

NRM REGIONS AUSTRALIA



Annual Report

2020/2021

NRM Regions Australia • A.C.N. 641 532 578



Acknowledgement of Country

NRM Regions Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We also recognise the unique, diverse and enduring cultures of First Nations peoples.

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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

Our first Annual Report brings a mix of emotions, including much excitement, as we look back on 2020/21. Formalising our organisation as a legal entity increased pressure and demands on our Board, our Membership, our partnerships, contractors and staff. We farewelled and welcomed new Directors to our Board, transitioned to a full-time CEO with a team of staff through funded projects, and over the year worked with our Membership to design a levy system increasing investment so we could head into 2021/22 adequately resourced to deliver against our strategic plan.

All this was achieved whilst operating on a minimal budget, and I congratulate our new CEO Kate Andrews, our jurisdictional CEOs (or equivalent) past and present, and our Board of Directors for their hard work, commitment and dedication. I also particularly acknowledge our Board and Rosanna Coombes, Justin Bellanger, Chris Norman, Claire Parkes, Tony Baker, Karen May, Frank Garofalow, Matthew Ward and Jodi Gregg-Smith. Without their loyalty to natural resource management across our country, this organisation, our landscapes and each other, we would not be progressing with such strength and speed. Their honesty, openness, consistency and respect has propelled us forward, helping us transform into the credible, reputable and influential peak body that our members have asked us to become.

A global pandemic has not prevented us from building within, regularly meeting and delivering on the aspirations and requests of our Membership and Board. We followed a structured process to design a strategic plan over several months and have begun delivering against this. Our Board emphasised that as a national organisation, we provide collaborative leadership for our members to influence NRM outcomes. This will remain our priority.

NRM Regions Australia is strengthening steadily and so much of this is due to efforts in the years prior to the legal entity formation in June 2020. Foundations were already laid, with long-standing relationships and partnerships assisting our journey. I thank everyone who has played a role in this in some way.

Where to from here? We head into a new year with an impending Federal election, with the National Landcare Program being reviewed, redesigned and reshaped, and

with national priorities slowly changing. Meanwhile, the landscapes around us are still taking a hit from floods, fires and droughts. Through all of this, NRM Regions Australia is here and striving to work with everyone across NRM. COVID-19 has affected the health and well-being of many, has impacted our economy and has shifted attitudes, mindsets and behaviour across all sectors. So it is crucial that we are flexible, adaptable and stay on the front foot to do what we can so our regional NRM organisations can do what they do best.

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Our Board recognise and understand that we have a big year ahead. It is important to us to have financial control and management, strong and strategic leadership, clear and efficient communication and an excellent governance structure. We aspire to continually improve so we can consistently deliver against expectations. This past year has laid the foundations, and now we are ready to see what we can create.

Thank you to all our friends, staff, contractors, partners and to the Australian Government for working closely with us. Thank you to all the Directors over 2020 and 2021, and again to all the CEOs who have supported us. We are ready for 2021/22 and it feels good.

Yours in NRM,



Emma Jackson
Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer's Report

There is nothing new to say of this last year and what the world has faced, and what many are still dealing with. Across Australia we were also contending with drought, bushfire recovery, floods and storms – a sobering reminder of what lies ahead and the real cost of climate change.

What a first year for a legal entity and not-for-profit company; established in June 2020 as a company limited by guarantee. This single year has been a journey from an organisation with a part-time contracted Executive Officer overseen by a national working group of chairs, to one with a Board of Directors, a small team undertaking externally funded projects (as of April 2021), and an employed CEO (as of June 2021), with an organisational strategy, operational plan, and appropriate policies and procedures.

Our focus has been on carefully establishing the organisation and developing our capacity with existing resources, while supporting our members and delivering impact. NRM Regions Australia has had growing engagement with the Australian Government and partners, to raise awareness of regional NRM and expand opportunities. One example of our achievements is a formal request to Minister Ley (and through the Minister's staff) that resulted in a national response to COVID-19 arrangements enabling flexibility for Regional Land Partnerships contracts from the Minister through the department.

For the first year, a decision was made to retain the voluntary levy rate of \$2k per region (or just over \$100k total income) and to draw down the reserve (made from the National NRM Knowledge Conference) to establish the organisation. To achieve this, we have also relied on the externally funded projects where the activities and goals align.

The three externally funded projects initiated or progressed this year are outlined in the projects section of the report: the Carbon Farming and Emissions Reduction Fund project (\$300k/3 years, funded by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources); the Bushfire Recovery knowledge brokering project (\$150k/18 months,

funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE)); and the Industry and NRM partnership project – extended due to COVID and also funded by DAWE. These projects have enabled us to invest in developing, trialling and adapting our organisational systems such as the collaborative platform including our Communities of Practice.

The pandemic also obliged us to adopt new ways to do our business, with limited opportunities for in-person engagement. We continue to explore new ways to work together virtually and appreciate everyone's willingness to engage online in our processes.

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It has been a privilege to work with the many people who have helped us on this journey over the last few years. I will not name them all but suffice to say that there have been many champions in many forms at many levels. I hope you all take pride in the results of your work and in an organisation that reflects the maturing and essential NRM sector.



Dr Kate Andrews
Chief Executive Officer

Natural Resource Management and the Regional 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. The regional NRM model is about NRM regions working and partnering with a remarkable range of people across the country, from the local scale to the national level.

Fifty-four regional NRM organisations cover Australia's land, estuarine and coastal areas. Many of these organisations have been in existence since the mid-1990s. While they have different constitutions (some are established by State Governments, others through relevant Community Associations legislation and one, Ocean Watch, by the seafood industry), they have all been recognised as regional NRM organisations by the Federal Government as part of the Natural Heritage Trust and its successor programs including the National Landcare Program.

All regional NRM organisations are governed by Boards of Directors that represent their regional community's NRM perspectives and priorities. Boards are appointed by State/Territory governments in South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, and elected or appointed by the community/stakeholders in Western Australia, Tasmania, Queensland, the Northern Territory and in the case of Ocean Watch. The ACT government is the regional NRM organisation for that Territory and has appointed an advisory committee to assist the department.

Australia is the only country where NRM organisations, and strategic plans, cover the entirety of the nation – something that is looked upon with envy from many other countries. This national infrastructure, developed over many years, constitutes organisational capacity and systems; knowledge and skills; networks and relationships; strategic plans, and committed people. It enables the Australian Government to deliver its objectives and legislative responsibilities across the country, even where capacity is limited.



About Us

Background

NRM Regions Australia is the peak body for the 54 regional NRM organisations across the country. First established as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee in 2020, it was preceded by more informal efforts over a number of years to strengthen representation in Canberra of the regional NRM model.

Starting in 2003, there was an annual forum of chairs, which then established a National Working Group comprised of a chair from each jurisdiction. From 2011, the National Working Group's activities were funded via a levy paid by members as well as any profits from the biennial National NRM Knowledge Conference. Work was supported by a part-time Executive Officer.

Ongoing decline in Australian Government funding for NRM reinforced the importance of having a strong presence in Canberra. In 2016, the National Working Group was rebranded to become NRM Regions Australia to better represent the interests of the maturing sector. The Executive Officer's working hours were gradually

increased – drawing down on reserves established through the National NRM Knowledge Conference. Finances were handled through NRM Regions Queensland as a legal entity.

In 2018, the National Working Group and CEOs began exploring options for potential legal structures and funding arrangements. This process was formalised in 2019 when the National Chairs' Forum agreed that the organisation should become a legal entity. NRM Regions Australia Ltd was established in June 2020. The new constitution for the company limited by guarantee reflected the existing governance arrangements: an independent Chair and a Board comprising one Director who is appointed by the jurisdictional collective.

The new entity has been establishing itself over the last year. Despite operating on a minimal budget, it is forging ahead in its mission to influence NRM outcomes through the provision of collaborative leadership. External funds have been secured through several government-funded projects that align with the organisation's goals.

Mission and vision

Our landscapes – renewed and valued for all Australians

Provide collaborative leadership for our members, to influence NRM outcomes

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:

1. Sustain the condition of our natural resources and bring benefits to the Australian community and economy;

2. Work for a sustainable natural resource management funding base;

3. Drive innovation across the natural resource management system; and

4. Advocate on matters that are of national significance for NRM Regional Bodies in pursuit of the above object.

The organisation's 2021–24 Strategic Plan, which outlines strategic objectives and outcomes, can be found in the Annex.

Key activities

Acting as a national voice, representing and influencing (collective advocacy)

NRM Regions Australia provides collective input to national government, non-government and private sector policy, programs and decision-making (being at the table). It creates greater awareness of the regional NRM model and organisations and their benefits and also provides a conduit to/for regions on cross-cutting issues, initiatives and funding opportunities.

Examples and outcomes:

- Contributing to the continuation of funding in the transition from NLP 1 to 2, including the Regional Land Partnerships contract model that has allowed for an additional \$100 million to be invested through regional NRM organisations for bushfire recovery, threatened species, and the Future Drought Fund.
- Ongoing participation and input to national committees and processes such as the Agricultural Stewardship Program, Future Drought Fund, National Soils Strategy, Threatened Species Strategy and action plan, National Environmental Economic Accounts, and the National Climate adaptation and resilience plan – seeking to embed the regional NRM model and create opportunities.
- Communicating regional NRM organisations' work and outcomes to government officers and Ministerial offices, including monthly national snapshots or targeted national snapshots of NRM work such as soils projects around the country.

Forging strategic national partnerships

We build national partnerships and act as a single point of entry for partners where appropriate – making the case for the roles and value of regional NRM.

Examples:

- Membership on the advisory committee of the National Environment Research Program's Resilient Landscapes Research Hub, helping establish co-design of research with regional NRM organisations.
- Associate membership of Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and input to their research plan and strategy.
- Carbon Market Institute membership and processes, and input to their voluntary code of conduct.

Providing opportunities for shared learning, knowledge and innovation and shared investment for common goals

We create opportunities and a platform for connecting, information sharing and learning across regions and more widely, and have been raising external funds to support this work.

Examples and outcomes:

- Annual national chairs' forums
- Annual national CEOs' forums
- Biennial National NRM Knowledge Conference
- Established Communities of Practice for regional NRM staff – biosecurity, regional planning, carbon farming and the Emissions Reductions Fund (ERF), and bushfire recovery.
- Organisational Performance Excellence working group and process
- Connections to research institutions and programs such as the national Environment Science Program's Resilient Landscapes Hub
- Establishing a collaborative platform to support the above

Creating collective 'buying' power and an avenue for external investment in shared goals, which can also build the NRM evidence base

Examples:

- NRM Regions Australia has three externally funded projects in 2020/21 (see Projects section for more details) that have produced reports and case-studies which inform NRM and build our evidence base.
- In-kind support from Australian National University Fenner School for office space and equipment for two part-time employees for the projects above (recently employed).
- Contracting the NRM and drought resilience report from the University of Canberra to inform the Australian Government's drought resilience review and response (prior to 2020/21).

Providing leadership and support in areas such as new markets and financing mechanisms for NRM and coordination for national projects

This includes seeking to increase and diversify investment into the NRM sector.

Examples:

- Bushfire recovery – initially, involvement in Ministerial roundtables including ensuring a representative CEO from each jurisdiction; ongoing interaction with Minister and office.

- National Environmental Economic Accounts – including running trials with the Wentworth group on the Accounting for Nature process 10 years ago to ongoing advocacy for the accounts and a role for regional organisations.
- Carbon farming and ERF project seeks to help regional NRM organisations determine their role in the carbon, and eventually energy storage systems (ESS), markets.
- Engagement with the private sector regarding new markets such as ESS.

Annual National Chairs' Forum

In 2003, the former NRM Ministerial Council initiated an annual forum of regional NRM organisation Chairs, providing an opportunity for Chairs to build networks, share information and receive briefings on strategic direction for NRM policies and programs. Since 2010, NRM Regions Australia has convened these forums in partnership with the host region. It provides an opportunity for the Chairs to inform the strategic direction of the organisation. Following each forum, NRM Regions Australia produces a report on matters discussed and the priorities established for NRM Regions Australia for the upcoming year.

The 2020 National Chairs' Forum was held online for the first time. We had a remarkable line-up of speakers with Minister Ley opening the forum, and Fiona Simpson (President, National Farmers Federation) and Mara Bun (President, Australian Conservation Foundation) as keynote speakers. Thank you to all the Chairs for their participation.

The screenshot below captures a number of the participants.



Our People

Board of Directors



Emma Jackson – Independent Chair

Emma has been working closely with NRM Regions Australia for over three years, leading the transition from a National Working Group to a legal entity in her role as Chair. She has played a key role in the Cape York regional community, driving NRM outcomes through her contribution to establishing the NRM organisation for the far north, and later becoming Chairperson for Cape York NRM and the Northern Queensland NRM Alliance.



Alastair Shields – Northern Territory (from October 2020)

Alastair has formal qualifications in accounting, law and public administration, and joined Territory NRM after a career of more than 37 years in the NT Public Sector. He is passionate about development that has good environmental outcomes, creates employment, and provides other tangible benefits for the Territory.



Alice Knight OAM – Victoria

Alice Knight is a primary producer and director of a 1,700 hectare fine wool pastoral property at Pittong. She is a recipient of an Order of Australia Medal for her services to the community, Landcare, environment and the Country Fire Authority.



Allison Harker – New South Wales (from April 2021)

Allison is the Acting Chair for Local Land Services and a partner in her family farming business in NSW. She is a strong advocate for NRM, restorative agriculture, and capacity building in rural and regional Australia.



John Ruprecht – Western Australia (from April 2021)

John recently left State Government after 35 years 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.



Julie Boyd – Queensland

Chair of NRM Regions Queensland and Reef Catchments Limited and a former Mayor of Mackay, Julie has a long-standing 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.



Mark Whitfield – South Australia

Mark has lived in Whyalla since 2001, working as a consultant with community organisations and small not-for-profit organisations. He has also worked in a number of other roles in regional development, health and education in various locations, most recently as the Executive Manager of the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School.



Prof Pamela Allan – Tasmania

Chair of NRM North's Management Committee, Pamela comes with an extensive background and experience in NRM and community engagement. In addition to serving as a member of the NSW Parliament and as Minister for the Environment, Pamela has had an extensive career in education and is currently an adjunct professor in the School of Technology, Environment and Design with the University of Tasmania.



Retired directors

Clare Martin (2020–October 2020)

Clare served as Chair of the Territory NRM Board. She was the Territory's first female Chief Minister from 2001 to 2007. Clare has extensive board experience as the current co-chairwoman of Team Territory, chairwoman of the Museum and Art Gallery NT, and deputy chairwoman of NT Cricket.

Richard Bull (2020–April 2021)

Richard was Chair of the NSW Local Land Services Board (LLS) for four years after having served as chair of Murray LLS. Previously, Richard had been a member of the NSW Legislative Council for 16 years and a farmer. He has since served in many roles including as chairman of Water for Rivers, a public company formed to fund infrastructure projects to return water savings to the Snowy and Murray rivers. Richard is dedicated to rural NSW and its communities.

Robert Keogh (2020–April 2021)

Rob is Chair of the Board for WA's Northern Agricultural Catchments Council and has a professional background in agriculture and the environment with a PhD in an Agricultural Science discipline. He has an extensive career in agriculture and biological sciences, environmental impact assessment and biosecurity management and has had much experience in management and corporate governance.

Our People

Staff



Dr Kate Andrews – part-time Executive Officer (now Chief Executive Officer)

Kate has a diverse professional background which spans NRM, participatory processes, northern and rangelands Australia, and knowledge exchange.

Earlier in her career Kate worked with people across the Lake Eyre Basin designing and establishing the Lake Eyre Basin Coordinating Group – Australia’s only community designed and managed cross-border NRM organisation – and became its first CEO.

Later, as Land & Water Australia’s first Knowledge and Adoption Manager, Kate worked with her team to link research with on-ground practice and policy, including establishing the Knowledge for Regional NRM program. More recently, Kate was based in Darwin chairing and reforming Territory NRM while working across northern Australia. She has participated in numerous national committees such as the Australian Landcare Council, CSIRO’s Sustainable Agriculture Flagship advisory committee, has been a director on the board of AgriFutures Australia, and is currently a member of the Future Drought Fund Advisory Committee. Kate also teaches with ANU’s Fenner school for Environment and Society.



Rachel Clarke – Knowledge Broker – Emission Reduction

Hailing from the Monaro Plains, Rachel’s first NRM job was working as an unpaid farmhand on the family property. Since then, she has spent over 15 years working in NRM, including leading stakeholder engagement efforts at the Murray Darling Basin Authority, as a communications manager with ACTEW Water, as a project manager with Murrumbidgee CMA and as a Landcare Coordinator in Kerang in northern Victoria.

Rachel lives with her family on a small property south of Canberra.



Rachel Morgain – Knowledge Broker – Bushfire Recovery

Rachel is a knowledge broker, partnerships manager, engagement specialist, environmental researcher, speaker, writer and leader. She has been the knowledge broker for the National Environmental Science Program’s Threatened Species Recovery Hub, including as part of the hub’s response to the 2019-20 bushfires. She has undertaken research on people’s connections to land, place and environment in California, Fiji and Australia, and has held roles in science policy at the Australian Academy of Sciences and as a research manager in the Australian Government.



Kate Forrest – Consultant – Industry Partnerships

Kate grew up on the Yorke Peninsula and has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Agriculture (Hons). Her professional experience includes pastoral property management planning, capacity development, and working in sustainable livelihood programs in Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

Kate has spent the past 18 months working in an AgTech company and for nearly a decade prior to that she coordinated the national Rangeland NRM Alliance, assisting with its endeavour to coordinate strategic NRM projects across the rangelands, providing advice on environmental and sustainable agriculture policy and program design.

We would also like to thank our wonderful casual support contractors - Janelle Mohr (finance and policy), Collabforge (collaborative processes), Nathalie Laurence (communications) and Helen Vooren (Board papers).

Achievements

Establishing NRM Regions Australia



Establishing the Board



Developing policies and procedures manual



Recruiting and inducting staff/contractors, particularly for externally funded projects



Establishing the membership and tiered levy structure



Preparing organisational strategic plan 2021–2024 and operational plan 2021–2022



Establishing financial and banking systems



Procuring in-kind office space for knowledge brokers (through Fenner School, Australian National University)

Achievements

Strategic Plan goals

Enhance opportunities and impact of our member organisations

Developing Communities of Practice (CoPs) for Regional NRL staff to share and build knowledge.

Developing a 'collaborative platform' to support knowledge exchange for team, CoPs and members.

NRM Regions Australia and regions played a key role in developing a Conservation and Land Management Economic stimulus proposal, which sought to deliver targeted economic recovery support to regional communities while leaving lasting benefits for the environment, tourism, farm businesses and local communities. More detail provided on following page.

Build key relationships, both internal and external

Strengthening key partnerships and building foundations for further partnerships, such as Australian Land Conservation Alliance, Meat and Livestock Australia, and Soils for Life.

Progressing the NRM and Industry Partnership project (funded by NLP2).

Partners and organisational relationships include (but are not limited to): the National Farmers Federation, National Landcare Network, Centre for Invasive Species (CISS), Carbon Market Institute and ClimateWorks.

Additionally, we meet with a wide range of relevant organisations such as Farmers for Climate Action, the Machdoch Ag Group and Foundation, and the Soils Cooperative Research Centre.

Influence and inform industry and government, policy programs and investment

Regular meetings with Senior Australian Government officers, Ministerial advisers, and partners.

Regular participation in national consultative processes.

NRM Regions Australia has a growing level of recognition and engagement with the Australian Government, meeting with senior officials regularly and sitting on a range of committees for the Australian Government such as the Agriculture stewardship advisory group (including the Carbon plus biodiversity trial).

Provided national, and encouraged regional, input into strategic processes such as the Threatened Species Strategy, National Soils Strategy, National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy and Australian National Audit Office review of Regional Land Partnerships.

Invitations to participate in Industry forums are also significant, including sustainability frameworks for Beef, Sheep, Cotton and Dairy.

A formal request to Minister Ley resulted in a national response to COVID-19 arrangements enabling flexibility for RLP contracts from the Minister through the department.

Demonstrate the benefits, impact and opportunities of investment in NRM

Numerous resources such as a summary of NRM Soils work around the country (to inform the National Soils Strategy and Minister for agriculture); national monthly snapshots; Summary material such as an Introduction to regional NRM; regular submissions such as to the Threatened Species Strategy; and presentations to events such as the Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference (online), a podcast for CISS on the role of NRM and invasive pests, and the Australian Beef Sustainability Framework Forum.

Building relationships with relevant research initiatives and organisations to encourage and connect with research that supports and informs the NRM sector. These include the new National Environment Science Program (NESP) Resilient Landscapes Hub – a seat on the advisory committee and input for regional NRM organisations to participate in co-design of the research program.

Carbon and Biodiversity Pilot

As part of the Australian Government's Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan released in October 2021, the Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot project was highlighted as a significant new activity incentivised under the Emissions Reduction Fund. The pilot scheme supports farmers and landholders to reduce emissions while building biodiversity on their properties and is operating in conjunction with the ERF.

The pilot is being rolled out in six NRM regions in close collaboration with Northern Tasmania, Burnett-Mary region (Qld), Central West NSW, North Central Victoria, Eyre Peninsula (SA) and South West WA. As an initiative that has been driven by NRM Regions over many years, this demonstrates the important role that NRM Regions Australia plays in making connections at a national level and influencing on-ground actions.

Also see: <http://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ERF-and-NRM-Capacity-Needs-Analysis-Project-Report-Broderick-and-Associates-July-2021.pdf>

Building and sharing the knowledge base of the NRM sector

18th National Chairs' Forum (online)

National CEOs' Forum (online)

Communities of Practice (CoP) – The Regional planning, NRM Carbon & ERF, Biosecurity, and Bushfire Recovery CoPs are established. We have been surveying participants each meeting and this is informing how the CoPs are run. We are keen to broaden membership as the CoPs are a horizontal network for practitioners rather than a representative group.

Events such as the carbon Farming and ERF workshop

Numerous publications, submissions and resources

Regular newsletters focussing on key requests and issues distributed to CEOs and Chairs

Hosting of 18th NRM Chairs' Forum as a virtual event

NRM Knowledge Conference

Conservation and Land Management Economic Stimulus proposal – “Working with Nature”

A significant process this last year in response to COVID-19 was an initiative with 100 conservation, farming and land management organisations across Australia to develop a Conservation and Land Management Economic Stimulus proposal. The initiative, Working with Nature, sought to deliver targeted economic recovery support to regional communities while leaving lasting benefits for the environment, tourism, farm businesses and local communities.

<https://workingwithnature.org.au/>

NRM Regions Australia played a core ongoing role along with the National Landcare Network, Pew, Australian Land Conservation Alliance and National Farmers Federation. We relied on remarkably detailed input, often sought and provided within tight timeframes, from a range of regional NRM organisations.

As the economic and employment context changed over the course of this proposal, we were not successful at the federal level. Despite this, it was an excellent vehicle for making the case for the role of NRM in providing employment and economic benefits, forged strong collaboration between organisations, and provided useful material for partners. For example, together we spoke to over 20 federal politicians and advisors informing them of our sector and its benefits.

The partnership is segueing into future collaborative work beyond this proposal.

Explore national opportunities and risks for the NRM sector

All of the work above contributes to this goal, such as exploring potential roles in the carbon market and the emerging ecosystem service markets. Or understanding the role that regional NRM might play in implementing industry sustainability frameworks, or climate adaptation. In addition, as we explore and develop strategic input to the design of the next national program, NRM Regions Australia, together with members and partners, is identifying and responding to these.

Projects



Bushfire Recovery

The Bushfire recovery knowledge brokering project has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) (\$150k/18 months). A part-time knowledge broker has been employed with additional time leveraged from the National Environment Science Program's Threatened Species Recovery Hub.

A Bushfire Recovery CoP has been established with representation from all sixteen of the priority bushfire-affected NRM regions. Managers and practitioners from across the regions have identified common experiences and discussed the priorities and purpose of the CoP and of the knowledge project as a whole. Priority themes include protection and recovery actions, Indigenous leadership and engagement, community engagement, climate adaptation, and the emerging need to understand compounding risks and tipping points from fire and flood and from more frequent, repeated bushfire events. There is a strong emerging focus on learning the lessons from the 2019–20 wildfires to build preparedness in an integrated way across governance and decision-making structures, funding systems, agencies and communities as well as ecosystems. This work will link to the regional planning CoP, particularly on adaptation of social and natural systems at a regional scale to a changing climate.

The bushfire recovery project is leveraging relationships with other networks and agencies to harness the

considerable research-based and practical knowledge developed since the 2019–20 fires. A joint webinar series is underway with the National Environmental Science Program's Threatened Species Recovery Hub, with webinars on fauna recovery actions and on systems for integrating biodiversity and Indigenous values and priorities into emergency management. We are coordinating the NRM sector's contribution to a major book *Australia's 2019–20 megafires: biodiversity impacts and lessons for the future*, bringing together the knowledge base on the impact of, and responses to, the fires.

Joint initiatives are being developed with NRM Regions Biosecurity CoP, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Forestry and NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to improve detection of, and response to, myrtle rust and other forest pathogens and assessment of the compounding impacts of fire and rust on ecosystems. Our knowledge broker has worked closely with the Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MER) Pilot jointly run by DAWE, CSIRO and the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network, to build understanding of the pilot and of the NRM sector's capabilities and capacities. This includes providing specific support to the teams for the pilot on fire and weeds, and developing a foundation for growing coordinated approaches, capabilities and networks to extend nationally integrated MER work into the future.



Photos by Joy Georgeson, Rocky Hall 2021



Carbon Farming and the Emissions Reduction Fund – engaging regional Natural Resource Management organisations

This project has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources and aims to increase participation in the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) by supporting regional NRMs to engage in the sector. The project provides \$300,000 over three years, and has been used to fund a part-time knowledge broker. In April, the new Knowledge Broker for Carbon Farming and the ERF, Rachel Clarke, started work in her role to connect regional NRMs, policy makers, scientists and industry to get better natural resource outcomes through carbon farming.

Since April, we have seen increasing engagement in the carbon sector by our members. Some of our key activities and achievements include:

- Hosting a national, online two-day carbon farming workshop.
- Commissioning a needs and gaps analysis for regional NRM in the carbon farming sector. This

means we can tailor our work to do what regional natural resource managers need.

- Supporting the development of a ‘teal carbon’ method proposal to sequester carbon in inland wetlands. Development of this method could see farm dam and environmental wetland restoration works be eligible for funding under the ERF.
- Organising a question-and-answer session with the Clean Energy Regulator on the proposed blue carbon and plantation forestry methods.
- Initiating and running a regular carbon farming CoP. The CoP meets every six weeks and features regular speakers on important knowledge topics to help us to understand what roles regional NRM organisations are playing in this space, while improving our understanding of the carbon farming industry and how we can influence policy and practices to get good on-ground NRM outcomes from carbon projects.



Industry and NRM Partnership Project

The Industry and NRM Partnership Project aims to increase the number of partnerships between NRM regional organisations and agricultural industries. This project is funded by the Australian Government’s Building Landcare Community and Capacity Grants Program and led by NRM Regions Australia (with the National Farmers Federation). The purpose of the project is to understand and improve partnerships with agricultural industries to identify links between sustainability and market access and strengthen the roles regional NRM organisations play with sustainability frameworks, industry partnerships and farmer groups.

NRM Regions Australia has produced a number of reports and case studies to increase understanding of the partnerships that have been developed, what has made them successful and how they interact with industry sustainability reporting or requirements. These are available at <https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/industry-partnerships/> and include an initial desktop review. This study informed the NRM and industry partnerships project and included 20 case studies of existing partnerships between NRM regions and industry stakeholders. The case studies are available as one-page documents and have informed a “How-to” guide.

The initial review and needs analysis of NRM Industry partnerships has led to a number of follow-up activities,

including a report examining market access and roles NRMs play and could play in assisting industries to maintain or increase market access: *ESG, Agriculture Sustainability Frameworks, Natural Capital, SDGs and Net Zero – Trends in sustainability reporting*. This report provides an overview of company and industry sustainability reporting trends and how they may impact the role of Regional NRM bodies.

The project also includes catalysing partnerships between NRM Regions and agricultural industries/companies and examining how NRM Regional Planning may align with sustainability indicators. Numerous opportunities have been identified and progressed, including with the Australian Sheep Sustainability Framework and the Australian Beef Sustainability Framework, and they (like us) are interested in if/how regional targets (and reporting) may contribute to their reporting on the national sustainability indicators. We will contract an initial assessment of this in the first half of 2021/22.

In addition, work is being undertaken to invest in structures that will make it easier to interact with NRMs, to maintain records of relationships and projects and to communicate what we are learning, including designing the collaborative platform and establishing several CoPs.

National Partners

NRM Regions Australia has formed partnerships with a number of key networks and organisations, with some examples outlined below.

National Farmers' Federation

In 2017, an MoU was signed between the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and NRM Regions Australia to officially recognise the organisations' plans to collaborate. The MoU aims to better connect the investment and initiatives managed by the agriculture industry with those managed by NRM Regions and is founded on the shared vision of NFF and NRM Regions Australia for productive, profitable and sustainable farms.

This MoU signals the importance of encouraging collaboration, both to leverage the Commonwealth's investment in sustainable agriculture and to ensure that investments deliver real benefits.

Through 2020/21, NRM Regions Australia worked closely with the NFF on shared projects and goals, including on relevant project committees, and has been collaborating on the NRM and Industry partnerships project and Agricultural Stewardship work.

Landcare

The National Landcare Network (NLN) was formed to be a representative voice for the tens of thousands of Australians who freely give their time to care for our lands and waters. It is run by a Board and an advisory council, both of which are made up of volunteers from across the country.

Collective local volunteer action has been a cornerstone of approaches to managing natural resources since the late 1980s. NRM Regions Australia believes that support for group action:

- helps secure long-term attitudinal changes in communities, building social capital, and encouraging practice change for sustainable behaviour; and
- leverages government investment with labour and land for conservation.

NRM Regions Australia is working with NLN to strengthen the partnership between these two fundamental elements of the sector.

Centre for Invasive Species Solutions

The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) is a national collaborative research, development and extension organisation, formed to tackle the ongoing threat from invasive species – initially focusing on vertebrate pest threats. They bring together government, industry and research partners to develop coordinated and collaborative RD&E portfolios and innovation pipelines that meet national invasive species challenges. NRM Regions Australia is one of five associate members of CISS, is closely involved in CISS working groups and provides input into their prospectus.

Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia has been investing in Digital Earth Australia (DEA), a world-class digital infrastructure that uses satellite data to detect detailed physical changes across Australia. It identifies soil and coastal erosion, crop growth, water quality and changes to cities and regions. This technology will be invaluable for regional NRM organisations to track changes at a landscape scale.

At the 2018 National Chairs' Forum, a Heads of Agreement was signed between Geoscience Australia and NRM Regions Australia by Dr Stuart Minchin and Clare Martin (on behalf of NRM Regions Australia), which sets out a framework for collaboration.



Finances

Audited financial statements

Audited financial statements

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Directors' Report 30 June 2021

The directors present their report on NRM Regions Australia Ltd for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

General information

Directors

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

Names	Position	Appointed/Resigned
Emma Jackson	Chairperson	
Alastair Shields		Appointed October 2020
Alice Knight		
Allison Harker		Appointed 5 April 2021
John Ruprecht		Appointed April 2021
Julie Boyd		
Mark Whitfield		
Pam Allan		
Clare Martin		Resigned October 2020
Richard Bull		Resigned 5 April 2021
Robert Keogh		Resigned April 2021

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 2021 the collective liability of members was \$ 500.

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Directors' Report

30 June 2021

Information on directors

Emma Jackson Experience	Chairperson Chair NRM Regions Australia Chair Cape York NRM
Alastair Shields Experience	Chair Territory Natural Resource Management
Alice Knight Experience	Chair Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
Allison Harker Experience	Chair Local Land Services
John Ruprecht Experience	Deputy Chair South Coast NRM
Julie Boyd Experience	Chair NRM Regions Queensland
Mark Whitfield Experience	Chair Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board
Pam Allan Experience	Chair NRM North
Clare Martin Experience	Chair Territory Natural Resource Management
Richard Bull Experience	Chair Local Land Services
Robert Keogh Experience	Chair Northern Agricultural Catchments Council

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Directors' Report

30 June 2021

Meetings of directors

During the financial year, 6 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	6	6
Alastair Shields	4	2
Alice Knight	6	6
Allison Harker	2	2
John Ruprecht	2	2
Julie Boyd	6	6
Mark Whitfield	5	4
Pam Allan	6	6
Clare Martin	2	1
Richard Bull	4	4
Robert Keogh	4	4

Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2021 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:



Dated this 11th day of November 2021

Sammut Bulow Bennett Partners

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

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 2021, there have been:

- (i) 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.



Paul Hinton C.A

11 November 2021



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Audited financial statements

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$
Revenue & other income	2	612,604
Expenses		
Board & governance		(17,862)
Employee benefits expense		(50,411)
Project activities expense		(173,246)
Operating expenses		<u>(132,876)</u>
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax		238,209
Income tax expense		-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>238,209</u>
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax		
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss		
Transfer (to) / from operational reserve		<u>(44,125)</u>
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		<u>(44,125)</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>194,084</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Audited financial statements

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3	420,245
Trade and other receivables	4	134,625
Other assets	5	<u>7,102</u>
Total current assets		<u>561,972</u>
Total assets		<u><u>561,972</u></u>
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	6	36,852
Employee benefits	8	3,567
Other liabilities	7	<u>282,689</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>323,108</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefits	8	<u>655</u>
Total non-current liabilities		<u>655</u>
Total liabilities		<u>323,763</u>
Net assets		<u><u>238,209</u></u>
Equity		
Operational reserve		44,125
Retained earnings		<u>194,084</u>
Total equity		<u><u>238,209</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Audited financial statements

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2021

	Retained Surplus	Internal Operational Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	238,209	-	238,209
Net transfers (to)/from internal operational reserve	(44,125)	44,125	-
Balance at 30 June 2021	194,084	44,125	238,209

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Audited financial statements

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	2021
Note	\$
Cash flows from operating activities:	
Receipts from operations	316,581
Payments to suppliers and employees	(57,734)
Interest received	1,070
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	11 <u>259,917</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Net proceeds from transfer of net assets from QRNRM	<u>160,328</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	<u>160,328</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	<u>420,245</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	3 <u><u>420,245</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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 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.

The 2021 year is the first year of operation for NRM Regions Australia Ltd. As a result there are no comparative figures in the financial report.

(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.

Sale of goods

Revenue is recognised on transfer of goods to the customer as this is deemed to be the point in time when risks and rewards are transferred and there is no longer any ownership or effective control over the goods.

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.

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(b) Revenue and other income

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.

(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) 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 market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the 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.

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(e) 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.

(f) 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.

(g) Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities represent unearned revenue arising from the company's obligation to transfer goods to a customer or complete services for a customer and are recognised when a 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.

2 Revenue and other Income

	2021
	\$
Revenue	
- Grant funding	308,115
- Levies	126,390
- Project management fees	16,700
Other income	
- Interest	1,070
- Net assets transfer Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management	160,329
	<u>612,604</u>

3 Cash and cash equivalents

	2021
	\$
Cash at bank	<u>420,245</u>
	<u>420,245</u>

Audited financial statements

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

4 Trade and other receivables	2021
	\$
Current	
Grant funding receivable	99,425
Trade receivables	<u>35,200</u>
	<u>134,625</u>
5 Other assets	2021
	\$
Current	
Prepayments	<u>7,102</u>
	<u>7,102</u>
6 Trade and other payables	2021
	\$
Current	
Trade payables	18,309
GST payable	688
Accrued expenses	7,735
PAYG tax payable	6,142
Superannuation payable	<u>3,979</u>
	<u>36,853</u>
7 Contract liabilities	2021
	\$
Current	
Unexpended grants	<u>282,689</u>
	<u>282,689</u>
8 Employee benefits	2021
	\$
Current liabilities	
Provision for annual leave	<u>3,567</u>
	<u>3,567</u>

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

8 Employee benefits

	2021
	\$
Non-current liabilities	
Provision for long service leave	655
	<u>655</u>

9 Members' guarantee

The Company is incorporated 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 2021 the number of members was 50.

10 Contingencies and commitments

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Company did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2021.

11 Cash flow information

Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

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

	2021
	\$
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	238,209
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities	
- Net proceeds from transfer of net assets from QRNRM	(160,328)
Non-cash flows in surplus:	
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(134,626)
- (increase)/decrease in other assets	(7,102)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	36,853
- increase/(decrease) in contract liabilities	282,689
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	4,222
Cashflows from operations	<u>259,917</u>

12 Statutory Information

The principal place of business of the company is:

NRM Regions Australia Ltd
79 Yarragee Road
Moruya NSW 2537

Audited financial statements

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

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; and

b) give a true and fair view of the financial position of the registered entity as at 30 June 2021 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 2013*.

Director 

Director 

Dated 11/11/2021

Sammut Bulow Bennett Partners

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

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 2021, 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 2021 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 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the 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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Sammut Bulow + Bennett Partners

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

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 internal control.
- 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

11/11/2021



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Selection of Publications

Monthly National Snapshots

July 2020

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/national-nrm-snapshot-july-2020/>

August 2020

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/national-nrm-snapshot-august-2020/>

Sept 2020

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/national-nrm-snapshot-sept-2020/>

Oct 2020

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/national-nrm-snapshot-oct-2020/>

Summer 20/21

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/national-nrm-snapshot-jan-2021/>

Feb 2021

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/national-nrm-snapshot-feb-2021/>

Mar 2021

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/national-nrm-snapshot-march-2021/>

Apr 2021

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/national-nrm-snapshot-apr-21/>

May 2021

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/national-nrm-snapshot-may-21/>

June 2021

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/national-nrm-snapshot-june-21/>

Soils projects snapshot:

<http://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Soils-Summary-Natl-snapshot.pdf>

Oceans projects snapshot:

<http://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/NRM-coastal-projects-examples.pdf>

Industry and NRM Partnerships

Reports and case studies:

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/industry-partnerships/>

ESG and Market Access:

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Sustainability-reporting-and-Australian-Agriculture.pdf>

Partnership and Case Study Brochure:

https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NRM-Brochure-FINAL_LR.pdf

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

- Enhance the opportunities and impact of our 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 the NRM sector
- Explore national opportunities and risks for the NRM sector

NRM RA Strategic Outcomes

- Cohesive membership base
- Member buy in and active engagement with NRM RA
- An efficient, responsive and insightful organisation
- Develop new partnerships and strengthen relationships with stakeholders
- Greater impact from the collective effort
- Politicians and partners are engaged and aligned with NRM RA intent
- Increased investment in NRM sector
- Evidence of the critical link between the health of our Natural Resources and our own health and wellbeing as a nation
- Government, industry and Communities have a sense of urgency for action on NRM
- A more capable and innovative NRM sector
- A collaborative platform with knowledge base and processes for sharing and learning
- Proactive identification of and preparedness for national and international opportunities and risks

NRM RA Constitution: 1.2 Objects and purposes

- (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:
- (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.



Contact Us

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