

Annual Report 2022/2023

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



Acknowledgement of Country

NRM Regions Australia acknowledges Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia where we live and work. We acknowledge the role of First Nations science and stewardship of healthy Country and the deep and enduring connection to lands, waters, and communities. 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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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

Natural Resource Management as a sector is essential, across the whole of Australia. You don't need that reiterated. What does need to be echoed is the critical role the whole membership has in ensuring the future of this country. With consistency, commitment and passion, you are the ones ensuring that future generations will have clean air, water and soil with which to enable continued life and food production.

We acknowledge this has been a difficult year for our whole membership. In recognition of such, NRM Regions Australia, as your peak body, would like to congratulate you on your tenacity, attitude and determination to care for your people and the planet.

You successfully strive for improvements - with balance - and have demonstrated an admirable respect for the sector, throughout all the storms we have weathered.

The directors met five times over the past twelve months and began visualising the next twenty years or more for both the sector and the organisation.

The board has melded well as a progressive team and understands now, more than ever, the significance of proactive leadership in a rapidly changing world.

We committed to learning and undertaking new opportunities; strengthening the reputation of the organisation and sector; and reflecting on our journey to date. We stayed true to these commitments.

Our communications have expanded. Contact and presence across government departments, workshops, forums and conferences has increased with our representation growing at events, both in-person and online. We are proud of this. Our invitations to attend, present, engage and participate have soared, reflecting the tireless efforts of the whole team and board. This is also thanks to the work done by the membership. Consistent messaging and communications from everyone complements the work we do.

Moving into the new year, we bring to you a new, refreshed strategic plan which carefully considers the past three years, and we also remain committed to our steady and careful approach.

NRM is in no rush, and whilst some urgency sits around commitments from the Australian Government, we appreciate that we are all in this for the long haul. It is a journey that we continue to drive, lead, and promote every single day with careful and considered thinking behind every step.

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Thank you to all our partners, membership and particularly the team of NRM Regions Australia. Your dedication has been crucial to all we have achieved over this past year.



Emma Jackson Chairperson



CEO's Report

As the Annual Report is published, we are into the transition between Natural Heritage Trust programs. So, firstly, I would like to acknowledge the difficulties involved in this transition for the sector as a whole. We will continue to work with ministers and the relevant departments to help improve the situation, both now and for next time.

I would also like to mention some more hopeful points. This time the tender process is for a whole-of-government service delivery panel, and it is still a five-year program, a win from years ago that remains a significant benefit. The sector has strong roots of more than 20 years, and is even more important today in helping Australia face climate and biodiversity crises, and to constructively manage necessary land-use transitions.

NRM Regions Australia is also transitioning between NHT programs with several projects winding up and new ones beginning.

We have been fortunate to have had several years of funding for the NRM Industry partnership project which has built relationships with agricultural industry bodies, financed key reviews and capacity building, and helped seed or trial partnerships. Unfortunately, with the conclusion of that funding we are losing the Partnership Broker role. I would like to thank Kate Forrest for her contributions to our organisation and the sector.

Last year we ran a collaborative project with NESP (National Environmental Science Program) Resilient Landscapes Hub for the early stage of their research program, hosting an NRM research co-design broker, Alex Knight from Charles Sturt University. Alex worked to bring together researchers and NRMers to inform research priorities, evidence, and design. It was a wonderful opportunity for us and thanks go to the NESP Hub and Alex for that work.

Our long-term Environmental Monitoring project has also wound up. NRM Regions Australia was funded last year to help link that work with the NRM regions, and hopefully to influence the design of the tools and processes from a practitioners' perspective. Thanks to Janice Goodwins for taking on this tricky role, though we are now sadly losing her to another organisation.

"We have worked to inform the Federal Government across environmental markets and carbon farming, environmental monitoring and information, biosecurity, climate adaptation and nature-based solutions, sustainable agriculture and soil health, and the primary role of integrated landscape-scale planning and management."

We have fostered new or deeper partnerships and networks with First Nations groups, industry groups, environment groups, and the private sector in order to improve existing work or to create new opportunities for the sector.

In closing I would like to thank our Chair, Emma Jackson, our board and my peers, the national CEOs' working group. The professionalism, compassion and shared values of our sector keep me engaged and hopeful.

Dr Kate Andrews Chief Executive Officer





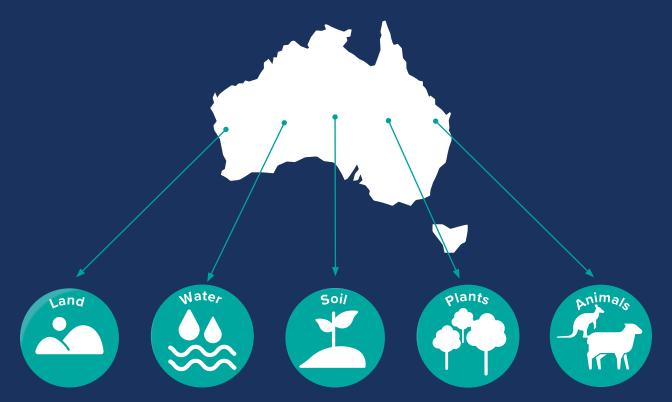
NRM and the Regional Model

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. Australia's regional NRM model is unique in the world. Regional NRM organisations cover the continent and partner 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 and Victoria and elected or appointed by the community/ stakeholders in Western Australia, Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales, 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 integrated landscape-scale 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 communities to make a difference, and Governments to deliver objectives across the country, even where capacity is limited.



Natural Resource Management (NRM) is the integrated management of the natural resources that make up Australia's landscapes



About Us

The peak body representing Australia's 54 regional NRM organisations

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 two decades to strengthen representation of the regional NRM model in Canberra, and of collective activity and learning across the regions.

Starting in 2003, there was an annual forum of chairs, which then established a National Working Group composed of a chair from each jurisdiction. From 2011, the National Working Group's activities were funded via a volunteer 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 appointed by each jurisdiction.



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:

- 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;
- **3.** 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.



National Events

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

Highlights included:

- A panel discussing natural capital and environmental markets and the role of the regional NRM.
 Andrew MacIntosh gave an impassioned rallying call for the importance of regional NRM planning;
- The opportunity to talk with senior Australian Government officials about government policies and programs, particularly the next Natural Heritage Trust program;
- A panel and discussion on wellbeing and our network;
- An enthusiastic presentation from the then Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment, focusing particularly on biosecurity;
- Stakeholder networking was a pleasure with a packed event and lots of catching up and new connections.





8th Annual National NRM Knowledge Conference

31 October to 2 November 2022, Margaret River WA

Resilience Through Transformation

Margaret River saw the welcome return of face-to-face events with our 8th National Knowledge Conference, proudly co-hosted with **SouthWest Catchments Council**.

The theme of *Resilience Through Transformation* brought together a stellar lineup of presenters and participants, most of whom (over 60%) were attending their first Knowledge Conference.

Over 420 delegates and speakers together represented NRM regions, First Nations groups, NGOs, communities, industry, and government from across the country.

Thank you to Josh Byrne, who expertly took to the MC role to guide participants through a wealth of presentations, workshops, and panel discussions.

To accommodate the vast array of topics and contemporary issues there were three concurrent sessions run over two days focused on the key themes of:

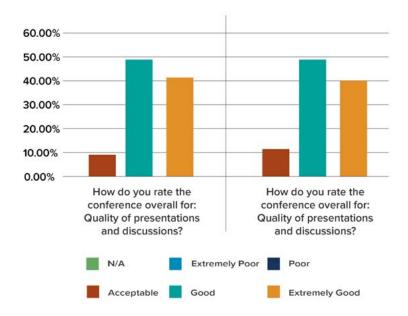
- 1. Transforming how we work together;
- 2. Transforming our relationship with country; and
- 3. Transforming through climate change.

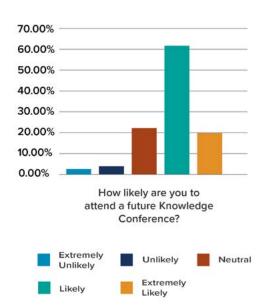
There was also a strong focus on First Nations achievements, reflective of the integral role that First Nations stewardship, science and knowledge has played in shaping the Australian landscape and its critical and ongoing importance to the future of natural resource management in Australia.

The conference benefits were manifold, and included the ongoing development of connections within the sector, inspiration from the sharing of different approaches and a better understand of pathways for reconciliation.

Post-conference survey results:

Over 90% of survey participants agreed the conference met or exceeded expectations







The 20th National NRM Chairs' Forum was held immediately after the Knowledge Conference in Margaret River, and saw 27 in-person attendees, made up of Chairs and representatives from regional NRMs 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 the insights into the national and international context for NRM, provided by Emily Gerrard and Valerie Hickey, as well as agency updates and a Q+A session on government's agenda thanks to the Acting Secretary of DAFF and Deputy Secretary of DCCEEW. Mark Howden also gave a confronting summary of the current and likely impacts of climate change upon Australia, yet managed to finish with a sense of hope.

The forum allowed the delegates to revisit conclusions, prioritise intentions and commit to driving and reinforcing across the NRM sector and beyond.

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impact.

Key Speakers included:

- Valerie Hickey Global Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy, the World Bank;
- Professor Mark Howden Head, ANU Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions;
- Professor Ian Cresswell Co-author of Australia's State of the Environment Report;
- Celine Steinfeld & Mike Grundy Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists;
- Emily Gerrard Comhar; and
- Australian Government senior executives.

Annual General Meeting

The NRM Regions Australia Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held online on 24 November 2022.





Natural Capital Accounting & Financing Workshop

19 and 20 April 2023, Canberra, ACT

A range of factors, including social awareness, market incentives and government policies have driven a very rapid and exponential growth in awareness and interest in natural capital, particularly its value as a tool in environmental accounting, reporting, and financing.

In response to this and the interest generated at the 2022 National NRM Knowledge Conference in WA, NRM Regions Australia organised a Natural Capital Accounting and Financing workshop for NRM decision-makers and brought together a range of experts from across industry, science, policy, First Nations groups, and investors.

Prior to the workshop, NRM Regions Australia partnered with the **IDEEA Group** to develop introductory information sheets on Natural Capital and Environmental Accounting for our members. https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/

The workshop sought expert insight and open discussion on what natural capital is, how and why we measure it and what methods, frameworks and risks should be considered. The sessions also explored the significant gaps in our knowledge and data, particularly around First Nations science and the value of culturally significant landscapes and species.

While we explored many challenges, our discussions also highlighted positive outcomes including practical examples from industry and government of tangible

financial and environmental benefits from making nature "visible" and applying a natural capital value, and the work being done external to NRM to develop guides and roadmaps that could assist NRM regions.

One recurring point of agreement was absolute necessity for collaboration, within the NRM sector, and with our stakeholders, industry and government.

With a grounding in natural capital, the workshop moved on to the issue of natural capital accounting and its application to support reporting and access to environmental markets. Our range of presenters and experts provided invaluable insight into the corporate perspective and the reality of rapid market development.

In discussing natural capital financing, we heard that the business sector is shifting its focus to understand and prepare for nature-positive requirements and is now well versed in carbon issues, but grappling with nature-based investment and how to address it, particularly via supply chain.

Environmental markets do offer potential to diversify and increase investment in the NRM sector and have brought new players into land/water asset management, which presents opportunities for partnerships, participation, and services.

A range of ideas and actions were suggested by participants which have led to the following outcomes:

- · New connections were made across sectors, and with experts for further advice and support;
- NRM Regions Australia has used the areas of interest and concern identified at the workshop to
 engage a range of experts to present and provide insight at our regular Communities of Practice
 events;
- The IDEEA Group have developed a roadmap process for interested regional NRM organisations as a guide to understanding and using Natural Capital Accounting; and
- A corporate "brains trust" to guide and inform NRM in our engagement and partnerships with industry and potential participation in environmental markets is now being established.







Photos: Participants at the Natural Capital Workshop 2 April 2023

Over 40 delegates participated in a follow up webinar on **Risk & Decision-making in Natural Capital Financing** with Emily Gerrard (Comhar) held on 23 June 2023.





Key Activities and Achievements

Key Activities and Achievements

2022 to 2023





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 include:

- National Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Committee;
- · Proposed Nature Repair Market bill;
- National Environmental Standards Regional Planning;
- Productivity Commission Future Drought Fund Inquiry;
- · Decade of Biosecurity Advisory Group;
- NESP Resilient Landscapes Advisory Committee;
- Natural Capital working group;
- · Agricultural Sustainability Frameworks; and
- ClimateWorks both on Natural Capital and Land Use Futures

National partners and networks include:

- The National Farmers Federation;
- National Landcare Network;
- ANU:
- · CSIRO:
- Centre for Invasive Species (CISS);
- Carbon Market Institute;
- Australian Land Conservation Alliance;
- IDEEA Group:
- Australian Farm Institute;
- Australian Citizen Science Association;
- Australian Sustainable Finance Institute;
- Geoscience Australia:
- ClimateWorks;
- Queensland Land Restoration Fund;
- · Regen Farmers Mutual;
- Pollination;
- Minderoo;
- Soils for Life;
- Pew
- · Agricultural industry groups; and
- Rural RDCs.

A key national partner is the **National Landcare Network** - at the National NRM Knowledge
Conference our Chairperson, Emma Jackson,
and Chair of the National Landcare Network,
Louise Duxbury, joined on stage to sign a *National Statement of Collaboration Principles* - A guiding
framework for collaboration and engagement
between community Landcare and regional NRM
organisations. https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/
about_us/our-partners/





Key participation in national events

Carbon Market Institute's two-day annual Carbon Farming industry forum - NRM Regions Australia showcased the roles and contributions of regional NRM organisations in carbon-farming across Australia. 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. Rachel shared the stage with ALCA CEO Jodie Gunn, consultant Pip Band, APN Cape York General Manager Melissa Sinclair and Natural Carbon CEO Marnie Lassen, as they discussed how the carbon farming market can maintain social license and promote greater community benefits. During the afternoon, Kate joined Forico CFO Rayne van den Berg, QFF CEO Richard Heath and Flintpro CEO Robert Waterworth in a lively panel discussion on national data needs and transparency.

United Nations Financing for Nature-based

Solutions - NRM Regions Australia was invited by the UNFCCC secretariat to participate in-person in the Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) for Nature-based Solutions (Part II), as an expert on finance for nature-based solutions. We were able to discuss the benefits of our national regional NRM model, and the nature-based solutions we already undertake as core work. NRM Regions Australia was able to have several participants including CEO, Kate Andrews, Chair of Terrain NRM, Keith Noble, CEO Qld NRM, Chris Norman and CEO Goulburn-Broken CMA, Chris Cumming.

Ecological Society of Australia conference 2022 -

NRM RA contributed to the final panel of the bushfire recovery session 'Australian 2019-20 Bushfires: national synthesis of biodiversity responses'.

Climate Adaptation Conference - NRM RA 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 for our natural resources, and the crucial opportunity we have right now to embed 'nature-based' approaches to adaptation. 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.

National submissions

During 2022-2023 NRM Regions Australia made the following submissions and proposals:

- Submission to the Independent ACCU
 Review September 2022 https://
 nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/knowledge-bank/
 carbon-farming-knowledge-hub/;
- The Safeguard Mechanism Reform;
- Development of a national biodiversity market
 2023 submissions;
- Submissions to the Productivity Commission Future Drought Fund Inquiry;
- Submission on the Exposure Draft Nature Repair Bill - March 2023;
- Submission to the Senate Committee for Environment and Communications - Nature Repair Bill, June 2023;
- Follow up submission to the Senate Inquiry on Faunal Extinction - September 2022;
- NRM RA response to the Threatened Species Action Plan - October 2022; and
- Response to the State of the Environment Report (see Figure 1 P20).

NRM sector response to the Australian State of the Environment report

In July 2022, the Minister for the Environment and Water launched the Australian State of the Environment report. The five-year report showed significant, ongoing declines across a wide range of environmental and First Nations cultural values, and growing risks in years ahead from climate change, extreme events, biosecurity threats and the impacts of altered fire and cultural land management regimes. In response, NRM Regions Australia developed a report on the wide-ranging roles played by NRM organisations across Australia in the resilience of Australia's environment; from the quality of our soils to the careful management of freshwater, from biodiverse carbon sequestration and connectivity, to landscape-level management of pervasive threats such as invasive species.

This report lays important groundwork for increasing recognition of the crucial contributions of natural resource management to the ongoing condition and resilience of our environmental systems. It highlights the need for greater investment in integrated landscape-level management to face these growing challenges, and to recover our natural resources, environmental and cultural values nationally.



Firgure 1: Potential for NRM to support action to improve the state of the environment across domains

Findings of the SoE report	NRM Contributes
OVERVIEW need for holistic environmental management priority to integrate disjointed systems	 integrated delivery across needs and scales continent-wide coverage regional planning and prioritisation focus on partnerships benefits for health and social cohesion data and regional expertise
CLIMATE land use key in emissions reduction and sequestration formidable challenges to adaptation need for more coordination, synergies in adaptation	 support landholder and land manager emissions reduction and sequestration coordination of regional adaptation efforts resilience planning
INDIGENOUS Indigenous nowledge and practice are key self-determination long-term timeframes and investment	partnerships with First Nations groupsenabling co-stewardshipIndigenous-led NRM
EXTREME EVENTS increasing intensity and frequencyother pressures exacerbate impacts growing priority for long-term resilience strategies	 on-ground recovery coordination and prioritisation managing landscape pressures resilience planning and spatial capability
BIODIVERSITY most biodiversity indicators declining many ecosystems facing collapse recent positive shift to landscape-scale conservation	 species and ecosystem recovery integrated threat managment including fire landscape-level approaches support for cultural fire and land management
HERITAGE climate change is impacting heritage need to manage pressures altogether unacceptable destruction of Indigenous heritage	 managing habitat, invasive species supporting prioritisation, post-disaster recovery enhanced connectivity working with First Nations
LAND ongoing declines in land-based natural capital soil health declining key issues: clearing, invasive species, climate change	 management of of soils pests, weeds vegetation restoration integrated landscape-level management natura capital accounting
INLAND WATER more droughts, flood projected lower water quality and quantity significant impacts on freshwater biodiversity	 impored water management on farms managing health of rivers, wetlands, floodplains delivering enviornmental water
COASTS coastal ecosystems offer physical protection management is fragmented pressures worse except nutrient run-off, flow regimes	 coastal ecosystem resotration regional and national coordination adaptation for climate and weather extremes
MARINE western and Indigenous assessment variable reefs and reef species poor and deteriorating key issues climate change, fishing, pollution, run-off	 reduced sediment, waste and nutrient run-off sustainable fisheries and marine industries national regional coordination
URBAN need for climate-resilient urban environments managing heat islands, water and stormwater greenspace key for urban biodiversity and livability	 urban revegetation and species recovery restoring wetlands, creeks and rivers connceting people and nature, cities and regions
AIR QUALITY warming climate will increase pressures dust a significant pollutant smoke from 2019-20 fires caused 400 excess deaths	 reduged fire hazard through early season burning restoration of First Nations fire management retaining vegetation cover and soil moisture

Engagement and knowledge exchange

Communities of Practice (CoP)

- Across our projects we held 31 CoPs during 2022-23
- We held 12 webinars, engaging NRM on topics including Natural Capital Accounting, Feral Cats, Soil Carbon, the Nature Repair Bill and Industry Sustainability.

Slack

Slack CoP Channels membership numbers June 2023:

- Biosecurity: 62
- Bushfire Recovery: 68
- Carbon Farming and ERF: 128
- Marine and Coastal: 43
- Natural Capital: 103
- Regional Planning: 59
- Long Term Monitoring: 183

Slack Membership Stats 22/23:

- Total members: Increase from 164 in June 2022 to 399 members by July 2023
- 7237 messages posted by members across all channels

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.



Updates to NRM Chairs and CEOs

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

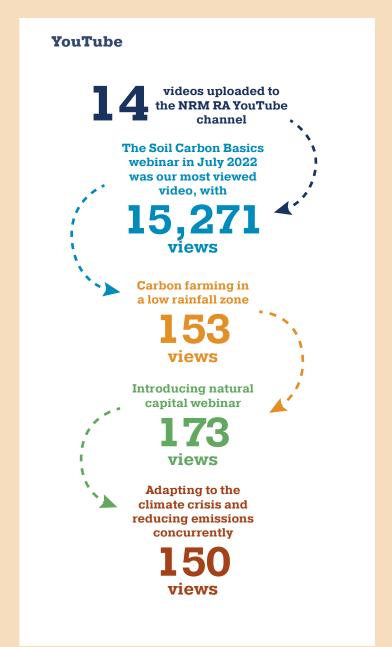


Social Media

As we reflect on our achievements during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, we report on the metrics of our communication channels, which play a pivotal role in disseminating information and fostering meaningful connections.

- We introduced LinkedIn as a valuable addition to our suite of communication channels. Over the course of the 2022-23 year, we have amassed a total of 134 followers on this platform.
- Our engagement on Facebook has seen substantial growth, with a total of 622 people subscribing to follow NRM Regions Australia during the 23-24 year.
- On Facebook, we have witnessed impressive statistics, including 512 likes across 23 posts, marking a notable increase of 62 likes compared to the previous year.
- Our Facebook reach extended to 1,110 people, reflecting a substantial growth rate of 29.5% year-on-year.
- We experienced a remarkable 272% increase in individual visits to our dedicated Facebook page, with 934 visits recorded in comparison to the 2021-22 financial year.
- Our X account (previously known as Twitter), has achieved 1,363 followers, representing a gain of 21 followers from the previous year.
- Throughout the 2022-23 financial year, our Twitter / X account achieved over 4,000 impressions, signifying the impactful engagement and interactions occurring within this platform.
- Across LinkedIn NRM Regions Australia has successfully achieved 1,977 impressions with 160 visitors to the page. This indicates that LinkedIn has quickly become an essential component of our communication strategy, further broadening our reach and influence.
- The cornerstone of our digital presence remains the NRM Regions Australia website, serving as the single source of truth for all major communication and information delivery.
- Over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, we recorded over 8,100 views of our website, demonstrating its continued significance as a primary resource for stakeholders and interested parties.
- The homepage and Regions Map emerged as the most sought-after pages on our website, underscoring the relevance and utility of these sections to our audience.

In conclusion, the metrics of our communication channels reflect the dedication of NRM Regions Australia to effective, strategic, and data-driven communication. We look forward to building upon these successes in the years to come, as we continue to engage, inform, and collaborate with our stakeholders and the broader community. We extend our sincere gratitude to our followers, subscribers, and website visitors for their continued support and participation in our mission.





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.



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, board member on NRM RA 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.



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 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.





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.



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.



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.



Our People

Staff



Dr Kate Andrews: Chief Executive Officer

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 national committees and Boards including the Australian Landcare Council, CSIRO Sustainable Agriculture Flagship advisory committee, Agrifutures Australia board and the Future Drought Fund Advisory Committee.



Rachel Clarke: Knowledge Broker – Emission Reduction (part time)

Hailing from the Monaro Plains, Rachel Clarke's first NRM job was working as an unpaid farm hand on the family property. Since then, Rachel 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 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.



Kate Forrest: Project Lead – Industry Partnerships (part time - project completed 2023)

Kate is the Project Lead - Industry Partnerships for NRM Regions Australia, working with NRMs and industry to increase partnering opportunities and optimise outcomes. Kate has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Agriculture, and has worked in pastoral property management, capacity development and international sustainable livelihood programs. Kate coordinated the national Rangeland NRM Alliance and worked in a business development role with agricultural start-up FarmMap4D before setting up a contracting business and being snapped up for Outback Alliance and NRM Regions Australia.





Dr Alexandra Knight: Research Co-design Broker (part time - project completed 2023)

Dr Alexandra Knight works with NRM regional organisations across Australia to develop research programs and partnerships that support and inform the management of resilient landscapes in a partnership with the NESP Resilient Landscapes Hub. Alex also lectures in NRM, open and green space planning, environmental policy and wildlife management at Charles Sturt University. Previously, Alex worked in NRM and National Parks, developing and implementing collaborative programs with Traditional owners, farmers and agencies to conserve Australian vegetation, birds, mammals and frogs.



Janice Goodwins: Project Lead – LTM Knowledge Brokering (part time - project completed 2023)

Janice is based in Adelaide and has been in the South Australian public sector for most of her career, predominantly in the areas of natural resource and water management, and planning. For the last 10 years, Janice has been in the Department for Environment and Water in various executive roles including Director, Science and Information, Prior to this, she led a number of major Commonwealth/state funded programs on the River Murray.



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. This provided Richard's drive to find solutions to environmental, economic and social challenges facing our 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 out with other interesting tasks as required.

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





Projects



Industry Partnership Project 2023

From February 2022 until September 2023 the Australian Government, through a capacity building program, funded NRM Regions Australia to improve understanding of partnership approaches, increase participation with industry programs and develop partnerships of mutual benefit. The project provided over \$300,000 to fund a part-time knowledge broker, contribute to the Strategic Director role, build our collaborative capacity at the national level, and implement activities to increase NRM interaction with industry.

Project description

The primary goal of this project is to build more successful Ag Industry – NRM partnerships across Australia to ensure market access for Australian produce and for the protection of our natural resources.

Objectives

- Sharing knowledge and increasing capacity across
 Australia
- **2** Building more Ag Industry NRM partnerships
- **3** Testing Ag Industry NRM partnership approaches

Key achievements of the project:

- Eight Industry Partnership Webinars with 345 attendees and over 600 people registered to receive recordings - available on the Industry Partnership webpage https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/industry-partnerships/;
- Robust industry participation at the NRM Knowledge Conference 2022;
- Natural Capital CoP met 10 times from March 2023:
- The slack membership jumped from 52 in Sept 2022 to 103 in Sept 2023 and average meeting attendance is 24;
- Partnership and collaboration with industry including Cotton Australia, Cotton RDC, Corangamite and West Gippsland CMA, MLA adoption team, Australian Beef Sustainability Framework Consultative Committee, Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework CoP, Dairy Consultative Committee, and the Sheep Consultative Committee.

The project undertook a formal review of the NRM Regions Australia CoPs and invested in a project M&E Framework and the delivery of a project M&E Report. The value of the project to industry stakeholders is stated strongly in the M&E Survey for this 18-month project.

Public reports generated by the project are available on the NRM Regions Australia website https:// nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/industry-partnerships/ and important links to relevant knowledge items can be searched and accessed through the knowledge hub https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/knowledge-bank/

https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/knowledge-bank/.





Bushfire recovery, climate adaptation and resilience

The bushfire recovery knowledge project - funded under the Australian Government's Bushfire recovery package for wildlife and their habitat - came to the end of its twoyear cycle in June 2023.

The project commenced with a significant focus on learning the lessons from the 2019-20 wildfires and the concerted recovery efforts across fire-affected NRM regions.

Up for discussion was the consolidation of standard operating procedures, prioritisation and response plans across NRM operations, embedding resilience thinking into our approaches, and engaging communities.

Key questions that emerged:

- How do we prepare for the likely impacts of multiple, repeated extreme events on our ecosystems and all our natural resources?
- How do we work with the communities that depend upon our natural resources to embed resilience across our networks?









Completion of the Carbon Farming and the Emissions Reduction Fund project – engaging regional NRM organisations

From March 2021 until June 2023, the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water funded NRM Regions Australia to encourage and increase participation in carbon farming projects by supporting and enabling regional NRM organisations to engage in the sector. The project provided \$300,000 over three years and was used to fund a part-time knowledge broker.

Key achievements of the project over the three-year period include:

- Developing and growing a highly active Carbon Farming Community of Practice (CoP). The CoP meets every six weeks and has grown in numbers from around 25 members at inception to over one hundred members, with more people and regions joining over time. The spread of regions has also increased with at least 30 regions and all jurisdictions (except NT) now represented in the CoP.
- Presentations of nine knowledge topic speakers presented to the CoP, including farmers, regional NRM staff, project developers, researchers and government representatives. These presentations are available for public access on the NRM Regions Australia YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@nrmregionsaustralia
- Delivery of three national carbon farming workshops in May 2021, November 2022 and March 2023 (online) with more than 100 regional NRM staff participating across all events.
- Delivery of three stand-alone webinars, on Soil Carbon Basics, the Australian Government Carbon plus Biodiversity pilot, and Options for Engaging with Carbon Farming. On average, there have been 60 participants joining these webinars live, with the YouTube recordings being viewed over 8000 times.
- Development of a series of inspirational Stories from the regions on the roles regional NRM organisations are playing in carbon farming across the country which are available on our website here: https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/knowledge-bank/carbon-farming-knowledge-hub/
- Q&A program: in addition to the regular CoP presentations, and webinars, we have run several targeted Q&A sessions with the Clean Energy Regulator on methods, including the Blue Carbon method, the revised Plantation Forestry method and the Streamlined Environmental Plantings

pilot. A Q+A on the Integrated Farm Management method was also delivered through Pew and Climate Friendly.

Feedback on the CoP:

Through late 2022 and 2023, it became clear that regional NRM organisations were keen to explore environmental markets more generally. Participants at both the November 2022 and March 2023 carbon farming workshops segued into discussions on environmental markets more generally. As part of this changing focus, the Carbon Farming Knowledge broker, on behalf of NRM Regions Australia, developed several submissions to the Australian Government's proposed Nature Repair Market bill.

The more general role that regional NRM organisations can play in supporting landholders to understand and explore all emerging environmental markets and providing insight to policy development has been recognised by DCCEEW, with another three years of funding provided until June 2026. While the knowledge broker will continue to support engagement with carbon farming, the new project, which commenced in June 2023, will focus equally on environmental markets. This funding allows the continued employment of the part-time knowledge broker, Rachel Clarke.

66

The format of this CoP is really great. It is great to have a knowledge topic each session as well as time for questions and general discussion and updates from the other regions.

CoP participant,
 December 2022





Long Term Monitoring Program Knowledge Brokering Project

NRM Regions Australia (NRM RA) was funded by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for a 12-month period from July 2022 until June 2023 for a Knowledge Broker role. The role was designed to establish a best practice outreach approach that involved NRM practitioners in the design stages for its long-term monitoring project (LTMP) and explore ways the Australian Government can improve engagement with the NRM community.

A key aspect of the LTMP is to develop standardised environmental monitoring protocols, and associated data collection, storage, management, and analysis tools. These will enhance monitoring and evaluation capacity, supporting better project design and reporting, and strengthen the evidence base for analysing, assessing, and quantifying the effectiveness of NRM investments, enabling learnings to be shared across regions. Improving data integrity will also support DCCEEWs National Biological Data Repository and SOE reporting.

NRM Region Australia's work has focussed on supporting systems and mechanisms for knowledge-sharing to enhance monitoring and evaluation practices across the NRM sector and strengthening two-way engagement to ensure that the LTM tools and adoption strategies are fit-for-purpose and achieve benefits for all parties.

NRM RA has been supported in this work by an NRM community Project Advisory Group and a broad LTMP CoP comprised of NRM practitioners across most regions. DCCEEW support for this work has also enabled NRM Regions Australia to participate in discussions with the Biological Data Repository regarding opportunities to incorporate existing NRM monitoring data sets.

In addition, NRM RA has been involved in a social impact study initiated by DCCEEW to survey stakeholder perceptions and socio-cultural challenges to the implementation of the monitoring protocols. The learnings

will inform monitoring practices and support a further research goal of integrating the standardisation of monitoring into NRM systems at local, regional, and national scales.



A key aspect of the LTMP is to develop standardised environmental monitoring protocols, and associated data collection, storage, management, and analysis tools.

Engagement in the LTM work has led onto a successful collaboration with DCCEEW for an NRM RA Environmental Information Knowledge Broker to support the sharing of data, information, skills and analysis across NRM regions, build capacity, link external expertise, assist in developing new knowledge, and help link the 54 NRM regions to the Australian government to streamline delivery of a range of environmental data and information initiatives.

This work will support the harmonisation and standardisation of data and information into the newly established Environment Information Australia (EIA). The role will also support NRM regions to develop systems for data and information collection and coordination; sharing information, learnings, and innovation; and facilitating partnerships across the NRM sector supporting consistency and parity in regional data collection.



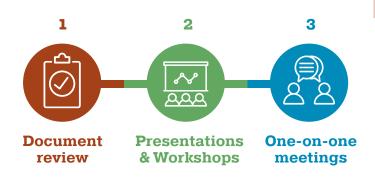


Completion of the Research co-design project

The Research Co-design Broker project was funded by the National Environmental Science Program Resilient Landscapes Hub. The aims of the Research Co-design project were to identify regional NRM knowledge needs as they relate to the Resilient Landscapes Hub; assist in determining priorities for research that align with the Hub's themes; and identify opportunities for regional NRMs and the Resilient Landscapes Hub to work together to co-design and implement collaborative research projects.

The project ran for one year from June 2022 to June 2023, with a part-time research co-design facilitator, Dr Alexandra Knight, contracted by NRM Regions Australia through Charles Sturt University, funded by the NESP RLH.

To meet the aims of the project, the following three approaches were used:



The success of the Research co-design project is evidenced by the following outcomes, as measured against the project aims:

- Better information flow between researchers and NRM practitioners has been initiated;
- NRM practitioners have access to up-to-date knowledge of research as it happens, while practitioners are able to provide their placeknowledge and expertise to researchers;
- Direct communications also allows for the transferability of research within and between NRM regions across Australia;
- A number of research proposals have been developed with and have active collaboration with NRM organisations and practitioners.

However, for NRMs to fully benefit from the research being undertaken, and for researchers to benefit from the extensive and sophisticated knowledge of NRM practitioners, ongoing processes for knowledgeexchange will need to be further invested in. The final report for the Research Co-design project will be available through the NRM Regions Australia website.





The position of Strategic Director was created in 2022 to support and deliver the objectives outlined in the NRM Regions Australia Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

Initial scoping and planning of activities started well in 2022/23 but were constrained by a significant period of extended family-related leave.

Despite this disruption, progress has definitely been made across the main objectives of the role.

While constraints on the role this year may have impacted some anticipated outputs, the progress and positive developments will serve as a catalyst for a highly productive 2023/24.

As Strategic Director I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible support received from the CEO, Board, staff and broader NRM community during this difficult personal period. It is a testament to the professionalism, principles, and care of this organisation and our sector.

This progress includes but it not limited to:

- The initial scoping and planning of internal business initiatives such as First Nations Engagement and Net Zero, which will inform the work plan for next year and be developed accordingly;
- Gains made in strategically cultivating and building key relationships with internal and external clients, particularly around priority issues such as natural capital and environmental markets;
- Engagement with the finance and insurance industries proved particularly effective, providing
 invaluable insights and information that was fed into the various NRM RA Communities of Practice and
 informed events like the NRM RA Natural Capital Workshop;
- The capacity to target and follow up networking opportunities, including leveraging leads and opportunities off successful events and project work such as the National NRM Knowledge Conference and Industry Partnerships project;
- Contacts and leads generated through this work have created opportunities to grow the awareness
 of our sector and our value proposition and have directly led to new opportunities to provide input
 and represent NRM through various external working groups and panels, including the Nature Based
 Solutions Working Group and Better Futures Australia Roundtable;
- The provision of a resource to support the broader team and contribute to the key tasks that support our membership and build the capacity of NRMRA;
- Gaining important insight and knowledge of our projects and operations to assist identify synergies
 and alignment across our spheres of work. This will be important as we seek to grow and
 rationalise the scope of our work with limited resources.



NRM RA Members Hub and CoP Review

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, direct messaging & 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



NRM RA CoP Review

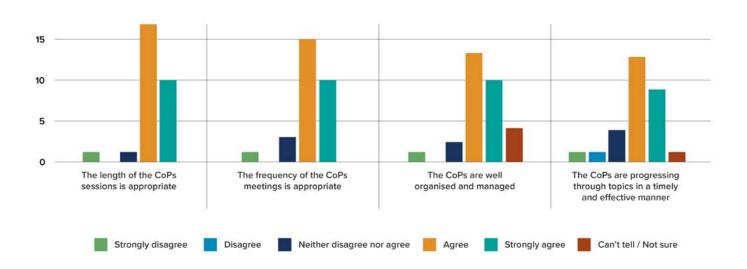
NRM Regions Australia Communities of Practice Review 2023

The Communities of Practice (CoPs) are a key element of how NRM Regions Australia helps share knowledge and learning across the country, both between and with its members. The initial CoPs and tools for guiding them were established two years ago with expert advice and support from Collabforge.

Given they have been running for over two years, NRM Regions Australia sought insight into the experience and value they were providing to their participants and the NRM sector.

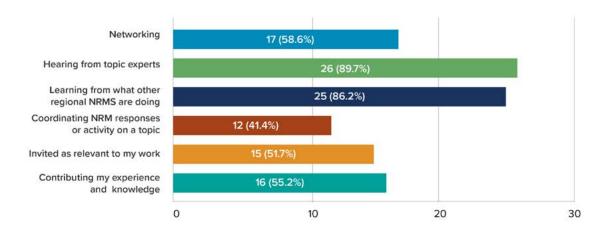
A survey was designed by First Person Consulting and our CoP facilitators for feedback on the multiple CoPs. The respondents strongly agree that CoPs are designed well and progressing well, there is a lot of value to be gained, that the facilitator and quality of speakers is very important and 96% would recommend the CoP to others.

There was also some helpful feedback with regards to the access of information that will definitely be taken on board. See participant responses below:



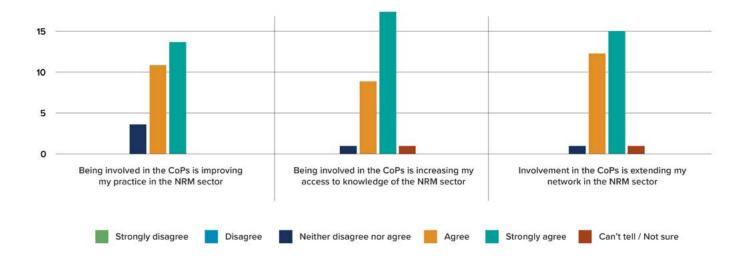
What attracted you to join the NRM RA Cop(s) that you participate in?

(29 responses)

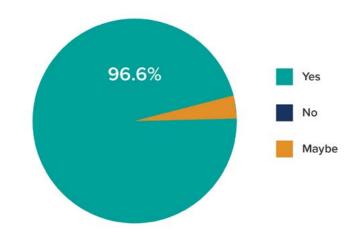




What are you gaining from involvement with the CoPs?



In gerneral would you recommend CoP to others?



In their own words, here are some of the most valuable takeaways that participants have gained in CoPs:

"We are not alone! Working in NRM can be very isolating. CoPs are a great platform for targeted learning and knowledge growth, as well as networking!"

"That we can all learn so much from each other and that collaboration and information sharing is extremely valuable in helping us all avoid falling into the same pitfalls."

"The sharing of information and learning from the examples of where other NRMs have trialled stuff is really interesting."

"There is always something useful being presented - the content is a very high standard"

"Great source of information and sometimes resources. I'd say people in the relevant space need to keep up to date with NRM Regions CoPs."





Finances

Audited financial statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Audited financial statements

NRM Regions Australia Ltd

ABN: 49 641 532 578

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

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ABN: 49 641 532 578

Directors' Report

30 June 2023

The directors present their report on NRM Regions Australia Ltd for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

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 Allison Harker John Ruprecht Julie Boyd David Greenhough Helen Reynolds

Peter Voller
Jamie Pittock Appointed March 2023

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 2023 the collective liability of members was \$ 10.



ABN: 49 641 532 578

Directors' Report

30 June 2023

Information on directors

Emma Jackson Chairperson

Chair NRM Regions Australia Chair Cape York NRM (QLD) Experience

Alastair Shields

Chair Territory Natural Resource Management (NT) Experience

Allison Harker

Chair Local Land Services (NSW) Experience

John Ruprecht

Experience Deputy Chair South Coast NRM (WA)

Julie Boyd

Chair NRM Regions Queensland (QLD) Experience

David Greenhough

Experience Chair Hills & Fleurieru Landscapes Board

Chair SA Chairs Forum (SA)

Helen Reynolds

Experience Chair Goulburn Broken CMA (VIC)

Peter Voller

Experience Chair Cradle Coast Authority NRM (TAS)

Jamie Pittock

Experience Chair ACT NRM



ABN: 49 641 532 578

Directors' Report

30 June 2023

Meetings of directors

During the financial year, 5 meetings of directors (including committees of directors) were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:

	Directors' Me	eetings
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Emma Jackson	5	5
Alastair Shields	5	4
Allison Harker	5	4
John Ruprecht	5	5
Julie Boyd	5	5
David Greenhough	5	5
Helen Reynolds	5	5
Peter Voller	5	5
Jamie Pittock	1	-

Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2023 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 17 October 2023





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 2023, 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.

17 October 2023



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

Sammut Bulow Pty Ltd ABN 74115 070 285 is a Corporate Authorised Representative 1298767 of SMSF Advisers Network Pty Ltd ABN 64155 907 681, AFSL 430062.

Mackay: Lvl 1, 122 Wood St, Mackay QLD 4740 Brisbane: 22 Mowbray Tce, East Brisbane QLD 4169 SBB Partners have offices located in Ayr, Bowen, Brisbane, Cannonvale, Gold Coast, Mackay and Townsville

PO Box 92, Mackay QLD 4740 GPO Box 2561, Brisbane QLD 4001 connect@sbbpartners.com.au Phone: (07) 4951 1455 Phone: (07) 3221 6200



ABN: 49 641 532 578

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue & other income	2	1,283,588	804,222
Expenses			
Board & governance		(76,535)	(41,957)
Communities of practice		(10,000)	(10,600)
Employee benefits expense		(685,034)	(383,036)
Operating expenses		(123,477)	(56,202)
Project activities expense		(340,507)	(267,513)
Unexpended grant	_	71,933	
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax		129,968	44,914
Income tax expense	_		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	_	129,968	44,914
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax			
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Transfer (to) / from operational reserve	_	<u> </u>	42,145
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	_	-	42,145
Total comprehensive income for the year	_	129,968	87,059

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



ABN: 49 641 532 578

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As At 30 June 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	696,889	406,172
Trade and other receivables	4	12,844	97,206
Other assets	6	10,976	20,039
Total current assets		720,709	523,417
Property, plant and equipment	5	-	-
Total assets		720,709	523,417
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	76,080	55,676
Employee benefits	9	37,484	17,839
Other liabilities	8	236,199	204,775
Total current liabilities	·	349,763	278,290
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefits	9	-	4,149
Total non-current liabilities			4,149
Total liabilities		349,763	282,439
Net assets		370,946	240,978
Equity			
Operational reserve		1,980	1,980
Retained earnings		368,966	238,998
Total equity		370,946	240,978

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



ABN: 49 641 532 578

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

2023

Balance at 30 June 2022

	Retained Surplus	Internal 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
2022			
	Retained Surplus	Constrained Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	194,084	44,125	238,209
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	44,914	-	44,914
Net transfers (to)/from internal operational reserve		(42,145)	(42,145)

238,998

1,980

240,978

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



ABN: 49 641 532 578

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Receipts from operations		1,376,854	841,641
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,085,024)	(855,714)
Interest received	_	159	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	12 _	291,989	(14,073)
Cash flows from investing activities: Purchase of property, plant and equipment	_	(1,272)	
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	_	(1,272)	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		290,717	(14,073)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	_	406,172	420,245
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	3 _	696,889	406,172

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



ABN: 49 641 532 578

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

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 2023

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 2023

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

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.

2023

2022

2 Revenue and other Income

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Revenue		
- Conferences forums	247,818	-
- Grant funding	625,815	443,527
- Levies and contributions	405,250	360,240
- Project management fees	4,545	-
Other income		
- Interest	159	-
- Miscellaneous other income		455
	1,283,587	804,222
Cash and cash equivalents		
	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and in hand	696,889	406,172
	696,889	406,172



ABN: 49 641 532 578

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

4	Trade and other receivables		
		2023	2022
		\$	\$
	Current		
	Trade receivables	12,844	97,206
		12,844	97,206
5	Property, plant and equipment		
Ū	roporty, plant and oquipmont		
		2023	2022
		\$	\$
	Plant and equipment		
	At fair value	1,272	-
	Accumulated depreciation	(1,272)	-
6	Other assets	2023	2022
		\$	\$
	Current		
	Prepayments	10,976	20,039
		10,976	20,039
7	Trade and other payables		
	• •	2023	2022
		\$	\$
	Current		
	Trade payables	24,318	30,817
	GST payable	23,102 903	8,934 840
	Accrued expenses PAYG tax payable	19,879	10,749
	Superannuation payable	7,879	4,336
		76,081	55,676
8	Contract liabilities	2023	2022
		2023 \$	2022 \$
	Current	Ψ	Ψ
	Unexpended grants	123,699	199,381
	Income in advance	112,500	5,394
		236,199	204,775



ABN: 49 641 532 578

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

9 Employee benefits

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current liabilities		
Provision for annual leave	37,484	17,839
	37,484	17,839
	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Non-current liabilities		
Provision for long service leave	-	4,149
	=	4,149

10 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 2023 the number of members was 52.

11 Contingencies and commitments

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Company did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2023.

12 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:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	129,968	44,914
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities:		
Non-cash flows in surplus:		
- depreciation	1,272	-
- Transfer from internal operational reserve	-	(42,145)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	84,362	37,419
- (increase)/decrease in other assets	9,064	(12,938)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	20,404	33,096
- increase/(decrease) in contract liabilities	31,423	(77,913)
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	15,496	3,494
Cashflows from operations	291,989	(14,073)





ABN: 49 641 532 578

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

13 Statutory Information

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



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 applicable to the Entity; and
 - b) give a true and fair view of the financial position of the registered entity as at 30 June 2023 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 Director

Dated 17 October 2023





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 assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2023, 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 2023 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.



Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Sammut Bulow 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
- 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

17 October 2023



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Annex

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

Enhance the	Build key relationships,	느
opportunities and impact	both internal and external	.⊨
of our member		р
organisations		.⊨

fluence and inform	Demo
dustry and government	impa
olicy, programs and	of inv
vestment	

onstrate the benefits, ct and opportunities estment in NRM

NRM RA Strategic Objectives

knowledge base of the Build and share the NRM sector

opportunities and risks

Explore national

for the NRM sector

Proactive identification of national and international opportunities and risks and preparedness for

link between the health of

are engaged and aligned Politicians and partners

Develop new partnerships

Cohesive membership

with NRM RA intent

relationships with

stakeholders

Member buy in and active engagement with NRM RA

and strengthen

and our own health and our Natural Resources

wellbeing as a nation

Increased investment in

NRM sector

Greater impact from the

collective effort

An efficient, responsive and insightful organisa-

Evidence of the critical

NRM RA Strategic Outcomes

processes for sharing and with knowledge base and A collaborative platform innovative NRM sector A more capable and learning

Government, Industry and

Communities have a sense of urgency for

action on NRM

- (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

Regional NRM Organisations

https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/what-is-nrm/nrm_regional_model/

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.



Contact Us

NRM Regions Australia Dr Kate Andrews

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