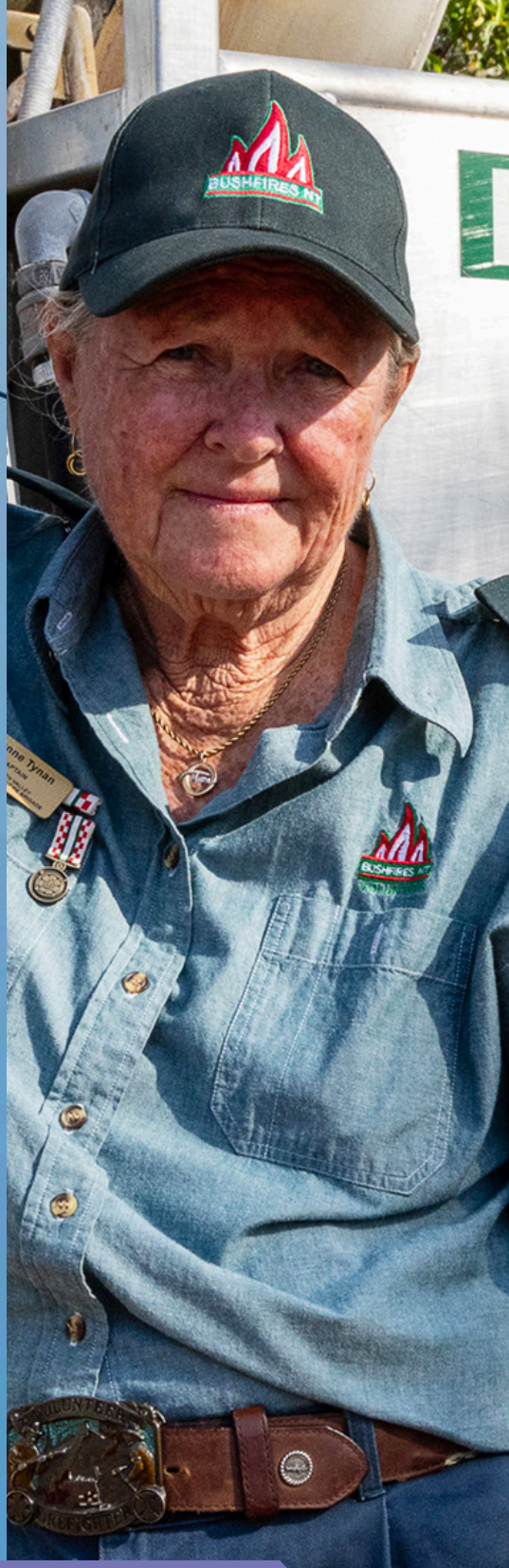






NT FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Annual Report 2025–26

NT FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA
Chief Minister and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
Parliament House
State Square Darwin NT 0800

Dear Chief Minister,

In accordance with the provisions of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993 (PSEMA)*, I am pleased to submit the 2025-26 Annual Report on the activities and achievements of the Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services (NTFES).

Pursuant to my responsibilities as the Accountable Officer under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993*, the *Financial Management Act 1995 (FMA)* and the *Information Act 2002*, I advise that to the best of my knowledge and belief:

a) proper records of all transactions affecting NTFES are kept and the employees under my control observe the provisions of the FMA, the Financial Management Regulations and Treasurer's Directions

b) procedures within NTFES afford proper internal control, and these procedures are recorded in the accounting and property manual, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the FMA

c) there is no indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in or omission from the accounts and records

d) the internal audit capacity available to NTFES is adequate and the results of internal audits have been reported to me

e) the financial statements included in the annual report have been prepared from proper accounts and records, and are in accordance with Treasurer's Directions

f) all Employment Instructions issued by the Commissioner for Public Employment have been satisfied.

In addition, in relation to items a), e) and f), the Chief Executive of the Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD) advised that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, proper records were kept of transactions undertaken by DCDD on behalf of NTFES, and the employees of DCDD observed the provisions of the FMA, the Financial Management Regulations, Treasurer's Directions and Part 9 of the *Information Act 2002*. The Chief Executive also advised that DCDD maintained a corporate governance model, service management frameworks and internal controls appropriate to the span of its operations.

It is a requirement of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993* that you table this report in the Legislative Assembly within six sitting days of receipt.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Warton
Commissioner of Fire and Emergency Services
30 September 2026

NT Fire and Emergency Services acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which we work, volunteer and serve. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and recognise their enduring connection to Country and their important role in caring for and protecting communities, land and culture.

Published by NT Fire and Emergency Services
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NTFES.StrategicServices@pfes.nt.gov.au



Contents

Purpose of the report 6

Our Agency 7

Commissioner's Review 8
Strategy 10
Strategy & Performance 14
NT Fire and Rescue Service 16
NT Emergency Service 18
Bushfires NT 20

Our People 23

Our Culture 24
Our Workforce 24

Our Performance 29

Future Priorities 46

Key Performance Indicators 49

NT Fire and Rescue Service 50
NT Emergency Service 51
Bushfires NT 52

Governance 55

Corporate Governance Framework 56

Financials 63

Overview 66
Index of notes 74

Our Agency

Purpose of the report

The Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services (NTFES) 2025-26 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the annual reporting requirements specified in section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993 (PSEMA)*, and sections 11 and 13 of the *Financial Management Act 1995 (FMA*).

Its primary purpose is to report to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services on NTFES' performance in 2025-26 against approved budget outputs and performance measures. Other stakeholders include government, the community, government agencies and NTFES staff.

Pursuant to section 28 of PSEMA, NTFES must present a report to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services on its operations within three months of the end of the financial year, and it must contain:

- functions and objectives of the agency
- legislation administered
- organisation overview, including the number of employees in each designation and any variation in these numbers since the last report
- operations, initiatives and achievements relating to planning, efficiency, effectiveness, performance and service delivery to the community
- measures taken to ensure public sector principles were upheld
- management training and staff development programs
- occupational health and safety programs
- financial statements prepared in accordance with sections 11 and 13 of the FMA.

Commissioner's review



I am pleased to present the Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2026.

A year of challenge, change and service

The past year has been one of the most challenging and significant in the relatively short history of NTFES as a standalone agency.

Across the Territory, our people have responded to an extraordinary period of operational demand, including unprecedented back-to-back severe weather events, flooding and a significant bushfire season. These events tested our people, our systems and our capacity, often over prolonged periods and across some of the most remote parts of Australia.

At the same time, we have continued the important work of building and improving our organisation. We have progressed significant organisational change, strengthened our systems and capability, invested in our people and volunteers, and continued to develop a modern fire and emergency services agency designed specifically for the needs of the Territory.

Doing these things simultaneously is not easy, but it is also what makes NTFES strong.

Our people have demonstrated that we can respond when the community needs us while continuing to prepare for what comes next. We have continued to evolve without losing sight of our fundamental purpose: building a safe and resilient Territory.

That purpose unites every part of our agency, and it is why Territorians can depend on us when it matters most.

I am enormously proud of the professionalism, resilience and commitment demonstrated by our staff and volunteers throughout the year. Whether responding on the frontline, supporting operations behind the scenes, preparing communities, maintaining our capability or contributing to the reform of our agency, every person has played a part.

The challenges facing fire and emergency services will continue to evolve. So must we. Our responsibility is not simply to respond effectively when emergencies occur, but to continually strengthen our preparedness, capability and organisation before they do.

On behalf of NTFES, I thank our staff, volunteers, partner agencies and communities across the Territory for their contribution and support throughout an extraordinary year.



Andrew Warton

Commissioner of Fire and Emergency Services



About NT Fire and Emergency Services

Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services (NTFES) protects life, property and the environment through the delivery of fire, emergency and disaster management services across the Northern Territory.

NTFES was established as a standalone agency on 27 March 2024 following the commencement of the *Fire and Emergency Services Amendment Act 2024*. Bushfires NT joined the agency in September 2024 as part of Machinery of Government changes, bringing together the Territory's fire and emergency management functions under a single agency.

NTFES comprises three operational service arms:

- Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS)
- Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES)
- Bushfires NT (BFNT)

These service arms are supported by the Strategy and Performance division, which provides agency-wide corporate and strategic functions.

NTFES works with government, industry, communities and partner agencies to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters across the Territory.

The core functions of NTFES include:

- protecting life and property and the environment against fire and other emergencies
- supporting effective emergency management through preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery activities
- building community resilience through education, engagement and best-practice fire and emergency management
- coordinating and supporting emergency and disaster operations across the Northern Territory.

Legislation

NTFES administers the following Acts of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and their subordinate legislation:

Fire and Emergency Act 1996

Emergency Management Act 2013

Bushfire Management Act 2016

Our strategy

Strategic Plan 2025-2028

Our Vision

A safe and resilient Territory

Our Purpose

Protect life, property and the environment, and support community resilience through the delivery of best practice fire and emergency management.

Our Values

Integrity — Foster trust by demonstrating honesty, openness, and accountability.

Safety and Wellbeing — Prioritise the health, safety, and wellbeing of our people and the community.

Professionalism — Maintain the highest standards of conduct, competence, and reliability in all interactions, demonstrating expertise and accountability.

Teamwork and Collaboration — Work together, value diverse contributions, and foster an inclusive and collaborative environment that empowers success.

Commitment to Service — Deliver exceptional service to the public by prioritising their needs, engaging with communities, and supporting their safety and preparedness.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Community safety and preparedness

A resilient, informed community prepared for all hazards.

Objectives

Implement community education and awareness programs to empower individuals with the knowledge and tools to respond to emergencies effectively.

Enhance community understanding of hazard risks by delivering comprehensive disaster preparedness programs.

Lead and invest in risk reduction across all hazards in line with legislative compliance.

Embed and value community input in the development and execution of safety initiatives and programs.

Provide timely and accurate information to the public during emergencies to ensure informed decision-making and enhance safety.

Develop well-equipped strategically located asset bases capable of rapid response.

Performance Measures

- Number of community education sessions and activities.
- Agency budget statement (Budget Paper 3) key performance indicators.
- Number of strategic partnerships and interjurisdictional collaborations.

Protect Territory lifestyle and economy

Safeguard the Territory's lifestyle and economy through innovative, efficient, and inclusive service delivery.

Objectives

Foster a sense of security and trust within the community by building strong, transparent relationships and delivering reliable services.

Provide expert advice and influence that is sought after and valued by key stakeholders to guide decision-making and enhance safety efforts.

Support disaster resilience and risk reduction through comprehensive prevention, preparedness, and effective response strategies.

Protect Territory and cultural values to safeguard and preserve them for future generations.

Performance Measures

- Develop the foundation for community satisfaction baseline rating on security, trust, and the reliability of services.
- Stakeholder engagement through satisfaction surveying.
- Contribute to and facilitate the annual review of the 49 NT emergency plans, driving a community approach.

Invest in our people

Cultivate a diverse, capable, and inclusive workforce that mirrors the community.

Objectives

Attract, develop, and retain an agile, skilled, and resilient workforce and volunteers that reflects the diversity and needs of the community.

Foster a culture of accountability and personal responsibility, underpinned by core values, to drive performance and integrity.

Improve the safety and wellbeing of employees and volunteers by providing a safe and healthy workplace that values their physical and mental health.

Our people have the right training, equipment and support to respond to all hazards safely.

Improve volunteer engagement through the development of an agency-wide volunteer strategy.

Performance Measures

- Our people reflect our community.
- Improved attraction, retention and engagement.
- Implementation of an agency wide health and safety framework which ensures legislative compliance and mitigates sources of harm across to our operations.
- Develop agency-specific infrastructure and asset plans.
- Develop a volunteering strategy for agency wide implementation.

Innovation, research and operational intelligence

Drive innovation and leverage operational intelligence to enhance fire and emergency management.

Objectives

Enhance organisational performance through digital transformation, fostering innovation in technology, systems, and processes.

Develop a risk-based organisational capability to improve preparedness and response across all levels.

Create a common operating picture to ensure informed, coordinated decision-making in any emergency.

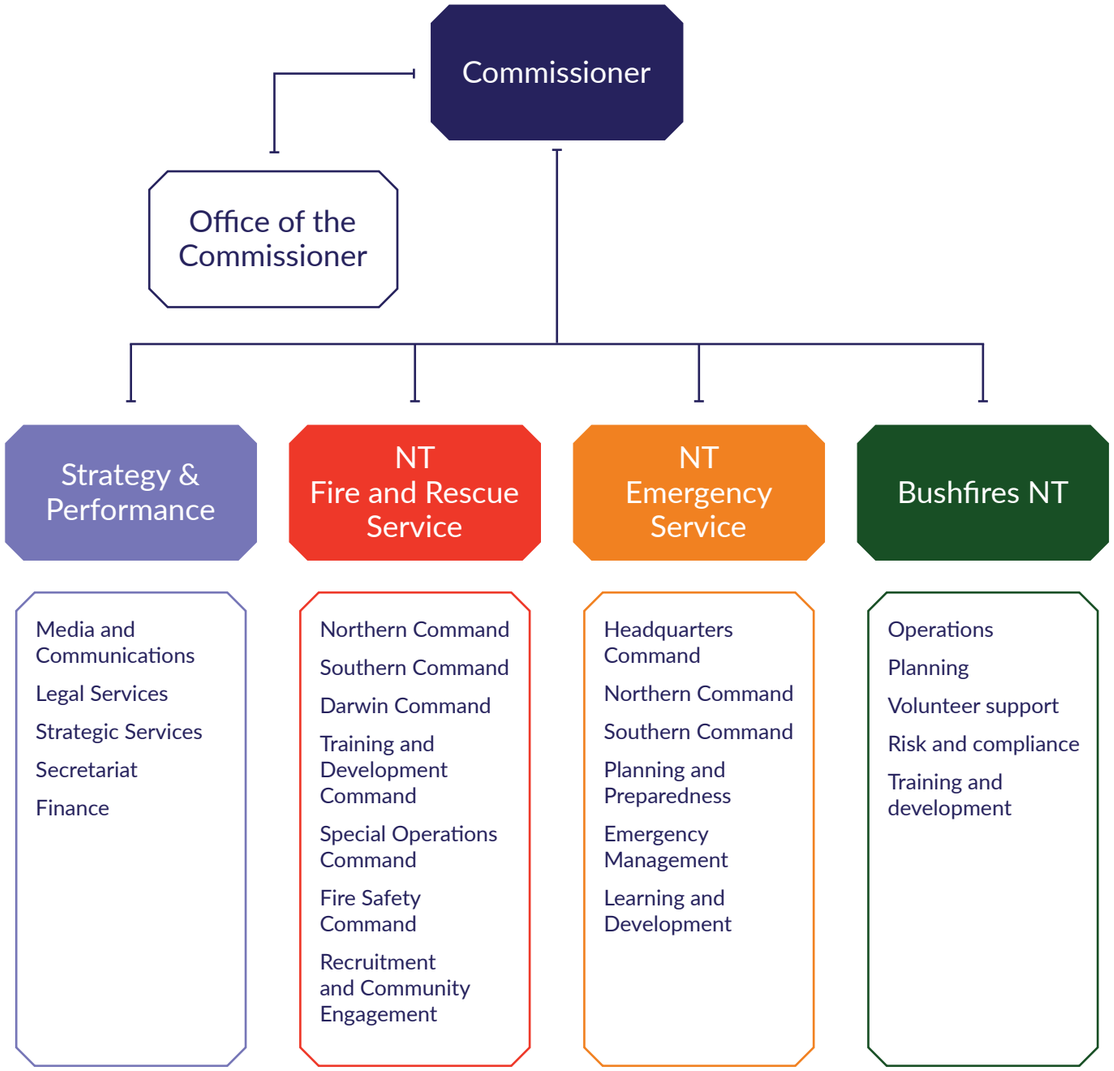
Develop a Lessons Management Framework and culture to continuously learn, adapt, and improve from past experiences and incidents.

Create a digital strategy to identify our purpose and provide accessible real time information to our people and communities.

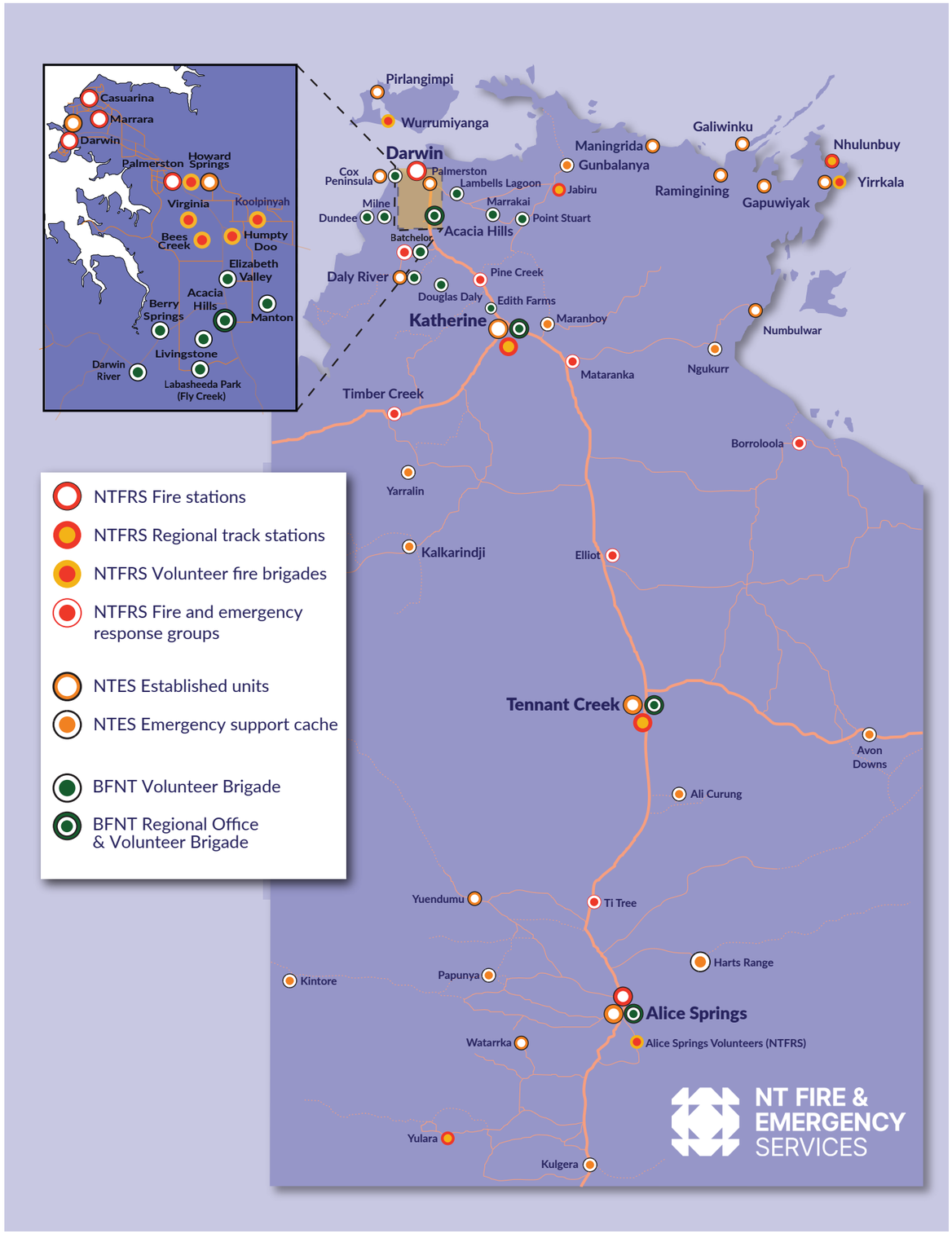
Performance Measures

- Upgrade of key systems or processes digitised, and the number of new technologies or innovations implemented.
- Develop a common operating picture, the number of emergency scenarios where the system was used, and feedback from decision makers on the system's effectiveness.
- Develop and implement a Lessons Management Framework.
- Implementation of a Digital Strategy to ensure timely and trusted data recording and reporting.
- Streamline organisational ICT systems to facilitate communication with all parts of NT Fire and Emergency Services.

Agency structure and functions of the agency



NTFES service network



Strategy & Performance

The Strategy and Performance division provides strategic leadership, governance and corporate services to support the effective operation and continuous improvement of NTFES, including:

- Providing guidance, advice and direction on legislative and law reform requirements relating to NTFES.
- Providing communications, media, multimedia, and honours and awards services to the agency.
- Delivering financial services, accounting and audit oversight, and travel coordination to the agency.
- Working with NTFES' shared services providers, the NT Police Force, Department of Corporate and Digital Development and the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure to achieve agency objectives.
- Providing secretariat services, including central coordination and liaison between the Minister's Office, ministers, Cabinet Office, Legislative Assembly and other government agencies on Cabinet and ministerial business.
- Implementing NTFES' corporate strategic policy, governance framework, grant and infrastructure program, audit and risk, and work health and safety.

During the reporting period, the Strategy and Performance division continued to build its corporate capability and workforce to support the ongoing development of NTFES as a standalone agency.

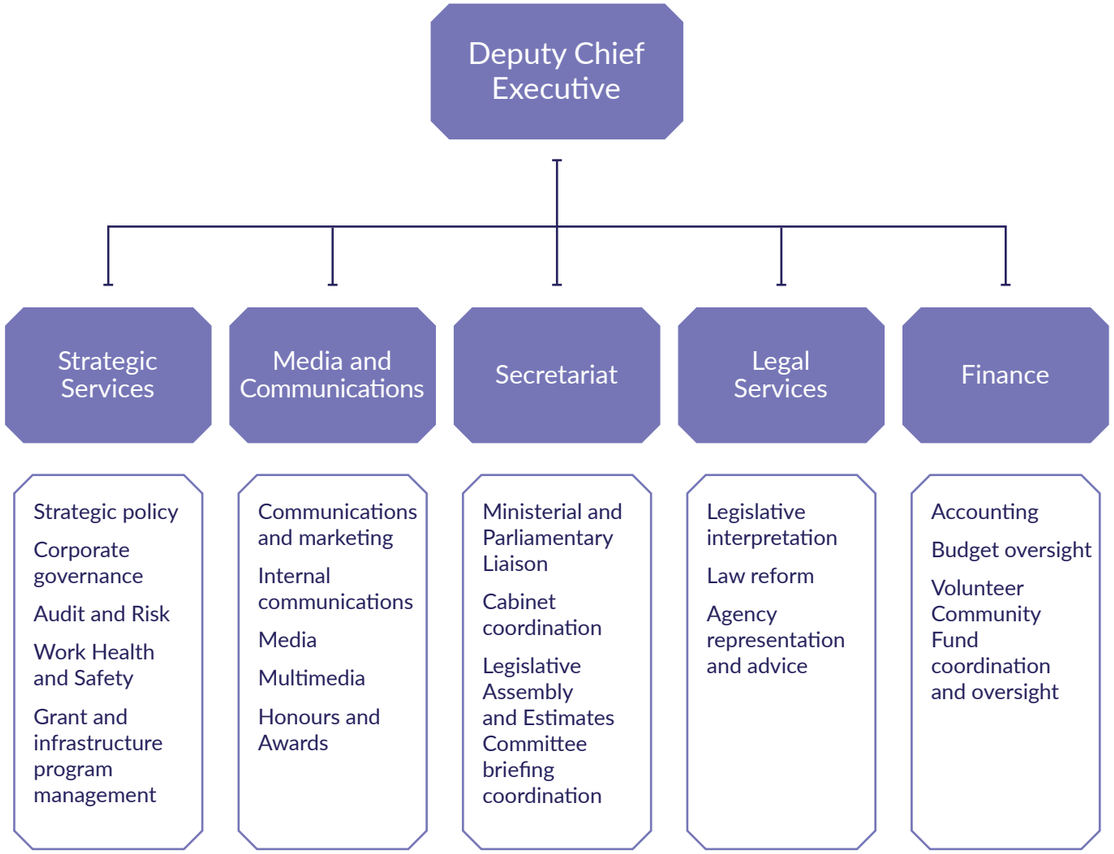
As at 30 June 2026, the Strategy and Performance division comprised 33 employees.

In January 2026, the Commissioner of Fire and Emergency Services and the Commissioner of Police signed an updated Service Level Agreement for the provision of shared services between the two agencies. Under the agreement, NT Police Force continues to provide NTFES with a range of support services, including procurement, facilities, fleet management and maintenance, and logistics.

Enterprise services such as information management, freedom of information, ICT services, employee case management and human resources continued to be delivered through the NTG Enterprise Services Framework, supporting a more consistent and efficient approach across government.

Strategy & Performance

Organisational Structure





NT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Functions and objectives

The *Fire and Emergency Act 1996* establishes the NTFRS to protect life, property and the environment against fires and other emergency incidents. The operational and emergency response roles of NTFRS include:

- responding to all incidents in an emergency response area (ERA) within the capacity and resources of NTFRS as determined by the Commissioner
- responding to all hazardous material incidents and transport
- accident rescues wherever they occur in the Territory
- responding to other incidents outside an ERA when requested and when the response is within the resources and capabilities of NTFRS, and sufficient resources of NTFRS remain available to respond to incidents within the ERA
- investigating the cause of a fire anywhere in the Territory
- preventing fires and other emergencies through hazard reduction application and inspection
- conducting training courses in relation to any aspect of fire safety
- conducting community education and awareness programs relating to fire safety and prevention
- developing and administering programs designed to promote safety in building structures.

NT Fire and Rescue Service

Organisational Structure

Commissioner & CEO
NTFES

Chief Fire Officer
NTFRS

Administrative Support

Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Territory Operations

Northern Command
- **Katherine Fire Station**
  - *Timber Creek FERG*
  - *Mataranka FERG*
  - *Borroloola FERG*
  - *Pine Creek FERG*
- **Nhulunbuy Fire Station**
  - *Yirrkala VFB*
- **Jabiru Fire Station**
- **Humpty Doo VFB**
- **Howard Springs VFB**
- **Virginia/Bees Creek VFB**
- **Koolpinya VFB**
- **Wurrumiyanga VFB**
- **Adelaide River FERG**
- **Batchelor FERG**

Southern Command
- **Alice Springs Fire Station**
- **Alice Springs VFB**
- **Tennant Creek Fire Station**
  - *Elliott FERG*
  - *Ti Tree FERG*
- **Yulara Fire Station**

Darwin Command
- **Darwin Fire Station**
- **Marrara Fire Station**
- **Berrimah Fire Station**
- **Palmerston Fire Station**
- **Humpty Doo Fire Station**

Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Strategy and Capability

Training & Development Command
- **Command Administration**
- **Quality Learning and Assessment**
- **Workforce Development**
- **Career Training**
- **Auxiliary Training**
- **Volunteer Training**

Fire Safety Command
- **Command Administration**
- **Built Environment**
- **Fire Safety Emergency Planning**
- **Fire Safety Compliance**
- **NTFAST**
- **Fire Investigation**
- **Fire Mitigation**

Capability Development Command
- **Command Administration**
- **Enhanced Response**
- **Research & Development**
- **Breathing Apparatus Maintenance**
- **HAZMAT**
- **Technical**
- **Special Risk Plans**
- **Equipment Cache**

Recruitment & Community Engagement
- **Community Engagement**
- **NTFRS Promotions**
- **Fire Recruitment Support**
- **Fire Selections and Transfer**

Legend: **VFB** Volunteer Fire Brigade **FERG** Fire & Emegrency Response Group



NT EMERGENCY SERVICE

Functions and objectives

NTES is established as an emergency service under the *Emergency Management Act 2013* and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In accordance with section 46 of the *Emergency Management Act 2013*, the functions of NTES are

- To conduct rescue, emergency and recovery operations within communities of the Territory
- To advise, assist, educate and train stakeholders, including government agencies, the public, private organisations and volunteer organisations, in emergency planning and operations.

NTES delivers these functions through

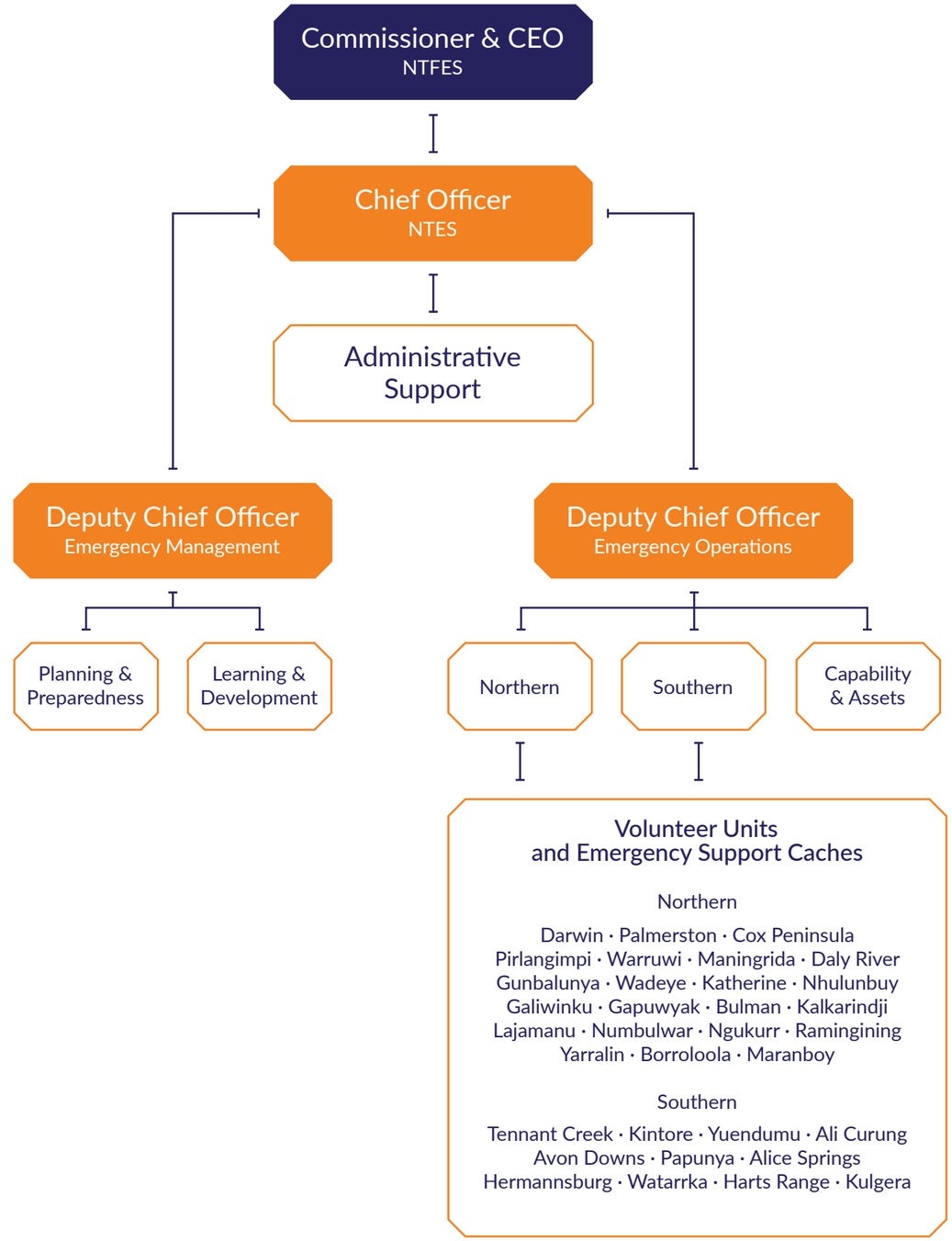
- rescue, emergency response and recovery operations
- hazard management for cyclones, earthquakes, floods, storms, storm surge and tsunami
- emergency management planning
- volunteer capability development
- operational communications and facilities, and
- support to other government agencies and controllers during emergency events.

NTES' mission is to serve and protect the Territory through prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities that minimise the impacts of emergencies.

NTES staff and volunteers work together to build resilient communities through training, public education, engagement and emergency management planning, helping Territorians prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

NT Emergency Service

Organisational Structure





BUSHFIRES NT

Functions and objectives

BFNT delivers Territory wide leadership in bushfire management across rural and remote regions, operating under the *Bushfires Management Act 2016*. The service arm provides statutory oversight, operational capability, and strategic guidance to reduce bushfire risk, protect communities, and strengthen resilience across diverse land tenures.

BFNT maintains a Territory wide operational footprint supported by regional headquarters in Acacia Hills, Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Alice Springs. BFNT has responsibility for implementing the legislative and policy framework for bushfire prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery including:

- Bushfire risk mitigation through planned hazard reduction activities
- Stakeholder education to support safe land management practices
- Operational coordination during wildfire events
- Volunteer brigade support across the Territory.

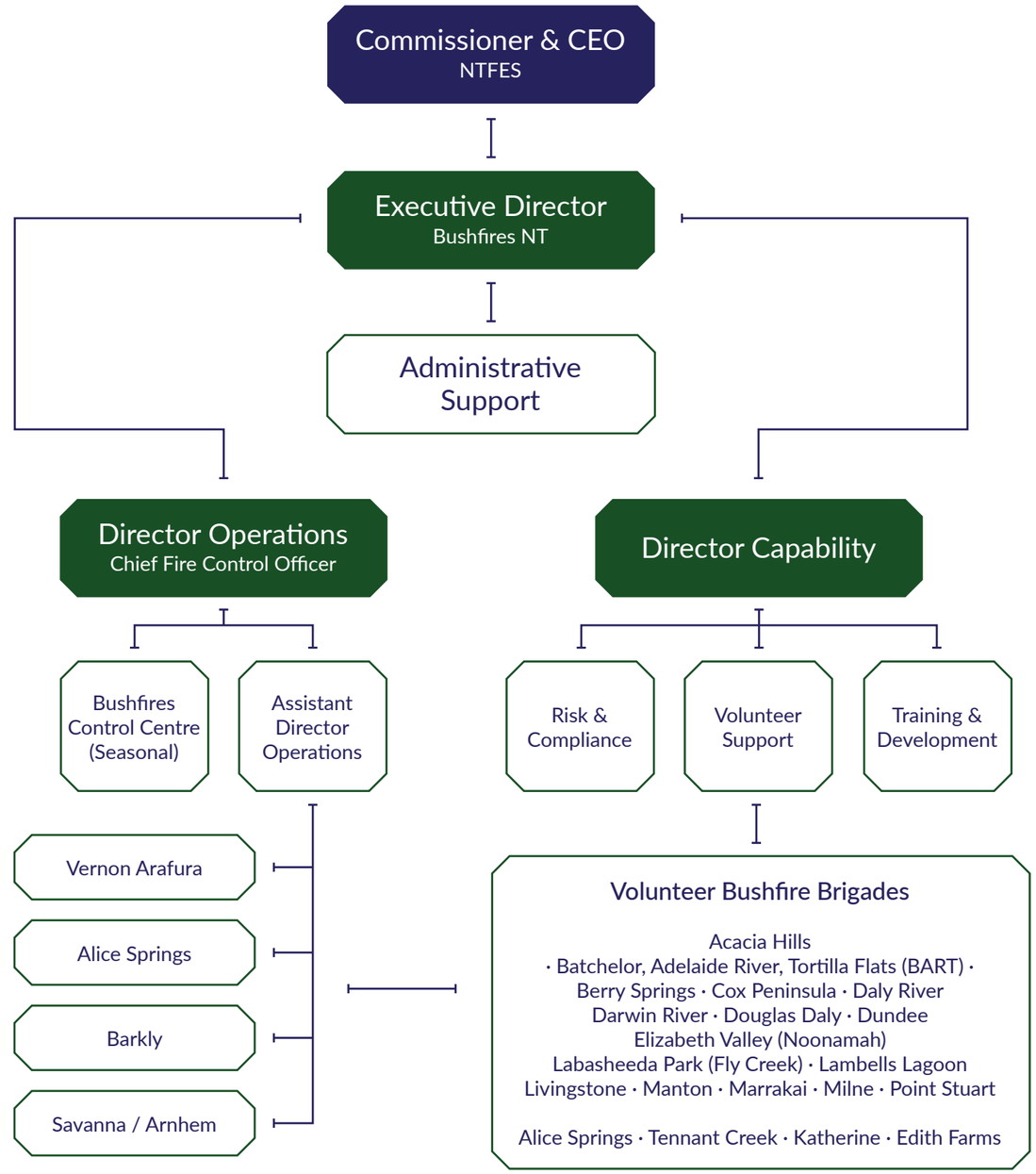
BFNT provides expert guidance to rural landholders, pastoralists, Aboriginal land managers, and industry stakeholders to develop fire management plans tailored to local conditions, work with landholders to coordinate planned mitigation activities to reduce fuel loads and minimise wildfire impacts.

BFNT works closely with its 20 volunteer bushfire brigades to deliver coordinated fire management underpinned by effective mitigation, response, and recovery activities across the Territory.

Through proactive mitigation, strong stakeholder engagement, and coordinated operational response, BFNT plays a critical role in safeguarding the Territory's communities and natural environment from the impacts of bushfires.

Bushfires NT

Organisational Structure



Our People

Our People

Our culture

NTFES is committed to building a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the communities it serves. The agency fosters a workplace culture that is respectful, supportive, and focused on continuous improvement. To do this the agency has:

- Promoted workforce and volunteer opportunities through targeted recruitment and social media campaigns
- Supported a positive safety culture by encouraging employees to identify and raise risks and concerns
- Encouraged innovation and continuous improvement across the organisation
- Promoted employee wellbeing through access to the Employee Assistance Program
- Provided training and professional development opportunities to support workforce capability and career growth.

Our paid workforce

Our people are our greatest asset. They are dedicated to delivering high-quality services to the Northern Territory and are committed to keeping Territorians safe while supporting the health, safety and wellbeing of their colleagues.

NTFES is committed to attracting, developing and retaining a capable and diverse workforce. Employees are supported through training and professional development opportunities that build capability, encourage knowledge sharing, and strengthen the agency's ability to meet its strategic objectives.

As at 30 June 2026, NTFES employed 409 staff across operational and corporate roles.

409 staff across operational and corporate roles

308 male

92 female

9 non-binary

41 average age of NTFES employees

30 employees identified as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

10 employees identified as having a disability

25 employees identified as culturally or linguistically diverse

Full-Time Equivalent staff by designation			
Administrative Officer 2	1	Leading Firefighter (Qualified)	21
Administrative Officer 3	2	NTPS Adult Traineeship AQF3 Level A	1
Administrative Officer 4	10	NTPS Traineeship AQF4 Level C	1
Administrative Officer 5	16	Physical 3	2
Administrative Officer 6	12	Professional 2	3
Administrative Officer 7	16	Professional 3	3
District Officer	8	School Based Trainee	1
Executive Officer 1 - Executive Contract Officer	3	Senior Administrative Officer 1	6
Executive Officer 2 - Executive Contract Officer	5	Senior Administrative Officer 2	12
Executive Officer 5 – Executive Contract Officer	1	Senior Firefighter	55
Fire Auxiliary Captain	6	Senior Professional Officer 2	1
Fire Auxiliary Level 1	23	Senior Station Officer	27
Fire Auxiliary Level 2	5	Station Officer	41
Firefighter Class B	21	Technical 2	8
Firefighter Class C	14	Technical 3	8
Firefighter Class D	24	Technical 4	5
Firefighter Qualified	20	Technical 5	1
Firefighter Recruit	25	Technical 6	1
TOTAL	**409**		

During 2025-26, NTFES undertook 66 recruitment processes to support workforce capability across the agency. This included two bulk recruitment campaigns for Recruit Firefighters, with 24 recruits graduating from Recruit Squads 52 and 53 in July and December 2025.

Positions advertised during 2025-26 were advertised in accordance with Special Measures Recruitment Plans, which are dedicated to increasing the number of Aboriginal employees.





Our volunteer workforce

Our volunteers are the backbone of NTFES. They are dedicated to serving the Territory and play a vital role in helping keep communities and Territorians safe.

NTFES is committed to attracting and retaining dedicated volunteers from diverse backgrounds who bring valuable skills, knowledge and experience to the organisation. Volunteers are supported through training and development opportunities that build capability, encourage knowledge sharing and strengthen the agency's ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

NT FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES **886** volunteers

236 volunteers — 156 male / 80 female

263 volunteers — 175 male / 88 female

387 volunteers — 258 male / 129 female

Throughout 2025-26, NTFES community engagement officers and other employees participated in community events, expos and information sessions across the Territory to promote volunteer opportunities and raise awareness of the important role volunteers play in supporting emergency services.

During 2025-26, NTES volunteers contributed 9,820 hours across training, operational response, administration, community engagement and preparedness activities. Their contribution continues to be fundamental to the delivery of emergency services across the Territory.

NTFES extends its sincere thanks to all volunteers who generously contribute their time, skills and expertise in service to their communities. Whether responding to emergencies, participating in training or supporting community preparedness activities, volunteers are fundamental to the delivery of fire and emergency services across the Northern Territory.





Our Performance

STRATEGIC GOAL

Community safety and preparedness

NTFES continued to work with communities, volunteers, partners and stakeholders during 2025-26 to strengthen preparedness for emergencies and build community resilience. Through education, engagement, planning and coordinated response activities, the agency supported Territorians to better prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.



Community engagement

Community engagement is delivered across NTFES by teams within each operational division, supported by the Media and Communications Unit through media, marketing, campaigns, public information, and social media.

During 2025-26, NTFES worked collaboratively to keep communities informed during significant weather and fire events across the Territory through social media, SecureNT alerts, community briefings and preparedness campaigns.

The NTFRS Community Engagement team delivered 130 community safety and resilience programs, providing advice on smoke alarms, evacuation planning and fire safety in homes and workplaces, and delivering the Minutes Matter and Smart Sparx campaigns. Operational crews also conducted 485 building and fire safety inspections.

NTFES engaged with communities across the Territory through a range of events, education programs and public awareness activities, including:

- Darwin City Council Christmas Pageant: NTES employees and volunteers entered a float in the 2025 Christmas Pageant.
- Special Christmas Party: NTES employees and volunteers hosted a community engagement stall for families attending the event.





- School and youth engagement: Delivery of the Paddy Platypus flood and storm safety program, Smart Sparx fire safety education, and engagement activities with Clontarf students.
- Neighbourhood Watch NT Darwin Safety Expo: BFNT staff and volunteers promoted bushfire preparedness and fire safety awareness.
- Litchfield Rural Show: BFNT staff and volunteers engaged with landholders on firebreak compliance, bushfire mitigation and fire management practices.



- Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW Day): Territory-wide activities recognising the contribution of NTES volunteers, including community activations, school competitions and volunteer appreciation initiatives.
- Emergency Services Blood Drive: Employees participated in the Lifeblood blood and plasma donation campaign.

Community preparedness in Tennant Creek

In June 2026, Bushfires NT hosted a Community Forum in Tennant Creek as part of a broader bushfire preparedness campaign for Central Australia.

The forum provided residents and landholders with practical information on local fire risk, fuel management, firebreak requirements and actions they could take to prepare for the upcoming fire season. The campaign supported community understanding of bushfire risk and encouraged proactive preparedness measures across the Barkly region.





Major communications campaigns

Alongside day-to-day media, communications and public information activities, NTFES delivered three major awareness campaigns during 2025-26 to support community preparedness for bushfire, cyclone, storm and flood risks across the Territory. The campaigns promoted practical preparedness actions and encouraged residents and visitors to stay informed through official information sources, including SecureNT.

Top End Bushfire Season Awareness Campaign

The Top End Bushfire Season Awareness Campaign was the first jointly delivered bushfire preparedness campaign under the NTFES structure, bringing together NTFRS and Bushfires NT messaging. The campaign promoted firebreak compliance, fuel reduction, permit requirements, public safety and bushfire preparedness through media, social media, radio advertising, stakeholder engagement and targeted community messaging, with SecureNT promoted as the central source of truth for warnings and information.



Central Australia Bushfire Season Awareness Campaign

The Central Australia Bushfire Season Awareness Campaign delivered targeted preparedness messaging to communities, landholders and visitors across Central Australia and the Barkly region. The campaign focused on bushfire survival planning, fuel management, firebreak maintenance, permit requirements and community resilience, using social media, radio advertising, stakeholder communications and local preparedness activities to increase awareness of bushfire risk and seasonal preparedness.

Higher Risk Weather Season Campaign

The Higher Risk Weather Season Campaign encouraged Territorians to prepare for cyclones, storms and flooding through a combination of media, advertising, social media and community engagement activities. The campaign used attention-grabbing Territory-focused slogans including "Don't be a Floodwit" and "Don't leave your junk out", generating discussion across the community and media while reinforcing important preparedness and safety messages. The campaign also promoted emergency planning, emergency kits, the Australian Warning System and SecureNT as the authoritative source of emergency information, complemented by community preparedness briefings and awareness activities delivered to schools, businesses, community groups and stakeholders across the Territory.



Operational preparedness and responses

During 2025-26, NTFES responded to a range of emergencies and high-risk events across the Northern Territory. The agency's operational capability was supported by a network of career staff, auxiliaries and volunteers working collaboratively to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Volunteer units, track stations, and Fire and Emergency Response Groups (FERGs)

NTFES relies on a network of volunteers and auxiliaries to support emergency management across the Territory. During 2025-26, volunteer numbers increased across the agency's operational services. NTFRS operates five Track Stations in Katherine, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek and Yulara, staffed by a combination of career, auxiliary and volunteer firefighters. A further 10 Fire Brigades and FERGs operate across remote areas of the Territory, providing local emergency response capability and community support. NTES maintains 19 volunteer units and 13 emergency support caches across the Territory, including its Northern and Southern headquarters.

BFNT operates from its headquarters in Acacia Hills, with regional teams in Katherine, Alice Springs and, from 2025-26, a new permanent office in Tennant Creek. Across the Territory, 20 volunteer bushfire brigades support bushfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

BFNT also facilitated the appointment and reappointment of members to the Northern Territory Bushfires Council and five Regional Bushfires Committees for a three-year term.

Operational capability enhancements

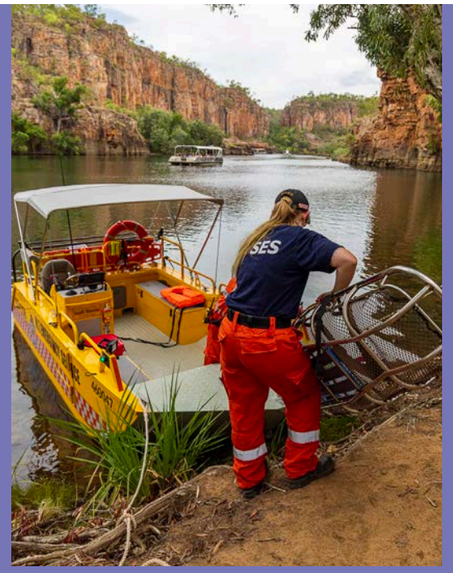
During 2025-26, NTES deployed new emergency response trailers and flood rescue boats to strengthen operational capability and improve access to specialised equipment across regional and remote locations. BFNT also commissioned seven new grass fire units for volunteer brigades and progressed the delivery of three additional operational grass fire units through its fleet replacement program.

NTFES fleet

NTFES continued to invest in fleet and equipment replacement programs during 2025-26 to ensure operational personnel have access to safe, reliable and contemporary resources to support emergency preparedness and response activities across the Territory.

Key fleet and equipment enhancements during the reporting period included:

- BFNT procured and built seven new grass fire units for volunteer brigades and commissioned three additional operational grass fire units for delivery in 2026-27.
- NTFRS progressed its annual major appliance replacement program, including the acquisition of a Scania Heavy Urban Pumper, an Isuzu Heavy Tanker and an Isuzu Light Rescue Tanker.
- NTES deployed new emergency response trailers and flood rescue vessels to strengthen emergency response capability and improve access to specialised equipment across the Territory.



Rescue vessels boost Territory-wide response capability

NTES marked a significant boost to its operational capability with the commissioning of ESV309 and ESV310 — two custom-built, 5.9-metre Swift rescue vessels designed specifically for the Territory's challenging and remote water environments.

Engineered for flood response and inland waterway operations, the vessels are fitted with advanced marine electronics including GPS, sonar, integrated communications systems and infrared camera technology. They also provide drone deployment capability, enabling enhanced situational awareness and improved assessment of flood-affected and inaccessible areas. Each vessel carries purpose-built rescue equipment and onboard first aid supplies, making them vital assets during emergency operations, particularly throughout the wet season and during cyclone events.

Powered by twin 90-horsepower Suzuki outboard engines and equipped with increased fuel storage capacity, ESV309 and ESV310 are capable of extended operational deployments, allowing crews to remain on task longer and respond more effectively across remote and isolated locations.

The introduction of ESV309 and ESV310 has further strengthened NTES' ability to support remote and isolated communities, enhancing response capability and improving safety outcomes during emergencies. The vessels' design features, including a shallow draft and bow-loader configuration, provide improved access in unpredictable and debris-laden floodwaters where conventional vessels may be limited.

Through the commissioning of ESV309 and ESV310, NTES continues to invest in the safety, preparedness and resilience of the Territory. These modern and versatile assets represent a significant enhancement to emergency response capability and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to ensuring communities are better supported and protected during times of crisis.





Emergency management planning and responses

During 2025-26, NTES delivered preparedness, response and immediate relief services across the Territory during a higher risk weather season characterised by complex, concurrent, consecutive and compounding emergency events. Multiple weather systems and flooding events affected communities across both the Northern and Southern regions of the Territory, requiring sustained operational responses and close collaboration between government agencies, volunteers and interstate support personnel.

In preparation for periods of heightened risk, emergency management planning was coordinated across the Territory through Local and Regional Emergency Committees led by designated Local and Regional Controllers. In accordance with the *Emergency Management Act 2013*, a comprehensive review of emergency management arrangements was undertaken, including:

- 46 Local Emergency Plans
- 2 Regional Emergency Plans
- the Territory Emergency Plan

NTES plays a vital role in helping communities prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and natural disasters. During 2025-26, this included:

- ongoing training and accreditation of volunteers in storm response, land search, flood rescue and vertical rescue
- community preparedness education and awareness activities
- support for major events, planned operations and interagency exercises within the Territory and interstate.

During the reporting period, NTES coordinated responses to a range of significant emergencies across the Territory. Operations included marine search and rescue, flood response, sandbagging activities and multi-agency deployments. Volunteers and interstate emergency management personnel were mobilised to support affected communities and assist response efforts.

Major events coordinated by NTES during 2025-26 included:

November 2025

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Fina

February 2026

- Tropical Low 21U and the first major flooding event for the Daly River
- Barkly and Central Australia flooding
- Todd River flash flooding

March 2026

- Tropical Low 31U and flooding in Katherine, including the second major flood event for the Daly River, which recorded its highest level on record
- Major flooding affecting areas surrounding Darwin River Dam
- Severe weather and flooding across the Barkly region
- Concurrent impacts associated with Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle

NTES remains committed to continuous improvement through capability development, lessons management and after-action reviews to strengthen emergency preparedness and response arrangements across the Territory.

Volunteer response highlights from the Higher Risk Weather Season

Alice Springs Volunteer Unit (NTES)

The Alice Springs Volunteer Unit continued to play a critical role supporting the community during a challenging year, responding to more than 220 requests for assistance during 2025-26, including more than 150 received during February and March 2026.

Significant rainfall across Central Australia resulted in multiple flood events and the Todd River flowing five times during the reporting period. Volunteers supported extensive sandbagging operations, helping place more than 3,000 sandbags throughout the community, and successfully conducted two shore-based rescue operations involving three people.

Katherine Volunteer Unit (NTES)

The Katherine Volunteer Unit increased its membership to 29 volunteers during 2025-26 and strengthened its operational capability through the acquisition of a drone, with four members trained in its operation. The drone provides real-time aerial intelligence to support incident assessment, land search operations and emergency response activities.

In March 2026, volunteers supported response and recovery operations during the most significant flooding event experienced in Katherine since 1998, when the Katherine River reached a peak height of 19.21 metres. Many volunteers continued supporting the community despite being directly affected by the event themselves.



NTFRS permits and operational responses

NTFRS is responsible for administering permits to burn within the Territory's Emergency Response Areas (ERAs). Although ERAs cover approximately 2 per cent of the Territory, NTFRS managed 3,416 notifications of intention to burn during 2025-26.

While primarily an urban fire service, NTFRS also operates across regional and remote parts of the Territory. Urban fire stations are located in Darwin, Marrara, Berrimah, Palmerston, Humpty Doo and Alice Springs, supported by five volunteer fire stations located on the peri-urban fringes of Darwin and Alice Springs.

During 2025-26, NTFRS responded to 10,694 incidents and calls, including:

188 structure fires

5,471 landscape fires

362 other fires

3,288 automated fire alarms

770 non-fire rescue incidents including road crash rescues

77 hazardous material incidents

240 calls to floods, storms and other natural disasters

298 other incidents

Disaster Ready Fund

The Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) provides competitive grant funding for projects that strengthen disaster resilience and reduce disaster risk across Australia. NTFES acts as the Northern Territory lead agency for the program, coordinating the assessment and recommendation of Territory applications in line with local disaster management priorities.

During 2025-26, the DRF Round Three funding cycle resulted in four Northern Territory projects receiving Australian Government funding of $1.4 million, supporting a total program value of $2.1 million. Applications for DRF Round Four opened on 29 May 2026 and closed on 1 July 2026. To support prospective applicants, NTFES delivered a series of information sessions and webinars for government and non-government organisations, providing guidance on program requirements, co-contribution arrangements and application development. These activities were supported through stakeholder communications, social media and online promotion.

Successful DRF Round Three Projects

Project	Project Funding	
Development of an emergency coordination facility - Alice Springs This project will strengthen disaster resilience in Alice Springs through the development of an Emergency Coordination Facility. The facility will enhance the Alice Springs Town Council's preparedness, response and recovery capability, while supporting business continuity during and after disaster events.	Applicant Co-Contribution Total Commonwealth Co-Contribution Total Total Project Funding	$73,421 $593,653 $667,074
Embedded meteorologist to improve disaster risk management in the Northern Territory This project will establish an embedded meteorologist capability within NTFES to enhance the use of weather and hydrological intelligence in emergency management planning, operations and decision-making, strengthening community resilience to natural disasters.	Applicant Co-Contribution Total Commonwealth Co-Contribution Total Total Project Funding	$495,00 $495,00 $990,00
Laynhapuy Disaster Management Framework: Capacity building for Yolŋu-Led disaster preparedness - East Arnhem This project will develop a culturally appropriate disaster management framework for Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation to strengthen preparedness for, and response to, cyclones, flooding, bushfires and other emergencies. The project includes emergency planning, staff training and practical exercises to build local knowledge and capability, supporting stronger and more resilient Yolŋu communities before, during and after disaster events.	Applicant Co-Contribution Total Commonwealth Co-Contribution Total Total Project Funding	$16,759 $150,825 $167,584
Managing flood risk in Yuendumu - Central Desert This project will improve flood resilience in Yuendumu through detailed flood modelling, including LiDAR surveying and the design of stormwater management infrastructure. The project will provide a foundation for future infrastructure investment while reducing flood risk, protecting community infrastructure and improving community safety during flood events.	Applicant Co-Contribution Total Commonwealth Co-Contribution Total Total Project Funding	$24,734 $221,643 $246,377
TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNTS	Applicant Co-Contribution Total Commonwealth Co-Contribution Total Total Project Funding	$609,914 $1,461,121 $2,071,035

STRATEGIC GOAL

Protect Territory lifestyle and economy

NTFES continued to protect the Territory's people, communities, environment and critical infrastructure through the delivery of fire, emergency and disaster management services. During 2025-26, the agency strengthened operational capability, preparedness and response arrangements to help minimise the impacts of emergencies on the Territory's social and economic wellbeing.

NT Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) comparative statistics

In 2025-26 NTFRS responded to 10,694 incidents and calls across urban, regional and remote areas of the Territory.

Fires, emergencies and other incidents responded to by the NT Fire and Rescue Service

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Structure Fires	173	184	146	182	188
Landscape Fires	4,371	4,784	5,764	5,184	5,471
Other Fires	326	342	325	365	362
Other Emergencies	4,259	4,543	4,825	4,571	4,375
Other Incidents	664	644	1,007	1,399	298
TOTAL	**9,793**	**10,497**	**12,067**	**11,701**	**10,694**

Incident demand on NTFRS has remained consistently high over the past five years, with 11,802 incidents and calls responded to during 2025-26. While total incident numbers have fluctuated year to year, overall demand has increased compared with 2021-22. Landscape fires continue to account for the largest proportion of responses, reflecting the significant role NTFRS plays in managing fire risk across urban, regional and remote areas of the Territory.

NTFRS post incident form

During 2025-26, NTFRS developed and introduced a new post-incident form to support people affected by fires and other incidents. The form helps provide a consistent and compassionate handover process, including information on ongoing risks, safety considerations and available support services.

Territory Day enhanced response

Territory Day annually results in a significant increase in emergency calls and fire-related incidents across the Northern Territory due to the permitted sale and use of fireworks.

To support community safety during this period, NTFES implemented an enhanced operational response for Territory Day 2025, including the activation of an Incident Management Team, increased media and public information support, additional career staffing, and heightened readiness across career, auxiliary and volunteer resources.

The response involved personnel from NTFRS, Bushfires NT and the NT Emergency Service working together to support communities across the Territory. Extensive planning and preparedness activities were undertaken prior to Territory Day to ensure the agency was well positioned to respond to increased demand and emerging incidents.

During the 2025 Territory Day celebrations, NTFRS responded to 234 incidents[1]

Bushfires NT responded to 25 fire incidents across the Territory's regional and remote areas.

	0900 to 1800 hrs	1800 to 2359 hrs	Total
Landscape fire	24	169	193
Rubbish bin fires	0	24	24
Structure fires	2	1	2
Fire alarms	4	3	7
Road Crash	1	1	2
Vehicle Fires	2	1	3
Other incidents	1	1	2

[1] The reported figures reflect a more complete data set than was available at the time of initial public reporting.

Deployments

In 2025-26, NTFES personnel participated in deployments across Australia and internationally, supporting communities affected by emergencies while gaining valuable operational experience, professional development and exposure to diverse incident management environments.

Key deployments included:

- Canada (July 2025): An NTFRS member was deployed as International Liaison Officer and Deployment Chief for Australian and New Zealand personnel supporting Canada's wildfire response, providing strategic coordination and liaison between deployed resources and emergency management agencies.
- Victoria (January 2026): NTFES deployed 57 personnel and resources to assist Emergency Management Victoria following significant bushfire activity and severe fire weather conditions.
- National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre: Through its partnership with the NCCTRC, NTFES personnel were released to support Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) operations between March and June 2026.
- Interstate and Territory operations: BFNT staff and volunteers supported responses to flood events in Katherine, Alice Springs, Daly River and Rural Darwin, Cyclone Fina, and bushfire operations in Victoria.

In addition to interstate and international deployments, NTFES personnel were deployed throughout the Northern Territory to support emergency response operations and Emergency Operations Centre activities during the significant weather events experienced throughout 2025-26.



Fire investigations

NTFRS is responsible for investigating fires across the Northern Territory. During 2025-26, Fire Safety Command investigated 67 fires to determine their origin, cause and contributing factors.

While many fires can be assessed by responding crews, more complex incidents are referred to specialist fire investigators within Fire Safety Command. Using detailed scene examinations and evidence-based investigation methods, investigators identify fire causes and emerging risks.

The findings from fire investigations support fire prevention initiatives, inform community education and training programs, and contribute to improvements in operational practices and fire safety measures across the Territory.



STRATEGIC GOAL

Invest in our people

People Matter Survey 2025

The NTG People Matter Survey was conducted in September 2025 and was the first survey undertaken following the establishment of NTFES as a standalone agency.

Results showed employees remain highly engaged with the agency's work, are proud to work for NTFES, and believe their contribution is valued by the community. NTFES also recorded positive results in areas including flexible work practices and the provision of timely and relevant feedback from operational managers.



The survey identified opportunities for improvement in employee engagement, communication, change management, strategic direction, leadership and organisational capability. Feedback also highlighted the importance of continuing efforts to strengthen workplace culture and address employee concerns relating to inappropriate workplace behaviours.

Analysis of the survey results identified several priority areas for action, including strengthening leadership capability, improving workforce engagement and innovation, enhancing communication on organisational change, and supporting managers to build high-performing teams.

In response, NTFES is implementing a range of initiatives, including:

- NTFES Workforce Strategy 2026-2028, to address key workforce priorities identified through the survey
- NTFES Positive Duty Framework 2026-2028, to strengthen workplace culture and proactively prevent bullying, harassment and discrimination
- NTFES Health and Safety Culture Action Plan, to improve organisational health and safety culture by 2028
- targeted initiatives within operational and corporate areas to support teamwork, leadership development and employee engagement.

These initiatives will support continuous improvement across the agency and strengthen workforce engagement, capability and culture over the coming years.



Health, safety and wellbeing

NTFES is committed to supporting the health, safety and wellbeing of its workforce through a comprehensive work health and safety (WHS) framework, wellbeing initiatives and flexible workplace arrangements.

During 2025-26, NTFES continued to strengthen its WHS framework through the use of incident and hazard data, employee feedback, and consultation with operational committees and working groups. In response to identified risks and opportunities, NTFES developed a WHS Action Plan and Positive Duty Action Plan to strengthen safety leadership, improve workplace culture, and proactively address bullying, harassment, discrimination and other inappropriate workplace behaviours.

Health and safety data indicated that most reported incidents occurred during routine operational activities and were primarily associated with manual handling tasks, resulting in strains and sprains, as well as minor slip, trip and fall injuries. Workers' compensation trends remained stable throughout the reporting period, with no significant emerging issues identified.

NTFES also expanded wellbeing support available to employees through the introduction of the MyWellbeing Portal in partnership with the NT Police Force. Employees and volunteers have access to wellbeing resources and confidential support services, while all NTG employees and their dependants can access the Employee Assistance Program.

NTFES participated in the Northern Territory Public Sector influenza vaccination program and provided vaccination clinics at operational locations across the Territory. Information relating to vaccination against the 2026 diphtheria outbreak was also provided to frontline personnel in accordance with advice from NT Health.

Flexible working arrangements continued to support employees balancing work and personal responsibilities, with 11 flexible working arrangements approved during 2025-26.

Honours and awards

During 2025-26, NTFES established an Honours and Awards program to coordinate agency and national recognition processes, support service recognition milestones, and promote a culture of recognition across the organisation.

Throughout the reporting period, employees and volunteers were recognised through a range of agency, Territory and national honours and awards programs.

AWARD	RECIPIENTS
Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM)	Beverley Shuker; Dianne Tynan
Emergency Service Medal (ESM)	Mark Cunnington
National Medal (15 Years' Service)	Tracey-Anne Wilson; Xavier Gosling; Samuel Forwood
National Medal 1st Clasp (25 Years' Service)	Owen Wilson; Neil Macdonald; Karl Herzog ESM
Administrator's Medal of the Year Award – Career Firefighter of the Year	Michael Hamilton
Administrator's Medal of the Year Award – Auxiliary or Volunteer Firefighter of the Year	Carly Smith
Administrator's Medal of the Year Award – Emergency Service Employee or Volunteer of the Year	Jonathan Wright
Women in Fire and Emergency Services Award (WFESA)	Yva Woerle
Certificate of Appreciation – Commissioner	Alexander Godfrey; Collene Bremner
Certificate of Appreciation – Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Strategy & Performance	Penelope Edwards
Certificate of Appreciation – Chief Fire Officer, Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service	Kiah Bartholomew
Certificate of Appreciation – Chief Officer, Northern Territory Emergency Service	Krissy Riley
Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service Service Medal (10 Years' Service)	Samuel Forwood; Stefanos Kariotis; Karen Malin; Alexander Dickens; Scott Murrell; John Duncan
Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service Service Medal 1st Clasp (20 Years' Service)	Desmond Barritt
Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service Service Medal 2nd Clasp (30 Years' Service)	Cameron Burrows
Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service Certificate of Appreciation (5 Years' Service)	Christopher Highland; Graeme Steer; Neil Macdonald; Geoffrey Ellis; Amanda Gumley; Jodette Fox; Graeme Proosdy; Mark Fishlock
Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Service Medal (5 Years' Service)	Benjamin Thompson; Keith Saunders
Northern Territory Emergency Service Certificate of Appreciation (10 Years' Service)	Keith Saunders









New South Wales Premier's Flood Emergency Citation

The New South Wales Premier's Flood Emergency Citation recognises the contribution of personnel who supported flood response operations in New South Wales between 2021 and 2023. During 2025-26, the following NTFES personnel were recognised for their service:

Recipients

Ronald Owen, David Travers, Seth Dugdell ESM, Robert Evans, Ian Carlton CEM, Keith Lewis ESM, Ronald Green BM ESM JP, Karl Kratschmer, Kyle Seville, Fletcher Austin, Wayne Snell, Brett Malouf, Rhys Perry, Ian Smith ESM, Felix Ho, Graeme Steer, Scott Garwood, David Cronk, Kym William, Wayne Sanderson, Reece Ravlich, Sam Thomas, Graeme Owen, Alwin Corporaal, Toby Shuttleworth, Mark Walker, Jamir Richardson, Rebecca Vale, Angela Twine, Janna Auricht, Catherine Driver, Alison Nicholls, Nicole Chisholm, Emily Henssen, Caitlin Krohn, Thilina Abeyratna, Kylie Fox, Henry Topley, Andrew Lague, Christopher Peberdy, Michael Taylor, Steven Russell, Garry Branson AFSM, Samuel Baker, William Speed, Shane Dighton, Jason O'Mahony, Robert Smets, Geoffrey Ellis, Keith Hutton ESM, Jon Duncan, Scott Healey, Rhys Harrison, Silas Laidlaw, Archer Topper, Jackson Carr, Manish Raju, Issac Kell Duivestein, Leroy Gazey, Naomi Bryant, Jodette Fox, Clair Peberdy, Jessica Simpson, Amanda Gumley and Monica Torland.

Volunteers

Throughout 2025-26, volunteers across NTES, NTFRS and BFNT played a vital role in supporting emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities across the Territory. Volunteers contributed operational support, community engagement, training and incident response capability in both urban and remote locations.



NTFES Volunteer Community Fund

The NTFES Volunteer Community Fund was launched during 2025-26 to provide the community with a practical way to support volunteer brigades and units across the Territory. Donations to the fund are intended to support initiatives that directly enhance volunteer capability, including training and professional development, equipment and technology, and research and innovation projects. Donations of $2 or more are tax deductible.

The fund is not intended to replace government-funded operational activities, existing brigade fundraising activities, or volunteer unit responsibilities. Funding cannot be used for volunteer payments, government-funded operational costs, or purposes unrelated to NTFES volunteer brigades and units.

The fund is overseen by the NTFES Volunteer Community Fund Board, which is responsible for governance and distribution decisions. The Board has agreed that funding allocations will commence once the fund reaches a minimum balance of $5,000, with brigades and units able to apply for support through an established application process.

As at 30 June 2026, the fund had received $441.80 in donations. NTFES will continue to promote the fund and provide regular updates to volunteers regarding fund balances, eligibility requirements and future funding opportunities.



Volunteer recognition events

Following a challenging 2025-26 Higher Risk Weather Season, NTFES hosted volunteer appreciation events in Alice Springs, Katherine and Palmerston during June 2026. The events brought together volunteers from NTES, NTFRS and BFNT and provided an opportunity for NTFES executives to thank volunteers for their commitment, professionalism and contribution to emergency response activities across the Territory.

Volunteer service and achievements were also recognised during the events, reflecting the vital role volunteers play in helping keep Territorians safe.

In addition, BFNT continued its annual volunteer recognition program, hosting appreciation events across regional locations throughout the Territory. Typically held between September and December each year, these events recognise the ongoing contribution of BFNT volunteers and provide an opportunity for eligible members to receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chief Minister in recognition of their service to the community.

Workforce capability and development

NTFES is committed to developing and maintaining a capable workforce through induction, mandatory training, professional development and career growth opportunities.

All employees receive an induction tailored to their role, workplace and team. New employees are also required to complete mandatory training through the OneNTG Online Learning Platform within three months of commencement, with refresher training completed every three years.

During 2025-26, employees recorded 1,250 enrolments through the myLearning Platform. Training undertaken included mandatory compliance modules and courses covering recruitment, work health and safety, procurement and finance, risk management, and professional skills development.

Beyond mandatory and compliance training, NTFES continued to invest in leadership development, higher education and workforce pathways.

During 2025-26, 11 employees completed leadership and governance development programs, including the Emerging Leaders Program (7), Foundations of Public Sector Governance (1), Leadership for New Managers (1) and the Senior Leader Program (2).

A further six employees commenced participation in professional development programs, including the Australia and New Zealand School of Government Executive Master of Public Administration, the Company Directors Program and the Queensland University of Technology Public Sector Management Program.

NTFES also continued to support early career pathways and workforce development initiatives. During the reporting period, the agency hosted four participants through the Aboriginal Employment Program, two Vacation Program participants, and NTFES' first School-Based Trainee.

These initiatives support the development of future talent and contribute to building a skilled and capable workforce across the agency.



Firefighter recruit training and development

During 2025-26, the NTFRS Recruit Development team delivered two comprehensive 20-week recruit courses, each training 12 Recruit Firefighters and preparing them for operational service across the Northern Territory.

The courses covered a broad range of operational disciplines, including structural firefighting, first aid, bushfire operations, emergency response driving, hazardous materials, road crash rescue and urban search and rescue. Through this training, recruits developed the skills and knowledge required to respond safely and effectively to emergencies.

Recruits also supported their communities through fundraising activities undertaken during their training. Recruit Squad 52 raised approximately $7,500 for Foodbank NT, while Recruit Squad 53 raised approximately $12,000 for Dawn House Women's Shelter.

The Recruit Instructor team played a critical role in delivering the program, providing training, mentorship and support throughout each recruit course. Their efforts were complemented by subject matter experts from across the agency, who contributed specialist knowledge and operational experience to ensure recruits received contemporary, high-quality training.



Specialist capability development

During the reporting period, employees also undertook specialist capability development activities, including Remotely Piloted Aircraft System training and incident management training.

NTES delivered Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System Level 1 and Level 2 training to staff and volunteers, strengthening incident management capability and operational readiness across the agency.

Career firefighter training compliance reached 82 per cent during 2025-26, exceeding the agency target of 80 per cent. In March 2026, BFNT introduced a pilot online Firefighter 1 course to assess course design, user experience and educational outcomes. Three students completed the pilot during the reporting period.

In April 2026, BFNT also welcomed staff from across the Territory to its annual Staff Forum at Acacia Hills Headquarters. The forum provided opportunities for professional development, knowledge sharing and collaboration, while strengthening understanding of organisational priorities and objectives.



STRATEGIC GOAL

Innovation, research and operational intelligence

NTFES continued to invest in innovation, research and operational intelligence to support informed decision-making and enhance service delivery across the Territory. Through improvements in technology, intelligence, forecasting, research and data-driven planning, the agency strengthened its ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to emerging risks and hazards. During 2025-26, NTFES continued to strengthen operational capability through investment in innovation, research, technology and intelligence-led decision-making.

Development of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System

During 2025-26, NTFRS continued to expand its Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) capability, enabling NTFES to independently conduct drone operations in support of fire and emergency management activities.

The agency-wide capability supports NTFRS, NTES and BFNT operations by providing real-time aerial intelligence during structure fires, landscape fires and emergency events, as well as supporting damage assessments following severe weather incidents.

Enhancements to the RPAS fleet have improved mapping, imaging, live-streaming and geospatial capabilities, strengthening operational planning, incident intelligence and decision-making before, during and after emergency incidents.

NTFES will continue to expand the use of RPAS technology to support risk planning, situational awareness and operational response across all hazards.

Bureau of Meteorology collaboration

During 2025-26, NTFES strengthened its operational capability through a partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, funded under the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund. The three-year initiative established an embedded meteorologist capability within NTFES, providing specialist meteorological and hydrological expertise to support emergency management activities across the Territory.

The embedded meteorologist supports preparedness, response and recovery activities by providing real-time weather analysis, forecasting, modelling and specialist advice. This capability has strengthened NTFES' ability to integrate weather, river and fire weather intelligence into operational planning and decision-making, improving situational awareness and risk assessment for cyclones, storms, flooding and bushfire events across the Territory.

The partnership has also supported capability development across NTFES, including the delivery of meteorology training for personnel from Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. This training strengthened understanding of weather forecasting, fire weather conditions and the practical application of meteorological intelligence to emergency management operations.



Improvements in air monitoring

During 2025-26, NTFRS continued to embed enhanced air monitoring practices into routine operational procedures following capability improvements introduced in previous years. Air monitoring was routinely incorporated into structure fire responses to support operational decision-making and risk management.

The capability assists firefighters to identify and manage airborne contaminants, improving the safety of emergency responders and supporting safer outcomes for property owners and affected communities.

Impacts of bushfire smoke research project

During 2025-26, Strategy and Performance hosted a visit from Suki Jaiswal from the University of New South Wales (UNSW). Ms Jaiswal, from the School of Optometry and Vision Science, is undertaking a research project examining the impacts of bushfire smoke on eye health and the effectiveness of controls used to reduce exposure among firefighters.

The project will help improve understanding of the health impacts of bushfire smoke exposure and contribute to evidence-based approaches to protecting firefighter health, safety and wellbeing. The research remains ongoing.

Program upgrades and developments

During 2025-26, NTFES continued to strengthen its operational and digital capabilities through a range of technology, systems and service improvements. Key initiatives included enhancements to myRoster, enterprise geospatial capability, RPAS capability and operational management systems. A new process was also implemented to support frontline services in managing urgent minor repairs more efficiently and cost effectively.

NTFES collaborated with Natural Hazards Research Australia to enhance planning capability and support improvements to fire danger forecasting and modelling through the Australian Fire Danger Rating System.

NTFES also completed Phase 2 of the Broadcast Alert Response Turnout (BART) app rollout to Bushfires NT volunteer brigades across the Territory, further strengthening volunteer communications and operational readiness.

Territory Situational Awareness Brief

During 2025-26, NTFES implemented and distributed a weekly Territory Situational Awareness Brief to support operational planning and decision-making across the agency and broader emergency management sector.

The brief provides a consolidated overview of emerging hazards, operational risks and developing situations across the Territory, improving situational awareness for emergency management personnel, planners, response agencies and decision-makers.



Future Priorities 2026 - 2027

STRATEGIC GOAL

Community safety and preparedness

In 2026 – 2027, NTFES will:

- Strengthen engagement with communities, partners and stakeholders through regular, locally led engagement activities that ensure NTFES services are responsive to local needs.
- Continue enhanced planning and response arrangements for Territory Day and other high-risk periods, using historical incident data, RPAS intelligence and targeted resource allocation to improve community safety.
- Strengthen NTFES capability to deliver trusted, reliable and authoritative emergency management services to residents and visitors across the Northern Territory.
- Strengthen NTFES' position as a centre of excellence for emergency management in the Northern Territory by building capability across the organisation, providing leadership during emergency events, and delivering valued development opportunities for governments partners and stakeholders.
- Deliver community bushfire preparedness forums and awareness activities across all fire regions in support of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan and its key initiatives.
- Develop and implement a Bushfires NT Stakeholder Engagement Strategy to strengthen planning and preparedness activities with landholders and support community resilience.
- Conduct regional fire planning meetings with stakeholders to establish local fire management objectives and review and update Fire Management Plans.

STRATEGIC GOAL

Protect Territory lifestyle and economy

In 2026 – 2027, NTFES will:

- Implement a sustainable staffing model to support permanent career staffing at track stations across the Territory.
- Review response performance across urban, regional and remote emergency response areas to identify opportunities to enhance resourcing, dispatch and station response arrangements.
- Build capacity within the BFNT compliance unit to support community preparedness through hazard reduction and firebreak management activities in line with relevant legislation. This will include the development and implementation of a compliance framework and contemporary enforcement decision toolkit aligned with regulatory best practice.

STRATEGIC GOAL

Invest in our people

In 2026 – 2027, NTFES will:

- Develop and implement targeted capability-building initiatives, including training, skills development, and improved workforce data and reporting, to support career progression and clear pathways for employees and volunteers.
- Undertake workforce planning across NTFES to support sustainable staffing across operational and corporate positions.
- Review and enhance training pathways to ensure staff and volunteers are equipped to respond to emerging risks and community needs.
- Develop a Volunteer Attraction and Retention program aligned with the NTFES Strategic Plan and Workforce Strategy.
- Strengthen NTFES' reputation as a leader in emergency management by providing employees and volunteers with the skills and knowledge required to deliver excellence during high-risk events and by offering valued development opportunities for government, partners and stakeholders.
- Continue recruit firefighter workforce planning to maintain frontline capability across Darwin, Alice Springs and track stations.

STRATEGIC GOAL

Innovation, research and operational intelligence

In 2026 – 2027, NTFES will:

- Implement Figtree (WHS reporting system) across NTFES, supported by the development and delivery of agency-specific training.
- Develop and implement NTFES-specific risk training through the NTG myLearning platform.
- Continue delivery of NT Government Flood Recovery Funding Round 1 initiatives, including the NT Alert app, enterprise geospatial capability, RPAS capability and operational management systems to support operations and strategic planning.
- Develop an NTFES digital strategy to identify tools and channels that deliver critical information to communities in a clear, timely, and accessible manner.
- Continue to invest in research and emerging technologies to enhance operational capability and community engagement across the Territory.
- Strengthen data governance and invest in tools that support intelligence-led decision-making across the agency.
- Relaunch the electronic rostering system, myRoster, across NTFRS.
- Expand the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System capability to support planned operations, incident intelligence, mapping, remote viewing and post-incident analysis.
- Enhance reporting from incident, training and rostering systems to support operational planning, capability development, and executive decision-making.
- Deliver a successful Emergency Management Symposium to support knowledge sharing, collaboration and professional development across the sector.
- Upgrade BFNT incident mapping hardware to enhance operational capability and functionality for staff and volunteers at incidents.
- Host and facilitate cross-jurisdictional representatives from Northern Australia at the 2026 North Australia Fire Managers Forum to share insights, work through challenges and network with others in the sector.

Key Performance Indicators

This chapter reports NTFES' performance against the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) published in Budget Paper 3. These indicators measure the agency's effectiveness in delivering strategic priorities and services to the Northern Territory community and provide a basis for assessing organisational performance against established objectives and targets during 2025–26.



NTFRS Key Performance Indicators

Objective

Protection of life, property and the environment against fire and other emergencies to enhance community safety.

Fire prevention and response management

Provide a range of fire and emergency management activities aimed at:

- building community resilience through partnering with volunteers, stakeholders and local communities
- enhancing community education and training to improve preparedness and awareness
- providing proactive hazard reduction and advocacy for fire management
- ensuring capabilities and resources meet evolving community expectations for preventative and responsive operational activities.

Key Peformance Indicators	2025-26 Target	2025-26 Actual
Buildings deemed compliant at first inspection after occupancy permit issued	≥ 55%	42%
Career firefighters meeting minimum training requirements for current rank	≥ 80%	82%
Auxiliary and volunteer firefighters meeting minimum training requirements	≥ 80%	31%
Median response time (minutes) – Territory-wide emergency response areas	≤ 8	9.2
Median response time (minutes) – outer regional emergency response areas	≤ 8	9.2
Median response time (minutes) – remote emergency response areas	≤ 8	8.0
Median response time (minutes) – very remote emergency response areas	≤ 10	10.5
Fire incidents attended	4 700	5 731
Structure fires contained to room or object of origin within an emergency response area	≥ 90%	64%
Structure fires contained to room or object of origin outside of an emergency response area	≥ 50%	0%
Fires investigated for which cause was determined	≥ 75%	81%
Community resilience and awareness programs delivered	≥ 500	167
Building and fire safety inspections conducted by operational crews	≥ 400	137
Firebreak inspections	850	1135
Unwanted alarm responses as a proportion of total alarm responses	≤ 50%	93%
Vehicle crashes attended	≤ 186	485
Vehicle crashes attended involving injuries and or extraction of victim(s) from vehicle	≤ 11%	18%

NTES Key Performance Indicators

Objective

Minimise the impact of disasters, hazards and emergencies on our community through effective preparedness, planning and mitigation measures including engaging with stakeholders.

Emergency and preparedness services

Provide a range of emergency and preparedness services through our dedicated staff and volunteers, including:

- emergency management activities to increase disaster preparedness in our community
- hazard management activities to enhance community preparedness through proactive initiatives aimed at building resilience
- ensuring prevention, preparation, response and recovery to limit the impact of emergency events.

Key Peformance Indicators	2025-26 Target	2025-26 Actual
Volunteer members meeting minimum operational training requirements[1]	100%	74%
Emergency management courses delivered	≥ 40	42
Hazard management courses delivered to emergency service personnel[2]	≥ 50	40
Local emergency plans reviewed by 1 November[3]	100%	100%
Regional emergency plans reviewed by 1 November[3]	100%	100%
Territory Emergency Plan reviewed by 1 November[4]	Achieved	Achieved
Community education programs delivered to members of the public[2]	≥ 50	46

[1] Actual numbers dependent on ADAPT records and processing of applications and resignations

[2] The variation in 2025-26 is due to resourcing availability

[3] It is a statutory requirement for the operation and effectiveness of the Territory's 46 local emergency and 2 regional plans to be reviewed at least once every 12 months

[4] The Territory Emergency Plan must be reviewed every 12 months.

Bushfires NT Key Performance Indicators

Objective

Fire management support for landholders and volunteer bushfire brigades across the Territory, including planning, education, mitigation and suppression activities.

Fire and land management and mitigation services

Provide a range of support and preparedness services through our dedicated staff and volunteers, including:

- planned mitigation activities to increase fire protection in our community
- hazard management activities to enhance community preparedness and compliance with the *Bushfires Management Act 2016*
- ensuring prevention, preparation, response and recovery relating to fire management.

Key Peformance Indicators	2025-26 Target	2025-26 Actual
Total authorised bushfire volunteers	≥410	387*
Properties in high-risk fire protection zones found to comply with the *Bushfires Management Act 2016*	≥90%	82.5%**
Planned mitigation burns completed in fire protection zones	≥80%	72%
Accredited training units delivered relating to fire management	≥100	100

* All Authorised Bushfire Volunteer (ABV) appointments expired in early 2026 and were subject to a Territory-wide renewal process. At the time of reporting, some volunteers had not completed their renewal requirements and are therefore not included in these statistics. Of these volunteers, 93 have reverted to registered volunteer status while Bushfires NT continues to support completion of the renewal process.

** These figures relate to first-round inspections only. Inspection activities were delayed by the prolonged 2025-26 wet season, with many properties remaining inundated and unsuitable for firebreak installation. Final inspections were not completed until July 2026 and are therefore outside the reporting period.

Governance

Governance

Executive Leadership Group

The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) has primary responsibility for the governance of NTFES and provides strategic leadership, oversight and decision-making support to the Commissioner. ELG is responsible for guiding organisational performance, managing risk, delivering government priorities and driving continuous improvement across the agency.

ELG supports the Commissioner through strategic planning and decision-making and is responsible for:

- developing and implementing strategic direction
- managing organisational risk
- monitoring, assessing and ensuring performance across NTFES through the delivery of operational and corporate functions.

Membership as at 30 June 2026:

- Andrew Warton, Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer (Chair)
- Keith Fernandez, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Strategy and Performance
- Stephen Sewell AFSM, Chief Fire Officer, NTFRS
- Wayne Snell, Chief Officer, NTES
- Andrew Thomas, Executive Director, BFNT
- Paul Kelly, Chief Financial Officer
- Nikki Pearse, Workforce Business Partner (DCDD)
- Director, Strategy and Performance (rotating membership)

ELG met eight times during 2025-26.

Corporate governance framework

NTFES maintained its Corporate Governance Framework during 2025-26 to support effective leadership, accountability, risk management, decision-making and organisational performance across the agency.

The ELG provides strategic direction and oversight of agency priorities and is supported by a number of governance committees, including:

- Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARC)
- Work Health and Safety representative committees
- Strategic Human Resource Committee (SHRC)

The framework is supported by agency plans, policies, procedures and delegations that guide decision-making, ensure compliance with legislative and policy requirements, and promote accountability, transparency and continuous improvement.

The Corporate Governance Framework is founded on six principles:

- Leadership and Accountability
- Ethics and Culture
- Risk Management
- Performance
- Continuous Improvement
- Collaboration

Together, these arrangements support effective governance and help ensure NTFES delivers its functions in accordance with community expectations, government priorities and legislative requirements.

Risk management framework

NTFES maintains a Risk Management Framework as a key component of its corporate governance arrangements and in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1995* and Treasurer's Directions.

The framework supports the identification and management of strategic and operational risks and aligns with the International Standard on Risk Management (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018). It provides a consistent approach to risk management across agency activities, including strategic planning, project management, program delivery and operational decision-making.

Accountabilities

NTFES is required to comply with the *Financial Management Act 1995*, *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993*, *Procurement Act 1995* and other legislation, such as the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011*.

Employees are informed of governance requirements and legislative obligations through induction programs, mandatory training and regular internal communications.

Internal controls

NTFES maintains a range of internal controls, including policies and procedures relating to conflicts of interest, gifts and benefits, and fraud prevention and reporting.

Delegations

The Commissioner delegates specific functions and decision-making authorities to authorised employees in accordance with relevant legislation.

Policies and procedures

NTFES has implemented policies, systems, procedures and templates in accordance with relevant legislative requirements, the Code of Conduct and governance requirements.

These documents support consistent decision-making, accountability and compliance across the agency, while ensuring appropriate approvals and records management practices are maintained.

Independent Commissioner Against Corruption and Mandatory Reporting

Employees are expected to uphold the highest standards of integrity and professionalism and to meet their obligations as public officers under the *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2017*.

All employees are required to complete mandatory training that outlines the role of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC), the requirements of the ICAC Act and their reporting obligations in relation to improper conduct.

Accounting and Property Manual

In accordance with the *FMA*, NTFES finalised an Accounting and Property Manual which specifies finance procedures and control measures.

Conflict of Interest

Employees are required to disclose any real or perceived conflicts of interest or declare that no conflict exists. Declarations are completed on commencement, annually thereafter, and whenever an employee's circumstances change.

Code of Conduct and Appropriate Behaviour

Employees are required to complete mandatory Code of Conduct and Appropriate Behaviour training within three months of commencement, with refresher training completed every three years.

The training reinforces expectations relating to professional conduct, integrity, ethical behaviour and accountability.

Gifts and benefits

Employees must ensure decisions are made ethically and without influence from personal interests or benefits received. In accordance with the *PSEMA* Code of Conduct and the NTFES Gifts and Benefits Policy, all gifts and benefits must be declared and managed appropriately.

Outside employment

In accordance with the *PSEMA* Code of Conduct, employees must obtain written approval from the Commissioner or delegate before undertaking outside employment. Employees are also required to submit a conflict of interest declaration as part of the application process.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is a standing sub-committee of the Executive Leadership Group that provides independent assurance and advice to the Commissioner regarding governance, risk management, internal controls and audit functions. The committee supports compliance with the *FMA*, Treasurer's Directions and the *Audit Act 1995*.

ARC provides:

- independent assurance and advice on the effectiveness of risk management, internal controls and internal and external audit functions
- oversight of key governance and compliance activities, including fraud and improper conduct, conflicts of interest, outside employment, and gifts and benefits reporting
- support to the Commissioner in meeting legislative and accountability obligations
- regular reporting on the status of audit, risk management and internal controls across the agency.

Membership as at 30 June 2026:

- Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Strategy and Performance (chair)
- Chief Officer, NTES (proxy chair)
- Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Strategy and Capability, NTFRS
- Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Territory Operations, NTFRS
- Director Engagement and Business Support, BFNT
- Chief Financial Officer
- External member – Director, Resolution Unit, Department of Education and Training.

The ARC met four times during 2025-26 and monitored progress against agreed audit recommendations and mitigation actions.

Audits conducted in 2025-26 are listed on the following page with their outcome or progress detailed.

Audits conducted in 2025-26

Internal Audit	Focus	Outcome	Mitigation
Office Travel	Compliance with NT Government policies relating to official travel	Non-compliance with elements of the travel policy framework was identified, highlighting opportunities to strengthen administrative controls, documentation and policy compliance.	• Strengthen Documentation Requirements • Improve Approval Timeframe Compliance • Delegate Authority Controls • Travel Allowance & Cost Controls • Accountability & Training • Monitoring & Reporting • Centralisation of travel in FES
Corporate Credit Card	Review of compliance with NT Government and NTFES policies relating to purchase of goods and services with a corporate credit card.	Instances of non-compliance and process inconsistencies were identified, highlighting opportunities to strengthen awareness, training and system controls.	• Targeted education and awareness to reinforce the use of pre-approvals, templates and policies. • Bi-annual reviews of delegations to ensure alignment with organisational structure and current delegations. • Regular reporting on leave arrangements, with respective credit card limits being updated to zero for that period.
Value for Territory (Procurement) Audit	Analysis of employee actions during processes to procure goods and services on behalf of the agency.	Underway	

Strategic Human Resource Committee

The Strategic Human Resource Committee (SHRC) is a standing sub-committee of the ELG that provides strategic oversight of workforce planning, people management and workforce-related risks across NTFES. The committee supports compliance with the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993* and oversees workforce initiatives aligned with agency priorities.

The committee is responsible for:

- monitoring workforce planning, leadership development and succession planning initiatives
- overseeing recruitment and workforce strategies to support organisational capability and performance
- supporting employee development, mobility and retention initiatives
- providing strategic oversight of workforce-related matters, including employee relations, workforce risks and compliance requirements
- strengthening leadership and people management capability across the agency
- supporting continuous improvement in human resource services delivered through the shared services arrangement with the Department of Corporate and Digital Development.

Membership as at 30 June 2026

- Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Strategy and Performance (Chair)
- Chief Fire Officer, NTFRS
- Chief Officer, NTES (Proxy Chair)
- Executive Director, BFNT
- Chief Financial Officer
- Director, Strategic Services
- Workforce Business Partner, DCDD
- DCDD Workforce Services Support Officer (Secretariat)

SHRC met monthly and convened 12 times during 2025-26.

Employment instructions

Under the *PSEMA*, Employment Instructions provide direction to agencies on the management of human resource matters. NTFES complies with these requirements through policies, procedures, training and workforce management practices. Performance against each Employment Instruction during 2025-26 is outlined on the following page.

Employment Instructions during 2025-26

	Employment instruction	Action
1	Filling vacancies	Recruitment and establishment procedures are available online. The SHRC consider all requests for the establishment of positions and recruitment to vacant positions and make recommendations to the delegate.
2	Probation	NTFES' probation procedures are aligned with legislative requirements and supported through NTG Central resources. New employees selected for ongoing appointment are advised of the probation process during their individual induction and provided with information relating to workplace expectations and their duties and responsibilities. Probation is managed by NTFES with the support of DCDD Workforce Services and via the online portal with managers being advised of upcoming probation due dates to ensure timely compliance.
3	Natural justice	The principles of natural justice are applied and adhered to when dealing with employees in all situations. Principles of natural justice are reflected in agency policies, procedures and employee management practices.
4	Employee management	NTFES utilises the Enterprise Framework online MyPerformance tool and the MyCareer performance tool to capture employment management and performance plans.
5	Medical examinations	Advice is provided to managers as required with the support of DCDD Workforce Services case managers. In 2025-26, 0.24% of employees undertook a medical examination or assessment for fitness for duty for inability.
6	Performance and inability	The performance and inability guidelines are available online. DCDD Workforce Services case managers support managers dealing with performance issues (including attendance concerns) and help managers and employees to improve performance.
7	Discipline	NTFES applies the Discipline Employment Instruction and associated guidelines when managing disciplinary matters. DCDD Workforce Services case managers support managers to ensure processes are followed correctly and natural justice is provided.
8	Internal agency complaints and section 59 grievance reviews	NTFES makes available to all employees a Complaints Management Policy, in addition to other resources on NTG Central that support the management and resolution of complaints. Access to the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment process in relation to section 59 grievance reviews is also available via their website. During 2025-26: 10 complaint matters were lodged for internal review and 6 complaint matters were finalised.
9	Employment records	Employment records are maintained by DCDD in accordance with relevant policies and legislative requirements. There were five requests to access employee information lodged under the *Information Act 2002* during 2025-26.
10	Equality of employment opportunity programs	NTFES continues to support equitable employment opportunities through implementation of the NTPS EmployAbility Strategy.
11	Occupational health and safety programs	NTFES is implementing a refreshed WHS Framework to suit its new agency structure which aligns and standardises our operational WHS procedures and ensures legislative compliance and meets the requirements of Employment Instruction 11.
12	Code of Conduct	The Code of Conduct is available online. The OneNTG Online Code of Conduct training is mandatory, and all employees are required to complete the training within the first three months of commencing and refresh their knowledge every three years.
13	Appropriate workplace behaviours	All employees can access documentation online to assist them to address inappropriate behaviour in the workplace. During the reporting period, the OneNTG Appropriate Workplace Behaviours training was replaced by Creating Respectful Workplaces training. Completion of the training is mandatory for all employees, with refresher training required every three years.
14	Redeployment and redundancy procedures	NTFES adheres to the redeployment and redundancy provisions. There were no voluntary redundancies during 2025-26.
15	Special measures	NTFES adhered to the whole of government Special Measures Recruitment Plan during 2025-26.

Statutory boards and committees

NTFES provides administrative support to a range of statutory bodies, advisory committees and emergency management governance groups that support bushfire management, emergency planning and operational coordination across the Northern Territory.

Statutory Body or Committee	Purpose
The Bushfires Council NT	Advises the Minister on measures to prevent, mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires across the Northern Territory.
Alice Springs Regional Bushfires Committee	The Committee advises the Bushfires Council on measures to be taken to mitigate, manage and supress bushfires in the Alice Springs Fire Management Zone.
Arnhem Regional Bushfires Committee	The Committee advises the Bushfires Council on measures to be taken to mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires in the Arnhem Fire Management Zone.
Barkly Regional Bushfires Committee	The Committee advises the Bushfires Council on measures to be taken to mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires in the Barkly Fire Management Zone.
Savanna Regional Bushfires Committee	The Committee advises the Bushfires Council on measures to be taken to mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires in the Savanna Fire Management Zone.
Vernon Arafura Regional Bushfires Committee	The Committee advises the Bushfires Council on measures to be taken to mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires in the Vernon Arafura Fire Management Zone.
Territory Emergency Management Council	Provides strategic oversight of emergency management across the Northern Territory, including preparedness, response and recovery activities. The Council advises and assists the Territory Controller and Territory Recovery Coordinator and supports service continuity during emergencies.
Senior Officers Group	The Senior Officers Group supports the Territory Emergency Management Council through policy development, actioning referrals, stakeholder engagement and the coordination of emergency management initiatives.
Regional Emergency Committees	The Northern and Southern Regional Emergency Management Committees support regional emergency management planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities.
Local Emergency Management Committees	The 46 Local Emergency Management Committees support local emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities. They provide a forum for government agencies, local government, organisations and community representatives to strengthen local resilience and community safety.

Interagency and interjurisdictional collaboration

NTFES representatives participate in a range of interagency and interjurisdictional forums that support collaboration, knowledge sharing and continuous improvement across the fire and emergency management sector. Participation in these groups enables the agency to contribute to national policy and practice while building capability through the sharing of expertise, innovation and lessons learned.

National Emergency Management Agency

NEMA plays a national leadership role in emergency management, supporting jurisdictions to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters and emergencies. NTFES works closely with NEMA on emergency management, disaster resilience and recovery initiatives that benefit the Northern Territory.

National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting

The National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM) brings together emergency management ministers from all Australian jurisdictions to drive national collaboration, consistency and strategic leadership in emergency management, disaster resilience and recovery. The forum considers emerging issues of national significance and cross-jurisdictional challenges that require coordinated approaches across governments and sectors.

The Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, supported by the Commissioner and a senior Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) official, represents the Northern Territory on this forum.

Australian and New Zealand Emergency Management Committee

ANZEMC supports NEMMM by providing national and trans-Tasman leadership across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities. The committee assists in identifying emerging risks, progressing national priorities and strengthening resilience and disaster risk reduction initiatives.

The Northern Territory is represented on ANZEMC by the Commissioner (lead NT representative) and a senior CM&C official, supported by the Chief Officer, NTES.

Australian and New Zealand Council for Fire and Emergency Services

The Australian and New Zealand Council for Fire and Emergency Services (AFAC) supports collaboration and knowledge sharing across the fire and emergency services sector through a range of councils, committees, technical groups and communities of practice. Participation in these forums enables NTFES personnel to contribute to national policy, doctrine, capability development and sector-wide initiatives while sharing operational and technical expertise.

NTFES is represented across a range of AFAC forums by personnel from operational and corporate areas of the agency.

Territory Emergency Management Council

TEMC provides strategic leadership and oversight of emergency management arrangements across the Northern Territory, including preparedness, response and recovery activities. Membership includes the Commissioner of Police, the Commissioner of NTFES, the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of the Chief Minister as the Territory Recovery Coordinator, and chief executives of agencies with significant emergency management responsibilities.

The Chief Officer NTES is the Executive Officer to TEMC, with the Chief Fire Officer NTFRS also representing NTFES on TEMC. The Chief Officer NTES and the Commssioner NTFES represent NTFES on the council.

North Australian Fire Managers

The North Australia Fire Managers Forum brings together fire and land management representatives from across northern Australia to share knowledge, address common challenges and strengthen collaboration. The Director Capability, BFNT represents NTFES at this forum.

Other key external committees and forums

The Chief Officer NTES chairs and represents NTFES at these meetings.

- AFAC Commissioner and Chief Officers Strategic Committee meeting
- AFAC Council
- AFAC Resource Managers Group
- Australian Bravery Decorations Council
- Australian Council of State Emergency Services
- Hazard Insurance Partnership
- Hazard Services Forum - BoM
- National Coordination Mechanism - NEMA
- NEMA Joint Strategic Steering Group
- Nuclear Powered Warships Planning Committee
- NT Fuel Emergency Advisory Committee

Finance

This chapter reports NTFES' financial responsibilities including the preparation of our financial statements.

Northern Territory
Auditor-General's Office

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Commissioner

Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Service

Report on the audit of the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2026

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of the Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Service (the Agency), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2026, and the comprehensive operating statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the declaration by the Commissioner as the Accountable Officer.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Agency as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance, cash flows and changes in equity for the year then ended
- is in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1995* and Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with 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 Agency in accordance with the ethical requirements of the APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* issued by the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. My authorised auditors and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. My independence is further established by the *Audit Act 1995*.

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

My audit is not designed to provide assurance on the accuracy and appropriateness of the budget information in the Agency's financial report.

Other matter

The Agency's financial report for the year ended 30 June 2025 was not audited and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on the comparative information in respect of that year.

Other information

The Accountable Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the financial statement overview but does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon, which I obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, and the Agency's annual report which is expected to be made available to me after that date.

My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, I consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or the knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard. When I read the annual report, if I conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, I am required to communicate the matter to the Accountable Officer.

Responsibilities of the Accountable Officer for the financial report

The Accountable Officer is responsible for the preparation and the fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Financial Management Act 1995* and for such internal control as the Accountable Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Accountable Officer is responsible for assessing the Agency's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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 the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the 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 Agency's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Officer.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Officer'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 Agency'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 my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report however future events or conditions may cause the Agency 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.

I communicate with the Accountable Officer regarding, 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 my audit.

Jara K Dean
Auditor-General
Darwin, Northern Territory
31 August 2026

Financial statement overview

for the year ended 30 June 2026

This section of the report provides an analysis of the financial outcome of Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Service (NTFES) for the year ended 30 June 2026.

NTFES' financial performance is reported in three financial statements: the Operating Statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement. These statements are enhanced by the inclusion of the Statement of Changes in Equity. The statements and accompanying notes have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the relevant Australian Accounting Standards. The financial statements include financial data from the 2025-26 and 2024-25 financial years.

Budgets and performance are reported by output. Details of NTFES' financial performance by output group are provided at Note 4 to the financial statements.

Operating Statement

The Operating Statement provides information on NTFES' income and expenses during the year. The net surplus or deficit is derived by subtracting expenses from income.

Northern Territory Government agencies are generally budgeted to record a deficit. This is mainly due to the recording of depreciation as an operating expense for which there is no corresponding revenue line; approvals to expend revenues received in a different financial year will also produce an operating deficit.

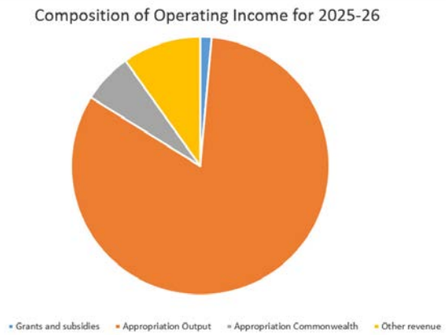
For the year ended 30 June 2026, NTFES recorded a deficit of $17.2M, a deterioration of $10.1M on the final estimated deficit of $7.1M largely due to expenditure side deterioration for employee and supporting administrative expenses.

Total expenditure is lower than the last financial year, which is positive, albeit due to lower disaster recovery related and staffing costs. NTFES did not receive any end-of year Treasurer's Advance budget, which would have significantly reduced the deficit outcome above otherwise.

Operating Statement as at 30 June 2026

	Final Estimate	Actual	Variance	Variance
	$000	$000	$000	%
Income				
Grants and subsidies revenue	1 154	1 158	4	0
Appropriation				
Output	67 312	67 312	0	0
Commonwealth	4 537	5 110	573	13
Other revenue	8 507	8 020	- 487	- 6
TOTAL INCOME	**81 510**	**81 600**	**90**	**0**
Expenses				
Employee expenses	55 681	62 397	6 716	12
Administrative expenses	30 870	34 781	3 911	13
Grant and subsidies revenue	2 060	1 628	-432	-21
TOTAL EXPENSES	**88 611**	**98 806**	**10 195**	**12**
NET SURPLUS (+) / DEFICIT (-)	**-7 101**	**- 17 206**	**- 10 105**	

Operating Income



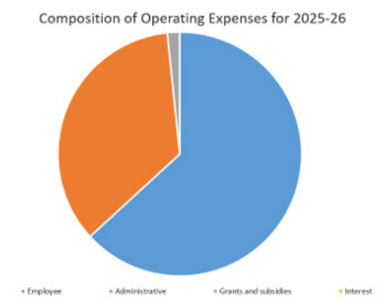
Income is received from a variety of sources with the primary funding source being Parliamentary Appropriation (Output Appropriation) at 82%, followed by other revenue at 10%, Commonwealth payments for National Partnership Agreements at 6%, and grants and subsidies at 1% as outlined in the graph above.

Compared to the 2025-26 final estimate, an increase in operating income was realised, albeit marginally higher, with the major variation relating to the Disaster Ready Fund round 3 payment (unbudgeted) from the Commonwealth offset by lower recognition of Northern Territory Government agencies' shared services provided.

Shared services provided is an accounting recognition only (no cash impact) of services provided to the agency by the Department of Corporate and Digital Development, the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure and the Northern Territory Police Force. Shared services revenue recognition is mirrored in the Operating Expenses and effectively nets to zero.

Operating Expenses

NTFES operating activity and expenditure is primarily weighted toward our most valuable resource, our people, with employee expenses at 63%, followed by administrative and logistical support expenses at 35% and a minor amount for grants at subsidies at 2% as outlined in the graph below.



Compared to the 2025-26 final estimate, an operating expense overspend of $10.1M (12%) was recorded largely due to expenditure side deterioration for employee and supporting administrative expenses.

The lower recognition of shared services provided outlined in the Operating Income section resulted in lower expenditure recognition, and consequently masked the impact within Operating Expenses. When the shared services component is removed, both budgeted and actual expenditure, the agency's operating expenses were $11.98M above budget resulting in declining cash balances.

NTFES received an end-of-year equity injection of $12M to cover this shortfall.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet provides information about the Agency's equity or net worth at the end of each reporting period. It is the net effect of assets minus liabilities.

NTFES' net assets increased through a building and land asset revaluation conducted in the Katherine region. Assets largely consist of building, land and capital equipment, particularly fire appliances and other emergency response vehicles and emergency preparedness items.

Liabilities were marginally lower overall than the prior year and largely consist of payables to companies for services received, employee provisions such as recreation leave and other entitlements and Disaster Ready Fund commitments.

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the flows of cash receipts and payments for the year, excluding all non-cash items associated with the Operating Statement such as accounting accruals and depreciation.

The final cash balance at the end of the year was $1.6M reflecting changes to net cash flows from Operating Activities above, net cash flows from Investing Activities which largely represents capital equipment vehicle purchases and sales, and net cash flows from Financing Activities which includes both the NTG Capital Appropriation for capital equipment purchases ($4.5M) and a one-off end of year equity injection ($12M) to maintain a positive cash balance.

NORTHERN TERRITORY FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Certification of the financial statements

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services have been prepared based on proper accounts and records in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and with the requirements as prescribed in the *Financial Management Act 1995* and Treasurer's Directions.

We further state that the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position on that date.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.

Andrew Warton
Accountable Officer
31 August 2026

Paul Kelly
Chief Finance Officer
31 August 2026

Comprehensive Operating Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026	2025 Restated*
		$000	$000
Income			
Grants and subsidies revenue	5		
Current		1,158	990
Appropriation	6		
Output		67,312	67,455
Commonwealth (excluding capital appropriation)		5,110	4,179
Sales of goods and services	7	1,963	2,172
Goods and services received free of charge[1]	8	5,325	3,979
Gain / (Loss) on disposal of assets	9	175	(130)
Other income	10	557	249
TOTAL INCOME*		**81,600**	**78,894**
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	11	62,397	64,705
Administrative expenses			
Property management		2,085	1,967
Purchases of goods and services	12	20,117	22,645
Depreciation and amortisation	18,19	6,829	6,160
Other administrative expenses[2]		5,750	3,978
Grants and subsidies expenses			
Current	13a	610	1,174
Capital	13b	1,018	-
TOTAL EXPENSES*		**98,805**	**100,630**
NET SURPLUS (+) / DEFICIT (-)		**(17,205)**	**(21,736)**
Other Compreshensive Income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/(defecit)			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		6,401	2,218
TOTAL EXPENSES*		**6,401**	**2,218**
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT*		**(10,804)**	**(19,518)**

[1] Includes DCDD service charges and DLI repairs and maintenance service charges.

[2] Includes DCDD service charges and DLI repairs and maintenance service charges, assets revaluation / impairment losses and write offs, assets donated and gifted, and doubtful / bad debt expenses.

* Refer to Note 3a for detailed information regarding the restatement of comparative figures.

The comprehensive operating statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Balance Sheet
as at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026	2025 Restated*	1 July 2024 Restated*
		$000	$000	$000
Assets				
Current assets				
Cash and deposits	15	1,623	2,265	4,841
Receivables	17	1,195	1,305	911
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		**2,818**	**3,570**	**5,752**
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	18, 24	142,503	136,472	114,112
Intangibles	19	103	93	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		**142,607**	**136,565**	**114,112**
TOTAL ASSETS		**145,424**	**140,135**	**119,864**
Liabilities				
Current liabilities				
Payables	20	2,878	3,045	7,248
Provisions	21	14,861	15,532	9,783
Other liabilities	22	3,596	4,170	4,034
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		**21,336**	**22,747**	**21,065**
Non-current liabilities				
Other liabilities		-	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		**-**	**-**	**-**
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**21,336**	**22,747**	**21,065**
NET ASSETS		**124,088**	**117,388**	**98,798**
Equity				
Capital		173,337	155,833	117,725
Reserves		9,251	2,850	632
Accumulated funds		(58,500)	(41,295)	(19,559)
TOTAL EQUITY		**124,088**	**117,388**	**98,798**

* Refer to Note 3a for detailed information regarding the restatement of comparative figures.

The balance sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Statement of changes in equity
for the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	Equity at 1 July	Comprehensive result	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	Equity at 30 June
		$000	$000	$000	$000
2026					
Accumulated funds		(41,295)	(17,205)	-	(58,500)
Reserves		2,850	6,401	-	9,251
Capital – transactions with owners					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		11,659	-	4,462	16,121
Equity transfers in		136,094	-	2,818	138,912
Other equity injections		20,377	-	12,000	32,377
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		(10,626)	-	-	(10,626)
Equity transfers out		(1,672)	-	(1,775)	(3,447)
		155,833	-	17,505	173,337
TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR		**117,388**	**(10,804)**	**17,505**	**124,088**

	Note	Equity at 1 July	Comprehensive result	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	Equity at 30 June
		Restated*			Restated*
		$000	$000	$000	$000
2025					
Accumulated funds as previously reported		(18,125)	(21,983)	-	(40,107)
Impact of restatement*		(1,434)	247	-	(1,187)
		(19,559)	(21,736)	-	(41,295)
Reserves		632	2,218	-	2,850
Capital – transactions with owners					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		3,505	-	8,154	11,659
Equity transfers in		115,100	-	20,995	136,094
Other equity injections		8,313	-	12,064	20,377
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		(9,168)	-	(1,457)	(10,626)
Equity transfers out		(24)	-	(1,648)	(1,672)
		117,725	-	38,107	155,833
TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR		**98,798**	**(19,518)**	**38,107**	**117,388**

* Refer to Note 3a for detailed information regarding the restatement of comparative figures.

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Statement of changes in equity continued.

for the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	Equity at 1 July	Comprehensive result Restated*	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	Equity at 30 June Restated*
		$000	$000	$000	$000
2024					
Accumulated funds as previously reported		-	(18,125)	-	(18,125)
Impact of restatement*		-	(1,434)	-	(1,434)
		-	(19,559)	-	(19,559)
Reserves		-	632	-	632
Capital – transactions with owners					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		-	-	3,505	3,505
Equity transfers in		-	-	115,100	115,100
Other equity injections		-	-	8,313	8,313
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		-	-	(9,168)	(9,168)
Equity transfers out		-	-	(24)	(24)
		-	-	117,725	117,725
TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR		**-**	**(18,927)**	**117,725**	**98,798**

* Refer to Note 3a for detailed information regarding the restatement of comparative figures.

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026	2025
		$000	$000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Operating receipts			
Grants and subsidies received	5		
Current		1,158	990
Appropriation received	6		
Output		67,312	67,455
Commonwealth (excluding capital appropriation)		4,536	4,314
Receipts from sales of goods and services		4,497	3,565
TOTAL OPERATING RECEIPTS		**77,503**	**76,325**
Operating payments			
Payments to employees		(62,437)	(58,559)
Payments for goods and services		(24,919)	(30,729)
Grants and subsidies paid			
Current		(610)	(1,174)
Capital		(1,018)	-
TOTAL OPERATING PAYMENTS		**(88,984)**	**(90,462)**
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	**16**	**(11,481)**	**(14,137)**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Investing receipts			
Proceeds from sales of non-financial assets	9	388	638
TOTAL INVESTING RECEIPTS		**388**	**638**
Investing payments			
Purchases of non-financial assets		(6,012)	(7,837)
TOTAL INVESTING PAYMENTS		**(6,012)**	**(7,837)**
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES		**(5,624)**	**(7,199)**
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Financing receipts			
Equity injections			
Capital appropriation	6	4,462	8,154
Other equity injections		12,000	12,064
TOTAL FINANCING RECEIPTS		**16,462**	**20,218**
Financing payments			
Equity withdrawals		-	1,457
TOTAL FINANCING PAYMENTS		**-**	**1,457**
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES		**16,462**	**18,761**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(642)	(2,575)
Cash at beginning of financial year		2,265	4,841
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	**15**	**1,623**	**2,265**

The cash flow statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Index of notes to the financial statements

	Note
1	Objectives and funding
2	Material accounting policy information
3	Restatement of comparatives
3a	Disaster Ready Fund Income Recognition - Restatement
3b	Restatement of Disclosures
4	Comprehensive operating statement by output group
	Income
5	Grants and subsidies revenue
6	Appropriation
6a	Summary of changes to budget appropriations
7	Sales of goods and services
8	Goods and services received free of charge
9	Gain / (Loss) on disposal of assets
10	Other income
	Expenses
11	Employee benefits expense
12	Purchases of goods and services
13a	Grant expense – Current grants and subsidies
13b	Grant expense – Capital grant
14	Write-offs, postponements, waivers, gifts and ex gratia payments
	Assets
15	Cash and deposits
16	Cash flow reconciliation
17	Receivables
18	Property, plant and equipment
19	Intangibles
	Liabilities
20	Payables
21	Provisions
22	Other liabilities
23	Capital commitments
	Other disclosures
24	Fair value measurement
25	Financial instruments
26	Related parties
27	Contingent liabilities and contingent assets
28	Events subsequent to balance date
29	Schedule of administered Territory items
30	Budgetary information
31	Budgetary information: Administered Territory items

1. Objectives and funding

The Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services (NTFES) is responsible for protecting life, property and the environment, while strengthening community resilience through the delivery of high-quality fire and emergency management services across the Northern Territory's diverse and often challenging geographic environments.

The agency considered primary users of these financial statements and their needs for information and quantitative thresholds to determine which accounting policy information is material and therefore must be disclosed.

The agency is predominantly funded and therefore dependent on the receipt of parliamentary appropriations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the agency controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs. For reporting purposes, outputs delivered by the agency are summarised into several output groups. Note 4 provides summarised financial information in the form of a comprehensive operating statement by output group.

2. Material accounting policy information

a) Statement of compliance

i. Compliance framework

These financial statements are general purpose financial statements and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1995*, related Treasurer's Directions and Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board. The *Financial Management Act 1995* requires the NTFES to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of agency financial statements should include:

1) a certification of the financial statements
2) a comprehensive operating statement
3) a balance sheet
4) a statement of changes in equity
5) a cash flow statement and
6) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

ii. Standards and interpretations effective from 2025-26 financial year

Several amendments and interpretations have been issued that apply to the current reporting period, but are considered to have no or minimal impact on public sector reporting.

iii. Standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

No Australian accounting standards have been adopted early for 2025-26 financial year.

The following new Australian Accounting Standard has been issued but are not yet effective are expected to impact future reporting periods:

AASB 18 Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Statements (AASB 18)

AASB 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements replaces AASB 101 and introduces new presentation and disclosure requirements for income statements, cash flow statements, and management defined performance measures.

The standard is proposed to apply to not for profit public sector entities for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2028 (the 2028–29 financial year for the agency).

AASB 18 would primarily affect the presentation and disclosure of financial information, including the classification of income and expenses, additional subtotals in the operating statement, revised cash flow classifications for interest and dividends, and new disclosures for management defined performance measures. The standard does not affect the recognition or measurement of amounts.

Any changes to presentation of financial statements and disclosures will be incorporated into future Treasurer's Directions on proforma financial statements.

b) Agency and Territory items

The financial statements of NTFES include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the NTFES has control (agency items) and is able to utilise to further its own objectives. Certain items, while managed by the agency, are administered and recorded by the Territory rather than the agency (Territory items). Territory items are recognised and recorded in the Central Holding Authority as discussed below.

Central Holding Authority

The Central Holding Authority is the 'parent body' that represents the government's ownership interest in government-controlled entities.

The Central Holding Authority also records all Territory items, such as income, expenses, assets and liabilities controlled by the government and managed by agencies on behalf of the government. The main Territory item is Territory income, which includes taxation and royalty revenue, Commonwealth general purpose funding (such as GST revenue), fines, and statutory fees and charges.

The Central Holding Authority also holds certain Territory assets not assigned to agencies as well as certain Territory liabilities that are not practical or effective to assign to individual agencies such as unfunded superannuation and long service leave.

The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the agency's financial statements. However, as the agency is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of government, these items have been separately disclosed in Note 29 – Schedule of administered Territory items.

c) Presentation and rounding of amounts

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts of $500 or less being rounded down to zero. Figures in the financial statements and notes may not equate due to rounding.

d) Contributions by and distributions to government

The agency may receive contributions from government where the government is acting as owner of the agency. Conversely, the agency may make distributions to government. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1995* and Treasurer's Directions, certain types of contributions and distributions, including those relating to administrative restructures, have been designated as contributions by, and distributions to, government. These designated contributions and distributions are treated by the agency as adjustments to equity.

The statement of changes in equity provides additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to government.

3. Restatement of comparatives

During the year ended 30 June 2026, NTFES conducted a comprehensive review of funding received under the Commonwealth's Disaster Ready Fund program. This review identified material prior-period adjustment required in the accounting treatment of grant funding, specifically relating to the timing and recognition of income in the financial years ended 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2025.

a) Disaster Ready Fund Income Recognition – Restatement

NTFES previously recognised income from the Disaster Ready Fund based on the milestone payments, as the most conservative measure of when revenue recognition may occur to align with actual progression of projects. However following the reassessment the accounting treatment for each project it was determined that some revenue recognition previously determined to fall within the scope of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers should have been recognised as AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities and vice versa.

Revenue and equity were previously overstated in 2023-24, and understated in 2024-25. Management evaluated the nature and materiality of the accounting treatment and their impact on the financial statements. As a result, comparative figures for the years ended 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2025 have been restated in accordance with AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors.

The Disaster Ready Fund projects this effected includes:

- Enhanced Tri-service communications;
- NT-wide flood data management and storage system;
- National highway flood assessment;
- Building earthquake loading monitoring;
- NTES volunteer community engagement program;
- NT aerodromes resilience assessment;
- Satellite Tri-service communications network; and
- Disaster Ready Fund Round 2 Administration.

Comprehensive Operating Statement 2025

Extract	2025 Previously reported	Restatement	2025 Restated
	$000	$000	$000
Income			
Appropriation			
Commonwealth (excluding capital appropriation)	3,932	247	4,179
TOTAL INCOME	**78,648**	**247**	**78,894**
TOTAL EXPENSES	**100,630**	**-**	**100,630**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**(21,983)**	**247**	**(21,736)**
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	**2,218**	**-**	**2,218**
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	**(19,765)**	**247**	**(19,518)**

Balance Sheet 2025

Extract	2025 Previously reported	Restatement	2025 Restated
	$000	$000	$000
TOTAL ASSETS	**140,135**	**-**	**140,135**
Current liabilities			
Other liabilities	2,982	1,187	4,170
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**21,559**	**1,187**	**22,747**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**21,559**	**1,187**	**22,747**
NET ASSETS	**118,575**	**(1,187)**	**117,388**
Equity			
Accumulated funds	(40,107)	(1,187)	(41,295)
TOTAL EQUITY	**118,575**	**(1,187)**	**117,388**

Balance Sheet 2024

Extract	2024 Previously reported	Restatement	2024 Restated
	$000	$000	$000
TOTAL ASSETS	**5,752**	**-**	**5,752**
Current liabilities			
Other liabilities	2,600	1,434	4,034
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**19,631**	**1,434**	**21,065**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**19,631**	**1,434**	**21,065**
NET ASSETS	**100,233**	**(1,434)**	**98,799**
Equity			
Accumulated funds	(18,125)	(1,434)	(19,599)
TOTAL EQUITY	**124,088**	**117,388**	**98,798**

b) Restatement of Disclosures

Restated figures for 2025 and earlier years occur across the financial statement notes as per below:

- Note 7: Sales of goods and services - 2025 restatement of revenue recognition from contracts with customers and others;
- Note 22: Other liabilities - 2025 restatement of liabilities from Disaster Ready Fund review;
- Note 24: Fair value measurement - 2025 restatement of land assets previously recognised at level 3. NTFES reviewed the fair value hierarchy classification and obtained an assessment from Colliers, the valuer previously engaged to value the land parcels; and
- Note 26d: Related party transactions - 2025 restatement to include funding transfer from the Central Holding Authority to NTFES.

4. Comprehensive operating statement by output group

	Note	Fire and rescue service 2026	Fire and rescue service 2025	Emergency services 2026	Emergency services 2025 Restated*	Bushfires NT 2026	Bushfires NT 2025	Corporate & shared services 2026	Corporate & shared services 2025	Total 2026	Total 2025 Restated*
		$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
Income											
Grants and subsidies revenue	5										
Current		-	-	124	37	1,034	953	-	-	1,158	990
Appropriation	6										
Output		48,444	46,492	4,687	5,331	10,290	13,427	3,891	2,205	67,312	67,455
Commonwealth		3,053	2,936	2,057	1,243	-	-	-	-	5,110	4,179
Sales of goods and services	7	1,283	1,070	-	-	680	1,102	-	-	1,963	2,172
Goods and services received free of charge	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,325	3,979	5,325	3,979
Gain / (Loss) on disposal of assets	9	19	(240)	44	79	24	4	88	27	175	(130)
Other income	10	346	76	82	120	117	52	12	1	557	249
TOTAL INCOME		**53,145**	**50,334**	**6,994**	**6,810**	**12,145**	**15,538**	**9,316**	**6,212**	**81,600**	**78,894**
Expenses											
Employee expenses	11	47,968	51,962	3,107	2,873	6,110	6,238	5,212	3,632	62,397	64,705
Administrative expenses											
Property management		1,640	1,499	193	160	237	292	15	16	2,085	1,967
Purchases of goods and services	12	10,184	9,290	1,285	2,069	7,624	10,502	1,024	784	20,117	22,645
Depreciation and amortisation	18,19	4,520	4,258	468	467	1,423	1,044	418	391	6,829	6,160
Other administrative expenses[1]		200	11	160	-	65	(12)	5,325	3,979	5,750	3,978
Grants and subsidies expenses											
Current	13a	-	-	264	785	346	389	-	-	610	1,174
Capital	13b	-	-	1,018[2]	-	-	-	-	-	1,018	-
TOTAL EXPENSES		**64,512**	**67,021**	**6,495**	**6,354**	**15,805**	**18,453**	**11,994**	**8,802**	**98,806**	**100,630**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		**(11,367)**	**(16,687)**	**499**	**456**	**(3,660)**	**(2,915)**	**(2,678)**	**(2,590)**	**(17,206)**	**(21,736)**

* Refer to Note 3a for detailed information regarding the restatement of comparative figures. NT Emergency Services manage the Disaster Ready Fund.

[1] Includes DCDD service charges and DLI repairs and maintenance service charges, assets revaluation / impairment losses and write offs, assets donated and gifted, and doubtful / bad debt expenses.

[2] This relates to Disaster Ready Fund, which supports emergency services initiatives.

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

	Note	Fire and rescue service 2026	Fire and rescue service 2025	Emergency services 2026	Emergency services 2025 Restated*	Bushfires NT 2026	Bushfires NT 2025	Corporate & shared services 2026	Corporate & shared services 2025	Total 2026	Total 2025 Restated*
		$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
Other Comprehensive Income											
Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/defecit											
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		4,773	(1,663)	1,075	368	552	3,513	-	-	6,401	2,218
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		**4,773**	**(1,663)**	**1,075**	**368**	**552**	**3,513**	**-**	**-**	**6,401**	**2,218**
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		**(6,594)**	**(18,350)**	**1,574**	**824**	**(3,108)**	**598**	**(2,678)**	**(2,590)**	**(10,804)**	**(19,518)**

* Refer to Note 3a for detailed information regarding the restatement of comparative figures. NT Emergency Services manage the Disaster Ready Fund.

[1] Includes DCDD service charges and DLI repairs and maintenance service charges, assets revaluation / impairment losses and write offs, assets donated and gifted, and doubtful / bad debt expenses.

[2] This relates to Disaster Ready Fund, which supports emergency services initiatives.

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

NTFES is predominantly funded by parliamentary appropriations for the provision of outputs. Outputs are the services provided or goods produced by an agency for users external to the agency. They support the delivery of the agency's objectives and/or statutory responsibilities. The above table disaggregates revenue and expenses that enable delivery of services by output group which form part of the balances of the agency.

5. Grants and subsidies revenue

	2026			2025		
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total
Current grants						
National Aerial Firefighting Centre	-	997	997	-	869	869
Others - Territory government	-	161	161	-	121	121
TOTAL GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES REVENUE	**-**	**1,158**	**1,158**	**-**	**990**	**990**

Grants revenue is recognised at fair value, exclusive of GST in accordance with the requirements of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers or AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities, depending on whether the grant agreement is enforceable and includes sufficiently specific performance obligations.

The assessment of whether a performance obligation is sufficiently specific involved the application of significant judgement, based on an analysis of the terms and conditions of grant agreements and relevant supporting documentation (including activity workplans) and where necessary, discussions with relevant stakeholders.

Where an agreement is enforceable and includes sufficiently specific obligations to transfer goods or services to the grantor or a third party beneficiary, income is accounted for under AASB 15. In these cases, funding received in advance is recognised as unearned contract revenue liability, included in Note 22 Other liabilities and recognised as income as, or when, performance obligations are satisfied.

Where grant agreements do not meet criteria above, it is accounted for under AASB 1058 and is recognised upfront on receipt of funding.

The grant revenue relates to the Northern Territory's proportionate reimbursement by the Commonwealth of funding under a national aerial contract. Those categorised as others include emergency planning, digital mapping, and capability building for fire and resilience initiatives.

Grant revenue, passed on from a Territory Government-controlled entity with the exception of the Central Holding Authority, is recognised upfront on receipt, irrespective of which revenue accounting standard it may fall under in accordance with the Treasurer's Direction on Income.

6. Appropriation

Appropriation recorded in the operating statement includes output appropriation and Commonwealth appropriation received for the delivery of services.

	2026			2025 Restated*		
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total
Output	-	67,312	67,312	-	67,455	67,455
Commonwealth	277	4,833	5,110	230	3,949	4,179
TOTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE OPERATING STATEMENT	**277**	**72,145**	**72,422**	**230**	**71,404**	**71,634**

* Refer to Note 3a for detailed information regarding the restatement of comparative figures.

Appropriation recorded in the cashflow statement includes capital appropriation and Commonwealth appropriation received for the delivery of grants and services by the agency.

	2026			2025		
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total	Revenue from contracts with customers	Other	Total
Capital	-	4,462	4,462	-	8,154	8,154
Commonwealth	-	4,536	4,536	-	4,314	4,314
TOTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE CASHFLOW STATEMENT	**-**	**8,998**	**8,998**	**-**	**12,468**	**12,468**

Output appropriation is the operating payment to each agency for the outputs they provide as specified in the *Appropriation Act*. It does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation. Output appropriations do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations and recognised on receipt of funds.

Commonwealth appropriation follows from the intergovernmental agreement on federal financial relations, resulting in specific purpose payments (SPPs) and national partnership (NP) payments being made by the Commonwealth Treasury to state treasuries, in a manner similar to arrangements for GST payments. These payments are received by the Department of Treasury and Finance on behalf of the Central Holding Authority and then passed on to the relevant agencies as Commonwealth appropriation.

Where Commonwealth appropriation received has an enforceable contract with sufficiently specific performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 as revenue from contracts with customers. In this case, revenue is recognised as and when goods and/or services are transferred to the customer or third party beneficiary. Otherwise revenue is recognised when the agency gains control of the funds. NTFES administers Commonwealth-funded programs, including the Fire Protection of Commonwealth Properties Program and the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) Program, which supports disaster resilience and risk reduction initiatives. Funding for both programs is received upfront; however, revenue recognition is assessed in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

Revenue from the Fire Protection of Commonwealth Properties Program is recognised upon receipt, as there are no specific performance obligations attached to the funding. In contrast, funding under the DRF Program is payable to grant recipients only upon the completion of agreed project milestones. During the reporting period, the DRF funding received was reassessed to determine the appropriate revenue recognition treatment. As a result, revenue is recognised in accordance with either AASB 1058, where there are no sufficiently specific performance obligations, or AASB 15, where specific performance obligations exist and are satisfied as those obligations are met. Note 3 provides further details.

Commonwealth appropriations accounted as revenue from contracts with customers have been disaggregated below into categories to enable users of these financial statements to understand the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of income and cash flows. These categories include a description of the type of product or service line, type of customer and timing of transfer of goods and services.

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Type of good and service:		
Service delivery	47	-
Construction services	230	230
TOTAL REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS	**277**	**230**
Type of customer:		
Commonwealth Government	277	230
TOTAL REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS	**277**	**230**
Timing of transfer of goods and services		
Overtime	277	230
TOTAL REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS	**277**	**230**

The above Commonwealth appropriation primarily comprises revenue from the Disaster Ready Fund, which has been recognised as the related performance obligations were satisfied. These obligations mainly included the construction of Foodbank lockers in Katherine to support times of natural disasters and the delivery of Careflight trauma care workshops for emergency first responders in the Northern Territory in accordance with the funding agreement.

a) Summary of changes to budget appropriations

The following table presents changes to budgeted appropriations authorised during the current financial year together with explanations for significant changes. It compares the amounts originally identified in the *Appropriation (2025-26) Act 2025* with revised appropriations as reported in 2026-27 Budget Paper No. 3 Agency Budget Statements and the final end of year appropriation.

The changes within this table relate only to appropriation and do not include agency revenue (for example, goods and services revenue and grants received directly by the agency) or expenditure. Refer to Note 30 Budgetary information for detailed information on variations to the agency's actual outcome compared to budget for revenue and expenses.

	Original 2025-26 budget appropriation	Revised 2025-26 budget appropriation	Change to budget appropriation	Note	Final 2025-25 budget appropriation	Change to budget appropriation	Note
	$000	$000	$000		$000	$000	
Output	67,659	67,312	(347)		67,312	-	
Capital	4,462	4,462	-		4,462	-	
Commonwealth	4,431	4,431	-		4,536	105	
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	**76,552**	**76,205**	**(347)**		**76,310**	**105**	

Output and capital appropriations reflect funding as a direct result of government-approved decisions, with actual funding received by the NTFES in line with the budgeted amounts.

Commonwealth appropriation reflects funding anticipated to be received from the Commonwealth for both operational and capital purposes. As Commonwealth appropriations are largely recognised as or when performance obligations are satisfied, the actual amounts receipted by the NTFES and reported in these financial statements may vary from the budgeted amounts reported in this table.

7. Sales of goods and services

	2026			2025 Restated*		
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
	Revenue from contracts with customers	**Other**	**Total**	**Revenue from contracts with customers**	**Other**	**Total**
Sales of goods and service delivery revenue	1,963	-	1,963	2,172	-	2,172
TOTAL SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES	**1,963**	**-**	**1,963**	**2,172**	**-**	**2,172**

* In 2024-25, sales of goods and services were previously classified as "Other" and have now been reclassified as "Revenue from contracts with customers". This reclassification has no impact on the reported figures.

Sale of goods and service delivery revenue

Sale of goods and service delivery revenue comprise income from rendering of services, and sales of goods and services. These are recognised at fair value, exclusive of GST.

NTFES delivered essential services to the community through a range of activities, including fire alarm response services for the Nhulunbuy and Yulara Corporations, fire mitigation activities such as roadside burning undertaken for the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, and fire management services provided to the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment. An assessment of the associated arrangements determined that there were no enforceable or sufficiently specific obligations requiring future performance.

8. Goods and services received free of charge

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Corporate and information services	3,360	2,248
Repairs and maintenance	1,965	1,731
TOTAL GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE	**5,325**	**3,979**

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Repairs and maintenance expenses incurred on the agency's assets and costs associated with administration of these expenses are centralised in the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure on behalf of the agency, and form part of goods and services received free of charge by the agency.

The following corporate services staff and functions are centralised and provided by Department of Corporate and Digital Development on behalf of the agency and form part of goods and services received free of charge by the agency:

- financial services including accounts receivable, accounts payable and payroll
- employment and workforce services
- information management services
- procurement services
- property leasing services.

The Northern Territory Police Force provides fleet management, supply and procurement services, wellbeing, leased housing, joint emergency services communications centre, college registered training organisation and digital transformation and reform. No charges have been recognised for these services in the financial statements to date.

9. Gain / (Loss) on disposal of assets

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Net proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets	388	638
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed	(216)	(768)
Gain / (Loss) on the disposal of non-current assets	173	(130)
Proceeds from sale of minor assets	2	-
TOTAL GAIN / (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	**175**	**(130)**

10. Other income

	2026			2025		
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
	Revenue from contracts with customers	**Other**	**Total**	**Revenue from contracts with customers**	**Other**	**Total**
Miscellaneous revenue	-	557	557	-	249	249
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	**-**	**557**	**557**	**-**	**249**	**249**

11. Employee benefits expense

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Salaries and wages	53,990	56,187
Superannuation expenses	4,962	5,171
Fringe benefits tax	92	86
Payroll tax	3,353	3,261
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE	**62,397**	**64,705**

The number of full-time equivalent employees for 2025-26 was 385.81 (2024-25: 363.88). Salaries and wages are recognised in the reporting period when the employee renders services to the Territory Government. It includes recreation leave, labour hire costs, allowances and other benefits, which are recognised in the reporting period when employees are entitled to the benefit or when incurred.

The recognition and measurement policy for employee benefits is detailed in Note 20: Payables and Note 21: Provisions.

12. Purchases of goods and services

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
Goods and services expenses:		
Consultants[1]	816	1,001
Advertising[2]	55	26
Marketing and promotion[3]	76	110
Document production	15	14
Legal expenses[4]	217	375
Recruitment[5]	136	165
Training and study	335	491
Official duty fares	4,413	3,077
Travelling allowance	384	406
Information technology charges and communications	2,435	2,544
Motor Vehicle Expenses	2,473	2,627
Other Equipment Expenses	1,985	5,384
Insurance Premiums	1,961	1,904
Clothing	1,045	1,029
Other	3,770	3,491
TOTAL PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES	**20,117**	**22,645**

[1] Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.
[2] Does not include recruitment related advertising or advertising for marketing and promotion.
[3] Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category.
[4] Includes legal fees, claim and settlement costs.
[5] Includes recruitment-related advertising costs.

Purchases of goods and services generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations, including supplies and service costs recognised in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

13. Grant and subsidies expenses

a) Current grant and subsidy expense

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Current Grant		
Private and not-for-profit sector		
Lambell's Lagoon Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Inc	29	-
Labasheeda Park Volunteer Bush fire Brigade Inc	15	-
Livingstone Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Inc	32	-
Manton Volunteer Bushfire Brigade	4	-
Milne Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Inc	17	-
Elizabeth Valley Volunteer Bushfire Brigade	20	-
Dundee Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Inc	22	-
Douglas Daly Volunteer Bushfire Brigade	24	-
Darwin River Volunteer Bushfire Brigade	32	-
Cox Peninsula Volunteer Bushfire Brigade	17	-
Batchelor Adelaide River Tortilla Volunteer Bushfire	42	-
Acacia Hills Volunteer Bushfire Brigade	17	-
Berry Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade	32	-
Edith Farms Volunteers Bushfire Brigade	22	-
Careflight (NSW) Limited	137	-
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	20	-
Foodbank SA and NT	-	230
Other sectors of government		
Charles Darwin University	107	110
Northern Territory Police Force	-	352
Department of Logistics and Infrastructure	-	93
TOTAL CURRENT GRANTS	**590**	**785**
Subsidy		
Other	20	389
TOTAL SUBSIDIES	**20**	**389**
TOTAL CURRENT GRANT AND SUBSIDY EXPENSE	**610**	**1,174**

Current grant expenses are intended to finance the current activities of the recipient for which no economic benefits of equal value are receivable in return. Current grant expense largely comprise the Disaster Ready Fund for resilience and risk reduction programs in the Northern Territory with grants provided to the Bushfires NT volunteer brigades.

Subsidies are payments aimed at reducing all or part of the costs of an activity. They include payments made to the general public to purchase fire mitigation equipment, whose property is in a fire management zone.

Current grant and subsidy expenses are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable, exclusive of the amount of GST.

b) Capital grant expense

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Local Government		
Alice Springs Town Council	15	-
Central Desert Shire Council	535	-
Private and not-for-profit sector		
Foodbank SA and NT	230	-
Other sectors of government		
Department of Lands, Planning and Environment	238	-
TOTAL CAPITAL GRANT EXPENSE	**1,018**	**-**

Capital grant expenses are transfers made to a recipient for the purpose of acquiring, constructing or upgrading a non-financial asset that is to be controlled by a party other than the agency. Capital grant expenses largely comprise of Disaster Ready Fund payment to the Central Desert Regional Council for the purchase of a grader, Foodbank storage lockers and the development of a geospatial infrastructure system to support a holistic flood data management and storage system. Expenses are recognised when the relevant asset has been acquired, constructed, or otherwise brought into service in accordance with the terms of the arrangement.

Capital grant expenses are recognised in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable, exclusive of the amount of GST.

14. Write-offs, postponements, waiver, gifts and ex gratia payments

The following table presents all write-offs, waivers, postponements, gifts and ex gratia payments approved under the *Financial Management Act 1995* or other legislation that the agency administers.

	Agency				Territory Items				
	2026	No. of trans	2025	No. of trans	2026	No. of trans	2025	No. of trans	Note
	$000		$000		$000		$000		
Authorised under the *Financial Management Act 1995*									
Write-offs, postponements and waivers approved by delegates									
Irrecoverable money written off	10	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Value of public property written off	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Postponement of right to receive or recover money or property	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	
TOTAL WRITE-OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS AND WAIVERS APPROVED BY DELEGATES	**13**	**28**	**-**	**-**	**3**	**1**	**-**	**-**	
Gifts approved by the Treasurer	169	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL GIFTS	**169**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	
Ex gratia payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL AUTHORISED UNDER THE *FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT 1995*	**182**	**29**	**-**	**-**	**3**	**1**	**-**	**-**	

Write-off

Write-offs reflect the removal from accounting records the value of public money or public property owing to, or loss sustained by the Territory or agency. It refers to circumstance where the Territory or an agency has made all attempts to pursue the debt, however, is deemed irrecoverable due to reasons beyond the Territory or an agency's control. Write-offs result in no cash outlay and are accounted for under 'Other administrative expenses' in the comprehensive operating statement.

Postponement

A postponement is a deferral of a right to recover public money or receipt of public property from its due date. This has no effect on revenues or expenses recognised but may affect cash inflows or assets in use.

Gifts

A gift is an asset or property, deemed surplus to government's requirements, transferred to a suitable recipient, without receiving any consideration or compensation, and where there is no constructive or legal obligation for the transfer. Gifted property is accounted under 'Other administrative expenses' in the comprehensive operating statement.

15. Cash and deposits

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Cash at bank	1,623	2,265
TOTAL CASH AND DEPOSITS	**1,623**	**2,265**

For the purposes of the balance sheet and the cash flow statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash.

16. Cash flow reconciliation

a) Reconciliation of cash

The total of agency 'Cash and deposits' of $1,623,000 recorded in the balance sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'Cash' in the cash flow statement.

Reconciliation of net surplus/deficit to net cash from operating activities

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Net surplus/deficit	**(17,205)**	**(21,736)**
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	6,829	6,160
Asset write-offs/write-downs[1]	200	20
Asset donations/gifts	169	-
(Gain)/loss on disposal of assets	(173)[2]	130
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	110	(393)
(Decrease)/increase in payables	(167)	(4,202)
(Decrease)/increase in provision for employee benefits	(746)	4,847
(Decrease)/increase in other provisions	75	901
(Decrease)/increase in other liabilities	(574)	136
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	**(11,481)**	**(14,137)**

[1] Includes DLI transferred WIP expenses that did not meet capitalisation standards.

[2] Excludes proceeds from sale of minor assets which is considered as operating activities.

b) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

The Agency has reviewed its financing activities for the financial years ended 30 June 2025 and 30 June 2026 and confirms that no transactions during these periods resulted in liabilities arising from financing activities. Although the Agency received appropriations and equity injections from the Northern Territory government, these transactions increase contributed equity and do not create borrowings or other repayment obligations. As such, they do not give rise to financing liabilities, and no reconciliation is required for either reporting year.

In prior periods, certain equity related movements were presented as financing related liabilities; following reassessment, these items have been correctly identified as equity transactions and are no longer disclosed as financing liabilities.

17. Receivables

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Current		
Accounts receivable	88	1,014
Less: loss allowance	(46)	-
GST receivables	175	277
Prepayments	2	14
Other receivables[1]	976	-
TOTAL RECEIVABLES	**1,195**	**1,305**

[1] Other receivables comprise accrued revenue.

Receivables are initially recognised when the agency becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument and are measured at fair value less any directly attributable transaction costs. Receivables include contract receivables, accounts receivable, accrued contract revenue and other receivables.

Receivables are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairments.

Accounts receivable and contract receivables are generally settled within 30 days and other receivables within 30 days.

The loss allowance reflects lifetime expected credit losses and represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful.

Prepayments

Prepayments represent payments made in advance of receipt of goods and services. Prepayments are recognised on an accrual basis and amortised over the period in which the economic benefits from these assets are received.

Credit risk exposure of receivables

Receivables are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure exposure to bad debts is not significant. The entity applies the simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses. This approach recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime expected credit losses for all accounts receivables, contracts receivables and accrued contract revenue. To measure expected credit losses, receivables have been grouped based on shared risk characteristics and days past due.

The expected loss rates for receivables outstanding overdue for more than 60 days are based on historical observed loss experience, adjusted to reflect current and forward-looking information. Consideration has also been given to correspondence and recovery actions undertaken with debtors, including engagement by the Agency and the DCDD Debt Recovery Team.

In accordance with the provisions of the FMA, receivables are written off when based on demonstrated actions to collect, there is no reasonable expectation of recovery for reasons beyond the agency's control.

The loss allowance for receivables at reporting date represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates is likely to be uncollectible and is considered doubtful. Ageing analysis and reconciliation of loss allowance for receivables as at the reporting date are disclosed below.

Internal receivables reflect amounts owing from entities controlled by the Northern Territory Government such as other agencies, government business divisions and government owned corporations. External receivables reflect amounts owing from third parties which are external to the Northern Territory Government.

Ageing analysis

	2026				2025			
	Gross receivables	Loss rate	Expected credit loss	Net receivables	Gross receivables	Loss rate	Expected credit loss	Net receivables
	$000	%	$000	$000	$000	%	$000	$000
Internal receivables								
Not overdue	-	-	-	-	70	-	-	70
Overdue for less than 30 days	27	-	-	27	6	-	-	6
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Overdue for more than 60 days	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	16
TOTAL INTERNAL RECEIVABLES	**27**	**-**	**-**	**27**	**95**	**-**	**-**	**95**
External receivables								
Not overdue	-	-	-	-	571	-	-	571
Overdue for less than 30 days	-	-	-	-	96	-	-	96
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	-	-	-	45	-	-	45
Overdue for more than 60 days	60	77	(46)	14	207	-	-	207
TOTAL EXTERNAL RECEIVABLES	**60**	**77**	**(46)**	**14**	**919**	**-**	**-**	**919**

Total amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts and prepayments as these do not meet the definition of a financial instrument and therefore will not reconcile the receivables note. It also excludes accrued contract revenue represented by other receivables where no loss allowance has been provided.

Reconciliation of loss allowance for receivables

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
External receivables		
Opening balance	-	9
Written off during the year	-	-
Recovered during the year	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss	46	(9)
TOTAL EXTERNAL RECEIVABLES	**46**	**-**

Reconciliation of carrying amount of property, plant and equipment

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the year is set out below:

2026

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant and equipment	Plant and equipment (work in progress)	Computer Hardware	Transport Equipment	Total
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
Carrying amount as at 1 July	19,655	84,794	191	3,822	6,586	1	21,423	136,472
Additions	-	-	-	219	2,557	-	3,197	5,973
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	(216)	(216)
Additions/(disposals) from asset transfers	1,775	522	155	(642)	-	-	603	2,413
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(3,381)	(12)	(966)	-	(1)	(2,402)	(6,762)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)*	(125)	4,741	9	-	-	-	-	4,626
Impairment losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3)	(3)
CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE	**21,305**	**86,676**	**343**	**2,433**	**9,143**	**-**	**22,602**	**142,503**

* The revaluation surplus disclosed in this note relates solely to asset revaluations conducted during the year. The revaluation surplus movement reported in the Comprehensive Operating Statement also includes assets received from other Northern Territory Government agencies, resulting in a difference between the two figures.

2025

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant and equipment	Plant and equipment (work in progress)	Computer Hardware	Transport Equipment	Total
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
Carrying amount as at 1 July	12,560	82,334	50	2,422	2,984	-	13,761	114,112
Additions	-	-	-	473	3,254	-	3,762	7,489
Disposals	-	-	-	(19)	-	-	(749)	(768)
Additions/(disposals) from administrative restructuring	950	7,768	130	1,786	348	4	2,563	13,549
Additions/(disposals) from asset transfers	-	3,236	-	37	-	-	4,273	7,546
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(3,069)	(5)	(878)	-	(3)	(2,188)	(6,143)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)*	6,145	(5,474)	17	-	-	-	-	688
CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE	**19,655**	**84,794**	**191**	**3,822**	**6,586**	**1**	**21,423**	**136,472**

* The revaluation surplus disclosed in this note relates solely to asset revaluations conducted during the year. The revaluation surplus movement reported in the Comprehensive Operating Statement also includes assets received from other Northern Territory Government agencies, resulting in a difference between the two figures.

i. Acquisitions

Property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost.

Items of property, plant and equipment with a cost or other value, equal to or greater than $10,000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the $10,000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

Major items of plant and equipment comprising a number of components that have different useful lives are accounted for as separate assets. Individual components may be replaced during the useful life of the complex asset.

ii. Revaluation of assets

Subsequent to initial recognition, assets belonging to the following classes of non-financial assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure the carrying amount of these assets does not differ materially from their fair value at reporting date:

- land
- buildings
- infrastructure assets

The above classes of property, plant and equipment include certain new assets initially recognised at cost. Such new assets will continue to be measured at cost, which is deemed to equate to fair value, until the next revaluation for that asset class occurs.

Plant and equipment, Computer Hardware and Transport Equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation, which is deemed to equate to fair value.

The latest revaluations as at 30 June 2026 were independently conducted. The valuer was Colliers International, who revalued Katherine region assets.

iii. Impairment of assets

An asset is said to be impaired when the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Materially significant non-financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment annually. If any indicator of impairment exists, the agency determines the asset's recoverable amount. The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's current replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are recognised in the comprehensive operating statement. They are disclosed as an expense unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the asset revaluation surplus for that class of asset to the extent an available balance exists in the asset revaluation surplus.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Impairment loss may only be reversed if there has been a change in the assumptions used to determine the asset's recoverable amount. The reversal is limited so that the carrying amount of the asset does not exceed the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, nor exceed the net carrying amount that would have been determined had not impairment loss been recognised for the asset in the prior years. Where an asset is carried at a revalued amount, impairment reversal is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement as income to the extent that an impairment loss was previously recognised in the profit or loss, otherwise, impairment reversal results in an increase in the asset revaluation surplus.

Agency property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2026. As a result of this review $3,000 of impairment losses were recognised against Transport equipment due to asset write offs of vehicles stolen from Bushfires NT headquarters during the year. Impairment losses were charged to the expenses.

iv. Depreciation and amortisation

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings but excluding land, have limited useful lives and are depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives. Assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

The estimated useful lives for each class of asset are in accordance with the agency's determination as follows:

	2026	2025
Buildings	15 - 40 years	20 – 50 years
Infrastructure assets	15 - 40 years	10 - 15 years
Plant and equipment	5 - 10 years	1 - 10 years
Computer Hardware	3 - 10 years	3 - 10 years
Transport Equipment	10 - 15 years	10 - 15 years

19. Intangibles

a) Total intangibles

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Intangibles with a finite useful life		
Computer software		
Gross carrying amount	701	623
Less: accumulated amortisation	(598)	(530)
CARRYING AMOUNT AT 30 JUNE	**103**	**93**
TOTAL INTANGIBLES	**103**	**93**

The agency's intangibles primarily comprise of the Bushfire Emergency Management System computer software, which is mainly used for bushfire emergency management command, control and operational coordination activities.

Intangible assets are initially measured at cost. Where an asset is acquired at no or nominal cost, the cost is the fair value as at the date of acquisition.

There is no active market for any of the agency's intangible assets. As such, intangible assets are subsequently recognised and carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Intangibles with limited useful lives are amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, which reflects the pattern of when expected economic benefits are likely to be realised.

The estimated useful lives for finite intangible assets are in accordance with the agency's determination as follows:

	2026	2025
Computer Software	5 - 10 years	5 - 10 years

Intangible assets with finite useful life are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis. If any indicator of impairment exists, the agency determines the asset's recoverable amount. If the recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount is reduced to recoverable amount and the reduction is recognised as an impairment loss.

Agency intangible assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2026. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

b) Reconciliation of carrying amount of intangibles

2026	Computer software	Total
	$000	$000
Intangibles with a finite useful life		
Carrying amount at 1 July	93	93
Additions	39	39
Additions/(disposals) from asset transfers	39	39
Amortisation	(67)	(67)
CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE	**103**	**103**

2025	Computer software	Total
	$000	$000
Intangibles with a finite useful life		
Carrying amount at 1 July	-	-
Additions/(disposals) from administrative restructuring	109	109
Amortisation	(17)	(17)
CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE	**93**	**93**

20. Payables

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Accounts payable	585	807
Accrued salaries and wages	1,752	1,134
Other accrued expenses	542	1,104
Other payables	-	1
TOTAL PAYABLES	**2,878**	**3,045**

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at amortised cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the agency. Accounts payable are normally settled within 20 days from receipt of valid invoices under $1 million or 30 days for invoices over $1 million.

Salaries and wages that are expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the service are recognised and measured at the amounts expected to be paid.

21. Provisions

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Current		
Employee benefits		
Recreation leave	12,210	12,931
Leave loading	227	250
Other employee benefits	7	10
Other current provisions		
Other provisions	2,416	2,341
TOTAL PROVISIONS	**14,861**	**15,532**

Reconciliations of provisions (other than employee benefits)		
Balance at 1 July	2,341	1,440
Additional provisions recognised	2,394	2,593
Reductions arising from payments	(2,319)	(1,692)
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE	**2,416**	**2,341**

Employee benefits

Provision for employee benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. Liabilities arising in respect of recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that fall due within 12 months of reporting date are classified as current liabilities and are measured at amounts expected to be paid. Non-current employee benefit liabilities that fall due after 12 months of the reporting date are measured at present value of estimated future cash flows, calculated using the appropriate government bond rate and taking into consideration expected future salary and wage levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service.

All recreation leave is classified as a current liability.

No provision is made for sick leave, which is non-vesting, as the anticipated pattern of future sick leave to be taken is less than the entitlement accruing in each reporting period.

Employee benefit expenses are recognised on a net basis in respect of the following categories:

- wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits, recreation leave and other leave entitlements
- other types of employee benefits.

As part of the financial management framework, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of government agencies, including NTFES and therefore no long service leave liability is recognised within these financial statements.

22. Other liabilities

	2026	2025 Restated*
	$000	$000
Current		
Unearned contract revenue liability	3,596	4,170
TOTAL OTHER LIABILITIES	**3,596**	**4,170**

* Refer to Note 3a for detailed information regarding the restatement of comparative figures.

Unearned contract revenue liability

Unearned contract revenue liability relate to consideration received in advance from customers for the Disaster Ready Fund for disaster resilience and risk reduction programs in the Northern Territory. Unearned contract revenue liability balances as at 30 June 2026 is $3.596 million (balance at 1 July 2025 was $4.170 million). The unearned revenue is unwound overtime subject to achieving performance obligation or recognised as a revenue upon receipt if there are no performance obligations attached.

Of the amount included in the unearned contract revenue liability balance as at 1 July 2025, $0.574 million has been recognised as revenue in 2025-26 financial year.

The agency anticipates to recognise as revenue, unearned contract revenue liability in accordance with the time bands below:

	2026	2025 Restated*
	$000	$000
Not later than one year	3,596	4,170
TOTAL	**3,596**	**4,170**

* Refer to Note 3a for detailed information regarding the restatement of comparative figures. During 2024-25, the expectation was that the liability would be recognised as revenue beyond a one-year period. This was subsequently revised in the 2025 restatement to "Not later than one year."

Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- Northern Territory Government and Public Authorities Superannuation Scheme (NTGPASS)
- Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS)
- or non-government employee nominated schemes for those employees commencing on or after 10 August 1999.

The agency makes superannuation contributions on behalf of its employees to the Central Holding Authority or non-government employee-nominated schemes. Superannuation liabilities related to government superannuation schemes are held by the Central Holding Authority and therefore not recognised in agency financial statements.

23. Capital commitments

Capital commitments represent future obligations or cash outflows primarily related to the purchase of motor vehicles and equipment that can be reliably measured and arise out of a contractual arrangement and typically binds the agency to performance conditions. Commitments are not recognised as liabilities on the balance sheet.

Commitments may extend over multiple reporting periods and may result in payment of compensation or return of funds if obligations are breached. These contracts are expected to be payable as follows:

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Not later than one year	2,425	1,624
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	314
Later than five years	-	-
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS (EXCLUSIVE OF GST)	**2,425**	**1,938**
Plus: GST recoverable	138	194
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS (INCLUSIVE OF GST)	**2,563**	**2,132**

24. Fair value measurement

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

When measuring fair value, the valuation techniques used maximise the use of relevant observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs are used to the extent that sufficient relevant and reliable observable inputs are not available for similar assets/liabilities.

Observable inputs are publicly available data relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Observable inputs used by the agency include, but are not limited to, published sales data for land and general office buildings.

Unobservable inputs are data, assumptions and judgments not available publicly but relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Such inputs include internal agency adjustments to observable data to take account of particular and potentially unique characteristics/functionality of assets/liabilities and assessments of physical condition and remaining useful life.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the following fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used:

Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3 inputs are unobservable

a) Fair value hierarchy

The agency does not recognise any financial assets or liabilities at fair value as these are recognised at amortised cost. The carrying amounts of these financial assets and liabilities approximates their fair value.

The table below presents non-financial assets recognised at fair value in the balance sheet categorised by levels of inputs used to compute fair value.

	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Total fair value	
	2026	2025	2026	2025 Restated*	2026	2025 Restated*	2026	2025
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
Assets								
Land (Note 18)	-	-	13,740	12,550	7,565	7,105	21,305	19,655
Buildings (Note 18)	-	-	-	-	86,676	84,794	86,676	84,794
Infrastructure (Note 18)	-	-	-	-	343	191	343	191
TOTAL ASSETS	**-**	**-**	**13,740**	**12,550**	**94,584**	**92,090**	**108,324**	**104,640**

* NTFES reviewed the fair value hierarchy classification and obtained an assessment from Colliers, the valuer previously engaged to value the land parcels. Based on this review, it was determined that the land parcels in the Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs regions classified as Level 3 in the 2024-25 financial year were more appropriately classified as Level 2 and should have been disclosed accordingly. Katherine region has also been assessed with some land assets categorised as Level 2 in 2025-26. This reclassification had no impact on the total reported value of land holdings and affected only the fair value hierarchy disclosure.

b) Valuation techniques and inputs

Valuation techniques and significant unobservable inputs used to measure fair value in 2025-26 are:

Asset classes	Level	Techniques	Significant unobservable inputs
Land – vacant land	2	Market	n/a
Specialised Land – with no active markets and/or significant restrictions	3	Market	Valuer assessment on restrictions
Specialised buildings	3	Current or depreciated replacement cost	1. Construction costs or cost per square metre 2. Age and condition of asset 3. Remaining useful life
Infrastructure	3	Current or depreciated replacement	1. Labour and material costs to replace 2. Useful life of components

Colliers International provided valuations for the land, buildings and infrastructure assets for NTFES Katherine region, in which the assumptions below were adopted.

Level 2 fair values of land and buildings were based on market evidence of sales price per square metre of comparable land.

Level 3 fair values of specialised buildings and infrastructure were determined by computing their current or depreciated replacement costs because an active market does not exist for such facilities. The current replacement cost was based on a combination of internal records of the historical cost of the facilities, adjusted for contemporary technology and construction approaches. Significant judgement was also used in assessing the remaining service potential of the facilities, given local environmental conditions, projected usage, and records of the current condition of the facilities.

c) Additional information for level 3 fair value measurements

(i) Reconciliation of recurring level 3 fair value measurements of non financial assets

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Total
	$000	$000	$000	$000
2026				
Fair value as at 1 July	7,105	84,794	191	92,090
Transfers in/out	1,775	522	155	2,452
Depreciation/amortisation	-	(3,381)	(12)	(3,393)
Transfers to Level 2	(1,190)	-	-	(1,190)
Gains/(losses) recognised in other comprehensive income	(125)	4,741	9	4,625
FAIR VALUE AS AT 30 JUNE	**7,565**	**86,676**	**343**	**94,584**
2025 Restated*				
Fair value as at 1 July	12,560	82,334	50	94,944
Transfers in/out	950	11,004	130	12,084
Depreciation/amortisation	-	(3,069)	(5)	(3,074)
Transfer to Level 2	(12,550)	-	-	(12,550)
Gains/(losses) recognised in other comprehensive income	6,145	(5,474)	17	688
FAIR VALUE AS AT 30 JUNE	**7,105**	**84,794**	**191**	**92,090**

* NTFES reviewed the fair value hierarchy classification and obtained an assessment from Colliers, the valuer previously engaged to value the land parcels. Based on this review, it was determined that the land parcels in the Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs regions classified as Level 3 in the 2024-25 financial year were more appropriately classified as Level 2 and should have been disclosed accordingly. Katherine region has also been assessed with some land assets categorised as Level 2 in 2025-26. This reclassification had no impact on the total reported value of land holdings and affected only the fair value hierarchy disclosure.

(ii) Sensitivity analysis

Land - observable market data from comparable land sales and adjusted for property-specific factors used in computing the fair value of land. Given the nature of the valuation methodology and the limited unobservable inputs, it is not practical to compute a relevant summary measure for those inputs. In respect of sensitivity to changes in input values, higher market rates adopted from comparable sales would result in a higher fair value, while lower market rates would reduce the fair value. Management does not consider reasonably possible changes in these inputs to have a material impact on the reported fair value.

Buildings and infrastructure – unobservable inputs used in computing the fair value of buildings include the historical cost and the consumed economic benefit for each building. Given the large number of agency buildings, it is not practical to compute a relevant summary measure for the unobservable inputs. In respect of sensitivity of fair value to changes in input value, a higher historical cost results in a higher fair value and greater consumption of economic benefit lowers fair value.

25. Financial instruments

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

The agency's financial instruments include cash and deposits; receivables; and payables. These items represent non-complex and standard financial instruments, with limited or no exposure to credit, market or liquidity risks.

a) Categories of financial instruments

The carrying amounts of the agency's financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below.

	Category	2026	2025
		$000	$000
Cash and deposits	Other	1,623	2,265
Receivables[1]	Amortised cost	88	1,014
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS		**1,711**	**3,279**
Payables[1]	Amortised cost	585	807
TOTAL FINANCIAL LIABILITIES		**585**	**807**

[1] Amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts (GST input tax credits recoverable) and accruals (such as accrued revenue and provisions), as these do not meet the definition of financial instruments and therefore amounts will not reconcile to the balance sheet.

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets categorised at amortised cost are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment.

NTFES' financial assets categorised at amortised cost include receivables.

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income

NTFES does not have any financial assets under this category.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

NTFES does not have any financial assets under this category.

Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The agency's financial liabilities categorised at amortised cost include all accounts payable.

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

NTFES does not have any financial liabilities under this category.

Netting of swap transactions

The agency, from time to time, may facilitate certain structured finance arrangements, where a legally recognised right to set-off financial assets and liabilities exists, and the Territory intends to settle on a net basis. Where these arrangements occur, the revenues and expenses are offset and the net amount is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement. NTFES have no transactions under this category.

b) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation

The agency has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to government, the agency has adopted a policy of only dealing with credit worthy organisations and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the agency's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

Credit risk relating to receivables is disclosed in Note 17.

c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk the agency will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The agency's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure it will always have sufficient funds to meet its liabilities when they fall due. This is achieved by ensuring minimum levels of cash are held in the agency bank account to meet various current employee and supplier liabilities. Cash injections are available from the Central Holding Authority in the event of one-off extraordinary expenditure items arise that deplete cash to levels that compromise the agency's ability to meet its financial obligations.

The following tables detail the agency's remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities, calculated based on undiscounted cash flows at reporting date. The undiscounted cash flows in these tables differ from the amounts included in the balance sheet, which are based on discounted cash flows.

Maturity analysis for financial liabilities

	Carrying amount	Less than a year	1 to 5 years	More than 5 years	Total
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
2026					
Liabilities					
Payables[1]	585	585	-	-	585
TOTAL FINANCIAL LIABILITIES	**585**	**585**	**-**	**-**	**585**
2025					
Liabilities					
Payables[1]	807	807	-	-	807
TOTAL FINANCIAL LIABILITIES	**807**	**807**	**-**	**-**	**807**

[1] Amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts (GST input tax credits recoverable) and accruals (such as accrued revenue and provisions), as these do not meet the definition of financial instruments and therefore amounts will not reconcile to the balance sheet.

d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. It comprises interest rate risk, price risk and currency risk.

(i) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rate.

NTFES is not exposed to interest rate risk as agency financial assets and financial liabilities are non interest bearing.

(ii) Price risk

NTFES is not exposed to price risk as NTFES does not hold units in unit trusts.

(iii) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.

NTFES is not exposed to currency risk as NTFES does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency.

26. Related parties

a) Related parties

NTFES is a government administrative entity and is wholly owned and controlled by the Territory Government. Related parties of the department include:

- the portfolio minister and key management personnel (KMP) because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the department directly
- close family members of the portfolio minister or KMP including spouses, children and dependents
- all public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of government financial statements
- any entities controlled or jointly controlled by KMP's or the portfolio minister, or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members.

b) Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel of NTFES are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of NTFES. These include the minister of NT Fire and Emergency Services, the NTFES Commissioner and the executive team. Calculation below are based on eight members having served on the executive team over the course of financial year.

c) Remuneration of key management personnel

The details below exclude the salaries and other benefits of the Minister for NT Fire and Emergency Services as the remunerations and allowances are payable by the Department of the Legislative Assembly and consequently disclosed within the Treasurer's annual financial statements.

The aggregate compensation of key management personnel of NTFES is set out below:

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Short-term benefits[1]	1,505	1,268
Post-employment benefits	181	59
TOTAL REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL	**1,686**	**1,327**

[1] Short-term benefits include non-cash remuneration.

Long service leave benefits are centrally recognised and paid by the Central Holding Authority (CHA) and do not form part of agency's accounts or cash outflows. As there is no financial impact on the agency's financial statements, long service leave benefits are excluded from the quantitative disclosures of key management personnel compensation.

d) Related party transactions:

Transactions with Northern Territory Government-controlled entities

The department's primary ongoing source of funding is received from the Central Holding Authority in the form of output and capital appropriation and on-passed Commonwealth national partnership and specific-purpose payments.

The following table provides quantitative information about related party transactions entered into during the year with all other Northern Territory Government-controlled entities.

	Related party	Revenue from related parties	Payments to related parties	Amounts owed by related parties	Amounts owed to related parties
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
2026	All NTG Departments	78,096	16,506	102	1,136

	Related party	Revenue from related parties Restated*	Payments to related parties	Amounts owed by related parties	Amounts owed to related parties
	$000	$000	$000	$000	$000
2025	All NTG Departments	80,581	16,656	95	300

* Revenue from related parties for 2024-25 previously excluded output and capital appropriations received from the Central Holding Authority.

Other related party transactions are as follows:

Given the breadth and depth of Territory Government activities, related parties will transact with the Territory public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public including paying stamp duty and other government fees and charges and therefore these transactions have not been disclosed.

27. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

a) Contingent liabilities

The agency is currently negotiating the 2025-2029 Firefighter Enterprise Bargaining Agreement; the potential financial impact cannot be measured reliably. The agency has two ongoing employment matters, which cannot be measured reliably as at 30 June 2026 and the outcome is uncertain.

b) Contingent assets

NTFES had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2026.

28. Events subsequent to balance date

No events have arisen between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that require adjustment to, or disclosure in these financial statements.

29. Schedule of administered Territory items

In addition to operating revenues controlled and utilised by an agency to fund its activities that are included in the financial statements, the agency also acts on behalf of the Territory Government in the management of administered items. These include annual building fire alarm monitoring, false fire alarm fee administration, fire reporting, inspections, and fire engineering design reviews. An agency is unable to use administered items to further its own objectives without authorisation.

Administered items are transferred to and reported by the Central Holding Authority, as the parent entity of government. Administered income and expenses are not recognised in the agency's operating statement but are reported separately in accordance with Australian accounting standards.

The following Territory items are managed by the NTFES on behalf of the government and are recorded in the Central Holding Authority (refer to Note 2b).

	2026	2025
	$000	$000
Territory Income and Expenses		
Income		
Fees from regulatory services	5,816	5,459
TOTAL INCOME	**5,816**	**5,459**
Expenses		
Doubtful debts	117	-
Other administrative expenses	5,699	5,459
TOTAL EXPENSES	**5,816**	**5,459**
TERRITORY INCOME LESS EXPENSES	**-**	**-**
Territory Assets and Liabilities		
Assets		
Other receivables	500	3
TOTAL ASSETS	**500**	**3**
Liabilities		
Central Holding Authority income payable	500	3
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**500**	**3**
NET ASSETS	**-**	**-**

30. Budgetary information

The following tables present the variation between the 2025-26 original budgeted financial statements, as reported in 2025-26 Budget Paper No. 3 Agency Budget Statements and the 2025-26 actual amounts reported in the financial statements, together with explanations for significant variations.

The variations within these tables do not include changes to budgeted appropriations from 2025-26 original budget to 2025-26 final budget. Refer to Note 6a for summary changes to budget appropriations.

Comprehensive Operating Statement

	2026 Actual	2026 Original Budget	Variance	Note
	$000	$000	$000	
Income				
Grants and subsidies revenue				
Current	1,158	-	1,158	1
Appropriation				
Output	67,312	67,659	(347)	
Commonwealth (excluding capital appropriation)	5,110	4,431	679	
Sales of goods and services	1,963	917	1,046	2
Goods and services received free of charge	5,325	6,790	(1,465)	3
Gain on disposal of assets	175	-	175	
Other income	557	11	546	
TOTAL INCOME	**81,600**	**79,808**	**1,792**	
Expenses				
Employee expenses	62,397	55,427	6,970	4
Administrative expenses				
Purchases of goods and services	22,202	15,994	6,208	5
Depreciation and amortisation	6,829	6,624	205	
Other administrative expenses	5,750	6,790	(1,040)	6
Grants and subsidies expenses				
Current	610	1,419	(809)	7
Capital	1,018	535	483	8
TOTAL EXPENSES	**98,805**	**86,789**	**12,017**	
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**(17,205)**	**(6,981)**	**(24,186)**	
Other Comprehensive Income				
Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/deficit				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	6,401	-	6,401	9
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	**6,401**	**-**	**6,401**	
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	**(10,804)**	**(6,981)**	**(17,785)**	

Notes:

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 20 per cent or $1M, and minimum actual / budget figure of $1M:

1. National Aerial Firefighting Centre – aerial contract jurisdictional reimbursement ($1M);
2. Increased annual fees for Yulara and Nhulunbuy Corporations, and two formalised agreements with other Northern Territory Government agencies – vacant crown land fire management and roadside mitigation ($0.7M);
3. NT Police Force did not invoice agency;
4. Employee cost pressures with both the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service and Bushfires NT significantly over budget allocation;
5. Administrative cost pressures including new firefighter recruit squad (accommodation, uniforms etc), disaster events and response and recovery costs such as drone expenses related to emergency management, WebEOC information technology subscriptions and Geospatial capabilities, payments to DCDD for eRostering and cyber security and large vehicle maintenance costs;
6. See note 3 above;
7. Disaster Ready Fund – accounting revenue standard review and variation to original budget;
8. See note 7 above; and
9. Katherine region revaluation and assets transferred from other agencies.

Balance Sheet

	2026 Actual	2026 Original Budget	Variance	Note
	$000	$000	$000	
Assets				
Current assets				
Cash and deposits	1,623	2,195	(572)	1
Receivables	1,195	964	231	2
Prepayments	-	623	(623)	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**2,818**	**3,782**	**(964)**	
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	142,503	125,513	16,990	3
Intangibles	103	75	28	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**142,607**	**125,588**	**17,018**	
TOTAL ASSETS	**145,424**	**129,370**	**16,054**	
Liabilities				
Current liabilities				
Payables	2,878	8,274	(5,396)	4
Provisions	14,861	10,409	4,452	5
Other liabilities	3,596	2,600	996	6
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**21,336**	**21,283**	**53**	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**21,336**	**21,283**	**53**	
NET ASSETS	**124,088**	**108,087**	**16,001**	
Equity				
Capital	173,337	139,294	34,043	7
Reserves	9,251	2,280	6,971	8
Accumulated funds	(58,500)	(33,487)	(25,013)	9
TOTAL EQUITY	**124,088**	**108,087**	**16,001**	

Notes:

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 20 per cent or $1M, and minimum actual / budget figure of $1M:

1. Net movement in operating activity, investing activity and financing activity on the Cashflow Statement;
2. Annual variation based on business activity at 30 June each year;
3. Department of Logistics and Infrastructure constructed building asset transfers, NTFES asset purchases during the year and building and land revaluation in Katherine region;
4. Improved invoice management;
5. Employee leave entitlements, payroll tax and employee superannuation contributions recognition;
6. Largely Disaster Ready Fund commitment;
7. End of financial year equity injection ($12M) plus note 4 above;
8. Revaluation in the Katherine region;
9. See Operating Statement.

Cash Flow Statement

	2026 Actual	2026 Original Budget	Variance	Note
	$000	$000	$000	
Cash flows from operating activities				
Operating receipts				
Grants and subsidies received				
Current	1,158	-	1,158	1
Appropriation				
Output	67,312	67,659	(347)	
Commonwealth (excluding capital appropriation)	4,536	4,431	105	
Receipts from sales of goods and services	4,497	928	3,569	2
TOTAL OPERATING RECEIPTS	**77,503**	**73,018**	**4,485**	
Operating payments				
Payments to employees	62,437	55,427	7,010	3
Payments for goods and services	24,919	15,994	8,925	4
Grants and subsidies paid				
Current	610	1,419	(809)	5
Capital	1,018	535	483	6
TOTAL OPERATING PAYMENTS	**88,984**	**73,375**	**15,609**	
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	**(11,481)**	**(357)**	**(11,124)**	
Cash flows from investing activities				
Investing receipts				
Proceeds from sales of non- financial assets	388	495	(107)	
TOTAL INVESTING RECEIPTS	**388**	**495**	**(107)**	
Investing payments				
Purchases of non-financial assets	6,012	4,957	1,055	7
TOTAL INVESTING PAYMENTS	**6,012**	**4,957**	**1,055**	
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	**(5,624)**	**(4,462)**	**(1,162)**	
Cash flows from financing activities				
Financing receipts				
Equity injections				
Capital appropriation	4,462	4,462	-	
Other equity injections	12,000	-	12,000	8
TOTAL FINANCING RECEIPTS	**16,462**	**4,462**	**12,000**	
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES	**16,462**	**4,462**	**12,000**	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(642)	(357)	(285)	
Cash at beginning of financial year	2,265	2,552	(287)	
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	**1,623**	**2,195**	**(572)**	

Notes:

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 20 per cent or $1M, and minimum actual / budget figure of $1M:

1. National Aerial Firefighting Centre – aerial contract jurisdictional reimbursement ($1M);
2. Timing variation of receiving receipts across financial years compared to the Operating Statement and GST credits;
3. Employee cost pressures with both the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service and Bushfires NT significantly over budget allocation;
4. Administrative cost pressures including new firefighter recruit squad (accommodation, uniforms etc), disaster events and response and recovery costs such as drone expenses related to emergency management, WebEOC information technology subscriptions and Geospatial capabilities, payments to DCDD for eRostering and cyber security and large vehicle maintenance costs and GST payments;
5. Disaster Ready Fund – accounting revenue standard review and variation to original budget;
6. See note 5 above;
7. Escalating costs of asset purchases and payments for two unfunded aerial appliances; and
8. End of year equity injection.

31. Budgetary information: Administered Territory items

The following table presents the variation between the 2025-26 original budget for administered items as reported in 2025-26 Budget Paper No. 3 Agency Budget Statements and the 2025-26 actual amounts disclosed in Note 29 of these financial statements together with explanations for significant variations.

Administered Territory items

	2026 Actual	2026 Original Budget	Variance	Note
	$000	$000	$000	
Territory income and expenses				
Income				
Fees from regulatory services	5,816	5,165	651	
TOTAL INCOME	**5,816**	**5,165**	**651**	
Expenses				
Doubtful debts	117	-	117	
Other administrative expenses	5,699	5,165	534	
TOTAL EXPENSES	**5,816**	**5,165**	**651**	
TERRITORY INCOME LESS EXPENSES	**-**	**-**	**-**	
Territory assets and liabilities				
Assets				
Other receivables	500	-	-	
TOTAL ASSETS	**500**	**-**	**-**	
Liabilities				
Central Holding Authority income payable	500	-	-	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**500**	**-**	**-**	
NET ASSETS	**-**	**-**	**-**	

Notes:

Variances greater than 20 per cent or $1M are recognised as significant and therefore require explanation. There were no significant variances between actual and budget amounts in 2025-26.



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