

ANNUAL REPORT

2018





DESERT KNOWLEDGE AUSTRALIA

Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) is a statutory authority of the Northern Territory, established in 2003 to encourage learning, research and sustainable socioeconomic development in the desert. DKA believes there is great potential in the people, places and knowledges of the desert, which is why strengthening remote Australia is at the heart of everything we do.

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DKA'S VISION IS A STRONGER DESERT AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA

OUR PURPOSE

Demonstrating the value of desert and remote Australia

We are based in a vibrant place where the oldest living cultures on the planet thrive; where the people are resilient and innovation is a way of life. Desert and remote Australia is unique and we share that value with the world.

Connecting people, knowledge and opportunities

Desert and remote Australia and its knowledge base is a big place to navigate and DKA can be a guide. We create meaningful connections by bringing ideas and resources together.

Looking to the future

We innovate and incubate. We seek opportunities to grow ideas into realities, creating lasting, positive change.

OUR VALUES

Work together

We build high-performing and positive teams, and we bring our commitment to teamwork into our external relationships and networks to maximise our shared impact.

Be creative – innovate!

We approach our work with creativity and innovation; we engage with possibilities and new ideas, creating an agile and responsive organisation.

Stay focused

There are many different things we could do; we are focused and engage purposefully with everything we do.

Come from strength

We work with our strengths and the strengths of those we engage with to create positivity and growth. We live and work across languages and cultures and use that experience as the foundation of our work.

Knowledge is powerful

We have a role in collecting, curating and sharing the knowledge that exists in desert and remote Australia.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Marion Scrymgour

In 2017-2018, important work was done to strengthen the foundation and capacity of DKA. As a result, I have seen DKA hit its stride as an energised, robust organisation with a renewed focus on strengthening desert and remote Australia. It is an honour to have been appointed as the Chair and I look forward to guiding DKA through what promises to be an exciting period of innovation and collaboration.

I sincerely thank the outgoing Chair Chris Fry for leading DKA through a period of significant change. I look forward to his continued contributions in his role as Deputy Chair. I commend outgoing directors Paul Ah Chee, Raymond Pratt, Leeanne Caton and Jason Quin and thank them for their dedication.

As we move forward with new strategic focus areas, the DKA board is bolstered by the experience of continuing directors (Chris Fry, Dave Batic, Steve Brouwer, Jimmy Cocking and Rede Ogden) and revitalised by the energy of new directors (Heron Loban, Pat Anderson, Robert Campbell and Vanessa Elliott). This board contains a diverse range of skills and expertise, and I am privileged to work alongside them.

In 2018, the first steps were taken to establish the DKA Alumni Network, which recognises that our former staff, board members and collaborators still have valuable contributions to make. Moving forward, the alumni will have the opportunity to have their say on the strategic directions of DKA, as well as identifying opportunities for DKA. By staying connected, we can continue to work together for a stronger desert and remote Australia.

I thank the Chief Minister and Minister for Trade, Business and Innovation, the Hon. Michael Gunner, as well as department head Michael Tennant for their ongoing support. I look forward to our continued collaboration as DKA strengthens existing programs and identifies new opportunities.

Marion Scrymgour

Chair of the DKA Board



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Lauren Ganley

DKA's achievements in 2017-2018 are a credit to its dedicated board and its employees. It has been my privilege to lead this clever and agile team as we move into a new period characterised by energy and focus, while respecting and building on the knowledge that has come before.

Over the past year, DKA has developed strong programs and significant partnerships that contribute to the socioeconomic development of the desert.

We have

- launched the Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy which facilitates important research and partnerships in renewable energy;
- grown and strengthened our desert leadership program Codes 4 Life, working with Aboriginal men of Central Australia;
- continued to develop the Desert Knowledge Precinct, identifying new opportunities for this vibrant hub of research, education and engineering;
- created a new edutourism program, combining culture and STEAM, to provide valuable learning opportunities to school students;

- forged significant partnerships with organisations such as Lendlease and Indigenous Business Australia;
- articulated our vision and values to guide the ways we work, and rejuvenated the brand of DKA;
- consulted with a diverse range of stakeholders to set DKA's strategic focus areas for 2018-2021.

In the next twelve months, we will direct our focus towards renewable energy, desert leadership, digital innovation, desert research and the Precinct. Strengthening desert and remote Australia is at the heart of what we do at DKA; we look forward to working with the people and places of the desert to put knowledge into action in 2018-2019.

Lauren Ganley

DKA CEO

DESERT KNOWLEDGE AUSTRALIA

Strengthening desert and remote Australia is at the heart of everything we do at DKA, which is why our activities and projects focus on the needs of the people, places and knowledge of remote Australia.

Uncovering the untapped knowledges of the desert, both ancient and emerging, is at the core of DKA's work. From Aboriginal knowledges that have weathered many centuries, to the newest renewable energy research, the unique conditions of the desert have inspired ideas not seen anywhere else.

With a refreshed strategy, structure, board and brand, DKA is looking to the future with a focus on renewable energy, digital innovation, desert leadership and knowledge sharing.

DKA acknowledges the work that has been done before, and embraces the opportunities the future holds.

OUR PEOPLE

Organisation Redesign

DKA's new organisational structure is based on best-practice design and reflects our refreshed values. Our new approach maximises our employees' experience and skills and ensures our people are fulfilled, challenged and valued.

Space to Innovate

DKA has created a new way of working that provides structure, movement and opportunity. We encourage innovation, flexibility and creativity. It's an exciting opportunity for people to use their skills beyond the scope of their role, and develop new abilities and interest areas.

80% Core Role

DKA employees work in a team led by a manager. This provides employees with support and stability, and ensures our core functionality requirements are met.

10% Movement

People have capabilities beyond the core functions of their role, so 10% of the role provides the opportunity to share skills across the organisation.

10% Opportunity

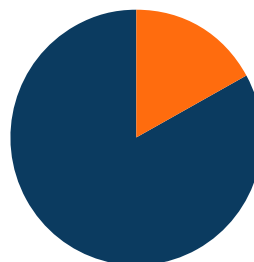
Choose your own adventure! We give employees room to pursue ideas, projects and training that stretch them creatively and professionally.

DKA Team

12
DKA
STAFF
as of
30 June 2018



75%
women
25%
men



17%
Aboriginal
83%
Non-Aboriginal



OUR BRAND

DKA's new logo and branding are emblematic of our fresh, modern approach to our work, and signal the beginning of a new era for DKA. In addition to the visual changes to the brand, we now refer to ourselves simply as DKA.

The name change and new branding presents DKA as a contemporary, vibrant organisation looking to the future.

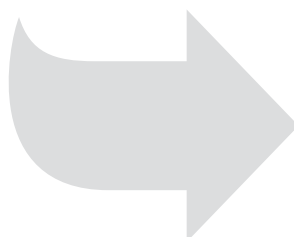
Sparks in the Desert

In January 2018, Austrade profiled DKA as desert innovators in their online publication, Australia Unlimited. The publication champions Australian creativity, business acumen, and scientific, innovative and humanitarian endeavours. The article showcases the work of DKA, the Desert Knowledge

Precinct, the DKA Solar Centre, the Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy, and the Desert Knowledge Research Institute, due to be launched October 2018.

A new website

DKA launched its new website www.dka.com.au reflecting the change in branding. The website provides information about DKA and is our platform for publishing images and news stories about DKA's activities. Keeping our stakeholders informed is a critical component of our communications strategy, and we are committed to keeping you up to date through our new website.



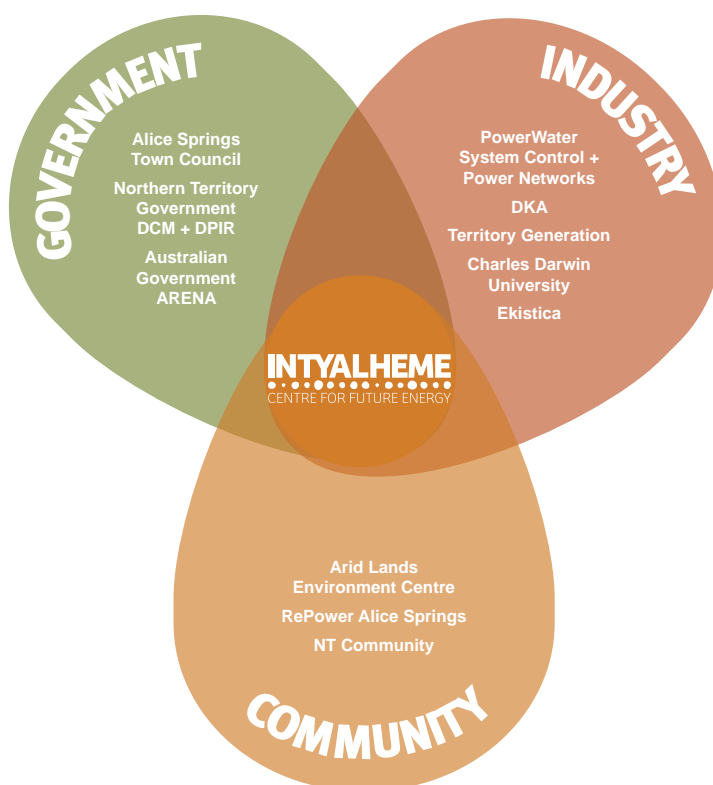
INTYALHEME

CENTRE FOR FUTURE ENERGY

Launched in December 2017, the Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy (Intyalheme) supports the Northern Territory Government's commitment to power the NT with 50% renewable energy by 2030.

Intyalheme builds on the existing infrastructure, knowledge and expertise within the Alice Springs community. It is governed by a consortium of representatives from DKA, the Northern Territory Government, Power and Water Corporation, Charles Darwin University and Ekistica. This model enables Intyalheme to leverage resources, expertise and technical guidance from its consortium to achieve the greatest possible impact. An Alice Springs Reference Group provides an essential community perspective on Intyalheme's proposed activities and projects.

Intyalheme is building strong networks in the energy sector and is developing opportunities and collaborative projects.





**SCOTT MCCONNELL
MLA, THE HON DALE
WAKEFIELD MLA,
CHANSEY PAECH MLA,
DKA CEO LAUREN
GANLEY, INTYALHEME
GENERAL MANAGER
SARA JOHNSTON AT
THE LAUNCH OF THE
INTYALHEME CENTRE
FOR FUTURE ENERGY**



“

**ALICE SPRINGS IS
PERFECTLY SUITED TO
DEMONSTRATE WHAT
THE FUTURE GRID
COULD LOOK LIKE.
IT'S SMALL ENOUGH
TO MANAGE AND BIG
ENOUGH TO MATTER.”**

CODES 4 LIFE

Our Codes 4 Life program focuses on strengthening the understanding of the multiple codes that are a part of Aboriginal men's lives and identity, using AFL as a lens through which respect for rules can be discussed. Recognising the vital role Elders play in Indigenous cultures, the program places Elders at the front of the design and delivery of the program.

In Central Australia, Aboriginal men walk in two worlds, navigating a complex network of structures that influence their behaviour and impact their obligations. Codes 4 Life provides a safe space for men to have deep discussions about culture and identity with the Elders, law officers and each other. They gain a better understanding of the strength their culture can offer, learn to think differently about being caretakers of country, and understand the importance of becoming keepers of knowledge.

Codes 4 Life connects men with their Elders to help them be strong leaders of their families and communities. Elders have always been consulted in the planning and design phase; now Codes 4 Life places 'Elders at the front' of the workshops. The presence of Elders lends a cultural authority and strength to the discussions.

“

**FOR A MAN ON THE STRAIGHT
PATH OF ABORIGINAL LAW,
THE JOURNEY THAT TAKES US
FROM BEING BOYS TO BEING
MEN, THE ANSWERS ARE CLEAR.
THAT JOURNEY TEACHES US OUR
RULES, OUR RESPONSIBILITIES
AND OUR OBLIGATIONS.**

Michael Liddle, Alyawarre/Arrernte man
and creator of Codes 4 Life

HARTS RANGE / ATITJERE



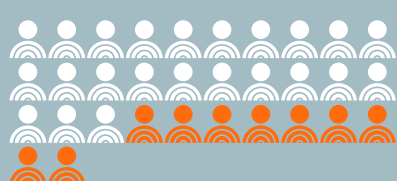
URAPUNTJA / ARLPARRA



TITJIKALA



HERMANNSBURG / NTARIA



TENNANT CREEK #1



ALICE SPRINGS #1



TENNANT CREEK #2



ALICE SPRINGS #2



EDUTOURISM AT THE DESERT KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT



An educational program that combines the power of culture and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) was developed and piloted at the Desert Knowledge Precinct. Students from Bradshaw Primary School and Centralian Middle School visited the Precinct in April 2018 for a unique learning experience that provides access to expertise and knowledge from the heart of Australia.

Four experiences have been developed that take students on a knowledge journey through emerging technologies and Arrernte language and culture. The experiences have been designed by DKA with Atria Group, a strategy and engagement consultancy, to share knowledge and introduce school-aged visitors to the work at the Precinct.

At the DKA Solar Centre students learn from a renewable energy engineer from Ekistica Pty Ltd about cutting-edge technology, Alice Springs' history as a solar city and the importance of solar energy to Aboriginal Australians. Students then experiment with solar-powered toys to develop an understanding of the factors that impact solar energy.



THE SKY ABOVE ALICE SPRINGS IS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO STUDY THE EARTH, AND GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA IS PROUD TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE IN THIS FIELD. THIS ACTIVITY ENGAGES STUDENTS WITH THE ROLE SATELLITES PLAY IN SCIENTIFIC IMAGING AND DATA GENERATION. WORKING WITH AN INSTRUCTOR FROM SHE FLIES, EACH GROUP LEARNS TO PILOT DRONES BEFORE COMPLETING CHALLENGES THAT SIMULATE THE ROLE OF SATELLITES IN PERFORMING MAPPING FUNCTIONS.

SHARING STORIES AND LEARNING ABOUT ARRERENTE CULTURE IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE EDUTOURISM EXPERIENCE AT THE DESERT KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT. IN THIS ACTIVITY FACILITATED BY CULTURAL CONNECTIONS NT AND BATCHELOR INSTITUTE, STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE ROLE OF ICONS AND SYMBOLS IN PAINTING AND CREATE A UNIQUE PIECE OF ART TO TAKE HOME.



DESERT AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA IS FACED WITH A UNIQUE SET OF CHALLENGES AND STEAM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS & MATHS) DEVELOPMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF REMOTE COMMUNITIES. HOSTED BY THE CENTRE FOR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY LTD, STUDENTS PARTNER WITH ENGINEERS IN A HACKATHON-STYLE CHALLENGE TO DESIGN SOLUTIONS THAT ADDRESS SOME OF THE CHALLENGES.



EXPLORING
INNOVATIVE DESERT
TECHNOLOGIES



HEARING DREAMING STORIES
FROM ARRERNTJE ELDERS



LEARNING ON COUNTRY
AS A TEAM

KNOWLEDGE EXPERIENCES



**CAMPING UNDER
DESERT SKIES**



**NETWORKING IN
CENTRAL AUSTRALIA**



**TYSON TEACHING ABOUT BUSH
MEDICINE, KIN AND SKIN.**




**LEARNING HOW TO
MAKE CLAPSTICKS**

Our knowledge experiences for corporate groups recognise that Central Australia has unique knowledge to share and exciting opportunities to seize. These experiences help corporate groups build connections, experience Aboriginal culture and foster leadership in the heart of Australia. The Desert Knowledge Precinct hosts events, workshops and conferences for groups of professionals. DKA introduces and supports business opportunities, engages in strategic facilitation, and connects people, knowledge and ideas in Central Australia.

Our knowledge experiences offer

- a wide range of activities to encourage hands-on learning about the physical and socio-economic landscape of remote Australia
- the facilities and services required to host workshops, conferences and team days
- cultural immersion through conversations, walks, a day on country or bush camping under the stars

DKA has developed significant partnerships as a result of these experiences and will continue to foster connections.



**INTYALHEME GM
SARA JOHNSTON, DKA
CEO LAUREN GANLEY
AND DKA BOARD
DIRECTOR JIMMY
COCKING WERE JUDGES
AT THE SMART SEEDS
SCHOOL CHALLENGE,
HELD AT THE DESERT
KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT**



**ABC'S INDIGENOUS
EMPLOYEES VISIT
THE DKA SOLAR
CENTRE**





**THE 2017
WORLD SOLAR
CHALLENGE
VISITS THE DESERT
KNOWLEDGE
PRECINCT**



**DR. MELODIE BAT (DKA
GM OF STRATEGY AND
OPERATIONS), HAROLD
FURBER (PRECINCT ELDER-
IN-RESIDENCE), CECILIA
BRENNAN (DIRECTOR OF
NT OFFICE, DFAT), AND
DR STEVE ROGERS (CEO OF
CENTRE FOR APPROPRIATE
TECHNOLOGY) DISCUSS
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
CENTRAL AUSTRALIA**

THE DESERT KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT

DKA is located at the Desert Knowledge Precinct, a beautiful 73 hectare property on the South Stuart Highway, 8km south of the Alice Springs CBD. DKA manages the Precinct which is underpinned by an Indigenous Land Use Agreement. We celebrate the Arrernte people as the traditional custodians and first knowledge holders of this land and we proudly acknowledge Harold Furber as the Precinct's Elder-in-Residence.

The Precinct is a welcoming environment that encourages learning, knowledge sharing and collaboration. The research, education, commercial and cultural activities create an enriching, invigorating place to build connections. The Precinct nurtures relationships that strengthen local, national and international communities and is world-renowned for its innovation that is advancing regional and remote Australia. From the local organisations who use DKA's modern facilities

to the school groups that visit for STEAM learning (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) and Arrernte cultural experiences, the Precinct is a meeting place and knowledge hub for all.

Organisations work together in a vibrant and growing space for knowledge, providing unique opportunities for collaboration and the sharing of desert knowledges, both ancient and emerging. The Precinct is home to DKA, the Centre for Appropriate Technology, the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, CSIRO, Territory Natural Resource Management, Desert Support Services, Central Australian Land Management Association, Tangentyere Council and Regional Arts Australia.



DKA SOLAR CENTRE



The Desert Knowledge Australia Solar Centre (DKASC) is the largest multi-technology solar demonstration facility in the southern hemisphere. Launched in 2008, the commercially sustainable centre combines research and development, education, investor insight, data generation and knowledge sharing.

The DKASC features 41 installations, and demonstrates solar technologies of many types, ages, makes and models built in collaboration with industry and research partners.

The DKASC website displays live interactive data and provides long-term performance data which can be downloaded.

The website is accessed by more than 10,000 users across the world annually, including research institutions, academics, students, product developers, investors, industry and members of the public.

The DKASC provides electricity to the organisations on the Desert Knowledge Precinct, reducing the amount drawn from the Alice Springs grid. DKA engages Ekistica for the operation and maintenance of the DKASC.

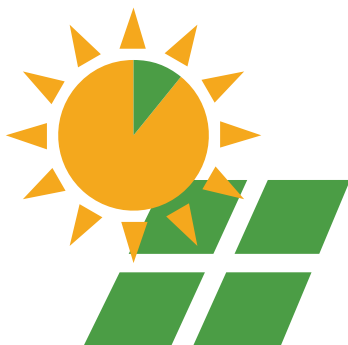
New Installations in 2017-2018

SOLIBRO

The 5.2 kWp array was installed in October 2017 and is an example of thin film CIGS technology.

HANWHA Q CELLS

A 5.9 kWp array installed in December 2017 and reached full operation in January 2018 demonstrates monocrystalline silicon technology.

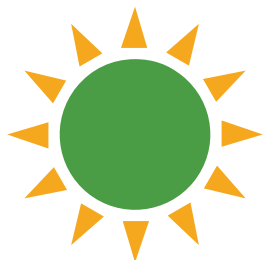


11%

In August 2017, the DKASC welcomed a new installation from the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Solar Energy Research Institute (SERIS).

Approximately 11% of the total DKASC production in 2017-2018 was generated by these new arrays.

2017-2018



468,893 kWh

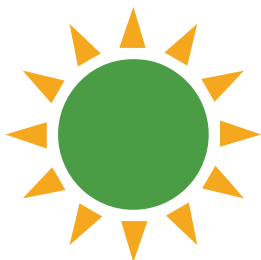
of solar energy generated, equivalent to

314 tonnes

of avoided



SINCE 2008



3.7 million kWh

generated to date, equivalent to

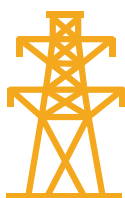
2,500 tonnes

of avoided



DESERT KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SOURCES

42%
solar PV



58%
grid

TOTAL SOLAR PV GENERATION

25%
exported

75%
onsite

THE DKASC WEBSITE

Many people from across the world download live and long-term data from the DKASC website to study and better understand the different technologies and environmental factors at play. People visiting Alice Springs can freely walk through the facility and see the various installations up close.

www.dkasolarcentre.com.au



10,465
website visitors
in FY18

WHO DOWNLOADS DATA FROM THE DKASC WEBSITE?

33%
researchers

22%
students

18%
private citizens

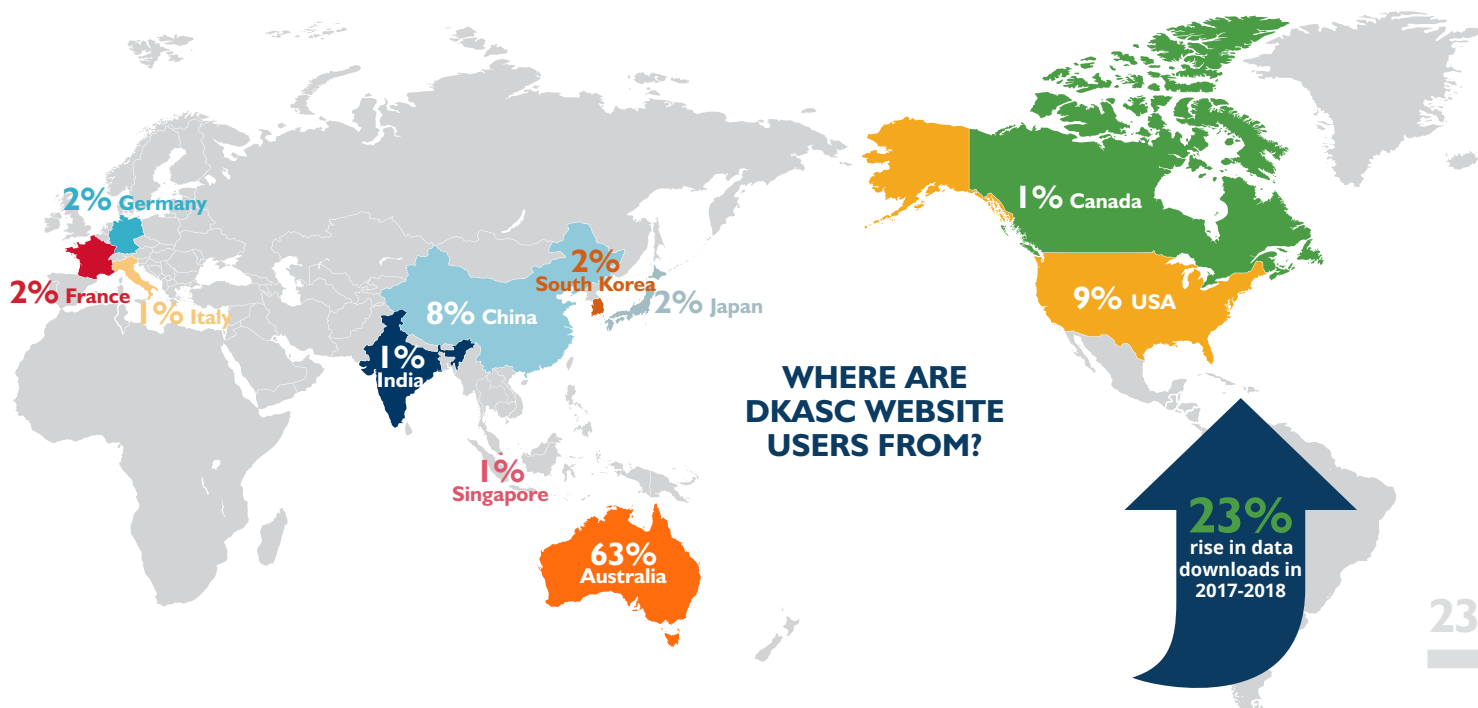
11%
designers

7%
manufacturers

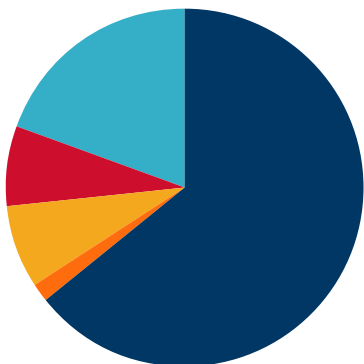
4%
investors

3%
developers

2%
installers

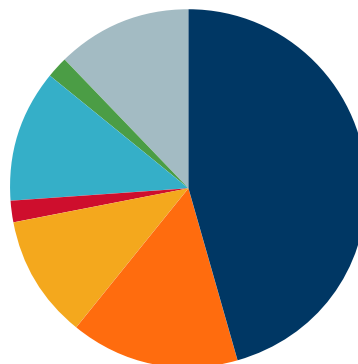


INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



INCOME

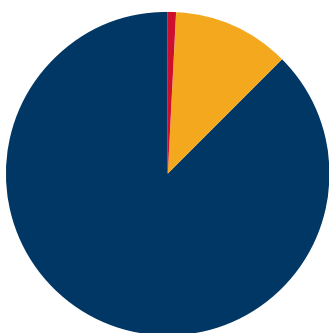
Grant	\$1,201,511
Interest	\$33,170
Rent	\$141,949
Solar Centre	\$136,000
Other	\$368,993



EXPENDITURE

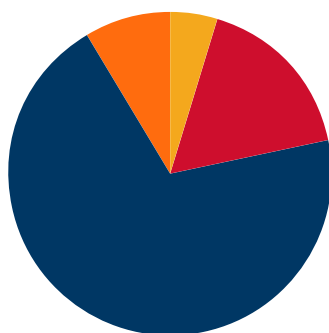
Employees	\$1,289,588
Depreciation	\$427,088
Consultants	\$313,003
Media and Marketing	\$54,434
Desert Knowledge Precinct	\$338,589
Travel and Accommodation	\$54,265
Other Expenses	\$341,303

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION



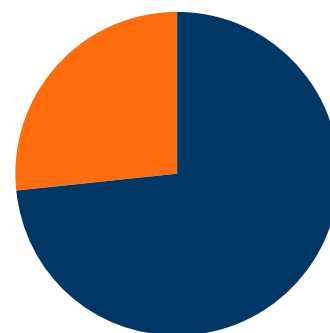
ASSETS

Trade and other receivables	\$144,953
Total Bank	\$1,618,339
Property, plant and equipment	\$12,255,736



LIABILITIES

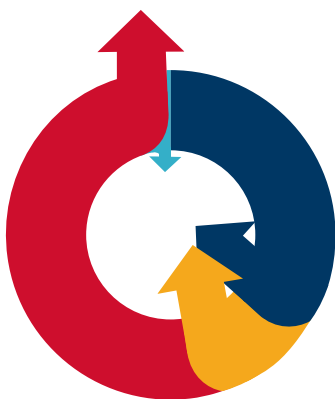
Employee benefits	\$162,171
Grants received in advance	\$579,166
Rent received in advance	\$2,376,648
Trade and other payables	\$285,479



EQUITY

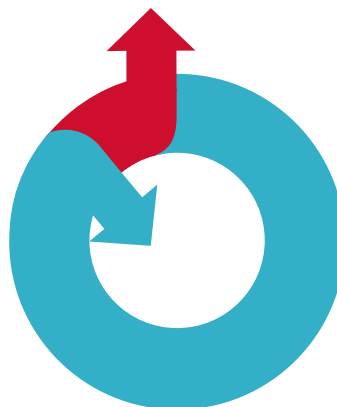
Issued capital	\$7,808,935
Retained earnings	\$1,618,339

CASH FLOW



CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Receipts from government grants	\$1,440,000
Other operating receipts	\$434,607
Payments to suppliers and employees	(-\$2,030,554)
Interest received	\$3,203



CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

Proceeds from financial assets	\$600,000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(-\$72,440)

To request full financial statements, please email info@dka.com.au

OUR BOARD



Chair
Marion Scrymgour



Deputy Chair
Chris Fry

Directors



Pat Anderson AO



Dave Batic



Steve Brouwer



Robert Campbell



Jimmy Cocking



Vanessa Elliott



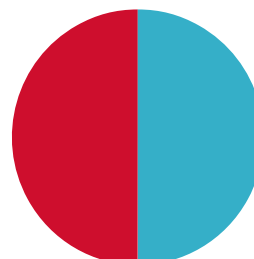
Heron Loban



Rede Ogden



40%
women
60%
men



50%
Aboriginal



OUR ELDER-IN- RESIDENCE

Harold Furber

Harold Furber is the Elder-in-residence at the Desert Knowledge Precinct. This role was established to ensure that the work, people and activities on the Precinct are guided by Arrernte leadership. Harold creates a connection to the continuing stories and knowledge of the land and the Arrernte people, and helps ground our work in respectful cultural practices.

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