

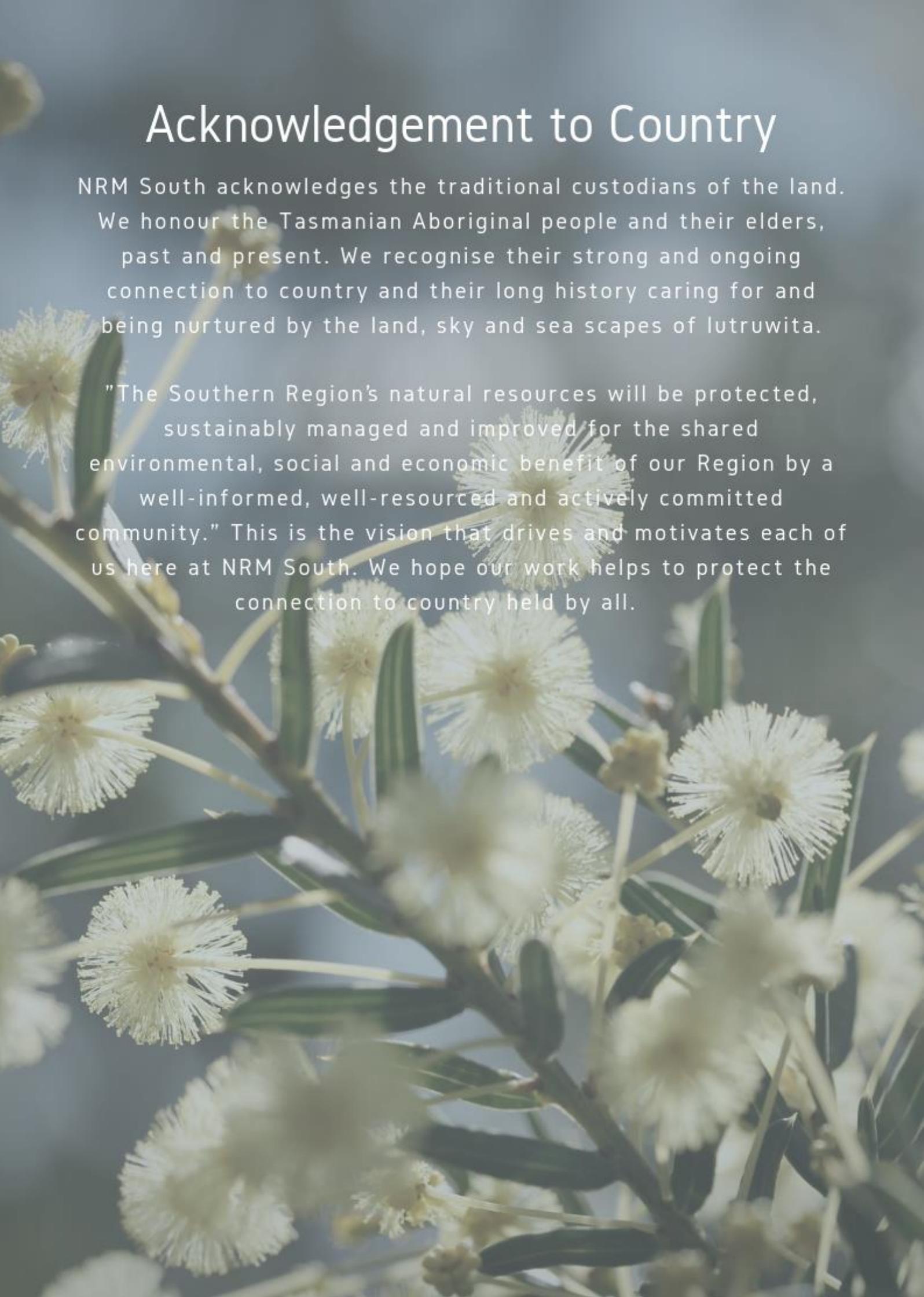


ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Acknowledgement to Country

NRM South acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land. We honour the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and their elders, past and present. We recognise their strong and ongoing connection to country and their long history caring for and being nurtured by the land, sky and sea scapes of lutruwita.

"The Southern Region's natural resources will be protected, sustainably managed and improved for the shared environmental, social and economic benefit of our Region by a well-informed, well-resourced and actively committed community." This is the vision that drives and motivates each of us here at NRM South. We hope our work helps to protect the connection to country held by all.



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About Us

NRM South is one of three natural resource management bodies in Tasmania, and forms part of a national network of 56 similar bodies Australia-wide. NRM South was established in 2003 under the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*. We act as a 'hub', working on environmental and agricultural issues with partners that include government, research, industry, non-government organisations, regional bodies and the community. We build partnerships, secure and direct investment, connect knowledge and expertise to action and increase the capacity of others to engage in NRM activities. NRM South works to ensure that land, water and coastal management in the region is sustainable. We aim to improve productivity and long-term viability, contributing to the economy, the community and the health of the broader environment. NRM South has an evolving strategy that identifies priorities and issues and works with the community to implement strategic actions that can keep pace with a changing world. Ultimately, our mission is to lead and support improved management of natural resources in southern Tasmania so that all Tasmanians can continue to benefit from our environment.

Our Values

COLLABORATION

Foster partnerships between government, industry, NGOs and the community

RESPECT

Ethical, professional, courteous and respectful in our conduct

INNOVATION

Creative approaches to solving problems

ASPIRATION

Culture of high expectation and achievement

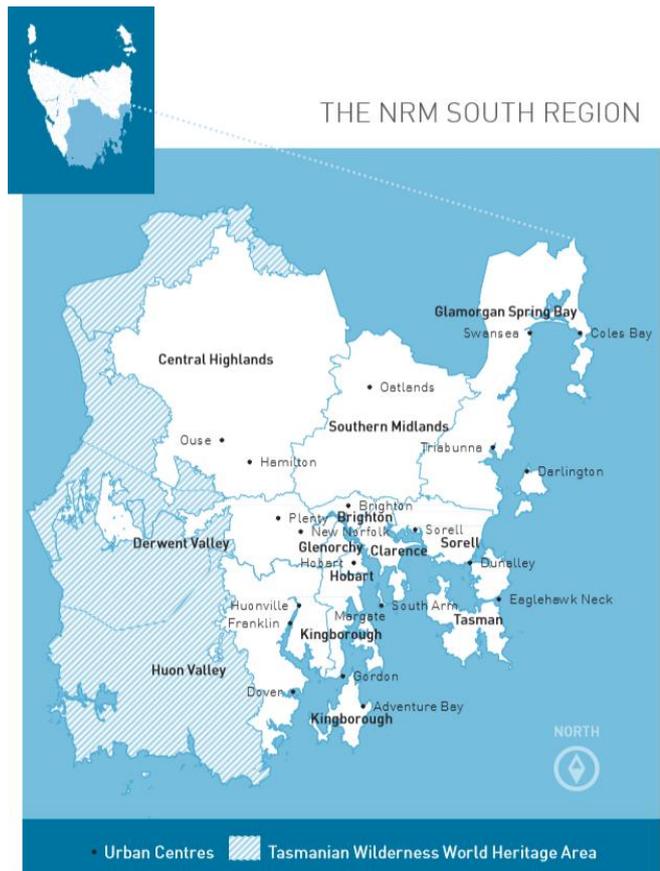
EXCELLENCE

Commitment to excellence and to continuously improve

Our Region

Covering 2.5 million hectares (ha), the southern Tasmanian NRM region incorporates almost half of Tasmania's population of 513,000. It spans the 12 municipalities of Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman, as well as the state and federal electoral divisions of Franklin, Clark, and roughly one-third of Lyons.

The people of the southern Tasmanian region cover a broad social and demographic spectrum and are employed in a variety of industries from aquaculture to government administration; renewable energy to food production. The region's natural features include near-pristine river systems and lakes, rich flora and fauna (including many species endemic to Tasmania), a range of complex and diverse landscapes, Aboriginal heritage sites with important cultural values, internationally recognised natural icons and a long and intricate coastline. It encompasses parts of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, Macquarie Island and Tasmanian convict sites, four internationally recognised Ramsar-listed wetlands, seven national parks, twenty-two marine reserves, and an array of ecosystems with high terrestrial, estuarine and marine biodiversity values.



Chair of the Board's Report

2018-2019 has been a year of change for NRM South. After the initial failure of last year's Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) Tender the organisation reviewed its structure and performance. With the assistance of both the State and Federal Governments we undertook some wide-ranging reforms to become a more efficient and streamlined organisation.

I am pleased to report that we submitted a new RLP Tender to the Federal Government in April and in August signed a Services Agreement to deliver a program of work. We will now be working with our various partners to successfully deliver the program.

We also have a number of other projects, including the Smart Seafood Project, the Wedge-tailed Eagle Offset Fund and the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration.

During the year we undertook a number of stakeholder meetings and workshops. This process of re-engagement with the community will continue. The RLP funding model now focusses on outcomes-oriented projects rather than community grants. While this caused some initial concerns with our community partners, we are confident that the new arrangements, along with other sources of funding, can deliver outstanding natural resource management outcomes for our region.

I want to thank our former General Manager, David Bromfield. He played a key role in re-structuring our organisation and I wish him all the best for the future.

I want to thank all our Board members for their work during the year. Mandy Richardson stepped down from the Board to assist with the re-structuring process

and Helen Crawford also resigned. I want to thank them both for their contributions. We have now welcomed two new Board members – Sally Dakis and Phillipa McCormack.

I also want to thank members of our Audit and Risk Sub-Committee and our independent Board Selection Panel. I particularly want to thank the Chair of both, Tracy Matthews, for her excellent service to NRM South.

I want to thank our hard-working staff. It has been a difficult year, but they have all made great contributions. The future looks bright for NRM South.

Lastly, I want to thank our partners, stakeholders, and the community for their continual support. We look forward to working with you all to make our region more sustainable and productive, and to protect and maintain our natural assets for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Andrew Scanlon

Chair NRM South Board

Sources of Funding 2018-19

NRM South submitted a tender to the Australian Government in April 2019 for funding under the RLP program. In August 2019, NRM South signed a Services Agreement with the Australian Government to deliver services to our region. We look forward to reporting on this program and the associated projects in the next Annual Report.

The following projects are funded by non-RLP sources:

- D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration
- Orange hawkweed (Biosecurity Tasmania)
- Tasmanian Smart Seafood Partnership
- Swift parrot – sugar glider suppression

The State also provides a grant to support the operation of NRM South.

Summary of sources of funding 2018-19:

81% State government

13% Partner Programs

0% Financial Reserve

6% Other

NRM South will continue to work with its partners and governments to secure other sources of funding, including research grants for important projects in the region.

Regional Strategy 2015-2020

Through *the Tasmanian Natural Resources Management Act 2002* ('the Act'), NRM South is responsible for overseeing the development and review process for the Regional Strategy, as well as facilitating the

implementation of priority actions. The strategy serves as a framework for guiding activities that will help manage and improve natural resource management in our region.

The Southern Tasmania Natural Resource Management Strategy 2015-2020 was finalised and accredited under the Act in 2016. It took both a landscape and assets approach to managing southern Tasmania's natural and agricultural resources. The landscape approach categorised our region's land and seascapes by predominant use (i.e. natural, production, lifestyle, urban) and identified the natural, social and economic values, and determined how best to manage them. The assets approach detailed our region's land, water, coastal, marine, biodiversity and community assets, and articulated specific threats, opportunities and actions to protect these. The two complimentary approaches allowed for the varied ways people in our community view, work, recreate and reside within the region.

The Strategy aimed to balance the three essential structural elements for natural resource management – the environment, the economy, and the community – for the overall benefit of southern Tasmania. It recognised the need for multiple sectors to work in harmony with state and local government, industry, primary producers, and the wider community to balance these elements and to find solutions to existing problems, leading to an improved, productive, and sustainable environment.

As the Strategy is drawing to a close, NRM South is currently evaluating performance against the management targets,

which were grouped into:

- State-wide Management
- Land Asset Management
- Water Asset Targets
- Coast and Marine Asset
- Biodiversity Asset and
- Community Asset.

A more detailed description of each management target is provided in Part 4 of the *Southern Tasmania Natural Resource Management Strategy 2015-2020*.

Key achievements to date of the performance of the 2015-2020 Strategy against the management targets are detailed in the Table 1 below.



Table 1. Key contributions to the Southern Tasmania Natural Resource Management Strategy 2015-2020

| State-wide Management Targets (SMT) | Key achievements |
|--|--|
| SMT1. This Strategy, climate change adaptation and the State’s NRM Principles, will be increasingly referred to and prioritised in local, regional, and state-wide stakeholder strategic plans and strategies (compared to the 2015 baseline). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Copies of the Strategy were widely disseminated to encourage stakeholders to consider its priorities in their own strategic plans [2016-17] - Continual and regular stakeholder engagement communicated the principles and priorities of the strategy [2016-2019] - AdaptNRM Climate Change model was explored as a tool to help stakeholders gain a better understanding of NRM issues under different climate change scenarios [2017-18] |
| SMT2 An increasing number of asset theme or industry sector-based reference groups will be developed (compared to the 2015 baseline) to support the regional strategy (strategies) implementation in areas of institutional, policy, and on-ground initiatives including climate change adaptation and capacity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitation of Tasmania’s Biosecurity Network comprising 18 organisations, including: Hydro Tasmania, Forestry Tasmania (now Sustainable Timbers Tasmania), DPIPWE (involving the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, Biosecurity Tasmania, Natural Values Conservation Branch), Ecological Society of Australia, NRM South, NRM North, Cradle Coast NRM, Department of State Growth, the Livestock Biosecurity Network, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Inland Fisheries Service, Department of Defence, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Kingborough Council, and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council [2017] |

| Land Asset Management Targets (LMT) | Key achievements |
|---|--|
| <p>LMT1. Further capacity (funding, knowledge products, extension, and research) and coordinated activity are built and carried out to improve the management of soil health.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small farm planning workshops held in the Huon and Channel region [2012-2018, 160 people from 97 properties representing 1855 ha] - Soil nutrient-use efficiency roadshows held at Oatlands (Southern Midlands), Murrayfield (Bruny Island) and Hamilton (Central Highlands) [2016, 28 farmers] - Sandy soils improvement trial across three properties in Glamorgan Spring Bay municipalities has seen improvement in groundcover condition [2015-2016] - Living Soils Workshop [2017, 117 participants across all three NRM regions] |
| <p>LMT2. Activities and adaptation opportunities are enhanced to improve management of vegetation (native and modified) with an emphasis on improving condition, cover, and ecological function.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two workshops on the principles of drainage and livestock fencing under pivot irrigation [2016, 34 farmers] - Three Pasture Principles workshops [2015-16, 59 farmers] - From Drought to Winter workshop in the Derwent Valley and Central Highlands [2016, 10 farmers supported] - Grazing management across 358 ha [2017-2018] - Changed management practices across 383 ha [2017-2018] - 30 ha of revegetation works on agricultural land [2017-2018] - Revegetation of 5000 plants including 1200 plants on Bruny Island [2017-2018] - 12 km of exclusion fencing to protect riparian habitat [2017-2018] |
| <p>LMT3. Recognition, conservation, and protection of key areas of geo-conservation significance and cultural heritage are further considered in land management and planning activities and take into account of projected climate change impacts.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural awareness events supported via the Discovery Ranger program (a partnership between NRM South and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service) including cultural training and fire management [9 events to 728 people, 2017-2018] |
| <p>LMT4. Response to new and existing agricultural and environmental weeds, pest and disease incursions is actively coordinated.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status report on orange hawkweed in Tasmania, including trialling detector dogs for detection and modelling to identify at risk areas [2019] - Three farm biosecurity workshops on sheep health and pig health which communicated biosecurity messages to small landholders [2019, 46 famers/hobby farmers] |

| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 91 ha of weed treatment on agricultural land [2017-2018] |
|--|--|
| Water Asset Management Targets (WMT) | Key achievements |
| WMT1. Knowledge and management of water allocation and environmental values and flows are improved for key priority catchments, recognising climate change, and development pressures. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration collates data from their region and publicly reports on water quality parameters [2016-2019] |
| WMT2. Response to new and existing aquatic weed, pest, and disease incursions is actively coordinated and incursions monitored. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoted the Check, Clean, Disinfect, Dry message through signage and washdown facilities [2015-2018] - Funded two Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome biosecurity projects at Little Swanport and on the Tasman Peninsula [2015-2016] - Provided hygiene kits to community groups working in remote and/or sensitive areas [2015-2016] - Priority weed treatment activities across 24.32 ha of waterway and coastal areas [2017-2018] - Over 1,200 feral pacific oysters removed from Parson's Bay and White Beach [2017-2018] |
| WMT3. An increase in water quality monitoring, data collection, and knowledge to increase capacity and develop resources for communities to undertake positive actions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biennial report card issued on the state of the Huon/D'Entrecasteaux waterway [2016-2019] - Worked with industry and government to build knowledge of water quality across the Derwent catchment [2017-2018] - Funded development of water quality reports for three Ramsar wetlands [2017-2018] - Funded the development of the state-wide Saltmarsh Matters App by Esk Mapping & GIS with support from UTAS, Birdlife Tasmania, and NRM North. The app supports the community in state-wide monitoring of the condition and values of coastal saltmarsh [2015-2016] |
| WMT4. Appropriate management regimes and conservation activities are developed to optimise water ecosystem health with an emphasis on rivers, water bodies, sites with rich Aboriginal heritage values, and priority freshwater conservation areas such as freshwater Ramsar-listed sites. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community projects funded to install environmentally responsible moorings in sensitive anchorages in the Derwent River [2015-2016] - Supported the development of weed management plans for the Southport area and Interlaken Ramsar site [2015-2017] - Significant weed management in the TWWHA buffer, weed surveying in the Derwent Valley [2017-2018] |

| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moulting Lagoon habitat improvements including revegetation of 800 plants over 0.5 ha, fencing off 1.4 ha of sensitive saltmarsh and weed control across 25 ha [2017-2018] |
|---|--|
| WMT5. Groundwater resources are managed sustainably to ensure that consumptive use and environmental flows are balanced with groundwater dependent ecosystems and connectivity to surface waters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not progressed. |
| Coast and Marine Management Targets (CMMT) | Key achievements |
| <p>CMMT1. Shoreline, estuarine and marine-dependent species and ecosystems, and the processes that support them, are recognised, conserved, and protected within planning systems.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported surveys in partnership with Reed Life Survey (RLS) leading to the discovery of a new population of Critically Endangered red handfish. Worked with researchers and the community to implement eco-mooring installations that will protect and improve habitat for handfish [2016-2018] - 93 ha of improved habitat for 10 EPBCA-listed coastal species and communities, 2 management plans developed (2015-2018), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Protected 3.6 ha of nesting shorebird habitat via fencing of important breeding areas [2017-2018] o Supported conservation actions in two Ramsar sites (Moulting and Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon) [2017-2018] |
| <p>CMMT2. Capacity will be developed and coordinated action will be undertaken to improve management and mitigation of specific threats, including exposure of acid sulphate soil, marine debris and pollution, disturbance or damage to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, coastal erosion, coastal inundation, and facilitation of retreat pathways.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine debris clean-ups in the Huon Valley and Bruny Island. Over 100 volunteers assisted at the 2019 Bruny Island event [2016-2019] - Supported the Discovery Ranger programs which focused on the conservation of shorebirds and beach-nesting birds as part of their educational program [2016-2018] |
| <p>CMMT3. Targeted invasive species research, management and appropriate hygiene planning and activity are implemented by agencies and industry, recognising the impact of climate change.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 1200 feral pacific oysters removed from Parson's Bay and White Beach [2017-2018] - Priority weed treatment across 24.32 ha [2017-2018] |
| Biodiversity Asset Management Targets (BMT) | Key achievements |
| <p>BMT1. Biodiversity and ecological function are recognised and supported</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitated expert input into fuel reduction burn planning for threatened bird habitat on land |

in planning processes and implementation, including a focus on riparian vegetation and establishing fire regimes.

owned by weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation and provided funding for employment of the weetapoona community to protect this habitat from wildfire [2015-2016]

BMT2. Biodiversity-focused activity recognises, builds knowledge of and conserves threatened species and vegetation communities, including the region's most-dependent species, those with specific Aboriginal cultural values, and those that require specialised habitats and refugia, and is responsive to pressures such as climate change, land-use change, and development.

- Supported Threatened Flora Link (TFL) to undertake recovery actions for 174 threatened flora species across Tasmania [2017-2018]
- TFL surveys led to the discovery of a new population of the EPBC-listed moleskin dogwood [2017-2018]
- Conservation activities (propagation and/or seed banking) for four EPBC-listed species [2015 - 2016]
- Contributed to the recovery of 25 nationally-listed species state-wide via survey, ex situ and/or on-groundwork [2015-2016]
- Involved with the monitoring and/or surveying of over 70 species (919 nationally listed, 69 state listed) with increases recorded for five threatened species [2015-2016]
- Recovery actions (experimental caging, weed control, interpretative signage) across 55.6 ha of habitat for 13 nationally-listed and 41 state-listed species as part of the Orchid Conservation and Research Program at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens [2015-2016]
- Ex-situ recovery activities for 11 EPBC-listed orchid species [2015-2016]
- Community wildlife monitoring (i.e. a Citizen Science project) has engaged 125 properties and over 150 landholders, establishing 175 mammal monitoring sites [2017-2018]
- Produced a draft report on White gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) regeneration trials [2017-2018]
- Supported conservation actions for the threatened Morrisby's gum [207-2019]

BMT3. Active monitoring, prevention and control of new and existing invasive species and disease incursions that impact on biodiversity are coordinated.

- Joined the national *Phytophthora* network to discuss environmental biosecurity issues [2019]
- Tested different traps to catch sugar gliders (which prey on swift parrots) [2017-2018]
- Trailed control methods for the invasive sugar glider which is threatening swift parrots [2019]

| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended a national conference on the role of NRMs in environmental biosecurity led by the Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer [2019] - Delivered weed control work to protect 13.1 ha of nationally significant natural assets [2019] - Completed 63.7 hectares of weed control, protecting nationally significant assets, including one EPBC-listed threatened community and six EPBC-listed threatened species [2015-2016] - The TWWHA Huon Weed Buffer project developed a five-year strategy and associated weed actions plans for specific regions [2017-2018] - Net reduction in area and density of ten high threat weed species along the entire length of the TWWHA boundary, which includes 18 ha of weed control [2015-2018] - Developed a spray-mounted drone to enable weed treatment in difficult to reach areas such as cliff faces [2017-2018] |
|---|--|
| Community Asset Management Targets (CMT) | Key achievements |
| CMT1. The Southern Tasmanian community is increasingly involved in natural resource management policy, planning, action and research. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,610 volunteer hours for monitoring and weed control over 37 field trips, 392 hours on program planning, volunteer co-ordination and co-ordination of training activities, and 450 hours for ex situ orchid conservation activities state-wide [2015-2016] - 2,105 participants (30% new) engaged via 41 waterways and coastal themed events [2017-2018] - 259 people engaged (72 newly engaged) in a range of conservation-related NRM activities [2017-2018] - Supported two World Wetland Day events attracting over 500 people [2017-2018] - Involved 933 participants through the delivery of 16 on-ground works activities [2017-2018] - Supported 27 community groups on NRM projects [2017-2018] - Supported 11 volunteers to attend the national Coast to Coast conference, Hobart [2017-2018] |
| CMT2. The natural resource management community is well | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed an ethical nature photography guide and poster [2017-2018] |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>informed, well-resourced, and has the capacity to develop and implement effective climate change adaptation and mitigation programs for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The AdaptNRM model was demonstrated in an alpine communities' research project in Mount Field National Park. The aim of this project was to improve understanding of alpine vegetation responses to climate change under different climate model scenarios [2017-2018] |
| <p>CMT3. The engagement and participation of Aboriginal people in natural resource management activities from planning to implementation is enhanced across all assets.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed NRM South's Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Framework Strategy [2015-2016] - Facilitated expert input into fuel reduction burning for threatened bird habitat on land owned by weetapoona Aboriginal corporation and provided funding of employment of the weetapoona community to protect this habitat from wildfire [2015-2016] - Worked with weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation on the development of a farm nutrient loss index report for an Aboriginal-owner farm on Bruny Island [2017-2018] - Supported employment opportunities for 11 individuals [2017-2018] - Cultural awareness activities delivered nine events to 728 people via the Discovery Rangers program (the Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service, DPIPW) [2017-2018] - Supported six individuals to attend the national Aboriginal Fire Forum at Cape York [2017-2018] - Provided direct support for 13 Aboriginal organisations and businesses [2017-2018] |

Key projects 2018-19

Threatened Species

Sugar glider control project: Trial of suppression techniques

This year NRM South have been running a project trialling three different sugar glider trap types. This trial aims to show which of these traps is best for capturing sugar gliders, document the most practical and safest trapping method, and understand the costs involved. The intention of the trial is to work out the best way to reduce sugar glider numbers in areas where critically endangered swift parrots (*Lathamus discolor*) are breeding. Sugar gliders are the only predator small enough to fit into the nests that swift parrots use. They eat the eggs, baby birds, and in most cases will feast on the mother bird too. This is bad news for the swift parrot, a unique nomadic migrant that only breeds in Tasmania.

Reducing the impacts from sugar gliders at swift parrot breeding sites is one of the strategies listed in the National Recovery Plan for the swift parrot (2019; currently just completed the review stage) to 'achieve and maintain a positive population trend for the swift parrot'.

Sugar gliders are not native to Tasmania. They were introduced from Victoria in the early 1800s. Since then they have proven to be very successful colonisers and have spread to the far south of the state. Genetic research has shown that the Tasmanian population is highly inbred and can be traced to a population northwest of Melbourne.

The three different trap types that have been trialled include a modified nest box, a Mawbey trap designed in Tasmania, and a pipe trap. All traps are mounted in trees and the trapping relies on employing qualified tree climbers to activate, check and deactivate traps. There are trap trials at three sites containing swift parrot breeding habitat in southern Tasmania.



Image: The Mawbey Trap in action

The project is overseen by a steering committee comprised of representatives from the Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and The Environment, The Department of State Growth and the Forest Practices Authority. There are various experts guiding the project design and implementation including an invasive species biologist, an ecologist, a senior zoologist, and swift parrot researchers from the Australian National University.



Image: Installing a Mawbey Trap.

There have been 19 sugar gliders captured so far, including nine females and 10

males. Captured gliders were transported to a veterinarian for humane euthanasia on the day of capture. The Mawbey trap and the box trap appear to be effective at capturing the gliders.

Project findings will directly inform management techniques used for future sugar glider suppression activities in important swift parrot breeding areas.

Saving *Eucalyptus morrisbyi*



Image: *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* flower.

Eucalyptus morrisbyi is one of Australia's most threatened eucalypts and one of the Australian Government's three priority threatened plant species that grow in Tasmania. NRM South was funded by the Threatened Species Recovery Fund in 2017, to undertake a two year recovery project for this species, with project partners from Conservation Volunteers Australia, the Understorey Network, Threatened Plants Tasmania, pakana Services, the University of Tasmania, DPIPWE's Threatened Species Section, Greening Australia, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, and Enviro-dynamics. This project has substantially improved the trajectory for *E. morrisbyi* and is due for completion at the end of September 2019.

There was a rapid and extreme decline in the once-largest sub-population of this species at the start of the project. Over 99% of the adult trees died, and juvenile plants were suppressed by wildlife browsing pressures. This decline has now halted and there is active regeneration occurring as a result of this project. *E. morrisbyi* plants have been fenced to protect them from browsers, and an estimated 2,400 juveniles have naturally regenerated as a result. The remaining adult trees were banded to prevent possum browsing. 85% of these trees have survived and contributed to increases in canopy cover and epicormic growth.

After two seasons of revegetation efforts, the once-empty niches in fenced areas now contain *E. morrisbyi*, and 95% of the first planted individuals were surviving after 13 months. An off-site planting of *E. morrisbyi* has also been underway in the future climate envelope of the species, as determined by climate modelling undertaken by researchers at the University of Tasmania and Greening Australia.

The largest sub-population was also under-represented in the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre's seed bank; an additional contributing factor highlighting the need for recovery work. A significant seed orchard was relocated during the project, and the seed collection from this has increased seed in the seed bank more than five-fold in both quantity and genetic diversity. Researchers from the University of Tasmania performed a genetic analysis of the trees in this seed orchard. The genetic diversity of these trees appears to be the same as the diversity of the pre-decline largest sub-population.

Working with partners, the project has developed a Conservation Action Plan for the species. This work included a reassessment of the species using the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List criteria, which highlighted that while the project activities have halted the immediate decline of these species, further action is required to continue to improve the trajectory for this species in the long-term. Continued protection from browsing and wildfire is required to increase numbers of mature plants and reverse population decline of the largest sub-population, which is the only remnant strand capable of significant regeneration.



Image: *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* flower.

Threat abatement for this strand, on its own, will not be adequate to ensure the long-term survival of the species. New conservation plantings are planned to increase its extent of occurrence, area of occupancy, and assist its migration under future climate predictions. This plan has an overarching conservation objective of down-listing the species from Critically Endangered over the 20-year timeframe.

Waterways and coastal areas

D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration



The D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Huon Estuary are shared-use waterways that host more Tasmanian recreational fishers and boaters than any other in Tasmania. With thriving commercial operators and growing residential development, it is critical that the area's natural values are managed effectively.

The D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration (DHC) brings stakeholders together to invest in action to maintain and improve the condition of the waterway, and to share knowledge and information. Together, we create science-based solutions for healthy waterways and the wildlife and communities that depend on it.

The DHC is hosted by NRM South, which provides the basis for a strong governance structure and professional management of the partnership. The founding partners include NRM South, Kingborough and Huon Valley Councils, the Derwent Estuary Program, TasWater, Huon Aquaculture and Tassal.

[Our Waterway - Public Report Card](#)

The DHC produces a biennial Public Report Card with the purpose of documenting changes in catchment conditions. The DHC

review data and report on the condition of the waterway; inform stakeholders on management issues of the waterway, and how these may impact on its condition; and build and share knowledge and information, raising awareness on the health and values of the ecosystem.



Image: Looking across the Huon River to Brooks Bay from Gourlays Bay.

This year the DHC released its second ever Report Card which focused on swimming and seafood safety, coastal and marine habitats, climate, water quality, sediment health, and nutrient inputs. The 2017 Report Card showed no significant change to the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon ecosystem based on the information available. More than 76m³ of marine debris was collected in 2017, reflecting a large increase in effort. There were new discoveries of spotted handfish in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and water quality monitoring showed the beaches were all safe for swimming. Based on the report recommendations, the DHC developed practical projects that will improve the condition and health of the waterway and

encourage participation in its management.

Seaweed Appreciation Day

On the 20th of October 2018, the DHC hosted a 'Seaweed Appreciation Day' at Tinderbox Reserve. Over 50 curious people attended to learn more about the beautiful form and function of marine plants. During the event, taxonomic experts and IMAS researchers gave talks about the evolutionary history of seaweeds, the nutritional value of seaweeds, and their importance to humanity. Participants used microscopes to see the intricate details of seaweed reproductive strategies, enjoyed seaweed pressing demonstrations and had a guided tour of the marine reserve area.



Images: Seaweed lovers gathered at Tinderbox Reserve to learn about the incredible macro-algal diversity of the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon waterways.



Marine Debris Clean-ups

The DHC coordinates marine debris clean-ups with community and industry. Two marine debris clean up events were held in 2019; one in the Huon Valley and one on Bruny Island.

On Saturday 11th May 2019 the DHC held the Huon Marine Debris Clean-up. The magnificent coastline of Charlotte Cove, Garden Island, and surrounds were cleaned by 82 volunteers and collaboration partners, who removed over 9m³ of debris.

Volunteers came from community groups, schools, councils, parks, industry, and businesses such as the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, Kingborough Council, Huon Valley Council, Huon Aquaculture, Tassal, pakana Services, the DEEP (Dynamics of Eco-Evolutionary Patterns) Group at the University of Tasmania, Conservation Volunteers Australia, and the Bruny Island Boat Club.



Image: Fleet of aquaculture boats arriving for the remote area marine debris collection.

Reducing marine debris is a major challenge, however compared with most other environmental issues, it is one of the easiest issues to resolve and reverse through behavioural change and clean-ups. Most of the debris collected was land-

based (generated locally) but can easily be washed into the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Huon Estuary and out to sea. Members of the public were reminded that they have the power to change the amount of debris in our waterways by changing their day-to-day practices; for example, by reducing plastic use (especially single-use plastics), disposing of rubbish appropriately and recycling.



Image: The sorting and counting back at Charlotte Cove.

The waterways of Bruny Island were cleaned by 114 volunteers and the DHC partners on Saturday 25th May 2019, removing over 10 m³ of debris! The Bruny Island Boat Club hosted the event and the locals were incredibly hospitable and helped to guide people across their land. Local legend Dion Dillon directed land-based teams to marine debris hotspots, whilst a local boat and multiple Tassal boat crews collected debris from the more remote locations.



Image: Sorting and counting team effort.

Our Waterway mini conference

The DHC's mini conference was held on Friday the 28th of June and there was nothing 'mini' about it! Over 90 people came to listen to talks on a broad range of topics covering waterway condition, nutrients, biodiversity, fish farming, and management strategies. Scientists, managers and professionals, Local and State government, industry stakeholders, and community groups attended, including CSIRO, IMAS (Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies), State Government (Environment Protection Authority and Marine Farming Branch), Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council and Aquenal, Kingborough Council, Huon Aquaculture, Taswater, Tassal, the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, and pakana Services to hear about new research, ideas, and management of the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon region.

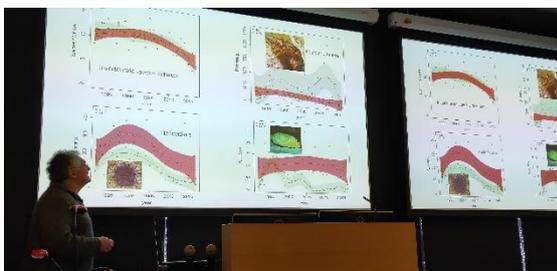


Image: Presentation at DHC mini conference.

The take home message from the conference was that according to the various researchers, there has been no evidence of ecosystem change. It was great to see so many people passionate about monitoring and maintaining the health of our waterway. The speakers provided us with new information and expanded our understanding of the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon waterways. This new information will impact on how we consider and address waterway issues and opportunities into the future.

The conference hosted beautiful artworks that rope weavers made from marine debris. Celebrating this marine debris art helps us remain positive and generate awareness and discussion in the community.



Image: A lovely art brooch made by the basket weavers using marine debris.

Next year the DHC will produce a Report Card on waterway condition, based on best available scientific advice. The next Report Card will focus on water quality and sediment health, pollution types and sources, swimming and seafood safety, and coastal and marine habitats for the year 2018.

Microplastics

The mission of the nation-wide Australian Microplastic Assessment Project (AUSMAP) is to engage students in citizen science, to connect them to the natural world and inspire change for a sustainable future.



Image: Highschool students sorting and counting the marine debris for reporting.

Two staff from NRM South attended AUSMAP training in May, and we have become an AUSMAP regional hub for this project. As a regional hub, NRM South holds microplastic field survey kits to lend out to trained volunteers. We have been running fortnightly AUSMAP field surveys with a local high school for the past two months and aim to train various stakeholders who can then run AUSMAP field surveys independently in the near future.

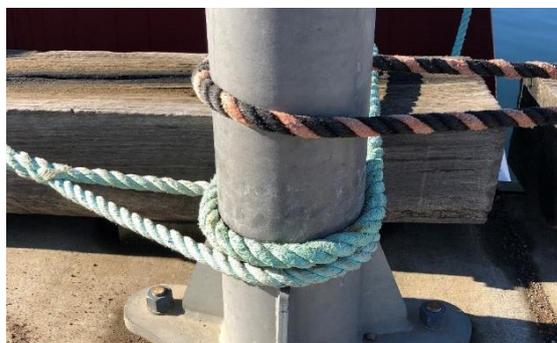
Sustainable management practices

Tasmanian Smart Seafood Partnership

In mid-2019, NRM South commenced leadership of the Tasmanian Smart Seafood Partnership (TSSP). This project is offered in collaboration with the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council and

focuses on protection and improvement of marine resources and biodiversity by increasing awareness, knowledge, skills and capacity.

The TSSP builds upon established



partnerships within the Tasmanian seafood industry, government, NRM organisations, education and training organisations, regulatory authorities, community, and Indigenous groups. It aims to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of practices in seafood production to achieve marine biodiversity outcomes in the Tasmanian marine environment.

The Smart seafood was originally an idea that evolved out of the D'Entrecasteaux Huon Collaboration and is now sponsored by the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) through round one (2017-22) of the National Landcare Program's Smart Farming Partnerships.

Over the next three years the TSSP will address the following key objectives:

1. Develop a Sustainable Seafood Pathways Training and Skills Set Package for use within the Tasmanian aquaculture and fishing industries and community groups
2. Utilise the Skills Set package to deliver a Marine Biodiversity Education and Awareness Program for Schools, the seafood industry and community groups
3. Conduct and support specific on-ground marine biodiversity research and restoration activities in line with the Skills Set Package and Education and Awareness Program

To ensure that the TSSP is getting it right, NRM South Smart Seafood staff are meeting with seafood industry stakeholders, education and training providers, community and Indigenous groups and others. Our conversations with stakeholders will inform the project outcomes so that the seafood sector can implement innovative practices to improve the natural resource base and sustainable use of Tasmania's marine resources.



Image: A drawing by a year 1 student, of what they value the most about the marine environment.

The TSSP is governed by a Steering Committee and its activities will be guided and supported by Technical Advisory Groups. Over time we hope to see a measurable increase in Tasmania's seafood sector entity awareness, knowledge and skills to manage marine biodiversity, and protection and improvement of biodiversity in Tasmania's marine waterways.

Small Farm Planning 2018

Over the past six years, we have offered a Small Farm Planning program in the Huon and Channel region. Organised by NRM Agricultural Project Officer, the program runs over several months in the summer-autumn period. During 2018, five workshops were held during weekends at participants' properties. The workshops took a practical, and where possible, 'hands-on' approach, and included presentations on a range of farming topics.



Image: Participants discussing livestock biosecurity in the paddock.

The 2018 workshop series attracted landowners from properties in the Huon, Kingborough, Tasman, Sorell, and Derwent Valley municipalities. Over the course of the workshops, participants developed a property management plan with support and guidance from the project team. The series of five workshops covered tailored

property planning, soil and water management, pasture management, biosecurity, holistic land management, weed management, native vegetation, revegetation, action planning, and fostering local networks.

Participants gained an understanding of the process of property management planning, with detail on specific areas and consideration of the protection of natural resources, and gained an understanding of alternative farming practices, such as holistic planned grazing.

The 2018 Small Farm Planning program was run with the support of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, DPIPWE (Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment), EDO (Environmental Defenders Office) Tasmania, Private Forests Tasmania, Huon Valley Council, and several local community individuals who shared their expert knowledge, experience and expertise with participants.



Image: Tim assessing soil infiltration.

In the six years that NRM South has been running this annual Small Farm Planning program, we have provided advice and training to 160 participants on 97 properties in five municipalities, representing productive land management strategies implemented across 1,855 ha.

Biosecurity practices

Orange Hawkweed

Orange hawkweed (OHW) *Pilosella aurantiaca subsp. aurantiaca* is a declared weed under the Tasmanian *Weed Management Act 1999*. It is an aggressive invasive species which poses a threat to native alpine and sub-alpine vegetation in Tasmania (and is also found in alpine areas in Victoria and NSW). OHW is currently limited in its distribution in Tasmania, with known populations on the outskirts of Hobart, the Central Highlands and previous records in Circular Head, Meander Valley, Maydena, and Kingborough municipalities. If allowed to spread, OHW could be highly detrimental to Tasmania's agricultural and environmental values, including areas such as the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.



Image: Orange hawkweed, photo sourced from Conservationdistrict.org.

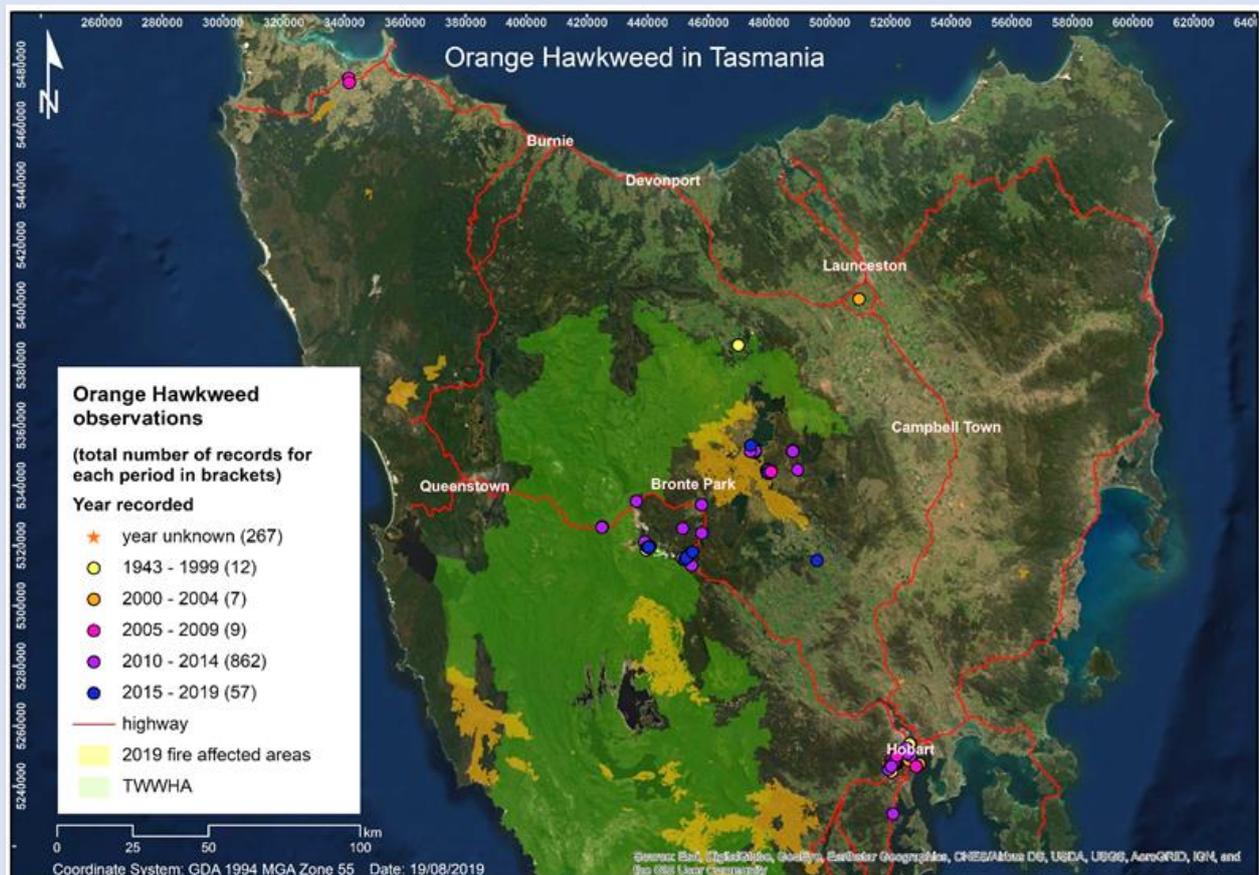
OHW is difficult to identify when it is not in flower and difficult to control. While known populations have been monitored and controlled for several years in Tasmania, with many land managers, landowners, and organisations contributing financially and in-kind to control it, Tasmania has not maintained a sustained or co-ordinated approach to its

control. According to the Hawkweeds Statutory Weed Management Plan (Biosecurity Tasmania 2003), it is a Zone A weed across the state and therefore the strategy is, “Implement integrated control program for eradication and prevent future occurrences” in the following municipalities:

- Central Highlands
- Circular Head
- Derwent Valley
- City of Hobart
- Kingborough
- Northern Midlands
- Southern Midlands.

In the remaining municipalities, the strategy is prevention and early detection.

This is why NRM South was commissioned by Biosecurity Tasmania to re-establish the OHW Network, identify any other stakeholders who either have OHW on their land or are managing it, and map the known distributions of it in Tasmania. The Network was re-formed and comprised of NRM South, Biosecurity Tasmania, City of Hobart, Kingborough Council, Central Highlands Council (represented by the Derwent Catchment Project), Property Services (PWS), State Growth, and Hydro Tasmania, and met regularly during the first half of 2019.



NRM South commissioned CSIRO to develop a model for OHW in Tasmania, based on several known incursions in the Central Highlands. The model used the dispersal mechanisms of wind, water, and roads. The model was preliminary but indicated that wind, road, and water-based dispersal was limited. The model has potential, but further work is required, including additional iterations, and more field data and trials.

Another focus of the project was assessing the contribution that detector dogs could make to identifying OHW. NRM South provided funds for the training of the detector dog “Fonz”, who had been previously trained on serrated tussock. Following his training, he underwent further training and trials in the field at Fern Tree and the Central Highlands. These trials indicated a great deal of potential to detect OHW, particularly outlying patches, and could be used to complement other forms of monitoring.



Image: Fonz the detector dog in action.

The OHW Status Report was completed in August 2019 and documents the various treatment strategies for OHW and provided a series of recommendations to achieve the objective of eradication of OHW in Tasmania.

Animal Health Workshops

Participants and presenters alike enjoyed three great days on-farm in the Huon Valley and Tasman Peninsula in May and June, discussing how to maintain and improve the health of sheep and pigs. These hands-on workshops helped participants to improve their practical husbandry and disease management skills.

The workshops were delivered in partnership with Biosecurity Tasmania and were aimed at improving two-way communication between stakeholders and Biosecurity Tasmania in sharing information about livestock health and disease issues. These events were funded by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources through the Tasmanian Animal Health Surveillance Program.



Image: Participant undertaking preventative footcare.

The workshops covered livestock handling, assessing body condition, foot care, worming and vaccination, disease identification and treatment, and some aspects of pasture management. On farm biosecurity was a key theme linking all three workshops. Key messages included isolating and monitoring new animals for any signs of disease or illness before introducing them to existing herd and ‘a

stitch in time saves nine' - acting early and seeking advice if they see something unusual in their stock.

NRM South Stakeholder Engagement

Developing NRM South's Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator program

As part of NRM South's recent reform, we have been engaging with a range of key stakeholders in farming to seek their input in developing and improving our new agricultural program, which includes the Regional Land Partnership funded Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator (RALF) role.

A key objective of this stakeholder engagement is to solidify existing and foster new partnerships in order to gain a broad view of stakeholder opinions and improve the way we address the agricultural sector key issues for our region. We have reached out to a number of stakeholders so far; which is an ongoing process.

Two key themes highlighted so far through discussions with regional agricultural stakeholders include:

- The importance of raising awareness and increasing adoption of on-farm biosecurity practices; and
- Improving understanding and adoption of good soil management practices, including adaptive soil management to address long-term soil health decline and nutrient leaching.



Our Board members

Andrew Scanlon – Chair

Andrew is Principal Consultant, providing sustainability and environmental management services to industry. He has had a long career as a senior sustainability consultant and manager. Andrew is a Life Member of the International Hydropower Association and Chairman of the Tasmanian Racing Club.

Michael Bidwell – Deputy Chair

Michael has professional experience in planning, developing, and delivering NRM. He is a past member of the Wellington Park Management Trust and the Inland Fisheries Advisory Council. Michael has also served previously on the NRM South Board and the Southern Councils NRM Committee where he was the urban council's representative.

Dr. Claire Ellis

Claire has been involved in ecotourism across Australia and overseas for around 30 years and currently runs her own tourism business focussing on regional development and product development. Claire is also a Board member of Volunteering Tasmania and Chair of Ecotourism Australia.

Dr. Peter Tucker

Peter is currently Chief of Staff to the Independent Member Denison, Andrew Wilkie MP. Peter is a qualified CPA accountant, a qualified Chartered Accountant, a graduate of the AICD's Company Director course, and holds a PhD from the School of Government at UTAS. His other current directorships are Chair of Holyoake Tasmania and a board member of Community Based Support.

Tom Dunbabin

Tom was a farmer and land manager for 35 years running a 9000-ha grazing business. Tom is a founding member of the Tasman Landcare Group and has held executive positions since its inception 25 years ago. He received the Nature Conservation National Landcare Award in 1996 and the McKell Medal in 2005 for his land management practices.

Dr Phillipa McCormack

Phillipa is a lawyer and academic at the University of Tasmania. Phillipa teaches Administrative Law at the University of Tasmania and researches in the areas of conservation and climate change adaptation law. Phillipa is an editor for the Australian Environment Review, and a member of the Centre for Marine Socioecology, the Institute for the Study of Social Change, and the Australian Forum for Climate Intervention Governance.

Sally Dakis

Sally Dakis has experience and expertise of Australian and Tasmanian rural and agricultural issues, as well as experience in managing people and community relationships. Sally has a degree in Environmental Science, is a partner in a Tasmanian cherry and flower farm, with a 30-year career in rural media (ABC Country Hour, Landline, Gardening Australia) and as an ABC Regional Manager.

Our Team

During its restructure, NRM South had an interim General Manager in place to oversee the reformation. Now this restructure is completed, we are advertising for a new CEO and look forward to the new appointee.

Dr Erika Alacs

Program Manager Agriculture

Erika has over 20 years of experience in natural resource management. She has worked in the Australian government and Tasmanian State Service managing projects and programs across a wide range of portfolios including climate change, wildlife trade, threatened species management, and education. She is managing a number of projects at NRM South including agriculture projects and support of the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator under the Australian Government RLP2 tender, captive breeding and conservation of Tasmanian quolls.

Dr Cindy Hull

Program Manager Environment

Cindy has a PhD in avian ecology and has worked on seabirds in Victoria, Tasmania, Macquarie Island, Antarctica, and Canada. For the past twenty years, she has been working in environmental management, focussing on the management of fauna, particularly birds. She is managing several projects at NRM South, including orange hawkweed, the wedge-tailed eagle offset fund, projects for the Australian Government, and the project officers involved in environmental work.

Kristie Stebbeings

Finance Manager

Kristie Stebbeings has over 18 years of experience working in accounting and finance. Kristie is a Chartered Accountant and has spent most of her career working in public practice, assisting local small to medium businesses with financial statements and income tax preparations. She has a passion for numbers and is skilled in tax planning, self-managed super funds, tax advisory, and financial reporting. Kristie works part time as the Finance Manager at NRM South.

Dr Amelia Fowles

D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Project Coordinator

Amelia engages with, coordinates and builds knowledge and investment with key stakeholders in the region. She manages projects including planning, tracking, administration, monitoring and reporting. Amelia oversees the delivery and administration of contractors, consultants, and project partners to deliver prioritised works. An important part of her role is Aboriginal engagement and recognition of Aboriginal waterway use and values. Amelia has a PhD in Marine Science from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS).

Tim Ackroyd

Project Officer Agriculture and Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator

Tim is NRM South's Agricultural Project Officer. In his current role, he supports the delivery of national, regional, and local priorities in NRM through extension activities and supporting on-ground projects in the local community. He has

fourteen years' experience in managing successful projects to protect and enhance natural and agricultural values and has strong skills in developing and delivering training programs for land managers to build their capacity in environmental and agricultural best practice, including property planning.

Maudie Brown

Project Officer Environment

Maudie has been an Environmental Project Officer with NRM South for over two years. Maudie is currently managing the sugar glider suppression project to reduce predation of swift parrots and will be managing some of our key projects going forward. She brings to the position key skills in GIS and mapping and is currently completing a Masters of Applied Science (Spatial Science and Environmental Management) at the University of Tasmania.

Ashton Oates

Administration Trainee

Ashton Oates is the Administration Assistant at NRM South. She completed year 12 at Hobart College in 2018 and is currently completing her Certificate III in Business through Work and Training.

Jennifer Hemer

Project Co-ordinator Smart Seafood Partnership

Jennifer Hemer has 20 years' experience managing the development and delivery of community and school education programs in STEM and natural resource management fields. Jennifer is an experienced project manager with a demonstrated ability to coordinate multiple projects simultaneously, at national and local levels, and apply impact

planning and assessment techniques to ensure risk mitigation, best practice delivery, and relevant outcomes. Jennifer holds a Master of Science in Fisheries Biology giving her industry-relevant experience in the role of Project Coordinator, The Tasmanian Smart Seafood Project with NRM South.

Georgie Butorac

Communications Officer Smart Seafood Partnership

Georgie Butorac has over seven years of experience engaging and communicating with various stakeholder groups. She has worked in remote areas, tourism, government, academic environments, event organising and management, and multiple in roles involving relationship building and compliance. The Tasmanian Smart Seafood Partnership (TSSP) is Georgie's focus at NRM South, however she is also conducting other NRM South communications. She has completed a Bachelor in Veterinary Bioscience at Monash University, and a Professional Honours in Marine and Antarctic Science at the University of Tasmania. She is currently completing her Masters of Teaching part time.

Statement of Financial Performance

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

| | NOTES | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|---|-------|------------------|------------------|
| <u>Revenue</u> | | | |
| Revenue | 2 | 586,226 | 2,076,188 |
| Other Income | 2 | 42,950 | 362,564 |
| Total Revenue | | 629,176 | 2,438,752 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | |
| Project Expenses | | 398,519 | 1,464,791 |
| Employee Benefits Expenses | | 515,240 | 678,093 |
| Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses | 6 | 16,139 | 20,287 |
| Administrative and Other Expenses | | 411,702 | 232,775 |
| Total Expenses | | 1,341,600 | 2,395,946 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the period | | (712,424) | 42,806 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Committed Projects Reserve | 9 | 116,957 | (396,440) |
| Total Comprehensive Income for the Year | | (595,467) | (353,634) |

Statement of Financial Position

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

| | NOTES | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------|------------------|
| <u>Current Assets</u> | | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | 3 | 938,828 | 1,666,241 |
| Trade and Other Receivables | 4 | 49,674 | 49,220 |
| Prepayments | 5 | 18,591 | 13,221 |
| Total Current Assets | | 1,007,093 | 1,728,682 |
| <u>Non-Current Assets</u> | | | |
| Plant and Equipment | 6 | 35,855 | 33,941 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 35,855 | 33,941 |
| Total Assets | | 1,042,948 | 1,762,623 |
| <u>Current Liabilities</u> | | | |
| Trade and other Payables | 7 | 75,048 | 144,100 |
| Employee Benefits | 8 | 31,624 | 78,462 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 106,671 | 222,562 |
| <u>Non-Current Liabilities</u> | | | |
| Employee Benefits | 8 | 1,045 | 9,363 |
| Total Non-Current Liabilities | | 1,045 | 9,363 |
| Total Liabilities | | 107,716 | 231,925 |
| Net Assets | | 935,232 | 1,530,698 |
| <u>Equity</u> | | | |
| Retained Earnings | | 754,912 | 1,467,376 |
| Committed Projects Reserve | 9 | 180,320 | 63,322 |
| Total Equity | | 935,232 | 1,530,698 |

Statement of Changes in Equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

| | RETAINED EARNINGS | COMMITTED PROJECTS RESERVE \$ | TOTAL \$ |
|---|----------------------|--|------------------|
| Balance at 30 June 2017 | 1,424,530 | 459,762 | 1,884,332 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the year | 42,806 | - | 42,806 |
| Other Comprehensive Income for the year | - | (396,400) | (396,440) |
| Balance at 30 June 2018 | 1,467,376 | 63,362 | 1,530,698 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the year | (712,424) | - | (712,424) |
| Other Comprehensive Income for the year | - | 116,957 | 116,957 |
| Balance at 30 June 2019 | 754,912 | 180,319 | 935,232 |

Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

| | NOTES | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|--|----------|------------------|------------------|
| <u>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</u> | | | |
| Receipts from Grants/Partners | | 586,226 | 2,003,786 |
| Interest Received | | 24,077 | 37,621 |
| Other Income | | 18,874 | 29,514 |
| Payment to Suppliers and Employees | | (1,338,538) | (2,406,249) |
| Net Cash From/ (Used In) Operating Activities | 3 | (709,361) | (335,328) |
| <u>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</u> | | | |
| Proceeds from Sale of Plant and Equipment | | - | - |
| Purchase of Plant and Equipment | | (18,052) | (1,599) |
| Net Cash From/ (Used In) Investing Activities | | (18,052) | (1,599) |
| <u>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</u> | | | |
| Financials Support for pakana Services | | - | - |
| Net Cash From/ (Used In) Financing Activities | | - | - |
| <u>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held</u> | | (727,413) | (336,927) |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year | | 1,666,241 | 2,003,168 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year | 3 | 938,828 | 1,666,241 |

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

1. Basis of Preparation

This special purpose financial report has been prepared to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and the Associations Incorporations Act 1964. The Association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards and the Board has determined that the entity is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements, except for cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs. The amounts presented in the financial statements are expressed in Australian Dollars and have been rounded off to the nearest dollar.

Management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions in the preparation of this Financial Report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Whilst estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis, actual results may differ.

When required Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation of the current financial year.

2. Revenue and Other Income

Accounting Policies

Grant revenue is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance when the Association obtains control of the grant and when it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the organisation and the amount of the grant can be reliably measured.

Interest revenue is recognised progressively as it is earned.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance in proportion of the stage of completion of the transaction at the balance sheet date.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST)

Financial Disclosure

| | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| Grants and Subsidies – Government and Other | 586,226 | 2,076,188 |
| Total Grant and Subsidy Revenue | 586,226 | 2,076,188 |
| Other Income | | |
| Interest Received | 24,077 | 38,051 |
| Gain/(Loss) On Disposal of Plant and Equipment | - | - |
| Financial Reserve Subsidisation of Activities | - | 287,929 |
| Other Uncategorised Income | 18,873 | 36,584 |
| Total Other Income | 42,950 | 362,564 |
| Total Revenue and Other Income | 629,176 | 2,438,752 |

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Accounting Policies

Cash and cash equivalent include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short term highly liquid investments that are readily converted to cash within three months and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Financial Disclosure

| | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Cash at Bank | 119,465 | 193,507 |
| Cash on Hand | 180 | 106 |
| Term Deposits Held | 819,183 | 1,472,628 |
| Total Cash | 938,828 | 1,666,241 |

Cash Flow Information

Reconciliation of Surplus to Cash Flows from Operating Activities

| | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Surplus from Ordinary Activities | (712,424) | 42,806 |
| <u>Non-Cash Flows</u> | | |
| Depreciation | 16,139 | 20,287 |
| Profit on Sale of Plant and Equipment | - | - |
| Movement in Committed Projects Reserve | 116,957 | (396,440) |
| <u>Change in Assets and Liabilities</u> | | |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Receivables | (454) | (22,979) |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments | (5,370) | 8,367 |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Payables | 69,052 | 19,468 |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Provisions | 55,157 | (6,837) |
| Cash Flows Provided/ (Used In) Operating Activities | (460,943) | (335,328) |

4. Trade and Other Receivables

Accounting Policies

Trade and Other Receivables include amounts due from customers for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business. Receivables are expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period and are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

A provision for impairment of receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Association will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original term of receivables. The amount of the provision is the different between the asset's carrying amount and its fair value, which is estimated as the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate where relevant. The amount of the provision is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Financial Disclosure

| | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Trade Debtors | 39,408 | 26,539 |
| Other Debtors | 1,934 | 4,243 |
| GST Receivable | 8,332 | 18,438 |
| Total Trade and Other Receivables | 49,674 | 49,220 |

5. Prepayments

Financial Disclosure

| | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Prepaid Insurance | 11,869 | 6,665 |
| Prepaid Rent | 6,722 | 6,556 |
| Total Repayments | 18,591 | 13,221 |

6. Plant and Equipment

Accounting Policies

Plant and equipment is measured at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis over the useful lives of assets commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset in the 2019 financial year were:

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Plant and equipment | 10-50% |
| Furniture and fittings | 10-40% |
| Website development | 40% |
| Project related assets | 20-40% |
| Leasehold improvements | 2.5% |
| Motor vehicles | 20-40% |

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Items of plant and equipment are derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the Association. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Association reviews the carrying values of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Financial Disclosure

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Plant and Equipment | 105,172 | 99,178 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | (82,296) | (85,533) |
| | 22,876 | 13,645 |
| | | |
| Furniture and Fittings | 39,504 | 39,944 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | (33,237) | (31,020) |
| | 6,267 | 8,924 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Website Development | 50,490 | 50,490 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | (50,490) | (50,490) |
| | - | - |
| Leasehold Improvements | 8,078 | 8,078 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | (2,095) | (1,893) |
| | 5,983 | 6,185 |
| Project Related Assets | 4,023 | 7,781 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | (3,293) | (6,731) |
| | 730 | 1,050 |
| Motor Vehicles | 35,926 | 35,926 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | (35,926) | (31,789) |
| | - | 4,137 |
| Total Plant and Equipment | 35,855 | 33,941 |

Reconciliation of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current and previous years are set out below:

| | Plant & Equipment | Furniture & Fittings | Website | Leasehold Improvements | Project Related Assets | Motor Vehicles |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Balance at 1 July 2017 | 21,251 | 11,544 | - | 6,387 | 1,371 | 11,802 |
| Additions | 1,069 | 803 | - | - | - | - |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Depreciation | (8,675) | (3,424) | - | (202) | (321) | (7,665) |
| Balance at 30 June 2018 | 13,645 | 8,923 | - | 6,185 | 1,050 | 4,137 |
| Additions | 18,052 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Depreciation | (8,823) | (2,657) | - | (202) | (320) | (4,137) |
| Balance at 30 June 2019 | 22,874 | 6,266 | - | 5,983 | 730 | - |

7. Trade and Other Payables

Accounting Policies

Trade and Other Payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received 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.

Financial Disclosure

| | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Trade Creditors | 43,736 | 87,554 |
| Other Liabilities | 21,578 | 36,040 |
| PAYG Withholding Payable | 9,734 | 20,506 |
| Total Trade and Other Payables | 75,048 | 144,100 |

8. Employee Benefits

Accounting Policies

Short term employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Long Term Employee Benefits

Provision is made for employee's long service leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Key Judgements

As the Association expects that all of its employees will use all their annual leave entitlements earning during the reporting period before 12 months after the end of the reporting period, the Board considers the obligations for annual leave entitlements satisfy the definition of short term employee benefits and there can be measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid to employees when the obligations are settled.

Defined Contribution Superannuation Expense

Contributions to defined contribution superannuation plans are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

Financial Disclosure

| | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <u>Current</u> | | |
| Provision for Annual Leave | 22,429 | 55,184 |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | 9,195 | 23,2378 |
| Total Current Employee Benefits | 31,624 | 78,462 |
| <u>Non-Current</u> | | |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | 1,045 | 9,363 |
| Total Non-Current Employee Benefits | 1,045 | 9,363 |
| Total Employee Benefits | 32,668 | 87,825 |

9. Reserves

| | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| Committed Projects Reserve | | |
| Agricultural Extension Program | - | 5,500 |
| D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration | 35,167 | 37,612 |
| Orange Hawkweed Program | 9,351 | - |
| Sugar Glider Suppression Program | 121,358 | 9,363 |
| Threatened Species Recovery Program | | 17,200 |
| Total Committed Projects Reserve | 165,876 | 69,675 |

10. Auditors Remuneration

In 2018/19, BDO Audit (Tas) were the Auditors of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

Amounts Paid or Due and Payable to BDO Audit (Tas) For the Current Year

| | 2019 \$ | 2018 \$ |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Audit of Financial Reports and Grant Acquittals | 9,600 | 8,850 |
| Total | 9,600 | 8,850 |

11. Impact of New and Revised Accounting Services

AASB 2015-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative Amendments to AASB101 was adopted for the first time in 2017. The adoption of the Standard required professional judgement to be exercised in determining what information to disclose in the financial statement, where and in what order information is presented in financial disclosure. The adoption of this Standard has not had a material impact on the financial statements.

12. Other Significant Accounting Policies

Economic Dependence

The Association is dependent on the ongoing receipt of the Federal and State Government grants to ensure the ongoing continuance of its programs and operation of the organisation.

Income Tax

As the Association is a charitable institution in terms of sub section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax. This status is endorsed by the ATO. The Association also hold Deductible Gift Recipient status.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of the 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. The net amount of GST payable to, or recoverable from, the ATO is included as a current asset or current a liability in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

13. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

There were no contingent liabilities or contingent assets known at the date of preparing this report.

14. Events After Reporting Date

The Board is not aware of any significant events since the end of the reporting period.

15. Association Details

The registered office and principal place of business of the Association is 313 Macquarie Street, Hobart Tasmania.

Statement by The Members of The Board

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

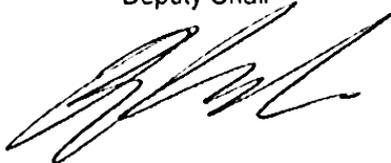
In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc., the members of the Board declare that:

1. The Financial Statements and notes thereto present a true and fair view of the financial position of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date and;
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due
3. This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



Andrew Scanlon
Chair

Michael Bidwell
Deputy Chair



Dated this 17th day of September 2019

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entities' declaration.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc., is in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act (TAS) 1964* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

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 registered entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), the *Associations Incorporation Act (TAS) 1964* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of matter - Basis of accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is information included in the registered entity's annual report, 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 on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, 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 responsible entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act, the *Associations Incorporation Act (TAS) 1964* and the needs of the members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible entities are responsible for assessing the registered entity'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 responsible entities either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website (<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>) at:

http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

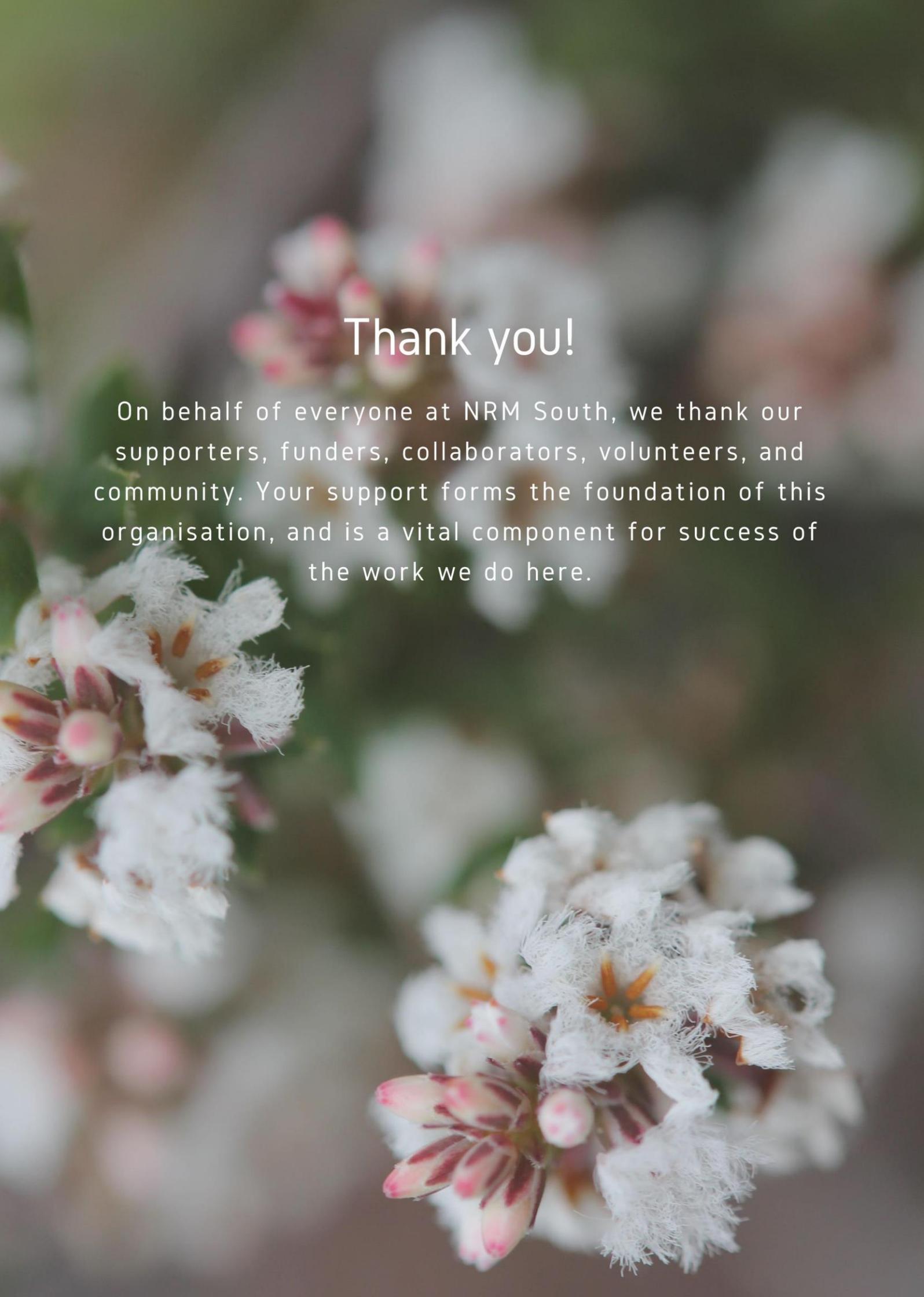
This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BDO Audit (TAS)

BDO Audit (TAS)

DAVID E PALMER
Partner

Hobart, 18 September 2019



Thank you!

On behalf of everyone at NRM South, we thank our supporters, funders, collaborators, volunteers, and community. Your support forms the foundation of this organisation, and is a vital component for success of the work we do here.



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