





**NRM SOUTH** 

# Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

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

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

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

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# Chair's Report

NRM South has continued its commitment to protecting and enhancing the natural assets of southern Tasmania over the past year. We have made significant strides in forging partnerships and fostering community engagement. Our collaborative efforts with industry, government, Aboriginal partners, community groups and private landholders have been pivotal in achieving positive outcomes for the environment.

This past financial year has seen the completion of many successful projects. The completion of the Regional Land Partnerships projects has been a great achievement for the team. NRM South will now be focusing on planning and design. We will be introducing a new suite of exciting projects.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our dedicated CEO, Nepelle Crane. Nepelle's leadership and expertise have been instrumental in guiding NRM South towards its goals. I would also like to express my gratitude to the wonderful team at NRM South. Their enthusiasm and hard work have been the driving force behind our achievements.

Thank you to our capable Board members, including Deputy Chair, Dr Claire Ellis, Dr Phillipa McCormack, Dr Peter Volker, Dr Anh Nguyen and Anita Dahlenburg. During the year we welcomed four new Board members – Dr Ingrid van Putten, Tahnee McShane, Bob Rutherford and Chris Cosgrove. Our Board members have made a significant contribution to the success of the organisation.

A special thank you to Rick Perrin, who stepped down from the Board this year, for his significant and positive contributions to the organisation. Thank you to Anita Dahlenburg for her role as Chair of the Finance and Risk Management Committee, and Claire Ellis for her role as Chair of the Governance Committee. I would also like to thank our independent Board Selection Panel, consisting of Ursula Taylor, Lyndley Chopping, Anita Howard and Frances Healy.



As I step down from my role as Chair and look back at my eight years with the organisation, I am very proud to have worked with such great people and been able to support the delivery of positive outcomes for Tasmania's environment. There have been challenges and difficulties but we worked through those and are now in a strong position for growth and even greater success. NRM South will adapt to new challenges and continue to make a positive impact on the environment and communities we serve. I wish everyone, our new Chair, the rest of the Board, Nepelle and all the staff, the very best for the future. Thank you for the privilege of serving as Chair of NRM South.

**Andrew Scanlon**Chair – NRM South

# CEO's Report

This year's Annual Report serves as a testament to the transformative journey we've undertaken at NRM South. It stands as a reflection of our accomplishments, while also outlining the path ahead as we continue to enhance natural resource management in southern Tasmania. The achievements from the past year highlight the value of collaboration, innovation, sustainability, and the preservation of natural and cultural values.

Throughout this year, our focus has remained on our commitment to fostering healthy landscapes, seascapes, and livelihoods. We have continued to work hard to achieve purposeful growth in NRM investment, which has translated into real progress on the ground.

### **Stronger Together**

All our achievements are made possible due to the unwavering support of our team, our partners, and the community. This approach is a testament to our collective determination and collaborative spirit, which allows us to magnify our impact beyond what we could ever achieve alone. This collaboration allows us to work towards safeguarding Tasmania's natural treasures. We established partnerships, secured investments, and shared knowledge to devise and deliver solutions for the challenges facing Tasmania's water, biodiversity, and land.

### Real Impact on the Ground

NRM South's efforts are focused on delivering collaborative solutions that benefit Tasmania's environment, economy, and its people. This year, our endeavours included partnering with Aboriginal groups, industries, research organisations, specialists, governments, and community to advance sustainability, resource management, and environmental outcomes. The launch of the new 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania served as a guiding beacon for our efforts.



On the ground, we implemented 22 major projects, actions for 11 at-risk species, two listed vegetation communities, and three critical ecosystems, and we contributed to sustainability and environmental outcomes with the agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, and energy sectors.

### **Trusted Service Provider**

This year, we continued our role as the preferred delivery partner for natural resource management actions in southern Tasmania, as endorsed by the Australian Government. We exceeded all State Government KPIs and garnered increased State Government support for NRM through to 2025. As a hub for a network of stakeholders, we embarked on opportunities aligned with our new strategy, seeking diverse perspectives to inform our response to the NRM needs of southern Tasmania.

We are poised to embark on a new suite of projects in 2023-24. These will be guided by our strategy, guiding principles and vision. Our aim is to continue harnessing the collaborative power of all interests within southern Tasmania, and fostering outcomes that align with our shared values.

I am forever grateful for NRM South's incredible team. With their diverse skills, backgrounds, and perspectives, they enrich our collective understanding and drive our accomplishments. Their achievements this year are a testament to our commitment to Tasmania and the natural values upon which we all depend.

Nepelle Crane CEO – NRM South



## **About Us**

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

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

### Some Key Annual Highlights

- 1. Continued as the Australian Government's preferred delivery partner for NRM actions in southern Tasmania.
- 2. Over-delivered on all State Government KPIs and secured increased State Government support for NRM to 2025.
- 3. Worked with Minister Palmer to launch the 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania.
- Delivered 22 major projects across our program areas.
- 5. Delivered actions targeting 11 at-risk species, 2 listed vegetation communities and 3 important ecosystems.
- **6.** Delivered the first major upgrade of the NRM South website in a decade.

- Provided a hub for a network of stakeholders, and hosted significant events including the National Soils Community of Practice and Water and Marine Symposium, and were a sponsor of the International Temperate Reef Symposium 2023.
- 8. Attended events including NRM Regions Australia Conference (WA), Biosecurity Conference (QId), National Soil Science Australia Conference (NT), International Seaweed Symposium 2023 and ABARES Regional Outlook conference, and presented at events including the Tasmanian UN SDG group, Youth Engaged in Wetlands webinar series and Shellfish Futures 2022.
- Worked collaboratively with over 60 delivery partners.
- **10.** Pursued opportunities to increase NRM investment in southern Tasmania.

# Our Region





### 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 Midands, Tasman.



### GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

Midlands biodiversity hotspot

Macquarie Island

World Heritage Convict Sites

RAMSAR

**WETLANDS** 

Moulting Lagoon,

Lagoon, Interlaken.

Apsley Marshes, Pitt Water-Orielton



35% of Tasmania's total farmland



1.3M ha native forest



Critical region for wild fisheries, aquaculture and recreational fishing



### **Economy**

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

Tourism \$1.49B

Forestry \$712M raw wood products

Renewable energy

Fisheries & aquaculture \$1B

Agriculture \$2.15B

\*Approximate total statewide production value annually



LISTED PLANT

689



PLANTS 439 species



**INSECTS** 117 species



FISH 19 species



AMPHIBIANS
+ REPTILES
9 species



**BIRDS**37 species



MAMMALS 15 species

### 135 THOUSAND HECTARES

Marine protected area

**47%** 

### **OF THE REGION**

Managed primarily for conservation



Riparian and remnant vegetation

Native grasslands

Saltmarsh and wetlands

Coastal communities

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

Marine and soft sediment systems

36 threatened vegetation communities





**Charting The Course: Navigating** governance, frameworks, and baseline data



Managing and Understanding the Region: Tackling catchment -scale challenges

Coastal and Marine Program Healthy Catchments and Coasts Biodiversity Program Healthy Regions Biosecurity Program Establishment of Southern and Healthy Seas Agriculture Program Natural Resource Management Ramsar wetlands Knowledge Program Regional Committee to Mountain to Marine Establishing baseline develop and implement a Threatened data and planning: regional NRM strategy for Flora Link Southern Tasmania. - Marine and estuarine - Midlands habitat ecosystems protection Coasts and landscapes Biosecurity Network - Biodiversity partnership - Threats Living Soils program Naturally Inspired 27 June 2003: 'NRM South' Grants adopted as common name. Facilitating knowledge Southern weeds and information sharing, strategy nurturing networks, fostering Pioneering the Tasmanian Data capture stakeholder forums, working NRM Framework and the with community, and NRM Act of 2002. providing extension services. 2003 2005 2006 2013 2010 **Developing Regional** Unveiling Tasmania's Using data, tools, Strategy 2010-2015 mapping and models pledge to sustainable Natural Resource (AdaptNRM) to develop and facilitate Management and conservation. project actions. Establishment of D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration Forging governance structures, Catchment-scale management ministerial collaborations. and big picture issues: government relationships. Weeds and biosecurity Coastal and natural values and threats Regional NRM Planning: identifying



Chair 2003-06: Ollie Hedberg

targets, priorities, shared interests,

and partnerships and completion of first 5-year regional strategy.

> "Partnerships are very important to NRM South and we are looking to develop as many strategic partnerships as possible to help us implement the Southern Strategy."



- Property management planning

Riparian restoration

### Chair 2006-10: Christine Mucha

"NRM bodies can play an important role in regional planning processes and in the sharing of information and knowledge about our region's natural resources."





Local Government facilitator program delivered 40% of regional activity:

- Huon
- GSBC
- Derwent
- Sorell
- Tasman

Fostering partnerships for cooperative delivery in collaboration with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and groups.

Wrap-up of NLP1 funding round.

Leveraging funds to implement actions addressing NRM priorities:

- Carbon and biodiversity positive initiatives
- Farm tools and support (Farming Forecaster)
- Drought resilience
- North Bruny Island landscape-scale investments
- Habitat restoration projects (seagrass, saltmarsh, native oyster reefs)
- Blue Carbon
- Threatened species

Collaborating with Tasmanian Aboriginal people to manage, access and heal Country, based on shared priorities. \$18M portfolio of projects delivered over 4 years, working with over 60 key delivery partners.

2015 2018 2020 2022

Developing Regional Strategy 2015-2020.

Outcomes-focused projects for on-ground actions

- Land
- Water
- Biodiversity

Statewide outcomes and approach to developing the 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania.

Forging sustainability and industry partnerships:

- Tasmanian Smart
   Seafood Partnership
- Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund

Developing investment pathways to implement 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania.

2023



### Chair 2010-16: Max Kitchell

The future of our region will be fundamentally based around our clean and green brand fostered by sustainable industries, most of which rely entirely or in part on healthy natural resources. NRM South is central to that future."



### Chair 2016-23: Andrew Scanlon

"Partnerships are integral to NRM South's operations. Our work sees us collaborating with over 40 major delivery partners from a range of sectors to achieve strong, collaborative outcomes across Tasmania's southern region."





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

Beyond their intrinsic value, healthy aquatic ecosystems support biodiversity and broader landscape function. Our water assets underpin community infrastructure such as clean drinking water, hydro-electric power generation, multiple primary industries – including agriculture and irrigation, fisheries and aquaculture production – alongside industrial use, recreation and tourism.

Informed by our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania, our collaborative projects are enhancing the health and condition of our rivers, floodplains, estuaries, wetlands and waterbodies. Through improved management of our coastal and marine areas, we are also building resilience to threatening processes such as climate change.

Our collaborative partnerships are contributing to habitat restoration in important aquatic and marine environments – including wetlands that hold important cultural significance for Tasmania's Aboriginal community. Through our on-ground projects, we have worked with land, water and marine managers, landowners, the seafood industry, NGOs, communities and different levels of government. We have also developed and delivered a range of sustainable community education and outreach activities, engaging with sectors such as recreational fishers and the boating community, schools, teachers, and volunteer groups.



### Rivers, Floodplains & Estuaries

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



### Wetlands & Other Waterbodies

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



**Photo Credit:** John Turr

### **Coastal & Marine Areas**

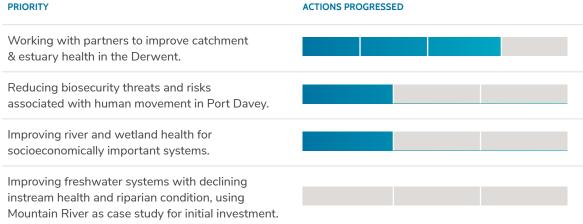
Coastal and marine areas encompass a wide variety of habitat types. Important coastal and marine areas can be identified by high-value habitats or species. To enhance ecological, social, and economic values, identified Actions will build resilience to pressures and emerging threats across regional Priorities.



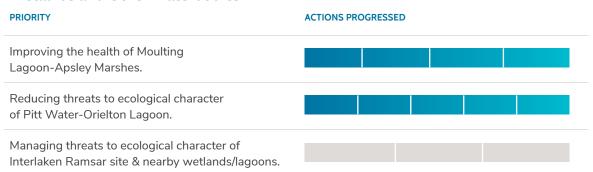
# Working Towards Our Strategy Goals

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

## Rivers, Floodplains and Estuaries PRIORITY



### Wetlands and Other Waterbodies





### **Coastal and Marine Areas**

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

### **Our Water Projects**

- 1. Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration
- 2. Tasmanian Smart Seafood Partnership
- **3.** Environmentally Friendly Moorings for fish habitat restoration of seagrasses
- 4. Important Wetlands

- **5.** Saltmarsh Restoration in Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon
- 6. Reef Builder: Native Oyster Reef Restoration
- **7.** Long-spined Sea Urchin community education and engagement program





NRM SOUTH WATER

# Theme Highlights

## Protecting our Internationally Significant Wetlands

Our on-ground actions are improving the condition and function of our region's internationally significant Ramsar wetlands.

Moulting Lagoon-Apsley Marshes and Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon are vital sanctuaries for endangered species, local and migratory birds, and fish populations. They form part of Tasmania's threatened Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh community and hold great Aboriginal significance – from both a heritage viewpoint and as a living connection to Country and culture.

Through strategic partnerships, we have cleared invasive weeds from a combined **692 hectares**, and revitalised **27.5 ha** of native habitat through revegetation efforts. As the wetlands sit within agricultural landscapes, restricting stock and vehicle access is important to safeguarding their recovery, and over **10 km of fencing** has been installed to achieve this.

Saltmarsh wetlands are essential natural water filtration systems and important carbon sinks. In 2022, Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon was **selected as one of only five national demonstration sites** under an Australian Government initiative to restore 'Blue Carbon' ecosystems. This project is providing insights into how environmental accounting can be used to measure environmental changes, as well as other carbon storage and biodiversity benefits that arise from blue carbon ecosystem restoration.

## Restoring Reefs and Seagrass Communities

Newly installed Environmentally Friendly Moorings (EFMs) are helping to restore vital seagrass communities at North West Bay (near Margate). Traditional moorings scour the seabed, damaging important seagrass habitat. An innovative CSIRO-designed mooring removes this impact – helping seagrass recover and restoring habitat for threatened species such as Spotted and Red Handfish as well as acting as a nursery for many important recreational fishery species. Our work with partners saw 11 traditional moorings replaced with EFMs, eliminating scouring impacts across up to 1.1 ha of the seabed.

Around 1.7 tonnes of rock substrate, 9m³ of scallop shells and 1.5 million native angasi oyster spat have gone into the construction of two hectares of reef habitat as part of our Reef Builder project with The Nature Conservancy. This two-year project is a first for Tasmania, home to Australia's last remaining native angasi oyster reef, and the learnings from this project have laid the foundations for future reef restoration efforts.



### **Restoring Hydrology**

Our work with partners at Moulting Lagoon-Apsley Marshes and Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon is restoring natural water flows across these modified landscapes, helping to revitalise plant and animal communities and improve landscape function.

At Moulting Lagoon-Apsley Marshes, a combination of historical data, community knowledge and modern technology was used to create a picture of how the ecology and water flows have changed over time and then to carry out remedial works.

Nine hectares have been remediated over the past year, restoring natural flows across 80 hectares. Following initial on-ground works in March 2022 and final works a year later, this restoration work will allow for recovery of saltmarsh and fringing wetland vegetation.

At Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon, a decades-old levee has changed the way water moves across the site, flooding sections of saltmarsh and impeding the movement of fish. We will remove this levee as part of our ongoing Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration Project, which is building on our saltmarsh restoration project works.

### **Collecting Baseline Data**

To track the impact of our project actions on the overall health and recovery of our project sites, we collect baseline data. Across all three wetland sites we captured baseline hydrological data, completed drone mapping of weeds and vegetation, and established a monitoring regime to evaluate the short-term recovery of saltmarsh vegetation and habitat condition. Fauna monitoring was also carried out at Moulting Lagoon-Apsley Marshes while baseline flora and fauna data was captured at North West Bay.

### **Educating the Community**

Our work with partners has delivered education and training opportunities for local communities, fostering an increased connection to and awareness of our precious aquatic environments. We supported the involvement of recreational fishers and the local community in saltmarsh surveys and native oyster restoration, as well as WildTracker, cultural fire and Reef Builder workshops for the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of research professionals to deliver unique insights into these important ecosystems. In the last year, we delivered 18 events (including workshops, networking sessions, capacity-building events and information sessions and forums) across our water projects.







### **Empowering Teachers: Enhancing Capacity and Access**



Through the groundbreaking 'Seafood Industry Teacher Capacity Building' program, we designed valuable pathways to connect teachers with industry – bridging the gap between education and real-world experiences in the marine environment.



We worked with partners to unlock exciting career pathways for students aspiring to be a part of the seafood industry and teamed up with educators to build a strong teacher capacity-building network.



We developed a wealth of educational resources (available on the NRM South website), curated to deepen teachers' understanding of the marine environment, resource management, and the challenges faced by the local seafood industry.

### Cleaning Up Remote Coastlines: Marine Debris Removal

The South West Marine Debris Cleanup has played a crucial role in preserving the health of remote coastlines in Tasmania's south west over the last decade. During the 2020 and 2021 expeditions alone, an impressive 160,000 items were successfully removed.



TSSP funding to cover Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fisherman's Association vessels' fuel costs facilitated industry participation and the coordination of clean-up activities.



Independent evaluation emphasised that without TSSP support, the clean-up might not have taken place, or could have faced significant delays.



The collection of large debris items from hard-to-access locations was supported through helicopter pick-ups and community events, including hard-to-access sites on west coast Tasmania and King Island.

### **Clear Mapping to Protect Shorebird Habitats**

Shorebird habitat mapping has provided a publicly available data set that is aiding marine habitat protection and restoration efforts.



An education resource is now available as GIS layer on LISTmap (Land Information System Tasmania) and a printed flyer.



### WATER FEATURED PROJECT - TASMANIAN SMART SEAFOOD PARTNERSHIP

### Marine Biodiversity Outcomes: Giant Kelp Restoration

As part of our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania commitment to improving the resilience of our rocky reefs, TSSP supported the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and their partners to assess the potential for restoring Tasmania's giant kelp forests.



Funding for additional seasonal monitoring enabled researchers to learn more about natural kelp forests, including commercially valuable species and their restoration. From kelp plantings at three sites, two have shown promising growth from seedlings. Early findings suggest that the restored patches of giant kelp are developing distinct communities of associated biodiversity in comparison to the surrounding intact kelp forest.

### Robust Water Quality Data: Statewide Oyster Sensor Network

Oyster Tasmania's Oyster Sensor Network (OSN) project monitors water quality data for oyster farmers and regulators.



A TSSP funding boost facilitated additional data collection, the development of a user-friendly portal, and training for oyster farmers in using real-time data. As a result of this training and access to the portal, oyster farmers improved their skill set, leading to better management of oyster beds.



Availability of real-time data has brought transparency to the industry, fostering stronger relationships between farmers and regulators and sparking a positive culture change.

"It used to feel like a black box in the past when closures to industry would be announced and sometimes backdated. Now the flow of data between industry and farmers has opened up and both parties have benefited. There used to be the culture of top-down regulation. Farmers now have real time data access and understand whether their area is open for business. They can watch for tipping points and plan harvests. The culture has changed, and the government has industry front of mind as much as possible." Evaluation feedback on the OSN

### **Collaborative Governance**

Funding for UTAS research students and other research initiatives at IMAS is being put towards improving industry practices, enhancing our understanding of ecosystem functions and threats, and advancing marine restoration practices.



Seven research students received Smart Seafood Scholarships for research in areas such as assessing the connections between nutrient loads, microbes and seagrass health, and mineral tracing surveys across aquaculture environments to understand nutrient retention in seafood and loss to marine environments. Some of this research has been presented or published internationally.

The TSSP has developed a partnership model for collaboration in the Tasmanian seafood sector based on shared goals, decision-making and resourcing. It received widespread industry engagement and support and delivered a strong approach to take forward and deliver future projects for the marine sector in Tasmania.







NRM SOUTH THEME

# Lanc



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

Our Land Program projects provide systems-based solutions for landscapes dominated by agricultural production. We help landholders to better understand and improve soil health while also helping them to develop solutions to address climate resilience, water retention and water quality – particularly in drought-prone regions.

Through our work with partner organisations, we have showcased innovative tools and techniques that are being used to inform sound land management decisions and improve the production value of landscapes by reducing erosion risk, improving soil health and protecting groundcover. Through our support for on-ground trials and research, we are finding better management approaches for drought-affected landscapes, and through our workshops and training events we are bringing farmers together to help strengthen networks and share experiences.

A statewide collaborative approach through projects such as the Weeds Action Fund, Farming Forecaster, the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator and our Soil Extension program is helping to boost the role and profile of natural resource management across the agricultural sector and ensuring an alignment of priorities and approaches across the state.

As our Land Program develops, we are also working to improve our engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and groups to respond to their self-determined priorities for access to, and healing and protection of, Country.



### **Healthy Country**

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



### **Resilient Landscapes**

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



### Soils & Vegetation

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



# Working Towards Our Strategy Goals

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

### **Healthy Country**

PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRESSED

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

### Resilient Landscapes

PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRESSED

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

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



### Soils and Vegetation

PRIORITY

Implementing management plans & measures to protect & expand areas

ACTIONS PROGRESSED

measures to protect & expand areas of native vegetation on farms.

Land managers have awareness of & are implementing or adopting land management practices that improve soil carbon levels.

Land managers have awareness of & are implementing or adopting practices that reduce the risk of structural decline.

Land managers have awareness of & are implementing or adopting practices that reduce the risk of prolonged soil saturation.

Land managers have awareness of & are implementing or adopting practices that reduce the risk of soil erosion.

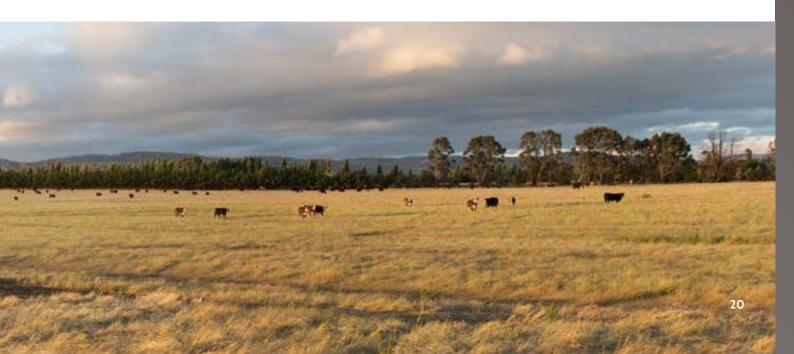
Land managers have awareness of & are implementing or adopting practices that reduce the risk of soil salinity.

### 5. Farming Forecaster Tasmania

- 6. Weeds Action Fund
- 7. Regional Soil Coordinator

### **Our Land Projects**

- 1. Derwent Pasture Information Network
- 2. Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot Project
- 3. Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator
- 4. Soil Extension





# Theme Highlights

### Improving Drought Resilience

A changing climate is increasing the frequency of hotter and drier conditions across our production landscapes. We are helping farming communities across Tasmania's drought-prone areas avoid overgrazing and underutilisation and supporting long-term commercial and landscape viability in challenging growing conditions through:

- Our Farming Forecaster project.
- A Soils Extension Program to help farmers better understand the impact of production on soil nutrients, biology, and structure and how to improve soils' productive capabilities and ensure sustainability.
- Our partnership with the Derwent Catchment
  Project to deliver a pasture management
  community of practice called 'Grazing Time',
  supported by a web-based knowledge portal.
  Our work with farmers in the drought and
  erosion-prone Derwent Valley builds collective
  knowledge in pasture species effectiveness,
  nutrient optimisation and pasture protection
  in drought. This means the farming community
  is well placed to preserve groundcover and
  optimise commercial outcomes during
  extreme climate variability.

### Supporting Research

We have supported partners to carry out important research:

 Derwent Catchment Project and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) trials have investigated pasture species' potential, techniques for minimising moisture loss, and nutrient regimes. These trials have helped farmers improve soil outcomes, promote forage diversity and improve groundcover outcomes for drought protection. Our Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator has played an important role in promoting the key learnings from this research to the broader farming community.  Modelling pasture species data that sits behind the 'GrassGro' decision-support tool that underpins Farming Forecaster. This work by TIA is improving local pasture forecast accuracy, helping the industry better understand how some pasture species perform under 50 years of changing weather conditions, and providing more accurate data for researchers and advisors across Australia
– particularly in similar temperate regions.

### Improving Decision-Making, Understanding, and Practice

Land Program projects have improved farmers understanding of local climate, pastures and soils, and the impact that climate and management has on these and other natural resources. Farming Forecaster is a practical tool that provides insight into pasture availability, while the Pasture Information Network and Soil Extension Program are informing farmers in considering land sustainability strategies that ensure long-term production viability.

Through field days, training events, seminars, a pasture management course and technical advice sessions, farmers learned about pasture management, livestock and grazing, soil carbon, pasture pollination, and management strategies for creating healthy landscapes. Some of these practices were demonstrated through six demonstration and four trial sites hosted by willing farmers.

### **Controlling Weeds**

The spread of weeds across agricultural landscapes represents significant annual production losses and an overall decline in landscape health.

Through the Tasmanian Government's Weed Action Fund initiative, we are working with Tasmania's NRM organisations to halt the spread of priority weeds across important agricultural and natural landscapes.

Through a process of promotion, consultation and support we have supported organisations and landholders to access funding across **42 separate projects** (from small, large, and facilitated grant rounds). Priority weeds such as serrated tussock, karamu, orange hawkweed, African feather grass, Chilean needle grass and willow species have been removed from across southern Tasmania.



### Carbon Capture and Storage

Through workshops and field days, our Soils Extension Program has informed farmers about the benefits of sequestering and building soil carbon for farm productivity and soil health, while arming them with an improved understanding of how to engage in soil carbon markets.

Our lead role in delivering the Australian Government funded Carbon + Biodiversity pilot program for farmers in southern Tasmania promoted engagement with **over 100 farmers**, addressing enquiries and offering guidance on participation. While the program holds the promise of generating income through carbon credits, its true potential lies in its ability to bring about landscape improvements such as creating vegetation corridors, mitigating soil erosion, providing shelter and shade for livestock, enhancing habitats with potential pollination benefits, and combating land degradation.

### **Supporting Aboriginal Priorities**

Our project activities have opened up opportunities for Aboriginal people and groups to engage in self-determined priorities.

- Working with the weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation a Farming Forecaster site was established at longwinny (Murrayfield Station) on North Bruny Island, improving farm management decisions to support healthy Country.
- The Aboriginal Trainee Ranger position on Bruny Island was supported, in partnership with the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation and Kingborough Council.
- The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre led Wild Tracker monitoring at important wetland sites, such as Long Point at Moulting Lagoon.

- Significant Aboriginal heritage sites were identified and mapped at Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon, working with Aboriginal Heritage Officers. Aboriginal community and children were supported to share knowledge and understanding of these sites, connect with Country and to access the site through an ongoing relationship.
- We worked with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to identify priorities, plan projects, and to share information and learnings, including topics such as native oyster reef restoration and cultural burning.

We continue to develop relationships with the palawa people of lutruwita, Tasmania. Through our planning and project development process, we are exploring opportunities to support palawa-identified priorities, including NRM career pathways, access and healing of Country, and respect for their knowledge and rights.

## Supporting the National Soils Strategy and Action Plan

We are working with the Tasmanian Farm Innovation Hub to host the **Regional Soil Coordinator (RSC) for Tasmania**. This position supports the delivery of the National Soils Strategy and Action Plan and aims to support a regionally specific, nationally cohesive rollout of relevant soils initiatives. The RSC role facilitates connections within the Tasmanian soils' community, supporting local initiatives and building networks. This groundwork is being conducted alongside the creation of a capacity and skills gap analysis report, which will form the basis of a regional plan to be submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

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







For livestock producers, the key to success lies in managing ground cover effectively, and one of the most crucial decisions is matching stocking rates to available feed.

Farming Forecaster is a powerful tool jointly developed by CSIRO and producers that translates how rainfall patterns and climate affect pasture production and livestock performance and offers reliable pasture forecasts for the months ahead. With this support, farmers can make informed decisions to safeguard their livelihoods, adapt to a changing climate, and help to ensure the future of agriculture in Tasmania.

In July 2021, NRM South, in partnership with NRM North, embarked on an 18-month Farming Forecaster pilot project in Tasmania. Thirteen sites were established during this time and a series of training workshops were delivered to help farmers and advisors understand the benefits of Farming Forecaster, including how to interpret the data, identify trends and discuss 'What if' scenarios.

In March 2022, NRM South received an additional \$1.44M through an Australian Government Drought Resilience initiative to further develop and extend this pilot project across the state. In the last year, an additional 21 sites were established – from Flinders Island to the Coal Valley. The extent and diversity of these sites mean primary producers and advisors can now access data from a wide range of growing conditions, offering improved confidence in – and timing of – pasture management decisions.

Farming Forecaster has quickly garnered significant interest from Tasmania's farming community, with workshops and training key to the increasing popularity and success of this project. Nine regional in-person workshops were delivered over the past year, alongside four webinars. Farming Forecaster has received highly positive stakeholder feedback.

"Most of us have an idea of how much feed is in front of us, but it's generally gut feel. Farming Forecaster backs this up with data, it's the best tool we've had for managing in drought." Henry Dunbabin, Milton

"It will bring more confidence to decision making for the livestock sector, giving us real time localised information on pasture growth for feed budgeting. It's something we haven't had before for the Tasmanian livestock industry." Jason Lynch, senior agronomist, Pinion Advisory.

The information that is now freely available to farmers across drought-prone regions of Tasmania, and that is helping them to manage their livestock operations more effectively, will bring many long-term benefits. With more reliable information to make earlier stock planning decisions (such as reducing stock numbers in anticipation of drought conditions or buying in supplemental feed), farmers can improve productivity and their bottom line. Their early intervention also helps to protect valuable groundcover, improve soil health, reduce weed infestations and soil erosion, and prevent topsoil from entering waterways and reducing water quality.







Healthy ecosystems are more resilient to change and support a rich biodiversity. They contribute to essential ecosystem services and provide us with clean water, air, shelter, and food, supporting our health and wellbeing. Healthy ecosystems are culturally significant and promote improved access to Country for Tasmania's Aboriginal community. However, poorly functioning ecosystems can lead to biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and water and nutrient depletion, ultimately endangering species and their habitats.

Our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania has identified many different priorities across our region's threatened species and landscapes. Across our Biodiversity project portfolio, we have implemented actions to protect nine threatened and endangered species and one endangered vegetation community. We have supported on-ground actions ranging from cat control measures on Bruny Island, to the installation of nest-boxes in priority habitat, scientific research into and management of at-risk populations, and working with landholders to implement conservation covenants in priority habitat areas.



### **Threatened & Important Species**

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



# Threatened & Important Ecological Communities

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



Photo Credit: Fraser Johnston

### **Important Biodiversity Areas**

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



# Working Towards Our Strategy Goals

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

### **Important Biodiversity Areas PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRESSED** Increasing the area in the Midlands Biodiversity Hotspot under improved management/formal land conservation. Reducing previously unidentified threats to the TWWHA through partnership program & biosecurity campaign implemented at key entrances to the TWWHA. **Threatened and Important Ecological Communities** PRIORITY **ACTIONS PROGRESSED** Improving outcomes for Alpine Sphagnum bogs and associated fens through management on private land and improving awareness of unsustainable sphagnum use. Increasing Black/Brookers Gum protection through land conservation mechanisms. Increasing the amount of highland and lowland grasslands protected through land conservation mechanisms. Increasing the extent and improving the condition of saltmarsh in the southern region. Improving the condition of priority riparian and remnant vegetation. Other emerging priorities.

### **Threatened and Important Species**

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

### **Our Biodiversity Projects**

- 1. Cat Management for Eastern Quoll on Bruny Island
- 2. Protecting Tasmania's Threatened Flora
- **3.** Protecting the Breeding Population of Swift Parrots
- 4. Protecting the Forty-spotted Pardalote
- 5. Recovery Actions for Swan Galaxias

- 6. Restoring Habitat for Red Handfish
- 7. Supporting Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery
- **8.** Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program (WWF Collaboration)
- 9. Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund
- 10. Sugar Glider Ecology



# Theme Highlights

### **Our Migratory Parrots**

Orange-bellied Parrots and Swift Parrots migrate annually from mainland Australia to Tasmania for their breeding season. With low population numbers and complex management needs, the ongoing survival of these critically endangered species depends on a range of conservation management interventions. Through our projects we:

- Worked with partner organisations on research and on-ground actions to improve breeding success for Swift Parrots.
- Supported three research projects to improve our understanding of Sugar Glider predation on Swift Parrots and potential control methods to lessen their impact on breeding birds.
- Protected key Swift Parrot habitat by establishing four conservation covenants.
- Supported annual flower bud surveys (carried out from 2020-22) – an important predictor of Swift Parrot breeding sites.
   Knowing in advance where Swift Parrots may be nesting and feeding can assist in developing effective management actions.
- Improved Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP)
  management by supporting research into
  population trends, the viability of a second release
  site for captive birds, nest hollow availability
  across their historic breeding range and optimal
  burning regimes for OBP food plants.
- Improved infrastructure for the existing
   OBP captive breeding and release program at
   Melaleuca (rebuilding a bird hide, aviary and
   feeding table) in Tasmania's south-west region –
   the only site where they live and breed.

### **Conservation Covenants**

A conservation covenant is a voluntary landholder agreement to protect the natural values of a defined area, while continuing to own, use and live on the land. It is an alternative approach to protecting important habitat outside the traditional reserve (e.g. National Parks) system. An additional advantage of a covenant is habitat protection for a range of species and benefits to broader landscape function.

Our work with landholders and project partners has established covenants across **790 ha on private properties**.

- 377 ha of habitat across four covenants, as part of our Swift Parrot project, of which
   219 ha was high-value Swift Parrot foraging and potential breeding habitat – well in excess of our 40-ha target.
- 412.73 ha of habitat was protected across four properties as part of our Threatened Plants project, of which 38.15 ha comprised high conservation value remnants of EPBC-listed Black Gum/Brookers Gum forest.

Our partnership with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy was key to the success of our covenant initiatives, as they have extensive knowledge of the target species and core habitat requirements and they developed positive relationships with landowners through the covenanting process.

### **Fighting Fish Extinction**

NRM South received funding under the Australian Government's Environmental Restoration Fund for two fish species at high risk of extinction.

Swan Galaxias, a small freshwater fish that is restricted to a handful of locations in the Swan and Macquarie River catchments of eastern Tasmania, is one of Australia's most threatened freshwater fish species. This partnership project with CSIRO, the Inland Fisheries Service, NRM North and the University of Tasmania:

- Restored **1 hectare** of riparian habitat through weed removal and revegetation.
- Established **2 new populations** through the translocation of 120 fish
- Developed an eDNA marker that can detect Swan Galaxias' DNA in the water column without having to physically observe or capture an individual.

Red Handfish are at risk of extinction through loss of their marine habitat. We worked with IMAS and the Handfish Conservation Project to:

- Improve important kelp habitat by removing around 1,000 kg of kelp-eating urchins and translocating kelp-covered boulders to augment available habitat.
- Carry out seasonal population surveys that observed 35 individuals, around 35% of their current wild population.

As well as benefitting from the interventions of this project, through our work on the restoration of seagrass habitat by installing Environmentally Friendly Moorings (part of our Water Program), we are also improving habitat for Spotted and Red Handfish.

### Protecting Wildlife on Offshore Islands

Bruny Island is regarded as a biodiversity hotspot and supports many threatened species that we have been working to protect – including Swift Parrots, Forty-spotted Pardalotes and Eastern Quolls.

Our multifaceted partnership project to manage feral, stray and domestic cats over the last four years has seen **119 cats removed** from the project area and a **20% increase in compliance** by residents with the Bruny Island Cat By-law. Effective cat management requires a suite of approaches, and this project has overseen:

- A range of trials for feral cat removal
- Support for community engagement for the control and containment of stray and domestic cats
- GPS monitoring of feral cats and Eastern Quoll movement
- Support for an Aboriginal trainee ranger to participate in natural resource management activities on the island.

Bruny Island is also one of the few remaining places where endangered Forty-spotted Pardalotes can be found. Through our project with the Australian National University (ANU), we supported ANU research to **improve nesting success** on the island, nest-box use and carrying out a genetic assessment across the species' range to better understand the issues confronting this threatened species.

### **Improving Nesting Success**

Many of our threatened species need extra help to raise their young. Provision of nest-boxes and/or protection from predators can make a big difference to supporting a struggling population. Through our projects, we supported actions to improve nesting success for Swift Parrots, Forty-spotted Pardalotes and Orange-bellied Parrots (OBPs):

- Supported NRE Tasmania to install 60 new nest-boxes for OBPs (bringing the total to 150 nest-boxes in Melaleuca and surrounding areas)

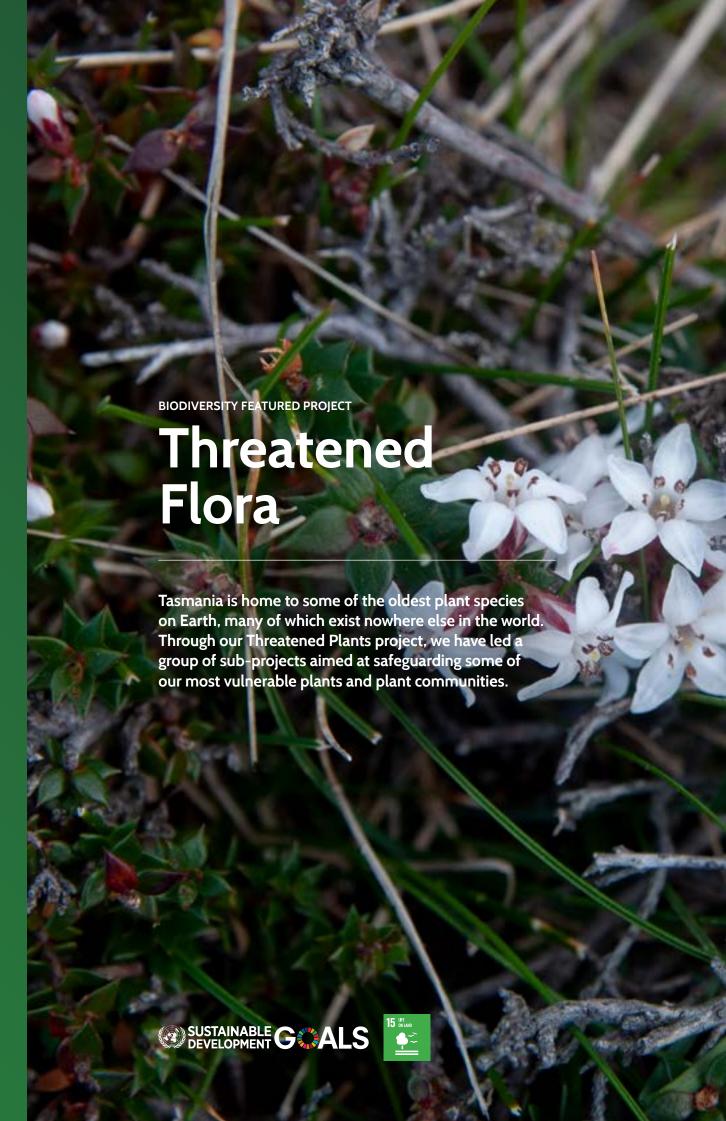
   expanding their potential range and almost doubling nesting availability.
- Supported ANU research into the use of insecticide-treated feather dispensers to combat parasitic fly larvae (which kill a large number of nestlings) at a landscape scale as well as an investigation into the environmental characteristics of artificial nest-boxes that makes them more likely to be used by Forty-spotted Pardalotes.
- Supported 4 field trials between 2019 and 2022 to manage the impact of Sugar Gliders on Swift Parrots, one of which was specifically focused on nest predation.

### **Supporting Raptor Research**

NRM South's Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund, which has been underway since 2020, has funded **5 research projects** to date, three of which have been completed. Two projects were funded in the last financial year, including a GPS study into spatial ecology and habitat use of Wedge-tailed Eagles in the Tasmanian Midlands and an investigation into the threat of ecotoxins on Wedge-tailed Eagle populations.

Key delivery partners: Tasmanian Government (NRE Tas), Bruny Farming, Kingborough Council, Ten Lives, South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Enviro-dynamics, University of Tasmania, Greening Australia, Threatened Plants Tasmania, pakana services, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Australian National University, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Conservation Landholders Tasmania, Enviro Arb, CSIRO, NRM North, IMAS, Handfish Conservation Project, Forest Practices Authority.







Working with key partners, our project activities targeted two critically endangered plants and one critically endangered vegetation community. Our multifaceted approach has seen enhanced seed reserves and improved genetic viability in seed banks, the replanting and reconnection of plant communities, endangered plants protected from browsers, weed control, initiatives to help farmers protect vital forest stands on their properties and active engagement of the wider community in our collective conservation efforts.

### Southport Heath (Epacris stuartii)

This critically endangered species is confined to a single location near Southport in Tasmania's far south. Without intervention, it is at high risk of extinction and is under threat from weeds, browsers, and fire.



We removed invasive mirror bush and blackberry across 6.8 ha at Southport Bluff and on Southport Island (where an insurance population was established in the early 2000s) through a partnership project with Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and NRE Tasmania.



Over 16,000 additional seeds were collected, approximately doubling seed reserves at the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC).



Accessing the project site is logistically challenging. Thanks to the support of our partners and the local community who assisted with boat transport and also to Threatened Plants Tasmania volunteers, TSCC and Botanical Gardens staff who helped with seed collection.

### Morrisbys Gum (Eucalyptus morrisbyi)

This critically endangered eucalypt, found only in southern Tasmania, faces threats from climate change, low genetic diversity, and limited recruitment. With stands of Morrisbys Gum confined to only a few locations in the South Arm Peninsula near Hobart, a suite of actions was delivered by project partners to protect existing plants, expand their range through supplemental plantings, and enhance genetic variability through seed collection.



Our partnership with Enviro-dynamics supported engagement with landholders and the local community, revegetation efforts and seed collection. Targeted community plantings have seen 1,741 seedlings planted across their range and, as these trees mature, closer pollination distances will encourage more natural recruitment. An additional 3,258 plants were planted across four sites within the species' future climate-range, with a remarkable 95% survival rate over two years, positioning them for future conservation assessments.



Calverts Hill Nature Reserve has seen significant regeneration of adult and juvenile plants over the last three years, thanks to monitoring and control efforts by Parks and Wildlife Service to combat possum browsing.



Seed collection efforts have resulted in over 100% increase in seed quantity stored at the TSCC, and a 53% boost in available genetic diversity for conservation plantings. These measures have been essential in safeguarding the future of Morrisbys Gum.



### **BIODIVERSITY FEATURED PROJECT - THREATENED FLORA**

### Black Gum/Brookers Gum Forest and Woodlands

This critically endangered vegetation community is largely confined to low-lying agricultural landscapes. Working with engaged landholders to protect vital forest stands has been critical to the project's success.



A partnership with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) has seen 38.15 ha of high conservation remnant forest on private land protected under conservation covenants.



Nine landowners were engaged through a 'Forest on Farms' financial incentives scheme that supported landowners with smaller priority forest remnants, helping them access financial and technical support for management.



Nine management agreements were developed to protect 36.18 ha of remnant forest, and landholders showed their long-term commitment through practical on-ground activities such as weed control and installing fencing to reduce stock access.



Our weed control workshop for landholders helped farmers learn more about the benefits that this woodland habitat can bring to farming systems.

"Thank you so much for the incredible workshop.

The engagement by all participants showed how perfect the content and the occasion were. I and my fellow journeyers are inspired and challenged. Immense gratitude that we have the leadership and support for our journeys". Weed workshop participant feedback



We supported TLC to carry out weed control work across the Egg Islands conservation reserve – an important stand of Black Gum/ Brookers Gum in the Huon Valley. Over three years, contractors removed invasive flax from across 45 ha, and TLC staff and volunteers made significant progress with Spanish heath control.

Thanks to the commitment and efforts of our team and partners, we have made significant strides in safeguarding Tasmania's botanical treasures and we remain dedicated to protecting and preserving our region's extraordinary botanical diversity.









NRM SOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

## Sustainability Overview

Our Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP) is an initiative that demonstrates our dedication to modelling environmental excellence in business and contributing to a broader ambition to sharpen our organisational and governance performance. As a natural resource management organisation, our primary focus is on sustainable use of resources while protecting our environment. Through the development of an ESP, we are ensuring that the gains made across our projects are authentically reflected in our organisational performance.

### Actions we're taking



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 1

Rethink Procurement



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 2

Repurpose Waste



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 3
Reduce Emissions



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 4
Redesign Systems and Data



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 5

Report Performance



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 6
Reflect on Impacts



#### **SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 1**

### **Rethink Procurement**

Through improving our procurement guidelines and tightening the sustainability criteria for procured goods and services, we are actively contributing to responsible production and consumption. In addition, we will work with our partners to support and guide them to improve their sustainability performance to align with our procurement criteria.

#### **Short-term Priorities**

- Ensure consistent and weighted sustainability evaluation criteria and requirements.
- Set targets and KPIs for responsible procurement and ensure compliance with evaluation criteria.
- Avoid excess consumption and reduce unnecessary purchasing costs.

#### **Long-term Priorities**

- Maximise opportunities for local and regional suppliers by developing a streamlined process for preferred or approved suppliers.
- Strengthen our partnerships and knowledge sharing with suppliers and provide guidance and support for sustainable practices.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 2**

### **Repurpose Waste**

As a small organisation, we prioritise effective waste management. Regular monitoring of waste collection, disposal, and recycling is helping us to minimise landfill waste and increase recycling, reusing, and repurposing. Most of the waste from our programs comes from procured services, and we are willing to collaborate with suppliers to enhance their sustainable waste practices.

#### **Short-term Priorities**

- Collaborate with suppliers to minimise, avoid, and recycle waste.
- Monitor our office waste practices.
- Ensure reduction and recycling of waste by setting long-term targets and KPIs.

#### **Long-term Priorities**

 Develop and implement a waste management plan to ensure ongoing improvements in all aspects of waste management.





#### SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 3

### **Reduce Emissions**

Although our emissions are limited, we are committed to reducing our operational impacts and becoming carbon neutral.

#### **Short-term Priorities**

- Determine NRM South's scope 1 (direct emissions) and 2 (indirect emissions from purchased electricity, heating and cooling) emissions.
- Progress towards carbon neutrality by setting a long-term emissions reduction target.
- Reduce emissions from business travel.

#### **Long-term Priorities**

- Determine NRM South's scope 3 emissions (indirect greenhouse gas emissions that are generated across our supply chain).
- Establish long-term emissions reduction targets.
- Explore whether our Land, Water and Biodiversity programs can function as carbon credits in order to offset emissions in the future.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 4**

### Redesign Systems and Data

Measuring and reporting Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) data builds transparency and trust among stakeholders for environmental objectives. Reliable sustainability data enables risk assessment, KPI tracking, and process management. We aim to improve our current basic sustainability data system for increased efficiency and detailed insights.

#### **Short-term Priorities**

- Identify data points and gather procurement, waste and emissions data.
- Centralise, analyse and monitor data by exploring a dedicated ESG data management solution.
- Maintain an overview of NRM South's policies, processes and practices by developing a highlevel Environmental Management System (EMS).

#### **Long-term Priorities**

- Develop a detailed EMS in line with ISO 14001:2015.
- Begin evaluating the impact of our strategic programs and incorporate insights into reporting activities.



#### **SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 5**

### **Report on Performance**

We engage in public reporting to showcase our performance on ESG issues, ensuring transparency and accountability. Annual reports and regional strategies are published on our website to communicate impacts and promote continuous improvement. The aim is to enhance reporting efforts, including corporate sustainability data and insights on our Land, Water, Biodiversity and Corporate programs.

### **Update**

We are evolving our reporting efforts to include corporate sustainability-related data as well as enhanced insights on the impacts generated through our Land, Water and Biodiversity programs.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY ACTION 6**

### **Reflect on Impacts**

Our main social and environmental impacts relate to the delivery of our Land, Water and Biodiversity programs. We aim to balance our focus on operational sustainability activities with the deep impact our strategic programs achieve, and work towards reporting on our impact at an organisationwide level in the future.

#### **Update**

The focus areas and activities outlined in our ESP have been developed to improve data collection, policies and processes, systems and reporting across our programs.



# **Corporate Program**

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

### **People**

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

- Staffing profile growth to 20 people including new capabilities in soil extension and financial management.
- New remuneration framework approved.

#### **Looking Ahead:**

- Staff retention and growth.
- 100% of projects delivered in conjunction with stakeholders.
- Increased training budget.

### **Systems**

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

- Development and launch of new website.
- Upgraded facilities for staff (videoconferencing).
- Migration to cloud-based computing.

#### **Looking Ahead:**

- Ongoing system upgrades.
- Including data capture, systems and technology in project design.

### **Finances**

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

- Implemented new finance system.
- Strong financial performance including securing competitive grant funding to deliver our strategic priorities.

#### **Looking Ahead:**

- Growth in annual revenue.
- Maintain funding sources to deliver our strategic priorities and meet our commitments.
- Investigate options for diversifying funding sources.

### **Performance**

Sharpening our organisational and governance performance.

- Release of our 2030 NRM Strategy for Southern Tasmania.
- Development of Corporate Plan.
- Established a new Sustainability Plan.

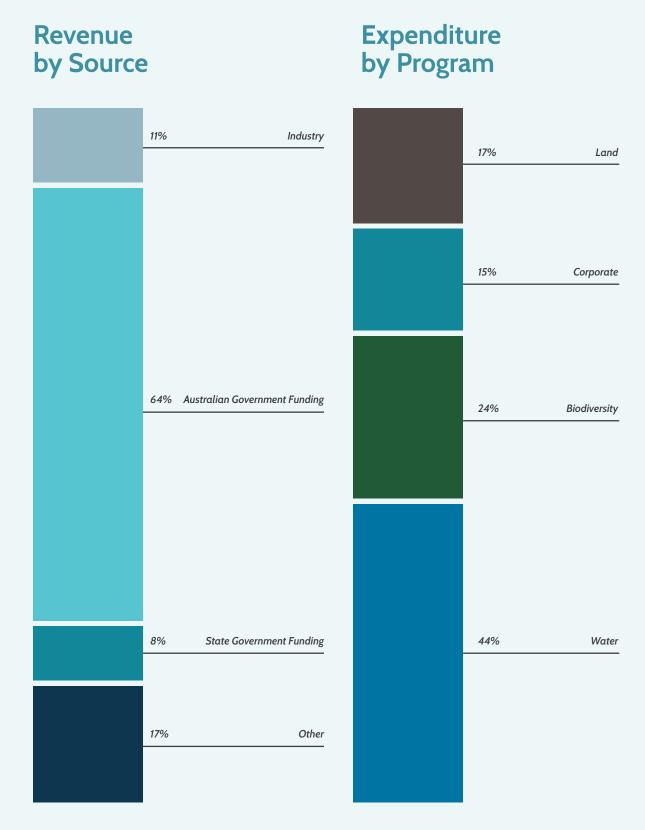
#### **Looking Ahead:**

- Securing sufficient in-kind support.
- Plan for carbon neutrality and environmental excellence.

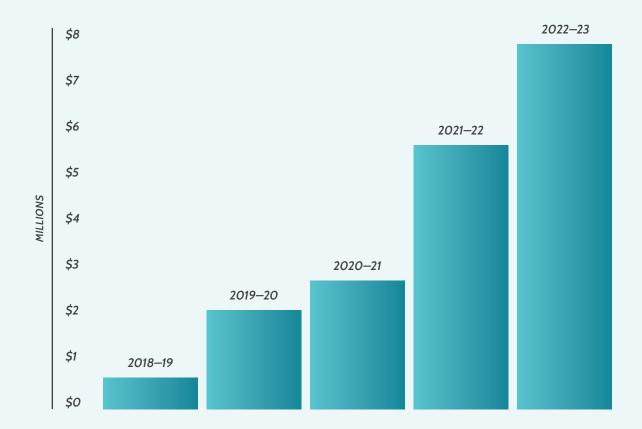




### **Summary of Financial Statements**



## Revenue Last 5 Years



### Where Funds Come From

NRM South is a not-for-profit registered charity. We make an important contribution to southern Tasmania's economy and environment. We pursue opportunities to increase investment in natural resource management in our region. 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.

### Where Funds Are Applied

NRM South provides vital natural resource management services across southern Tasmania, and beyond. The purpose of our expenditure is to deliver natural resource management solutions to achieve beneficial outcomes for southern Tasmania's environment, economy and people. We work with partners to deliver strategic action, and improve sustainability and outcomes for our biodiversity, land, and water assets and resources. Our corporate investment delivers the structure, governance, due diligence, and agility to enable the delivery of our strategy.

#### **NRM SOUTH**

# Governance **Summary**

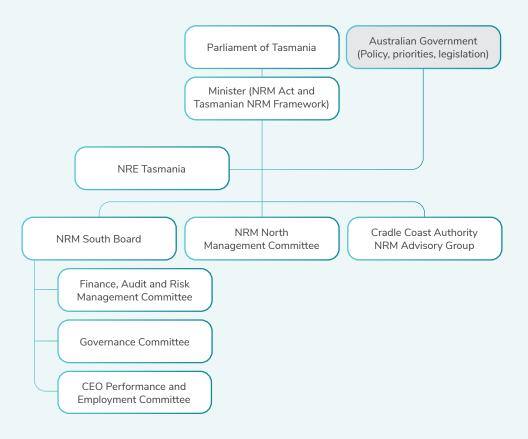
NRM South's Board and committees oversee key areas of strategic importance including direction setting, achievement of priorities, management of risks and stakeholder relationships, and supporting the CEO in business operations.

### **Enabling Structure**

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

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

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





#### **Board Purpose**

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

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

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

### Finance, Audit and Risk Management (FARM) Committee

The FARM Committee is a standing committee of NRM South and reports to the Board. The roles and responsibilities of the FARM Committee include:

The roles and responsibilities of the FARM Committee include reviewing financial statements, liaising with external auditors, reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of NRM South's operating and accounting systems, reviewing compliance with statutory responsibilities, risk management and insurances

Members: Anita Dahlenburg (Chair), Andrew Scanlon, Anh Nguyen, Phillipa McCormack, Ingrid van Putten, Tahnee McShane

#### **Governance Committee**

The Governance Committee is a standing committee of NRM South and reports to the Board. The Committee is responsible for closely monitoring progress on governance measures and governance best practice and is tasked with developing and bringing recommendations about good governance to the Board.

**Members:** Andrew Scanlon, Claire Ellis, Phillipa McCormack, Peter Volker

### CEO Performance and Employment Committee

The CEO Performance and Employment Committee oversees the management, performance and remuneration of the CEO and provides advice on any significant human resource changes or policy.

Members: Andrew Scanlon, Claire Ellis

### Other Committees and Groups

Separate technical advisory groups or project working groups are established as required, on a time- or purpose-limited basis. The role of these groups is to provide expert technical advice on specific matters relating to the implementation of a project.



#### **Board Director Tenures**

DIRECTOR	TENURE EXPIRY	TERMS (4 YEARS PER TERM)
Andrew Scanlon	September 2023	Two terms completed
Dr Claire Ellis	September 2024	Second term in progress
Dr Phillipa McCormack	September 2024	First term in progress
Dr Peter Volker	September 2024	First term in progress
Anh Nguyen	September 2025	First term in progress
Anita Dahlenburg	September 2025	First term in progress
Tahnee McShane	September 2027	Commencing first term
Chris Cosgrove	September 2027	Commencing first term
Dr Ingrid van Putten	September 2027	Commencing first term
Robert Rutherford	September 2027	Commencing first term

### **Attendance at Board Meetings and Subcommittee Meetings**

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

Note\*: Rick Perrin resigned from the Board on 24 February 2023. Note\*\*: Maddie Owens is an external committee member and resigned from the FARM Committee on 12 June 2023.

### Board Directors and Key Management Personnel

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

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

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

The remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Association is \$764,398 (for 6 management employees and 10 Board Directors).

#### **Board Selection Panel**

Ursula Taylor, Anita Howard, Lyndley Chopping, Frances Healy





#### Staff 2022-23

#### **CORPORATE TEAM**

Nepelle Crane - CEO

Todd Nation – Business Development and Operations Manager

Joss Fenton - Finance Manager \*

Billy Pangestu - Finance Officer \*

Amelia Jensen - Administration Officer

Nathalie Laurence - Communications Officer

Maudie Brown - Business Development Officer

#### LAND TEAM

James Stronach – Program Manager

Tim Ackroyd - Senior Project Officer

Yolanda Hanusch - Project Officer

Nick Macgregor - Project Officer\*

Belinda Neilsen – Regional Soils Coordinator \*

#### **BIODIVERSITY TEAM**

Dr Cindy Hull – Program Manager

Sophie Golding - Senior Project Officer

Dr Cat Young - Senior Project Officer\*

#### **WATER TEAM**

Jennifer Hemer – Program Manager

Grace Isdale – Senior Project Officer

Laurel McGinnity - Senior Project Officer

Zak Wheaton - Project Officer

\*new appointments

#### **DEPARTING STAFF 2022-23**

Tracey Weily – Finance Manager

Lillian Hearn - Project Officer

Dr Rosie Hohnen – Senior Project Officer

Cassie Strain - Senior Project Officer

Paul Armstrong - Senior Project Officer

#### **Members**

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

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

Birdlife Tasmania

City of Hobart

Clarence City Council

Conservation Landholders Tasmania

Conservation Volunteers Australia

DairyTas

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas)

Derwent Catchment Project/Enviro-dynamics

**Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House** 

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

Glenorchy City Council

Greening Australia

Hobart Airport

Huon Valley Council

Hydro Tasmania

K+D Family Farm

Kingborough Council

pakana Services

Petrichor Wines

Private Forests Tasmania

OzFish Unlimited

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



#### **Program Funding Sources**

#### **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

Regional Soils Coordinator

#### **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-Orielton Lagoon

Seagrass Restoration in North West Bay

#### **FUTURE DROUGHT FUND**

Future Drought Fund NRM Landscapes

Innovation Grant – Farming Forecaster

### BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION GRANTS

Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration

#### AGRICULTURE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot

#### STATE GOVERNMENT

Weed Action Fund

Long Spined Sea Urchin

#### **INDUSTRY**

Wedge-tailed Eagle Research Fund (co-funded)

Sugar Glider Ecology

#### PARTNERS AND OTHER FUNDERS

D'Entrecasteaux and Huon Collaboration /Carbon Storage

Reef Builder

Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program (WWF)



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For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

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**Board Report** 

30 June 2023

Your Board Members submit the financial report of the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

#### 1. General information

#### **Principal Activities**

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

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

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

As per the NRM Act 2002, we engage in strategic planning for natural resource management, identifying priorities and formulating regional strategies to address them. We deliver all programs in collaboration with others – partnering with government agencies, nonprofits, community groups, and private sector entities to collectively achieve the goals outlined in the strategy.

#### Significant Changes

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

#### 2. Operating Results and Review of Operations for the Year

#### **Operating result**

The net surplus/(deficit) of the Association for the financial year amounted to \$596,157 (2022: \$1,276,875).

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

Board Member: Board Member: Aday of September 2023.

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

The Board declare that in the Board's opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that 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 Notfor-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth).

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

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board:

Board Member .	_ Alban	hur -	_	
	10	,		
Board Member .	Aften			
Dated this1	8	day of	September	2023.

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**Statement of Comprehensive Income** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	Restated 2022 \$
Income		
Australian Government funding	4,084,430	4,118,200
Federal Gov - Non-Recurrent (Projects)	523,549	-
State Gov - Non-Recurrent	149,050	-
State Government funding	467,000	355,473
Other funding	1,987,642	616,015
Other income	43,766	155,878
Total Income	7,255,437	5,245,566
Expenses		
Committee costs	22,785	14,171
Conference/training/travel costs	41,028	12,902
Consultants fees	109,527	40,583
Depreciation	118,212	104,830
Employment costs	1,685,973	1,236,831
Financial expenses	24,423	22,290
Meeting expenses	2,458	1,698
Motor vehicle expenses	11,062	4,911
Occupancy costs	32,021	27,699
Office running costs	123,576	97,738
Other costs	1,078	1,056
Project cost contractors/consultants	4,336,601	2,348,825
Project cost - other	150,536	55,157
Total Expenses	6,659,280	3,968,691
Net surplus/(deficit)	596,157	1,276,875
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	_
Total comprehensive income for the year	596,157	1,276,875

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**Statement of Financial Position** 

As At 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	Restated 2022 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	2,456,962	3,488,422
Trade and other receivables	3	1,740,588	1,320,364
Other assets	_	33,027	38,361
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	_	4,230,577	4,847,147
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	4	119,152	114,552
Right-of-use assets	6	312,192	405,849
Intangible assets	5 _	41,750	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	_	473,094	520,401
TOTAL ASSETS	_	4,703,671	5,367,548
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	7	1,012,107	1,306,783
Employee benefits	8	87,729	66,190
Deferred income		201,249	1,110,601
Lease liabilities	_	87,392	87,392
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	_	1,388,477	2,570,966
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	8	24,261	14,413
Lease liabilities	_	252,099	339,492
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	_	276,360	353,905
TOTAL LIABILITIES	_	1,664,837	2,924,871
NET ASSETS	=	3,038,834	2,442,677
EQUITY			
Unexpended project fund reserve		1,344,844	1,068,485
Accumulated surpluses	_	1,693,990	1,374,192
TOTAL EQUITY	=	3,038,834	2,442,677

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**Statement of Changes in Equity** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

2023

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

2022

		Accumulated surpluses	Unexpended project fund reserve	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2021		1,093,715	72,087	1,165,802
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		260,477	-	260,477
Correction of prior year - income recognition	9	1,016,398	-	1,016,398
Restated surplus Transfer to/(from) reserves	9	1,276,875 (996,398)	- 996,398	1,276,875 -
Restated balance at 30 June 2022		1,374,192	1,068,485	2,442,677

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**Statement of Cash Flows** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	Restated 2022
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		*	*
Receipts from grants/partners		6,602,585	6,001,303
Interest received		37,176	2,061
Payments to suppliers & employees		(7,498,116)	(3,720,256)
Net cash provided by operating activities	13	(858,355)	2,283,108
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of plant and equipment	_	(71,145)	(71,634)
Net cash used by investing activities	_	(71,145)	(71,634)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Repayment of lease liabilities	_	(101,960)	(84,060)
Net cash used by financing activities	_	(101,960)	(84,060)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		(1,031,460)	2,127,414
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	_	3,488,422	1,361,008
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	2 =	2,456,962	3,488,422

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

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

#### (a) Basis of Preparation

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

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. Refer note 9 for further details.

#### (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.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (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

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

#### Depreciation

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

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

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

#### (f) Trade and Other Payables

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

#### (g) Employee Benefits

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

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

#### (h) Provisions

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

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (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.

#### (I) 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

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (I) Revenue and Other Income

#### **Revenue from Contracts with Customers**

- 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 before the payment is due, the Association presents the contract as a contract asset, unless the Association's rights to that amount of consideration are unconditional, in which case the Association recognises a receivable.

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

#### Other Income

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

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (I) Revenue and Other Income

#### Other Income

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 2023, 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 Board 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 (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 Board 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 (Trading as NRM South).

#### (p) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

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

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (p) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

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

2023	2022
\$	\$
371	351
1,677,551	2,712,195
779,040	775,876
2,456,962	3,488,422
	\$ 371 1,677,551 779,040

2022

2023

ABN 86704088698

**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

3	Trade	and	Other	Receivables
---	-------	-----	-------	-------------

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Trade receivables	1,662,841	1,320,364
Less: Provision for impairment	-	-
GST receivables	77,747	-
	1,740,588	1,320,364

#### 4 Property, Plant and Equipment

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Furniture, fixture and fittings		
At cost	64,196	59,869
Accumulated depreciation	(26,374)	(21,522)
Total furniture, fixture and fittings	37,822	38,347
Motor vehicles		
At cost	61,758	61,758
Accumulated depreciation	(29,422)	(21,382)
Total motor vehicles	32,336	40,376
Office equipment		
At cost	112,343	87,276
Accumulated depreciation	(63,349)	(51,447)
Total office equipment	48,994	35,829
Total property, plant and equipment	119,152	114,552

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

5	Intangible Assets		
		2023	2022
		\$	\$
	Website		
	At cost	41,750	50,490
	Accumulated amortisation		(50,490)
	Total intangibles	41,750	
6	Right-of-Use Asset		
	Property lease		
	At cost	468,287	468,287
	Accumulated amortisation	(156,095)	(62,438)
		312,192	405,849
7	Trade and Other Payables		
	Trade payables	769,405	803,862
	GST payable	-	279,988
	Accrued expenses	191,093	222,933
	SG superannuation payables	17,357	-
	PAYG withholding	34,252	
		1,012,107	1,306,783
8	Employee Benefits Current		
	Long service leave	16,061	14,330
	Provision for annual leave	71,668	51,860
		87,729	66,190
	Non-current		
	Long service leave	24,261	14,413
		24,261	14,413

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 9 Retrospective Restatement

Comparative figures have been restated in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Changes in Equity. These changes are as a result of the previous deferral of income. During 2023 it was identified that following significant changes in the mixture of funding methods from predominantly fee for service to a larger portion of grant funding, whilst the projects were similar the funding agreements changes significant resulting in a change to financial reporting. A review of grant assessments resulted in grants being recorded when received under AASB 1058, rather than deferred.

The aggregate effect of the error on the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 is as follows:

	Previously stated \$	30 June 2022 Adjustments \$	Restated
Statement of Comprehensive Income	·	•	•
Income			
Smart Seafood	218,467	-	218,467
Australian Government Funding	3,251,763	866,437	4,118,200
Other Funding	527,626	-	527,626
Other Income	155,878	-	155,878
State Government Funding	355,473	149,961	505,434
Total Income	4,509,207	1,016,398	5,525,605
Expense			
Total Expense	4,248,728	-	4,248,728
Net surplus/(deficit)	260,479	1,016,398	1,276,877
Statement of Financial Position			
Asset			
Total current asset	4,847,147	-	4,847,147
Total non current asset	520,401		520,401
Total asset	5,367,548	-	5,367,548
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payable	1,306,783	-	1,306,783
Employee benefits	66,190	-	66,190
Deferred income	2,126,998	(1,016,398)	1,110,600
Lease liabilities	87,392	-	87,392
Total current liability	3,587,363	(1,016,398)	2,570,965

ABN 86704088698

**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 9 Retrospective Restatement

•	Previously	30 June 2022	2	
	stated	Adjustments		
	\$	\$	\$	
Total non current liabilities	353,905		353,905	
Total liabilities	(3,941,268)	1,016,398	(2,924,870)	
Net Asset	1,426,280	1,016,398	2,442,678	

#### 10 Capital Commitments

There are no capital commitments for the year ended 30 June 2023 (2022: Nil).

#### 11 Auditors' Remuneration

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Remuneration of the auditor of the Association		
- audit of the the financial statements for the year	6,775	6,200

#### 12 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

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

There are no other contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at reporting date to be disclosed (2022: Nil).

ABN 86704088698

**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 13 Cash Flow Information

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

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

	2023	Restated 2022
	\$	\$
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	596,157	1,276,875
Cash flows excluded from surplus attributable to operating activities		
- depreciation and amortisation	118,451	104,830
- lease interest	14,568	15,295
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(420,224)	245,766
- (increase)/decrease in other assets	5,334	(7,410)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(294,676)	634,850
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	31,387	22,703
- increase/(decrease) in deferred income	(909,352)	(9,801)
Cashflows from operations	(858,355)	2,283,108

#### 14 Key Management Personnel Disclosures

The remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Association is \$764,398 (for  $6 \times KMP$  management and  $10 \times KMP$  Board members).

#### 15 Related Parties

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

Related parties include close family members of key management personnel, Board Members and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel or their close family members for the year ended 30 June 2023 there were no transaction between Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (Trading as NRM South) and noted related party.

Key management personal - refer Note 14.

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**Notes to the Financial Statements** 

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

#### 16 Events After the End of the Reporting Period

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

#### 17 Association Details

The registered office of the Association is:

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

Level 1, 89 Brisbane Street

Hobart TAS 7000



ABN 13 969 921 386 Level 1, 142-146 Elizabeth Street Hobart TAS 7000 Australia GPO Box 392 Hobart TAS 7001 Australia

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

ABN 86704088698

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

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023 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

Alison Flakemore Senior Partner

Dated this ...18... day of...September...2023. Hobart, Tasmania.

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

#### ABN 86704088698

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

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated (Trading as NRM South) (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, 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 Board Declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2023, 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 2023 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 2022.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

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

#### ABN 86704088698

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

#### 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 Board is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Board Report the year ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

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

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

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

#### Responsibilities of the Board for the Financial Report

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

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

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

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

ABN 86704088698

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

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

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

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

ABN 86704088698

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

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

Crowe Audit Australia

Alison Flakemore Senior Partner

Dated this...18...day of ...September...2023. Hobart, Tasmania.

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