



Interested in having input into where investments in biodiversity, coastal and marine management are made with the region? Our investment is guided by a reference group of community representatives.

Regional Context

The South Coast region of Western Australia is biodiversity hotspot. Within our region there are 5,472 known flora taxa, 694 of which are endemic to the region. With 1,000 kilometres of coastline, with about 70% in conservation estate. This almost continuous strip of intact coastal native vegetation provides a linkage to high conservation areas that includes Fitzgerald River National Park, Cape Arid and Tow Peoples Bay Nature Reserve representing important refuge for a number of threatened fauna species, endemic to the South Coast. These include the Gilbert's potoroo, the dibbler, western ground parrot and Australasian Bittern.

Our biodiversity within the region plays an important role for tourism, recreation, cultural significance and economically.

What does a Reference Group do?

Reference Groups provide a critical link between our work and our community by identifying local community issues, concerns and activities related to sustainable agriculture, water and natural resource management.

South Coast NRM utilises Reference Groups to provide recommendations and advice to Program Areas and the Board on the development, implementation and review of programs contributing to the South Coast Regional Strategy for natural resource management (Southern Prospects 2019 – 2024).

What are the goals of the Healthy Environments Reference Group?

Guided by Southern Prospect 2019 – 2024, the Healthy Environments Reference Group will focus on protecting and nurturing natural ecosystems, habitats and landscapes enabling them to support viable and strongly resilient populations of native species and communities and improving coastal and marine systems by reducing key threats through a community-led approach that embraces social, cultural, economic and ecological values.

How will the Healthy Environments Reference Group achieve this?

This group will play an important role in providing technical and strategic recommendations in the following areas:

- * Improving biodiversity outcomes
- * Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- * Protecting threatened species and habitats
- * Landscape restoration
- * Reducing impact of invasive species
- * Supporting appropriate fire management
- * Improving coastal and marine systems
- * Improving coastal and marine partnerships and planning
- * Improving community involvement in biodiversity, coastal and marine management

What's involved?

Reference Groups are made up of 5 to 10 members, and will meet at least 3 times per year to:

- * Provide technical advice on new and existing projects, and suggest innovative and efficient approaches to delivery;
- * Provide a community perspective;
- * Develop activities for funding by the NRM Investment Plan (aligned to Southern Prospects 2019-2024);
- * Help review and monitor program activities; and
- * Provide strategic direction and insight to our Board.

Membership is for two years, and sitting fees are paid for each meeting attended. Each group will elect a Chair who will work with our team to organise and prepare for each meeting, including designing the agenda and disseminating and relevant reports to members prior to the meeting. If you are unable to attend a meeting you can nominate a proxy, and from time to time your feedback on certain items might be sought out of session.

Who can be apply to be part of a Reference Group?

Anyone in our local community who has an understanding and knowledge that they can contribute to the Healthy Environments Reference Group. Membership is also open to staff from any relevant agency, authority, commission or non-government organisation that can bring expertise to the group. As a reference group member, you should bring an understanding of the social, ecological, cultural and economic complexities to biodiversity and coastal and marine management.

We are currently holding an expression of interest process closing Sunday 19th February 2019.

For information on how to apply to be a part of the South Coast NRM Healthy Environments Reference Group, head to our website:

<https://southcoastnrm.com.au/who-we-are/vacancies>

For further information about this Reference Group or the expression of interest process, please contact:

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Image: Isaac Dobbe

