



**SOUTHCOAST**  
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017



LAND  
BIODIVERSITY  
WATER  
COASTAL AND MARINE  
CULTURAL HERITAGE  
REGIONAL CAPACITY





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

**Cover:**

**"Easy Being Green" - Photo: Ebony Barker (Winner – South Coast NRM Photo Competition 2017)**

# CHAIRMAN REPORT

BILL HOLLINGWORTH

This past year has demonstrated just how much this really is a dynamic organisation. We have been able to bend and adjust to several changes through planning ahead and being prepared to offer our people opportunities. Chief executive officer, Justin Bellanger, provided a great opportunity for all staff while he travelled overseas on leave for an extended period and I congratulate all who stepped up and provided continuity of service. A great learning experience has been provided for all. Business services manager, Joanne Headlam, has stepped away for several months on maternity leave and we look forward to keeping in contact.

I will be stepping away from the board and chair roles as I have not renominated for a director position. This year's annual general meeting in November will be my last as I reach the end of my second three-year term. I have enjoyed the role immensely and must express my gratitude to fellow directors and staff for the support provided over my seven years on the board. There are so many highlights during this time, however, the involvement at all levels from week to week, South Coast NRM updates and the setting of goals at board meetings, to full involvement at NRM WA as chair, to participation at national level through NRM Regions Australia, have made this a rewarding position.

The position of chair through the ever changing political landscape has been particularly challenging and requires considerable time to be devoted to ensure our voice is heard. I am confident the new chair and board will undertake this role with vigour, enthusiasm and determination.

The NRM sector is facing yet another period of adjustment and, once again, we are dealt a blow with reduced funding capacity and another change to funding delivery criteria. It seems to me that management of our natural and productive environments are always on the back foot when it comes to vote-gathering exercises by political policy makers, and yet we all value our environment when we need to show off our assets to potential investors, or to take a break ourselves on weekends and holidays, or when we need to emphasise a productive, solid and relatively stable agricultural income base. I travel regularly interstate and overseas for work and as an ecotourist, and experience first hand the effort that others are placing on natural world experiences and believe we have a great opportunity to develop our local and regional industry much further for long-term sustainability. Australia has a poor history of environmental protection and need to step up on the world stage to ensure our most precious resource is at the very least maintained, let alone enhanced and improved.



Board director Stephen Frost was nominated by South Coast NRM for the 2016-17 Sustainability in Agriculture WA Landcare Award at the NRM, Coastal and Landcare Conference. Both Stephen and his wife, Kerry, have made a valuable contribution to high production agriculture through their Narrikup farm and have provided learning and demonstration opportunities to many others.

I am looking forward to maintaining my South Coast NRM connection through the South Coast Heritage and Environment Centre steering committee and perhaps join a reference group for interest and to contribute my experiences. I am also looking forward to re-invigorating my forestry seedling business through this period of plantation re-establishment and another period of landcare and agroforestry growth. There has been a definite lack of enthusiasm in all these sectors since 2009 and it is heartening to witness renewed interest in my principal areas of expertise. I'm going back to a very much 'hands-on' approach to complete my career where I began – actually planting seeds and trees personally! I'm also continuing my community involvement as a councillor at the City of Albany and in several community groups. Travel opportunities are always plentiful and I hope to continue in the FSC certification audit field of expertise. There isn't enough time in a day or week to retire.

My sincere thanks to all who I have worked with over the past 12 months, and indeed the past seven years, and I look forward to many years of continuing involvement, albeit in a different format.



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

## JUSTIN BELLANGER

After the focus on consolidation in 2015-16, South Coast NRM's attention over the past financial year has been on building the foundations for growth of partnerships, future funding and activities to conserve and enhance our unique environment.

At an operational level, the predominant focus in 2016-17 has been delivering the National Landcare Program (Phase 1) in collaboration with our sub-regional based landcare partners and, in particular, the Esperance Regional Forum, Fitzgerald Biosphere Group, Gillamii Centre, Oyster Harbour Catchment Group, Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network, North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources Group, Torbay Catchment Group, and the Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee. We are sincerely grateful to all of the partners, shown later in this report, for their contributions, particularly the Federal Departments of Environment and Energy, and Agriculture and Water Resources who provide most of the funding for the outcomes that have been achieved.

Four new large projects supported by \$760,000 from the State NRM program started in 2016-17. The projects build the capacity of the south coast community by supporting our sub-regional based landcare partners, empowering Aboriginal groups to be more involved in managing natural resources, facilitating volunteer involvement, and continuing the community-based management of *Phytophthora dieback*.

South Coast NRM concluded a three-year partnership with CSIRO in 2016-17 researching and demonstrating the benefits of perennial forages on methane emissions and productivity of sheep, using funding from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. Also, we finalised other investments made through the Biodiversity Fund (Department of Environment and Energy) and the State NRM Program for dieback control, starlings management, and a collaboration with the Albany Regional Herbarium.

South Coast NRM's reputation as a safe pair of hands for delivering government funds was confirmed by the Department of Environment and Energy's Performance Expectation Assessment in 2016-17, with our approach rated amongst the top five of the 56 regional NRM groups around Australia. This demonstrates the high levels of expertise, governance and community support in the south coast region for all of us involved in successfully partnering with government.



The achievement of our community's strategic goals has been notable, with 74% of the one to five year outcomes of *Southern Prospects 2011-2016: the South Coast Regional Strategy for Natural Resource Management* either achieved or on-track for successful completion. The strength of our partnerships with funders, the regional community and the scientific experts has been critical to these outcomes.

South Coast NRM started the process of reviewing and updating *Southern Prospects* in 2016-17 that will identify the community's current priorities for restoration and protection and will guide the future investment for our region. The federal government's decision to co-invest almost \$75,000 in this process (through the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science) highlights the high-level support for the south coast's community-based approach to managing natural resources.

At an organisational level, South Coast NRM's strategic approach has been guided by a new Corporate Plan (2016-2021) that ensures that opportunities are developed and key risks are mitigated. The Corporate Plan comprises of 25 strategies nested under six goals: a resilient environment; an enabled community; an effective team; effective resources; effective processes; and effective communications. At the conclusion of the first year of the five-year Corporate Plan, 64% of the strategies were on track or progressing as expected.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (CONTINUED)

From a financial perspective, South Coast NRM again performed significantly better than budgeted throughout 2016-17, generating a surplus of \$121,038 despite an expected deficit of \$163,773 (a turn-around of \$284,811). This outcome was possible through the diligence and professionalism of our staff and, in particular, our business services team led by Joanne Headlam, in identifying cost-savings and our operations team, led by Penni Hewett, in generating additional income from government and non government sources.

Despite generating a positive surplus, South Coast NRM's overall income declined by 18% in 2016-17 compared with the previous year, reflecting a continued trend of fewer large funding programmes being available. To mitigate this risk, South Coast NRM has worked actively with NRM WA (the collective of the seven regional NRM groups in Western Australia) to lobby the state government to develop an Investment Framework for natural resource management and to increase the resources available for the sector. There has been recent encouraging developments on this and we are hopeful for a positive outcome from 2018-19 onwards.

Internally, South Coast NRM is also proactively seeking to minimise our risks to public funding cycles by developing different streams of income. During 2016-17, a renewed investment and focus was made through the South Coast Environment Fund to establish safe havens for honey possums. This focus is expected to generate growth in donations and philanthropic contributions, and it was encouraging to see a 300% improvement in donations, albeit from a very low base.

South Coast NRM was also successful in 2016-17 in gaining funding to conduct a feasibility study for a South Coast Environment and Cultural Heritage Centre. Amongst other criteria, the feasibility study will identify new and different opportunities and collaborations that South Coast NRM can enter into to diversify the future income sources for the organisation and our partners.

In 2017-18, the management and staff of South Coast NRM will be heavily focused on developing and negotiating a competitive tender for the National Landcare Program Phase 2 that will operate for the next five years. If successful, this will provide the important foundational funding for the organisation and our partners. We are confident that our strong community partnerships and highly regarded governance will be well regarded in this tender and we look forward to continuing our strong working relationships through this programme.

Our other key focus in 2017-18 will be reviewing and updating Southern Prospects to guide our future activities over the longer term. We are grateful for the opportunity this provides to proactively plan for, and protect, the unique environment on the south coast on behalf of our community.

# ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

South Coast NRM has continued our long standing partnership approach to achieving landscape scale outcomes by working with sub-regional groups, community groups, grower groups, farmers, government agencies, non-government organisations, local government organisations, educational institutions and volunteers.

Key achievements in protecting our region's unique plants, animals, landscapes and seascapes coming from this productive network are listed below. A closer look at the depth and variety of partnership achievements is further detailed in the following pages for each of the themes: Land, Biodiversity, Water, Coastal and Marine, Cultural Heritage and Regional Capacity.

## Investment by Themes

Distribution of the investment was determined by the Investment Plan, developed in collaboration with the South Coast NRM theme based reference groups and NRM Committee. The Investment Plan guides the work that South Coast NRM and its project partners deliver, subject to available funding.

The NRM community refers to everyone in the South Coast NRM region, in both their public and their private capacity. This includes state and local governments, industries and public land managers, as well as individuals and groups sharing an interest in natural resource management.

Planning and opportunities for cross-theme collaboration is driven by the NRM Committee and the South Coast NRM senior operations team.

## Events and Participants

During the last twelve months, a total of 298 events have been convened and attended by 7,432 people; an average of 25 people per event. These events

included presentations at conferences, demonstration field days, planning meetings, training sessions, working bees, topic specific workshops, awareness raising events, training sessions and skills development. Highlights have been the River Model, used to educate children about catchment processes, in schools across the region and the Salty Summer coastal awareness and education program.

## Revegetation

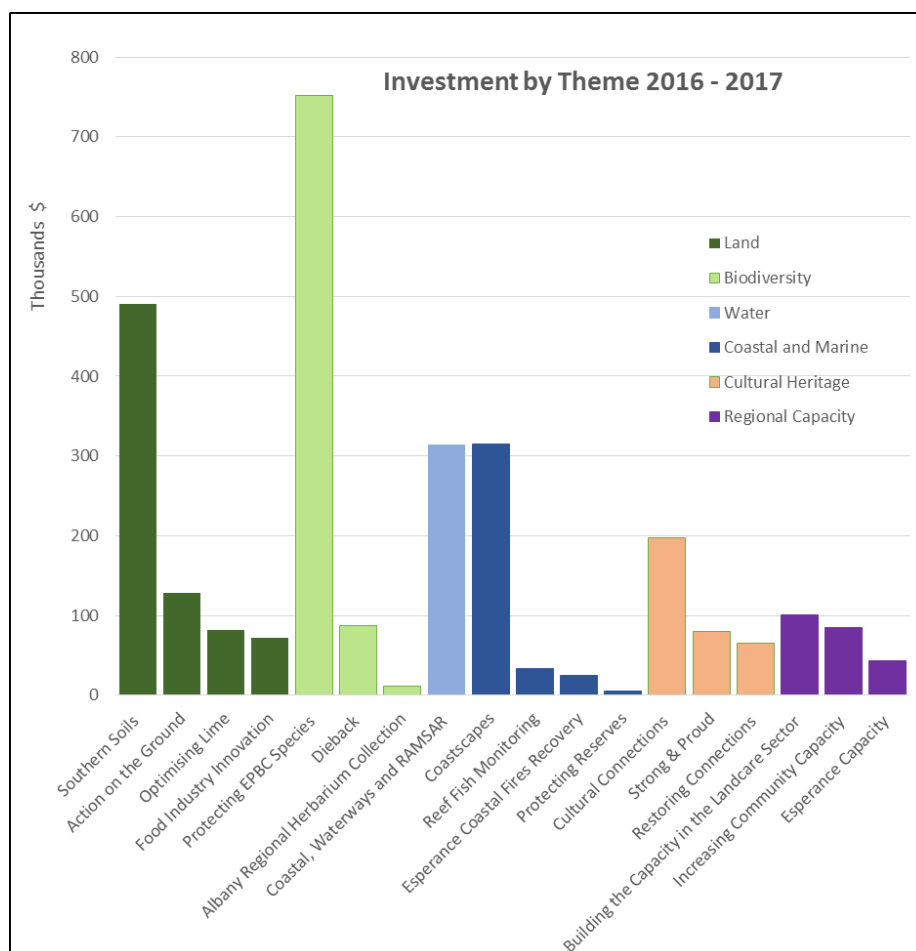
A total of 56 hectares of revegetation has been established across the region to improve biodiversity values, water quality and on farm soil health. The outcomes of revegetation activities have included connecting fragmented landscapes in priority areas (12 ha), soil erosion management in priority coastal areas and waterways (25 ha) and hydrology management at the RAMSAR Wetlands, Lakes Warden and Gore (19 ha).

## Weed Treatment

Weed control over a total area of 408 hectares has been undertaken across 23 priority sites. Weed species have included agapanthus, asparagus, bridal creeper, blackberry, boxthorn, brome grass, cape tulip, english ivy, gorse, lantana, pandorea, pittosporum, polygala, sydney golden wattle, victorian tea tree and watsonia.

## Fencing

A total of 32 kilometres of fencing has been completed to protect 257 hectares of remnant habitat. Protection activities have included connecting fragmented landscapes on farm, stock exclusion of remnant native vegetation and implementing Recovery Plans for the protection of threatened species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.



## Pest Control

Activity to control pests across 33,671 hectares was effective in eliminating 565 foxes, 270 rabbits and 28 feral cats.

## Changing Management Practices

South coast community partners held 28 events to encourage 262 farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices over 2,671 hectares. These practices include improving soil health, maintaining groundcover levels for soil erosion and managing soil acidification to improve productivity and reduce off-site impacts.

## Managing Dieback

Disease mitigation activities in managing Phytophthora dieback were achieved by directly treating 93 hectares, resulting in the protection of 10,293 hectares of Threatened Ecological Communities and 12 threatened flora, of which 8 species are listed as critically endangered.

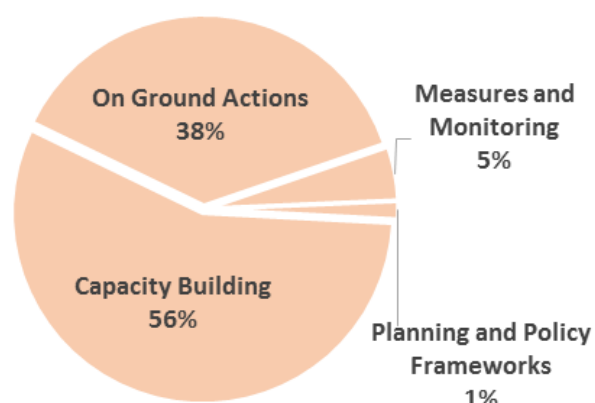
## Purpose of Activity

All project activities are determined by the South Coast NRM Investment Plan which links planned activities to the 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:

- ♦ **Capacity Building** relates to activity or activities designed to enhance natural resource management planning and management, with an emphasis on building capacity of the landcare community.
- ♦ **On-ground Actions** are outputs which can be reported directly in terms of a unit of measure (e.g. hectares, kilometres).
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **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.

An increase in capacity building type activities from previous years is consistent with the Australian Government's and the State Government's commitment for a more engaged community through awareness raising and practice management change.

**Project Activity by Purpose**  
1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017



## Revenue

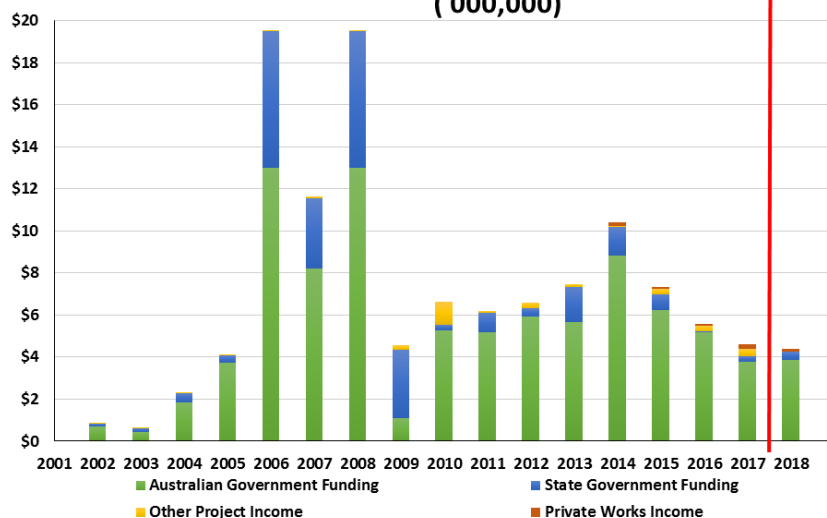
The chart opposite shows funds received in successive financial years as reported in the financial reports of each of the annual reports of South Coast NRM (e.g. financial year 2016/17 is expressed as 2017).

Included also are the funds secured under grant agreements from government and private works for future years (red vertical line reference point).

Between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2017, the revenue received by South Coast NRM totals \$117.9m.

Beyond June 2017 to the latter half of 2019, a further \$4.4m has been secured to date from Australian Government, Western Australia State Government, and privately funded activities.

**Revenue to 2017 and Secured Funds Beyond**  
('000,000)



# 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
<b>THEME: LAND</b>		
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	Achieved
<b>THEME: BIODIVERSITY</b>		
B1	Strong Information Base	Achieved
B2	Evaluate priorities	Achieved
B3	Set benchmarks and measures	No opportunities to progress
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	On Track
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
<b>THEME: WATER</b>		
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	Behind Schedule
W11	Improved education	On Track
W12	Improve awareness and recognition of significant assets	On Track
W13	Managed water resources	No opportunities to progress
<b>THEME: COASTAL</b>		
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	On Track
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
<b>THEME: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>		
H1	Improved information	On Track
H2	Protection of Heritage places	Achieved
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
<b>THEME: REGIONAL CAPACITY</b>		
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	On track

## STATUS OF OUTCOMES FOR SOUTHERN PROSPECTS 2011-2016

**S**outh Coast NRM's land theme focus is to promote the importance of protecting and improving soil and land resources. Healthy soils support long term sustainable agriculture, improve water quality, reduce the sedimentation of waterways, and increase farm resilience to climate change. During 2016–2017, the South Coast NRM land team, in partnership with the region's community and grower groups, have continued with the maintenance of trials and demonstration sites funded primarily through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

It has been a tough year seasonally with major flooding from Ravensthorpe to Borden in February this year, followed by a late break of season. Despite this, progress towards a successful completion of the land projects continues.

## Southern Soils

This project continues to deliver quality soil health demonstration sites and extension activities across the region in partnership with several community and grower groups. The demonstration sites provide south coast farmers with relevant information and options so they can make sound evidence based management decisions. To this end, the project has:

- ◆ conducted sustainable land management practice change over 2,761 ha working with 262 farm entities addressing soil health issues such as water repellence, soil erosion, soil acidity, salinity and waterlogging;
- ◆ conducted 75 events engaging 2,499 people;
- ◆ completed the report *Growing Regional Agriculture Sustainably Recommendations* assessing the risks and opportunities to natural resource management as a result of AgriFood 2025+; and
- ◆ supported the south coast community to recover from the February 2017 floods by providing seed funding and project officer support.

## Climate Action on Farms

The Climate Action on Farms project has improved community understanding and awareness of climate predictions for the region. Improved awareness and understanding has increased the adaptive capacity of landholders to effectively manage their farm in a changing climate. Climate Action on Farms has:

- ◆ improved the adaptive capacity of 323 land managers to protect land resources from a changing climate via 23 events, demonstrations and training opportunities in partnership with 25 partner organisations;
- ◆ conducted 6 on-farm audits to test the effectiveness of existing methodologies to measure farm greenhouse gas emissions and identify how farmers can reduce their carbon footprint; and
- ◆ conducted "Pasture to Pocket" training where 21 farmers participated in a 3-day course to learn about the importance of ground cover, soil biology and soil carbon, fertiliser use and making their farm more resilient to changes in climate.



Cranbrook farmer Sam Lehmann inspecting pastures established on his salt affected marginal land  
Photo: Craig Carter



Jerramungup farmers at the Pasture to Pocket training with Dr Terry McCosker  
Photo: South Coast NRM



Anemeka Saltbush established in Cranbrook on salt affected land  
Photo: Craig Carter





Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee  
Soil Biology Field Walk  
Photo: South Coast NRM

## Action on the Ground Round 2

A partnership project with CSIRO and the Gillamii Centre *Capitalising on perennial forages suited to the Western Australian south coast to reduce methane emissions intensity* has been successfully completed. This project was funded through Australian Government's Department of Agriculture and Water Quality Action on the Ground Program.

This project successfully achieved the following:

- ◆ two trial sites were established to monitor methane intensity by varying sheep diet on different grass systems;
- ◆ five workshops and training events for 75 farmers;
- ◆ production of 11 media products including radio interviews, print media and television interviews;
- ◆ production of one peer-reviewed article and presentations at two conferences;
- ◆ production of two short films and three case studies; and
- ◆ an economic review of different grass systems.



Farmer in Green Range spreading clay to reduce water repellency of their deep sands  
Photo: South Coast NRM

## Looking Forward: short/medium term goals and activities

- ◆ During the next year the land team and our community partners will 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. The team will also be developing the next sustainable agriculture investment for post June 2018 in partnership with the land community.
- ◆ The land theme will be delivering the new "Optimising Lime" project funded through the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission in the Esperance port zone, in partnership with the South East Premium Wheat Growers Association. South Coast NRM's land theme will also be working closely with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development working on food innovation across Western Australia.



Water erosion in Ravensthorpe February 2017  
Photo: Cheryl Burrell



Water erosion in paddocks after February flooding around Ravensthorpe  
Photo: Cheryl Burrell



The biodiversity theme continues to work with project partners to protect and conserve ecological communities, threatened species, and to improve connectivity of fragmented landscapes. During 2016-17, community groups focused on restoration and fencing activities which were severely impacted by flooding or dry conditions. The two main programs delivered under this theme, the National Landcare Program and State NRM dieback project, are both on track to deliver successful outcomes.

## Implementing recovery actions to protect south coast ecosystems and threatened (EPBC) species

This project is a community and agency landscape approach, led by South Coast NRM, to conserve and protect species and ecosystems of national significance. The project is exceeding many of the contracted deliverables and working towards achieving longer term recovery plan objectives.

Six community groups and landholders have completed 44.5 ha of revegetation to improve habitat for priority species in the south coast macro corridor. This includes 19 ha of revegetation using local provenance seed to improve connectivity along the Pallinup River, in an area providing habitat for Australian malleefowl and Carnaby's cockatoo.

A Fitzgerald River Revegetation Practitioner's Glove Box Guide to revegetation was published by the Fitzgerald Biosphere Group. South Coast NRM developed two case studies; the first shows restoration success in the Forest to Stirlings macro corridor and the second highlights the success of drones to monitor restoration projects.

Nine hundred hectares of native vegetation was protected by 61 km of fencing. This includes 14 km of fencing close to Cocanarup Timber Reserve to protect 255 ha of Carnaby's cockatoo habitat and 1.2 km of fence to protect 48 ha of remnant vegetation along the Fitzgerald River.

Recovery Actions for EPBC species include survey and monitoring of 5 threatened fauna species and 24 declared rare flora. A translocation of three Dibbler to support a previous translocation of 34 animals to the Recherche Archipelago was completed. Remote sensing cameras have recorded that animals are in good health and have started breeding.

Provision of food plants for the Western ground parrots at Perth Zoo recommenced. Suitable plants were taken to the zoo in early June. A selection of wild food plants are thought to be very important to stimulate breeding behaviour. Habitat distribution modelling was completed to determine suitable habitat for future translocation of Western ground parrot as well as Gilbert's potoroo.

This year, 238 ha of weed control was completed for Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) including African boxthorn, bridal creeper and gorse. The South Coast NRM Aboriginal Green Army team assisted greatly with the work leading to completion of more than was planned. Works undertaken protected biodiversity values of the Kwongkan Threatened Ecological Community, the Pallinup,



Manypeaks proteaceous landscape  
Photo: Dept. of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



South Coast NRM Aboriginal employees and Bush Heritage Australia set up fauna monitoring at Monjebup Reserve  
Photo: Bush Heritage Australia

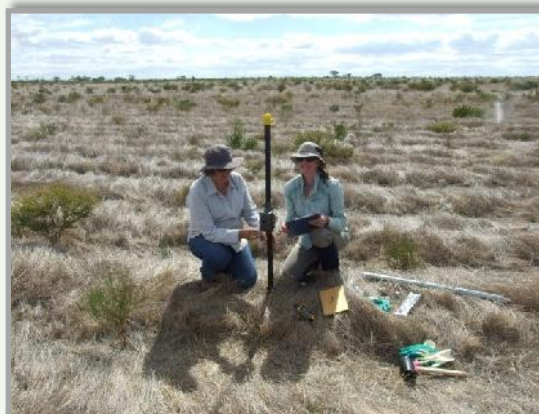


Setting up a drone for take off at Peniup property for revegetation monitoring  
Photo: South Coast NRM





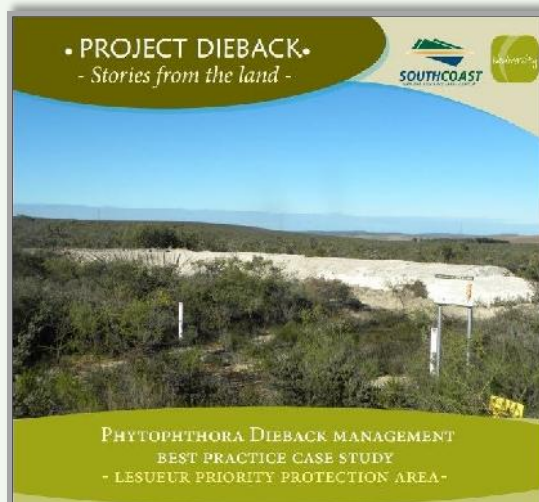
Black flanked rock wallaby monitoring by DBCA staff in the Esperance area  
Photo: Dept. of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



Establishing remote cameras at Bush Heritage Australia's Monjebup revegetation site to monitor use by fauna  
Photo: Bush Heritage Australia



Lambertia inermis, declared rare flora  
Photo: South Coast NRM



Dieback project best practice case study, Lesueur National Park

Phillips and Gairdner river corridors (Fitzgerald Biosphere), and the Wilson Inlet.

The Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee completed 16,156 ha of fox control to protect threatened species in the catchment and vegetation communities adjacent to Mt Lindesay National Park. The Lake Muir Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group completed 7,400 ha of survey and monitoring to protect values of the Walpole Wilderness and Lake Muir Unicap Ramsar sites.

Three community workshops to promote knowledge of EPBC species were held. The Torbay Catchment Group ran two workshops to gain understanding of community values in shaping local conservation strategies.

### State NRM project - Increasing community capability to strategically manage *Phytophthora Dieback* in WA

Twelve targeted training and community engagement events reached over 200 people including priority stakeholders within the NRM community groups, local and state government, aboriginal family groups and industry.

Current Dieback disease points for 2017 have been updated for the Dieback Information Database Management System (DIDMS). This includes a new *Phytophthora* hazard dispersion layer to be used for hygiene and risk reduction planning.

DIDMS, the State *Phytophthora* Dieback Management Investment Framework, and GIS hazard planning tools were presented to state, national and international stakeholders in the 2017 *Phytophthora* in Forests and Natural Ecosystems international conference.

Australian Blue Gum Plantations received training and are now using the Hygiene Management Plan template at several properties to implement management strategies.

### Looking Forward: short/medium term goals and activities

- ◆ South Coast NRM's community partners will complete their remaining vegetation targets during the next six months.
- ◆ Efforts to control Sydney golden wattle in the west of the region are supported by more than seven different organisations who recognise this weed species as one of the top two priorities for treatment in WA.
- ◆ EPBC species – Gilbert's potoroos identified as suitable pioneer animals for a translocation to Middle Island in the Recherche Archipelago in late 2017, will be moved to their new home. During 2018, work to commence establishment of a Noisy scrub bird population, also in the Recherche Archipelago, will occur.
- ◆ Dieback rapid appraisal process templates, used to develop risk reduction plans, will be modified to encourage further community group adoption.
- ◆ Through the State NRM Dieback project, measurable indicators of behaviour change are being developed. A pilot will be run in mid-2018 for this project.

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

## Restoring and Protecting Values of Waterways and Wetlands in the south coast of Western Australia

This program supports the community and partners to protect waterway environments including estuaries, rivers and wetlands. Community groups including Aboriginal, 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 of 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;
- ◆ 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 stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the Yakamia Creek Management Plan with the Oyster Harbour Catchment Committee; 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, has continued to monitor the 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 moved into a next phase scaled up larger oyster reef deployment program.



Paddle and Yak, Jerdacuttup River  
Photo: Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network



Deploying new oyster reef, Oyster Harbour  
Photo: South Coast NRM

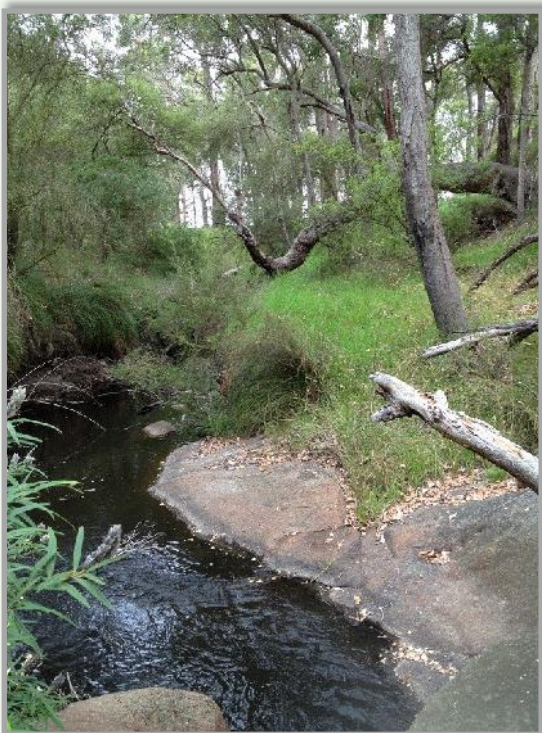




Lake Warden Ramsar Protection Fencing,  
West Property  
Photo: South Coast NRM



It's a Shore Thing - Shorebird and Hooded Plover  
Survey and Identification Workshop, Esperance  
Photo: South Coast NRM



Fish Friendly Farms demonstration site  
Parnell Property  
Photo: South Coast NRM

## 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 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:

- ◆ implementing 19 ha of revegetation over 16 sites with 16 landholders. Landholders engaged in revegetation have included 14 landholders in the Lake Warden RAMSAR catchment and 2 in the Lake Gore RAMSAR catchment;
- ◆ implementing 3.5 km of fencing to protect 179 ha of RAMSAR wetland habitat for shorebirds species such as the Hooded Plover;
- ◆ controlling 10 ha of priority weeds;
- ◆ 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 Lakes 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.

## South Coast Fish Friendly Farms Project

The South Coast Fish Friendly Farms Project partnership with South Coast NRM, Ozfish Unlimited and Recfishwest has implemented two on-farm demonstration sites with landholders in the Albany area. Installing stock-proof fences, removing invasive weeds and restoring natural riparian vegetation have created and protected important habitat for Black Bream, Mulloway, Marron and native fish species. The project has also engaged recreational fishers in natural resource management activities to help protect waterways and fish habitat.

## Looking Forward: short/medium term goals and activities

- ◆ *During the next year, the water program and partnerships with community and project partners will continue to focus on the exciting next phase of the Bringing the Oysters Back Project in Oyster Harbour, the South Coast Fish Friendly Farms Project along with 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 will continue to seek opportunities to secure more resources for a region-wide water program with a focus on protecting and restoring priority water assets, including a regional water monitoring program.*

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 and coastal events, delivering coastal restoration works and strategic coastal corridor protection works in partnership with sub-regional community groups, and continuing the strong partnership with local government and the South Coast Management Group (SCMG).

## Coastscales – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity Resilience in the Coastal Macro-Corridor of the south coast of Western Australia

This project protected and enhanced 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; with 2016-17 the final year of the project. With our project partners over the last five years we have:

- ♦ implemented 33,848 ha of strategic works and activities to improve the connectivity, quality and resilience of the region's coastal corridor;
- ♦ established 361 ha of revegetation in the coastal corridor via direct seeding and seedlings, including 167 ha of revegetation via direct seeding at the Water Corporation Property adjacent to the Jerdacuttup Lakes;
- ♦ completed 143 km of fencing/bollarding and 4 km of protection works collectively protecting approximately 59,983 ha of coastal corridor;
- ♦ implemented 986 ha of primary and follow up invasive species control with a focus on Victorian Tea Tree;
- ♦ undertaken 32,500 ha Phytophthora Dieback interpretation and mapping;
- ♦ 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;
- ♦ provided project officers, technical support, training and equipment;
- ♦ supported cross tenure partnerships with local governments, state government agencies, landholders, community groups, contractors and community volunteers, and
- ♦ worked with 20+ project partners/subcontractors and provided over 100 volunteer opportunities.



How to plant a seedling - Wongutha CAPS School, West Beach, Esperance  
Photo: South Coast NRM



Victoria Harbour wetland and coastal protection fencing, Cape Le Grand National Park  
Photo: Dept. of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



Coastal Corridor Hopetoun Water Corporation property, direct seeding revegetation  
Photo: South Coast NRM





Coastal Corridor post fire recovery planning,  
Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation  
Photo: South Coast NRM



Esperance Aboriginal Green Army erosion management,  
West Beach  
Photo: South Coast NRM



Salty Summer Esperance  
Photo: South Coast NRM

## Restoring and Protecting Values of Coastal Environments, Waterways and RAMSAR wetlands in the south coast of Western Australia

This project supports the south coast community to protect coastal environments and urban waterways, ecological communities, RAMSAR wetlands and threatened (EPBC-listed) species across coastal environments. Work is delivered as partnerships between community groups, public land and aquatic resource managers, schools, individuals and South Coast NRM.

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

- ◆ provided technical support in the planning and implementation of coastal protection works to protect and rehabilitate coastal environments and address erosion issues. A dedicated and skilled coastal team has been set up to directly implement project works across the region with project partners, the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and the five-member coastal local governments of the SCMG. A total of 24 coastal erosion control projects have now been implemented by the project to protect 37 ha;
- ◆ completed a total of 20 km coastal and waterway protection fencing in partnership with the SCMG protecting 53 ha;
- ◆ implemented a total of 23 ha of revegetation activities over seven sites that are a mix of public coastal reserves and private property, linking the coastal corridor;
- ◆ delivered 12 coastal field days across the region aimed at training and supporting community and stakeholder involvement in coastal projects. This includes the delivery of a two-day regional Coastal Management Forum;
- ◆ completed the Salty Summer coastal education program with 18 individual events at 5 coastal locations across the region (Denmark, Albany, Bremer Bay, Hopetoun and Esperance);
- ◆ provided additional coastal education activities in Esperance schools with support from Cliffs Natural Resources, and
- ◆ continued support of 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).

## Looking Forward: short/medium term goals and activities

- ◆ *The coastal and marine theme will focus on partnerships with community and organisations to continue key protection and restoration works in the region's coastal corridor.*
- ◆ *The success of the works in this theme are only possible with continued strong partnerships with coastal local governments and the South Coast Management Group.*

# CULTURAL HERITAGE



**R**ecognising 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 2016-17, enabling Aboriginal people to actively participate in natural resource management and to develop sustainable enterprises.

## Cultural connections between Aboriginal people and their country

This National Landcare Program 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).

### Engaging Aboriginal people in NRM

Over the past year South Coast NRM and project partners have achieved the following:

- ◆ developed a draft Aboriginal engagement guideline and protocol to assist project officers to engage the Aboriginal community in NRM projects;
- ◆ added sites to the Cultural Heritage Land and Sea Management Plan interactive google map via community consultations;
- ◆ supported five cultural awareness events;
- ◆ provided cultural heritage information (Noongar names for plants and animals) to Department of Sport and Recreation for a newly developed Nature Play App;
- ◆ organised two Noongar family field trips involving the Gnowangerup Aboriginal Corporation in partnership with the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW);
- ◆ reprinted the Cultural Heritage Field Guide;
- ◆ hosted two Aboriginal school based trainees;
- ◆ completed a desktop review of Noongar place names for features in our region. This project has progressed through partnerships to work with the Noongar community to bring culture, research, arts and community together through Noongar place names; and
- ◆ delivered protection and restoration works at three culturally significant locations across the region.

### Supporting sustainable Indigenous enterprises

Noongar people interested in establishing businesses in tourism were sponsored to attend the Friends of Porongurup Range eco-tourism conference in 2016. A familiarisation tour of a local successful tour business was organised in 2017 to provide training to potential and existing Aboriginal tour guides. Twenty nine Aboriginal people attended cultural tour guide training delivered by a South Coast NRM supported cultural tour business, Poornarti Aboriginal Tours.

Three Aboriginal enterprises continue to receive support:

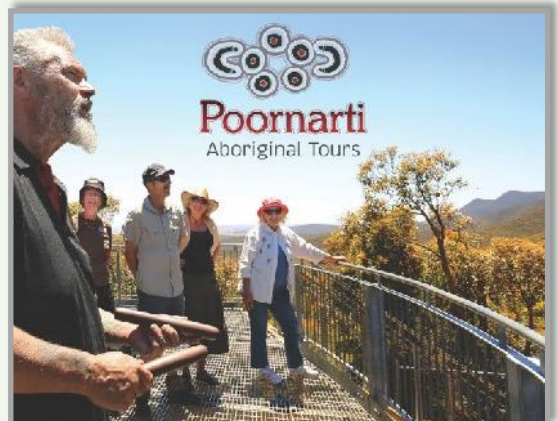
- ◆ the Aboriginal managed Dowrene farm, managed by the Dudjimerrup Twonkup Aboriginal Corporation, continued its quest towards sustainability with continued planting of bush tucker and endemic species;
- ◆ Gnoweran Spraying and Environmental Services was supported to negotiate a number of short term contracts with the City of Albany; and
- ◆ Poornarti Aboriginal Tours has benefited from continued business support by South Coast NRM. Poornarti has been involved in providing cultural educational activities to participants of the Strong and Proud youth program whilst developing their tourism business to export-ready standards.



Noongar families enjoy a field trip to Blue Lake, Denmark  
Photo: South Coast NRM



South Coast NRM Aboriginal school based trainee, Sheyann Tidswell, joined the cultural team to provide administration support  
Photo: South Coast NRM



Supporting sustainable Indigenous business  
Photo: Poornarti website

**KAREN HERLIHY, PROGRAM LEADER**





Maude Bonshore from Dudjimerrup Twonkup Aboriginal Corporation inspects the growth of Sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) in their bushfood paddock  
Photo: South Coast NRM

Two forums were held for the Aboriginal community. An Aboriginal business forum was attended by 39 people (27 Aboriginal people) to discuss business opportunities, regional economic strategies, and simple business advice and incentives. A bush food forum explored the development of a bush food industry in the Great Southern region. Thirty two people (15 Aboriginal people) attended this event including representatives from interstate discussing their work in the bush food industry.

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

*Wumbudin-koul-ye-rah* was successfully run during school terms and involved 60 Aboriginal youth aged 12 to 16 in Albany. The program assists Aboriginal youth to connect to their community, culture and country through sport and recreation activities and learning traditional cultural stories. The program is developed around the 6 Noongar seasons and takes participants to culturally significant locations where Noongar people traditionally occupied. This project is jointly funded through the Department for Sport and Recreation's Youth Engagement Scheme and the Restoring Connections project.

### **Aboriginal Green Army Teams**

South Coast NRM hosted two Green Army teams specifically for Aboriginal people, one in Esperance and one in Albany, employing 11 Aboriginal youths. Both teams worked on a range of projects across the region to protect threatened birds and threatened ecological communities in culturally significant locations including weed control, fauna and flora surveys, cultural heritage site protection and rehabilitation of degraded sites.

### **Restoring Connections - engaging, involving and creating opportunities for Aboriginal people**

This project facilitated four workshops in June 2017 to identify and prioritise cultural heritage sites and added to the Land and Sea Management Plan. Governance training needs have been identified within Aboriginal organisations and a governance development and training plan is currently being prepared. A Noongar family field day was held for the Albany Aboriginal Green Army team and the Nowanup Rangers program. The teams completed on-ground works including track maintenance and revegetation.



Strong & Proud participants returning from the Castle Rock walk trail  
Photo: South Coast NRM

### **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 guideline 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.*
- ◆ *Delivery of Noongar Kaartdijin In Schools - a new project funded through Commonwealth Bank of Australia's Grassroots Community Grant Program. This project will support cultural awareness for Albany region schools by providing Noongar Elders and educators to lead incursions and excursions to cultural locations over the next three years.*



Albany Green Army Team with their Certificate of Participation  
Photo: South Coast NRM



# REGIONAL CAPACITY

The regional capacity program has continued to focus 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 Program, this project has delivered a range of youth education, capacity building and training activities. Two additional projects funded through the State NRM Community Capability Grants commenced this year. These are *Increasing capability and resilience of the south coast NRM community* and *NRM volunteer management - achieving on ground outcomes in Esperance* projects. The regional landcare facilitator project has continued to be delivered through the regional capacity program.

## Youth education and engagement

Engaging regional youth through environmental education continues to be a key focus area for the program. School and youth based education activities have been very successful with regional capacity staff undertaking regular activities with schools throughout the region.

Through our partnership with Great Southern Science Council we have helped to deliver the Science Rocks Forum, promoting science as a career to students in the Great Southern, as well as delivering a number of science based community engagement events.

## Regional Landcare Facilitator Project

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

Through this project we have expanded the Community Small Grants Program to two rounds per year, one of which coincides with National Landcare Week. These grants continue to be well received by the community and have greatly assisted local community groups to undertake volunteer landcare activities.

The Community Small Grants have supported the Kalgan River Stewards to rehabilitate the banks of the Kalgan River, Wellstead CRC to host a community weed and wildflower identification day, and the Albany Bushcarer's Group to undertake woody weed control on Mt Clarence and Mt Melville.

The RLF project is also delivering an annual natural resource management photographic competition to engage youth and increase awareness of, and appreciation for, our natural assets in the south coast region.

"Swallows on a fence" - photo: Ebony Barker

One of the winners in the 2017 natural resource management photographic competition



Environmental educators workshop  
Catchment, Corridors and Coasts 2017  
Photo: South Coast NRM



Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School  
students learning flora identification  
Photo: South Coast NRM



Supporting sustainable agriculture through  
demonstration events  
Photo: South Coast NRM







Esperance Bird Observers Group volunteers survey local lakes for Shorebirds 2020  
Photo: South Coast NRM



Youth engagement through citizen science monitoring of local wetlands  
Photo: South Coast NRM



Albany Science Rocks Career Expo 2017  
Photo: South Coast NRM

## Community Capacity

A major focus over the last 12 months has been the delivery of training events to increase the skills and capacity of community groups and natural resource management (NRM) professionals throughout the region. This has included governance training for community groups, project management training for NRM project officers, and awareness workshops for small landholders. These training and capacity building events have been guided by a number of community needs surveys to ensure training is targeted where it is required.

## Social media

Improving the social media presence of South Coast NRM has been a key priority of the regional capacity team over the past year. Social media represents a great way of promoting the landcare message and will continue to be expanded and refined. A social media strategy for the organisation is being developed and, once completed, will provide social media training to staff in line with this document.

The regional capacity team has continued to produce E-news fortnightly, distributed via email to 550 subscribers.

## Looking Forward: short/medium term goals and activities

- ◆ *Cultural awareness training and the development of Aboriginal Engagement Guidelines will be a major focus over the next 12 months, in partnership with the Esperance Aboriginal community and the native title body Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC).*
- ◆ *A volunteer engagement strategy will be developed for the Esperance region.*
- ◆ *Catchments Corridors and Coasts environmental educator professional development event will be delivered in Albany in early 2018.*
- ◆ *Promote South Coast NRM and our project achievements through attendance at community events like Albany and Esperance Agricultural Shows.*
- ◆ *A further round of Regional Landcare Facilitator Community Small Grants in early 2018.*
- ◆ *Undertake an annual landcare survey to gauge community capacity, priorities and support needs throughout the region.*
- ◆ *A biodiversity, cultural awareness and sustainable agriculture educational roadshow will be delivered to regional schools in early 2018.*
- ◆ *Develop a regional contacts database to assist in the effective communication and uptake of opportunities throughout the region.*
- ◆ *Update the South Coast NRM website to improve its use as a tool for effective communication of activities, opportunities and awareness throughout the region.*
- ◆ *Deliver a range of priority workshops and training events that include behaviour change and social marketing, governance of incorporated groups, cultural awareness training for community groups and managing bushland for small landholders.*
- ◆ *Update the Community Engagement Handbook and the Environmental Education Guidelines.*

# COASTAL CORRIDORS

## *Coastscales*

*Protecting and enhancing biodiversity resilience in the coastal macro-corridor of the south coast of WA*

The South West Botanical Province of Western Australia is a recognised 'biodiversity hotspot'. Within this, the almost continuous strip of intact native vegetation along the south coast is the major east-west link in the region's coastal corridor.

The *Coastscales Coastal Corridor* project, led by South Coast NRM and delivered with over 20 project partners, is a new approach to coastal protection and restoration in the South Coast NRM region and Western Australia. The project protected and enhanced the 512 km long coastal macro corridor made up of the Two Peoples Bay to Fitzgerald corridor; and Fitzgerald to Cape Arid corridor as defined in the South Coast Macro Corridor Network Report.

The project delivered strategic and targeted works at a landscape scale improving connectivity, quality and resilience of the region's coastal corridor. The *Coastscales Coastal Corridor* project involved partnerships with four coastal local governments, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, private landholders and contractors, traditional owners, community groups, coastal users groups and volunteers.

Strategic assessments identified priority areas and implemented targeted works across the landscape including:

- ♦ large scale biodiversity planting expanding the extent of native habitat within priority areas of the coastal corridor to build resilience and connectivity;
- ♦ protection, restoration and enhancement of existing native vegetation;
- ♦ managing landscape scale Phytophthora dieback and invasive species threats to biodiversity; and





- ♦ building community capacity to deliver best practice rehabilitation and protection works through strategic planning, technical support, skills and training by a dedicated project team.

2016-17 was the final year of the project. With our project partners over the last five years, the project has:

- ♦ 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;
- ♦ implemented 33,848 ha of strategic works and activities to improve the connectivity, quality and resilience of the region's coastal corridor;
- ♦ established 361 ha of revegetation in the coastal corridor via direct seeding and seedlings, including 167 ha of revegetation via direct seeding at the Water Corporation property adjacent to the Jerdacuttup Lakes;
- ♦ completed 143 km of fencing/bollarding and 4 km of protection works collectively protecting approximately 59,983 ha of coastal corridor;
- ♦ implemented 986 ha of primary and follow up invasive species control with a focus on victorian tea tree;
- ♦ undertaken 32,500 ha Phytophthora Dieback interpretation and mapping;
- ♦ provided project officers, technical support, training and equipment;
- ♦ supported cross tenure partnerships with local governments, state government agencies, landholders, community groups, contractors and community volunteers, and
- ♦ worked with 20+ project partners/subcontractors and provided over 100 volunteer opportunities.

The *Coastsapes Coastal Corridor* project has led the way in coastal protection and restoration in the region and built ongoing partnerships in a landscape approach to coastal management.

## **Fitzgerald River (Hopetoun) through to Cape Arid National Park**



Esperance, Shire of Ravensthorpe, Ravensthorpe Agriculture Initiative Network, Department of Parks and Wildlife, school groups, Bush Rangers and local landholders. With funding from the Australian Government.



# STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS 2016/17

## STAFF

### Chief Executive Officer

Justin Bellanger

### Administration Team Member

Angela Sofoulis

### Business Services Team Members

Joanne Headlam

Michelle Joyce

Barb Henderson

Rachel Matthews

Christine Painter

### Operations

Penni Hewett

### Biodiversity Team Members

Karl Hansom

Elissa Forbes

Tilo Massenbauer

Rosie Smith \*

Meredith Spencer

### Coastal, Marine and Water Team Members

Dylan Gleave

Robyn Cail

Brett Dal Pozzo

Claudia Magana

Sheryn Prior \*

Kevin Reynolds

Bryn Warnock

### Cultural Team Members

Karen Herlihy

Geoffrey Dean

Jezelda Lethbridge \*

Graeme Simpson

Chris Spurr

Sheyann Tidswell

### Land Team Members

David Broadhurst

Kaylene Parker

Charlotte Powis \*

Liz Tanner

Kanako Tomita

### Monitoring and Evaluation

Ray Chilton

### Regional Capacity Team Members

Kylie Bishop

Sally Forbes

Caitlin Jackson

Letisha Newman

### Spatial Information

Nick Middleton

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

### Non Executive Directors

Carolyn Daniel

Stephen Frost

Alex Gavranich

Joanne Gilbert

Ray Hirst \*

Bill Hollingworth

Helen Tasker

### Executive Director

Justin Bellanger

\* Employment / Term of Office concluded during 2016-17.

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



# FUNDING PARTNERS

*South Coast NRM would like to sincerely thank all of our funding partners who have contributed financial support in 2016-17.*

- ♦ Department of Environment and Energy
- ♦ Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
- ♦ State NRM Program
- ♦ Department of Planning
- ♦ Great Southern Development Commission
- ♦ Department of Sport and Recreation
- ♦ Goldfields Esperance Development Commission
- ♦ Keep Australia Beautiful
- ♦ Great Southern Science Council
- ♦ Department of Agriculture and Food WA
- ♦ Esperance Regional Forum
- ♦ Oz Fish Limited
- ♦ Shire of Esperance
- ♦ Department of Water
- ♦ Shire of Denmark
- ♦ Cliffs Natural Resources

*We also acknowledge the significant volunteer and in-kind contributions made by our project partners.*

# PROJECT PARTNERS

*South Coast NRM would like to thank all of our partners who helped deliver projects and activities during 2016-17*

- Advanced Choice Economics
- agVivo Events
- Albany Branch of the Sporting Shooter's Association (WA)
- Albany Branch, Wildflower Society of WA
- Albany Bushcarers
- Albany Community Environment Centre
- Albany Farm Tree Nursery
- Albany Primary School
- Albany Regional Herbarium
- Albany Senior High School
- Albany Young Naturalists
- Anthropos Australia (WA)
- ATC WorkSmart
- Australian Association for Environmental Educators
- Birdlife Australia
- Borden Primary School
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Cascade Primary School
- Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management
- Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management (CPSM)
- 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 WA
- Department of Fisheries WA
- Department of Parks and Wildlife
- Department of Planning (Coastwest)
- Department of Sport and Recreation
- Department of Water
- Dieback Working Group
- Dr Moira Maley - Education Consulting
- Dujimerrup Twonkup Aboriginal Corporation
- Earthrise Productions
- Ecotones & Associates
- Esperance Anglican Community School
- Esperance Bird Observer Group
- Esperance Farm Trees
- Esperance Farmlet Services
- Esperance Tjaltjiraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation
- Esperance Nyungurup Aboriginal Corporation
- Esperance Primary School
- Esperance Regional Forum
- Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers
- Esperance Weeds Action Group
- Esperance Volunteer Resource Centre
- Evergreen Farming
- Fitzgerald Biosphere Group
- Flinders Park Primary School
- Forage Cannery Kitchen Garden
- 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
- Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission
- Gondwana Link Limited
- Great Southern Bio Logic
- Great Southern Development Commission
- 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
- Jerdacuttup Primary School
- Jode Nursery
- Karen Quain
- King River Weeding Group
- Lake King Primary School
- Lake Monjigup Community Development Committee
- Lake Muir Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group
- Lance Reed
- Libby Sandiford
- 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
- Munglingup Primary School
- Murdoch University
- NJM Spatial
- North Albany Senior High School
- North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources
- Nulsen Primary School
- OceanWatch Australia
- Ongerup Community Development Inc.
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School, Esperance
- Oyster Harbour Catchment Group
- Precision SoilTech
- Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network
- Ravensthorpe District High School
- Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show Committee
- Recfishwest
- Riggs Australia
- Risk Communication Australia
- Savagely Creative
- Saving Animals from Euthanasia (Esperance)
- Scitech
- SDF Global Pty Ltd
- 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
- Southern Ports-Esperance
- Spurr of the Moment Design
- St Joseph's College
- State NRM Program WA
- Stirlings to Coast Farmers
- The Nature Conservancy
- Toni Hough
- Torbay Catchment Group
- University of WA
- Volunteering 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 who work tirelessly to protect our unique plants, animals, landscapes, farmland and special way of life on the South Coast.*



# **FINANCE REPORT**

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## **SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
30 JUNE 2017**

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## Corporate information

ABN 43 781 945 884

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<b>Directors</b>	William Hollingworth (Chairman) Justin Bellanger Carolyn Daniel Stephen Frost Alex Gavranich Joanne Gilbert Helen Tasker
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<b>Registered Office and Principal Place of Business</b>	39 Mercer Road Albany WA 6330
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<b>Contact Details</b>	phone: (08) 9845 8537 fax: (08) 9845 8538 <a href="http://www.southcoastnrm.com.au">www.southcoastnrm.com.au</a>
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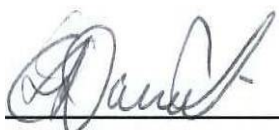


## Directors' Declaration

The Directors declare that in the Directors' opinion:

1. There are reasonable grounds to believe that South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. ("entity") will be able to meet its financial commitments as and when they become due and payable.
2. The Special Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2017 satisfies the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012*.

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



Carolyn Daniel  
**Deputy Chair**

Dated this 8th day of September 2017

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

### Balance Sheet

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash on Hand			
Bendigo Cash Man Trading a/c		154,800	77,040
Bendigo Social Investment		1,226,971	1,153,684
Bendigo Donation Fund		27,997	26,638
Bendigo Term Deposit		1,000,000	1,500,000
Bendigo Term Deposit		1,000,000	1,000,000
Petty Cash		463	507
Woolworths Card		350	400
Accounts Receivable		149,170	39,795
Prepaid Expenses		29,045	22,003
Accrued Income		9,723	22,745
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>3,598,519</b>	<b>3,842,812</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Plant & Equipment at Cost		78,130	78,130
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(78,130)	(77,310)
Total Plant & Equipment	2	-	820
Vehicles at Cost		138,263	138,263
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(138,263)	(138,263)
Total Vehicles	2	-	-
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	2	-	820
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>3,598,519</b>	<b>3,843,632</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Credit Cards Payable		7,828	11,918
GST (Refundable)/ Payable		(9,276)	55,173
PAYG Payable		76,150	67,161
Superannuation Contributions		32,429	30,253
Prepaid Revenue		15,000	30,000
Committed Project Funds	3	1,114,567	1,274,957
Provision for Long Service Leave		348,321	318,187
Provision for Annual Leave		118,601	146,304
Provision for Parental Leave		62,501	-
Accrued Expenses		144,098	173,699
Trade Creditors		30,951	204,202
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,941,170</b>	<b>2,311,854</b>



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017**
**Balance Sheet (cont.)**

<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	61,366	69,051
Provision for Other Leave	57,481	45,263
	<hr/>	
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>118,847</b>	<b>114,314</b>
	<hr/>	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,060,017</b>	<b>2,426,168</b>
	<hr/>	
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>1,538,502</b>	<b>1,417,464</b>
	<hr/>	
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	1,417,464	1,321,315
Current Earnings	121,038	96,149
	<hr/>	
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,538,502</b>	<b>1,417,464</b>
	<hr/>	

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

### Income and Expenses Statement

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Aust Govt Funding	3,768,081	5,200,447
State Funding	287,355	10,000
Credit Interest	76,002	98,048
Donations	3,225	807
Other Project Income	356,505	293,645
Rental Income	10,875	12,134
Membership Fees	891	582
Recoupments	39,819	81,394
Conference Room Hire Fees	773	599
Private Works Income	205,533	70,253
Funds Transferred to Provision	(4,473,550)	(5,616,687)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>275,509</b>	<b>151,222</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Contracts</b>		
External Service Delivery	1,241,228	3,042,421
South Coast Environment Fund Grants	-	10,000
Equipment Purchases	9,953	42,677
Miscellaneous Project Expenses	319,373	481,555
Project Delivery Materials	28,102	73,316
Promotions & Sponsorships	19,126	29,553
Reference Group Costs	34,580	29,028
Travel Expenses	64,203	87,429
Workshop Costs	107,022	102,971
Program Managers and Project Officers	2,186,325	2,260,009
<b>Total Contracts</b>	<b>4,009,912</b>	<b>6,158,959</b>
<b>Administration Staff</b>		
Wages & Salaries	393,897	430,431
Superannuation	37,164	39,107
Professional Development	10,049	5,310
Contract Staff	-	190
Costs of Employment	7,437	4,506
Vehicle Fees	13,113	-
Workers Comp Insurance	1,775	1,854
Accrued Leave	(4,324)	(9,241)
<b>Total Administration Staff</b>	<b>459,111</b>	<b>472,157</b>



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017**
**Income and Expenses Statement (cont.)**

<b>Operating</b>		
Office	184,543	202,915
Motor Vehicle	-	(889)
Consultancy	29,410	22,713
Depreciation	820	15,334
Loss on disposal of assets	-	90
Travel	17,641	24,037
Sitting Fees	20,139	21,348
Other Expenses	31,721	15,612
Promotions	9,004	5,196
Catering	11,965	9,402
Audit & Accounting	14,144	14,467
Total Operating	<b>319,387</b>	<b>330,225</b>
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>		
Provision for Committed Project Funds	(4,633,940)	(6,906,268)
Total Non-Operating Expenses	<b>(4,633,940)</b>	<b>(6,906,268)</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>154,470</b>	<b>55,073</b>
<b>Net Surplus for the Year</b>	<b>121,038</b>	<b>96,149</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017**
**Statement of Changes in Equity**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Balance at Beginning of Year	1,417,464	1,321,315
Net Surplus for the Year	121,038	96,149
<b>Balance at End of Year</b>	<b>1,538,502</b>	<b>1,417,464</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

### Statement of Cash Flow

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from Activities		4,563,681	5,824,199
Interest Received		89,024	87,717
Payments to Employees		(2,575,970)	(2,661,109)
Payments to Suppliers		(2,424,422)	(4,495,526)
Net Cash Flows from / (used in) Operating Activities	<b>B</b>	(347,687)	(1,244,719)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
		-	-
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
		-	-
NET DECREASE IN CASH HELD		(347,687)	(1,244,719)
Cash at the Beginning of the Year		3,758,269	5,002,988
Cash at the End of the Year	<b>A</b>	3,410,582	3,758,269
<b>A) RECONCILIATION OF CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>			
Cash Management		154,800	77,040
Social Investment		1,226,971	1,153,684
Donation Fund		27,997	26,638
Term Deposit		2,000,000	2,500,000
Petty Cash		463	507
Debit Card		350	400
Cash at the end of the Year		3,410,581	3,758,269
<b>B) RECONCILIATION OF CASH FROM OPERATIONS WITH OPERATING RESULT</b>			
Operating Surplus		121,038	96,149
Adjustment for Non-Cash Items:			
Depreciation Expense		820	15,334
Loss on sale of plant & equipment		-	90
Changes in Assets/Liabilities			
(Increase) / Decrease in accounts and other receivable		(103,395)	155,643
(Decrease) / Increase in accounts and other payable		(275,226)	(293,412)
(Decrease) / Increase in committed project funds		(160,390)	(1,289,581)
(Decrease) / Increase in accounts and other payable		69,466	71,058
Net Cash Flows used in Operating Activities		(347,687)	(1,244,719)



## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017

### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT 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 137, Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
- 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>
Plant and Equipment	15–50%
Motor Vehicles	20%

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017

### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### d. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the entity's obligation for employee benefits. The entity'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.

##### Provision for Parental Leave

Employees are entitled up to 14 weeks of paid maternity leave after 12 months of continuous service. The obligation to pay maternity leave on the current staffing level has been estimated. Any maternity leave required to be paid exceeding the current provision will be paid for from current cash reserves that are unencumbered (not relating or projects as a result of approval from the board of management).

#### e. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity 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 the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017

### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT 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 the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017

### NOTE 2 - MOVEMENT IN PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	Plant & Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Written Down Value at Beginning of the Year	820	-	820
Depreciation	(820)	-	820
Written Down Value at End of the Year	-	-	-

### NOTE 3 - MOVEMENT IN COMMITTED PROJECT FUNDS

Grant/Contribution	Opening 1-Jun-16	Received 2016-17	Expended 2016-17	Closing 30-Jun-17
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Action on the Ground 2	(207)	131,811	128,729	2,875
Albany Regional Herbarium	5,455	11,049	16,500	4
Biodiversity Fund - Coastscapes	311,424	11,630	323,054	-
Biodiversity Fund - Restoring Gondwana	20,660	2,497	23,157	-
Community Capability Grants - Dieback	-	83,229	63,792	19,437
Community Capability Grants - Increasing Capability	-	85,740	48,010	37,730
Community Capability Grants - Volunteer Management	-	43,441	31,616	11,825
Community Capability Grants - Restoring Connections	-	66,290	51,081	15,209
DGR Fund	26,638	1,358	-	27,996
National Landcare Program	709,943	3,671,305	3,651,999	729,249
NRM WA	57,488	154,000	136,938	74,550
Other Grants	123,477	202,909	130,694	195,692
Royalties For Region	98	-	98	-
State Dieback	4,118	7,752	11,870	-
State Starlings Fund	15,863	539	16,402	-
	<u>1,274,957</u>	<u>4,473,550</u>	<u>4,633,940</u>	<u>1,114,567</u>



## Anderson Munro & Wyllie

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*Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation*

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
UNDER S 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001  
TO THE DIRECTORS OF SOUTH COAST NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2017 there have been no contraventions of:

- i. the auditor's independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

*Anderson Munro & Wyllie*  
ANDERSON MUNRO & WYLLIE  
Chartered Accountants

**BILLY-JOE THOMAS**

Director

Dated this <sup>8<sup>th</sup></sup> day of September 2017  
Perth, WA



## Anderson Munro & Wyllie

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc ("the entity") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the entity is 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 entity's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code") that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to directors, would be in the same terms if given as at the time of this auditor's report.

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

### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

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 financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Responsibilities of Management and the Directors for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the special purpose financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the relevant Australian Accounting Standards in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission Regulations 2013* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the special purpose financial report, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.





### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

*Anderson Munro & Wyllie*  
**ANDERSON MUNRO & WYLLIE**

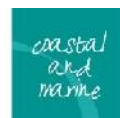
Chartered Accountants

Address: Unit 8, 210 Winton Road, Joondalup, Western Australia

**BILLY-JOE THOMAS**

Director & Registered Company Auditor

Dated at Perth, Western Australia this <sup>8<sup>th</sup></sup> day of September 2017



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

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**Australian Government**



**GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

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