reserve or camp on the North-South Track.

Investigator Group WPA**Location:**

- Series of islands located off the west coast of South Australia, between 25 and 70 kilometres south-west of Elliston township.
- The 386-hectare reserve was originally part of the Investigator Group Conservation Park under the NPW Act.
- Comprises Ward Islands, Top-Gallant Isles, Pearson Isles, Veteran Isles and Dorothee Island, all to the low water mark.
- Excludes Allotment 1 of Deposited Plan 19499 out of Hundreds (Elliston) (Pearson Isles), which is land held by Australian Maritime Safety Authority for lighthouse purposes.
- Proclaimed on 25 August 2011.

Wilderness Quality:

- High degree of intactness, free from the human impacts associated with land clearing and introduced plants and animals.
- Contains important haul-out areas for the Australian sea lion and New Zealand fur seal.
- Notable birds found on islands include white-faced storm petrels, cape barren geese and mutton birds which breed on the islands and the Pearson Island Black-footed Rock-wallaby is of conservation significance.

Memory Cove WPA**Location:**

- Approximately 25 kilometres south of Port Lincoln.
- 8,940-hectare reserve extends to low water mark and includes Little Island, Lewis Island, Hopkins Island, Smith Island and Williams Island.
- Formerly part of the Lincoln National Park. The reserve comprises the following parcels of land:
 - Sections 6, 12, 13, 22 and 23, Hundred of Flinders

- Allotments 1, 2, 4 and 6 of Deposited Plan 64397, Hundred of Flinders
- Allotment 102 of Deposited Plan 64387, Out of Hundreds (Lincoln)
- Sections 873 (Little Island), 874 (Lewis Island), 875 (Smith Island), and 876 (Hopkins Island), Out of Hundreds (Lincoln)
- Allotments 17, 18, 19, and 21 of Deposited Plan 35926, Out of Hundreds (Lincoln)
- Allotment 2 of Deposited Plan 19500 (Williams Island), Out of Hundreds (Lincoln).
- Proclaimed on 30 September 2004.

Wilderness Quality:

- Over 210 species of native flora have been recorded, including seven species of conservation significance.
- Has a significant cultural history – two groups of Aboriginal people, the Barngarla and the Nauo groups, occupied the area prior to European occupation.
- In 1802, Matthew Flinders sailed the coast in the Investigator, and during this expedition seven of his crew and the ship's master drowned when their cutter capsized during their search for fresh water.
- Entry to the reserve is regulated by a locked gate within the adjoining Lincoln National Park with a maximum of 15 vehicles per day permitted entry.
- Yachts and boats regularly anchor in the sheltered waters at Memory Cove and Williams Island and recreational fishing is permitted.
- Camping is permitted at the campground.

Nullarbor WPA

Location:

- Adjacent to the state's border with Western Australia.
- 894,245-hectare reserve originally part of the Nullarbor National Park and Nullarbor Regional Reserve under the NPW Act.
- Comprises Pieces 32-37 in Deposited Plan 113589, Allotment 21 of Deposited Plan 89720 and Allotment 10 of Deposited Plan 31597.
- Proclaimed on 6 June 2013.

Wilderness Quality:

- Protects the iconic Nullarbor Plain, with its open flat plains and spectacular Bunda Cliffs.
- When connected to the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, it creates a land and sea conservation estate of global significance.
- Also conserves one of the world's largest semi-arid karst environments providing habitat for around 230 species of plant and 180 species of animal, including threatened species such as the slender-billed thornbill, Australian bustard and Nullarbor daisy.

- Conserves the culturally significant Koonalda Cave, which was inscribed on the National Heritage List in 2014 for its well-preserved finger markings and unique archaeological deposits which provide a rare glimpse of Aboriginal life on the Nullarbor Plain during the Pleistocene.
- Popular tourist destination.

Nuyts Archipelago WPA

Location:

- Off the west coast of South Australia, between 20 to 75 kilometres west of Ceduna township.
- 2,329-hectare reserve comprises the former Isles of St. Francis Conservation Park and part of Nuyts Archipelago Conservation Park, proclaimed under the NPW Act, and several islands (Evans, Lilliput and Blefuscu Islands) that were unalienated Crown land.
- Comprises Purdie Islands, Lound Island, Goat Island, Lacy Islands, Evans Island, Lilliput Island, Franklin Islands, Blefuscu Island, Egg Island, Freeling Island, Smooth Island, Dog Island, West Island, St Francis Island, Masillon Island, Fenelon Island and Hart Island, all to the low water mark.
- Excludes Allotment 1 of Deposited Plan 19501, Out of Hundreds (Nuyts) (Evans Island) and Section 220, Out of Hundreds (Nuyts) (St Francis Island), which is land held by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority for lighthouse purposes.
- Proclaimed on 25 August 2011.

Wilderness Quality:

- Provides important island habitat for species such as the Stick-Nest Rat and Brush-Tailed Bettong (which are part of re-introduction programs) and species such as the carpet python and the Nuyts Archipelago subspecies of the southern brown bandicoot.
- Other notable species breeding on the island include the Australian sea-lion and mutton birds.
- Remoteness from the mainland provides an important and secure refuge for vulnerable wildlife and small mammals free from introduced predators.

Ravine des Casoars WPA

Location:

- Approximately 35 kilometres west of Parndana, the nearest town, and approximately 70 kilometres west of Kingscote, Kangaroo Island.
- 41,219 hectares comprising Section 11, Hundred of Borda, Section 64, Hundred of Gosse, and Allotments 50 and 52 of Deposited Plan 38340.
- Excised from the Flinders Chase National Park.
- Proclaimed on 15 October 1993.

Wilderness Quality:

- The limited access has allowed the extensive woodlands and forests to remain largely undisturbed.
- Contains several complete natural drainage systems, from watershed to their discharge at sea.
- Wilderness quality is high; vegetation is biologically intact and many endemic plants are present.
- Approximately 98% of the WPA, including significant stands of old growth native vegetation and camping grounds were burnt during the December 2019 Kangaroo Island bushfires.
- Extensive feral animal and weed control programs are being undertaken along with other recovery activities.

Western River WPA**Location:**

- Approximately 65 kilometres west of Kingscote and 30 kilometres north-west of Parndana, Kangaroo Island.
- 2,432 hectares comprising of Sections 8, 47, 51, 65 and 66, Hundred of Gosse, and Allotment 1 of Deposited Plan 31609.
- Formerly the Western River Conservation Park.
- Proclaimed on 15 October 1993.

Wilderness Quality:

- Relatively minor impacts of modern technology.
- Distinctive wilderness attributes that warrants protection and restoration in accordance with the provisions of the WP Act.
- Its rugged terrain and high coastal cliffs are characteristic of the northern coast of Kangaroo Island.
- Highly valued for the presence of habitat for the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo.
- Plant species diversity is high and vegetation exhibits a wide cross-section of Kangaroo Island vegetation.
- Few exotic plants occur in the WPA and these are largely confined to perimeter and internal access tracks.
- Approximately 98% of the WPA, including significant stands of old growth native vegetation and camping grounds were burnt during the December 2019 Kangaroo Island bushfires.
- Glossy Black Cockatoo habitat has been severely impacted.
- Extensive feral animal and weed control programs are being undertaken along with other recovery activities including the Glossy Black Cockatoo.

Yellabinna WPA

Location:

- Approximately 110 kilometres north of Ceduna along Goog's Track.
- Approximately 500,704 hectares, originally part of Yellabinna Regional Reserve, under the NPW Act.
- Comprises Allotment 101, of Deposited Plan 67929.
- Proclaimed on 11 August 2005.

Wilderness Quality:

- Yellabinna forms a link between vegetation communities in south-eastern Western Australia and Eyre Peninsula in South Australia.
- Contains a variety of woodland and shrubland communities dominated by Eucalyptus or Acacia species on dunes and swales and more diverse communities associated with isolated rocky outcrops.
- Vegetation communities support over 350 native plant species and 120 native fauna species, including a number of threatened species such as the Mt Finke grevillea, desert greenhood and malleefowl.
- Enhanced protection of the reserve may encourage recreational activities such as camping, bush walking and wildlife observation.

Section 7 (1)(b)

| WPA | Former Reserve |
|--------------------|---|
| Billiatt | Billiatt Conservation Park (part) |
| Cape Bouguer | Kelly Hill Conservation Park (part) |
| Cape Gantheaume | Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park (part) |
| Cape Torrens | Cape Torrens Conservation Park |
| Danggali | Danggali Conservation Park (part) |
| Hambidge | Hambidge Conservation Park |
| Hincks | Hincks Conservation Park (part) |
| Investigator Group | Investigator Group Conservation Park (part) |
| Memory Cove | Lincoln National Park (part) |
| Nullarbor | Nullarbor National Park (part) Nullarbor Regional Reserve (part) |
| Nuyts Archipelago | Nuyts Archipelago Conservation Park (part) Isles of St. Francis Conservation Park |

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ravine des Casoars | Flinders Chase National Park (part) |
| Western River | Western River Conservation Park |
| Yellabinna | Yellabinna Regional Reserve (part) |

Section 7 (1)(c)

There are currently no wilderness protection zones declared within South Australia under the WP Act. Accordingly, no mining operations occurred.

Section 7 (1)(d)

- WPAs are managed in accordance with the Wilderness Code of Management as required by section 31 of the WP Act.
- Two WPAs are covered by co-management agreements between the Minister and the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation. One agreement was signed under the WP Act and is over the Nullarbor WPA. It establishes the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee to advise on the management of the Nullarbor WPA and the adjoining Nullarbor Regional Reserve.
- The second co-management agreement was signed under the NPW Act to co-manage the Yumbarra Conservation Park, whereby the park is now managed by the Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board. This Board also has an advisory role over the remaining parks within the Far West Coast Native Title Determination Area, which includes the Yellabinna WPA.

Management activities for WPAs in the Far West region included:

Nullarbor WPA

- Construction of two roadside entrance statement signage.
- Installation of two roadside entrance statement signage.
- Installation of two signage shelters, Nullarbor and Border Village roadhouses.
- Signage development, information/mapping/safety/interpretive.
- Investigation and compliance work associated with Koonalda Cave.
- Monitoring the number of sea lion pups born during breeding seasons and mapping of cliff-base colonies using Remote Piloted Aircraft technology.

Yellabinna WPA

- Buffel grass inspections.
- Signage development/construction and installation.
- Buffel Grass inspections and treatment.
- Park Patrols, inc Googs Track, inspections and maintenance.

Hambidge WPA

- Prescribed burn planned and completed.

Hincks WPA

- General park management patrols of WPA.
- Opportunistic weed and vermin control.

Memory Cove WPA

- White-bellied whiplbird survey.
- Management plan development and planning.
- Track repairs.
- Minor maintenance and repairs to fixed assets.
- Undertake quarterly fox baiting.
- Regular visitor compliance and campground cleaning patrols.
- Australian sea lion survey at Lewis Island & Williams Island.

Nuyts Archipelago WPA (Nuyts Reef, Lounds Island, Breakwater Reef, Gliddon Reef)

- St Francis Island management and compliance of commercial tour operators.
- Helicopter hire to access islands.
- Remote camera monitoring and camera repairs.

Investigator Group WPA

- Aerial compliance patrols.
- Australian sea lion surveys at Pearson and Ward Island.
- Management planning and associated stakeholder engagement

Management activities for WPAs on Kangaroo Island included:

- Park management, visitor management and compliance occur regularly by park ranger staff across all wilderness protection areas.

Ravine des Casoars WPA

- Joint Kangaroo Island Landscape Board / DEW cat control program including baiting, shooting and trapping.
- Ground based pig control program, including baiting, thermal shooting and trapping (including remotely monitored and triggered cage traps). Aerial thermal culling was undertaken in conjunction with Kangaroo Island Landscape Board and PIRSA.
- Feasibility assessment and detailed design of five fire tracks.
- Upgrade of Harvey Return campsite including relining of septic toilet pits.

- Resurfacing/realignment of West Melrose fire track including four floodway crossings.
- Coastal raptor surveys conducted both on land and sea.
- Joint Kangaroo Island Landscape Board/DEW threatened species monitoring with drift lines and traps.
- Bird surveys undertaken and Bird Data points established.

Cape Bouguer WPA

- Visitor access infrastructure works including replacement of pontoon and river crossing.
- Ground based pig control program, including baiting, thermal shooting and trapping (including remotely monitored and triggered cage traps). Aerial thermal culling was undertaken in conjunction with Kangaroo Island Landscape Board and PIRSA.
- Broad scale baiting for feral cats.
- Shorebird and coastal raptor surveys undertaken.
- Fire track and fuel break maintenance.

Cape Torrens WPA

- Coastal raptor surveys undertaken both on land and sea.
- Ground based pig control program, including baiting, thermal shooting and trapping (including remotely monitored and triggered cage traps). Aerial thermal culling was undertaken in conjunction with Kangaroo Island Landscape Board and PIRSA.
- Joint Kangaroo Island Landscape Board / DEW cat control program including baiting, shooting and trapping.

Cape Gantheaume WPA

- Visitor access management of infrastructure works.
- Erosion control undertaken on management tracks.
- Shorebird and coastal raptor surveys undertaken.
- Monitoring of sea lion pup production, mapping of cliff base colonies using Remote Piloted Aircraft technology including data collection, processing and analysis.
- Ramble surveys for flora presence and absence to inform prescribed burn operations.

Western River WPA

- Coastal raptor surveys undertaken both on land and sea.
- Aerial thermal feral pig culling undertaken in conjunction with Kangaroo Island Landscape Board and PIRSA.
- Joint Kangaroo Island Landscape Board / DEW cat control program including

baiting, shooting and trapping.

Management activities for WPAs in the Riverland and Murraylands region included:

Danggali WPA

- Total grazing pressure control was undertaken across the landscape including goat mustering and aerial shooting program predominately targeting goats.
- The dam decommissioning continued with two more dams removed and more strategic planning undertaken to achieve larger areas of waterless country to keep numbers of pest animals and abundant native animals low. These activities assist with managing the total grazing pressure across the landscape and provide an opportunity for the ecosystem to restore.
- Threatened mallee bird surveys were undertaken throughout Danggali through external funding to inform population distributions and future management of these species.
- Goat browse monitoring undertaken throughout this landscape through external funding.
- Broad scale monitoring of small mammals and reptiles was conducted using volunteers (550 hours) using pitfall surveys.
- Fire mitigation works along the eastern boundary fire break was completed (43km).
- The Adaptive Malleefowl Predator Experiment site in Danggali WPA has continued and volunteers ground-truthed the mounds that were selected using Lidar to determine how accurate this method is at picking up mounds.
- Artemis have been established as a volunteer group to assist with pest control within Danggali and spent 40 days of in-kind work, including recon flights across the park.
- Big Bunyip dam has been restored using branching techniques as part of the dam restoration project.
- Native seed was collected and is being stored for future restoration.
- Park management, visitor management and compliance occur regularly by park ranger staff.

Billiatt WPA

- Threatened mallee bird (**TMB**) co-funded landscape /cross border scale (VIC/SA) project that included broad scale TMB surveys in the Billiatt Landscape. This project will address strategies related to increasing knowledge of the species ecology outlined in the Threatened Mallee Bird Conservation Action Plan (Boulton *et al.* 2020), which is designed to deliver on conservation priorities for seven threatened Mallee bird species (including the Black-eared Miner, Mallee Emu-wren, Mallee Striated Grasswren, Red-lored Whistler and White-bellied Whipbird).
- Total grazing pressure control - aerial shooting program predominately targeting goats was undertaken across the reserve in partnership with the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board. Additionally, Park Rangers managed two ground

shoot operations by Sport Shooter volunteers and a Judas goat management program.

- Fire mitigation works was undertaken along the western and northern boundary fire break (50km).
- Park maintenance undertaken by park rangers, including signage and information bay replacement and upgrade.
- Focused weed management along Billiatt Hwy – removing *Gazania's* and investigating Hudson Pear.

Section 7 (1)(e)

| Wilderness Protection Area | Status of Management Plan | Adopted i |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Billiatt WPA | Adopted | 2011 |
| Cape Bouguer WPA | Adopted | 2022 |
| Cape Gantheaume WPA | Adopted | 2022 |
| Cape Torrens WPA | Adopted | 2022 |
| Danggali WPA | Adopted | 2011 |
| Hambidge WPA | Adopted | 2007 |
| Hincks WPA | Adopted | 2007 |
| Investigator Group WPA | Not yet available | |
| Memory Cove WPA | Adopted | 2005 |
| Nullarbor WPA | Adopted | 2019 |
| Nuyts Archipelago WPA | Not yet available | |
| Ravine des Casoars WPA | Adopted | 2022 |
| Western River WPA | Adopted | 2022 |
| Yellabinna WPA | Adopted | 2019 |

Section 7 (1)(f)

- The Franklin Islands section of the Nuyts Archipelago WPA was declared a Prohibited Area in 2012 in order to protect from disturbance the habitat of the Greater Stick-nest Rat and the Nuyts Archipelago subspecies of the Southern Brown Bandicoot.
- There are no other portions of WPAs that have been declared prohibited areas.

Section 7 (1)(g)

This expense report includes activities funded and/or undertaken by other groups in each region, including:

- In the Far West NPWS Region, the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board and the South Australian Research and Development Institute,
- In the Riverland and Murraylands NPWS Region, the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board,
- In the Kangaroo Island NPWS Region, PIRSA and the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board.

Note the expense summary only includes costs incurred by DEW. Investment in these projects by third parties is recognised and appreciated to achieve better outcomes by working together on mutually beneficial projects.

| Expense | Kangaroo Island | Far West | Riverland and Murraylands | Total |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Administration (incl. vehicle costs etc.) | \$20,000 | \$18,000 | \$12,000 | \$50,000 |
| Staff costs | \$142,250 | \$116,200 | \$117,550 | \$376,000 |
| Asset/infrastructure maintenance (including visitor infrastructure) | \$548,670 | \$211,400 | \$12,700 | \$772,770 |
| Conservation programs (incl. feral animal control, abundant species management, scientific monitoring) | \$1,000 | \$9,100 | \$148,715 | \$158,815 |
| Fire Management (incl. suppression and bushfire recovery) | \$99,485 | \$8,500 | \$94,137 | \$202,122 |

| Compliance | Included in staff costs | Included in staff costs | Included in Staff Costs | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Interpretation, signage, visitor access management | Included in asset maintenance | \$64,600 | | \$64,600 |
| Total expenditure | \$811,405 | \$427,800 | \$385,102 | \$1,624,307 |

Section 7 (1)(h)

There are currently no wilderness protection zones declared within South Australia under the WP Act. Accordingly, no mining tenements were in force.

Section 7 (2)

A copy of the Wilderness Code of Management, dated June 2004, in force under Division 3 is publicly available on DEW's website at:

<https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/psa-gen-wildernessprotectioninsa.pdf>

Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005*

The *Carers' Recognition Act 2005* is deemed applicable for the following: Department of Human Services, Department for Education, Department for Health and Wellbeing, Department for Innovation and Skills, DIT, South Australia Police and TAFE SA.

DEW recognises and supports the principles of the South Australian Carers Charter. Employees who are carers are supported in identifying appropriate flexible working arrangements and to access special leave with pay to care for dependents.

Public complaints

Number of public complaints reported

Reporting on the number of complaints received is mandated. If your agency does not have an approved set of complaint categories in place, please use the complaint categories in the table below.

| Complaint categories | Sub-categories | Example | Number of Complaints 2022-23 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| No case to answer | No case to answer | Third party; customer misunderstanding; redirected to another agency; insufficient information to investigate | 6 |
| Communication | Communication quality | Inadequate, delayed or absent communication with customer | 7 |
| Communication | Confidentiality | Customer's confidentiality or privacy not respected; information shared incorrectly | 0 |
| Policy | Policy application | Incorrect policy interpretation; incorrect policy applied; conflicting policy advice given | 5 |
| Policy | Policy content | Policy content difficult to understand; policy unreasonable or disadvantages customer | 1 |
| Professional behaviour | Staff attitude | Failure to demonstrate values such as empathy, respect, fairness, courtesy, extra mile; cultural competency | 4 |
| Professional behaviour | Staff competency | Failure to action service request; poorly informed decisions; incorrect or incomplete service provided | 0 |
| Professional behaviour | Staff knowledge | Lack of service specific knowledge; incomplete or out-of-date knowledge | 4 |
| Service delivery | Systems/technology | System offline; inaccessible to customer; incorrect result/information provided; poor system design | 3 |

| Complaint categories | Sub-categories | Example | Number of Complaints 2022-23 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Service delivery | Access to services | Service difficult to find; location poor; facilities/ environment poor standard; not accessible to customers with disabilities | 4 |
| Service delivery | Process | Processing error; incorrect process used; delay in processing application; process not customer responsive | 12 |
| Service quality | Information | Incorrect, incomplete, out-dated or inadequate information; not fit for purpose | 5 |
| Service quality | Access to information | Information difficult to understand, hard to find or difficult to use; not plain English | 1 |
| Service quality | Timeliness | Lack of staff punctuality; excessive waiting times (outside of service standard); timelines not met | 2 |
| Service quality | Safety | Maintenance; personal or family safety; duty of care not shown; poor security service/ premises; poor cleanliness | 6 |
| Service quality | Service responsiveness | Service design doesn't meet customer needs; poor service fit with customer expectations | 4 |
| | | Total | 64 |

| Additional Metrics | Total |
|--|--------------|
| Number of positive feedback comments | 5 |
| Number of negative feedback comments | 20 |
| Total number of feedback comments | 25 |
| Percentage of complaints resolved within policy timeframes | 83.6% |

Data for previous years is available at: [DEW Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au)

Service Improvements

- Parking meters in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, which were damaged due to theft and vandalism, have been replaced.
- The contents of a campsite booking form have been reviewed and revised.
- DEW has been working on addressing system and process issues raised following the launch of DEW's new online permit system.
- A review of practices in approaching occupied campsites has been conducted and staff have been instructed on the new practices.
- Arrangements made for more frequent cleaning of portable toilets to maintain hygiene standards for members of the public.

Compliance Statement

| | |
|---|---|
| Department for Environment and Water is compliant with Premier and Cabinet Circular 039 – complaint management in the South Australian public sector | Y |
| Department for Environment and Water has communicated the content of PC 039 and the agency's related complaints policies and procedures to employees. | Y |

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2022-23

The DEW Independent Auditor's Report and DEW Audited Financial Statements appear on the following pages.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE

30 Nov 2023

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State Administration Centre
200 Victoria Square
Adelaide SA 5000
Tel +618 8226 9640
ABN 53 327 061 410
audgensa@audit.sa.gov.au
www.audit.sa.gov.au

To the Acting Chief Executive Department for Environment and Water

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of the Department for Environment and Water (the Department) for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Department for Environment and Water as at 30 June 2023, its financial performance and its cash flows for year then ended in accordance with relevant Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial report comprises:

- a Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2023
- a Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023
- a Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2023
- a Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2023
- notes, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information
- a Statement of Administered Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2023
- a Statement of Administered Financial Position as at 30 June 2023
- a Statement of Administered Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2023
- a Statement of Income and Expenses attributable to administered activities for the year ended 30 June 2023
- notes, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information for administered items
- a Certificate from the Acting Chief Executive and the Chief Financial Officer.

Basis for opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report' section of my report. I am independent of the Department. The *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* establishes the independence of the Auditor-General. In conducting the audit, the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* have been met.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Acting Chief Executive for the financial report

The Acting Chief Executive is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with relevant Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Acting Chief Executive is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, taking into account any policy or funding decisions the government has made which affect the continued existence of the entity. The Acting Chief Executive is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by section 31(1)(b) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, I have audited the financial report of the Department for Environment and Water for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Acting Chief Executive
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Acting Chief Executive's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause an entity to cease to continue as a going concern
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

My report refers only to the financial report described above and does not provide assurance over the integrity of electronic publication by the entity on any website nor does it provide an opinion on other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the report.

I communicate with the Acting Chief Executive about, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during the audit.



Andrew Richardson

Auditor-General

18 September 2023

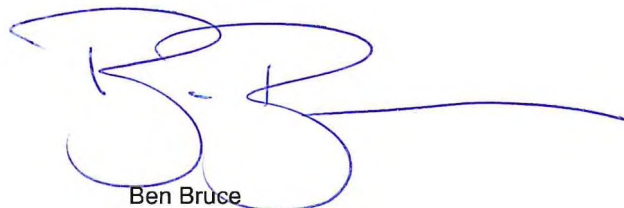
**Department for Environment and Water
(DEW)**

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

We certify that the:

- financial statements of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW):
 - are in accordance with the accounts and records of DEW;
 - comply with relevant Treasurer's Instructions;
 - comply with relevant accounting standards; and
 - present a true and fair view of the financial position of DEW at the end of the financial year and the result of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.
- internal controls employed by the Department for Environment and Water for the financial year over its financial reporting and its preparation of financial statements have been effective.



Ben Bruce
Acting Chief Executive

13 September 2023



Shaun O'Brien
Chief Financial Officer

13 September 2023

Department for Environment and Water
Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 30 June 2023

| | | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Note | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Income | | | |
| Appropriation | 2.1 | 181 317 | 155 686 |
| Fees and charges | 2.2 | 37 482 | 37 716 |
| Commonwealth-sourced grants and funding | 2.3 | 22 541 | 40 568 |
| SA Government grants, subsidies and transfers | 2.4 | 37 366 | 54 982 |
| Sales of goods and services | 2.5 | 51 789 | 49 478 |
| Interest | 2.6 | 1 102 | - |
| Net gain from disposal of property, plant and equipment | 2.7 | 19 | 9 |
| Resources received free of charge | 2.8 | 6 594 | 5 921 |
| Other income | 2.9 | 16 418 | 51 273 |
| Total income | | 354 628 | 395 633 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Employee benefits expenses | 3.3 | 143 960 | 139 396 |
| Supplies and services | 4.1 | 102 492 | 103 336 |
| Grants and subsidies | 4.2 | 55 573 | 47 143 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 4.3 | 33 416 | 35 425 |
| Borrowing costs | 7.2 | 74 | 61 |
| Impairment loss on receivables | 6.2 | 402 | 16 |
| Assets transferred for nil consideration | 4.4 | 7 241 | 7 667 |
| Other expenses | 4.5 | 1 595 | 2 667 |
| Total expenses | | 344 753 | 335 711 |
| Net result | | 9 875 | 59 922 |
| Other comprehensive income | | | |
| Changes in property, plant and equipment asset revaluation surplus | 5.1 | 53 713 | 5 724 |
| Impairment loss of property, plant and equipment | 5.1 | (2 585) | - |
| Total other comprehensive income | | 51 128 | 5 724 |
| Total comprehensive result | | 61 003 | 65 646 |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. The net result and total comprehensive result are attributable to the SA Government as owner.

Department for Environment and Water
Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2023

| | | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Note | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 6.1 | 239 387 | 221 305 |
| Receivables | 6.2 | 9 296 | 39 607 |
| Inventories | 5.4 | 2 143 | 1 977 |
| Total current assets | | 250 826 | 262 889 |
| Non-current assets | | | |
| Receivables | 6.2 | 81 | 77 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 5.1, 5.2 | 930 747 | 869 429 |
| Intangible assets | 5.3 | 6 912 | 6 074 |
| Total non-current assets | | 937 740 | 875 580 |
| Total assets | | 1 188 566 | 1 138 469 |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Payables | 7.1 | 26 295 | 32 492 |
| Financial liabilities | 7.2 | 1 313 | 1 511 |
| Contract liabilities | 2.3, 2.5, 2.9 | 10 420 | 14 213 |
| Employee benefits | 3.4 | 13 381 | 13 236 |
| Provisions | 7.3 | 1 156 | 993 |
| Other liabilities | 7.4 | 4 177 | 3 897 |
| Total current liabilities | | 56 742 | 66 342 |
| Non-current liabilities | | | |
| Payables | 7.1 | 2 337 | 2 431 |
| Financial liabilities | 7.2 | 2 260 | 2 708 |
| Employee benefits | 3.4 | 23 471 | 25 268 |
| Provisions | 7.3 | 4 910 | 4 284 |
| Other liabilities | 7.4 | 10 718 | 12 858 |
| Total non-current liabilities | | 43 696 | 47 549 |
| Total liabilities | | 100 438 | 113 891 |
| Net assets | | 1 088 128 | 1 024 578 |
| Equity | | | |
| Contributed capital | | 22 612 | 22 612 |
| Retained earnings | | 556 756 | 544 334 |
| Asset revaluation surplus | | 508 760 | 457 632 |
| Total equity | | 1 088 128 | 1 024 578 |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. The total equity is attributable to the SA Government as owner.

Department for Environment and Water
Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2023

| | | Contributed capital \$'000 | Asset revaluation surplus \$'000 | Retained earnings \$'000 | Total equity \$'000 |
|---|-------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Balance at 1 July 2021 | Note | 22 612 | 451 908 | 478 922 | 953 442 |
| Net result for 2021-22 | | - | - | 59 922 | 59 922 |
| Gain on revaluation of property, plant and equipment | 5.1 | - | 5 724 | - | 5 724 |
| Total comprehensive result for 2021-22 | | - | 5 724 | 59 922 | 65 646 |
| Transactions with SA Government as owner | | | | | |
| Crown land transferred from Administered for proclamation to National Parks | 5.1 | - | - | 5 490 | 5 490 |
| Balance at 30 June 2022 | | 22 612 | 457 632 | 544 334 | 1 024 578 |
| Net result for 2022-23 | | - | - | 9 875 | 9 875 |
| Gain on revaluation of property, plant and equipment | 5.1 | - | 53 713 | - | 53 713 |
| Impairment loss of property, plant and equipment | 5.1 | - | (2 585) | - | (2 585) |
| Total comprehensive result for 2022-23 | | - | 51 128 | 9 875 | 61 003 |
| Transactions with SA Government as owner | | | | | |
| Crown land transferred from Administered for proclamation to National Parks | 5.1 | - | - | 1 672 | 1 672 |
| Net assets received from an administrative restructure | 1.3 | - | - | 875 | 875 |
| Balance at 30 June 2023 | | 22 612 | 508 760 | 556 756 | 1 088 128 |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. All changes in equity are attributable to the SA Government as owner.

Department for Environment and Water
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 30 June 2023

| | | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Note | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| <i>Cash inflows</i> | | | |
| Appropriation | | 181 317 | 155 686 |
| Fees and charges | | 45 163 | 41 674 |
| Receipts from Commonwealth-sourced grants | | 19 779 | 41 464 |
| SA Government grants, subsidies and transfers | | 37 366 | 54 982 |
| Sales of goods and services | | 56 973 | 56 549 |
| Interest received | | 985 | - |
| GST recovered from the Australian Taxation Office | | 13 233 | 14 673 |
| Other receipts | | 44 852 | 13 430 |
| Cash generated from operating activities | | 399 668 | 378 458 |
| <i>Cash outflows</i> | | | |
| Employee benefits payments | | (144 887) | (143 495) |
| Payments for supplies and services | | (116 363) | (120 088) |
| Payments of grants and subsidies | | (68 468) | (44 122) |
| Interest paid | | (74) | (61) |
| Other payments | | (441) | (970) |
| GST paid to the ATO | | - | (75) |
| Cash used in operating activities | | (330 233) | (308 811) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 8.1 | 69 435 | 69 647 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| <i>Cash inflows</i> | | | |
| Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment | 2.7 | 20 | 12 |
| Cash generated from investing activities | | 20 | 12 |
| <i>Cash outflows</i> | | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | | (49 701) | (50 266) |
| Cash used in investing activities | | (49 701) | (50 266) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | | (49 681) | (50 254) |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | | |
| <i>Cash outflows</i> | | | |
| Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities | | (1 672) | (1 754) |
| Cash used in financing activities | | (1 672) | (1 754) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | | (1 672) | (1 754) |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | | 18 082 | 17 639 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period | | 221 305 | 203 666 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period | 6.1 | 239 387 | 221 305 |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

1. About the Department for Environment and Water

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is a government department of the State of South Australia established pursuant to the *Public Sector Act 2009* as an administrative unit acting on behalf of the Crown.

DEW does not control any other entity and has no interests in unconsolidated structured entities. The financial statements and accompanying notes include all the controlled activities of DEW.

DEW has administered activities and resources. Administered financial statements relating to administered resources are presented separately as part of this report starting after note 10.3. Except as otherwise disclosed administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same accounting policies as for DEW transactions.

1.1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with:

- section 23 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*
- Treasurer's Instructions and Accounting Policy Statements issued by the Treasurer under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*; and
- relevant Australian Accounting Standards.

For the purposes of preparing the financial statements, the department is a not-for-profit entity. The financial statements are prepared based on a 12-month reporting period and presented in Australian currency. The historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured.

Assets and liabilities that are to be sold, consumed or realised as part of the normal operating cycle have been classified as current assets or current liabilities. All other assets and liabilities are classified as non-current.

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except:

- when the GST incurred on a purchase of goods or services is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office, in which case the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense item applicable; and
- receivables and payables, which are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

DEW prepares a Business Activity Statement on behalf of its administered items and other clients to which it provides business services under the grouping provisions of the GST legislation. Under the grouping provisions, DEW is liable for the GST payments and entitled to the GST receipts associated with these entities and items.

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

1.2. Objectives and programs

Objectives

DEW works to help South Australians conserve, sustain and prosper. DEW's management of natural resources and places, water and heritage assets is vital for the future social, environmental and economic prosperity and well-being of all South Australians. In partnership with a diverse cohort of boards, councils, stakeholders and volunteers, DEW delivers and implements fit-for-purpose policies and programs through three complementary goals:

- A healthy, resilient environment – South Australia's biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife are conserved, restored and resilient to climate change. A world-class system of national parks and botanic gardens protect our iconic places and recognise the intrinsic value of nature.
- Improved liveability and wellbeing – Natural resources and cultural heritage provide for the needs of our communities and are used to deliver enhanced lifestyle and cultural values for all peoples.
- A prosperous South Australia for current and future generations – Sustainably managed natural resources underpin the growth of a climate-resilient economy through increased productivity, competitiveness, innovation and private investment.

Programs

In achieving its objectives, DEW provides a range of services classified into the following programs:

National Parks and Wildlife

The sustainable, proactive conservation and management of South Australia's natural places, parks and wildlife ensures the environmental, social and economic prosperity of the state.

Water and the River Murray

Water is managed sustainably for the benefit of the community, environment and economy.

Environment, Heritage and Sustainability

Develop and deliver strategies, policies and projects that protect and conserve the state's environment and heritage, and support sustainable development, in partnership with key bodies in the face of a changing climate.

The table on the following page presents income and expenses information attributable to each program. DEW cannot currently reliably attribute assets and liabilities across activities. Hence only income and expenses are disclosed.

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

1.2. Objectives and programs (continued)

Income and expenses by program

| | National Parks and Wildlife | | Water and the River Murray | | Environment, Heritage and Sustainability | | Total | |
|---|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 |
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| Appropriation | 80 527 | 79 262 | 63 410 | 39 384 | 37 380 | 37 040 | 181 317 | 155 686 |
| Fees and charges | 2 292 | 3 069 | 34 515 | 33 824 | 675 | 823 | 37 482 | 37 716 |
| Commonwealth-sourced grants and funding | 777 | 3 453 | 21 435 | 31 732 | 329 | 5 383 | 22 541 | 40 568 |
| SA Government grants, subsidies and transfers | 15 875 | 18 920 | 4 012 | 3 738 | 17 479 | 32 324 | 37 366 | 54 982 |
| Sales of goods and services | 22 760 | 19 214 | 13 528 | 14 091 | 15 501 | 16 173 | 51 789 | 49 478 |
| Interest | 49 | - | 1 052 | - | 1 | - | 1 102 | - |
| Net gain from disposal of property, plant and equipment | 19 | 8 | - | - | - | 1 | 19 | 9 |
| Resources received free of charge | 3 421 | 3 086 | 1 600 | 1 445 | 1 573 | 1 390 | 6 594 | 5 921 |
| Other income | 8 842 | 46 796 | 964 | 1 004 | 6 612 | 3 473 | 16 418 | 51 273 |
| Total income | 134 562 | 173 808 | 140 516 | 125 218 | 79 550 | 96 607 | 354 628 | 395 633 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Employee benefits expenses | 73 489 | 71 437 | 37 501 | 36 584 | 32 970 | 31 375 | 143 960 | 139 396 |
| Supplies and services | 41 028 | 40 804 | 29 002 | 25 115 | 32 462 | 37 417 | 102 492 | 103 336 |
| Grants and subsidies | 6 123 | 3 380 | 46 342 | 32 412 | 3 108 | 11 351 | 55 573 | 47 143 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 17 778 | 18 833 | 12 151 | 12 405 | 3 487 | 4 187 | 33 416 | 35 425 |
| Borrowing costs | 38 | 31 | 18 | 15 | 18 | 15 | 74 | 61 |
| Impairment loss on receivables | 402 | 9 | - | 3 | - | 4 | 402 | 16 |
| Assets transferred for nil consideration | - | 6 031 | 1 361 | 1 071 | 5 880 | 565 | 7 241 | 7 667 |
| Other expenses | 767 | 1 857 | 627 | 355 | 201 | 455 | 1 595 | 2 667 |
| Total expenses | 139 625 | 142 382 | 127 002 | 107 960 | 78 126 | 85 369 | 344 753 | 335 711 |
| Net result | (5 063) | 31 426 | 13 514 | 17 258 | 1 424 | 11 238 | 9 875 | 59 922 |

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

1.3. Changes to the Department

As a result of administrative arrangements outlined in the South Australian Government Gazette (the Government Gazette) on 30 June 2022, DEW assumed responsibility for the Pastoral Unit as a business unit of DEW from 1 July 2022. Responsibility for employees, assets, rights and liabilities relating to this business unit was transferred from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) effective 1 July 2022.

Transferred in

The following assets and liabilities were transferred to DEW.

| Effective Date | 1 July 2022 |
|---|--------------------|
| | \$'000 |
| Receivables | 1 094 |
| Prepayments | 2 |
| Total assets | 1 096 |
| Payables | 63 |
| Employee benefits | 158 |
| Total liabilities | 221 |
| Total net assets/(liabilities) transferred | 875 |

Net assets were transferred at the carrying amount in PIRSA's Statement of Financial Position immediately prior to the transfer, and treated as a contribution by the government as owner.

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

1.4. Budget performance

The budget performance table compares DEW's outcomes against budget information presented to Parliament (2022-23 Budget Paper 4). Appropriation reflects appropriation issued to special deposit accounts controlled by DEW. The budget amounts have not been adjusted to reflect revised budgets or administrative restructures. The budget process is not subject to audit.

| | | Original budget 2023 \$'000 | Actual 2023 \$'000 | Variance \$'000 |
|---|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Statement of Comprehensive Income | Note | | | |
| Income | | | | |
| Appropriation | a | 153 141 | 181 317 | 28 176 |
| Fees and charges | | 35 492 | 37 482 | 1 990 |
| Commonwealth-sourced grants and funding | b | 50 126 | 22 541 | (27 585) |
| SA Government grants, subsidies and transfers | | 39 964 | 37 366 | (2 598) |
| Sales of goods and services | | 49 297 | 51 789 | 2 492 |
| Interest | | 7 | 1 102 | 1 095 |
| Net gain from disposal of property, plant and equipment | | - | 19 | 19 |
| Resources received free of charge | | - | 6 594 | 6 594 |
| Other income | | 10 438 | 16 418 | 5 980 |
| Total income | | 338 465 | 354 628 | 16 163 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Employee benefits expenses | | 140 304 | 143 960 | 3 656 |
| Supplies and services | c | 78 839 | 102 492 | 23 653 |
| Grants and subsidies | d | 37 053 | 55 573 | 18 520 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | | 32 351 | 33 416 | 1 065 |
| Borrowing costs | | 92 | 74 | (18) |
| Impairment loss on receivables | | - | 402 | 402 |
| Assets transferred for nil consideration | | - | 7 241 | 7 241 |
| Other expenses | | 12 257 | 1 595 | (10 662) |
| Total expenses | | 300 896 | 344 753 | 43 857 |
| Net result | | 37 569 | 9 875 | (27 694) |

Explanations are provided for variances where the variance exceeds the greater of 10 per cent of the original budgeted amount and 5 per cent of original budgeted total expenses.

- Higher actuals primarily reflect additional appropriation received during the year in response to 2022 River Murray flood event (\$24.9 million).
- Lower actuals due to revenue from Commonwealth funded projects budgeted for in 2022-23 being moved into 2023-24 as a result of project delays primarily caused by the 2022 River Murray flood event.
- Higher actuals primarily due to increased expenditure for the following projects, Metropolitan Beach Management (\$4.6million), Water for Energy and Mining and Water Sector Development (\$4.2 million), Healthy Coorong Healthy Basin program (\$3.1 million), and the Off-farm Efficiency Program (\$2.7 million), where these expenses were approved to be carried over from 2021-22 and spent in 2022-23. Additional extraordinary costs were also incurred in response to the 2022 River Murray flood event (\$4.6 million).
- Higher actuals primarily reflect grants to local government and business for levee construction works in response to the 2022 River Murray flood event (\$16.9 million).

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

1.4. Budget performance (Continued)

| | Note | Original budget 2023 \$'000 | Actual 2023 \$'000 | Variance \$'000 |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Investing expenditure summary | | | | |
| Total new projects | f | 11 048 | 856 | (10 192) |
| Total existing projects | g | 71 047 | 35 032 | (36 015) |
| Total annual program | | 11 471 | 13 813 | 2 342 |
| Total investing expenditure | | 93 566 | 49 701 | (43 865) |

e. Lower actuals relating to project delays with the Healthy Coorong Healthy Basin Program.

f. Lower actuals relating to project delays with the Sustaining Riverland Environments Program, Kangaroo Island Recovery, Patawalonga — Replacement of South Gates and Ayers House.

1.5. Significant transactions with government related entities

Significant transactions with the SA Government are identifiable throughout this financial report. In addition:

- A substantial portion of accommodation expenses relate to accommodation supplied by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) (Refer to note 4.1)
- Lease payments for vehicles supplied by Fleet SA (Refer to note 5.2)
- Revenue from the provision of corporate services and salary recoveries relating to DEW employees providing services to various Boards and Green Adelaide (Refer to note 2.5)
- Funding received from Green Industries SA (GISA) Fund for Climate Change Initiatives (Refer to note 2.4)
- Community Emergency Services Funding from the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission for the funding of emergency services and related activities (Refer to note 2.4)
- Revenue from SA Water for water planning management (Refer to note 2.2)

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

2. Income

2.1. Appropriation

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Appropriation from Consolidated Account pursuant to the Appropriation Act | 181 317 | 155 686 |
| Total appropriation | 181 317 | 155 686 |

Appropriation

Appropriations are recognised on receipt.

Appropriation revenue consists of \$154.790 million (2022: \$124.789 million) for operational funding and \$26.527 million (2022: \$30.897 million) for capital projects.

2.2. Fees and charges

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Fees and charges revenue recognised under AASB 15 | | |
| Fees and licences | 4 294 | 5 339 |
| Total revenues from fees and charges recognised under AASB 15 | 4 294 | 5 339 |

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Fees and charges revenue recognised under AASB 1058 | | |
| Water planning management | 33 154 | 32 345 |
| Fines and penalties | 34 | 32 |
| Total revenues from fees and charges recognised under AASB 1058 | 33 188 | 32 377 |
| Total revenue from fees and charges | 37 482 | 37 716 |

Fees and charges revenue recognised under AASB 15 is recognised from contracts with customers.

This revenue is recognised when the rights under the Acts are transferred to the customer as this is when the sole performance obligation is met.

Fees and charges revenue recognised under AASB 1058 is recognised as income on receipt.

Pursuant to the Section 6 of the *Public Corporations Act 1993*, SA Water are directed to pay DEW an amount in order to support water planning and management activities.

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

2.3. Commonwealth-sourced grants and funding

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Grant revenues from the Commonwealth | | |
| Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth - Long Term Plan | 4 450 | 7 908 |
| Supply and Constraints Measures in the Murray Darling | 3 965 | 1 410 |
| SA Riverland Floodplain Integrated Infrastructure Program | 2 762 | 7 104 |
| State-Led Off Farm Project | 2 703 | - |
| Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience | 2 178 | 767 |
| Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin | 1 609 | 2 235 |
| The Living Murray - Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth | 1 254 | 1 241 |
| The Living Murray - Chowilla | 1 238 | 1 267 |
| Murray Darling Basin Authority River Management | 903 | 969 |
| Glenthorne Restoration | 420 | 880 |
| Murray Futures - Water Management Solutions Project | 82 | 900 |
| Adelaide City Deal - Mitcham Hills Trail and Glenthorne Loop | 125 | 410 |
| Flows for the Future | - | 7 836 |
| COVID-19 Relief and Recovery funding - World & National Heritage places | - | 5 727 |
| Bushfire Wildlife and Habitat Recovery Program | - | 1 183 |
| Other | 852 | 731 |
| Total Commonwealth-sourced grants and funding | 22 541 | 40 568 |

Commonwealth-sourced (National Partnership Programs) grants and funding are recognised as income on receipt. Commonwealth funding by an agreement with DEW is recognised as income on receipt, except for those involving asset construction or acquisition. In that case the capital component is recognised on construction of the asset and the operating component is recognised on receipt:

SA Riverland Floodplain Integrated Infrastructure Program (SARFIIP) is Commonwealth funding by agreement with DEW and includes both capital and operating component.

Contract balances relate to SARFIIP funding.

Contract balances

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Contract liabilities | 9 009 | 11 771 |
| Total contract liabilities | 9 009 | 11 771 |

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

2.4. SA Government grants, subsidies, and transfers

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Community Emergency Services Funding | 12 818 | 13 527 |
| Climate Change Initiatives | 12 246 | 28 052 |
| Contingency funding provided by DTF | 6 006 | 2 146 |
| Adelaide Living Beaches strategy | 3 021 | 2 947 |
| Port Pirie Greening Program | 810 | - |
| State Water Demand and Supply | 582 | 569 |
| Department for Energy and Mining | 549 | 535 |
| Water Infrastructure Growth Corridors | - | 2 135 |
| Field River Valley Environmental Restoration | - | 1 350 |
| Greener Neighbourhoods | - | 500 |
| Monarto Revegetation | - | 500 |
| Native Vegetation Council Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) | - | 457 |
| Opening Reservoirs Project | - | 200 |
| Other | 1 334 | 2 064 |
| Total SA Government grants subsidies and transfers | 37 366 | 54 982 |

SA Government grants, subsidies and transfers revenue is recognised as income on receipt.

2.5. Sales of goods and services

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Corporate Services Fee | 16 804 | 16 279 |
| Admissions and guided tours | 11 607 | 9 945 |
| Salary recoveries | 8 770 | 9 404 |
| Sale of goods (includes sale of spatial information and water sales) | 7 730 | 7 359 |
| Sale of services (includes professional services, provision of services) | 6 451 | 6 432 |
| Sale of freehold titles | 427 | 59 |
| Total sales of goods and services | 51 789 | 49 478 |

The sales of goods and services included in the table above are transactions that DEW has determined to be classified as revenue from contracts with customers in accordance with AASB 15.

Revenue is measured based on the consideration specified in the contract with the customer. DEW recognises revenue when it transfers control of a good or service to the customer, i.e., when, or as, the performance obligations for the sale of goods and services to the customer are satisfied.

Corporate service fees, salary recoveries and sale of services are recognised in the period in which the services are rendered.

Corporate service fees and salary recoveries relate to the provision of corporate services to other SA Government entities and the recovery of salaries that DEW has paid on behalf of SA Government entities. Revenue is recognised based on the actual service provided to the end of the reporting period. The customer receives and uses the benefits of the services provided simultaneously.

Department for Environment and Water
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For the year ended 30 June 2023

2.5. Sales of goods and services (continued)

Admissions and guided tours revenue is recognised as revenue when the services are provided to the customer.

Sales of goods and sales of services and sale of freehold titles are recognised on transfer of the goods or services to the customer, which is the sole performance obligation.

Contract balances

| | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Contract liabilities | 717 | 549 |
| Total contract liabilities | 717 | 549 |

Contract liabilities relate to admissions and guided tours. Bookings made in advance are recognised as contract liabilities until the service has been provided.

2.6. Interest

| | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Interest | 1 102 | - |
| Total interest revenues | 1 102 | - |

DEW earns a floating interest rate, based on daily bank deposit rates. There was no interest earned during 2021-22 due to Treasury advising public authorities in November 2020 that, given interest rates were approximately 0%, no interest would be paid on any interest-bearing accounts held with the Treasurer. In May 2022, DEW resumed earning interest on its deposit account. Interest revenue in 2022-23 is backdated from May 2022.

Interest income is recognised on receipt.

2.7. Net gain from disposal of property, plant and equipment

| | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Plant and equipment | | |
| Net proceeds from disposal | 20 | 11 |
| Less carrying amount of assets disposed | - | (3) |
| Net gain from disposal of plant and equipment | 20 | 8 |
| Other assets | | |
| Proceeds from disposal | - | 1 |
| Less net book value of assets disposed | (1) | - |
| Net gain from disposal of other assets | (1) | 1 |
| Total assets | | |
| Net proceeds from disposal | 20 | 12 |
| Less carrying amount of assets disposed | (1) | (3) |
| Total net gain from disposal of property, plant and equipment | 19 | 9 |

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

2.7. Net gain from disposal of property, plant and equipment (continued)

Gains on disposal are recognised at the date control of the asset is passed to the buyer and are determined after deducting the cost of the asset from the proceeds at that time. When revalued assets are sold, the revaluation surplus is transferred to retained earnings.

2.8. Resources received free of charge

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Assets received free of charge | 33 | 133 |
| Services received free of charge | 6 561 | 5 788 |
| Total resources received free of charge | 6 594 | 5 921 |

Contributions of services are recognised only when a fair value can be determined reliably, and the services would be purchased if they had not been donated.

DEW receives Financial Accounting, Taxation, Payroll and Accounts Payable from Shared Services SA free of charge valued at \$5.136 million (2022: \$4.449 million), ICT services and media monitoring services (from 2022-23) valued at \$1.372 million (2022: \$1.339 million) and \$0.053 million respectively from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

2.9. Other income

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Grants from private industry and local government | 5 511 | 2 129 |
| Property rental and related income | 4 786 | 4 434 |
| Reimbursement of expenses | 4 198 | 4 317 |
| Insurance recoveries | 1 200 | 29 064 |
| Asset related adjustments | 344 | 10 944 |
| Sponsorships, donations, commissions and bequests | 70 | 33 |
| Leased Vehicle Recovery from Landscape Boards | 22 | 32 |
| Other sundry revenue | 287 | 320 |
| Total other income | 16 418 | 51 273 |

Other income is recognised on receipt, except for a local government grant for the construction of a City Wide Attraction Playground at Glenthorne National Park, where the capital component is recognised during the construction of the asset.

Asset related adjustments includes \$0.343 million for surface water monitoring assets that were not previously recognised by DEW. These adjustments reflect updated asset information gathered during the 2022-23 revaluation process, resulting in revised asset values being recognised in the current year.

Rental Income is recognised under AASB16.

Contract balances

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Contract liabilities | 694 | 1 893 |
| Total contract liabilities | 694 | 1 893 |

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

3. Board, committees and employees

3.1. Key management personnel

Key management personnel of DEW include the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, the Chief Executive and the eight members of the Executive Team who have responsibility for the strategic direction and management of DEW.

The compensation detailed below excludes salaries and other benefits received by the Minister. The Minister's remuneration and allowances are set by the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990* and the Remuneration Tribunal of SA respectively and are payable from the Consolidated Account (via the DTF) under section 6 the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990*. See administered items for disclosures of the Minister's remuneration paid and recovered from the Consolidated Account.

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Compensation | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Salaries and other short term employee benefits | 1 917 | 1 819 |
| Post-employment benefits | 209 | 199 |
| Total compensation | 2 126 | 2 018 |

DEW did not enter into any transactions with key management personnel or their close family members during the reporting period.

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

3.2. Board and committee members

Members during 2022-23 financial year were:

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

M R Carr* (Chair)
R F Evers
M Greenslade
S J Hazel
J A Bellamy
A M Piggott
P J Ainsley
C B Brown

Arabana Parks Advisory Committee

F J Gill* (Chair)
J Warren (Deputy Chair)
S Stuart
T B Gotch*
A Gee*
J G Hull

Witjira National Park Board of Management

P Brissenden* (Chair)
A B Magor*
R Tjami
A S Mcinerney*
B Shields
M Doolan
R Finn

Kangaroo Management Reference Group

L Loan* (Chair)
C Cowin
R Borda
C Crabbe
G Fennel
C Greenfield
S Williams
R Evers (Dr)
A Lewis
P O'Leary
B Nosworthy
A Gyss
K Tschirner

Flinders Ranges National Park Co-Management Board

M J Williams* (Chair)
P J McKenzie (Deputy Chair)
B P Gear*
T C Coulthard
L M Loan*
B M Patterson
E Fielding
C R Jackson
A B Magor*
R J Spencer
T O'Loughlin*
H S Bromley
S A M Paul*

Premier's Climate Change Council

M K Haese (Presiding Member)
S M J Verschoor
C N Wilkins
D J Bennett
P J Schulz
R H Turner
D Conley
S Jeanes

South Australian Heritage Council

S M J Verschoor (Chair)
J D Ferguson (Deputy Chairperson)
K McDougall
M J Rolfe
D M Lindsay
D Brooks*
G J Leydon
S G Schrapel
E Walters

Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Co-Management Board

I M Campbell (Chair)
P G Gillen* (Deputy Chair)
J Tesoriero*
J Irving*
I L Campbell
C M Hutchinson
M Barker*
J Pearson

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
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3.2. Board and committee members (continued)

Members during 2022-23 financial year were:

Cooperative Management Committee

Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park

J Irving* (Chair)
J M Coulthard (Deputy Chair)
A Breeding*
S Coulthard
S Kondylas*
T L Naismith
R W Johnson
V Coulthard
D Coulthard*
I D Johnson
J Pitman*
C Wayne
RJ Wilton

DEW Risk and Performance Committee

J Riedstra (Chair)
S Carruthers*
M Martin*
S Paul*
S Spadavecchia
R Ambler
D Jordan*
T Stubbs (Chair)
A Swanson*
P Martin

**Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area Co-Management
Advisory Committee**

C L Lawrie (Chair)
M J Ward* (Deputy Chair)
M J Anderson*
K D Wombat*
C Coleman
K Pobke*
P J Richter*
M Clements

YYPA Committee Coongie Lakes National Park

R Singleton* (Chair)
J L Gregg-Smith*
A M Paterson
J A Gates*
L Harris Jnr
A Galpin*
A C Singleton
A Allen*

Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board

W Miller (Chair)
M J Ward* (Deputy Chair)
M J Anderson*
H Coleman
L M Halliday*
T Murragilli
P J Richter*
W Ware

Parks and Wilderness Council

M J Williams* (Ex Officio)
V Russell (Presiding Member)
R J Spencer
N Davis
S J De Bruyn
W D Mackenzie
W R McIntosh
A Nedosyko
B Trewren
M I Bossley
P J Mckenzie

Gawler Ranges Parks Co-Management Board

J L Clark* (Chair)
L Warrior (Deputy Chair)
P B Copley*
T R Cox*
M Barker*
D McNamara
E Poole
T A Reid

Pastoral Board

R B Wickes (Presiding Member)
A Collins
L Edwards
E C Jenke
J L Read
A H Smart

* In accordance with the Premier and Cabinet's Circular Number 16, government employees did not receive any remuneration for board/committee duties during the financial year.

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

3.2. Board and committee members (continued)

Board and committee remuneration

The number of members whose remuneration received/receivable falls within the following bands:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| \$0 - \$19 999 | 133 | 118 |
| \$20 000 - \$39 999 | - | 1 |
| Total number of members | 133 | 119 |

The total remuneration received or receivable by members was \$213 000 (2022: \$213 000). Remuneration of members reflects all costs of performing board/committee member duties including sitting fees, superannuation contributions, salary sacrifice benefits and fringe benefits and any related fringe benefits tax paid.

3.3. Employee benefits expenses

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Salaries and wages | 105 799 | 107 501 |
| Employment on-costs - superannuation | 12 446 | 12 082 |
| Annual leave | 9 914 | 9 195 |
| Employment on-costs - other | 6 273 | 6 192 |
| Long service leave (LSL) | 2 231 | (1 448) |
| Workers compensation | 1 841 | 3 503 |
| Skills and experience retention leave (SERL) | 738 | 702 |
| Targeted Voluntary Separation Packages (refer below) | 4 205 | 1 178 |
| Board and committee fees | 381 | 429 |
| Other employee related expenses | 132 | 62 |
| Total employee benefits expenses | 143 960 | 139 396 |

Employment expenses

DEW employees are employed under Part 7 of the Public Sector Act.

The superannuation employment on-cost charge represents DEW's contributions to superannuation plans in respect of current services of current employees.

Employee remuneration

The number of employees whose remuneration received or receivable falls within the following bands:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Number | Number |
| \$157 001 – \$160 000^ | n/a | 1 |
| \$160 001 – \$180 000 | 3 | 3 |
| \$180 001 – \$200 000 | 5 | 3 |
| \$200 001 – \$220 000 | 7 | 9 |
| \$220 001 – \$240 000 | 4 | 3 |
| \$240 001 – \$260 000 | 1 | 2 |
| \$260 001 – \$280 000 | - | 1 |
| \$280 001 – \$300 000* | 4 | 3 |
| \$300 001 – \$320 000* | 2 | 2 |
| \$320 001 – \$340 000* | 2 | - |
| \$340 001 – \$360 000 | 1 | - |
| \$420 001 – \$440 000 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 30 | 28 |

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

3.3. Employee benefits expenses (continued)

^This band has been included for the purposes of reporting comparative figures based on the executive base level remuneration rate for 2021-22.

* This bandwidth includes payment of long service leave, annual leave and termination benefits for officers who have left DEW.

The table includes all employees who received remuneration equal to or greater than the base executive remuneration level during the year. The total remuneration received by those employees for the year was \$7.362 million (2022: \$6.532 million).

Remuneration of employees reflects all costs of employment including salaries and wages, payments in lieu of leave, superannuation contributions, salary sacrifice benefits, and any related fringe benefits paid.

Targeted Voluntary Separation Packages (TVSPs)

The number of employees who accepted a TVSP during the reporting period was 43 (2022: 5). The number of employees who accepted a Rejuvenation Scheme payment in Financial Year 2021-22 was 17.

| | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Amount paid/payable to separated employees: | | |
| TVSPs | 4 205 | 440 |
| Rejuvenation Scheme | - | 738 |
| Leave paid/payable to separated employees | 1 940 | 525 |
| Recovery from the Department of Treasury and Finance | (3 893) | - |
| Net cost to DEW | 2 252 | 1 703 |

3.4. Employee benefits liability

| | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Current | | |
| Annual leave | 10 029 | 10 207 |
| Long service leave | 2 376 | 2 022 |
| Accrued salaries and wages | 89 | 122 |
| Skills and experience retention leave | 887 | 885 |
| Total current employee benefits | 13 381 | 13 236 |
| Non-current | | |
| Long service leave | 23 471 | 25 268 |
| Total non-current employee benefits | 23 471 | 25 268 |
| Total employee benefits | 36 852 | 38 504 |

Employee benefits accrue as a result of services provided up to the reporting date that remain unpaid. Long-term employee benefits are measured at present value and short-term employee benefits are measured at nominal amounts.

Salaries and wages, annual leave, skills and experience retention leave (SERL) and sick leave

The liability for salaries and wages is measured as the amount unpaid at the reporting date at remuneration rates current at reporting date.

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3.4. Employee benefits liabilities (continued)

The annual leave liability and the SERL liability in full is expected to be payable within 12 months and is measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid. The salary inflation rate for annual leave and skills, experience and retention leave liability has increased from 2022 (1.5%) to 2023 (2.0%).

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement of sick leave.

Long service leave

AASB 119 *Employee Benefits* contains the calculation methodology for long service leave liability. The liability for long service leave is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method.

The actuarial assessment performed by DTF has provided a basis for the measurement of long service leave and is based on actuarial assumptions on expected future salary and wage levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. These assumptions are based on employee data over SA Government entities.

AASB 119 *Employee Benefits* requires the use of the yield on long term Commonwealth Government bonds as the discount rate in the measurement of the long service leave liability. The yield on long term Commonwealth Government bonds has increased from 2022 (3.5%) to 2023 (4.0%).

This increase in the bond yield, which is used as the rate to discount future long service leave cash flows results in a decrease in the reported long service leave liability.

Following the actuarial assessment performed by DTF the salary inflation rate has increased from 2022 (2.5%) to 2023 (3.5%) for long service leave liability.

The net financial effect of the changes to actuarial assumptions in the current financial year is a decrease in the long service leave liability of \$0.754 million. The impact on future periods is impracticable to estimate as the long service leave liability is calculated using a number of demographical and financial assumptions - including the long-term discount rate.

Current long service leave reflects the portion of leave expected to be settled within the next 12 months, based on the average proportion of long service leave taken or paid over the last year.

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4. Expenses

4.1. Supplies and services

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Adelaide Beach Management | 14 990 | 22 563 |
| Accommodation | 13 701 | 12 747 |
| Information technology and communication | 11 149 | 9 213 |
| General administration | 9 692 | 8 504 |
| Fee for service - Water and River Murray | 9 022 | 10 032 |
| Minor works, maintenance and equipment | 7 259 | 5 263 |
| Fee for service - National Parks and Wildlife Services | 5 029 | 8 775 |
| Vehicle and aircraft | 4 612 | 3 899 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 3 747 | 957 |
| Contractors | 3 512 | 2 747 |
| Fee for service - climate change, coast and marine | 2 417 | 645 |
| Cost of goods sold | 2 209 | 1 646 |
| Legal costs | 2 098 | 1 947 |
| Travel and accommodation | 1 493 | 972 |
| Staff development | 1 379 | 937 |
| Fee for service - environment, heritage and sustainability | 1 052 | 1 380 |
| Fee for service - strategy, science and corporate services | 1 014 | 2 454 |
| Water acquisition | 516 | 1 082 |
| Monitoring fees | 402 | 1 025 |
| Consultants | 288 | 78 |
| Transportation | 217 | 112 |
| Bore drilling services | 197 | 122 |
| Other | 6 497 | 6 236 |
| Total supplies and services | 102 492 | 103 336 |

Accommodation

Most of DEW's accommodation is provided by DIT under Memoranda of Administrative Arrangements issued in accordance with Government-wide accommodation policies. These arrangements do not meet the definition of a lease and are accordingly expensed. Information about accommodation incentives relating to these arrangements are shown at note 7.4.

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4.2. Grants and subsidies

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Murray Darling Basin Authority | 24 373 | 24 192 |
| River Murray Floods | 17 463 | - |
| Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience | 2 729 | 1 320 |
| Heritage Grants | 1 805 | 7 063 |
| Parks 2025 | 1 675 | 907 |
| Administration of the Animal Welfare Act 1985 | 1 529 | 1 217 |
| Climate Change Resilience | 779 | 1 900 |
| Friends of the Park | 656 | - |
| Healthy Coorong Healthy Basin | 616 | 5 007 |
| New Life for Coastal Environment | - | 1 116 |
| Bayspring Groundwater Re-injection | - | 899 |
| Greener Neighbourhoods | - | 500 |
| SA Riverland Floodplain Integrated Infrastructure Program | - | 7 |
| Other | 3 948 | 3 015 |
| Total grants and subsidies | 55 573 | 47 143 |

4.3. Depreciation and amortisation

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Depreciation | | |
| Buildings and improvements | 5 827 | 6 121 |
| Roads, tracks and trails | 5 675 | 6 611 |
| Groundwater monitoring wells | 4 319 | 4 310 |
| Park infrastructure | 3 702 | 3 935 |
| Regulators and embankments | 3 532 | 3 558 |
| Plant and equipment | 2 975 | 3 268 |
| Leasehold improvements | 1 825 | 1 825 |
| Right-of-use vehicles | 1 384 | 1 395 |
| Salinity disposal schemes | 966 | 966 |
| Sand pumping infrastructure | 818 | 940 |
| Patawalonga seawater circulation and Barcoo outlet | 768 | 817 |
| Waste disposal stations | 278 | 278 |
| Surface water monitoring network | 220 | 195 |
| Right-of-use buildings | 183 | 134 |
| Right-of-use plant and equipment | 131 | 271 |
| Other | 4 | 4 |
| Total depreciation | 32 607 | 34 628 |
| Amortisation | | |
| Application software - externally purchased | 473 | 473 |
| Application software - internally generated | 314 | 302 |
| Other - war services leases | 22 | 22 |
| Total amortisation | 809 | 797 |
| Total depreciation and amortisation | 33 416 | 35 425 |

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4.3. Depreciation and amortisation (continued)

All non-current assets, having a limited useful life, are systematically depreciated/amortised over their useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their service potential.

Useful life

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated on a straight-line basis. Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets depreciation and amortisation are calculated over the estimated useful life as follows:

| Class of asset | Useful life (years) |
|--|----------------------------|
| <i>Property, plant and equipment</i> | |
| Buildings and improvements | 3-138 |
| Groundwater monitoring wells | 48 |
| Regulators and embankments | 10-200 |
| Park infrastructure | 2-80 |
| Patawalonga seawater circulation and Barcoo Outlet | 9-100 |
| Plant and equipment | 1-50 |
| Right-of-use buildings | 8-12 |
| Right-of-use plant and equipment | 4 |
| Right-of-use vehicles | 3-5 |
| Roads, tracks and trails | 5-35 |
| Salinity disposal schemes | 20-100 |
| Surface water monitoring network | 10-83 |
| Waste disposal stations | 50 |
| Sand pumping infrastructure | 10-50 |
| Leasehold improvements | 12 |
| Other | 45-99 |
| <i>Intangible assets</i> | |
| Externally acquired | 2-10 |
| Internally acquired | 3-14 |
| War services leases | 45 |

Review of accounting estimates

Assets' residual values, useful lives and amortisation methods are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, on an annual basis. Changes in the expected life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are accounted for prospectively by changing the time period or method, as appropriate.

Department for Environment and Water
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4.4. Assets transferred for nil consideration

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Land | - | 6 065 |
| Building and improvement | 3 724 | 92 |
| Park infrastructure | 664 | 337 |
| Plant and equipment | 2 672 | 612 |
| Regulators and embankments | - | 261 |
| Roads, tracks and trails | 87 | 104 |
| Surface water monitoring network | 94 | 196 |
| Total assets transferred for nil consideration | 7 241 | 7 667 |

Assets to the value of \$5.786 million (2022: \$0.515 million) were transferred to the Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium and plant and equipment to the value of \$1.361 million (2022: \$0.433 million) were donated to landholders under Flows for the Future Program.

4.5. Other expenses

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Property, plant and equipment write-offs | - | 1 742 |
| Audit fees | 615 | 492 |
| Capital project costs not capitalised | 1 072 | 1 113 |
| Movement in Inventory | (98) | (101) |
| Reversal of impairment loss | - | (808) |
| Other | 6 | 229 |
| Total other expenses | 1 595 | 2 667 |

Property, plant and equipment write-offs

During 2022-23 DEW incurred nil write-off expenses relating to property, plant and equipment.

Audit fees

Audit fees paid/payable to the Auditor-General's Department relating to work performed under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* were \$0.515 million (2022: \$0.403 million). The increase in audit fee was due to additional work required for conducting a climate risk management performance audit. No other services were provided by the Auditor-General's Department.

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5. Non-financial assets

Property, plant and equipment by asset class

Property, plant and equipment comprises owned and right-of-use (leased) tangible assets. The assets presented below do not meet the definition of investment property.

5.1. Property, plant and equipment

| | Land \$'000 | Buildings & improvements \$'000 | Park Roads, tracks & infrastructure \$'000 | trails \$'000 | Groundwater monitoring wells \$'000 | Salinity disposal schemes \$'000 |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|---|--|
| Carrying amount at 1 July 2022 | 375 694 | 62 513 | 28 008 | 28 028 | 55 968 | 36 521 |
| Acquisitions | (1) | (1) | 6 | 3 | - | - |
| Initial recognition | - | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| Transfer between classes | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transferred in – NPWA 1972* | 1 672 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assets received free of charge | - | - | 33 | - | - | - |
| Assets transferred for nil consideration | - | (3 724) | (664) | (87) | - | - |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Write-offs | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transfers to/(from) capital works in progress | - | 5 055 | 1 266 | 195 | 163 | - |
| Impairment loss | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Capital WIP - expensed in current period | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other changes via profit and loss | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Subtotal: | 1 671 | 1 330 | 641 | 113 | 163 | - |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in net result: | | | | | | |
| Depreciation | - | (5 827) | (3 702) | (5 675) | (4 319) | (966) |
| Subtotal: | - | (5 827) | (3 702) | (5 675) | (4 319) | (966) |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in other comprehensive income: | | | | | | |
| Net revaluation increment/(decrement)** | - | - | - | - | 52 266 | - |
| Reversal of impairment loss | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carrying amount at 30 June 2023 | 377 365 | 58 016 | 24 947 | 22 466 | 104 078 | 35 555 |
| Gross carrying amount | | | | | | |
| Gross carrying amount | 377 365 | 279 643 | 241 780 | 273 612 | 327 979 | 57 306 |
| Accumulated depreciation | - | (221 627) | (216 833) | (251 146) | (223 901) | (21 751) |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 377 365 | 58 016 | 24 947 | 22 466 | 104 078 | 35 555 |

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5.1. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Carrying amount at 1 July 2022

| | Patawalonga seawater circulation \$'000 | Sand pumping infrastructure \$'000 | Surface water monitoring network \$'000 | Waste disposal stations \$'000 | Regulators and embankments \$'000 | Plant & equipment \$'000 |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Acquisitions | - | 2 | 13 | (1) | 2 | 691 |
| Initial recognition | - | - | 342 | - | - | - |
| Transfer between classes | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transferred in – NPWA 1972* | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assets received free of charge | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assets transferred for nil consideration | - | - | (94) | - | - | (2 672) |
| Disposals | - | - | (1) | - | - | - |
| Write-offs | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transfers to/(from) capital works in progress | - | - | 595 | - | - | 5 346 |
| Impairment loss | - | - | - | - | (2 585) | - |
| Capital WIP - expensed in current period | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other changes via profit and loss | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Subtotal: | - | 2 | 855 | (1) | (2 583) | 3 365 |

Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in net result:

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Depreciation | (768) | (818) | (220) | (278) | (3 532) | (2 975) |
| Subtotal: | (768) | (818) | (220) | (278) | (3 532) | (2 975) |

Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in other comprehensive income:

Net revaluation increment/(decrement)**

Reversal of impairment loss

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | - | - | 1 447 | - | - | - |
| Carrying amount at 30 June 2023 | 37 071 | 13 490 | 8 769 | 10 326 | 112 722 | 16 034 |

Gross carrying amount

Gross carrying amount

Accumulated depreciation

Carrying amount at the end of the period

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | 61 036 | 23 117 | 17 082 | 13 838 | 160 431 | 49 933 |
| | (23 965) | (9 627) | (8 313) | (3 512) | (47 709) | (33 899) |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 37 071 | 13 490 | 8 769 | 10 326 | 112 722 | 16 034 |

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5.1. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

| | Leasehold improvements \$'000 | Other \$'000 | Right-of-use plant and equipment \$'000 | Right-of-use buildings \$'000 | Right-of-use vehicles \$'000 | Capital work in progress \$'000 | Total \$'000 |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Carrying amount at 1 July 2022 | 10 647 | 1 122 | 160 | 1 218 | 2 797 | 62 835 | 869 429 |
| Acquisitions | - | (2) | (1) | - | 997 | 48 986 | 50 694 |
| Initial recognition | - | - | - | - | - | - | 344 |
| Transfer between classes | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transferred in – NPWA 1972* | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 672 |
| Assets received free of charge | - | - | - | - | - | - | 33 |
| Assets transferred for nil consideration | - | - | - | - | - | - | (7 241) |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | - | - | (1) |
| Write-offs | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transfers to/(from) capital works in progress | - | - | - | - | - | (14 297) | (1 677) |
| Impairment loss | - | - | - | - | - | - | (2 585) |
| Capital WIP - expensed in current period | - | - | - | - | - | (1 027) | (1 027) |
| Other changes via profit and loss | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Subtotal: | - | (2) | (1) | - | 997 | 33 662 | 40 212 |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in net result: | | | | | | | |
| Depreciation | (1 825) | (4) | (131) | (183) | (1 384) | - | (32 607) |
| Subtotal: | (1 825) | (4) | (131) | (183) | (1 384) | - | (32 607) |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in other comprehensive income: | | | | | | | |
| Net revaluation increment/(decrement)** | - | - | - | - | - | - | 53 713 |
| Reversal of impairment loss | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carrying amount at 30 June 2023 | 8 822 | 1 116 | 28 | 1 035 | 2 410 | 96 497 | 930 747 |
| Gross carrying amount | | | | | | | |
| Gross carrying amount | 21 836 | 1 867 | 111 | 1 571 | 5 729 | 96 497 | 2 010 733 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (13 014) | (751) | (83) | (536) | (3 319) | - | (1 079 986) |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 8 822 | 1 116 | 28 | 1 035 | 2 410 | 96 497 | 930 747 |

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5.1. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

| | Land \$'000 | Buildings & improvements \$'000 | Park infrastructure \$'000 | Roads, tracks & trails \$'000 | Groundwater monitoring wells \$'000 | Salinity disposal schemes \$'000 |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Carrying amount at 1 July 2021 | 370 204 | 62 086 | 29 097 | 24 216 | 59 796 | 37 487 |
| Acquisitions | 6 065 | 42 | - | - | - | - |
| Initial recognition | - | 166 | 1 362 | 6 657 | - | - |
| Transfer between classes | - | (33) | (62) | - | - | - |
| Transferred in – NPWA 1972* | 5 490 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assets received free of charge | - | 13 | 120 | - | - | - |
| Assets transferred for nil consideration | (6 065) | (92) | (337) | (104) | - | - |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Write-offs | - | (936) | (653) | (60) | - | - |
| Transfers to/(from) capital works in progress | - | 1 492 | 1 676 | 1 645 | 482 | - |
| Impairment loss | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Capital WIP – expensed in current period | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other changes via profit and loss | - | 129 | 269 | 2 283 | - | - |
| Subtotal: | 5 490 | 781 | 2 375 | 10 421 | 482 | - |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in net result: | | | | | | |
| Depreciation | - | (6 121) | (3 935) | (6 611) | (4 310) | (966) |
| Subtotal: | - | (6 121) | (3 935) | (6 611) | (4 310) | (966) |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in other comprehensive income: | | | | | | |
| Net revaluation increment/(decrement) | - | 5 682 | 42 | - | - | - |
| Reversal of impairment loss | - | 85 | 429 | 2 | - | - |
| Carrying amount at 30 June 2022 | 375 694 | 62 513 | 28 008 | 28 028 | 55 968 | 36 521 |
| Gross carrying amount | | | | | | |
| Gross carrying amount | 375 694 | 278 314 | 241 140 | 273 499 | 224 431 | 57 306 |
| Accumulated depreciation | - | (215 801) | (213 132) | (245 471) | (168 463) | (20 785) |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 375 694 | 62 513 | 28 008 | 28 028 | 55 968 | 36 521 |

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5.1. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

| | Patawalonga seawater circulation \$'000 | Sand pumping infrastructure \$'000 | Surface water monitoring network \$'000 | Waste disposal stations \$'000 | Regulators and embankments \$'000 | Plant & equipment \$'000 |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Carrying amount at 1 July 2021 | 38 656 | 15 246 | 6 411 | 10 974 | 121 941 | 16 558 |
| Acquisitions | - | - | - | - | - | 457 |
| Initial recognition | - | - | - | - | 324 | 44 |
| Transfer between classes | - | - | - | - | 87 | 8 |
| Transferred in – NPWA 1972* | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assets received free of charge | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assets transferred for nil consideration | - | - | (196) | - | (261) | (612) |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | - | (3) |
| Write-offs | - | - | 667 | (91) | - | (2) |
| Transfers to/(from) capital works in progress | - | - | - | - | 304 | 2 462 |
| Impairment loss | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Capital WIP - expensed in current period | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other changes via profit and loss | - | - | (290) | - | - | - |
| Subtotal: | - | - | 181 | (91) | 454 | 2 354 |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in net result: | | | | | | |
| Depreciation | (817) | (940) | (195) | (278) | (3 558) | (3 268) |
| Subtotal: | (817) | (940) | (195) | (278) | (3 558) | (3 268) |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in other comprehensive income: | | | | | | |
| Net revaluation increment/(decrement) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Reversal of impairment loss | - | - | 290 | - | - | - |
| Carrying amount at 30 June 2022 | 37 839 | 14 306 | 6 687 | 10 605 | 118 837 | 15 644 |
| Gross carrying amount | | | | | | |
| Gross carrying amount | 61 036 | 23 115 | 12 867 | 13 838 | 160 430 | 47 910 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (23 197) | (8 809) | (6 180) | (3 233) | (41 593) | (32 266) |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 37 839 | 14 306 | 6 687 | 10 605 | 118 837 | 15 644 |

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5.1. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

| | Leasehold improvements | Other | Right-of-use plant and equipment | Right-of-use buildings | Right-of-use vehicles | Capital work in progress | Total |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Carrying amount at 1 July 2021 | 12 472 | 1 126 | 431 | 756 | 2 923 | 30 722 | 841 102 |
| Acquisitions | - | - | - | 596 | 1 360 | 42 190 | 50 710 |
| Initial recognition | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 553 |
| Transfer between classes | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transferred in – NPWA 1972* | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 490 |
| Assets received free of charge | - | - | - | - | - | - | 133 |
| Assets transferred for nil consideration | - | - | - | - | - | - | (7 667) |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | (91) | - | (94) |
| Write-offs | - | - | - | - | - | - | (1 075) |
| Transfers to/(from) capital works in progress | - | - | - | - | - | (8 964) | (903) |
| Impairment loss | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Capital WIP – expensed in current period | - | - | - | - | - | (1 113) | (1 113) |
| Other changes via profit and loss | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 391 |
| Subtotal: | - | - | - | 596 | 1 269 | 32 113 | 56 425 |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in net result: | | | | | | | |
| Depreciation | (1 825) | (4) | (271) | (134) | (1 395) | - | (34 628) |
| Subtotal: | (1 825) | (4) | (271) | (134) | (1 395) | - | (34 628) |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in other comprehensive income: | | | | | | | |
| Net revaluation increment/(decrement) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 724 |
| Reversal of impairment loss | - | - | - | - | - | - | 806 |
| Carrying amount at 30 June 2022 | 10 647 | 1 122 | 160 | 1 218 | 2 797 | 62 835 | 869 429 |
| Gross carrying amount | | | | | | | |
| Gross carrying amount | 21 836 | 1 869 | 857 | 1 571 | 5 881 | 62 835 | 1 864 429 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (11 189) | (747) | (697) | (353) | (3 084) | - | (995 000) |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 10 647 | 1 122 | 160 | 1 218 | 2 797 | 62 835 | 869 429 |

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5.1. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Property, plant and equipment with a value equal to or in excess of \$10 000 is capitalised, otherwise it is expensed.

Property, plant and equipment is recorded at fair value. Detail about DEW's approach to fair value is set out in note 10.2.

* Assets to the value of \$1.672 million (2022: \$5.490 million) were transferred from the Department for Environment and Water (Administered) reporting entity following the proclamation of land parcel additions to existing National parks and reserves under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and recognised as a transfer from the SA government as owner in the Statement of Changes in Equity.

** Independent valuations were performed for the DEW's Groundwater monitoring well assets and Surface water monitoring network asset, resulting in a total asset revaluation increment of \$53.713 million in 2022-23. This increase is represented in Other Comprehensive Income. Revaluation of the 6,863 Groundwater monitoring wells throughout the metropolitan, regional and remote areas of South Australia accounted for \$52.666 million of the revaluation increment, with the replacement cost of these wells being valued at a total \$327.979 million.

*** Capital work in progress (CWIP) has seen a material increase of \$33.661 million from 30 June 2022 (\$62.835 million) to end of the period 2023 (\$96.497 million), including \$13.3 million Kangaroo Island Fire Recovery projects, \$3.659 million Parks 2025 project, \$5.259 million Glenithorne National Park project yet to be completed, and \$4.889 million diversion of resources towards the River Murray flood recovery event.

Impairment

DEW holds its property, plant and equipment and intangible assets for their service potential (value in use).

All non-current tangible assets are valued at fair value. Specialised assets would rarely be sold and typically any costs of disposal would be negligible.

During River Murray Floods 2022-23 Levee embankments asset along the river owned by the department have been adversely affected and assessed as impaired.

The Embankments are specialised assets held for continuing use of their service capacity. The value of the impairment adjustment was assessed taking account of the operating capacity before and after the floods.

The levee embankments are a revalued asset, and as per AASB 136 the impairment adjustment is treated as a revaluation decrease.

DEW expects that any costs of disposal of all other non-current tangible assets would be negligible and the recoverable amount will be close to or greater than fair value.

5.2. Property, plant and equipment leased by DEW

Property, plant and equipment leased by DEW is measured at cost.

Net additions to leased property, plant and equipment during 2022-23 were \$0.996 million.

Short term leases of 12 months or less and low value leases where the underlying asset value is less than \$15 000 are not recognised as right of use assets.

DEW has a limited number of leases:

- 245 motor vehicle leases with SAFA. Motor vehicle leases are non-cancellable, with rental payments monthly in arrears. The standard lease term for passenger and light commercial vehicles can range from 3 years (60,000km) up to 5 years (100,000km) whichever comes first. No contingent rental provisions exist within the lease agreements and no options exist to renew the leases at the end of their term.
- One information technology lease with Dell financial Services to lease IT equipment relating to sever chassis. The lease is for a 4 year term, non-cancellable and payments are made quarterly in advance. DEW has an option to purchase the equipment at the end of the lease.

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5.2. Property, plant and equipment leased by DEW (continued)

- One car park lease with Young St Auto Park. The lease term of 12 years begun on 1 May 2016, with the possibility for a further 5 year extension.
- One building lease with Forestry SA for a site in Mt Gambier. The lease term of 5 years begun on 1 March 2022 for 5 years, with the possibility for a further 3 year extension.

The lease liabilities related to the right-of-use assets are disclosed in note 7.2. DEW's maturity analysis of its lease liabilities is disclosed in note 10.3.

5.3. Intangible assets

Intangible assets are initially measured at cost and are tested for indications of impairment at each reporting date. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

The acquisition of or internal development of software is capitalised only when the expenditure meets the definition criteria (identifiability, control and the existence of future economic benefits) and recognition criteria (probability of future economic benefits and cost can be reliably measured) and when the amount of expenditure is greater than or equal to \$10 000.

All research and development costs that do not meet the capitalisation criteria outlined in AASB 138 Intangible Assets are expensed.

The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed to be either finite or indefinite. The amortisation period and the amortisation method for intangible assets are reviewed on an annual basis.

For the War Services Leases the rate of amortisation has been determined based on both the unexpired period of the leases and the rate of extinguishment of the leases.

No amortisation is applied to water licenses included in acquired intangible assets as these have been assessed as having an indefinite term of future economic benefits.

Computer software

DEW has capitalised the internal development of software for the Water Information and Licensing and Management Application system (WILMA) and Asset Register and Management Information System (ARAMIS) software systems. In addition, certain costs have been capitalised in respect of the Water Connect Portal (Natural Resources Management Information System) and other software specific to DEW's core activities. Some intangibles are currently included in work in progress. Externally acquired computer software relates to the Aquarius water monitoring software.

Water licenses

An intangible asset for water licences has been recognised. These licences relate to environmental water holdings and are held at cost.

The acquisition and/or transfer of water licences for environmental purposes linked to the provisions of Intergovernmental Agreements to which South Australia is party to, is generally expensed when such expenditure is incurred.

Revenue stream

The revenue stream relates to various property leases that were offered by the Commonwealth Government to ex-service personnel with Australian War Service history. DEW negotiated a contract to purchase the right to this revenue stream from the Commonwealth Government in 2005-06. The revenue stream is being amortised in accordance with the expected life of the revenue stream.

Department for Environment and Water
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5.3. Intangible assets (continued)

Intangible asset movement reconciliation schedule

| | Internally developed \$'000 | Externally acquired \$'000 | Revenue stream \$'000 | Total \$'000 |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Carrying amount at 1 July 2022 | 474 | 4 961 | 639 | 6 074 |
| Acquisitions | - | - | - | - |
| Transfers from capital works in progress | 1 584 | 63 | - | 1 647 |
| Subtotal: | 2 058 | 5 024 | 639 | 7 721 |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in net result: | | | | |
| Amortisation | (314) | (473) | (22) | (809) |
| Subtotal: | (314) | (473) | (22) | (809) |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in other comprehensive income: | | | | |
| Carrying amount at 30 June 2023 | 1 744 | 4 551 | 617 | 6 912 |

Gross carrying amount

| | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Gross carrying amount | 16 109 | 6 674 | 1 000 | 23 783 |
| Accumulated amortisation | (14 365) | (2 123) | (383) | (16 871) |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 1 744 | 4 551 | 617 | 6 912 |

| | Internally developed \$'000 | Externally acquired \$'000 | Revenue stream \$'000 | Total \$'000 |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Carrying amount at 1 July 2021 | 588 | 5 385 | 661 | 6 634 |
| Transfers from capital works in progress | 188 | 49 | - | 237 |
| Subtotal: | 776 | 5 434 | 661 | 6 871 |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in net result: | | | | |
| Amortisation | (302) | (473) | (22) | (797) |
| Subtotal: | (302) | (473) | (22) | (797) |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in other comprehensive income: | | | | |
| Acquisition through administrative restructuring | - | - | - | - |
| Reversal of impairment loss | - | - | - | - |
| Carrying amount at 30 June 2022 | 474 | 4 961 | 639 | 6 074 |

Gross carrying amount

| | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Gross carrying amount | 14 524 | 6 612 | 1 000 | 22 136 |
| Accumulated amortisation | (14 050) | (1 651) | (361) | (16 062) |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 474 | 4 961 | 639 | 6 074 |

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5.4. Inventories

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Inventories held for distribution at no or nominal amount | 764 | 777 |
| Inventories held for resale - at cost | 1 379 | 1 200 |
| Total inventories | 2 143 | 1 977 |

Inventories held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured at cost and adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. Inventories held for sale are measured at the lower of cost or their net realisable value.

Bases used in assessing loss of service potential for inventory held for distribution at no or minimal cost include current replacement cost and technological or functional obsolescence.

Cost for all other inventory is measured on the basis of the first-in, first-out method. Net realisable value is determined using the estimated sales proceeds less costs incurred in marketing, selling and distribution to customers.

The amount of any inventory write-down to net realisable value/replacement cost or inventory losses is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as an expense in the period the write-down or loss occurred.

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6. Financial assets

6.1. Cash and cash equivalents

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Accrual Appropriation Excess Fund account | 148 301 | 138 119 |
| Deposits with the Treasurer | 90 927 | 83 027 |
| Cash on hand/imprest account | 159 | 159 |
| Total cash | 239 387 | 221 305 |

Deposits with the Treasurer

Special deposit accounts are established under section 8 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*. Special deposit accounts must be used in accordance with their approved purpose.

Some of DEW's appropriation is deposited into the Accrual Appropriation Excess Funds account (AAEFA). Cash is measured at nominal amounts. Although DEW controls the money reported above in the Accrual Appropriation Excess Funds account, its use must be approved by the Treasurer.

6.2. Receivables

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| <u>Current</u> | | |
| Trade receivables | | |
| From government entities | 1 520 | 30 349 |
| From non-government entities | 2 514 | 4 231 |
| Less impairment loss on receivables | (2 255) | (1 899) |
| Total trade receivables | 1 779 | 32 681 |
| Accrued revenues | 1 475 | 1 722 |
| GST input tax recoverable | 4 887 | 3 217 |
| Prepayments | 1 145 | 1 978 |
| Workers compensation recoveries | 10 | 9 |
| Total current receivables | 9 296 | 39 607 |
| <u>Non-current</u> | | |
| Workers compensation recoveries | 81 | 77 |
| Total non-current receivables | 81 | 77 |
| Total receivables | 9 377 | 39 684 |

Receivables arise in the normal course of selling goods and services to other government agencies and to the public. Receivables are normally settled within 30 days after the issue of an invoice or when the goods/services have been provided under a contractual arrangement. Receivables and accrued revenues are non-interest bearing. Receivables are held with the objective of collecting the contractual cash flows and they are measured at amortised cost.

The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO is included as part of receivables.

Other than as recognised in the allowance for impairment loss on receivables, it is not anticipated that counterparties will fail to discharge their obligations. The carrying amount of receivables approximates net fair value due to being receivable on demand. There is no concentration of credit risk.

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6.2. Receivables (continued)

Refer to note 10.4 for further information on risk management.

Impairment of receivables

DEW uses a combined approach to impairing receivables. DEW considers receivables that are impaired individually and then applies an allowance matrix to measure the expected credit loss of remaining receivables arising from contracts with customers that are external to SA Government.

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Carrying amount at the beginning of the period | 1 899 | 2 172 |
| Amounts written off | (46) | (289) |
| Increase/(decrease) in the allowance recognised in profit or loss | 402 | 16 |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 2 255 | 1 899 |

Refer to note 10.4 for details regarding credit risk and the methodology for determining impairment.

Department for Environment and Water
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7. Liabilities

7.1. Payables

| | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>Current</u> | | |
| Trade payables | 21 546 | 28 160 |
| Employment on-costs | 3 570 | 3 373 |
| Accrued expenses | 1 153 | 929 |
| Paid Parental Leave Scheme payable | 26 | 30 |
| Total current payables | 26 295 | 32 492 |
| <u>Non-current</u> | | |
| Employment on-costs | 2 337 | 2 431 |
| Total non-current payables | 2 337 | 2 431 |
| Total payables | 28 632 | 34 923 |

Payables and accrued expenses are recognised for all amounts owing but unpaid. Sundry creditors are normally settled within 30 days from the date the invoice is first received. All payables are non-interest bearing. The carrying amount of payables represents fair value due to their short-term nature.

The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO is included as part of receivables. However, if a net GST payable arises, then this amount would be disclosed in this Payables note.

Employment on-costs

Employment on-costs include payroll tax, ReturnToWorkSA levies and superannuation contributions and are settled when the respective employee benefits that they relate to is discharged. These on-costs primarily relate to the balance of leave owing to employees. Estimates as to the proportion of long service leave estimated to be taken as leave, rather than paid on termination, affects whether certain on-costs are recognised as a consequence of long service leave liabilities.

DEW makes contributions to several State Government and externally managed superannuation schemes. These contributions are treated as an expense when they occur. There is no liability for payments to beneficiaries as they have been assumed by the respective superannuation schemes. The only liability outstanding at reporting date relates to any contributions due but not yet paid to the South Australian Superannuation Board and externally managed superannuation schemes.

As a result of an actuarial assessment performed by DTF, the proportion of long service leave taken as leave has increased from the 2022 rate (42%) to 2023 (43%). The average factor for the calculation of employer superannuation cost on-costs has increased from the 2022 rate (10.6%) to 2023 (11.1%). These rates are used in the employment on-costs calculation. The net financial effect of the changes in the current financial year are immaterial.

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7.2. Financial liabilities

All financial liabilities are lease liabilities, current \$1.313 million (2022: \$1.511 million) and non-current \$2.260 million (2022: \$2.708 million). Lease liabilities have been measured via discounting lease payments using either the interest rate implicit in the lease (where it is readily determined) or Treasury's incremental borrowing rate. There were no defaults or breaches on any of the above liabilities throughout the year.

Interest expense on leases liabilities was \$74 000 (2022: \$61 000)

7.3. Provisions

| | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Current</u> | | |
| Provision for workers compensation | 1 149 | 990 |
| Additional provisions | 7 | 3 |
| Total current provisions | 1 156 | 993 |
| <u>Non-current</u> | | |
| Provision for workers compensation | 4 655 | 4 110 |
| Additional provisions | 255 | 174 |
| Total non-current provisions | 4 910 | 4 284 |
| Total provisions | 6 066 | 5 277 |
| | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 |
| <i>Reconciliation of workers compensation (statutory)</i> | | |
| Carrying amount at the beginning of the period | 5 100 | 2 389 |
| Reductions arising from payments | (1 123) | (6 321) |
| Increases resulting from remeasurement | 1 827 | 9 032 |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 5 804 | 5 100 |
| <i>Movement in additional compensation provision</i> | | |
| Carrying amount at the beginning of the period | 177 | 74 |
| Additional provisions recognised | 85 | 103 |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 262 | 177 |

DEW is an exempt employer under the *Return to Work Act 2014*. Under a scheme arrangement, DEW is responsible for the management of workers rehabilitation and compensation and is directly responsible for meeting the cost of workers' compensation claims and the implementation and funding of preventative programs.

Accordingly, a liability has been reported to reflect unsettled workers compensation claims (statutory and additional compensation schemes).

The workers compensation provision is based on an actuarial assessment of the outstanding liability as at 30 June 2023 provided by a consulting actuary engaged through the Office of the Commissioner of Public Sector Employment.

The additional compensation scheme provides continuing benefits to workers who have suffered eligible work-related injuries and whose entitlements have ceased under the statutory workers compensation scheme. Eligible injuries are

Department for Environment and Water
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7.3. Provisions (continued)

nonserious injuries sustained in circumstances which involved, or appeared to involve, the commission of a criminal offence, or which arose from a dangerous situation.

There is a significant degree of uncertainty associated with estimating future claim and expense payments and also around the timing of future payments due to the variety of factors involved. The liability is impacted by agency claim experience relative to other agencies, average claim sizes and other economic and actuarial assumptions.

In addition to these uncertainties, the additional compensation scheme is impacted by the limited claims history and the evolving nature of the interpretation of, and evidence required to meeting eligibility criteria. Given these uncertainties, the actual cost of additional compensation claims may differ materially from the estimate.

7.4. Other liabilities

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| <u>Current</u> | | |
| Accommodation incentive | 2 112 | 2 112 |
| Unearned revenue | 622 | 376 |
| Deposits held for the disposal of Crown Land | 306 | 359 |
| Other | 1 137 | 1 050 |
| Total current other liabilities | 4 177 | 3 897 |
| <u>Non-current</u> | | |
| Accommodation incentive | 8 094 | 10 206 |
| Funds held for the Confined Well Rehabilitation Scheme | 465 | 465 |
| Unearned revenue | 2 159 | 2 187 |
| Total non-current other liabilities | 10 718 | 12 858 |
| Total other liabilities | 14 895 | 16 755 |

Accommodation incentives are effectively amortised over the lease term in accordance with AASB 16.

Accommodation incentive liabilities relate to arrangements with DIT for office accommodation. These arrangements do not comprise leases and the accommodation incentives do not comprise financial liabilities. DIT has provided a range of incentives including a fit-out free of charge and cash back. The benefit of this incentives is spread over the accommodation term so that each year reported accommodation expenses reflect the economic substance of the office accommodation arrangements and related benefits provided.

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8. Other disclosures

8.1. Cash flow

Cash flow reconciliation

Reconciliation of net result to cash flows from operating activities

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position | 239 387 | 221 305 |
| Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows | 239 387 | 221 305 |
| Reconciliation of net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities to net result | | |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 69 435 | 69 647 |
| Add / (less) non-cash items | | |
| Depreciation and amortisation | (33 416) | (35 425) |
| Capital work-in-progress write-offs and asset write-offs | (1 072) | (2 855) |
| Impairment of non-current assets | - | 808 |
| Gain on disposal of non-current assets | 19 | 9 |
| Assets transferred for nil consideration | (7 241) | (7 667) |
| Other asset related adjustments | 344 | 10 944 |
| Supplies and services not requiring cash | (6 561) | (5 921) |
| Asset received free of charge | 33 | 133 |
| Resources received free of charge | 6 561 | 5 788 |
| Movement in assets and liabilities | | |
| Increase/(decrease) in receivables | (30 307) | 25 165 |
| Increase/(decrease) in inventories | 166 | (35) |
| (Increase)/decrease in payables | 5 398 | (5 001) |
| (Increase)/decrease in employee benefits | 1 652 | 6 566 |
| (Increase)/decrease in provisions | (789) | (2 814) |
| (Increase)/decrease in contract liabilities | 3 793 | (1 824) |
| (Increase)/decrease in other liabilities | 1 860 | 2 404 |
| Net result | 9 875 | 59 922 |

Total cash outflow for leases was \$1.723 million (2022: \$1.784 million).

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8.2. South Australian Heritage Fund

The South Australian Heritage Fund was established under the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (the Act) to conserve places of heritage value. The Act requires proper accounts to be kept of the receipts and payments from the fund. The revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, changes in equity and cash flows of the Fund are disclosed below. It is noted that these amounts also form part of and are incorporated within DEW's financial statements. When incorporating these amounts into DEW's financial statements all transactions between the Fund and DEW have been eliminated. No activity occurred during 2022-23 and 2021-22.

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 348 | 348 |
| Total assets | 348 | 348 |
| Equity | | |
| Retained earnings | 348 | 348 |
| Total equity | 348 | 348 |

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2023

| | Retained earnings \$'000 | Total equity \$'000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Balance at 1 July 2021 | 348 | 348 |
| Net result for 2021-22 | - | - |
| Balance at 30 June 2022 | 348 | 348 |
| Net result for 2022-23 | - | - |
| Balance at 30 June 2023 | 348 | 348 |

Department for Environment and Water
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8.3. General Reserves Fund

The General Reserves Fund (the Fund) was established under section 45 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (the Act) to perform duties in relation to the development and management of reserves. Reserves include any national park, conservation park, game reserve, recreation park or regional reserve constituted under the Act. The functions of the Fund are to undertake programs that are directed to achieving the objectives prescribed in section 37 of the Act, through the operation of a Fund account. The Fund provisions are used as the mechanism to provide expanded visitor facilities and services to the park. The Act requires proper accounts to be kept of the receipts and payments from the fund. The revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, changes in equity and cash flows of the Fund are disclosed below. It is noted that these amounts also form part of and are incorporated within DEW's financial statements. When incorporating these amounts into DEW's financial statements all transactions between the Fund and DEW have been eliminated.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Income | | |
| Fees and charges | 149 | 188 |
| Sale of goods and services | 15 067 | 12 082 |
| Commonwealth-sourced grants and funding | - | 115 |
| Interest | 42 | - |
| Other income | 1 428 | 1 472 |
| Total income | 16 686 | 13 857 |
| Expenses | | |
| Grants and subsidies | 16 686 | 13 857 |
| Total expenses | 16 686 | 13 857 |
| Net result | - | - |

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 2 024 | 1 725 |
| Receivables | 1 275 | 1 216 |
| Total assets | 3 299 | 2 941 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Contract liabilities | 716 | 544 |
| Unearned revenue | 318 | 132 |
| Total liabilities | 1 034 | 676 |
| Net assets | 2 265 | 2 265 |
| Equity | | |
| Retained earnings | 2 265 | 2 265 |
| Total equity | 2 265 | 2 265 |

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

8.3. General Reserves Fund (continued)

Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2023

| | Retained earnings \$'000 | Total equity \$'000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Balance at 1 July 2021 | 2 265 | 2 265 |
| Net result for 2021-22 | - | - |
| Balance at 30 June 2022 | 2 265 | 2 265 |
| Net result for 2022-23 | - | - |
| Balance at 30 June 2023 | 2 265 | 2 265 |

Total administered expenses

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2023

| | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | |
| <u>Cash inflows</u> | | |
| Fees, charges, sales and other income | 16 948 | 14 407 |
| Receipts from Commonwealth-sourced grants | - | 115 |
| Interest received | 37 | - |
| Cash generated from operations | 16 985 | 14 522 |
| <u>Cash outflows</u> | | |
| Payments of grants and subsidies | (16 686) | (13 857) |
| Cash used in operations | (16 686) | (13 857) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 299 | 665 |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 299 | 665 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period | 1 725 | 1 060 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period | 2 024 | 1 725 |

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9. Outlook

9.1. Unrecognised commitments

Commitments include operating, capital and outsourcing arrangements arising from contractual sources and are disclosed at their nominal value.

Contractual commitments to acquire property, plant and equipment

Capital expenditure contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities is payable as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Within one year | 8 056 | 18 823 |
| Later than one year but not longer than five years | 550 | 2 175 |
| Later than five years | - | - |
| Total contractual commitments to acquire property, plant and equipment | 8 606 | 20 998 |

DEW's property, plant and equipment commitments include works for Water Infrastructure, facility upgrades and other capital works for the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and various national parks and visitor precincts such as Kangaroo Island, Cleland Wildlife Park, Deep Creek, Glenithorne National Park, Flinders Ranges and other DEW projects.

Other contractual commitments to acquire intangible assets

Capital expenditure contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities is payable as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Within one year | 691 | 1 097 |
| Later than one year but not longer than five years | - | - |
| Later than five years | - | - |
| Total remuneration commitments | 691 | 1 097 |

DEW's commitments for intangible assets relate to the Water Management Solutions program and the Instrument Asset Database.

Other contractual commitments

Expenditure contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Within one year | 32 276 | 31 643 |
| Later than one year but not longer than five years | 27 297 | 27 615 |
| Later than five years | - | 6 072 |
| Total other contractual commitments | 59 573 | 65 330 |

DEW's other contractual commitments are for:

- memoranda of administrative arrangements with DIT for accommodation
- contribution to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

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9.2. Contingent assets and liabilities

Floods in 2022-23 caused damage to assets owned by DEW along the River Murray and an insurance claim is pending full settlement through SAFA. The final value of the claim is not quantifiable as at 30 June 2023 and is contingent on final assessment of all damaged assets.

9.3. Impact of standards not yet effective

AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities will apply to the Department's 2024-25 financial report. Given the complexity and level of judgement required in applying AASB 13 and the new amending standard, together with the need to liaise with valuers, DEW is continuing to assess whether it will have a material impact on the financial statements.

9.4. Events after the reporting period

There were no events that occurred after the reporting period for the year ended 30 June 2023.

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10. Measurement and risk

10.1. Long service leave liability – measurement

See note 3.4 for measurement of long service leave liability.

10.2. Fair value

AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants, in the principal or most advantageous market, at the measurement date.

Initial recognition

Non-current assets are initially recorded at cost or at the value of any liabilities assumed, plus any incidental cost involved with the acquisition.

Where assets are acquired at no value, or minimal value, they are recorded at fair value in the Statement of Financial Position. However, if the assets are acquired at no or nominal value as part of a restructure of administrative arrangements, then the assets are recognised at book value (that is the amount recorded by the transferor public authority immediately prior to the restructure).

Minor assets with an individual value of less than \$10 000 are expensed in the Statement of Comprehensive Income at the time of acquisition, with the exception of network assets which includes Roads, Tracks and Trails, Fences and Groundwater Monitoring Wells assets due to the significant number and long useful lives of these assets. These assets have been recognised in the Statement of Financial Position regardless of their initial cost of acquisition.

Revaluation

Property, plant and equipment, other than right-of-use assets, is subsequently measured at fair value after allowing for accumulated depreciation.

The revaluation process is reviewed by the Chief Finance Officer each year.

Non-current tangible assets are valued at fair value and revaluation of non-current assets or a group of assets is only performed when the fair value at the time of acquisition is greater than \$1.5 million and estimated useful life is greater than three years.

DEW undertakes revaluation of its land, buildings and improvements, and other infrastructure assets via a Certified Practising Valuer or internal estimates based on indices or recent transactions. A valuation appraisal by a Certified Practising Valuer is performed at least every six years.

If at any time, management considers that the carrying amount of an asset materially differs from its fair value, then the asset will be revalued regardless of when the last valuation took place.

For all property, plant and equipment assets that have been subject to an independent revaluation both the replacement cost and the associated accumulated depreciation have been presented on a gross basis.

The independent valuations were performed for the Groundwater Monitoring Wells and Surface Water Monitoring Network asset classes during the reporting period using Data Dictionary and Unique Valuation approach. These assets were assessed on a case by case basis for determination of unique assets. Unique assets are items which cannot be categorised within the standard Data Dictionary groups. An asset deemed unique will have a cost that varies significantly from the Data Dictionary value. Unique assets may have cultural significance that adds to its value; may have been constructed using different or special materials; an asset that has been previously independently valued.

The Data Dictionary model calculates a value for an asset based on description, grade / composition, condition and size / quantity. The model value is adjusted by a locality factor to take into climatic conditions. The Data Dictionary model is contained within DEW's ARAMIS software system.

DEW's Groundwater monitoring wells asset revaluations were undertaken from February - June 2023, and applied as at 30 June 2023. Asset useful lives were also reviewed. The revaluation was undertaken by a Certified Practising Valuer, Ms A Carolan, FAPI, API No: 63983, of Public Private Property Pty Ltd.

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

10.2. Fair value (continued)

DEW's Surface water monitoring network asset revaluations were undertaken from February – June 2023, and applied as at 30 June 2023. Asset useful lives were also reviewed. The revaluation was undertaken by a Certified Practising Valuer, Mr F Taormina, B.App.Sc (Val), AAPI No: 64183 of Valcorp Australia Pty Ltd.

The following table lists details of asset classes subject to independent revaluations:

| Class of asset | Date of last independent revaluation | Name of Valuer | Fair Value Input level | Fair Value Approach |
|--|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Land | 1 July 2019 | State Valuation Office | 3 | Market |
| Buildings and improvements (data dictionary & unique assets) | 1 July 2021 | Valcorp Aust. Pty Ltd | 3 | Cost |
| Park infrastructure (data dictionary & unique assets) | 1 July 2021 | Valcorp Aust. Pty Ltd | 3 | Cost |
| Roads, tracks and trails | 1 July 2020 | Valcorp Aust. Pty Ltd | 3 | Cost |
| Groundwater monitoring wells | 30 June 2023 | Public Private Property Pty Ltd | 3 | Cost |
| Salinity disposal schemes | 30 June 2020 | Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. | 3 | Cost |
| Patawalonga seawater circulation and Barcoo outlet | 30 June 2020 | Public Private Property Pty Ltd | 3 | Cost |
| Sand pumping infrastructure | 30 June 2018 | Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. | 3 | Cost |
| Surface water monitoring network | 30 June 2023 | Valcorp Aust. Pty Ltd | 3 | Cost |
| Waste disposal stations | 30 June 2018 | Valcorp Aust. Pty Ltd | 3 | Cost |
| Regulators and embankments | 30 June 2018 | Public Private Property Pty Ltd | 3 | Cost |

Fair value hierarchy

DEW classifies fair value measurement using the following fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements, based on the data and assumptions used in the most recent revaluation:

- Level 1 – traded in active markets and is based on unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at measurement date.
- Level 2 – not traded in an active market and are derived from inputs (inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1) that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 – not traded in an active market and are derived from unobservable inputs.

The fair value of non-financial assets must be estimated for recognition and measurement or for disclosure purposes. DEW categorises non-financial assets measured at fair value at level 3 which are all recurring. There are no non-recurring fair value measurements.

DEW's policy is to recognise transfers into and out of fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period. During 2022-23, DEW had no valuations categorised into level 1 or level 2.

Heritage assets

In accordance with APS 101.H, heritage assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position as part of the aggregate value of relevant asset classes. Certain heritage assets and works of art that are unique due to their historical or cultural interest are not depreciated due to their long and indeterminate useful lives. Heritage assets that provide a functional service are recorded at depreciable fair value.

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

10.2. Fair value (continued)

Land

Land primarily comprising National, Conservation and Recreation Parks and Wilderness Protection Areas and Reserves, generally has restrictions on use imposed by statute or regulation. These restrictions have been taken into account by the independent valuers.

DEW is also custodian of unallotted (unalienated) Crown Land, by virtue of its responsibilities under the *Crown Land Management Act 2009*. This land is considered to be administered on behalf of the Crown and is recognised in the Statement of Administered Financial Position. Land dedicated to the Minister and land held by the Minister, either as freehold or reverted land is also recognised as administered land. Administered lands may be subject to third party perpetual leases and other leases and annual licenses.

10.3. Financial instruments

Financial risk management

Risk management is managed by DEW's corporate services section. Departmental risk management policies are in accordance with the *SA Government Risk Management Guide* and the principles established in the Australian Standard *Risk Management Principles and Guidelines*.

DEW's exposure to financial risk (liquidity risk, credit risk and market risk) is low due to the nature of the financial instruments held.

Liquidity risk

DEW is funded principally from appropriations by the SA Government. DEW works with DTF to determine the cash flows associated with its government-approved program of work and to ensure funding is provided through SA Government budgetary processes to meet the expected cash flows.

Refer to note 7.1 and 7.2 for further information.

Credit risk

DEW has policies and procedures in place to ensure that transactions occur with customers with appropriate credit history.

No collateral is held as security and no credit enhancements relate to financial assets held by DEW.

Impairment of financial assets

DEW uses a combined approach to impairing receivables. DEW considers receivables that are impaired individually and then applies an allowance matrix to measure the expected credit loss of receivables from the remaining non- government debtors. These comprise of a large number of small balances. Invoices worth \$1.680 million have not been included in the ECL model calculation. These invoices have unique circumstances and have been impaired separately. This amount, together with the ECL calculation below is included in impairment of receivables in note 6.2.

To measure the expected credit losses, receivables are grouped based on shared risks characteristics and the days past due. When estimating expected credit loss, DEW considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis, based on DEW's historical experience and informed credit assessment, including forward-looking information.

The maximum period considered when estimating expected credit losses is the maximum contractual period over which DEW is exposed to credit risk.

The expected credit loss of government debtors is considered to be nil based on the external credit ratings and nature of the counterparties.

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

10.3. Financial instruments (continued)

Impairment of financial assets (continued)

Loss rates are calculated based on the probability of a receivable progressing through stages to write off based on the common risk characteristics of the transaction and debtor.

The following table provides information about the exposure to credit risk and ECL for non-government debtors.

| | Debtor gross carrying amount \$'000 | Loss % | Lifetime expected losses \$'000 |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|--|
| Current (not past due) | 1 454 | 0% | 5 |
| 1 - 30 days past due | 8 | 1% | - |
| 31 - 60 days past due | 44 | 4% | 2 |
| 61 - 90 days past due | 25 | 2% | - |
| More than 90 days past due | 912 | 62% | 568 |
| Loss allowance | 2 443 | - | 575 |

Loss rates are based on actual history of credit loss, these rates have been adjusted to reflect differences between previous economic conditions, current conditions and DEW's view of the forecast economic conditions over the expected life of the receivables.

Impairment losses are presented as net impairment losses within net result, subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the same line item.

Receivables are written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Indicators that there is no reasonable expectation of recovery include the failure of a debtor to enter into a payment plan with DEW and a failure to make contractual payments for a period of greater than 90 days past due.

Cash and debt investments

DEW considers that its cash and cash equivalents have low credit risk based on the external credit ratings of the counterparties and therefore the expected credit loss is nil.

All of DEW's debt investments at amortised cost are considered to have low credit risk and the consideration of expected credit loss was limited to 12 months expected losses. The expected credit loss is nil.

Market risk

DEW does not trade in foreign currency, nor enter into transactions for speculative purposes, nor for hedging. DEW does not undertake any hedging in relation to interest or foreign currency risk and manages its risk as per the government's risk management strategy articulated in TI 23 *Management of Foreign Currency Exposures*.

There have been no changes in risk exposure since the last reporting period.

Categorisation of financial instruments

Details of the material accounting policy information and methods adopted including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement, and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised with respect to each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument are disclosed in the respective financial asset/financial liability note.

Classification of Financial Instruments

DEW measures all financial instruments at amortised cost.

Department for Environment and Water
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

10.3. Financial instruments (continued)

Categorisation of financial instruments

| Category of financial asset and financial liability | Note | 2023 Carrying amount / fair value \$'000 | 2023 Contractual maturities | | |
|---|----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | Within 1 year \$'000 | 1-5 years \$'000 | More than 5 years \$'000 |
| Financial assets | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | 239 387 | - | - | - |
| Financial assets at amortised cost | | | | | |
| Receivables | (1), (2) | 3 254 | - | - | - |
| Total financial assets | | 242 641 | - | - | - |
| Financial liabilities | | | | | |
| Financial liabilities at amortised cost | | | | | |
| Payables | (1) | 22 128 | 22 128 | - | - |
| Lease liabilities | | 3 573 | 1 314 | 2 116 | 143 |
| Other liabilities | | 4 689 | 2 066 | 593 | 2 030 |
| Total financial liabilities | | 30 390 | 25 508 | 2 709 | 2 173 |

| Category of financial asset and financial liability | Note | 2022 Carrying amount / fair value \$'000 | 2022 Contractual maturities | | |
|---|----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | < 1 year \$'000 | 1-5 years \$'000 | < 5 years \$'000 |
| Financial assets | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | 221 305 | - | - | - |
| Financial assets at amortised cost | | | | | |
| Receivables | (1), (2) | 34 403 | - | - | - |
| Total financial assets | | 255 708 | - | - | - |
| Financial liabilities | | | | | |
| Financial liabilities at cost | | | | | |
| Payables | (1) | 28 663 | 28 663 | - | - |
| Lease liabilities | | 4 219 | 1 511 | 2 357 | 351 |
| Other liabilities | | 4 437 | 1 785 | 593 | 2 059 |
| Total financial liabilities | | 37 319 | 31 959 | 2 950 | 2 410 |

(1) Receivable and payable amounts disclosed here exclude amounts relating to statutory receivables and payables (for example, Commonwealth, State and Local Government taxes, fees and charges; Auditor-General's Department audit fees). In government, certain rights to receive or pay cash may not be contractual and therefore in these situations, the requirements will not apply. Where rights or obligations have their source in legislation such as levies, tax and equivalents, they would be excluded from the disclosure. The standard defines contract as enforceable by law. All amounts recorded are carried at amortised cost.

(2) Receivables amount disclosed here excludes prepayments as they are not financial assets. Prepayments are presented in note 6.2

Department for Environment and Water Administered (DEW)

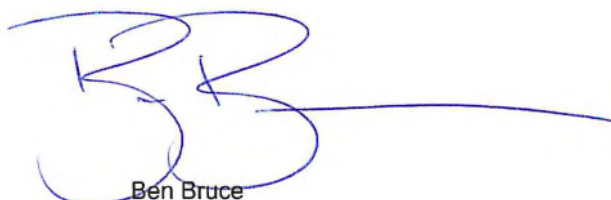
Administered Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Certification of the Administered Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

We certify that the:

- Administered financial statements for the Department for Environment and Water Administered:
 - are in accordance with the accounts and records of the department;
 - comply with relevant Treasurer's Instructions;
 - comply with relevant accounting standards; and
 - present a true and fair view of the financial position of the department at the end of the financial year and the result of its operations and cash flows for the financial year.
- internal controls employed by the Department for Environment and Water Administered for the financial year over its financial reporting and its preparation of administered financial statements have been effective.



Ben Bruce
Acting Chief Executive
13 September 2023



Shaun O'Brien
Chief Financial Officer
13 September 2023

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Statement of Administered Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 30 June 2023

| | | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Note | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Administered income | | | |
| Appropriation | A2.1 | 20 992 | 23 859 |
| Fees and charges | A2.2 | 73 331 | 72 984 |
| Grants | A2.3 | 306 | 1 498 |
| Income associated with joint operation | A5.2 | 4 239 | 4 837 |
| Interest | A2.6 | 473 | - |
| Assets received free of charge | A2.4 | 5 678 | 8 213 |
| Net gain from the disposal of non-current assets | A2.5 | - | 1 800 |
| Intra-government transfers | A2.7 | 5 533 | 9 010 |
| Other income | | 20 | 30 |
| Total administered income | | 110 572 | 122 231 |
| Administered expenses | | | |
| Employee benefits | | 403 | 374 |
| Supplies and services | | 653 | 825 |
| Grants and subsidies | A3.1 | 12 803 | 12 328 |
| Intra-government transfers | A3.2 | 83 750 | 88 781 |
| Expenses associated with joint operation | A5.2 | 12 575 | 10 822 |
| Donated assets | A3.3 | - | 775 |
| Payments to the Consolidated account | | 5 701 | 4 153 |
| Impairment loss on receivables | | 2 510 | 3 668 |
| Net loss from the disposal of non-current assets | A2.5 | 243 | - |
| Other expenses | | - | 264 |
| Total administered expenses | | 118 638 | 121 990 |
| Net result | | (8 066) | 241 |
| Other comprehensive income | | | |
| <i>Items that will not be reclassified to net result:</i> | | | |
| Changes in property, plant and equipment asset revaluation surplus | A4.1 | 41 922 | 111 980 |
| Total other comprehensive income | | 41 922 | 111 980 |
| Total comprehensive result | | 33 856 | 112 221 |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Statement of Administered Financial Position
as at 30 June 2023

| | | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Note | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Administered current assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | A7.1 | 26 094 | 22 423 |
| Receivables | A5.1 | 1 269 | 3 697 |
| Total current assets | | 27 363 | 26 120 |
| Administered non-current assets | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | A4.1 | 1 462 145 | 1 380 016 |
| Intangibles | A5.2 | 183 389 | 164 825 |
| Total non-current assets | | 1 645 534 | 1 544 841 |
| Total assets | | 1 672 897 | 1 570 961 |
| Administered current liabilities | | | |
| Payables | A6.1 | 5 711 | 5 318 |
| Total liabilities | | 5 711 | 5 318 |
| Net assets | | 1 667 186 | 1 565 643 |
| Administered equity | | | |
| Asset revaluation surplus | | 407 514 | 365 592 |
| Retained earnings | | 1 259 672 | 1 200 051 |
| Total equity | | 1 667 186 | 1 565 643 |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Statement of Administered Cash Flows
for the year ended 30 June 2023

| | | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Note | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| <i>Cash inflows</i> | | | |
| Appropriations | | 20 992 | 23 859 |
| Fees and charges | | 73 272 | 70 208 |
| Receipts from grants | | 306 | 1 645 |
| Intra-government transfers | | 5 533 | 9 010 |
| Interest received | | 449 | - |
| Other receipts | | 20 | 30 |
| Cash generated from operations | | 100 572 | 104 752 |
| <i>Cash outflows</i> | | | |
| Employee benefits payments | | (403) | (374) |
| Payments for supplies and services | | (646) | (839) |
| Payments of grants and subsidies | | (13 944) | (12 328) |
| Intra-government transfers | | (83 750) | (88 524) |
| Payments to the Consolidated account | | (4 169) | (33 192) |
| Cash used in operations | | (102 912) | (135 257) |
| Net cash used in operations | A7.1 | (2 340) | (30 505) |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| <i>Cash inflows</i> | | | |
| Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment | A2.5 | 5 841 | 4 780 |
| Cash generated from investing activities | | 5 841 | 4 780 |
| Net cash provided by investing activities | | 5 841 | 4 780 |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | | |
| <i>Cash inflows</i> | | | |
| Cash received from restructuring activities | A1.3 | 170 | - |
| Cash generated from financing activities | | 170 | - |
| Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities | | 170 | - |
| Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | 3 671 | (25 725) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period | | 22 423 | 48 148 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period | A7.1 | 26 094 | 22 423 |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Statement of Income and Expenses attributable to Administered Activities
for the year ended 30 June 2023

| Activities - refer note A1 | Crown Lands | | Minister's Other Payments | | Special Acts Allocation | |
|--|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 |
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Administered income | | | | | | |
| Appropriations | - | - | 17 646 | 18 878 | 399 | 360 |
| Fees and charges | 3 | 23 | - | - | - | - |
| Grants | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Income associated with joint operation | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Interest | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Assets received free of charge | 5 678 | 8 213 | - | - | - | - |
| Net gain from disposal of non-current assets | - | 1 800 | - | - | - | - |
| Intra-government transfers | - | - | - | 4 650 | - | - |
| Other income | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total administered income | 5 681 | 10 036 | 17 646 | 23 528 | 399 | 360 |
| Administered expenses | | | | | | |
| Employee benefits | - | - | - | - | 403 | 374 |
| Supplies and services | 324 | 751 | - | - | - | - |
| Grants and subsidies | - | - | 8 510 | 8 482 | - | - |
| Intra-government transfers | - | - | 9 191 | 14 875 | - | - |
| Depreciation | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net loss from disposal of non-current assets | 243 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Expenses associated with joint operation | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Donated assets | - | 775 | - | - | - | - |
| Payments to the Consolidated account | 5 671 | 4 153 | - | - | - | - |
| Impairment loss on receivables | (6) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other expenses | - | 264 | - | - | - | - |
| Total administered expenses | 6 232 | 5 943 | 17 701 | 23 357 | 403 | 374 |
| Net Result | (551) | 4 093 | (55) | 171 | (4) | (14) |

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Statement of Income and Expenses attributable to Administered Activities
for the year ended 30 June 2023

| Activities - refer note A1 | Water for Fodder | | Landscape Admin Fund | | Landscape Priorities Fund | |
|--|------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 |
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Administered income | | | | | | |
| Appropriations | - | - | 2 913 | 4 591 | - | - |
| Fees and charges | - | - | 73 332 | 72 961 | - | - |
| Grants | - | 1 200 | - | - | - | - |
| Income associated with joint operation | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Interest | - | - | 225 | - | 116 | - |
| Assets received free of charge | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net gain from disposal of non-current assets | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Intra-government transfers | - | - | 1 012 | - | 4 521 | 4 360 |
| Other income | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total administered income | - | 1 200 | 77 482 | 77 552 | 4 637 | 4 360 |
| Administered expenses | | | | | | |
| Employee benefits | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Supplies and services | - | 81 | 250 | - | - | - |
| Grants and subsidies | - | 1 119 | - | - | 3 945 | 2 414 |
| Intra-government transfers | - | - | 74 559 | 73 906 | - | - |
| Depreciation | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net loss from disposal of non-current assets | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Expenses associated with joint operation | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Donated assets | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Payments to the Consolidated account | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Impairment loss on receivables | - | - | 2 516 | 3 668 | - | - |
| Other expenses | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total administered expenses | - | 1 200 | 77 325 | 77 574 | 3 945 | 2 414 |
| Net Result | - | - | 157 | (22) | 692 | 1 946 |

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Statement of Income and Expenses attributable to Administered Activities
for the year ended 30 June 2023

| Activities - refer note A1 | SA Drought Resilience | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Qualco Sunlands | | Fund | | Pastoral Board | |
| | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 | 2023 \$'000 | 2022 \$'000 |
| Administered income | | | | | | |
| Appropriations | 20 | 30 | - | - | 14 | - |
| Fees and charges | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Grants | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Income associated with joint operation | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Interest | - | - | 117 | - | 4 | - |
| Assets received free of charge | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net gain from disposal of non-current assets | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Intra-government transfers | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other income | 20 | 30 | - | - | - | - |
| Total administered income | 40 | 60 | 117 | - | 19 | - |
| Administered expenses | | | | | | |
| Employee benefits | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Supplies and services | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grants and subsidies | 20 | 30 | - | - | - | - |
| Intra-government transfers | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Depreciation | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net loss from disposal of non-current assets | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Expenses associated with joint operation | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Donated assets | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Payments to the Consolidated account | 30 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Impairment loss on receivables | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other expenses | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total administered expenses | 50 | 30 | - | - | - | - |
| Net Result | (10) | 30 | 117 | - | 19 | - |

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Statement of Income and Expenses attributable to Administered Activities
for the year ended 30 June 2023

| Activities - refer note A1 | National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality | | National Landcare Program | | Consumer Advocacy Research Fund | | DEW Corporate Admin Items | | Total | |
|--|---|----------|---------------------------------|----------|--|------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 | 2023 | 2022 |
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Administered income | | | | | | | | | | |
| Appropriations | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 20 992 | 23 859 |
| Fees and charges | - | - | - | - | - | - | (4) | - | 73 332 | 72 984 |
| Grants | - | - | - | - | 306 | 298 | - | - | 306 | 1 498 |
| Income associated with joint operation | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 239 | 4 837 | 4 239 | 4 837 |
| Interest | 1 | - | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | 472 | - |
| Assets received free of charge | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 678 | 8 213 |
| Net gain from disposal of non-current assets | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 800 |
| Intra-government transfers | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 533 | 9 010 |
| Other income | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 20 | 30 |
| Total administered income | 1 | - | 10 | - | 306 | 298 | 4 235 | 4 837 | 110 572 | 122 231 |
| Administered expenses | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employee benefits | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 403 | 374 |
| Supplies and services | - | - | - | - | 71 | - | 8 | (7) | 653 | 825 |
| Grants and subsidies | - | - | - | - | 328 | 283 | - | - | 12 803 | 12 328 |
| Intra-government transfers | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 83 750 | 88 781 |
| Net loss from disposal of non-current assets | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 243 | - |
| Expenses associated with joint operation | - | - | - | - | - | - | 12 575 | 10 822 | 12 575 | 10 822 |
| Donated assets | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 775 |
| Payments to the Consolidated account | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 701 | 4 153 |
| Impairment loss on receivables | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 510 | 3 668 |
| Other expenses | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 264 |
| Total administered expenses | - | - | - | - | 399 | 283 | 12 583 | 10 815 | 118 638 | 121 990 |
| Net Result | 1 | - | 10 | - | (93) | 15 | (8 348) | (5 978) | (8 066) | 241 |

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A1. About the Department for Environment and Water Administered

The activities of the administered items are:

Crown Lands

Crown Lands is comprised of an account established by the Treasurer of South Australia to record receipts and payments associated with the sale of Crown land and other surplus South Australian government land and property. The net revenues from these sales are returned to the DTF Consolidated Account.

Minister's Other Payments

DEW receives appropriation and funding provisions for administered items that it transfers out as grants and subsidies and intra-government transfers.

Grants and subsidies payments of \$8.510 million (2022: \$8.482 million) approved by the Minister were made to community organisations, associations and local government in 2022-23. This includes grants made to Zoos SA \$6.699 million (2022: \$6.815 million) and Adelaide City Council \$1.811 million (2022: \$1.667 million).

Intra-government transfers of \$9.191 million (2022: \$14.875 million) approved by the Minister were made to SA government entities in 2022-23. This includes transfers to South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board \$2.660 million (2022: \$2.595 million); Native Vegetation Fund \$0 million (2022: \$1.258 million); Coast Protection Fund \$0.594 million (2022: \$0.580 million); and Stormwater Management Authority \$5.937 million (2022: \$10.442 million).

Special Acts Allocation

This item comprises salary and allowance payments for the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water.

Landscape Administration Fund

The Landscape Administration Fund (LAF) was established pursuant to section 90 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (Landscape SA Act) to receive and disburse fees, levies and other monies authorised by the Landscape SA Act.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A1. About the Department for Environment and Water Administered (continued)

Regional Landscape Boards and Green Adelaide

The regional landscape boards were established pursuant to subsection 13 (1) of the Landscape SA Act. The Green Adelaide board was established pursuant to subsection 12(1) of the Landscape SA Act.

DEW administers various revenues and expenses on account of the regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide through the LAF.

Specific provisions of the Landscape SA Act require that the following revenues be paid into the LAF prior to being applied for the purposes of the Landscape SA Act:

- government appropriations (controlled and administered funding allocated in respect of the regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide)
- land levies
- water levies
- penalties relating to water levies
- expiation fees and other penalties.

(i) Government appropriations

DEW receives recurrent funding, which is administered through the LAF and provided to regional landscape boards to support business operations and the administration of the Landscape SA Act. The funding is subsequently paid to regional landscape boards pursuant to subsection 90(4) of the Landscape SA Act.

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Regional Landscape Board | | |
| Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board | 1 261 | 1 230 |
| Kangaroo Island Landscape Board | 1 261 | 1 230 |
| South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board | 391 | 381 |
| Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board | - | 400 |
| Green Adelaide Board | - | 1 350 |
| | 2 913 | 4 591 |

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A1. About the Department for Environment and Water Administered (continued)

(ii) Land levies

Inside Council Areas

Land Levies are collected from constituent councils under section 66 of the Landscape SA Act. The levies are subsequently paid to regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide pursuant to subsection 90(4) of the Landscape SA Act.

Outside Council Areas

Land levies are collected from persons who occupy land outside of council areas under section 71 of the Landscape SA Act. The levies are subsequently paid to regional landscape boards pursuant to subsection 90(4) of the Landscape SA Act.

(iii) Water levies

Water levies are collected for prescribed water resources under section 76 of the Landscapes SA Act. The levies are subsequently paid to the regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide pursuant to subsection 90(4) of the Landscape SA Act.

(iv) Penalties

Penalties declared in relation to the unauthorised or unlawful taking or use of water were raised pursuant to section 88 of the Landscape SA Act.

(v) Expiation fees and other penalties

Expiation fees and penalties are recovered in respect of offences against the Landscape SA Act (that is for unlawful possession of animals or plants).

Landscape Priorities Fund

The Landscape Priorities Fund was established under section 93 of the Landscape SA Act and receives annual revenue from the Green Adelaide Board. The contribution from Green Adelaide Board is determined under subsection 89(1) of the Landscape SA Act and is a gazetted percentage of the total land and water levies received by the Board in a financial year. The 15% rate remained unchanged in 2022-23. In accordance with section 93(5) of the Landscape SA Act, grants are paid from this fund to successful applicants on an annual basis.

National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality

The National Action Plan (NAP) was a bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and SA Governments signed in 2001 providing funds to address issues associated with salinity and water quality in priority regions in South Australia. Funding for NAP ceased on 30 June 2008 with the majority of projects completed by 31 December 2009. The remaining funds relate to interest earned on the original South Australian Government contribution and DEW is currently seeking appropriate approvals to return the remaining funds to the DTF in accordance with clause 13.2c and 20.4 of the 'Transitional Arrangement and Financial Agreement between the Australian Government and state of South Australia for implementation of Caring for our Country'.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A1. About the Department for Environment and Water Administered (continued)

Qualco Sunlands

The *Ground Water (Qualco-Sunlands) Control Act 2000* established a scheme managed by a Trust to prevent, and reverse, the salinisation and water logging of horticultural land due to irrigation induced factors. Upon request from the Trust, DEW provides a temporary grant, sourced from the DTF, to carry out the specified works. The Trust facilitates the required work, and recharges irrigators for the work undertaken. Once fully collected, the Trust returns the temporary funds to DEW for on-passing back to the DTF.

Water for Fodder

The Water for Fodder program formed part of the Australian Government's 2020 drought response package to support drought-affected farmers in the Southern Connected Basin. The intergovernmental agreement between the Commonwealth and SA Governments was the first use of the Adelaide Desalination Plant to support the water market under extreme dry conditions. Commonwealth revenue received under the agreement was disbursed by the Minister to SA Water Corporation (2023 nil; 2022: \$1.119 million), and Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA) (2023: nil; 2022: \$0.081 million) in respect of milestone outputs under the agreement. ESCOSA independently reviewed and verified the actual costs incurred by South Australia and the last payment was received from the Commonwealth in 2021-22.

SA Drought Resilience Fund

The South Australian Drought Resilience Fund (The Fund) was established pursuant to the Commonwealth's Water for Fodder program. The Fund received revenue from Southern Murray-Darling Basin irrigators in exchange for the transfer of South Australian water allocations in accordance with the Water for Fodder program. The Fund will be applied by the Minister towards programs and measures to build the resilience of River Murray water users and environment to withstand drought and longer term climate change, or improve the adequacy, security and quality of the State's water supply from the River Murray.

Pastoral Board

The Pastoral Board is responsible for the administration of the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*. The Board provides advice to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water on the policies that should govern the administration of pastoral land. Due to an administrative arrangement, the Pastoral Board was transferred from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia effective 1 July 2022. Refer note A1.3.

Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Fund

The Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Fund was established under the *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005* to:

- protect the dolphin population of the Port Adelaide River Estuary and Barker Inlet
- protect the natural habitat of the Dolphin population.

The Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Fund did not incur any material income or expenditure transactions for the current or prior periods and has therefore not been disclosed as part of the Statement of Income and Expenses.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A1. About the Department for Environment and Water Administered (continued)

Consumer Advocacy Research Fund

The Consumer Advocacy Research Fund (CARF) was established under section 87 of the *Water Industry Act 2012* (the Act). The purpose of the CARF is to support research or advocacy projects that promote the interests of water consumers with a disability, consumers on a low income, consumers who are located within a regional area of the state; or to support projects that advance the interests of consumers from an advocacy perspective.

The Minister's powers and functions under the Act, specifically associated with CARF, are set out in section 87 of the Act. The CARF consists of \$0.306 million in 2022-23 (indexed annually), paid on an annual basis from licence fees payable by water entities under section 24 of the Act.

A1.1. Administered item's financial arrangements

The financial activities of the administered items are conducted through a number of deposit accounts with DTF pursuant to the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*.

DEW conducts a large number of activities directed towards meeting the administered items objectives and responsibilities as specified in the legislation and/or other authoritative documentation that establishes the administered items. Many of the administered items, in accordance with the Acts, have delegated certain functions to officers within DEW, who provide technical and administrative support including the use of plant and equipment, office accommodation and various administrative services. The cost of the services provided that can be identified with the activities of the administered items and can be measured reliably are met by the administered items. Other support services that are not identifiable and/or cannot be measured reliably are provided free of charge and have not been recognised in the Administered financial statements.

A1.2. Basis of preparation and accounting policies

The basis of preparation for the administered financial statements is the same as the basis outlined in note 1.1. DEW applies the same accounting policies to the administered financial statements as set out in the notes to DEW's financial statements. Deviations from these policies are as follows:

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment includes land. DEW is the custodian of unallotted (unalienated) Crown Land, by virtue of its responsibilities under the *Crown Land Management Act 2009*. This land is recognised in the administered Statement of Financial Position as Crown Land. Land dedicated to the Minister and held by the Minister, either as freehold or reverted land, is also recognised as part of Crown Land. Crown Lands may be subject to third party perpetual leases and other leases and annual licenses.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A1.2. Basis of preparation and accounting policies (continued)

Employee benefits

In general, administered items utilise the services of contractors or DEW employees rather than recruiting and appointing employees in their own right. In the majority of cases, the services provided by DEW employees are provided free of charge. If, however, the services provided by DEW employees are directly attributable to the activities of an administered item and can be reliably measured, the services are charged to the administered item on a fee for service (cost recovery) basis. The liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by DEW employees is not recognised in the administered financial statements as DEW is obligated to pay employees for services provided. Accordingly, employee benefits are recognised in DEW's financial statements. Employee benefits disclosed in the schedule of expenses and income relate to the Minister's salary.

A1.3. Changes to Administered Items

As a result of administrative arrangements outlined in the South Australian Government Gazette (the Government Gazette) on 30 June 2022, DEW assumed responsibility for the Pastoral Board as a business unit of the department from 1 July 2022. This includes pastoral land that was transferred from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions effective 1 July 2022 with an estimated carrying (fair) value of \$69.2 million as at 30 June 2022. Pastoral land is subject to the control of the Pastoral Board.

The following assets and liabilities were transferred to DEW.

| Effective Date | 1 July 2022 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | \$'000 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 170 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 69 177 |
| Total assets | 69 347 |
| | |
| Total net assets transferred | 69 347 |

Net assets were transferred at the carrying amount in PIRSA's Statement of Financial Position immediately prior to the transfer, and treated as a contribution by the government as owner.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A1.4. Budget performance

The budget performance table compares DEW's outcomes against budget information presented to Parliament (2022-23 Budget Paper 4). The budget amounts have not been adjusted to reflect revised budgets or administrative restructures. The budget process is not subject to audit.

| Statement of Administered Comprehensive Income | Note | Original budget 2023 \$'000 | Actual 2023 \$'000 | Variance \$'000 |
|--|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | |
| Income | | | | |
| Appropriation | a | 31 333 | 20 992 | (10 341) |
| Fees and charges | | 71 714 | 73 331 | 1 617 |
| Grants | | - | 306 | 306 |
| Intra-government transfers | | 4 868 | 5 533 | 665 |
| Income associated with joint operation | | - | 4 239 | 4 239 |
| Interest | | - | 473 | 473 |
| Assets received free of charge | | - | 5 678 | 5 678 |
| Other income | | 250 | 20 | (230) |
| Total administered income | | 108 165 | 110 572 | 2 407 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Employee benefits | | 396 | 403 | 7 |
| Supplies and services | | 561 | 653 | 92 |
| Grants and subsidies | b | 21 788 | 12 803 | (8 985) |
| Intra-government transfers | | 79 936 | 83 750 | 3 814 |
| Depreciation | | - | - | - |
| Expenses associated with joint operation | c | - | 12 575 | 12 575 |
| Donated assets | | - | - | - |
| Payments to the Consolidated account | | 2 545 | 5 701 | 3 156 |
| Impairment loss on receivables | | - | 2 510 | 2 510 |
| Net loss from the disposal of non-current assets | | - | 243 | 243 |
| Other expenses | | 8 825 | - | (8 825) |
| Total administered expenses | | 114 051 | 118 638 | 4 587 |
| Net result | | (5 886) | (8 066) | (2 180) |

The following are brief explanations of variances between original budget and actual amounts. Explanations are required to be provided for variances where the variance exceeds the greater of 10 per cent of the original budgeted amount and 5 per cent of original budgeted total expenses.

- The full working capital provision in the original budget held for the eight regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide was not required therefore the cash was not received from DTF and was not transferred to the landscape boards.
- Lower actuals due to expenses previously budgeted for as grants and subsidies subsequently being recognised as intra-government transfers.
- South Australia's share of the expenses associated with the joint operation was not included in the original budget (see note A5.2).

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A2. Income

A2.1. Appropriation

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Appropriation from Consolidated Account pursuant to Appropriation Act | 20 593 | 23 499 |
| Appropriations under other Acts | 399 | 360 |
| Total appropriations | 20 992 | 23 859 |

Appropriations

Appropriations are recognised on receipt.

A2.2. Revenues from fees and charges

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Fees and charges revenue recognised under AASB 15 | | |
| Water Levies received from licence holders | 17 965 | 17 499 |
| Total revenues from fees and charges recognised under AASB 15 | 17 965 | 17 499 |

Fees and charges revenue recognised under AASB 1058

| | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Land Levies received from Councils | 52 391 | 51 111 |
| Land Levies received from out of Council areas | 256 | 242 |
| Fines and penalties | 2 719 | 4 109 |
| Reimbursement of Crown Lands costs | 3 | 23 |
| DEW Corporate Administered Items | (3) | - |
| Total revenues from fees and charges recognised under AASB 1058 | 55 366 | 55 485 |
| Total revenues from fees and charges | 73 331 | 72 984 |

Revenue received from water levies and licence fees is recognised from contracts with customers. The Department recognises revenue when it transfers control of a good or service to the customer. In order to pay a water levy a customer is required to hold a valid water licence, allowing for the drawing of the water allocation.

Fees and charges revenue recognised under AASB 1058 is recognised as income on receipt. Land levies received from Councils are paid into the LAF prior to disbursement to the respective Landscape Boards. Refer to note A1.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A2.3. Grant Revenues

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Water for Fodder | - | 1 200 |
| Consumer Advocacy Research Fund | 306 | 298 |
| Total grant revenues | 306 | 1 498 |

Grant revenue is recognised under AASB1058 as income on receipt.

A2.4. Assets received free of charge

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Land | 5 678 | 8 213 |
| Total assets received free of charge | 5 678 | 8 213 |

During 2022-23 the Minister revoked the dedication for a specific purpose of land parcels valued at \$5.678 million. This was pursuant to legislative powers vested to the Minister under the Crown Lands Management Act 2009, to entities external to the DEW Administered Items. Upon the revocation of dedication, the land has reverted to the Minister, and accounted for in the DEW Administered Items reporting entity.

A2.5. Net gain/(loss) from the disposal of non-current assets

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Crown land | | |
| Proceeds from disposal | 5 841 | 4 780 |
| Less net book value of assets disposed | (6 084) | (2 980) |
| Net gain/(loss) from disposal of Crown land | (243) | 1 800 |

A2.6. Interest revenues

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Interest on deposit accounts | 473 | - |
| Total interest revenues | 473 | - |

DEW earns a floating interest rate, based on daily bank deposit rates. There was no interest earned during 2021-22 due to Treasury advising public authorities in November 2020 that, given interest rates were approximately 0%, no interest would be paid on any interest-bearing accounts held with the Treasurer. In May 2022, DEW resumed earning interest on its deposit account. Interest revenue in 2022-23 is backdated from May 2022.

Interest income is recognised on receipt.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A2.7. Intra-government transfers

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Contribution to Landscape Priorities Fund* | 4 521 | 4 360 |
| Funding provided by DTF | 1 012 | 4 650 |
| Total intra-government transfers | 5 533 | 9 010 |

Intra-government transfers are recognised under AASB 1058 as income on receipt.

* Refer to note A1.

A3. Expenses

A3.1. Grants and subsidies

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Minister's other payments * | 8 510 | 8 482 |
| Grants paid from Landscape Priorities Fund ** | 3 945 | 2 414 |
| Water for Fodder | - | 1 119 |
| Consumer Advocacy Research Fund | 328 | 283 |
| Qualco Sunlands | 20 | 30 |
| Total grants and subsidies | 12 803 | 12 328 |

* Refer to note A1.

** Refer to note A2.7.

A3.2. Intra-government transfers

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Land levy payments to Landscape Boards* | 52 391 | 51 111 |
| Water levy payments to Landscape Boards* | 18 007 | 17 985 |
| Appropriation payments to Landscape Boards | 2 913 | 4 591 |
| Contingency payments to Landscape Boards | 1 012 | - |
| Minister's other payments** | 9 191 | 14 875 |
| Out of Council land levy payments to Landscape Boards* | 236 | 219 |
| Total intra-government transfers | 83 750 | 88 781 |

* Refer note A2.2.

** Refer note A1.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A3.3. Donated Assets

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Donated assets | - | 775 |
| Total donated asset expenses | - | 775 |

Donated assets expense in 2021-22 comprised of Crown land valued at \$0.775 million dedicated by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water to entities external to the DEW administered Items pursuant to legislative powers vested to the Minister under the *Crown Lands Management Act 2009*.

A4. Non-financial assets

A4.1. Property, plant and equipment

Movement reconciliation of property, plant and equipment

| | | | Joint operation | |
|--|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2023 | Crown land | Pastoral land | PP&E | Total |
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Carrying amount at the 1 July 2022 | 538 332 | - | 841 684 | 1 380 016 |
| Assets received for nil consideration | 5 678 | 69 177 | - | 74 855 |
| Transfers in - CLMA 2009* | 12 | - | - | 12 |
| Transfers out - CLMA 2009** | (1 672) | - | - | (1 672) |
| Donated assets | - | - | - | - |
| Disposals | (6 084) | - | (1) | (6 085) |
| Other changes | (2) | - | - | (2) |
| Joint operations net additions, disposal, other movements | - | - | (26 901) | (26 901) |
| Subtotal | (2 068) | 69 177 | (26 902) | 40 207 |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in other comprehensive income: | | | | |
| Revaluation increments/(decrements) | - | - | 41 922 | 41 922 |
| Subtotal | - | - | 41 922 | 41 922 |
| Carrying amount at the 30 June 2023 | 536 264 | 69 177 | 856 704 | 1 462 145 |
| Gross carrying amount | | | | |
| Gross carrying amount | 536 264 | 69 177 | 856 704 | 1 462 145 |
| Accumulated depreciation | - | - | - | - |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 536 264 | 69 177 | 856 704 | 1 462 145 |

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A4.1. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

| 2022 | Crown land \$'000 | Pastoral land \$'000 | Joint operation | Total \$'000 |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | | | PP&E \$'000 | |
| Carrying amount at the 1 July 2021 | 535 864 | - | 737 274 | 1 273 138 |
| Assets received for nil consideration | 8 213 | - | - | 8 213 |
| Transfers in - CLMA 2009 | 3 799 | - | - | 3 799 |
| Transfers out - CLMA 2009 | (5 525) | - | - | (5 525) |
| Donated assets | (775) | - | - | (775) |
| Disposals | (2 980) | - | - | (2 980) |
| Other changes | (264) | - | - | (264) |
| Joint operations net additions, disposal, other movements | - | - | (7 570) | (7 570) |
| Subtotal | 2 468 | - | (7 570) | (5 102) |
| Gains/(losses) for the period recognised in other comprehensive income: | | | | |
| Revaluation increments/(decrements) | - | - | 111 980 | 111 980 |
| Subtotal | - | - | 111 980 | 111 980 |
| Carrying amount at the 30 June 2022 | 538 332 | - | 841 684 | 1 380 016 |
| Gross carrying amount | | | | |
| Gross carrying amount | 538 332 | - | 841 684 | 1 380 016 |
| Accumulated depreciation | - | - | - | - |
| Carrying amount at the end of the period | 538 332 | - | 841 684 | 1 380 016 |

A market based method was used when by comparing property data to that of similar sales with consideration of restrictions on use and/ or zoning, property size and shape, topography, location, sale date and market movement, if any, and other relevant factors specific to the land being valued.

Crown Lands Adjustment

*Asset transferred in from SA Government under the *Crown Land Management Act 2009* (CLMA 2009) valued at \$12 million (2022: \$3.799 million) comprised land dedicated by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, pursuant to legislative powers vested to the Minister under section 18 of this Act. Upon revocation of dedication under section 19 of the Act the land has reverted to the Minister and are accounted for as an equity transfer.

**Assets to the value of \$1.672 million (2022: \$5.490 million) were transferred to the Department for Environment and Water (Controlled) reporting entity following proclamation of land parcel additions to existing national parks and reserves under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and accounted for through equity.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
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A5. Financial assets

A5.1. Receivables

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Current | | |
| Water levies | 235 | 317 |
| Penalties | 13 236 | 12 084 |
| Accrued interest | 46 | - |
| Other | 542 | 1 575 |
| Less impairment loss on receivables | (12 791) | (10 279) |
| GST input tax recoverable | 1 | - |
| Total receivables | 1 269 | 3 697 |

A5.2. Interest in joint operation

The Minister, on behalf of the state of South Australia, has an interest in a joint operation, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) represented by the River Murray Operations and the Living Murray Initiative.

On 3 July 2008, the Commonwealth Government and the Government of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory (the participants) entered into the Intergovernmental agreement for the *Murray-Darling Basin Reform* (the Reform IGA). The Reform involved the government participants entering into a new *Murray-Darling Basin Agreement* (MDB Agreement) and the Intergovernmental Agreement on *Murray-Darling Basin Reform - referral* (the Referral IGA).

The MDB Agreement essentially dissolved the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) and established the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), Ministerial Council, Basin Officials Committee and the Basin Community Committee. Under the revised arrangement, the participants have a joint interest in the infrastructure assets and water rights. The state of South Australia's interest in the arrangement is 26.67 percent.

The MDBA was established under the Commonwealth *Water Act 2007* as an independent, expertise based statutory agency and are responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the Basin Plans. The MDBA undertakes activities that support the sustainable and integrated management of the water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin in a way that meets the social, economic and environmental needs of the Basin and its communities.

Two unincorporated joint arrangements were established under the MDBA to hold assets on behalf of the participants through separate agreements called the "Asset Agreement for River Murray Operations Assets" (RMO) and the "Further Agreement on Addressing Over Allocation and Achieving Environmental Objectives in the Murray-Darling Basin - Control and Management of Living Murray Assets" (LMI). The principal place of the operation is in Australia. The participants are obliged to provide funding to the MDBA for the management of the RMO and LMI assets and operations.

The agreements in relation to the Murray Darling Basin Agreement joint arrangement require unanimous consent from all parties for all relevant activities. The participants own the infrastructure assets and water rights of the joint arrangements, which are being managed through the RMO and LMI and there are no liabilities held for either RMO or LMI. The arrangement is therefore classified as a joint operation and DEW recognises, on behalf of the state, its direct right to the jointly held assets, revenues and expenses based on the percentage interest as described in the table below.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
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A5.2 Interest in joint operation (continued)

| Name of entity | Principal activity | Country of incorporation | Ownership interest | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| | | | 2023 | 2022 |
| Murray-Darling Basin Authority | To undertake activities that support the sustainable and integrated management of water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin | Australia | 26.67% | 26.67% |

Joint operation assets, income and expenses accounted for using the proportionate consolidation method are detailed below:

| Murray-Darling Basin Authority | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Non-current assets | | |
| <i>Property, plant and equipment</i> | | |
| Infrastructure Assets | 846 109 | 815 348 |
| Work in Progress | 6 074 | 21 912 |
| Other property, plant and equipment assets | 4 522 | 4 424 |
| <i>Intangibles - Water entitlements</i> | 183 389 | 164 825 |
| Total non-current assets | 1 040 094 | 1 006 509 |
| Total assets | 1 040 094 | 1 006 509 |
| Income | 4 239 | 4 837 |
| Expenses | 12 575 | 10 822 |

Refer note 4.2 of the DEW Controlled financial statements for details of the State's grant payment made to the MDBA.
The 2023 and 2022 figures were based on the audited RMO and LMI financial statements.

Contingencies and commitments

There are no contingencies or commitments arising from DEW's interest in the joint operation.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
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A6. Liabilities

A6.1. Payables

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Current | | |
| Creditors | 5 125 | 4 577 |
| Other | 586 | 741 |
| Total current payables | 5 711 | 5 318 |
| Total payables | 5 711 | 5 318 |

Payables and accruals are raised for all amounts owing but unpaid. Sundry payables are normally settled within 30 days from the date the invoice is first received. All payables are non-interest bearing. The carrying amount of payables represents fair value due to their short-term nature.

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
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A7. Other disclosures

A7.1. Administered cash flow reconciliation

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period | | |
| National Landcare Program | 368 | 358 |
| Crown Lands | 7 020 | 5 773 |
| SA Drought Resilience Fund | 4 105 | 4 002 |
| Pastoral Board | 189 | - |
| Landscape Administration Fund | 6 837 | 5 319 |
| Landscape Priorities Fund | 3 773 | 3 091 |
| Consumer Advocacy Research Fund | 145 | 238 |
| Qualco Sunlands | 18 | 27 |
| National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality | 38 | 37 |
| Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary | 1 | 1 |
| The Department's Corporate Administrative Items | 3 600 | 3 577 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Cash and cash equivalents disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position | 26 094 | 22 423 |
| Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows | 26 094 | 22 423 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Reconciliation of net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities to net result | | |
| Net cash used in operating activities | (2 340) | (30 505) |
| Add / (less) non-cash items | | |
| Expenses associated with joint operation | (12 575) | (10 822) |
| Income associated with joint operation | 4 239 | 4 837 |
| Assets received free of charge | 5 678 | 8 213 |
| Donated assets | - | (775) |
| Other asset related adjustments | - | (264) |
| Net gain on disposal of non-current assets | (243) | 1 800 |
| Movement in assets and liabilities | | |
| (Decrease)/increase in receivables | (2 429) | (1 037) |
| (Increase)/decrease in payables | (396) | 28 794 |
| Net result | <hr/> (8 066) <hr/> | <hr/> 241 <hr/> |

Department for Environment and Water Administered
Notes to and forming part of the Administered financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

A8. Outlook

A8.1. Contingent assets and liabilities

A contingent asset is acknowledged whereby the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water has an exclusive right to access 40ML per day from the Langhorne and Currency Creek pipeline. The Minister has not exercised this right.

A8.2. Events after the reporting period

There were no events that occurred after the reporting period for the year ended 30 June 2023.