



Image: Kylie Fletcher

Interested in having your say on where investments in natural resource management projects in the south east coast region are made? Our investments are guided by a group of community representatives and industry experts.

Regional Context

The south east coast region includes the shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe and covers more than 5.6 million hectares.

This corner of the South West Biodiversity Hotspot is home to a range of environmentally significant areas including the Lake Warden and Lake Gore Ramsar wetlands, the Ravensthorpe Range and the Fitzgerald River National Park. Primary production and mining contribute strongly to the area's economy.

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 South East Reference Group?

Guided by Southern Prospect 2019 – 2024, the South East Reference Group will address outcomes across all strategic areas; regional capacity, cultural heritage, land, water, biodiversity and coastal & marine, focusing on the Ravensthorpe and Esperance regions.

How will the South East Reference Group achieve this?

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

- * Building healthy, resilient and sustainable communities with a strong 'sense of place' and acceptance of a shared responsibility to provide a legacy of healthy natural environments for future generations;
- * Improving and protecting land resource through sustainable land use, matched to land capability;
- * Protecting and improving natural ecosystems, habitats and landscapes so they can support viable and resilient populations of native species and communities;
- * Maintaining, restoring and protecting rivers, estuaries, wetlands and water resources;
- * Improving coastal and marine systems by reducing key threats through community-led approaches; and
- * Recognising, respecting and considering Aboriginal practices, spiritual and cultural values across all NRM themes to support conservation and protection of the environment.

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, chairing the reference group meetings and disseminating 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 South East Reference Group, and can attend meetings in or near to Esperance. 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 natural resource management.

We are currently holding an expression of interest process closing Sunday 17th February 2019. For information on how to apply to be a part of the South Coast NRM South East 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: Tilo Massenbauer

