

ANNUAL REPORT

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21



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

NRM South acknowledges that the palawa (Tasmanian Aboriginal) people are the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work. We respect and value the strong physical and spiritual links Aboriginal people have with country and acknowledge their custodianship of lutruwita/Tasmania for over 1,600 generations (more than 40,000 years).

We pay respects to their Elders, past and present. European settlement has caused injustice for Aboriginal people, and European land management practices have impacted on this living cultural landscape, creating a legacy that we are working to improve today. There is a need to increase consideration of Aboriginal cultural heritage and knowledge in natural resource management, and to develop better understanding of the cultural, environmental, social and economic dimensions of the region's natural resources from the perspective of Aboriginal people.

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CHAIR'S REPORT



2020-2021 has been a year of growth for NRM South. Our Land, Water and Biodiversity Programs, delivered in conjunction with our partners and stakeholders, represented an annual investment in our region of approximately \$2.5 million. We have 16 on-ground projects underway and over 40 major delivery partners. These programs are enhancing our environment and supporting the economy of Tasmania.

We will continue to look for further growth opportunities in the coming year.

I am also pleased to report on the significant progress made in the development of Southern Tasmania's Natural Resource Management Strategy. This has involved working with the other NRM Regions and an array of stakeholders across the State. NRM South staff have played pivotal roles this cross-regional work.

NRM South now has robust strategic and governance foundations and a strong financial outlook, with a direct cash investment of \$14.8 million secured for projects during 2019-2023.

I want to thank our CEO, Nepelle Crane, for her leadership and dedication. I would also like to thank our hard-working staff. They have again made great contributions.

I want to thank all our Board members. Michael Bidwell announced he would be standing down at this year's AGM. I want to thank Michael for his many years of outstanding service to NRM South, including a number of years as Deputy Chair, and I wish him all the best for the future. Other Board members include Claire Ellis (new Deputy Chair), Peter Tucker, Phillipa McCormack, Rick Perrin and Peter Volker. Each of them has contributed significantly to the success of the organisation.

I want to thank members of our Finance, Audit and Risk Sub-Committee, including Peter Tucker (Chair), Maddie Owens and Michael Bidwell, as well as our Finance Manager, Tracey Weily.

Thank you also to our independent Board Selection Panel, consisting of Anita Howard, Lyndley Chopping, Ursula Taylor and Ted Lefroy.

Our Board plays a critical role in the governance and guidance of NRM South and relies on the expertise of people from across a range of fields associated with natural resource management. With the terms of some long-term Directors expiring in the next few years, NRM South is seeking to recruit up to three new Board members. We want to ensure we continue to have the appropriate skills mix and expertise on our Board and welcome interest from people with good networks across our work areas. Specific strengths in fields such as finance and agriculture are also sought, as well as applications that improve Board diversity around younger age groups, indigenous representation and gender balance.

Andrew Scanlon

Chair - NRM South

CEO'S REPORT



NRM South's 2020-2021 agenda has been to achieve operational excellence through an active organisation, whose work is guided by a strong and informed strategy.

In 2019, we set out to become a stronger, more effective organisation. In a short time we have made significant progress and purposeful improvements to our leadership, governance, and engagement approach. New structures and behaviours are now embedded in our operational and strategic processes, documentation, and practices. Our role has become focused on the identification of key priorities and targets, sourcing funding, managing projects, and working in collaboration with our networks, communities, and stakeholders to deliver on-ground outcomes for a healthier environment.

These strategic improvements are reflected in the level of investment that we have secured for natural resource management in southern Tasmania, which has grown by over 300% since 2019. With steady growth, we are now in a strong position to set a more ambitious agenda – to build on our strong foundations and partnerships and to continue to secure strategic investment for key natural resource management priorities.

We have had two key focus areas this financial year:

1. We have continued to develop and deliver our \$14.8M natural resource management program; and
2. Through a concurrent strategic and corporate planning process, we have worked to re-imagine the critical role of our organisation in delivering a strong framework for natural resource management.

Through our impressive suite of projects, we continue to work with partners to deliver benefits and outcomes such as improved biodiversity, productivity, catchment health, and environmental protection, and to build opportunities for Aboriginal participation in natural resource management.

In line with the United Nations' Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (launched on 5 June 2021), NRM South is playing a critical role in restoring habitat and ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature. Our projects are helping to restore important giant kelp, saltmarsh, wetlands, seagrass, shellfish reefs, threatened native vegetation communities, habitats for threatened species and productive landscapes.

Through our work, we aim to meet stakeholders' needs, to drive and influence change, and to deliver a long legacy of natural resource management outcomes on the ground. A strong NRM South allows us to increase our reach and impact, and direct funding that builds the broader natural resource management capacity in our region (across our partnering organisations). Collectively, we can respect and celebrate the achievements of each other and strengthen the environment for this and future generations.

Our new strategic directions will provide a map for building innovation and focusing our services, while also identifying key areas to pursue and secure support for shared aspirations and targets.

The significant work that has been done to identify our new strategic directions has not been done in isolation – I am incredibly grateful for our networks and stakeholders, who have reached out, worked with us, and been incredibly generous with their advice and guidance. The experiences of our networks, while varied, share many common themes – we are all striving for well managed and protected natural and cultural values; productive and sustainable landscapes and waterways, and an effective natural resource management framework.

Our people, as always, have gone above and beyond to deliver strategic programs, and to support our networks and partners, our funding bodies (including the Australian and Tasmanian Governments), our sponsors and the broader community. I thank our incredible team, and our partners, for their commitment and hard work throughout the year. We can be very proud of the work we have done this year, and how our work is making a difference.

Nepelle Crane

CEO - NRM South



ABOUT US

NRM South is a not-for-profit organisation that works to keep our natural and productive landscapes healthy 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*, we play a key role in building partnerships, securing and directing investment, connecting knowledge and expertise to action and increasing the capacity of others to engage in NRM activities.

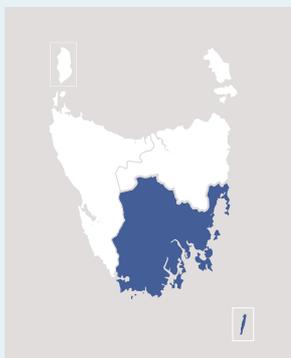
A SHARED VISION FOR NRM IN TASMANIA

NRM South is developing a new NRM Strategy for southern Tasmania.

Collectively, with the Cradle Coast Authority and NRM North, we have been working to develop a consistent NRM framework for Tasmania. Our new strategies serve to reflect the natural resource management priorities and emerging issues at a regional and state-wide scale. NRM South's strategy also outlines a blueprint for the actions we will focus on to 2030. These actions ensure our organisation is contributing to the improved management of our region's environment and resources.

To date, the review process for these strategies has relied on the analysis of information and input from key stakeholders, technical experts and government. With these foundations, the first stage drafting process is now complete. Broader consultation will continue in 2021-22 to ensure that the finalised strategy addresses issues of relevance to stakeholders, potential funders, and local and regional communities.

OUR REGION



2.5

MILLION HECTARES

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



279

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



EMERGING THREATS

- Climate change
- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Human activities, interactions and impacts
- Biosecurity and invasive species
- Aging infrastructure
- Ecosystem degradation



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
\$1.49B



RENEWABLE ENERGY



AGRICULTURE
\$1.88B



FORESTRY
\$374M RAW WOOD PRODUCTS



FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE
\$1.07B

*APPROXIMATE TOTAL STATE-WIDE PRODUCTION VALUE ANNUALLY



689

LISTED PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

- PLANTS
493 species
- INSECTS
117 species
- FISH
19 species
- AMPHIBIANS + REPTILES
9 species
- BIRDS
37 species
- MAMMALS
15 species



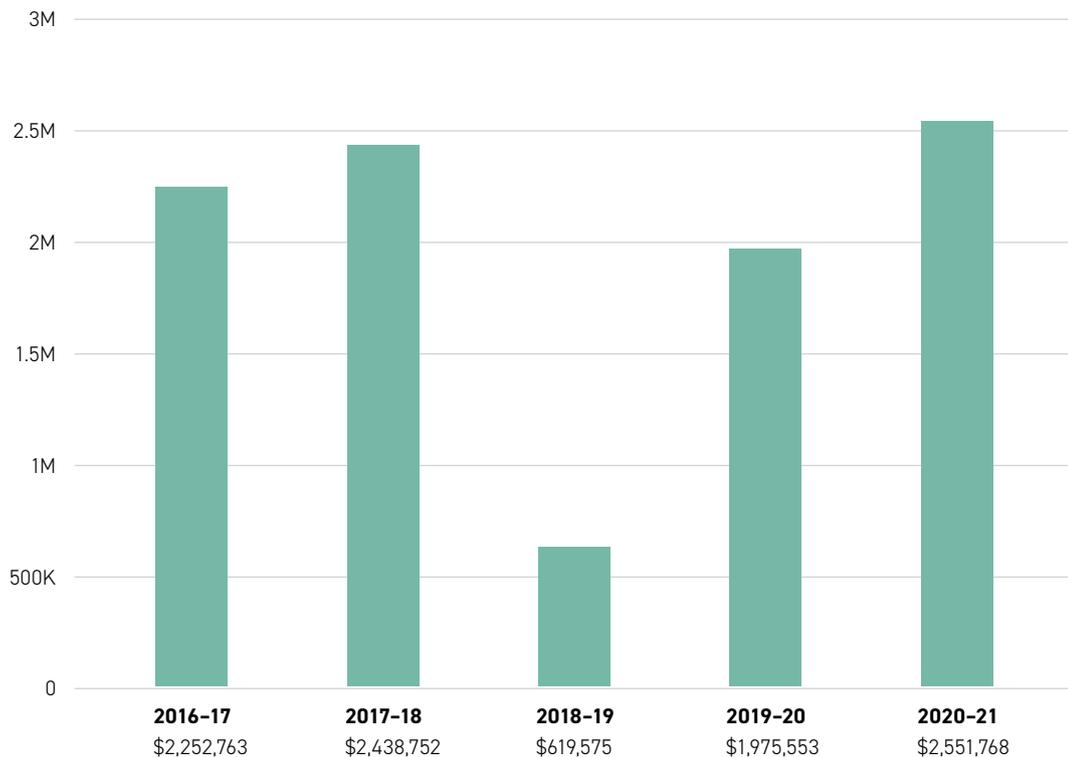
IMPORTANT HABITATS

- Riparian and remnant vegetation
- Grasslands
- Saltmarsh
- Coastal communities
- Waterways (e.g. Derwent, Port Davey, D'Entrecasteaux and Huon)
- Marine reef systems
- 36 threatened vegetation communities

INVESTMENT OVERVIEW

NRM South makes an important contribution to the economy and environment of southern Tasmania. Over the last two decades we have boosted regional investment through the Australian Government, State Government, and industry partners. In addition to this cash investment, NRM South has secured in-kind contributions worth millions of dollars.

LEVERAGED CASH INVESTMENT ACHIEVED BY NRM SOUTH OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS



INVESTORS



REGIONAL LAND PARTNERSHIPS (AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT)

As the Australian Government's preferred provider for natural resource management project services in southern Tasmania, NRM South continues to deliver a suite of Regional Land Partnership (RLP) projects and core services. The investment through RLP alone is worth \$7M, delivered over 2019–2023. These projects are delivering priority actions in partnership with communities, farmers, and industry.



SMART FARMING PARTNERSHIPS (AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT)

NRM South is working in partnership with the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council, funded through a Smart Farming Partnerships grant. Project targets include improving marine biodiversity outcomes across Tasmania's marine waterways and developing new skills and education programs focused on sustainable seafood industry practices. The project is worth \$3M (in-kind and cash investments) and runs from 2018–2023.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION FUND (AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT)

NRM South is delivering two projects worth \$1.8M through the Environmental Restoration Fund. This includes a project to control feral and stray cats on north Bruny Island and a project to protect the Forty-spotted Pardalote from emerging threats.



TASMANIAN STATE GOVERNMENT

Our grant deed with the State Government (\$350K p.a.) provides core funding that allows us to leverage other funding for program delivery and ensures a sustainable operational model on a 3 – 4 year cycle. This provides a foundation for NRM South to partner with State Government to deliver key priority programs, fill service gaps and secure significant investment in the southern region.

In addition to this foundational support, NRM South has delivered specific services to and partnered with the State Government through the Weed Action Fund (led by NRM North), the Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program, threatened species research and management (e.g. Orange-bellied Parrots, Wedge-tailed Eagle), cat management and participation in legislative, policy, management and strategic reviews and working groups.



FISH HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM (AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT)

Investment of \$630k across two projects was secured in 2020–21. The projects will focus on the restoration of seagrass in North West Bay through the use of Ecologically Friendly Moorings and of stranded saltmarsh in Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon. Both sites are important habitat areas for recreationally valuable fish species.



FUTURE DROUGHT FUND (AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT)

Through a new investment of \$343k secured in 2020–21, farmers and advisors in drought-affected regions of Tasmania's Midlands and east coast will have increased knowledge and capacity to adopt contemporary groundcover practices, and apply decision support tools and strategies for livestock management in a local context for improved drought resilience.



REEF BUILDER (THE NATURE CONSERVANCY)

A new \$1.1M investment by The Nature Conservancy will see native shellfish reefs restored and provide additional benefits such as local employment (local businesses and consultancies) and engagement of local communities in marine restoration.



INDUSTRY AND PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

This financial year we have managed projects with funding from partner contributions and industry, including managed offsets (e.g. Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund) and partnership projects (e.g. seagrass carbon sequestration project initiated through the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration). The projected cash contribution from industry and partners is over \$750K (2019–2023).



LAND PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Tasmania's primary producers play a key role in driving our state's economy. By supporting land managers to improve landscape health and manage our natural resources sustainably, we can ensure our production areas continue to return long-term dividends to farmers, the community, the environment, and the economy.

Our Land Program supports farmers in the sustainable use of resources such as soil and water. Our efforts to improve productivity, profitability and resilience incorporate best practice principles of natural resource management.

KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY



SUPPORTING
ON-FARM
RESILIENCE



BUILDING
PARTNERSHIPS
AND NETWORKS



HELPING FARMERS
RESPOND TO DROUGHT
AND A CHANGING
CLIMATE

WHO WE WORK WITH

Agriprove
Cape Herbert Pty Ltd.
Coal River Products Association
Cradle Coast Authority
CSIRO
Derwent Catchment Project
DPIPWE
East Coast Primary Producers' Association
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Forum of Rural Stakeholders and Resilience Program Collaboration Group - convened by Rural Business Tasmania Inc
National Recovery and Resilience Agency
NRM North
Tasmania Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub
Tasman Council
Tasman Landcare Group
Tree Alliance (run by Private Forests Tasmania)
Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

Delivered the first Grazing Time course and promoted the second course, launched in June 2021 in partnership with DCP.

Funding secured under the National Future Drought Fund's NRM Landscapes Program to improve drought resilience through drought decision-support tools and ground cover management techniques.

Continued to build networks with and between peak bodies, service providers, local councils, State Government departments, research institutes and community groups.

Supported event delivery – including serrated tussock and pasture management workshops.

Assisted farming communities, agriculture industries and groups to develop new projects and seek nine new funding opportunities.

Partner in the inaugural Tasmanian Drought Resilience, Adoption and Innovation Hub led by the University of Tasmania, as part of the National Future Drought Fund network.



DERWENT PASTURE NETWORK (RLP)

OBJECTIVE: To increase awareness, knowledge, and skills of farmers in the Derwent catchment to manage hillslope soil erosion and soil acidification.

The Derwent catchment is one of Tasmania's driest areas and faces unique production challenges due to impacts such as soil loss and erosion. The Derwent's north-facing slopes are highly prone to erosion and soil loss more broadly leads to production losses and declining water quality due to eroded soil entering waterways.

This project was developed in 2019, initiated in early 2020, and project delivery will continue to June 2023. Delivered in partnership with the DCP, the project aims to improve soil health in the Derwent catchment. The project is working with farmers to improve dryland grazing management practices that increase pasture productivity and ground cover, while addressing hillslope erosion.

Learnings from this project will be applicable to dryland graziers in other parts of Tasmania. Over the coming years, NRM South's Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator will play a key role in sharing relevant information and knowledge from the project to the wider farming community.

SUPPORTING FARMERS TO MANAGE DRYLAND PASTURES

In 2020–21, the farmer-to-farmer mentoring program, discussion groups, pasture program and demonstration sites continued to provide accessible and locally relevant information to farmers. Six demonstration sites have been established, designed to demonstrate alternative practices to address hillslope erosion and soil acidification in low rainfall dryland pasture systems. The first of three dedicated

annual dryland 'Grazing time' pasture courses has been delivered – this course is designed to assist dryland graziers in understanding, improving, and managing dryland grazing enterprises in erosion-prone landscapes.

EXTENSION MATERIALS

The project team have developed extension materials that support the pasture course and other capacity-building events which have been made available on the Pasture Network website, including:

- A 'how to manage annual weedy grasses' guide, which distils key points in an easy-to-understand format; and
- Podcasts, which have been developed with farmers to capture their experiences with drought lotting systems and to share learnings and experiences with other farmers.

DEMONSTRATION SITES

A series of demonstration sites have been established with six commercial farmers in the Derwent catchment. The project is testing how persistent perennial pasture species and saltbush forage shrubs can be established on dry north-facing slopes, with the aim of bringing improvements both to the landscape and producers' bottom line. Species such as saltbush shrubs have deep root systems that help them access water and nutrients, and they can also provide shelter and shade for stock and increase on-farm biodiversity. The demonstration sites that were established last winter are slowly growing, and participating farmers are excited by the potential of making better use of these challenging sites.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Derwent Catchment Project (DCP).



REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR (RALF)

OBJECTIVE: To support farmers and industry in managing for sustainable agriculture, with a primary focus on improving on-farm resilience relating to drought, a variable and changing climate and challenging environmental conditions.

Tasmania's agricultural environment is changing rapidly, requiring primary producers to adapt to a changing climate, evolving markets and new opportunities.

The Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator (RALF) works with farmers, industry, and the community to help improve best-practice agriculture by sharing relevant and practical information that is helping people to improve soil and land condition, increase productive capacity and reduce the impacts of land degradation.

COLLABORATION

Our participation in agricultural networks such as the 'Tasmania Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub', 'Forum of Rural Stakeholders' and the 'Resilience Program Collaboration Group', has led to collaboration on initiatives that will benefit the farming community, particularly in managing for drought and climate change.

INFORMATION SHARING

We supported several initiatives to facilitate information sharing in the agriculture sector. A highlight was our work with Glamorgan Spring Bay and Tasman Councils to share best-practice information on serrated tussock management (including a field day for farmers, a case study, and a cheat sheet on the use of pasture renovation as a tool to manage serrated tussock). The workshop included an information session with Victorian agronomist Charles Grech and a field trip, where the 50 workshop attendees were able to see 'Fonz' in action – Tasmania's first detector dog trained to search out serrated tussock (NRM South provided funding to support this training work in the 2018-19 financial year).



Detector dog 'Fonz' showing his skills at a serrated tussock workshop

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

We worked with the East Coast Primary Producers Association to share the findings from NRM South's legume trial and with the Derwent Catchment Project to develop and promote a new pasture condition assessment tool, designed to assist grazers in assessing the condition and informing the management of dryland pastures. We participated in two community outreach events, delivered by the Australian Government's National Recovery and Resilience Agency, to share drought information and resources with farmers and land managers.

FOSTERING OPPORTUNITIES

We assisted farming communities and agriculture industries and groups to develop new projects and seek new funding opportunities by supporting nine grant applications and engaged with eleven organisations through current initiatives and/or to develop future collaborations.



NEW PROJECTS 2020-21

WEEDS ACTION FUND

In August 2018, the Tasmanian State Government launched the second stage of its \$5 million Weeds Action Fund (WAF). Delivered by NRM North and working in partnership with NRM South and the Cradle Coast Authority, the program will run until 2023 and is supporting landholders, land managers and community organisations to tackle priority weeds across Tasmania.

In the 2020-21 financial year, the WAF launched a small grants round for projects seeking up to \$10,000 in funding in October 2020. This saw 26 projects receive funding across the state, including 14 projects being delivered in the southern region.

A large grants round for projects seeking up to \$50,000 in funding was launched in March 2021. This grants round attracted 46 applications, with project selection to be announced in the 2021-22 financial year.

SUPPORTING FARMERS FOR DROUGHT RESILIENCE

On 30 June 2021, NRM South was contracted to deliver a drought resilience building project through the Future Drought Fund NRM Landscapes grant scheme, a collaboration between NRM South, NRM North, the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, Agriprove and producer groups affected by drought. This project aims to increase farmer capacity and responsiveness for managing more resilient feed-bases in drought-prone areas in Tasmania.

The project will be testing locally innovative methods for responsively managing ground cover and includes demonstrating the strategic use of strip tillage, and the application of contemporary drought preparedness decision support tools and approaches.

We will be working with our collaborators on this innovative project and aim to deliver practical outcomes for farmers in drought-affected regions.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

NRM North, Cradle Coast Authority, DPIPW.



BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Through our Biodiversity Program, we work in partnership with community groups, industry, government departments (federal, state and local), and research and education bodies to protect threatened species and ecological communities and to safeguard the unique natural environment we all enjoy.

Our current projects focus on protecting threatened Swift Parrots, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Orange-bellied Parrots, Forty-spotted Pardalotes, Eastern Quolls, Morrisby's Gum, Southport Heath and Tasmanian forests and woodlands dominated by Black Gum or Brookers Gum.

KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY



PROTECTING THREATENED SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES



WORKING WITH LANDHOLDERS FOR CONSERVATION OUTCOMES



SUPPORTING RESEARCH

WHO WE WORK WITH

Australian National University
Biosecurity Tasmania
Bruny Farming
Conservation Landholders Tasmania
DPIPWE
Enviro-dynamics
Inala Nature Tours
Kingborough Council
Local Government
pakana Services
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
Tasmanian Land Conservancy
Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service
Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre
Ten Lives Cat Centre
Threatened Plants Tasmania
University of Tasmania
weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

Two new conservation covenants established to protect 120.5 hectares of high-value Swift Parrot habitat.

Two conservation covenants secured for Tasmanian forests and woodlands dominated by black gum or Brooker's gum.

Supported the community to achieve conservation outcomes through conservation covenants and in growing threatened plants (e.g. Morrisby's gum).

Landholder information resources developed.

Completed significant mapping and ground-truthing of threatened vegetation communities.

Increased and shared knowledge of extent and health of threatened plants (e.g. mapping work on black/ Brookers gum forests and Morrisby's gum, and population census for Southport Heath).

Improved the genetic diversity of threatened plant seed bank reserves.

Feral cat control and monitoring on Bruny Island.

Prioritised and managed funding for scientific research into threatened species such as Wedge-tailed Eagles.

Strategic plan developed for the Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program.

Stray cat control, education around domestic cats and supporting community compliance with the Bruny Island By-Law.



PROTECTING THE BREEDING POPULATION OF SWIFT PARROTS (RLP)

OBJECTIVE: To establish an effective approach to protecting Swift Parrots from predation by Sugar Gliders and protecting and improving habitat on private property.

The critically endangered Swift Parrot is a priority threatened bird under the Threatened Species Strategy. It migrates annually from mainland Australia to breed in Tasmania. A major management challenge for this species is their selection of different nesting sites year on year, following the variable flowering patterns of their main food source – the Tasmanian Blue Gum.

Threats to Swift Parrots include habitat loss and fragmentation and in-nest predation of eggs, chicks and adult female birds. Predation by the introduced Sugar Glider is the principal cause of breeding failure on mainland Tasmania. An estimated 78% of Swift Parrot nests fall victim to Sugar Gliders each breeding season. Improving breeding success by reducing predation by Sugar Gliders is one key focus of this project.

Initiated in 2020 and continuing to 2023, the project is developing and trialling solutions to improve Swift Parrot breeding success. Project activities include field trials of predator control techniques, demonstrating the impact of localised predator control on nest predation rates, and developing conservation covenants with private landholders to protect high value functional Swift Parrot habitat (e.g. critical nesting and foraging habitat).

REDUCING PREDATION

A pilot study was conducted to assess whether localised Sugar Glider control would reduce nest predation of Swift Parrots. The results prompted further work to improve trapping effectiveness and cost-efficiency. This work is ongoing and will help inform strategies for longer-term predator control intervention.

PROTECTING FUNCTIONAL HABITAT

In the last financial year, two conservation covenants covering 120.5 ha of native vegetation incorporating high-value Swift Parrot habitat were approved by DPIPW. Participating landholders will receive support to improve the condition of this protected habitat.

UNDERSTANDING HABITAT VALUES

In November 2020, NRM South funded a free public tour at the Inala Private Reserve area on Bruny Island. The tour, hosted by Inala Nature Tours, gave attendees a chance to see Swift Parrots in the wild, learn about their habitat needs and find out more about how the community could help in conservation efforts.



Swift Parrot tour at Inala Reserve on Bruny Island

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Australian National University (ANU), Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC), Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT), pakana Services, Enviro Arb.



THREATENED PLANTS (RLP)

This project comprises three distinct sub-projects: two are focused on endangered plants (Morrisby's Gum and Southport Heath), while the third is working to protect a Critically Endangered ecological community (Black or Brookers Gum Forest and Woodland).

MORRISBY'S GUM

OBJECTIVE: To improve the conservation status of Morrisby's gum to a point where the trajectory of the species has stabilised or improved.

Morrisby's gum is one of Australia's most threatened eucalypts and one of the nation's 20 priority threatened plants. The project is building on the success of regeneration work carried out under National Landcare Programme Round 1 (2015–2018).

Delivered in partnership with Enviro-dynamics, this project aims to improve the status of Morrisby's gum by protecting remaining plants (from browsers, insect attack, wildfire, and extreme hot and dry conditions), connecting remnants and establishing seed orchards (through support for landholder, school, and community group plantings), extending the species' distribution into its future climatic range and enhancing the quantity and genetic diversity of seed bank reserves.

Over 2020–21, data has been updated on the existing Morrisby's gum population, and sites on the east coast have been identified for conservation plantings in the species' future climate range. Existing stands at a key site have been given additional protection by improving fire management infrastructure and reducing native browser pressure. Seed harvesting activities have increased the quantity and genetic diversity represented in the seed bank reserve and our support for a community event saw 174 plants given away, contributing to Morrisby's gum plantings at 21 sites.

SOUTHPORT HEATH

OBJECTIVE: To determine the optimum conditions to ensure the species' survival and protect the current population.

Occurring naturally at only one remote location, Southport Heath is one of Australia's 20 priority threatened plants under the National Threatened Species Strategy. An insurance population exists on an island near the wild population, but the species remains under threat from fire, weeds and a changing climate.

Working in partnership with DPIWPE, the Tasmanian PWS, the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre, Threatened Plants Tasmania and pakana Services, NRM South are putting measures in place to safeguard mainland and island populations of Southport Heath. Actions include tackling high priority weeds, boosting the seedbank reserve, finding out more about the optimal conditions for germinating seeds and raising awareness about the species in the local community.

Population data collected includes information on the status of the wild population at Southport Bluff and the translocated population on Southport Island including photo point monitoring, plant number estimates and an assessment of plant health.

A survey carried out in 2020 showed that the island's insurance population is healthy and reproducing well, however the bluff site population is struggling to survive. Plants within the wild population exhibited signs of drought stress and limited natural recruitment. Field work was carried out less than 12 months after an ecological burn at the site and it is expected the burn will result in increased recruitment of seedlings in 2021–22. Soil tests suggest the threat of incursion by the soil-borne water mould *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is low.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Enviro-dynamics, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), University of Tasmania (UTAS), Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre, Threatened Plants Tasmania, pakana Services, Tasmanian Land Conservancy.



BLACK GUM-BROOKERS
GUM FORESTS AND WOODLANDS

OBJECTIVE: To establish a network of engaged and informed landholders who are implementing conservation measures to protect this community.

Tasmanian forests and woodlands dominated by Black Gum or Brookers Gum is a critically endangered vegetation community and a priority ecological community under the Australian Government's Threatened Species Strategy. It is at risk from clearing, habitat altering weeds, grazing pressure and threats associated with poor land management practices.

Ground-truthing surveys carried out in 2020-21 have helped improve the accuracy of publicly available distribution mapping, while the approval of two conservation covenants covering 141.4 ha will protect high conservation-value remnants on private property. Landholders are being supported to improve their land management practices through the information resources developed over the last financial year (an information sheet and landholder fact sheet) and the launch of a new Forests on Farms incentive program.



Southport Heath survey at Southport Bluff



PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR EASTERN QUOLL ON BRUNY ISLAND (ERF)

OBJECTIVE: To stabilise or improve the population of Eastern Quolls on Bruny Island, to remove all known stray and feral cats from north Bruny and the northern end of south Bruny, and to ensure the community understands and is complying with the Bruny Island Cat By-law.

Bruny Island is a critical stronghold for the Eastern Quoll, a species that has been extinct on mainland Australia since the 1960s, and one of 20 priority mammal species listed under the Australian Government's Threatened Species Strategy. North Bruny Island supports a stable, high-density population of Eastern Quolls that may be important to the long-term viability of the species and can contribute to efforts to re-establish the species on mainland Australia.

The project is also working to establish an Aboriginal ranger traineeship with the weetaapona Aboriginal Corporation.

CAT REMOVAL

Forty cats (23 feral and 17 stray) were removed from north Bruny Island in the 2020–21 period. At the beginning of the 2021 winter, trapping commenced at shearwater colonies at The Neck and Cape Queen Elizabeth. Shearwater colonies are hotspots for feral cats due to the abundant prey, and undertaking cat trapping in this area is a significant project measure.

FERAL CAT RESEARCH

Various trials are being carried out to increase the effectiveness of feral cat control strategies. One of these trials is 'FLIR' or thermal shooting, run at Cape Queen Elizabeth on north Bruny in June 2021. Thermal shooting picks up the heat signatures of

animals using a heat sensitive scope. Cats were sighted in the colony on 3 out of 8 nights and were easily distinguishable from native animals, including quolls and possums. The trial provided evidence to support its use as a control technique in the future. Trials of other cat control techniques are ongoing.

TRACKING CATS AND QUOLLS

The project aims to improve our understanding of the interactions between cats and Eastern Quolls. Over the course of the project, twenty Eastern Quolls and five feral cats will be fitted with GPS collars to track their movements. Work on this is now underway, with the first cat collared in April 2021.

BRUNY CAT BY-LAW

An awareness campaign has been rolled out to the Bruny Island community to ensure cat owners are aware of their obligations under the By-Law. As a result of the project, over half of the registered cat owners on the island are now complying with the By-Law.

In March, The Bruny Island Cat Facility was officially opened at Alannah to facilitate community engagement, help to manage stray and feral cats, and support on-island cat desexing, containment options and rehoming services.

Jointly funded and managed by the Ten Lives Cat Centre and Kingborough Council, this facility plays an integral role in stray cat management on the island, enabling residents to bring in stray cats to be assessed and cared for, and where possible, rehomed. Since its opening, the centre has received 13 stray cats, of which 8 were able to be rehomed.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Kingborough Council, Biosecurity Tasmania, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), Bruny Farming, Ten Lives Cat Centre, weetaapona Aboriginal Corporation.



THE TASMANIAN WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE RESEARCH FUND

OBJECTIVE: To support high quality ecological or other relevant scientific research on Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles, the results of which will assist with the sub-species management and protection.

Tasmania's Wedge-tailed Eagle is listed as Endangered under both the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, with an estimated population of 1,000 adult birds. Threats to Wedge-tailed Eagles include loss of habitat (particularly nesting habitat) and mortalities from interacting with the human world – including by shooting, trapping or poisoning, collisions with vehicles, fences and wind turbines, and electrocution on powerlines.

The Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund has been established as an offset requirement for the Cattle Hill Wind Farm, which is 80% owned by the Power China Group and 20% by the Goldwind Group. NRM South is administering this fund which serves to offset the potential impact of Wedge-tailed Eagle mortalities (or injuries preventing rehabilitation and release) due to collisions with wind turbines.



Wedge-tailed Eagle fitted with GPS tracker, image supplied by Dr James Pay, as part of a project funded by Woolnorth Renewables

GRANT FUNDING

The first round of funding was opened in July 2020, with the first successful research project*, investigating how adult Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles use areas of reserved land and wilderness, is underway. The project involves high-frequency GPS-tracking of five adult Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles in unmodified landscapes in Tasmania and feeds into a larger study aiming to GPS-track 50 adult Wedge-tailed Eagles across Tasmania.

During 2020, sites were identified based on those that had large areas of reserved land, had known eagle nests or adult eagle activity, had mobile data coverage and were accessible. The devices have been purchased and will be deployed on eagles soon. These data will provide valuable information on how Wedge-tailed Eagle behaviour varies across Tasmania in relation to landscape, land use, and habitat type.

A second round of funding was launched in May 2021, with projects to be announced later in 2021.

* Awarded to Prof. Elissa Cameron and Dr. James Pay from the University of Tasmania, Dr. Todd Katzner from the United States Geological Survey and Dr. Amelia Koch and Mr. Jason Wiersma from the Forest Practices Authority.



NEW PROJECTS 2020-21

SUPPORTING ORANGE BELLIED PARROT RECOVERY

Orange-bellied Parrots (OBPs) are at risk of extinction from a range of factors, including their small population size, limited breeding range, migratory behaviours, and habitat degradation. They are listed as one of the 20 top priority birds under the Australian Government’s Threatened Species Strategy. NRM South is supporting ANU and DPIPWE to deliver population recovery efforts for this species.

PROJECT 1: Priority investigations to support OBP recovery

This 18-month project will deliver:

1. An OBP Population Viability Analysis (a tool that helps forecast future population trends based on different scenarios);
2. An assessment of a second release site for captive bred birds with the longer-term aim of establishing a second OBP breeding population in southwest Tasmania; and
3. Planned burns to improve the abundance and availability of food plants for OBPs in southwest Tasmania.

PROJECT 2: Further support for OBP recovery

The project is made up of four distinct subprojects. Three subprojects are being led by DPIPWE to:

1. Improve nest management and monitoring at Melaleuca;
2. Improve critical infrastructure in the current nesting area; and
3. Extend the area over which nesting infrastructure is provided to support breeding.

The final subproject is a research component being led by ANU. It is assessing the availability of natural tree cavities for OBP nesting, and what factors play a role in nesting hollow suitability for OBPs.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), Australian National University (ANU)

PROTECTING THE FORTY-SPOTTED PARDALOTE

Endemic to eastern Tasmania, the endangered Forty-spotted Pardalote is under threat from the loss of its habitat (principally white gum – a critical feeding resource), a small population size, and the death of nestlings due to the larvae of an endemic parasitic fly that can kill up to 81% of chicks in infested areas.

This project will work with the ANU to trial management strategies for Forty-spotted Pardalotes through:

- Testing whether dispensers containing insecticide-treated feathers can help combat fly larvae in their nests on north Bruny Island.
- Examining the environmental characteristics of artificial nest boxes that makes them more likely to be used by Forty-spotted Pardalotes.
- Running an analysis to determine if these interventions will increase Forty-spotted Pardalote populations across their range.
- Examining the genetics of the population and assessing the potential effectiveness of various management interventions.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Australian National University (ANU)

TASMANIAN QUOLL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In May 2020, NRM South was contracted by DPIPWE for an 18-month project to oversee the establishment of a five-year management strategy for the Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program. This program manages captive breeding of Eastern and Spotted-tailed Quolls in Tasmania. In 2020-21, NRM South developed a project management plan, consulted with experts and stakeholders, supported the preparation of breeding recommendations, and completed a Strategic Plan that recommends the future direction of the program.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)



WATER PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Our Water Program seeks to maintain and enhance waterway health across wetland, freshwater, estuarine, coastal and marine ecosystems. We work with landowners and farmers, the seafood industry, NGOs, communities and different levels of government. Our projects focus on habitat restoration in aquatic and marine environments and developing sustainable community education and outreach activities.

KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY



IMPROVING MARINE AND AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY



EDUCATION AND TRAINING



DEVELOPING COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY NETWORKS

WHO WE WORK WITH

BirdLife Tasmania
CSIRO
D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration partners
Derwent Estuary Program
DPIPWE
Huon Aquaculture
Huon Valley Council
IMAS
Kingborough Council
Landowners and farmers
Nature Glenelg Trust
Marine and Safety Tasmania
Oceanwatch Australia
Oysters Tasmania
OzFish Unlimited
Seafood and Maritime Training
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
Tasmanian Commercial Dive Association
Tasmanian Land Conservancy
Tasmanian Salmon Growers Association
Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council and its member base
The Nature Conservancy
University of Tasmania

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

Significant expansion of the Water Program, securing additional investment in southern Tasmania (growing the program from a \$3.2M to \$4.93M portfolio).

Two new fish habitat restoration projects secured through the Australian Government's Fish Habitat Restoration program.

Investment secured for restoration of native flat oyster reefs through The Nature Conservancy's Reef Builder program.

D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration remaining investment targeted towards to a new 'Carbon Sequestration Through Environmentally Friendly Moorings' project.

Participation in a new partnership with Oysters Tasmania to deliver an oyster sensor network and a research and education data portal.

Delivery of the inaugural Seafood Industry Teacher Capacity Building event in February with seafood industry partners from across wild catch, marine farming, and research sectors.



RAMSAR WETLANDS (RLP)

OBJECTIVE: To support landholders to improve wetland health for the benefit of species and industries that rely on this ecosystem.

Situated at the northern end of Great Oyster Bay on Tasmania's east coast, Moulting Lagoon and the nearby Apsley Marshes provide critical habitat for waterbirds (including migratory species), are important fish nurseries, and filter water running off the land into the sea. The land surrounding these Ramsar-listed sites is also important for agriculture and tourism, and the waterways themselves are important for aquaculture, including mussels and oysters. The region's saltmarsh and wetland communities are under threat from weeds, incursions by livestock and vehicles, the impacts of agricultural activities in the surrounding landscape, and climate change.

In the last year, work has progressed in the wetland complex including planning on-ground activities, weed control, fencing and monitoring work. Property Action Plans, which outline the program of environmental works to be undertaken throughout the project, have been developed for three of the five properties surrounding Moulting Lagoon and Apsley Marshes. Project planning for 2021-22 (including fencing, weed control and revegetation) has also been undertaken for the four properties who have signed Memorandums of Understanding for this project.

ONGROUND ACTION

- Weed control work across 195 ha of land fringing Moulting Lagoon and 90 ha within the Apsley Marshes.
- 1.6 km of fencing to protect 166 ha of saltmarsh and wetland from stock and vehicle access.

IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING

Information is being gathered to demonstrate how the ecological function of the wetland is responding to on-ground works such as weed control and revegetation. The monitoring work includes:

- Fauna and flora (including saltmarsh) monitoring sites have been identified and established by the TAC and UTAS.
- Investigations into the site's hydrological history by NGT to provide recommendations for hydrological restoration works.
- Wildtracker fauna monitoring training provided to TAC employees, who carried out fauna monitoring on two project properties.
- Drone images and mapping of weeds and vegetation across five private properties surrounding Apsley Marshes and Moulting Lagoon. The data collected will provide a weed and vegetation baseline that can be used to plan and assess the effectiveness of weed control activities.

WILDLIFE MONITORING

In February, TAC representatives set up over 60 remote wildlife monitoring cameras across two properties on the edge of Moulting Lagoon, with support from TLC. These surveys are investigating the location, diversity, and movements of native and invasive animal species.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC), Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT), University of Tasmania (UTAS) and local landholders.



TASMANIAN SMART SEAFOOD PARTNERSHIP (SMART FARMS)

OBJECTIVE: To deliver industry training, to develop school and community education resources and to co-invest with industry in habitat research and restoration activities.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Seafood production is a vital part of Tasmania's economy and depends on an informed workforce and a well-managed marine and estuarine environment.

The Tasmanian Smart Seafood Partnership (TSSP) project was established in 2018 and is delivered in collaboration with the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council. The Partnership supports the adoption of processes and practices within the seafood industry which have positive outcomes for marine biodiversity.

In the last year, the TSSP has developed and delivered training and education materials, supported research and facilitated commercial fishing vessel participation in the annual South West marine debris clean up.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

A state-wide seafood industry teacher capacity building event was delivered in partnership with TSIC. This event engaged Year 9-12 teachers and seafood industry members in a hands-on exploration of the industry and marine resource management in Tasmania. Attendees received information about the seafood industry's operation, research, regulation and how technology is used for sustainability. Teachers also gained a unique insight into how seafood is caught, grown, and processed in Tasmania.

An accredited training course for the seafood industry was developed to increase understanding of the reporting obligations for interactions with Threatened, Endangered and Protected species and by-catch.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

A schools education resource developed in partnership with the Woodbridge Marine Discovery Centre provides an outline of marine resource management within the Tasmanian marine environment. A partnership with Oysters Tasmania was established, with the aim to deploy an oyster sensor network across shellfish farms state-wide and deliver an education and research data portal.

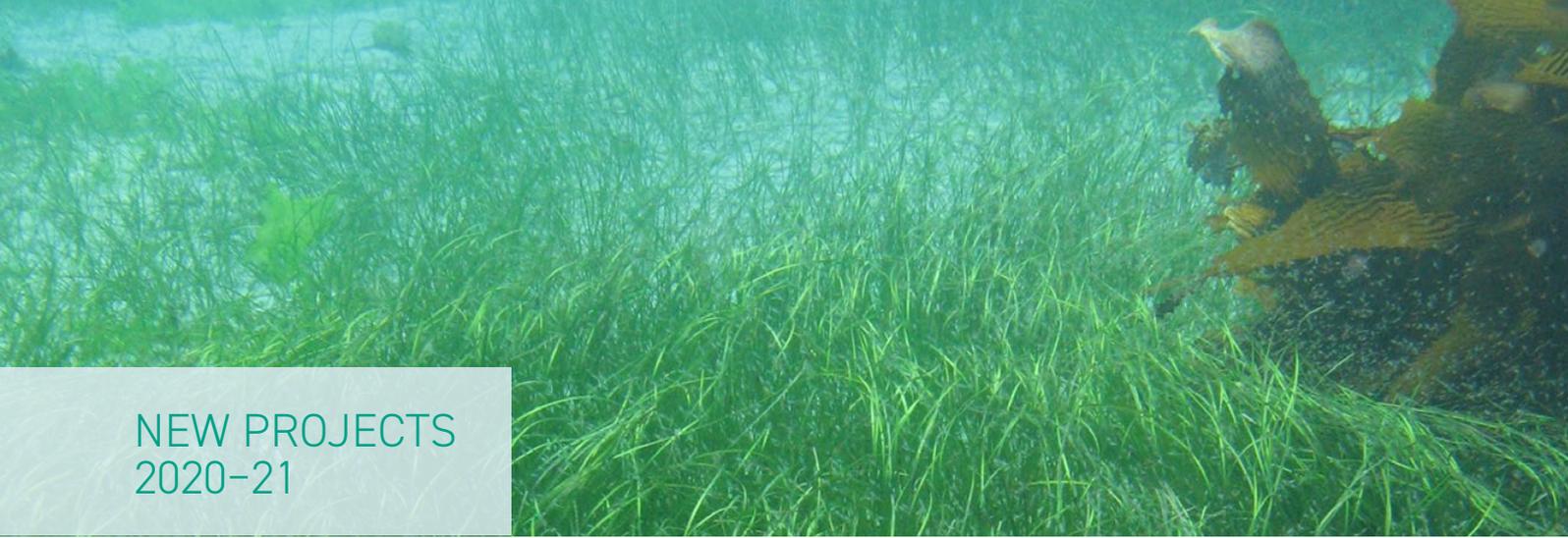
MARINE BIODIVERSITY OUTCOMES

Annual highlights included:

- Facilitating commercial fishing vessel participation in the annual South West marine debris clean up.
- Collaborating with DPIPW, the Tasmanian Oyster Company, and BirdLife Tasmania to create state-wide maps of shorebird breeding habitat to inform marine debris clean up events by the seafood industry and community.
- Supporting IMAS in its giant kelp restoration research with industry partners Huon Aquaculture, and in research into market access for invasive sea urchins on Tasmania's east coast.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), Huon Aquaculture, Tasmanian Salmon Growers Association, Oysters Tasmania, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC), Seafood Maritime Training, OceanWatch Australia, Woodbridge School Marine Discovery Centre, Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS).



NEW PROJECTS 2020-21

SALTMARSH RESTORATION IN PITT WATER-ORIELTON LAGOON

At Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon, historically significant saltmarsh has become degraded over the decades. This saltmarsh habitat is important for recreationally valuable fish species and our saltmarsh restoration project is working to bring benefits to fish productivity by improving fish nursery habitat. Working with project partners and landholders, we aim to restore saltmarsh habitat and natural flows and to put measures in place to protect modified saltmarsh habitat.

The project will address threats to saltmarsh communities from stock trampling and browsing, modified hydrological flows, the lack of buffering vegetation, resource use and extraction of fish stocks.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

University of Tasmania (UTAS), OzFish Unlimited, private landowners.

SEAGRASS RESTORATION IN NORTH-WEST BAY

Traditional swing moorings damage the seabed and seagrass, leaving patches which disrupt habitat connectivity, erode sediment and damage valuable fish nursery habitat. Seagrass communities are important nursery habitat for fish and squid, and can be damaged by traditional chain mooring systems, which scour the seabed.

NRM South is working with partners to install Environmentally Friendly Moorings (EFMs) in North West Bay, and monitor the changes in the seagrass communities. These moorings are effective in restoring seagrass habitat, and it is hoped that as a result of this project, EFMs will become more widely used across the region.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

CSIRO, OzFish Unlimited, Kingborough Council, mooring leaseholders.

REEF BUILDER – RESTORING NATIVE FLAT OYSTER REEFS

Reef Builder is a partnership program between the Australian Government and The Nature Conservancy, to restore shellfish reef habitat at 13 locations in Australia. Australia's shellfish reefs are an endangered marine ecosystem, with only 10% of native rock oyster and 1% of native flat oyster reef remaining today, based on historical reef distribution. The only known remaining native flat oyster reef is in Georges Bay on Tasmania's east coast.

NRM South is leading the delivery of Reef Builder in south-east Tasmania in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. We will restore native flat oyster reefs in the Derwent Estuary and D'Entrecasteaux Channel, where this type of habitat was previously extensive. The environmental benefits of restoring native flat oyster reef habitat include improved water quality, increased fish productivity and providing habitat for marine animals.

We will work closely with oyster growers and shellfish hatcheries, the marine science sector, recreational fishers, TARFish, and the Tasmanian Aboriginal and the local communities. The project will provide a boost to the local economy through maritime construction, earthmoving, aquaculture, and marine consultant activities. Community awareness and engagement will also be strengthened through media stories and volunteering.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

The Nature Conservancy.



CORPORATE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Through our Corporate Program, NRM South administers our business according to best-practice management principles, and in a way that improves our ability to respond proactively to challenges and opportunities, and to deliver strategic NRM outcomes for southern Tasmania.

KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY



SERVICE-FOCUSED GROWTH



FINANCIAL STABILITY



DRIVING ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE

PREFERRED PROVIDER

- Concurrent strategic and corporate planning process to clearly define our role, focus our services, identify key areas to pursue and secure support and to highlight shared aspirations and targets.
- Continued as the Australian Government's preferred provider for project services in southern Tasmania through the Regional Landcare Partnerships (RLP) program, with numerous contracted projects underway and new projects established.
- Continued a close working relationship with State Government, delivering several key projects in partnership across Departments.
- A growing portfolio of new and repeat funding bodies for our on-ground projects.
- Continued to secure a network of capable delivery partners and build the capacity of partners to participate in new projects and initiatives.
- Discussions underway with government, industry, GBEs and stakeholder groups to develop and fund strategic priorities.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Ongoing monitoring of corporate expenses to identify organisational efficiencies.
- Growth and diversification in funding (up 311% from 2019-20).
- Secured increased core funding from the State Government from July 2022.

ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Ongoing review and improvement to policies and procedures, focused on building from our values and improving accessibility to embed in our workplace culture.
- Sustained commitment to pandemic management, including adherence with all government direction and best practices to protect our staff, collaborators, visitors, and the broader community.
- Increased investment in staff wellbeing with introduction of wellness initiatives, establishment of a social committee, and maintenance of an Employee Assistance Program.
- Commenced transition to cloud-based services to improve efficiency, cyber security, and options for collaboration and remote working.
- Continued commitment to WHS with routine internal audits, process improvements, and a strong safety record.
- Transitioning to contemporary solutions for project and contract management for improved governance, reporting, management, and efficiency.
- New Rules of Association drafted, and establishment of a Governance Board sub-committee to ensure governance structures and processes are continually challenged and reviewed.

BOARD MEMBERS

Andrew Scanlon – Chair
Michael Bidwell – Deputy Chair
Dr. Phillipa McCormack
Dr. Peter Tucker
Sally Dakis
Dr. Claire Ellis
Rick Perrin
Dr. Peter Volker

Departing Board members 2020-21

Sally Dakis

STAFF

Nepelle Crane – CEO
Tracey Weily – Finance Manager
Todd Nation – Business Development
and Operations Manager
Dr. Cindy Hull – Program Manager, Biodiversity and RLP
Jennifer Hemer – Program Manager,
Water and Marine
Aimee Langford – Administration Officer
Nathalie Laurence – Communications Officer
Tim Ackroyd – Senior Project Officer (Agriculture)
Maudie Brown – Senior Project Officer (Environment)
Dr. Rosie Hohnen – Senior Project Officer (NRM)
Grace Isdale – Project Officer (Marine)
Laurel McGinnity – Senior Project Officer (Water)
Paul Armstrong – Senior Project Officer (Reefs)

Departing Staff 2020-21

Georgie Butorac – TSSP Communications Officer
Linda Marie-McDowell – Senior Project Officer

SUB-COMMITTEES

Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee

Members: Dr. Peter Tucker (Chair), Madeline Owens (independent member), Andrew Scanlon, Michael Bidwell

CEO Performance Committee

Members: Andrew Scanlon and Dr. Claire Ellis

Board Selection Panel

Members: Ursula Taylor, Anita Howard, Lyndley Chopping, Prof. Ted Lefroy

MEMBERS

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

We wish to thank the organisational and individual members for their support and contributions over the last year. Our organisational members as at 30 June 2021 are:

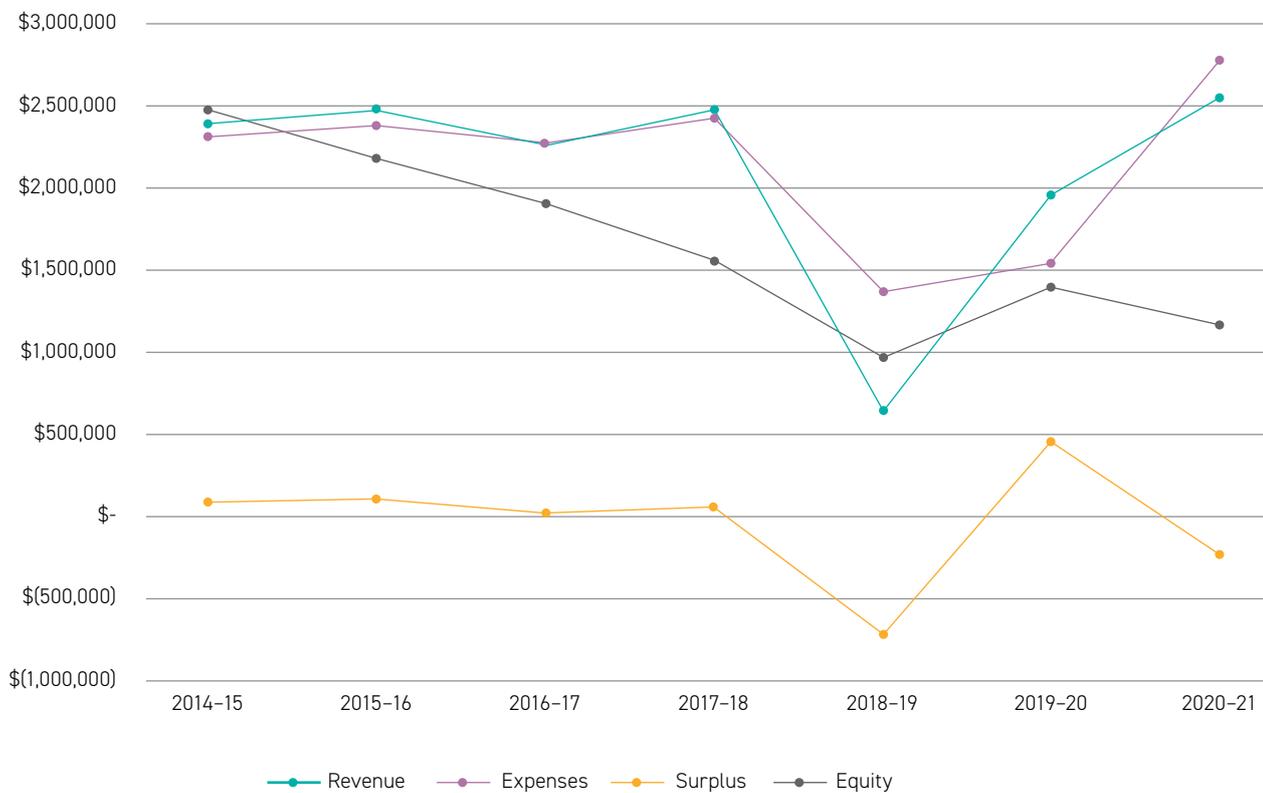
BirdLife Tasmania
City of Hobart
Clarence City Council
Conservation Landholders Tasmania
Conservation Volunteers Australia
DairyTas
Derwent Catchment Project/Enviro-dynamics
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Greening Australia
Hobart Airport
Huon Valley Council
Hydro Tasmania
K+D Family Farm
Local Government Association Tasmania
pakana Services
Petrichor Wines
Private Forests Tasmania
Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare Inc.
Southern Midlands Council
Sustainability Learning Centre
Sustainable Timber Tasmania
TARFish
Tasman Council
Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Tasmanian Land Conservancy
Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council
Tassal
TasWater
Threatened Plants Tasmania
Wildcare Tasmania

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD FOR 2020-2021

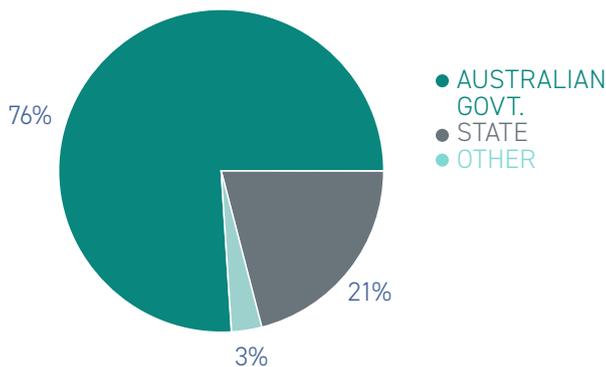
Revenue has continued to grow, with a 29% increase in funding from 2020/21. NRM South has maintained a lean administrative model, significantly reducing overheads this financial year. While the 2020/21 financial year resulted in a deficit of approx. \$230K,

this is (in part) a result of the application of new accounting standards and the recognition of revenue in prior years.

A copy of the Audited Financial Statements is available on our website at www.nrmsouth.org.au



REVENUE 2020-21



29% REVENUE*

40% OVERHEADS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXPENSES*

* 2020-21 relative to 2019-20

IMAGE CREDITS:

Eric Woehler	P6,15,21,26
Nathalie Laurence	Cover, P4
Ron Knight	P13
Brad Moriarty	P15
Chris Tzaros	P20
Joe Quarmby	P16,17
Cayne Layton	P21
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All other images from NRM South	

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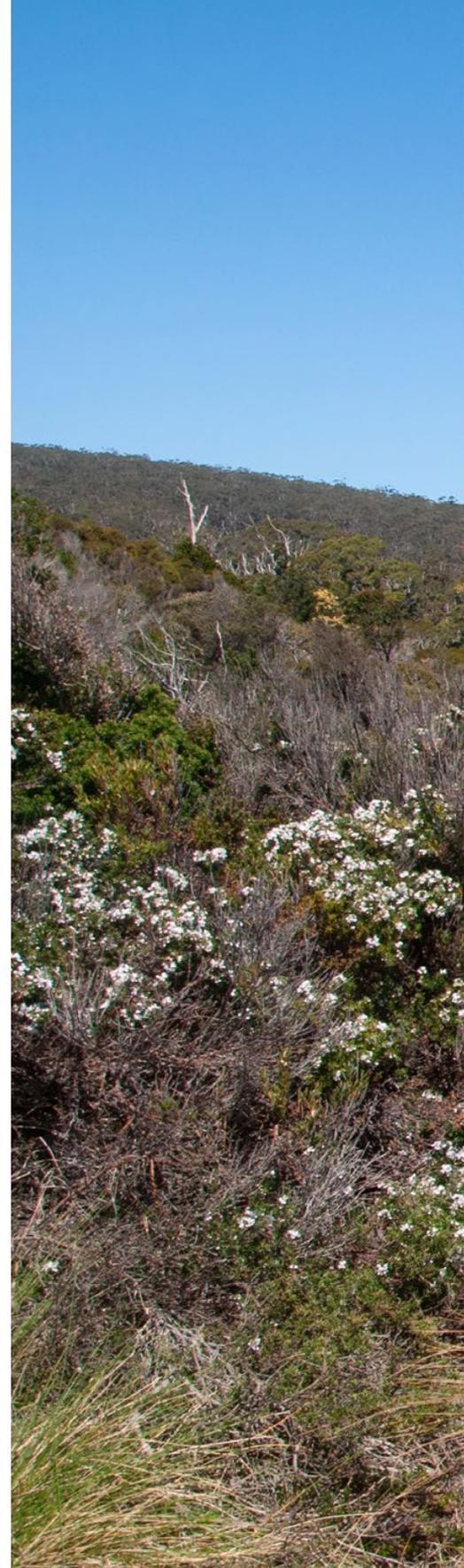
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293 Macquarie Street, Hobart,
TAS 7000

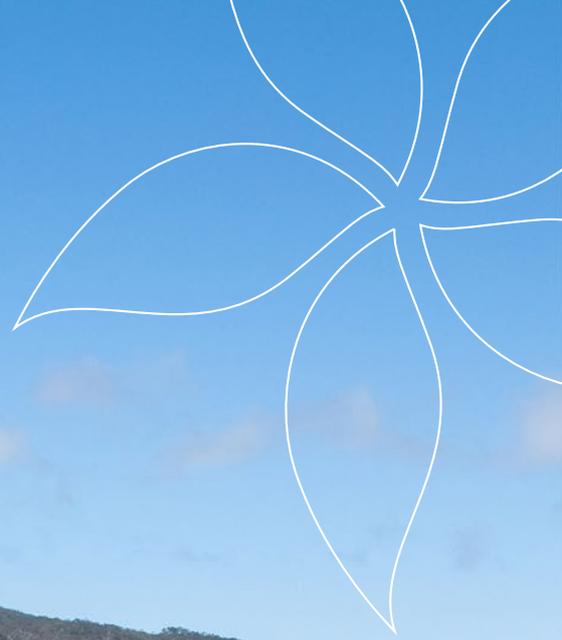
PO BOX 425, South Hobart,
TAS 7004

TEL: 0447 266 527

EMAIL: admin@nrmsouth.org.au



Regional NRM delivery for 2020–21 was jointly funded by NRM South,
the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the Tasmanian State Government.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

20
21



nrmsouth.org.au

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COMMITTEE'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Your Committee Members submit the financial report of the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

1. General information

Principal Activities

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

- environmental activities; and
- animal protection.

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 \$(230,372) (2020: \$ 460,471).

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



Committee Member:



Committee Member:

Dated this6th..... day of ...September..... 2021.

COMMITTEE DECLARATION

AS PER SECTION 60.15 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION REGULATION 2012

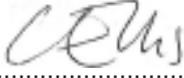
The Committee declare that in the Committee's opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated (Trading as 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 2013*.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee:

Committee Member 

Committee Member 

Dated this 6th day of September 2021.

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

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	NOTES	2021 \$	2020 \$
INCOME			
CFOC Base Funding		154,158	153,739
National Landcare Programme		1,942,368	1,062,665
Other Funding		33,860	195,912
Other Income		60,909	102,544
Tasmanian State Funding		360,473	460,693
TOTAL INCOME		2,551,768	1,975,553
LESS: EXPENSES			
Committee Costs		9,570	7,156
Consultants Fees		31,645	70,252
Depreciation		76,428	49,596
Employment Costs		252,057	567,199
Financial Expenses		19,519	18,022
Meeting Expenses		2,183	2,549
Motor Vehicle Expenses		3,977	4,283
Occupancy Costs		14,338	56,594
Office Running Costs		98,488	107,654
Other Costs		253	410
Project Expenses		2,269,131	619,955
Training/Conference/Travel Costs		4,551	11,412
TOTAL EXPENSES		2,782,140	1,515,082
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(230,372)	460,471
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		(230,372)	460,471

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	NOTES	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	1,361,008	1,138,422
Trade and other receivables	3	1,566,130	464,227
Other assets		30,951	25,187
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,958,089	1,627,836
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	4	64,219	72,356
Right-of-use assets	6	209,451	267,902
Intangible assets	5	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		273,670	340,258
TOTAL ASSETS		3,231,759	1,968,094
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	671,933	268,829
Employee benefits	8	37,036	24,041
Deferred income		1,120,402	-
Lease liabilities		62,930	62,930
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,892,301	355,800
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	8	20,864	12,177
Lease liabilities		152,792	203,943
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		173,656	216,120
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,065,957	571,920
NET ASSETS		1,165,802	1,396,174
EQUITY			
Committed projects reserve		72,087	421,591
Accumulated surpluses		1,093,715	974,583
TOTAL EQUITY		1,165,802	1,396,174

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUSES	COMMITTED PROJECTS RESERVE	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$
2021			
Balance at 1 July 2020	1,324,087	421,591	1,745,678
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	(230,372)	-	(230,372)
Transfer to/(from) reserves	349,504	(349,504)	-
Balance at 30 June 2021	1,443,219	72,087	1,515,306
2020			
Balance at 1 July 2019	745,823	189,880	935,703
Transfers to/(from) reserves during the year	(231,711)	231,711	-
Net surplus for the year	460,471	-	460,471
Balance at 30 June 2020	974,583	421,591	1,396,174

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	NOTES	2021 \$	2020 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from grants/partners		2,920,988	1,646,835
Interest received		2,179	10,039
Payments to suppliers & employees		(2,627,811)	(1,535,310)
Net cash provided by operating activities	12	295,356	121,564
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		-	13,963
Purchase of plant and equipment		(9,840)	64,067
Net cash used by investing activities		(9,840)	78,030
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Repayment of lease liability		(62,930)	-
Net cash used by financing activities		(62,930)	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		222,586	199,594
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,138,422	938,828
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	2	1,361,008	1,138,422

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report covers Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated (Trading as NRM South) as an individual entity. Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated (Trading as NRM South) is incorporated under the Australian Charities and Notfor- profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth) and domiciled in Tasmania.

(a) Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth). The Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity. The Association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes.

These special purpose financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the minimum requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth) and therefore comply with the following Australian Accounting Standards as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board:

- AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements;
- AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows;
- AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors;
- AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards; and
- AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

These special purpose financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards. No other Accounting Standards have been intentionally applied in the compilation of this financial report.

The financial report, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets. 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.

(e) Property, Plant and Equipment

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

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:

Class of Fixed Asset

Plant and equipment	10 - 40%
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	10 - 20%
Motor Vehicles	13%
Office Equipment	14 - 33%

(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 are charged as expenses when incurred.

(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*.

(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.

The Association has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets.

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

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 the before 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.

(m) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations

The Association has adopted all standards which became effective for the first time at 30 June 2021, the adoption of these standards has not caused any material adjustments to the reported financial position, performance or cash flow of the Association.

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 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current. This standard applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022. The Association has decided against early adoption of this Standard.

(n) Economic Dependence

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated (Trading as 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 Committee members have no reason to believe the ongoing receipt of the Federal and State Government grants will not continue to support Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated (Trading as NRM South).

(o) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

Management evaluates estimates and judgments 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 significant 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 not 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.

2 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	137	137
Cash at bank	586,621	364,035
Short-term bank deposits	774,250	774,250
	1,361,008	1,138,422

3 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Trade receivables	1,566,130	464,227
Less: Provision for impairment	-	-
	1,566,130	464,227

4 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and equipment		
At cost	9,344	9,343
Accumulated depreciation	(9,286)	(9,255)
Total Plant and equipment	58	88
Furniture, fixture and fittings		
At cost	39,504	39,504
Accumulated depreciation	(36,230)	(34,733)
Total furniture, fixture and fittings	3,274	4,771
Motor vehicles		
At cost	60,197	60,197
Accumulated depreciation	(13,750)	(6,226)
Total motor vehicles	46,447	53,971
Office equipment		
At cost	106,629	96,789
Accumulated depreciation	(92,278)	(83,673)
Total office equipment	14,351	13,116
Project related assets		
At cost	4,023	4,023
Accumulated depreciation	(3,934)	(3,613)
Total project related assets	89	410
Total property, plant and equipment	64,219	72,356

5 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Website		
At cost	50,490	50,490
Accumulated amortisation	(50,490)	(50,490)
	-	-

6 RIGHT-OF-USE ASSET

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Property lease		
At cost	292,257	292,257
Accumulated amortisation	(82,806)	(24,355)
	<u>209,451</u>	<u>267,902</u>

7 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Trade payables	496,351	39,124
GST payable	90,922	53,965
Accrued expense	83,028	174,736
Other payables	1,632	1,004
	<u>671,933</u>	<u>268,829</u>

8 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Current		
Annual leave	37,036	24,041
	<u>37,036</u>	<u>24,041</u>
Non-current		
Long service leave	20,864	12,177
	<u>20,864</u>	<u>12,177</u>

9 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There are no capital commitments for the year ended 30 June 2021 (2020: Nil).

10 AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Remuneration of the auditor of the Association, Crowe Audit Australia (2020: BDO Audit (Tas)), for:		
- auditing the financial statements, including assistance with the compilation of the financial statements	5,750	7,240

11 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 contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at reporting date to be disclosed (2020: Nil).

12 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:

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	(230,372)	460,471
Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities		
- depreciation and amortisation	76,428	49,596
- lease interest	11,780	-
- profit on sale of plant and equipment	-	(13,963)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(1,101,903)	(414,486)
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments	(5,764)	(14,996)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	403,104	(5,152)
- increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	21,681	60,094
- increase/(decrease) in unexpended funds	1,120,402	-
Cashflows from operations	295,356	121,564

13 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to impact both communities and businesses throughout the world, including Australia, and the community where the Association operates. The scale, timing and duration of potential impacts on the Association is unknown, as are and future mitigating factors. The Association continues to closely monitor the impacts of COVID-19 and will respond as appropriate.

No other 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.

14 ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The registered office of the Association is:

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association
Incorporated (Trading as NRM South)
293 Macquarie Street
Hobart TAS 7000

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

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 2021 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 this7th..... day ofSeptember.... 2021.
Hobart, Tasmania.

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

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

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated (Trading as NRM South) (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, 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 significant accounting policies, and the Committees' Declaration.

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of the matter referred to in our qualification paragraph, if any, the accompanying financial report of the Association has been prepared 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 2021 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and Division 60 the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The comparative 2020 financial year figures have not been subject to audit by Crowe. As a result our audit and audit report is limited to the 2021 financial statements and transactions within that financial year. Accordingly no opinion is expressed on the accuracy of the 2020 financial information, nor its consistency with the accounting policies outlined in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

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* (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 Incorporated (Trading as NRM South)

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

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)*. 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

The Committee is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Committee's Report the year ended 30 June 2021, 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 Committee for the Financial Report

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

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

Independent Audit Report to the members of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated (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 Committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Committee'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.
- 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.

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

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

We communicate with the Committee 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



Alison Flakemore
Senior Partner

Dated this.....14th.....day of.....September.....2021.
Hobart, Tasmania.

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