

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT,
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES**

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 1999-2000 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2000-01 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Environment Protection			
Total Expenses	124.3	147.3	18.5
Asset Acquisitions	8.6	5.7	(-) 33.4
Environmental Trust			
Total Expenses	44.0	32.8	(-) 25.5
Asset Acquisitions
National Parks and Wildlife Service			
Total Expenses	232.6	251.1	7.9
Asset Acquisitions	57.3	60.1	4.9
Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain			
Total Expenses	26.1	30.5	16.9
Asset Acquisitions	7.6	3.7	(-) 51.8
Bicentennial Park Trust			
Total Expenses	4.3	5.0	15.2
Asset Acquisitions	7.5	4.6	(-) 38.8
New South Wales Fire Brigades			
Total Expenses	293.0	308.9	5.4
Asset Acquisitions	37.7	38.8	3.0
Department of Rural Fire Service			
Total Expenses	85.8	92.6	7.9
Asset Acquisitions	0.8	3.2	300.0
State Emergency Service			
Total Expenses	19.6	23.4	19.6
Asset Acquisitions	2.4	2.8	18.8
Department of Corrective Services			
Total Expenses	466.0	527.0	13.1
Asset Acquisitions	65.2	82.1	25.9

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 1999-2000 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2000-01 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Stormwater Trust			
Total Expenses	25.1	16.8	(-) 33.1
Asset Acquisitions
Waste Planning and Management Fund			
Total Expenses	17.7	36.8	108.2
Asset Acquisitions
Total, Minister for Environment, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services			
Total Expenses	1,338.5	1,472.2	10.0
Asset Acquisitions	187.0	200.9	7.5

A major factor contributing to the increase in 2000-01 budgeted expenditure of the Department of Corrective Services is growth in the number of inmates.

Budgeted expenditure for the National Parks and Wildlife Service has increased due to funding for establishment and maintenance of various new parks and additions including those in southern New South Wales, upgrading sewerage facilities throughout the park estate, and additional funding for threatened species recovery plans.

Reimbursements of the Consolidated Fund by the Environmental Trust are projected to decrease due to a decrease in reimbursements outstanding associated with forest industry restructuring expenditure and the national parks estate.

Budgeted expenses of the Environment Protection Authority will increase largely because of an increased grant to the Waste Planning and Management Fund. Expenditure for the Waste Planning and Management Fund has also increased to reflect increased funding from the EPA.

The increase in capital expenditure by the Rural Fire Service is for the one-off acquisition of a fixed-wing aircraft.

The completion of a backlog of projects in 1999-2000 will bring expenditure by the Stormwater Trust down to planned levels.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

The Environment Protection Authority's (EPA's) objectives are to protect, maintain and restore the quality of the environment, having regard to the need to maintain ecologically sustainable development, to reduce the risks to human health and to prevent degradation of the environment.

The EPA's 1998 to 2003 Corporate Plan sets its mission as that of "guiding the community to achieve and maintain a healthy environment in a productive New South Wales."

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Since the EPA commenced operations in March 1992 there has been a steady increase in budget support reflecting the Government's commitment to the environment as well as increased awareness by the community of environmental issues and the EPA's responsibilities.

EPA data demonstrate a growth in demand for services, which has been met by reallocating resources and introducing efficiencies.

In 2000-01, EPA expenses provide for the first year of hypothecation of 55 percent of waste levy revenue to the Waste Planning and Management Fund. This will provide a Government contribution of \$36.6 million to the Fund. This payment will bring the total Government contributions to the Fund to \$106.4 million since its inception in 1995-96.

The EPA appropriation also includes a contribution of \$20 million to the Stormwater Trust as part of the Government's commitment to improved urban stormwater management and \$9.4 million to be paid to the Zoological Parks Board as part of the Government's support for that body.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The EPA has developed strategies involving innovative and targeted monitoring, regulation and enforcement as well as the use of economic mechanisms, education and the planning process.

Of particular importance have been recent legislative changes to the overall regulatory regime for environmental control in New South Wales. This has included the introduction of a system of "load based" licensing as a means of focusing on the total load of pollutants discharged into the environment rather than the concentration of pollutants in discharges. The new system directly links the level of licence fee to the total load.

These strategies will assist the EPA in addressing:

- ◆ issues of waste generation, transport, disposal and management;
- ◆ increased pressures on the environment as a result of increased urban population and development;
- ◆ problems of maintaining and improving the health and sustainability of marine and freshwater environments; and
- ◆ the minimisation of adverse impacts on the environment and public health of chemicals, hazardous substances and other contaminants.

The most important of these legislative changes came into effect on 1 July 1999 with the introduction of the *Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act 1997 (POEO)*. During the transition period the EPA has needed to run a dual system of licences and approvals. Significant new responsibilities have been acquired in environmental education, radiation control, pesticides management and waste management. Of these, waste management has the greatest resource implications.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses in 2000-01 are estimated at \$147.3 million. Major expenditures include:

- ◆ \$44.2 million on waste minimisation and management initiatives including an amount of \$36.6 million to support the Waste Planning and Management Fund;
- ◆ \$36.3 million on improving the health and sustainability of NSW waterways, including programs to plan for and control stormwater discharges and reduce the impact from sewerage systems;
- ◆ \$30 million on environmental compliance, including the one-off transitional costs associated with implementing the new *POEO Act* and other new legislation;
- ◆ a contribution of \$20 million to the Stormwater Trust;
- ◆ \$13.7 million to reduce air and noise emissions and to minimise their impact on the community;
- ◆ \$8.4 million on minimising the adverse impact of chemicals and other hazardous substances on the environment and public health; and
- ◆ a contribution of \$9.4 million to the Zoological Parks Board for various purposes, including research, public education and upgrades to exhibits.

In addition, a further \$1.2 million will be provided to the EPA for additional licensing responsibilities under the *Radiation Control Act 1990*.

Asset Acquisitions

Asset acquisitions in 2000-01 total \$5.7 million.

An amount of \$3 million will be spent in redesigning and refurbishing the EPA's motor vehicle laboratory building at Lidcombe as general laboratory and office space.

Expenditure of \$2.6 million will be incurred for the initiation of the air quality monitoring network.

The EPA will continue to provide significant funding to improve facilities for computer supported scientific, technical and administrative facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

The *Environmental Trust Act 1998* created the Environmental Trust, a single body to replace the Environmental Education Trust, the Environmental Research Trust and the Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Trust.

In summary, the objectives of the Environmental Trust are:

- ◆ to promote environmental education, to encourage the development of education programs and to increase the awareness of environmental issues;
- ◆ to promote research into environmental problems;
- ◆ to encourage and support restoration and rehabilitation projects that are likely to reduce pollution, the waste stream or environmental degradation within New South Wales; and
- ◆ to fund acquisition of land for national parks.

In addition the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995* provides access to the Trust's funds to meet various costs. This Act requires the Environmental Trust to reimburse the Consolidated Fund for authorised expenditure originally made from the Consolidated Fund associated with the following objectives:

- ◆ restructuring the timber industry for the purpose of conserving New South Wales forests;
- ◆ reserving and conserving new national parks; and

- ◆ implementing a range of high priority environment projects.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure from the Trust and its predecessor bodies has risen steadily from 1995-96 reflecting refunds to the Consolidated Fund for initiatives under the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*.

Amendments to this Act increased the total amount of forest industry restructuring payments from \$60 million to \$80 million, and extended the scheme by a further five years to June 2006. As at January 2000 a total of \$34.4 million has been reimbursed from the Trust for forestry purposes.

In recent years the Environmental Trust's grants under its Act were limited to \$1.08 million per annum with the bulk of the Trust's funds going towards expenditure incurred under the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*. From July 2000 the *Environmental Trust Act 1998* empowers the Trust to undertake a larger annual grants program.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 2000-01 the Trust has up to \$12.7 million approved for expenditure on its own programs. The Trust receives a standing appropriation from the Consolidated Fund (\$13.5 million in 1998-99 dollars indexed to the CPI) to support these grants. The *Environmental Trust Act 1998* states that a minimum \$2.0 million per annum will be allocated to community groups for environmental education, restoration and research projects. The Trust is currently in the process of determining its priority objectives for 2000-01.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses in 2000-01 are projected to be \$32.8 million and include the following projects:

- ◆ Forest industry restructuring expenditure incurred under section 4(1)(a) of the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995* (\$14.7 million).
- ◆ Additional commitments for the purpose of implementing other schemes and programs for environment protection and nature conservation under section 4(1)(c) of the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*. Reimbursement will be restricted to projects listed in the 1999-2000 Budget not reimbursed from the Trust in that year and is currently estimated at \$4.7 million.

- ◆ As noted above up to \$12.7 million is available for expenditure by the Trust to fund its priority activities in 2000-01.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The objectives of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are to conserve, protect and manage the State's natural and cultural heritage and to provide opportunities for members of the public to enjoy, appreciate and support national parks, regional parks and the conservation of the State's heritage.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure since 1994-95 has increased from \$143.3 million to projected expenditure in 1999-2000 of \$245.5 million. The increase reflects the Government's continuing commitment to the environment and the Service's increased responsibilities in conservation management, threatened species, biodiversity and park management.

Since 1995-96 the Government has declared over 150 new national parks and reserves, including additions. More than 700,000 hectares of State forest in the north east and south east of New South Wales have been transferred to the Service as a result of the Government's forestry reform process. An additional area of more than 300,000 hectares will be transferred as part of the Southern Comprehensive Regional Assessment, resulting in the declaration of a further 100 new national parks.

In continuing the Government's commitment to the environment, an amount of \$8 million will have been spent in 1999-2000 on the establishment of new national parks in the Upper and Lower North East regions of the State. In addition, funding of \$1.5 million has been provided for on-going management of park additions acquired during 1998-99.

Other commitments include the implementation of threatened species legislation, responsibilities under the State Biodiversity Strategy and establishment and maintenance of new and existing Regional Parks.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In meeting its objectives of conserving, protecting and managing the State's natural and cultural heritage, the Service has adopted three key conservation themes which reflect a shift in focus towards greater community involvement:

- ◆ movement beyond the reserve system to conservation across the landscape;
- ◆ management of the reserve system within a regional landscape context; and
- ◆ enhancement of the reserve system targeting agreed conservation criteria.

Within this framework, specific initiatives focus on targeted additions to the park estate in under-represented bioregions (especially in Western New South Wales), increasing the protection of biodiversity and cultural heritage, working with aboriginal communities in joint management arrangements for culturally significant lands, and working with the community to promote conservation efforts off park.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses in 2000-01 are estimated at \$251.1 million. Major expenditure areas include fire management, pest species management and the maintenance of essential infrastructure to facilitate management, access and enjoyment of the reserve system by the community. Continued emphasis will be placed on community education and consultation programs consistent with the agency's strategy to engage its stakeholders in the delivery of its core programs.

Major new areas of expenditure include:

- ◆ \$2.8 million for start-up activities for the establishment and management of parks arising from the Southern Comprehensive Regional Assessment;
- ◆ \$0.84 million to establish National Parks at Arakwal and Warrell Creek;
- ◆ \$0.75 million (as part of a \$13.8 million program over 3 years) to upgrade sewerage infrastructure in parks and reserves across the State;
- ◆ \$0.5 million for the development of the Perisher Range Ski Resort Development Plan;
- ◆ initial funding of \$0.45 million to commence a Regional Aboriginal heritage study; and

- ◆ an additional \$0.5 million to implement priority actions identified in threatened species recovery plans for Western NSW and the outer metropolitan area of Western Sydney.
- ◆ other significant activities involve progressing the State's western regional assessment, biodiversity research initiatives and the development of essential management systems to support the achievement of the Service's core objectives.

Asset Acquisitions

Total asset acquisitions in 2000-01 are estimated at \$60.1 million. The Service's capital program enhances the community's appreciation of the environmental significance of areas through the provision of visitor facilities. The program encompasses acquisition of land, construction or reconstruction of facilities and minor works.

In 2000-01, major new works totalling \$6.1 million include:

- ◆ \$4 million for a Service-wide sewerage upgrade program;
- ◆ \$1 million for high priority stormwater works in the Perisher Range and within Kosciuszko National Park;
- ◆ \$0.5 million for improvements to infrastructure at Botany Bay, Blue Mountains and Royal National Parks;
- ◆ \$0.4 million for private land conservation schemes; and
- ◆ \$0.2 million for improvements to infrastructure and visitor facilities in the south east of the State.

The program also provides \$13 million for minor works and \$41 million for major works in progress including:

- ◆ \$13.6 million for land acquisitions including \$1.5 million for purchases of land associated with permissive occupancies terminated in forestry restructuring, \$3.1 million for land acquisitions at Jervis Bay, \$5.8 million for land acquisition of open spaces, and \$3.2 million allocated from minor works;
- ◆ \$11.1 million for the reconstruction and remediation of the Alpine Way above Thredbo Village following the Thredbo landslide;
- ◆ \$7 million for development works in former State forests in the Upper and Lower North East Forests;

- ◆ \$5.3 million for ongoing works at Western Sydney, Rouse Hill and other Regional Parks; and
- ◆ \$1.6 million for fire and pest species management initiatives.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND DOMAIN TRUST

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust maintains the Sydney Gardens and Government House Grounds, the National Herbarium of New South Wales, the Domain and the Mount Tomah and Mount Annan Botanic Gardens. It also provides research, advice, education and extension services in botanical and horticultural areas.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Recurrent payments over the last five years have increased gradually in line with wage increases and inflation. In 2000-01 the Budget makes provision for settlement of claims arising from litigation over the amount payable by South Sydney City Council for the rental of the Domain Car Park.

Capital expenditure over the last five years has been dominated by additions to the National Herbarium of NSW building (completed in 1997-98) and work on the Farm Cove Seawall.

The Capital Program for 1999-2000 included the commencement of a number of major capital works including:

- ◆ completion of a substantial re-build of a portion of the Farm Cove Seawall;
- ◆ installation of a computer database for the Trust's living and preserved plant collections;
- ◆ completion of improved irrigation and drainage within the Phillip Street precinct of the Domain;
- ◆ commencement of an upgrading of the Domain Horticultural Depot; and
- ◆ commencement of conversion of toilet blocks near the Gardens Restaurant in the Sydney Gardens to a new retail and amenities facility.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The major priorities to be addressed by the Trust during the coming year include:

- ◆ a continued focus on the development of opportunities to increase and diversify the Trust's revenue base;
- ◆ implementation of plans of management for all three botanic gardens and the Domain;
- ◆ implementation of recommendations from a review of the Trust's plant research program; and
- ◆ further adoption of a more strategic approach to asset maintenance.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Budgeted expenses towards the ongoing management of the Sydney Gardens and Government House Grounds, the National Herbarium of New South Wales, the Domain and the Mount Tomah and Mt Annan Botanic Gardens total \$30.5 million.

The budgeted increase in expenditure between 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is being driven by a Budget provision associated with settlement of claims arising from litigation over the amount payable by South Sydney City Council for the rental of the Domain Car Park and increases in input prices for goods and services acquired by the Trust.

Asset Acquisitions

Budgeted asset acquisitions total \$3.7 million and include the following major works projects:

- ◆ completion of the Domain Depot (\$0.7 million) which will deliver improved occupational health and safety outcomes for the Trust's employees;
- ◆ completion of the Middle Gardens retail facility (\$0.2 million);
- ◆ commencement of a five year program to provide alternative irrigation and water supply systems for the Sydney Gardens and Domain to replace the current aged infrastructure with a more cost effective, efficient and reliable system of water delivery (\$0.2 million) ;
- ◆ repairs to the Sydney Tropical Centre (\$0.5 million);

- ◆ alternative irrigation and water supply systems for the Mt Annan Gardens (\$0.3 million); and
- ◆ establishment of the First Encounters Garden to increase public awareness of Aboriginal people's prior use of Farm Cove (\$0.3 million).

BICENTENNIAL PARK TRUST

The Bicentennial Park Trust is responsible for the maintenance and management of Bicentennial Park, a highly used area of parklands in Western Sydney. The Trust operates in a dynamic and increasingly complex business environment. Bicentennial Park forms a gateway to Sydney Olympic Park and part of the emerging Millennium Parklands.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Over the last three years, the Trust's total expenditure has increased significantly, from \$2.0 million in 1997-98 to an estimated \$4.5 million in 1999-2000. This reflects the Trust's commitment to improving the maintenance of parklands, enhancing the protection strategies for the wetlands and improving customer service standards. Capital expenditure too has increased significantly since 1997-98 with the completion of the Olympic access corridor upgrade, Bicentennial water feature restoration and the installation of environmental pollution control works to address landfill contamination issues.

In the coming years, recurrent and capital expenditure will be impacted by five main issues continuing to influence operations of the Trust – landfill settlement and contamination, the infrastructure development at Homebush Bay, the relaunch of Sydney Olympic Park after the Olympic and Paralympic Games, residential developments adjoining the Park and the growth in visitation to the Park.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Trust's strategic plan focuses on achieving the following outcomes in four key result areas:

- ◆ financial effectiveness;
- ◆ customer service;
- ◆ process excellence; and
- ◆ innovation and learning.

The development of nearby Sydney Olympic Park has created new business opportunities for the Trust. Growth in tourism, specialised event and conferencing support services, innovative business partnerships combined with growth in current recreation and education markets will enable the Trust to increase revenue as infrastructure is developed in the Park.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses of the Trust in 2000-01, estimated at \$5 million, will provide for the maintenance of educational, recreational and cultural services and facilities located in the Parklands. This includes the Field Studies Centre, Visitor and Environment Centre, recreation and tourism management services, horticultural and wetlands management programs and marketing and business development programs.

Asset Acquisitions

Total asset acquisitions in 2000-01 are estimated at \$4.6 million for:

- ◆ replacement of the Park's road, to allow for two-way traffic and cater for bus traffic;
- ◆ replacement and expansion of parking areas to accommodate growing demand;
- ◆ introduction of parking management infrastructure to control indiscriminate parking; and
- ◆ development of a new vehicle entrance and reversal of traffic flow through the Park to reduce traffic risks on Australia Avenue.

NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES

The NSW Fire Brigades serves and works with the community to prevent fire and to respond to fires, hazardous material incidents and rescue operations in order to protect and preserve life, property and the environment. The Brigades is responsible for providing fire protection to developed centres throughout the State, covering over 90 percent of the population. In times of emergency, such as a bush fire crisis, it also supports the Department of Rural Fire Service in non-urban areas.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The NSW Fire Brigades is funded 73.7 percent by the insurance industry and 12.3 percent by Local Government with a net cost to the State Budget of 14 percent.

Between 1993-94 and 1998-99 there was a 42 percent growth in the number of incidents attended by the Brigades. In 1998-99 the Brigades was required to respond on 142,327 occasions of which there were 111,590 primary incidents (actual fires for which the NSW Fire Brigades has the primary responsibility to respond).

In 1997, the Government embarked on the first major fire station building program in 75 years. A \$21 million Greater Sydney Area Strategic Program will see 12 new fire stations built in Western Sydney to provide improved and equitable urban fire protection. Eight of these stations are already operational (St Andrews, Blacktown, Kellyville, Rosemeadow, Narellan, Huntingwood, Horningsea Park and Regentville). Remaining stations at Bonnyrigg Heights, Horsley Park, Cranebrook and Schofields will become operational during 2000-01 and 2001-02.

As part of similar programs in the country, new stations at Kariong, Berkeley Vale, Bateau Bay and Kelso were completed in 1999-2000.

More than 100 additional firefighters for Western Sydney and 78 for country areas have also been recruited as a result of the fire station building program.

The Brigades' other initiatives include successful smoke alarm campaigns in partnership with the Department of Housing, Rural Fire Service, local Area Health Services, local government and the insurance industry. As a result, the number of homes fitted with smoke alarms has increased from 20 percent in 1995 to more than 60 percent at present.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The NSW Fire Brigades aims to minimise the impact of emergency incidents on the community. The Brigades has taken a number of strategic initiatives to improve decision making required for better planning, evaluation and operational service delivery throughout the organisation. Many of these involve improved consultation with local government. Improved decision making capability will maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of the Brigades' core business: fire prevention, fire suppression, management of hazardous material incidents, provision of rescue services and response to natural hazards.

Building Program

An amount of \$25.4 million has been allocated for the fire station building program commencing in 1999-2000 to build 25 new or upgraded fire stations and training facilities in Sydney, the Illawarra, the Central Coast, the Hunter region and country areas and to undertake major refurbishment of a further seven stations.

Under the Greater Sydney Area program, establishing or relocating fire stations at Glenhaven, Baulkham Hills, Yennora and Arncliffe will commence. Stage one of the Central Coast program will see new fire stations built at Warnervale, Umina, Doyalson and Kincumber subject to consultations with local groups.

In the Illawarra, a new fire station will be built at Shellharbour commencing in 2000-01. Stage one of a program to build or upgrade stations in the Hunter Valley will continue. Under this program fire stations will be built at Toronto, Wangi Wangi, Tingira Heights, Kotara, Wallsend, West Wallsend, Stockton and East Maitland, subject to consultations with local groups. A new fire station will also be built at Dubbo.

Additionally, improved and new training facilities will be provided in Penrith, Newcastle and Lismore over the period 2001-02 to 2002-03. Refurbishment of the fire stations at a number of country locations will also be carried out.

Equipment

The fire appliance program will continue with an allocation of \$54 million for new fire fighting appliances over the next three years. This involves the purchase of 168 new and upgraded fire engines for country New South Wales as well as continuing the replacement of the heavy duty fire engines for use in the urban areas of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses in 2000-01 are estimated at \$308.9 million. Comparisons with 1999-2000 are affected by the prolonged firefighter dispute which has resulted in additional costs of around \$13 million.

The Brigades will allocate additional funding of \$2 million for improved and better protective clothing and safety equipment for the firefighters.

Recruitment of an additional 120 permanent and 60 retained firefighters, which commenced in 1999-2000, will also continue and this will provide additional staff at busy country stations and retained staff at new rural stations. Funds to the extent of \$14 million have been allocated to this program over the four-year period commencing from 1999-2000.

Asset Acquisitions

The NSW Fire Brigades' 2000-01 asset acquisition program of \$38.8 million includes provision for the following projects:

- ◆ communications - continued Government Radio Network development (\$4.0 million);
- ◆ continuation of the new fire stations program in the Greater Sydney Area (\$1.0 million) as well as the continuation of new fire station building programs at Central Coast, Dubbo and in the Hunter (\$4.0 million);
- ◆ commencement of the Illawarra fire station building program (\$0.5 million);
- ◆ the construction of a purpose-built fire station at No 1 Fire Station, Sydney at a total cost of \$9.5 million (\$7.3 million in 2000-01);
- ◆ refurbishment of a number of fire stations including Narrabeen, Warragamba, Lawson, Moss Vale and Mittagong (\$1.0 million);
- ◆ continuation of a program to acquire and replace fire fighting appliances and pumpers (\$13 million);
- ◆ continuation of a program to replace special appliances such as breathing apparatus, Hazmat (hazardous material responses) and salvage vehicles (\$2 million);
- ◆ purchase of specialised aerial fire fighting appliances (\$3 million);
- ◆ information systems (\$2 million); and
- ◆ various other minor works (\$1 million).

These asset acquisitions will be of benefit to both city and rural areas of New South Wales and will provide additional facilities required in growth areas of the State.

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 bush fire fighting and bushfire prevention activities. The Office for Emergency Services is included under the Service's administration and is responsible for policy advice to the Minister and for rescue services and emergency management throughout the State.

The prevention and containment of bush fires would not be possible without the unpaid work of some 70,000 volunteers, who operate through 2,400 community-based bush fire brigades attached to 142 local councils.

Under the *Rural Fires Act (1997)*, expenditure by the Service on fire fighting activities is financed from the State (14 percent), Local Government (12.3 percent) and the insurance industry (73.7 percent).

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

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

The RFFF has received significant funding increases over the past five financial years. The total amount provided to the RFFF in 1995-96 was \$65.8 million, as compared to \$91.0 million to be provided in 2000-01, an increase of 38.3 percent over the five years.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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

Since the January 1994 bushfires, the agency has focussed on improving radio communication, replacing aged tankers and developing an appropriate management structure to minimise fire hazard and improve response to fire emergencies.

Whilst these improvements will continue, the Rural Fire Service is currently embarking on a service-wide upgrade of safety features on tankers, and also replacing protective clothing and equipment for fire fighters with superior products, made available through improved technology.

2000-01 BUDGET

The level of funding provided in 2000-01 allows the service to continue its accelerated tanker replacement program. It is estimated that 146 new tankers will be provided during the year, and a total of \$7.4 million will be available for the purchase of second hand tankers.

The overall level of equipment to be provided for the year is similar to that of 1999-2000. This includes \$4 million for the commencement of a program to refit existing vehicles with more sophisticated protection systems, including fireprotective blankets. The program is expected to cost \$12 million over the next 3 years.

Also included is an additional \$2.1 million for the purchase of technologically advanced protective clothing and other safety equipment.

Funding has also been provided for the purchase of an aircraft for the service at a cost of \$2.1 million. This aircraft will provide significant logistical and operational support to volunteer firefighters and incident controllers, including reconnaissance and observation, rapid transport for incident management and firefighting teams and transportation of light equipment to remote locations.

Normal operating costs for the service have risen significantly in recent years, with workers compensation for volunteer firefighters rising from around \$1 million per annum prior to 1997-98 to more than \$2 million per annum.

A total of \$42.3 million will be provided to local councils for purchase of capital equipment and for the construction and upgrade of rural fire stations. A further \$18.3 million will be provided to councils to meet recurrent costs associated with bush fire fighting and prevention.

The high level of funding will enable the continuation of the equipment replacement program at the accelerated level initiated by the Government to replace obsolete and technologically deficient equipment.

Funding for the Office of Emergency Services has been provided at a level commensurate with that of the previous financial year.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

The State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based organisation dedicated to providing timely assistance in times of natural or man made incidents or emergencies. While its main responsibilities reflect its role as the lead agency for floods and storms, the Service is also the major provider of land and inland water search and rescue throughout the State. Additionally, the Service provides significant support to the Police Service and other emergency services in a widespread range of emergency situations. Currently there are around 6,600 SES volunteers approximately responding to approximately 20,000 incidents per year.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Service has received substantial increases in funding over the last few years particularly in 1998-99 and 1999-2000, which have enabled it to address major priorities in the areas of Protective Clothing, Safety Equipment, Floodboats, Radio Equipment and the commencement of employment of Permanent Division Controllers.

Additional funding in 1999-2000 included:

- ◆ \$500,000 to assist Councils with the purchase of modern and reliable vehicles for Volunteer Units; and
- ◆ \$100,000 for the employment of additional Permanent Division Controllers whose role is to control SES operations and coordinate SES responses at Division level as well as oversight the preparation of planning and monitor training within the Division.

Funding of \$63,000 was also provided in 1999-2000 for Radio Repeat site maintenance to ensure that communications equipment remains operational.

The 1999-2000 financial year also saw the acceleration of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Management Project to improve public education, upgrade flood-warning systems and enhance the SES flood response capability.

Capital funding enabled the Service to replace 12 floodboats, upgrade rescue equipment for the road rescue units and provide New Radio Systems as well as construct a purpose built headquarters at Cobar for the Far West Division to replace unsuitable premises.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The State Emergency Service will continue to improve its capability to deal with floods, storms, tempests and other incidents and emergencies.

This will be achieved through developing public communication and flood planning programs to ensure that communities at risk are aware of the nature of the risks and how to protect themselves and their property.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Expenses of \$23.4 million in 2000-01 compared with projected expenses of \$21.8 million in 1999-2000 recognises the invaluable role played by the State Emergency Service volunteers within the community. Increased support for the SES will ensure that equipment and training available to volunteers as well as public education are improved significantly, thereby enhancing the operational capability of the SES.

The additional funding includes \$250,000 for public education in line with the Government's election promises. An amount of \$1 million has been provided for protective clothing and safety equipment for volunteers. Additional training needs of volunteers are catered for by the provision of a learning and development package of approximately \$1.4 million that includes funding for six additional trainers to be located in the field. An amount of \$191,000 has been provided for two additional flood planning staff. Funding has also been provided for recurrent needs of computerisation of units (\$217,000) and for ongoing costs of the one number call taking facility (\$150,000).

Asset Acquisitions

In 2000-01, asset acquisitions will total \$2.8 million. As part of this program, \$1.1 million has been provided for digital capable radios in Sydney Metropolitan Divisions, \$80,000 to replace portable repeaters and \$59,000 to maintain a radio communications repair pool.

In addition to the above funding, \$697,000 has been provided for rescue equipment. The funding for rescue equipment ensures modern flood rescue boats, emergency lighting sets, road rescue equipment, storm and flood rescue gear is available to ensure continued professional emergency support to the community.

Funding of \$450,000 has been provided for construction of a new Headquarters for the Murray Division at Albury and \$150,000 for the purchase of land for the relocation of the Illawarra/South Coast Division Headquarters.

To implement the Government's election promise for the computerisation of State Emergency Service Units, \$750,000 is being provided over three years, commencing in 2000-01.

An amount of \$50,000 has been provided for annual provisions.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES

The Department of Corrective Services is responsible for carrying out both custodial and non-custodial orders of the criminal courts for both sentenced and unsentenced adult inmates. The Department is responsible for the management of offenders who have been sentenced to imprisonment, are on remand or appeal, or have been required to adhere to an order involving supervision by the Probation and Parole Service.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure trends within the Department are impacted by the full time inmate population level 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 by almost 50 percent to 7,442 in late April 2000.

The increase is reflective of a combination of factors including police response to crime patterns, rates of conviction, sentencing outcomes and bail decisions. Demand for custodial correctional services is expected to continue to increase in the immediately foreseeable future.

Similarly the work load of the Probation and Parole Service, which provides pre sentence reports to the judiciary and undertakes offender management services within the community, has increased from 40,324 reports and registrations in 1996-97 to an estimated 45,600 in 2000-01. This represents an increase of 13 percent over four years.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 2000-01 the Department's focus will be upon responding to the increased demand for services whilst consolidating improvements to correctional management that have already commenced. The Department aims to:

- ◆ Respond to high levels of demand for inmate accommodation and projected further demand for beds across the correctional system;
- ◆ Continue with the consolidation and improvement of case management of offenders in correctional centres including strong linkages with post release services;

- ◆ Respond to offending behaviour through newly developed specialised therapeutic and cognitive behaviour programs addressing substance addiction, violence, sexual offending and the needs of inmates with intellectual disabilities;
- ◆ Consolidate indigenous program initiatives commenced in 1999-2000 which target young male offenders with community ties to Far West New South Wales;
- ◆ Establish a program approach to service delivery in the management of community based offenders that accords with best practice principles;
- ◆ Introduce a risk assessment mechanism to prioritise levels of service to be provided to community based offenders;
- ◆ Respond to increasing levels of offenders in all community based programs; and
- ◆ Implement specific non-custodial programs that target services to identified indigenous communities.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Estimated total expenses of \$527 million in 2000-01 will be incurred on the core functions of the Department which include offender management and containment, delivery of developmental programs and the provision of pre sentence reports to the Courts. Provision has been made in 2000-01 for the following items.

Increased Inmate Numbers

- ◆ Funding has been provided for expansion of the Department's correctional bed capacity to cope with the increase in inmate numbers arising from the increase in frontline police numbers. This is estimated to cost \$10.6 million in 2000-01.

Court Security and Regional Inmate Transport

- ◆ Funding of \$8 million has been provided in 2000-01 for continuation of consolidation of court security and regional inmate transport activities taken over from the Police Service in 1999-2000, with a continuation of the transfer of responsibility at further locations. This transfer of responsibilities will free up more police in regional areas for frontline duties.

Training of additional correctional officers

- ◆ The 2000-01 recurrent allocation includes \$3 million to meet the costs incurred in training additional staff to fill current vacancies and those expected as a consequence of the transfer of responsibilities from the Police Service and staff required for expansion of John Morony Correctional Centre at South Windsor.

Increased community based offender levels

- ◆ Additional Probation and Parole staff will be employed in 2000-01 to meet the increasing caseload of offenders under supervision in the community and pre sentence reports required by the judiciary. Approximately 30 additional staff (a 6.8 percent increase) will be employed to enable service delivery to an expanding client base.

Asset Acquisitions – New Works

Highlights of the 2000-01 program, which totals \$82.1 million, are detailed below. The program includes commencement of three major new works.

Infrastructure Upgrade for Silverwater Correctional Complex

A \$3.5 million infrastructure upgrade at the Silverwater Correctional Complex will involve construction of a new gatehouse, administration facilities and visitors centre and will provide additional program space for inmates. The existing administration building for the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre will be extended to relocate the accounts section, avoiding the need for the public to be admitted to a correctional centre to pay bails and fines.

Completion is scheduled for June 2002 with expenditure of \$1.5 million in 2000-01.

Offender Information System Upgrade

An upgrade of the offender information system will provide a common web-based interface for the Department's four existing information systems: the Offender Management System, Probation Information Management System, Inmate Trust Accounting and Payroll System and the Inmate Development System. The use of an internet based infrastructure will provide a cost effective means of sharing information within Corrective Services and with other agencies.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$1.1 million with completion scheduled for June 2001.

Information Architecture Facility

The Information Architecture Facility project incorporates data warehousing, data mining and the use of Internet/Intranet technologies to enhance the availability and use of information across all areas of the Department and with external business partners. The purpose of the Information Architecture project is to leverage off existing systems and provide a means of accessing, manipulating, transforming and disseminating information across the key corporate inmate systems.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$1 million (\$0.7 million in 2000-01) with completion scheduled for July 2001.

Asset Acquisitions – Works in Progress

200 Bed Parklea Metropolitan Remand Centre

This project involves the construction of purpose built remand accommodation as an expansion of Parklea Correctional Centre. The Centre will provide 200 new beds for young offenders in order to address the accommodation requirements of an increasing inmate remand population within the Sydney Metropolitan area.

The estimated total cost for the project is \$36.6 million (\$16.9 million in 2000-01) with completion anticipated in December 2001.

350 Bed Mid North Coast Correctional Centre at Kempsey

This project involves the construction of a new purpose built multi-classification Correctional Centre for male and female inmates. The Centre will provide 350 new beds in order to address the accommodation needs of an increasing inmate population, and a deficiency in accommodation on the Mid North Coast. Assessments are currently being carried out and a preferred site in the Kempsey area will be selected by June 2000.

The estimated total cost for the project is \$47.2 million (\$15.4 million in 2000-01) with completion anticipated in November 2002.

200 Bed Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre

Funding of \$15.4 million has been included in the 2000-01 program for the construction of a new purpose built Correctional Centre for female inmates. The Centre will provide 200 new beds and operate as a multi-classification Centre, enabling Mulawa Correctional Centre to cater specifically for remand and special needs female inmates.

The estimated total cost for the project is \$33.6 million with completion anticipated in April 2002.

Emu Plains Stage 2 Development

A Stage 2 Redevelopment providing accommodation for 70 minimum security female inmates and six children, non English speaking background, Aboriginal and special needs inmates was completed in August 1999. Construction is currently underway on an additional 50 bed unit.

The estimated total cost of the overall project is \$9.3 million and completion is scheduled for August 2000.

Goulburn Redevelopment - Stage One

Stage One of the redevelopment of Goulburn Correctional Centre involves the refurbishment of four wings, the restoration of the historically significant chapel and the demolition of the old kitchen block. Work completed to date includes upgrade of the Multi-Purpose Unit, additional catwalk, modifications to X-Wing and demolition of the kitchen and front yards. Refurbishment of G-Block for programs and upgrading of A Wing was completed in December 1999.

The estimated total cost is \$6.4 million (\$1.1 million in 2000-01) and Stage One is scheduled for completion in November 2000.

Goulburn Redevelopment - Stage Two

A new Intensive Case Management Facility for seventy five inmates is currently being constructed within an extension of the secure perimeter wall. The facility is due for completion in December 2000.

Stage 2 of the redevelopment also includes a new visiting facility, new gatehouse, control room, administration building and accommodation for the Emergency Unit.

The estimated total cost of the Stage 2 redevelopment is \$40 million (\$8.9 million in 2000-01) and completion is scheduled for November 2001.

Long Bay Redevelopment

The redevelopment will cater for therapeutic special needs programs such as those for sex offenders, violent offenders, developmentally delayed, special care, medical transients and drug and alcohol dependants.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$36.4 million (\$4 million in 2000-01) and the redevelopment is scheduled for completion in December 2001.

Mulawa Correctional Centre Redevelopment

The redevelopment includes upgrading offices for Inmate Development Services staff, program areas, reception facilities, accommodation and a clinic upgrade.

The estimated total cost of the redevelopment is \$2.5 million (\$686,000 in 2000-01) and completion is scheduled for August 2000.

Integrated Management System (IMS)

The Department is currently replacing a series of unrelated corporate computer systems with an integrated system. This will enable the provision of timely, consistent and relevant logistical and financial information. To date the general ledger, procurement, payroll and establishments modules have been implemented with asset management and rostering scheduled for 2000-01.

The estimated total cost of these initiatives is \$12.5 million (\$992,000 in 2000-01) and completion of all phases of the program is scheduled for July 2001.

Transport Unit – Silverwater

A purpose built transport facility is being constructed at Silverwater to cater for current and future inmate movements. The facility will accommodate the Court Escort Security Unit, Corrections Intelligence Unit, State Investigative and Security Group, Corrective Services Investigation Unit and the Metropolitan Emergency Unit.

The estimated total cost is \$6.2 million (\$4 million in 2000-01) and completion is scheduled for March 2001.

STORMWATER TRUST

In May 1997, the New South Wales Government released the Waterways Package, which contained a range of initiatives to improve the quality of the State's waterways. A key initiative of the package is improved management of stormwater. This is to be achieved by requiring councils to prepare Stormwater Management Plans, trialing innovative treatment measures and implementing remedial works linked to these plans. Educating the community about essential changes in behaviour is another critical component of this initiative.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Government has committed up to \$60 million over the years 1997-98 to 2000-01 for the Stormwater Trust Fund. The Fund is intended to assist with the implementation of stormwater commitments in the Waterways Package. Establishing the Fund was also a response to the recommendations of the report prepared by the Waterways Advisory Panel on Sydney Water's proposal for sewage overflow abatement in Sydney Harbour.

This funding has been allocated for:

- ◆ assisting councils, and certain state government agencies either individually or in groups, to pilot innovation in stormwater management or to undertake remedial activities;
- ◆ providing assistance to councils for the preparation of Stormwater Management Plans; and
- ◆ a statewide education program to be coordinated by the Environment Protection Authority.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses in 2000-01 are estimated to be \$16.8 million, including funding of \$16.3 million for Stage 2 of the grants program and the stormwater education campaign.

An evaluation of the results of the grants program and the management plans will ensure that funding is directed to pilot projects which have the greatest potential for tackling the State's stormwater management problems in the most cost effective manner.

WASTE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FUND

The Waste Planning and Management Fund was established in 1995-96 with an initial allocation of \$60 million over five years to 1999-2000. Funding has been provided for the establishment and initial operating expenses of Regional Waste Boards, for waste reduction programs of the Boards and for a community grants program.

Beginning in 2000-01 and for subsequent years, 55 percent of the Government's receipts from the levy imposed under Section 88 of the *Waste Minimisation and Management Act 1995* for the disposal of waste to landfill will be allocated to the Fund.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 2000-01, EPA expenses provide for the first year of hypothecation of 55 percent of the revenue from the Waste Planning and Management Fund. This will provide a Government contribution of \$36.6 million to the Fund. This payment will bring the total Government contributions to the Fund to \$106.4 million since its inception in 1995-96. Major expenditures so far include:

- ◆ \$46.9 million to support Regional Waste Boards. This includes establishment, recurrent and program funding as well as allocations to each Board to develop its regional waste plan;
- ◆ \$6 million over 1996-97 and 1997-98 for the annual Community Waste Reduction Grants program;
- ◆ \$8.9 million to provide support for kerbside recycling, including emergency support and structural improvement programs; and
- ◆ \$4.7 million to develop the "Waste Challenge" education program, to conduct the first census of commercial and industrial waste, to support four rural regional pilots and to run the State Waste Advisory Council (SWAC).

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Eight Regional Waste Boards, comprising groups of local councils, were established in 1996 to plan and manage waste on a regional level. Boards cover all councils in the Sydney, Central Coast, Hunter and Illawarra regions. A ninth Board has recently been established for the South-East Region of New South Wales comprising 15 local government areas.

The Government increased the waste levy from \$8 per tonne in the Sydney inner metropolitan area \$4 per tonne in the extended metropolitan area to \$17 and \$8 per tonne respectively, effective from 1 July 1998. This provides a strong disincentive to disposing of waste to landfill. Rebates and exemptions from the levy for re-use and recycling will encourage all sectors of the community to increase these activities. Further, from 1 July 2000, 55 percent of the revenue from the levy will be available for waste management reduction initiatives through the Waste Planning and Management Fund.

Two major initiatives will determine strategic directions with respect to waste reduction strategies. In 1999 the Government established the Independent Inquiry into Alternative Waste Technologies and Practices. The recommendations are currently under consideration by the Government.

Late in 2000, the Minister for the Environment will commence the five-year review of the *Waste Minimisation and Management Act 1995*.

The Government is committed to building on its achievements in waste reduction. Priorities in the coming year include:

- ◆ continued support for Regional Waste Boards, through the provision of funds for their next three year plans;
- ◆ the allocation of funds to support the implementation of recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Alternative Waste Technologies and Practices; and
- ◆ continued support for Community Waste Reduction Grants and action plans which have been developed for key components of the waste stream such as green waste and building and demolition waste.

2000-01 Budget

Total Expenses

Total expenses in 2000-01 will be \$36.8 million. Major components include funding for Regional Waste Boards (programs and operation) rural pilots, community grants, kerbside recycling systems support and the implementation of recommendations from the independent inquiry into Alternative Waste Technologies and Practices.