



Regional NRM organisations work closely with Australia's First Nations across the country. NRM Regions Australia acknowledges Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia where we live and work. We pay our respect to First Nations cultures; and to Elders past and present. We commit to working together to care for Country.



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This Annual Report has been designed for accessible online use and distribution. A limited number of copies have been printed for statutory purposes. The report is available at: www.nrmregionsaustralia.com.au Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date.

## Chairperson's report

As we reflect on 2023/2024, we acknowledge that the challenges and heartfelt struggles resulting from the Natural Heritage Trust Program processes and outcomes have been tough.

At the national level, one of our roles is advocating to the Australian Government on behalf of the sector. The approach we have taken with the Australian Government has been true to our mission, values and principles. NRM Regions Australia is here for our members, not the government, and so our conversations reflected our first priority of championing the sector. Of course, some of these interactions generated a degree of discomfort, but we simultaneously strived to nurture solid, long-term working relationships and maintain our credibility as your peak body. It's a fine line, and I believe we have walked it well. The Board agreed we would continue to work to prevent a process that has rocked so many NRM organisations over the past eighteen months, and to improve what we can with the existing arrangements.

Of course, we still have more to do. At the National Chairs' Forum in November, we are coordinating a dynamic event for all our Chairs at Parliament House, with valuable guests invited and exciting networking and showcasing opportunities.

The next strategic plan, drafted with initial input from Chairs, will be presented in November. Where the previous plan focussed very much internally on this organisation and our role across the sector, the next strategic plan will have a more 'outwards' focus.

You will notice pivotal shifts in NRM Regions Australia over the next year with our communications, website, focus and strategy. We are still as committed as ever to our membership and will step up further with showcasing the great work you are doing and maintaining relevance of this sector in a fast-changing world.

"We are still as committed as ever to our membership and will step up further with showcasing the great work you are doing and maintaining relevance of this sector in a fastchanging world."

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to express our gratitude for all those who advocate and implement activities, philosophies and practices to continually care for the country. Thank you to every regional organisation for demonstrating true grit and perseverance, to those of you who continually strengthen our creativity and innovation, reminding us of all that we can do more and do better.

2025 is an exciting year. Watch this space and let's enjoy the journey together.

Yours in NRM,

Emma Jackson Chairperson

# CEO's report

This has been the toughest year I have ever experienced for the regional NRM sector and regional NRM organisations. The difficult and slow transition between the five-year national NHT programs has impacted our work on the ground, our partners and our teams.

Combined with managing ongoing extreme events and the impacts of Covid, the toll has been significant. This is despite the efforts we all made for several years prior to the transition seeking a smooth and efficient process. This included, but was not limited to, our strong participation in the NLP2 review, collaborating with the department on costings work, letters to Federal candidates, briefings and requests to the then new Ministers, and high-level departmental meetings.

I respect the tenacity and commitment that the regional NRM sector, and my colleagues, have demonstrated throughout this time. We will continue work to improve the current and future arrangements with the Australian Government.

One win through this process was securing the funding for Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning across all regions. This funding, enabled through both the then-Ministers' offices and their agencies (DCCEEW and DAFF), allowed regions to undertake key planning work demonstrating the capabilities of regional NRM organisations and their important existing and potential roles. We are now seeking to build upon the foundation and momentum of this work.

The end of the 2023/24 year also saw the successful finalisation of negotiations for two new externally funded projects designed to demonstrate and grow the regional NRM sector's roles in nature-based solutions for climate resilience, and in environmental market participation. These were funded by the Minderoo Foundation and DCCEEW respectively. They will help the sector build and share knowledge, evidence and resourcing. It also assists NRM Regions Australia to build our capacity to work for you, including improving our communications and advocacy for the regional NRM sector.

Finally, regional Australia is facing a oncein-a-generation scale of investment through the energy transition. Many regions and landholders are already grappling with the challenges, impacts and opportunities this transition presents. As with carbon farming and natural capital, NRM Regions Australia will work with the sector collectively to understand and engage constructively with this process.

Thank you again for your tenacity and commitment to NRM values and goals, and the sector as a whole.

Dr Kate Andrews Chief Executive Officer

# Australia's regional NRM model

Natural Resource Management (NRM) is the integrated management of the natural resources that make up Australia's natural landscapes - that is, our land, water, soil, plants and animals. Regional NRM organisations work and partner with a remarkable range of people across the country, from the local scale to the national level.

Australian governments agreed to regionalise across the country in early 2000s to provide place-based yet consistent and strategic delivery of NRM investment. Since that time, our sector has built exceptional expertise and knowledge about the complex landscapes and communities of our regions, including building long-standing and trusted relationships, including with First Nations communities.

The NRM sector provides interlinked, continent-wide coverage across Australia for delivering integrated programs at a regional level. NRM regions enable planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of a wide range of initiatives to manage natural and cultural resources, to

embed resilience in our landscapes, freshwater systems, and marine environments.

Regional NRMs are diverse but interconnected across the country; they are place-based, responding to specific needs and priorities in their regions and jurisdictions. At the same time, they are woven together by common principles, shared approaches to planning, partnerships and innovation, and interlinked networks and communities of practice.

For two decades they have continued to protect and restore the natural environment and build and support sustainable agriculture through many iterations of Australian Government programs. All members currently have contractual arrangements in place with the Australian Government and form the Panel of Regional Delivery Partners for Environmental Protection, Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Services. All Australian Government agencies may use the panel to procure RDPs to co-design and deliver projects.

THE NATURAL RESOURCES THAT MAKE UP AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL LANDSCAPES











LAND

SOIL

**PLANTS** 

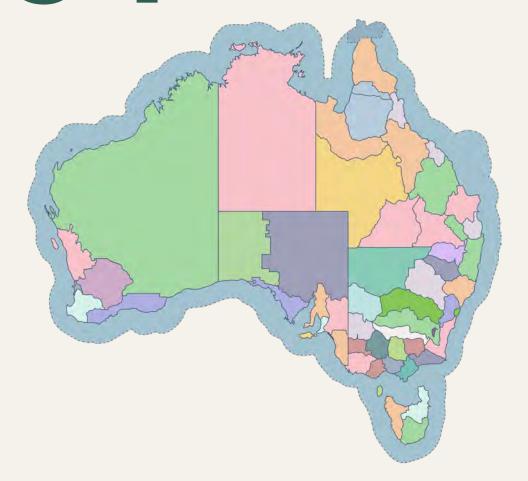
**ANIMALS** 

NRM Regions Australia is the national peak body for Australia's 54 regional NRM organisations. First established as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee in 2020, it was preceded by more informal efforts over two decades. The company's constitution establishes a

Board comprising one director appointed by each jurisdiction and an independent Chair.

Our map of regions provides links to all regional NRM organisations.

## 54 REGIONAL NRM ORGANISATIONS

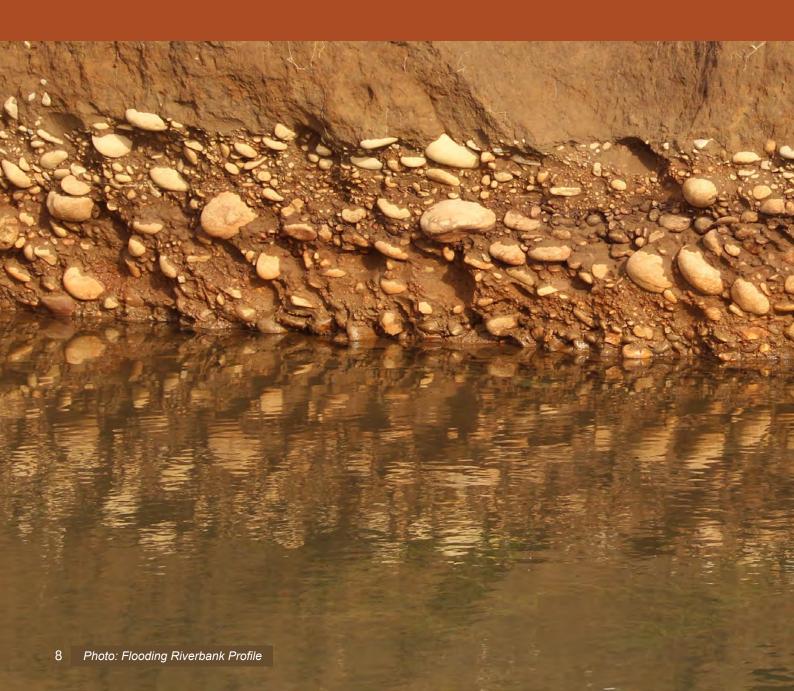


Click for an interactive map linked to all 54 regional NRM organisations



## Our landscapes – renewed and valued for all Australians

Provide collaborative leadership for our members, to influence NRM outcomes



## Constitution's Objectives NRM Regions Australia serves as a national voice for the regional model and regional NRM organisations. It was established to promote the importance and value of natural resource management at a national level to: Sustain the condition of our natural resources and bring benefits to the Australian community and economy; Work for a sustainable natural resource management funding base; Drive innovation across the natural resource management system; and Advocate on matters that are of national significance for NRM regional bodies in pursuit of the above objects. The organisation's 2021–24 Strategic Plan, which outlines strategic objectives and outcomes, can be found in the Annex. A list of our 54 member organisations can also be found in the Annex.

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#### National NRM Regions CEOs Forum

8 & 9 November 2023, Canberra ACT

In November 2023, over 60 regional NRM CEOs, special guests and presenters came together to share ideas and work collectively to create opportunities and partnerships within the regional NRM sector and across industries and government.

The forum included an impressive lineup of knowledgeable speakers covering a diverse range of topics, from climate change adaptation to biosecurity, biodiversity restoration through to sustainable agriculture and integrated landscape management – all core business to regional NRMs.

#### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- » A speech by then Agriculture Minister, Senator Murray Watt, at the close of Day 1 acknowledging the valuable work of regional organisations and acknowledging the unintended difficulties of the transition between NHT programs, and his own frustration at the delays
- » A presentation from Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, followed by a discussion on the NESP climate system hub, national climate adaptation initiatives and NRM RA climate resilience work
- » A panel discussing natural capital accounting and the role of the regional NRM. Panel: regional NRM organisations, Mark Eigenraam (IDEEA Group), Sue Ogilvy (Farming for the Future)
- » A panel discussion on natural capital and environmental markets. Panel: NRM RA, Anthony Bennie (DCCEEW), Andrew Petersen (Business Council for Sustainable Development Australia), Warwick Ragg (NFF), Prof. Andy Lowe (Nature Positive CRC bid)
- » The opportunity to talk with senior Australian Government officials about government policies and programs, particularly the Natural Heritage Trust program and the new Environmental Information Australia division
- » A panel and discussion on Moving Forward with First Nations
- » Our stakeholder networking event was opened by Adam Fennessy, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, with many attending from both DAFF and DCCEEW and a number of national partners.





Photo: Attendees at the NRM Regions CEO Forum

#### 21st National NRM Chairs' Forum

1 & 2 November 2023, online

The 21st National NRM Chairs' Forum was held online with over 40 Chairs and representatives from regional NRM organisations around Australia.

The goals of the forum were to examine the federal government's agenda as well as take a deep dive into the NRM sector's roles, responsibilities, leadership opportunities and impact. Highlights included: Insights into the next iteration of the Future Drought Fund plan and the role of NRM; an update on international and national environmental markets and drivers; and an update from DCCEEW regarding the NHT transition and new program.

#### **KEY SPEAKERS:**

- » The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water
- » Brent Finlay, Chair Future Drought Fund Advisory Committee
- » Estelle Parker, Co-CEO, Responsible Investment Association Australasia
- » Dean Knudson, Deputy Secretary of DCCEEW



Photo: Indigenous-led firework, NQ Dry Tropics



Photo: Working with stakeholders, Gulf Savannah NRM

### Sustainable Agriculture Facilitators Conference 30 April – 2 May 2023, Canberra ACT

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) contracted NRM Regions Australia to hold the Sustainable Agriculture Facilitators (SAF) Conference. The two-day conference (with a preceding day dedicated to field trips), drew 50 participants from all states and ACT, and from 42 NRM regions. This was the first opportunity for SAFs from across the country to come together under the new Regional Delivery Partner arrangements.

The conference provided a space to learn and share skills and experiences, re-establish and build new networks, connect with key personnel from DAFF and learn more about key themes and programs across government. Participants were exposed to a broad cross-section of speakers from government, the agricultural sector, science and natural resource management with three keynote speakers, four panel sessions, and 25 speakers/panel members.

The field trips, organised by ACT NRM and Landcare ACT, showcased sustainable agricultural enterprises and biodiversity conservation with attendees being offered a choice of a full day option to Millpost Watsons, or two half day options either to The Truffle Farm or Amberly Farm.

#### ATTENDEED RATED THE CONFERENCE:

RELEVANCE

4 9 5

FIELD TRIPS

4.1 5

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

4.5°5

91% SAID TOPICS

SAID TOPICS WERE IN LINE WITH EXPECTATIONS



#### NRM RA Environmental Markets Forum

14 & 15 May 2023, online

The NRM Regions Australia online Environmental Markets Forum was held in May 2024, and explored the key terms, concepts and requirements for environmental markets and how they could support nature restoration.

Through four sessions over two days, NRM Regions Australia led participants through a foundational unit to improve basic knowledge, before delving into the Australian Government's Nature Repair Market. The event was designed to support natural resource managers to understand environmental markets and showcased sixteen engaging speakers. Scientists, public-policy makers, researchers, project developers, market representatives and regional NRM staff spoke over the following four sessions:

- **1. Foundational module:** What are environmental markets and what are the opportunities and risks for regional natural resource management outcomes?
- **2. Enablers of environmental investment:** What components are needed for environmental investment to support nature positive outcomes?
- **3. Drivers of environmental investment:** What national and global influences are driving, or likely to drive, investment in nature and green finance?
- **4. Engaging with markets:** What are the mechanisms, pathways and steps for prospective market participants?

#### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- » Introduction to environmental markets Meaghan Burkett, Natural Capital and Environmental Markets Initiative
- » Stories from the regions: Carla Swift Wheatbelt NRM, Claire Parkes Natural Capital, Matt Dawson North Central LLS, Matt Taylor BMRG, Paul Dennis Healthy Land and Water, Bronwyn Robertson Terrain NRM
- » An Australian Government Nature Repair Market update Catherine Riordan, DCCEEW
- » Understanding a voluntary market platform Maree Adshead, CEO, Eco Markets Australia
- » A farmer's perspective of carbon and nature markets and what should come next - Andrew Gibbons, WA



#### National representation of the NRM sector

The Chair and CEO held regular meetings with senior Australian Government officers, Ministerial advisers, and partners. Throughout the year they made representations about the upcoming NHT transition between programs and the need for continuity.

#### NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND CONSULTATION PROCESSES INCLUDED:

- » Australian Government National Environmental Legislation invitation only consultations
- » Nature Positive Economy CRC Bid Advisory Committee
- » National Climate Risk Assessment First Pass assessment report
- » Australian Climate & Biodiversity Foundation: Australian Leaders Nature Positive Pre-Summit
- » National Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Committee
- » Proposed Nature Repair Market bill
- » National Environmental Standards Regional Planning consultation
- » Decade of Biosecurity Advisory Group
- » NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub Advisory Committee
- » Natural Capital working group
- » Agricultural Sustainability Frameworks
- » ClimateWorks both on Natural Capital and Land Use Futures

#### NATIONAL PARTNERS AND NETWORKS INCLUDED:

- » National Farmers Federation
- » National Landcare Network
- » Australian Land Conservation Alliance
- » Centre for Invasive Species (CISS)
- » Agricultural industry groups
- » Carbon Market Institute
- » Australian Sustainable Finance Institute
- » Australian Farm Institute
- » ClimateWorks
- » Farming for the Future
- » Regen Farmers Mutual
- » Landscape Finance Lab
- » ANU

- » University of Melbourne
- » Adelaide University
- » CSIRO
- » IDEEA Group
- » Australian Citizen Science Association
- » Geoscience Australia
- » Queensland Land Restoration Fund
- » Pollination
- » Minderoo Foundation
- » Soils for Life
- » Pew Foundation
- » Rural RDCs

#### **NHT** program

NRM Regions Australia Chair and CEO maintained regular interaction with and provided regular feedback to both departments and Ministerial offices regarding the NHT process throughout the year.

Additionally, in April 2024 the CEO led a small delegation of NRM CEOs to Canberra to meet with DAFF and DCCEEW representatives face-to-face to discuss the NHT program transition to explain the negative impact, negotiate through difficulties, and provide suggested improvements. This collaborative response was a powerful way for the sector to have influence and demonstrate that concerns were shared widely. We drew upon the individual expertise and experiences of the CEOs to generate constructive suggestions.

Following on from this initial meeting, in June 2024, the NRM regions Australia CEO and a group of NRM CEOs from around Australia met with representatives from DCCEEW to follow-up on concerns such as with the lack of funding for Indigenous-led or partnership projects submitted in the tender process.

#### National Environment legislation consultation

NRM Regions Australia was invited by the Australian government to participate in consultations on the draft changes to the new national environmental laws. NRM Regions Australia attended four invitation-only consultation sessions in Canberra, bringing Emily Gerrard, Comhar, to provide legal expertise. Much feedback was also provided between sessions, both in specific briefings with relevant teams, such as regional planning, and with written responses

#### **Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning**

In a fraught time working to improve the transition between NHT programs, it was excellent to see the roll-out of \$250 000 to each region to prepare the first ever regional Biodiversity and Natural Capital Assets Emergency Preparedness Response Plans (EPRPs) Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans. This was enabled through both the Environment and Agriculture Ministers' offices, and the Australian Government Departments of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), and Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

The plans define the priority natural capital (Matters of National Environmental Significance) and agricultural assets in each NRM region and identify the risks to those assets presented by extreme events; and also define management responses for the planning, preparedness, response and recovery phases of such events. Plans were developed by all 54 Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions across Australia from late 2023 to 30 June 2024. Plans will be used by the NRM regions and emergency management agencies to ensure that risks to assets are minimised as far as possible, that natural capital assets are protected during emergency responses, and that best possible recovery actions are implemented.

This program allowed regions to undertake key planning work demonstrating the capabilities of their organisations and their important existing and potential roles. NRM Regions Australia is proud to have negotiated the initiation of this program and is now looking to ensure we can build upon the work undertaken and continue its momentum.

#### Participation in key national events

#### National Climate Adaptation Conference, July 2023



NRM Regions Australia facilitated a 'challenging conversation' on the role of NRM in climate adaptation at the Climate Adaptation Conference 2023. Over 100 participants turned up to discuss the urgent need for climate adaptation and the crucial opportunity we have right now to embed 'nature-based' approaches to adaptation, including through regional NRM. The panel session was facilitated by CEO Kate Andrews, and showcased work from across the country, along with a facilitated discussion with Alinytjara Wilurara's Kim Krebs, Limestone Coast's Liz Perkins, and NRM RA's Rachel Morgain.

#### Trading in Regen: Ag and Climate Markets (Regen Farmers Mutual), August 2023

A national live-streamed forum held in Taronga Zoo, with a diverse range of experts leading conversations with participants to guide the Regen Farmers Mutual policy for trading in carbon and biodiversity credits going forward. CEO Kate Andrews and Paul Chatterton (Landscapes Finance Lab) opened the day with a lively discussion on what landscape-scale is and why it is important.



#### Australia Land Conservation Alliance Annual Conference, October 2023

CEO Kate Andrews led a panel including Rohan Clarke (Regen Farmers Mutual), Liall Grieve (Invasives species Council) Stella Kondylas (The Nature Conservancy) and Doug Robinson (Trust for Nature) in a lively discussion on the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss and the critical need for integrated solutions at a landscape scale.



Kate Andrews leading panel discussion

#### Womadelaide The Big Nature Fix: Planet Talks, March 2024

#### W MADelaide THE WORLD'S FESTIVAL

CEO, Kate Andrews was invited to join Ariadne Gorring (Pollination), Martine Maron (UQ) and host Andrew Lowe (UofA) on a panel discussing the work of NRM across the country, highlighting successful NRM projects making a difference for our environment – such as the Warru recovery in the desert with Indigenous rangers (Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board, SA), Wildlife for Wine - (Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, SA) and Saltmarsh recovery – (NRM South, Tas). Despite the day being over 40 degrees they had a large and engaged audience.

> Listen to the podcast here: The Big Nature
Fix – Presented by The Environment Institute <<</p>



Kate Andrews with fellow panelists Andy, Ariadne and Martine

#### Carbon Market Institute's annual Carbon Farming Industry forum, May 2024

In May, CEO Kate Andrews and Carbon Farming Knowledge Broker Rachel Clarke headed to Cairns to participate in the Carbon Market Institute's two-day annual Carbon Farming Industry forum. Kate joined Heather Campbell (Greening Australia), and Laura Higgins (DCCEEW) to discuss the critical importance of integrated land management in addressing the dual challenges of the climate and biodiversity crises. Rachel shared the stage with Samuel Dawes (CMI), Lisa McFadyen (NSW DPI) and Rowan Foley (Aboriginal Carbon Foundation), to discuss the social and community licence around land sector credit projects and how to ensure delivery of appropriate benefit sharing and regional opportunities such as outreach and education programs.



Kate Andrews speaking with her panel at the forum

#### National Sustainable Agriculture Summit, May 2024

NRM Regions Australia Chair Emma Jackson and CEO Kate Andrews, with NRM RQ's CEO Chris Norman, were invited to Toowoomba for the summit, hosted by then Minister for Agriculture Murray Watt and with Energy Minister Chris Bowen attending. They joined more than 150 farmers, peak agricultural lobby groups, researchers, environmental groups, energy experts and senior departmental staff from around the country for a high-level, government-led summit. The focus was on how our agriculture sector can meet its own climate goals, and actively play its part in the government's economy-wide emissions reduction targets while improving productivity and profitability. Emma was seated at the Ministers' table and was able to engage with them on the roles of regional NRM.

#### National submissions

During 2023-2024 NRM Regions Australia made submissions to the following:

- » Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the Future Drought Fund
- » Participation and feedback on the Nature Positive (Environment Protection Australia) Bill 2024 [Provisions] and related bills including the four invitation-only sessions in Canberra
- » Climate Change Authority Issues Paper Setting, Measuring and Achieving Australia's Emissions Reduction Target
- » Australian Carbon Credits Units Review Discussion paper
- » Agriculture, Land and Emissions Discussion Paper (DAFF)
- » Draft Drought Resilience Funding Plan
- » Climate Change Authority on their issues paper 'Targets, pathways and progress'
- » Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding
- » Alternative Commonwealth Capabilities for Crisis Response

NRM Regions Australia provided regular ongoing feedback to the Australian Government over the course of the year regarding the transition between national NHT programs, both verbal and written.



Photo: Carbon & Biodiversity Trials, NRM North



Photo: NRM Innovation at work, Gulf Savannah NRM

## NRM Regions Australia submission to National Climate Adaptation Plan Issues Paper

NRM Regions Australia responded to the Australian Government's release of the National Climate Adaptation Plan Issues Paper and first pass National Climate Risk Assessment. The Issues Paper discussed the Australian Government's potential roles and approach to addressing the most significant climate risks we are facing - including to our environment, agriculture, water, and to our regional, remote and First Nations communities.

Our submission suggests nine key areas for action to address these critical, and increasing, risks. These include:

- » Recognising the already-crucial role of Australian Government investments in climate adaptation and resilience through our regional NRM infrastructure;
- » Strengthening the central role of NRM, through our partnerships, in supporting the knitting together of national and strategic leadership with regional and local solutions;
- » Recognising the centrality of landscape risks, alongside water security, as a cross-cutting issue across all domains of climate risk;
- » Highlighting the crucial and under-recognised role for nature-based climate solutions as highly adaptable, low cost, low regrets climate adaptation solutions;
- » Mainstreaming support for climate adaptation across NRM programs, and natural resource management as a strategy to address adaptation across a wide range of programs and portfolios; and
- » Updating climate-smart regional planning and investing in regional data including guidance and accessibility of downscaled regional climate data and knowledge.

The 54 regional NRM organisations are an essential piece of Australia's climate adaptation infrastructure. We look forward to working closely with the Government toward the next phase of the NCRA and beyond, drawing on NRM-based solutions to strengthen our climate resilience.

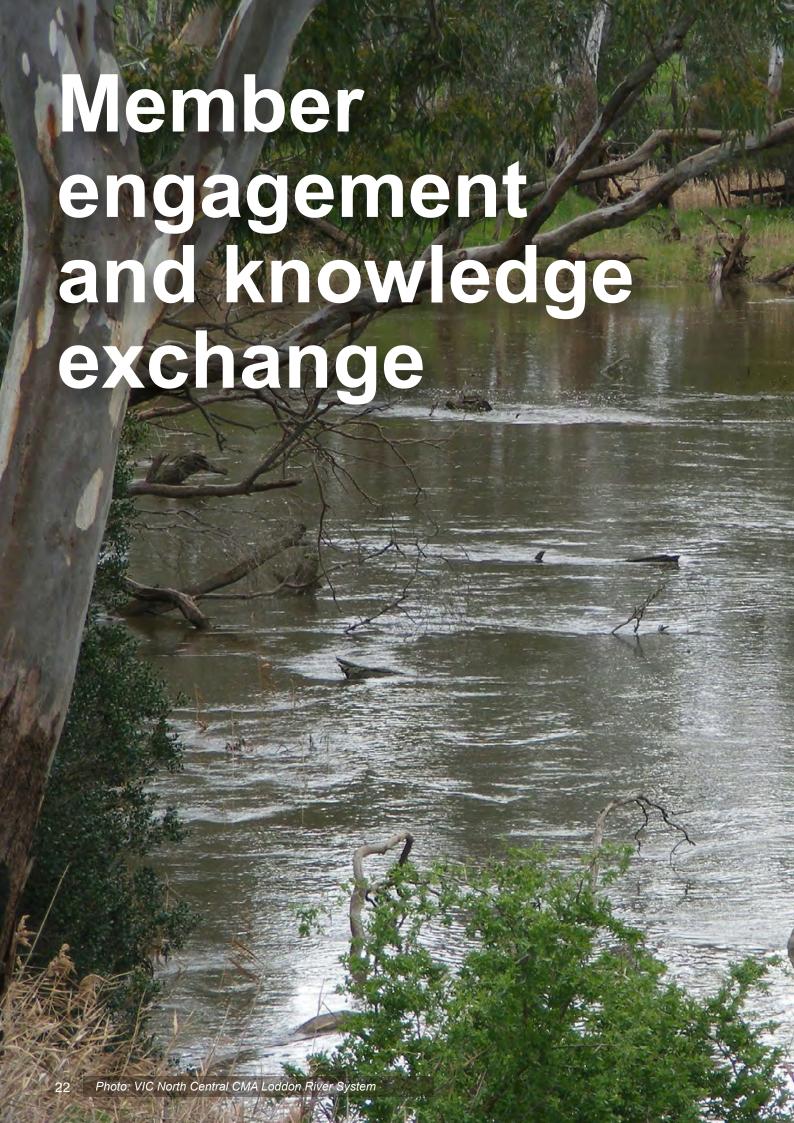
Read our submission online here



Photo: NRM South; Measuring nature repair actions



Photo: Carbon & Biodiversity Trials, NRM North



#### Communications

#### **Monthly Snapshots**

These snapshots are a quick read for busy government executives and Ministerial staff providing a quick tour of regional NRM projects across the country and featuring the diverse work of regional NRM organisations. Links mean readers can easily access further information and are published to the NRM RA website.



The CEO writes a regular newsletter distributed to the Chairs and CEOs with an update of what's happening nationally.

The CEO meets fortnightly with a group of jurisdictional CEOs from each state/territory around the country, indispensable informal brains trust for the CEO. The jurisdictional CEOs working group provide out of session advice and information to inform the work of NRM Regions Australia.



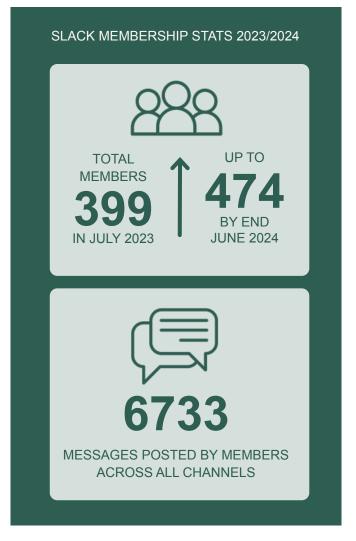
SLACK CoP CHANNELS MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS JUNE 2024

MARINE AND COASTAL 44

BIOSECURITY NATURAL CAPITAL 124

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY 76

CARBON FARMING AND ERF 4 MONITORING 191



#### Online Presence



Our online presence, including social media, continued to play an important role in highlighting the achievements of the NRM sector, sharing important and relevant information to build knowledge, and connecting with the stories and successes of our partners.

#### Linked In

After its introduction to our suite of social media tools last year, LinkedIn has experienced remarkable growth to become our most accessed platform. Followers increased by a substantial 58.2% to reach 618. This platform has become increasingly important for professional networking and showcasing our work. Our content generated 16.6k impressions and 461 interactions, highlighting the platform's effectiveness in reaching our target audience.

#### Facebook

Our Facebook content continues to perform well, with a total of 683 people subscribed to our channel, representing an 8.2% increase from the previous year. We more than doubled our number of Facebook posts, posting 59 times in the financial year and extending our reach by about 30 percent to 1,800 people - mirroring the year-on-year growth observed in the 2022-23 year. Our X account (previously known as Twitter) following remained steady at around 1,360 and our 40 posts received 240 interactions, demonstrating high levels of impact with each post.

#### YouTube

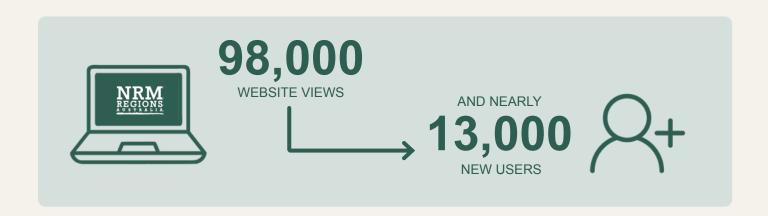
Our YouTube channel remains an important place for NRM Regions Australia to share presentations and build knowledge with our members and others. Where possible, presentations made to our members through NRM only forums are made public on YouTube to provide enduring access for members and provide a platform for conversation on issues of importance to the NRM sector.



X (formerly Twitter) maintained a strong following with 1,368 followers, a slight increase of 0.8% compared to the previous year. While follower growth was modest, the platform continues to be valuable for sharing timely updates and engaging with our audience.

#### Website

The cornerstone of our digital presence remains the NRM Regions Australia website, which generated significantly more traffic in the 23-24 year than previously. Over the course of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, we recorded over 98K views and had nearly 13K new users. Users were engaged with the website content -typically clicking through 4-5 pages on the website. The homepage and map of the NRM regions across Australia are still our most popular pages - reflecting our critical role in increasing awareness, understanding and visibility of regional NRM organisations and their work. Our monthly NRM Snapshot, which features stories from regional NRM organisations across Australia, is a popular page on the website and in our social media channels.



The metrics of our communication channels reflect NRM Regions Australia's ongoing commitment to effective, strategic, and inclusive communication. We look forward to building upon these successes as we continue to engage, inform, and collaborate with our members, our partners, and the broader community.

#### **Top Posts**

Posts on forums and festivals were our most popular in the 23/24 year, with CEO Kate Andrews' speech at Womadelaide the most popular X/Twitter post and her presentation to the Carbon Farming Forum in May the most engaging on LinkedIn and Facebook. These posts, which tagged other contributors to the panel sessions, also demonstrate the importance of our active engagement with partners and colleagues through social media.

In the 23-24 year, 45 videos were uploaded to the YouTube channel, with those videos viewed 2,676 times. The highest performing videos for this period were 'Introduction to Industry Sustainability', a presentation by Dr Megan Evans of UNSW on 'Environmental markets and what it means to be nature positive' and Raphael Wood of Aurecon presenting on 'Carbon market trends'.

45 VIDEOS UPLOADED TO THE YOUTUBE CHANNEL



WITH THOSE **VIDEOS VIEWED** 

2,676 **TIMES** 

#### Communities of Practice

Our Communities of Practice (CoP) continue to provide an important place for our regional NRM staff to meet, learn, and network. There were three active communities of practice running through the 23-24 year, including Carbon Farming and Environmental Markets, Natural Capital, and Biosecurity, with 14 CoPs run during the reporting period. We continue to regularly check-in with members to ensure we are organising speakers of interest and providing opportunities for peer-learning among participants.

A review of the CoPs in late 2023 found high levels of member satisfaction with their CoP experience - of the 42 people surveyed, over 80 percent of respondents said they felt their CoP was extending their networks and their access to knowledge, and over 75 percent felt their experience in a CoP was improving their practice in the NRM sector. Nearly 90 percent of respondents said they would recommend their CoP to other people in their organisation or networks.

DURING 23/24 ACROSS OUR PROJECTS WE HELD

COPS + WEBINARS



ON TOPICS INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE OCEANS, BIOSECURITY & BEES, INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS AND REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS.



## Our people

#### **Board of Directors**



#### Independent Chairperson: Emma Jackson

Emma is the current NRM Regions Australia Chair and served as Chair of Cape York NRM for eight years prior to this role. She played a critical role in taking the national organisation from a working group to a legal entity and is continuing to strengthen and lead NRM Regions Australia forwards. Emma contributes to the local region in many ways and is dedicated to improving practices and opportunities across the industry.



#### Jamie Pittock

Jamie is a professor at The Australian National University and is the independent Chair of the ACT Natural Resources Management Advisory Committee. He has worked for environmental organisations in Australia and internationally. Among other roles, Jamie is a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and chairs the Eminent Scientists Group of WWF Australia. He is also President of Friends of Grasslands.



#### **Alastair Shields**

A born and bred Territorian, Alastair is passionate about development that has good environmental outcomes, creates employment, and provides other tangible benefits for the Territory, especially outcomes that involve investment in the Territory's unique natural landscape and flora and fauna. Alastair has formal qualifications in accounting, law and public administration, and joined Territory Natural Resource Management after a career of more than 37 years in the NT Public Sector.



#### Julie Boyd

As Chair of NRM Regions Queensland and Reef Catchments Limited, and a former Mayor of Mackay, Julie Boyd has a longstanding interest and involvement in the natural resources sector. She is an experienced company director and has expertise in strategy, governance and the not-for-profit sector.



#### David Greenhough

David is Chair of the Landscape SA Chairs Forum and Chair of the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board. David chaired the Glenthorne Partnership, working with the South Australian Department for Environment and Water, partnership members and the community to provide advice and guidance on the creation of Glenthorne National Park and precinct. He is a founding member and chair of the Friends of the Lower Field River, a group formed to reinvigorate and revegetate the Lower Field River, near Hallett Cove.



#### Peter Voller PSM

Peter worked for 25 years in Queensland Government as an agroforestry extension officer in inland areas and on delivery of vegetation management controls on farms. He moved to Tasmania in 2007, taking on the role of Manager Natural Values Conservation in DPIPWE, before retiring in 2018. He is presently chair of West Tamar Landcare Group and of Cradle Coast NRM, is a Director on Cradle Coast Authority Board, and Director representing Tasmania on the NRM Regions Australia Board.



#### Antony Ford

Tony has over 40 years of experience in Australian and international agribusiness, of which 30 years has been at senior executive level and on the boards as director and chair of food manufacturing, aquaculture, horticultural and other institutions. Recently, he has been Chair of one of Australia's largest aquacultural companies, a Director of NRM Regions Australia and long-term president of Hockey Association in Victoria and associate business consultant at one of Australia's larger restructuring firms.



#### John Ruprecht

John recently left State Government after 35 years of involvement across portfolios of Water, Agriculture and Food, and Primary Industries and Regional Development. He is interested in continuing to contribute to sustainable agriculture and resource management in Western Australia and brings extensive governance experience.

#### Board of Directors – Retired 2023-2024



#### Allison Harker

Allison is a primary producer in the Southern Tablelands of NSW and AICD company. Her roles include the Chair for Local Land Services and Co-Chair of the Landcare Joint Management Committee. Allison is responsible for the oversight of the NSW Landcare Program and coordinates strategies for the sustainable utilisation of our NSW natural resources. Allison is also a mentor for the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation and the Diversity in Agriculture Leadership program.



#### Helen Reynolds

Helen is Chair of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority in northern Victoria. Over the past 20 years, Helen and her partner Craig have built an innovative and productive broadacre irrigated cropping business near Shepparton. Prior to that, Helen worked in public and not-for-profit sector roles in agriculture, Landcare and land management. Helen holds an Honours degree in science and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is passionate about sustainable land and water management and nature conservation.

#### **Staff**



#### Dr Kate Andrews: Chief Executive Officer (full time)

Dr Kate Andrews has a diverse professional background. Kate worked to establish the Lake Eyre Basin Coordinating Group and became its first CEO. She was Land & Water Australia's first Knowledge and Adoption Manager and established the Knowledge for Regional NRM program. Kate also chaired Territory NRM and has participated in numerous national committees and Boards including the Australian Landcare Council, CSIRO Sustainable Agriculture Flagship advisory committee, Agrifutures Australia board and the inaugural Future Drought Fund Advisory Committee.



#### Sajidah Abdullah – Project Support (part time)

Sajidah draws upon a varied background, having worked most of her life 'out bush' in northern Australia, with experience in administration, systems management and positions including Ranger on Christmas Island and in Kakadu National Park, and joint Property Manager of a Bush Heritage Australia reserve. In recent times, as a Project Officer, Sajidah has worked for independent schools supporting the Principal and Board Chair and served as Board Director and Company Secretary.



#### Rachel Clarke: Knowledge Broker Carbon Farming and Environmental Markets (part time)

Rachel is a strategic engagement and communications specialist with over 15 years' experience working in natural resource management. Rachel's past roles include leading stakeholder engagement at the Murray Darling Basin Authority, as a communications manager with ACTEW Water, and as a project manager with Murrumbidgee CMA. Rachel has been with NRM Regions Australia since 2021 and is passionate about supporting NRM organisations in their work to foster productive and healthy landscapes and communities.



#### Jenna Foti: Assistant to CEO & Project Administration (part time)

Jenna has over a decade of international experience within the NRM sector, across the private sector, university, and government, from New Zealand, United States and Australia. Jenna's areas of experience include environmental consulting, pest species (kangaroo) research, soil and farming research, water quality monitoring, and water quality management. Jenna is Assistant to the CEO Kate Andrews and helps with other interesting tasks as required.



#### Richard Ingram: Strategic Director – Policy and Development (part time)

Richard has lived and worked in many countries and cultures and brings a wealth of management and executive experience gained across a range of industries including NRM, Tourism and Hospitality, and Finance. Working as Executive Officer at Cradle Coast NRM in NW Tasmania proved career-defining, navigating the complexities of intensive agriculture, aquaculture, mining, and forestry alongside extensive conservation reserves, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.



#### Justin Bellanger: Knowledge Broker: National Biosecurity Hub (one day a week)

Justin Bellanger is the CEO of the Aquaculture Council of WA with significant experience providing specialist services to businesses managing natural resources. Justin is also the Chair of the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia, a Director with the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, a member of the National Environmental Biosecurity Advisory Group, and leads a National Biosecurity Hub for NRM Regions Australia.

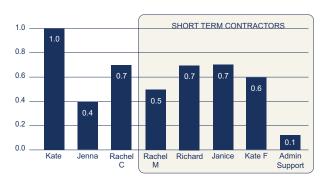


#### Rachel Morgain: Knowledge Broker – Bushfire Recovery (part time)

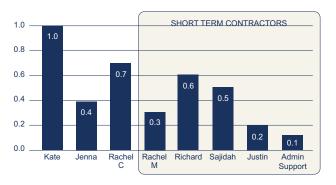
Rachel is a knowledge broker, environmental researcher, public speaker and writer, with 10 years of experience working in biodiversity and social-environmental systems. In addition to her role with NRM Regions Australia, she co-leads significant research initiatives on biodiversity, regional planning, cultural land management and nature-based climate adaptation. She was the knowledge broker for the National Environmental Science Program's Threatened Species Recovery Hub, and subsequently helped found the Biodiversity Council.

NRM Regions Australia acknowledges the vital work of our contractors Trish Cave - Collabforge, Janelle Mohr - Finance, Helen Vooren - Board Administration.

Staff: July - December 2023 (TOTAL FTEs = 4.7 POSITIONS)



Staff: January - June 2024 (TOTAL FTEs = 3.7 POSITIONS)



## Our projects



#### Bushfire Recovery Knowledge Broker project

Funded by DCCEEW, Australian Government

The bushfire recovery knowledge broker project finished its two-year project cycle in June 2023. The final phase of the project in early 2023 allowed NRM Regions Australia to consolidate the work undertaken with bushfire recovery NRM practitioners around Australia, and to shift the focus to expanding our Community of Practice (CoP) across Australia.

Resilience and preparedness formed the focus of CoP discussions in the final phases of the project, including a workshop session and discussions on working with community networks for wildfire preparedness, nature-centred disaster recovery and green firebreaks.

The last six months of the bushfire recovery project saw expansion of the Community of Practice membership to include representatives from Western Australia, and Tasmania, and from more regions across NSW, Queensland and South Australia.

#### THE PROJECT IDENTIFIED FIVE KEY LESSONS IN BUSHFIRE RECOVERY:

- 1. The NRM sector plays a critical role in NRM recovery. They are often the first to focus on recovery of natural resources and are a crucial player in coalescing local networks for rapid action. They can also play a significant role during emergencies;
- 2. The 2019-20 wildfires represented a pivotal shift in focus on resilient recovery from future extreme events;
- 3. NRM organisations are a crucial part of supporting regional planning from landholdings to regional scale and beyond, and growing the resilience of communities, organisational networks and systems;
- 4. There are key lessons for the timing and flexibility of our funding mechanisms including: how rapidly they can respond in emergencies, how flexible they are, and the need for long-term interventions to consolidate recovery. There is also a significant need for extra standing capability to withstand the 'boom-bust' cycle and provide a buffer against the pressure that impacts upon whole systems during extreme events; and
- 5. There is a need for more resources. Key pressure points include organisational preparedness, data for prioritisation and baselining, maintaining expertise and lessons between events, and ensuring physical and mental health and safety for staff and partners.

These lessons have been carried into the Emergency Preparedness planning work in late 2024 and lay a crucial foundation for NRM-led disaster resilience and recovery into the future.

## Carbon Farming & Environmental Markets Knowledge Broker project

Funded by DCCEEW, Australian Government

In July 2023 NRM Regions Australia commenced the Carbon Farming and Environmental Markets Knowledge Broker project.

A key achievement of the Carbon and Environmental Markets project in the 23-24 financial year was the two-day online environmental markets forum held in May, designed to provide entry level information on environmental markets and increase the understanding of regional NRM staff.

#### FORUM SESSIONS INCLUDED:

- » Introduction to environmental markets;
- » Enablers of environmental investment;
- » Drivers of environmental investment; and
- » Engaging with environmental markets.

The forum showcased 16 speakers from a wide range of disciplines. Over 100 registrations were received for each of the four sessions, with between 55-75 people attending each session live. Feedback from the forum was overwhelmingly positive - over 80 percent of survey respondents found the forum useful to very useful.

"Thank you for hosting this event, it has been the best natural capital webinar I've experienced". - Comment from event participant

Another success of the project was the Carbon and Environmental Markets training - a half day course for run for Sustainable Agricultural Facilitators (SAFs) following the SAFs annual conference in Canberra. NRM Regions Australia coordinated and delivered a face-to-face half-day introductory course to 27 SAFs on 3 May 2024. The participants were very positive about the training, with most participants finding the course valuable to extremely valuable.

The Carbon Farming and Environmental Markets CoP continues to provide a valuable space for regional NRM organisations to learn, network, and share knowledge. Formerly the Carbon Farming Community of Practice (CoP), the Carbon and Environmental Markets Community of Practice has continued to grow over the last financial year. At the end of the previous project the CoP had around 80 members, with numbers now well over 100. The CoP has at least 30 regions and all jurisdictions (except NT) represented. Since July 2023, eight presentations have been made to the CoP. Presenters included academics, scientists, industry specialists and consultants.

Videos of all sessions are available on the NRM Regions Australia YouTube channel.

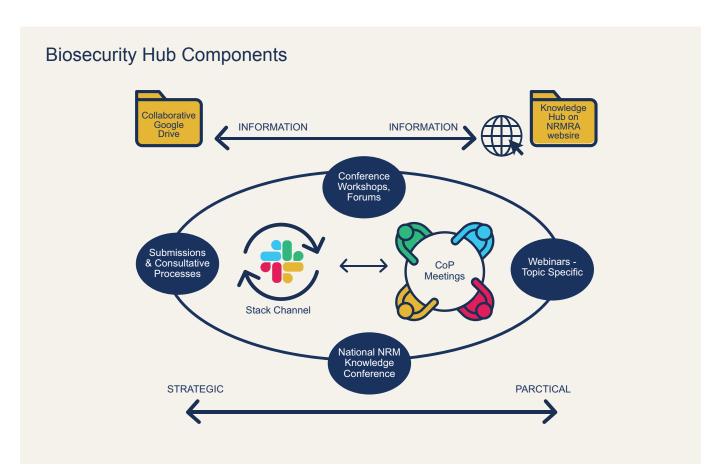
#### NRM Biosecurity Knowledge Hub

Funded by Australian Chief Environment Biosecurity Officer, DAFF

The NRM Biosecurity Knowledge Hub will strengthen environmental biosecurity by increasing the communication, coordination, and collaboration between NRM groups, government and non-government organisations working in the biosecurity system. The project is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for two years (2023-25).

The Hub serves two overarching functions of sharing information on best practices with endusers and representing the views and interests of NRMs through consultation processes.

Since the project's inception, the website content has been significantly enhanced to include reports, guidance materials, videos, and links to online information repositories. Three Biosecurity CoPs were conducted during this period, a quarterly biosecurity newsletter has been circulated to the NRM sector and webinars and workshops have been conducted. In addition, NRM Regions Australia has recruited or appointed representatives to National roles, including Justin Bellanger (NRM Regions Australia) to the Deputy Chair of the National Environmental Weeds Priority Steering Committee, Dr. Andrew Dennis (Terrain NRM) to the National Feral Cat Working Group, and Susan Ivory, (Landscapes South Australia, Hills and Fleurieu) to the National Weed Biocontrol RD&E Alliance.



"Just a quick note to say thank you for this new newsletter – I am representing NRMs on the Tasmanian Biosecurity Advisory Committee, and this update provided me with some valuable information to inform part of my update. Thank you!" - Biosecurity Hub member

#### Environmental Information Knowledge Broker project

Funded by DCCEEW, Australian Government

The now complete Environmental Information Knowledge Broker (EIKB) project ran over 12 months with the aim to develop networks and partnerships to share information and skills across regional NRM organisations and to support relevant Government initiatives. The project provided a valuable opportunity to link the environmental data and information objectives of DCCEEW and Environment Information Australia (EIA) with the significant data, information, knowledge and expertise of regional NRM organisations.

The support provided by the EIKB project delivered tangible benefits to a variety of government initiatives including the Long-Term Monitoring Program (LTMP now EMSA), Ecological Knowledge Systems (EKS) project and Restoration Contribution Calculator.

The project undertook a data and information discovery process with regional NRM organisations that analysed current and future data and information needs. It identified the interrelated themes (below) that require development to support future needs.

- » Access to information
- » Capacity and capability to use information
- » Emerging Technologies
- » Collaborations and partnerships

The analysis also highlighted the positive approach regional NRM organisations are taking to innovation and the adoption of new technologies. As seasoned integrators of information for planning purposes, appropriately resourced regional NRM organisations have the potential to support and contribute more to the data and information needs of the EIA and across departments.



Photo: TEER Landscape approach, NRM North, Tasmania



Photo: TEER Landscape approach, NRM North, Tasmania

#### Nature-led Resilience project

#### Funded by the Minderoo Foundation

In May 2024, NRM Regions Australia signed a contract with the Minderoo Foundation for the nature-led resilience project, an investment of \$5million (GST incl) until May 2026. This two-year project aims to demonstrate and quantify the value of investing in nature-based solutions for disaster resilience and climate adaptation in Australia, alongside traditional engineering or grey infrastructure solutions, with a particular focus on reducing flood and fire risk.

In addition, the project aims to strengthen community resilience and preparedness for extreme events through active participation and ownership of landscape resilience strategies.

In 2024, the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risk Report cited weather events, critical change to Earth systems, biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse, and natural resource shortages as the top four long term (10-year) global risks, ranked by severity. Worldwide there is a climate adaptation funding gap of between US\$290-\$550b (UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2023), even though over half of global GDP (~US\$44tr) is moderately or highly dependent on nature (WEF New Nature Economy Report, 2023).

This experience is very real in Australia where we have seen significant extreme events increasing over recent years, often one after another, while also seeing 97% of disaster-related funding spent on recovery, with only 3% on preparedness and mitigation (Productivity Commission). The NRM sector is in a unique position to support the climate and disaster resilience of the Australian landscape through the implementation of place-based, nature-based solutions (NbS), and there is significant evidence that the Australian policy landscape is quickly changing which is likely to rapidly drive the demand for effective NbS with demonstrable measurable outcomes.

#### THIS AIM WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE FOLLOWING DELIVERABLES:

- » Three regional, co-designed trials by regional NRM organisations in high climate-risk regions with a focus on wildfire and flood (including one Indigenous-led project);
- » Ten regional climate-resilience project enhancements by regional NRM organisations;
- » Build on existing evidence, tools and frameworks to develop a national monitoring and evaluation approach for the NRM sector; and
- » Capacity-development and knowledge-sharing opportunities to transfer, scale up and speed up the delivery of nature-based solutions to support disaster and climate resilience across Australia.

This project presents an opportunity for the NRM sector to be further recognised as core delivery agents for nature-based solutions that address climate adaptation and disaster resilience - a key outcome of much existing NRM work, regardless of labels.

## Environmental Markets Participation Initiative (June 2024)

Funded by DCCEEW, Australian Government

In June 2024 NRM Regions Australia was successful in an Approach to Market from the Australian Government - The Environmental Markets Participation Initiative.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has contracted NRM Regions Australia to deliver a two-year national project with regional NRM organisations to understand the needs, opportunities and barriers to participation in the Nature Repair market. The project will consolidate existing research and programs, and trial extension approaches through regional NRM organisations and others. It will deliver recommendations to inform design of future outreach and extension to support landholders to make decisions about participating in the Nature Repair market and other programs.

This project commenced at the end of the financial year with funding provided at that time, as reflected in the financials.





#### **Strategic Director**

The position of part-time Strategic Director was created in 2022 to support and deliver the objectives outlined in the NRM Regions Australia Strategic Plan 2021-2024. In response to funding challenges and changing work priorities, this role was changed to a contracted position with significantly reduced hours in the 2023/24 period and, while maintaining a strategic element, evolved to a more project-based, task-orientated role, particularly with the Environmental Information Knowledge Broker project.

Much of the strategic context of the role this year has been consolidating and building relationships and ensuring that NRM is part of the discussions in rethinking the national approach to business, finance and policy.

Notable outcomes include input and development opportunities with industry sustainability frameworks including Cotton Research & Development Corporation and establishing a network of contacts and ongoing dialogue within the Australian finance industry - particularly the banking sector - and creating effective channels for dialogue with government. There has also been a notable commitment to the development of multiple tenders or national support for collaborative tenders and proactive funding such as the Carbon Farming Outreach Program and Nature Positive CRC (Co-operative Research Centre) bids.

In relation to project work, the LTMP project evolved into an Environmental Information Knowledge Broker project, a component of which has been taken on in this role. The primary focus has been on assisting the NRM sector respond and adapt to the Environmental Monitoring Standards Australia development and implementation and providing vital linkages and support across multiple data and information projects that have emerged. The Industry Partnerships project provided an opportunity to continue our work with industry around sustainability frameworks, in the limited capacity that this role provides.

### NRM Regions Australia Members Hub

Register as a member

**NRM RA website Members Portal** 

#### National Online NRM community platform Providing access to:

- NRM Regions Australia communications
- Your peers, champions and expertise
- Ask questions, join discussions
- Supporting partnerships, projects & efforts
- Sharing resources, experiences & knowledge
- Opportunities to contribute, consult & review
- Enabling continuity of knowledge across sector

Technology: slack platform with topic based group channels, directmessaging & tailored notifications, file sharing

#### Knowledge Hub

NRM RA website pages with searchable catelogue

Curated theme based resource collection includes:

- reports, articles, case studies, interviews and presentations
- Searchable public and members only resources
- Contextualised content that is moderated, categorised and annotated

#### File Directory

NRM RA Google drive of new & shared files

Online file directory categorised by themes:

- Containing reports, articles, case studies, interviews, presentations and working files
- Contribute to searchable resources with category tags and annotated as a resource for the Knowledge Hub
- Develop shared resources and working files
- · Support knowledge continuity for the sector

#### **Events**

Eventbrite registration & shared calendar

#### Invitations to access:

- NRM RA hosted events
- CoP speakers and webinars
- NRM sector briefings & workshops
- Relevant events & conferences

#### Communities of Practice

Register using google form link

#### Bimonthly online meetings:

- National & regional updates
- Guest speakers
- Key topic discussions
- CoP channel in members hub
- Shared resources & notes
- Supporting knowledge transfer

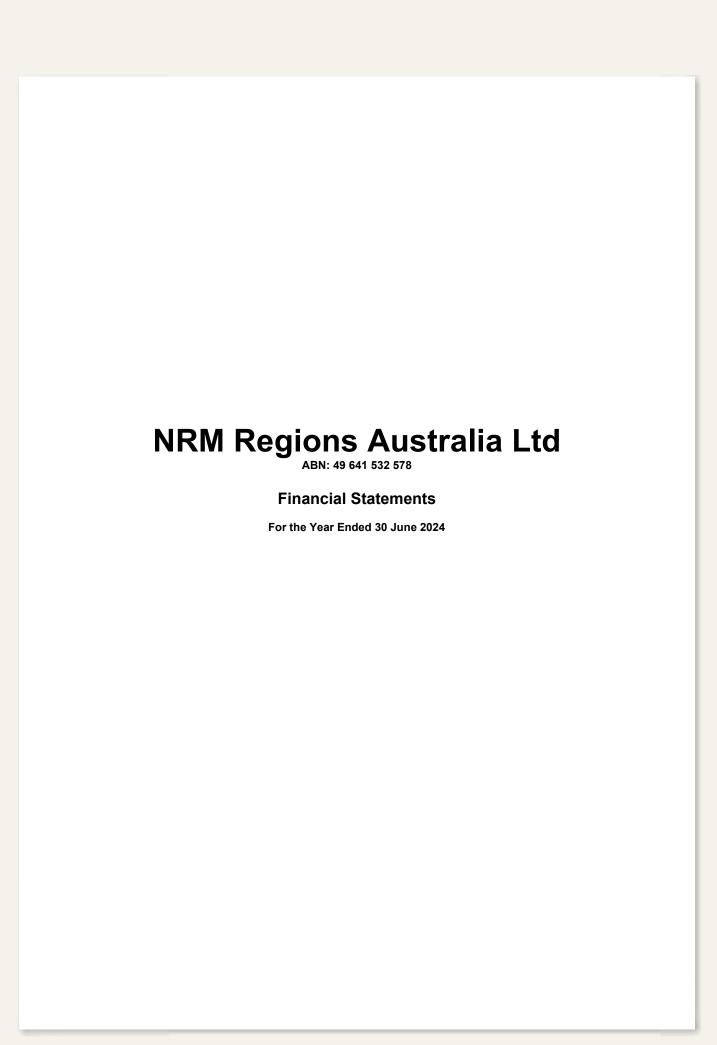
### Projects, partnerships & working groups

Connect through Members Hub

#### Providing access to:

- Private group channel
- · Private file directory space
- Sharing resources
- Capturing ongoing learning
- Create knowledge legacy





ABN: 49 641 532 578

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#### Directors' Report 30 June 2024

The directors present their report on NRM Regions Australia Ltd for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

#### General information

#### **Directors**

NamesPositionAppointed/ResignedEmma JacksonChairpersonAlastair ShieldsFittockJamie PittockResigned 30/12/2023Allison HarkerResigned 10/06/2024John RuprechtResigned 10/06/2024Julie BoydAppointed 08/12/2023

David Greenhough
Helen Reynolds Resigned 08/12/2023

Peter Voller

John Carlson Appointed 10/06/2024

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

#### Principal activities

The principal activity of NRM Regions Australia Ltd during the financial year were:

- To promote the importance and value of natural resource management at a national level and without limitation to:
  - (i) sustain the condition of our natural resources and bring benefits to the Australian community and economy.
  - (ii) work for a sustainable natural resource management funding base.
  - (iii) drive innovation across the natural resource management system; and
  - (iv) advocate on matter that are of national significance for NRM Regional Bodies in pursuit of the above object.

#### Strategic objectives

The Company's strategic objectives are to:

- Enhance the opportunities and impact of member organisations
- Build key relationships, both internal and external
- Influence and inform industry and government policy, programs, and investment
- Demonstrate the benefits, impact, and opportunities of investment in NRM
- Build and share the knowledge base of our sector
- Explore national opportunities and risks for the NRM sector

#### Members' guarantee

NRM Regions Australia Ltd is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of, and for the purpose of winding up of the company, the amount capable of being called up from each member and any person or association who ceased to be a member in the year prior to the winding up, is limited to \$ 10 for members, subject to the provisions of the company's constitution

At 30 June 2024, the collective liability of members was \$ NIL.

1

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#### **Directors' Report**

30 June 2024

#### Information on directors

Chairperson Emma Jackson

Chair - NRM Regions Australia Ltd Experience

Alastair Shields

Experience Chair - Territory Natural Resource Management Inc (NT)

Julie Boyd

Experience Chair - Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Groups

Collective Ltd (QLD)

Antony Ford Appointed 08/12/2023

Experience Chair - Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (Vic)

David Greenhough

Experience Chair Hills & Fleurieru Landscapes Board Chair - SA Chairs Forum (SA)

Peter Voller

Experience Chair - Cradle Coast Authority (TAS)

John Carlson Appointed 10/06/2024

Experience Rangelands NRM Co-ordinating Group (Inc.)

Jamie Pittock

Chair - ACT Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee. Experience

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#### Directors' Report 30 June 2024

#### Meetings of directors

During the financial year, 4 meetings of directors (including committees of directors) were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:

	Directors' Meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Emma Jackson	4	4
Alastair Shields	4	1
Allison Harker	2	2
John Ruprecht	4	4
Julie Boyd	4	3
Antony Ford	3	3
David Greenhough	4	3
Helen Reynolds	1	1
Peter Voller	4	4
John Carlson	-	-
Jamie Pittock	4	4

#### Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2024 has been received and can be found on page 3 of the financial report.

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

Director:	Director: Autory W Ford
Emma Jackson	Antony W Ford
22/10/2024	22/10/2024



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#### Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 to the Responsible Persons of **NRM Regions Australia Ltd**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2024, there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

22/09/2024



 ${\bf Liability\ limited\ by\ a\ scheme\ approved\ under\ Professional\ Standards\ Legislation.}$ 

SBB Partners Pty Ltd ABN 74 115 070 285 is a Corporate Authorised Representative 1298767 of SMSF Advisers Network Pty Ltd ABN 64 155 907 681, AFSL 430062.

Phone: (07) 3221 6200

ABN: 49 641 532 578

#### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue & other income	2	908,428	1,211,655
Expenses			
Board & governance costs		(58,264)	(76,535)
Employee benefits expense		(469,766)	(685,034)
Operating expenses		(177,214)	(123,477)
Project activities expense		(178,866)	(340,507)
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax Income tax expense	_	24,318 -	129,968
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	_	24,318	129,968
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax			
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss Transfer (to) / from operational reserve		(48,200)	
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		(48,200)	_
Total comprehensive income for the year	_	(23,882)	129,968

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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#### Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets		•	•
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	913,588	696,889
Trade and other receivables	4	4,785,029	12,844
Other assets	6	27,401	10,976
Total current assets	_	5,726,018	720,709
Total non – current assets	_	-	-
Total assets	_	5,726,018	720,709
Liabilities Current liabilities Trade and other payables	7	541,476	76,080
Employee benefits	9	11,674	37,484
Contract and other liabilities	8	4,777,604	236,199
Total current liabilities	_	5,330,754	349,763
Total non – current liabilities	_	-	
Total liabilities	_	5,330,754	349,763
Net assets	_	395,264	370,946
Equity			
Operational reserve		50,000	1,980
Retained surplus	_	345,264	368,966
Total equity		395,264	370,946

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#### **Statement of Changes in Equity**

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

2024

	Retained Surplus \$	Operational Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2023	368,966	1,980	370,946
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	24,318	-	24,318
Transfer to / (from) constrained reserve	(48,020)	48,020	_
Balance at 30 June 2024	345,264	50,000	395,264
2023			
	Retained Surplus	Operational Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	238,998	1,980	240,978
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	129,968	-	129,968
Balance at 30 June 2023	368,966	1,980	370,946

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#### Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Receipts from operations		3,243,832	1,376,854
Payments to suppliers and employees		(3,027,133)	(1,085,024)
Interest received	_	-	159
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	12 _	216,699	291,989
Cash flows from investing activities: Purchase of property, plant, and equipment	_	-	(1,272)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	_	-	(1,272)
Not increase//decrease) in each and each equivalents held		246 600	200 717
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		216,699	290,717
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	_	696,889	406,172
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	3 _	913,588	696,889

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#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### **Basis of Preparation**

The financial report covers NRM Regions Australia Ltd as an individual entity. The company is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, incorporated, and domiciled in Australia. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

In the directors' opinion, the company is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on the general purpose financial statements. The directors have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members of the company. The financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with those of previous periods unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except in the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical cost unless otherwise stated in the notes. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

#### (a) Income Tax

The Company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

#### (b) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the company is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer. For each contract with a customer, the company; identifies the contract with the customer; identifies the performance obligations in the contract; determines the transaction price which takes into account estimates of variable consideration and the time value of money; allocates the transaction price to the separate performance obligations on the basis of the relative stand-alone selling prices of each distinct goods or service to the delivered; and recognises revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied in a manner that depicts the transfer to the customer of the goods services promised. All revenue is recognised when the amount can be measured reliably.

#### Project funding income

Grant and project income is recognised in profit and loss when the company satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements. If conditions are attached to the project grant funding which must be satisfied before the company is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a contract liability until those conditions are satisfied, otherwise the project funding is recognised as income on receipt.

#### Interest income

Interest is recognised as interest accrued using the effective interest method.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

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#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (c) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses, and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

#### (d) Property, plant, and equipment

Plant and equipment assets are measured on the cost basis less deprecation.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount expected from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal.

#### (e) Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised initially at cost using trade date accounting, i.e. on the date that the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

#### Classification and subsequent measurements

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at either fair value or cost. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

#### Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active marker and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when nth financial asset is derecognised.

#### Impairment of financial assets

For assets carried at cost (including loans and receivables), a separate provision account is used to reduce the carrying amount of financial assets impaired by expected losses.

At the end of the period the company assesses whether there is any objective evidence that a financial asset has been impaired. A financial asset is determined to be impaired if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events (a "loss event') having occurred, which has an impact on the estimated future recoverable amount of the financial asset(s).

In the case of financial assets carried at cost, loss events may include indications that the investment or receivables/debtors are expecting significant difficulty or economic conditions that correlate with possible defaults or delinquency.

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#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### (g) Employee benefits

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

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the nominal value being the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits in determining the liability. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

#### (h) Contract liabilities and unearned income

Contract liabilities represent unearned grant and project revenue arising from the company's obligation to transfer goods to a customer or complete services for a customer and or grant provider and are recognised when the customer pays consideration, or when the company recognises a receivable to reflect its unconditional right to consideration, (whichever is earlier) before the company has transferred the goods to the customer or completed the specified services for the customer to satisfy the contract obligation underlying the revenue received. The revenue has not been earned as a result of obligations still to be performed.

2024

#### 2 Revenue and other Income

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Revenue		
- Conferences forums	-	247,818
- Grant funding	479.228	625,815
- Levies and contributions	416,500	405,250
- Project management fees	-	4,545
- Miscellaneous income	918	-
- Training income	11,782	-
Other income		
- Interest	<del>_</del>	159
	908,428	1,211,655
Cash and cash equivalents		
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and in hand	913,588	696,889
	913,588	696,889

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#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

4	Trade and other receivables		
		2024	2023
		\$	\$
	Current		
	Trade receivables	4,785,029	12,844
		4,785,029	12,844
5	Property, plant, and equipment		
		2024	2023
		\$	\$
	Plant and equipment		
	At cost	1,272	1,272
	Accumulated depreciation	(1,272)	(1,272)
		_	<u>-</u>
6	Other assets		
٠	Other dosets	2024	2023
		\$	\$
	Current		
	Accrued income	19,900	-
	Prepayments	7,501	10,976
		27,401	10,976
7	Trade and other payables		
		2024	2023
	Owners	\$	\$
	Current Trade payables	48,445	24,318
	GST payable	472,770	23,102
	Accrued expenses	6,845	903
	PAYG tax payable	7,620	19,879
	Superannuation payable	5,794	7,879
		541,474	76,081

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#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 8 Contract and other liabilities

		2024 \$	2023 \$
	Current		
	Unexpended grants	2,582,610	123,699
	Income in advance	2,194,994	112,500
		4,777,604	236,199
9	Employee benefits		
		2024	2023
		\$	\$
	Current liabilities		
	Provision for annual leave	11,674	37,484
		11,674	37,484

#### 10 Members' guarantee

The Company is regulated under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and is a Company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$ 10 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Company. At 30 June 2024, the number of members was 52.

#### 11 Contingencies and commitments

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Company did not have any contingent assets or liabilities at 30 June 2024.

#### 12 Cash flow information

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

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	24,317	129,968
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities:		
Non-cash flows in surplus:		
- depreciation	-	1,272
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(4,772,184)	84,362
- (increase)/decrease in other assets	(16,425)	9,064
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	465,396	20,404
- increase/(decrease) in contract liabilities	4,541,405	31,423
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	(25,810)	15,496
Cashflows from operations	216,699	291,989

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#### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

#### 13 Statutory Information

The principal place of business of the company is: NRM Regions Australia Ltd 79 Yarragee Road Moruya NSW 2537

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#### **Directors Declaration**

The directors of the registered entity declare that in the directors' opinion:

- 1. The financial statements and notes as set out on pages 5 to 14 are in accordance with the *Australian Charities* and *Not-for-profits Commission Act* 2012.
  - a) comply with Australian Accounting Standard applicable to the Entity; and
  - b) give a true and fair view of the financial position of the registered entity as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

Director	Director: Antony W Ford
Emma Jackson	Antony W Ford
22/10/2024	22/10/2024



#### Independent Auditor's Report to the members of NRM Regions Australia Ltd

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of NRM Regions Australia Ltd, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of NRM Regions Australia Ltd has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 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 Registered Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

#### Responsibilities of Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

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

In preparing the financial report, the responsible persons are responsible for assessing the Registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the Registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



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SBB Partners Pty Ltd ABN 74 115 070 285 is a Corporate Authorised Representative 1298767 of SMSF Advisers Network Pty Ltd ABN 64 155 907 681, AFSL 430062.

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#### Independent Auditor's Report to the members of NRM Regions Australia Ltd

#### 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 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 the 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 Registered Entity's
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities' 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 Registered entity'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 Registered entity 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.

We communicate with those charged with governance 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 our audit.

Paul Hinton - CA Director Date: 22/09/2024

Mackay: Lvl 1, 122 Wood St, Mackay QLD 4740

Brisbane: 22 Mowbray Tce, East Brisbane QLD 4169



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#### NRM Regions Australia Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024

# **NRM REGIONS AUSTRALIA STRATEGIC PLAN** 2021-2024

# Vision & Mission

# Our landscapes - renewed and valued for all Australians

# Provide collaborative leadership for our members, to influence NRM outcomes

**NRM RA Strategic Objectives** 

opportunities and impact of our member organisations Enhance the

Build key relationships, both internal and external

industry and government Influence and inform policy, programs and investment

knowledge base of the Build and share the NRM sector Demonstrate the benefits, impact and opportunities of investment in NRM

opportunities and risks for the NRM sector **Explore national** 

Proactive identification of

innovative NRM sector

A more capable and

Evidence of the critical

Politicians and partners

Develop new partnerships

Cohesive membership

relationships with and strengthen

stakeholders

Member buy in and active engagement with NRM RA

NRM RA Strategic Outcomes

national and international opportunities and risks and preparedness for A collaborative platform

#### Government, Industry and link between the health of and our own health and our Natural Resources wellbeing as a nation Communities have a sense of urgency for action on NRM are engaged and aligned Increased investment in NRM sector with NRM RA intent Greater impact from the

collective effort

An efficient, responsive and insightful organisa-

tion

processes for sharing and learning with knowledge base and

- (a) The object for which the Company is established is to promote the importance and value of natural resource management at a national level and without limitation to:
- (ii) work for a sustainable natural resource management funding base;

(i) sustain the condition of our natural resources and bring benefits to the Australian community and economy;

- (iii) drive innovation across the natural resource management system; and
- (iv) advocate on matter that are of national significance for NRM Regional Bodies in pursuit of the above object.

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#### Regional NRM Organisations

#### **ACT**

**ACT NRM Council** 

#### **MARINE**

OceanWatch Australia

#### **NSW**

Central Tablelands Local Land Services
Central West Local Land Services
Greater Sydney Local Land Services
Hunter Local Land Services
Murray Local Land Services
North Coast Local Land Services
North West Local Land Services
Northern Tablelands Local Land Services
Riverina Local Land Services
South East Local Land Services
Western Local Land Services

#### NT

**Territory Natural Resource Management** 

#### **QLD**

Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc Cape York NRM
Desert Channels Group
Fitzroy Basin Association Inc
Gulf Savannah NRM
Healthy Land and Water
NQ Dry Tropics Group Inc
Reef Catchments
Southern Queensland Landscapes
Southern Gulf NRM
Terrain NRM
Torres Strait Regional Authority

#### SA

Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board
Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board
Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board
Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
Northern and Yorke Landscape Board
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board
Limestone Coast Landscape Board
SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

#### TAS

NRM Cradle Coast NRM North NRM South

#### **VIC**

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Glenelg – Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

Goulburn – Broken Catchment Management Authority

Mallee Catchment Management Authority
North Central Catchment Management Authority
North East Catchment Management Authority
Melbourne Water

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

#### WA

Northern Agricultural Catchments Council Inc Peel Harvey Catchment Council Perth Region NRM Inc Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group Inc. South Coast NRM Inc. South West NRM Wheatbelt NRM Council Inc.

Click here to find out more about regional NRM organisations



## Contact Us NRM Regions Australia A.C.N. 641 532 578 Dr Kate Andrews Mobile: 0403 604 823 Email: kate@nrmregionsaustralia.com.au Website: www.nrmregionsaustralia.com.au Photo: TAS NRM South Felixer traps on North Bruny Island