



Annual Report

2017 – 2018



Image: Meredith Spencer
South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. November 2018.

Chairperson Report

Carolyn Daniel



This past year has been extremely challenging changing over from National Landcare Program 1 to the new funding arrangements under the National Landcare Program 2. This process has caused great concern amongst some of our community partners as we move forward as contractors rather than grant recipients. A reduction in the overall funding has had a significant effect on both South Coast NRM as well as our partners.

However, we can celebrate the achievements of the National Landcare Program 1 where the South Coast Region has over achieved in many areas thanks to the dedication of the staff and partner organisations. We look forward to doing this again under the new arrangements.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow Board members, the Chief Executive Officer Justin Bellanger and his team who have assisted during this transition period and look forward to moving on positively in our new working environment. I would also like to acknowledge and thank retiring Board members Stephen Frost and Alex Gavranich for their valuable input to the Board and their passion for the environment. I would also like to welcome our new Board members and look forward to working with them. The Board are committed to all of our valued partners and seek to continue to be an integral part of your organisations as one of your partners.

We have seen many groups reform over recent years to meet local needs, the Esperance Regional Forum ceased last year and has now been replaced by a combination of the Esperance Weed Action Group, Esperance Bird Observers Group, Esperance Tjaalarak Native Title Group, Esperance Noongar Aboriginal Corporation and South East Premium Wheat Growers Association. Whilst change can be disconcerting, it is not the end of the story. I am sure that our region will adjust to the new changes and thrive. With change comes opportunity and if we work together we can maximise these opportunities.

Food and water security has become increasingly important; we need a healthy environment to support this. Our South Coast farmers who manage the bulk of the alienated land in our region have had a difficult season with a combination of fire as well as dry and frosty conditions. We salute their efforts to maintain a healthy environment, particularly soil health under trying circumstances and commit to working with the local Grower Groups to this end. At a State level, South Coast NRM participates in NRM WA which is an aggregation of all of the seven NRM regions in our State. We work on State wide issues and advocate on a National level as one voice. All of the regions across Australia have had the same issues regarding the new funding arrangements and are working together to put the environment back on the agenda as a priority for Government.

I want to express my sincere thanks to our local, regional, State and Federal partners for your ongoing support. Without your help none of the on ground work and community support could be achieved, it is truly a partnership effort. Together we can stem environmental degradation and make a difference in the face of impending global challenges including climate change. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you, I look forward to working with you in the next 12 months.

Chief Executive Officer Report

Justin Bellanger



The South Coast region is one of the most diverse and complex places on earth. Our rich biodiversity and broad range ecosystems, coupled with an array of different types of primary production makes our part of world both rewarding and challenging on many levels. It is no surprise therefore that managing our natural resources provides great outcomes, but also difficult challenges. The complexity of creating and managing resilient communities of plants, animals and people within our region at times seems to be closely matched by the diverse suite of funding sources we rely on to do this, each with their own unique and complex sets of objectives and criteria.

At South Coast NRM we are proud to continue our long-standing role in this evolving operating environment by aligning the expectations of funders with the priorities of our local communities. Our highly professional team, supported by nationally recognised best-practice governance has maintained the South Coast region's status as one of the most effective places in Australia to invest into managing natural resources. A key strength of this is our commitment to subsidiarity, which is demonstrated by how we devolve activities and funding to organisations and individuals that are best placed to have the greatest impact. For our part, we are committed to ensuring that this approach continues in a strategic way across multiple partners and areas to achieve outcomes on the broadest scale wherever possible.

In the 2017-18 financial year, South Coast NRM again achieved a broad range of positive outcomes for our unique and wonderful region with the help of great partnerships, new funding and innovative and progressive approaches to managing our natural resources.

At an operational level, South Coast NRM's key focus was completing our commitments to the National Landcare Programme (Phase 1) funded by the Federal Departments of Environment and Energy, and Agriculture and Water Resources. Our subsidiarity approach to partnering continued through collaborating and devolving funding to sub-regional based practitioners including a wide range of land managers, Aboriginal Corporations, State Government agencies, Friends Groups, Catchment Groups, Production Groups, and individuals who are equally passionate about managing our natural resources as we are. It has been deeply satisfying to see the benefits brought to the South Coast community through achieving important outcomes with real improvements; to financially supporting project officers and groups particularly in smaller towns; and in the growth of independence and capacity of the not-for-profit sector. With immense admiration and respect I acknowledge the contributions made by our staff, whose indefatigable spirit has achieved so much despite many challenges.

South Coast NRM also supported our community in 2017-18 through projects funded by the State Government's Natural Resource Management Program. This included funding for sub-regional catchment groups to improve their governance, communications and marketing; providing governance and practical assistance for Aboriginal Corporations so they can deliver projects in a similar manner to traditional landcare groups; and by coordinating and supporting volunteers in Esperance to manage their important natural resources. South Coast NRM also continued to directly coordinate and deliver the community-based management of *Phytophthora dieback*, using the expertise and experience that our staff have developed in this sector.

At a philanthropic level, the South Coast Environment Fund progressed significantly in 2017-18. In conjunction with our Patron, Sabrina Hann, we prepared a promotional video and undertook a number of publicity events to encourage donations for our first dedicated environmental project for the fund. Coupled with a crowdfunding campaign, \$26,094 was raised to create a safe haven for honey possums on Sylvia Leighton's property in Wellstead. Surplus funding from the project will be used for future projects that have been developed as part of an annual work plan for the fund.

The revision of Southern Prospects was largely completed in 2017-18, with the renewed edition to be launched at our 2018 Annual General Meeting. This version is the 5th iteration of Southern Prospects which, having been maintained by South Coast NRM for the past 22 years, makes it one of the longest standing strategic plans in Western Australia. It is a resounding testament to the work ethic of our team and the contributions from our community that we've completed the revision despite significant competing work commitments in acquitting and reporting current programs and negotiating new ones. The revision of the Strategy would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of Penni Hewett, Karen Herlihy, Ray Chilton and Christine Painter.



Image: Sunrise with windmill, Ella Barker

Our Business Services Team and Operations staff have continued to find efficiencies and improvements to reduce the proportion of funds used for administration. In 2017-18 administrative staff costs were just 9% of our total income, down from 10% in the previous year. Further savings have been made in 2018-19 through the hard work of Joanne Headlam and her team, who are ensuring that our stringent governance standards continue to be met in spite of the efficiency gains within the organisation.

From a financial perspective, South Coast NRM performed comparatively well in 2017-18 with total income of \$4,901,385. The result was a 3.2% increase on 2016-17 and reversed reductions of 44% over the two previous financial years. This generated a surplus of \$107,054 against a budgeted deficit of \$35,653 (\$142,707 turn-around). Through prudent management of our expenses and by generating additional income, South Coast NRM has been able to consolidate sufficient equity to generate the working-capital required for our agreement with the Federal Government for the National Landcare Program Phase 2. This resilience enabled us to negotiate projects and income for our partners and the region, secure in the knowledge that we have sufficient equity to underwrite the delivery of activities.

Despite the sound financial performance in 2017-18 the forecast for 2018-19 presents its own challenges, with far fewer grant funding opportunities and a reduction in resources from the Federal Government through the National Landcare Program. In response to these changes, the Management and Board of South Coast NRM made the difficult decision to restructure the staffing of the organisation. The future structure was also influenced by an intent to provide as much funding as possible for sub-regional catchment groups consistent with our subsidiarity ethos. The restructure involved discontinuing a suite of roles (Operations Manager, Program Leaders, Business Services Officers and Project Officers) and reducing others to part-time, with an overall reduction in staff of 38%. As a consequence we have sadly said goodbye to a number of highly valuable and deeply passionate employees including Penni Hewett, Dylan Gleave, Karl Hansom, Angela Sofoulis, Rachel Mathews, Sally Forbes, Caitlyn Jackson, Geoffrey Dean, Chris Spurr and Nick Middleton. Whilst these changes have been challenging, we have a lean, agile, confident and effective

team that will continue the legacy built over the last 22 years of strategic management of our region's natural resources.

In 2018-19, Management and staff of South Coast NRM will be focused on negotiating and contracting activities for the National Landcare Program Phase 2, and securing new resources for activities best coordinated at the landscape scale. We will continue to support our staff and our partners involved in managing our natural resources, despite the challenges and complexity of our working environment, and we commit to actively promoting the South Coast as the best place in Australia to invest in.

Achievements at a glance

2017-2018

South Coast NRM has continued our long standing partnership approach to achieving landscape scale outcomes by working with sub-regional catchment 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.

Events and Participants

During the last twelve months, a total of 252 events have been convened and attended by 8,017 people; an average of 27 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. Some highlights have been the Caring for Country Education Roadshow, Cultural awareness sessions in schools, mountain bike dieback clean down point and the community engagement in the review of Southern Prospects.



Harvest & Hay. Image: Lisa Jackson

Fencing

A total of 132 kilometres of fencing has been completed to protect 5,847 hectares of remnant habitat. Protection activities have included protecting waterways, connecting vegetation in fragmented landscapes, on farm stock exclusion of remnant native vegetation and in implementing Recovery Plans for the protection of Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 listed threatened species.

Weed Treatment

Weed control over a total area of 468 hectares has been undertaken across 32 priority sites. Weed species have included Asparagus, Boxthorn, Blackberry, Gorse, Sydney Golden Wattle and Victorian Tea Tree.

Pest Control

Activity to control pests across 16,200 hectares was effective in destroying 126 foxes, 49 rabbits and 17 feral cats.

Revegetation

A total of 185 hectares of revegetation has been established across the region for soil stabilisation, to improve biodiversity values through habitat restoration and enhancement, water quality and on farm soil health. Environmental benefits have included managing groundwater discharge/salinity (69 ha), enhancing and restoring habitat (56 ha), rehabilitation of riparian areas (49 ha) and soil stabilisation (10 ha).

Managing Dieback

Disease mitigation activities in managing Phytophthora dieback were achieved by treating 120 hectares of Threatened Ecological Communities.

Investment by Themes

The distribution of the investment was determined by the alignment of funding programs to the Investment Plan – developed in collaboration with the South Coast NRM theme based reference groups and NRM Committee. Planning and opportunities for cross theme collaboration is driven by the NRM Committee and the South Coast NRM senior operations team. The Investment Plan guides the work South Coast NRM and its project partners deliver subject to available funding.

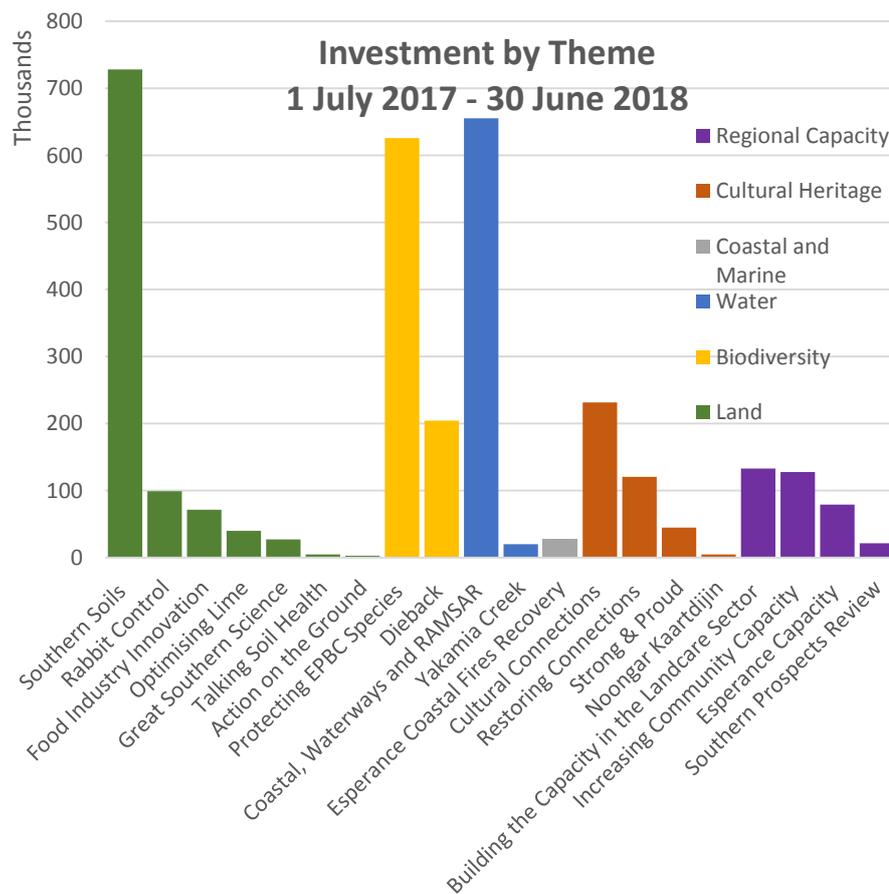


Figure 1: Distribution of investment by theme and project for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

Purpose of Activity

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

- **Monitoring and Measures** is the regular gathering of information in a consistent manner to keep track of, and observe the progress of an activity, project or program;
- **On-ground Actions** are outputs which can be reported directly in terms of a unit of measure (e.g. hectares, kilometres);
- **Capacity Building** relates to activity or activities designed to enhance natural resource management planning and management, with an emphasis on building capacity of the landcare community; and
- **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.



Figure 2: Project activity grouped by purpose

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

Revenue

The chart below shows funds received in successive financial years as reported in the Financial Reports of each of the Annual Reports of South Coast NRM. Included also are the funds secured under grant agreements from government and commercial in 2018. (The financial year 2017/18 is expressed as 2018.)

Revenue to 2018 and Secured Funds Beyond ('000,000)

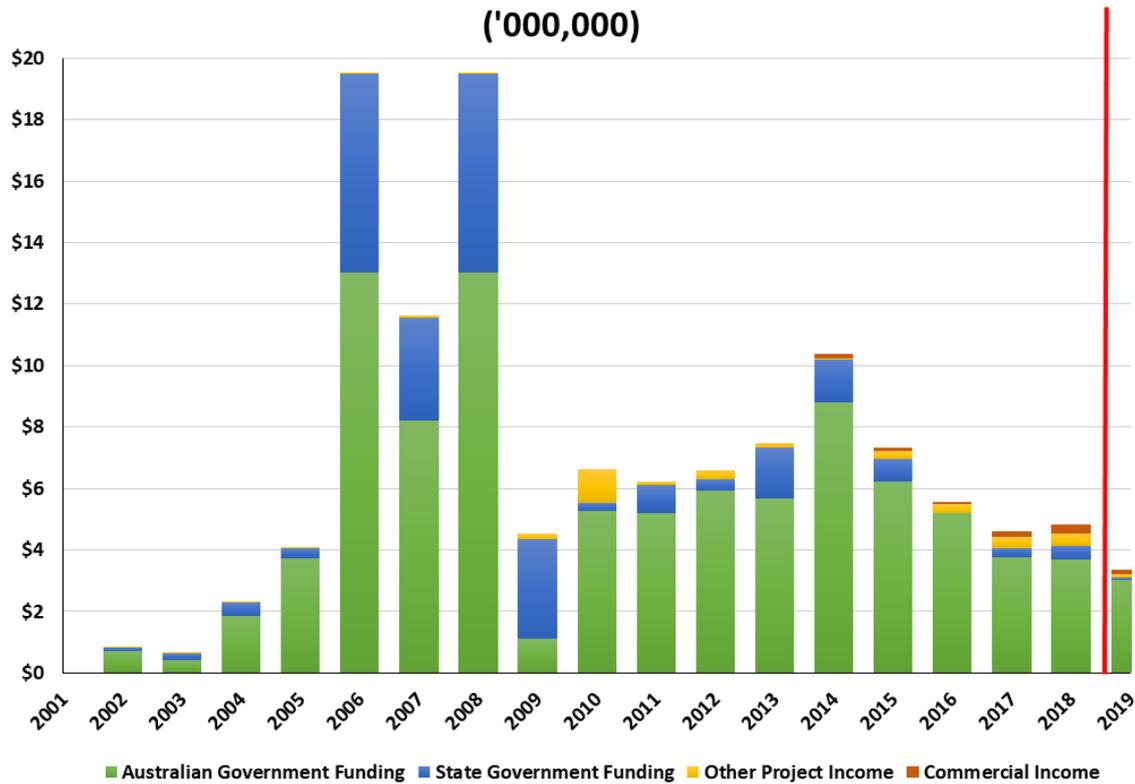


Figure 3: Revenue from July 2001 and secured funds beyond June 2018

Between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2018 the revenue received by South Coast NRM totals \$128M. Beyond June 2018 to the latter half of 2023, a further \$5.3M has been secured to date from Australian Government, State Government of Western Australia and privately funded activities.

Ray Chilton, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator



A few seconds of peace. Image: Paul Cunningham

Status of Outcomes – Southern Prospects

2011-2018

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 the document Southern Prospects 2011-2016. The status of each outcome at the time of this report has been determined as either **achieved**, **on track**, **behind Schedule** or **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.

Cultural Heritage		
Outcomes (1-5 Years)	Description	Status
H1	Improved information	Achieved - Ongoing
H2	Protection of heritage places	Achieved - Ongoing
H3	Landscape scale approach	Behind schedule
H4	Establishment of sustainable enterprises	Achieved - Ongoing
H5	Application of traditional knowledge	Achieved - Ongoing
H6	Improved community capacity	Achieved - Ongoing
H7	Improved communication	On Track – Ongoing
H8	Improved training and career pathways	Achieved
H9	Agreed protocols	Achieved
H10	Improved knowledge	On Track – Ongoing
H11	Improved Aboriginal Employment	Achieved

Regional Capacity		
Outcomes (1-5 Years)	Description	Status
R1	Set Social and Economic Targets within an Environmental Sustainability Framework -	Achieved - Ongoing
R2	Support Sustainable Business	Behind schedule
R3	Improved Governance	Achieved - Ongoing
R4	Facilitated Change Management	Achieved - Ongoing
R5	Increased Self Reliance	Achieved - Ongoing
R6	Develop and implement Education and Training Framework	Achieved
R7	Improved Community Engagement and Leadership	On Track – Ongoing
R8	Review of Agreements	Achieved - Ongoing

Land		
Outcomes (1-5 Years)	Description	Status
L1	Identify priorities	Achieved
L2	Review and improve soil quality and land condition measures	Achieved
L3	Increase understanding	Achieved
L4	Assess achievements/outcomes	Achieved
L5	Effective on-ground works	Achieved
L6	Control invasive species	Behind schedule
L7	Education and training	Achieved
L8	Improve awareness and recognition	Achieved – Ongoing
L9	Review best management practices	Achieved
L10	Integrate land use planning with NRM	On Track – Ongoing
L11	Climate change adaptation	Achieved – Ongoing
L12	Support sustainable industries	Achieved – Ongoing

Note - Some outcomes previously report as achieved have now been anointed with "ongoing" (L10, L11 & L12). The Land Reference Group recommends that these outcomes require ongoing investment due to land manager succession, new technologies and condition change.

Water		
Outcomes (1-5 Years)	Description	Status
W1	Increased understanding	On Track – Ongoing
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	On Track
W8	Control invasive species	On Track – Ongoing
W9	Improve water use efficiency	No opportunities to Progress
W10	Integration and partnership	On Track
W11	Improved education	On Track
W12	Improve awareness and recognition of significant assets	On Track
W13	Managed water resources	On Track

Note - Contribution from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation through the Regional Estuaries Initiative Program and Water Corp implementing planning and monitoring activities for water security and water use have contributed significantly to the increase in activities supporting the regional strategies water theme.

Biodiversity		
Outcomes (1-5 Years)	Description	Status
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	Behind Schedule
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

Coastal and Marine		
Outcomes (1-5 Years)	Description	Status
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

Land

South 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 2017–2018, 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. The Land Theme was supported by the Land Reference Group who provided technical advice and ensured all activities were appropriate.



Farmland, Esperance. Image: Kylie Fletcher

Southern Soils

Working in partnership with the community, this project achieved 4,932 ha land management practice change (of the 504 ha planned) working with 412 farm entities. Southern Soils prioritised marginal farm land vulnerable to environmental degradation and directly invested into on-ground works to ameliorate these impacts. All demonstration and trial works were associated with the knowledge and skills extension component with a project total of 3,143 people participating at 91 events.

Project achievements include:

- Recognition for Wendy and Peter Bradshaw (Tambellup) as South Coast NRM's 2018 Soil Champions and Stephen and Kerry Frost (Stonemeal Farm, Narrikup) who received the WA Australian Government Excellence in Sustainable Farm Practices and were finalists in the National Australian Government Excellence in Sustainable Farm Practices;
- Southern Soils was able to fund the Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN) to support their farming community to recover from the February 2017 floods. RAIN was able to lever an additional \$547,986 (ex GST) to deliver direct on-ground activities.
- The Wilson Inlet Catchment Committees very well managed Whole Farm Nutrient Mapping and Dung Beetle Program doubled anticipated farmer participation, producing critical farm information whilst also generating savings; and

Climate Action on Farms

In partnership with 16 organisations, Climate Action on Farms engaged 418 land managers across 22 events that increased the capacity of farmers to adapt to a changing climate in partnership with. This was achieved using a series of events, planning meetings, media articles and climate presentations. Topics ranged from climate

change predictions, investment planning, local Government strategy reviews and their capacity to respond to climate related issues, non-wetting soils, soil health, soil carbon, perennials pastures and agricultural adoption options for land managers.

Project achievements include:

- Started the regenerative agriculture discussion in the region by linking climate variation mitigation with agricultural practice change;
- Partnered with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, the Gillamii Centre, Wholes and Goals, Holistic Management Practitioner Group, South East Premium Wheat Growers Association, Fitzgerald Biosphere Group and Aurora Consulting; and,
- Aligned strongly to other Australian Government initiatives delivered by South Coast NRM including Action on the Ground Round 1 and 2 and NRM Planning for Climate Change.



2018 Farmer Field Day in Ravensthorpe. Image: Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network

Optimising Lime

This project enables farmers to make key management decisions to support positive natural resource management and productivity outcomes, explore options to value add to existing local lime resources, enable planners and developers to better consider the supply of raw materials (lime) and explore new business opportunities in the Esperance and Ravensthorpe region. The Optimising Lime project is funded through the Goldfield-Esperance Development Commission.

Project achievements include:

- Produced “NRM Guidelines for Lime Extraction” which informs farmers and potential lime extractors about environmental best practice considerations;
- Produced an interactive online map that links lime supply with land tenure to assist planners and the farming community to effectively plan for future lime supply and
- Worked with the South East Premium Wheat Growers Association with their alternative lime trials.

Biosecurity

The Land team has been involved with the Starlings Monitoring and Rabbit Control Awareness projects in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). 2018 saw an increase in surveillance and capture of Starlings. The distribution and cohort of the captured birds suggested the captured and sighted birds were transient only with no established population of Starlings suspected to be in WA.

A coordinated release of the Calicivirus (RHDV1-K5) was rolled out throughout WA in Spring 2017 and Autumn 2018 with complementary awareness raising activities occurring at the same time. This was a joint managed campaign between South Coast NRM, DPIRD, Regional Biosecurity Groups, Wheatbelt NRM, Northern Agriculture Catchments Council, Katanning Landcare and Wagin Woodanilling Landcare.

Project achievements include:

- Monitoring for Starlings by DPIRD and the Esperance Bird Observers Group is ongoing;
- RHDV1-K5 Calicivirus released at over 50 sites around Western Australia;
- Reduced the rabbit population adjacent to the release sites by approximately 40% (on average). Oats proved more effective than carrots to spread the virus; and
- Raised the awareness of farmers and the community on the importance of doing more than just relying on the virus (warren destruction, shooting etc.)

Looking Forward - Short and medium term goals and activities

- Implementing the new Regional Land Partnerships project to mitigate the effects of Climate Change with the Fitzgerald Biosphere Group, North Stirling Pallinup Natural Resources and the Gillamii Centre;
- Having a dedicated Aboriginal Farming Project Officer placed with the Gillamii Centre to work with Aboriginal farmers;
- Continue managing biosecurity threats; and
- Continue to work with farmers and industry to address soil acidity and other soil threats.

Water

The environmental assets for the Water theme include rivers, wetlands and estuaries along with surface and ground water resources. Recognition for the Water program projects goes to Dylan Gleave (who concluded with South Coast NRM in August) and his team for the successful implementation and completion of these projects.

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

This program supported the community to protect waterway environments including estuaries, rivers and wetlands through the implementation of existing estuary and water asset management plans. This project was successfully completed in June 2018.

In the last year, the program delivered shared outcomes with the Coastal and Marine Theme which include:

- 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;



Wetland Wonders. Image: Angus Spencer

- 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 Group; and
- Education and monitoring activities have continued to be delivered with school children, community groups and individuals including workshops, field days and catchment tours across the region.

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

This program worked 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.

This project was successfully completed in June 2018 and overachieved, delivering rehabilitation works (fencing, revegetation and weed control) in priority areas across 92.4 ha of the Lake Warden and Lake Gore catchments with 391 ha of habitat protected.

Project achievements include:

- Established 39.9 hectares in the Lake Warden catchment and 19.6 hectares in the Lake Gore catchment;
- Implemented 12 kilometres of fencing to protect 391 hectares of remnant vegetation and Ramsar wetland habitat for shorebirds species such as the Hooded Plover;
- A total of 51.4 ha of weed control treatment activities;
- Supported 3 annual Shorebird and Hooded Plover surveys in a partnership with the Esperance Bird Observers Group, Birdlife Australia, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and community volunteers.
- Delivered 39 community events or communication activities engaging the community in the project and raising awareness around the environmental and Ramsar values of the Esperance wetlands; and
- Facilitated a total of 7 indigenous participation opportunities to engage the Aboriginal community and

Aboriginal organisations in the management of the Lake Warden Ramsar wetlands including Wongutha CAPs Aboriginal School, the Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal Rangers in the management of the Esperance Ramsar wetlands.

South Coast Fish Friendly Farms Project

The South Coast Fish Friendly Farms Project partnership included South Coast NRM, Ozfish Unlimited and RecFishWest and aimed to implement two on-farm demonstration sites on the King River (Albany) that highlighted environmental restoration and protection works to help restore ecosystem function for the benefit of native fish and the aquatic environment.

Project achievements include:

- Improved landholder understanding of fish habitat requirements and the impact of land management on fish ecology through 2 community workshops;
- It was shown during the project's events that fish habitat protection and enhancement doesn't need to be expensive, and that the creation of small pockets of high quality habitat can be achieved at a low cost, and contributes significantly to local fish habitat;
- Built capacity within the farming community to assist with the planning and implementation of on-ground works that will benefit the aquatic environment;
- Developed 2 Fish Friendly Farm demonstrations; and
- Communicated project outcomes to natural resource management bodies, government and the fishing community.

Community Engagement, Planning and Implementation of Fish Friendly Farms Program in Yakamia Creek.

This project commenced late 2017 and will engage and educate landholders in the Yakamia Creek catchment to improve community stewardship, water quality and habitat for native fish. Landholders and the community will be engaged in planning the on-ground works through the implementation of the Yakamia Creek Living Stream Management Plan. A series of community workshops will educate residents of the water quality and environmental issues in the catchment. An emphasis is placed on engaging the Aboriginal community to be involved in this project.

The Yakamia Creek project is funded by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation through the WA State Governments Regional Estuaries Initiative and partners with the City of Albany and the Oyster Harbour Catchment Group.

Looking Forward - Short and medium term goals and activities

- To reflect changes in funding going forward in 2018, the Water and Land themes have been amalgamated. This change has seen the disbanding of both of the responsible skills based reference groups which will be reformed as a single representative group;
- Over the next year, implementation of the Australian Governments Regional Land Partnerships Ramsar project at Lake Warden and Lake Muir will commence; and The Land and 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.

David Broadhurst, Program Manager – Land and Water

Cultural Heritage

Recognising Aboriginal peoples' inseparable relationship with country and caring for the environment has enabled the Cultural Heritage theme to create a strong, inclusive partnership with the Noongar/Nyungar community. South Coast NRM and project partners have greatly contributed to the protection and restoration of cultural heritage during 2017/18, enabling Aboriginal people to actively participate in natural resource management and to develop sustainable enterprises. South Coast NRM's Aboriginal Reference Group has continued play an important role in scoping and guiding projects to deliver on the Cultural Heritage outcomes.

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). This project was successfully completed in June 2018. Over the past year Aboriginal people have been engaged in a range of NRM activities to achieve the following:

Engaging Aboriginal people in NRM

- Two Aboriginal engagement training workshops were delivered to project officers using the newly developed Aboriginal Engagement Guidelines;
- A workshop was facilitated with all NRM regional groups in WA to network, share best practice in Aboriginal engagement and propose future collaborative and cross regional projects;
- Dual naming was progressed through research and communication of Noongar place names of landscape features in the western part of the region. Noongar place names and their significance were explored through three workshops with the Noongar community and communicated to the wider community through a weaving project and documentary produced by Aboriginal youth;
- Fourteen cultural awareness events were delivered across the region. An education roadshow involved students from seven schools learning about Noongar culture and caring for country from Noongar educators and Elders. Aboriginal youth participating in the Strong & Proud program were involved in four cultural awareness workshops. During NAIDOC week South Coast NRM staff participated in a cultural awareness workshop with Poornarti Aboriginal Tours and joined the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for a presentation by Kim Scott from the Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project;
- A Noongar family field trip was undertaken at to Lake Pleasant View in partnership with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions staff. The field trip highlighted the recovery works being implemented for EPBC species and opportunities for Aboriginal people to access department-managed lands and waters to carry out customary activities;
- A short video has been produced and uploaded onto South Coast NRM's You Tube page to highlight the Noongar family field trips as a successful engagement strategy;
- Supported the Friends of Porongurup Range to involve the Aboriginal community in the development of the Walitj Meil Walk Trail interpretive panels in the Porongurup National Park; and
- South Coast NRM continued to support the Traditional Owner representatives from the Wirlomin Language Group to identify and reconnect a storyline to country.

Sustainable Indigenous Enterprises

- Two cultural tour guide training events took place that involved the basics of what makes a good tour and incorporated the collection of bush foods involving a local Aboriginal tour operator and a contemporary chef;
- Four new Aboriginal enterprises based on NRM were supported through three planning workshops;

- A report has been prepared to discuss the work done by South Coast NRM in promoting and supporting Aboriginal enterprise over the life of this sub project. The report documents the activities undertaken, discusses the results in relation to expected outcomes of this project and provides recommendations to continue to support the development of Aboriginal enterprises in the South Coast region;
- The Aboriginal school Based trainee has continued her course work in a Certificate II in Business which will be completed in October 2018; and
- South Coast NRM's cultural project officer presented a paper on the work in developing Indigenous enterprises on the south coast at the State NRM and Coastal Conference in August 2017.



Cultural tour guide training. Image: South Coast NRM

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

This project built the capacity and capability of Aboriginal people to actively participate in natural resource management by providing governance support, training, career pathways and building relationships and partnerships with land managers.

- Governance support has commenced with the Gnowangerup Aboriginal Corporation to reinvigorate this group and explore opportunities for caring for country. Separate men's and women's meetings were held to develop an overarching strategy for a way forward and to plan an Annual General Meeting, followed by governance training for newly elected committee members;
- State Government representatives were invited to Albany in April 2018 to discuss the State Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy which begins in July 2018; and
- Two Noongar Family Field Trips were held with 32 Aboriginal people attending. The first field trip was held in conjunction with GreenSkills and PF Olsen at Balijup Fauna Sanctuary and a PF Olsen managed property in the Porongurups. The second field trip was held at Twin Creeks Community Conservation Reserve in partnership with Friends of the Porongurup Range, Oyster Harbour Catchment Group and Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.

Aboriginal Green Army Teams

The two Aboriginal Green Army teams based in Albany and Esperance were supported to build their skills and knowledge while delivering on a number of environmental projects to protect and restore cultural heritage sites and implement recovery plans for EPBC listed species for South Coast NRM and their partners. The eleven participants completed 12 months of work and a number of online units for their Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management. The Albany participants have transitioned into a South Coast NRM coastal works team to continue to deliver projects aimed at protection of habitat for EPBC listed species at five locations.



Esperance Green Army Team at West Beach. Image: South Coast NRM

Strong & Proud Wumbudin koul-ye-rah after school recreation program

The Strong & Proud program was successfully over two school Semesters and involved 40 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, Restoring Connections project and Cultural Connections project. South Coast NRM's cultural project officer presented a synopsis of this successful Aboriginal youth engagement program at the State NRM and Coastal Conference in August 2017.

Noongar Kaartdijin in Schools

The Noongar Kaartdijin in Schools program funded by the Commonwealth Bank and delivered in partnership with the Department of Education and Noongar Elders was launched in September 2017. The program facilitated Noongar Elders and educators to 13 visit schools and involve 894 students in incursions and excursions, sharing personal history, bush foods and medicine, artefacts, creation stories, sites of significance and Noongar respect for the environment.



Strong and Proud, after school recreation program. Image: South Coast NRM

Looking Forward - Short and medium term goals and activities

- Implementing the new Regional Land Partnerships projects to involve the Aboriginal community in recovery actions for EPBC species and Threatened Ecological Communities and protection activities for the Ramsar Wetlands in the east of the region as well as supporting Aboriginal farmers to review property plans and implement farm trials.
- Continue to build the capacity and capability of Aboriginal people to actively participate in NRM by providing governance support, training, career pathways, build relationships and partnerships with land managers and develop and seek funding for community led projects.
- Continue to deliver training and support for NRM officers to use the Aboriginal Engagement Guide to improve Aboriginal engagement in NRM projects.
- Support Aboriginal Corporations with Aboriginal Rangers groups.
- Continue to support and engage Aboriginal youth through the Strong & Proud program, seek more sustainable funding for the program and consider ways to expand the program to other areas of the region.
- Continue to deliver the Noongar Kaartdijn in Schools to support schools with cultural awareness and connecting to their Aboriginal communities.
- Continue to support the Aboriginal community dual naming in our region.

Regional Capacity

The regional capacity program has successfully completed 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 along with the Regional Landcare Facilitator project. The two State NRM funded projects, *'Increasing capability and resilience of the south coast NRM community'* and *'NRM volunteer management - achieving on ground outcomes in Esperance'* projects have progressed well and are nearing completion.

Youth and school engagement and education

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 and these included:

- A partnership with the Great Southern Science Council to deliver 'Science Rocks', a science career forum for year 10 students. The event was well attended by 90 students, exposing them to the wide array of career choices in STEM industries;
- The Regional Landcare Facilitator delivered the annual Capture Nature photographic competition to engage youth and increase awareness of, and appreciation for, our natural assets in the south coast region. This year's Capture Nature competition was a huge success with over 100 entries received and exhibited in Albany and Esperance;
- The youth photography workshop coincided with the Capture Nature competition and provided a forum for youth to learn more about nature photography and an opportunity to capture nature images of their own;
- Delivery of Catchments, Corridors and Coasts training for environmental educators in Albany in April 2018. A total of 11 teachers participated in the two day training event which covered a range of topics including biodiversity, threatened species, marine plastics, waste and recycling, Noongar/Nyungar culture and citizen science programs;
- The education roadshow continues to be an effective initiative to increase awareness, knowledge and skills of educators and students; and
- A range of education activities were delivered to promote the natural resources in the Esperance region and build the capacity of teachers. These included excursions to Lake Monjingup to investigate birds, weed removal, bird and flora surveys and quenda monitoring.



Students at Kendenup Primary School take part in a workshop funded by the Regional Landcare Facilitator Community Small Grants

Small Grants Program

Two Rounds of the Regional Landcare Facilitator's Community Small Grants were delivered to assist local community groups and educational organisations to achieve on ground outcomes.

A total of 52 expressions of interests were received for Landcare projects and 31 of these projects were funded. A range of not-for-profit organisations received this funding including schools, Bushcarer groups, environmental centres, community gardens and conservation associations to deliver projects and events including weed control busy bees, pest animal control events, recycling workshops, flora surveys, wildflower identification tours, a dieback control trial and introducing students to the concept of biodiversity and vegetation types. These grants have continued to grow in popularity throughout the course of this program and generate significant in-kind contributions.

Community Capacity, Governance and Volunteers

The Regional Capacity Program has continued to focus on workshops and training events for NRM staff, community group members and volunteers. Additional funding through the WA State NRM Program has provided extra support for governance, increasing skills of volunteers and professional development of NRM project officers. Surveys of community groups and volunteers has directly informed the delivery of skill training and knowledge awareness events supporting the community undertaking NRM activities.

The 7 sub-regional groups and 6 additional groups, have continued to be supported through financial assistance, training and NRM network support. This includes the biannual NRM project officer and sub-regional groups chair's meeting, which incorporate skills development and professional development training.

The 'Increasing capability and resilience of the south coast NRM community' project provided direct support and access to skills development for volunteers and committees to improve their governance, capability, resilience and longevity.

The project has:

- Delivered 9 additional training events which included 3 governance and 6 project management events including social media, project management and grant writing training;
- Engaged a lawyer to create templates and checklists for NRM community groups to update their constitutions to supplement the governance training;
- Assisted NRM community groups to develop products with longevity that can be used for marketing, promotion and awareness raising purposes such as brochures, banners and websites. There has been a very positive response with 13 NRM community groups assisted to develop 20 different media products;
- Supported 13 NRM community groups to access professional development through provision of 19 small grants; and
- Engaged a consultant to develop a social media toolkit tailored to NRM groups.

The '*NRM volunteer management - achieving on ground outcomes in Esperance*' project has provided support to community groups to increase their skills and understanding how to recruit, manage and coordinate volunteers including how to attract new volunteers from all age groups and future proof their organisations by attracting young volunteers. A volunteer management guide has been developed which includes case studies and training is planned for October 2018. Six key engagement activities have been delivered; the Birds and Bikes bird watching tour of Esperance, National Student Volunteer Week excursion with Esperance Senior High School and Esperance

Anglican Community School students; volunteer NRM groups project display at both the Esperance Anglican Wildflower Show and Esperance and Districts Agricultural Show; shorebird identification training which coincided with the annual shorebird survey; and cultural awareness training.

Social Media and Communication

South Coast NRM has continued to build communication with community and stakeholders through social media, fortnightly newsletters to 600 subscribers, media releases and developing a new website ready to be launched in November 2018. The calendar of events hosted on the South Coast NRM website has continued to be updated, providing a single reference point for all upcoming Landcare activities in the South Coast region.

Improving the social media presence of South Coast NRM has been a key priority as social media represents a great way of promoting the Landcare message. A social media strategy for the organisation has been developed and associated social media training provided to staff. Subsequent social media campaigns linked to National and International days of significance has been well received.



Social Media Training Session in Jerramungup. Image: South Coast NRM

Looking Forward - Short and medium term goals and activities

- Maintain strong partnerships and support sub-regional NRM groups, community groups, volunteers and organisations undertake NRM community engagement throughout the region.
- Continue to provide targeted training to increase skills and capacity of community groups and NRM professionals.
- Continue to engage youth and schools in NRM through 'Science Rocks' and other engagement activities.
- Continue to explore opportunities to support and enhance environmental and NRM education programs in schools.
- Identify, support and promote sustainable practices for the south coast community.
- Continue to strengthen communication with community and stakeholders through social media, fortnightly educational newsletters, media releases, calendar of events and website.
- Support the integration of regional capacity outcomes across the four biophysical themes.

Karen Herlihy, Program Manager – Sustainable Communities

Coastal and Marine

We would like to publically acknowledge the efforts of Dylan Gleave (who concluded with South Coast NRM in August), as the Coastal and Marine Program Leader, and his team for the significant work Dylan has achieved through South Coast NRN over the last decade, in working with partner organisations to improve coastal and marine investment and management across the region.



Back Beach, Denmark. Image: South Coast NRM

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

This project that completed in June 2018, has helped to restore, maintain and protect ecosystem functions to coastal systems in priority areas of the regions coastal corridor. The project has restored and protected coastal environments and waterways across 139.8 ha through fencing, erosion management, and revegetation and weed control protecting 524 ha of coastal corridor environments.

Project achievements include:

- Remnant vegetation and coastal dune environments have been protected by implementing 42.2 km of fencing, and 32 erosion control projects over 60.3 ha using the south coast macro-corridor network priority zones. South Coast NRM directly implement project works across the region with project partners, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservations and Attractions (DBCA) and the 5 member coastal local governments of the South Coast Management Group (SCMG).
- A total of 46.4 hectares of revegetation activities was delivered to improve the connectivity of the coastal corridor.
- The Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee has implemented 55 ha follow-up weed treatment activities to

protect wetland and waterways in the Wilson Inlet catchment in a partnership with the Denmark Weed Action Group (DWAG), GreenSkills and the Denmark Green Army Team.

- South Coast NRM and the South Coast Management Group prioritised the management of recreational impacts in coastal areas, with funding from CoastWest and in partnership with local governments; this included improving the management off road vehicle access and coastal campsites. Activities included on-ground management actions, community workshops, reprinting of Code-Offroad brochures and technical support to land managers.
- The Lake Warden and Lake Gore Ramsar sub-project has helped to maintain or enhance the ecological character of Ramsar sites by delivering rehabilitation works (fencing, revegetation and weed control) in priority areas across 92.4 ha of the Lake Warden and Lake Gore catchments with 391 ha of habitat protected.
- The project has supported 3 annual Shorebird and Hooded Plover surveys in a partnership with the Esperance Bird Observers Group, Birdlife Australia, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and community volunteers
- The project also worked closely with the Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC) Aboriginal Rangers to implement coastal projects to protect coastal environments and cultural sites in the Esperance coastal corridor. The South Coast NRM Coastal Team and the Aboriginal Green Army Team through the employment of Aboriginal people provided an opportunity for Aboriginal people, including youth, to be involved in the protection and rehabilitation of coastal environments.

The South Coast Management Group (SCMG) in partnership with South Coast NRM has continued to implement Southern Shores 2009-2030. South Coast NRM values the long-term partnership with SCMG and looks forward to continue working closely with regional representative group into the future.

Code Off-road

trip preparation

- ▶ All compressor / tire gauge
- ▶ Recovery kit
- ▶ Fuel / water / first aid kit
- ▶ Off-road tyres / tracks

track care

- ▶ Induce tyre pressure
- ▶ Engage 4WD
- ▶ Stay on track

Don't let this be you!

site care

- ▶ Avoid damage to plants
- ▶ Don't spread weeds and disease
- ▶ Observe for restrictions
- ▶ Service your rubbish
- ▶ Respect wildlife and habitat

Watch for wildlife and people
Drive slowly and enjoy!

SHELTER ISLAND

Shelter Island is 20km due west of Albany and is often referred to as Muttonbird Island.

The island is 10 ha in area and approximately 130m from Muttonbird Beach separated by a channel. It was declared a Class 1A Nature Reserve in 1973 for conservation of flora and fauna.

Shelter Island supports breeding populations of Flesh-footed Shearwaters (*Ardenna carneipes*) and Little Penguins (*Eudyptula minor*).

DISEASE RISK AREA STAY ON THE ROAD

Phytophthora dieback disease is killing our native plants. Many native plants in W.A. are threatened by this disease. Vehicles and horses can pick up infected soil and spread the disease. Help stop the rot and **STAY ON THE ROADS**. www.dieback.org.au

Code Off Road Sign, created in consultation with City of Albany & South Coast Management Group

Coastal planning with local governments

South Coast NRM has continued previous year's projects to develop coastal site planning with local government, for infrastructure upgrades and improved management of coastal recreational hotspots. The Shire of Esperance engaged South Coast NRM to develop the Dempster Head Management Plan 2018, which included a flora and Dieback survey of the site. This was undertaken internally through existing staff.

Biodiversity

We would like to publically acknowledge the efforts of Karl Hanson (who concluded with South Coast NRM in October), as the Biodiversity Program Leader and his teams for the significant work with partner organisations to improve biodiversity conservation efforts across the region.

Implementing recovery actions to protect South Coast ecosystems and EPBC species

This 3 year Australian Government National Landcare program project was successfully completed, with the outcome of implementing recovery actions to protect South Coast ecosystems and EPBC species.

Project achievements include:

- Remnant vegetation has been protected by implementing 210.4 km fencing in the south coast macro corridor network. Six sub regional community groups have partnered with South Coast NRM to deliver projects in priority areas of the south coast macro corridors, achieving increased protection of remnant vegetation on private land;
- Connectivity of fragmented landscapes has been improved through 191.9 ha of strategic revegetation in priority areas using local provenance biodiverse species;
- Invasive weed species were controlled over 691 ha, to protect priority assets identified in the Regional Invasive Species Framework (2014). This comprises 415.6 ha of initial treatment for African boxthorn, Gorse, Sydney Golden Wattle and Blackberry, and 275.4 ha of follow up for all species;
- Invasive pest animal, fox and feral pig control and monitoring was undertaken over 71,500 ha to protect EPBC species and ecosystems including the Lake Muir Unicup RAMSAR wetlands. The Lake Muir Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group completed 5,000 ha survey for feral pig activity during each year of the project, and culled 134 feral pigs during this time. Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) partnered with South Coast NRM to survey and monitor for feral pigs over 15,500 ha during year 1 of the project. The Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee completed fox control activities over 13,500 ha during each year of the project, culling 440 foxes during community fox shoots;
- Dieback management activities across 15,627 ha have been implemented in Priority Protection Areas across the south coast region to protect EPBC, Kwongan TEC communities and species and to protect floral values of the Ravensthorpe Ranges, and the Stirling Range National Park. Also, 127 ha of dieback susceptible vegetation was protected by aerial phosphite application in the Dieback Priority Protection Areas in the Stirling Ranges. Further activity to reduce the spread of Dieback infestation saw the upgrade of 700 metres of track and firebreak in the north-west corner of the Stirling Range, to protect a native vegetation cell of 10,000 hectares. 5,500 ha of EPBC flora and fauna assemblages were protected in the Ravensthorpe Range infrastructure improvement project during 2015-16 with drainage works and access control to limit surface water erosion and subsequent spread of disease;
- Recovery actions for EPBC species include survey and monitoring of 6 EPBC fauna, over 145 ha. These species included Gilbert's potoroo, Western ground parrot, Western ring-tail possum, Dibbler, Noisy Scrub-bird and the Black-flanked Rock Wallaby, in partnership with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and attractions;
- Threatened flora recovery actions included 32 species being monitored over approximately 200 ha, and seed was collected from 20 species; and
- The project facilitated the regional Biodiversity Reference Group, which met three times per year during the project. This group is a think tank providing strategic support for this project, and helps South Coast NRM develop and evaluate projects to achieve regional biodiversity outcomes. We would like to thank all members of the group, and in particular Chair Nathan McQuoid, for their significant contributions.



Dieback signage. Image: S Toole

State NRM Project Dieback

South Coast NRM has continued to be a lead organisation within the State for managing Phytophthora Dieback.

Project achievements include:

- Continued maintenance and improvement of DIDMS, a state-wide online Dieback information portal, with now 320 registered users;
- Delivering, in partnership with Dieback Working group, Green Card Training within the region;
- Delivery of the South Coast Phytophthora Dieback Forum (SCPDF) was well received by the 73 participants, with 2 practical workshops;
- Continued membership and active participation of both the State Dieback Steering Group and Dieback Working group at a State level; and
- Development of 10 GIS online training videos, increasing community capacity to manage GIS data and facilitate better planning and management decisions relating to Dieback.

Fire and Biodiversity Forum

Of highlight was the Fire and Biodiversity Forum, with Chris Ferriera and the City of Albany, delivering to 56 participant's considerations for managing fire and fuel loads on private property. Following the interest in this workshop South Coast NRM has published a Fire and Biodiversity Landholder guide to help landholders and managers apply practical measures that balance managing bush fire risk with protection of the biodiversity values on their land.

Renomination of the Fitzgerald Biosphere

A major highlight of the year for our region was the successful renomination of the Fitzgerald Biosphere under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisations (UNESCO) global Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB). A series of events were held in March 2018 to celebrate both its forty-year anniversary and the ongoing listing through a community driven partnership of stakeholders. South Coast NRM is proud to be a member organisation, now called the Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective.

To reflect changes in funding going forward, all Biodiversity and Coastal and Marine projects will be managed under the Healthy Environment Theme. Similarly Biodiversity and Coastal and Marine Reference Groups will be amalgamated as a single skills-based representative group. An expression of interest will be called in early 2019.



South Coast NRM team member Karl Hansom presenting at a Fire and Biodiversity Workshop. Image: South Coast NRM

Looking Forward - Over the next year implementation of the Australian Governments Regional Land Partnerships will occur through two projects, which are:

- Exploring new opportunities for improving the status of 20/20 priority listed threatened species in the South Coast Region Management Unit, bringing scientists, Indigenous people and NRM community together to protect threatened species;
- Protecting coastal corridors and improving the condition of Proteaceae dominated Kwongkan Shrub land and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) in the South Coast Region of Western Australia; and
- The Healthy Environments program will continue to seek additional investment through funding, project partnerships and collaboration across the region to improve the management of biodiversity assets and community values.

Brett Dal Pozzo, Program Manager – Healthy Communities

Staff and Board Members

2017- 2018

Chief Executive Officer

Justin Bellanger

Senior Management Team

Joanne Headlam

Penni Hewett

Administration Team

Angela Sofoulis

Barb Henderson

Gregory Henderson

Rachel Matthews

Michelle Joyce

Brett Roelofsen

Theresa Air

Christine Painter

Linda Kohlen

Monitoring and Evaluation

Ray Chilton

Board of Management

Non-Executive Directors

Alex Gavranich

Andrew Bathgate

Bill Hollingworth*

Carolyn Daniel (Chair)

Helen Tasker

Joanne Gilbert

Stephen Frost

Executive Director

Justin Bellanger

Biodiversity Team Members

Karl Hansom

Elissa Forbes

Tilo Massenbauer

Rosie Smith

Meredith Spencer

Coastal, Marine and Water

Team Members

Robyn Cail

Brett Dal Pozzo

Claudia Magana

Dylan Gleave

Kevin Reynolds

Bryn Warnock

Cultural Team Members

Karen Herlihy

Geoffrey Dean

Graeme Simpson

Christopher Spurr

Sheyann Tidswell

Land Team Members

David Broadhurst

Kaylene Parker

Liz Tanner

Kanako Tomita

Regional Capacity Team Members

Kylie Fletcher

Sally Forbes

Caitlin Jackson

Letisha Newman

Spatial Information

Nicholas Middleton

South Coast NRM also acknowledges the great contribution of numerous casual project staff.

*Term of office concluded during 17/18

Project Partners

2017- 2018

Albany Community Environment Centre

Albany Farm Tree Nursery

Albany Heritage Reference Group

Aboriginal

Corporation

Albany Senior High School

ATC WorkSmart

Australian Association for

Environmental

Education

Bevelin Holdings Pty Ltd

Birdlife Australia

Blackboy Hill Farms

Bush Heritage Australia

Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource

Management

City of Albany

Clear South Project Management

Cliffs Natural Resources

Community Arts Network of WA Ltd

Consulting Great Southern

Curtin University

D & T Parker

Denmark Weed Action Group

Department of Planning, Lands and

Heritage

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation

&

Attractions

Department of Education

Department of Local Government, Sport &

Cultural Industries

Department of Primary Industries

and

Regional Development

Department of Water and

Environmental

Regulation

Dieback Working Group

Dr Moira Maley - Education

Consulting

Dujimerrup Twonkup Aboriginal

Corporation

Earthrise Productions

Esperance Bird Observer Group

Esperance Farm Trees

Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title

Aboriginal Corporation

Esperance Nyungar Aboriginal Corporation

Esperance Primary School

Esperance Regional Forum

Esperance Senior High School Bush Rangers	Lake Muir Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group	Association
Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation	Little Grove Primary School	South West Catchments Council Inc.
Esperance Weeds Action Group	Lomax Media Pty Ltd	Southern Aboriginal Corporation
Fitzgerald Biosphere Group Inc.	Malleefowl Preservation Group	Southern Rush 353 Nursery
Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective	Mallee Rise Pty Ltd	Strike Point
Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park	Meat and Livestock Australia	Stirlings to Coast Farmers
Friends of the Porongurup Range	Museum of the Great Southern	Synergy Graphics
Friends of the Western Ground Parrot	Noongar Land Enterprise Group	The Nature Conservancy
Friends of Yakamia Creek	North Albany Senior High School Northern Agricultural Catchments Council Inc.	Torbay Catchment Group Inc.
G & C Higham	North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources Inc.	The Rotary Club of Esperance Bay Inc.
G & J Woodall Family Trust	Open Copy	University of WA
Gillamii Centre	Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School, Esperance	Vancouver Arts Centre
Gnoweran Spraying Services	Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Inc.	WA Landcare Network Inc.
Gondwana Link Limited	PF Olsen Australia	Wanslea Family Services Wagin
Great Southern Grammar	Poornarti Aboriginal Tours	Woodanilling Landcare Zone Inc.
South Regional TAFE	Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network	W & C Walter Pty Ltd
Great Southern Science Council Green Skills Inc.	RW & SA Sullivan	WA Museum Albany
Greening Australia WA	Scitech	West Australian Indigenous Tourism
Inside Infrastructure	SDF Global Pty Ltd	Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc.
J & P Daniel	Shire of Denmark	Wildsouth Pty Ltd Wild Things
Jode Nursery	Shire of Esperance	Animal Control Solutions Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee Inc.
Katanning Land Conservation District Committee	Shire of Jerramungup	Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project
Keston Technologies	Shire of Plantagenet	Wirrpanda Foundation Resource Centre
LA One Economics and Consulting	Shire of Ravensthorpe	
	South Coast Management Group	
	South East Premium Wheat Growers	

Funding Partners

2017- 2018

- Australian Government – Department of the Environment
- Australian Government - Department of Industry, Innovation & Science
- Australian Government – Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
- State NRM Program WA
- Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development
- Department of Water & Environmental Regulation
- Great Southern Development Commission
- Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission
- Commonwealth Bank (Community Grants Program)
- West Australian Planning Commission (CoastWest)
- Private Landholders
- Donors



Special Purpose Financial Report
For The Year Ended 30 June 2018

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Corporate Information

ABN 43 781 945 884

Directors

Carolyn Daniel (Chair)
Justin Bellanger
Stephen Frost (Deputy Chair)
Joanne Gilbert
Helen Tasker
Alexander Gavranich
Andrew Bathgate

Registered office and principal place of business

88-90 Stead Road
Albany WA 6330

Contact details

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

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 2018 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
Chair

Dated this 18th day of September 2018

Statement of Financial Position
For the year ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
NAB Corporate Cheque Account		2,976,832	-
NAB Business Cash Maxi		63,646	-
Bendigo Cash Man Trading Account		-	154,800
Bendigo Social Investment		-	1,226,971
Bendigo Donation Fund		-	27,997
Bendigo Term Deposit		-	1,000,000
Bendigo Term Deposit		-	1,000,000
Petty Cash		101	463
Woolworths Card		196	350
Rental Bond		27,892	-
Accounts Receivable		214,237	149,170
Prepaid Expenses		16,436	29,045
Accrued Income		2,500	9,723
Total Current Assets		3,301,840	3,598,519
Non-Current Assets			
Plant & Equipment at Cost		78,130	78,130
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(78,130)	(78,130)
Total Plant & Equipment		-	-
Vehicles at Cost		138,263	138,263
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		(138,263)	(138,263)
Total Vehicles		-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		-	-
Total Assets		3,301,840	3,598,519

Statement of Financial Position
For the year ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Credit Cards		-	7,828
GST Collected		34,732	43,818
GST Paid		(70,726)	(53,094)
PAYG Payable		46,028	76,150
Workers Comp Insurance		-	-
Superannuation Contributions		20,332	32,429
Prepaid Revenue		63,909	15,000
Committed Project Funds	2	433,361	1,114,567
Provision for Long Service Leave		418,178	348,321
Provision for Annual Leave		139,694	118,601
Provision for Parental Leave		13,039	62,501
Provision for Employment Costs		22,262	-
Accrued Expenses		381,370	144,098
Trade Creditors		105,757	30,951
Total Current Liabilities		1,607,936	1,941,170
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provision for Long Service Leave		17,222	61,366
Provision for Parental Leave		31,126	57,481
Total Non-Current Liabilities		48,348	118,847
Total Liabilities		1,656,284	2,060,017
Net Assets		1,645,556	1,538,502
Equity			
Retained Earnings		1,538,502	1,417,464
Current Earnings		107,054	121,038
Total Equity		1,645,556	1,538,502

The accompanying notes for part of these financial statements.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Income		
Aust Govt Funding	3,691,120	3,768,081
State Funding	442,986	287,355
Credit Interest	49,618	76,002
Donations	26,095	3,225
Other Project Income	339,094	356,505
Rental Income	13,039	10,875
Membership Fees	630	892
Gain on Sale of Assets	2,717	-
Recoupments	19,477	39,819
Rebates	43,171	-
Conference Room Hire Fees	545	773
Private Works Income	272,893	205,533
Funds Transferred to Provision	(4,527,943)	(4,473,551)
Total Income	373,442	275,509
Expenses		
Contracts		
External Service Delivery	1,405,594	1,241,228
Equipment Purchases	26,996	9,953
Miscellaneous Project Expenses	435,500	319,373
Project Delivery Materials	31,599	28,102
Promotions & Sponsorships	41,066	19,126
Reference Group Costs	24,939	34,580
Travel Expenses	46,758	64,203
Workshop Costs	104,443	107,022
Returned Funds	24,393	-
Program Managers and Project Officers	2,564,362	2,186,325
Total Contracts	4,705,650	4,009,912
Administration Staff		
Wages & Salaries	369,479	393,897
Superannuation	33,193	37,164
Professional Development	17,463	10,049
Costs of Employment	2,643	7,437
Vehicle Fees	9,961	13,113
Workers Comp Insurance	1,959	1,775
Accrued Leave	(8,297)	(4,324)
Total Administration Staff	426,401	459,111

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Operating		
Office	213,975	184,543
Motor Vehicle	172	-
Consultancy	11,629	29,410
Depreciation	-	820
Travel	14,512	17,641
Sitting Fees	10,542	20,139
Other Expenses	60,840	31,721
Promotions	16,226	9,004
Catering	9,542	11,965
Audit & Accounting	6,048	14,144
Total Operating	343,486	319,387
Non-Operating Expenses		
Provision for Committed Project Funds	(5,209,149)	(4,633,939)
Total Non-Operating Expenses	(5,209,149)	(4,633,939)
Total Expenses	266,388	154,471
Net Surplus for the Year	107,054	121,038
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income For The Year	107,054	121,038

The accompanying notes for part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<hr/>		
EQUITY		
Balance at Beginning of Year	1,538,502	1,417,464
Total Comprehensive Income For The Year	107,054	121,038
Balance at End of Year	<u>1,645,556</u>	<u>1,538,502</u>

The accompanying notes for part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers and grants		4,784,200	4,563,681
Interest Received		59,341	89,024
Payments to Employees		(2,996,045)	(2,575,970)
Payments to Suppliers		(2,217,303)	(2,424,422)
Net Cash Flows Used in Operating Activities	B	<u>(369,807)</u>	<u>(347,687)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
		-	-
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
		-	-
NET DECREASE IN CASH HELD		<u>(369,807)</u>	<u>(347,687)</u>
Cash at the Beginning of the Year		3,410,582	3,758,269
Cash at the End of the Year	A	<u>3,040,775</u>	<u>3,410,582</u>
A) RECONCILIATION OF CASH AT THE END OF THE YEAR			
NAB Corporate Cheque Account		2,976,832	-
NAB Business Cash Maxi		63,646	-
Cash Management		-	154,800
Social Investment		-	1,226,971
Donation Fund		-	27,997
Term Deposit		-	2,000,000
Petty Cash		101	464
Debit Card		196	350
Cash at the end of the Year		<u>3,040,775</u>	<u>3,410,582</u>
B) RECONCILIATION OF CASH FROM OPERATIONS WITH OPERATING RESULT			
Operating Surplus		107,054	121,038
Adjustment for Non-Cash Item:			
Depreciation		-	820
Changes in Assets/Liabilities			
(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts and Other Receivable		(73,127)	(103,395)
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts and Other Payable		306,484	(275,226)
Increase/(Decrease) in Committed Project Funds		(681,207)	(160,390)
Increase/(Decrease) in Provision for Employee Benefits		(29,011)	69,466
Net Cash Flows Used in Operating Activities		<u>(369,807)</u>	<u>(347,687)</u>

The accompanying notes for part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members to fulfill the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc's 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

c. Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

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%

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 to 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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.

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 2018

NOTE 2 - Committed Project Funds

Grant/Contribution	Opening 1-Jul-17	Received 2017-18	Expended 2017-18	Closing 30-Jun-18
Action on the Ground 2	2,875	-	2,875	-
Albany Regional Hebarium	4	-	-	4
Biodiversity Fund - Coastscapes	-	(16,330)	(16,330)	-
Building Better Regions Funds	-	-	21,294	(21,294)
Community Capability Grants - Dieback	19,437	184,668	138,602	65,503
Community Capability Grants - Increasing Capability	37,730	90,006	89,986	37,750
Community Capability Grants - Volunteer Mgt	11,825	67,600	52,596	26,829
Community Capability Grants - Restoring Connections	15,209	105,332	70,126	50,415
DGR Fund	27,996	36,131	5,528	58,599
National Landcare Program	729,249	3,733,846	4,443,913	19,182
NRMWA	74,550	109,000	169,638	13,912
Other Grants	195,692	214,690	227,921	182,461
State Dieback	-	3,000	3,000	-
Total	1,114,567	4,527,943	5,209,149	433,361



Anderson Munro & Wyllie

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, REGISTERED COMPANY
AUDITORS AND REGISTERED SMSF AUDITORS

Postal Address:

PO Box 229, JOONDALUP DC WA 6919

P: 1300 284 330

E: reception@amwaudit.com.au

ABN 59 125 425 274

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 2018 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 18th day of September 2018

Perth, WA



Anderson Munro & Wyllie

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' 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 2018, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, 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 18th day of September 2018



South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.
88 Stead Road
ALBANY WA 6330

Telephone: 08 9845 8537
Fax: 08 9845 8538
Email: info@southcoastnrm.com.au
Website: www.southcoastnrm.com.au

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