



NRM SOUTH TASMANIA

Annual Report 2023-2024

Working to protect, sustainably manage and improve our natural resources for the shared environmental, social and economic benefit of the Tasmanian community.





NRM SOUTH

Acknowledgement of Country

We pay respect to the Traditional Owners of lutruwita (Tasmania), the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and acknowledge their continued survival and connection with their land, sea and sky Country that spans millennia. We acknowledge the many Nations of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, past and present, as the traditional and ongoing owners of their respective countries within lutruwita and the islands. We pay respect to those who have passed and acknowledge today's Aboriginal people who are the custodians of this land.

We acknowledge that all land, sea, and sky Country holds cultural values that provide strong and continuing significance to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people. We acknowledge that Tasmanian Aboriginal people are part of a continuous culture that holds traditional knowledge about the ecosystems we all depend on. The landscapes of lutruwita have been shaped by Aboriginal management of plants, animals, and water (particularly using fire).

We acknowledge that colonisation and migration has caused injustice for Aboriginal people and impacted the living cultural landscape. This has created a legacy that we seek to improve.

We are working to integrate Aboriginal cultural heritage and knowledge in natural resource management, and to develop a better understanding of the cultural, environmental, social and economic dimensions of the region's natural resources from the perspective of Aboriginal people. Through our work, we aim to reflect these values by recognising that Tasmanian Aboriginal people determine both the boundaries for the sharing of their cultural heritage and opportunities for participation in NRM activities that embrace and support their aspirations.

We pay respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal people's requirements to own, care and manage Country by aligning our strategic priorities to Tasmanian Aboriginal people's land, sea and sky Country priorities.

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Chair's Report

I have been on a steep learning curve in my inaugural year as Chair. As a relatively recent Board member, I hope I have brought my expertise from being an economist, and a senior public servant with the knowledge of government and its Byzantine processes. Yet, on reflection, I am also very grateful for my previous membership of the Hobart Field Naturalists, and the background that gave me. I learned a lot about Tasmania's unique flora and fauna, and its relationship to our geology, vegetation and climate. In a warming world, I am very aware of its fragility.

I have had the great fortune to be supported by my patient, skilled, and bold colleagues. Nepelle and I had worked together before, but I had not enjoyed the opportunity to see her well-developed leadership capacities and her comprehensive grasp of the issues not only facing NRM South, but the sector as a whole. Whenever possible, I have taken the opportunity to chat with team members. I would like to thank them for their willingness to bear with me as I asked naive questions and probed. I have learned an awful lot from those conversations. Of course, I've never dared to touch the office jigsaw puzzle.

Some highlights from my perspective

I still do not fully understand how we made it through the exhaustive process of getting Commonwealth Government funding. This is not the place to be critical of that process, however there are some very important learnings that need to be addressed on behalf of all NRMs in Australia. It is not consistent with the dynamic efficiency of service delivery in a complex area to imagine it can be treated as a simple auction process. I look forward to prosecuting a more reasonable approach in the interests of all parties and especially in terms of the value proposition to the Australian Government as funder.

I believe one consequence of those enormous pressures is that NRMs have developed a much closer relationship. We are building a consensus on shared objectives, which will greatly assist in informing the review by the Tasmanian Government of the NRM Framework and associated legislation. I believe this will make apparent the value of NRMs in Tasmania as a special piece of the state's



environmental infrastructure.

The Board has worked to develop a new strategic agenda to set a course for growth and diversity. In so doing we have married the contextual knowledge of the Board with the expertise of our teams. I believe our capacity to have a respectful and informed dialogue has greatly informed this strategy. We have a shared view on why we exist and our comparative advantages. We aim to further develop our skills base, enable commitment and trust, and serve the region and our community.

The changing context

There is little doubt that the impact of a warming planet on primary industries and ecosystems has changed attitudes. The Australian Government has its nature positive agenda, and the State Government is committed to improving the funding environment and legislative framework for NRM. I suspect there has never been a time when so many have understood the scientific basis of where we sit and the challenges ahead. However, growing awareness can mean greater conflict, because it exposes the necessary trade-offs between access to material goods and services and the conservation of non-priced goods and services. I can suppress being an economist for only so long! Fundamentally, this represents opportunity for NRM South to act – and I and the Board are energised with the prospect of seizing this opportunity.

Bob Rutherford
Chair – NRM South

CEO's Report

NRM South's 2023/24 Annual Report is a wonderful reflection of the initiatives we're implementing to address southern Tasmania's climate, biodiversity, and natural resource challenges.

The incredible NRM South team have continued to work hard to secure funding and deliver much needed action. We are proud to be a part of a broader effort involving Palawa/Pakana people and community, governments, industry, NGOs, research institutes, and businesses, all working towards a shared vision for a Tasmania with healthy landscapes, protected natural values, and sustainable livelihoods.

As always, I extend my sincere and absolute thanks to the NRM South team, partners and community for their dedication, expertise, and shared commitment to Tasmania's natural values.

Innovation

For over 20 years, NRM South has been at the forefront of delivering long-term, collaborative, science-backed and nature-based solutions. We have delivered projects using cutting-edge tools and technologies, including advanced cat management tools, environmental DNA and acoustic monitoring, blue carbon initiatives, and new decision-making tools for farms, pastures and soil health.

Looking forward, we are keen to collaborate across sectors to invest further in innovative tools and technologies like AI, satellite data, and remote sensing – these are crucial for real-time understanding of natural resource condition, and setting management priorities across industry and conservation.

Partnerships

NRM South recognises the importance of expanding our impact through partnerships, and we plan to build on our strong foundations with new businesses, markets, and through philanthropy. These relationships will help us to scale-up nature-based solutions that protect Tasmania's environment and contribute to local, national and global sustainability goals.

We have continued to strengthen our commitment to the Palawa/Pakana people of Lutruwita by ensuring their voices are heard and respected at every level of our work. This year, we have entered into a strong,



collaborative partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre – to provide career pathways in NRM for Palawa people, whilst ensuring cultural safety and mutual benefit. We continue to support initiatives that empower Aboriginal people in their stewardship of Country. And as we strive to grow investment in natural resource management, we are committed to sharing NRM leadership, economic, and on-Country benefits with Palawa/Pakana people.

Global Challenges, Local Impact

Tasmania is feeling the effects of climate change, with more frequent floods, fires, droughts, and marine heatwaves. The CSIRO's coastal monitoring shows the seas on our east coast are warming four times faster than the global average. These changes disrupt ecosystems, species, human health and infrastructure.

NRM South's recent work on climate resilience and emergency preparedness for natural assets is a key part of tackling this issue. Next year, we'll focus on amplifying our message and coordinating action at both regional and local levels—because the challenges are only growing, and we need to do more. We'll continue working with the other two NRM organisations to align priorities across the state, share knowledge, and scale up efforts. Meeting these challenges requires collaboration across government, industry, community, and First Nations partners. By working together, we can build resilience and protect landscapes, natural values and livelihoods in Tasmania.

Nepelle Crane
CEO – NRM South



About Us

NRM South is a purpose-driven not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the sustainable management of our region's natural and productive landscapes over the long term. We are the 'go to' organisation for planning and delivery of natural resource management in southern Tasmania. We work in partnership with government, research, industry, NGOs, regional bodies, and the community to deliver strategic, coordinated, and collaborative programs.

NRM South is one of three natural resource management bodies in Tasmania, and 54 similar bodies Australia-wide. Established in 2003 under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*, and guided by the 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania, we play a key role in building partnerships, securing and directing investment, and increasing the capacity of others to engage in NRM activities. By connecting knowledge and expertise to action, we are helping to shape a sustainable future and a healthy, more resilient environment.

Some Key Annual Highlights

1. Continued as the Australian Government's preferred delivery partner for NRM actions in southern Tasmania.
 2. Secured a commitment for increased State Government support for NRM from the Tasmanian Liberals, Labor and Greens.
 3. Completed significant work to develop strategic project proposals that will contribute to positive environmental and economic outcomes for southern Tasmania, and improved outcomes for Land, Water and Biodiversity.
 4. Delivered 21 major projects across our program areas targeting priorities such as sustainable agriculture and fisheries, priority species and ecological communities, Ramsar wetlands, and climate change resilience and adaptation.
 5. Delivered actions targeting 7 at-risk species, 2 threatened ecological communities, and 1 Priority Place.
 6. Strengthened our partnerships and commitment to Tasmanian Aboriginal people, groups and community, including the establishment of a Collaboration Agreement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and employment of a shared Aboriginal NRM Project Officer.
 7. Worked collaboratively with Tasmania's NRMs and multiple stakeholders to develop and deliver the first Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan for Tasmania's three regions.
 8. Participated in events including the National Soil Science Conference (NT), Tasmania's MONA Forestry Industry Forum, the Pacific Blue Carbon Workshop (Qld) and the Australasian Coastal Restoration Network Symposium (NSW), and hosting the Community of Practice soils tour in Tasmania.
 9. Worked collaboratively with over 60 delivery partners.
-

Our Region



2.5

MILLION HECTARES

of natural, production, lifestyle and urban landscapes (38% of Tasmania's land area).



289*

THOUSAND PEOPLE

Tasmania's southern region is home to around half the State's population.



12

MUNICIPAL AREAS

Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands, Tasman.



GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

Midlands biodiversity hotspot

Macquarie Island

World Heritage Convict Sites

4

RAMSAR WETLANDS

Moulting Lagoon, Apsley Marshes, Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon, Interlaken.

135

THOUSAND HECTARES

Marine protected area

47%

OF THE REGION

Managed primarily for conservation



35% of Tasmania's total farmland



1.3M ha native forest



Critical region for wild fisheries, aquaculture and recreational fishing



Economy

Revenue from primary production and tourism depend on our natural assets. NRM South supports projects that bring direct and indirect benefits to Tasmania's important industry sectors, including:

Tourism \$1.73B

Agroforestry \$0.75B

Renewable energy

Fisheries & aquaculture \$1.3B

Agriculture farm gate \$2.34B

*Approximate total statewide production value annually

437

LISTED PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES**



PLANTS

308 species



INVERTEBRATES

43 species



FISH

19 species



AMPHIBIANS + REPTILES

9 species



BIRDS

44 species



MAMMALS

14 species



IMPORTANT HABITATS

Riparian and remnant vegetation

Native grasslands

Saltmarsh and wetlands

Coastal communities

Waterways (e.g. Derwent, Port Davey, D'Entrecasteaux and Huon)

Marine and soft sediment systems

33 threatened vegetation communities

*2021 Census data **Southern NRM region only, excluding extinct species



NRM SOUTH THEME

Water



For more information on our **Themes** and **Asset Classes**, please download our 2030 NRM Strategy Document at nrmsouth.org.au



Through our Water Program, we work to safeguard and enhance the condition of our region's aquatic assets, such as wetlands, freshwater rivers, estuaries and coastal and marine ecosystems.

Aquatic ecosystems are critical components of the global environment, supporting biodiversity and ecological productivity, and providing essential services for humans, including water for drinking, hydro-electric power generation and irrigation, and habitat for economically important fisheries. Southern Tasmania is fortunate to have significant aquatic habitats that are in good to pristine condition, however the impacts of land-use change, biosecurity threats and a changing climate present a risk to these ecosystems.

Through our Water Program projects, we are working to enhance the health and condition of our rivers, floodplains, estuaries, wetlands, coasts and marine areas. Informed by our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania, we work to address identified priorities and seek funding for on-ground actions to improve the health and resilience of our aquatic ecosystems and the species that rely on them.

Our on-ground projects see us working with land, water and marine managers, landowners, industry, NGOs, communities and different levels of government. Our collaborative partnerships contribute to habitat restoration in important aquatic and marine environments, including wetlands that hold important cultural significance for Tasmania's Aboriginal community and threatened Giant Kelp habitat, and we are contributing to an improved understanding of the role and potential of coastal saltmarsh in carbon capture and storage.



Rivers, Floodplains & Estuaries

The movement of fresh surface and groundwaters through the landscape supports ecological, economic, and social values. Ecological values of catchments and estuaries, and current and emerging threats in receiving waters, are used to identify Priorities and Actions for rivers, floodplains, and estuaries.



Wetlands & Other Waterbodies

Wetlands and other waterbodies include internationally recognised wetlands of significance under the Ramsar Convention, which support high-value ecological communities. Nationally and regionally important wetlands and other waterbodies are recognised for their conservation value.



Coastal & Marine Areas

Coastal and marine areas encompass a wide variety of habitat types. Important coastal and marine areas can be identified by high-value habitats or species. To enhance ecological, social, and economic values, identified Actions will build resilience to pressures and emerging threats across regional Priorities.



Working Towards Our Strategy Goals

Within each listed priority, there are a number of specific actions (refer to our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania for detail). Measures of progress indicate where actions have been addressed but all actions remain ongoing to 2030.

Rivers, Floodplains and Estuaries

PRIORITY	ACTIONS PROGRESSED
Working with partners to improve catchment & estuary health in the Derwent.	
Reducing biosecurity threats and risks associated with human movement in Port Davey.	
Improving river and wetland health for socioeconomically important systems.	
Improving freshwater systems with declining instream health and riparian condition.	

Wetlands and Other Waterbodies

PRIORITY	ACTIONS PROGRESSED
Improving the health of Moulting Lagoon-Apsley Marshes.	
Reducing threats to ecological character of Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon.	
Managing threats to ecological character of Interlaken Ramsar site & nearby wetlands/lagoons.	



Coastal and Marine Areas

PRIORITY	ACTIONS PROGRESSED
Improving rocky reef resilience (east coast) through best practice resource harvest, biosecurity, & on-ground works to restore habitat.	
Identifying priority biodiversity & conservation values for offshore islands (e.g. Bruny & Maria Island) & developing strategic program for improved management & on-ground works.	
Improved resilience of priority beach & dune systems through identification of priority sites & implementation of best management practices/ on-ground works.	
Improving condition of rocky coasts through increased on-ground management, knowledge & planning.	
Improving condition & extent of native shellfish reefs & seagrass communities.	

Our Water Projects

1. Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration (including Environmental Economic Accounting)
2. Supporting Significant Wetlands
3. Reef Builder: Native Oyster Reef Restoration
4. Long-spined Sea Urchin community education and engagement program
5. Carbon sequestration using Environmentally Friendly Moorings
6. TNC Giant Kelp Restoration project (project partner)



NRM SOUTH WATER

Theme Highlights

Protecting Internationally Significant Wetlands

Our on-ground actions continue to protect and restore the condition and function of our region's internationally significant wetlands. We work across three of the four Ramsar-listed wetlands in the Southern region (**Moulting Lagoon, Apsley Marshes and Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon**); sanctuaries for endangered species, local and migratory birds, and fish populations. These wetlands host threatened Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh ecological communities and are important cultural sites which hold heritage and provide a living connection to Country and culture.

We wrapped up two projects across the three wetlands in June 2023 and carried out **follow up monitoring** to assess plant condition, remove weeds, check on plant guards and infill with plants where needed. Our continued work at Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon through our Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration project (see feature project summary) saw the **removal of a levee** in April 2024 that had been impeding natural tidal flows across the saltmarsh for decades.

In early 2024, a new project at Moulting Lagoon and Apsley Marshes continues our legacy of work at this important site. Funded through the Australian Government's RDP program, the **'Supporting Significant Wetlands'** project will build on the work completed under a previous five-year RLP project, including reinstating natural hydrology to approximately 125 hectares, revegetation across 87 ha of wetland and fringing habitat, weed control across 101 ha

and establishing conservation covenants across 51 ha. We are working with landholders and involving the community through the delivery of 15 engagement events and supporting up to 10 members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community to work on Country. To date we have delivered **one community engagement event** and have made early progress on revegetation efforts with **10 ha of riparian habitat revegetated with 2,000 tubestock plants**.

Project Development

Through our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania and our ongoing stakeholder relationships, we **continue to advocate for the Tasmanian community**, pursuing opportunities to address identified priorities and implement solutions. We have worked with partners to develop and submit project proposals that would contribute to positive environmental and economic outcomes for our region and improve practices, including improving river health, support for climate smart adaptations in the seafood industry, carbon farming outreach initiatives, improving marine biosecurity practices and protecting the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Project development is a significant undertaking, and we value the support of project partners and stakeholders who contributed to these efforts.

Exploring the Co-benefits of Restoration

Our Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration, Blue Carbon Environmental Economic Accounting and Environmentally Friendly Moorings projects



Photo Credit: Nepelle Crane

work with partners to directly measure the co-benefits of restoration by collecting data and sharing our findings within a nationwide network of practitioners. Through **attendance at events** such as the Pacific Blue Carbon Workshop (August 2023) and the Australasian Coastal Restoration Network Symposium (May 2024), we have contributed to a shared knowledge network, learning from others working on similar challenges, extending our understanding within Tasmania and striving for best practice. NRM South is also a **research user partner** in the National Environmental Science Program Marine and Coastal Hub project: 'De-risking nature repair activities in Australian coastal and marine ecosystems', which will provide advice on a coordinated approach to support the scaling-up of coastal and marine nature repair activities in Australia.

Supporting Marine Ecosystems

We have worked to restore the function of two significant ecosystems in southern Tasmania: native oyster reefs and Giant Kelp Forest ecological communities. Our Reef Builder partnership project with The Nature Conservancy wrapped up in December 2023. The final elements of the project saw **follow-up monitoring of reef restoration sites** established early in 2023. There were positive signs at the Tarooma site, with an observed increase in the number of fish and reef-dwelling invertebrates. The Woodbridge site was subject to siltation and as yet there have been fewer observable changes.

As a project partner on The Nature Conservancy's Giant Kelp restoration project along with IMAS-UTAS and the CSIRO, we have **led engagement efforts** to ensure stakeholders are informed about restoration works being undertaken, and its broader purpose. As southern Tasmania's leading NRM organisation, we understand the different users in this sector, and are well placed to lead networking efforts and one-on-one conversations. We are also contributing our support to **recommend new policy advice and guide a restoration strategy for Giant Kelp**.

Informing the Community

Through our Long-spined Sea Urchin Project, funded by the Abalone Industry Reinvestment Fund, we engaged Myriad Research to **carry out a survey** to find out more about community understanding of long-spined sea urchins. Survey findings enabled the development of targeted education materials which are being distributed across stakeholder and partner networks to maximise reach and impact. Our survey showed that the Tasmanian community supports the local seafood industry to harvest long-spined sea urchin as a commercial and natural resource management opportunity, and that there is more engagement amongst older audiences.

Key delivery partners: Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, Nature Glenelg Trust, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, University of Tasmania



WATER FEATURED PROJECT

Blue Carbon Project

Blue Carbon ecosystems, such as saltmarsh wetlands, are important carbon sinks and play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by capturing and storing carbon at rates often exceeding those of terrestrial forests. In 2022, Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon was selected as one of only five national demonstration sites under an Australian Government initiative to restore 'Blue Carbon' ecosystems.

The key pillars of our Blue Carbon project are restoring natural hydrology to 65 ha of stranded saltmarsh habitat through the removal of a levee, taking measurements from the surrounding environment before and after removal of the levee, and habitat enhancement works.

Measuring the Benefits of Change Through Environmental Economic Accounting

Our Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration project is providing insights into how environmental accounting can be used to measure environmental changes, as well as carbon storage, biodiversity and other co-benefits that arise from blue carbon ecosystem restoration. We are working with a local company, Blue Carbon Services, who are measuring the environmental economic accounts created through our Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration project.



Environmental Economic Accounting (EEA) is a method that helps us understand the condition of our environment and its relationship with our economy. Our environment provides many important services for free, such as clean water, fresh air, food, fibre and construction materials, or mineral resources. EEA is a way of calculating a dollar value for these services, ensuring that the value of healthy landscapes is properly accounted for in decision making and providing an economic argument for investing in landscape health and restoration.

Taking a Baseline Measure

To measure the impact of changes in environmental, physical, and biogeochemical parameters (including flood risk reduction) following the removal of the levee, baseline data needs to be collected for comparison. We worked with project partner UTAS to collect baseline data on:



Vegetation cover and fauna movement (including browsing animals, birds, fish and invertebrates)

We are investigating if the suite of works being completed at the site has any observable impact on the diversity and/or number of different species present. Baseline surveys are complete and UTAS have commenced follow-up surveys.



Hydrology, water level and water quality

Saltmarsh wetlands are great buffers of nutrients flowing from the land to waterways. We are working with our project partners to measure how nutrients change in sediments once natural tidal hydrology is restored to the system.



WATER FEATURED PROJECT – BLUE CARBON

Habitat Improvement

We are working to reduce the biomass of these weeds and allow native vegetation and habitat to re-establish at the site. We have also excluded livestock from the area to reduce threats of trampling and weed movement and keep livestock safe as the tide is reintroduced to the wetland.



The two most significant weeds at the site are African boxthorn and Serrated Tussock. These Weeds of National Significance impact on the health and productivity of the landscape, outcompeting native species and reducing overall biodiversity across the saltmarsh.

From Land to Sea – the Broader Benefits of Saltmarsh Restoration

Since the partial erosion of the levee in 2023 and its complete removal in April 2024, we have already started to see early signs of saltmarsh recovery and the return of saltmarsh wetland species. In removing this structure, we have reclaimed an unhealthy ecosystem that supported around 10 sheep and replaced it with 65 hectares of important fish habitat. Follow-up monitoring has recorded significant numbers of baby flounder, and more fish are accessing the restoration site overall. A potential co-benefit of blue carbon ecosystem restoration is to improve the quality of water run-off through wetland nutrient cycling, which in turn may improve conditions for seagrass adjacent to the restoration site (which is itself another ‘Blue Carbon’ ecosystem).

Hydrological Assessment

Prior to the removal of the levee, a hydrological assessment of the project site was completed by Blue Carbon Services, with information gathered to support the project’s potential registration under the Emissions Reduction Fund’s Tidal restoration of blue carbon ecosystems method. Although the project was not ultimately submitted for registration, the learnings for NRM South, local land managers, and project partners has been invaluable.



Having these baseline measurements will also help in measuring co-benefits after restoration activities are completed.

“ We saw more fish caught in fyke nets within the altered Richmond Park saltmarsh than from the nets outside. This finding indicates that hydrological restoration via levee removal is providing access for fish into Richmond Park saltmarsh, and creating additional fish habitat” Vishnu Prahalad, University of Tasmania







NRM SOUTH THEME

Land



For more information on our Themes and Asset Classes, please download our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania at nrmsouth.org.au



Our Land Program works with landholders to improve long-term landscape outcomes by focusing on solutions and knowledge exchange that promote systems-based thinking in predominantly agricultural production environments. We work with landholders to improve knowledge and deliver tools that focus on climate resilience, soil health, water use efficiency, water quality and sustainable production.

The scope of our Land Program encompasses the topography and the soils that support agriculture, plantation forestry and natural ecosystems, alongside the vegetation that covers and protects these soils, and cultural heritage values. Impacts to natural and cultural values as well as our productive industries are projected due to changing land use, management practices and biosecurity threats. These threats and impacts can be compounded when combined with the impacts of climate change. Across our Land Program projects, we are finding better management approaches for drought-affected landscapes and bringing farmers together to help strengthen networks and share experiences.

By employing a statewide collaborative approach through projects such as Farming Forecaster, the Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator and our Soil Extension program, we are boosting the role and profile of natural resource management across Tasmania's agricultural sector and ensuring an alignment of priorities and approaches across the state.

In this past financial year, we have rolled out a project with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community that is facilitating stakeholder engagement and discussions on how Tasmanian NRMs can improve land access for Palawa/Pakana communities, enabling them to connect, learn, and share knowledge to benefit the land and its people.



Healthy Country

Supporting Tasmanian Aboriginal people to increase capacity to manage, access or heal Country, based on self-determined priorities.



Resilient Landscapes

Building the capacity of land managers to address the risk of adverse events, protect natural capital, and take advantage of opportunities for production industries in the face of challenges such as climate change, weeds, pests and diseases.



Soils & Vegetation

Supporting land managers to improve soil condition and manage vegetation cover to improve natural values, biodiversity, and production outcomes and to mitigate emerging risks.



Working Towards Our Strategy Goals

Within each listed priority, there are different numbers of specific actions (refer to our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania for detail). Measures of progress indicate where actions have been addressed but all actions remain ongoing to 2030.

Healthy Country

PRIORITY

ACTIONS PROGRESSED

Supporting opportunities to work with Tasmanian Aboriginal people on their priorities for protection and caring of Country.



Resilient Landscapes

PRIORITY

ACTIONS PROGRESSED

Land managers are adopting the knowledge, tools & resources they need to adapt to significant changes in climate/ participate in emerging carbon markets/ prepare for & recover from extreme events.



Increasing the capacity to manage key industry & environmental biosecurity risks.

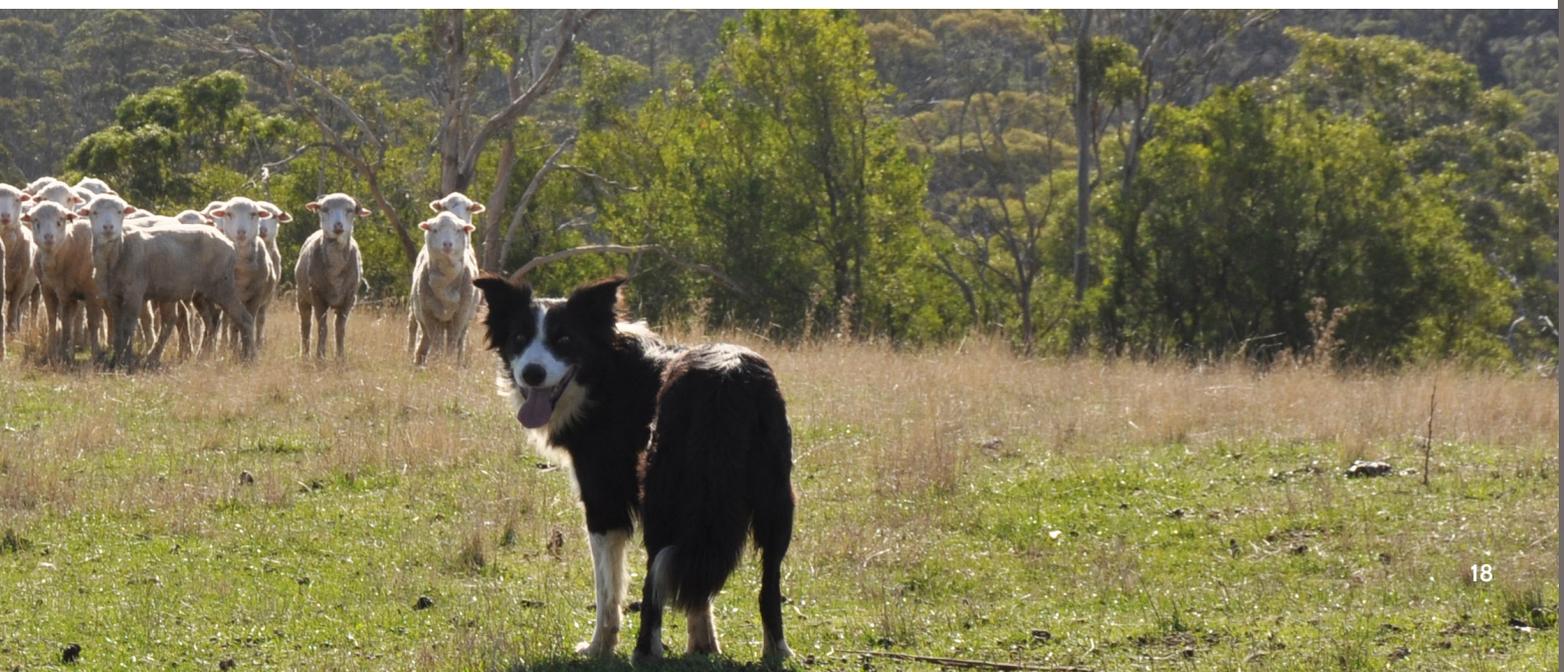


Soils and Vegetation

PRIORITY	ACTIONS PROGRESSED
Implementing management plans & measures to protect & expand areas of native vegetation on farms.	
Land managers have awareness of & are implementing or adopting land management practices that improve soil carbon levels.	
Land managers have awareness of & are implementing or adopting practices that reduce the risk of structural decline.	
Land managers have awareness of & are implementing or adopting practices that reduce the risk of prolonged soil saturation.	
Land managers have awareness of & are implementing or adopting practices that reduce the risk of soil erosion.	
Land managers have awareness of & are implementing or adopting practices that reduce the risk of soil salinity.	

Our Land Projects

1. Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot Project
2. Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator
3. Soil Extension - Phase I
4. Farming Forecaster Tasmania
5. Weeds Action Fund
6. Regional Soil Coordinator
7. Igniting Communities





Theme Highlights

Improving Climate Resilience

A changing climate is increasing the frequency of hotter and drier conditions across our production landscapes. We support farming communities across Tasmania's drought-prone areas through initiatives to improve land management approaches and sustain long-term commercial and landscape viability in challenging growing conditions:

- Our highly successful **Farming Forecaster** project wrapped up in June 2024 and saw the establishment of **46 sites** across the state. Workshops and training were key to the popularity and success of this project, which quickly gained interest from Tasmania's farming community and involved **>150 producers across 9 Tasmanian regions**. Across the project, we delivered **25 training workshops** and **6 online webinars** with expert advisors, developed **7 videos** (instructional and case study videos) and **6 factsheets**. Along with additional capacity building, our workshops focused on responding to the dry conditions of prior seasons. This included training in other drought-decision support tools, including StockPlan®, Grazfeed, and containment feeding strategies. As of June 2024 we had **>82,000 visits** on the Tasmanian platform of the Farming Forecaster website.
- Phase I of the statewide **Soils Extension Program** continued to help farmers better understand the impact of production on soil nutrients, biology, and structure and how to improve soils' productive capabilities and ensure sustainability. We delivered **2 workshops** and promoted the **decision support tools** package developed by NRM North.

Community Drought Resilience

- Our new **Igniting Communities** project is helping to build culturally informed **drought preparedness and social resilience** through community events facilitated by Firesticks Alliance and Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC). We supported a Coal River Products Association (CRPA) Fire Day **workshop**, organised by the

TAS Innovation Hub and CRPA. Facilitated stakeholder engagement has significantly expanded the reach of Firesticks Alliance in Tasmania. Through this project we have supported the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to integrate cultural burning practices into the broader agenda of building community and landscape drought resilience. The relationships built through this project are facilitating guidance for regional drought resilience planning.

Climate-smart Agriculture, Carbon and Biodiversity

Our Land Program projects are supporting our agricultural community in understanding and implementing climate-smart management and opportunities.

- Through our **Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator (SAF)** positions, we are upskilling staff in emerging carbon and biodiversity markets and building relationships across our region. Over the next four years, the SAF will be a central contact point for farmers, landholders, and community groups in southern Tasmania. The SAF is also part of the Project Advisory Group for the **Regional Drought Resilience Plan - South**, prepared by Drought Ready Tasmania.
- We continued to deliver the Australian Government funded Carbon + Biodiversity pilot program which wrapped up in June 2024. We supported a funding recipient to undertake biodiverse planting across their farm, designed to be a revenue source for the farm through carbon credits. These plantings also offer production and biodiversity benefits, including erosion control, livestock shelter and supporting local biodiversity.

Project Development

Through our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania and stakeholder relationships, we advocate for the Tasmanian community by pursuing opportunities and solutions. Over the past year, we collaborated with partners to develop project



proposals aimed at supporting the foundations of agricultural production within natural landscapes. Our future funding interest will focus on improving natural asset outcomes, with a key focus on water management on farm.

National and Regional Initiatives

Many of NRM South's land projects are part of a broader network of state or nationally based initiatives. Participating in and contributing to conversations and approaches allows us to share important learnings and insights, elevate Tasmania's voice on the national stage, and apply a consistent regional-based approach to land management challenges.

- We are working with the Tasmanian Farm Innovation Hub to host the **Regional Soil Coordinator (RSC) for Tasmania**. This position has been operating since 2022 and supports the delivery of the National Soils Strategy and Action Plan and the rollout of regionally specific, nationally cohesive soils initiatives. The RSC works to enrich and facilitate localised soils extension efforts, while building long-term soils capacity for Tasmania. In the last financial year, **a report submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry** highlighted current gaps and opportunities to develop this capacity, which will continue to shape the body of work over the project's remaining four years. The RSC project falls under the Australian Government's National Soil Strategy (2021), with current activities aligned to the 5-year objectives of the first National Soil Action Plan (2023 – 2028).
- Our state-wide Soil Extension Program is being delivered through a partnership network between the three NRM soil extension officers who are engaging with Tasmania's local agricultural sector. This program is building the capacity of

land managers to improve soil condition and manage vegetation cover to improve natural values, biodiversity, production outcomes and mitigate emerging risks. The program promotes best practice to improve the sustainability, productivity, and profitability of Tasmania's agricultural landscapes.

- Through the Tasmanian Government's Weed Action Fund initiative, we have been working with Tasmania's NRM organisations since 2018 to halt the spread of priority weeds across important agricultural and natural landscapes. Round 2 of this initiative wrapped up in June 2023, and over the past year our collaborative approach helped the project focus on the **eradication of Paterson's curse** through Sorell and Tasman Council districts, and **the eradication of Tasmania's only infestation of stemless thistle** by Southern Midlands Council.
- The Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot is a key part of the Australian Government's \$66.1 million Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Package and NRM South has worked to implement the pilot in our region, helping to ensure it works for our landholders.
- Farming Forecaster was initially developed for agricultural systems in rural NSW. Tasmania was the first state outside of NSW to adopt this initiative, learning from and contributing to the body of knowledge and experience that is seeing this tool being used more broadly across Australia.

Key delivery partners: AgLogic, Cradle Coast NRM, CSIRO, Derwent Catchment Project, Farming Forecaster Inc, Firesticks Alliance, NRM North, Phil Graham Consulting, TTAS Farm Innovation Hub, Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture



LAND FEATURED PROJECT

Supporting our Soils

Our soils are the backbone of our land-based production industries and Tasmania is renowned for its high-quality produce. For our production industry to thrive within healthy and resilient landscapes, it is essential for farmers to build and maintain healthy soils, supporting a paddock to plate sector and ensuring food security into the future.

Through our Soil Extension Program and Regional Soil Coordinator projects, NRM South is working collaboratively with industry and our farming sector to build long term soil capability, supporting the health and productivity of our soils and making a valuable contribution to our National Soil Strategy and National Action Plan.

Tasmania is one of Australia's most agriculturally diverse regions, both in terms of products and farm characteristics, and our wide diversity of soils all respond differently to inputs. To improve and maintain soils, it is important that we improve our understanding of Tasmania's different soil types from a regional policy and planning level, all the way through to an individual producer level.

The Regional Soil Coordinator (RSC) initiative is an integral component of Australia's first National Soils Strategy, creating nationally cohesive and regionally specific support to build soils capacity for our agriculture and environment. Collaborating with the Tas Farm Innovation Hub, the RSC is contributing to the development of a regional plan. This plan is drawing on input from soil stakeholders across the state and aims to identify opportunities and knowledge gaps.

Our Soils Extension Program is driven by a dedicated team of three regional Soil Extension Officers (SEOs) across NRM South, NRM North and Cradle Coast NRM who work to promote the importance of soil health and improved soil management. Originally funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, it has seen continued support through the Tas Farm Innovation Hub and works closely with the Tasmanian RSC. Our SEOs connect with farmers and build trusted relationships with the agricultural community on soil health issues, and work to design and deliver tailored, regionally and industry specific workshops.

The Soils Extension Program supports the paddock to plate of traceability of produce from the farm to the consumer's plate by emphasizing the importance of soil health in ensuring that food products are sustainably grown and of high quality. The program highlights the important role of healthy soils in food production and encourages farmers to view and treat their soils as a long-term investment.

NRM South's SEO is building capacity within the southern viticulture industry and small-scale market garden community through the development of tailored workshops to promote practices that support soil health, to be delivered in the next financial year. Through an Agricultural Service Providers survey, led by the TAS Farm Innovation Hub, we identified key knowledge gaps thanks to feedback from 69 consultants and industry representative respondents. This information is guiding the development of a state-wide learning opportunity, tailored to identified needs.

We have also collaborated with industry experts and Tasmania's NRM organisations to develop and promote three decision support tools (Land Drainage for Farming in Tasmania, Nutrition Management for Farming in Tasmania, and Soil Test Interpretation Guide for Dryland Pastures in Tasmania). These tools give farmers free, locally specific information to improve decision making when managing soils.

Through networking at relevant events to discuss soil-related issues, continued promotion of decision support tools, connecting producers with available resources, and improving awareness of available support in the community, our soils projects are building statewide leadership to influence positive outcomes in our production industry.



NRM SOUTH THEME

Biodiversity



For more information on our **Themes and Asset Classes**, please download our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania at nrmsouth.org.au



Photo Credit: Eric Woehler (New Holland Honeyeater)

Our Biodiversity Program projects work with partner organisations to protect high-value habitats for threatened species, preserve crucial biodiversity areas, and conserve precious ecological communities.

Our Biodiversity Program projects work to protect and enhance the plant and animal species and communities native to our southern region. With a focus on threatened species, threatened ecological communities and important biodiversity areas, we are working closely with partners on projects that will deliver broad benefits to our natural landscapes.

Our projects take advantage of new and innovative technologies to achieve positive outcomes, while building resilience for threatened species and across landscapes to reduce the impacts of a changing climate, introduced pests, declining populations and biosecurity threats. By improving landscape condition our projects are also promoting improved access to Country for Tasmania's Aboriginal community and providing support for initiatives such as cultural burning, weed control, land management and threatened species conservation.

Across a suite of new and ongoing projects, we are working to protect important threatened and endangered species, including six species listed in the Australian Government's Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032. We are also undertaking landscape scale actions across Bruny Island, a listed Priority Place under the Threatened Species Action Plan.



Threatened & Important Species

Threatened species include species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and Threatened Species Protection Act 1995. The concept of important species recognises that there are regionally or locally important species, as well as emerging threatened species.



Threatened & Important Ecological Communities

Threatened ecological communities include the communities listed under the EPBC Act and Nature Conservation Act 2002. Regionally or locally important and emerging priority ecological communities are also recognised.



Important Biodiversity Areas

Important biodiversity areas are significant because they are home to a diversity of biota and include formally recognised sites such as World Heritage Areas, important reserves, recognised biodiversity hotspots or Key Biodiversity Areas.



Working Towards Our Strategy Goals

Within each listed priority, there are different numbers of specific actions (refer to our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania for detail). Measures of progress indicate where actions have been addressed but all actions remain ongoing to 2030.

Important Biodiversity Areas

PRIORITY	ACTIONS PROGRESSED
Increasing the area in the Midlands Biodiversity Hotspot under improved management/formal land conservation.	
Reducing previously unidentified threats to the TWWHA through partnership program & biosecurity campaign implemented at key entrances to the TWWHA.	

Threatened and Important Ecological Communities

PRIORITY	ACTIONS PROGRESSED
Improving outcomes for Alpine Sphagnum bogs and associated fens through management on private land and improving awareness of unsustainable sphagnum use.	
Increasing Black/Brookers Gum protection through land conservation mechanisms.	
Increasing the amount of highland and lowland grasslands protected through land conservation mechanisms.	
Increasing the extent and improving the condition of saltmarsh in the southern region.	
Improving the condition of priority riparian and remnant vegetation.	
Other emerging priorities.	

Threatened and Important Species

PRIORITY	ACTIONS PROGRESSED
Reducing the impact of cats & roadkill on threatened mammals (Eastern-barred Bandicoots & Eastern Quolls).	
Increasing habitat for Forty-spotted Pardalotes & improving fledgling survival at key sites.	
Increasing breeding success of Orange-bellied Parrots & Swift Parrots at key sites.	
Increased awareness of threats to Masked Owls & reducing impacts of habitat loss and secondary poisoning.	
Reducing threats to nesting shorebirds by working with key groups & reducing identified impacts.	
Improved understanding of impacts to & conservation status of Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, management actions implemented.	
Increasing extent of high-quality habitat for threatened fish & improving the quality of water inflow to key fish habitat through catchment management improvements.	
Improving habitat condition for handfish.	
Improving trajectory for Miena Cider Gum & Morrisby's Gum.	
Improving condition/range of endemic species.	
Identifying threats to habitat condition for the chaostola skipper and seeking investment to implement appropriate fire regimes, manage weeds & reduce clearing and fragmentation.	
Securing and stabilising habitat and trajectory of green & gold frogs at priority sites.	
Assessing emerging priorities & prioritising regional threatened species.	

Our Biodiversity Projects

1. Cat Management for Eastern Quoll on Bruny Island (extension)
2. Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund
3. Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program (WWF Collaboration)
4. Enhancing Outcomes for Swan Galaxias
5. Actions for Ammonite Snails
6. Conservation Actions for Tasmania's Orange-bellied Parrots
7. Biodiverse Bruny
8. Saving Swift Parrots



Theme Highlights

Our Migratory Parrots

Orange-bellied Parrots and Swift Parrots migrate annually from mainland Australia to Tasmania for their breeding season. With low population numbers and complex management needs, the ongoing survival of these critically endangered species depends on a range of conservation management interventions. We will be continuing our important work in this area through the following new Australian Government funded projects;

- **Saving Swift Parrots**

Under a recently completed Australian Government funded project, we improved Swift Parrot breeding and survival by establishing four conservation covenants covering 377 ha and supporting annual flower bud surveys to help predict breeding sites. Our new project will add **100 ha of covenanted habitat** and support the development of **flowering pattern predictors** for Swift Parrot food trees. We will also work with Landcare Tasmania on community engagement events to spread awareness about issues affecting Swift Parrots, support **weed removal across 20 ha** of important Swift Parrot habitat on Aboriginal land and deliver training to help Tasmanian Aboriginal communities manage Swift Parrots on their land.

- **Conservation Actions for Orange-bellied Parrots**

From 2021 - 2023, we worked with project partners to improve management strategies and captive breeding infrastructure and supply additional nesting opportunities within their preferred habitat. A new five-year project sees us continuing to support research into biology and habitat requirements by **identifying predation and competition threats** and carrying out **weed control** in important habitat areas, **mapping habitat** along their Tasmanian migration route, modelling population demographics and trends, and **flora surveys** to assess food availability in response to control burns.

- **Biodiverse Bruny**

This multi-faceted project, detailed in our feature project section, will include feral species management, supporting native species to thrive, reinstating Aboriginal land management practices and tackling threats to important habitat across the island.

Protecting Priority Species

The Australian Government's Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032 comprises 110 priority species that have been selected based on criteria including extinction risk, uniqueness and representativeness. Through our project portfolio, we are delivering actions that will directly and indirectly benefit **six priority species**; Hooded Plover and Eastern Quoll (through our Biodiverse Bruny project), Orange-bellied Parrot and Swift Parrot projects, and Swan Galaxias and Ammonite Snails (through two Australian Government Saving Native Species grants). Our work is also contributing to protecting the **threatened vegetation community** 'Tasmanian forests and woodlands dominated by black gum or Brooker's gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / *E. brookeriana*)'.

Supporting Innovative Solutions

To address the issues facing our landscapes and species, conservation managers and researchers are relying more frequently on innovative solutions. From simple approaches such as camera trap monitoring to more complex innovations such as environmental-DNA (eDNA) and artificial intelligence, our projects are **incorporating emerging technologies** to help us achieve our goals.

Our Biodiverse Bruny project continues to use Felixer traps to control feral cats, which relies on artificial intelligence to identify cats and spray their fur with a targeted poison. We are expanding our **use of eDNA** in our Ammonite Snail and Swan Galaxias projects, an approach which uses environmental samples (e.g. soil or water) to test for the presence of a target species' DNA. As a partner organisation for a project led by the University of New England, we are coordinating the **collection of acoustic bird data** in Tasmania's forests. This project aims to assess woodland health and build a permanent record of location biodiversity.

Engaging with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community

NRM South is committed to supporting Tasmania's Aboriginal community to contribute to natural resource management through initiatives including **cultural burning, weed control, land management and threatened species conservation.**

Through our Biodiverse Bruny and Swift Parrot projects, we are working with partners at the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (SETAC) and Weetapoono Aboriginal Corporation at Murrayfield, on north Bruny Island. By integrating Aboriginal knowledge and leadership, scientific expertise, and community involvement this project is forging sustainable pathways for biodiversity conservation.

Murrayfield is an Aboriginal owned and operated sheep station that comprises a mixed landscape of bushland and pasture and is home to threatened species including Swift Parrots and Forty-spotted Pardalotes. We are supporting SETAC to carry out cultural burning at Murrayfield that will manage habitat to maintain a dry grassland and forest mosaic. Biodiversity surveys will assess the impact of this burning practice. We will also deliver tree-climbing training to members of the SETAC community, providing them with the skills to manage Swift Parrot nest boxes on Murrayfield.

We are also working with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) to improve the condition of Orange-bellied Parrot habitat in the northeast of Tasmania and of Swift Parrot habitat in the southeast. Both sites are Aboriginal-owned land, and by supporting the TAC to carry out weed control activities, we are helping to improve habitat condition for two key critically endangered species and improve overall access to Country for the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

Tackling Feral Animals

Our Biodiverse Bruny project will continue to use the cage trapping and Felixer grooming traps to **remove feral cats** from key sites on Bruny Island. These approaches were identified as effective options as part of our previous cat control project on the island. Sites have been chosen based on known hotspots and to protect important areas (e.g.

seabird rookeries). We will also lead research into the location and distribution of the island's rabbit population to inform ongoing management actions, as rabbits are an important prey species for feral cats, and using camera traps to map the distribution of feral deer which will help to inform a broader control strategy that is being led by NRE Tasmania.

Improving Habitat

Across our Biodiverse Bruny, Swift Parrot and Orange-bellied Parrot projects, we will be supporting actions to **improve landscape health and condition across a range of habitats**, including weed control, revegetation works and support for cultural burning to create habitat mosaics. Our Ammonite Snail project will **develop guidelines** to identify and protect the critical and highly restricted habitat on which they rely.

On Bruny Island, we will be working with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service to trial management for 'root rot' (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) across **two hectares of key grass tree (*Xantorrhoea australis*) habitat** and employing measures to reduce the spread of this deadly disease into the island's threatened ecological community, 'Tasmanian Forests and Woodlands dominated by black or Brookers gum'. Additional activities that will help to inform future habitat improvement include mapping the distribution and identifying the potential impact of feral deer using camera trap surveys.

Project Development

Through our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania with valuable input from our stakeholders, we identified the biodiversity priorities in our region, and deliver impactful solutions. We have submitted a range of project concepts for funding on topics ranging from managing biosecurity risks, to work on other threatened species. We value the contributions of our project partners and stakeholders in these efforts, and will continue to seek funding for these important priorities.

Key delivery partners: Australian Museum, Australian National University, Bruny Enviro-Ag Services, Bruny Island Environment Network, CSIRO, Dr Kevin Bonham (Malacologist), Inland Fisheries Service, Into trees, Kingborough Council, Landcare Tasmania, South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Tasmanian Government, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, University of Tasmania, Weetapoono Aboriginal Corporation



BIODIVERSITY FEATURED PROJECT

Biodiverse Bruny

This multi-year project is working to safeguard the biodiversity values of Bruny Island through actions to protect threatened species and ecological communities.

Through focused efforts across biodiversity hotspots island-wide, project actions will improve the trajectory of key species and ecosystems.





Bruny Island is a 362km² stretch of land situated off the south-east coast of Tasmania. Classed as a ‘biodiversity hotspot’, the island’s landscapes are a mix of reserves, residential land, and farming areas. Bruny Island is an important stronghold for nationally threatened species including Eastern Quolls, Swift Parrots and Forty-spotted Pardalotes, as well as being an important breeding area for Little Penguins and Short-tailed Shearwaters.

NRM South has led projects on Bruny Island for close to two decades, focusing on issues such as conserving the island’s White Gums and Forty-spotted Pardalote populations and marine debris. More recently, we worked with partners on a multi-year project to manage feral, stray and domestic cats in north Bruny Island, helping to remove a significant number of cats and increase community awareness about cat management.

Working with a range of partners, our Biodiverse Bruny project is an ambitious five-year initiative that is using a range of complementary approaches, including cultural burning, aimed at protecting and enhancing important habitat, supporting the island’s native species – with a particular focus on Forty-spotted Pardalotes and Eastern Quolls.

Feral Cat Control

From 2018-2024, NRM South worked with project partners through an Australian Government funded project to address the impacts of feral and stray cats to Bruny Island’s wildlife – with a focus on Eastern Quolls and the northern section of Bruny Island. Following years of targeted control, it is estimated that very few cats remain in the area. However, without sustained pressure on the remaining feral cats in north Bruny Island, including those that may move in from the island’s south, populations could soon begin to increase, undoing years of effort.



This project will continue to implement approaches to remove feral cats from key sites on Bruny Island. Sites have been chosen based on known hotspots and to protect important sites such as seabird rookeries. Research into the location and distribution of the island’s rabbit population (an important prey species) will also help inform the location of feral cat eradication devices.

Cultural Burning

We are working with partners at the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation to carry out cultural burning that will manage habitat to maintain a dry grassland and forest mosaic at Murrayfield, an Aboriginal owned and operated sheep station that comprises a mixed landscape of bushland and pasture. Surveys of the site’s flora and fauna will be carried out to assess how animals such as Eastern Quolls use burnt areas, and to monitor how biodiversity values on the island can benefit from burning practices.



BIODIVERSITY FEATURED PROJECT – BIODIVERSE BRUNY

Supporting Forty-spotted Pardalote populations

Bruny Island is an important stronghold for endangered Forty-spotted Pardalotes and are at risk from threats including low nesting site availability, competitors, ongoing habitat degradation, and parasitism by the larvae of a native ectoparasitic fly that causes severe nestling mortality.



The Biodiverse Bruny project will use a range of approaches to support Forty-spotted Pardalote survival, including a landscape-scale roll-out of dispensers containing insecticide treated feathers for Forty-spotted Pardalotes to 'self-fumigate' their nests for parasites, adapted nest boxes to exclude competitors, improving our ecological understanding of the native parasitic fly that impacts nestling survival, and weed control and revegetation to improve and protect Forty-spotted Pardalote habitat.

Habitat Improvement

As well as the weed control and revegetation activities that form part of the suite of activities to support Forty-spotted Pardalote recovery, we will be working with PWS to trial management of *Phytophthora* ('root rot' disease), and carrying out mapping to assess the impact of feral deer.



This project will implement treatment across two hectares of key grass tree (*Xantorrhoea australis*) habitat on north Bruny Island and employ measures to reduce the spread of this deadly disease into the islands threatened ecological community, Forests and Woodlands dominated by black or Brookers gum (*Eucalyptus ovata* / *E. brookeriana*).



Additional activities that will help to inform future habitat improvement include mapping the distribution and identifying the potential impact of feral deer on Bruny Island using camera trap surveys.

Community Engagement

NRM South will be supporting community engagement efforts including signage, workshops and developing resource materials. These will cover subjects including deer management, Forty-spotted Pardalotes and the impacts of parasitic fly larvae, shorebird protection, land management and biosecurity issues.

NRM South is proud to be continuing our long-standing efforts to protect the natural values of this important island, listed as one of twenty Priority Places in the Australian Government's Threatened Species Action Plan.







ORGANISATIONAL PRIORITY

Tasmanian Aboriginal NRM Leadership & Healthy Country Priorities

Across our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania, we have outlined our ongoing commitment to engage with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, seeking their priorities for actions that support their access, healing, protection and management of land, sea and sky Country.



Advancing Self-determined Priorities

We have worked with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and groups to address management priorities in areas with cultural and heritage significance, as well as sites at risk due to natural disaster and climate change impacts. Our collaboration with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) on fire hazard and weed removal projects in critical Orange-bellied and Swift Parrot habitat is not only improving biodiversity outcomes but also ensuring Aboriginal-led access and management of these culturally important lands. Ongoing projects at Moulting Lagoon and Apsley Marshes support the Aboriginal community in accessing Country and safeguarding these vital cultural landscapes, fostering skills in environmental monitoring, and ensuring Aboriginal participation in decision-making.



NRM Career Pathways and Capacity

In response to the identified need for career development and leadership in NRM, we are actively creating career pathways for Palawa/Pakana people. This includes the creation of a new co-managed role with the TAC focused on on-Country project planning and delivery, development of new initiatives, consultation, and monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, we have taken steps to build capacity in key areas such as cultural and cool burning, wildlife monitoring and conservation, and reef restoration.

Our Igniting Communities project, delivered in partnership with Firesticks Alliance, is enhancing cultural burning practices while providing training for Aboriginal participants. This initiative supports both ecological outcomes and cultural connection to Country. Across our projects, we are working with community to improve land management, access to Country, and threatened species outcomes.



Mutual Interests

Our partnerships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and groups have extended into areas of shared interest, including management of Aboriginal land, threatened species management, Ramsar and coastal site restoration, fire management for ecological benefit, and pastoral land management. We are working alongside Aboriginal custodians to deliver land management outcomes that align with both cultural and ecological priorities. Working together on initiatives like our Ramsar-listed wetlands projects provides the opportunity to include traditional knowledge in the protection of these vital ecosystems and cultural assets.



Building NRM South's Cultural Competency

Recognising the importance of maintaining strong, respectful relationships with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, we have taken steps to embed cultural competency across our organisation, prioritising cultural competency training for our employees and Board, fostering a deeper understanding of Aboriginal knowledge, practices, and perspectives. We aim to engage with and support Aboriginal people in a way that is culturally sensitive and respectful, laying the foundation for long-term partnerships built on trust and shared goals.



EMERGING PRIORITIES

Emergency Preparedness, Response & Recovery Plan

NRM organisations play a critical role in supporting emergency preparedness and response. In early 2024, we developed a Biodiversity and Agricultural Natural Capital Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan (EPRR Plan) that serves as a strategic blueprint to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery measures pertaining to emergency events impacting biodiversity and agricultural natural capital assets.

Southern Tasmania is facing increasing challenges from natural disasters and extreme weather events, ranging from bushfires to flash floods, and emergency biosecurity incursions. These events not only threaten human lives, property, and food supply, but also have significant impacts on biodiversity and agricultural natural capital assets. It is crucial that we enhance our preparedness and response to mitigate these risks effectively.

The EPRR Plan provides information that aims to assist integration of these crucial assets into emergency frameworks, and to mitigate risks, minimise damage, and expedite recovery processes for natural assets in the face of natural disasters.

-  Outlines proactive actions that identify, assess, and reduce risks posed by potential emergency events to biodiversity and agricultural natural capital assets.
-  Fosters collaboration and information sharing to ensure a comprehensive understanding of vulnerabilities and effective preparedness measures.
-  Supports clear communication that facilitates swift and coordinated responses to emergency events affecting biodiversity and agricultural natural capital assets.
-  Identifies training and resources required to equip NRM South and our stakeholders with the necessary skills and knowledge to address crises.
-  Enables planning, development and implementation of strategic actions tailored to the unique needs of biodiversity and agricultural natural capital assets, with a focus on restoring ecosystems and enhancing resilience.
-  Brings together and coordinates on-ground efforts with state and federal governments and local stakeholders to expedite the recovery process for natural assets, leveraging available resources and expertise to maximise outcomes.
-  Facilitates the inclusion of biodiversity and agricultural natural capital assets in existing emergency planning frameworks.
-  Fosters a holistic approach to risk management and mitigation, promoting long-term resilience and sustainability.



Corporate Program

Our four focus areas, People, Systems, Finances and Performance, provide a robust framework as we build our capacity to deliver our NRM Strategy goals alongside other strategic documents.

People

Providing clear direction, expectations, rewards, and support to motivate our people to overcome barriers and deliver our performance expectations.

- New employment framework offering clear development pathways from Graduate Project Officers through to newly promoted Coordinators.
- Establishment of a Training and Development Strategy, with contemporary annual investment targets.
- Creation of Aboriginal NRM Project Officer role in partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

Looking Ahead:

- Improvements to our professional development templates and processes.
- Review of employee value proposition and options to attract and retain talent.

Systems

Ensuring our systems and technology are contemporary and effective, so we can be efficient and equipped for decision-making.

- Commenced implementation of new Project Management System
- Relocation of all digital data to Australian-based servers.

Looking Ahead:

- Ongoing system upgrades.
- Including data capture, systems and technology in project design.
- Long-term monitoring and evaluation processes.

Finances

Strengthening and diversifying our finances, and pursuing structured growth that enables us to implement the 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania effectively.

- Secured new 5-year agreement as Australian Government's preferred provider of NRM services in southern Tasmania.
- Tasmanian State Government committed to increased core funding to 2025/2026.

Looking Ahead:

- Growth in annual revenue.
- Implement new initiatives to deliver funding growth and diversification.

Performance

Sharpening our organisational and governance performance.

- Commenced Tasmanian NRM Framework review in consultation with State Government.
- Established new Projects Governance Steering Committee.
- Progressing 2022-23 sustainability targets and developing reporting and communication approaches.
- Improved project guidance and governance via the establishment of a Project Governance Steering Committee and targeted technical project reference groups.

Looking Ahead:

- Progress review of our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania, due in 2027.
- New Membership Strategy and benefits.



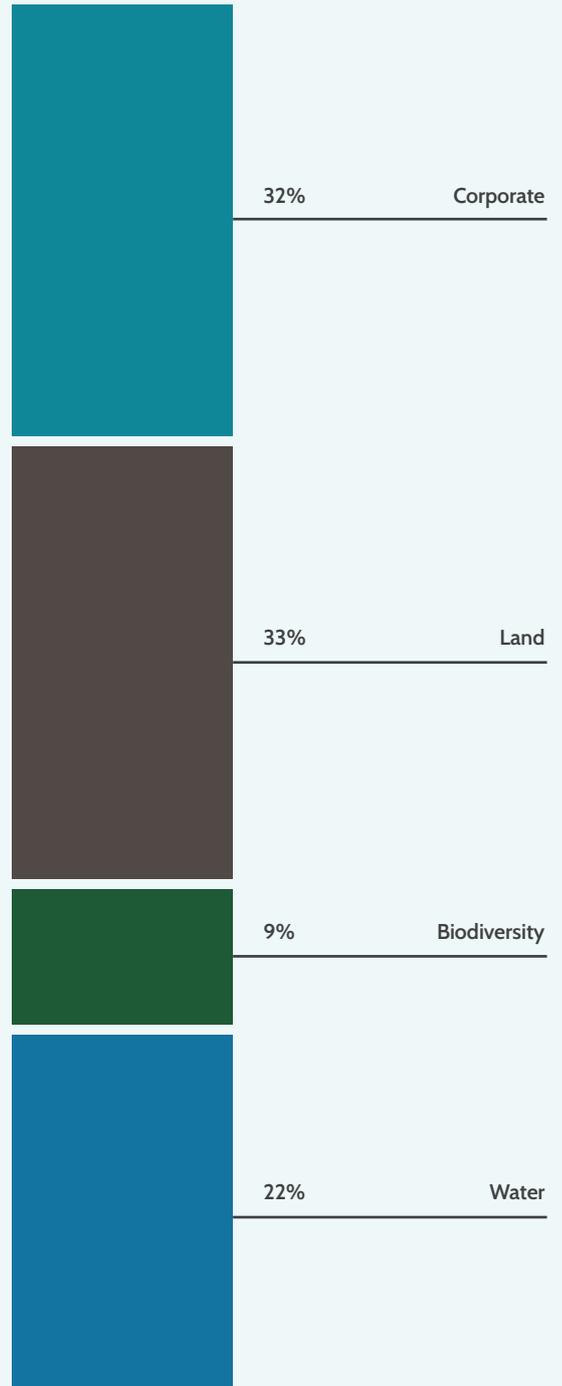


Summary of Financial Statements

Revenue by Source

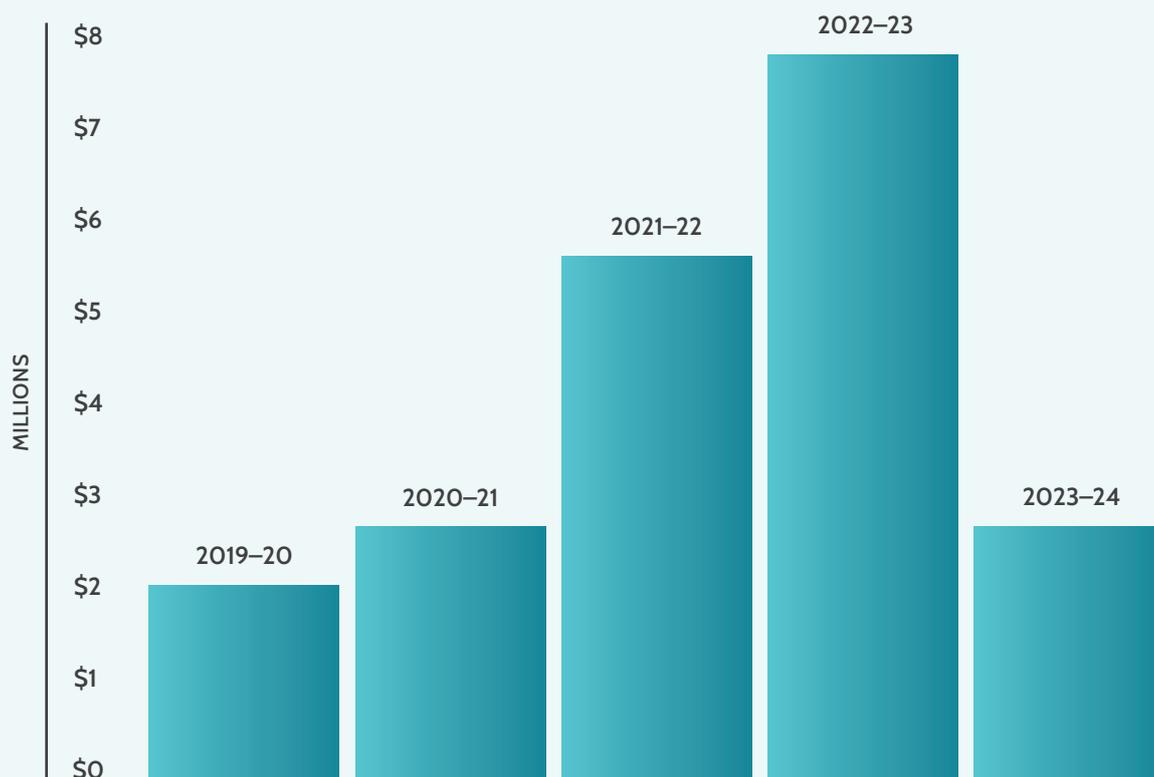


Expenditure by Program



The full Financial Statements can be viewed in the digital version of this annual report, available online in NRM South's Resource Library nrmsouth.org.au

Revenue Last 5 Years



Where Funds Come From

NRM South is a not-for-profit registered charity. We make an important contribution to southern Tasmania's economy and environment. We pursue opportunities to increase NRM investment in our region. Over the last two decades, we have secured millions of dollars in direct and in-kind investment through Australian Government, State Government, and industry partner contributions.

Where Funds Are Applied

NRM South provides vital NRM services across southern Tasmania, and beyond. The purpose of our expenditure is to deliver NRM solutions to achieve beneficial outcomes for southern Tasmania's environment, economy and people. Our corporate investment delivers the structure, governance, due diligence, and agility to enable the delivery of our strategy.

Change in Revenue

Revenue decline this past financial year is due to a number of factors. Following advice from auditors, NRM South now recognises revenue for accounting purposes (resulting in a significant revenue being brought to account, versus treated as deferred income) and receipt of multiple final milestone payments in June 2023. In addition, in 2023-24, the Australian Government established the Panel of Regional Delivery Partners for Environmental Protection, Sustainable Agriculture and NRM Services under a 5-year deed of standing offer. NRM South was appointed to this panel for the Southern Tasmanian NRM Region, however, the size and complexity of the procurement process resulted in delays in funding being secured.



Governance Summary

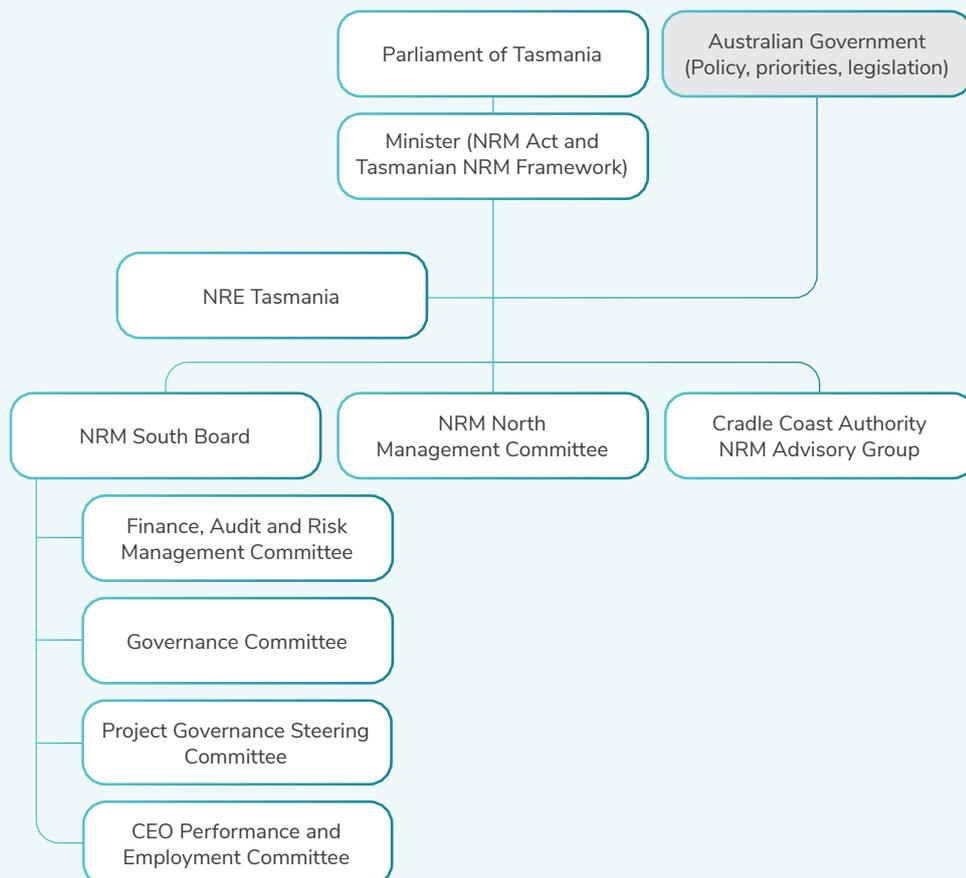
NRM South’s Board and committees oversee key areas of strategic importance including direction setting, achievement of priorities, management of risks and stakeholder relationships, and supporting the CEO in business operations.

Enabling Structure

The Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (trading as NRM South) is an incorporated association established in 2003 in response to the Tasmanian Government’s Natural Resource Management Framework and its enabling legislation, the *Tasmanian Natural Resources Management Act 2002* (NRM Act). The Association is governed by a constitution that includes governance rules and defines the requirements for the establishment and operation of the NRM South Board and Association, including membership.

The three Tasmanian NRM organisations were established under the NRM Act. Under the NRM Act, the NRM organisations are required to have a committee or Board that sets out their governance framework and ensures the organisations can meet their requirements under the Act. NRM South reports through the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, and ultimately to the Parliament of Tasmania.

The Australian Government is also a significant stakeholder in the operating context of NRM South, setting national policy, priorities and legislation, as well as contributing significant funding to NRM activities in the state.





Board Purpose

The NRM South Board oversees the business affairs of NRM South and ensures it has appropriate management to carry out its objectives and functions. The Board sets our strategic direction, monitors our progress and ensures we meet all areas of compliance, and ensures continual improvement via an adaptive management approach.

The NRM South Board reports annually to an Annual General Meeting of Association Members. An Annual Report is also submitted each year to the State Government and tabled in the Tasmanian Parliament. The Tasmanian *Natural Resource Management Act 2002* assigns the following functions to the Board:

- Identify the priorities for natural resource management for the region.
- Prepare a draft regional strategy for the region, for endorsement by the Minister.
- Facilitate the implementation of the regional strategy.
- Promote the Tasmanian natural resource management principles.
- Facilitate the integration of natural resource management and planning activities for the region.
- Seek, manage and allocate funds according to the regional strategy.
- Coordinate the region's participation in national and state programs related to natural resource management.
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the regional strategy.
- Develop and implement processes to ensure appropriate education and training in natural resource management.
- Submit an Annual Report to the Minister responsible for administering the NRM Act.

Finance, Audit and Risk Management (FARM) Committee

This is a standing committee of NRM South, reporting to the Board. Its roles and responsibilities include reviewing financial statements, liaising with external auditors, reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of operating and accounting systems, and reviewing compliance with statutory responsibilities, risk management and insurances.

Members: Anita Dahlenburg (Chair), Anh Nguyen, Phillipa McCormack, Ingrid van Putten, Tahnee McShane, Nathan Johnston (ext.)

Governance Committee

This is a standing committee of NRM South and reports to the Board. It is responsible for monitoring progress on governance measures and governance best practice and is tasked with developing and bringing recommendations to the Board.

Members: Claire Ellis, Phillipa McCormack, Peter Volker, Chris Cosgrove

CEO Performance Committee

This committee oversees the management, performance and remuneration of the CEO and provides advice on any significant human resource changes or policy.

Members: Bob Rutherford, Claire Ellis

Project Governance Steering Committee

This newly established committee oversees projects and provides guidance on project performance, risk management and management processes, as well as advice and recommendations to the CEO to support successful organisational project performance.

Members: Peter Volker (Chair), Amy Koch, Margie Archer, Peter Saunders, Tobi Pedersen, Alice Clayton

Other Committees and Groups

Separate technical advisory groups or project working groups are established as required. They provide expert technical advice on specific matters relating to the implementation of a project.



Board Director Tenures

DIRECTOR	TENURE EXPIRY	TERMS (4 YEARS PER TERM)
Robert Rutherford	September 2027	First term in progress
Dr Claire Ellis	September 2024	Second term in progress
Dr Phillipa McCormack	September 2024	First term in progress
Dr Peter Volker	September 2024	First term in progress
Anh Nguyen	September 2025	First term in progress
Anita Dahlenburg	September 2025	First term in progress
Tahnee McShane	September 2027	First term in progress
Chris Cosgrove	September 2027	First term in progress
Dr Ingrid van Putten	September 2027	First term in progress

Attendance at Board Meetings and Subcommittee Meetings

DIRECTOR	BOARD MEETING		FARM MEETING		GOVERNANCE MEETING		CEO PERFORMANCE AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE	
	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended
Andrew Scanlon*	1	1	1	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Robert Rutherford	6	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	1
Dr Claire Ellis	6	5	N/A	N/A	2	2	1	1
Dr Phillipa McCormack**	6	5	4	3	2	2	N/A	N/A
Dr Peter Volker	6	5	N/A	N/A	2	2	N/A	N/A
Anh Nguyen	6	6	7	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Anita Dahlenburg	6	5	7	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tahnee McShane	6	6	7	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chris Cosgrove	6	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dr Ingrid van Putten	6	6	7	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nathan Johnston***	N/A	N/A	3	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note*: Andrew Scanlon tenure expired September 2023. Note**: Phillipa McCormack resigned from the FARM Committee in April 2024. Note ***: Nathan Johnston is an external FARM committee member who commenced in March 2024.

Board Directors and Key Management Personnel

In line with the Rules of the Association, Directors may claim sitting fees for attendance and participation in all formal activities, such as Board meetings, committee meetings and working group tasks.

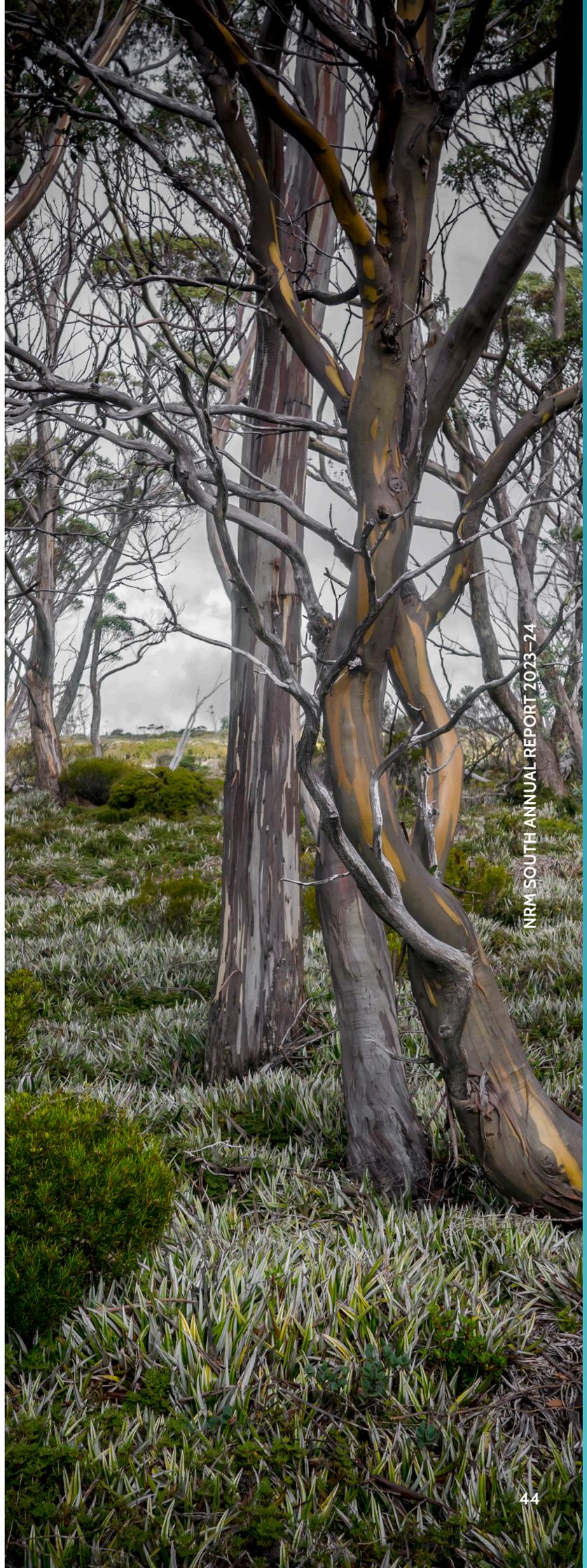
In accordance with the NRM South Constitution, sitting fees are set at each year's Annual General Meeting.

Eligible Directors may also claim reimbursement for reasonable travel and other expenses associated with formal meetings and activities.

The remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Association is \$ 874,651 (for 7 management employees and 9 Board Directors, and 2 former management employees and 1 former Board Director).

Board Selection Panel

Ursula Taylor, Anita Howard,
Lyndley Chopping, Frances Healy





Staff 2023-24

CORPORATE TEAM

Nepelle Crane – CEO

Todd Nation – Executive Director Strategy and Business

Kate Malcolm – Finance Manager*

Billy Pangestu – Finance Officer

Amelia Jensen – Executive Assistant

Nathalie Laurence – Communications Coordinator

Maudie Brown – Business Development Officer

Jill Jones – Strategic Programs Manager*

LAND TEAM

James Stronach – Program Manager

Tim Ackroyd – Land Program Coordinator

Yolanda Hanusch – Senior Project Officer

Belinda Neilsen – Regional Soils Coordinator

Jacinta Leys - Graduate Project Officer*

BIODIVERSITY TEAM

Dr Cindy Hull – Program Manager

Dr Cat Young – Biodiversity Program Coordinator

Dr Adam Cisterne – Senior Project Officer Biodiversity*

WATER TEAM

Jennifer Hemer – Program Manager

Grace Isdale – Senior Project Officer

Laurel McGinnity – Water Program Coordinator

Zak Wheaton – Senior Project Officer

Paige Green – Senior Project Officer Biodiversity and Water*

*new appointments

DEPARTING STAFF 2023-24

Joss Fenton – Finance Manager

Nick Macgregor – Project Officer

Sophie Golding – Senior Project Officer

Members

NRM South membership is open to organisations with an interest in NRM in southern Tasmania. The members' association is an incorporated body and has a role in electing members of the Southern NRM Regional Committee (the Board) – which in turn provides strategic guidance and direction to the CEO and Management Team of NRM South. The association meets formally each year for the AGM to ratify the Annual Report and Auditor's Report.

We wish to thank our members for their support and contributions over the last year. Our current members are:

Birdlife Tasmania
City of Hobart
Clarence City Council
Conservation Volunteers Australia
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas)
Derwent Catchment Project/Enviro-dynamics
Derwent Estuary Program
Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Glenorchy City Council
Greening Australia
Hobart Airport
Huon Valley Council
Hydro Tasmania
Kingborough Council
Landcare Tasmania
pakana Services
Petrichor Wines
Private Forests Tasmania
Seafood Industry Tasmania
Sorell Council
Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare Inc.
Southern Midlands Council
Sustainability Learning Centre
Sustainable Timber Tasmania
Tasman Council
Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Tasmanian Land Conservancy
TasWater
Threatened Plants Tasmania
Wildcare Tasmania



Program Funding Sources

REGIONAL DELIVERY PARTNERS

Saving Swift Parrots

Biodiverse Bruny

Significant Wetlands

Conservation Actions for Tasmania's Orange Bellied Parrots

SMART FARMS PARTNERSHIPS

Regional Soils Coordinator

FUTURE DROUGHT FUND

Future Drought Fund NRM Landscapes

Innovation Grant – Farming Forecaster

Igniting Communities

BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION GRANTS

Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration

AGRICULTURE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot

SAVING NATIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Enhancing Outcomes for Swan Galaxias

Actions for Ammonite Snails

Bruny Island (Priority Places)

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Sustainable Agricultural Facilitator

STATE GOVERNMENT

Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund (co-funded)

Weeds Action Fund

Long Spined Sea Urchin

INDUSTRY

Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund (co-funded)

Sugar Glider Ecology

PARTNERS AND OTHER FUNDERS

D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration/Carbon Storage

Reef Builder

Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program (WWF)

The Nature Conservancy



SOUTHERN REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION (TRADING AS NRM SOUTH)

Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Board Report

30 June 2024

Your Board Members submit the financial report of the Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South) for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

1. General information

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were:

NRM South's principal activities encompass a range of vital environmental initiatives. Through various projects, we actively conserve and manage natural resources across our land, water, and biodiversity program areas. These include conservation efforts aimed at safeguarding biodiversity, endangered species, habitats, and ecosystems, spanning significant landscapes, waterways and wetlands. Conservation of native species, reforestation, habitat restoration, and protection of crucial natural areas are core components of our conservation projects. In response to climate change, we strategically plan and undertake measures to adapt and mitigate its impacts, especially concerning conservation outcomes and sustainability in natural resource industries. Additionally, we promote sustainable practices within agriculture, fisheries, and food sectors, striving to enhance food security while minimising environmental impacts. Education and awareness initiatives are fundamental to our mission, as we engage in raising awareness about environmental issues, and fostering environmentally responsible behaviours and practices.

Our income derives from grants and funding received from various sources, principally government, all directed toward supporting our activities.

As per the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002 (Tas)*, we engage in strategic planning for natural resource management, identifying priorities and formulating regional strategies to address them. We deliver all programs in collaboration with others – partnering with government agencies, not-for-profits, community groups, and private sector entities to collectively achieve the goals outlined in the strategy.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

2. Operating Results and Review of Operations for the Year

Operating result

The net surplus/(deficit) of the Association for the financial year amounted to \$(784,524) (2023:\$ 596,157).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board:

Board Member:



Board Member:

Dated this 6 day of September 2024.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Board Declaration - per section 60.15 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*

The Board declare that in the Board's opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that NRM South is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board:

Board Member

Chair, R. Rutterford

Board Member

[Signature]

Dated this

5th day of *September* 2024.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
		\$	\$
Revenue from continuing operations	3	2,754,446	7,255,437
Expenses			
Committee costs		20,501	22,785
Conference/training/travel costs		33,045	41,028
Consultants fees		38,059	109,527
Depreciation		160,618	118,212
Employment costs		1,787,443	1,685,973
Financial expenses		37,517	24,423
Meeting expenses		3,024	2,458
Motor vehicle expenses		12,485	11,062
Occupancy costs		42,812	32,021
Office running costs		158,250	123,576
Other costs		2,922	1,078
Project costs		1,242,294	4,487,137
Total Expenses		<u>3,538,970</u>	<u>6,659,280</u>
Net surplus/(deficit)		<u>(784,524)</u>	<u>596,157</u>
Other comprehensive income for the year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>(784,524)</u>	<u>596,157</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2,898,662	2,456,962
Trade and other receivables	5	5,213	1,740,588
Other assets		53,175	33,027
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,957,050	4,230,577
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	117,306	119,152
Right-of-use assets	8	690,278	312,192
Intangible assets	7	32,122	41,750
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		839,706	473,094
TOTAL ASSETS		3,796,756	4,703,671
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	703,331	1,012,107
Employee benefits	11	72,417	87,729
Deferred income		-	201,249
Lease liabilities	9	127,407	93,847
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		903,155	1,394,932
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	11	37,999	24,261
Lease liabilities	9	601,292	245,644
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		639,291	269,905
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,542,446	1,664,837
NET ASSETS		2,254,310	3,038,834
EQUITY			
Unexpended project fund reserve		775,483	1,344,844
Accumulated surpluses		1,478,827	1,693,990
TOTAL EQUITY		2,254,310	3,038,834

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2024

	Accumulated surpluses	Unexpended project fund reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	1,693,990	1,344,844	3,038,834
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	(784,524)	-	(784,524)
Transfer to/(from) reserves	569,361	(569,361)	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	<u>1,478,827</u>	<u>775,483</u>	<u>2,254,310</u>

2023

	Accumulated surpluses	Unexpended project fund reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	1,374,192	1,068,485	2,442,677
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	596,157	-	596,157
Transfer to/(from) reserves	(276,359)	276,359	-
Balance at 30 June 2023	<u>1,693,990</u>	<u>1,344,844</u>	<u>3,038,834</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from grants/partners	4,708,180	6,602,585
Interest received	70,073	37,176
Payments to suppliers & employees	(4,172,723)	(7,498,116)
Net cash provided by/(used by) operating activities	14 <u>605,530</u>	<u>(858,355)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of plant and equipment	<u>(36,632)</u>	<u>(71,145)</u>
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>(36,632)</u>	<u>(71,145)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Repayment of lease liabilities	<u>(127,198)</u>	<u>(101,960)</u>
Net cash used by financing activities	<u>(127,198)</u>	<u>(101,960)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	441,700	(1,031,460)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>2,456,962</u>	<u>3,488,422</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	4 <u><u>2,898,662</u></u>	<u><u>2,456,962</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

This financial report covers NRM South as an individual entity. Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association is incorporated under *the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)* and domiciled in Tasmania.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures. This includes compliance with the recognition and measurement requirements of all Australian Accounting Standards, Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the disclosure requirements of AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)*.

Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected fixed assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented within the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

(b) Comparative Figures

Where appropriate, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments.

(d) Trade and Other Receivables

The Association considers accounts receivable to be fully collectible, accordingly no allowance for doubtful accounts is required.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

(e) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and depreciated over their useful lives to the Association.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Furniture, fixtures and fittings	10 - 40%
Motor vehicles	20 - 40%
Office equipment	10 - 100%
Leasehold improvements	10%

(f) Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Association during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

(g) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Contributions made by the Association to an employee superannuation fund is recognised as an expense and corresponding liability as at the date of each payrun.

(h) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

(i) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Association is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

(j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

(k) Leases

Association as a Lessee

At lease commencement, the Association recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where the Association believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises: the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration, less any lease incentives. The right-of-use is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of asset accounting policy.

The lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease.

Association as a Lessor

The Association does not act as lessor in any leasing arrangement.

(l) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue from Contracts with Customers

The core principle of AASB 15 is that revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Association expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

1. Identify the contract with the customer
2. Identify the performance obligations
3. Determine the transaction price
4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations
5. Recognise revenue as and when control of the performance obligations is transferred

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

(I) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue from Contracts with Customers

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the Association have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

Statement of Financial Position Balances Relating to Revenue Recognition

Where the amounts billed to customers are based on the achievement of various milestones established in the contract, the amounts recognised as revenue in a given period do not necessarily coincide with the amounts billed to or certified by the customer.

When a performance obligation is satisfied by transferring a promised good or service to the customer before the customer pays consideration or before the payment is due, the Association presents the contract as a contract asset, unless the Association's rights to that amount of consideration are unconditional, in which case the Association recognises a receivable.

When an amount of consideration is received from a customer prior to the entity transferring a good or service to the customer, the Association presents the contract as a contract liability.

Other Income

Assets arising from grants in the scope of AASB 1058 (i.e. agreements that are not enforceable or do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations) are recognised at their fair value when the asset is received.

The Association then considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard. Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised, then income is recognised for any difference between the recorded asset and liability.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

(m) Adoption of New and Revised Accounting Standards

The Association has adopted all recognition and measurement standards which became effective for the first time at 30 June 2024. The adoption of these standards has not caused any material adjustments to the reported financial position, performance or cash flow of the Association.

The Association has adopted the amendments to AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* which require only the disclosure of material accounting policy information rather than significant accounting policies. Material policy information satisfy one of the following requirements:

- Relates to change in accounting policy;
- Policy has been developed in the absence of an explicit accounting standard requirement;
- Documents an accounting policy choice;
- Relates to an area of significant judgement or estimation; or
- Relates to a complex transaction and is required to explain the treatment to the users.

(n) New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods

The AASB has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods. The Standard AASB 2023-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current* amends AASB 101 to classify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current and the standard AASB 2022-5 *Amendment to Lease Liability* in a Sale and Leaseback, Amends AASB 16 *Leases* to add subsequent measurement for sale and leaseback transactions that satisfy the requirements in AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* to be account for as a sale. The Association has decided against early adoption of these Standards. The Association does not expect the effect of either of these statements to be material.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

Management evaluates estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Association, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

Key Judgement - Revenue Recognition

For many of the grant agreements received, the determination of whether the contract includes sufficiently specific performance obligations was a material judgement involving review of the grant documents and consideration of the terms and conditions. Grants received by the Association have been accounted for under AASB 15 and/or AASB 1058 depending on the terms and conditions and decisions made. If this determination was changed then the revenue recognition pattern would be different from that recognised in this financial report.

Key Estimates - Estimation of Useful Lives of Assets

The Association determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Key Judgement - Employee Benefits

For the purpose of measurement, the Association expects that most employees will take their annual leave entitlements within a 12 month period in which they are earned, but this will not have a material impact on the amounts recognised in respect of obligations for employees' leave entitlements.

Key Estimates - Long Service Leave

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates include probabilities of reaching future entitlements have been taken into account. Input additional text here.

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

3 Revenue and Other Income

(a) Revenue from continuing operations

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Revenue from contracts with customers (AASB 15)		
- Fees & Charges Income - Federal Gov Contracts	624,152	4,084,430
- Fees & Charges Income - Other Contracts	482,060	609,189
- Fees & Charges Income - (Consulting & other services)	51,184	51,184
- Wedge Tailed Eagle Offsset fund	(9,304)	152,886
	<u>1,148,092</u>	<u>4,897,689</u>
Revenue recognised on receipt (not enforceable or no sufficiently specific performance obligations - AASB 1058)		
- Grant income	1,530,008	2,313,982
Other income		
- Bank interest	70,073	37,176
- Miscellaneous income	-	3,640
- Gain on disposal of P&E	327	250
- Biosecurity kit sales	1,571	2,700
- Recoupments	4,375	-
Total Revenue and Other Income	<u>2,754,446</u>	<u>7,255,437</u>

4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	-	371
Cash at bank	2,110,108	1,677,551
Short-term bank deposits	788,554	779,040
	<u>2,898,662</u>	<u>2,456,962</u>

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

5 Trade and Other Receivables

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Trade receivables	24,513	1,662,841
Less: Provision for impairment	-	-
GST receivables/(payables)	(19,300)	77,747
	<u>5,213</u>	<u>1,740,588</u>

6 Property, Plant and Equipment

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Furniture, fixture and fittings		
At cost	65,468	64,196
Accumulated depreciation	(31,348)	(26,374)
Total furniture, fixture and fittings	<u>34,120</u>	<u>37,822</u>
Motor vehicles		
At cost	61,758	61,758
Accumulated depreciation	(37,763)	(29,422)
Total motor vehicles	<u>23,995</u>	<u>32,336</u>
Office equipment		
At cost	127,781	112,343
Accumulated depreciation	(80,880)	(63,349)
Total office equipment	<u>46,901</u>	<u>48,994</u>
Leasehold improvements		
At cost	12,840	-
Accumulated depreciation	(550)	-
Total leasehold improvements	<u>12,290</u>	<u>-</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>117,306</u>	<u>119,152</u>

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6 Property, Plant and Equipment

(a) Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Furniture, fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Office equipment	Leasehold improvement	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2024					
Balance at the beginning of year	37,821	32,336	48,995	-	119,152
Additions	1,283	-	15,437	12,840	29,560
Depreciation expense	(4,984)	(8,341)	(17,531)	(550)	(31,406)
Balance at the end of the year	34,120	23,995	46,901	12,290	117,306

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

7 Intangible Assets

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Website		
At cost	41,750	41,750
Accumulated amortisation	(16,700)	-
Total website	<u>25,050</u>	<u>41,750</u>
Work in progress - Software implementation		
At cost	7,072	-
Total work in progress	<u>7,072</u>	<u>-</u>
Total intangibles	<u><u>32,122</u></u>	<u><u>41,750</u></u>

(a) Movements in carrying amounts of intangible assets

	Website	Work in progress	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2024			
Balance at the beginning of the year	41,750	-	41,750
Additions	-	7,072	7,072
Accumulated depreciation	(16,700)	-	(16,700)
Balance at the end of the year	<u><u>25,050</u></u>	<u><u>7,072</u></u>	<u><u>32,122</u></u>

8 Right-of-Use Asset

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Property lease		
At cost	958,886	468,287
Accumulated amortisation	(268,608)	(156,095)
	<u><u>690,278</u></u>	<u><u>312,192</u></u>

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

8 Right-of-Use Asset

(a) Movements in carrying amounts of Right of use assets

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2024		
Balance at the beginning of the year	312,192	405,849
Additions	490,598	-
Depreciation for the year	(112,512)	(93,657)
Total	<u>690,278</u>	<u>312,192</u>

9 Lease Liabilities

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities based on contractual undiscounted cash flows is shown in the table below:

	< 1 year	1 - 5 years	> 5 years	Lease liabilities included in this Statement Of Financial Position
	\$	\$	\$	\$
2024				
Lease liabilities	127,407	601,291	-	<u>728,698</u>
2023				
Lease liabilities	93,847	245,644	-	<u>339,491</u>

10 Trade and Other Payables

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Trade payables	326,199	769,405
Funds held in Trust	253,755	-
Accrued expenses	67,093	191,093
SG superannuation payables	17,966	17,357
PAYG withholding	38,318	34,252
	<u>703,331</u>	<u>1,012,107</u>

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

11 Employee Benefits

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current		
Long service leave	4,601	16,061
Annual leave	67,816	71,668
	<u>72,417</u>	<u>87,729</u>
Non-current		
Long service leave	37,999	24,261
	<u>37,999</u>	<u>24,261</u>

(a) Movements in carrying amounts

	Annual leave	Long service leave	Total
	\$	\$	\$
2024			
Balance at beginning of year	71,668	40,321	111,989
Additional provisions	43,589	23,952	67,541
Provisions used	(47,441)	(21,673)	(69,114)
Closing balance	<u>67,816</u>	<u>42,600</u>	<u>110,416</u>

12 Financial Risk Management

The Association's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable, and borrowings.

The totals for each category of financial instruments are as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,898,662	2,456,962
Trade and other receivables	5,213	1,740,588
Total financial assets	<u>2,903,875</u>	<u>4,197,550</u>
Financial liabilities		
Trade and other payables	703,331	1,012,107
Total financial liabilities	<u>703,331</u>	<u>1,012,107</u>

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

13 Auditors' Remuneration

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Remuneration of the auditor of the Association		
- audit of the the financial statements for the year	9,610	10,075

14 Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	(784,524)	596,157
Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities		
- depreciation and amortisation	160,618	118,451
- lease interest	25,807	14,568
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	1,735,375	(420,224)
- (increase)/decrease in other assets	(20,146)	5,334
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(562,533)	(294,676)
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	(1,573)	31,387
- increase/(decrease) in deferred income	52,506	(909,352)
Cashflows from operations	<u>605,530</u>	<u>(858,355)</u>

15 Capital Commitments

There are no capital commitments for the year ended 30 June 2024 (2023: Nil).

16 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

The Association has received grant funds with associated agreements whereby unexpended funds may be repayable to the funding provider in the future in the event of either cessation of the funded services or upon triggering of a repayment clause in a funding agreement.

There are no other contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at reporting date to be disclosed (2023: Nil).

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

17 Related Parties

(a) The Association's main related parties are as follows:

Related parties include close family members of key management personnel, Board Members and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel or their close family members for the year ended 30 June 2024 there were no transaction between NRM South and noted related party.

Key management personal - refer Note 18.

18 Key Management Personnel Disclosures

The remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Association is \$ 772,156 (for 8 x KMP management and 11 x KMP Board members) (2023: \$764,398).

19 Events After the End of the Reporting Period

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the reporting date which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of the operation, or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

20 Economic Dependence

NRM South is dependent on the ongoing receipt of the Federal and State Government grants for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report the Board members have no reason to believe the ongoing receipt of the Federal and State Government grants will not continue to support NRM South.

21 Association Details

The registered office of the Association is:

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

Level 1, 89 Brisbane Street

Hobart TAS 7000

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Auditors Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)*

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2024 there have been

- (i) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Crowe Audit Australia

Crowe Audit Australia



Alison Flakemore
Senior Partner

Dated this...23...day of ...August...2024.
Hobart, Tasmania.

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Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Independent Audit Report to the members of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of NRM South (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, the 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 material accounting policies, and the Board Declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2024, and its financial performance for the year ended in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 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 the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (including Independence Standards) (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.

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Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Independent Audit Report to the members of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

Other Information

The Board is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Board Report the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Board for the Financial Report

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the Association'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 the Board either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

The Board are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

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Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Independent Audit Report to the members of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

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 the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association'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 Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

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Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

ABN 86704088698

Independent Audit Report to the members of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South)

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during the audit.

Crowe Audit Australia

Crowe Audit Australia



Alison Flakemore
Senior Partner

Dated this ...16...day of ...September...2024.
Hobart, Tasmania.

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