

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016



LAND
BIODIVERSITY
WATER
COASTAL AND MARINE
CULTURAL HERITAGE
REGIONAL CAPACITY



South Coast NRM (WA) - Solutions for a productive and healthy environment

Cover:

West Beach Coastal Restoration Project, Esperance – part of the South Coast NRM Coastal Corridor Project - working towards protecting the most valuable areas of natural bush along our beautiful coastline from Hopetoun to Cape Arid National Park.

Photo: South Coast NRM

CHAIRMAN REPORT

BILL HOLLINGWORTH

It is my pleasure to present the 2015-16 Annual Report to the members of South Coast Natural Resource Management. On behalf of the Board of Management, I welcome you to review the performance of your organisation and I extend an open invitation to discuss the past and future focus of natural resource management within the South Coast region.

This has been a dynamic year with changes to the organisational staff structure and a full year with Justin Bellanger as chief executive officer. The past year has been a period of stability and consolidation following uncertainty of the regional delivery model by the Federal Government and the associated reduction in funding allocations to regions. This stability has allowed the organisation to complete a staff restructure and maintain capacity to deliver programs across our region.

We have had many events and reports to focus on as projects came to their final stages in June 2016, particularly a number of large projects that had been in place for over 3 years and more. We have received compliments from the Department of Environment on the prompt and efficient reporting of completed projects and the acquittal process of South Coast NRM managed projects. It is pleasing that we have been successful in the recent State NRM Community Grant process with the awarding of \$760,000 in grants for community group activity. This reflects the critical role that regional groups play in ensuring there is strategic investment in community-driven activities across the region.

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge former board deputy chair Rhonda Williams' success in the 2016 Landcare Awards. Congratulations Rhonda on being the Individual Landcare Award winner. Rhonda was a committed member of our board, chair of our Audit Committee and provided exceptional advice on constitutional requirements over 8 years.

The strength of commitment to natural resource management in Western Australian was evident at the Landcare Awards, with individuals and groups winning 5 of the 9 national awards – the best achievement by any State, and testament to the regional delivery model for NRM in WA. I would like to also congratulate the Esperance Senior High School Bushrangers Cadets for success in being nominated in their category at the Awards.



I would like to thank the board directors for their wise council through the year, and a special note to deputy chair, Carolyn Daniel, for attending events on behalf of South Coast NRM. Carolyn represented South Coast NRM at the National Knowledge Conference and gained valuable insight into national NRM issues from chairs and other representatives from the 56 regional groups in Australia. Thank you to our new directors Helen Tasker and Stephen Frost for their enthusiastic contribution.

It is with pleasure that we acknowledge the contribution of Ray Hirst to the board, particularly as chair of the Audit Committee. The board members and staff have appreciated Ray's fiduciary ability and diligence to oversee the financial management of South Coast NRM over 5 years. Ray has chosen not to renominate for the board. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

The Board Nominations and Remuneration Committee, with new community members, Cassandra Hughes and Sandie Smith, has recommended two board members for approval by members at this Annual General Meeting. We thank previous committee members, Marg Agnew and Erin Gorter, for their contribution over the 3 previous board member selection processes.

(continued overleaf)

A particular highlight of the board this year is the revitalisation of the Deductible Gift Recipient Fund, the South Coast Environment Fund, for our donor-sponsored projects. The fund was officially launched in collaboration with the Great Southern Art Trail, with local artists Karen Quain and Toni Hough displaying their art at South Coast NRM to promote our Scarce and Sacred flora and fauna of the South Coast region. Congratulations to all concerned in this novel and innovative approach to highlight our natural environment.

In addition to the normal duties of a board in overseeing the governance of South Coast NRM, our directors have focused on the following key strategic areas to progress the organisation over the past year.

- ◆ Overseen the completion of the previous Corporate Plan to 2016, and resourced and approved a new plan to 2021 to provide ongoing direction for our organisation.
- ◆ Approved the creation of the Growing Regional Agriculture Sustainably Technical Advisory Group (GRAS TAG). This group provides a forum for liaison and advice for South Coast NRM to ensure we are at the forefront of supporting farmers to sustainably meet the Department of Agriculture and Food's aim to double the value of agriculture by 2025.
- ◆ Approved the creation of a Report Card Sub-Committee which has overseen the production of an Environmental Report Card for the South Coast region. The Report Card fills the gap left by the lack of a State of the Environment Report for WA since 2007. The board, through its involvement with NRM WA, has also advocated for the improvement in State of the Environment Reporting at both a state and federal level.
- ◆ Actively promoted the ongoing effort to manage soil acidity following the launch of the Lime Situation Report 2015 developed by Dr Julia Fry with South Coast NRM support by lobbying State Government agencies and ministers on the matter.
- ◆ Continued representation of natural resource management and the regional delivery model at a state level through contributions to NRM WA (the State collective of regional NRM groups). Notable results achieved through NRM WA include liaison and lobbying of State Government Ministers, Opposition Shadow Ministers and the Directors General of most government agencies, the establishment of cooperative management of the Land for Wildlife program between NRM WA and the Department of Parks and Wildlife, and the decision to establish a rabbit monitoring program prior to and following the Calici virus release in early 2017.

- ◆ As part of NRM WA, and as an individual member organisation, South Coast NRM has created a forum to engage and work with the WA Landcare Network to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes for our respective and often overlapping communities.

The coming year includes a number of critical decisions at a state and federal level that will shape the investment into NRM for the next half a decade. The Federal Government is currently designing the next phase of the National Landcare Program for post June 2018. Decisions will be made this year on how much funding will be involved, how the program will be delivered, and what role community will have in shaping future priorities. At a State level, the March 2017 election is also expected to bring opportunities for community-driven management of our natural resources.

The board and executive team are actively advocating for the regional delivery model and developing other projects to carry the organisation well beyond the next project June 2018, when we can expect changes to the way NRM and landcare funds are delivered. This includes examining innovative business opportunities that reduce our risks which arise from predominantly relying on single sources of funding. We expect that these opportunities will ensure that we can carry on the work we enthusiastically support into the future.

On behalf of the Board of Management, we wish our members and the South Coast NRM team all the best for 2017.

Bill Hollingworth
Chairman

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

JUSTIN BELLANGER

The past financial year has marked a number of important transitions for South Coast NRM. The composition of our executive management team has been consolidated along with key roles in the senior operations team and other areas of the organisation. This has occurred smoothly and professionally, alongside the completion of more than half of our major programs worth over \$1.8M. It is a testament to the excellent staff at South Coast NRM, led by Penni Hewett (operations manager) and Joanne Headlam (business services manager) that has maintained our focus on delivering quality NRM outcomes in partnership with the South Coast community.

Despite the changes to our programs, we have maintained support for our regular community-based partners that help deliver the jigsaw of strategic investments that result in outcomes where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing professional partnerships we have with sub-regionally based catchment groups, individuals, not for profit groups (small to large), local governments, state government agencies, research institutions and commercial businesses. The collaborative model of NRM delivery within the South Coast region continues to be highly regarded and envied in other parts of WA and Australia.

This regional delivery model has allowed us to progress or achieve more than 70% of the short-term outcomes of *Southern Prospects 2011-2016: the South Coast Regional Strategy for Natural Resource Management*. Whilst some of these outcomes will take further years to fully complete, the NRM community as a whole (South Coast NRM staff, our partners, and our funders) should be justifiably proud of what has been achieved.

To support South Coast NRM's part in directly delivering on *Southern Prospects 2011-2016*, the *Corporate Plan 2013-2016* describes the priority activities needed at an organisational level. As of late 2015, almost 75% of the strategies had been completed, and over 90% of the objectives had met or exceeded our expectations. It is particularly pleasing to note that the activities described in the *Corporate Plan 2013-2016* and *Southern Prospects 2011-2016* resulted in over 77% of community respondents believing that real and lasting improvements have occurred for our natural resources.

From a financial perspective, South Coast NRM performed significantly better than budgeted throughout 2015-16, generating a surplus of \$96,149 despite an expected deficit of \$111,349. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of our major government funders, in particular, the Australian Government Departments of Environment and Agriculture and Water Resources.



However, as forecasted in the 2015 Annual Report, the trajectory of our funding from government sources (State and Federal) has continued to decline, with a 26% reduction in 2015-16. This was due, in part, to far fewer large funding programs being available from which to secure new funding. The losses were partially mitigated by ongoing efforts to secure private works income, and through a number of internal savings. These measures enabled us to continue to support regional NRM activities, and to maintain our equity position.

In 2016-17, the management and staff of South Coast NRM will continue to deliver our regular activities of advocating, enabling, coordinating and prioritising the delivery of NRM outcomes within our region. In addition, the coming year will include the development and implementation of the revised *Corporate Plan 2016-2021*, planning for the revision of *Southern Prospects 2011-2016*, the delivery of the Business Plan for the South Coast Environment Fund, and assisting volunteers in community-based catchment groups to shift their focus from administrative responsibilities to increase their involvement in planning and overseeing on-ground works and other activities.

South Coast NRM foundations are built on a strong and professional Board of Management, supported by passionate and knowledgeable staff who support the community's aspiration to create a healthy and productive environment.

On behalf of management, I would like to thank the board, staff and community for their support over my first year as chief executive officer.

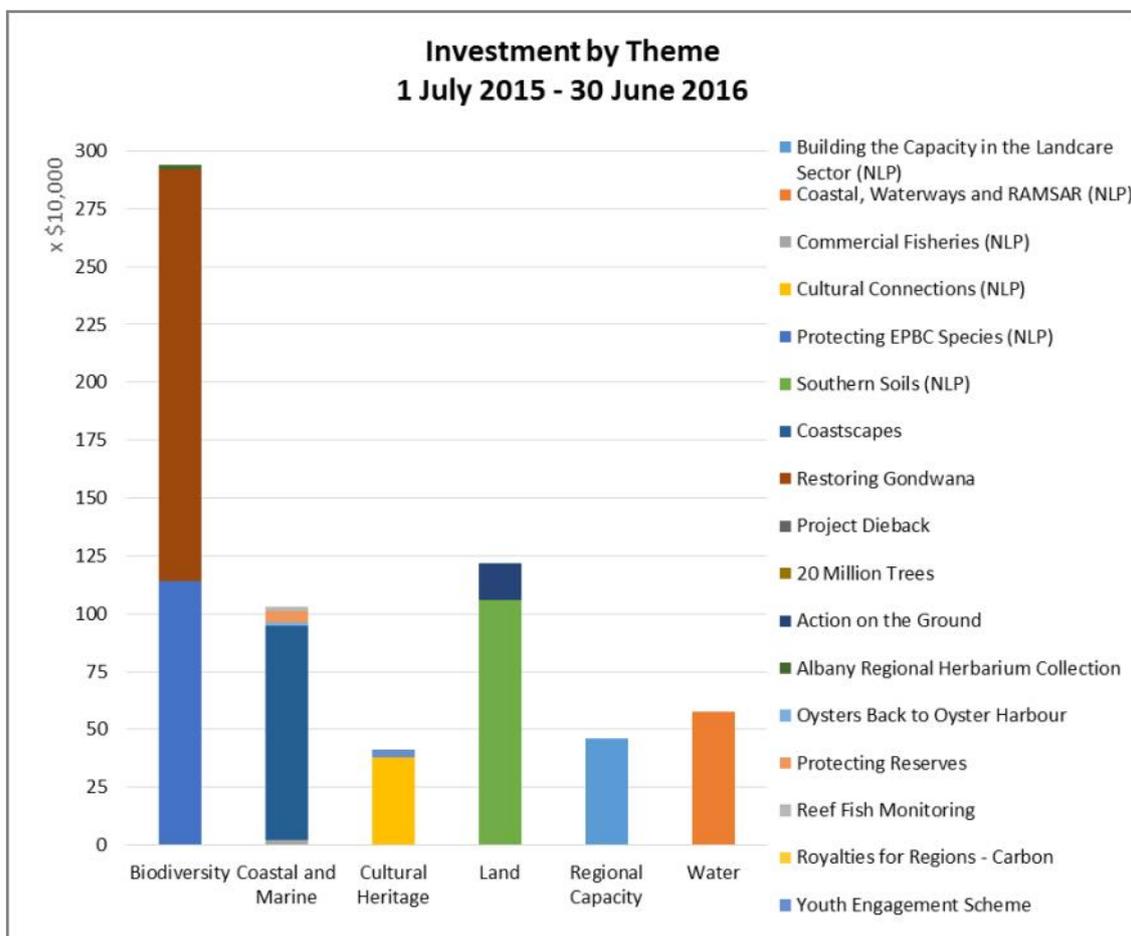
ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

During 2015-16, South Coast NRM has, in partnership with our volunteers, community groups, farmers, government agencies and non-government organisations, continued to protect our region's unique plants, animals, landscapes and farm land. A broad summary of achievements is shown below. More details can be found in the following pages for each of the individual themes.

- ◆ Engaged 6,180 people in NRM activities through 212 workshops, working bees, training sessions, education awareness, project feedback/debriefs, conferences/seminar presentations, field days, mentoring activities, roadshow and planning sessions.
- ◆ Erected 267 kilometres of fencing to protect 9,880.5 ha of groundcover, revegetated fragmented landscapes, remnant vegetation and/or erosion management in priority coastal and waterway areas.
- ◆ Completed 302 ha of biodiverse revegetation connecting fragmented landscapes in priority areas (45.3 ha in priority coastal and waterway areas).
- ◆ Encouraged 237 farming entities to adopt sustainable farming practices over 125 ha by improving soil health, maintaining groundcover levels for soil erosion and managing soil acidification to improve productivity and reduce off site impacts.
- ◆ Conducted 300 ha of flora surveys to learn more about our unique plants.
- ◆ Surveyed 14,431 ha of native vegetation to assess for the presence of Phytophthora Dieback, and developed appropriate mitigation and management strategies.
- ◆ Controlled 866.5 ha of weeds including Bridal Creeper, Gorse, Blackberry, Boxthorn, Sydney Golden Wattle, Victorian Tea Tree and English Ivy.
- ◆ Mapped 45.6 ha to evaluate control of bridal creeper by rusting in 2010. *Note: monitoring has shown this biological control method is proving effective in the Bremer Bay region.*
- ◆ Surveyed and controlled feral pigs over 69,898 ha.
- ◆ Controlled pests across 224,732 ha (foxes, rabbits and feral cats).

Investment by Themes

The distribution of the investment was largely driven by the funding opportunities available and using Southern Prospects 2011-2016 and the South Coast NRM Investment Plan as guiding documents.

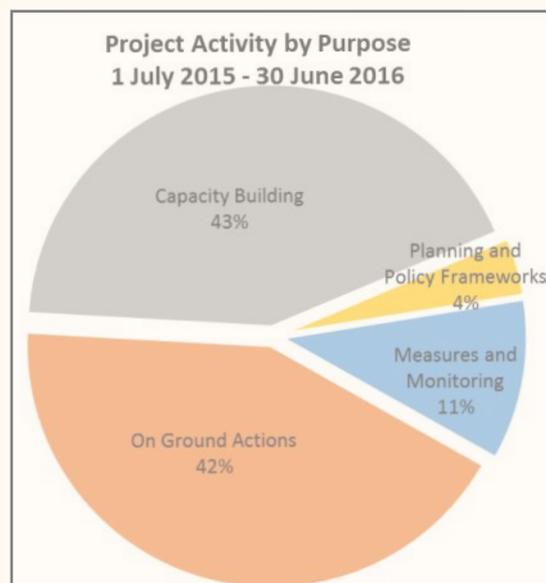


Distribution of investment by projects across the themes for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

Purpose of Activity

All project activity is determined by the South Coast NRM Investment Plan which links planned project activity to achieve outcomes within *Southern Prospects 2011-2016*. The desired outcomes identified in each of the themes have been grouped to a purpose to describe the type of activity. These include on-ground works, building community capacity, developing our information base, benchmarking and monitoring our performance, and any additional planning or policy measures required. These are described as follows:

- ◆ **Monitoring and Measures** is the regular gathering of information in a consistent manner to keep track of, and observe the progress of an activity, project or program.
- ◆ **On-ground Actions** are outputs which can be reported directly in terms of a unit of measure (e.g. hectares, kilometres).
- ◆ **Capacity Building** relates to activity or activities designed to enhance natural resource management planning and management. These include:
 - ◇ providing stakeholders with access to data and information;
 - ◇ enhancing knowledge, skills and abilities;
 - ◇ research and development; and,
 - ◇ market-based approaches.
- ◆ **Planning and Policy Frameworks** includes developing and reviewing methodologies and the mechanisms to reflect the changes in best practice and the emerging priorities to natural resource management .

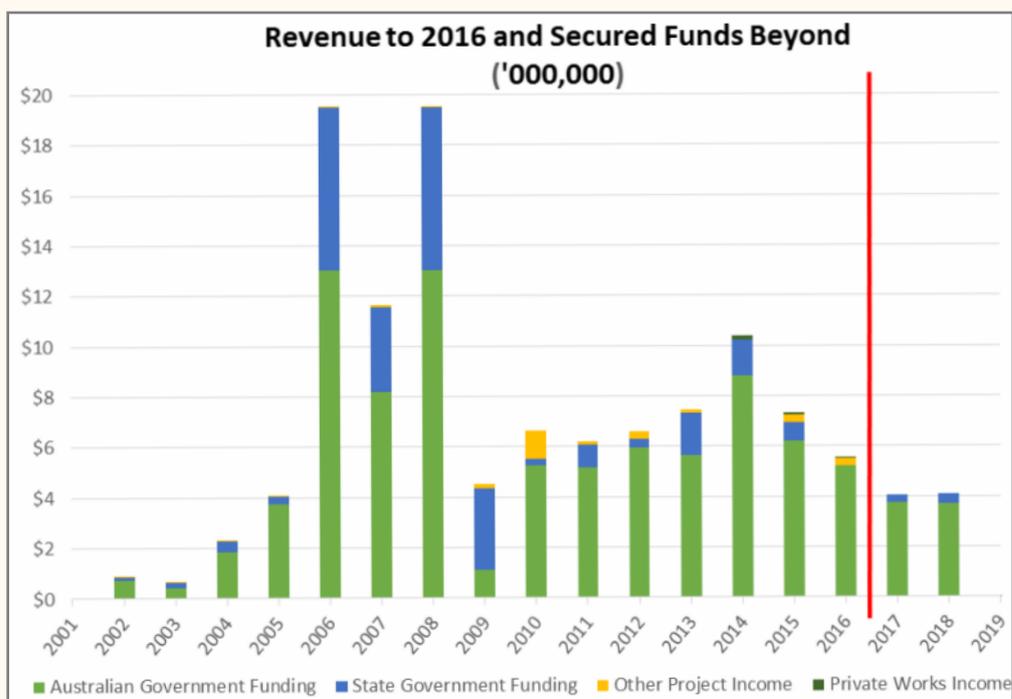


Project activity grouped by purpose

Capacity building activity has remained consistent with previous years in line with the Australian Government's commitment for a more engaged community through awareness raising and practice management change.

Revenue

The chart below shows funds received in successive financial years as reported in the financial reports of each of the annual reports of South Coast NRM and also where formally recognised as South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team Inc. (e.g. financial year 2015/16 is expressed as 2016). Included also are the funds secured under grant agreements from 2016 (red vertical line reference point).



Revenue from July 2001 and secured funds beyond June 2016

Between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2016 the revenue received by South Coast NRM (and as SCRIPT) totals \$113.3m. Beyond June 2016 to the latter half of 2019, a further \$8.2m has been secured from Australian Government and State Government of Western Australia programs.

The key focus for the South Coast NRM land theme is to promote the importance of protecting and improving soil and land resources. Healthy soils support sustainable agriculture, minimise erosion, improve water quality, reduce the sedimentation of waterways and marine environments, and store more soil carbon. During 2015/16, South Coast NRM and partners have continued with the establishment and maintenance of trials and demonstration sites funded primarily through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

Seasonal constraints have delayed some activities this year, however this was anticipated and planned for during project development with appropriate risk management responses enacted as identified in the project management plan.

Southern Soils

This project continues to deliver quality soil health demonstrations and extension activities across the region in partnership with several key catchment and grower groups. These activities aim to provide the region's farmers with management options that include positive NRM outcomes that they can adopt. To this end, the project has:

- ◆ established and monitored 7 soil health demonstration sites (Cranbrook, Gnowangerup, Ongerup, Borden, Ravensthorpe and Jerramungup);
- ◆ delivered 44 events engaging 1,964 people;
- ◆ established 6 Southern Soils demonstrations with some extension activities planned in spring 2016; and
- ◆ produced 5 soil health fact sheets.

Climate Action on Farms

The *Climate Action on Farms* project is a sub-project of *Southern Soils* which will increase understanding and awareness of climate predictions for the region with the aim of increasing the adaptive capacity of landholders to effectively manage their enterprise with increasing climate variability. *Climate Action on Farms* has:

- ◆ implemented 3 demonstrations on how to make farms more resilient to climate change;
- ◆ planned workshops about climate science predictions for the region; and
- ◆ planned a suite of emission audits and 'climate heroes' case studies.

A partnership project with CSIRO, *Capitalising on perennial forages suited to the Western Australian South Coast to reduce methane emissions intensity*, has been running since 2014 and is funded through the Australian Government's Action on the Ground. During the last year this project has:

- ◆ completed trial phases of the project ahead of schedule;
- ◆ engaged 226 farmers at 6 events including a "Boost livestock on marginal lands" field day (50 farmers); and
- ◆ completed filming for the production of a short film.



Participants in the holistic farming course analysing pasture types and insect presence
(South Coast NRM)



Free range piggyeries are a developing industry in the South Coast region
(South Coast NRM)



Wool patching merino sheep in Cranbrook as part of the Climate Action on Farms project with CSIRO
(South Coast NRM)



Planting saltbush at Gillamii's new demonstration site in Cranbrook
(South Coast NRM)

The *NRM Planning for Climate Change* project has been successfully completed. This project has incorporated climate change predictions and future actions into the addendum to Southern Prospects 2011-2016. Climate adaptation and mitigation was also included in the program logics for each theme and into the investment plan. The project resulted in:

- ◆ the *Climate adaptation addendum*, maps and background papers; all are available on-line (<http://climateactionfarming.com.au>); and
- ◆ engagement of over 300 people at meetings and events, including the highly successful *Living with a Changing Climate Conference* in Albany in November 2015.

Royalties for Region Carbon Farming Project

The regional landcare facilitators successfully completed the region's *Carbon Farming Awareness* project that commenced in 2012. The project's purpose was to improve awareness of the potential benefits of the Emission Reduction Fund for Western Australian farmers. In the south coast region:

- ◆ 37 meetings and field days with 1,849 attendees partnering with 9 organisations were held;
- ◆ 12 fact sheets, how-to guides and case studies, and 13 media releases in partnership with Action on the Ground Rounds 1 and 2 were produced; and
- ◆ 4 demonstration sites (Cranbrook, Bremer Bay, Narrikup and Jerramungup) were established.



UWA soil scientist, Kanako Tomita, soil sampling for the Climate Action on Farms project
(South Coast NRM)

Looking Forward: short/medium term goals and activities

2016-2017 will see the land team and our community partners continue to focus on key soil health issues, particularly soil acidity, and helping farmers to adapt to a changing climate and manage their soils sustainably. Agricultural sectors such as horticulture and viticulture will be a focus for developing appropriate demonstrations and events relating to soil health.

The Australian Government has provided funding for agricultural research and development and the land team will work with partner groups to secure funding to benefit the region's agricultural and NRM communities.

Blue gum reversion workshop held in Frankland organised by the Gillamii Centre and South Coast NRM
(South Coast NRM)



The key focus for the South Coast NRM biodiversity theme is to work with our project partners to protect and conserve the region's ecological communities, threatened species, and improve connectivity of fragmented landscapes. During 2015-16, the highly successful Restoring Gondwana project was completed, and the implications for fire on biodiversity have received further attention.

Restoring Gondwana: Revegetating and Protecting the Forest to Fitzgerald Macro Corridor

This five-year multi partnership investment to improve connectivity and manage threats to biodiversity in the Gondwana Link concluded in June 2016. This project demonstrated outstanding success, applied innovative techniques, and strengthened community partnerships to achieve:

- ◆ 12.5 ha revegetation of former agricultural land to address critical habitat connectivity in the central portion of the Fitz-Stirling wildlife corridor at Beringa reserve;
- ◆ 112 km of fencing to protect 2,219 ha of remnant vegetation and new plantings;
- ◆ dieback interpretive mapping at four important properties in the Fitz-Stirling and across the Cape Riche-Pallinup areas (Kwongkan TEC);
- ◆ a first ever *Flora and Vegetation Survey of Cape Riche to Pallinup* (Sandiford 2016);
- ◆ an innovative vegetation monitoring project using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle or drone technology for the first time;
- ◆ a refined black gloved wallaby monitoring protocol for use in the South Coast Macro Corridor;
- ◆ 5 'Cockatubes', artificial nest box hollows for Carnaby's Black Cockatoos permanently installed to provide additional habitat, within 1 km of existing hollows; and
- ◆ emergency recovery actions for two threatened species following a devastating wildfire in November 2015 which saw habitat losses of up to 90% in Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.



Banksia verticillata
(South Coast NRM)



Dibbler translocation, Peniup
(Sarah Comer, Department of Parks and Wildlife)

You can help prevent the spread of Phytophthora DIEBACK
Every step counts — keep yours clean



Clean soil from shoes at the start & finish of any walks you do in natural areas; avoid walking in the bush when its wet and muddy



After cleaning soil off sterilize with bleach or methylated spirits diluted to 70% with water





Female Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in hollow
(South Coast NRM)



Banksia, Manypeaks landscape
(Sarah Comer, Department of Parks and Wildlife)



Australian Malleefowl
(Alan Danks, Department of Parks and Wildlife)

Implementing recovery actions to protect South Coast ecosystems and EPBC species

This project delivers a multi-species landscape approach to conserve national and regional ecosystems and species, across the whole region. During 2015-16 partners have:

- ◆ planned for implementation of 66 ha of revegetation to enhance connectivity. Six community groups and landholders will complete works by October 2016;
- ◆ completed 13.54 ha of revegetation ahead of schedule by landholders engaged in the Southern Incentives small grants round;
- ◆ installed 25.06 km fencing to protect 355.9 ha remnant vegetation in South Coast Macro Corridors to improve long term condition;
- ◆ completed Recovery Actions for Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) species including survey of 6 threatened fauna species and 31 declared rare flora over 600 ha. This included seed collection, post fire monitoring and survey of previously translocated dibbler which revealed that this new population is thriving;
- ◆ completed 145 ha of initial and follow up weed control. Treatment targeted WoNS African boxthorn, bridal creeper, and gorse, the latter as a commitment to the Regional Gorse Eradication Strategy;
- ◆ carried out 82,270 ha of feral animal control over 50,000 ha including a trial of Eradicat feral cat bait in the Fitzgerald River National Park;
- ◆ undertaken 5,000 ha of feral pig control and monitoring in and around the Walpole Wilderness and 27,270 ha of fox control completed in Conservation Action Plan areas by community groups;
- ◆ delivered 9 community workshops on protection of EPBC species and managing weeds and feral animals; and
- ◆ contributed to help stage the inaugural WA Threatened Species Forum in Geraldton, October 2015.

Looking Forward: short/medium term goals and activities

- ◆ *The Biodiversity Reference Group is considering a response to the lack of available resources (to the public) for adequate fire planning and response in terms of biodiversity.*
- ◆ *Development of case studies to show restoration success or innovative monitoring techniques.*
- ◆ *Continuing the use of drone technology to monitor vegetation success.*
- ◆ *Undertaking a pilot project using behaviour change indicators for dieback interventions.*
- ◆ *Developing closer integration with the land theme to promote collaboration between biodiversity and agriculture.*

The environmental assets for the water theme include rivers, wetlands and estuaries along with surface and groundwater resources.

Restoring and Protecting Values of Waterways and RAMSAR wetlands in the South Coast of WA

This program supports the community and partners to protect waterway environments including estuaries, rivers and wetlands. Community groups including Aboriginal groups, land managers, schools and waterway users are engaged in on-ground coastal and waterway protection, education and capacity building activities through waterway protection, restoration and rehabilitation works.

The protection and rehabilitation of water assets occurred through continued implementation of existing estuary and water asset management plans and on-ground works by community groups, landholders and partners. This occurred in key water asset areas such as Wilson Inlet, Oyster Harbour and Yakamia Creek, Wellstead, Culham and Stokes inlets.

In the last year the program has delivered the following outcomes:

- ◆ the continued implementation of the Wellstead Estuary, Culham Inlet and Stokes Inlet Estuary Management Plans with the Fitzgerald Biosphere Group, Friends of Wellstead Estuary, Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network, Culham Inlet Management Group and Esperance Regional Forum;
- ◆ completion of an aerial river survey for the Oldfield River with the Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network;
- ◆ invasive species control and riparian restoration activities around Wilson Inlet and the Denmark River with the Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee and the Denmark Weed Action Group;
- ◆ continued community and stakeholders engagement in the implementation of the Yakamia Creek Management Plan with the Oyster Harbour Catchment Group; and
- ◆ education and monitoring activities have continued to be delivered with school children, community groups and individuals including workshops, field days and catchment tours across the region.

Bringing the oysters back to Oyster Harbour project

This partnership with South Coast NRM, The Nature Conservancy, the University of Western Australia and Recfishwest in the last year completed the deployment of a pilot native flat oyster restoration reef to help restore ecosystem function in Oyster Harbour, Albany.

The project also included a community stakeholder and engagement process, project feasibility planning and the documentation of historical published and community information on native oyster distribution in the area. The project has now progressed to a larger oyster reef deployment program.



Lake Warden RAMSAR Migratory Bird Survey
(South Coast NRM)



Bringing the Oysters Back to Oyster Harbour Project - oyster development, Emu Point
(Bryn Warnock, UWA)



Bringing the Oysters Back to Oyster Harbour Project - Native Oyster (Ostrea Angasi) on scallop shell
(Bryn Warnock, UWA)

Protecting Ramsar values through rehabilitation works for Lake Warden and Lake Gore

This program works with the Esperance community and project partners to deliver targeted rehabilitation works in the Lake Warden and Lake Gore catchments to restore the ecological character and abate threats to Ramsar values. The community-focused activities include biodiverse planting to restore habitats for significant flora and fauna, to mitigate altered hydrology and salt loads, the management of *Phytophthora dieback* and monitoring migratory bird populations.

Over the past year, the project partners protected the internationally recognised Lake Warden and Lake Gore Ramsar wetlands by:

- ◆ completing 15 ha of revegetation via the planting of seedlings;
- ◆ establishing 20 ha of revegetation through direct seeding as part of the 20 Million Trees Project with 2 landholders;
- ◆ controlling 2 ha of priority weed control;
- ◆ development of a *Phytophthora dieback* Hazard and Risk Model for the Lake Warden and Gore RAMSAR Wetlands;
- ◆ engaging with landholders and project partners/land managers including the Wongutha Caps Indigenous School;
- ◆ completing annual bird surveys to assist with assessing ecological character at Lake Warden and Gore and assisting in evaluating the success of the project;
- ◆ undertaking wetland monitoring with local school children; and
- ◆ facilitating the continued work of the Lake Warden and Lake Gore Technical Advisory Group.



Pics above and below:

Oldfield River and Estuary Field Day and Guided Walk

(Elisa Spengler, RAIN)



Looking Forward: short/medium term goals and activities

2016 – 2017 will see the water theme program, community and project partners continue to focus on the exciting next phase of the oyster project in Oyster Harbour and the continued implementation of priority waterway management plans in the region including the protection of RAMSAR values of the Lake Warden and Lake Gore.

The water theme program is also hoping to secure more resources for a region-wide water program with a focus on protecting and restoring priority water assets and including a regional water monitoring program.

Shorebird orientation day, Lake Warden RAMSAR Migratory Bird Survey (South Coast NRM)



The coastal and marine theme covers the extensive coastal and marine areas of the South Coast region extending out to three nautical miles offshore. The focus over the past year has been on engaging the community through education, delivering coastal restoration works in partnership with sub-regional community groups and continuing the strong partnership with local government and the South Coast Management Group (SCMG).

Coastscapes – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity Resilience in the Coastal Macro-Corridor of the South Coast of WA

This program protects and enhances an almost continuous strip of intact coastal native vegetation along the South Coast through work in the Two Peoples Bay to Fitzgerald corridor and Fitzgerald to Cape Arid corridor. In the past year, the project and project partners have:

- ◆ worked extensively with private landholders to strengthen the coastal corridor in the Wellstead, Bremer Bay and Esperance coastal areas;
- ◆ worked directly with the City of Albany, Shire of Jerramungup, Shire of Ravensthorpe, Shire of Esperance and the Department of Parks and Wildlife in coastal corridor protection works;
- ◆ delivered an additional 25 ha of revegetation via direct seeding at the Water Corporation property adjacent to the Jerdacuttup Lakes;
- ◆ protected sites in the Esperance coastal corridor through access management, bollarding and protection works in a partnership with local community, schools and bushranger groups;
- ◆ continued 50 ha of follow-up coastal tea tree/victorian tea tree control west of Esperance; and
- ◆ implemented targeted tea tree/victorian tea tree control in the Esperance and Bremer Bay coastal corridors.

In the last year, wildfire has impacted a larger area of the coastal corridor project site and the project has been successful in a project extension to allow the completion of project activities and protection and rehabilitation works.

Restoring and Protecting Values of Coastal Environments, Waterways and RAMSAR wetlands in the South Coast of WA

This program supports the south coast community and partners to protect coastal environments and urban waterways, ecological communities, and threatened (EPBC-listed) species across coastal environments guided by the community, partner organisations, *Southern Prospects* and the regional coastal strategy (*Southern Shores 2009-2030*). It also delivers extensive coastal community engagement activities.

The program is delivered as partnerships between community groups, public land and aquatic resource managers, schools, individuals and South Coast NRM staff.



Great Southern Grammar students participating in the Albany Community Marine Monitoring Project
(Ian Robson, Great Southern Grammar)



Pics above and below:

Coastal Corridor restoration project, Salmon Beach, Esperance – preparing site for revegetation with Wongutha CAPS Aboriginal School, Conservation Ranger Program
(South Coast NRM)





Salty Summers – Beach Investigators Event, Cape Riche
(South Coast NRM)

This year local community organisations, coastal local governments and South Coast NRM coastal team partners have:

- ◆ supported coastal node planning and works implementation through the South Coast NRM coastal team. Planning and works implementation was supported with South Coast NRM and partner coastal local governments for Thomas River, Alexander Bay, Quagi Beach, Munglinup Beach (Shire of Esperance), Starvation Bay and Masons Bay (Shire of Ravensthorpe), Millers Point and House Beach (Shire of Jerramungup), and Muttonbird Beach (City of Albany). Activities are now progressing into works implementation stages with the partner local governments and the coastal project team;
- ◆ delivered 6 coastal field days across the region aimed at training and supporting community and stakeholder involvement in coastal projects;
- ◆ delivered 27 community coastal engagement events and workshops engaging 766 participants including the region wide 'Salty Summer' Coastal Education Program;
- ◆ provided additional coastal education activities in Esperance schools through support from Cliffs Natural Resources; and
- ◆ continued to support education and engagement initiatives such as the Albany Senior High School Marine Science Program and the Esperance Bay Monitoring Project with the Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School.

The SCMG, in partnership with South Coast NRM, has continued to implement *Southern Shores 2009-2030*. This year, the five member local governments addressed site-specific vehicle impacts in the coastal zone (previously supported by Coastwest).

Developing and implementing environment management systems and sustainability measures for commercial fisheries on the South Coast

This project has contributed to improving environmental values through engaging 45 fishers to improve their skills and knowledge through 2 industry meetings, 3 field events and the production of sustainable fisheries materials.

South Coast community based reef fish monitoring program

A community marine monitoring program that used stereo-video systems operated by citizen scientists to collect data on fish was delivered. Data was collected from 16 reefs at 4 sites in the Albany area. The project has developed a manual to encourage volunteers to independently replicate the project in other locations. The project is a partnership with Coastwest, Curtin University, Albany Dive Supplies, Great Southern Grammar and South Coast Dive Group.

Looking Forward: short/medium term goals and activities

2016 – 2017 will see the coastal and marine theme program and partnerships with community and project partners continue to focus on key protection and restoration works in the region's coastal corridor. The program will continue to build partnerships with coastal local governments and coastal and marine land managers to deliver projects and engage community and coastal users about coastal and marine environmental values.



Sustainable Fisheries Project, Festival of the Sea, Albany
(Tim Leary, Department of Fisheries WA)

CULTURAL HERITAGE



Recognising Aboriginal peoples' inseparable relationship with Country and caring for the environment has enabled the cultural heritage theme to create a strong, inclusive partnership with the Noongar community. South Coast NRM and project partners have greatly contributed to the protection and restoration of cultural heritage during 2015-16, enabling Aboriginal people to actively participate in natural resource management and to develop sustainable enterprises.

Cultural connections between Aboriginal people and their Country

This project supports Aboriginal people and communities to participate in conserving and protecting totem EPBC species and ecological communities at culturally significant sites using traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). Several strategies are being developed to increase the capacity of Aboriginal people and communities to participate at all levels, with a focus on career pathway support, employment and enterprise development. Over the past year, South Coast NRM and project partners have achieved the following.

Engaging Aboriginal people in NRM

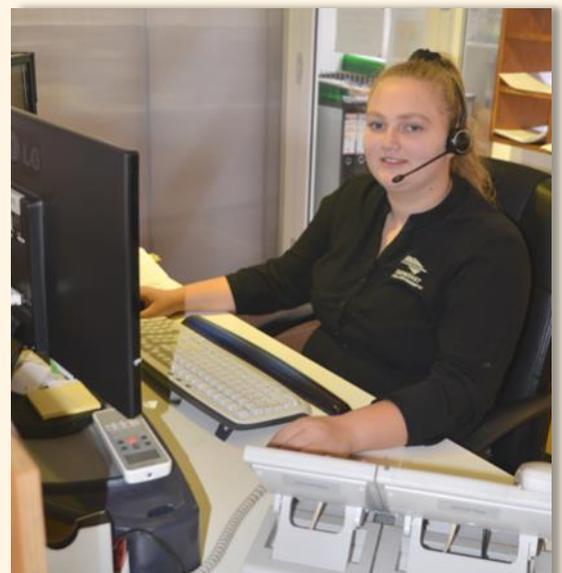
- ◆ A draft Aboriginal engagement guideline and protocol to assist project officers to engage the Aboriginal community in NRM projects.
- ◆ Sites added to the Cultural Heritage Land and Sea Management Plan interactive Google map via community consultations.
- ◆ Assisted the Wirlomin Language Group reconnect storylines to country in the Fitzgerald Inlet.
- ◆ Eight cultural awareness events reaching 2,177 people which included a successful Caring for Country Roadshow in partnership with the Department of Education involving 8 schools.
- ◆ Three Noongar family field trips at culturally significant locations to build relationships between the Aboriginal community and Department of Parks and Wildlife staff.
- ◆ Continue to host an Aboriginal school based trainee to complete a Certificate II in Business in September 2016.
- ◆ A training and skills audit of existing Aboriginal business owners and land managers to guide training.
- ◆ Two training events (mentoring and first aid training) delivered to build capacity to support the Strong and Proud program.
- ◆ An Arts Practicum student from the University of Western Australia engaged to complete a desktop review of Aboriginal place names for features across the south coast region.
- ◆ A preliminary archaeological assessment conducted to ascertain the extent of damage to potential and known Aboriginal sites following the Esperance fires in late 2015.
- ◆ Assisted the Friends of Porongurup Range with Aboriginal consultation for the interpretative signage of the newly developed heritage trail.
- ◆ The Aboriginal Reference Group met 3 times to provide strategic direction and continue future project planning.
- ◆ A presentation, "Innovative Approaches to Engaging the Aboriginal Community and Supporting Career Pathways in NRM in the South Coast of WA", at the 6th National NRM Knowledge Conference held in Coffs Harbour in June 2016.



Wirlomin Language Group connecting storyline to country in the Fitzgerald River National Park
(South Coast NRM)



Elder Averil Dean and Lindsay Dean at the Porongurup Range interpretative information session
(South Coast NRM)



School based trainee, Jezelda Lethbridge
(South Coast NRM)

KAREN HERLIHY, PROGRAM LEADER



Colin Woods of Gnoweran Environmental Services
(South Coast NRM)



Cultural tourism familiarisation event on the Kalgan Queen
(South Coast NRM)



Elders Carol Petterson and Lynette Knapp with Graeme Simpson (South Coast NRM) sharing bush food knowledge at the Albany Wildflower Exhibition in 2015
(South Coast NRM)

Supporting sustainable Indigenous enterprises

- ◆ Two pilot Aboriginal enterprises (environment services and cultivation of bush products) were supported with developing their concepts into business reality.
- ◆ Four Aboriginal businesses (cultural tourism and education, environmental services and cultivation of bush products) were supported with individual planning workshops. Poornarti Aboriginal Tours has grown from a backyard enterprise and is expected to be ready for international tourists within the next 12 months. Another cultural tourism operator is developing a business plan. Gnoweran Environmental Services continues to expand its services and increase its competitive edge through improvements to its tender and quotation process, branding and marketing. Dowrene Farm continues to expand its bush food production capability with improvements to its infrastructure and development of technical expertise.
- ◆ The Draft Cultural Tour Guide Training Program was developed and a familiarisation tour organised to provide training to potential and existing Aboriginal tour guides.
- ◆ Sponsored Noongar people interested in tourism to attend the Friends of Porongurups eco-tourism conference.
- ◆ Six local Aboriginal people establishing business were supported to attend Indigenous Procurement Policy Training.

Strong and Proud – Wumbudin koul-ye-rah – after school recreation program for Aboriginal youth

The Strong and Proud program, based on the Noongar six seasons, ran in terms 1 and 2 of 2016 involving 35 Aboriginal youth in Albany. This was an opportunity to build their self-esteem and leadership skills while enjoying a wide range of outdoor recreational, cultural and environmental activities.

Looking Forward: short/medium term goals and activities

- ◆ Encourage effective partnering with, and increase the involvement of, Aboriginal people in developing programs to maintain and enhance natural resource and cultural values, while also providing pathways to employment and other social benefits.
- ◆ Deliver training to South Coast NRM staff and partner groups using the Aboriginal engagement guidelines and protocol to improve Aboriginal engagement in NRM projects.
- ◆ Continue to support sustainable Indigenous enterprises with mentoring, business support and networking including Indigenous business forums.

Noongar Bush Food:
(far right) Dowrene Farm's first commercial crop of Youlk
(right) Mean tuber
(South Coast NRM)





Wumbudin koul-yeer-rah - Strong & Proud After school recreation program for Aboriginal youth

What - an eight week after school program runs each term throughout 2016 for Aboriginal youth between the ages of 12 to 16. The program aims to connect to country, community, culture through sport and recreation. All sessions are provided in a fun and safe environment with mentors, local sporting group leaders and Elders.

Purpose - provides a 'taste test' of different sporting activities led by experts so that participants learn new skills, challenge themselves and increase their physical activity. This helps to build self-esteem, leadership skills, healthy lifestyle and reduce antisocial behaviour. It also provides opportunities to discover local sporting and community groups that they may not know about.

Strong & Proud is built on the foundation that being strong in culture and connection to Country assists Aboriginal youth to have pride in themselves and their community.

Program - developed around the 6 Noongar seasons and takes participants to culturally significant locations. Activities reflect the particular Noongar season and culminates in a residential workshop.

How - funded by the Department of Sport and Recreation's 'Youth Engagement Scheme' and the National Landcare Programme. It is coordinated by South Coast Natural Resource Management with support from a number of agencies including Southern Aboriginal Corporation, Wanslea, Great Southern Employment Development Committee, Department of Education, Wirrpanda Foundation and Alta-1.





Term 1: Bunuru – very dry during this season and traditionally Noongars moved to the coast and estuaries to catch fish.

Activities: fishing, stand-up paddle boarding, surfing, snorkelling and coastal bush walks with Elders.

Term 2: Djeran and Makaru – where traditionally Noongars began to move inland to hunt and to avoid the winter storms.

Activities: orienteering, mountain biking and learning the traditional stories of significant inland sites in the region.

Term 3: Djilba where the weather begins to warm and traditionally, roots were collected and emus, possums and kangaroos were hunted for food.

Activities: archery skills, navigate through the bush, look for bush tucker and help with some bush regeneration works.

Term 4: Kamarang and Birak - where Noongars traditionally moved back to the coastal plains where frogs, tortoises and freshwater crayfish were caught.

Activities: fishing, canoeing, bush walking, water testing and learning about Noongar fish traps.



REGIONAL CAPACITY

Over the past 12 months, the regional capacity program has focussed on delivering the “Building the capacity of the landcare sector for the South Coast region of WA” project. Funded through the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme, this project has delivered a range of awareness, education and capacity building activities.

Youth Education and Engagement

Engaging and educating regional youth in NRM continues to be a key focus area for the program. This has been achieved through a range of initiatives including school based education.

School based education activities continue to be very successful with the three-year target achieved in the first 12 months. Teachers are seeing a real need to deliver local information around sustainability and the environment in the curriculum, leading to a high demand across the region.

To extend the reach of our education activities, the regional capacity and cultural heritage teams worked together to deliver an education roadshow. This roadshow provided a well-rounded educational experience covering a number of different topics including Noongar cultural heritage, sustainable agriculture, soil health and biodiversity. Over 3 days, 8 different schools and 480 students participated in the roadshow.

The regional capacity team has been involved in promoting science as a career to students in the Great Southern part of our region. Through a partnership with Great Southern Science Council, we have helped to deliver the *Science Rocks Forum* which reached more than 200 students. In addition to this, the *Something Sciency* lecture series, which has covered a range of different topics including forensic science as well as the more traditional natural resource management topics, was supported.



The river model provides a hands on opportunity to look at catchment processes
(South Coast NRM)



Bremer beach walk as part of Salty Summers
(South Coast NRM)



Birdwatching activity at Lake Seppings as part of Salty Summers.
(South Coast NRM)



Birdwatching activity as part of Salty Summers
(South Coast NRM)

KYLIE FLETCHER, PROGRAM LEADER



South Coast NRM and Department of Water staff investigating local rivers
(South Coast NRM)



Looking at riparian vegetation as part of a field trip
(South Coast NRM)



Repairing a fence at Bremer Bay to protect critical bird habitat
(South Coast NRM)

Regional Landcare Facilitator Project

The Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF) initiative is a key component of the building the capacity of the landcare sector project. The RLF works with landcare groups and individuals across the region to build the skills and knowledge required to achieve on ground outcomes.

Through this project, the RLF Community Small Grants Program was expanded to 2 rounds per year, 1 of which coincides with National Landcare Week. These grants continue to be well received by the community and achieve a range of environmental and social outcomes. Activities have included weeding, beach clean ups, monitoring activities as well as knowledge and skill building initiatives. Just some of the activities we have supported include:

- ◆ establish native garden on lawned area (Borden Primary School);
- ◆ Cheynes Beach Community Planting and Bushcare Day (Albany Bushcarers);
- ◆ Ecotourism Conference (Friends of the Porongurup Range);
- ◆ road verge clean up (Gillamii Centre);
- ◆ Linking Landcare to Urban Food Growing: composting, soil improvement, crop rotation and the home garden workshops (Mia Mia organic garden group);
- ◆ Growing Local: an introduction to propagating locally native species (Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre Community Garden);
- ◆ Eco-Restoration Busy Bee/Field-day Event (Green Skills Denmark);
- ◆ 16 Years and Going Strong! community celebration (Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre); and
- ◆ Cannery Community Kitchen Garden (Esperance)

Social Media

Improving the social media presence of South Coast NRM has been a key success over the past year. Social media represents a great way of promoting the landcare message and will continue to be expanded and refined. A key challenge for social media is to demonstrate results, not just reach. At present, South Coast NRM is actively participating in Facebook and Twitter, with plans to expand our presence into other channels such as Instagram, Youtube and

Looking Forward: short/medium term goals and activities

- ◆ *Successful in receiving funding for two projects through the State NRM Community Capability Grants. One project will focus on building skills and knowledge across the region through the provision of training. The second project will focus on volunteer management in the Esperance area.*
- ◆ *Catchments Corridors and Coasts environmental educator training. This event provides a showcase of what is available for environmental education in the local area. Over the next 12 months, events are planned for Esperance and Albany.*
- ◆ *Promote South Coast NRM and our project achievements through attendance at community events such as the Albany and Esperance Shows.*
- ◆ *Continue to deliver "Building the capacity of the landcare sector for the South Coast region of WA" project.*

STATUS OF OUTCOMES FOR SOUTHERN PROSPECTS 2011-2016

Outcomes are grouped by theme area and listed by outcome number and a broad description of the outcome they are aiming to achieve. A more detailed description of each outcome is available in *Southern Prospects 2011-2016*.

The STATUS of each outcome has been determined as:

Achieved

On Track

Behind Schedule

No opportunities to progress

Where there are a number of activity stages for an Outcome, the status reflects the progress of the majority of activity stages.

Outcomes (1-5 years)	Description	Status
THEME: LAND		
L1	Identify priorities	Achieved
L2	Review and improve soil quality and land condition measures	On Track
L3	Increase Understanding	On Track
L4	Assess achievements/outcomes	On Track
L5	Effective on-ground works	On Track
L6	Control invasive species	Behind Schedule
L7	Education and training	On Track
L8	Improve awareness and recognition	Behind Schedule
L9	Review best management practices	Achieved
L10	Integrate land use planning with NRM	On Track
L11	Climate change adaptation	Achieved
L12	Support sustainable industries	Behind Schedule
THEME: BIODIVERSITY		
B1	Strong Information Base	Achieved
B2	Evaluate priorities	Achieved
B3	Set benchmarks and measures	On Track
B4	Monitor asset condition	On Track
B5	Support recovery plan implementation	Achieved
B6	Effective on-ground works	Achieved
B7	Protect private biodiversity resources	Achieved
B8	Improve management practices	Achieved
B9	Management of invasive species	On Track
B10	Prevention and eradication of emerging invasive species	On Track
B11	Improve dieback management	Achieved
B12	Support appropriate fire management	Behind Schedule
B13	Education	On Track
B14	Improve awareness and recognition	Achieved
B15	Climate Change adaptation and mitigation	On Track
B16	Community input	On Track

Outcomes (1-5 years)	Description	Status
THEME: WATER		
W1	Increased Understanding	Behind Schedule
W2	Sustainable social use	Behind Schedule
W3	Climate change adaptation and mitigation	Behind Schedule
W4	Improve condition – impacted (‘degraded’) waterways	On Track
W5	Protect condition – low impacted (‘pristine’) waterways	On Track
W6	Protect wetlands	On Track
W7	Improved urban and rural water management	Behind Schedule
W8	Control invasive species	On Track
W9	Improve water use efficiency	No opportunities to progress
W10	Integration and partnership	No opportunities to progress
W11	Improved education	On Track
W12	Improve awareness and recognition of significant assets	On Track
W13	Managed water resources	No opportunities to progress
THEME: COASTAL		
C1	Establish baseline data	Behind Schedule
C2	Increased knowledge	Behind Schedule
C3	Control marine pests	On Track
C4	Improved condition	On Track
C5	Climate Change Adaptation	Behind Schedule
C6	Coastal zone on-ground action and implementation	On Track
C7	Increased information accessibility and application	No opportunities to progress
C8	Education and awareness	On Track
C9	Marine planning and implementation	No opportunities to progress
C10	Coastal zone planning and implementation	On Track
THEME: CULTURAL HERITAGE		
H1	Improved information	On Track
H2	Protection of Heritage places	On Track
H3	Landscape scale approach	No opportunities to progress
H4	Establishment of sustainable enterprises	Achieved
H5	Application of traditional knowledge	On Track
H6	Improved community capacity	On Track
H7	Improved communication	On Track
H8	Improved training and career pathways	Achieved
H9	Agreed Protocols	Achieved
H10	Improved knowledge	On Track
H11	Improved Aboriginal employment	On Track
THEME: REGIONAL CAPACITY		
R1	Set social and economic targets within an environmental sustainability framework	No opportunities to progress
R2	Supported sustainable NRM industries and businesses	No opportunities to progress
R3	Improved governance	On Track
R4	Facilitated change management	On Track
R5	Increased self-reliance	On Track
R6	Develop and implement an education and training framework	Behind Schedule
R7	Improved community engagement and leadership	On Track
R8	Review of agreements	Achieved

STATUS OF OUTCOMES FOR SOUTHERN PROSPECTS 2011-2016

STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS 2015/16

STAFF

Administration Team Members

Justin Bellanger
Carl Beck (former CEO) *
Ingrid Neeling-Jansen *
Angela Sofoulis

Business Services Team Members

Joanne Headlam
Michelle Baker
Barb Henderson
Catherine Johnston *
Kathi McDonald *
Rachel Matthews

Operations

Penni Hewett

Biodiversity Team Members

Karl Hansom
Elissa Forbes
Sally Forbes
Tilo Massenbauer
Donna Rayner *
Katherine Sambrooks *
Rosie Smith *
Meredith Spencer

Coastal, Marine and Water Team Members

Dylan Gleave
Robyn Cail
Brett Dal Pozzo
Sean Hazelden *
Claudia Magana
Letisha Newman *
Sheryn Prior
Bryn Warnock *

Cultural Team Members

Karen Herlihy
Jezelda Lethbridge
Graeme Simpson
Chris Spurr

Land Team Members

David Broadhurst
Kaylene Parker
Charlotte Powis
Liz Tanner

Monitoring and Evaluation

Ray Chilton

Regional Capacity Team Members

Kylie Bishop
Caitlin Jackson

Spatial Information

Nick Middleton

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Non Executive Directors

Carolyn Daniel
Stephen Frost
Joanne Gilbert
Ray Hirst
Bill Hollingworth
Helen Tasker
Rhonda Williams *
Suzanne Yewers *

Executive Director

Justin Bellanger

* Employment / Term of Office concluded during 2015-16.

We also acknowledge the contribution of the numerous casual project team members over the year.

PROJECT PARTNERS

South Coast NRM would like to thank all of our partners who helped deliver projects and activities over 2015/16.

- Advanced Choice Economics
- agVivo Events
- Albany Branch of the Sporting Shooter's Association (WA)
 - Hunting and Conservation Group
- Albany Branch, Wildflower Society of WA
- Albany Bushcarers
- Albany Community Environment Centre
- Albany Farm Tree Nursery
- Albany Primary School
- Albany Senior High School
- Albany Young Naturalists
- Anthropos Australia (WA)
- ATC WorkSmart
- Australian Association for Environmental Education
- Birdlife Australia
- Borden Primary School
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management
- City of Albany
- Clear South Project Management
- Cliffs Natural Resources
- Cranbrook Primary School
- Croker Lacey Graphic Design
- CSIRO
- Curtin University
- Deep Woods Surveys (WA)
- Denmark Weed Action Group
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs
- Department of Agriculture and Food
- Department of Fisheries WA
- Department of Parks and Wildlife
- Department of Planning (Coastwest)
- Department of Sport and Recreation
- Department of Water
- Dieback Working Group
- Dujimerrup Twonkup Aboriginal Corporation
- Earthrise Environmental Services
- Ecotones & Associates
- Esperance Bird Observer Group
- Esperance Farm Trees
- Esperance Farmlet Services
- Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
- Esperance Nyungar Aboriginal Corporation
- Esperance Primary School
- Esperance Regional Forum
- Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers
- Esperance Weeds Action Group
- Evergreen Farming
- Fitzgerald Biosphere Group
- Flinders Park Primary School
- Forest Products Commission
- Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park
- Friends of the Porongurup Range
- Friends of the Western Ground Parrot
- Friends of Yakamia Creek
- G & J Woodall Family Trust
- Gaia Resources
- Gillamii Centre
- Glevan Consulting
- Gondwana Link Limited
- Great Southern Bio Logic
- Great Southern Grammar
- Great Southern Institute of Technology
- Great Southern Science Council
- Green Range Country Club
- Green Skills
- Greening Australia WA
- Hopetoun Primary School Parents and Citizens Association
- Jakrils
- Jode Nursery
- King River Weeding Group
- Lake Monjigup Community Development Committee
- Lake Muir Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group
- Little Green Steps
- Little Grove Primary School
- Lower Kalgan Progress Association
- Lowlands Coastcare
- Main Roads WA
- Malleefowl Preservation Group
- Manypeaks Community & Recreation Association
- Mia Mia Community Gardens
- Mt Barker Community College
- Mt Barker Community Gardens
- Mt Lockyer Primary School
- Murdoch University
- NJM Spatial
- North Albany Senior High School
- North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources
- Nulsen Primary School
- OceanWatch Australia
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School, Esperance
- Oyster Harbour Catchment Group
- Precision SoilTech
- Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network
- Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show Committee
- Recfishwest
- Riggs Australia
- Risk Communication Australia
- Savagely Creative
- Saving Animals from Euthanasia (Esperance)
- Scitech
- Shire of Cranbrook
- Shire of Denmark
- Shire of Esperance
- Shire of Jerramungup
- Shire of Plantagenet
- Shire of Ravensthorpe
- South Coast Diving Supplies
- South Coast Management Group
- South East Premium Wheat Growers Association
- Southern Aboriginal Corporation
- Southern Agriculture Indigenous Landholder Service
- Southern DiRT
- Spurr of the Moment Design
- St Joseph's College
- Stirlings to Coast Farmers
- The Nature Conservancy
- Torbay Catchment Group
- University of WA
- WA Museum - Young Naturalists Club
- WA Museum Albany
- WA Planning Commission
- Water Corporation
- Wellstead Community Resource Centre
- Wellstead Progress Association
- West Australian Fishing Industry Council
- West Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council
- Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee
- Woodthorpe School
- Yakamia Primary School
- Yongergnow-Ongerup Community Resource Centre

... and all of the numerous farmers, land managers, volunteers and staff that work tirelessly to protect our unique plants, animals, landscapes, farmland and special way of life on the South Coast.

FINANCE REPORT

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2016

Corporate information

ABN 43 781 945 884

Directors William Hollingworth (Chairman)
Justin Bellanger
Carolyn Daniel
Stephen Frost
Joanne Gilbert
Ray Hirst
Helen Tasker

**Registered Office and
Principal Place of Business** 39 Mercer Rd
Albany WA 6330

Contact Details phone: (08) 9845 8537
fax: (08) 9845 8538
www.southcoastnrm.com.au

Responsible Persons' Declaration

In the opinion of the Board of Management:

1. The Special Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2016 satisfies the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012.
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. will be able to meet its financial commitments as and when they become due and payable.



William Hollingworth
Chairman

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for profit Commission Regulation 2013*.

Dated this 4th day of October 2016

Financial Report for The Year Ended 30 June 2016

Balance Sheet

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash on Hand			
Bendigo Cash Man Trading a/c		77,040	2,091,910
Bendigo Social Investment		1,153,684	1,086,758
Bendigo Donation Fund		26,638	26,295
Bendigo Term Deposit		1,500,000	1,796,000
Bendigo Term Deposit		1,000,000	-
Petty Cash		507	1,532
Woolworths Card		400	493
Accounts Receivable		39,795	194,133
Prepaid Expenses		22,003	33,639
Accrued Income		22,745	12,414
Total Current Assets		3,842,812	5,243,174
Non-Current Assets			
Plant & Equipment at Cost		78,130	343,930
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(77,310)	(327,686)
Total Plant & Equipment	2	820	16,244
Vehicles at Cost		138,263	138,263
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(138,263)	(138,263)
Total Vehicles	2	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets	2	820	16,244
Total Assets		3,843,632	5,259,418

Financial Report for The Year Ended 30 June 2016

Balance Sheet

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Credit Cards		11,918	14,168
GST Collected		172,409	296,031
GST Paid		(117,236)	(129,431)
Total GST Liabilities		55,173	166,600
PAYG		67,161	80,298
Superannuation Contributions		30,253	82,929
Prepaid Revenue		30,000	45,000
Committed Project Funds	3	1,274,957	2,564,538
Provision for Long Service Leave		318,187	296,982
Provision for Annual Leave		146,304	126,443
Accrued Expenses		173,699	150,553
Trade Creditors		204,202	326,270
Total Current Liabilities		2,311,854	3,853,781
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provision for Long Service Leave		69,051	83,564
Provision for Other Leave		45,263	758
Total Non-Current Liabilities		114,314	84,322
Total Liabilities		2,426,168	3,938,103
Net Assets		1,417,464	1,321,315
Equity			
Retained Earnings		1,321,315	1,287,567
Current Earnings		96,149	33,748
Total Equity		1,417,464	1,321,315

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Financial Report for The Year Ended 30 June 2016

Income and Expense Statement

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Income		
Aust Govt Funding	5,200,447	6,222,808
State Funding	10,000	774,000
Credit Interest	98,048	132,160
Donations	807	12,897
Other Project Income	293,645	267,440
Rental Income	12,134	23,074
Membership Fees	582	905
Recoupments	81,394	259,211
Other/Sundry Income	-	33,182
Conference Room Hire Fees	599	1,141
Private Works Income	70,253	110,324
Funds Transferred to Provision	(5,616,687)	(7,628,831)
Total Income	151,222	208,311
Expenses		
Contracts		
External Service Delivery	3,042,421	4,648,925
South Coast Environment Fund Grants	10,000	17,500
Equipment Purchases	42,677	-
Miscellaneous Project Expenses	481,555	-
Project Delivery Materials	73,316	173,087
Promotions & Sponsorships	29,553	-
Reference Group Costs	29,028	-
Travel Expenses	87,429	-
Workshop Costs	102,971	-
Program Managers and Project Officers	2,260,009	2,673,938
Total Contracts	6,158,959	7,513,450
Administration Staff		
Wages & Salaries	430,431	471,579
Superannuation	39,107	41,164
Professional Development	5,310	1,948
Contract Staff	190	1,761
Costs of Employment	4,506	4,931
Workers Comp Insurance	1,854	1,157
Accrued Leave	(9,241)	(12,206)
Total Administration Staff	472,157	510,334

Financial Report for The Year Ended 30 June 2016

Income and Expense Statement

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Operating		
Office	202,915	420,863
Motor Vehicle	(889)	128,742
Consultancy	22,713	216,412
Depreciation	15,334	32,638
Loss on disposal of assets	90	415
Travel	24,037	105,417
Sitting Fees	21,348	45,901
Other Expenses	15,612	19,603
Promotions	5,196	104,467
Catering	9,402	54,220
Audit & Accounting	14,467	14,340
Total Operating	330,225	1,143,018
Non-Operating Expenses		
Provision for Committed Project Funds	(6,906,268)	(8,992,239)
Total Non-Operating Expenses	(6,906,268)	(8,992,239)
Total Expenses	55,073	174,563
Net Surplus for the Year	96,149	33,748

The Income and Expense Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Financial Report for The Year Ended 30 June 2016**Statement of Changes in Equity**

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
EQUITY		
<u>Accumulated Retained Surplus</u>		
Balance at beginning of year	\$1,321,315	\$1,287,567
Net surplus for the year	\$96,149	\$33,748
Net Result for Year	<u>\$1,417,464</u>	<u>\$1,321,315</u>

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Financial Report for The Year Ended 30 June 2016

Statement of Cash Flow

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from Activities		5,824,199	6,356,574
Interest Received		87,717	133,081
Payments to Employees		(2,661,109)	(3,091,424)
Payments to Suppliers		(4,495,526)	(4,781,500)
Net Cash flows from / (used in) Operating Activities	B	<u>(1,244,719)</u>	<u>(1,383,269)</u>
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase Plant & Equipment		-	(18,761)
Net Cash flows from / (used in) Investing Activities		<u>-</u>	<u>(18,761)</u>
CASHFLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
		-	-
NET DECREASE IN CASH HELD		<u>(1,244,719)</u>	<u>(1,402,030)</u>
Add: Opening Cash Balance Forward		5,002,988	6,405,018
CLOSING CASH CARRIED FORWARD	A	<u>3,758,269</u>	<u>5,002,988</u>
A) RECONCILIATION OF CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR			
Cash Management		77,040	2,091,910
Social Investment		1,153,684	1,086,758
Donation Fund		26,638	26,295
Term Deposit		2,500,000	1,796,000
Petty Cash		507	1,532
Debit Card		400	493
Cash at the end of the Year		<u>3,758,269</u>	<u>5,002,988</u>
B) RECONCILIATION OF CASH FROM OPERATIONS WITH OPERATING RESULT			
Operating Surplus		96,149	33,748
Depreciation Expense		15,334	32,638
Loss on sale of plant & equipment		90	415
(Increase) / Decrease in accounts and other receivable		155,643	(194,518)
(Decrease) / Increase in accounts and other payable		(293,412)	(1,249,030)
Payables capitalised		-	(6,522)
(Decrease) / Increase in committed project funds		(1,289,581)	-
(Decrease) / Increase in provision for employee benefits		71,058	-
Net Cash flows from Operating Activities		<u>(1,244,719)</u>	<u>(1,383,269)</u>

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members to fulfil the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. constitution. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. constitution and with previous years, and are, in the opinion of the Committee of Management, appropriate to meet the needs of members. The committee has determined that the organisation is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

- AASB 101, Presentation of Financial Statements
- AASB 107, Statement of Cash Flows
- AASB 108, Accounting Policies, Changes in accounting Estimates and Errors
- AASB 1048, Interpretation of Standards
- AASB 1054, Australian Additional Disclosures.

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on a modified accrual basis of accounting including the historical cost convention and the going concern assumption.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous periods unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of the financial report:

a. Income Tax

South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient and is exempt from income tax.

No change in its tax status as a result of activities undertaken during the year is likely.

b. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

c. Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation.

Plant and equipment that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost, are recognised at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, but excluding freehold land, buildings and motor vehicles is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

<u>Class of Fixed Asset</u>	<u>Depreciation Rate</u>
Buildings	Nil
Plant and equipment	15–50%
Motor Vehicles	Nil

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

d. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's obligation for employee benefits. The association's obligations for employee benefits such as wages, salaries and leave entitlements are recognised as liabilities in the statement of financial position.

Contributions are made by the entity to employee's superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred.

Long Service Leave Provision

Employees are entitled to 13 weeks long service leave after seven years of service, and then a further 9.2855 weeks long service leave after each subsequent five years service. Employees entitlements to long service leave are accrued from the beginning of employment and updated on a monthly basis to capture any changes to remuneration. No on costs, probability or discount and inflation factors have been applied in calculating the leave entitlements.

Other Leave Provisions

Employees who cease employment with South Coast NRM Inc. before 5 years of service will have their long service leave entitlement accrual transferred into other leave provision to assist in covering maternity leave positions.

e. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

f. Revenue and Other Income

Non-reciprocal grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. receives non-reciprocal contributions of assets from the government and other parties for zero or a nominal value. These assets are recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the statement of financial position, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

g. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST.

h. Comparatives

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

NOTE 2 - MOVEMENT IN PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	Plant & Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Total
Written Down Value at Beginning of year	\$ 16,244	\$ -	\$ 16,244
WDV of Disposal	\$ 90	\$ -	\$ 90
Depreciation	\$ 15,334	\$ -	\$ 15,334
	\$ 820	\$ -	\$ 820

NOTE 3 - MOVEMENT IN COMMITTED PROJECT FUNDS

Grant/Contribution	Opening 1-Jul-15	Received 2015-16	Expended 2015-16	Closing 30-Jun-16
20 Million Trees	\$ 59,691	\$ 1,209	\$ 60,900	\$ -
Action on Ground	\$ 14,325	\$ 64	\$ 14,389	\$ -
Action on the Ground 2	\$ 68,041	\$ 160,054	\$ 228,302	-\$ 207
Albany Regional Herbarium	\$ 13,142	\$ 10,313	\$ 18,000	\$ 5,455
Biodiversity Fund - Coastscapes	\$ 253,884	\$ 545,839	\$ 488,299	\$ 311,424
Biodiversity Fund - Restoring Gondwana	\$ 592,028	\$ 844,239	\$ 1,415,607	\$ 20,660
Caring for Country 2013-2015	\$ 483,140	\$ 1,923	\$ 485,063	\$ -
Climate Change - Stream 1	\$ 37,940	\$ 29,193	\$ 67,133	\$ -
Crime Prevention	\$ 24,968	\$ -	\$ 24,968	\$ -
DGR Fund	\$ 35,814	\$ 835	\$ 10,011	\$ 26,638
National Landcare Program	-\$ 73,382	\$ 3,647,057	\$ 2,863,732	\$ 709,943
NRMWA	\$ 78,701	\$ 116,278	\$ 137,491	\$ 57,488
Other Grants	\$ 85,746	\$ 177,601	\$ 139,870	\$ 123,477
Royalties For Region	\$ 3,845	\$ 23,168	\$ 26,915	\$ 98
State Dieback	\$ 667,257	\$ 54,818	\$ 717,957	\$ 4,118
State Invasive Species	\$ 9,923		\$ 9,923	\$ -
State NRM Core Funding	\$ 138,756	\$ 3,273	\$ 142,029	\$ -
State Starlings Fund	\$ 70,719	\$ 823	\$ 55,679	\$ 15,863
	\$ 2,564,538	\$ 5,616,687	\$ 6,906,268	\$ 1,274,957

NOTE 4 - COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been restated to conform to current year's presentation.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
SOUTH COAST NATURAL
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC.**



Anderson Munro & Wyllie

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc., which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2016, the income and expenditure statement, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the responsible persons' declaration.

Responsible Persons' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The responsible persons of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the needs of the members. The responsible persons' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible persons determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the responsible persons' preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the responsible persons, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the responsible persons' financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

ANDERSON MUNRO & WYLLIE

Anderson Munro & Wyllie
Chartered Accountants (Auditor registration number 314299)
Unit 8 / 210 Winton Road, Joondalup, Perth WA 6027
Dated this 4th day of October 2016

Billy-Joe Thomas
Director



South Coast NRM (WA) - Solutions for a productive and healthy environment.

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Australian Government



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South Coast NRM is supported through funding from the Australian Government and the Government of Western Australia