

14. Consultants

Consultancies equal to or more than \$30 000

Consultant	Cost in \$	Title/Nature
Parsons Brinkerhoff	35 625	Environmental - threatened biodiversity survey
Quality Solutions	34 900	Environmental - stock plan development
Total	70 525	

Consultancies less than \$30 000

During the year there were five consultancies of less than \$30 000

Area	Actual \$ cost of all consultancies in area
Environmental	47 029
Engineering	36 277
Total	83 306
Total consultancy costs	153 831

15. Payment of accounts

Time for payment of accounts

The following commentary relates to the NSW DPI parent entity. Only Forests NSW is excluded.

Payments were predominately made on an accrual accounting basis during 2005-06, with creditor payments generally being made in line with each creditor's payment terms. The exceptions to this are small local businesses which are paid using zero terms. Payment terms are entered into the financial management information system for each creditor. As invoices are received they are entered into the system, which automatically calculates when the invoice is due for payment and produces a cheque or electronic funds transfer (EFT) payment in time to reach the creditor by the due date. These terms may be overridden in urgent or special circumstances. This system allows the maximum benefits to be gained from the State's cash management processes and also sees creditors being paid as required.

During the 2005-06 financial year the Department processed 72 981 accounts payable documents. The Department

continues to actively pursue a campaign whereby creditors' bank account details are requested to enable as many payments as possible to be made via EFT. This process expedites the payment to the creditor and reduces the work involved in reconciling the Department's bank accounts. In the 2005-06 financial year, 74.24 per cent of all payments were made using EFT.

EFT remittance advices may be automatically faxed or emailed to each creditor, if they have the facilities to receive remittance advices by such means. This reduces the number of remittance advices requiring printing, enveloping, and posting. Further savings are being achieved through this process with an estimated average cost of seven cents per email. It is estimated that in excess of 80 per cent of all remittance advices are either faxed or emailed to creditors.

Aged analysis at the end of each quarter

Below is a schedule of the dollar amount of payments made during 2005-06 by the Department. Also included is the time these documents were paid in relation to the due date.

Quarter	Current (i.e. within due date) \$	Less than 30 days overdue \$	Between 30 and 60 days overdue \$	Between 60 and 90 days overdue \$	More than 90 days overdue \$
September	17 605 507	25 157 950	3 754 666	2 910 105	2 439 312
December	36 345 737	32 895 370	4 007 744	1 144 176	439 974
March	21 077 780	30 327 502	3 359 295	789 975	1 740 195
June	120 489 407	46 063 865	5 746 942	1 334 354	5 907 864

15. Payment of accounts (continued)

Due to the way in which the financial management system reports payment analysis, it is considered that payments in the 'less than 30 days overdue' category are also paid on time.

The payments made that appear to be overdue are inflated due to the invoice date on all invoices being used as the base date. In some instances, for example natural disaster payments, other organisations are used as an invoice collection point. These invoices are then processed and forwarded on to NSW DPI for payment. The invoice date may be months prior to NSW DPI actually receiving that invoice. Therefore the invoice will fall into the category of being paid outside of creditor terms.

Accounts paid on time within each quarter

Below is a schedule indicating the percentage of payments paid 'on time' as compared to the Department's target.

For the full 2005-06 financial year, 90.76 per cent of all accounts were paid on time.

The NSW DPI parent entity is now operating from one SAP financial management information system, following full integration of the former departments of Agriculture,

Fisheries, and Mineral Resources from 1 July 2005. All accounts for payment are directed to and processed in Orange. As a result, a noticeable improvement in payment performance has occurred during the year. Continued improvements in the timeliness of account payments may be expected in future years.

In addition:

- there were no instances of penalty interest being paid or incurred during 2005-06
- there were instances of supplier's enquiries regarding late payments due mainly to the integration into NSW DPI. The bulk of these instances occurred during the early part of the financial year
- invoices were generally entered into the accounting system within one week of receipt of the invoice by the Accounts Payable Section.

We will continue to monitor these indicators during 2006-07 and future years to ensure the Department's payment performance continues to improve.

Quarter	Total accounts paid on time			Total amount paid \$
	Target %	Actual %	Actual \$	
September	95	92.53	69 241 107	74 833 001
December	95	89.72	51 405 282	57 294 747
March	95	82.45	42 763 457	51 867 539
June	95	92.77	166 553 272	179 542 433

16. Land disposal

NSW DPI sold five former dip sites and part of the Wollongbar Agricultural Institute by auction for a total of \$7 101 000.

Site	Auction amount \$
5 Coolgardie Road, Pimlico	175 000
6 Cook Street, Lawrence	54 000
278 Iluka Road, Woombah	185 000
Lot 1 Stokes Lane, Sharks Creek	170 000
11 Federation Drive, Terranora	612 500
Part of Wollongbar Agricultural Institute	955 000
Part of Temora Agricultural Research & Advisory Station	300 000
Lidcombe Laboratory	4 650 000

The properties were sold because they were surplus to NSW DPI requirements. The sale proceeds are being used for re-investment in new buildings and infrastructure.

There was no family or business association between any of the buyers and the person responsible for approving disposal.

All documents relating to property disposal are available under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

17. Major assets and capital works

Capital works

During the year, the Department completed the robotic dairy at Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute and major statewide information and communications technology projects to improve infrastructure that will deliver improved service levels across the whole of NSW DPI.

The Department continued work to improve OH&S systems, upgrade facilities for the Manning Shelf Bioregion Marine Park at Port Stephens, construct feed evaluation and oilseed laboratories at Wagga, a rice cold tolerance greenhouse at Yanco. and replace marine craft.

The following is a list of major capital works undertaken in 2005-06 in descending order of value:

Capital works	\$ Value
OH&S and environmental works – statewide	650 000
2 glasshouses – Wagga	600 000
glasshouse – Yanco	250 000
voluntary milking system dairy – EMAI	900 000
laboratory refurbishment – Cronulla	550 000
effluent pumping station – EMAI	250 000
river pump station – Dareton	500 000
office refurbishment – Cronulla	80 000
office refurbishment – Port Stephens	90 000
Total	\$3 870 000

Capital works in progress

The following is a list of major capital works partly completed in 2005-06 in descending order of value:

Work to be completed 2006-07	\$ Value
Wagga feed evaluation/oilseeds – new laboratories	589 000
Work to be completed 2007-08	
Manning Bio-Region Port Stephens upgrade	400 000
Work to be completed 2006-07	
rice cold tolerance greenhouse – Yanco	209 000

Plant and equipment

The Department acquired major equipment to support fisheries compliance laboratory, science and research functions. Equipment purchased for over \$100 000 is shown below in descending order of value:

Equipment	\$ Value
Fisheries patrol vessel*	430 000
Biacore X System for molecular research	154 000
row crop tractor – Narrabri	150 000
teleloader – EMAI	141 000
dual frequency sonar – Fisheries Port Stephens	139 000
laser scanner – Animal Molecular Genetics	138 000
plot harvester – Yanco	138 000
near infra-red spectrometer – Feed Quality Wagga	120 000
air seeder – Condobolin	110 000
loadall teleloader – Yanco	105 000

* Total cost of \$635 000 with contract payments over two financial years.

18. Disclosure of controlled entities

In accordance with *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985*, the Department of Primary Industries 2005-06 Annual Report includes Forest's NSW annual financial statements both as a separate report (see page 121) and as part of the Department's consolidated financial statements.

19. Funds granted to non-government community organisations

Recipient	2005-06 \$
Agriculture & Fisheries Program (as per Budget Papers)	
Fish cleaning table - Gwandalan	
Lions Club - Gwandalan	3 500.00
Fish cleaning tables	
Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club	8 000.00
Fish cleaning tables - Broadwater	
Pambula Fishing Club	6 128.00
Catch'n' Cook Grant	
Koori Communications	5 000.00
Habitat grant - Oyster Creek	
F & C Welsh	7 305.50
Habitat grant - various	
Wetlandcare Australia	30 000.00
Habitat grant - Brunswick	
Brunswick Valley Landcare	8 522.00
Habitat grant - Macquarie River	
S & P Doshon	6 500.00
Habitat grant - Nelson Bay	
R & M Morrow	9 350.00
Habitat grant - Namoi River	
Boggabri Landcare/Rivercare	5 682.00
Habitat grant - Orara Valley	
Orara Valley Rivercare	30 250.00
Habitat grant - Molong Creek	
D & A Trowbridge	2 100.00
	122 337.50
Biosecurity Compliance & Mine Safety (as per Budget Papers)	
To subsidise costs to affected farmers of transporting stock fodder & water	
Various	17 821 000.00
	17 821 000.00
To assist in the eradication of noxious weeds	
Various	7 727 000.00
	7 727 000.00
Strategy Policy & Communication (as per Budget Papers)	
To meet regulatory and accounting expenses	
NSW Gains Board	33 333.00
	33 333.00

Recipient	2005-06 \$
Agriculture & Fisheries (as per Budget Papers)	
To assist in the management of the Prevention of Cruelty to animals act	
RSPCA	424 000.00
NSW Animal Welfare League	54 000.00
Cat Protection Society of NSW	15 500.00
Wildlife Information & Rescue Service	15 500.00
Domestic Animal Birth	3 000.00
	512 000.00
Strategy Policy & Communication (as per Budget Papers)	
To assist Rural Financial Councilors to cover additional costs during drought periods	
Bogan Advisory Service	25 000.00
Bourke Rural Counselling Service	50 000.00
Brewarrina & District Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00
Castlereagh Advisory Centre	50 000.00
Central West Rural Financial Counselling Service	25 000.00
Cowra Regional Advisory Service	25 000.00
Forbes Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00
Gunnedah & District Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00
Lachlan Advisory Group	25 000.00
Lower Hunter/Manning Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00
Lower Lachlan Community Services	25 000.00
Macquarie Rural Advisory Service	50 000.00
Monaro Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00
Murrumbidgee Valley Rural Financial Counselling Service	25 000.00
New England Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00
North East Riverina Rural Advisory Service	25 000.00
North West Rural Counselling Service	50 000.00
Richmond Valley Business & Rural Financial Counselling Service	75 000.00
Southern New England Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00
Southern Rivinera Rural Advisory Service	50 000.00
Southern Tablelands Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00

19. Funds granted to non-government community organisations (continued)

Recipient	2005-06 \$	Recipient	2005-06 \$
Upper Hunter Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00	To assist in the destruction of wild dogs	
Walgett Advisory Group	25 000.00	Armidale Rural Lands Protection Board	4 186.43
Warrumbungle Rural Community	25 000.00	Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board	4 412.81
Wentworth Balranald Rural Counselling Service	50 000.00	Central Tablelands Rural Lands Protection Board	396.30
	825 000.00	Cooma Rural Lands Protection Board	8 327.10
Sponsorship of 2005 Royal Easter Show		Gloucester Rural Lands Protection Board	1 904.74
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW	51 500.00	Goulburn Rural Lands Protection Board	419.33
	51 500.00	Grafton Rural Lands Protection Board	1 706.10
To assist in providing counselling services to farmers		Hume Rural Lands Protection Board	5 317.92
Bogan Advisory Service	25 000.00	Hunter Rural Lands Protection Board	2 547.86
Bourke Rural Counselling Service	50 000.00	Kempsey Rural Lands Protection Board	1 387.51
Brewarrina & District Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00	Maitland Rural Lands Protection Board	636.22
Castlereagh Advisory Centre	50 000.00	Moss Vale Rural Lands Protection Board	2 727.58
Central West Rural Financial Counselling Service	25 000.00	Northern New England Rural Lands Protection Board	6 213.54
Cowra Regional Advisory Service	24 000.00	Tamworth Rural Lands Protection Board	1 443.81
Forbes Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00	Yass Rural Lands Protection Board	15 719.01
Gunnedah & District Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00	Young Rural Lands Protection Board	2 653.74
Lachlan Advisory Group	25 000.00		60 000.00
Lower Hunter/Manning Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00	To off-Set audit costs	
Lower Lachlan Community Services	20 500.00	C B Alexander Foundation	5 000.00
Macquarie Rural Advisory Service	50 000.00		5 000.00
Monaro Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00		
Murrumbidgee Valley Rural Financial Counselling Service	25 000.00		
New England Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00		
North East Riverina Rural Advisory Service	25 000.00		
North West Rural Counselling Service	50 000.00		
Richmond Valley Business & Rural Financial Counselling Service	75 000.00		
Southern New England Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00		
Southern Rivinera Rural Advisory Service	50 000.00		
Southern Tablelands Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00		
Upper Hunter Rural Counselling Service	25 000.00		
Walgett Advisory Group	25 000.00		
Warrumbungle Rural Community	25 000.00		
Wentworth Balranald Rural Counselling Service	50 000.00		
	819 500.00		

20. Fisheries trust fund report

Commercial Fishing Trust Fund

NSW DPI provides a range of monitoring, scientific, compliance and administrative services to the commercial fishing industry.

Of the eight commercial fisheries only two, abalone and rock lobster, are subject to full cost recovery of attributable costs, although there is still some degree of government contribution. In both cases, budgets are negotiated in detail with the relevant management advisory committees.

For the remaining fisheries, charges are levied for services such as licence administration and management, but are not project specific.

Expenditure by the Department on activities relating to commercial fishing is funded from consolidated revenue with a contribution from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund.

The Advisory Council on Commercial Fishing was consulted over the budget for commercial fishing. In 2005-06 the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund contributed \$3.4 million to the Department's commercial fishery related programs.

Aquaculture Trust Fund

NSW DPI provides a range of monitoring, scientific, compliance and administrative services to the aquaculture industry.

The aquaculture industry is not subject to full cost recovery and charges are not project specific.

Expenditure by the Department on activities relating to aquaculture is funded from consolidated revenue with a contribution from the Aquaculture Trust Fund.

The Advisory Council on Aquaculture was consulted over the draft budget for aquaculture. In 2005-06 the Aquaculture Trust Fund contributed \$586 000 towards the Department's aquaculture management activities.

Charter Fishing Trust Fund

In 2005-06 the Charter Fishing Trust Fund continued funding of the following projects:

	Total available 2005-06 \$'000	Actual expenses 2005-06 \$'000	Carry forward \$'000
Charter fishing consultation	55	11	44
Charter fishing monitoring	90	26	64
Total	145	37	108

Fish Conservation Trust Fund

Funds were provided from the Fish Conservation Trust fund for the following projects:

	Total available 2005-06 \$'000	Actual expenses 2005-06 \$'000	Carry forward \$'000
Ocean Watch	25	25	0
Contribution to fisheries Conservation program	198	198	0
Total	223	223	0

20. Fisheries trust fund report (continued)

Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund expenditure

Project	Total available 2005-06* \$'000	Actual expenses 2005-06 \$'000	Carry forward \$'000
ACoRF meeting expenses	17	21	-5
Artificial reefs management	155	145	10
Artificial reefs monitoring and research	154	69	85
Coastal Habitat Restoration Grants Program	206	171	35
Dusky flathead research	46	51	-4
Expenditure Committee meeting expenses	23	33	-10
Fish aggregation devices (FADs)	132	132	1
Fishcare Volunteer Program	696	585	111
Fisheries Officers (9 Coastal Officers)	1053	1053	0
Fisheries Officers (Mobile Squad)	426	276	150
Gamefish Tagging Program	126	115	11
Life history of black bream and luderick	281	123	158
Marine Recreational Management Project	75	30	45
Maximising Survival of Line Caught Fish Research (Phase 1 and 2)	163	161	2
Recreational Fishing Fisheries Management Strategy	36	42	-6
Recreational harvest of baitfish in NSW research	71	50	20
Recreational fishing havens process	326	107	219
Recreational publications	143	66	77
Recreational Research Project	93	58	34
Small Grants Program	110	79	31
Tournament monitoring (Coastal)	157	159	-2
Trust Executive Officer	141	149	-8
Sub-total	4630	3675	954
Direct payments:			
Framework for fish harvest sizes	51	51	0
Historic Insights into Recreational Fishing Program	18	13	5
Iluka fishing platform	15	12	3
Loan repayment - recreational fishing havens	2000	2000	0
Marine Discovery Centre, Bondi Beach	10	0	10
Mulloway stocking in NSW estuaries	136	136	0
Recreational Fishing Line Bin Program	21	14	6
Rockfishing Safety Awareness Program	88	88	0
Study on landed fish at gamefishing tournaments	30	24	6
Validating existing fishing survey information	19	19	0
Sub-total	2388	2357	30
Total	7018	6032	984

* The total available 2005-06 consists of allocations from the trust fund in 2005-06 and amounts carried forward from 2004-05

20. Fisheries trust fund report (continued)

ACoRF meeting expenses – cover the cost of the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF), which provides high quality advice to the Minister on important matters relating to recreational fishing. The Council is required to meet at least four times a year.

Artificial reefs management – involves the deployment of six small artificial reefs in identified barren areas in Lake Macquarie, Botany Bay and St Georges Basin. The reefs are being constructed using concrete 'Reefball' modules.

Artificial reefs monitoring and research - is investigating the effectiveness of artificial reefs in three recreational fishing havens to create fish habitat. The reefs are being monitored before and after installation to investigate changes in fish populations.

Coastal Habitat Restoration Grants Program - provides matching funding from the Saltwater Trust to angling clubs, local councils and Landcare groups for on-grounds habitat rehabilitation projects to enhance native fish stocks.

Dusky flathead research – involves essential research to determine the reproductive cycle, size and age at maturity and the timing and location of spawning of dusky flathead in NSW.

Expenditure committee meeting expenses – covers the cost of the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) meetings. The Committee provides advice on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust to the Advisory Council and monitors the progress of projects supported by the Trust.

Fish aggregating devices (FADs) – involves the placement of 21 fish aggregating devices (FADs) in coastal waters to attract pelagic fish such as mahi-mahi and even tunas and marlin.

Fishcare Volunteer Program - a dynamic volunteer program providing face-to-face education of recreational fishers. Volunteers advise anglers about the rules and values of sustainable recreational fishing. Volunteers also assist with fishing clinics, catch surveys, fishing community events.

Fisheries Officers (9 Coastal Officers) - nine Fisheries Officers are based at Clarence, Hastings, Port Stephens, Hunter, Sydney (x 2), Illawarra, Batemans Bay and the Far South Coast regions to maximise compliance with fishing rules and provide advisory services in recreational fisheries.

Fisheries Officers (Mobile Squad) - comprising three Fisheries Officers who are heavily involved in recreational compliance activities. The squad maintains a mobile support group with rapid response capacity.

Gamefish Tagging Program - provides valuable scientific information on the biology (distribution, movement, growth

and exploitation) of billfish, tuna, sharks and sportfish. Running since 1973, the tagging program is the largest of its kind in the world and encourages gamefish anglers to participate in fisheries management and research.

Life history and biology of black bream and luderick – involves research on the biology and life history of black bream and luderick, two key recreational species.

Marine Recreational Management Project – develops new recreational fisheries' policies, codes of conduct, fisheries advisory tools and products and other initiatives to enhance recreational fishing opportunities and ensure responsible fishing.

Maximising the Survival of Line Caught Fish Research (Phase 1 and 2) – studies are underway to estimate the survival of popular recreational estuarine species and establish the factors that increase survival when released.

Recreational Fisheries Management Strategy – develops a fisheries management strategy to ensure our recreational fishery is managed in a sustainable way.

Recreational harvest of baitfish in NSW research - aims to provide estimates of the quantities of baitfish taken by the recreational sector to determine the total impacts of fishing and to make informed decisions about resource sharing amongst stakeholders.

Recreational fishing havens process - 30 recreational fishing havens were created along the NSW coast in 2002 to provide better fishing opportunities for anglers. Many commercial fishing businesses were bought out using funding from the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Trust, via a \$20 million loan that the Trust is repaying on an annual basis.

Recreational publications - aims to inform and educate the community about responsible fishing, compliance with fishing rules and to encourage responsible fishing.

Recreational Research Project - collects information on the effort and harvests of recreational fishers for resource assessments. The program also produces articles for the recreational fishing community.

Small Grants Program - enables fishing clubs, councils and other community members to submit saltwater proposals for small, local or regional projects aimed at enhancing recreational fishing.

Tournament monitoring (Coastal) – collects catch and effort information at selected fishing competitions across NSW to monitor fish populations and the quality of recreational fishing across coastal NSW.

Trust Executive Officer - oversees and coordinates the Recreational Fishing Trusts and provides efficient service

20. Fisheries trust fund report (continued)

delivery to the Expenditure Committees and ACoRF to ensure transparent reporting. Communicates the work of the committee to the broader community.

Direct payments

Framework for fish harvest sizes – this research is developing a framework based on biological, social and economic information by which appropriate minimum legal lengths can be determined for popular fish species.

Historic Insights into Recreational Fishing - this study is collating reliable accounts, reports and actual records of abundances and catches of fish in coastal NSW throughout the past 200 years. This will provide information on real versus perceived changes to fish populations, habitat and catch rates over long time periods.

Iluka fishing platform – involves the construction of a safe fishing platform and measuring station for recreational fishers on the Clarence River.

Loan repayment, recreational fishing havens - the recreational fishing havens established in 2002 were funded through a \$20 million loan. The loan repayments schedule requires that repayments of \$2 million be made each financial year.

Marine Discovery Centre, Bondi Beach – involves the enhancement of the Marine Discovery Centre at Bondi Beach. The Centre is a non-profit organisation for the education of Sydney school children on sustainable recreational fishing.

Mulloway stocking in NSW estuaries - ongoing research is exploring the effects of stocking the highly prized sportfish, the mulloway, into NSW estuaries. Tens of thousands of mulloway fingerlings are being stocked into Botany Bay and three north coast estuaries: Manning, Richmond and Tweed rivers.

Recreational Fishing Line Project – involves the proposed installation of specifically designed bins at popular recreational fishing spots in NSW. The program is being developed by Oceanwatch to help reduce the risk of death and injury to wildlife due to discarded monofilament fishing line.

Rockfishing Safety Awareness Program – this rock fishing safety awareness campaign involved the production of brochures in a number of different languages and a DVD on rock fishing safety to educate fishers about the dangers of rockfishing.

Study of landed fish at gamefishing tournaments - involves the collection of valuable biological data on otherwise difficult to access species at gamefishing tournaments across

NSW to enable the study of the life cycles of gamefish and sharks.

Validating existing fishing survey information - all current information on recreational fishing activity, catch and expenditure in NSW is being reconciled to identify areas where potential discrepancies appear and propose ways to clarify the validity of using the surveys for management decisions.

20. Fisheries trust fund report (continued)

Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust Fund expenditure

Project	Total available 2005-06* \$'000	Actual expenses 2005-06 \$'000	Carry forward \$'000
Dollar-for-Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program	240	159	81
Eastern Cod Stocking Program	7	2	5
Effectiveness of stocking research	160	127	33
Enhanced fish production for stocking	338	305	33
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	13	23	-10
Fishcare Volunteer Program	209	169	39
Fisheries Officers (Inland)	625	657	-32
Freshwater recreational management	161	150	11
Gaden Trout Hatchery redevelopment	100	0	100
Impoundments Access Program	30	22	8
Inland Habitat Restoration Grants Program	225	220	5
Recreational Fishing Fisheries Management Strategy	15	17	-2
Regional fish Habitat Managers (2)	298	290	8
Small Grants Program	30	21	9
Tournament monitoring (Inland)	125	127	-2
Maintaining travelling stock reserves	30	27	3
Sub-total	2606	2316	289
Direct payment:			
Conservation genetics of bass and perch	20	10	10
Sub-total			
Total	2626	2326	299

* The total available 2005-06 consists of allocations from the trust fund in 2005-06 and amounts carried forward from 2004-05.

Dollar-for-Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program – enables fishing clubs, councils and community groups to apply for matching funds to buy native fish from hatcheries to stock public waterways, where approved.

Eastern cod stocking - this conservation stocking program is part of the Eastern Cod Recovery Plan. The funding supports essential research into genetic factors of cod to ensure effective stocking practices in the future.

Effectiveness of stocking research – this program involves research on the effectiveness of freshwater stocking in NSW, which will lead to improved stocking practices in the future.

Enhanced fish production for stocking - these funds boost the capacity of government hatcheries at Narrandera, Jindabyne (Gaden Trout Hatchery), Ebor (Dutton Trout Hatchery) and Port Stephens to produce popular, recreational species including trout, salmon, Australian bass, Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch.

Expenditure committee meeting expenses – the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee provides advice on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust to the Advisory

Council and monitors the progress of projects supported by the Trust.

Fishcare Volunteer Program - a dynamic volunteer program providing face-to-face education of recreational fishers. Volunteers advise anglers about the rules and values of sustainable recreational fishing. Volunteers also assist with fishing clinics, catch surveys, fishing community events.

Fisheries Officers (Inland) – provides funding for six additional fisheries officers based in inland NSW to maximise the level of compliance with fishing rules and provide advisory services in the recreational fishery.

Freshwater recreational management – this program manages fish stocking programs in NSW and plays a key role in community liaison and correspondence with fishing clubs and other key stakeholder groups.

Gaden Trout Hatchery redevelopment - the Gaden Trout Hatchery, Jindabyne, is being re-developed to cater for long-term community demand for the production of trout fry and fingerlings for stocking. It will ensure the supply of quality stock in the future for the benefit of anglers and the regional economy.

20. Fisheries trust fund report (continued)

Impoundments Access Program - this program involved the development of a guidebook on stocked lakes and impoundments to assist and encourage anglers to visit quality fisheries established as a result of stocking recreational fish species.

Inland Habitat Restoration Grants Program - provides matching funding from the Saltwater Trust to angling clubs, local councils and Landcare groups for on-grounds habitat rehabilitation projects to enhance native fish stocks.

Recreational Fisheries Management Strategy - a fisheries management strategy is being developed to ensure our recreational fishery is managed in a sustainable way.

Regional Fish Habitat Managers - this program funds two inland conservation managers focused on protecting and rehabilitating valuable freshwater fish habitats for healthy and productive recreational fisheries.

Small Grants Program - enables fishing clubs, councils and other community members to submit saltwater proposals for small, local or regional projects aimed at enhancing recreational fishing.

Tournament Monitoring (Inland) - this program collects catch and effort information at selected fishing competitions across NSW to monitor fish populations and the quality of recreational fishing across inland NSW.

Maintaining travelling stock reserves - involves identification of travelling stock and other reserves of importance to recreational anglers and follow-up management action to ensure maintenance of appropriate access for fishers.

Direct payment

Conservation genetics of bass and perch - this program is assessing the population genetic structure of golden perch, Macquarie perch, estuary perch and Australian bass within NSW, which will contribute to the development of more effective broodstock collection procedures.

Recreational Fishing (Freshwater and Saltwater) Trust Fund expenditure

The following programs are funded on a one-third two-thirds basis by the respective trust funds.

Project	Total available 2005-06*	Actual expenses 2005-06	Carry forward
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Fishing guides	137	126	10
Fishing workshops	151	79	71
Fishing promotion	69	42	27
Recreational fishing fee administration	848	882	-34
Recreational fishing fee research database	80	69	11
Recreational fishing fee reminder notice	110	110	0
Total	1395	1308	85

* The total available 2005-06 consists of allocations from the trust fund in 2005-06 and amounts carried forward from 2004-05.

Fishing guides - involved the printing and distribution of 200 000 quality recreational saltwater fishing guides and 100 000 freshwater guides in 2005-06.

Fishing workshops - involved holding children's workshops in Sydney, at government hatcheries and across regional NSW, including workshops for special needs groups and NESB communities.

Fishing promotion - raises awareness of fishing rules (including the need to pay the fee) and encourages responsible and sustainable fishing practices. These are promoted through a range of media at peak fishing periods.

Recreational fishing fee administration - involves management of a network of approximately 1100 fee agents, including the distribution of fishing fee receipt books and advisory material, processing and reconciliation of monthly returns and agent accounts and maintenance of web and IVR fee payments. Also includes payment of agent commissions.

Recreational fishing fee research database - the database collects information on the names, addresses, phone details and other demographic information for use in surveys.

Recreational fishing fee reminder notice - involves the mailing out of reminder letters (with advisory material) to one and three year fee receipt holders.

21. Cost of production of the 2005-06 annual report

The total external cost incurred in the production of the Department's 2005-06 Annual Report is \$32 768. This cost includes editing, print management and print production. An electronic copy is available on the Department's website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

22. Research and development

The Science & Research Division manages a research portfolio with a direct cost of about \$80.9 million dollars per year. About 50 per cent of the direct costs come from partnerships and alliances. These collaborations make NSW DPI one of the largest research organisations in Australia, with over 800 staff and more than 700 projects. The Division's partnerships and collaborations enhance its capacity to provide the research that underpins and drives productivity growth in the State's primary industries and to address key environmental and social issues associated with primary industries.

The Division is involved with 16 current CRCs (Table 1) and more than 50 significant co-investors (Table 2) who contributed a combined total of over \$41 million in funds to the Division's research activities. Further, the Division collaborates with a wide range of universities within and outside of Australia, CSIRO and with state departments from other jurisdictions. A number of these arrangements have been formalised in significant alliances (Table 3).

Table 1. Current NSW DPI involvement with CRCs

CRC Name	HQ/NSW Node	Period
Australian Sheep Industry	NSW/Armidale	2002-08
Australian Weed Management	SA/Wagga & Orange	2002-08
Landscape Environments & Mineral Exploration	WA/Maitland	2002-08
Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity	WA/Wagga & Tamworth, Glen Innes	2002-08
Predictive Mineral Discovery	VIC/Maitland	2002-08
Sustainable Aquaculture of Finfish	SA/Port Stephens	2002-08
Value Added Wheat	NSW/Wagga	2002-08
Bushfire	VIC/Pennant Hills	2004-10
Desert Knowledge	NT/Trangie	2004-10
Irrigation futures	QLD/Orange	2004-10
Australasian Invasive Animals	ACT/Orange	2006-12
Beef Genetic Technologies	NSW/Armidale	2006-12
Cotton Catchment Communities	NSW/Narrabri	2006-12
Internationally Competitive Pork Industry	SA/EMAI	2006-12
National Plant Biosecurity	ACT/Orange	2006-12
Sustainable Forest Landscapes	TAS/Pennant Hills	2006-12

Table 2. Significant co-investors

AusAID	Murray Irrigation Limited
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research	National Feral Animal Control Program
Australian Greenhouse Office	National Heritage Trust – Environmental Management Systems
Australian Oilseeds Federation	National Heritage Trust – National Action Plan
Australian Pork Limited	National Heritage Trust – National Bushcare Program

22. Research and development (continued)

Australian Quarantine Inspection Service	National Heritage Trust – National Investment in Weeds Strategy
Australian Research Council	National Heritage Trust – National Landcare Program
Australian Wheat Board Services	National Heritage Trust – National Weeds Program
Australian Wool Innovation	NSW Greenhouse Office
BioFirst	NSW Department of Environment and Conservation
Biosecurity Australia	NSW Department of Education and Training
Catchment Management Authorities (9)	NSW Department of Natural Resources
Cotton Research and Development Corporation	NSW Maritime
Dairy Australia	Plant Health Australia
Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Recreational Fresh Water Fishing Trust Fund
Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training	Recreational Marine Fishing Trust Fund
Electricity Association of NSW	Resource NSW
Environment Australia	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
Environment Trust	Sea World
Enterprise Grains Australia	Sydney Water
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	West2000
Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation	Wildlife and Exotic Diseases Protection Program
Grains Research and Development Corporation	World Wide Fund For Nature
Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation	
Horticulture Australia	
Land and Water Australia	
Meat and Livestock Australia	

Table 3. Formal alliances

Alliance	Key partners
Australian Cotton Research Institute	CSIRO
Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit	University of New England
Chair of Dairy Science	University of Sydney
Coastal Agricultural Landscapes Centre	Southern Cross University
National Grape and Wine Industry Centre	Charles Sturt University, Deakin University, NSW Wine Growers Association
NSW Agricultural Genomics Centre	CSIRO, Australian Proteome Analysis Facility
Primary Industries Innovation Centre	University of New England
E.H. Graham Centre	Charles Sturt University
Riverlink	Department of Primary Industries, Victoria CSIRO Department of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia South Australia Research and Development Institute

23. Waste reduction, recycling and energy management

NSW DPI is committed to the aims and objectives of the NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy.

In complying with the policy NSW DPI purchases recycled copy paper and paper products wherever possible. All toner cartridges purchased are either recycled or manufactured

from recycled material.

Programs to reduce waste are in place at all major sites and include recycling of paper, toner cartridges and packaging materials. In addition, recycling of building and vegetation waste occurs whenever possible.

Government Energy Management Policy			
	Units	Energy Use	CO ² Emissions (tonnes)
Electricity	gigajoules (GL)	70 692	18 776
Green electricity	gigajoules (GL)	3920	0
Gas LPG	gigajoules (GL)	3439	156
Gas natural	gigajoules (GL)	19 898	1023
Heat oil	gigajoules (GL)	196	14
Motor vehicles (petrol)	kilolitres (kl)	1153	2602
Motor vehicles (diesel)	kilolitres (kl)	384	1033
Motor vehicles (LPG)	kilolitres (kl)	1	2
Other vehicles (petrol)	kilolitres (kl)	71	160
Other vehicles (diesel)	kilolitres (kl)	229	616
<hr/>			
Total building energy	gigajoules (GL)	98 145	
Total building CO ²	tonnes		19 968
Total motor vehicles fuel	kilolitres (kl)	1838	
Total motor vehicles CO ²	tonnes		4413
<hr/>			
Total CO ²	tonnes		24 381

24. Implementation of recovery and threat abatement plans

Implementation of recovery plans

Recovery plans relating to threatened fish and marine vegetation are prepared under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. The plans identify the actions required to recover the species to a position of viability in nature. NSW DPI is the lead implementation agency, however, each plan also identifies other government agencies, authorities, councils and community groups that have a role and responsibility to contribute to implementing recovery actions. Public authorities are required to report on actions taken to implement measures for which they are responsible in their annual report to Parliament. This report only relates to actions taken by NSW DPI to implement recovery measures identified in the plans. Three recovery plans have been finalised to date as reported below.

Eastern freshwater cod (*Maccullochella ikei*)

NSW DPI continues to support post-graduate studies relating to the ecology and genetics of the species. On-ground works to enhance eastern cod habitat in the Richmond River catchment are complete. Survey of eastern cod populations in

the Nymboida and Orara subcatchments of the Clarence River system are being undertaken as part of broader programs. Compliance operations continue as does distribution of information brochures and signs. The conservation stocking program has been deferred pending results of a broader genetic study of the wild population and assessment of success of previous stock enhancement activities.

Oxleyan pygmy perch (*Nannoperca oxleyana*)

NSW DPI supported post-graduate research into aspects of the species reproduction, early life history, population dynamics, age and growth, genetics, habitat preferences and distribution. Community awareness has been increased through direct liaison with stakeholders and distribution of advisory materials, including distribution of fine-scale maps of pygmy perch habitat.

NSW DPI liaised with state and local government to mitigate impacts of development proposals and land management initiatives that have the potential to impact on Oxleyan pygmy perch populations, including the Pacific Highway upgrade, national park fire management strategies and urban

24. Implementation of recovery and threat abatement plans (continued)

drainage practices. NSW DPI has developed a preliminary critical habitat identification for the species. NSW DPI supported Richmond Valley Council in its successful bid for grant funding to undertake works to facilitate the protection of Oxleyan pygmy perch habitat in the Evans Head area.

Silver perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*)

NSW DPI is compiling a collection of genetic samples with a view to analysis when sufficient samples are available, and undertaking population and distribution surveys as part of

broader programs. A study of the impacts of stocking and fishing for silver perch in public impoundments is underway. Habitat improvement works continue as part of the Living Murray and other habitat restoration programs. Advisory material to inform fishers and consent authorities has been prepared and distributed. Stocking proposals for other species of native fish are reviewed according to the NSW Freshwater Fish Stocking Fishery Management Strategy and Hatchery Quality Assurance Program.

25. Customer service

The NSW DPI aims to deliver quality customer services that support profitable and sustainable primary industries.

Guarantee of service

NSW DPI provides these high quality services to the community by adhering to the key values outlined in the NSW DPI Corporate Plan 2005-2008 – integrity, professionalism, innovation and respect. DPI is committed to a leadership approach that gives effect to our values, and we uphold our values in all dealings with clients, stakeholders and each other.

All NSW DPI staff dealing with the public are helpful, highly trained and competent in their professional areas of expertise. The NSW DPI Code of Conduct is accessible by all staff on the intranet. It sets out an ethical framework for the decisions, actions and behaviour of our staff. In this regard, it explains the principles covering appropriate conduct in a variety of contexts and outlines the minimum standard of behaviour expected of the staff of NSW DPI.

All requests for information or assistance are met directly and promptly or are referred to the most appropriate person as required. Requests are dealt with as soon as practicable, normally within five working days of receipt for written requests. A contact name, address and telephone number for future enquiries are provided in all correspondence.

Consumer response

NSW DPI is constantly liaising with stakeholder groups from industry, local and state government, and the wider community to ensure that the services provided by the department are relevant and consistent with contemporary issues facing primary industries and natural resource managers in NSW.

NSW DPI operates an extensive formal stakeholder consultative network with several advisory committees reporting directly to the Minister. These committees have independent chairs, transparent procedures and publicly

available minutes.

The community as a whole has a wide range of avenues whereby it can communicate its views to the department. Avenues include:

- Calling our advisory numbers for each primary industries sector:

Fisheries – 1300 550 474

Minerals – 1300 736 122

Agriculture – 1800 808 095

Forests – 1300 655 687

- Contacting any of our many regional centres and offices, compliance staff or extension officers
- Providing comments in writing
- Participating in workshops and public forums
- Emailing the Department through our website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Local managers are responsible for accepting and dealing with minor concerns regarding departmental operations. Where an issue cannot be dealt with locally, it is referred to senior management to ensure that it is appropriately dealt with.

26. Freedom of information

Statement of Affairs

In accordance with Section 14 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (FOI Act), the Department of Primary Industries Annual Report is to be taken as its Statement of Affairs.

To apply under FOI Act or to access information generally, contact:

The Freedom of Information Officer

PO Box 21

CRONULLA NSW 2230

Tel: 02 9527 8437 Fax: 02 9544 1934

SECTION A: NUMBER OF NEW FOI REQUESTS

	Personal	Other	Total
A1 New (including transferred in)	9	35	44
A2 Brought forward		2	2
A3 Total to be processed	9	37	46
A4 Completed	6	35	41
A5 Transferred out	-	-	-
A6 Withdrawn	1	-	1
A7 Total processed	7	35	42
A8 Unfinished (carried forward)	2	2	4

SECTION B: RESULTS OF FOI REQUESTS

	Personal	Other
B1 Granted in full	7	23
B2 Granted in part	-	6
B3 Refused	-	6
B4 Deferred	-	-
B5 Completed	7	35

SECTION C: MINISTERIAL CERTIFICATES

No Ministerial Certificates were issued for 2005-06.

SECTION D: FORMAL CONSULTATION

	Personal	Other
D1 Number of requests Requiring formal consultation(s)	22	40

SECTION E: AMENDMENT OF PERSONAL RECORDS

There were no requests for amendment of personal records in 2005-06.

SECTION F: NOTATION OF PERSONAL RECORDS

There were no requests for notation of personal records in 2005-06.

SECTION G: BASIS OF DISALLOWING OR RESTRICTING ACCESS

	Personal	Other
G1 Section 19 (application incomplete, wrongly directed)	-	-
G2 Section 22 (deposit not paid)	-	-
G3 Section 25 (1) (a1) (diversion of resources)	-	-
G4 Section 25 (1) (a) (exempt)	-	8

G5	Section 25 (1) (b) (c) (d) (otherwise available)	-	-
G6	Section 28 (1) (b) (documents not held)	-	4
G7	Section 24 (2) (deemed refused, over 21 days)	-	-
G8	Section 31 (4) (released to medical practitioner)	-	-
G9	Total	-	12

SECTION H: COSTS AND FEES OF REQUESTS PROCESSED

	Assessed costs	FOI fees received
H1 All completed requests	\$7710	\$2510

SECTION I: DISCOUNTS ALLOWED

	Personal	Other
I1 Public interest	-	1
I2 Financial hardship – pensioner/child	-	-
I3 Financial hardship – non-profit organisation	-	-
I4 Totals	-	1
I5 Significant corrections of personal records	-	-

SECTION J: DAYS TO PROCESS

	Personal	Other
J1 0-21 days	6	18
J2 22-35 days	1	12
J3 Over 35 days	-	5
J4 Totals	7	35

SECTION K: PROCESSING TIME

	Personal	Other
K1 1-10 hours	7	19
K2 11-20 hours	-	12
K3 21-40 hours	-	3
K4 Over 40 hours	-	1
K5 Totals	7	35

SECTION L: REVIEWS AND APPEALS

L1 Number of internal reviews finalised	4
L2 Number of Ombudsman's reviews finalised	3
L3 Number of District Court appeals finalised	1

DETAILS OF INTERNAL REVIEW RESULTS

Basis of internal review Grounds on which internal review requested	Personal		Other	
	Upheld	varied	Upheld	varied
L4 Access refused	-	-	1	-
L5 Deferred	-	-	-	-
L6 Exempted matter	-	-	2	1
L7 Unreasonable charges	-	-	-	-
L8 Charge unreasonable occurred	-	-	-	-
L9 Amendment refused	-	-	-	-
L10 Totals	-	-	3	1

27. Privacy management

NSW DPI respects the privacy of members of the public who use our services and of our employees. As a NSW government agency, NSW DPI must comply with the requirements of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (PPIPA) and the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*.

Section 33 of the PPIPA requires agencies to prepare a management plan outlining existing policies and procedures, as well as those to be adopted to comply with the Act. The Privacy Management Plan for NSW DPI was developed during 2004-05. Information on the requirements and obligations of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* was distributed within NSW DPI during 2005-06.

No reviews were requested under Part 5 of PPIPA during 2005-06.

Programs for 2006-07 will include:

- publishing the Department's Privacy Management Plan on the website
- developing and delivering information sessions to senior management on FOI and privacy management issues.

Requests for access to personal information held by NSW DPI may be made to:

Privacy Management Officer
NSW Department of Primary Industries
PO Box 21
CRONULLA NSW 2230
Tel: 02 9527 8453 Fax: 02 9544 1934

28. Promotions and communications

NSW DPI communicates to a wide range of stakeholders through many avenues.

The website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au provides clients and the general public with ready access to over 40 000 documents. Most of the information can be downloaded free of charge.

Kids are catered for with forests and fish education materials and online games.

The website also delivers services such as on-line payment of the recreational fishing fee, and online minerals applications:

- MinView, which allows users to interactively display and query historical and current exploration tenement information
- DIGS®, an interactive database for exploration and geoscience information
- TASMap, which permits the search, display and download of NSW titles maps and detailed information
- online exploration licence application, which provides an online lodgement of applications for exploration licences for selected mineral groups.

Print publications are major communication tool, with 450 new publications produced in 2005-06. These include major reports, books, recreational information, summaries of rules and regulations, magazines, newsletters, and posters. The most popular publication is *PrimeFacts*, a simple and clear factsheet series on a wide range of primary industry topics. Most print publications are accessible through the bookshop (telephone **1800 028 374** or email bookshop@dpi.nsw.gov.au) and also available electronically on the NSW DPI website (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au). Mineral resource publications are available by calling **02 4931 6669**.

Publications by type

Report or paper	18
Book or booklet	64
Brochure or flyer	98
Magazine or newsletter	49
Factsheet	168
Display or poster	59
Electronic or multimedia	3
Total	459

A wide range of scientific information is also published in external journals. A new regular electronic newsletter is being issued to update stakeholders on key scientific outputs.

To subscribe to the NSW DPI *Science and Research Updates*, clients can go to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/research/enewsletter or contact **02 6391 3171, 0428 491 813** or joanne.finlay@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Total College also produces a wide range of educational materials which can be purchased directly from the college or bookshop or found on the website.

Signs are also a major communications tool, used primarily to advise community members about issues and rules affecting specific geographic areas. For example, a signage program was implanted to advise recreational fishers of the potential health risks of fishing in Port Jackson. These signs were produced in 12 languages to ensure broad dissemination of the message.

Events are a major avenue for communicating face-to-face with the community and clients. The Department participated in hundreds of field days, conferences, community days, and other events across the State.

28. Promotions and communications (continued)

Each month, the Department produces 65 000 copies of *NSW Agriculture Today*, a newspaper insert in *The Land*, which provides key research, extension, education and management

information to the rural community. This initiative is made possible through the cooperation of Rural Press Limited.

Table: Primary Events

Indicative Dates	Event Title	Venue	Event Attendance	Theme
July 05	Mudgee Small Farm Field Days	Mudgee	26 000	Professional services: In conjunction with Australian Rural Education Centre, the display featured the training and professional advice we can offer. Experts provided information on weed control, soil management, fisheries habitat management, Profarm courses and other topics.
July 05	Sydney International Boat Show	Sydney	90 000	Responsible fishing: The NSW DPI stand was designed to inform recreational anglers of responsible fishing activities. It also gave visitors a chance to chat to a fisheries officer and get their questions answered.
Aug 05	Agquip	Gunnedah	100 000	Regional services: NSW DPI featured a range of services, with a focus on drought support, extension and training (Profarm courses and bookshop products).
Sept 05	Henty Machinery Field Days	Henty	60 000	Professional services: The department focused on the main audience for Henty - farmers - and profiled its Profarm courses, NLIS, fish in farm dams, innovation such as the Stubble Star and held an outdoor field trial. A number of district agronomists and drought support workers were on hand to answer questions.
Oct 05	Australian National Field Days	Orange	30 000	Regional services: NSW DPI displayed a wide cross section of services it offers to regional NSW, including diagnostic & analytical services, extensive training programs, expert manuals and other books, sheep and silage information, inland fishing advice, State forest recreational opportunities and drought support.
Nov 05	Farming Small Areas Expo	Richmond	11 000	Discover what NSW DPI can do for you! A large shed featured a range of NSW DPI services including the Forests NSW nursery, Profarm courses, bookshop, water and soil management, and the diagnostic & analytical services. Over one third of expo visitors interacted with the stand.
March 06	Sydney Royal Easter Show	Sydney	900 000	Innovation: A range of NSW DPI innovations for primary industries were featured, including NLIS, olive oil testing, carbon sequestration research, geological mapping, naming of asian vegetables, aquaculture, and bycatch reduction.
April 06	Total Fielddays	Paterson	28 000	Testing Times: Diagnostics and Analytical Services were a feature with nine stations offered testing on samples of dam water, soil, plants and more brought by farmers. Staff also sold plants from the Forests NSW nursery, gave talks in the livestock area and ran fishing clinics at the dam.
May 06	Murrumbidgee Farm Fair	Yanco	12 000	Capacity building: Training is the main feature for this show, located near one of NSW DPI's agricultural colleges. Visitors also got to ask questions of drought support workers, fisheries officers and researchers, and agronomists, and buy a native plant from the nursery or a book from the bookshop.
June 06	Primex	Casino	50 000	One stop shop: The NSW DPI stand featured a one-stop shop for primary industries advice, featuring traditional agricultural displays and information on soils, weeds, horticulture, soybeans, cattle ticks and the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS). In addition, Forests NSW nursery products were on sale, the fisheries trailer on site, and bookshop open for business.
June 06	Fishing Show & Outdoors Expo	Sydney	25 000	Recreation: The display featured responsible recreational fishing, and recreational opportunities within State forests. The stand included fish tanks, net and trap displays, and kids activities and competitions.
Total attendees			1 332 000	

29. Responses to reports by Parliamentary Committees and the Auditor-General

In March 2006, the Public Accounts Committee announced an inquiry to follow up the implementation of recommendations made in two performance audit reports prepared by the Auditor General, namely: NSW Agriculture - Managing Animal Disease Emergencies (of 2002); and Implementing the Ovine Johne's Disease Program (of 2003). The Inquiry's terms of reference included:

- reviewing the recommendations of each Report and considering their relevance under current administrative arrangements;
- examining the State's preparedness to manage animal and plant disease emergencies; and
- consideration of the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of endemic diseases, including examining the role of Government and industry.

NSW DPI coordinated a whole-of-Government submission responding to the Inquiry. In particular, the submission demonstrated that NSW agencies had made significant progress towards developing a whole-of-government approach to the preparedness for, and response to biosecurity emergencies, including animal disease and pest emergencies.

NSW DPI's expertise and experience in managing such emergencies, has meant that we have taken a lead role in ensuring that the recommendations of each performance audit report have been implemented. The Department has developed risk analysis and surveillance models, which are supported by identification, tracing and data management systems in line with those recommendations. These changes have led to more efficient and effective biosecurity programs ensuring access to domestic and international markets and critical to industry profitability.

NSW DPI's submission to the Inquiry also highlighted advances made in sharing the costs and responsibility for biosecurity programs with industry. Participation, contribution and commitment from industry sectors is recognised as being essential for the success of programs and preventative measures.

Where animal disease and pest emergencies impact on specific sectors of industry, it is widely accepted that industry should play a key role in managing the risks of outbreak. However, where outbreaks or emergencies have an impact on human health, biodiversity and native species, government retains its responsibility for responding to the emergency. Where the impacts and benefits are to both industry and the community, then the costs and responsibility for responding are shared between governments and industry. These cost sharing arrangements have also led to significant savings and efficiencies in biosecurity programs.

The whole-of-government submission was settled by The Cabinet Office and submitted to the Public Accounts Committee. Oral evidence from NSW DPI officers and other agencies will be received in 2006-07 and a final report will be prepared after the evidence and submissions have been considered by the Committee.

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Contacts

Head Office

Monday – Friday 8.30 am-4.30 pm

Telephone **+61 2 6391 3100**
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Minerals

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We wish to thank all the staff of NSW DPI for their contribution to this Annual Report

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NSW Department of Primary Industries has made an electronic copy of the Annual Report available on its website, www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

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NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au