

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006



**Government
of South Australia**

Annual Report of the Dog and Cat Management Board 2005-06

September 2006

Department for Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Copies of the report can be obtained from:

The Dog and Cat Management Board
Telephone: (08) 8124 4975 or (08) 8124 4962

www.dogsncats.asn.au

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Hon Gail Gago MLC
Minister for Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE
South Australia 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Dog and Cat Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2006.

Max Amber
Chairman
Dog and Cat Management Board

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DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia (the Board) has been established under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act) and is the only statutory authority of its kind in Australia.

The Act provides powers and functions for councils to manage day-to-day enforcement and administration of the legislative provisions for the management of dogs and cats in the community.

It also provides the opportunity to resolve disputes and breaches of the legislation or council by-laws through conciliation, thus reducing the need to resort to Court proceedings.

The Act defines the legal status of cats, provides for non-compulsory identification of cats to establish ownership and a head of power for councils to actively manage cats should they wish to do so.

FUNCTIONS

Sections 21 and 21A of the Act describe the functions of the Board as follows:

Section 21 – Functions of the Board

(1) The Board has the following functions:

- (1) The Board has the following functions:
 - (a) to plan for, promote, and provide advice about, the effective management of dogs and cats throughout South Australia;
 - (b) to oversee the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs, including—
 - (i) monitoring the administration and enforcement of this Act by councils; and
 - (ii) issuing guidelines and providing advice to councils about—
 - (A) planning for the effective management of dogs;
 - (B) training for dog management officers;
 - (C) the appropriate level of administration and enforcement in the circumstances prevailing in the area;
 - (D) the issuing of orders or related directions under this Act;
 - (E) the standard of facilities used for the detention of dogs under this Act;
 - (F) the keeping of registers under this Act and the issuing of certificates of registration and registration discs;

- (G) any other matter related to the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs; and
 - (iii) otherwise providing support and assistance to councils;
 - (b) to accredit dogs as disability dogs, guide dogs or hearing dogs;
 - (c) to inquire into and consider all proposed by-laws referred to it under this Act, with a view to promoting the effective management of dogs and cats, and, to the extent that the Board considers it appropriate, the consistent application of by-laws throughout South Australia;
 - (d) to advise the Minister or the Local Government Association (LGA), either on its own initiative or at the request of the Minister or the LGA, on the operation of this Act or issues directly relating to dog or cat management in South Australia;
 - (e) to undertake or facilitate research relating to dog or cat management;
 - (f) to undertake or facilitate educational programs relating to dog or cat management;
 - (g) to keep this Act under review and make recommendations to the Minister with respect to the Act and regulations made under the Act;
 - (h) to carry out any other function assigned to the Board by the Minister or by or under this Act.
- (2) The Board's functions may extend to providing the following services as the Board thinks fit:
- (a) the accreditation of training programs for dogs and owners;
 - (b) the accreditation of procedures for testing the behaviour of dogs;
 - (c) the carrying out of any other function relating to responsible dog and cat ownership or the effective management of dogs and cats.
- (3) The Board may fix a fee for providing a service under subsection (2).

Section 21A - Accreditation of disability dogs, guide dogs etc

- (1) The Board may, on application, accredit a dog, or renew the accreditation of a dog, as—
- (a) a disability dog; or
 - (b) a guide dog; or
 - (c) a hearing dog.
- (2) An application for accreditation must
- (a) be made to the Board in the manner and form approved by the Board;
- and
- (b) be accompanied by the fee fixed by the Board.

- (3) An applicant must provide the Board with any information required by the Board for the purpose of determining the application.
- (4) Accreditation of a dog remains in force for the life of the dog unless it is earlier revoked by the Board or surrendered by the owner of the dog.
- (5) The Board must maintain a register of dogs accredited under this section by the Board (which may be kept in the form of a computer record) that is to be readily available for public inspection without fee.
- (6) The Board may only revoke the accreditation of a dog if the Board is satisfied that-
 - (a) the dog's ill-health, injury or advanced age prevents the dog from carrying out its functions as a disability dog, guide dog or hearing dog (as the case may be); or
 - (b) the dog is temperamentally unsuitable to continue to be accredited as a disability dog, guide dog or hearing dog (as the case may be); or
 - (c) the owner of the dog is unable to maintain effective control of the dog (whether by command or by means of physical restraint).

MEMBERSHIP

Pursuant to Section 12 of the Act, the Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor, of whom:

- (1)
 - (a) 4 will be nominated by the LGA; and
 - (b) 4 will be nominated by the Minister; and
 - (c) one, to chair the Board, will be jointly nominated by the LGA and the Minister.
- (2) The members of the Board nominated by the LGA under subsection (1)(a) must together have the following attributes:
 - (a) practical knowledge of and experience in local government, including local government processes, community consultation and the law as it applies to local government;
 - (b) experience in the administration of legislation;
 - (c) experience in financial management;
 - (d) experience in education and training.
- (2a) The members of the Board nominated by the Minister under subsection (1)(b) must together have the following attributes:
 - (a) experience in state government processes and the administration of legislation;
 - (b) veterinary experience in the care and treatment of dogs or cats;
 - (c) a demonstrated interest in the welfare of dogs or cats;

- (d) a demonstrated interest in the keeping and management of dogs or
 - (e) experience in community health or medicine.
- (2b) The person nominated to chair the Board must, in the opinion of the LGA and the Minister, have the abilities and experience required to promote the effective performance of the Board and its functions.
- (3) If the LGA fails to nominate a person within 8 weeks of a written request for the nomination from the Minister, the Governor may appoint a person nominated by the Minister and that person will be taken to have been duly appointed as a member of the Board.
- (4) At least one member of the Board must be a woman and one a man.

The membership of the Board during the reporting period was:

Presiding Member

Councillor Max Amber (Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation and the Local Government Association)

Members

Councillor Ian Ridgway (Nominated by the Local Government Association)
Councillor Jeffrey Cook (Nominated by the Local Government Association)
Mr Greg Waller (Nominated by the Local Government Association)
Mrs Sandie Starr (Nominated by the Local Government Association)
Dr Ian McBryde (Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation)
Dr Rosemary Ince (Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation)
Ms Sarah Harris (Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation)
Dr Annette Braunack-Mayer (Nominated by the Minister for Environment and Conservation)

From 1 October 2004, by agreement between the Minister and the Local Government Association (LGA), the administrative and executive support to the Board has been provided by the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) on a cost recovery basis.

Consultative Committees

The Board and its staff ensure consistency through the establishment and maintenance of one consultative committee:

Senior Council Officers Group

Name	Council
Mr Dominic Bonfiglio	Adelaide City
Mr Mark Austin	Adelaide Hills
Mr Kim Vivian	Alexandrina
Mr Peter Mutton	Alexandrina
Mr Phil Herrmann	Barossa
Mr Len Bawden	Berri Barmera
Mr Gary Peterson	Burnside
Mr Remo Paplini	Campbelltown
Mr Bruce Kingdom	Charles Sturt
Mr Steve Woolley	Clare & Gilbert Valleys
Mr Wayne Scholz	Elliston
Mr George Powell	Gawler
Mr Les Hill	Goyder
Mr Neil Phillips	Holdfast Bay

Mr Lloyd Mott	Light Regional
Mr Brenton Schultz	Loxton/Waikerie
Mr George Frangoulis	Marion
Ms Sharon Perin	Marion
Mr Rocky Warren	Mid Murray
Mr Terry Nicholas	Mitcham
Mr David Hoyle	Mt Barker
Mr Eddie Richter	Mt Barker
Mr Marco Wenzel	Norwood, Payneham & St Peters
Mr Chris Button	Onkaparinga
Mr Tony Pearson	Onkaparinga
Ms Linda Allery	Playford
Mr Paul Roberts	Playford
Mr David Ellis	Port Adelaide Enfield
Mr Rod Smart	Prospect
Mr Nick Wheatman	Salisbury
Ms Catherine Gustafson	Tea Tree Gully
Mr Steve Harbottle	Tea Tree Gully
Mr Michael Joseph	Unley
Mr Trevor Button	Victor Harbor
Mr Peter Buttery	Wakefield Regional
Mr Andy Gourlay	West Torrens
Mr Paul Davenport	West Torrens
Mr Robyn Butterfield	West Torrens
Mr Ron Versteegh	Whyalla

When the need arises, the following groups are consulted:

Representatives of:

- Animal Welfare League of South Australia Inc
- Australian Veterinary Association
- RSPCA (South Australia) Inc
- Local Government Association
- Feline Association of South Australia
- The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy of South Australian Inc.
- Department for Environment and Heritage
- South Australian Canine Association
- Other council officers
- Dog Obedience Clubs

ACHIEVEMENTS 2005-06

Development of Declared Dogs Database

The 'Declared Dogs' database has been finalised and possesses the ability for councils to track dangerous and prescribed breeds of dogs. This system will also enable the Board to accurately monitor the severity of dog attacks and analyse any trends that arise.

A Golden Rules for Dog Owners Brochure

The brochure was developed in consultation with a dog behaviourist providing advice on strategies for dogs and people mixing together safely. This was translated into six languages and was made available to all councils and stakeholders, also libraries, kindergartens, day care centres and schools.

Management of Trained, Guard and Patrol Dogs

The implementation of Section 45D of the Act on 1 July 2006, will result in improved management of attack trained dogs, guard dogs and patrol dogs. This will provide further identification and control of these types of dogs which may pose potential public safety concerns.

Assisting Councils with Animal Management

Support and consultation was provided over the reporting period to councils to assist with improving targeted areas of animal management. These included:

- co-ordination and subsidisation of microchipping function across 10 councils
- review of eligibility to receive a training registration rebate
- dog registration reminder campaign
- provision of 100,000 POOch Pouches to assist dog owners to 'pick up' after their pets

Training Program on Dog Behaviour and Management

In response to requests from Animal Management Officers, the Board and the RSPCA cooperatively developed a one-day training program on dog behaviour and management with particular emphasis on the handling of aggressive dogs.

Research and Evaluation

The Board has decided to fund in the 2006-07 financial year, a program of research that addresses a number of its priority areas.

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Budget and Strategic

A draft five-year strategic plan, a two-year draft business plan and the 2006–2007 Budget have been developed for the Minister's consideration in consultation with the LGA.

Priorities of the Board

The Board held a strategic planning day and determined its priorities to be to:

- Reduce dog attacks
- Assist councils in the development of Animal Management Plans
- Provide training and support for Animal Management Officers
- Improve public awareness of dog legislation

- Develop a cat management strategy
- Fund a research and evaluation program

Provision of Public Information

- Barking Dog Booklet distributed to all councils
- Section 45D of the Act Booklet concerning management of trained, guard and patrol dogs distributed to all stakeholders
- Your Dog / Your Cat Booklet – an owners manual, distributed as required by stakeholders
- A Golden Rules for dog owners Brochure distributed to all primary schools, day-care centres, kindergartens, dog clubs, libraries and councils.

Radio and Television Advertising

The Board approved radio and print advertising and bus shelter posters for \$100,000 for a Dog Registration Reminder Campaign based on the theme “Register what you could not bear to lose”.

Communications with Councils and other Stakeholders

The Board distributed monthly bulletins to stakeholders in 2005-06. A bulletin is produced after each meeting and circulated to all interested parties. The Dog and Cat Management Board Website (www.dogsncats.asn.au) was launched in December 2005 with separate access to councils and members of the public.

By-Laws and Animal Management Plans

The Board has a responsibility under the Act to consider proposed council by-laws for dog and cat management, and make recommendations as necessary.

Councils must give due consideration to the Board’s recommendations, prior to introduction of the relevant by-law. In 2005-2006, the Board approved three by-law applications submitted by councils, some with minor recommended amendments.

The Act also requires that all councils obtain Board endorsement of animal management plans by 1 July 2007. Six councils have had their management plans approved by the Board in 2005-2006.

POLICIES OF THE BOARD

The Board endorsed policies relating to the following:

- Research Grant Policy
- Community Grants Policy

- Accreditation of Disability Dogs
- Greyhounds accredited to be exempt from wearing a muzzle in public
- Training rebate criteria
- Website contribution

ADVICE TO MINISTER AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Board continued to provide advice and assistance to the Minister and the LGA on dog and cat management issues. The Board did not receive any matters referred by the Minister during 2005-06.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROMOTION PROGRAMS

In 2005-06, the Board continued to give high priority to public education and promotional programs. In 2005-06, the Board expended approximately \$280,000 in the following areas:

- Delta Dog Safe South Australia
- Radio and print media awareness campaigns
- Seminars for the public and for Animal Management Officers
- POOch Pouches
- Microchipping Days
- Website development
- Golden Rules for Dog Owners Brochure
- Barking Dogs Booklet
- Select-a-pet Media Campaign

It is intended that these initiatives will, in time, result in an increase in:

- Child awareness of how to behave around dogs
- Recognition of dangerous dogs in the community
- Dog registration compliance
- Responsible dog ownership
- Dog owner awareness of responsibility to public safety
- The number of dogs returned to owners
- Removal of dog faeces by dog owners

It is anticipated that these initiatives will result in a decrease in:

- The number of dog attacks
- The number of dogs wandering at large
- The number of dogs placed in animal shelters
- Dog barking complaints

In 2005–06 the restructured Dog and Cat Management Board completed its first full financial year in operation. It has been a year highlighted by strategic planning and policy setting to ensure that the Board focuses on key areas of importance to the community and

adds value to the “on the ground” operations of councils. Partly because of this a budget surplus of approximately \$155,000 is predicted.

The Board receives its income by way of a levy on dog registration and acknowledges that many councils expend more on dog management than is received. It was therefore decided that, on this occasion, the surplus should be returned to councils. Consequently, at the end of the financial year each council was sent a refund, in the order of 15% of the amount contributed to the Dog and Cat Management Fund in 2005 - 2006.

STATISTICS

To facilitate future planning and management activities, the Board continues to collect annual statistical information from councils and data from other sources on:

- Dog registrations and dogs found wandering at large
- Information about (reported) dog attacks in public and private places
- The future need for public education on dog and cat management, and
- Information from both national and international sources relating to dog and cat management.

Dogs Impounded and Return to Owner

Table 1: NUMBER OF DOGS IMPOUNDED BY COUNCILS AS A RESULT OF WANDERING AT LARGE			
	Dogs Impounded	Dogs Returned to Owner	Percentage Returned to Owner
1998-1999			
Metropolitan	7,337	3,321	
Country	3,926	1,742	
Total	11,263	5,063	45.00%
1999-2000			
Metropolitan	7,876	4,166	
Country	4,368	1,809	
Total	12,244	5,975	48.80%
2000-2001			
Metropolitan	7,903	3,968	
Country	4,314	2,049	
Total	12,217	6,017	49.25%
2001-2002			
Metropolitan	7,855	3,844	
Country	4,836	2,466	
Total	12,691	6,310	50.00%
2002-2003			
Metropolitan	8,364	4,300	
Country	5,259	2,773	
Total	13,623	7,073	52.00%
2003-2004			
Metropolitan	6,301	3,437	
Country	4,551	2,314	
Total	10,852	5,751	53.00%
2004-2005			
Metropolitan	8,698	4,997	
Country	4,376	2,502	
Total	13,074	7,499	57.36%
2005-2006			
Metropolitan	8,574	5,024	
Country	4,594	2,460	
Total	13,168	7,484	56.83%

The Board expressed its pleasure, as the return to owner rates remain stable. In metropolitan areas there was a 1.15% increase in return to owner rates and approximately 1% decrease in dogs being impounded. The Board's facilitation of microchipping days

across 10 councils, 8 of these being metropolitan councils, could have been a contributory factor to this increase. In contrast, the country council return to owner rates decreased by 4%.

In 2005-06 the Board agreed to provide recurrent grants of \$50,000 to both the RSPCA (South Australia) Inc and the Animal Welfare League of South Australia Inc (AWL) for the provision and maintenance of pound facilities used by councils.

Dog Registration

Table 2: NUMBER OF DOGS REGISTERED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA			
	Metropolitan	Country	Total
1998-1999	173,146	101,086	274,232
1999-2000	180,355	100,886	281,241
2000-2001	181,253	102,311	283,564
2001-2002	182,078	105,594	287,672
2002-2003	191,201	106,540	297,741
2003-2004	188,543	110,207	298,750
2004-2005	179,841	99,599	279,440
2005-2006	188,513	101,045	289,558

The Board is pleased that dog registration compliance has risen with councils achieving high numbers of dog registrations this year. The Board considers that the increase in the number of registered dogs during 2005/06 is a reflection of council's enforcement of the legislation, door knocking exercises and registration reminder campaigns.

The Board considers that the decrease in the number of registered dogs during 2004 to 2005 is a reflection of the increased registration period in 2004 resulting in lower Council enforcement.

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Reported Dog attacks

YEAR	REPORTED TO COUNCILS			HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS
	Metropolitan	Country	Total	Total
1998-1999	670	421	1,071	131
1999-2000	990	464	1,454	140
2000-2001	1,460	535	1,995	118
2001-2002	1,873	775	2,648	136
2002-2003	1,635	775	2,410	132
2003-2004	1,564	715	2,279	163
2004-2005	1,613	793	*2,406	190
2005-2006	1467	708	2,175	184

*Note: The number of dog attacks reported to councils for 2004-05 was incorrectly recorded in the Annual Report for 2004-05 as 2,885.

These figures do not include all of the dog attacks/harassments that have occurred in South Australia, only those that were reported to councils and hospital admissions. Although the decrease in hospital admissions is not statistical significant it is encouraging.

The Board considers the decrease in attacks/harassments and hospital admissions is due in part to Board funded educational programs and publications targeting young children to use correct behaviour around dogs, general house training of dogs and selecting the right pet for the owners lifestyle. Councils also contributed by providing information to residents about responsible dog ownership and by enforcement of the Act.

The Board is working with councils and the Department of Health to achieve consistent reporting and data collection when recording the level of dog attack or threat.

TRAINING UNDERTAKEN BY DOG MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

The Board, in conjunction with the LGA, RSPCA and DEH provided councils and other interested groups with training in:

- Understanding the Act
- Dog handling techniques and dog behaviour
- Legal processes in connection with the Act
- Order Making – The role of General Inspectors

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Pursuant to Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC016: *Remuneration for Government Appointed Part-time Boards and Committees*, it is a long-standing policy of

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government that government employees are not paid for board membership without the specific approval of the Commissioner for Public Employment.

Members of the Board are paid in accordance with the directives of the Commissioner for Public Employment, as follows:

Chairperson: \$160.00 per four hours

Members: \$140.00 per four hours

Staffing

Administrative and executive support is provided by the DEH. DEH staff serving the Board during 2005-06 were:

Dr Deborah Kelly	Manager Animal Welfare Unit, DEH (acts as Executive Officer)
Ms Briony Huddleston	Administration Officer
Ms Sarah Pennington	Administration Officer (temporary)
Ms Adele Steel	Urban Animal Management Officer

Declaration of Interests

Board Member	Declared Interest	Area of Board deliberations
Dr Ian McBryde	Practicing veterinarian and member of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA).	The Board is promoting desexing and microchipping of dogs and cats and financially supports the AVA Pet Pep Program.
Ms Sarah Harris	Co-ordinator of the Delta Dog Safe SA program and member of the RSPCA.	The Board financially supports the Delta Dog Safe SA Program and provides funding to the RSPCA and AWL for holding dogs on behalf of councils.
Dr Rosemary Ince	Holds a volunteer position as a committee member of the South Australian Obedience Dog Club.	The Board is promoting training and socialising dogs.
Mrs Sandie Starr	Manager within the City of Charles Sturt Council	The Board approved an application from the council for funding educational initiatives.

Disability Action Plan

The members of the Board are aware of and abide by their obligations under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2005-06.

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Equal Opportunity Employment Programs

The Dog and Cat Management Board is an equal opportunity employer. The Board is aware of and abides by equal opportunity policies and programs of DEH.

Gender Reporting

The gender balance of the Board is always taken into consideration when members are appointed. Within the reporting period, the Board consisted of five male and four female members.

Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare

There were no occupational health and safety issues brought to the attention of the Board this financial year. An induction process is carried out for new members. Appropriate training measures are taken for field trips. As a user of DEH facilities and equipment, the Board is aware of and abides by DEH's OHS&W policies.

Use of Consultants

No consultants were used during the Annual Report reporting period.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Board is a body corporate under Section 10 of the Act and is required to cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs.

The Dog and Cat Management Fund is established under the Act and is to be kept and administered by the Board. The Board must keep proper accounts of the receipts and payments from the Fund. The Auditor-General may at any time, and must at least once in each year, audit the accounts of the Fund.

Investments

The Dog and Cat Management Fund is invested in interest bearing deposits. Interest is paid quarterly and an amount of \$37,124.35 was derived from interest earned in the financial year 2005-2006.

Account Payment Performance

DEH provides the administrative resources for processing account payments for the Board. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2005-2006.

Contractual Arrangements

The Board did not enter into any contractual arrangements exceeding \$4 million in value during the reporting period.

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SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

Triple Bottom Line Reporting

The Board uses DEH staff and facilities and services. The DEH Annual Report 2005-2006 quantifies environmental performance.

Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports

Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2005-2006.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

It is declared that no member of the Board has travelled overseas on the business of the Board during the reporting period.

FRAUD

There were no instances of fraud detected in the Board's activities for the year 2005-06.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

No applications were received by the Board under the Freedom of Information Act during the year. Members of the public may apply for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* by applying in writing to:

The Freedom of Information Officer
Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia
PO BOX 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

Email: hughes.helen@saugov.sa.gov.au

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No Regional Impact Assessment Statements were undertaken by the Committee in 2005-06.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2005-06 that required the Board to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

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The Board does not own any non-residential buildings and therefore is not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Board would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Kurna people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Board also acknowledges the Kurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today.

In fulfilling its functions, the Board is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Board would like to thank the Minister and staff of the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), local councils and the Local Government Association for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.