

SOUTHERN PROSPECTS

2019-2024



*looking after where we live
communities caring for their environment*

The South Coast Regional Strategy
for Natural Resource Management



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Acknowledgements

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Justin Bellanger

Chief Executive Officer 2018

South Coast Natural Resource Management
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chair's foreword

It is with great pleasure that South Coast Natural Resource Management presents the revised Southern Prospects 2019-2024 Natural Resource Management Strategy for the South Coast region.

The comprehensive consultation for this strategy has exceeded previous versions, largely due to the uptake of social media as well as face to face consultations, which has enabled us to get a broad range of feedback.

This once again confirms our belief that the South Coast community is dedicated to looking after where they live by caring for the environment. I would like to acknowledge all of our partners and volunteers whose dedication and commitment drives natural resource management in the region. Without their commitment, much of what has been done in the past could not have been achieved. They are the unsung heroes who work away in the background to make real change.

The current Board of Management is particularly cognisant of the support sub-regional partners (catchment groups, friends-of groups, production groups, NFP entities and others) receive from their employees. South Coast Natural Resource Management is committed to supporting these groups as much possible within the limitations of the funding available and the strategic priorities within the region.

In this age of food and water security, it makes it all the more important to look after our natural environment to support production systems as well as keep our water clean.

Many of our plants, animals, birds, reptiles, aquatic life and insects are environmental indicators of a healthy ecosystem. Ongoing monitoring of these systems will be the key to measuring our progress.

The strategy highlights the community's deep appreciation of our unique beaches, coastline, forests, bushland, lakes, wetlands, water quality, native animals and ocean. This is not only for recreational and tourism pursuits, it goes deeper than that. This fosters mental and physical wellbeing and instils a sense of pride and stewardship for all those who live and work in our region.

The strategy highlights concerns around invasive plants, climate change, feral animals, loss of natural vegetation and Phytophthora dieback. These are not the only issues we have, simply the main ones identified by our community during the consultation.



This strategy will be used by the Board to guide investment over the next five years with the help of our local, regional, state, federal and international partners.

I would like to thank all who have contributed to the strategy and look forward to working with you to implement the strategy to keep the South Coast an exceptional place to live and work.

Carolyn Daniel

Chair, South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Country

“We acknowledge the Noongar/Nyungar peoples of the South Coast region as the traditional custodians of this land and we pay our respect to their Elders past and present. We recognise their deep connections to land, sea and community.”

welcome to our future

Welcome to our Future

Welcome to *Southern Prospects* – a strategy to guide investment in natural resource management on the South Coast of Western Australia for the period 2019 – 2024.

Southern Prospects provides a common focus for the communities of the South Coast Natural Resource Management region to work collectively towards the vision of looking after where we live - communities caring for their environment.

South Coast NRM

Natural Resource Management (NRM) is the sustainable management of natural resources, including land, water, marine and biological systems, and underpins social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being for future generations.

South Coast NRM is a community based, independent, not-for-profit organisation that works with the South Coast community to deliver *Southern Prospects* in partnership with government and businesses to improve the region's natural resources. This is achieved through collaboration with the community, government agencies, local government and industry to develop *Southern Prospects 2019-2024*. This framework enables delivery of well-targeted actions to improve the environment by preserving and protecting biodiversity, managing land and waterways sustainably, incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and sharing knowledge and skills in natural resource management.

Southern Prospects 2019-2024 is presented under four biophysical themes; Land, Biodiversity, Water and Coastal and Marine. These themes are supported by the bridging themes of Regional Capacity and Cultural Heritage that build community capacity and knowledge of natural cultural heritage values that support successful delivery of NRM activities. Each of these biophysical and bridging themes outline strategies for the period 2019-2024 and provides clear guidance for funding and resource allocation. The details of specific priorities, measures and activities will be developed in South Coast NRM's Investment and Operational Plans.

South Coast NRM coordinates and administers funding from a variety of sources, including the Australian Government, Government of Western Australia, local government, corporations, businesses and individuals. Additional funding for the region is generated through the South Coast Environment Fund to support sustainable environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes across the region. There are also significant contributions from project participants, people involved with committees and volunteer groups to support NRM activities within the South Coast region.

Managing natural resources requires a long-term view and this strategy builds on the collective action undertaken to date to define a direction for the next five years of efforts in the region.



Looking after where we live - Communities caring for their environment

The South Coast community faces many challenges in the future management of the region's natural resources. Through working together, history has shown that the dedicated and passionate South Coast community can achieve great things. We do this by employing the following values in all the things we do.

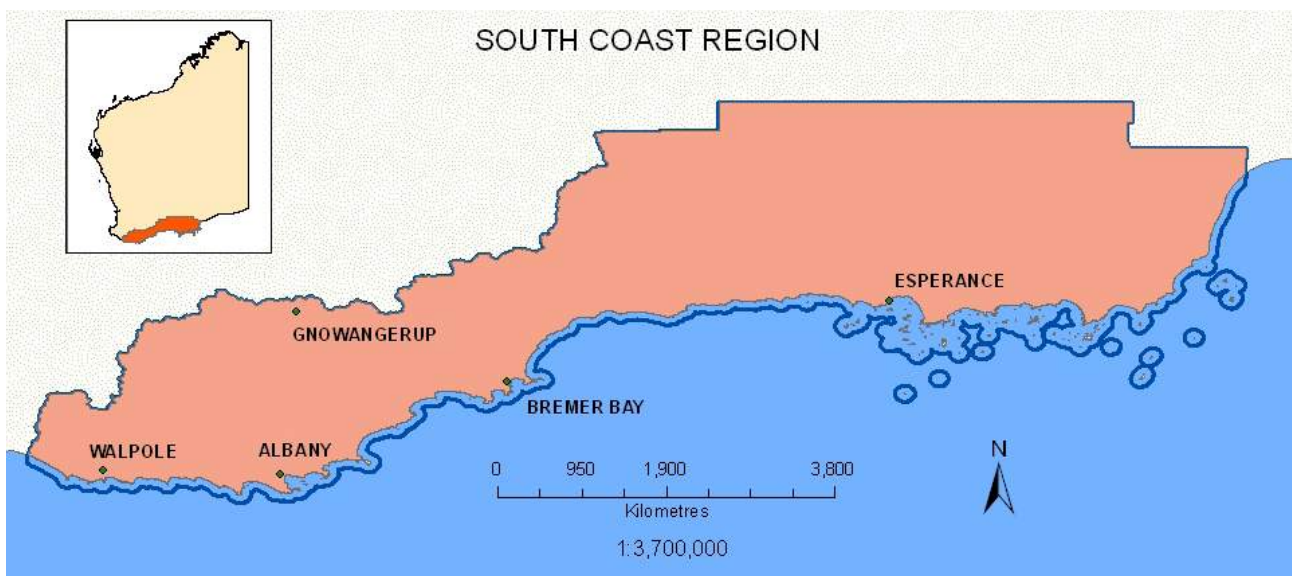
	<h3>Leading by example</h3> <p>Managing natural resources in balance with social and economic development</p>		<h3>Innovation and sustainability</h3> <p>Addressing challenges through innovation and acting sustainably in all that we do</p>
	<h3>Addressing priorities</h3> <p>Strategic approach to protecting, enhancing and sustaining our community, land, biodiversity, water, coastal and marine assets</p>		<h3>Working together</h3> <p>Creating strong community, government and regional partnerships and working on integrated, coordinated and knowledge-based management of urban, rural and natural landscapes</p>

Structure of the Strategy

Southern Prospects 2019-2024 has been developed to provide an overview of the region, the role of South Coast NRM and details of each of the bridging and biophysical themes. A summary of the 25+ year aspirations, 1 to 5 year outcomes and key actions to deliver the Strategy over the next five years are also included. The aspirations, outcomes and actions have been mapped according to a Pathways Approach that visualises the sequencing of these actions, decision and review points against the timeframe of the Strategy.

All South Coast NRM Reference Groups have reviewed these to ensure they align with the community's priorities over the next five years to help guide the focus for investment and collective action.

The vision, aspirations and outcomes included in *Southern Prospects 2019-2024* are brought together to provide a snapshot of the strategy on a page.



2044

Delivery of key actions underpin achievement of aspirations



regional capacity

ASPIRATION: Healthy, resilient and sustainable communities sharing a strong 'sense of place' and accepting a shared responsibility to provide a legacy of healthy, natural environment for future generations

OUTCOMES:

- R1** Improved understanding through state of the environment reporting
- R2** South Coast community supported to be environmentally sustainable
- R3** Improved resilience and increased capability
- R4** Key challenges addressed through facilitated change management
- R5** Improved awareness, recognition, education and training
- R6** Improved community engagement and leadership

2024

Key actions align to NRM outcomes



land

ASPIRATION: Improved and protected land resources through sustainable land use, matched to land capability

OUTCOMES:

- L1** Improved knowledge and understanding of priority land assets
- L2** Improved climate change adaptation and mitigation responses
- L3** Land degradation is reduced through effective on-ground works for soil health
- L4** Impacts of invasive species are reduced
- L5** Integrated land use planning with NRM
- L6** Sustainable industries developed for food, fibre and energy



biodiversity

ASPIRATION: Natural ecosystems, habitats and landscapes support viable and strongly resilient populations of native species and communities

OUTCOMES:

- B1** Improved knowledge and understanding
- B2** Demonstrate improved biodiversity outcomes
- B3** Improved climate change mitigation and adaptation
- B4** Threatened and significant species, communities and habitats are protected
- B5** The area of land restored or protected is increased
- B6** Impacts of invasive species are reduced
- B7** Improved dieback management
- B8** Support appropriate fire management



water

ASPIRATION: South Coast, rivers, estuaries, wetlands and water resources are recognised as precious and are maintained, protected, and/or restored with social, cultural, economic and ecological values

OUTCOMES:

- W1** Improve knowledge and understanding
- W2** Increased knowledge and awareness of climate change mitigation and adaptation
- W3** The condition of impacted and degraded waterways is improved
- W4** Low impacted and pristine waterways are protected
- W5** Ramsar Wetlands are protected
- W6** Sustainable urban and rural water resource management and use



coastal and marine

ASPIRATION: Our Coastal and Marine systems are improved by reducing key threats through a community-led approach that embraces social, cultural, economic and ecological values

OUTCOMES:

- C1** Improved knowledge and understanding
- C2** Marine pests are monitored and managed
- C3** Improved climate change mitigation and adaptation responses
- C4** Improved condition of coastal and marine systems
- C5** Improved coastal and marine partnerships and planning



cultural heritage

ASPIRATION: All NRM actions in the South Coast region recognise and respect natural heritage values. Aboriginal practices, spiritual and cultural values are considered across all NRM themes, to support conservation and protection of our natural environment

OUTCOMES:

- H1** Improved information
- H2** Improved understanding of climate change
- H3** Protection of heritage places
- H4** Sustainable Aboriginal enterprises established
- H5** Improved applications of traditional ecological knowledge
- H6** Improved Aboriginal community capacity
- H7** Improved awareness and education
- H8** Develop agreed protocols

bridging these outcomes

H3 Protection of heritage places

H5 Improved application of traditional ecological knowledge

R5 Improved awareness, recognition, education and training

2019

south coast community participation

Southern Prospects 2019-2024 has been structured as follows:

<p>SECTION 1</p> <p>Southern Prospects Strategy</p>	<p>This section provides an overview of the purpose of the strategy and how it was developed.</p> <p>Read this section for context and history.</p>
<p>SECTION 2</p> <p>Regional Context</p>	<p>This section provides an overview of the region.</p> <p>Read this section for a snapshot of the region.</p>
<p>SECTION 3</p> <p>About South Coast NRM</p>	<p>This section provides an overview of South Coast NRM and its role and purpose.</p> <p>Read this section to understand the role of South Coast NRM and its stakeholders.</p>
<p>SECTION 4</p> <p>Strategic Approach</p>	<p>This section provides information on the strategy aspirations, values, principles and measuring success.</p> <p>Read this section to understand the overarching context of this strategy.</p>
<p>SECTION 5</p> <p>Bridging Themes</p>	<p>This section describes the bridging themes of Regional Capacity and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>Read this section for information about the Achievements, Aspirations, Outcomes and Key Actions as they relate to the bridging themes of Regional Capacity and Cultural Heritage.</p>
<p>SECTION 6 - 9</p> <p>Four Biophysical Themes</p>	<p>This section describes the four biophysical themes of Land, Water, Coastal and Marine and Biodiversity.</p> <p>Read this section for information about the Achievements, Aspirations, Outcomes and Key Actions as they relate to these four biophysical themes.</p>
<p>SECTION 10</p> <p>Next Steps</p>	<p>This section describes the next steps to support implementation of the <i>Southern Prospects 2019-2024</i>.</p>

Using the Strategy

Any group or individual with an interest in natural resource management in the region can benefit from using *Southern Prospects*. It provides guidance for anyone who wishes to better understand or be involved in natural resource management activities in the region as it sets out what has been achieved and where we are going.

Southern Prospects is supported by:

- South Coast Snapshot that provides a situation statement on the current state and trend of natural resource condition in the South Coast region.
- Southern Prospects 2011-2016.
- various technical reports relevant to the assessment of emerging issues and progress against each of the themes.
- South Coast NRM's Investment and Operational Plans.
- regional and catchment strategies prepared by partner organisations.



1. southern prospects strategy

1.1 Purpose of the Strategy

Southern Prospects 2019-2024 builds upon the previous four Southern Prospects strategies to drive ongoing ambitions to manage natural resources and provide a structured framework for the South Coast region. The 2011-2016 strategy was revisited to ensure that the strategies pursued in the past continue to be relevant given the current state of the environment and changing pressures and that the new strategies are developed to mitigate emerging threats. This is necessary to focus and guide a collective and collaborative response to tackle these emerging threats and maximise opportunities.

The strategy recognises the accomplishments of previous projects that have managed natural resources, identifies the current state of the environment and recognises risks and opportunities whilst providing a revised focus to successfully work towards both short-term goals and long-term ambitions. The success of the strategy is dependent on:

- a collective responsibility that involves the broader South Coast community in partnership with South Coast NRM, government, non-government organisations and industry
- an enabling Investment Plan: determining priorities and clear line of sight actions to outcomes necessary when administering funding
- delivering and evaluating results through monitoring and reporting
- mutual respect, recognition and open communication.

For the past two decades, *Southern Prospects* has provided a platform for collective action and investment for natural resource management in the South Coast region. *Southern Prospects 2019-2024* identifies emerging threats and opportunities based on the combined wisdom of land managers, technical and scientific experts, industry, government and the broader community within the region.

This Strategy plays an important part in setting priorities for action and identifying pathways for responding to more enduring, long-term challenges.

1.2 Development of Southern Prospects 2019-2024

Southern Prospects 2019-2024 has been developed to extend the work achieved by the previous strategy, *Southern Prospects 2011-2016*, to incorporate new information and feedback from the South Coast community. Community workshops were held to seek feedback and identify emerging issues and opportunities within the scope of natural resource management in the region, more specifically within the framework provided by Southern Prospects. There were 278 stakeholders involved in these workshops providing input across all six themes of Southern Prospects.

The *Southern Prospects 2019-2024* strategy has also been informed by a substantial amount of new information, technical studies and strategies which were provided in the following documents:

- *Southern Prospects 2011-2016*
- Climate Adaptation (2016) Addendum to *Southern Prospects 2011-2016*
- South Coast Snapshot, South Coast NRM, June 2016.

Image: Meredith Spencer

1.3 Analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

An analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) was undertaken to inform the development of the *Southern Prospects 2019-2024*. This analysis was informed by existing material made available by South Coast NRM including the feedback received through the community consultation process, the South Coast NRM Reference Groups and the South Coast Snapshot (2016). Specific feedback and identification of opportunities and challenges for each of the six themes are provided in the relevant thematic sections

of this Strategy. There were several key issues that were identified as being relevant across all themes and these are summarised in the SWOT analysis below (Fig. 1.1).

The importance of collaboration, community participation and regional capacity was recognised as critical to the successful implementation of *Southern Prospects 2019-2024* and achieving the natural resource management outcomes for the South Coast region.



Strengths

- A clear focus and direction.
- Ability to secure funding and community participation.
- Priorities are well documented and activities monitored.
- Successful delivery of on-ground actions and engagement.
- Clear identification of stakeholder education and engagement with purpose.



Weaknesses

- Previous Strategy not readily available to all stakeholders.
- There is a lack of resourcing to monitor the regional trends that underpin the Strategy Aspirations and Outcomes.
- Evaluation of the contribution of project level outputs and actions is required to determine the effectiveness towards achieving the Strategy Outcomes.
- Participation of youth and young adults in NRM activities needs strengthening.
- Lack of data/information limits the ability to influence change and identify (new) systemic threats and opportunities.



Opportunities

- Existing networks not fully utilised.
- Diversify funding base to secure long-term viability and pursue new sources of funding.
- Develop partnerships with private sector.
- Link to tertiary institutions and collaborative research funding.
- Increasing regional population enables opportunities for greater participation in NRM.
- Clean green image promotion into Asian market.
- Niche (high-value) food production.



Threats

- NRM participation and memberships not fully representative of community.
- High reliability on government funding.
- Significant reductions in traditional funding sources and increased competition for funding.
- Ability and capacity to respond to a changing climate that maintains or improves productivity.
- Population growth placing pressure on urban development.
- Retaining corporate knowledge and resources to support delivery.
- Change in climate requires longer term planning, dealing with uncertainty and identifying adaptation pathways that maybe challenging to gain support in the short term.

Figure 1.1. *Southern Prospects* SWOT analysis.

2. regional context

2.1 Extent and Boundaries

The South Coast NRM Region of Western Australia covers an area of approximately 8.6 million hectares which incorporates 8,000 hectares of islands and coastal waters up to three nautical miles seaward (Figure 2.1). The region extends from east of Esperance to Walpole along the coast and further inland by approximately 150 kilometres. The region encapsulates a spectacular and diverse range of landscapes from tall forests in the west, pristine coastlines in the south, all of Southern WA's mountain peaks and many wetlands, waterways and estuaries.

The South Coast NRM boundary is primarily defined by water catchment boundaries which improves the management of issues related to catchment hydrology and its effects on water availability, vegetation and land condition.

The regional NRM boundary also overlaps the Great Southern and Goldfields-Esperance regional development jurisdictions, as well as a number of local government areas. The region is further divided into subregions of Kent Frankland, Albany Hinterland, North Stirlings Pallinup, Fitzgerald Biosphere,

Esperance Mallee and Esperance Sandplain (Figure 2.1). This area includes the major population centres of Albany and Esperance which have populations of approximately 36,000 and 14,000 respectively (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016).

Rising regional populations can increase the pressure on the environment. Conversely, with more people in the region there are opportunities for increased participation in activities to preserve the region's natural resources. The City of Albany and the Shire of Esperance are known as the primary business and service areas for the region. The agricultural sector covers around 70% of the region, which puts increased pressure on the preservation of natural resources. However, in recent years there has been a trend to increase the diversity and resilience of land management systems through natural resource management initiatives. The coastal and marine environments contain some of the region's most intact and preserved ecosystems with over 70% of the coastal vegetation corridor under conservation management.



Figure 2.1: South Coast region

2.2 Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage covers both Aboriginal and non-indigenous cultural assets and values. Cultural values must be recognised, understood and respected to achieve aspirations and to drive positive natural resource management outcomes. Cultural heritage assets significantly influence the management and utilisation of the region. At the national level, the Australian Heritage Council assesses the cultural significance of assets that have been nominated for the National Heritage and the Australian Government Heritage Lists. The Council then provides expert advice to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage with regards to the conservation and protection of listed values. At a state level, Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are managed and protected by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

The Aboriginal Noongar/Nyungar groups were the first people to occupy the land of the South Coast region. This region contains major Aboriginal cultural heritage assets including the culturally significant natural environments of the Stirling Ranges and the Fitzgerald Biosphere sub-region. The passing of Aboriginal Elders is resulting in a rapid multi-generational loss of Aboriginal knowledge of the South Coast. Projects have commenced to document the oral histories of Aboriginal Elders to provide regional context and preserve their knowledge. Further, projects have been implemented to engage Aboriginal youth, develop career pathways, improve cultural mapping of the region and support sustainable Indigenous enterprises. Expanding on this work is necessary to ensure the preservation and transmission of the cultural heritage of the South Coast region.

2.3 Climate

The South Coast region is subject to a Mediterranean climate featuring cool wet winters and warm dry summers. However, rapid alterations in the climate introduces threats and exacerbates current pressures on the delicate natural resources of the region. Further, climate change can have a significant impact on the region's primary productivity. Issues related to climate change need to be properly planned using evidence-based science to ensure climate resilience of the natural resources.

In recent history, the region's localised climate has undergone significant change. Winter rainfalls have reduced by approximately 17% since the 1960's (CSIRO and BOM, 2014, DOW, 2009). Additionally, since the 1990's sporadic rainfall has caused extensive drying of the region, particularly in autumn and early winter (Hope et al, 2015). It is projected with moderate to high confidence that annual rainfall will continue to decline and that the intensity of the rainfall will increase (Hope et al, 2015). Surface air temperatures of the region have also been significantly affected, increasing by 1.1°C since 1960 with a positive linear projection. Higher minimum, average and maximum temperatures are forecast for future projections, with an expected increase in the frequency of extremely hot days. Alterations in climate have a significant impact on the water resources of the region, which has a knock-on effect to all other aspects including biodiversity, land management and the health of coastal and

marine environments. Rapid alterations in the regions climate also has an impact on the severity and frequency of extreme weather events such as drought, bushfires, heatwaves, storms and flooding.

2.4 Land and Water

European settlement of the region commenced in 1827 with settlement of Albany. Farming was initially not very successful due to a lack of understanding of mineral deficiencies in the soil and the presence of plants poisonous to stock. Areas around Esperance were opened for grazing in 1863 with a rise to prominence of Esperance as a commercial port when the Kalgoorlie gold rush of the 1890s occurred. Farming success increased in 1949 when soils deficient in phosphorus, copper and zinc were treated with superphosphate and trace elements. It is at this stage that large tracts of land were cleared for farming.

Agricultural landscapes now make up around 70% of the region, and there is a strong economic reliance within the regional community on agricultural production and related service industries. Increasingly, areas of plantation and farm forestry are changing parts of the landscape. There are some strong trends in parts of the region to increase the diversity and resilience of land management systems both in agriculture and forestry. The availability of water in the region is fundamental to the success of these industries.

The South Coast region includes over 50 small, southward flowing rivers that are generally fresh and perennial in the west and more intermittent and saline towards the east and inland. In the South Coast region surface water use is relatively low and few surface water bodies are proclaimed (and licensed). Albany, Denmark and Walpole town water supplies use local surface water. For Albany and Mount Barker surface water supplements the principally groundwater sourced Lower Great Southern Town Water Supply Scheme. Smaller hinterland towns rely on harvested surface water (bitumen or roaded catchments) and may require cartage of water during dry seasons. Some inland towns are connected to the Great Southern town's water supply scheme, which is supplied from Harris Dam, near Collie. Surface water can also be used for irrigation in some areas, however, these are not currently proclaimed (DOW, 2014).

Across the region groundwater resources occur within the Bremer Basin, a narrow and relatively small, layered sedimentary basin. Groundwater quality varies, and is either stable or with slight declining trends, although these fluctuate seasonally. Groundwater abstraction is licensed in proclaimed areas under *Western Australia's Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*.

2.5 Environment and Biodiversity

The South Coast is internationally recognised for its biodiversity, ecological assets, pristine coastal environments, aqua blue marine waters and diverse landscapes. This unique region entices thousands of tourists annually to major attractions such as the Recherché Archipelago, Stirling Range, Fitzgerald Biosphere Reserve (listed as a Biosphere Reserve in 1978 under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere program), Great Western Woodlands, Valley of the Giants, Walpole Wilderness Area, Tree-top Walk, heritage buildings and wineries. The amenity of the region and its ecological characteristics are a key comparative advantage and underpin economic activity (such as agriculture, viticulture and fisheries), population growth and tourism visitation.

The Region falls within the globally significant South West Biodiversity hotspot and contains a number of national parks, including the Stirling Range, Fitzgerald River and Porongurup National Parks and protected marine ecosystems, together with significant nature reserves which contribute greatly to the area's rich biodiversity. These environments are home to many threatened, endangered and endemic species of flora and fauna, including Bremer Bay which is an area of significance for Killer Whales. The eastern region of the Fitzgerald River National Park is a perfect example of the significance of these environments. It is described as one of the most diverse botanical regions in the world containing over 20% of Western Australia's flora species with more than 1,800 species of flowering plants lichens, mosses and fungi.

The unique biodiversity of the region is threatened by numerous external pressures including habitat loss, invasive species, Phytophthora dieback, degradation of aquatic environments, population increase, rise in tourism, altered fire regimes, soil degradation and erosion and the impacts of climate change with increased seasonal variability. Continuous and improved management of these pressures is essential to the success of this Strategy.

2.6 Emerging Threats and Opportunities

There are numerous threats that can significantly impact on the natural resources of the South Coast region. However, with most of these threats come opportunities if the appropriate knowledge and partnership frameworks are established. While many aspects of these issues are beyond the direct influence of natural resource management, increased awareness of these emerging issues can help prioritise investment and focus effort to minimise negative impacts on the South Coast region.

2.6.1 Urbanisation

One of the major anthropogenic influences on the South Coast is the continued growth of the region's population which places pressure through urban development. Increased urbanisation can have a significant impact on the amount

of land required for development and the potential for concentrated impacts on water and biodiversity. Urbanisation can have a substantial impact on the displacement of native species through clearing of natural vegetation or isolation of habitats leaving behind patchy remnant vegetation. Further, elevated population levels increase urban runoff which causes the contamination of waterways and marine environments through eutrophication and increased wastewater discharge.

On the other hand, urbanisation and growing populations also mean that there are more people in the community that could participate in managing natural resources across the South Coast region. Greater participation may provide opportunities for less represented parts of the community to be engaged (for example youth) and provide a broader opportunity for community knowledge and understanding to be captured and shared. This considered, it is pertinent to note the significant under-representation of the 18-35 year cohort in the demographics of large towns like Albany and Esperance may affect the capacity of young people to contribute to managing natural resources.

2.6.2 Natural Resource Management Funding

The fluctuation of funding cycles and the priorities of government influence the ability to maintain capacity and capability to undertake natural resource management initiatives within the South Coast region. Organisations such as South Coast NRM that are heavily dependent upon government funding experience challenges in maintaining the level of effort necessary to minimise the risks and maximise opportunities for managing natural resources at the regional level. Whilst it is noted that there is a public need to invest in these activities, collaboration with other organisations and industries with complementary objectives can increase leveraging of funding, knowledge, expertise, networks and other resources to achieve social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes. For example, the collaboration between community groups and South Coast NRM has provided benefits in the form of training, information and support that have helped mitigate the impacts of reduced funding.

It is also noted that reduced government funding has implications for the ability and capacity of the responsible agencies to meet their statutory responsibilities. This can result in the community delivering or supporting activities previously resourced using public funds. A more consistent and appropriate funding model would address some of these issues.

The management of natural resources is heavily reliant upon the ability of the community to participate. The over-arching issues of the financial stability of land owners and their ability to implement changes in practice, together with the relatively low level of community knowledge about the local assets of the region provide additional challenges in the ability to deliver successful natural resource management outcomes.

The variation in year-on-year funding makes long-term and contingency planning difficult. Diversifying the funding base with alternative sources of income will provide new



Image: Meredith Spencer

opportunities for collaboration and delivery models. This approach can ultimately be a strategy to help secure long-term viability of community and not-for-profit organisations responsible for managing natural resources in the South Coast region. Alternative areas for potential funding sources that have been progressed previously and can be expanded include:

- new areas of focus aligned with other funding programs not traditionally accessed by NRM providers
- industry and other private sector partnerships/ collaboration
- the extractive resource sector (mining), including corporate social responsibility investments outside the regions in which they operate to support broader state and national outcomes
- corporate social responsibility programs run by corporations who operate in the region
- collaborative research funding grants
- philanthropic funds
- collaboration with native title groups.

Southern Prospects and the underlying investment plan identifies the priority natural resource management activities within the region; funding will be derived from a variety of sources to achieve these outcomes. Where practical the principle of subsidiarity will be used to maximise the efficacy of activities, recognising that in some circumstances it may be strategically beneficial to adopt a broader approach to maximise funding outcomes for the region.

2.6.3 Mining

The South Coast NRM Region is not a large mineral producer, although there is the potential for significant nickel production in the Ravensthorpe area and haematite (iron) production in the Wellstead area. Some mines extract lithium, tantalum and other materials. Basic raw materials including agricultural lime, gypsum, dolomite, silica sand, spongolite and gravel are significant resources and are extracted at a small scale but from many parts of the region.

Some of the valuable mineral resources within the region exist in landforms that are associated with unique flora and fauna, many of which are highly endemic and have extremely

narrow geographical distributions, such as within the Ravensthorpe range. Mining can be a disruptive to this, and needs to be carefully considered in light of the environmental, social and cultural values that exist.

2.6.4 Climate Change

Significant investment has occurred at the regional, state and national levels to develop information and tools to support climate change adaptation and mitigation planning and responses. At a local level, South Coast NRM has prepared a series of background papers and reports that consider climate change projections and adaptation opportunities across the region and across sectors as part of the 2016 Climate Adaptation Addendum to *Southern Prospects 2011-2016*.

The Climate Change in Australia project was funded by the Australian Government and delivered by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology (www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au). The South Coast region was a sub-region of the Climate Change in Australia project that produced climate projections based on the best available information, modelling and research regarding global climate variability and change [www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au, 2018].

The main projections concerning the South Coast region (from Hope et al, 2015) are:

- elevated temperatures (0.5-1.2°C) by 2030
- increased frequency of extremely hot days and periods of drought
- decreased annual rainfall especially during winter and early spring
- an increased intensity of rainfall.

To enable appropriate responses to a changing climate, there are some underlying activities that are necessary to guide action including locally specific options analysis, risk assessment of natural, cultural and built assets, a plan that maps actions and timing of decisions, review and evaluation processes, communication and capacity building and developing improved understanding. Further details specific to each of the biophysical themes of Land, Water, Coastal and Marine and Biodiversity are included in the relevant sections of this strategy.

3. about NRM regional stakeholders on the south coast extent and boundaries

3.1 NRM and the Community

Natural Resource Management (NRM) is the sustainable management of natural resources, including land, water, marine and biological systems, that underpins social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing for current and future generations.

Involvement with the communities of the South Coast plays an important role in setting strategic directions and ensuring projects and programmes support the preservation and improvements of the unique and valuable landscape in which we live, work and enjoy. The ongoing consultation with and active support of South Coast communities has been a foundation of the way South Coast NRM has continuously operated.

Since inception, more than 3,814 people have been actively involved on a regular basis in projects facilitated by South Coast NRM, while a further 30,901 people have been involved on a less regular basis. This support and guidance has been pivotal in giving State and Federal governments the confidence to invest in natural resource management in the South Coast region.

Community involvement and engagement will continue to be a cornerstone of the way South Coast NRM works. The Western Australian Natural Resource Management Framework 2018 (DPIRD, 2018) emphasises the importance of working collaboratively with community groups, Aboriginal people, technical and scientific experts, industry and government to ensure a balanced approach to managing our natural resources for the long-term. The Framework also recognises the importance of devolving decision-making to the lowest capable level to ensure an adaptive and participatory approach (DPIRD, 2018: p2).

This Strategy has been developed using inputs from community workshops and other engagement platforms to ensure its continuing relevance to the South Coast community. It has considered delivery models that maximise the benefits of collaborative approaches and local knowledge.

Image: Wesley Lawrie





Image: Marion Todd

3.2 South Coast NRM - its role and purpose

South Coast NRM Inc. is a community based, independent, not-for-profit organisation that works with the community and stakeholders to maintain and improve a healthy and productive environment for the long-term benefit of communities within the South Coast region. South Coast NRM is one of a collective of natural resource management organisations covering the whole of Australia that are committed to achieving positive social and economic outcomes and the sustainable long-term management of the natural environment.

South Coast NRM enables projects to address these objectives by coordinating and administering funding from a variety of sources, including the Australian Government, Government of Western Australia, corporations, businesses and individuals for the purposes of natural resource management. Additional funding for the region is generated through the South Coast Environment Fund to support sustainable environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes across the region. In addition, there are significant in-kind resources (such as time, money, intellectual property) contributed by project participants and volunteers that support delivery of *Southern Prospects* and other environmental services in the region.

The expertise and experience of South Coast NRM and its stakeholders and partners plays a vital role in informing funding and resource decisions and coordinating on-the-ground actions to effect positive change. By bringing together and harnessing the collective expertise and capabilities of the communities of the region, South Coast NRM can play an important role in preserving and protecting the regions unique biodiversity, managing land and waterways sustainably and sharing knowledge and skills in natural resource management.

3.3 South Coast NRM, the community, partners and stakeholders

South Coast NRM is a membership-based organisation open to individuals and groups with an active interest in the management of natural resources. Corporations or other legal entities including Commonwealth, State or Local Government agencies with an interest in, and responsibilities for, sustainable use of natural resources can also become members.

The South Coast region continues to have a high level of capacity and capabilities with 72 groups identified as being involved in natural resource management. These include community and grower groups, industry and local and state governments. The *South Coast Snapshot* (South Coast NRM, 2016) estimated that the combined membership of member groups totalled over 6,100, and that the reach of this network was likely to exceed this through informal and personal connections and a strong general interest in natural resource management outcomes.

South Coast NRM's capacity to bring together organisations and individuals from each of these realms leverages greater effectiveness and increased efficiency through collaborative working for the benefit of all the community. In this it plays a key role in identifying the connections and aligned interests around specific natural resource management issues and brings players together to deliver projects that can ensure solutions that are appropriate for the unique conditions of the South Coast and fit-for-purpose.

Increasingly, South Coast NRM is also playing a role in assisting projects coordinated and funded by other organisations and agencies, tapping into its strong history of linkages into the community and with partner organisations.

A list of major stakeholders in the South Coast region is at Appendix A.

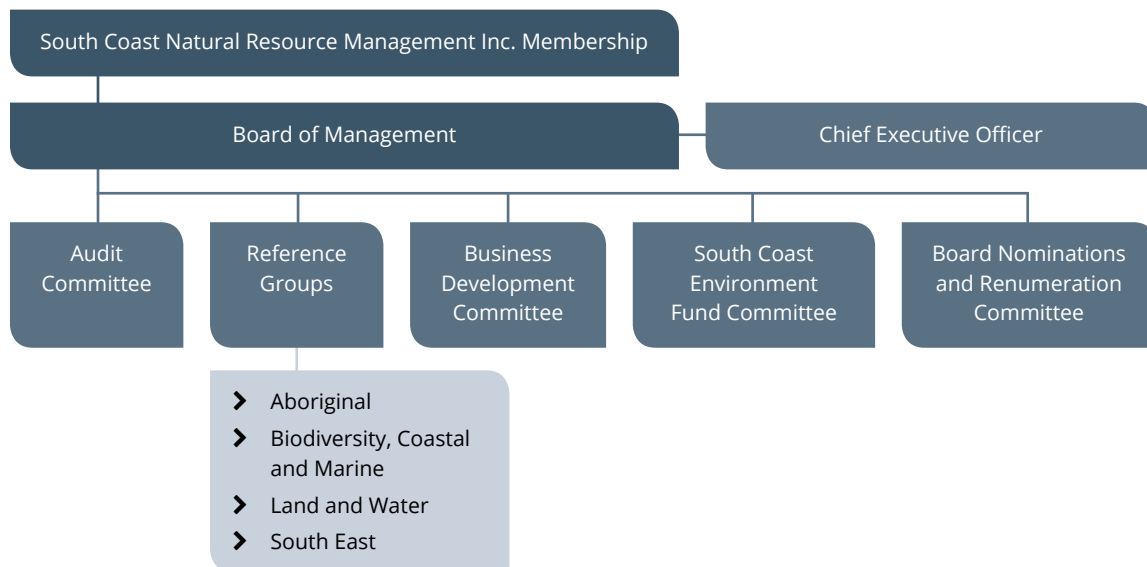


Figure 3.1 South Coast NRM Governance Structure.

3.4 Organisational Structure, Governance and Reference groups

The governance structure of South Coast NRM is designed to reflect the strategic needs of the South Coast region. The governance structure is designed to ensure accountability and transparency and to reduce and manage risks. It ensures other aspects of good corporate governance, such as ensuring the fair distribution of funding and resources and meeting commitments to funding bodies, the regional

community and partners. This structure is supported by appropriate strategies, policies and procedures to ensure effective and efficient governance.

The governance structure is comprised of a skills-based Board that oversees an Audit Committee, the Reference Groups, Business Development Committee, the South Coast Environment Fund Committee and Board Nominations and Remuneration Committee. The current governance structure is presented in Figure 3.1.

Supporting the Board are a suite of Reference Groups. The Reference Groups have been vital in identifying actions and priorities for the *Southern Prospects 2019–2024*. They are a source of specialist knowledge and provide a problem-solving vehicle for new and existing projects including review and adoption of innovation. They also provide a critical link to community by identifying local community issues, concerns and activities related to their respective theme. From time to time, specific skills-based technical groups are formed to assist with the management and coordination of specific projects. The broader aspirations and views of the community will be gathered through biannual forums held in Albany and Esperance. These will enable South Coast NRM to identify emerging threats, to refine the understanding of values, and to confirm where issues may have been resolved or become of less concern to the community.

The governance structure (Fig. 3.1) reflects the importance of South Coast NRM’s close connection to the community. The Board of Management and all committees within the governance structure are chaired by members of the community. The membership is skills-based and ensures appropriate representation by key stakeholders. As far as practical, the membership of committees and groups consists of a majority of community-based representatives.



Image: Tilo Massenbauer

3.5 Partnerships

The South Coast community has a long history of strong strategic and investment partnerships between government, industry and community stakeholders. Such partnerships are pivotal to lasting and innovative outcomes for the natural environment, social enrichment and economic wellbeing.

South Coast NRM leads partnership arrangements for targeted public investment in protecting or improving the condition of natural resources within the South Coast Region. Partnerships with dedicated community, public and private organisations are paramount in its capacity to coordinate and deliver successful natural resource management projects across the South Coast region and community.

Partnerships and networking are critical to the achievement of long-lasting positive outcomes for land, water, coastal and marine environments and biodiversity. The South Coast region has a record of successful and enterprising groups and individuals engaged in managing natural resources capable of tackling the challenges facing the region.

Major subregional groups within the South Coast region include the Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network, Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective, Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee, Oyster Harbour Catchment Group, Torbay Catchment Group, North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources and the Gillamii Centre. An overview of the focus areas and key activities of these groups is provided at Appendix A, together with other major stakeholders in the region.

There are numerous other catchment groups, Friends groups, conservation groups and other organisations that also link into the regional network and provide significant support. Entities that extend across and beyond the region and that represent the interests of the community include the South Coast Management Group, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation, Esperance Nyungar Aboriginal Corporation, Gilberts Potoroo Action Group, Friends of the Western Ground Parrot, Bush Heritage Australia, the Nature Conservancy, the Malleefowl Preservation Group, Green Skills, Denmark and Albany Environment Centres, Greening Australia, Gondwana Link Inc. and production groups (e.g. Southern Dirt, Evergreen, Stirlings to Coast, South East Premium Wheat Growers Association), Noongar Land Enterprises and West Australian Landcare Network as well as many others.

All groups work closely with local government and State Government Agencies to deliver consistency with NRM policy frameworks and to ensure synergies between all NRM practitioners.

3.6 Aboriginal groups

There are approximately 20 major Aboriginal groups in the region who need to be involved to ensure cultural practices, languages and culturally important places are recognised, valued and protected. These include the Native Title claimant groups, reference groups, Aboriginal Corporations, Goldfields Land and Sea Council, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation, Esperance Nyungar Aboriginal Corporation and Noongar Land Enterprises.

Aboriginal people have a long history in the region and possess deep knowledge of traditional ecological and sustainable land management practises. There is an opportunity to build on the approach to natural resource management with this knowledge and understanding. South Coast NRM maintains an Aboriginal Reference Group to assist and advise on these matters.

3.7 Local Governments

Local government authorities have an important influence on managing natural resources and set local policies and procedures and implement them. Their local responsibilities for land use planning, development approvals and provision of a variety of services including road construction and maintenance, waste management, and pest control, make them an important partner in achieving good land management outcomes. Local governments have an important role to play in issues such as maintenance of roadside vegetation, drainage and infrastructure impacts of changed catchment hydrology, invasive species identification and management, coastal and vegetation planning and management and fire management services.

Local governments are the most visible level of government in regional rural areas and are often made up of the land managers and other people most affected by, and involved in, natural resource management. In the South Coast region the local government areas are Albany, Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Denmark, Esperance, Jerramungup, Gnowangerup, Kent, Kojonup, Lake Grace, Manjimup, Plantagenet and Ravensthorpe.

Local governments have had differing levels and methods of involvement in managing natural resources. Most provide some level of support for project officers working for other entities, but based in their areas. Additionally some local governments, such as the City of Albany and Shires of Denmark and Esperance, have officers specifically focused on natural resource management outcomes, with varying levels of integration with other local government functions. Most of the region's local governments have expressed a desire to be more involved in decision making and implementation of managing natural resources within the region, but there is concern about limited and declining resources to do so.

3.8 State Government

Various State Government departments and agencies are directly involved in managing natural resources and other related activities in the region and commit significant resources to those activities. These include the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, the Great Southern Development Commission and the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission.

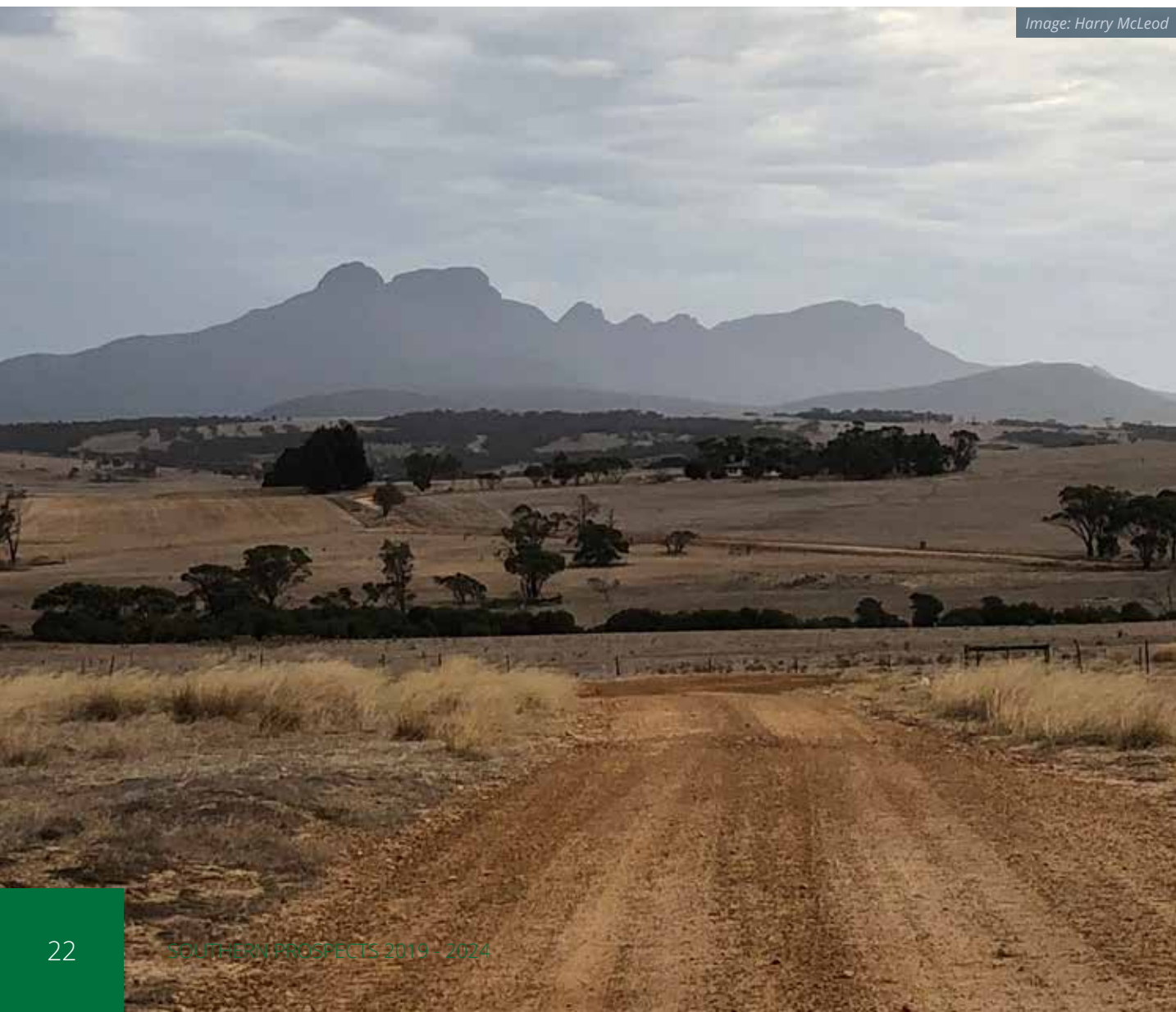
A State Natural Resource Management program administers the delivery of the Western Australian Government’s investments made primarily to non-government entities. The program is an important funder of organisations and projects in the South Coast region.

State Government agencies are increasingly seeking to ensure community and local partner involvement in the delivery of projects and programs. This collaboration encourages the development of innovative solutions and supports an adaptive and participatory approach. South Coast NRM plays a leading role in accessing networks and expertise to assist this process in the South Coast region.

3.9 Australian Government

The Australian Government provides high level policy and guidance on matters of national significance and is involved in the delivery of national programs that support local implementation of natural resource management activities. The National Landcare Program is a key part of the Australian Government’s commitment to managing natural resources, comprising of a \$1.1 billion dollar program to be delivered over a five year period from June 2018 to June 2023. The Department of Environment and Energy and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources are responsible for delivery of the program to support natural resource management, sustainable agriculture and to protect biodiversity.

Image: Harry McLeod



3.10 Research Organisations

Research organisations play a lead role in undertaking scientific studies relating to the natural resources, sustainable agriculture and climate change relevant to the South Coast region. The University of Western Australia's Centre of Excellence for NRM (CENRM) in Albany helps to build capability in natural resource management and environmental studies locally. In addition, other educational institutions operating within the region such as Edith Cowan University (ECU), Curtin University of Technology (Centre for Regional Education), Murdoch University, South Regional TAFE and Esperance Community College have undertaken research relevant to assist the region with understanding emerging threats and opportunities. Other organisations such as the Bureau of Meteorology and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) also undertake critical evidence-based research. This research aims to protect and preserve the natural resources of the region and provides improved contextual understanding to inform assessment of current condition and progress towards achieving outcomes. Research is supported through university grants, Australian Research Council and other private sector investments.

3.11 How the Community can engage with South Coast NRM

Changing government approaches to funding are bringing both challenges and opportunities. The need for leaner more efficient services has led governments to recognise the benefits of involving communities, non-government organisations and volunteers in project delivery in ways that make them more cost effective. At the same time these projects gain from enhanced local knowledge, access to local networks and a more continuous presence at the point of delivery.

This approach relies on the capacity of local partners and the strength and effectiveness of their networks and can present organisations such as South Coast NRM with a dilemma. As access to funding becomes increasingly competitive, this can directly impact the ability and opportunity to engage with partners and the community and maintain and strengthen networks.

The effectiveness of engagement with stakeholders, partners and the community is therefore a key success factor in maintaining and building the partnerships and networks that are a key contributor to attract funding. It is vital that organisations such as South Coast NRM, whose strength and effectiveness relies on its networks, partnerships and engagement with local communities ensure that platforms

for engagement are current and relevant. Communication is important to ensure that stakeholders are aware of the opportunities to engage in natural resource management activities in the region. South Coast NRM has developed a variety of platforms that are both accessible and relevant to the diverse South Coast community to communicate information and opportunities to participate in these activities, with an increasing focus on technology and social media platforms (eg. e-news, Facebook and Twitter).

Opportunities to participate in activities such as training, events, monitoring and evaluation (including citizen science programs) and on-ground works are advertised through formal communication channels. All members of the regional community are welcome to connect into the communication channel that suits their preference.

Natural resource management education, training and awareness programs are also delivered through various mechanisms including schools, tertiary institutions and community workshops. Access to relevant training is an important enabler of enhanced regional capacity. Managers and users of natural resources often need training in the planning, technical and management skills needed to participate in managing resources sustainably at property, local and regional levels. The South Coast Snapshot (South Coast NRM, 2016) indicated that most community group members do not have the capacity to self-fund training. As funding bodies increasingly look to local partnerships to assist with delivery of projects, training will be an important factor in the capacity to attract funds and develop these important partnerships.

The development of partnerships is another important aspect of engagement with stakeholders. Increasingly, governments are looking to undertake their work in ways that involve partnerships with local communities and groups. The South Coast community is encouraged to engage with local organisations to further develop strong regional networks and position the region to be competitive applicants in state and national funding programs.

Finally, the collection and sharing of information, local and Aboriginal knowledge and values are important inputs into the identification of regional priorities and review of progress in delivering regional NRM outcomes. Community participation in these activities all contribute to increasing the knowledge base and its use in natural resource management decision-making in the region.

4. southern prospects 2019-2024

Southern Prospects 2019-2024 has been developed based on the best available knowledge and information regarding the current resource condition, emerging threats and opportunities and the achievements delivered through investment under the previous strategy, *Southern Prospects 2011-2016*. Important to this process were the reviews of Aspirations, Outcomes and Actions undertaken by the Reference Groups and the input from the community that was obtained through various mechanisms including workshops and meetings.

Southern Prospects is a community owned document. South Coast NRM plays a role in providing support for its implementation and measuring progress towards the outcomes and aspirations.

4.1 Strategic Framework

Southern Prospects 2019 - 2024 adopts an approach to strategy development which is structured logically from:

- a defined long-term vision
- statements of principles and values
- the definition of strategic long-term aspirations and medium-term outcomes
- the development of measurable actions and their evaluation.

This approach builds on the various iterations of the strategies that preceded it. It adds to this sound foundation by considering the emerging challenges and opportunities that will face natural resource management in the South Coast region over the 5-year period. The focus is on the definition of clear, measurable and achievable actions over the strategy period.

The Strategy provides a framework for all regional stakeholders to identify opportunities to contribute to the delivery of *Southern Prospects 2019-2024*.

4.2 Vision

A continuity of vision is a characteristic of a long-term, enduring and effective strategy. During the development of *Southern Prospects 2019 - 2024* input from the South Coast community was sought regarding the vision for *Southern Prospects* that clearly articulated a singular strategic direction for the strategy, placing the region's community as the central focus.

The following vision has been adopted to guide South Coast NRM through the next strategy period and beyond:

*Looking after where we live -
communities caring for their
environment*

The vision builds on that used to guide the previous 2011 - 2016 strategy, placing empowered and resilient communities at its core.

4.3 Values

Values drive the way in which *Southern Prospects 2019 - 2024* will be delivered to achieve the Vision, Aspirations and Outcomes through the collective actions of the South Coast community and the organisations that support managing natural resources in the region. Figure 4.1 below provides an overview of these values and guide the behaviours and approach for implementation of natural resource management activities.

*sustainable • community focussed • holistic and integrated
collaborative • fit-for-purpose • accessible
transparent and accountable • measured • efficient
resilient • tangible benefits • adaptive*

Figure 4.1: *Southern Prospects 2019-2024* – Values that guide natural resource management delivery



Image: Jade Walker

4.4 Guiding principles

The guiding principles used in the development of *Southern Prospects 2019 – 2024* have their origin in those developed for *Southern Prospects 2004 - 2009* (SCRIPT, 2004) and are consistent with the principles guiding natural resource management in Western Australia as a whole (DPIRD, 2018).

The principles are primarily concerned with the integration of environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes, ensuring risk-based decisions that are informed by sound science, the importance of partnerships and achieving effective, tangible outcomes.

The overarching principles are:

1. People rely on the functioning of natural assets for all aspects of our life and wellbeing and we strive to protect and enhance those values for ourselves and for future generations.
2. Integrated planning and management of natural resources will produce the most effective outcomes.
3. A 'whole of landscape' approach to planning and management will assist in integrating actions across different resources, issues and interests.
4. The wider community has the expectation to be consulted on decisions and actions that affect them. With this comes the responsibility for the community, land owners and land managers to take the prime responsibility for management of their natural resources.
5. Prevention is better than cure.
6. The underlying causes of threats to natural resources should be addressed wherever possible, rather than the symptoms.
7. Partnerships between and amongst non-government and government bodies based on subsidiarity, equity and accountability provide the best basis for planning and actions.
8. Planning and management of natural resources should be based on the best available information. A precautionary approach is wise but considered action must proceed even where there is only limited information available on prevailing environmental, social and economic circumstances.
9. Public investment in natural resource management must target those actions from which the greatest public benefits will be gained.
10. Investment in improving community capacity and recognising achievement of organisations and individuals is essential.

These principles, as well as the knowledge and experience of government, businesses and the community of the South Coast region, are recognised by all groups and organisations as a guide to support natural resource management actions and decision-making, which ultimately lead to a resilient and sustainable future for natural resource management in the South Coast region.

4.5 Aspirations, Outcomes and Actions

This Strategy modifies the Program Logic approach adopted for the *Southern Prospects 2011 – 2016* in order to make the new Strategy leaner, more accessible, more aligned with funding cycles, and more focussed on delivering effective, tangible outcomes.

The Strategy defines a series of long-term aspirations (25+ years), and medium-term outcomes (1-5 years) that drive and deliver measurable actions. These aspirations, outcomes and key actions have been identified by South Coast NRM, its Reference Groups and the broader community for each of the strategy themes through a series of workshops and stakeholder and community interactions held over the course of 2017-2018.

Aspirations (25 + Years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overall Strategy Vision ➤ Aspirations for each theme
Outcomes (1-5 Years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developed for each theme ➤ Grouped into categories that identify the bridging themes of Regional Capacity and Cultural Heritage
Key Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Priority activities identified necessary to support achievement of Outcomes ➤ Strategy Implementation ➤ Projects, Activities, Programs ➤ Identified in Investment Plan

A key change to the approach has been to remove reference to Goals, defined under the previous strategy as applying to the 10+ years' time horizon. These were considered not to have materially and meaningfully contributed to the defined aspirations and medium-term outcomes (1-5 years) and were considered to more effectively align with funding cycles and with the period of each strategy iteration.

Southern Prospects 2019 – 2024 defines the clear program logic for each of the respective themes and provides a mechanism to identify key actions and timeframes for delivery.

4.6 Adaptation pathways

The Adaptation Pathways process links outcomes and management questions to actions, timeframes and decision points. The concept of Adaptation Pathways and its process has been applied to each theme to identify outcomes, key actions, expected timeframes for delivery and decision points. This logical and stepwise approach of the Adaptation Pathways process lends itself to planning appropriate management responses to achieve regional outcomes through well targeted and coordinated action.

The Adaptation Pathways process involved two key steps:

1. A review of theme outcomes, evaluation of enablers and barriers, and identification of Key Actions for all bridging and biophysical themes was completed. The review process was undertaken in consultation with the Reference Groups.
2. The outcomes of the review process were then mapped into the Adaptation Pathways Framework for each theme. The Adaptation Pathways Framework diagrams are included within each of the relevant sections for each theme.

It should be noted that these actions are those identified as important in achieving outcomes, however, the ability to implement these actions will be dependent upon receiving funding.

The Adaptation Pathways Framework supports the development of the Investment Plan and ongoing review of priorities and opportunities throughout the life of *Southern Prospects 2019-2024*.

Image: Michelle Barnes





Image: Lisa Jackson

4.7 Measuring outcomes and success

Measuring the success and outcomes arising from natural resource management investment has many complexities and significant resourcing challenges. The outcome of investing in managing natural resources is frequently underpinned by assumptions that link a course of action to the protection or improvement of a natural asset. The complexity arises because the investment:

- can require a significant level of scale of action (spatial and/or collective action) before an outcome can be achieved
- there may be other social, economic, biophysical, climatic factors that can influence/confound the desired NRM outcome
- there can be a lag period (years to decades) from action to outcome.

This complexity can apply to investments made for on-ground actions, policies and governance, capability, or capacity and behaviour change.

To improve the demonstration of natural resource management outcomes, the Australian Government has developed a Program Logic framework that documents the assumptions and logically links action and investment to intended outcome (Australian Government, 2009). This approach has been useful for evaluating the progress against an aligned monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) framework, and has increased the confidence that long-term outcomes will be achieved through investment in managing natural resources.

The implementation of this strategy will include the use of elements of the MERI framework, and build upon existing monitoring programs and project performance reporting

processes, to ensure it meets best practice. Considerable progress has been made in recent years to capture point of investment level information in local databases to support tracking of management actions and program delivery progress. It is intended to build upon the South Coast NRM MERI Framework to more closely align to business reporting and monitoring processes, state and national monitoring programs and the region's community monitoring activities.

4.8 Theme Structure

The following sections provide the detail of the strategies proposed for each of the bridging and biophysical themes. Each of the themes include a summary of the 25+ year aspirations, 1-5 year outcomes and key actions to deliver the Strategy over the next five years. The aspirations, outcomes and actions have been mapped according to a Pathways Approach that visualises the sequencing of these actions, decision and review points against the timeframe of the Strategy. The South Coast NRM Reference Groups have reviewed these to ensure they align with the priorities over the next five years to help guide the focus for investment and collective action.

Each theme includes information regarding:

- Principles
- Current Context
- Key Achievements
- Future Directions
- Measures and Indicators.





Image: Tyler & Kaiden Simpson



*cultural
heritage*

5.2 cultural heritage

ASPIRATION: All natural resource management actions in the South Coast region recognise and respect natural cultural heritage values. Aboriginal practices, spiritual and cultural values are considered across all themes, to support conservation and protection of our natural environment.

The Cultural Heritage theme has focussed primarily on developing the capacity of Aboriginal people within the region to manage priority natural resource sites of cultural significance. Aboriginal involvement in natural resource management has greatly expanded with active engagement of Aboriginal communities across the region. The Aboriginal Reference Group has been important in guiding implementation of the previous Strategy and formation of *Southern Prospects 2019-2024*. With their guidance, Cultural Heritage is now recognised as a bridging theme with two consistent outcomes included across each of the biophysical themes of Land, Water, Coastal and Marine and Biodiversity.

5.2.1 Principles

The principles which guide our approach to cultural heritage are:

- recognition of the value of cultural knowledge
- respectful involvement and use of information

- building capacity for culturally appropriate processes
- identification of areas of key interest
- communication using agreed protocols, with openness and transparency.

Sustainable and responsible management of natural resources can only be achieved through acknowledgement and understanding of the region's cultural heritage. For the purpose of the strategy, cultural heritage will cover both Aboriginal and non-indigenous assets and values and the threats from degrading processes identified in other theme areas. The cultural heritage values of significant places can influence the use and conservation of environmental assets in these areas. Aspects relating to Aboriginal culture are highlighted in some places as consideration of this aspect has been identified as a gap in the past.

5.2.2 Current context

At a national level, the Australian Heritage Council is an independent body of heritage experts established through the Australian Heritage Council Act (2003). The Council's role is to assess the values of places nominated for the National Heritage List and the Australian Government Heritage List, and to advise the Australian Government Minister on conserving and protecting listed values.

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is the WA State agency responsible for administering legislation that affects the well-being of Aboriginal people. Amongst the





legislation administered by the Department is the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, which details specific responsibilities related to the management and protection of heritage sites.

There are more than 600 registered sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the region. Land tenure for these sites varies from private freehold to public land held for reserves, national parks and the like. Unregistered sites are still being found, documented and registered on both private and public land.

Through the Australian Heritage Commission Register of National Estate, the Heritage Council of WA and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, sites can be nominated to be included on the relevant cultural heritage databases. Under the Heritage Act of Western Australia 1990, the Heritage Council of WA was set up as an advisory body on heritage matters for the WA Government. The main functions of the Council are to establish and maintain the State Register of Heritage Places, to ensure that any development of heritage places is in harmony with cultural values and to promote awareness and knowledge of our cultural heritage.

Aboriginal people hold generational knowledge of significance sites that are both recorded and unrecorded. Unregistered cultural or archaeological sites are not officially registered for reasons of cultural importance and integrity and remain known only to the custodians. It is therefore important not to confine the management frameworks to sites and areas “registered” with State and Australian Government databases.

Aboriginal cultural heritage exists throughout the lands and waters of Australia and all aspects of the landscape are important to Aboriginal people. The rights and interests of Aboriginal people arise in their heritage through their spirituality, customary law, languages, original ownership, custodianship, developing traditions and recent history. The effective protection and conservation of this heritage is an important asset in maintaining our Australian identity and the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. Maintaining Aboriginal heritage will ensure a continuous role for anyone interested in caring for country which is beneficial to everyone. Prioritisation of cultural heritage assets and actions requires additional consultation with Aboriginal groups. This will happen through the development of funded projects and continue with the implementation of *Southern Prospects*.

Aboriginal communities and their organisations often have limited resources to directly manage natural resources because generally their focus is on meeting more immediate and different local priorities such as maintenance of community infrastructure, overcoming housing shortages and health issues. The integration of cultural needs within all natural resource management projects therefore provides a useful way to ensure that activities are culturally appropriate and that the learnings of traditional ecological knowledge are applied.

The natural land and waterscapes of the region have a high significance for non-indigenous cultural practices. The use of these natural assets is an important part of the lifestyle for both people living and visiting the region. The cultural attachment to the natural and built environment for non-indigenous Australians, while different to Aboriginal connection, also needs appropriate consideration given both are forms of attachment affected by the same degrading processes.

A variety of issues, problems and circumstances have been identified that affect Aboriginal communities and land managers participating in natural resource management. These include:

- In many areas the passing of Aboriginal Elders is resulting in the loss of traditional knowledge.
- There is often a lack of the necessary time and resources required to carry out meaningful involvement and consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders.
- There is often a lack of community awareness, skills and capacity to deal with existing new and emerging problems.
- There is a perception in the Aboriginal community that when consultation for natural resource management issues occurs the recommendations made by the Aboriginal community are not always acted on. This has a negative impact on future involvement managing natural resources.
- There is limited commercial base to support natural resource management. Traditional owners and managers need funding and other resources to deal with these issues.

To inform the development of *Southern Prospects 2019-2024*, community consultation surveys and workshops were convened during 2018 to seek feedback on *Southern Prospects 2011-2016* and the emerging issues and opportunities facing the south coast community in relation to natural resource management. Feedback from this process identified key enablers and barriers to achieving the Strategy outcomes. These are summarised in Figure 5.3 below.

Heritage Places

Enablers

- 40 plus Cultural Heritage surveys and site visit reports for cultural heritage locations and ongoing consultation with Aboriginal community.
- A desire for sites to be protected.

Barriers

- Not all sites are registered through State Government.
- Access to private land/national parks.
- Lack of Indigenous Protected Areas.

Sustainable Enterprises

Enablers

- National and State Indigenous Procurement Policy
- Establishment of the Noongar Chamber of Commerce.
- Indigenous Business Australia limited support.
- Commitment from South Coast NRM to develop and support enterprises with Aboriginal people.

Barriers

- Lack of funding in NRM.
- Lack of community capacity.
- Big expectation on the Aboriginal community.
- Concerns about the loss of intellectual property.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Enablers

- Noongar/Nyungar family field trips are continuing.
- Aboriginal corporations and native title groups are recording traditional knowledge.
- Protection and restoration of sites continues.
- Desire from the NRM community to integrate traditional ecological knowledge into managing land.
- Joint management from State Govt. and Aboriginal community.

Barriers

- Lack of resources.
- Some Aboriginal people reluctant to share knowledge.
- Loss of traditional knowledge.

Capacity

Enablers

- Native Title settlements in the eastern part of the region.
- Aboriginal Rangers in east and west of the region.
- Desire by Aboriginal community to be involved in NRM but at the beginning of projects and as partners (design and delivery) not just consulted.

Barriers

- Lack of capacity and funding.
- Limited job opportunities.
- No Native Title settlement in the western part of the region.
- Short funding cycles for Ranger programs.
- Lack of capacity of Aboriginal organisations to partner in projects.
- Inability to access Commonwealth Working on Country ranger program.

Engagement

Enablers

- Strengthen relationships and trust via consultation.
- Native Title work.
- Review of Heritage Act.
- Support of NAIDOC week.
- Aboriginal youth programs.
- Cultural awareness programs.
- Willingness of the Aboriginal community to develop protocols.
- Aboriginal Engagement Guidelines developed for South Coast NRM and partners.

Barriers

- Reluctance to disclose information.
- Lack of funding and agency support.
- Capacity to facilitate.
- Conflicts within the community.
- Noongar/Nyungar community cautious to engage.

Figure 5.3. Summary of key enablers and barriers identified by the Aboriginal Reference Group.

Cultural Heritage Key Achievements 2011-2018:

The Key Achievements delivered to support Cultural Heritage during 2011-2018 are summarised below.

1 Engaging Aboriginal people in NRM

Aboriginal people have been engaged in a range of activities across the broad spectrum of natural resource management issues and priorities identified in *Southern Prospects*. Examples include:

- Cultural awareness events delivered and supported in partnership with the Noongar/Nyungar community and a Cultural Heritage Field Guide publication developed.
- Dual naming project delivered through research, validation and communication of Noongar place names of landscape features in the western part of the region. The Noongar place names and their significance were explored, communicated and promoted to the wider community through a weaving project and documentary produced by Aboriginal Youth.
- Development and installation of interpretive signage at Point Possession, Oyster Harbour Fish Traps and Walitj Meil Walk Trail has helped to raise awareness of cultural values at these important locations.
- Noongar family field trips have been facilitated at Two People's Bay, Stirling Range National Park, Lake Pleasant View and Twin Creeks Nature Reserve engaging Aboriginal people in partnership with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- Strong & Proud *Wumbudin koul-yee-rah* after school recreation program engaged Aboriginal youth and assisted them to connect with community, culture and country.
- Noongar Kaartijin in Schools program facilitated Noongar Elders and educators to visit schools and lead excursions sharing personal history, bush foods and medicine, artefacts, creation stories, sites of significance and Noongar respect for the environment.
- Kalgan Hall Menang Complex is one of the oldest continuous occupation sites in the world. Oral histories of eight Elders were recorded, which provided background for the Kalgan River Crossing Interpretation Concept plan.

2 Protection and Restoration of Cultural Locations

The protection and restoration works have been guided by the Cultural Heritage Land and Sea Management Plan, an interactive on-line map developed through consultation with Traditional Owners and Elders. An Aboriginal works team and Aboriginal Green Army teams have been engaged to carry out much of the recovery works including:

- Invasive weed control to protect cultural sites of significance.
- On-ground works using traditional ecological knowledge at Lake Warden.
- Protection and restoration works delivered at 9 culturally significant locations to protect several EPBC species.

3 Training

Training has been provided to Aboriginal people to achieve accreditation in chemical use and safe handling, chainsaw operation and maintenance, tree felling, senior first aid and mentoring. In addition, three Aboriginal School Based Trainees were supported to gain a Certificate II in Business. The two all Aboriginal Green Army teams hosted by South Coast NRM have provided employment opportunities and a career pathway in NRM for eleven young Aboriginal men.

4 Sustainable Indigenous Enterprises

Indigenous enterprises based on NRM have been supported and mentored through:

- An Aboriginal business forum was held in 2015 which identified three business streams within the natural resource management context, environment services, cultural tourism and bush products. This was followed by an Aboriginal business forum and bush food industry field day in 2017.
- 4 Aboriginal enterprises have been supported with training, business mentoring and advice, capacity building and financial help for infrastructure, equipment, study tours and business planning and setup. Other individuals considering starting a business have also been given advice and early support with the intention of their business ideas coming to fruition at a later date.
- 10 Aboriginal people have received tour guide and hospitality training and many others that have learnt more through attending familiarisation tours, workshops and one-on-one advice.

5.2.3 Future Directions

The future directions contained in this strategy and presented as the 25-year aspirations, five-year outcomes and key actions, are based on the review processes conducted by South Coast NRM and its Aboriginal Reference Group with input through regional community consultation processes. The Aboriginal Reference Group modified the Outcomes from the previous *Southern Prospects Strategy* and identified Key Actions to initiate that support delivery of these outcomes over the five-year horizon of this Strategy. These changes are in response to the issues regarding loss of traditional knowledge, loss of cultural heritage and identity, opportunities for establishing profitable new enterprises (eg. Tourism), creating employment and career pathways and engaging with young Aboriginal people.

The Adaptation Pathways process has been applied to these revised Cultural Heritage outcomes (Fig. 5.4) that include key actions to be considered in implementation of the strategy and indicative timeframes. Note that two outcomes, Improved Application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Protection of Heritage Places, are now also included in each of the four biophysical themes to encourage further integration across all themes.

The Adaptation Pathways framework will support the preparation of the Investment Plan by South Coast NRM and help focus investment towards priority actions. It is intended that the key actions be reviewed by South Coast NRM and the Reference Groups to ensure the Strategy continues to be responsive to emerging issues and opportunities, whilst

delivering against the regional natural resource management priorities within the resourcing, capability and capacity available.

The symbols applied in the Adaptation Pathway aim to describe the enabling process for the key actions. These include whether the action is a review process, requires a decision to proceed, connects to other actions, is in a position to commence if funding and resources are available, and when actions are likely to be completed. The shading indicates the proposed commencement and duration of the key actions and provides a guide to phasing and sequencing of these actions.

Aspiration (25+ Years)

All natural resource management actions in the South Coast region recognise and respect natural cultural heritage values. Aboriginal practices, spiritual and cultural values are considered across all themes, to support conservation and protection of our natural environment.

- Protected natural cultural heritage places in partnership with the Aboriginal community.
- Community recognises, values and incorporates Aboriginal traditional ecological knowledge, land management practices and connection to country.
- Aboriginal community with capacity to engage in all areas of NRM including managing country.

Outcome	Key Actions	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
H1. Improved information: Support the retention of traditional ecological knowledge and land management practices with respect for intellectual property.	1. Review and develop intellectual property rights.	?			☰		
	2. Identify and record traditional ecological knowledge and integrate into property management plans.	➡			☰		
	3. Update existing cultural heritage land and sea management plan.	☰	☰	☰	☰	☰	☰
H2. Improved understanding of Climate Change: Identify current and potential Aboriginal cultural sites at risk of climate change impacts.	1. Undertake desktop review of sites to identify risks associated with Climate Change.			➡	▽	?	
	2. Develop adaptation/mitigation plans for high risk sites.					➡	
H3. Protection of heritage places: Identification and protection of significant cultural natural heritage places in partnership with the Aboriginal community.	1. Identify priority sites and develop and implement management plans.		?	➡			
	2. Identify and map opportunities for landscape scale projects and activities in consultation with the Aboriginal community.		➡				
	3. Develop a demonstration project to raise awareness of the significance of cultural heritage and promote opportunities to replicate the approach.				➡		
	4. Support the progression of joint management in Parks and Wildlife managed lands and local government reserves.	➡					



Outcome	Key Actions	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
H4. Sustainable Aboriginal enterprises established: Support the establishment of sustainable Aboriginal enterprises based on NRM principles by Aboriginal communities.	1. Continue to support the development of sustainable business in areas of cultural tourism, environmental services and bush food production.	➡					
	2. Support the development of a Chapter of Noongar Chamber of Commerce within the South Coast.		➡				
	3. Host a business forum to promote opportunities.			➡			
H5. Improved application of traditional ecological knowledge: Apply the use of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) to South Coast community projects with respect for intellectual property.	1. Consult with other themes to advise opportunities to integrate TEK.	➡					
	2. Support and improve community capacity to integrate TEK into land management practices and projects.	⬆	➡				
	3. Improve the capacity of the community to engage.	➡					
H6. Improved Aboriginal community capacity: The Aboriginal community has the capacity to be actively involved in NRM across the region.	1. Improving knowledge and capacity of young Aboriginal people.	➡					
	2. Support Aboriginal ranger programs across the region and support careers and employment in NRM for Aboriginal people.	➡					
	3. Support native title groups to build capacity to get back on country and manage their land.	➡					
	4. Build the capacity of the community to engage people in NRM.	📋	➡				
H7. Improved awareness and education: The wider community understands, respects and is involved in Aboriginal cultural heritage.	1. Support the Aboriginal community to be actively involved in sharing knowledge to increase cultural awareness.	➡					
	2. Provide opportunities to improve the understanding of cultural heritage asset values and their management by the community, land managers and NRM practitioners.	➡					
	3. Support the adoption of dual naming across the region.	📋					
H8. Develop agreed protocols: Protocols continue to be established for Aboriginal engagement and partnerships in NRM.	1. Ongoing review and development of Protocols.	📋	➡				
	2. Develop MOUs with Native Title groups and Aboriginal Corporations.	➡					

LEGEND: Decision Point Review Complete Commence Linking Action

Figure 5.4. Adaptation Pathways - Cultural Heritage Measures and Indicators

5.2.4 Measures and Indicators

A series of potential indicators and measures were recommended by *Southern Prospects 2011-2016* (Table 5.2). These continue to be relevant and act as a guide to assist in setting targets for projects and programs and allow for standard approaches to measurement. Indicators should be selected according to the principles of cost, simplicity, consistency, practicality and capacity to deliver information across the region. These measures will form the base inputs for monitoring and assessing performance for review by South Coast NRM as part of its normal financial and business reporting processes and support annual reporting of Strategy achievements.

Table. 5.2. Potential Indicators – Cultural Heritage

Asset	Indicator	Measure
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (knowledge and places)	1. Aboriginal cultural heritage considered and incorporated into NRM planning and projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of Aboriginal people and organisations consulted and involved in natural resource management activities. ➤ Number of cultural projects, training sessions undertaken. ➤ Number of jointly managed areas. ➤ Number of Aboriginal enterprises based on NRM supported. ➤ Number of Aboriginal people receiving training and employment in natural resource management.
Other Cultural Heritage (knowledge and places)	2. Other cultural heritage considered and incorporated into NRM planning and projects.	Number of people and organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consulted and involved natural resource management activities. ➤ Number of cultural projects, training sessions undertaken.





case study

Strong and Proud - *Wumbudin koul-ye-rah*

Targeted program for Aboriginal youth

The Strong & Proud '*Wumbudin koul-ye-rah*', after school program provides Aboriginal youth, between the ages of 12-17 years old, with culturally appropriate activities that connect them to their culture and country. The program is built on the foundation that being strong in culture and connection to country assists Aboriginal youth to have pride in themselves and their community.



Program successes

- Pre and post program surveys and evaluations showed all students increased their cultural awareness and environmental knowledge.
- High achieving participants have gone on to become a mentor for subsequent programs
- A significant change in anti-social behaviour and improved attitudes to work/schooling was recorded by project officers, mentors, parents and teachers.
- Career pathways have been developed by participants

Enduring outcomes have been achieved by carefully matching expertise with local knowledge through strong partnerships, mentoring and peer networking. A collaborative approach, underpinned by strong project management, has delivered better community-supported outcomes for the Region.

Culture and connection

Ongoing community consultations identified the need for a targeted program for at risk disengaged Aboriginal youth in Albany WA to:

- Learn about culture and connection to country which can be lacking in families experiencing difficulties.
- Build leadership skills and confidence to deal with the mainstream world.
- Increase physical activity and achieve improved health outcomes.
- Access active and positive after school sport and recreation that connect them to the community.
- Prevent Aboriginal youth from dropping out of school and engaging in anti-social behaviour.
- Improve school attendance through incentives.

Partnering for results

The Cultural team within South Coast NRM coordinated the program in partnership with key organisations including Southern Aboriginal Corporation (SAC), Department of Education (DET), Great Southern Employment Development Committee (GSEDC), Wanslea Family Services Great Southern and Wirrpanda Foundation.

- Program duration: 2014 - 2018 (pilot program and continuing).
- Program content: 8 weeks of after school activity per semester, residential workshop and weekend challenges.
- Location: Albany, Western Australia.
- Annual Participation rate: 88 students (2016).

A project steering group was made up of representatives from the partner organisations, Albany Senior High School (ASHS) and North Albany Senior High School (NASHS) to provide strategic advice and ensure the project achieved its aims. The Cultural team comprised Aboriginal employees, senior staff with teaching experience and project officers experienced in the delivery of similar projects. Community sport and active recreation groups led the sport and recreation activities and the Aboriginal community assisted with the sharing of cultural heritage knowledge and values at the activity locations. Environmental organisations provided restoration and protection activities at the locations where possible. Two Aboriginal mentors supported the participants throughout the program and helped with identify and mitigate issues.



Activities

The Strong & Proud program was developed around Noongar seasons and runs during school semesters. It involves Aboriginal youth, Noongar Elders, families and community on country in 8 weeks of after-school activities, a mid-semester Noongar family residential workshop, a weekend activity challenge and a wrap up and awards session.

The program is built around relevant youth engagement activities for the Noongar Seasons and the following strategies:

After school activities – Aboriginal youth can only attend if they have attended school that day. They are picked up from school and dropped home and provided with a healthy afternoon tea. The program of activities is a 'taste test' of environmental, cultural and recreational activities led by experts. They are provided with cultural knowledge and practices to assist with building self-esteem and providing a positive and culturally accepting environment. Team building elements are incorporated in all activities to assist with developing interpersonal and leadership skills.

A Noongar family camp – Aboriginal youth who demonstrate improved school attendance and behaviour are invited to attend the camp, providing positive inter-generational and cultural experiences. They learn about their culture and country through positive activities and experiences in the environment and are involved in active recreation and team building activities. Separate activities are provided to allow for men's and women's business guided by the Elders.

Weekend activity challenge – As a culminating activity, Aboriginal youth are challenged in one of the recreation activities e.g. Munda Biddi mountain bike ride.

Noongar seasons

Birak (December - January) The hot easterly winds blow during the day. Noongars would burn scrubland to force animals into the open for hunting.

Bunuru (February - March) It is very dry during this season. Noongars moved to the coast and estuaries as fish was a large part of their seasonal diet.

Coastal activities: surfing, stand-up paddle-boarding, fishing, snorkelling and bush walking.

Djeran (April - May) The weather becomes cooler with winds from the south-west. Noongars continued to fish and collect plant bulbs and seeds.

Makuru (June - July) During this time, Noongars moved inland to hunt once rain had replenished inland water resources.

Inland activities: mountain biking, planting, fauna surveys, identifying Indigenous artefacts, orienteering and bush survival skills.

Djilba (August - September) The weather becomes warmer. Traditionally roots were collected and emus, possums and kangaroos were hunted.

Kambarang (October - November) Noongars moved onto the coastal plains where frogs, tortoises and freshwater crayfish were caught.

Waterways activities: canoeing, fishing, seed collection, water monitoring, sailing and learning about fish traps.



next steps

10. Next steps

Effective management of the natural resources of the South Coast region will require action from land and water managers, the broader regional community, industry, local, state and national governments. To enable this engagement *Southern Prospects* will be supplemented with an Investment Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation plan that South Coast NRM will implement and use as a basis to seek support to undertake these activities.

10.1 Investment Plan

The development of an Investment Plan that accompanies this strategy will ensure early engagement with stakeholders and the community to make sure that their interests and concerns are considered. The Investment Plan will include sufficient information to allow potential investors, including the state and federal governments, to assess alignment with their priorities and level of funding. The Investment Plan will include:

- proposed sources of investment
- detailed project proposals
- proposed project budgets
- prioritisation: urgency, significance or critical nature of the action
- risk factors and management plans
- timelines, milestones and performance indicators.

To determine the level of priority for each activity identified as necessary to deliver *Southern Prospects*, consideration of numerous factors will be included, such as:

- Does the activity protect or restore a high value asset?
- Does the activity remove a high value threat?
- Is the action feasible?
- Does the action contribute to the improvement of an asset?
- Is the action supported by strong evidence or experience?
- Is there a risk associated with the action that may have an impact on short-term outcomes or long-term aspirations?
- Is the action supported by the community?
- Will the activity contribute to the reduction of the causes or symptoms of threats?

Several steps are designed to guide planning, implementation, and measurement of success of natural resource management projects. These cyclical steps are summarised in Figure 10.1.

Image: Ross Ramm

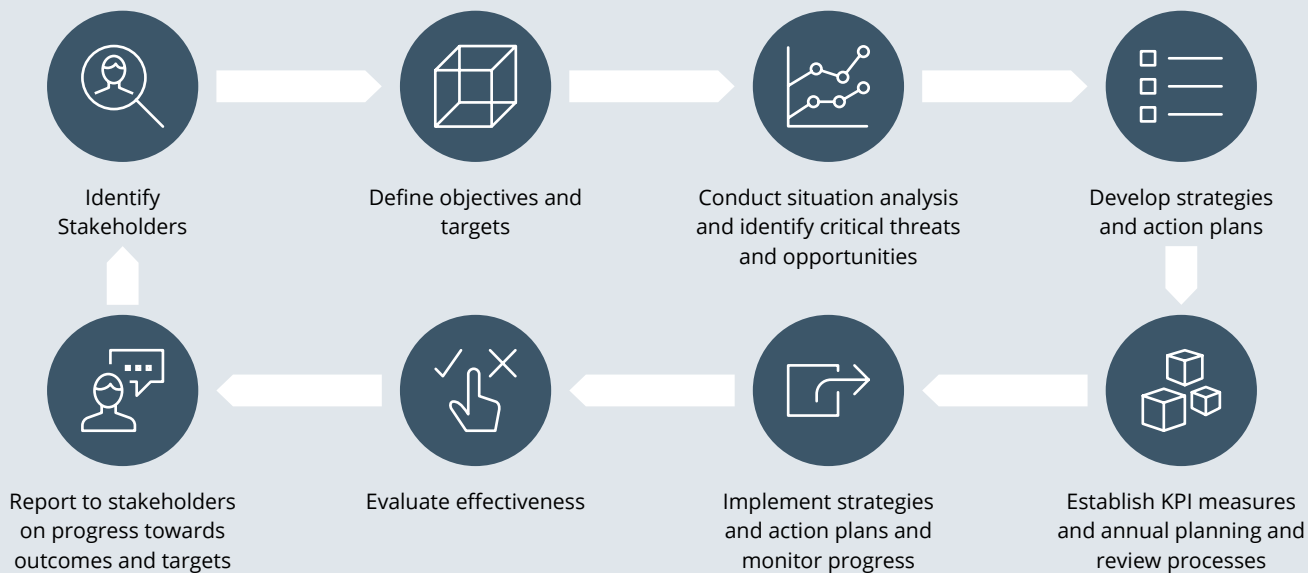


Figure 10.1. Representative Steps in the NRM Planning Process.

10.2 Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement

South Coast NRM will utilise the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework to develop its monitoring and evaluation plan. The MERI framework provides a structured approach for monitoring, evaluating, reporting and improving the management of key assets. The key assets include human, social, cultural, natural, physical and financial assets. Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement are essential components of NRM programs and provide methods to assess their appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and legacy. The MERI framework also:

- Enables the South Coast community to integrate the monitoring activities being undertaken.
- Ensures that the data generated is suitable for national and state reporting.
- Identifies roles, responsibilities, tasks and timelines for delivery.
- Makes appropriate data available to the community.

The setting of goals and targets for the condition of natural assets, and the effective management of reporting are also essential components of the MERI framework. The assigning of targets using previously agreed upon indicators and associated protocols for effective monitoring and reporting is necessary. This will promote consistency in setting and measuring progress towards targets and longer-term ambitions as well as promoting consistent data collection. A more consistent approach to effective management and reporting will allow for streamlined comparison of program achievements with assessments of conditions or trends in natural assets. This will also facilitate a learning environment that allows managers and participants to adapt practices, strategies and investment plans for continuous improvement. The MERI strategy represents an opportunity to create clarity and set the direction to create and disseminate valuable information that does more than meet obligations of funding bodies.

10.3 Information Sharing

South Coast NRM is committed to providing information to the community through an information storage and management system, which will comprise:

- Annual reporting of progress.
- South Coast Document Management System.
- Natural resource management based media.
- South Coast electronic library (website based electronic documents).
- South Coast data directory (metadata library describing the nature and availability of asset condition data).

Additionally, the information regarding projects and achievements of the South Coast NRM will be shared through numerous community events and workshops.

10.4 Reviewing Southern Prospects 2019-2024

The *Southern Prospects 2019-2024* strategy provides the framework for a 5-year period. It is a requirement that this strategy is a dynamic document that can be fine-tuned through the existing governance processes when necessary to ensure success of managing our natural resources. A formal review of this strategy will be undertaken in 2023 to inform the development of the next iteration of *Southern Prospects*.

acronyms

4WD	Four Wheel Drive
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACCI	Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
ACECRC	Antarctic Climate and Ecosystem Cooperative Research Centre
AEH	Albany Eastern Hinterland
AGM	Annual General Meeting
ARMA	Aquatic Resources Management Act
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
BRUVs	Baited Remote Underwater Videos
CAMBA	China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
CENRM	Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, WA
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity and Conservation WA
DIDMS	Dieback Information Database Management System
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DPLH	The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
EC	Electrical Conductivity

ECU	Edith Cowen University
EMS	Environmental Management Systems
ENSO	El Niño-Southern Oscillation
EPBC	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
FBCC	Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective
FBG	Fitzgerald Biosphere Group
FPC	Forest Products Commission
GEDC	Goldfields Esperance Development Commission
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLSC	Goldfields Land and Sea Council
GSDC	Great Southern Development Commission
ha	Hectare
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreements
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
IPP	Indigenous Procurement Policy
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JAMBA	Japan Australia Migratory Birds Agreement
km	Kilometres
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LGAs	Local Government Authorities

M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MERI	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement
MPG	Malleefowl Preservation Group
MRWA	Main Roads Western Australia
NAIDOC	National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NLE	Noongar Land Enterprises
NLP	National Landcare Program
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NSPNR	North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources Inc
OHCG	Oyster Harbour Catchment Group
PPA	Priority Protection Areas
QA	Quality Assurance
R&D	Research and Development
RAIN	Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RDAGS	Regional Development Australia – Great Southern
RLP	Regional Land Partnerships
SCEF	South Coast Estuarine Fishery
SCF	Stirlings to Coast Farmer Group

SCMG	South Coast Management Group
SCNRM	South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.
SCRIPT	South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team
SCUBA	Self-contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus
SEPWA	South East Premium Wheat Growers Association
SSWF	Southern and South West Flatlands
SWALSC	South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council
SWOT	Strengths Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
TCG	Torbay Catchment Group
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TEC	Threatened Ecological Communities
TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UCL	Unallocated Crown Land
UWA	University of Western Australia
WA	Western Australia
WALN	Western Australian Landcare Network
WICC	Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee Inc

glossary

ACTIVITY noun (plural activities) 1. The state of action; doing. 2. The quality of acting promptly; energy. 3. a specific deed or action; sphere of action.

ADAPTIVE CAPACITY The capacity of a system to adapt to its changing environment. It is applied to ecological systems and human social systems.

AGRO-ECOSYSTEM A model for the functioning of an agricultural system, with all inputs and outputs.

ASPIRATION noun 1. The act of aspiring; lofty or ambitious desire. 2. Something aspired to; an ambition.

ASSET A useful thing or quality; something that has a value. In natural resource management, assets are classified as human capital, social capital, natural capital, physical capital and financial capital.

BASELINE DATA Measurement of the resource condition, attitudes and behaviours at the beginning. Setting targets requires the identification of a baseline – the level against which progress will be measured.

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT An area with a significant reservoir of biodiversity that is under threat from human impact.

BIOREGION An area of land which shares similar environmental, physical and climatic conditions and which contains characteristic ecosystems of plants and animals. Western Australia is divided into 26 land bioregions.

CAPACITY The knowledge, skills, attitudes and resources needed to address natural resource management challenges. Community capacity building is about putting in place the necessary support mechanisms to achieve effective natural resource management.

CAPACITY BUILDING An activity or activities designed to enhance natural resource management planning and management. This includes providing stakeholders with access to data and information; enhancing knowledge, skills and abilities; research and development; and market based approaches.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION The removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks (such as oceans, forests or soils) through physical or biological processes.

CATCHMENT The land area which drains into a particular watercourse (river, stream or creek) and which is a natural topographic division of the landscape. It includes 'end of catchment', that is, where catchments join other rivers or estuaries.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION Initiatives and measures to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems against actual or expected climate change effects.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION Mitigation involves acting to minimise the effects of global warming. Most often, mitigations involve reductions in the concentrations of greenhouse gases, either by reducing sources or by increasing sinks.

COASTAL Any part of the region within sight of, or directly impacted by, the sea, or potentially affected by coastal flooding or sea-level rise. The 'coastal zone' will therefore vary, depending on local topography.

COMMUNITY Community is used as an inclusive term to include everyone in the South Coast NRM region, in both their public and their private capacity. Community will therefore include state and local governments, industries and public land managers, as well as individuals and groups sharing an interest in natural resource management.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY Community capacity is the combination of building people's commitment and skills to build on strengths within the community to address problems and react to potential opportunities.

ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES The biological, chemical and physical processes that take place within an ecosystem (e.g. carbon cycling, nutrient assimilation).

ECOSYSTEM A dynamic complex of plant, animal and microorganism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

ENDEMIC Confined to a particular area. For example, a South Coast endemic species is found only in the South Coast region of WA.

ESTUARINE A semi-enclosed or periodically closed coastal body of water in which the aquatic environment is affected by the physical and chemical characteristics of both fluvial (freshwater) and marine systems.

EVALUATION The systematic review of a program, project, strategy or other activity to determine whether it is working as intended, what impacts it is producing, whether it is being implemented cost-effectively, and the reasons why it is producing the identified impacts. Evaluation involves collecting and analysing information to make judgements and recommendations for future action.

GEODIVERSITY The range or diversity of geological (bedrock), geomorphological (landform) and soil features, assemblages, systems and processes.

INDICATOR A measurement that can be repeated over time to track changes in the condition of a resource or environmental asset, a management practice, or a social or economic process. A surrogate indicator is a measure developed to monitor the performance of an activity where asset condition monitoring is non-existent or not appropriate.

INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Natural resource management is complex, spanning multiple issues. An integrated approach addresses natural resource management issues holistically, with coordination across different agencies and organisations, and across different land tenures and geographical areas. Integrated natural resource management should deliver more coordinated, efficient and effective outcomes.

LAND USE Land use describes the activities that occur on land, such as agriculture, energy production, human settlements, transport, forestry, mining and conservation.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS Activities to be undertaken to improve the condition of the region's natural resources.

MARINE Areas where the environment is more strongly influenced by the oceans than by the main landmass of Western Australia and its rivers. Mostly refers to the seabed, open waters and more remote offshore islands.

MONITORING The regular gathering of information in a consistent manner. It may be to keep track of and observe the progress of a project or program. Environmental monitoring is a valuable tool to determine whether the condition of a resource is stable, improving or declining.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT The management of any activity that uses, develops or conserves 'natural resources'.

NATURAL RESOURCES The water, land (including soils), air, plants, animals and microorganisms, and the systems they form.

OUTCOME Noun that which results from something; the consequence or issue. The result or impact of a number of management outcomes.

PARTICIPATION As a concept, participation refers to the number of people engaged in an activity (e.g. public meetings, local governance, landcare groups, adult education, employment).

PERI-URBAN Immediately adjoining an urban area; between the suburbs and the countryside. City fringe (i.e. low density or semi urban).

PLANTATIONS Intensively managed trees, of either native forest or exotic species, created by the regular placements of seedlings or seed.

QUADRUPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING Quadruple bottom line reporting uses the idea that the condition of economic, social, environmental and wellbeing/health/spiritual factors should be taken into account. This allows for a more holistic consideration of the well being of systems.

RENEWABLE ENERGY Any source of energy that can be used without depleting its reserves.

RESERVES Areas of protected landscapes or ecosystems. Reserves can be marine or terrestrial, informal or formal (dedicated statutory reserves).

RESILIENCE The ability to absorb the impacts of disturbances, or the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change. Resilience can refer to natural systems (i.e. ecosystems or individual species) and human social systems (e.g. local salinity communities).

SALINITY The accumulation of excessive salts in land and water at sufficient levels to have an impact on human and natural assets (plants, animals, aquatic ecosystems, water supplies, agriculture or infrastructure).

SECTOR A specific section of the community, such as state government, local government, industry, public land managers, the 'care' community, the Aboriginal community.

STAKEHOLDERS Agencies, organisations and individuals responsible for managing the region's natural resources.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while: sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

TARGET A "target" is defined as an agreed endpoint, desired outcome or a specific level of performance to be achieved within a specified period of time, for a particular objective. Targets are policy tools, but have a scientific base. They are the measurable or quantifiable component towards achieving desired policy visions, objectives and goals (which in themselves tend to be qualitative, conceptual or general statements of intent).

TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING Triple bottom line reporting considers the condition of economic, social and environmental factors.

THREATENED SPECIES Flora or fauna that is listed in Wildlife Conservation Act EPBC Act. That is, species or subspecies listed as extinct, endangered, vulnerable or rare.

VULNERABLE Where threatening processes have caused loss or significant decline in species that play a major role within the ecosystem; or a significant alteration to ecosystem processes.

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Major Stakeholders involved in NRM

Land Managers

Individual landholders and land managers are the key group impacting on catchment health through their use of resources. They all have a duty of care to ensure that land, water and the associated natural resources are managed in an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable way, to avoid ongoing degradation. These stakeholders hold the key to action and on-ground achievements.

Regional Community

Partnerships and networking with the regional community are critical to the achievement of good outcomes for our land, water, biodiversity, cultural heritage and regional capacity. Significant numbers of active voluntary individual residents, groups and visitors are involved in NRM activities. In addition, there is a range of active voluntary NRM groups in the region.

Community Groups

Community groups play an active role in on-ground work programs for environmental improvement. Types of groups include Catchment, Bushcare, Coastcare, Friends of, Cultural, Landcare and Weed Action Groups.

Major Subregional Groups

Fitzgerald Biosphere Group Inc (FBG)

The FBG is a not for profit grower and NRM group operating within the Shire of Jerramungup. The group works with farmers, researchers, industry groups and federal and State agencies to address local production issues (e.g. diseases, pests and nutrient limitations) and NRM issues (i.e. salinity and soil acidification) to ensure the long-term sustainability of the agricultural industry and the communities within the region. The group is focused on research, marketing, education and the environment.

Gillamii Centre, Cranbrook

The Gillamii Centre aims to lead and inspire the agricultural community and the community at large to be involved with sustainable land use through training, education and knowledge. They aim to encourage and lead in the efficient use of resources across the community while protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

Noongar Land Enterprises (NLE)

The Noongar Land Enterprises is a grower group that comprises of eight Indigenous land management groups involved in managing agricultural land across the State's south west. The purpose of NLE is to develop and expand the scope of business enterprises managed on our land which will provide more opportunities for participation of Aboriginal people in these businesses. NLE is developing land based businesses such as Bush Foods, Honey, Tourism, Sandalwood, and Mainstream Agriculture for socioeconomic outcomes.

North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources Inc (NSPNR)

The group aims to bring together people, organisations and information, so that communities in the North Stirlings Pallinup sub-region are able to drive the better management of natural resources, resulting in social, economic and environmental sustainability. They work to inspire current and future generations through coordination, education and examples of the benefits accruing from sustainable management of the region's natural resources.

Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Inc (OHCG)

OHCG aims to increase community participation in NRM within the catchment and encourage the incorporation of NRM concerns within planning strategies at all government levels. The catchment group also aims to promote ecologically and economically sustainable farming practices.

Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network Inc (RAIN)

RAIN is a not-for-profit community group promoting responsible NRM and long-term sustainable agricultural systems in the Ravensthorpe district. RAIN supports the community and other stakeholders in a wide range of NRM activities including the planning and implementation of on-ground activities; coordination of trials, research and education, and providing a forum for NRM issues.

South Coast Management Group (SCMG)

The SCMG is a local government-based regional representative body of coastal planners and managers and the lead body responsible for the development and implementation of Southern Shores, a strategic guide for regional coastal and marine planning and management on the South Coast. The SCMG has strong community representation, as required by its constitution, and has a vision that communities of the region will work in partnership to improve the quality of the coastal and marine environment. SCMG provides a bi-monthly forum for the discussion of issues relating to coastal and marine planning and management and also actively promotes best practice coastal management in the region.

South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA)

SEPWA is a non-profit grower group that was started in 1993 and has an active membership of 270 farming entities which represents some of the most progressive growers in the region and makes SEPWA one of the largest grower groups within Western Australia. SEPWA's role is to improve profitability and sustainability of Esperance Port Zone grain growers through providing research, development and extension activities.

Southern Biosecurity Group

The Southern Biosecurity Group is part of the Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group (RDSG) which was established in 2003. It now operates as a subcommittee of the Ravensthorpe Agriculture Initiative Network (RAIN). The Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group is currently exploring the transition to a Regional Biosecurity Group which may widen the focus from what has primarily been wild dog activities to a broader focus on declared pest management. The Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group is playing a key role in assisting land managers to manage and control high risk plant and animal pests in the shire.

Stirling to Coast Farmers

Stirling to Coast Farmers (SCF) is a local research development and extension (RD&E) group for cropping and livestock farmers in the southern Albany Port Zone. The main purpose of the group is to support its members through the delivery of locally relevant high quality RD&E activities. SCF's role is to help its members adapt to a changing operating environment with the objective of achieving a more prosperous and sustainable agricultural industry.

Torbay Catchment Group

The Torbay Catchment Group is a community-based volunteer organisation, whose primary focus is on protecting and restoring the health of the lands and waterways within the greater Torbay catchment and supporting a prosperous and sustainable community within the area.

Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee Inc (WICC)

WICC is the peak community based organisation within the Wilson Inlet catchment. WICC is involved in all areas of integrated catchment and natural resource management, achieving on-ground results with land managers and owners.

South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc (South Coast NRM)

South Coast NRM is the peak regional body that brings people, organisations and information together so that the regional community can drive sustainable management of natural resources with positive social and economic outcomes. It is an incorporated body, managed by a Board. South Coast NRM is responsible for coordinating the development of *Southern Prospects* and associated Investment Plan and for subsequent reporting on investment outcomes.

Local Government

Local Governments have an important influence on NRM through their responsibilities for land use planning, development approvals, and provision of a variety of services, such as road construction and maintenance, waste management, and pest control. Local governments also own and/ or manage large areas of land. Councils with jurisdiction across the South Coast region are Albany, Broomehill - Tambellup, Cranbrook, Denmark, Esperance, Jerramungup, Gnowangerup, Kent, Kojonup, Lake Grace, Manjimup, Plantagenet and Ravensthorpe.

Other Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)

NGOs cover a broad field of activities. NGO's roles and responsibilities include on-ground actions, policy development and promotion, and representation of particular interest groups. These include the Malleefowl Preservation Group (MPG), Gondwana Link Inc., Green Skills, Greening Australia (WA), Progress Associations, Denmark and Albany Environment Centres and Centre for Sustainable Living (Denmark).

Educational Institutions

University of WA (UWA) Albany Centre, Edith Cowan University (ECU), Curtin University of Technology (Centre for Regional Education), South Regional TAFE and Esperance Community College are educational institutions operating in the region. They have a vital role in producing graduates with extensive knowledge of natural management issues.

Industry Groups

Industry groups have a significant responsibility to develop and promote operating procedures and best practice management in NRM. They are responsible for implementing systems to promote sustainable practices and support regional health initiatives. There are a number of industry groups established at the national, State and regional levels. Examples of industry groups include the Grower Group Alliance, Southern Dirt, Evergreen, Stirlings to Coast, South East Premium Wheat Growers Association, Pastoralists and Graziers Association, Western Australia No-Till Farmers Association, WA Farmers Federation, Oil Mallee Association and private agricultural consultants.

Aboriginal Groups

Aboriginal people have a long history in the region and possess intricate knowledge of traditional ecological and sustainable land management practises. Their knowledge needs to be recognised, valued and protected. There are approximately 20 major Aboriginal groups in the region who need to be involved more broadly to ensure preservation of cultural practices, languages and culturally important places. These include the Native Title claimant groups, reference groups, Aboriginal Corporations, Goldfields Land And Sea Council (GLSC), Noongar Land Enterprises (NLE), Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC) and South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC).

Government Agencies

The Australian Government provides high level policy and guidance on matters which have national significance and is involved in the delivery of Australian Government programs. Key Australian Government Agencies involved with NRM matters are the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Department of Environment and Energy and Regional Development Australia Great Southern WA Inc.

Various State Government departments and agencies are involved in NRM and related activities in the region and commit significant resources to those activities. These departments are listed below.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)

DPIRD is brings together the responsibilities for Agriculture and Food, Fisheries and Regions to ensure that Western Australia's primary industries and regions are vital drivers to the State's economy and prosperity. The Department has three goals:

- To manage and provide for sustainable use of our natural resources and soils, and to protect Western Australia's brand and reputation as a reliable producer of premium, clean and safe food, products and services.
- To enable the primary industries sector and regions to increase international competitiveness, and grow in value and social amenity, strengthening these key pillars of the State's economy.
- To support a culture of scientific inquiry, innovation and adaptation across primary industries and regions to boost industry transformation, economic growth and employment.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)

DBCA has lead responsibility throughout the State for conserving our rich diversity of native plants, animals and natural ecosystems and many of our unique landscapes for their intrinsic values and for the benefit of present and future generations of the people of WA. On behalf of the Conservation Commission of WA, DBCA manages national parks, nature reserves, conservation parks, State forests and timber reserves. In addition, on behalf of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, DBCA manages marine parks and marine nature reserves. DBCA also has some responsibility for weeds, introduced animals and pre-suppression fire activities on unallocated crown land outside of town-sites. DBCA contributes to the conservation of cultural heritage and to national and international programmes including the IUCN (the World Conservation Union) and international conservation treaties. DBCA has an important role in tourism and recreation as the conservation estate attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)

DWER is responsible for the management of water resources to meet the environmental, social and economic needs of the community. Water resources include groundwater, rivers and estuaries. DWER licences abstraction in proclaimed areas, plans and protects public water sources, provides information on water resources and facilitates the management of priority rivers and estuaries.

DWER also regulates industries and activities that can potentially impact upon the environment. Clearing of native vegetation, industry licensing, pollution response and waste management, as well as developing policies and community education programs to reduce impact on the environment are all functions of the agency.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH)

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is responsible for planning Western Australia's communities and managing our land and heritage assets. The department is an amalgamation of the former departments of Planning, Lands, the State Heritage Office and the land and heritage functions of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. The Department is responsible for:

- Managing Aboriginal lands and heritage.
- Administering Western Australia's crown land.
- Land use planning in Western Australia.
- Managing the State Register of Heritage Places.

Forest Products Commission (FPC)

FPC is the WA Government trading enterprise for plantation management and commercial production from renewable timber resources.

Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) and Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC)

GEDC's and GSDC's role is to encourage, promote, facilitate and monitor the region's economic development. The organisations' objectives are to maximise job creation and improve career opportunities, develop and broaden the economic base of the region, identify infrastructure services that promote economic and social development, provide information and advice to promote business development, ensure that regional government services are comparable to the metropolitan areas, and coordinate linkages between relevant statutory bodies and State government agencies.

Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA)

MRWA is responsible for the management of transport related services and infrastructure (e.g. roads). MRWA works in conjunction with Local Government and its local road network in order to create an integrated transport network.

Regional Development Australia – Great Southern (RDA)

The RDA network has been established throughout Australia to provide a strategic framework for economic growth in each region. The key roles of the national network of RDA committees are to advise, consult and undertake community engagement, to contribute to regional planning, to be the first point of contact of Australian Government activities, to promote government programs and to facilitate community development.

WA Museum

The Museum is the State's premier cultural organisation, housing WA's scientific and cultural collection. For over 120 years the Museum has been making the State's natural and social heritage accessible and engaging through research, exhibitions and public programs.

Research Organisations

Research organisations play a lead role in undertaking scientific studies relating to the natural resources, sustainable agriculture and climate change relevant to the South Coast region. These include the local Western Australian Universities and other organisations such as the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Western Australian Universities

Regional organisations involved in research and development (R&D) include the University of Western Australia's Centre of Excellence for NRM (CENRM) and the other Western Australian universities of Murdoch, Edith Cowan and Curtin. These are important bodies that deliver research and expertise to fill information gaps across the region. Research outcomes and expertise are accessible to a variety of groups.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Since its formation in 1916, CSIRO has been the leading research and innovation centre in Australia. Key research interests include animals and plants, farming and food production, renewables and energy, environment and mining and manufacturing.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

The BoM is Australia's national weather, climate and water agency, providing expert advice through regular forecasts, warnings and long-term monitoring. The Bureau also undertakes research that supports key decision making relating to scientific and environmental issues.



land



biodiversity



water



coastal
and marine



regional
capacity



cultural
heritage