

Annual General Meeting  
20 September 2023



NRM South

# 2023 Annual General Meeting

20 September 2023

2:00 – 4:30 PM

RACV HOBART

## AGM Agenda

Item	Motion
Welcome to Country	
Apologies	
Chair's Address	
Approve Minutes of the 2022 AGM	Motion 1
Accept Financial Report and Auditor's Report 2022/2023	Motion 2
Approve Appointment of Auditor 2023/2024	Motion 3
Approve Board Remuneration for 2023/2024	Motion 4
Accept Appointment of Selection Panel 2023/2024	Motion 5
Accept Appointment of Board Directors	Motion 6
CEO's Address	
Receive and Ratify Annual Report 2022/2023	Motion 7
Other Business	
1. Note Appointment of CEO as Public Officer	Motion 8
2. Questions to the Directors	
Close of formal business	
Networking	
Awards and Recognition	
Farming Forecaster Presentation	
Close out	

## Motions Proposed

That Association members:

1. Approve the Minutes of the 2022 AGM
2. Accept the Financial Report and Auditor's Report for 2022/2023
3. Approve the Appointment of Auditor for 2023/2024
4. Approve Board Remuneration 2023/2024
5. Accept Appointment of Selection Panel 2023/2024
6. Accept Appointment of Board Directors
7. Receive and Ratify the Annual Report for 2022/2023
8. Note the appointment of the CEO as Public Officer for 2023/2024

## Motion 1: Approve Minutes of the 2022 AGM

### Motion 1

That the Association approves the minutes of the 2022 AGM.

# Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association Inc.

2022 Annual General Meeting

14 September 2022

## Minutes

### Meeting Open:

The meeting was opened at 2:10 pm

### Attendees:

#### Association members:

- Dave Ikedife, Hydro Tasmania
- Eric Woehler, Birdlife Tasmania
- Eve Lazarus, Enviro-Dynamics
- Josie Kelman, Enviro-Dynamics
- Jo Crisp, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- Jason Jacobi, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- Sharna Rainer, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- John Easton, Pakana Services
- Marie Yee, Sustainable Timbers Tasmania
- Liz Quinn, Kingborough Council
- Melanie Conomikes, City of Hobart
- Bill Harvey, City of Hobart
- Vere Michiels, OzFish
- Cath Dickson, Tasmanian Land Conservancy
- Courtney Quinn-McCabe, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council
- Dibas Pinta, Sorell Council
- Graham McLean, Conservation Landholders Tasmania
- Kate Westgate, TasWater

**Non-members:**

- Alison Flakemore, Crowe Auditing
- Amber Tucker, Steadfast
- Peter Ball, Derwent Catchment Project
- Peter Stronach, Landcare Tasmania
- Krissy Ward, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- Georgia Lawson, Technical Forest Services
- Justin Baily, Technical Forest Services
- Alan Morgan, East Coast Catchment Steering Committee
- Andrew Doube

**NRM South Board, committee and panel members:**

- Andrew Scanlon, Board member
- Peter Tucker, Board member
- Anh Nguyen, Board member
- Claire Ellis, Board member
- Phillipa McCormack, Board member
- Rick Perrin, Board member
- Ursula Taylor, NRM South Selection Panel

**NRM South staff:**

- Nepelle Crane
- Todd Nation
- Cindy Hill
- Jennifer Hemer
- James Stronach
- Tracey Weily
- Tim Ackroyd
- Maudie Brown
- Laurel McGinnity
- Grace Isdale
- Paul Armstrong
- Nathalie Laurence
- Zak Wheaton
- Catherine Young
- Amelia Jensen
- Yolanda Hanusch
- Cassie Strain

**Apologies:**

- Minister Jo Palmer

**Board, Committee AND Panel Members:**

- Peter Volker, Board member



- Anita Dahlenburg, Board member
- Lyndley Chopping, NRM South Selection Panel
- Maddie Owens, NRM South FARM Committee member

**Members:**

- Penny Wells, Private Forests Tasmania
- Tim Kirkwood, Southern Midlands Council
- Jenny Dudgeon, Sustainability Learning Centre
- Sharon Smith, Wildcare Tasmania
- Elizabeth Pietrzykowski, Greening Australia
- Michelle Joy, Huon Valley Council

**Others:**

- Louise Wilson, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- Ian Dutton, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- Alistair Morton, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- Danielle Hardie, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- Andrew Kneebone, TasIrrigation
- Mark Bachmann, Nature Glenelg Trust
- Rebecca Sheldon, Nature Glenelg Trust
- Belinda Hazell, Tasmanian Women in Agriculture
- Frances Smith, TasWater
- Dion Lester, Local Government Association of Tasmania
- Ben Morris, Local Government Association of Tasmania
- Tim Lynch, CSIRO
- Karen Wild-Allen, CSIRO
- Jess Melbourne-Thomas, CSIRO
- Lyle Ground, Huon Valley Council
- Phil Watson, City of Clarence
- Helen Geard, Southern Midlands Council
- Maria Weeding, Southern Midlands Council
- Simon Branigan, The Nature Conservancy
- Holly Hansen, National Recovery and Resilience Agency
- Frances Huddleston, Oysters Tasmania
- Noel Carmichael, Biosecurity Tasmania
- Barbara Murphy
- Kathy Evans, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

**Welcome, Introduction and Welcome to Country:**

Chair Andrew Scanlon confirmed that a quorum was present and welcomed all attendees.

Auntie Brenda provided a Welcome to Country.

Mr Scanlon thanked Auntie Brenda, and provided an Acknowledgement of Country. Mr Scanlon noted the key apologies.

Mr Scanlon provided the Chair's address and thanked CEO Nepelle Crane for her leadership and dedication as well as that of the hard-working NRM South staff.

Mr Scanlon thanked all Board Members, particularly Peter Tucker who is standing down at this AGM after reaching his term limit. Mr Scanlon also thanked the independent Board Selection Panel members: Anita Howard, Lyndley Chopping, Ursula Taylor and Frances Healy.

**Item 1: Approve Minutes of the 2021 AGM:**

The minutes of the NRM South 2021 AGM were circulated prior to the meeting.

*Motion 1*

The Chair proposed that the minutes of the NRM South 2021 AGM be accepted.

**Moved:** John Easton, pakana Services  
**Seconded:** Eric Woehler, Birdlife Tasmania  
**Outcome:** Motion carried.

**Comments:** Nil.

**Item 2: Accept Financial Report and Auditor's Report 2020/21**

Dr Peter Tucker, Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Management (FARM) Committee, provided an overview of the organisation's financials based on the Auditor's Report. He noted that 2021/22 saw continued revenue growth for NRM South, and thanked the FARM Committee, NRM South's auditors – Crowe, and Finance Manager for their work over the past year.

The 2021/22 audit of the financial accounts was completed by Crowe to the full satisfaction of the NRM South Board.

*Motion 2*

Dr Tucker proposed that the Association accepts the Financial Report and Auditor's Report for 2021/2022.

**Moved:** Kate Westgate, TasWater  
**Seconded:** Courtney Quinn-McCabe, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council  
**Outcome:** Motion carried.

**Comments:** Nil.

**Item 3: Approve Appointment of Auditor for 2021/22**

Dr Tucker outlined that Crowe have been auditing NRM South's accounts for the past two years. This appointment provided a fresh focus and resulted in a comprehensive report on some potential areas for review in 2022/23.

*Motion 3*

Dr Tucker proposed that the Association approves the appointment of Crowe as the Auditors for the 2022/23 financial year.

**Moved:** Vere Michiels, OzFish  
**Seconded:** Graham McLean, Conservation Landholders Tasmania

**Outcome:** Motion carried.

**Comments:** Nil.

#### Item 4: Approve Board Remuneration for 2022/23

Dr Tucker outlined that no change is proposed for Board Remuneration for 2022/23. The Board recommends that for Board and Sub-committee meetings, Directors may claim up to \$85, and the Chair may claim up to \$150; for full-day meetings and workshops, Directors may claim up to \$170 and the Chair may claim up to \$300.

##### *Motion 4*

Dr Tucker proposed that the Association approves the remuneration for Directors of the Board for the 2022/23 financial year.

**Moved:** Eric Woehler, Birdlife Tasmania

**Seconded:** Courtney Quinn-McCabe, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council

**Outcome:** Motion carried.

**Comments:** Nil.

#### Item 5: Governance Update

Deputy Chair, Claire Ellis provided a Governance update.

Dr Ellis noted that an expression of interest will be opening for two new Board positions this year. Skilled Board members with governance expertise and good networks are encouraged to apply. Dr Ellis thanked Dr Peter Tucker for his service and dedication to NRM South, including his role as Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee.

#### Item 6: Accept Appointment of the Selection Panel for 2022/23

Deputy Chair Dr Claire Ellis stated that the Board Selection Panel is made up of up to six persons “representing a balance of natural resource management interests”, and is to act as the panel, and noted that panel members need not be affiliated with members of the Association. The panel appointed will hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

Dr Ellis thanked Ursula Taylor, Lyndley Chopping, Frances Healy and Anita Howard for their willingness to stand for re-appointment. Dr Ellis recommended Selection Panel membership for 2022/23 be:

- Ursula Taylor
- Lyndley Chopping
- Anita Howard, and
- Frances Healy.

##### *Motion 5*

Dr Ellis proposed that Association Members accept the appointment of the Board Selection Panel as nominated for 2022/23



**Moved:** Melanie Conomikes, City of Hobart  
**Seconded:** Kate Westgate, TasWater  
**Outcome:** Motion carried.

**Comments:** Nil.

#### Item 7: CEO's address

Ms Nepelle Crane, CEO, presented the CEO's address, outlining the highlights from the last financial year and Annual Report.

#### Item 8: Receive and Ratify Annual Report 2021/22

Ms Nepelle Crane, CEO, discussed the past year at NRM South. Ms Crane thanked staff for their commitment and hard work throughout the year. Ms Crane noted the work of NRM South enabled by more than 60 delivery partners over 23 major projects, and presented video case-studies on each of NRM South's three program areas (Water, Land, and Biodiversity).

#### *Motion 6*

The Chair proposed that the Association receive and ratify the Annual Report for 2021/22.

**Moved:** Vere Michiels, OzFish  
**Seconded:** Courtney Quinn-McCabe, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council  
**Outcome:** Motion carried.

**Comments:** Nil.

#### Item 9: Other Business

Mr Scanlon reported that the Board has nominated Ms Nepelle Crane, CEO, as the Public Officer for 2022/3 and requested the Association Members note this appointment.

#### *Motion 7*

The Chair requested that the Association Members note the appointment of the CEO (Ms Nepelle Crane) as Public Officer for 2022/23.

**Moved:** Kate Westgate, TasWater  
**Seconded:** Dave Ikedife, Hydro Tasmania  
**Outcome:** Motion carried.

**Comments:** Nil.

#### *Questions for the Directors:*

The Board of Directors invited questions from Association Members.

A question was asked whether NRM South considers investment in interest bearing term deposits with any surplus funds. Dr Tucker noted that interest rates had only recently become competitive, and that NRM South routinely reviews options available. Furthermore, Ms Crane confirmed that

NRM South is planning a review to look into the organisation's investment portfolio and diversification options.

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#### Close of the AGM

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The meeting was formally closed at 3:03 pm

## Motion 2: Accept Financial Report and Auditor's Report 2022/23

### Motion 2

That the Association accepts the Financial Report and Auditor's Report for 2022/23.

### Purpose

To present the Association's Financial Report and Auditor's Report for 2022/23 to the Association.

### Background

Each year the Financial Report is Audited, reviewed by the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee and presented to the Board for signing. The Audited statements are signed by the Chair and Deputy Chair on behalf of the Board and presented to the Association at the AGM. A financial snapshot is provided within the Annual Report.

## Motion 3: Approve Appointment of Auditor 2023/24

### Motion 3

That the Association approves the appointment of Crowe as Auditors for the 2023/24 financial year.

### Purpose

To seek the Association's agreement to appoint an Auditor for the period 2023/24.

### Background

Under the current rules of the Southern Regional NRM Association Inc. (Section 19 and 23), the stakeholder members present at each Annual General Meeting are to appoint the auditor of the Association. The Rules also make provision for the Board to appoint the Auditor if the appointment is not made at the AGM (23.3).

Each year at the AGM, an Auditor is appointed for the following year. Crowe was appointed as the Auditor firm for the first time at the 2021 AGM, following a procurement process and recommendation from the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Continuing with Crowe for 2023/2024 will provide the organisation with continuity.

## Motion 4: Approve Board Remuneration for 2023/24

### Motion 4

That the Association approves the remuneration for Directors of the Board for the 2023/24 financial year.

### Purpose

To seek the Association's agreement of remuneration rates to Board Directors for the period 2023/24.

### Background

At the AGM each September, NRM South's Association Members are provided with the Board remuneration/ sitting fee recommendation and asked to ratify the proposed fees. The current rates of remuneration have not changed since a review in 2020.

Management and the Board have reviewed the current fees with reference to the *Tasmanian Government Board Fee Policy* (particularly in relation to a non-trading Board). While the NRM South Board is not a "Tasmanian Government Board", it is formed under the *Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Act 2002*, and has responsibilities to the Minister. A comparison can be made with this policy based on the nature of Board, including:

- (a) Accountability (the role and function of the NRM South Board under the *Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Act 2002*, reporting to the Minister, and the management of financial contributions from State Government for core functions),
- (b) Impact (natural resource management, climate change and sustainability are critical to public interest and links with whole-of-government policy, and NRM South leverages significant funding, which is an important source of state revenue), and
- (c) Size of the organisation (based on turn over and scope of impact).

New rates are proposed to be ratified by Members at the September 2023 AGM to take affect from 1 October 2023:

	Approved for 2020-23		Proposed for 2023-2028	
	Half Day	Full Day	Half Day	Full Day
<b>Chair Fee</b>	\$150	\$300	\$245	\$490
<b>Director Fee</b>	\$85	\$170	\$185	\$371

While it is suggested that the remuneration rates remain stable for 2023-28, these rates will be reviewed and ratified by Members annually. Members are therefore asked to approve remuneration rates to Board Directors for the period 2023/24 only.

## Motion 5: Accept Appointment of Board Selection Panel 2023/24

### Motion 5

That the Association Members accept the appointment of the Board Selection Panel as nominated for 2023/24.

### Purpose

To seek the Association's endorsement of Board Selection Panel members for the 2023/24 period.

### Background

1. The Board Selection Panel is appointed by the Association at the Annual General Meeting. Up to six persons "representing a balance of natural resource management interests" is to act as the panel. Members of the Board Selection Panel need not be affiliated with members of the Association.
2. The Board Selection Panel holds office until the next Annual General Meeting. Members are eligible for re-appointment.

The recommended membership of the Board Selection Panel is:

- Ursula Taylor
- Frances Healy
- Lyndel Wilson
- Kirsten Adams



## Motion 6: Accept Appointment of Board Directors

### Motion 6

That the Association Members accept the appointment of the Board Directors as nominated.

#### **Purpose**

To seek the Association's endorsement of four new Board Directors.

#### **Background**

During 2022/23 NRM South opened an Expression of Interest to appoint new Board Directors. The Selection Panel identified four new Directors, and they were appointed on a casual basis. It is recommended that the new Directors are formally appointed by the Association Members. Directors are to hold office terms of up to four years and may not serve more than two full terms.

The recommended Directors are:

#### ***Tahnee McShane***

Tahnee McShane is a Tasmanian entrepreneur and agriculture enthusiast who is the proud co-owner of a successful livestock and grazing business in the Southern Midlands. Her passion for regenerative agriculture is evident in her commitment to sustainable and ethical farming practices, which prioritise the health of the land and the well-being of her animals. In addition to her work in agriculture, Tahnee also holds a position at an Australian Agri-tech company, where she contributes her expertise to help graziers use technology to improve decision-making and provide innovative solutions to agricultural challenges. Tahnee was a dedicated school teacher for ten years, and she has also published a children's book, demonstrating her diverse range of talents and passions.

#### ***Chris Cosgrove***

Chris has been involved in sustainability since 2002 and founded agrifood sustainability consultancy, Sustenance Asia, in 2014. He has worked with the Australian cotton and grains industries' sustainability frameworks, contributed to the Australian red meat industry's 10-year strategic plan, and worked with companies to develop pragmatic sustainability programs that aim to reduce risk, increase productivity, and grow markets. Chris previously worked in the Australian Government and in public relations consultancies, where his roles included providing investor relations advice to ASX-listed agribusinesses and public relations advice to some of Australia's largest agribusinesses. He has authored a young adult sustainability novel, speaks intermediate level Mandarin Chinese, and has worked in Australia and Hong Kong.

#### ***Bob Rutherford***

Born in the north east of England, Bob migrated to Tasmania to pursue his first career as an academic economist at the University of Tasmania, where his work included public sector pricing and investment, cost benefit analysis, microeconomic reform of the dairy industry, economic growth and the environment and state public finances. Since 1990, Bob has spent the majority of his career working in the public sector, with his most recent role being the Deputy Secretary, Industry and

Business Development, for the Department of State Growth. He has had extensive involvement in policy and regulatory issues in the areas of energy, natural resources and infrastructure. Bob has been a member of the Board for the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, Australia since 2016.

***Ingrid van Putten***

Ingrid is a senior research scientist at CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Science with a background in economics and environmental studies. Ingrid has a particular interest in applying behavioral economics to help address fisheries and natural resource management problems. her past research has focused on understanding social and economic decision making by marine resource users (commercial fishers, recreational fishers, the aquaculture industry, tourists) and comprehending their interactions with the biophysical marine environment. Her goal is to improve the management of important marine systems and ensure their long-term viability.

## Motion 7: Receive and Ratify Annual Report 2022/2023

### Motion 7

That the Association receive and ratify the Annual Report for 2022/23.

### Purpose

To seek the Association's approval of the Annual Report 2022/23.

### Background

An Annual Report has been prepared and will be presented to the Association. The Chief Executive Officer, Nepelle Crane, will present the Annual Report, highlight the key projects and achievements, and thank the Board, Committees and staff for their contributions to NRM South.

## Motion 8: Other Business

### Motion 8

That the Association notes the appointment of the CEO as Public Officer for 2023/24.

#### Purpose

Appointment of Ms Nepelle Crane as Public Officer

#### Background

The Rules of the Association notes that the “Public Officer” is appointed by the Board in accordance with section 14 of the Act.

The Public Officer is responsible for ensuring that documents are filed with the Tasmanian Commissioner for Corporate Affairs (Consumer, Building and Occupational Services) in accordance with the Act and for maintaining a current copy of the Rules of the Association.

The Chair notes that Ms Nepelle Crane was appointed to the role of Public Officer for the Association following commencement in the role of Chief Executive Officer in December 2019.

Because these actions are administrative and reporting type functions, many Associations name a staff member as their Public Officer. The nomination of Ms Nepelle Crane as the Public Officer was provided as an appropriate method of meeting this administrative requirement.

#### Questions for the Directors

Association Members may direct questions to the Board of Directors.