SOUTHCOAST
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC.

ANNUAL REPORT
2024/25

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the places in which we live, work and play. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

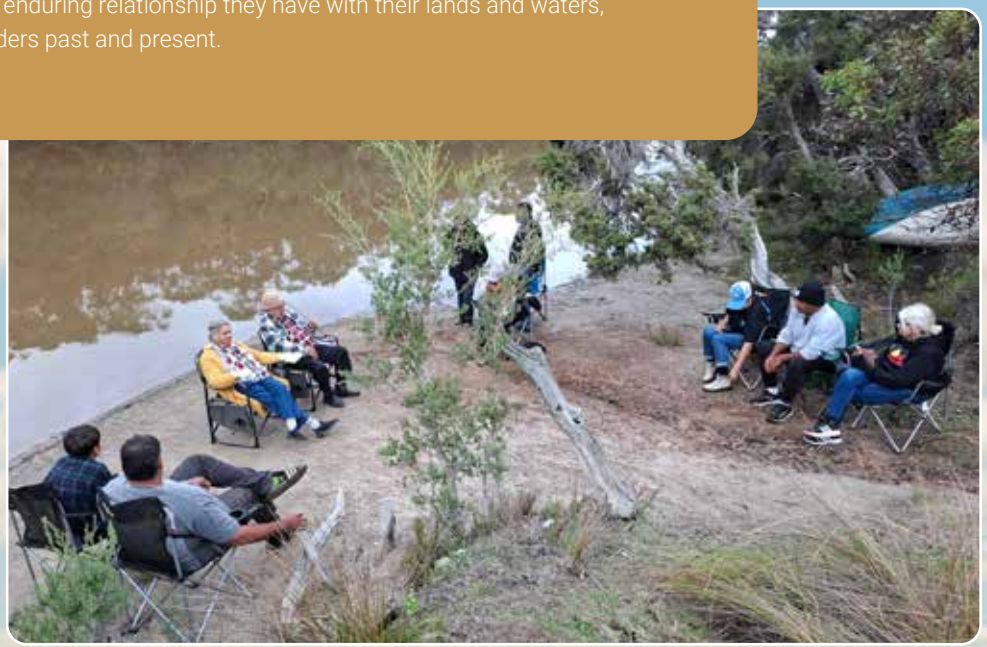

Image by: Jasmine Eeles

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CHAIR & CEO REPORT

This past year has seen enhancements in our collaboration with catchment and Landcare groups, Aboriginal Corporations, regional industries, and government partners—collaborations that have paved the way for meaningful work. However, we recognise that our journey is far from complete.

During the 2024/25 period, our core projects gained momentum, supported by the Australian Government's Regional Delivery Partner Panel (RDPP). Launched in late 2023, these programs focus on climate-smart agriculture, wetlands and the conservation of threatened species and their habitats. Conservation science guides our efforts with three focal threatened species in our region: the Western Ground Parrot, the Noisy Scrub Bird, and Gilbert's Potoroo. Additionally, we remain committed to enhancing the management of the Esperance RAMSAR wetlands and integrated landscape management within the Fitz-Stirling priority place. These significant projects are being delivered in collaboration with landowners, industry partners, community groups, and government agencies, and we are seeing positive outcomes across all areas of investment.

South Coast NRM continues to pursue funding opportunities that align with our strategic and financial objectives, as well as the needs of regional partners. In addition to RDPP projects, we secured funds to lead urban projects funded by the Australian Government, including initiatives focused on Western Ringtail Possums and an Urban Rivers project in partnership with the City of Albany.

Furthermore, we are undertaking projects funded by the WA State Government that deliver benefits to our local communities and the environment. Initiatives such as the Right Whale Tracker and Know Your Southern Soils demonstrate our commitment to community engagement, citizen science, and environmental education. Further details of these and other initiatives can be found within this annual report.

While our projects under the Australian Government RDPP currently form the backbone of our operational model, we are allocating resources to strengthen our business model. This work is driven by our ambition to achieve excellence across the region, foster innovation, and demonstrate leadership. South Coast NRM understands that, to establish and maintain the highest standards in program development and delivery in the long term, we must continually evolve.

Over the past three years, we have dedicated ourselves to building relationships with both longstanding and new partners, including private sector interests, philanthropic organisations, and all levels of government. We will persist on this path, looking to facilitate more investment in our region as interest in natural capital continues to mature and demand for high-integrity NRM products increases.

The Board and Senior Leadership Team are confident that this growth strategy will be achieved over the next five years. This work will bolster resources for long-term, high-integrity environmental management and rehabilitation

along the South Coast, reaffirming the value proposition of our NRM organisations to regional, national, and international stakeholders. While there are financial risks associated with this strategy and leadership position, we believe these risks remain manageable, particularly with a conservative and well-managed budget, as well as active engagement with the local community, sector, and industry associations.

A key consideration in attracting investment is the development of sound government policy that balances environmental protection with the needs of the regional industry. To that end, our leadership team continues to advocate for our organisation's and the regional industry's efforts among government ministers and their departments, industry leaders, and stakeholders. We are committed to building alliances with international, national, and local organisations that share similar strategic interests, enabling us to learn from their experiences, enhance local capacity, and explore investment opportunities.

To operationalise our strategic objectives, we are developing coordinated, large-scale, multi-tenure NRM pilots that implement nature-based strategies to bolster drought resilience and enhance productivity. Currently, we have three landscape-scale pilot projects in development that will be underpinned by industry needs and incorporate natural capital metrics. These initial areas of work are based in the Frankland-Porongurup, Esperance Sandplain, and Fitz-Stirling regions.

The Board and Senior Leadership Team recognise that a continued focus on organisational excellence—through enduring financial viability, an ambitious workforce, and an inclusive culture—is fundamental to our future success. Over the past 12 months, management has committed to significant improvements in governance practice at South Coast NRM, including enhancements in financial management procedures, website upgrades, cybersecurity measures, and workplace health and safety initiatives.

We want to extend our appreciation to all board and subcommittee members, the senior leadership team, and our valued staff for their leadership, commitment, and guidance throughout the past year.

ANDREW BATHGATE
CHAIR

LUKE BAYLEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2024/25

South Coast NRM is required to prepare Annual Financial Reports in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act (WA) 2025 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012. The 2025 Special Purpose Financial Report has been completed, and a copy is available on the South Coast NRM website.

South Coast NRM's financial performance for the year is detailed in the Audited Financial Report. The net result for the year 2024/25 was a surplus of $892,498 as summarised in the Profit or Loss table to the right.

PROFIT OR LOSS

	2025	2024
Revenue and Other Income	5,228,722	2,621,492
Expenses		
Direct Expenses	2,978,313	1,932,550
Operating Expenses	1,357,912	1,364,698
Total Expenses	**4,336,225**	**3,297,248**
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	**892,498**	**(675,756)**

The following is an explanation of the 2025 Financial Year surplus:

1. Organisational savings were achieved in project expenditure, largely because deliverables were completed as internal delivery by the Operations team.

2. Organisational savings were achieved in project salaries due to:
   - Delays in recruiting applicants in the financial year.
   - Staff taking on extra duties to cover gaps when staff vacancies occurred.
   - Staff utilising all accrued leave (reducing leave provisions).

3. Some surpluses were obtained in 2024/25 for projects, which will be carried forward in future years.

Natural Capital Business Development

SCNRM is leading the industry in developing a Natural Capital Program for the region.

SCNRM's investment in development of the programs for the 2024/25 year was $228,475, which included salaries for a Business Development Manager and consultancy fees for Business Development services.

BALANCE SHEET

	2025	2024
Assets		
Current Assets	5,162,309	2,653,401
Non-Current Assets	106,787	235,055
Total Assets	5,269,096	2,888,456
Expenses		
Current Liabilities	2,489,050	954,734
Non-Current Liabilities	43,186	89,360
Total Liabilities	2,532,236	1,044,093
Net Assets	**2,736,860**	**1,844,363**

South Coast NRM's net asset position has increased over the past 5 years and is in a solvent position with Assets exceeding liabilities.

Image by: Jasmine Eeles

AMD

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

Independent Member of
BKR
INTERNATIONAL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH COAST NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC.

Opinion
We have audited the financial report of South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report has been prepared in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012*, including:

i) giving a true and fair view, in all material aspects, of the financial position of South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. as at 30 June 2025, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and

ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, the *Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.*

Basis for Opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter- Basis of Accounting
We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015* and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Emphasis of Matter- Economic Dependency
We draw attention to Note 14 to the financial report, which describes South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.'s dependency on funding from the Australian Government together with funding received from other sources. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012* and for such internal control as management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.'s financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

AN OPERATIONAL YEAR IN REVIEW 2024/25

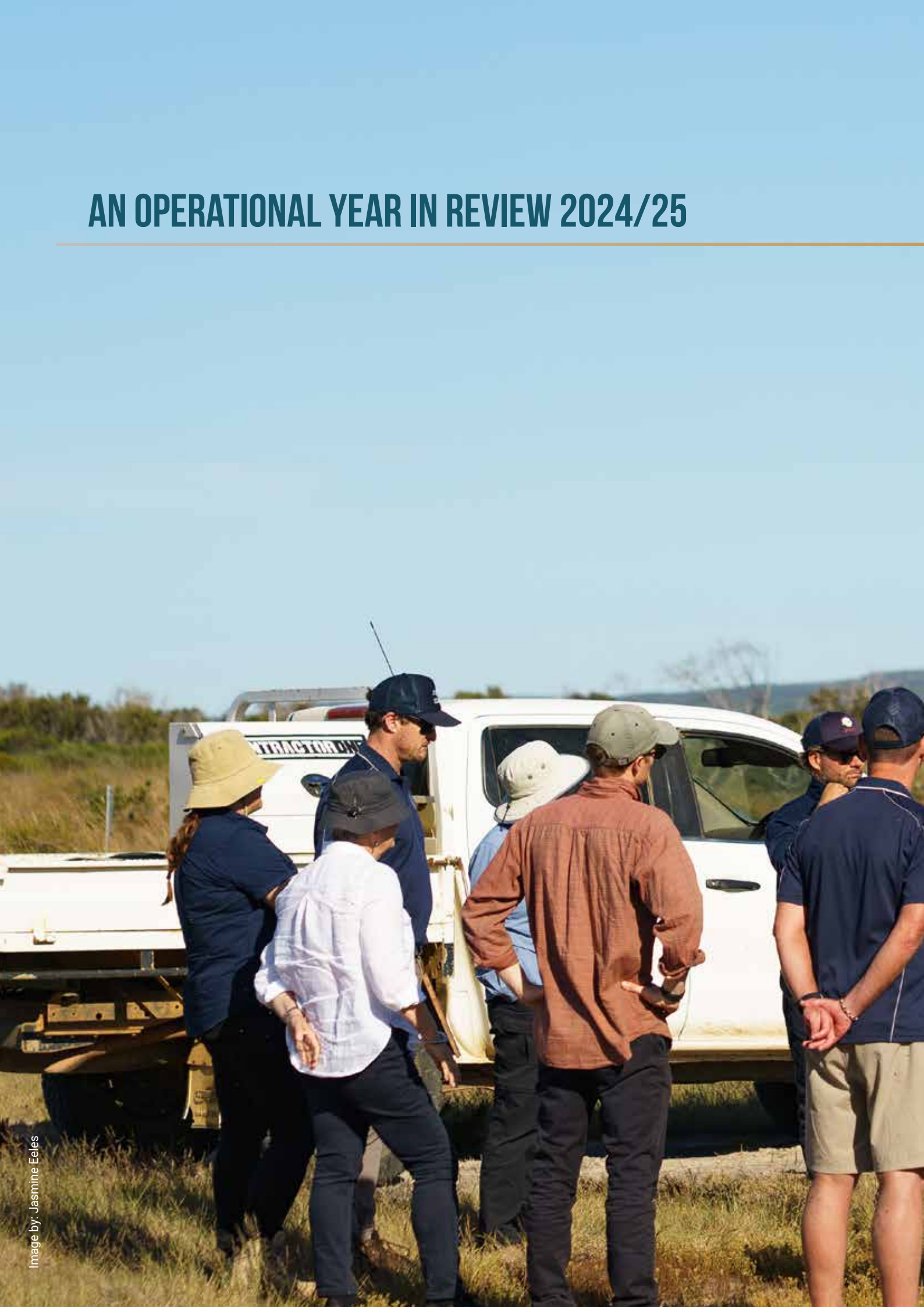


Image by: Jasmine Eeles

South Coast NRM is currently delivering priority outcomes for the Australian Government through the Regional Delivery Panel for Environmental Protection, Sustainable Agriculture, and Natural Resource Management Services. This highlights South Coast NRM's strong reputation and capability in delivering high-quality programs and projects. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our region and stakeholders throughout the tender and investment concept development processes.

Working closely with regional stakeholders, South Coast NRM successfully integrated these national initiatives with local priorities, ensuring that high-level government goals are effectively tailored to address the needs of the South Coast region's species, places, and industries. This collaborative approach has enabled meaningful local action while contributing to broader environmental and sustainability objectives.

In 2024/25, South Coast NRM focused on delivering contracted project services at the core of its operations, ensuring the necessary resources were available for impactful, landscape-scale initiatives. By year's end, substantial progress was achieved through our collaboration with partner organisations across projects in each of the key programs: Priority Landscapes, Threatened Species, and Sustainable Agriculture.

PRIORITY LANDSCAPES PROGRAM

THE FITZ-STIRLING PRIORITY PLACE PROJECT, DRIVING COLLABORATION AT THE LANDSCAPE SCALE.

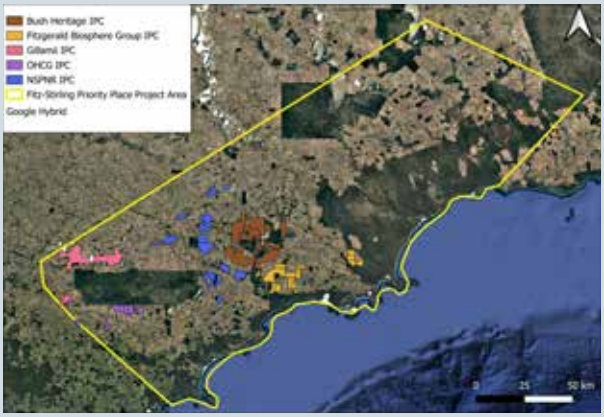
The Fitz-Stirling landscape is one of 20 priority places recognised in the Australian Government's Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032. These places identify landscapes that support high numbers of threatened species and ecological communities, are of high importance to First Nations people, and may particularly benefit from a landscape-scale approach to threatened species recovery.

This is one of the most critical projects delivered across our region, which will invest significant funding into threatened species management and Natural Resource Management over the project's duration.

With funding from the Australian Government under the *Saving Native Species* Program, South Coast NRM is leading a two-year, collaborative project to conserve and restore the Fitz-Stirling Priority Place in partnership with Bush Heritage, Birdlife Australia, DBCA, Dieback Working Group, Fitzgerald Biosphere Group, Gilllamii, North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources, Oyster Harbour Catchment Group and Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network.

Key actions delivered in 2024/25 include managing dieback, securing threatened flora through seed collection and translocations, revegetation, strategic access control, landscape-scale integrated pest management, installation and maintenance of artificial hollows for black cockatoos, First Nations-led fire management and supporting First Nations cultural practices.

Map: Integrated Pest Control occurring within the Fitz Stirling Priority Place by partner organisations



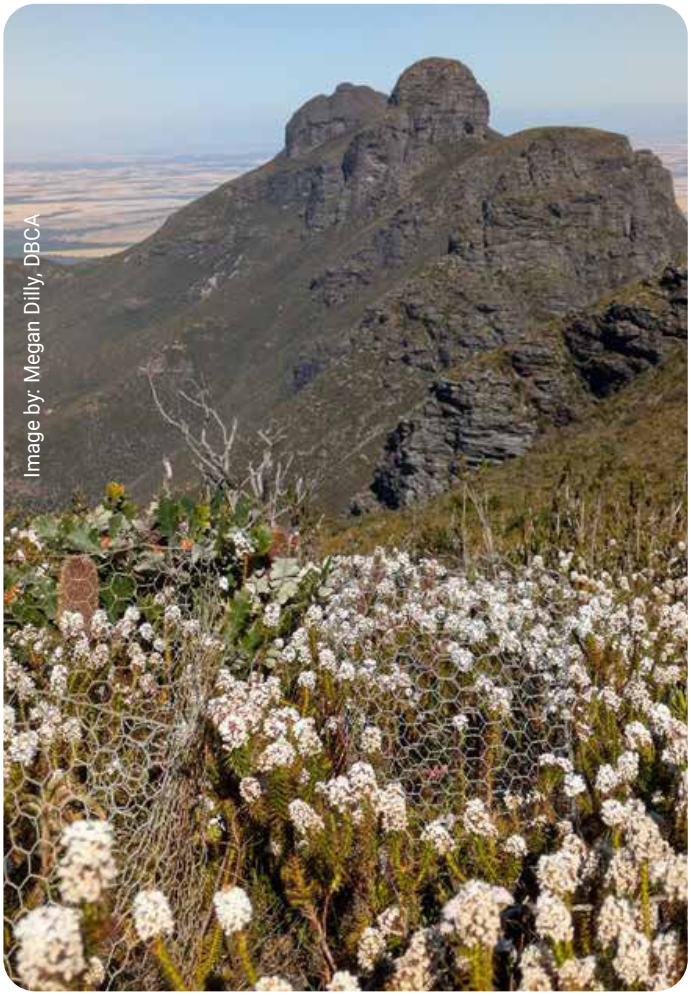


Image by: Megan Dilly, DBCA

SUCCESSES:

The following activities were undertaken during the 2024/25 financial year:

Over 91,000 ha of integrated pest control – fox, cat and rabbit. (initial and follow-up).

14 flora surveys, 4 plant survival surveys and 5 habitat condition assessments.

10 threatened flora species were translocated (in-situ and ex-situ translocations), and 1 threatened flora species translocation site was established.

Installation of 16 artificial hollows and maintenance of 10 artificial hollows for Black Cockatoos.

7 days of First Nations cultural practices and 12.9 ha of First Nations-led fire management practices.

PRIORITY LANDSCAPES PROGRAM

PROTECTING RAMSAR WETLANDS THROUGH ECOLOGICAL MONITORING AND HABITAT REMEDIATION

Image by: Dorothy Henderson

Lake Gore is a Ramsar-listed wetland situated within the exceptionally biodiverse coastal sandplain of the Esperance region, recognised for its provision of habitat and drought refuge for migratory and resident waterfowl. During spring, Lake Gore supports several thousand Australian shelducks during their vulnerable moulting phase. As more migratory shorebirds arrive over spring and summer, populations can swell to over 20,000 birds at any one time.

The *Improved Knowledge and On-Ground Action to Restore Lake Gore and its Surrounds* project was secured through support from the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust program and will run until June 2028.

This project will bring focused attention to Lake Gore and its catchments. Over the past year, this project has supported recovery actions to improve the condition of the Lake Gore Ramsar Wetland and the surrounding landscape through riparian revegetation, targeted weed control, access control, and predator management. These actions have helped mitigate key threats to improve water quality, habitat suitability for biodiversity (including waterbirds), wetland ecosystem resilience, and the condition of the Proteaceae-Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland Threatened Ecological Community.

Image by: Kahree Gernaut

Image by: Kahree Garnaut

SUCCESSES:

The following activities were undertaken during the 2024/25 financial year:

8 ha of riparian revegetation along the Lake Gore catchment with native plant species.

Development and installation of ecological interpretive signs at the Dalyup Pioneer Reserve.

Annual shorebird survey of the Lake Gore Ramsar site with DBCA.

The highest number of vulnerable Hooded Plovers recorded for a long time!

27 ha of initial weed control works within the catchment, providing opportunity for Kwongkan TEC vegetation and riparian woodlands to recover.

One promotional video educating the community about the Lake Gore Ramsar Wetland site.

THREATENED SPECIES PROGRAM

CONSERVING SOME OF THE SOUTH COAST REGIONS' MOST THREATENED SPECIES

Image by: Bronte Van Helden

The *Targeted action for highly threatened species in the South Coast Region* project is critical in delivering urgent recovery actions to support some of the world's most endangered species: the *Gilbert's potoroo (Ngilkaat), western ground parrot (Kyloriny) and noisy scrub-bird (Djimaalap)*. South Coast NRM are working in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and other local conservation organisations to deliver priority on-ground actions, supported by the Australian Government through the Natural Heritage Trust program.

In the past year, the project has supported two translocation of Ngilkaat to Two People's Bay, cat trapping at Cape Arid National Park and Two People's Bay, three camera surveys for introduced predators at Two People's Bay, Waychinicup National Park and Cape Arid National Park, Autonomous Recording Unit surveys of Kyloriny, trapping surveys for Ngilkaat and numerous communications and events including a Threatened Species Artwork Competition. We also hosted members of DCCEEW in the South Coast Region on a field trip to Waychinicup National Park to showcase some of the work underway in the Threatened Fauna project with partners.

Image by: Alan Danks

Image by: Alan Danks

Image by: Dick Walker

SUCCESSES:

In partnership with DBCA, Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group, Friends of the Western Ground Parrot, Birdlife and Albany Bird Group, the project undertook the following activities in 2024/25 financial year:

- 2 Ngilkaat translocations.
- 42,695 ha of cat trapping.
- 3 camera surveys of introduced predators (foxes and feral cats).
- 3 surveys of Kyloriny and two surveys of Ngilkaat.
- 6 communication materials* and two community events.**

*Kyloriny brochure; Djimaalap, Kyloriny and Ngilkaat fact sheets; Project factsheet and Ngilkaat video.
**Threatened Species Artwork Competition and Threatened Species Forum

THREATENED SPECIES PROGRAM

BACKYARD CRITTERS: WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUMS IN URBAN ALBANY

The *Climate Resilience Conservation of Western Urban Possums*, aimed at conserving the critically endangered Western Ringtail Possum, is a collaboration with Oyster Harbour Catchment Group, Torbay Catchment Group, Southern Aboriginal Corporation, The University of Western Australia, and the City of Albany and is funded by the *Australian Government's Saving Native Species Program*. This project is over halfway complete and has already delivered exceptional outcomes for our Western Ringtail Possums.

With the help of our partners, the project has facilitated a number of community engagement workshops focusing on a wide range of topics, including possum box building, urban greening, wildlife-friendly gardening, spotlight walks, responsible pet ownership, and ringtail population counts, over the past year.

The project has also supported on-ground recovery actions, including the installation of nest boxes, water sources, and road signs, as well as support for catios and possum-friendly dog fences, and increasing canopy vegetation on public and private land throughout Albany.

Image by: James Lamb

Image by: Brendan Gibellini

SUCCESSES:

The following activities were undertaken during the 2024/25 financial year

25 community workshops/ incursions/events to raise awareness on Western Ringtail Possums.

1 annual ringtail tally and 1 season of bushland monitoring.

3,100 native plants planted in urban and peri-urban backyards throughout Albany.

5 catios built to contain cats and prevent them from interacting with wildlife.

50 possum boxes and 50 water sources placed in urban and peri-urban backyards.

THREATENED SPECIES PROGRAM

TRACKING THE RIGHT WHALE

SUCCESSES:

During the whale season (May–October 2025), the following surveys have been completed:

33 boat surveys.

102 land surveys.

Volunteer citizen scientists and Indigenous Rangers spent a combined effort of 243 hours conducting these surveys.

447 whale sightings, of which 131 sightings have been of southern right whales.

The *Right Whale Tracker* project is a collaborative initiative between South Coast Cetaceans, South Coast NRM, Oceans Blueprint and Edith Cowan University, supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program and the Australian Government under the National Environmental Science Program. This project addresses the lack of knowledge and data necessary for the effective management of the endangered southern right whales along the south coast of Western Australia, a species still vulnerable to human-induced threats.

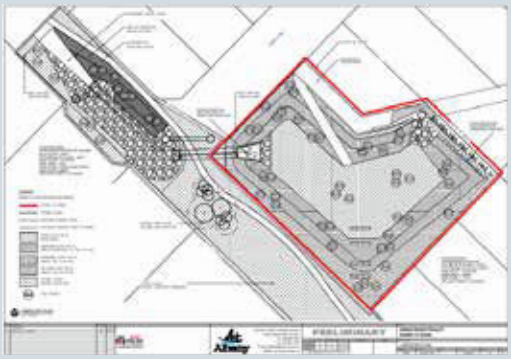
Over the past year, the project has delivered several public events and communication pieces, including an annual report and Indigenous consultation sessions, which have attracted many whale enthusiasts. Community-based citizen scientists have undergone right whale tracker training and have contributed many volunteer hours, gathering much-needed data by conducting photo surveys from both land and vessels. The boat-based monitoring was made possible thanks to the support of the three local whale operators in Albany. We have also been working with several Indigenous Ranger teams that have undertaken scientific training and cultural knowledge-sharing opportunities, enabling them to incorporate southern right whale monitoring into their care for their sea country along the south coast, between Denmark and Esperance. As we move through Kambarang, the whales head back south, and the project will begin to analyse the many photos collected during the season to see if we can match the callosity patterns of individual whales. This will help researchers better understand the movements of southern right whales and support sustainable coastal development.

Image by: Renae Van Noort

THREATENED SPECIES PROGRAM

RESTORING UPPER YAKAMIA FOR BIODIVERSITY AND PEOPLE

The *Restoring Upper Yakamia* is a four-year partnership between South Coast NRM and the City of Albany, funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust under the *Urban Rivers and Catchments Program*. It also forms part of Healthy Estuaries WA, a State Government initiative improving the health of South West estuaries. Yakamia Creek, the most modified urban waterway on the South Coast, has suffered from decades of degradation. This project aims to restore the ecological health and community value of four priority sites: Barnesby Drive, Stages 1 and 2, Whidby Street Basin, and Broughton Street Park.



Whidby Street living wetland site design

Since the project commenced in February 2025, significant groundwork has been made. At Barnesby Drive Stage 1, baseline monitoring and three rounds of targeted weed control have enhanced existing vegetation. At Stage 2, a consultant has been engaged to guide the design of a new living stream.

Designs are also underway for living wetlands at Whidby Basin (seedlings now in procurement) and Broughton Park (construction planned for 2027). Community engagement has been strong, including a UWA Albany bird survey, school partnerships, cultural heritage surveys with Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation, and local drop-in sessions.

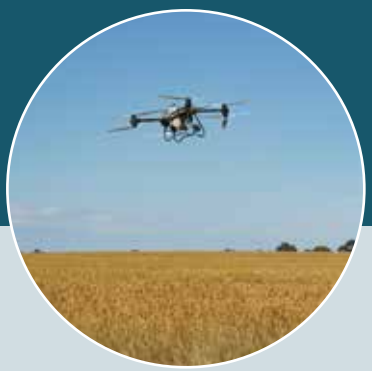
Project outcomes have been showcased at the Healthy Estuaries WA Forum and National NRM Conference, highlighting innovation in urban creek restoration.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

BOOTS ON THE GROUND: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FACILITATOR

The *Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF)* is a central point of contact for farmers, catchment partners, industry, and government regarding sustainable agriculture in the South Coast region. This role is vital in connecting farmers with information on sustainable agricultural practices and helping to achieve better environmental outcomes across the region.

In 2024/25, the role was delivered by Victoria Bennett, who runs her own cattle stud, Western RB Angus, in the Porongurups. Victoria focused on identifying the challenges faced by agriculture in the region, connecting land managers with up-to-date best practice information, and facilitating projects.



SUCCESSES:

following activities were undertaken during the 2024/25 financial year

Developed and strengthened relationships with catchment partners and grower groups, including Stirlings to Coast Farmers and ASHEEP & BEEF, and the organisation of a partner meeting in Bremer Bay.

Supported the development and co-design of the Future Ready South Coast project.

Collaborated with Stirlings to Coast Farmers (StCF) to design and deliver the Confusion to Clarity workshops—a series of science-based, locally relevant sessions on carbon in farming.

Facilitated the recognition of South Coast Soil Health Champion, Eric Dobbe, and coordinated the filming and production of a video to align with the Talking Soil Health Conference in York.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

FUTURE READY SOUTH COAST KICKS OFF

In mid-2024, South Coast NRM was invited to design a project as part of the *Australian Government's Climate-Smart Agriculture Program*, supported by funding from the Natural Heritage Trust.

Future-Ready South Coast will provide much-needed support to growers and land managers in the South Coast region as they navigate what are expected to be rapid changes in climate alongside pressures and emerging opportunities in industry sustainability frameworks, carbon and nature markets.

The project officially began in February 2025 and commenced delivery of a number key focus areas including supporting farmers to establish their carbon profile and understand the drivers towards reducing emissions; Training NRM professionals and trial farm-scale natural capital accounts, increasing the readiness of agricultural land managers to be proactive in the face of emerging carbon and biodiversity markets; Improving productivity, biodiversity and responsiveness in the face of climate change, through new pasture trials, water management, dam enhancement and habitat restoration; and supporting the capacity of First Nations individuals or groups to engage with or deliver sustainable agricultural practices.

SUCCESSES:

following activities were undertaken during the 2024/25 financial year

18 site assessments on farms which have been prioritised for on-ground work as part of the project

1 Installation of a stock watering point in the Torbay Catchment to remove stock pressure from sensitive waterways

16ha trial of perennial pastures, with associated soil testing to monitor soil health change

5 km of fencing to exclude stock from remnant vegetation

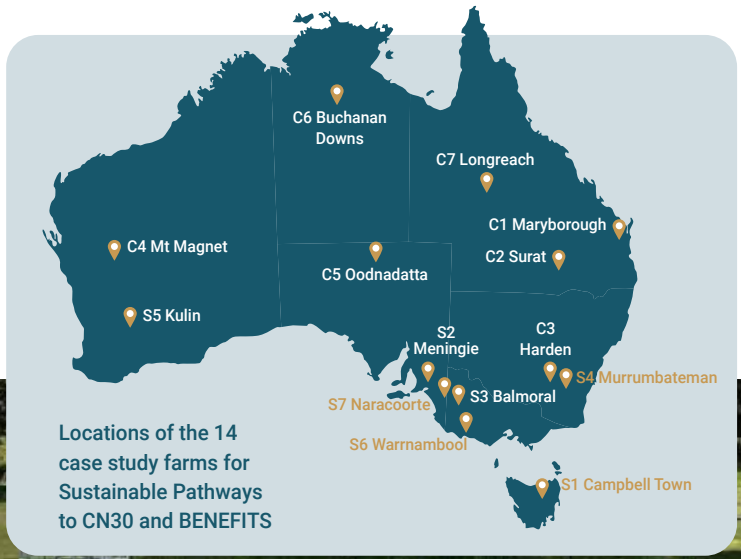
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

CREATING A LASTING LEGACY FROM THE CARBON STORAGE PARTNERSHIP

South Coast NRM has been a proud partner in *Meat & Livestock Australia's Carbon Storage Partnership* since 2019. The *Carbon Storage Partnership* (CSP) focused on identifying practical pathways to reducing emissions in livestock enterprises while also improving sustainability, productivity and profitability. This national effort supports innovation and sustainability across the livestock industry, aligning with the growing demands of the market and supply chain.

A key part of this work was a series of case studies, led by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, on sheep and cattle businesses around Australia. Detailed carbon profiles were developed for each company. A series of interventions was then modelled to test their impact on each business's greenhouse gas emissions, productivity, and profit. The BENEFITS project, funded by Australian Wool Innovation, introduced a natural capital lens and expanded the project to include an additional four sheep businesses.

South Coast NRM's role in this project has been to extend information arising from the research. In 2024/25, we led the design and early development of a training package that will ultimately be part of MLA's *Profitable Grazing Systems program* (PGS). PGS is an in-depth extension program that provides support for livestock producers who want to adopt new technologies and practices. Taking a whole farm systems approach, this new PGS links carbon and natural capital into farm business planning. The training will support producers in better understanding carbon in their businesses, exploring opportunities, and building resilience into their systems for the future.



Locations of the 14 case study farms for Sustainable Pathways to CN30 and BENEFITS

Image by: Suzannah Macbeth

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR SOUTHERN SOILS

Image by: Jayme Burket

The *"Know Your Southern Soils WA"* project is a partnership initiative between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and South Coast NRM. The project will contribute to progress on the National Soil Action Plan and is funded by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

South Coast NRM's involvement in the project officially began in February 2025, and since then, we have recruited a Soils Facilitator to coordinate the project across the region. In parallel, DPIRD started working on their component of the project, focusing on soil mapping. At the same time, South Coast NRM started engaging with two partner groups: North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources and the grower group ASHEEP & BEEF.

This engagement aimed to develop demonstration sites and an extension program to showcase the work to the Agricultural sector.

Image by: Suzannah Macbeth

Image by: Jasmine Eeles

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION AND NATURAL CAPITAL

Unlocking the Value of Nature in Western Australia – increasing the scale and efficacy of investment in protection, restoration and management of nature across the South Coast region.

South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM) continues to develop its work with industry and expand its Natural Capital Approach (NCA) to protect and enhance the globally significant biodiversity of Western Australia's South Coast. This business development work is in response to diminishing, insecure and less agile funding streams available to our region.

Over the past three years, we have dedicated ourselves to building relationships with both longstanding and new partners, including private sector interests, philanthropic organisations, and all levels of government. We will persist on this path, seeking to facilitate more long-term, landholder-driven investment in our region.

The NCA framework links nature, people, and the economy, enabling strategic investment in ecological restoration and resilience. SCNRM is working to build landscape-scale projects and build a coalition of partners—including landowners, government, Aboriginal corporations, industry, and community groups—to deliver high-impact, cost-effective outcomes. These efforts are grounded in ecological timeframes and guided by high-integrity principles.

Image by: PF Olsen

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SCNRM is implementing a Natural Capital Approach (NCA) that integrates nature, the economy, and people, offering a framework for coordinated investment in nature. The NCA will:

- Build on and support the efforts of people working to protect and restore nature in the South Coast region
- Target investment and actions over timeframes that are coherent with ecological systems and excellence in project delivery.
- Facilitate a collective approach across landowners and managers, government, Aboriginal corporations, industry and community to deliver investment in the highest priority and most effective actions
- Instil high-integrity principles for nature investment in everything we do
- Measure impact – develop regional nature metrics that are of value for industry, government, and community

By 2030, SCNRM aims to implement up to three major natural capital programs across the South Coast, delivering measurable benefits for biodiversity, regional economies, and future generations. This initiative reflects a bold, regionally endorsed commitment to valuing and investing in nature as a shared asset.

ACKNOWLEDGING STAKEHOLDERS

Achieving meaningful and lasting regional impact is a shared effort, made possible by the collective contributions of many stakeholders. This includes our dedicated partners who play a crucial role in project design and delivery, as well as the organisations and individuals who support and assist our work. Together, we are making a difference, fostering a resilient and thriving future for our communities and natural landscapes.

Albany Bird Group

Albany Heritage Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation

Albany Regional Volunteer Service

Albany Ocean Adventures

Albany Threatened Flora Recovery Team

Albany Whale Tours

ASHEEP & BEEF

ATC Worksmart

Birdlife Australia

Bush Heritage Australia

Centre for Natural Resource Management

City of Albany

Cocanarup Conservation Alliance

Conservation Council WA

CSIRO

Curtin University

Deep Woods Surveys

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Dieback Working Group

Edith Cowan University

Esperance Bird Observer Group

Esperance Senior High School, Esperance

Volunteer Resource Centre

Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation

Esperance Weeds Action Group

Fitzgerald Biosphere Group Inc.

Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective

Friends of the Western Ground Parrot

Gilberts Potoroo Action Group

Gilbert's Potoroo Recovery Team

Gnowangerup Aboriginal Corporation

Gondwana Link

Great Southern Development Commission

Great Southern Science Council

Green Skills Inc.

Greening Australia WA

Hopetoun Community Resource Centre

Kadadjiny Aboriginal Corporation

Keep Australia Beautiful

King George Sound Safaris

Kurrah Mia

Lotterywest

Lower Kalgan Community Association

Manypeaks Primary School

MLA Carbon Storage Partnership Network

Murdoch University

National Malleefowl Recovery Team

North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources Inc.

Nowanup

NRM Regions Australia

Oceans Blueprint

Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Inc.

Peat Project Consortia

PF Olsen

Private Landholders

Ramsar Technical Advisory Group

Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network Inc.

SONT – Saving Our Snake-Necked Turtle

Shire of Denmark

Shire of Esperance

Shire of Jerramungup

Shire of Ravensthorpe

South Coast Bushcare Services

South Coast Cetaceans

South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Team

South West NRM

Southern Aboriginal Corporation

South Regional TAFE

Stirlings to Coast Farmers

Tambellup Aboriginal Progress Association

Tangaroa Blue Foundation

TERN Ecosystem Research Infrastructure for Australia

The Gillamii Centre Inc.

The University of Western Australia

TiloMass Environmental Services

Torbay Catchment Group Inc.

University of Tasmania

Volunteering WA

WA Malleefowl Recovery Group

Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation

Walpole-Nornalup National Park Association Inc

Wendy Bradshaw

Western Ringtail Possum Recovery Team

Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee Inc.

Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project

Yakamia Advisory Group

INVESTMENT PARTNERS

South Coast NRM is proud to be working with our Investment Partners.

Australian Government – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Australian Government – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Australian Wool Innovation and University of Tasmania

CSIRO and Wheatbelt NRM

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development

Esperance Regional Forum

Grains Research and Development Corporation

Lotterywest

Meat and Livestock Australia and the University of Tasmania

New Forests

South Coast Environment Fund

South Coast Management Group (Legacy Funds)

WA State NRM Program

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