South Coast Natural Resource Management is the leading independent natural resource management organisation for the region and is locally based and locally managed.

We work with local communities and government to protect our natural environment and to build a healthy productive Region.

OVER 100 PROJECT PARTNERS

In 2016-2017, we joined with over 100 project partners and 26 school and youth organisations.

We are proud of our community and our project partnerships which achieve enduring outcomes by carefully matching expertise with local knowledge.

Our strong partnerships are a vital part of our success in delivering important targeted projects that address national, state and local priorities.

The successes support our long standing approach to achieving regional scale outcomes by collaborating with local sub-regional groups, community and grower groups, farmers, educational institutions, Aboriginal and cultural groups, volunteers and Federal, State and local governments.
SMART FARMING AND A PROSPEROUS REGION

We delivered quality soil health demonstration sites and extension activities across the region in partnership with community and grower groups. We have measured, monitored and helped farmers understand and improve soil health, water repellency, erosion, acidity, salinity and waterlogging.

Improved awareness and understanding of climate variability predictions have increased the adaptive capacity of landholders to effectively manage their farms. We conducted on-farm audits to test existing practices, measure emissions and identify ways for farmers to reduce their carbon footprint.

In 2016-2017 we supported the Ravensthorpe community in the aftermath of a major flood event. We support farming communities across the region to build the resilience to manage climate variability, productivity and water quality issues.

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

Our biodiversity team is delivering successful outcomes for the National Landcare Program and the State NRM dieback project.

We are working to protect species and ecosystems of national significance and are funding work to implement Recovery Plans. This includes broad scale revegetation work, weed control and feral animal management to protect threatened species and to improve habitat.

Surveying and monitoring work for five threatened fauna species and 24 declared rare flora was conducted and we continued to build the community of endangered Dibblers translocated to the safety of the Recherche Archipelago. Remote sensing cameras have recorded that the animals are in good health and have started breeding.

We have identified a breeding pair of critically endangered Gilbert’s potoroos as suitable pioneers for translocation to a safe haven and are scoping potential habitat to establish a population of the vulnerable Noisy Scrub bird.

The Dieback Information Delivery Management System (DIDMS) has been enhanced to include hygiene and risk reduction planning tools and we have trained local organisations to implement hygiene management plans.
2016-2017 was the final year of a five-year project with 20 partners to protect the 512 km long South Coast macro corridor from Two Peoples Bay to Cape Arid.

The South Coast Botanical Province is a recognised "biodiversity hotspot" and the project achieved strategic and targeted works at a landscape scale, improving connectivity, quality and resilience of the region's coastal corridor.

The internationally recognised Lake Warden and Lake Gore RAMSAR wetlands have been protected with over 18 ha of revegation over 16 sites, with weed control and fencing installed to protect over 18 ha of habitat for shorebird species, including the vulnerable Hooded Plover. We have worked with our community to restore habitats, mitigate altered hydrology and salt loads and conduct bird surveys to monitor resident and migratory bird populations.

Our coastal protection work continues across the region through river, estuary and coastal management plans, which includes fencing and bollarding for coastal protection, invasive weed and feral species control.

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

Our cultural heritage team has a strong and inclusive partnership with the Noongar community and Aboriginal people who actively participate in natural resource management and cultural heritage projects.

We have undertaken environmental work at three culturally significant locations in the region - Lake Pleasant View in Manypeaks, Mt Melville's Paddy Coyne Complex and Waychinicup National Park.

The Aboriginal managed Dowrene Farm was assisted in its quest for financial sustainability through growing bush tucker. We have also developed a number of initiatives to support and develop cultural tourism and environmental services, including business development forums.

We have completed a review of Noongar place names and are managing a culture, research, arts and community project with multiple partners to highlight and integrate Noongar place names across the Region.

Strong and Proud, "Wumbudin koul-yee-rah", an after-school program for Aboriginal youth, ran successfully and teachers, project officers, mentors and families all reported a significant improvement in behaviour, attitudes to schooling and connection to country, culture and community.
CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

South Coast NRM's regional capacity team builds skills and knowledge through:

- Regional capacity is a key component in achieving on-ground outcomes and our regional landcare facilitator works with landcare groups and individuals across the south coast.
- We engage youth through highly successful environmental education incursion/excursion programs, including Enviro Educator, Salty Summers coastal education, The Educational Roadshow, The River Model and Catchments, Corridors and Coasts.
- Our regional partner groups are building NRM knowledge and business management skills and community and volunteer groups have increased their skills, capacity and governance measures by participating in training and development activities.
- Educational forums, conferences, workshops, school education and vacation programs have raised awareness across the region. The Science Rocks Forum, in association with the Great Southern Science Council, has promoted science as a career to students and delivered a range of science-based community activities.