



Regional Natural Resource Management in Australia - Making Real Change

The natural resources we rely on for food, water, shelter, a stable climate and health, face growing threats—from climate-driven bushfires, floods, and extreme temperatures to habitat loss, pollutants, and invasive species. These challenges put our environment, communities, cultures and economies at risk.

For nearly 25 years, Australia's unique regional NRM sector has delivered long-lasting impact for communities, industries and the environment. We are the only country to have regionalised integrated NRM delivery. Working in partnership with First Nations Australians, farmers, communities, industries, conservationists, and governments, the 54 regional NRM organisations work to restore and sustain Australia's biodiversity and productive landscapes. Regional NRM provides an essential service for all Australia.

Australia's regional NRM sector and partners deliver lasting solutions to the complex environmental and climate challenges we face through people-driven, strategic and integrated landscape management. Regional NRM provides an essential service. By investing more, we can amplify:

Nature Protection & Restoration:

Accelerate work to improve waterway health, control invasive species, and protect and restore critical habitats for Australia's unique and threatened species.

Natural Disaster Preparation & Recovery:

Reduce impacts and costs by strengthening landscape and community resilience against natural disasters with scalable solutions that protect lives and livelihoods.

Creating new futures:

Support regional economies and jobs growth through informing the energy transition, enabling environmental markets and fostering innovative solutions.

Climate Adaptation:

Secure long-term stability and productivity by equipping communities, farms, and ecosystems to adapt to a changing climate.

Sustainable Land Management:

Enable adoption of sustainable practices that support agricultural productivity, reduce chemical run-off and enhance natural resources, reducing impacts of climate change and long-term costs of land restoration.

Delivering long-lasting impact

NT: Safe haven for the brush-tailed rabbit-rat



46 endangered brush-tailed rabbit-rats have found a sanctuary. After relocation to an island free from predators, feral herbivores, and with a good fire regime, three females gave birth, marking a hopeful future for this vulnerable species thanks to the collaboration of a small army of people. Setting traps for rabbit-rats in remote locations (Territory NRM)

WA: Feral animals given the Red Card



In an epic community initiative, nearly 10,000 people united to tackle invasive species, eliminating almost 40,000 foxes, over 2,000 feral cats, and 24,000 rabbits to protect native wildlife and agriculture. This is estimated to have saved the agricultural industry \$9.837 million and spared the lives of at least 364,059 native animals. (Wheatbelt NRM)

WA: Reducing fire risk

Through integrating traditional and modern fire practices in the Dampier Peninsula a community-led group, driven by Indigenous Traditional Custodians with Rangelands NRM as the coordinating entity has halved the annual extent of fires (from 43% to 19%) and significantly reduced severe fires (from 28% to less than 10% annually). (Rangelands NRM)

SA: Pests eradicated from Kangaroo Island



Kangaroo Island has been freed from feral deer and goats, allowing native vegetation to flourish once again. Endangered birds and butterflies are returning, some sighted here for the first time in 80 years. Vegetation in 2001 vs 2012 following eradication. (Kangaroo Island Landscape Board)

QLD: Restoring seagrass meadows

A decade-long effort to improve sewage treatment has transformed Moreton Bay, restoring seagrass meadows by slashing nitrogen and phosphorus levels by 50%. The collaborative initiative led by Healthy Land & Water has resulted in a thriving habitat that is a sanctuary for marine life. (Healthy Land & Water)

QLD: Reducing reef runoff



In the Wet Tropics, over 1,500 farmers are adopting sustainable practices, cutting reef runoff by 7,330 tonnes of sediment and over 1,000 tonnes of dissolved nitrogen—protecting the Great Barrier Reef from land pollution while maintaining productivity for farmers. Great Barrier Reef (Terrain NRM)

NSW: Building Cultural Burn leaders

Australia's first tertiary-certified Cultural Burn course is empowering young people with cultural knowledge and practical skills. Graduates are recognised as Cultural Burn Practitioners, ready to mentor the next generation. (Hunter LLS)

NSW: Safeguarding genetic diversity

Conservation and management of box gum grassy woodlands across Central West NSW led to the discovery of 11 additional small populations of the genetically vulnerable small purple pea. A successful and ambitious translocation program was implemented to boost genetic diversity, ensuring the species' long-term survival. (Central West LLS)

VIC: Mountain Pygmy Possum recovery

On Mt Buller, a groundbreaking recovery project for the endangered mountain pygmy possum with multiple partners has led to a 200% increase in population with over 150 possums counted post project in 2023 compared to 50 pre-project. (Goulburn Broken CMA)



(Photo: Andrew Wettenhall)

VIC: Regenerating rivers



The Genoa River is being revitalised with long-term integrated catchment management. Through stabilising banks, installing fencing, revegetating banks, limiting livestock access, and undertaking weed control, they're bringing new life to the river. Bridle's Bend 1989 vs 2024 (East Gippsland CMA)

TAS: Stronger farms, healthier land



(Photo: NRM South)

NRM regions, including NRM South, have been working with farmers to improve access to more reliable information. Earlier stock planning decisions allow farmers to improve productivity and protect valuable groundcover, improve soil health and topsoil erosion, and reduce weeds. Innovative tools such as Farming Forecaster, jointly developed by CSIRO and producers, translates how rainfall patterns and climate affect pasture production and livestock performance and offers reliable pasture forecasts for the months ahead. The result? Resilient farms and thriving landscapes. Sheep farm, Southern Midlands.

NRM projects happening across Australia, made possible through funding from the Australian and State/Territory governments.

The NRM sector delivers long lasting solutions to improve the health and sustainability of our natural resources.

Over the last two decades, regional NRM organisations have facilitated:



35,872

ha habitat revegetated
and maintained



11.2 million

ha treated by fire
management actions**



53,952

landholder training and stakeholder
engagement activities*



15,292

ha riparian and aquatic
areas remediated



110 million

ha treated for pest animals**



4.64 million

ha treated for weeds**



19,228

groups engaged*



23,172

plans and
agreements developed



30,460

communication
materials published



3.3 million

ha covered by practice change



Over 100

feral free enclosures



160

on ground climate trials

Please note: these 20 year figures are extrapolated from data collected across the Regional Land Partnerships stream of the National Landcare Program 2 (July 2018 to June 2023). It does not include outcomes achieved by regional NRM organisations with other funding.

** Over 20 years, the same stakeholder or group will likely have been engaged multiple times, but on different subjects.*

*** Over 20 years, in some instances the same area (ha) will likely have been treated more than once for new outbreaks or with different techniques.*

Acknowledgement of Country

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



We recognise decades of Australian Government investment through the Natural Heritage Trust.