

**MINISTER FOR JUSTICE,
MINISTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE,
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES,
MINISTER FOR LANDS, AND
MINISTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS**

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 2005-06 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2006-07 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Department of Corrective Services			
Total Expenses	763.8	796.7	4.3
Capital Expenditure	164.5	128.1	-22.1
Department of Juvenile Justice			
Total Expenses	135.4	141.9	4.8
Capital Expenditure	12.7	8.0	-36.8
New South Wales Fire Brigades			
Total Expenses	452.9	479.1	5.8
Capital Expenditure	35.8	44.1	23.1
Department of Rural Fire Service			
Total Expenses	162.0	190.9	17.8
Capital Expenditure	8.8	9.5	7.7
State Emergency Service			
Total Expenses	36.4	37.1	2.0
Capital Expenditure	4.2	4.5	7.6
Department of Lands			
Total Expenses	79.4	83.2	4.8
Capital Expenditure	3.2	2.8	-10.8
Land and Property Information New South Wales			
Total Expenses	134.8	144.9	7.5
Capital Expenditure	15.0	19.5	30.0
Total, Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs			
Total Expenses	1764.7	1873.8	6.2
Capital Expenditure	244.2	216.5	-11.3

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES

The Department of Corrective Services is an integral part of the criminal justice system and makes a major contribution to a fair, safe and just New South Wales. It ensures that court-imposed sentences are implemented and that the duty of care for offenders in custody and/or under community supervision is properly discharged. The Department administers the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999*.

RESULTS AND SERVICES

The Department aims to achieve secure, safe, humane and lawful management of offenders and a reduction in the risks of re-offending.

The Department is working towards the following results:

- ◆ Effective management of correctional centre and escort security.
- ◆ Effective supervision and support for offenders while working towards successful order completion.
- ◆ Determination of offender program provision and participation through whole-sentence risks and needs assessment.
- ◆ Re-integration support through strategic partnerships with other government and non-government agencies.

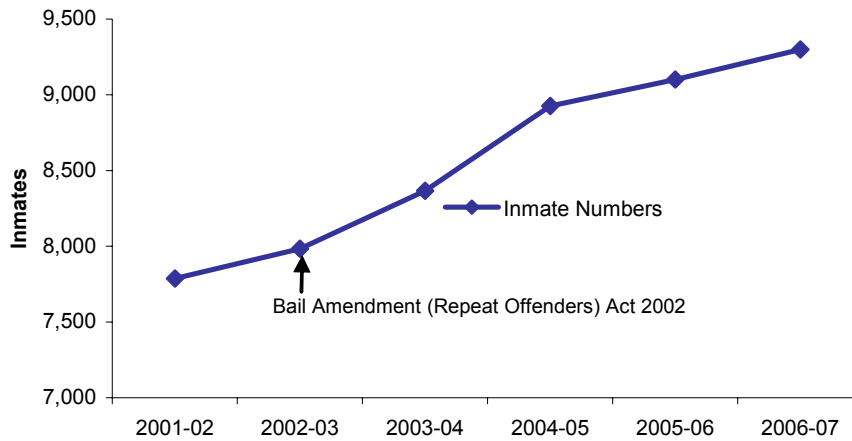
Key services provided by the Department which contribute to these results include:

- ◆ providing correctional centre and custody management;
- ◆ providing custody escorts and court security;
- ◆ advising courts and releasing authorities;
- ◆ designing programs to reduce the risk of re-offending;
- ◆ providing diversionary programs and intensive community supervision; and
- ◆ supporting post-sentence re-integration.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure trends within the Department are impacted by both the level of the full-time inmate population and the number of offenders managed under community-based programs. The full-time inmate population of correctional centres averaged 5,002 in 1990-91 and has increased to in excess of 9,200 in April, 2006.

Chart 12.1: NSW Daily Average Full Time Inmate Population



With the amendments to the *Bail Amendment (Repeat Offenders) Act 2002*, the number of people on remand has increased from around 1,500 in June 2002 to around 2,150 in April 2006.

The Department has also experienced significant growth in the community corrections area. The Community Offender Service, which provides offender management programs and services within the community and pre-sentence reports to the judiciary, has seen a marked increase in workload in recent years.

Consequent to new sentencing legislation in 2003-04, which provided for the supervision of offenders in the community on court-based parole, the Department received associated enhancement funding of \$1.5 million. Additional funding of \$2.5 million in 2006-07 will continue to provide supervision and programs for offenders.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Strategic issues for the Department over the next five to ten years include:

- ◆ Reducing the risk of re-offending by fully implementing the following strategy:
 - implement and refine a standardised instrument across the correctional system which will provide a reliable assessment of the risk of re-offending and of the priorities to be addressed to reduce that risk;
 - provide rehabilitation programs for targeted high risk offenders which have been shown to be effective at reducing the risk of re-offending;
 - establish additional half-way houses to provide residential services and programs to parolees assessed as being at high risk of re-offending due to a lack of accommodation and program places in the community;
 - improve services and programs for offenders with significant mental health disorders, including those with an intellectual disability and/or a dual mental illness and substance abuse problem; and
 - improve strategies for dealing with female offenders who present challenging, self-destructive or violent behaviours, including establishing alternatives to imprisonment for women with both a mental illness and substance abuse problem.
- ◆ Providing opportunities for courts to divert Aboriginal offenders from custody, and providing appropriate effective correctional services to Aboriginal offenders. The Department proposes to establish a program on the north coast based on the existing program at Brewarrina (Yetta Dhinnakal) Correctional Centre.
- ◆ Increase inmate accommodation and custodial staffing to meet the expected increase in demand for correctional centre beds.
- ◆ Increase the staffing and resources of Community Offender Services to provide additional supervision and program provision for offenders in the community.

2006-07 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Estimated total expenses of \$796.7 million in 2006-07 will be incurred by the Department. Services provided will include management of offenders within custodial institutions and in the community, delivery of programs and the provision of secure offender management within selected court and police cells.

Included in the above estimated expenses is \$4.2 million for inmate growth money and enhancement funding of \$11.2 million provided for new initiatives and expanded services for offenders in custody and the community. These initiatives include \$2.2 million for the "Second Chance" program at Tabulam (an innovative method of managing first time Indigenous offenders), \$1.5 million for a transitional centre for men, \$2 million for compulsory drug treatment, \$1 million for additional programs for inmates with mental health, intellectual and other disabilities, \$1 million for assessing the risk of re-offending, \$1 million for targeted and accredited rehabilitation programs for offenders and \$2.5 million for increased supervision of parolees.

Capital Expenditure

The 2006-07 capital program totals \$128.1 million compared to \$164.5 million in 2005-06. The decrease is mainly due to the reclassification of the Long Bay Hospital Redevelopment as a privately funded project.

Highlights of the 2006-07 capital program are detailed below.

1000 New Beds

To accommodate the growing inmate population across New South Wales, planning continues for expansion of Cessnock Correctional Centre (250 beds), Lithgow Correctional Centre (250 beds) and for a new 500 bed facility, modelled on the Kempsey and Wellington Correctional Centres, to be located on the South Coast of New South Wales within an hour of Kiama.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$257.7 million (\$15 million in 2006-07) with completion expected in 2009-10.

Armoury Replacement

The existing facility is being upgraded to enable more effective management of the department's weapons and training in accordance with modern correctional practice and regulations.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$1.2 million (\$0.9 million in 2006-07) with completion anticipated in 2006-07.

Compulsory Drug Treatment Centre

The objectives of the Compulsory Drug Treatment Centre are:

- ◆ provide a comprehensive program of compulsory treatment and rehabilitation under judicial supervision, for drug dependent persons who repeatedly resort to criminal activity to support that dependency;
- ◆ effectively treat those persons for drug dependency, eliminating their illicit drug use while in the program and reducing the likelihood of relapse on release;
- ◆ promote the reintegration of those persons into the community; and
- ◆ prevent and reduce crime by reducing those persons' need to resort to criminal activity to support their dependency.

Existing accommodation at Parklea Correctional Centre has been refurbished to support the program. The estimated total cost of the project is \$4 million (\$0.4 million in 2006-07). Construction was completed in 2005-06 with financial completion anticipated in 2006-07.

Goulburn Redevelopment – Stage 2

The redevelopment of Goulburn Correctional Centre has provided additional high security accommodation for inmates, as well as a new gatehouse, administration and visitor centre.

The final component of the project involves the completion of a new pre-processing facility for visitors.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$51.4 million (\$0.3 million in 2006-07) with completion expected in 2006-07.

Inmate Escort Vehicles

The growth in inmate population has resulted in a need to increase the Department's inmate transport fleet. The Department has in excess of 130 inmate transport vehicles and it is necessary to replace vehicles and truck bodies as they reach their economical replacement time. Four vehicles will receive new bodies in 2006-07.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$8 million (\$0.4 million in 2006-07), with completion anticipated in 2014-15.

Long Bay Hospital Redevelopment

This project involves the development of a new 85 bed prison hospital to provide inpatient health care to inmates who require admission to hospital. The new prison hospital will replace the existing hospital which has only 54 beds available for the general inmate population.

The hospital redevelopment has recently been approved for construction as a privately funded project. Funding of \$5.1 million in 2006-07 will allow for the completion of necessary enabling works. The estimated total cost of the project is \$63.9 million with completion anticipated in 2007-08.

A parallel project is being undertaken by the Department of Health to establish a 135 bed forensic hospital on the site of the existing prison hospital at Long Bay.

Long Bay Staged Redevelopment

The redevelopment caters for programs for sex offenders, violent offenders, inmates with intellectual disabilities, those at high risk of suicide, medical transients and offenders with major drug and/or alcohol problems.

It also includes a new Visitor Pre-processing and Control Centre at the Anzac Parade entrance to the complex. All electronic security infrastructure for the Long Bay complex will be managed from this centre.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$44.8 million (\$3.9 million in 2006-07) and the redevelopment is scheduled for completion in 2006-07.

Community Offender Services Program Accommodation

Community Offender Services (including the Probation and Parole Service) accommodation is being progressively upgraded. Funding of \$3 million has been allocated in 2006-07 as part of a \$12.3 million program for fit outs and essential fire and safety requirements at various Community Offender Services Offices across New South Wales.

Completion of the upgrade program is anticipated in 2007-08.

Electronic Case Management

This project allows for initiatives in case management and risk assessment and will consolidate an information base in order to deliver quality services to high risk offenders. The project supports the Corrective Services Throughcare Model which provides a framework to support the case management of offenders before, during and after custody, in both custodial and community contexts.

The estimated total cost for the project is \$8.7 million (\$5.3 million in 2006-07) with completion anticipated in 2007-08.

Dog Squad/Kennel Complex

Forty specially trained dog teams are used by the Department for security purposes and to detect contraband including drugs and firearms/explosives. This requires specialist facilities such as those being constructed at South Windsor to meet relevant standards for the training and upkeep of these animals. The project involves an upgrade to the existing training facility, construction of 24 new dog kennels, a veterinary clinic and food preparation area.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$1.8 million (\$1.5 million in 2006-07), with completion anticipated in 2006-07.

Information Management System (TRIM)

A standard enterprise-wide system is being implemented to manage corporate and organisational information. A number of locally based records management systems are being amalgamated.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$1.8 million (\$0.1 million in 2006-07) with completion anticipated in 2006-07.

Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre

The Department assumed responsibility for the operation of Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre in late 2004. Refurbishment work continues to enhance current operations in the management of high security juvenile offenders.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$5 million (\$2.5 million in 2006-07) with completion expected in 2006-07.

Men's Transitional Centre

It is proposed to develop a new Transitional Centre for men along the lines of the successful Women's Transition Centres at Parramatta and Emu Plains. The centre will be a minimum security, community based facility to prepare selected inmates of New South Wales correctional centres for their post release responsibilities in a safe, drug and alcohol free environment. The centre will effectively be a pre-release half-way house for inmates. From this setting, the men will go into the community for counselling, education and employment.

The project will provide 30 beds at a total cost of \$1.5 million (\$1 million in 2006-07) and completion is expected in 2006-07.

Mulawa Staged Redevelopment – Stage 2

This project involves the upgrade of site infrastructure to improve the accommodation of female inmates within the State. Mulawa has been identified as a pivotal facility in the management of female inmates in New South Wales. The maximum-security facility will cater for both the operational and medical requirements of high need female inmates.

The project will be completed over several stages due to the ongoing use of the facility during construction. The estimated total cost for the project is \$49.2 million (\$10 million in 2006-07), with completion of all stages anticipated in 2009-10.

North Coast Second Chance Program

Following the success of the Second Chance Program for predominantly indigenous offenders in Western New South Wales, a similar program is being developed on the North Coast. A property has been purchased at Tabulam where accommodation and programs will be provided.

The project provides meaningful vocational training and re-establishes important cultural links for indigenous offenders receiving a first custodial sentence. The project will provide accommodation for 70 offenders and has an estimated total cost of \$9.2 million (\$5.2 million in 2006-07) and completion is expected in 2006-07.

Silverwater Remand Upgrade

The project involves the modification of existing cell wings and internal fencing at Silverwater.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$5.1 million (\$0.8 million in 2006-07) with completion expected in 2006-07.

Western Region Correctional Centre

This project, located at Wellington, provides for a 500 bed multi-classification correctional facility, including components for female and remand inmates, similar to the model developed for the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre at Kempsey.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$125.6 million (\$57.1 million in 2006-07) with completion in 2007-08.

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Department of Juvenile Justice supervises juvenile offenders when mandated by an order of the court and administers youth justice conferences. Court-ordered supervision is conducted either in the community or in Juvenile Justice Centres.

Principal legislation administered by the Department includes the *Young Offenders Act 1997* (Part 5 and Schedule 1), *Children (Community Services Orders) Act 1987*, *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987*, and *Children (Interstate Transfer of Offenders) Act 1988*.

RESULTS AND SERVICES

The Department contributes to safer communities by working towards the following results:

- ◆ Young offenders reduce their re-offending.
- ◆ Young offenders complete their legal obligations.
- ◆ The Department's interventions with young offenders are informed by the assessed risk of re-offending and meet recognised standards.

Key services provided by the Department to contribute to these results include:

- ◆ supervising juvenile offenders ordered by the courts to remain in custody pending the outcome of their court cases and those sentenced by the courts to a period of detention;
- ◆ administering youth justice conferences for juvenile offenders referred by the police and courts;
- ◆ supervising juvenile offenders on bail and community-based sentences on order of the courts;
- ◆ providing reports to the courts to assist in sentencing and parole decisions; and
- ◆ transporting and supervising juvenile detainees at court.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 2005-06, the Department:

- ◆ completed the construction and commissioning of the Juniperina Young Women's Juvenile Justice Centre at a total cost of \$30.6 million;

- ◆ completed the redevelopment of Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre to a 60 bed centre at a total cost of \$24.3 million;
- ◆ continued the upgrade of the Department's Client Information Management System at a projected cost of \$3.8 million;
- ◆ continued the upgrade of Juvenile Justice Centre fences and cameras – a four year program totalling \$6 million;
- ◆ assumed responsibility from NSW Police for the transport and court supervision of juvenile detainees to the Western region of New South Wales;
- ◆ improved screening processes for detainees;
- ◆ increased the number of Alcohol and Other Drug Counsellors;
- ◆ expanded the catchment areas for young people coming before the Youth Drug Court;
- ◆ conducted the community health survey; and
- ◆ commenced planning for the community integration project.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Department will continue its focus on improving community-based services with a clear emphasis on programs which have been evaluated to have a demonstrable impact on re-offending. Programs that divert young offenders from custody and address their offending behaviour in a community context have been proven to be more efficient and effective in reducing further offending. The community intervention programs will provide the opportunity for attendance at weekend bail courts, brokerage to provide accommodation for young people on conditional bail, and specialised training for the Department's community-based staff.

An additional custodial unit was opened in May 2006 to assist the Department to manage a growing detainee population.

In 2006-07, the Department will complete its program of assuming responsibility from the NSW Police for the transport and court supervision of juvenile detainees across the entirety of the State, freeing up police for front line duties.

The Department's strategic direction will improve outcomes for the community by:

- ◆ offering a more effective and proven response to the offending behaviour of young people; and

- ◆ achieving greater value for money for the community over the medium to longer term.

The provision of services and programs for young Aboriginal offenders will remain a particular focus.

2006-07 BUDGET

Total Expenses

The Department's total expenses for 2006-07 are estimated at \$141.9 million which will allow for existing programs to be maintained. This includes additional expenditure to meet increased demands on juvenile custodial accommodation (\$3.1 million) and the introduction of the Community Intervention Project (\$1.9 million).

In 2006-07, \$4.3 million has been provided under the Government Plan of Action on Drugs. Cyclic maintenance programs at juvenile justice centres and community offices are ongoing, and the 2006-07 maintenance budget is estimated at \$3.5 million.

Capital Expenditure

The 2006-07 major capital expenditure program of \$5.2 million covers the commencement of the renewal of the Department's IT Infrastructure over a two year timeframe, continued investment in the Custodial Accommodation Management (Security Cameras and Fences) project and the completion of the upgrade to the Client Information Management System. The program also covers the initial investment in the development of the Department's Corporate Information System.

A total of \$2.8 million has been allocated to the minor capital works program.

NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES

The New South Wales Fire Brigades (NSWFB) provides emergency risk management services from more than 335 fire stations throughout New South Wales. The NSWFB promotes fire safety and manages fire emergencies for 90 per cent of the State's population and also protects all of the State from hazardous material incidents. The NSWFB is the largest provider of non-fire rescue services in New South Wales and is a key participant in planning State-wide counter-terrorism management. The NSW Fire Brigades' governing legislation is the *Fire Brigades Act 1989*.

RESULTS AND SERVICES

The NSWFB aims to enhance community safety, quality of life and confidence, by minimising the impact of hazards and emergency incidents on the people, environment and economy of New South Wales. This is achieved by working towards the following results:

- ◆ New South Wales emergency risks are accurately assessed.
- ◆ Emergency incidents are prevented where possible.
- ◆ Communities are resilient and well-prepared for likely risks.
- ◆ People in New South Wales can easily access fast, reliable, effective and safe emergency response.
- ◆ Reduced disruption to the community.

Key services provided by the NSWFB to contribute to these results include:

- ◆ providing community risk management services in which firefighters use their expertise and experience to inspect premises and educate others in preventing or preparing for emergencies;
- ◆ providing emergency management services in which firefighters provide rapid, reliable help in emergencies - 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and
- ◆ ensuring operational preparedness including developing and testing plans and training for emergencies.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The NSWFB is funded 73.7 per cent by collections from insurance companies, 12.3 per cent by local government and 14 per cent by the State.

Between 1999-2000 and 2005-06 there was a 10 per cent growth (or an average annual growth of 1.4 per cent) in the number of incidents attended by the NSWFB. In 2006-07, the NSWFB is expecting to respond to more than 133,000 incidents, representing a response, on average, every six minutes.

The NSWFB has received significant funding increases over recent years. The NSWFB's total expenses were \$308.9 million, and capital expenditure was \$38.8 million in 2000-2001. In 2006-07, total expenses are budgeted at \$479.1 million and capital expenditure is budgeted to be \$44.1 million, an increase of 55.1 per cent in total expenses over this period.

This Government has embarked on the first major fire station building program in 75 years, with strategic programs developed for the greater Sydney area, Central Coast, Hunter Valley and regional New South Wales. Since 1995 33 new stations have been established and 28 have undergone significant refurbishment. In 2005-06 new stations were opened at Tingira Heights, Cranebrook, Molong and Katoomba. Planning is in the process for another nine stations.

By 30 June 2006 the NSWFB will have established 317 Community Fire Units crewed by 5,375 trained volunteers, including approximately 35 per cent women, who assist the fire services to protect homes from bushfire.

In 2005-06, additional funding was provided to:

- ◆ deploy an additional 52 permanent firefighters to various fire stations across the State (\$3.5 million);
- ◆ improve the capability for firefighter safety and counter-terrorism (\$2.5 million);
- ◆ assist in the asset maintenance of properties (\$3.4 million) and the fleet (\$1.7 million);
- ◆ assist in the asset maintenance support for critical information systems (\$0.4 million); and
- ◆ support the operational training program (\$0.8 million).

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The NSWFB continues to develop initiatives to achieve its vision of Excellence in Emergency Risk Management by maximising the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery.

Over the next four years, the NSWFB will also receive nearly \$72 million to purchase state of the art urban and rural fire engines and \$41.1 million for information and communications technology.

Over the next four years, the NSWFB will receive an additional \$12.7 million (\$4.2 million recurrent and \$8.5 million capital) for the replacement and maintenance of firefighter safety and counter-terrorism equipment. This will significantly increase the NSWFB's capability for counter-terrorism and hazardous materials response.

Over the next four years, the NSWFB will receive an additional \$6.5 million (\$0.8 million in recurrent funding and \$5.7 million in capital) to maintain and expand the successful Community Fire Unit program.

2006-07 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses in 2006-07 are estimated to be \$479.1 million, an increase of \$26.2 million, or 5.8 per cent, on its 2005-06 Budget. In 2006-07, the NSWFB will receive funding to:

- ◆ support the recruit training (\$1 million) and operational training (\$1.7 million) programs;
- ◆ improve the capability for firefighter safety and counter-terrorism (\$0.4 million);
- ◆ assist in the support of community fire units (\$86,000); and
- ◆ assist in the funding of retained firefighter costs (\$1.5 million).

Capital Expenditure

In 2006-07, the NSWFB's capital works program is \$44.1 million. This will fund capital works projects including:

- ◆ \$18 million for continuation of an ongoing program to acquire and replace firefighting appliances;
- ◆ \$7.1 million for continuation of the fire station building renovation program, including \$1.5 million for minor works;
- ◆ \$5.8 million for gas monitor purchasing and the replacement and servicing program for firefighter safety equipment and counter-terrorism equipment;
- ◆ \$1.5 million for community fire units; and
- ◆ \$11.6 million for plant and equipment, information and communications technology equipment and operational training.

This capital expenditure will benefit both city and rural areas of New South Wales and will continue to address the need for additional facilities in growth areas.

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL FIRE SERVICE

The Department of Rural Fire Service is responsible for the promotion of effective rural fire fighting services within the State, including the co-ordination of bushfire fighting and bushfire prevention activities.

The Department is also the host agency for the Office for Emergency Services. The Office is responsible for policy advice to the Minister, provides administrative support to the State Emergency Management Committee and the State Rescue Board and administers the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program.

The prevention and containment of bushfires would not be possible without the unpaid work of some 70,000 volunteers, who operate through 2,069 community based rural fire brigades attached to 122 local councils.

RESULTS AND SERVICES

In order to protect the community and our environment, the Department of Rural Fire Service manages the impact of fire and other emergencies by providing the highest standards of safety, training, community awareness, prevention and operational capability. In particular, the Department achieves this by working towards the following results:

- ◆ Reduction in the risk and cost of fire to the community.
- ◆ Enhanced safety of fire fighters.
- ◆ Provision of fire fighting services to the community.
- ◆ Improved management of interagency responses to fires and other emergencies.
- ◆ Incorporation of ecologically sustainable development principles in the prevention and management of bushfires.

Key services provided by the Department to contribute to these results include:

- ◆ responding to emergency incidents to prevent injury and loss; and
- ◆ increasing community awareness of the risk posed by bushfires and their participation in minimising that risk.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure by the Department of Rural Fire Service on bushfire fighting activities is financed by the Consolidated Fund (13 per cent), local government (13.3 per cent) and collections from insurance companies (73.7 per cent).

The State's contribution towards fire fighting services is paid into the Rural Fire Fighting Fund along with fire levies from insurances companies and councils. These funds are then dispersed in accordance with the advice of the Rural Fire Service Advisory Committee.

The level of funding provided to the Rural Fire Fighting Fund has increased significantly over recent financial years. The total amount provided to the Rural Fire Fighting Fund in 2000-01 was \$91 million. The total amount to be provided in 2006-07 will be \$168.1 million, an increase of 84.7 per cent over this period.

In 2005-06 additional funding was provided, largely enabling the Department of Rural Fire Service to:

- ◆ continue the tanker upgrade program with the provision of 230 tankers (\$27.4 million);
- ◆ fund maintenance and equipment grants to local councils (\$47.4 million);
- ◆ continue subsidies to local brigades for brigade stations (\$3.4 million);
- ◆ continue to provide local councils with advice about appropriate bushfire safety measures for residential buildings and other developments in bushfire prone lands (\$1.2 million); and
- ◆ make available funds to the Office for Emergency Services for grants under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (\$12.1 million) and the Bushfire Mitigation Program (\$2.7 million).

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Department of Rural Fire Service is an integral part of a complex bushfire management infrastructure comprising volunteer rural fire brigades, local government councils, land management agencies and other fire authorities.

The Department continues to respond to a wide range of emerging priorities and issues generated through government and community expectations, developments in emergency sector technology as well as through the initiative and contribution of staff and volunteers. The response is encapsulated in these main areas:

- ◆ improving the safety of the community by mitigating the impact of fire through the implementation of programs associated with raising community fire awareness, regulating land use and the management of fuel levels;
- ◆ establishing planning, management and information systems to improve the allocation of resources; and
- ◆ recognising the importance of the contribution of our volunteers, by improving their safety and identifying programs that will accommodate the demands of lifestyles as well as facilitating their involvement in Service activities.

2006-07 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Department of Rural Fire Service 2006-07 expenses are estimated at \$190.9 million. This level of funding will allow the Rural Fire Service to:

- ◆ continue the tanker upgrade program by the provision of more than 260 tankers (\$34.1 million);
- ◆ fund maintenance grants to local councils (\$13.2 million); and
- ◆ increase subsidies to local councils for brigade stations (\$10 million).

Additional funds have been made available to the Office for Emergency Services for:

- ◆ Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (\$7.7 million);
- ◆ Bushfire Mitigation Program (\$2.7 million); and
- ◆ Critical Infrastructure planning (\$0.1 million).

Capital Expenditure

The Department of Rural Fire Service's \$9.5 million 2006-07 capital expenditure program includes provision for the following projects:

- ◆ acquisition of motor vehicles (\$6.5 million); and
- ◆ purchase of computers and other small items of equipment (\$3 million).

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

The State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency management response and rescue agency, established by the *State Emergency Service Act 1989*. The Service is the nominated combat agency for floods and storms, and is also the major provider of land and inland water search and rescue throughout the State. The SES provides significant assistance to the NSW Police, New South Wales Fire Brigades, New South Wales Rural Fire Service and other emergency services in a wide range of emergency situations. The SES delivers this service through its 10,000 dedicated volunteers across 231 units, supported by 17 region headquarters and the state headquarters.

RESULTS AND SERVICES

The SES aims to ensure the community understands, is prepared and able to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies by working towards the following results:

- ◆ Risk reduction and community preparedness.
- ◆ Operational readiness (capacity and capability).
- ◆ Emergency response and recovery.

Key services provided by the SES which contribute to these results include:

- ◆ conducting educational campaigns (residents, businesses and schools) targeting communities particularly those in flood prone areas to be better prepared;
- ◆ providing expert advice to councils and other agencies;
- ◆ strengthening community and media communications strategies;
- ◆ engaging in mutual aid agreements and information sharing with other combat agencies;
- ◆ clearly defining resource requirements and improving the management of current resources; and
- ◆ recognising and rewarding volunteers' effort and commitment.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The SES has received significant funding increases in recent financial years.

Since 2000-01, the SES's total expenditure, including capital, has increased from \$26.2 million to \$41.6 million, representing an increase of 58.8 per cent. The additional funding has enabled the SES to address major priorities in the areas of rescue equipment, improve protective clothing for all volunteers, provide nationally recognised competency based training, purchase and maintain communication equipment, construct new regional headquarters, employ additional staff at both state and regional level, and establish a 24x7 operations communications centre to ensure that calls for help are processed and dispatched in a more timely and efficient manner.

Additional funding in 2005-06 included:

- ◆ \$1.9 million to increase the organisational capability of the Service by enhancing state and regional headquarters;
- ◆ \$0.9 million to operate a 24x7 operations communications centre that will facilitate enhanced and streamlined dispatch of SES units to emergencies; and
- ◆ \$0.3 million for risk communication to maintain the Service's Creating Safer Communities program.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The SES is employing a number of strategies to meet the delivery of the programmed results. These include:

- ◆ development of flood intelligence capabilities;
- ◆ delivery of community education at the local level through the facilitation of trained volunteer community education officers;
- ◆ developing telecommunication capabilities to deal with changing telecommunications systems;
- ◆ provision of a governance framework, establishment of standard operating environment for software and hardware and the implementation of a information security management framework;
- ◆ the provision of a robust and secure SES wide area network; and

- ◆ developing and implementing information services and knowledge management through SES online.

2006-07 BUDGET

Total Expenses

The State Emergency Service's total expenses for 2006-07 are projected to be \$37.1 million.

The SES will fund the following programs:

- ◆ \$3 million to improve the SES organisational capability; and
- ◆ \$1.4 million to implement and operate a 24x7 operations communications centre that will help improve the dispatch of SES crews to emergencies.

Capital Expenditure

The SES capital program is estimated at \$4.5 million.

Capital funding will continue in the following areas:

- ◆ \$2.4 million for communication and paging systems;
- ◆ \$1.4 million for rescue equipment;
- ◆ an additional \$0.4 million to replace motorised hydraulic cutters for road crash rescue units; and
- ◆ \$0.2 million to complete the construction of a new Macquarie region headquarters in Dubbo.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

The Department administers Crown Land within New South Wales on behalf of the Crown Entity as well as environmental soil conservation earthworks and consulting services to landowners. The Office of Rural Affairs within the Department provides a co-ordinating forum to gather rural people's views to inform government. Land and Property Information New South Wales (a division within the Department), also undertakes property valuations and provides guarantee of title to land on a fee for service basis.

The Department operates from 68 rural and regional locations with its major governing legislation being the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, the *Soil Conservation Act 1938*, the *Valuation of Land Act 1916* and the *Real Property Act 1900*.

RESULTS AND SERVICES

The Department contributes to the State's natural resource infrastructure management and economic activity levels by working towards the following results:

- ◆ Sustainable natural resource management.
- ◆ Increased economic returns from State land infrastructure assets.

Key services provided by the Department which contribute to these results include:

- ◆ revenue collection and other Crown land administrative activities;
- ◆ marketing and disposal of Crown land for residential, commercial, industrial and rural use;
- ◆ managing Crown reserves for the benefit and use of the public, in partnership with local councils and community trusts;
- ◆ management of Crown land for environmental conservation and sustainability in public use and industry;
- ◆ managing indigenous land rights issues under Aboriginal Land Rights and Native Title legislation;
- ◆ skills and knowledge in managing and implementing soil conservation earthworks and consultancy services; and
- ◆ engagement of rural communities throughout New South Wales to develop solutions to address issues affecting their sustainability.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Department expenditures over the last four years have increased with the growth in the size of the Department following transfers of activities from other Departments. Activities transferred include the minor ports and river entrances program and the Tweed River Sand Bypassing initiative. As a result total operating expenses have increased from \$56 million in 2003-04 to \$83 million in 2006-07.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Over the past two years Parliament has approved changes to the *Crown Lands Act 1989* to simplify Crown land lease and licence administration. These changes will result in divestment of some lands to their users on a permanent basis and also sale of other Crown land. In 2006-07 the Department will continue to embody the legislative changes in operational practices.

These changes should improve the economic return from Crown Land, reduce contingent liabilities and more readily meet the diversified needs of the community for Crown Land. Similarly, work is continuing to refocus the Soil Conservation Service to make it commercially viable whilst continuing to provide value added services to its rural and regional customers.

2006-07 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses for 2006-07 are \$83.2 million. This includes \$52.2 million for the maintenance and management of Crown Lands, \$17.8 million for soil conservation activity and \$13.2 million paid to Land and Property Information New South Wales to continue community service programs such as maintenance of topographical data, survey marks, aerial photography and the Geographic Names Board.

Capital Expenditure

The total capital program for the Department for 2006-07 is \$2.8 million. This program includes \$0.4 million for replacement of computers, plant and equipment and \$0.3 million for building refurbishments to continue to address occupational health and safety issues.

Funding of \$1.9 million has also been provided within the Crown Lands capital works program for the continuation of remediation work to a number of minor dams. It is planned that \$0.3 million for equipment acquisition will be spent within the Soil Services program.

LAND AND PROPERTY INFORMATION NEW SOUTH WALES

Through the Surveyor General, Registrar General and Valuer General statutory positions, Land and Property Information (LPI) manages the State's land and property registration system, mapping, survey and land valuation services.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

LPI's overall business grows in line with the increasing number of properties in New South Wales. However, LPI's operations are subject to the volatility of the property market. During 2006-07 LPI will continue to implement the recommendations of the Ombudsman's report on valuations.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

LPI continues to invest in integrating its data sets and electronic delivery of its information to improve efficiency and convenience for its customers. LPI will also work with the other jurisdictions to develop a National Electronic Conveyancing System. When fully implemented this system will further enhance the way conveyancing is undertaken across Australia.

2006-07 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses for 2006-07 are estimated to be \$144.9 million. The majority of this expenditure is spent on statutory land valuations, land title creation and registration services, spatial information, survey and mapping services and technical support.

Capital Expenditure

The 2006-07 Budget for capital expenditure is \$19.5 million. The program for LPI includes improving land information systems, enhancing and developing electronic service delivery capabilities and the renewal of plant and equipment.

New projects include:

- ◆ development of a National Electronic Conveyancing System;
- ◆ conversion of Crown Parcels; and
- ◆ restructuring of the Aerial Photography Program for the Digital Environment.

Projects continuing include:

- ◆ development of E-Channel services;
- ◆ upgrade of rural addresses;

- ◆ improved regional service delivery;
- ◆ improvements to enhance the transparency and accuracy of the valuation systems;
- ◆ the conversion of old system and manual Torrens titles to the Integrated Titling System; and
- ◆ the conservation and digitisation of historical plans.