



# ANNUAL REPORT

21  
22



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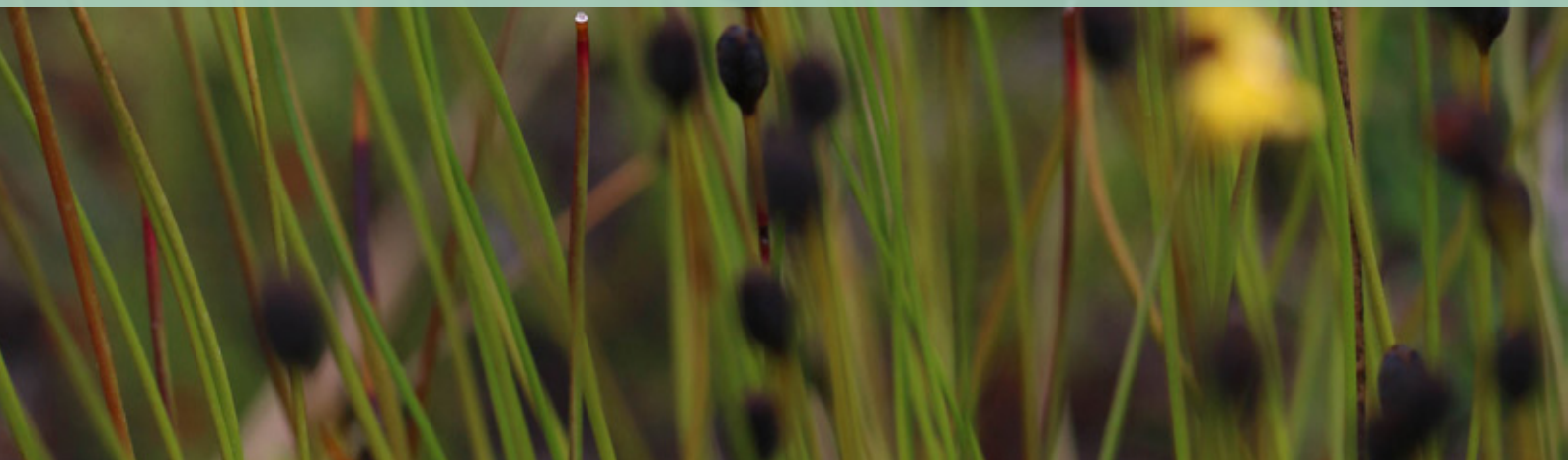
## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

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

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

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



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# CHAIR'S REPORT



Our activities over the last financial year have seen NRM South take major strides in developing new projects and bringing in new funding. We added \$3.28 million in projects to our Land, Water and Biodiversity Programs, and now have \$17.87 million invested in 23 on-ground projects.

Partnerships are integral to NRM South's operations. Our work sees us collaborating with partners from a range of sectors to achieve strong, collaborative outcomes across the southern region. With over 40 major delivery partners, NRM South plays a leading role in improving the natural values of Tasmania's southern region.

The finalisation of *Southern Tasmania's Natural Resource Management Strategy* to 2030 has been a huge achievement for the team this year. This document will play a pivotal role in guiding future project activities.

I want to commend the amazing efforts of our CEO, Nepelle Crane. It is thanks to her guidance and leadership that NRM South is delivering significant outcomes in southern Tasmania. The dedication and hard work of the team is also a major contribution to this success. The continued growth of the organisation prompted a move to a larger office space at the end of 2021, which is a testament to their achievements.

Thanks also go to our Board members. Dr. Claire Ellis commenced the role of Deputy Chair this year and we welcomed two new Board members –

Dr. Anh Nguyen and Anita Dahlenburg. Our other Board members include Dr. Peter Tucker, Dr. Phillipa McCormack, Rick Perrin and Dr. Peter Volker. Each of our Directors have made a valuable contribution to the organisation's success.

I want to thank members of our Finance, Audit and Risk Sub-Committee, including Dr. Tucker (Chair), Maddie Owens and Anita Dahlenburg, as well as our Finance Manager, Tracey Weily, and our Governance Sub-Committee, including Dr. Claire Ellis, Dr. Peter Volker and Dr. Phillipa McCormack. Thank you also to our independent Board Selection Panel, consisting of Ursula Taylor, Lyndley Chopping, Anita Howard, and Frances Healy.

I would particularly like to thank Peter Tucker who is retiring at this year's AGM. Peter joined the Board in 2014 and has provided outstanding service to the organisation, not only as Chair of our FARM Committee, but across a range of issues over the last few years.

The coming year will see the conclusion of funding for a number of our projects. NRM South staff will be working hard to develop new projects for 2023 and beyond.

**Andrew Scanlon**

Chair - NRM South

# CEO'S REPORT



This Annual Report provides an opportunity to reflect and share some of NRM South's outstanding achievements over the past financial year. The NRM South team, which includes our staff and Board, have continued to drive our success and performance across all aspects of operations and delivery.

I am incredibly proud of NRM South's impact and achievements in 2021/22. We are 'kicking goals', no matter which of the key highlights you look at – growth in NRM investment, a clear strategic vision, and strong delivery on-ground.

## STEADY GROWTH IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT

- NRM South is delivering a \$17.87M program (2019-2023) addressing strategic priorities in our region
- Annual investment secured through NRM South has grown by 628% since 2018/19.

## DELIVERING A STRONG FRAMEWORK FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- New strategy developed and released (*Southern Tasmania's 2030 NRM Strategy*)
- A collaborative, state-wide framework developed for natural resource management across Tasmania.

## IMPRESSIVE PROJECT PORTFOLIO, DELIVERING PRIORITY OUTCOMES WITH PARTNERS

### Land Program:

- 8 key focus areas, including drought and resilience on farms, decision making support, soils, extension and coordination, carbon and biodiversity, pasture, biosecurity and innovation.

### Water Program:

- 7 key focus areas, including landscape-scale restoration of Ramsar sites and wetlands, reef restoration, seafood partnerships, marine biodiversity, saltmarsh, seagrass, blue carbon and environmentally friendly moorings.

### Biodiversity Program:

- 9 key focus areas, including threatened birds (Orange-bellied Parrots, Swift Parrots, Forty-spotted Pardalotes, Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles), cat control on Bruny Island, Eastern and Spotted-tailed Quolls, Morrisby's gum, Southport heath, Black/Brookers gum forest, Red Handfish and Swan Galaxias.

I am exceptionally grateful for the trust and support we have received from our partners, networks and stakeholders this year. A huge number of amazing people and organisations rallied behind us to develop our new strategy and new projects. Whether it was cups of coffee talking about what we would like to see happen, comprehensive workshops, vigorous team discussions, generous guidance and feedback – a whole community has helped us in all our achievements this year. Our natural resource management community have helped us to define our directions and focus, and to deliver well managed projects that protect our natural and cultural values, and productive and sustainable landscapes, waterways, and assets. I am truly thankful.

This coming year will see us call on our natural resource management community again – we will be designing the next round of major projects (2023-2027), identifying investment pathways, and securing the funds we need for collaborative action. I am looking forward to more conversations as we progress.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to NRM South's people (our incredible staff and Board). Our people have continued to surpass expectations to deliver strategic projects, and work with and support our networks, partners, funding bodies, and the broader community. NRM South is successful because of you: your dedication, your expertise, your efforts to collaborate, and your drive to deliver results. I am very fortunate to have a dedicated team that are always willing to share the workload and contribute to the operational management of the organisation, as well as providing leadership across their specific areas. Thank you all for the ongoing support that you provide to me directly, as well as for the organisation. I am looking forward to our continued success in 2022/23.

### 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 has a new NRM Strategy to 2030 for southern Tasmania.

Working with the Cradle Coast Authority and NRM North our new strategies reflect natural resource management priorities and emerging issues at a regional and state-wide scale.

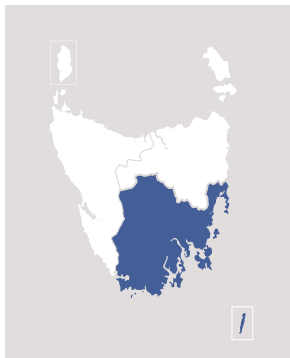
Focusing on the three primary themes of Land, Water and Biodiversity, NRM South's regional strategy provides a blueprint for the actions that we will focus on through to 2030. With a view to long-term outcomes that include support for Aboriginal communities, improving landscape resilience to climate change, improved waterway health, and reducing impacts on Tasmania's threatened species and communities, our strategy maintains a strong

focus on improving the condition of natural resources and driving sustainable production using specific and measurable criteria.



NRM South has a new NRM Strategy to 2030 for southern Tasmania.

# 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

## 47%

### OF THE REGION

Managed primarily for conservation



### 35 % OF TASMANIANS TOTAL FARMLAND



### 1.3 M HA NATIVE FOREST



### CRITICAL REGION FOR WILD FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND RECREATIONAL FISHING



### ECONOMY

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

Tourism \$1.49B

Forestry \$712M raw wood products

Renewable energy

Fisheries & aquaculture \$1B

Agriculture \$2.15B

\*APPROXIMATE TOTAL STATE-WIDE PRODUCTION VALUE ANNUALLY



### IMPORTANT HABITATS

Riparian and remnant vegetation

Native grasslands

Saltmarsh and wetlands



## 689

### LISTED PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES



### PLANTS

439 species



### INSECTS

117 species



### FISH

19 species



### AMPHIBIANS + REPTILES

9 species



### BIRDS

37 species



### MAMMALS

15 species

Coastal communities

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

Marine and soft sediment systems

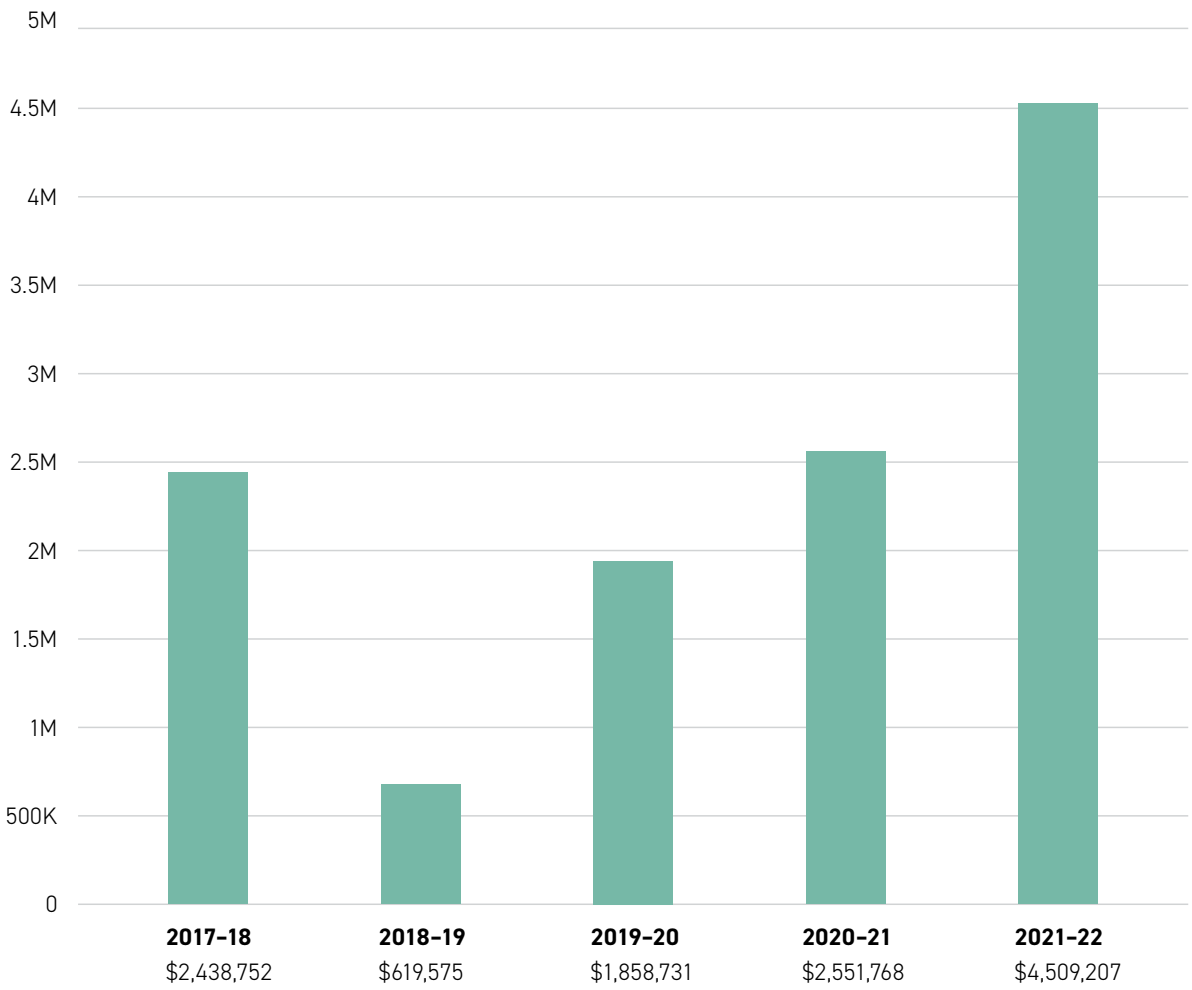
36 threatened vegetation communities



## INVESTMENT OVERVIEW

NRM South makes an important contribution to the economy and environment of Southern Tasmania. Over the last two decades, we have secured millions of dollars in direct and in-kind investment for the region through Australian Government, State Government, and industry partner contributions.

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 continuing to work in partnership with the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council, funded through a Smart Farm Partnership 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 four projects worth \$2.25M through the Environmental Restoration Fund. This includes a project to control feral, domestic, and stray cats on north Bruny Island (and therefore protect threatened species) a project to protect the Forty-spotted Pardalote from emerging threats and two projects signed on in the last financial year to protect Red Handfish and Swan Galaxias.

## TASMANIAN STATE GOVERNMENT

The Tasmanian State Government core funding supports the functions of NRM South and State Government initiatives and policies including the *Natural Resource Management Act (2002)*, the Premier's Economic Stimulus and Social Recovery Advisory Council, the Competitiveness of Tasmanian Agriculture for 2050, and a range of initiatives in the climate change and resilience, threatened species and communities, biosecurity, water quality and rural water use, and sustainability portfolios.

This investment provides a foundation for partnership on priority programs and services to various initiatives or projects, as well as leverage to secure more significant funding into natural resource management priorities in Tasmania.

In addition to our core functions, we have delivered or contributed to State Government priorities such as the Weed Action Fund (led by NRM North), the Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program, eagle management, threatened species management, cat management, and participation in legislative, policy, management and strategic reviews and working groups.

## FISH HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM (AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT)

This \$630k investment is working to improve important habitat areas for recreationally valuable fish species across two projects. The first is focusing on the restoration of seagrass in North West Bay through the use of Ecologically Friendly Moorings (EFMs) and the second on stranded saltmarsh in Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon.

## FUTURE DROUGHT FUND (AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT)

An initial \$343k investment received a \$1.4M funding boost in early 2022 to provide support for farmers and advisors in drought-affected regions of Tasmania's Midlands and East Coast. Through this project we are increasing farmers' 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)

Working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, this \$1.1M project is restoring native shellfish reefs in southern Tasmania and providing opportunities for employment and engagement of local communities in marine restoration.

## BLUE CARBON (AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT)

At the end of the financial year, we were awarded \$794k for a blue carbon ecosystem restoration project in temperate saltmarsh through the Australian Government's Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration Grants. The project aims to demonstrate benefits of and impacts on carbon in sediments across vegetation communities within Pitt Water-Oreilton Lagoon and will run until June 2025.

## 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 are stewards of significant land resources. They play a key role in food security and economic welfare of the nation and our state. By supporting land managers to improve landscape health and manage our natural resources sustainably, we can ensure agricultural production areas deliver long-term benefits for our community and the environment.

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



IMPROVING  
LANDSCAPE RESILIENCE -  
BIODIVERSITY  
AND SOIL HEALTH



FOSTERING  
COLLABORATION  
AND SUPPORT  
FOR LANDSCAPE  
OUTCOMES



ENABLING COMMERCIAL  
AND LAND VIABILITY IN  
RESPONSE TO CLIMATE  
VARIABILITY

### WHO WE WORK WITH

Agriprove  
Ag Logic  
Australian National University  
Cape Herbert Pty Ltd.  
Coal River Products Association  
Cradle Coast Authority  
CSIRO  
Derwent Catchment Project  
Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water  
Department of Natural Resources  
and Environment Tasmania  
East Coast Primary Producers' Association  
Farming Forecaster  
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council  
Landcare Tasmania  
Forum of Rural Stakeholders - convened  
by Rural Business Tasmania Inc  
National Recovery and Resilience Agency  
NRM North  
Private Forests Tasmania  
TASAg Innovation Hub  
Tasman Council  
Tasman Landcare Group  
Tree Alliance (run by Private Forests Tasmania)  
Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture  
University of Tasmania

### 2021-22 HIGHLIGHTS

Established 13 Farming Forecaster sites  
to assist dryland pasture communities optimise  
grazing outcomes and reduce erosion risks

Established three demonstration sites  
(Derwent Pasture Network) for erosion control  
and pasture effectiveness

\$1.445M funding boost for drought resilience work  
to extend pilot results into a State-wide program

Established four pasture trial sites to test optimal  
pasture renovation

Lewisham field day and development of an  
information video for pasture drilling and carbon  
optimisation

Five Farming Forecaster workshops delivered  
improving the capability and knowledge of farmers

11 projects funded for weed control work under the  
large grants round of the Tasmanian Government's  
Weeds Action Fund

Established soils extension program



## DERWENT PASTURE NETWORK



**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.

Delivered in partnership with the DCP, the project aims to improve soil health in the Derwent catchment and works 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 2021–22, the dryland pasture course, discussion groups and demonstration sites continued to provide accessible and locally relevant information to farmers. The soil carbon and legume seminars featured experts who shared research updates. Discussions at these seminars, as well as farm visits, enabled farmers to explore issues and discuss management topics.

The mentoring program is investigating different management strategies for north-facing slopes. One remediation study is examining the impact of different approaches to ground cover management (e.g., extended winter destocking, fertiliser application, surface sowing). Other studies are investigating the impact of herbicide on pasture clovers and annual grass control measures to increase perennial pasture establishment.

### DEMONSTRATION SITES

Three demonstration sites were established with commercial farmers in the Derwent catchment. They are providing insights into the most locally suitable species and cultivars of perennial grasses and legumes. Involved farmers have communicated the value the localised demonstration sites are having to their pasture species selection, and how this will help them to increase their resilience to rougher years in the long term.

**The demonstrations sites are:**

- examining the use of multi-species forage crops to control weeds, improve soil condition and soil organic matter, for subsequent sowing with more resilient pasture species,
- investigating the role fertiliser application has on improving coverage of clover and pasture biomass production, and;
- using innovative aerial drone technology to test if perennial pastures can be introduced into vulnerable higher slopes, which are inaccessible with machinery and mechanical intervention.

### EXTENSION MATERIALS

Extension materials have been developed to support the pasture course and other capacity building events and learnings from the project are updated onto the Pasture Network website. This website provides tailored information to dryland graziers and over the last year new factsheets on regionally relevant timelines for managing weedy annuals, pasture pests and improving clover in pastures have been added.

**DELIVERY PARTNERS**  
Derwent Catchment Project (DCP)



## REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR

**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

Through our participation in agricultural networks such as the 'TasAg Innovation Hub' and 'Forum of Rural Stakeholders' we are collaborating on initiatives that will benefit the farming community, particularly in managing for drought and climate change.

### INFORMATION SHARING

We have facilitated information sharing on multiple initiatives including Private Forest Tasmania's Tree Alliance to raise awareness of farm forestry and the benefits of trees on farms, sharing the learnings from our east coast legume trial and the latest on carbon farming.

### TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Working with NRM North, we established soil moisture probe sites to give drought-affected farmers real-time soil moisture, soil temperature and rainfall data to inform ground cover and stock management decisions. These sites also support the use of the drought decision-support tool Farming Forecaster being rolled out through our Future Drought funded projects. Through the Derwent Pasture Network, the pasturenetwork.org website has been developed to help graziers manage dryland pastures.

### FOSTERING OPPORTUNITIES

We assisted farming communities and agriculture industries and groups to develop new projects and seek new funding opportunities by supporting grant applications and engaged with 11 organisations through current initiatives and/or to develop future collaborations.



Farming Forecaster workshop at Triabunna, June 2022.



## DROUGHT RESILIENCE

### **OBJECTIVE: To support drought-affected farmers with new strategies to improve drought resilience.**

The increasing occurrence of drought in parts of Tasmania including the midlands, Derwent catchment and Tasmania's east coast has significantly reduced seasonal ground cover. Without adaptive measures, these declines will lead to increased soil erosion and soil carbon loss, and a decline in viability of dryland grazing systems. This project is addressing some of these issues by supporting farmers with more responsive planning tools and management strategies to improve dryland pasture management.

NRM South is delivering this drought resilience project through the Future Drought Fund NRM Landscapes grant program, a collaboration between NRM South, NRM North, the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, Agriprove and producer groups affected by drought.

The project is supporting farmers to increase their capacity and responsiveness for managing more resilient pastures in drought-prone areas of Tasmania. The project has two key components, the first is delivering a series of trials in partnership with the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture to test locally innovative methods for renovating pastures, and the second is delivering a pilot on the drought decision-support tool Farming Forecaster to support improved feed budgeting in grazing systems.

### PASTURE RENOVATION TRIALS

In partnership with NRM North and TIA, we established four pasture renovation trials, three sown in spring at Fingal, Cranbrook, Tunbridge and a fourth in autumn as a winter forage crop in Ross. We have shared learnings from these trials through two field days, social media updates and a short video.

Pasture establishment across sites has been variable. The Fingal site was the most successful and demonstrated that direct drill was more effective than strip till cultivation. At Milton, competition from existing species inhibited pasture growth in all treatment plots. Initial observations at Tunbridge indicate that the use of a direct drill and herbicide application was the best approach in establishing pasture. Initial results from Ross suggest that the grass mix has established the best.

### FARMING FORECASTER PILOT

Developed by producer groups and CSIRO in NSW, the Farming Forecaster tool assists with decision-making on feed budgeting, which is a critical for improving drought resilience. Our pilot project has brought this tool to Tasmania. Thirteen sites are now established across Tasmania's east coast, in the Fingal Valley, the midlands and north Bruny. Seven of these sites have soil moisture probes that are generating publicly available real-time data while the other six sites in the midlands, Central Highlands (Echo Lake) and North Bruny are generating data on future pasture production and livestock performance.

Some site hosts have paid to upgrade to a full weather station, adding more publicly available information to the soil moisture, soil temperature and rainfall data being collected.

We delivered five well-attended training workshops on Farming Forecaster and Stockplan (another effective drought-decision support tool) with producers to assist them in interpreting the data and discuss the seasonal trends in pasture production.

### DELIVERY PARTNERS

NRM North, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA)



## WEEDS ACTION FUND

**OBJECTIVE: Supporting landholders, land managers and community organisations to tackle priority weeds across Tasmania.**

The Tasmanian State Government's \$5 million Weeds Action Fund (WAF) is being delivered by NRM North and works in partnership with NRM South and the Cradle Coast Authority.

In the last financial year, WAF finalised the selection of projects for a large grants targeted weeds round launched in March 2021. Around \$835k was allocated in the southern region to six projects tackling weeds such as serrated tussock, Chilean needle grass, karamu and gorse. An additional five projects selected under a second facilitated grants round received \$227,460 in funding to tackle weeds such as African feathergrass, Mediterranean daisy, rice grass and tree erica, and are being delivered primarily by regional council groups.



Weeds cost the Tasmanian economy an estimated \$58M per year, excluding labour costs. (Annual Costs of Weeds in Australia. Invasive Species Solutions, 2018).

### DELIVERY PARTNERS

NRM North, Cradle Coast Authority, Tasmanian State Government



## NEW PROJECTS IN 2021-22

### CARBON + BIODIVERSITY

In 2021-22 NRM South led the rollout of a new pilot program for farmers in southern Tasmania. We worked with farmers looking to improve their land condition, vegetation coverage and establish future carbon income streams. Round 2 of the Australian Government funded Carbon + Biodiversity pilot offered economic incentives to farmers who plant native trees and shrubs on their property.

This round of the pilot built on the success and learnings of Round 1 to further test market arrangements to reward farmers for their biodiversity stewardship in six new regions. The first round showed that there is a real opportunity – farmers are keen to sell, and there are willing buyers.

Under Round 2, up to \$7.4 million in funding was offered to 53 projects in six natural resource management regions across Australia. While this program will deliver future income streams through carbon credits for farmers, it also has the potential for improved landscape outcomes such as vegetation corridors, improved soil and erosion outcomes, shelter and shade for stock, improved habitat with potential pollination benefits and reduced land degradation.

#### DELIVERY PARTNERS

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the Australian National University, Private landholders.

### DROUGHT INNOVATIONS

Through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund Drought Resilience Innovation Grants program, NRM South has begun delivering a state-wide Farming Forecaster project in collaboration with NRM North and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture. The project will support the rollout of Farming Forecaster to all drought-affected regions of Tasmania, further enhance the capability of the tool and develop a number of case studies

and other information to assist farmers in preparing for and managing through drought.

The project will be delivering activities, including establishing a network of soil moisture probe sites, as part of the Farming Forecaster tool roll-out in the coming months.

#### DELIVERY PARTNERS

NRM North, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

### SOIL EXTENSION

In March 2022, NRM South was contracted to deliver a soil extension program as a partnership network between Tasmania's three NRM regions. This project aims to equip land managers with the skills and knowledge to adopt practices that support soil condition and vegetation cover. A focus of this project is landscape health, improving the sustainability, productivity, and profitability of Tasmania's agricultural landscapes.

This project will involve a series of workshops, field trials and field days identifying and demonstrating management strategies that alleviate soil constraints and promote soil health. Regional Soil Extension Officers will serve as a contact point for growers and will work with farmers to participate in the National Soil Monitoring and Incentives Pilot Program, assisting them to interpret soil sampling results and advise them on appropriate actions to take to improve soil chemical, physical and biological health.

#### DELIVERY PARTNERS

Cradle Coast Authority, NRM North





# 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, Swan Galaxias, Red Handfish 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  
CSIRO  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania  
Enviro Arb  
Eco-Works  
Enviro-dynamics  
Inala Nature Tours  
Kingborough Council  
Huon Valley Council  
Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies  
Landcare Tasmania  
NRM North  
pakana Services  
South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Cooperation  
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

#### 2021-22 HIGHLIGHTS

Five Forest on Farms management agreements established and property action plans with private landholders developed

Multiple trials completed, including investigating how to increase Sugar Gliders use of nest boxes (Swift Parrot project) and assessing Felixer traps on Bruny Island to remove feral cats (Eastern Quoll project)

Four landholder agreements covering 12.5 ha formalised to protect conservation plantings of Morrisby's Gum and three Morrisby's Gum plantings established on private property (covering 7.5 ha)

Two conservation covenants established, protecting 47.8 ha of swift parrot foraging habitat, with two additional properties under review

Eighteen Southport Heath plants caged at Southport Bluff to allow for future seed collection, and seeds collected from Morrisby's Gum

Stall at Dover community market distributed 60 Southport Heath plants to the local community

50 stray and feral cats removed from north Bruny Island, contributing to a project total of 101 cats removed

GPS collaring study on feral cats and Eastern Quolls underway (2 cats and 7 quolls collared)

A new Trainee Aboriginal Land Management Officer funded by NRM South and Kingborough Council and employed through SETAC.

New signage installed at the Sealink ferry terminal informing travellers about responsible cat ownership on Bruny Island

Close to \$500k in funding received for two new projects to protect threatened fish



## PROTECTING THE BREEDING POPULATION OF SWIFT PARROTS

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

The critically endangered Swift Parrot is a priority species under the Australian Government’s *2021-2026 Threatened Species Action Plan*. It migrates annually from mainland Australia to breed in Tasmania. A major management challenge for this species is their selection of different nesting sites each year, following the flowering patterns of their main food source – the Tasmanian Blue Gum.

Threats to Swift Parrots include habitat loss and fragmentation, and in-nest predation by the introduced Sugar Glider. Glider predation is the principal cause of breeding failure on mainland Tasmania. 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 by reducing predation pressure from Sugar Gliders. Project activities include field trials of predator control techniques and assessing the impact of localised predator control on nest predation rates. A secondary aim of the project is to secure conservation covenants with private landholders to protect high value Swift Parrot habitat (e.g. critical nesting and foraging habitat).

### REDUCING PREDATION

To effectively control Sugar Gliders, we need to know more about how to trap them. A trial was run to determine the factors that increase the chances of Sugar Gliders using nest boxes. We also examined how long it takes for gliders to begin using nest boxes and explored the effectiveness of 4G cameras as a cost-effective trap monitoring tool. At our sites it took

gliders about three months to become accustomed to and begin using the nest boxes. The cameras, while helpful, were not a reliable remote trap checking tool. As we detected gliders using only 10 of 80 nest boxes, we could not identify trends in nest box characteristic preferences. A key finding of the trial was that short-term control programs that use nest boxes as a trapping method are unlikely to be effective, and the feasibility of long term (6-8 month or ongoing) control programs should be explored.

### PROTECTING BREEDING HABITAT

In the last year, two conservation covenants in the Huon Valley and Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council areas were approved. A further two are awaiting final approval. They will cumulatively cover 198 ha and protect 83 ha of high value foraging habitat on private property. Participating landholders will receive support to improve the condition of this protected habitat.



Swift Parrot nesting habitat now under a conservation covenant, Coles Bay.

### DELIVERY PARTNERS

Australian National University (ANU), Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRET), The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC), Conservation Landholders Tasmania (CLT), pakana Services, Enviro Arb



## THREATENED PLANTS

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. 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 2021-22, four landholder agreements were formalised to ensure the protection of conservation plantings of Morrisby's Gum. The plantings were completed at three of the landholder sites over the 2022 winter, with 2,430 Morrisby's Gum seedlings planted. Additional plantings are scheduled in the second half of 2022.

Enviro-dynamics, with volunteers from Threatened Plants Tasmania and University of Tasmania, monitored the growth and survival of juveniles at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve. Seeds were collected for storage and conservation of the genetic material of this unique species. Collected seed has also been used to grow seedlings for the plantings at the four private landholder sites.

### SOUTHPORT HEATH

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

Southport Heath occurs naturally at only one remote location. There is an insurance population on an island near the wild population (Southport Island), but the species remains under threat from fire, weeds and a changing climate.

Working in partnership with NRET (particularly PWS), the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre, Threatened Plants Tasmania and pakana Services, NRM South are putting in place measures to safeguard mainland and island populations of Southport Heath. Actions include removing 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.

NRM South joined NRET and pakana Services team members on a two-day field trip to Southport Bluff to cage 18 Southport Heath plants from browsing animals. Once the newly protected plants at the bluff have regenerated enough to set seed (hopefully by early 2023), it will be collected. This seed will be stored at the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre for use in future restoration and revegetation activities. Weed control was also carried out to control invasive mirror bush.

As part of a Southport Heath giveaway in April 2022, we distributed 60 plants to the southern Tasmanian local community through a stall at Dover market. We provided instructions on how to grow and care for the plant and this event raised awareness about the works being undertaken by NRM South to protect this endangered plant.



## 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. It is at risk from clearing, habitat altering weeds, grazing pressure and threats associated with poor land management practices.

To date, one conservation covenant covering 113.78 ha has been approved and registered on the landowners' title which will protect 10.96 ha of Black or Brookers gum forest. Three additional covenants comprising a further 34.65 ha of black or Brookers gum forest are being processed by NRET. Through the covenanting of these properties, important flora and fauna will be protected such as *Eucalyptus globulus* Dry Forest, Freshwater Aquatic Sedgeland and Rushland, Swift Parrots, Tasmanian Devils, Eastern Barred Bandicoots, Masked Owls, Eastern Quolls, Grey Goshawks and the Mount Mangana Stag Beetle.

We are continuing to engage private landholders through providing technical advice and raising awareness on the current status of Black or Brookers gum forest. Furthermore, with the launch of our new Forest on Farms incentive program, we have established five Forest on Farms management agreements and property action plans with private landholders. Landholders will receive funding and support to deliver the recommended actions in these plans over the next year.



Southport Heath giveaway at Dover markets.



Weed workshop at a Huon Valley property with Black Gum/Brookers Gum Forest.

### DELIVERY PARTNERS

Enviro-dynamics, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRET), Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), University of Tasmania (UTAS), Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre, Threatened Plants Tasmania, pakana Services, Tasmanian Land Conservancy



## PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR EASTERN QUOLL ON BRUNY ISLAND

**OBJECTIVE: To stabilise or improve the population of Eastern Quolls on Bruny Island, by removing stray and feral cats from north Bruny and the northern end of south Bruny, and by ensuring the community 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 2021-2026 Threatened Species Action Plan. North Bruny Island supports a stable, high-density population of Eastern Quolls. This project aims to conserve quolls by controlling feral and stray cats and promoting responsible domestic cat management. The project is focussed on north Bruny Island where quolls are found in highest densities.

### CAT REMOVAL

Since this project began in 2020, 101 stray and feral cats have been removed from the project area thanks to the efforts of Bruny Farming, Kingborough Council and the Ten Lives Cat Centre. Of those, 50 were captured in the last financial year. Community members have been pivotal in supporting this work, facilitating trapping, property access and reporting cat sightings.

### FERAL CAT RESEARCH

Biosecurity Tasmania successfully ran a trial of Felixer grooming traps on Bruny Island. This trap uses sensors to detect passing cats and, if deployed in 'activated' mode, sprays the cat with a gel, which when groomed off is lethal. Trials were conducted in non-lethal mode to determine if there was any risk to native fauna. The trial confirmed that the traps could be deployed safely as they did not misidentify

any native wildlife as cats. These traps could be a useful new tool in areas where cats are 'trap shy' and avoid standard cage traps. In addition, work began to reassess cat densities across north Bruny, to examine the impact the project has had on the cat population since 2019.

### TRACKING CATS AND QUOLLS

GPS collars have been fitted to feral cats and Eastern Quolls to learn more about their movements. This will provide insights into their habitat use across seasons and home ranges, and how the two species interact. In 2021-22 researchers from Biosecurity Tasmania fitted GPS collars on seven quolls and two feral cats (after resolving various technical issues), adding to data collected from one cat GPS collared in 2020-21. The information from the GPS collars will help to inform the sites to target feral cat control.

### BRUNY CAT BY-LAW

The purpose of the Bruny Island Cat By-law is to enforce responsible domestic cat ownership practices on Bruny island, to reduce domestic cat impacts on wildlife, agriculture and people. Surveys in 2021-22 found 71% of known cat owners were compliant with the By-Law. That has increased from 53% at the start of the project and is a result of intensive community engagement through forums, media, and one-on-one negotiations with community members. A forum with the Bruny Island farming community was run discussing cat impacts on agriculture, and a presentation was also given at the Bruny Bird Festival about cat impacts on Bruny Island's bird populations.

### DELIVERY PARTNERS

Kingborough Council, Biosecurity Tasmania, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), Bruny Farming, Ten Lives Cat Centre, South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Cooperation (SETAC), weetaoona Aboriginal Corporation



## TASMANIAN QUOLL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**OBJECTIVE: Overseeing 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 2021-22, NRM South finalised a draft strategy and action plan for the Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program (TQCP). Working with the TQCP partners, breeding recommendations for spotted-tailed and eastern quolls were made and submitted to NRE Tasmania and the Steering Committee. NRM South continues to work with the Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program to assist with governance, direction-setting, and coordination.

**DELIVERY PARTNERS**

TQCP partners including Devils at Cradle, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania





## 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 Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. 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, powerlines 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.



An adult male (Giolla) that is being GPS-tracked in Mount Wellington National Park as part of a 2020 research project investigating how Wedge-tailed Eagles use reserved areas.

### GRANT FUNDING

**Three projects are currently being (or have been) supported:**

#### Funded in 2020:

Investigating the spatial ecology and habitat use of the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*) using high-frequency GPS telemetry in unmodified landscapes. Elissa Cameron and James Pay (UTas), Todd Katzner (US Geological Society), Amelia Koch and Jason Wiersma (FPA). Completed

#### Funded in 2021:

Estimate the population size of the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*) using modern genetic techniques. James Pay, Chris Burridge and Jakob Butler (UTas), Dejan Stojanovic, Catherine Young and Adam Cistern (ANU), and Judy Clarke (TMAG).

#### Funded in 2021:

Monitoring wedge-tailed eagle population trends. Supporting the analysis of the data obtained in the Where, Where Wedgie study. Clare Hawkins (Bookend Trust) and Joanna Potts (The Analytical Edge).

The third round of grants were advertised in June 2022 and the successful recipients will be announced in 2022/23.





## SUPPORTING ORANGE BELLED PARROT RECOVERY

**OBJECTIVE: Supporting research into the specific biology and habitat requirements of Orange-bellied Parrots to improve their breeding success at Melaleuca.**

Orange-bellied Parrots (OBPs) are a migratory parrot that breed in south-west Tasmania and migrate to southern mainland Australia after breeding. They are at risk of extinction from a range of factors, including their small population size, limited breeding range, migratory behaviours, and habitat degradation in their range. They are listed as one of the 20 priority birds under the Australian Government's 2021-2026 Threatened Species Action Plan.

NRM South are working with project partners on two complementary projects that aim to find out more about the specific biology and habitat requirements of OBPs, develop and implement management strategies to optimise and extend their habitat area, improve infrastructure that supports the existing OBP captive breeding program at Melaleuca and supply additional nesting opportunities within their preferred habitat.



Population analysis has found increasing the number of juveniles into the population each year would have the most beneficial impact on the population.

### PROJECT 1: PRIORITY INVESTIGATIONS TO SUPPORT OBP RECOVERY

In the last financial year, an OBP Population Viability Analysis (a tool that helps forecast future population trends based on different scenarios) was completed. It found increasing the number of juveniles into the population each year would have most benefit. There would also be substantial benefits from reducing juvenile mortality rates.

Two other projects are in progress; 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 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 comprised of four distinct subprojects. Three subprojects are being led by NRET and are in progress:

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 and has been completed. It assessed 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 Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRET), Australian National University (ANU)



## PROTECTING THE FORTY-SPOTTED PARDALOTE



**OBJECTIVE: Improving knowledge about the life history, population size and conservation needs of Forty-spotted Pardalotes to improve their chances of survival.**

Endemic to eastern Tasmania, the endangered Forty-spotted Pardalote survives in small, isolated mainland populations in the island's south-east, as well as on offshore islands including Flinders, Maria and Bruny. It is under threat from the loss of its habitat (principally white gum – a critical feeding resource), its 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 is working 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.
- Conducting 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.

Trials of the feather dispensers have been undertaken and will be completed during the 2022-23 year. The genetics data has been collected and processed and this work is currently being prepared for publication. The surveys on nest box data from islands around Tasmania were collated and data analysis is underway.



A 'feather dispenser' with feathers treated using a bird-safe insecticide.



Blood sampling forty spotted pardalotes.

### DELIVERY PARTNERS

Australian National University (ANU)



## NEW PROJECTS 2021-22

### SWAN GALAXIAS

Swan Galaxias are listed as endangered under the *EPBC Act* and the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* and they are one of the Australian Government's priority species under its Threatened Species Action Plan 2021-2026. Researchers have identified Swan Galaxias as one of Australia's most threatened freshwater fish at imminent risk of extinction within the next 20 years.

NRM South received an Environment Restoration Fund grant for a project to support the recovery of the species. The project is applying new techniques and technologies to habitat modelling to identify priority sites and inform site selection for on-ground restoration works. It will develop eDNA markers for population sampling to identify the presence of the species at unknown sites and will be used as a tool in routine river health monitoring by partner organisations. Translocations to priority sites will be undertaken to create refugia for the species under the expected impacts of climate change. The project addresses the key threats to the species and builds resilience in population in anticipation of the impacts of climate change. The project is underway and will be completed in March 2023.

#### DELIVERY PARTNERS

State government (Inland Fisheries Service), CSIRO, University of Tasmania, NRM North

### RED HANDFISH

Red Handfish, only found at select sites in southeast Tasmania, are one of the world's most vulnerable marine fish species. Relying on modified hand-shaped fins to move short distances across the seabed, they can only live in areas that meet very specific conditions – which makes them vulnerable to extinction. Red Handfish are listed as critically endangered under the *EPBC Act* and the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* and are one of the Australian Government's priority species under its Threatened Species Action Plan 2021-2026.

Historical and current ecological data confirm that these fishes have specialised habitat requirements, patchy distributions, and poor dispersal capabilities. The main threats to Red Handfish are habitat loss through ecosystem imbalance and potential environmental pollutants, and local environmental effects such as changing water temperatures.

In 2022, NRM South received an Environment Restoration Fund grant for a project to support improvements in the conservation trajectory of the species through targeted approaches to remediate habitat.

This project will build on previous work and will consist of a combination of interconnected and targeted activities. It will measure habitat cover and threats and undertake habitat remediation through translocation of kelp-covered boulders while simultaneously reducing the threat of urchins to habitat cover. It is novel in its multi-faceted approach to restoring habitat. The outcomes from these approaches will be used to inform future habitat management actions.

#### DELIVERY PARTNERS

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania



# WATER PROGRAM

## OVERVIEW

Our Water Program seeks to maintain and enhance waterway health across wetland, freshwater, estuarine, coastal and marine ecosystems. We work with land, water and marine managers, land owners, 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 ECOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF WETLANDS



### RESTORING IMPORTANT MARINE HABITATS



### FOSTERING COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY NETWORKS AND DELIVERING EDUCATION

#### WHO WE WORK WITH

BirdLife Tasmania  
Blue Carbon Services  
CSIRO  
Derwent Estuary Program  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania  
Huron Aquaculture  
Huron Valley Council  
Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies  
Kingborough Council  
Nature Glenelg Trust  
Marine and Safety Tasmania  
OceanWatch Australia  
Oysters Tasmania  
OzFish Unlimited  
Seafood Maritime Training  
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre  
Tasmanian Commercial Dive Association  
Tasmanian Land Conservancy  
Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife  
Tasmanian Salmon Growers Association  
Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council member base  
Tasmanian Oyster Co.  
Tassal  
TasWater  
The Nature Conservancy  
University of Tasmania  
Woodbridge School Marine Discovery Centre

#### 2021-22 HIGHLIGHTS

Significant expansion of the Water Program, securing additional investment and growing the program from a \$3.2M to \$6.26M portfolio.

Landscape-scale restoration of Moulting Lagoon and Apsley Marshes, including 596 ha weed control, 430 ha saltmarsh protected, 34 ha hydrological restoration activities, and 9 ha revegetation completed.

Five landholders committed to 10-year management agreements at Moulting Lagoon – Apsley Marshes.

Baseline monitoring work completed at Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon to monitor changes to the site as landscape-scale restoration works progress.

Seafood-industry endorsed education resource package published on NRM South, Tasmanian Seafood Industry and Department of Education websites.

Teachers participated in a Seafood Industry Teacher Capacity Building event in April 2022. The TSSP Teacher Community of Practice includes approximately 60 teachers statewide.

The TSSP led a successful 6-week digital awareness campaign about seafood industry marine stewardship.

Secured a \$793k Australian Government Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration grant to demonstrate benefits of blue carbon ecosystem restoration, with additional investment into an Environmental Economic Accountant to collaborate in the project.

Foundational work completed to restore native oyster reef – including substrate and site selection, and trial of innovative wild-spat collection techniques

11 out of 12 environmentally friendly moorings installed at North West Bay to improve seagrass habitat and baseline data collected.



## RAMSAR WETLANDS

### ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF MOULTING LAGOON AND APSLEY MARSHES

**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.

#### ON-GROUND ACTION

Initial weed control across 249 ha, and follow up weed control across 257 ha, was undertaken on areas of land fringing Moulting Lagoon - as well as 90 ha within the Apsley Marshes. Fencing was installed along 5.67 km to protect 430 ha of saltmarsh and wetland from stock and vehicle access.

Three earthwork treatments were completed, which will restore natural drainage to approximately 34 ha of existing and potential saltmarsh, and work was carried out to harden a 1km access track at Breakfast Point to reduce erosion of saltmarsh margins. Revegetation of 9 ha of fringing habitat adjacent to Moulting Lagoon was also completed.

### IMPROVING ON-COUNTRY CONNECTION

TAC representatives, with support from TLC, set up over 46 remote wildlife monitoring cameras across two properties on the edge of Moulting Lagoon. These surveys are investigating the location, diversity, and movements of native and invasive animal species.

In May and June 2022, TAC supported 24 members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to attend cultural fire workshops at lungtalanana. The workshops are important in the revitalisation of cultural fire practice. The workshops aim to bring together different types of knowledge around landscape biodiversity and culture that inform the way in which the community cares for country.

### COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

In partnership with NGT, who are coordinating our hydrological restoration works at the site, an online workshop was delivered to over 30 attendees to outline the approach to wetland and landscape restoration.

A wetland restoration field day was held on two private properties adjacent to the site, hosted by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and attended by 18 people. The field day showcased the first phase of the hydrological restoration works and shared the learnings.

Five project landholders have committed to 10-year management agreements to preserve the project works through maintenance of fencing, stock exclusion and revegetation works and undertaking follow-up weed control.

#### DELIVERY PARTNERS

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



## SALTMARSH RESTORATION IN PITT WATER- ORIELTON LAGOON

**OBJECTIVE: To restore saltmarsh habitat in Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon with works designed to improve natural flows and provide protection to modified saltmarsh habitat.**

At Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon, historically significant saltmarsh adjacent to the site has become degraded over many 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.

The project is addressing threats to saltmarsh communities from stock trampling and browsing, modified hydrological flows, the lack of buffering vegetation, resource use and extraction of fish stocks. A levee restricting natural tidal flows will be removed, and fencing installed to protect the site from livestock trampling and nutrient inputs. Weeding will also be undertaken, and revegetation of woody plants and grasses conducted to provide a buffer between the saltmarsh microclimate and nearby agricultural activities.

Restoration activities are expected to occur during 2022-23.



Fish monitoring at Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon.

## BASELINE DATA COLLECTION

Recording the current condition of the site before the restoration works will help us to evaluate the impact of project activities in restoring this saltmarsh habitat by comparing the baseline data with follow-up surveys after on-ground activities occur. Water level loggers have been installed across the site, tracking the reach and depth over tidal cycles.

Baseline flora monitoring has been completed, collecting information on vegetation cover, composition, height, and other factors. Preliminary fauna surveys have determined the presence and abundance of different species. The data is being collected inside and outside of the levee which will be removed, giving an indication of the relative biodiversity of the 'healthy' (outside the levee, in the Coal River system) and 'unhealthy', stranded saltmarsh (inside the levee, with restricted tidal flow).

## COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A key output of this project is engaging and involving the local recreational fishing community in on-ground works and monitoring activities to build the capacity of recreational fishers to participate in fish habitat stewardship. Three community events were held over the last year, including site tours and an opportunity for attendees to participate in vegetation and bird surveys.

### DELIVERY PARTNERS

University of Tasmania (UTAS), OzFish Unlimited, private landowner



## TASMANIAN SMART SEAFOOD PARTNERSHIP

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

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.

### SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Collaborating with NRET, the Tasmanian Oyster Co. and BirdLife Tasmania, we created a LISTmap layer that informs coastal planning activities to limit disturbance to six species of nesting shorebird. Training to use the layer is being rolled out to shellfish farmers, and the resource is also publicly available for community event planning such as beach clean-ups.

We also supported the Tasmanian Commercial Dive Association to produce a video of take-all harvests of the range-shift Long-spined Sea Urchin, *Centrostephanus rodgersii*. The video demonstrates how the industry is addressing ecosystem changes and is educating the industry about the efficiency and value of the commercial dive sector.

### INFORMATION RESOURCES

Early in 2022, the Partnership led a social media campaign about industry initiatives to improve sustainability and restore some of Tasmania's marine habitats. The campaign focussed on water quality monitoring for shellfish farming, Giant Kelp restoration and Long-spined Sea Urchin harvest. The campaign received a high level of engagement within a target audience of seafood consumers.

The Partnership published a schools' education resource kit about Tasmania's seafood industry and the important links between environment, harvest and management. This is available online through the NRM South, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council and Woodbridge Marine Discovery Centre websites. The Partnership also delivered the second annual Seafood Industry Teachers Capacity Building event and has grown its teacher Community of Practice to approximately 60 teachers state-wide.

### MARINE BIODIVERSITY OUTCOMES

The TSSP partnered with the Sustainable Marine Resources Collaboration Agreement at IMAS to support eight projects where research aligns with the Tasmanian seafood industry to improve outcomes for marine biodiversity in Tasmanian marine and coastal waters.

### DELIVERY PARTNERS

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRET), 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)

### COLLABORATORS

Tasmanian Oyster Company, Tasmanian Commercial Dive Association





## SEAGRASS RESTORATION IN NORTH WEST BAY

### **OBJECTIVE: Supporting the installation of Environmentally Friendly Moorings in North West Bay to promote the recovery of seagrass communities.**

Traditional chain 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 preventing the damage caused by traditional chain mooring systems allows those ecosystems to recover.

North West Bay is a popular and important recreational fishing area and this project is engaging recreational fishers to adopt and advocate for a transition to Environmentally Friendly Moorings (EFMs) and participate in State-based planning. It will build the capacity of recreational fishers to educate their community about the value of seagrass habitat. Recreational fishers will measure the impact of transition to EFMs by participating in monitoring activities, including gathering underwater footage for fauna surveys and seagrass extent, for use by scientists.

This pilot study will contribute data on the recovery timeframe of seagrass. While there is limited data on seagrass recovery in mooring scars, overseas research suggests signs of recovery may be evident within 18 months. A total of 1.2 ha of marine habitat will be directly restored through this project

### MOORING INSTALLATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Twelve mooring leaseholders in North West Bay and surrounds volunteered to swap their chain moorings over to CSIRO-engineered EFMs. Each mooring site was evaluated for its suitability based on factors including depth, vessel size and location relative to neighbouring moorings. The majority of the EFMs were installed in late June-early July 2022.

CSIRO collected baseline flora and fauna data prior to EFM installation. Photo-quadrats, in-fauna sediment coring and a newly developed Underwater Visual Census are being used to assess mooring scar impacts and seagrass recovery.

A skills and knowledge survey was distributed to a randomly-selected portion of mooring lease holders in Tasmania to determine existing understanding of and sentiment towards chain mooring impacts and EFMs. A follow-up survey will be conducted at the end of the project.

### COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The local recreational fishing community have been engaged throughout the project with six events held over the last year, including: two educational workshops, a field day to the Marine Discovery Centre in Woodbridge, and three on-water trips where volunteers assisted with baseline data collection. The purpose of these events was to increase community understanding of seagrass as fish habitat, the impacts of chain moorings, EFM technology, and environmental monitoring methodologies.

Marine and Safety Tasmania has supported this project by contacting mooring lease holders and inviting them to volunteer in the project, as well as reviewing and approving the proposed EFM installations.

CSIRO is also collaborating with Transport for New South Wales on a sister project to develop engineering standards for EFMs and encourage broadscale uptake of the mooring technology.

### DELIVERY PARTNERS

CSIRO, OzFish Unlimited, Kingborough Council, mooring leaseholders



## CARBON STORAGE USING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY MOORINGS



Core samples taken by diver.



Carrying out maintenance on Environmentally Friendly Moorings.

**OBJECTIVE: Building on the legacy of the D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration and our fish habitat restoration project to increase understanding of the diverse benefits of restoring seagrass habitat and its contribution to carbon sequestration in sediments**

Many shallow coastal ecosystems affected by chain moorings, such as seagrass, sequester large amounts of carbon per unit area – up to 40 times more than forests. When first deployed, chain moorings release a plume of organic carbon into the water column, making it susceptible to mineralisation, conversion to CO<sub>2</sub> by organisms, and subsequent emission into the atmosphere. As the mooring chains continue to swing around the block on the seafloor, they inhibit both plant growth, such as seagrass, and most other benthos biomass growth. This undermines any sediment stabilisation, which is an important requirement for natural carbon capture and sequestration. This project contributes to a large-scale longitudinal study on the carbon sequestration and fisheries/biodiversity conservation potential of Environmentally Friendly Moorings (EFMs). The main outcome of the work will be the provision of generalised advice on EFMs for carbon offsetting.

Over the last year, baseline sampling has been undertaken and is almost complete. The team at CSIRO has designed a core for effective scuba sampling and a sampling regime to help account for variability across a site. Laboratory studies of collected samples will determine the amount and origins of accumulated carbon in core samples.

### COLLABORATORS

D'Entrecasteaux Huon Collaboration partners (Huon Valley Council, Kingborough Council, Derwent Estuary Program, TasWater, NRM South, Huon Aquaculture, Tassal) and CSIRO



## REEF BUILDER – RESTORING NATIVE FLAT OYSTER REEFS



**OBJECTIVE: To restore native flat oyster reefs in the Derwent Estuary and D’Entrecasteaux Channel, where this type of habitat was previously extensive.**

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. The environmental benefits of restoring native flat oyster reef habitat include improved water quality, increased fish productivity and providing habitat for marine animals.

A Restoration Suitability Model was developed to inform site selection in southeast Tasmania, complemented by underwater natural values surveys. Two restoration sites have now been identified in the Derwent Estuary and D’Entrecasteaux Channel. Work with regulators has commenced and submissions to approve their restoration are underway. Contractors to assist NRM South with construction activities have been identified through a tender process.

We have been engaging with stakeholders to provide information about how the project is developing and created communication materials and activities to educate local communities about native oyster reef restoration.



Collecting scallop shells which will be used as part of building a new artificial oyster reef.



Collecting wild oyster spat (larval oyster)

**DELIVERY PARTNERS**  
The Nature Conservancy



## NEW PROJECTS IN 2021-22

### BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

The Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon Ramsar site hosts blue carbon ecosystems that maintain biodiversity and climate, offer coastal protection, and support livelihoods in the surrounding agricultural district. The area is also culturally important for Tasmanian Aboriginal people. Within the site, temperate coastal saltmarsh communities control nutrient and sediment cycling. However, decades of modification have seen saltmarsh stranded for activities such as stock grazing and development. NRM South aims to restore blue carbon ecosystems within the broader lagoon complex.

This project leverages existing restoration work that we are undertaking at the site. The project was selected under the Australian Government’s Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration grant program as a national demonstration site. It is one of the largest coastal saltmarsh restoration projects in Australia and will restore tidal flows to more than 50 hectares through the removal of a levee. NRM South will work with project partners and landholders to measure the impact restoration on saltmarsh, adjacent seagrass meadows and supratidal fringing vegetation to demonstrate change in soil, sediment, and vegetation carbon, and inform knowledge of critical environmental services including coastal protection and climate mitigation.



Coastal and marine ecosystems such as the saltmarsh at Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon can be up to five times better at storing carbon than rainforests.

**DELIVERY PARTNERS**  
University of Tasmania (UTAS), Blue Carbon Services, private landowner



# CORPORATE PROGRAM



## OVERVIEW

Through our Corporate Program, NRM South manages our operations with a strong focus on best-practice management principles, continuous improvement, and capacity building for improved agility and resilience to respond proactively to challenges and opportunities, and to deliver strategic NRM outcomes for Southern Tasmania.

## KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY



### SAFETY & WELLBEING



### FINANCIAL STABILITY



### AGILITY & RESILIENCE



### ENGAGEMENT

#### SAFETY & WELLBEING

- Established internal Safety and Wellbeing Working Group to identify and implement organisational initiatives.
- Improvements to incident and hazard reporting, tracking, response and future mitigations.
- Staff WHS training, internal audits, safety compliance, and process and operational improvements including vehicle upgrades.
- Strong safety record with no notifiable incidents during 2021/22.
- Increased investment in staff Wellbeing Activity Program, and social committee activities complementing our existing Employee Assistance Program.
- Sustained commitment to pandemic management, adherence with government direction and best practices.

#### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Finalisation of the 2030 NRM Regional Strategy for Tasmania's southern region.
- Seven new projects commenced, and 100% success rate in competitive grant applications.
- Australian Government's preferred provider for project services in Southern Tasmania through the Regional Landcare Partnerships (RLP) program.
- Close working relationship with State Government, delivering policy advice and several key projects in partnership across Departments.
- Successful conversion of multiple pilot and phased projects into fully-fledged or expanded projects with clear on-ground impact.
- Discussions underway with government, industry, GBEs and stakeholder groups to develop and fund strategic priorities.

#### AGILITY & RESILIENCE

- Budget approval for website upgrades in 2022/23 that will deliver a fresh, contemporary experience, improved management, functionality and services, as well as increased security.
- Tender and consultation commenced for finance and project management system upgrades to scale with organisational growth, this will deliver improved efficiency, functionality and management reporting.
- Launched new governance instrument framework to embed values-based policies and simplified organisational procedures and guidelines.
- Commenced server migration to cloud-based services for improved efficiency, flexibility, security, and collaboration.

#### ENGAGEMENT

- 33% increase in communications resourcing to support effective project communications.
- Regional Strategy development workshops with over 40 technical experts across the state.
- Strategy feedback, engagement discussions and workshops with all three levels of government, as well as contribution to government committees, working groups and advisory panels.
- Extensive engagement with various industry, Aboriginal, GBE, community and NGO stakeholders.
- Field days, community forums, events, presentations, and training sessions all integrated outputs as part of our standard project design.
- Over 350 online and social media outputs, and a combined online audience (including our newsletter mailing list) of over 4,800.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Andrew Scanlon – Chair  
Dr. Claire Ellis – Deputy Chair  
Dr. Peter Tucker  
Dr. Phillipa McCormack  
Rick Perrin  
Dr. Peter Volker  
Dr. Anh Nguyen (new appointment)  
Anita Dahlenburg (new appointment)

### DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS 2021-22

Michael Bidwell – Deputy Chair

## STAFF

### CORPORATE TEAM

Nepelle Crane – CEO  
Tracey Weily – Finance Manager  
Todd Nation – Business Development and Operations Manager  
Amelia Jensen – Administration Officer\*  
Nathalie Laurence – Communications Officer

### LAND TEAM

James Stronach – Program Manager\*  
Tim Ackroyd – Senior Project Officer  
Yolanda Hanusch – Project Officer\*  
Lillian Hearn – Project Officer\*

### BIODIVERSITY TEAM

Dr Cindy Hull – Program Manager  
Maudie Brown – Senior Project Officer  
Dr Rosie Hohnen – Senior Project Officer  
Sophie Golding – Senior Project Officer\*  
Cassie Strain – Senior Project Officer\*

### WATER TEAM

Jennifer Hemer – Program Manager  
Grace Isdale – Senior Project Officer  
Laurel McGinnity – Senior Project Officer  
Paul Armstrong – Senior Project Officer  
Zak Wheaton – Project Officer\*

*\*new appointments*

### DEPARTING STAFF 2020-21

Aimee Langford – Administration Officer

## SUB-COMMITTEES

### FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Members: Peter Tucker (Chair), Madeline Owens (independent member), Andrew Scanlon, Anita Dahlenburg

### CEO PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Members: Andrew Scanlon, Claire Ellis

### BOARD SELECTION PANEL

Members: Ursula Taylor, Anita Howard, Lyndley Chopping, Frances Healy

## MEMBERS

NRM South membership is open to organisations and individuals with an interest in NRM in Southern Tasmania. The member's association is an incorporated body and 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 of NRM South. The association meets formally each year for the AGM to ratify the Annual Report and Auditor's Report.

**We wish to thank the organisational and individual members for their support and contributions over the last year. Our organisational members as at 30 June 2022 are:**

Birdlife Tasmania  
City of Hobart  
Clarence City Council  
Conservation Landholders Tasmania  
Conservation Volunteers Australia  
DairyTas  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRET)  
Derwent Catchment Project/Enviro-dynamics  
Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House  
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council  
Greening Australia  
Hobart Airport  
Huon Valley Council  
Hydro Tasmania  
K+D Family Farm  
Kingborough Council  
pakana Services  
Petrichor Wines  
Private Forests Tasmania  
Sorell Council  
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  
ZooDoo Zoo

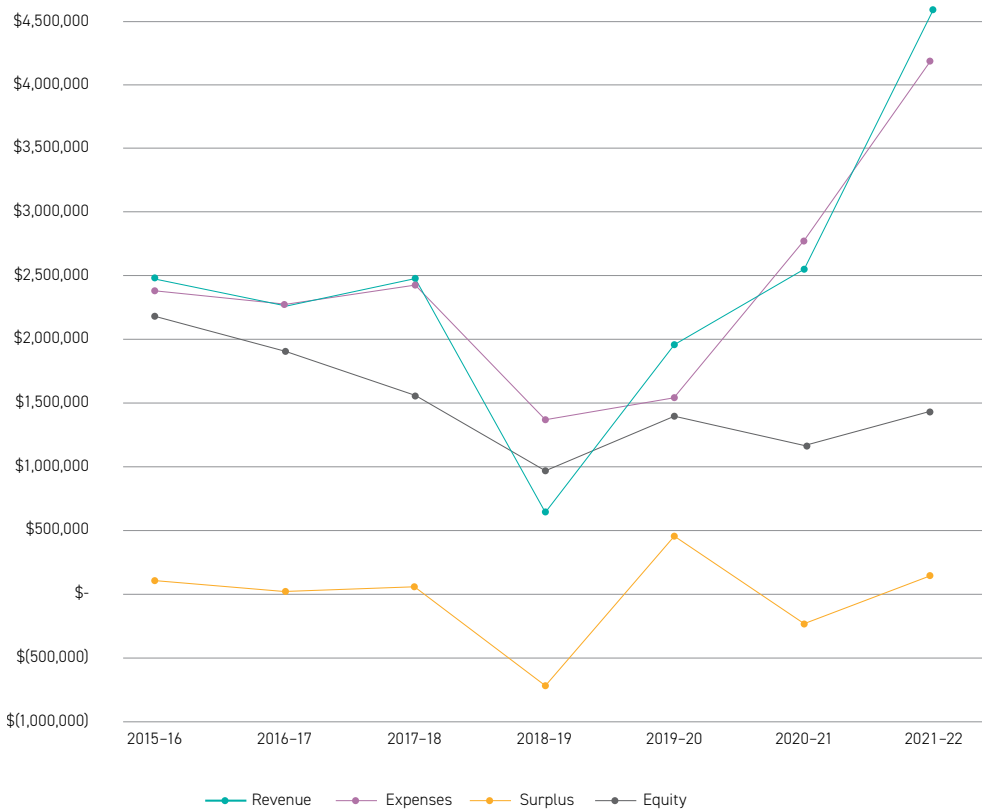
## FINANCIAL DASHBOARD FOR 2021-22



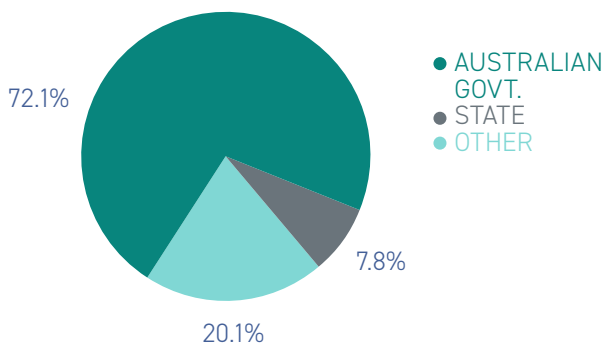
Revenue has continued to grow, with a 76% increase in funding from 2020/21. NRM South has maintained a lean administrative model, continuing to work with minimal overheads this financial year. The 2021/22 financial year resulted in a surplus of approximately

\$260k, which 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](http://www.nrmsouth.org.au)



### REVENUE 2021-22



\* 2021-22 RELATIVE TO 2020-21





## PROGRAM FUNDING SOURCES

### AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

#### REGIONAL LAND PARTNERSHIPS

- Protecting the Breeding Population of Swift Parrots
- Threatened Plants
- Ramsar Wetlands
- Derwent Pasture Information Network
- Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator
- Soil Extension Program
- Supporting Orange Bellied Parrot Recovery

#### SMART FARMS PARTNERSHIPS

- Tasmanian Smart Seafood Partnership

#### ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION FUND

- Priority Actions for Eastern Quoll on Bruny Island
- Protecting the Forty Spotted Pardalote
- Red Handfish
- Swan Galaxias

#### FISH HABITAT PROGRAM

- Saltmarsh Restoration in Pitt Water-Oreilton Lagoon
- Seagrass Restoration in North West Bay

#### FUTURE DROUGHT FUND

- Future Drought Fund NRM Landscapes
- Innovation Grant – Farming Forecaster
- Soils Coordinator

#### BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION GRANTS

- Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration

#### AGRICULTURE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot

### STATE GOVERNMENT

- Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund (co-funded)
- Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program
- Weed Action Fund

### INDUSTRY

- Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund (co-funded)

### THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

- Reef Builder

### PARTNERS

- D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration/Carbon Storage



## IMAGE CREDITS

Nathalie Laurence	Cover, P37
Alvin Lam	Inner front page
Nepelle Crane	P8
Charles Grech	P15
Matt Pauza	P17
Stuart Smith	P17
Fraser Johnston	P20
JJ Harrison	P6, 23, 25
John Tongue	P24
James Pay	P24
Dejan Stojanovic	P25
Fernanda Alves	P26
Georgie Butorac	P27, 37, 41
John Turnbull	P34, 36
Eric Woehler	P40

[www.nrmsouth.org.au](http://www.nrmsouth.org.au)

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Regional NRM delivery for 2021-22 was jointly funded by NRM South, the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the Tasmanian State Government.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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# COMMITTEE'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

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Your Committee Members submit the financial report of the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

## 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 \$260,478 (2021: \$ (230,372)).

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

Committee Member: .....  .....

Committee Member: .....  .....

Dated this ..... 24 ..... day of ..... AUGUST ..... 2022.

## COMMITTEE DECLARATION

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

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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 ..... 24 ..... day of ..... AUGUST ..... 2022.



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

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	NOTES	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Smart Seafood		218,467	154,158
Australian Government Funding		3,251,763	1,939,001
Other funding		527,626	37,227
Other income		155,878	60,909
State Government Funding		355,473	360,473
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>4,509,207</b>	<b>2,551,768</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Committee costs		14,171	9,570
Consultants fees		40,583	31,645
Depreciation		104,830	76,428
Employment costs		367,461	252,057
Financial expenses		22,291	19,519
Meeting expenses		1,698	2,183
Motor vehicle expenses		4,911	3,977
Occupancy costs		27,699	14,338
Office running costs		97,738	98,488
Other costs		1,054	253
Project expenses		3,553,391	2,269,131
Training/conference/travel costs		12,902	4,551
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>4,248,729</b>	<b>2,782,140</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>260,478</b>	<b>(230,372)</b>
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>260,478</b>	<b>(230,372)</b>

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 2022

	NOTES	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	3,488,422	1,361,008
Trade and other receivables	3	1,320,364	1,566,130
Other assets		38,361	30,951
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>4,847,147</b>	<b>2,958,089</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4	114,552	64,219
Right-of-use assets	6	405,849	209,451
Intangible assets	5	-	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>520,401</b>	<b>273,670</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>5,367,548</b>	<b>3,231,759</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	1,306,783	671,933
Employee benefits	8	66,190	37,036
Deferred income		2,126,998	1,120,402
Lease liability		87,392	62,930
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>3,587,363</b>	<b>1,892,301</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee benefits	8	14,413	20,864
Lease liability		339,492	152,792
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>353,905</b>	<b>173,656</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>3,941,268</b>	<b>2,065,957</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,426,280</b>	<b>1,165,802</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Committed projects reserve		52,087	72,087
Accumulated surpluses		1,374,193	1,093,715
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>1,426,280</b>	<b>1,165,802</b>

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 2022

	<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUSES</b>	<b>COMMITTED PROJECTS RESERVE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>2022</b>			
<b>Balance at 1 July 2021</b>	<b>1,093,715</b>	<b>72,087</b>	<b>1,165,802</b>
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	260,478	-	260,478
Transfer to/(from) reserves	20,000	(20,000)	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>1,374,193</b>	<b>52,087</b>	<b>1,426,280</b>
<b>2021</b>			
<b>Balance at 1 July 2010</b>	<b>974,583</b>	<b>421,591</b>	<b>1,396,174</b>
Net surplus for the year	(230,372)	-	(230,372)
Transfers to/(from) reserves during the year	349,504	(349,504)	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>1,093,715</b>	<b>72,087</b>	<b>1,165,802</b>

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 2022

	NOTES	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Receipts from grants/partners		6,281,341	2,920,988
Interest received		2,061	2,179
Payments to suppliers & employees		(4,000,294)	(2,627,811)
Net cash provided by operating activities	12	2,283,108	295,356
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(71,634)	(9,840)
Net cash used by investing activities		(71,634)	(9,840)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Repayment of lease liability		(84,060)	(62,930)
Net cash used by financing activities		(84,060)	(62,930)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		2,127,414	222,586
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,361,008	1,138,422
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	2	3,488,422	1,361,008

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

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

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### 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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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 Not-for-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	10–50%
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	10–40%
Motor vehicles	20–40%
Project related assets	20–40%
Office equipment	10–100%

## (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) Adoption of New and Revised Accounting Standards**

The Association has adopted all standards which became effective for the first time at 30 June 2022, the adoption of these standards has not caused any material adjustments to the reported financial position, performance or cash flow of the Association.

## **(n) New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods**

The AASB has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods. The committee members have decided against early adoption of these Standards, but does not expect the adoption of these standards to have any impact on the reported position or performance of the Association.

## **(o) 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).

## (p) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

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

### *Key Judgement - Revenue Recognition*

For many of the grant agreements received, the determination of whether the contract includes sufficiently specific performance obligations was a 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

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash on hand	351	137
Cash at bank	2,712,195	586,621
Short-term bank deposits	775,876	774,250
	<b>3,488,422</b>	<b>1,361,008</b>

## 3 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Trade receivables	1,320,364	1,566,130
Less: Provision for impairment	-	-
	<b>1,320,364</b>	<b>1,566,130</b>



#### 4 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Plant and equipment		
At cost	–	9,344
Accumulated depreciation	–	(9,286)
<b>Total Plant and equipment</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Furniture, fixture and fittings</b>		
At cost	59,869	39,504
Accumulated depreciation	(21,522)	(36,230)
<b>Total furniture, fixture and fittings</b>	<b>38,347</b>	<b>3,274</b>
<b>Motor vehicles</b>		
At cost	61,758	60,197
Accumulated depreciation	(21,382)	(13,750)
<b>Total motor vehicles</b>	<b>40,376</b>	<b>46,447</b>
<b>Office equipment</b>		
At cost	87,276	106,629
Accumulated depreciation	(51,447)	(92,278)
<b>Total office equipment</b>	<b>35,829</b>	<b>14,351</b>
<b>Project related assets</b>		
At cost	–	4,023
Accumulated depreciation	–	(3,934)
Total project related assets	–	89
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>114,552</b>	<b>64,219</b>

#### 5 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Website</b>		
At cost	50,490	50,490
Accumulated amortisation	(50,490)	(50,490)
	–	–

## 6 RIGHT-OF-USE ASSET

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Property lease		
At cost	468,287	292,257
Accumulated amortisation	(62,438)	(82,806)
	<b>405,849</b>	<b>209,451</b>

## 7 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Trade payables	803,862	357,445
GST payable	279,988	229,828
Accrued expense	222,933	83,028
Other payables	-	1,632
	<b>1,306,783</b>	<b>671,933</b>

## 8 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current</b>		
Long service leave	14,330	-
Provision for annual leave	51,860	37,036
	<b>66,190</b>	<b>37,036</b>
<b>Non-current</b>		
Long service leave	14,413	20,864
	<b>14,413</b>	<b>20,864</b>

## 9 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There are no capital commitments for the year Ended 30 June 2022 (2021: Nil).

## 10 AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Remuneration of the auditor of the Association		
- auditing the financial statements, including assistance with the compilation of the financial statements	6,200	5,750

## 11 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

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

There are no other contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at reporting date to be disclosed (2021: Nil).

## 12 CASH FLOW INFORMATION

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

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

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	260,478	(230,372)
<b>Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities</b>		
- depreciation and amortisation	104,830	76,428
- lease interest	15,296	11,780
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities:</b>		
- (increase)/decrease in other assets	245,766	(1,101,903)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(7,410)	(5,764)
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	634,850	403,104
- increase/(decrease) in deferred income	22,702	21,681
- increase/(decrease) in unexpended funds	1,006,596	1,120,402
<b>Cashflows from operations</b>	<b>2,283,108</b>	<b>295,356</b>

## 13 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

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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

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The registered office of the Association is:

Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated (Trading as NRM South)  
Level 1, 89 Brisbane 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 2022 there have been

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

*Crowe Audit Australia*

**Crowe Audit Australia**



Alison Flakemore  
**Senior Partner**

Dated this ...23... day of...August...2022.  
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)

### 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 2022, 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, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2022, and its financial performance for the year ended in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 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 Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (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 2022, 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...25...day of ...August...2022.  
Hobart, Tasmania.

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