

Ranger program (January to June 2006) after a six month interruption to funding in 2005.

- successful request to the NT Government for 12 months funding to maintain the coordinator position of Tjuwanpa Ranger program for 2006/2007.
- successful submission to the ILC for three years funding support to address a wide range of NRM issues in the Ntaria region in accordance with an agreed work plan and inter-agency support.
- successful submission to ABA for capital equipment items and other operational requirements.
- successful submission to the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) for funds from the NT Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) to undertake strategic fire management on the Hermannsburg group of Land Trusts, mining leases and national parks over 2006 to 2008. The project aims to protect both the biodiversity values of the jointly-managed Finke Gorge National Park and infrastructure associated with the Palm Valley gas plant;
- successful submission to NHT for funds from the NT RIS to implement surveys and related recovery actions under the threatened species recovery plan for Slater's Skink (*Egernia slateri*) along Ellery Creek and the Finke River over 2006-2008 in collaboration with NT PWS.
- implementation and co-ordination support for undertaking a range of projects on Finke Gorge, Palm Valley and West MacDonnell National Parks under the NTPWS Flexible Employment Program.
- represented the group's interests in casual employment and training conditions/opportunities in joint-managed national parks as a member of the Flexible Employment Program Working Group.
- attended the Palm Valley Gas Plant Liaison Committee annual meeting to explore opportunities for environmental work by the Tjuwanpa Ranger group.

Tennant Creek – Muru-warinyi ankkul Ranger Group

- continued implementation of the NHT-funded project Building Capacity for a Warumungu land management program in Tennant Creek and related projects on the Warumungu ALT and Partta Aboriginal land-holdings including management of cattle and tourist impacts, weed eradication, water-hole and land condition monitoring, land rehabilitation and erosion control, cultural knowledge projects with traditional owners;
- successful submission to the ILC for 3 years funding support for management of Warumungu lands in accordance with an agreed work plan and inter-agency support.
- successful submission to ABA for capital equipment items and other operational requirements.
- successful submission to NHT for funds from the NT RIS to undertake strategic fire management activity over 2006-2008 on Aboriginal lands in the Southern Barkly District;
- successful submission to NHT for funds from the NT RIS to undertake targeted survey and recovery actions for the Greater Bilby and other threatened species on Aboriginal lands in the eastern Tanami Desert over 2006-2008;
- implementation of a successful submission to the NT Government landcare program Environment to train rangers in traditional and contemporary fire practices and assessing the status of threatened Rock Wallaby populations on the Warumungu and Mungkarta ALTs affected by wildfires.
- continued implementation of a project funded by the Northern Territory Government's Tourism Development Fund to address visitor management issues at Kunjarra (Devils Pebbles)
- implementation support for a range of contract opportunities associated with mine site reha-

bilitation, weed management and heritage protection;

- preliminary discussions with Freightlink representatives about a future contract role in the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan for the Alice Springs to Darwin Rail Corridor.

Lajamanu (Northern Tanami)

– Wulain Ranger Group

- continued implementation of the proposed Lajamanu Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) feasibility project and progress toward completion of a management plan for the proposed IPA area of some 40,000 square kilometers over the Central Desert and Hooker Creek Aboriginal Land Trusts

An extension of funding from the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) IPA program for co-ordination of the ranger group was also negotiated for 2006-2007.

An IPA declaration is expected in late 2006 which will put the Wulain Ranger group on a secure long-term footing through ongoing funding to address priority cultural and resource management issues identified in the plan of management

- supported related NRM capacity-building and project implementation activity including:
 - outstation maintenance and cultural site protection support to traditional owners;
 - bushfire protection of outstations and other facilities on Aboriginal land, including the Tanami Mine;
 - wildfire mitigation through early dry-season controlled burning supervised by senior traditional owners;
 - weed control including removing stands of Parkinsonia and Rubber Bush from the Hooker Creek area and contract removal of weeds on Newmont mining leases.