



2018-19

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# CONTENTS

<b>About us .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Our members .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TNRM's home is the Territory.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2018-19 Highlights.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>TNRM Regional Land Partnership: Program delivery.....</b>	<b>11</b>
RLP1 .....	12
RLP2 .....	13
RLP3 .....	14
RLP4 .....	15
RLP5 .....	16
RLP6 .....	17
<b>TNRM activities under the Programs in the 2016-2020 NT NRM Plan .....</b>	<b>18</b>
Managing Fire .....	18
Preventing and managing weeds.....	20
Reducing the impacts of feral animals .....	22
Industry adoption of sustainable practices .....	24
Water resources and soil management.....	26
Managing and protecting key natural and cultural assets .....	28
Knowledge, capacity and engagement .....	30
<b>Conference and Awards.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>The Board.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Financial overview.....</b>	<b>37</b>



# ABOUT US

Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) is an independent not-for-profit, membership based organisation which has been working with landholders, community groups, industry and government since 2005 to ensure sustainable management of water, land, soils and biodiversity in the Northern Territory.

Governed by a board of directors, and guided by the 2016 - 2020 NT NRM Plan, TNRM has over 75 current member organisations holding interests in NRM in the NT or representing residents of the NT.

## MEMBERSHIP

As a membership organisation, community participation and input in our activities is important to us. TNRM members include industry bodies, Landcare and community groups, local government, Indigenous organisations, primary producers and local businesses.

TNRM membership is free and open to all entities that have an interest in natural resource management in the Northern Territory, are based in the Northern Territory, or represent residents of the Northern Territory.

# OUR MEMBERS

Aboriginal Carbon Foundation	Friends of Mitchell Creek Catchment Landcare Group	NT Seafood Council
ABS Scrofa (Australia) Pty Ltd trading as Wild Science	Frogwatch	Olive Pink Botanic Garden
Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Rangers	Greening Australia (NT) Limited	Outback Helicopter Airwork NT
Arid Lands Environment Centre	Heytesbury Cattle Company	Outbush Contracting
Australian Vegetation Management Services	Indigenous Land Corporation	Regional Development Australia NT
Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association	Industry Skills Advisory Council NT (ISACNT)	Roper Gulf Regional Council
Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation	Jawoyn Association	Roper River Landcare Group
Big Gecko	Lakeside Drive Community Garden	Savannah Guides Limited
Bradshaw and Timber Creek Contracting and Resource Company	Land for Wildlife (hosted by Low Ecological Services)	Savanna Solutions Pty Ltd
Centralian Land Management Association (CLMA)	Landcare NT	Savannah Way Limited
City Of Darwin	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	School of Environment, CDU
City of Palmerston	Litchfield Council	Shilo Station
Connect Environmental	Live and Learn Environmental Education	SLR Consulting Pty Ltd
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Ludmilla Creek Landcare Group	Tanya Izod & Associates
Creative Territory	Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Inc.	Thamarrurr Development Corporation - Thamarrurr Rangers
Darwin Aquaculture Centre	Malak Marketplace Inc.	T.H.E. Kakadu Plum
Deewin Kirim Aboriginal Corporation	MB Consulting (NT) Pty Ltd	The Milingimbi and Outstations Progress Resource Association Inc. (MOPRA)
Demed Association	McMinns Lagoon Reserve Assoc. Inc.	The Nature Conservancy Limited
Desert Knowledge Australia	Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation	Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre – Tjuwanpa Women Rangers
Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation	Minerals Council of Australia - NT Division	Top End Native Plant Society
Eco Logical Australia	MTP Contracting Pty Ltd	Triple P Contracting
Ecoservices NT	National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia (NASAA)	Twin Hill Aboriginal Corporation
EcOz Environmental Services	North Australian Rural Management Consultants (NARMCO)	Victoria River District Conservation Association (VRDCA)
Environment Centre NT	Northern Land Council	Wangamaty (Lower Daly) Land Management Group
Environmental Defenders Office NT	Northern Territory Cattleman's Association	Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (The Purple House)
Fire Stick and Associates	NT Farmers Association	Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation
Friends of Fogg Dam		

# TNRM'S HOME IS THE TERRITORY

## TOP END

### Climate

Tropical monsoonal

### Size and population

Makes up 13% of the NT's landmass and is home to 70% of NT's population

### Regional profile

Characterised by mangrove-lined coasts, wetlands, floodplains and sandstone plateau. Approximately 70% of the region is under Aboriginal freehold title

### Conservation

33% of land is protected areas, 65% of this is Indigenous Protected Areas

### Major feral animals and weeds

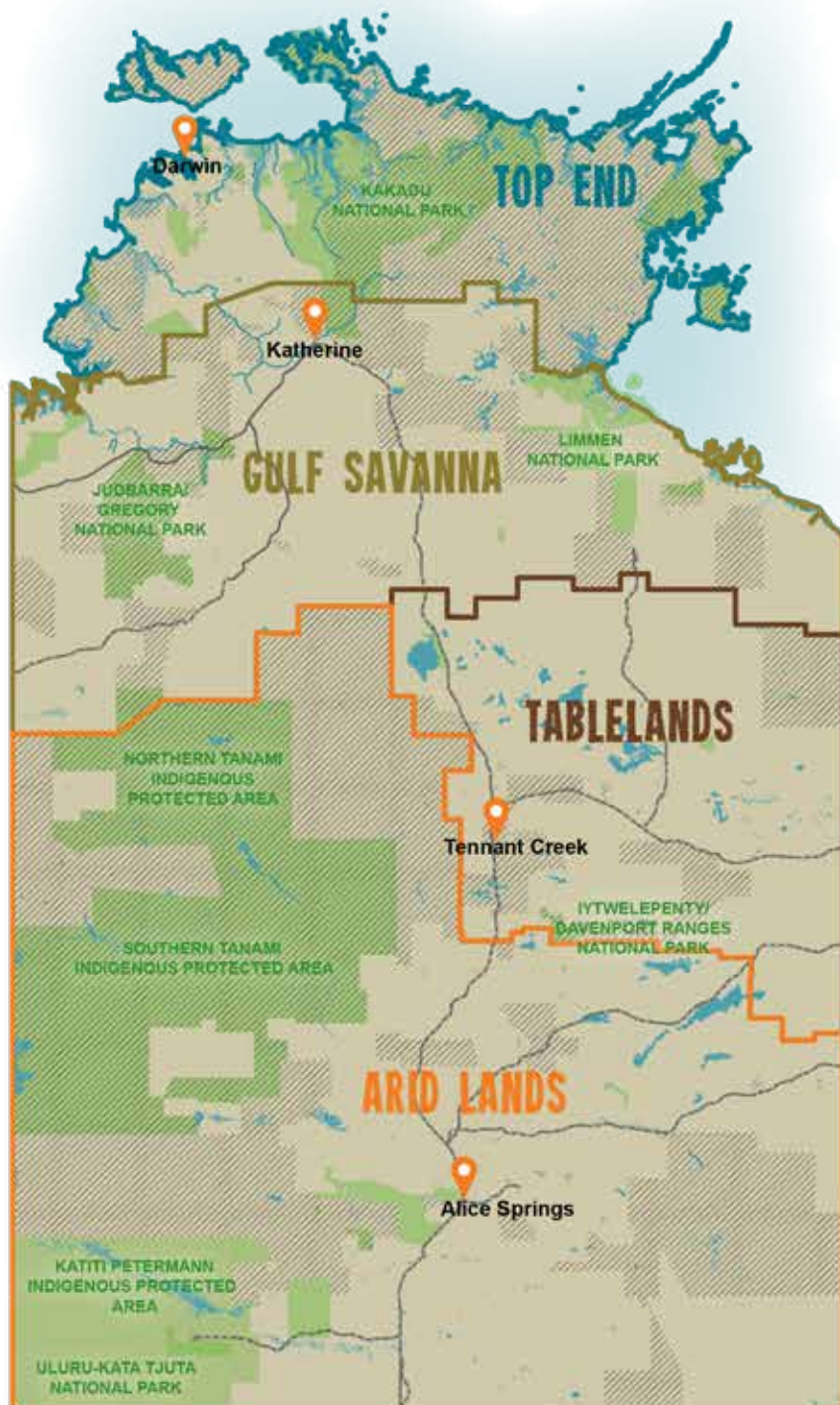
Buffalo, cats, pigs, cane toads, gamba grass, Bellyache bush, *Mimosa pigra*, Olive hymenachne, Parkinsonia, Mission grass and Grader grass

### Notable 2018-19 NRM activities

Commencement of TNRM's 5-year Regional Land Partnerships project involving strategic and collaborative management of invasive species threats Kakadu and west Arnhem Land landscapes

TNRM partnered with 5 indigenous ranger groups and traditional owners to conduct targeted surveys over 2,800 in central and eastern Arnhem Land and Groote Eylandt. The data collected in these surveys for Northern Hopping mouse will be used to update conservation advice and management plans for the threatened species.

The Northern Long necked turtle project in the Finnis Reynolds catchment involved collaboration with indigenous rangers, traditional owners and researchers investigating catchment health and threats to the turtle population.



## GULF SAVANNA

### Climate

Sub-tropical

### Size and population

Makes up 23% of NT's land mass and is home to 9% of the NT's population

### Regional profile

A variety of ecosystems including arid, savanna, plateau and coastal waters and islands. Nearly two-thirds of region under pastoral lease

### Conservation

13% of the land is protected areas which includes 3 Indigenous Protected Areas

### Major feral animals and weeds

Horses, donkeys, buffalos, pigs, cats, dogs, cane toads, Mesquite, Prickly acacia, Parkinsonia, Chinese apple, *Mimosa pigra*, Bellyache bush, Gamba grass, Neem, Grader grass, Snakeweed and Devil's claw

### Notable 2018-19 NRM activities

Workshops held in Katherine provided indigenous rangers and pastoral producers with practical skills to reduce biosecurity risks associated with the movement of machinery, vehicles and equipment.

15 pastoralists participated in a review of TNRM Territory Conservation Agreement Program. The review involved property visits, TCA site inspections and semi structured interviews with land managers to assess program impacts, and guide future program direction

Felixer grooming traps were deployed for the first time in the Northern Territory with two units set up on West Island. This new technology which recognises and targets cats and their grooming requirements has now become part of integrated cat control activities on the island in an effort make the island cat free.

## TABLELANDS

### Climate

Semi-arid

### Size and population

The Tablelands, also known as the Barkly region, covers 15% of NT's land mass and is home to 3% of the NT's population

### Regional profile

Nearly three-quarters of the region is under pastoral lease. It is an area of semi-arid savanna and wetlands and lake systems

### Conservation

1.4% of land is protected areas

### Major feral animals and weeds

Donkeys, Mesquite, Parkinsonia, Prickly acacia and Rubber bush

### Notable 2018-19 NRM activities

Trials using remote sensing and UAV technology to detect weed infestations were conducted on pastoral land on the Tablelands. A team from TNRM, NTG Weed Management branch and Desert Channels Queensland spent four days flying drones and ground truthing imagery. Data collected will be used to improve capacity to analyse images from Sentinel 2 satellites for weed management.

## ARID LANDS

### Climate

Semi-arid

### Size and population

Makes up nearly half of the NT's land mass and is home to 19% of the NT's population, with more than 85% of land classified as very remote. 55% is Aboriginal freehold land.

### Regional profile

Part of Australia's iconic Red Centre and a region of extraordinary geological landforms and diverse habitats

### Conservation

23% of the Arid Lands is protected areas, 95% of this is Indigenous Protected Areas

### Major feral animals and weeds

Camels, horses, donkeys, cats, foxes, rabbits, Athel pine, Cacti, Parkinsonia, Rubber bush

### Notable 2018-19 NRM activities

TNRM convened the Central Australian Threatened Species Forum in Alice Springs, bringing together 76 people from 17 organisations to share information on their threatened species work and to identify opportunities to collaborate and coordinate activities.

Work to maintain habitat for threatened central rock rat populations in the West MacDonnell ranges included predator control and monitoring. Requirements for fire and feral cat management will be determined by data collected during surveys for remnant rock rat populations.

In consultation with Traditional Owners, TNRM in conjunction with expert botanists, travelled to Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust to conduct population health surveys and threat assessments at all known Central Australian cabbage palm stands existing outside Finke Gorge National Park.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NT landholders face many challenges and opportunities when it comes to natural resource management, with successful sustainable management of our plants animals soil and water requiring resourcefulness, resilience and adaptability. Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM), has drawn on these strengths from our staff and stakeholders to negotiate our way through this year's role out of phase two of Australian Government National Landcare Program (NLP2), and the introduction of Regional Land Partnerships as the main funding stream for NRM regions.

In July 2018 TNRM was selected as the Australian Governments' preferred provider of Regional Land partnership services in the NT, and over the past twelve months has received work orders to deliver six projects contributing to National Landcare Program investment priorities and objectives.

NLP2 is focused on delivering projects through partnerships, and for TNRM this has always been a priority of the way we work. The new funding model provides even greater opportunities for TNRM to build and strengthen relationships and engage with community organisations, industry, and business, as we work to deliver strategic projects that contribute to Australian Government priorities and the aspirations of the NT community expressed in the NT NRM plan.

As well as partnering with NT businesses and organisations to develop and deliver projects, TNRM has worked throughout the year adjusting internal processes and structures to maximise capacity of our organisation, and maintain efficient and effective business systems.

A large amount of time this year was invested in the planning and development of projects, building solid foundations for the projects we will undertake over the next four years. An overview of the Regional Land partnerships program in the NT and a snapshot of the years' achievements are featured in the following pages of our 2018-2019 Annual Report. None of the achievements captured in the report would be possible without the efforts and commitment of our project partners or the hard work of the TNRM team. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to TNRM's growth and successful project delivery over the past year, with special acknowledgement to the Australian Government project delivery team, who have worked beside us and supported us throughout the year helping us learn and adapt to the new program requirements.



# 2018-19 HIGHLIGHTS

Aerial survey of over  
**41,000** ha  
for Gamba in Central  
Western Arnhem Land

**12,201**  
camera trap nights to  
survey for feral cats and  
threatened species

**21** people  
qualified in CLM II unit  
AHC BIO201 Inspect and  
clean machinery for plant  
animal and soil material

**60** rangers and  
traditional owners  
attended a 4 day fire camp  
in the Arnhem Plateau

**272** facebook  
posts  
maintained an informed  
and aware audience of  
2,481 followers

**28** pastoralists  
maintaining 47 Territory  
Conservation Agreement  
sites

**96** % of TCA  
monitoring  
points  
surveyed were found  
to have maintained or  
improved land condition

Feral Cat management  
and control undertaken  
across  
**21,000** ha  
West MacDonnell Ranges

**260** individuals  
registered for TNRM's  
13 planning and capacity  
building workshops held  
in 2018-19

**28** land  
managers  
trained in natural  
processes for Erosion  
Control

Aerial survey of  
**138,600** ha  
of Jawoyn land providing  
baseline data for regional  
feral animal management  
planning and activities

Over  
**100** rangers and  
traditional owners  
contributing to project  
activities

Over  
**2,800** km  
was covered in targeted  
surveys for Northern  
Hopping Mice across  
Arnhem Land and  
Groote Eylandt

Improved grazing  
practices initiated over  
**17,663** ha  
pastoral land to protect  
native vegetation, and  
improve ground cover

**400** individuals  
attended TNRM 2018  
Conference and NT  
NRM Awards



# TNRM REGIONAL LAND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM DELIVERY

Phase two of the National Landcare Program (NLP2) commenced in July 2018 with Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) being a major component of the Program. TNRM submitted a successful tender to be the delivery agent for RLP in the NT, and in July 2018 entered into a Core Services Agreement to deliver program outcomes for the five-year period from July 2018 to June 2023.

RLP aims "to protect, conserve and provide for the productive use of Australia's water, soil, plants and animals and the ecosystems in which they live and interact, in partnership with Government, industry and Communities".

In previous years a significant amount of TNRM funding has been devolved to community organisations through grants supporting the groups to deliver outcomes for TNRM's environment and agriculture projects. Under the new funding model TNRM partners with community to deliver specific projects, each focusing on one of six national priority outcomes, regional investment is influenced by the weighting placed on Australian Government priorities.

As the Core Service Provider TNRM's role is to:

- Maintain, monitor and update the NT Natural Resource Management Plan
- Communicate information on natural resource management, and engage and support the community to prioritise and deliver NRM Outcomes that contribute to strategies of the NT NRM plan and relate to Australian Government investment priorities
- Support the Community, including landcare, Indigenous communities, and industry to participate in the delivery of RLP Projects
- Design, coordinate, implement, monitor and report on RLP Projects

Since July 2018, TNRM has received work orders through RLP to design and implement five projects each four to five years in length and one single year project. Delivery of five projects commenced this year, with one project due to commence in September 2019. One of TNRM's first steps in delivery of RLP has been the redesign of our website to communicate project outcomes and share project resources.



# RLP1

## PROTECTING THE EXTRAORDINARY NATURAL VALUES OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY'S TOP END

This collaborative project is the largest of the six projects and focuses on reducing key invasive species threats (weeds and feral animals) to the Kakadu World Heritage Area and will support activities such as improved fire management to protect the habitat of priority threatened species and the sandstone heath threatened ecological community. The 7 million Ha project area encompasses West Arnhem Land and Kakadu region and is made up of a variety of landscapes from stone country plateaus and rugged escarpments to savannah woodlands, vast wetlands, floodplains, and coastal mangroves.

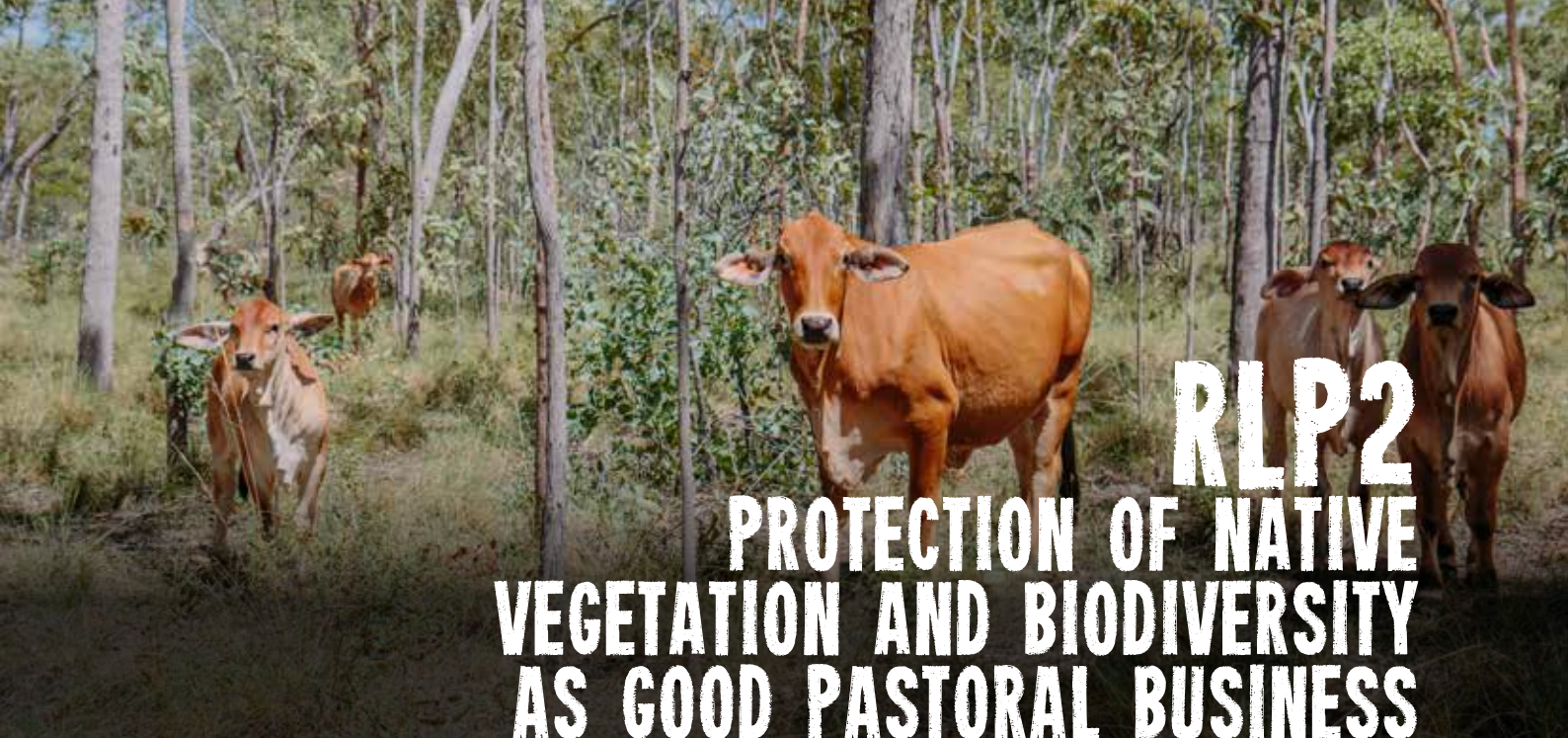
TNRM guides and coordinates project activities designed to complement the great work that is already happening in the region. Engaging and working with Traditional Owners, ranger groups, National Parks and other land holders in the region, the project addresses the challenges of managing the spread of invasive species with a strategic and collaborative approach. Key focuses in the project are to:

- Prevent the spread of gamba grass
- Contain mimosa infestations
- Investigate sustainable solutions to managing buffalo and pigs in the region to reduce environmental degradation and weed spread
- Strengthen and develop strong regional partnerships and shared goals to increase collaborative and integrated approaches to invasive species management in the region

This year has seen 7 indigenous ranger groups engaged and contributing to project activities. A large amount of work has been focused on getting input from groups to determine current status and management of invasive species across the region, and identifying opportunities for collaboration to value add, enhance, and create additional efficiencies in invasive species management.

### Key work undertaken since project commencement in November 2018 includes:

- Aerial surveys conducted on major roads and tracks to map and treat gamba infestations.
- Aerial surveys of Upper Katherine river region to find baseline numbers of buffalo and pigs, to enable development of strategic management plans.
- Treatment of gamba and mimosa outliers.
- A 4-day fire camp focusing on protecting the Sandstone Heath from inappropriate fire regimes.
- Facilitation of 3 planning workshops engaging major stakeholders



# RLP2 PROTECTION OF NATIVE VEGETATION AND BIODIVERSITY AS GOOD PASTORAL BUSINESS

This project is the only one of the six contracted projects to be funded under Department of Agriculture. The project aims to encourage and support the adoption of practices which protect and improve the condition of native vegetation on pastoral land. The project compliments and extends TNRM's existing Territory Conservation Agreements (TCA) Program and will build on the knowledge and experience of protecting native vegetation within pastoral systems achieved through the program over the past eight years.

Throughout the next four years TNRM will work with the TCA network, pastoral industry producers and stakeholder groups to produce appropriate extension and communication materials to promote awareness of benefits of maintaining the health of native vegetation and develop a benchmarking system for best practice management native vegetation.

## This year work has included:

- A series of face to face interviews with 17 pastoral properties across the NT to assess the impacts of the TCA program
- Development of a suite of awareness raising material
- Publication of a business case identifying benefits of integrating conservation into pastoral production
- Establishing trial sites to demonstrate best practice management



# RLP3 PROTECTING THREATENED SPECIES IN THE TOP END

Under this project TNRM formed collaborative partnerships with Indigenous ranger groups and Traditional Owners on Groote Eylandt and mainland Arnhem Land to improve knowledge of the distribution of the northern hopping-mouse. The northern hopping-mouse (*Notomys aquilo*) is a native Australian rodent with bulging eyes, big ears, a long tail and huge feet which it hops around on like a miniature kangaroo.

The northern hopping-mouse is the only hopping-mouse that occurs outside of the arid zone and is listed as Vulnerable in the Northern Territory.

It has not been recorded on the mainland in decades and Groote Eylandt may now be the only place they persist in open woodlands on sandy soil and coastal dunes.

The project concluded in June 2019, having surveyed all previously recorded known locations for the hopping-mouse, and covering additional areas based on potential habitat suitability. The species has not been recorded on the mainland for decades and was not detected on the mainland during the project. It was found to be likely that Groote Eylandt may now be the only place they persist in open woodlands on sandy soil and coastal dunes. Findings of the project and

information gained through additional collaboration with researchers will inform future management plans and conservation advice for the species. Given the limited project scope and time frame, project partners are hopeful that additional work can undertake to further improve knowledge of the species.

## This year work has included:

- Incorporating helicopter searches and ground searches, to cover 2,800 km of targeted surveys for the northern hopping-mouse across Arnhem Land and Groote Eylandt.
- Engagement of 21 indigenous rangers and traditional owners in the project.
- Rangers were trained in identification of and biology of the species, and taught camera trapping techniques designed to confirm presence of hopping-mouse. Where possible local indigenous people participated in surveys, providing both historical and current insight into likely survey locations, and habitat status.

# RLP4 PROTECTING THE CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN CABBAGE PALM

TNRM has partnered with Indigenous ranger groups, Traditional Owners, NT Government Flora and Fauna Division and Finke Gorge National Park rangers to deliver a project that will improve knowledge on the condition of the Central Australian Cabbage Palm.

In consultation with Traditional Owners, and in conjunction with expert botanists, we conducted population health surveys and threat assessments on the cabbage palm stands on Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust in May 2019.

We will use this information along with traditional knowledge to inform the development of management plans to ensure the long-term viability of these populations.

Over the next three years, TNRM will collaborate and engage with Indigenous Rangers, Traditional Owners, NT Parks Rangers and cabbage palm experts to assist with management for weeds, feral animals and fire on the palms outside and within Finke Gorge National Park.





# RLP5 PROTECTING THE CENTRAL ROCK-RAT AND ARID ZONE THREATENED SPECIES RECOVERY FORUM

The central rock-rat (*Zyzomys pendunculatus*) is a critically endangered native rodent. It is now known from only two locations in central Australia, both west of Alice Springs. The main population is found in Tjoritja/MacDonnell Ranges National Park, with another recently discovered population on land looked after by the Central Land Council's Anangu Luritjiku rangers.

TNRM has formed partnerships with Indigenous ranger groups, Traditional Owners and NT government Department of Environment and Natural Resources to deliver this project which aims to stabilise or improve the trajectory of the central rock-rat through predator and on-ground management.

The project will also encourage collaboration and sharing of information on conservation and protection of threatened species in Central Australia, initiating a conservation planning process contributing to coordinated and strategic fire management for threatened species in central Australia.

In March, TNRM held a Central Australian Threatened Species Forum in Alice Springs, bringing together 76 people from 17 organisations to share information on their threatened species work and to identify opportunities to collaborate and coordinate activities. The two-day forum covered a lot of ground across the areas of predator control, fire management, monitoring techniques, and resourcing, as well as the feasibility of relocation and captive breeding programs for threatened species.

After wild fires burned through much of MacDonnell Ranges early in 2019, TNRM worked with the Flora and Fauna Division from Alice Springs to undertake emergency intervention of feral cat control and monitoring for cats and central rock-rats in Tjoritja/MacDonnell Ranges National Park. Camera trapping data will allow scientists to assess how well cat management has worked.



# RLP6 PROTECTING THE HABITAT OF THE GREATER BILBY THROUGH THE ARID LANDS OF CENTRAL

TNRM was contracted to scope and develop a project to protect and improve the habitat for bilby in central Australia with project activities scheduled to be undertaken from July 2019 to June 2023.

The project will build on methodology used in Bilby Blitz where indigenous ranger groups use their expert tracking skills to record signs different species - including scats, tracks, and diggings - and record those signs using the bilingual Tracks App.

Over the next 4 years TNRM will collaborate with Indigenous ranger groups and traditional owners from central Australia implementing fire management and feral pest management activities designed to improve habitat and reduce the threat of predation on Bilby populations.



# 2018-19 ACTIVITIES MANAGING FIRE

Fire is an essential part of natural and cultural management activities, infrastructure protection, wildfire mitigation and landscape health in the Northern Territory. New fire management practices that suit changed land usage need to be adopted to ensure appropriate fire regimes are in place across NT landscapes protecting biodiversity and livelihoods and reducing hazardous situations.

## Fighting fire with Fire

Covering over 20,000sq km the Arnhem Land plateau is a rugged and ancient sandstone formation of sheer escarpments and gorges located 350km east of Darwin.

The sandstone heathlands of the plateau are a significant ecological community of native shrubs, grasses and animals, many of which are threatened, by destructive wildfires, disturbance by feral animals and invasion by weeds.

The Bininj Aboriginal people of West Arnhem Land have owned and cared for this country for more than 60,000 years. Today, Traditional Owners and Indigenous ranger groups are working in partnership with scientists, natural resource management organisations and government to help protect the plateau.

TNRM is supporting a collaborative five-year regional approach to protecting significant places and species in the West Arnhem and Kakadu region through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

As part of the regional approach, Indigenous rangers, scientists and other experts gathered at a workshop hosted by TNRM, to plan activities to enhance management of the West Arnhem and Kakadu region.

A priority from the workshop was actioned in May, when TNRM together with the Jawoyn Association and Kakadu National Park organised a fire management camp at Jeywunaye (Sleizbeck) on the upper Katherine River, surrounded by the rugged Arnhem Plateau.

The camp aimed to implement fine scale early dry season burning to help protect the fragile sandstone heathlands from hot extensive wildfires later in the season.

The camp was attended by 60 Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers from Kakadu, Jawoyn and Mangarrayi. The rangers conducted fine scale ground burning and were dropping into sites in the rugged sandstone country by helicopter, to walk ground burning lines. Helicopters were also used to for aerial burning work and provided senior Traditional Owners with an opportunity to access the rugged country and to see how prescribed burns affect the heathlands.

The camp also provided a great opportunity for rangers, Traditional Owners and scientists to get together to share ideas about good fire management and indicators for healthy heath country.





# 2018-19 ACTIVITIES PREVENTING AND MANAGING

Weeds are an increasing threat to the Northern Territory's natural, economic and cultural assets despite considerable time, effort and investment in weed management. A key objective of the NRM plan is to have coordinated regional approaches to weed threats preventing the introduction of new weeds and inhibiting the spread of current weeds.

## Exploring possibilities for use of unmanned aerial vehicles and remote sensing to detect weed infestations.

Prickly Acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*) is an invasive shrub that threatens the ecological health and productivity of Australian rangelands. The weed directly impacts upon pastoral operations by forming thickets that block stock access to water and interfere with mustering. Prickly Acacia also threatens biodiversity by choking natural grasslands and native woodlands. Efforts to control Prickly Acacia have highlighted the difficulties of detecting and treating new infestations when land managers operate with limited resources of time and manpower.

In May 2019, TNRM coordinated a project that trialled the use of UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) and Remote Sensing technologies to support land managers in the detection and monitoring of Prickly Acacia. The project field

team was made up from staff of TNRM, Weeds Management Branch and Desert Channels NRM, with off-site technical support and data analysis provided by Queensland

University of Technology (QUT). The field team travelled to a pastoral property on the NT / Queensland border to undertake field work exploring the potential for identifying the distribution of Prickly Acacia utilising Sentinel 2 satellite imagery.

The field team ground-truthed the distribution of Prickly Acacia against six sites that had been identified through the remote sensing methodology. Some team members followed creek lines in ATVs, identifying and geo-locating individual shrubs while others created UAV flight plans and flew them to create orthomosaic maps for creek sections in which Prickly Acacia was found. Over several successive days of survey, the team built up a clear picture of the distribution of Prickly Acacia in the trial site. The UAVs brought an impressive new capability to the traditional techniques of fieldwork, whether free flying to search creek lines or flying pre-programmed flight plans to create mosaic maps. Data gathered was used to improve capacity for computer analysis of satellite imagery to detect weed incursions, allowing for greater efficiency to detect weed infestations over extensive areas and in areas where access is difficult or limited.

*“Identification and adoption of new technology to detect and control weeds will assist land manager’s response to weed management.”*

Nathan Mills, Weeds Branch



# G WEEDS

TNRM project Protecting the Extraordinary Natural Values of the Northern Territory's Top End addresses critical threats to protect the natural values of the Kakadu National Park and western Arnhem Land. A key threat to the region is the spread of Gamba grass a robust perennial that was first introduced to the Northern Territory in the 1980s as a pasture grass. The highly invasive exotic grass species is widely spread throughout Darwin and Litchfield shires, and has the potential to affect the entire Arnhem Land region threatening native vegetation, animals, and indigenous livelihoods if allowed to spread.

Gamba has been historically hard to access prior to seed set in some areas of the Arnhem and Kakadu National Park regions. Traditionally the wet season limits vehicular access due to deep mud and river crossings meaning ranger groups were missing the control window and allowing gamba to persist by setting seed.

In 2019 TNRM teamed up with NT Government weeds branch personnel and indigenous ranger groups from Kakadu and central and western Arnhem Land seeking and treating Gamba along, roadsides, borrow pits, seasonally uninhabited outstations, mining camps and infrastructure and previously recorded infestations. A Jet ranger helicopter from Jabiru was hired for three days, flying 361.35 km and surveying an area of 21,681Ha. Rangers accompanied spotters in the helicopter so that when infestations were found the helicopter could land and rangers would treat the gamba on the spot. The coordinated approach to surveys enabled 5 different ranger groups to share helicopter resources creating efficiency and ensuring plants were treated before seeding.



# 2018-19 ACTIVITIES REDUCING THE IMPACTS OF

Feral animals such as cats, pigs, buffalos, and cane toads have a devastating effect on native plants and animals. They compete for food and shelter, destroy habitat and spread diseases, degrade the environment and damage cultural sites. Feral animals create costly problems for many agricultural businesses and private properties. TNRM supports the coordinated and strategic management of feral animals.

## Mixing the old with the new to eradicate cats from West Island

The li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers have deployed the first Feral Cat Grooming Traps to be approved for use in the Northern Territory. These high-tech “Felixer” machines, use a series of lasers to identify a cat from any other species, and exploit the compulsive grooming behaviour of cats by ejecting poisonous gel onto their fur if they pass within 4 metres of the device.

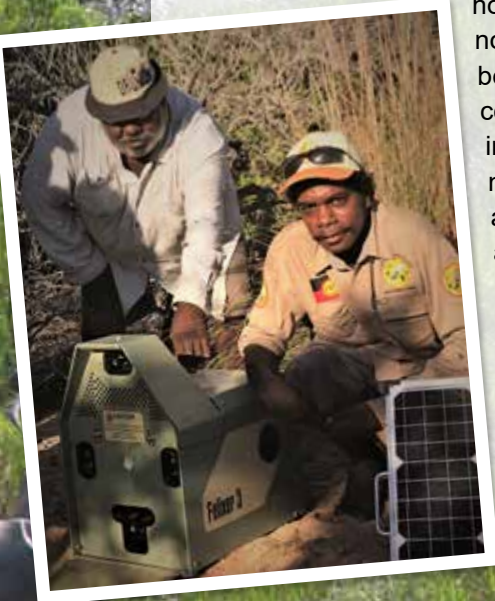
The Felixers are being used in the final stages of the eradication of feral cats from the 13,000 ha West Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria which has previously relied on baiting and trapping. Some cats appear to be wise to the baiting and trapping methods and refuse to take the baits,

however Felixers do not depend on a cat being hungry. Project collaborators have integrated oldest and newest technologies available to survey and control cats: recent results from camera trap surveys, findings of an indigenous tracker, and the use of a cat detection dogs lead the project

team to believe that there are only one or two cats remaining on West Island. The project has been an 8-year collaboration between the li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers, the West Island Traditional Owners and Desert Wildlife Services and is supported by TNRM and the Department of Environment.

## Feral cat control in West MacDonnell Ranges

In the West MacDonnell Ranges, a targeted feral cat control program trialling the use of Eradicat® 1080 baits was undertaken to reduce the threat of predation to the central rock-rat. The baiting program involved distributing Eradicat® 1080 baits from a helicopter at a rate of 50 baits per km<sup>2</sup> across two of the four rock-rat monitoring sites. Camera traps were also set up on site to identify how many individual cats were present and the effect of baiting on cat populations. Camera trapping data will allow scientists to analyse before and after baiting numbers of cats to identify how well cat management has worked. From this information, the number of individual cats, densities and survival can be estimated using statistical methods.



# FERAL ANIMALS

## Aerial surveys in Jawoyn region will form basis of feral animal management plans

Feral animal populations are regarded, together with fire and weeds, as the main threats to biological diversity on Jawoyn lands. Buffalo love water and target springs and billabongs fowling and muddying the waters. Pigs dig up the country and eat important plants such as Yams and dig up and eat turtle and crocodile eggs. The Jawoyn people aspire to the adoption of informed, integrated and lawful commercial activities to reduce the impact of buffalo, donkey, horse and cattle on Jawoyn country toward tolerable level. Current knowledge of feral animal populations is necessary to plan and

implement strategic feral animal management so in 2019 aerial surveys were undertaken in the Jawoyn region across 10,000km<sup>2</sup> with survey results providing valuable data to discuss expectations for management to reduce environmental and cultural impacts with Traditional Owners and Rangers.



# 2018-19 ACTIVITIES

# INDUSTRY ADOPTION OF SUS

The NT NRM Plan identifies the need for adoption of more efficient and sustainable natural resource management practices that benefit both primary producer's livelihoods, and our environment. To meet this goal TNRM support and promote efficient production practices; management of fire, feral animal, and invasive weed threats; development of management plans for sustainable wild harvest programs; adoption of best practice grazing and ground cover management; and observance of biosecurity practices.

Throughout this year TNRM have worked with industry leaders to promote the adoption of best practice across our primary industries. TNRM have facilitated forums increasing knowledge awareness of best practice management, and communicated opportunities and information to encourage adoption of sustainable practices. This year marked the 8th year that TNRM's initial Territory Conservation Agreement sites have been in place. TNRM undertook a review of the program and used the learnings from this to promote integration of conservation management on pastoral properties, benefits of best practice management grazing, and the improved production efficiencies and conservation benefits that arise from implementing sustainable land management.

Through attendance and presentations at national and state conferences, TNRM has engaged pastoral land managers in discussions on improved fire, pest and weed management, and the adoption of improved grazing management practices to protect soil and increase ground cover.

Findings from the TCA review, have been widely promoted demonstrating that it is possible and beneficial for pastoralists to integrate conservation management into pastoral production regimes.

TNRM developed a technical report *Good Pastoral Business: A case for protecting native vegetation and biodiversity within the Territory beef industry*. The report identifies a range of ways in which conservation of native vegetation can strengthen production and pastoral business outcomes. Case studies investigate and discuss the outcomes of managing a TCA on three different properties.

As well as supporting and maintaining the Territory Conservation Agreement program, TNRM have been responsible for coordinating communications for the self-herding trial as one of six partners in this unique collaboration funded by Meat and Livestock Australia with support from the NT Government. The emphasis on low environmental impact, cattle health and sustainability tick all the boxes for sound natural resource management. In November 2018 TNRM hosted a *Self-Herding for profits and landscapes* workshop which provided 25 people with insight in to a broad range of management strategies that behavioural approaches can provide and the benefits to production and landscapes that can be achieved by Self-Herding.



# STAINABLE PRACTICES

Self-Herding trials undertaken at Kidman Springs station are now in their second year with partners and experts expanding on the success and evidence gathered from the first year of the trial. The trials demonstrate how livestock behaviour as well as weed, fire and feral animal threat can be positively influenced through Self-Herding.

TNRM has also supported pastoralists to implement best practice methodologies protecting native vegetation and biodiversity on pastoral properties. Site Management plans were developed for an area of 8,663 Ha to reduce livestock pressure on riparian corridors and sensitive rainforest vegetation. Management plans involved the strategic establishment of alternate watering sources designed to draw stock away from sensitive areas and concentrate them around the more robust country surrounding the artificial watering points. It is hoped that monitoring regimes established at the site will demonstrate improvements in both productivity, land condition, and integrity of native vegetation due to the supply of abundant clean water.



# 2018-19 ACTIVITIES

# WATER RESOURCES AND SOIL

The NT NRM plan prioritises actions that collate soil information and create communications products on soil conservation that target contractors on soil conservation and provide increased training and extension services regarding sustainable soil management to primary producers throughout the NT. This year TNRM worked with leading soil health experts to deliver soil health programs and information across the NT.

The NT Soil Consortium was launched on World Soils Day, 5 December, inviting special guest speaker Dr Matt Hall to present on the importance of cover crops for soil health. TNRM established the NT Soil Consortium in response to conversations between TNRM and farmers, land managers, and gardeners across the NT. The Consortium brings soil experts together with land managers, farmers and others having an interest in, soil health and conservation to increase the capacity and knowledge of land managers to implement practices to improve on-farm soil. Since the inception of NT Soil Consortium, TNRM have hosted a number of capacity building events, as well as initiated discussions and awareness raising through a Facebook group.

Over 35 land managers participated in the Digging Deeper program attending soil Pit field days in Darwin and Katherine to gain a better understanding of how soils interact with microbes and organisms, and how to assess soil health.

In Central Australia 28 land managers participated in TNRM's Natural Process Erosion Control Course held at the Desert Knowledge

Precinct & Hale River Homestead at Old Ambalindum. The course ran over three days in April and included both theory and practical sessions, where all participants got their hands dirty building numerous erosion control structures utilising regenerative methods.

Participants reviewed the theory of erosion, with what causes it in an arid to semi-arid region, identifying symptoms, varying erosion processes, and ways to reduce its impact, before applying everything they learnt practically to the land. They also had received a tour of ponding banks installed at Hale River Homestead which are used to collect and control the flow of rainfall, holding water on the soil surface, increasing soil moisture levels and improving the conditions for plant growth.

The NT Soil Consortium was funded through the National Landcare Program Smart Farm Small Grants and benefited from additional small grants through Meat and Livestock Australia and NT Community Benefits fund. TNRM's Regional Landcare Facilitator will continue to facilitate conversations on soil health and support land managers to improve soil condition after project funds have been acquitted at the end of 2019.

# IL MANAGEMENT



# 2018-19 ACTIVITIES MANAGING AND PROTECTING KEY

Our deserts, savannas, woodlands, monsoon forests and wetlands are still largely intact. Despite this, the environmental and cultural assets of the NT are under increasing pressure. Threatening processes that impact on these assets include inappropriate fire regimes, feral animals, climate change, weeds and overgrazing by domestic livestock. We need to support and adequately resource landholders to protect our natural and cultural assets ensuring they have the knowledge skills and capacity to manage these assets.

## Long necked turtles of the North western Floodplains

The northern long-necked turtle, *Chelodina oblonga* occurs in lowlands waterways, billabongs, and seasonal wetlands on coastal floodplains across the Northern Territory. Traditional owners of the Finnis Floodplains area flagged concerns about traditionally harvested turtles in the area being of poorer condition than they used to be and turtle fat being the wrong colour. IN 2018 TNRM received sponsorship from the Ichthys LNG Project's wider community investment program and the Community Benefit Fund to enable traditional owners and researchers from Charles Darwin University to work together to investigate possible environmental causes.

Approximately 50 people from indigenous communities of the Finnis Floodplains participated in turtle searches. Due to the site being downstream from the old Rum Jungle copper and uranium mine project studies involved sampling turtles for heavy metals by taking tissue from turtles being harvested for eating, and analysing it at the CDU laboratory. Shells of dead turtles were sent to Canberra to test Mercury levels.

Heavy metal levels in most turtles fell within the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for human consumption, but a surprise finding was that the iron levels of the turtles were several magnitudes higher than what is found in red meat. Iron levels of up to 4000mg/kg were seen in the turtle liver (with a comparison of around 2700 to 3500mg/kg found in red meat).

As well as testing for heavy metals a threat analysis was carried out to determine key threats to the local long neck turtle population. It was found that the main threats to turtles in the region are likely to be predation from feral pigs, and changes in habitat due to fire regimes, and climate variability.

Data collected during the study has increased traditional owners knowledge about the status of the northern long-necked turtle population on the Finnis River, and land managers will use this information to guide future management and environmental education actions for flood plains that will protect the culturally significant long necked turtles.



# NATURAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS

## Searching for the northern hopping-mouse

The northern hopping-mouse (*Notomys aquilo*) is one of the 20 Australian Government priority mammal species likely to become extinct in the next 20 years. This vulnerable rodent has not been seen on the mainland in decades and is currently only known from Groote Eylandt. This year supported by funding from the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnership program, TNRM worked with Indigenous ranger groups across Arnhem Land in areas near historic records to search for the species. Groote Eylandt was also surveyed to increase knowledge of population distribution on the island. Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Rangers conducted a series of surveys throughout the year using helicopters to access remote areas on the island and search for sign of Northern Hopping Mouse. New survey methodology for finding hopping mouse sign by helicopter was trialled and refined on Groote Eylandt, where known hopping mice spoils were located, this methodology was then used on the mainland in order to cover a large amount of potential habitat in a very short window.

Aerial surveys on the mainland covered thousands of kilometres of potential coastal and inland habitat. Follow up ground surveys were conducted at locations where hopping mice have been previously recorded. Rangers and traditional owners from Djelk, Warddeken and Dhimurru IPAs assisted TNRM ecologist in surveys. In the Dhimurru IPA the team set camera traps up at potential sites in coastal areas surrounding Nhulunbuy and along Cape Arnhem as well as conducting ground searches for spoils. Even though extensive areas of potential habitat were covered across Eastern and Central Arnhem Land there was no sign of hopping mice on the mainland. Hopping mice were found in new areas of Groote Eylandt however this was offset by the

species not being found at several previous known locations on the island. Information gathered during the project will be used in a review of the species status and to update conservation advice for the species

## Protecting the central Australian Cabbage Palm

The endangered central Australian cabbage palm (*Livistona mariae mariae*) is the only palm species found in Central Australia. It is restricted to Finke Gorge National Park and several stands outside the park on Ntaria Aboriginal Land trust. TNRM partnered with Indigenous ranger groups, Traditional Owners, the Flora and Fauna Division of the Northern Territory Government and Finke Gorge National Park Rangers in Central Australia working to improve knowledge on the current status of the species.

In consultation with Traditional owners TNRM and a team of expert biologists travelled to remote stands of cabbage palm in Ntaria to conduct population health surveys and threat assessments. Survey findings and traditional knowledge gathered under the project will provide the basis for development of long-term management plans to ensure the viability of the palm populations. With funding through Australian Government Regional Land Partnership program until June 2023 TNRM will continue collaborations with regional stakeholders to protect the palm population by managing threatening processes caused weeds, fire and large herbivores.



# 2018-19 ACTIVITIES KNOWLEDGE, CAPACITY AND

Natural Resource Management (NRM) is the sustainable management of natural resources (our land, water, marine and biological systems). TNRM works to engage community in planning for and managing our natural resources. We help build capacity and share best-practice advice as well as techniques, technologies and information that support implementation of sustainable NRM activities across the Northern Territory.

## Central Australia Threatened Species Recovery Forum

There are many groups and organisations doing great work to help protect threatened species across millions of hectares in central Australia. In March, TNRM held a Central Australian Threatened Species Forum in Alice Springs, bringing together 76 people from 17 organisations to share information on their threatened species work and to identify opportunities to collaborate and coordinate activities.

The forum included presentations on the status and current management of a range of threatened species including the Bilby, Central Rock-rat, Slaters Skink, Black-footed Rock Wallaby, Central Australian Cabbage Palm, and the Night Parrot. Presentations were followed by group discussions on actions that could contribute to the conservation of each species.

resourcing, as well as the feasibility of relocation and captive breeding programs for threatened species.

Going forward all participants recognised the importance of good communication and knowledge sharing and a collaborative approach to threatened species conservation.

TNRM looks forward contributing to this effort through funding secured from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program for a 4-year regional approach to help protect the Bilby and other priority central Australian threatened species including the Central Rock-rat, Black-footed Rock Wallaby and Central Australian Cabbage Palm.

## Sustainably sourced panel discussion – Territory Taste Festival Producers Pavilion

The topic of Soil Health and regenerative farming is driving a lot of conversation, not just within the primary production sector but further afield as the public is becoming more and more conscious and curious about the food they consume. TNRM took part in these conversations when they attended the Territory Taste Festival in Darwin this year. Staff manned a trade booth in the Producer pavilion engaging event visitors in face to face discussions about sustainable production and natural resource management.

The two-day forum covered a lot of ground across the areas of predator control, fire management, monitoring techniques, and



# ENGAGEMENT

TNRM hosted a panel session and facilitated Q&A focusing on healthy soils and how they influence quality of our produce with primary producers and industry representatives. The panel was made up of a diverse range of producers and industry representatives to give Territory Taste Festival attendees the best opportunity to hear from different producers and the different challenges and experiences they all have. Attendees were inspired by stories from Coodardie Station where a holistic management approach uses cattle to improve ecosystem function. Ben Wall from the Desert Fruit company shared stories about producing organic dates for export market and the challenges involved in living in a remote location and being off the grid with all power requirements coming from renewable resources. Rum Jungle Organics shared their story of regenerative organic farming and sustainable production, and indigenous company Something Wild were there to raise awareness of the amazing opportunities for wild harvest of natural produce in the NT. Tying the panel together was Richard Cornish an award winning food writer with a passion healthy foods, well known for his ability to unite the end user and the producer together to create food communities.

## Maintaining an engaged online community

TNRM used electronic and social media to share useful resources, host guest blogs, attract people to events, promote success stories, congratulate the hard work of members and project recipients, engage people in NRM issues and elicit nominations and abstracts for the conference and awards.

Over the course of the 2018-2019 financial year TNRM continued to maintain our online following and increased engagement on social media. TNRM relaunched its website with a more interactive design and attracting an additional 609 new visitors to the site through the year and entertaining more than 29,000 visits. Likes on Facebook and follows on Twitter exceeded the 1,200 mark on both social media sites with engagement being maintained. TNRM's Facebook posts and tweets reached more than 200,000 people and Tweets reached more than 180,000.

TNRM also formed and moderates The NT Soil Consortium Facebook group whose membership has risen to 117 people contributing and following the page. The Soil Consortium increases the capacity and knowledge of land managers to implement land management practices that will improve on-farm soil. The group encourages involvement through promotion of events, discussions and sharing of stories, and provides access to resources that increase the capacity and knowledge of land managers to implement land management practices that will improve on-farm soil.





**TERRITORY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**  
20TH CONFERENCE 13-15 NOVEMBER, DARWIN

**NRM The Territory Way**

**THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS**

Platinum Partners



ConocoPhillips



# CONFERENCE AND AWARDS

Over

# 400

people registered to attend the

# 3 DAY EVENT



# 130

individual businesses/  
organisations  
and government  
departments  
represented

# 261

delegates attended  
workshops and field  
trips

# 230

delegates attended  
the presentation day

# 262

guests celebrated  
NRM achievements  
at the prestigious NT  
NRM Awards gala  
dinner

The 3 day event  
delivered:

# 18

**PODIUM PRESENTATIONS**

# 13

**WORKSHOPS**

# 2

**FIELD TRIPS**

# 15

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

# 8

**INFORMATION DISPLAYS**

# 1

**GALA DINNER**

Delegates valued the networking opportunities the conference provided as well as the breadth of topics and projects presented through presentations and interactive workshops.



All feedback indicates a successful event, participants felt assisted from the point of registration and throughout the course of the conference.



# 24 RANGER GROUPS

from across the NT participated



In 2018 we were pleased to host over 400 delegates from across the Territory, and further afield, at the 3-day event held from 13-15 November at the Darwin Waterfront Precinct.

The conference program was packed with presentations, workshops and field trips, and provided plenty of opportunities for networking, sharing and learning.

The NT NRM Awards ceremony was a fantastic event, demonstrating the collegial nature of the people working in natural resource management.

262 guests warm-heartedly celebrated the achievements of the individuals and groups who are our champions of nature, conservation and farming for the future.

The conference and awards showcase and advance activities related to sustainably managing the Territory's land, water and biodiversity. We

were thrilled to have Indigenous organisations, community and Landcare groups, government, Territory businesses, industry bodies and primary producers participate in the conference.

As the only event of its kind in the Territory, we are proud to offer the rare opportunity for face to face knowledge sharing and developing of potential future collaborations between fellow natural resource management practitioners.

A highlight for many delegates was the networking opportunity the conference provided. Many attendees also spoke of lasting, positive impressions and shared plans of how to incorporate new learnings into daily work and future collaborations.

TNRM remains grateful to its many partners whose ongoing support helped make the 2018 TNRM Conference, and NT NRM Awards so enjoyable and successful.

## 2018 NT NRM Awards Winners

Best Collaboration in NRM	Li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Rangers in collaboration with Desert Wildlife Services
Farmers & Fishers Sustainability Award	Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation
Indigenous Natural Resource Management Award	Tjuwanpa Women Rangers
Ranger of the Year Award	Helen Wilson, Central Land Council – North Tanami Rangers
Environment & Conservation Award	Murnkurrumurnkurru Gurindji Rangers
Junior Natural Resource Management Award	Anula Primary School
Sustainable Enterprise Award	Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (WDNWPT; AKA 'The Purple House')
Research in Natural Resource Management Award	Dr Shane Penny, Department of Primary Industry and Resources
Community Engagement & Action Award	Land for Wildlife (Greening Australia)
Lifetime Achievement Award	Dean Yibarbuk, Warddeken Land Management
People's Choice Award	Brendon Morgan-Armstrong, Bulgul Rangers

# THE BOARD

## Chair (re-appointed 18 Oct 2016) Clare Martin

Clare brings many years of political and media experience to the position of Chair of TNRM. As a former Chief Minister of the Northern Territory she carried a range of portfolios: Treasurer, Police, Arts, Indigenous Policy and Tourism.



Prior to her political career, Clare was a journalist and broadcaster with the ABC.

As well as chairing TNRM, she is part of the Northern Territory government's TeamNT, Chair of Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Chair of the Project Control Group, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Integration Project, Vice-Chair of Cricket NT and a director of Browns Mart Arts.

Board attendance: 4/4

## Deputy Chair (re-appointed 9 Jan 2019) Kate Peake

Kate Peake is CEO of Regional Development Australia NT where she works to support the sustainable development of the Territory.



She is a member of a number of northern Australia representative bodies and is a former executive of the NT Horticultural Association.

A born and bred Territorian, Kate believes strongly in the need for locals to drive development through innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration.

Board attendance: 3/4

## Public Officer (re-appointed 9 Jan 2019) Ray Hall

Ray Hall is the owner of EcOz the NT's largest environmental consultancy, and it is the only large locally owned and operated one. He has been working in the NRM and environmental field in the NT for more than 25 years.



His previous involvement with the Maningrida-based Djelk Rangers and the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation was focussed on sustainable development and creating employment opportunities. Ray has also worked with the Landcare Council, regional councils and government.

Ray brings to the TNRM board a particular interest in the social and economic aspects of NRM.

Board attendance: 3/4

## Finance and Audit Committee Chair (re-appointed 4 January 2018) Sally Sullivan

Sally manages Cave Creek Station near Mataranka with her husband Rohan and his family. She moved to the Territory in 1987 as a Soil Conservation Officer in Darwin, Katherine and then Kidman Springs.



Sally is committed to sustainability in the cattle industry and brings to the Board a wealth of practical knowledge in weed and feral animal management, soil erosion control and conservation of native pastures, flora and fauna.



She has authored and edited a range of technical NRM publications and has held executive positions on the Roper River Landcare Group, Mataranka School Council and the NT State and Federal Councils of the Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association (ICPA).

Board attendance: 4/4

**Board member (re-appointed 1 Jun 2018)  
Dr Stephen Rogers**

Steve Rogers is the CEO of the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CFAT). Before that recently he was the Science and Industry leader at the Australian Institute of Marine Science in Perth. Previous roles include Principal Research Scientist with CSIRO Land and Water.



An experienced company director, Steve’s vision is to harness appropriate technological innovation to stimulate economic development across remote Australia.

Board attendance: 4/4

**Board Member (re-appointed 18 May 2019)  
Bilawara Lee**

Aunty Bilawara is an Elder of the Larrakia Nation of Darwin and has lived in the Top End for more than 69 years. She is the Larrakia Academic in Residence at Charles Darwin University. She is an international published author, and travels



nationally and internationally teaching the ancient wisdoms of Aboriginal spirituality and healing. As a First Nations Elder she brings with her a strong

commitment to balancing sustainable economic growth and the health and wellbeing of the land and environment.

Board attendance: 4/4

**Board member (re-appointed 18 May 2019)  
Rick Fletcher**

Rick Fletcher has taken up the position of Manager - Regional Development South, overseeing Regional Development projects in the Land Council’s Southern service area, based in Katherine. Born and bred in Katherine NT,



Rick is a highly respected businessman and an advocate for empowering Indigenous people to build a sustainable Indigenous economy. Rick joins the NLC from a previous role as Chief Executive Officer of the Kalano Community Association Inc. supporting the local governing Board over the past 8 years with the delivery of a broad range of social services and economic activity to the local Indigenous community of Katherine. His life and career have been influenced by a personal commitment to community empowerment, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous and has more than 20 years of experience working within the public, private and community sectors.

Board attendance: 2/4

# THE BOARD

## **Board Member (appointed 3 May 2019) Jane Munday**

Jane brings an interest in socially and culturally sustainable development to the Board as well as a background in strategic communication. She has lived and worked across the Northern Territory for the past 25 years, including 10 years in senior government communication roles, then running a strategic communication consultancy, which she sold three years ago. She works part-time as a community engagement and social impact assessment practitioner with True North Strategic Communication. Jane is a PhD Candidate at the Northern Institute of Charles Darwin University, where she is researching models of social and cultural impact assessment of projects that would deliver socially, culturally, economically and ecologically sustainable 'development of the North'. She has qualifications in journalism, psychology, marketing and business administration and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors course.



Board attendance: 1/4 (commenced May 2019)

## **Director term expired 21 Mar 2019 Dr Brooke Rankmore**

With over 18 years working on environmental issues in the Northern Territory, Brooke brings with her a wealth of practical, scientific and conservation experience, along with a good understanding of NRM issues for the



pastoral industry. Brooke is the CEO of Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC) and an alumni of the Australian Rural Leadership Program.

Board attendance: 3/4

## **Director term expired 20 February 2019 Dr Stephen Morton**

Steve chairs the Business Development and Communications Committee.



He is an Honorary Professorial fellow with Charles Darwin University in Alice Springs.

Steve started his career as an ecologist at Jabiru, before moving to CSIRO in Alice Springs, where he became a member of the Executive Team responsible consecutively for research in environment, energy, manufacturing, materials and minerals.

He chairs the Scientific Advisory Panel to the Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum, is a member of the Australian Heritage Council, Chair of Arid Recovery at Roxby Downs in SA, chairs the Steering Committee for Threatened Species Recovery Hub, is a board member of the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute and a trustee for the Olive Pink Botanic Garden in Alice Springs.

Board attendance: 3/4



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The financial year ending 30 June 2019, saw TNRM transition to a new funding model under the National Landcare Program. TNRM successfully tendered for the opportunity to be the Core Service provider for the delivery of Regional Land Partnerships program (RLP) in the Northern Territory. Instead of receiving funding in the form of a reciprocal grant to deliver Australian Government Natural Resource Management priorities, TNRM entered into a service agreement being paid on completion of contracted works. TNRM will deliver these services through to June 2023

The change to our main revenue stream from Grant income to service income means revenue is recognised over time as the service is provided and invoiced for quarterly in arrears. This varies from Grant income which is provided in advance, and recognised as a liability until the funded activity has been completed.

All work orders under RLP have a fixed budget for individual financial years. Where services are delayed and not delivered as scheduled in a financial year TNRM will need to seek a variation to defer the activity and risks being unable to charge for these expenses. Any services completed in excess of the approved budget schedule will not be paid in advance without a variation to the contract.

Grant income is provided in advance and recognised as a liability until the project activity it relates to has been delivered. Project expenditure needs to be acquitted, and unspent funds will most likely be returned to the funding body. Previously in the case of past Australian Government grants independent audits of annual project expenditure has been required. This is not the case under current work orders.

In previous years a significant amount of TNRM funding has been devolved to community organisations through grants supporting the groups to deliver outcomes for TNRM's environment and agriculture projects. Under RLP TNRM partners

with community to deliver specific projects, each focusing on one national priority outcome, regional investment is influenced by the weighting placed on Australian Government priorities.

Since signing the Core Service Agreement for delivery of the Regional Land partnership in July 2018 TNRM has received work orders to undertake 5 projects each four or five years in length and one single year project. A large amount of work in the first year of delivery has been spent setting solid foundations for project delivery through extensive planning, and engagement activities. In this first year of delivery, there has been a focus on TNRM staff embedded in the projects engaging groups and providing capacity, support and coordination for activities and collecting and analysing baseline data. Project activities conducted and the treatment of service income has resulted in a significant increase in TNRM equity at the end of the financial year. Across the RLP projects approximately 20% of income is destined to be invested in community organisations throughout the project. As projects build momentum, and on-ground project works increase community stakeholders will be contracted to implement more project activities. This will take significant funding to cover project expenses and require reinvestment of some equity back into the project.

As per Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission and NT Associations Act requirements, TNRM engages independent auditors to review the organisation's financial records on an annual basis. TNRM's audited Special Purpose Financial Report for 2018-2019 financial year and notes to financial statements follow with a summary of the associations main income sources for the 2018-2019 financial year.

Project or Activity	Revenue type	Revenue Source	\$ Income Received GST Exc
Regional Land Partnerships Core services delivery	Service income	RLP Program Core Services	457,966
Project design fees	Service income	RLP Program Core services	90,000
RLPMU03P1 Protecting the extraordinary natural values of the Northern Territory's Top End	Service Income	RLP Program Project services	1,148,577
RLPMU03P2 Protection of native vegetation and biodiversity as good pastoral business	Service Income	RLP Program Project services	480,000
RLPMU03P3 Protecting threatened species in the Top End	Service Income	RLP Program Project services	250,000
RLPMU03P4 Protecting the central Australian cabbage palm	Service Income	RLP Program Project services	150,000
RLPMU03P5 Protecting the Central rock-rat and Arid Zone Threatened Species Recovery Forum	Service Income	RLP Program Project services	150,000
NT Soil Consortium	Grant income	National Landcare Program Smart Farm Small Grants	93,950
NT Soil Consortium	Grant income	Community Benefit Fund Grant	14,740
Increasing Aboriginal Ranger capacity in caring for country within the Finnis - Reynolds catchment.	Devolved Grant Income	Consultancy agreement with Northern Land Council under Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program	150,508
Promoting sustainable forestry practices in the Northern Territory	Grant income	National Landcare Program Smart Farm Small Grants	49,344
SR MLA Self Herding	Service agreement	Rangelands NRM WA /Meat and Livestock Australia	14,000
TNRM Conference and awards	Sponsorship Agreements	Numerous organisations TNRM annual Conference and NT NRM awards 2018 and 2019	107,454
2018 TNRM conference and awards registrations	Registration fees	TNRM annual Conference and NT NRM awards 2018	46,527
TNRM capacity building workshops	Registration fees	TNRM core program delivery workshops	10,914
Interest income			11,808
Donations	Donations to Territory Natural Resource Management Public Fund	Derived from sale of Keep Cups and 2018 gala dinner tickets	1,089

**Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

**Special Purpose Financial Report**

**30 June 2019**

# **Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

## **Special Purpose Financial Report**

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### **Contents**

### **Page No.**

Statement of financial position	1
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income	2
Statement of changes in equity	3
Statement of cash flows	4
Notes to the financial statements	5
Statement by the management committee	15
Independent auditor's report to members	16



# Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

## Special Purpose Financial Report

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### Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,421,285	1,288,129
Other receivables	5	1,294,905	16,225
Other assets	6	32,798	32,798
Prepayments		29,099	150
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>2,778,087</b>	<b>1,337,302</b>
Plant and equipment	7	20,537	21,748
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>20,537</b>	<b>21,748</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>2,798,624</b>	<b>1,359,050</b>
 <b>Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	293,951	400,315
Provisions for employee benefits	9	286,013	255,486
Unexpended grants	10	198,899	196,541
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>778,863</b>	<b>852,342</b>
Provisions for employee benefits	9	7,252	8,050
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>7,252</b>	<b>8,050</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>786,115</b>	<b>860,392</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>2,012,509</b>	<b>498,658</b>
 <b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus		2,012,509	498,658
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>2,012,509</b>	<b>498,658</b>

The notes on pages 5 to 14 are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**  
**Special Purpose Financial Report**

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**Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income  
for the year ended 30 June 2019**

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Service income		2,828,846	46,215
Government grants		291,444	4,162,241
Other income		181,815	160,766
Interest income		11,809	27,304
<b>Total income</b>		<b>3,313,914</b>	<b>4,396,526</b>
Depreciation	7	1,211	3,360
Employee benefit expenses		999,780	1,234,940
Grants expended		77,049	2,392,531
Other operating expenses		722,023	612,538
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>1,800,063</b>	<b>4,243,369</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>1,513,851</b>	<b>153,157</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>1,513,851</b>	<b>153,157</b>

The notes on pages 5 to 14 are an integral part of these financial statements.

# **Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

## **Special Purpose Financial Report**

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### **Statement of changes in equity as at 30 June 2019**

	<b>Accumulated surplus \$</b>
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2017</b>	345,501
Surplus for the year	153,157
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>498,658</b>
Surplus for the year	1,513,851
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2019</b>	<b>2,012,509</b>

The notes on pages 5 to 14 are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

## Special Purpose Financial Report

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### Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>			
Cash receipts from operations		2,225,768	3,186,866
Interest received		11,809	27,304
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(2,104,421)	(3,998,579)
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	4	<b>133,156</b>	<b>(784,409)</b>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>			
Payments for plant and equipment		-	(21,818)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(21,818)</b>
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>			
Maturity of term deposits		-	186,303
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>186,303</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		<b>133,156</b>	<b>(619,924)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July		1,288,129	1,908,053
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June 2019</b>	4	<b>1,421,285</b>	<b>1,288,129</b>

The notes on pages 5 to 14 are an integral part of these financial statements.

# **Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

## **Special Purpose Financial Report**

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### **Notes to the financial statements**

#### **1 Reporting entity**

Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated (the Association) is an entity domiciled in Australia. The principal place of business of the Association is Level 1, 16 Bennett Street, Darwin NT 0800. Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated is a not-for profit entity and was established in order to implement a strategic approach to natural resource management through the Northern Territory Integrated Natural Resource Management (NT INRM) Plan.

In the opinion of the Management Committee, the Association is not a reporting entity because there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of a report tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, this "special purpose financial report" has been prepared to satisfy the Management Committee's reporting requirements under the Northern Territory Associations Act 2003 and the Association's Constitution.

#### **2 Basis of preparation**

##### **(a) Statement of compliance**

The special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Northern Territory Association Act 2003 and the Association's Constitution and measurement and classification aspects of all applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

The special purpose financial statements include only the disclosure requirements of the following AASBs and those disclosures considered necessary by the Management Committee to meet the needs of members:

- AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements
- AASB 107 Cash Flow Statements
- AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
- AASB 1048 Interpretation and Application of Standards
- AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures
- AASB 1057 Application of Australian Accounting Standards

##### **(b) Basis of measurement, functional and presentation currency**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis and are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Association's functional currency.

##### **(c) Use of judgments and estimates**

The preparation of a financial report in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The Association has consistently applied these accounting policies.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised prospectively.

# Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

## Special Purpose Financial Report

### Notes to the financial statements

#### 2 Basis of preparation (continued)

##### (c) Use of judgments and estimates (continued)

###### Assumptions and estimation

Information about assumptions and estimation have an effect in the following note:

- Note 9 - recognition and measurement of employee provisions: key assumption about the likelihood and magnitude of an outflow of resources.

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in the financial report, with the exception of AASB 9 Financial Instruments.

##### (d) Changes in accounting policies

The Association has initially applied AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* from 1 July 2018. Due to the transition method chosen in applying this standard, comparative information throughout these financial statements has not been restated to reflect the requirements of the new standard, however, it has been determined by the Association that there is no material impact of the new standard on its business with no impact on disclosures.

###### AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*

AASB 9 sets out requirements for recognising and measuring financial assets, financial liabilities and some contracts to buy or sell non-financial items. This standard replaces AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

As a result of the adoption of AASB 9, the Association has adopted consequential amendments to AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, which require impairment of financial assets to be presented in a separate line item in the statement of profit or loss and OCI. There was no impact on transition to AASB 9.

###### *Classification and measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities*

AASB 9 contains three principal classifications for financial assets: Amortised Cost, Fair Value through Profit or loss (FVTPL) and Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI). The classification of financial assets under AASB 9 is generally based on the business model in which a financial asset is managed and its contractual cash flow characteristic. AASB 9 eliminated the previous AASB 139 categories of held to maturity, loans and receivables and available for sale.

AASB 9 largely retains the existing requirements in AASB 139 for the classification and measurement of financial liabilities. The adoption of AASB 9 has not had a significant effect on the Association's accounting policies related to financial liabilities.

The following table and accompanying notes below explain the original measurement categories under AASB 139 and new measurements under AASB 9 for each class of the Association's financial assets as at 1 July 2018. There was no impact on the Association's financial liabilities.

<i>In dollars</i>	Original Classification under AASB 139	New classification under AASB 9	Original carrying amount under AASB 139	New carrying amount under AASB 9
Other receivables	Loans and receivables	Amortised cost	16,225	16,225
Cash and cash equivalents	Loans and receivables	Amortised cost	1,288,129	1,288,129
<b>Total financial assets</b>			<b>1,304,354</b>	<b>1,304,354</b>

Other receivables and cash and cash equivalents that were classified as loans and receivables under AASB 139 are now classified at amortised cost.

# Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

## Special Purpose Financial Report

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### Notes to the financial statements

#### 2 Basis of preparation (continued)

##### (d) Changes in accounting policies (continued)

###### *Impairment of financial assets*

AASB 9 replaces the 'incurred loss' model in AASB 139 with an 'expected credit loss' (ECL) model. The new impairment model applies to financial assets measured at amortised cost and debt investments at FVOCI, but not to investments in equity instruments. Under AASB 9, credit losses are recognised earlier than under AASB 139.

###### *Transition*

The Association has used an exemption not to restate comparative information for prior periods with respect to classification and measurement (including impairment) requirements. Accordingly, the information presented for 2018 does not reflect the requirements of AASB 9, but rather those of AASB 139, however there was no impact on transition to AASB 9.

#### 3 Significant accounting policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements, with the exception of AASB 9.

##### (a) Revenue and other income

From 1 July 2018, the Association changed its main revenue stream from Grant Income to Service Income. The Association entered into service agreements with the Department of Environment and Energy and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. The Association will deliver these services until June 2023.

###### *(i) Service income*

Revenue is recognised over time as the services are provided. The Association recognises revenue in accordance with the respective service agreements.

Invoices for services are issued on a quarterly basis and are usually payable within 30 days.

###### *(ii) Grant income*

Grant income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds or the right to receive the assets, it is probable that the future economic benefits comprising the asset will flow to the Association, and the amount can be reliably measured.

Government grants are assistance by the government in the form of transfers of resources to the Association in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the operating activities of the entity.

Unexpended funds at year-end are reflected in the statement of financial position as a liability, as these may be returned to the funding body.

###### *(iii) Interest income*

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

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

# Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

## Special Purpose Financial Report

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### Notes to the financial statements

#### 3 Significant accounting policies

##### (b) Financial Instruments

###### Recognition and measurement

Trade receivables are initially recognised when they are originated. All other financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised when the Association becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

A financial asset (unless it is a trade receivable without a significant financing component) or financial liability is initially measured at fair value, plus transaction costs that are directly attributable to its acquisition or issue. A trade receivable without a significant financing component is initially measured at the transaction price.

###### Classification and subsequent measurement

###### *Financial assets - Policy applicable from 1 July 2018*

On initial recognition, a financial asset is classified as measured at: amortised cost, FVOCI or FVTPL. Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition unless the Association changes its business model for managing financial assets.

###### *Financial assets - Subsequent measurement and gains and losses: policy applicable from 1 July 2018*

###### *Financial assets at FVTPL*

These assets are subsequently measured at fair value. Net gains and losses, including any interest or dividend income, are recognised in profit or loss.

###### *Financial assets at amortised cost*

These assets are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Interest income and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Any gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

###### *Financial assets at FVOCI*

These assets are subsequently measured at fair value. Interest income is recognised in profit or loss. Other net gains and losses are recognised in OCI. On derecognition gains and losses accumulated in OCI are reclassified to profit or loss.

###### *Financial Liabilities:*

Loans and payables are financial liabilities initially recognised at fair value less any directly attributable transaction costs as represented by the amounts to be paid in the future for goods or services received. Trade payables are normally settled within 30 days.

Loans are initially recognised at fair value less any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, loans are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

###### *Financial assets - Policy applicable before 1 July 2018*

The Association classified its financial assets into one of the following categories:

- loans and receivables;
- held to maturity;
- available for sale; and
- at FVTPL.



# Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

## Special Purpose Financial Report

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### Notes to the financial statements

#### 3 Significant accounting policies (continued)

##### (b) Financial Instruments (continued)

*Financial assets - subsequent measurement and gains and losses: Policy applicable before 1 July 2018*

*Financial assets at FVTPL*

Measured at fair value and changes therein, including any interest or dividend income, were recognised in profit or loss.

*Financial assets at amortised cost and Loans and receivables*

Measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

*Available-for-sale financial assets*

Measured at fair value and changes therein, other than impairment losses and interest income, were recognised in OCI and accumulated in the fair value reserve. When these assets were derecognised, the gains or loss accumulated in equity was reclassified to profit or loss.

*Financial Liabilities - Classification, subsequent measurement and gains and losses*

Financial liabilities are classified as measured at amortised cost or FVTPL. A financial liability is classified as at FVTPL if it classified as held for trading. Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Interest expense is recognised in profit or loss. Any gain or loss on derecognition is also recognised in profit or loss.

Loans are initially recognised at fair value less any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, loans are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### **Derecognition**

*Financial assets*

The Association derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred and no control is retained of the financial asset.

*Financial liabilities*

The Association derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled, or expire. The Association also derecognises a financial liability when its terms are significantly modified.

#### **Offsetting**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the statement of financial position when, and only when, the Association currently has a legally enforceable right to set off the amounts and it intends either to settle them on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

# **Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

## **Special Purpose Financial Report**

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### **Notes to the financial statements**

#### **3 Significant accounting policies (continued)**

##### **(c) Property, plant and equipment**

Items of property, plant and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Any gain or loss on disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised in profit or loss. Subsequent expenditure is capitalised only when it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the expenditure will flow to the Association.

Depreciation is calculated to expense the cost of property, plant and equipment less their estimated residual values using the straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. Depreciation is recognised in profit or loss.

The estimated useful life of office furniture and equipment is between 4 - 10 years (2018: 4 -10 years). Management reviews the useful lives of its office and furniture equipment annually.

##### **(d) Impairment**

###### **Non-derivative financial assets**

###### *Financial instruments*

The Association recognises loss allowances for ECLs on financial assets measured at amortised cost.

The Association measures loss allowances at an amount equal to lifetime ECL. Loss allowances for trade receivables are always measured at an amount equal to the lifetime ECLs. When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition and when estimating ECLs, the Association considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort.

The Association assumes that the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly if it is more than 30 days past due.

###### *Measurement of ECLs*

ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. Credit losses are measured as the present value of all cash shortfalls (i.e. the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract and the cash flows that the Association expects to receive). ECLs are discounted at the effective rate of the financial asset.

Loss allowances for financial assets measured at amortised cost are deducted from the gross carrying amount of the assets.

###### *Write-off*

The gross carrying amount of a financial asset is written off when the Association has no reasonable expectations of recovering a financial assets in its entirety or a portion thereof.

###### **Non-financial assets**

Non-financial assets carrying amounts are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. For impairment testing, assets are grouped together into the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows of other assets.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs to sell. Value in use is based on the estimated future cash flows, discounted to their present value using a pre- tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

# **Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

## **Special Purpose Financial Report**

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### **Notes to the financial statements**

#### **3 Significant accounting policies (continued)**

##### **(d) Impairment (continued)**

###### **Non-financial assets (continued)**

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

##### **(e) Employee benefits**

###### *(i) Short term employee benefits*

Short-term employee benefits are expensed as the related service is provided. A liability is recognised for the amount expected to be paid if the Association has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past service provided by the employee and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

###### *(ii) Other long-term employee benefits*

The Association's net obligation in respect of long term employee benefits is the amount of future benefits that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods. That benefit is discounted to determine its present value. Remeasurements are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

##### **(f) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

##### **(g) Tax status**

The Association is tax exempt under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, a non-profit association and charitable institution.

##### **(h) Leased asset**

Leases where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset but not the legal ownership are transferred to the Association, are classified as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for that period. Subsequent to initial recognition, the assets are accounted for in accordance with the accounting policy applicable to that asset. Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease term.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor are recognised in profit and loss in the periods in which they are incurred. Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term, except where another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leased asset are consumed. The finance expense is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

# **Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

## **Special Purpose Financial Report**

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### **Notes to the financial statements**

#### **3 Significant accounting policies (continued)**

**(i) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations not yet mandatory or early adopted**

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 July 2019, and have not been applied in preparing these financial statements. Those which may be relevant to the Association are set out below. The Association does not plan to adopt these standards early.

***AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers***

AASB 15 establishes a comprehensive framework for determining whether, how much and when revenue is recognised. It replaces existing revenue recognition guidance, including AASB 118 Revenue, AASB 111 Construction Contracts and IFRIC 13 Customer Loyalty Programmes.

AASB 15 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2019 with early adoption permitted. The Association is assessing the potential impact on its financial statements resulting from the application of AASB 15.

***AASB 16 Leases***

AASB 16 removes the lease classification test for lessees and requires all the leases (including operating leases) to be brought into the Statement of financial position. The definition of a lease is also amended and is now the new on/off balance sheet test for lessees.

AASB 16 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2019, with early adoption permitted where AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers is adopted at the same time. The Association is assessing the potential impact on its financial statements resulting from the application of AASB 16.

***AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities***

AASB 1058 is the new Australian accounting standard that establishes principles for Not-for-Profit (NFP) entities that apply specifically to transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value principally to enable a NFP entity to further its objectives; and to volunteer services received.

AASB 1058 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning or after 1 January 2019. Early adoption is permitted as long as AASB 15 is applied to the same period. For entities with a 30 June financial year end, the first year of mandatory application will therefore be the financial year ending 30 June 2020. The Association is assessing the potential impact on its financial statements resulting from the application of AASB 1058.

# Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

## Special Purpose Financial Report

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### Notes to the financial statements

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>4 Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash at bank	1,415,509	1,283,882
Public Trust account*	5,526	3,997
Cash on hand	250	250
	<b>1,421,285</b>	<b>1,288,129</b>
	<b>1,421,285</b>	<b>1,288,129</b>

\* The following donations were received in the Public Trust Account for the financial year:  
 \$1,500 from Inpex Operation Australian Pty Ltd

*Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus adjusted for working capital movements:*

Surplus for the year	1,513,851	153,157
Adjustments for depreciation	1,211	3,360
Change in other receivables	(1,278,680)	68,037
Change in prepayments	(28,949)	22,312
Change in trade and other payables	(106,364)	174,670
Change in provisions	29,729	44,448
Change in unexpended grants	2,358	(1,250,393)
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>133,156</b>	<b>(784,409)</b>
	<b>133,156</b>	<b>(784,409)</b>

### 5 Other receivables

Other receivables	24,750	16,225
Accrued income	1,270,155	-
	<b>1,294,905</b>	<b>16,225</b>
	<b>1,294,905</b>	<b>16,225</b>

### 6 Other assets

Term deposits	32,798	32,798
	<b>32,798</b>	<b>32,798</b>
	<b>32,798</b>	<b>32,798</b>

### 7 Plant and equipment

Cost	73,360	73,360
Accumulated depreciation	(52,823)	(51,612)
	<b>20,537</b>	<b>21,748</b>
	<b>20,537</b>	<b>21,748</b>
Carrying amount at beginning of year	21,748	3,290
Additions	-	21,818
Depreciation	(1,211)	(3,360)
<b>Carrying amount at end of year</b>	<b>20,537</b>	<b>21,748</b>
	<b>20,537</b>	<b>21,748</b>

**Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**  
**Special Purpose Financial Report**

**Notes to the financial statements**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	\$	\$
<b>8 Trade and other payables</b>		
Trade payables	158,939	312,893
Accrued expenses	66,364	59,133
Goods and services tax payable	52,935	2,149
Other payables	15,713	26,140
	<u><b>293,951</b></u>	<u><b>400,315</b></u>
<b>9 Provisions for employee benefits</b>		
<i>Current</i>		
Provision for annual leave	214,713	196,681
Provision for long service leave	71,300	58,805
	<u>286,013</u>	<u>255,486</u>
<i>Non-current</i>		
Provision for long service leave	7,252	8,050
<b>Total provisions</b>	<u><b>293,265</b></u>	<u><b>263,536</b></u>
<b>10 Unexpended grants</b>		
Balance as at beginning of year	196,541	1,446,934
Funds received during the year	293,802	3,146,133
Funds expended	(291,444)	(4,396,526)
	<u><b>198,899</b></u>	<u><b>196,541</b></u>
<b>11 Commitments and Contingencies</b>		
<b>Operating leases</b>		
Less than one year	179,887	176,435
One to five years	6,471	143,712
	<u><b>186,358</b></u>	<u><b>320,147</b></u>
<p>Operating leases relate to the lease of motor vehicles and office space. The Association does not have the option to purchase the leased vehicle or the office space at the end of the lease period.</p>		
<p><b>Other commitments</b>  The Association maintains a bank guarantee with National Australia Bank of \$30,250.</p>		
<p><b>Contingencies</b>  The Association does not have any contingencies.</p>		
<b>12 Remuneration of auditors</b>		
KPMG Darwin		
- Audit of the financial report	29,000	27,000
- Assistance with preparation of financial statements	6,000	6,000
- Audit of acquittal statements	-	6,100
	<u><b>35,000</b></u>	<u><b>39,100</b></u>
<b>13 Subsequent events</b>		
<p>No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2019 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the Association's operations, the results of those operations, or the Association's state of affairs in future financial years.</p>		

# Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

## Special Purpose Financial Report

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### Statement by the Management Committee for year ended 30 June 2019

#### In our opinion:

- (a) the accompanying financial report as set out on pages 1 to 14, being special purpose financial statements, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2019 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date;
- (b) the accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association; and
- (c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

#### We confirm the following:

- (a) The names of the committee members of the Association during the relevant financial year were:

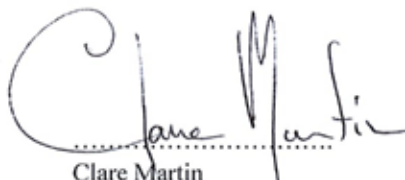
Clare Martin	Chair
Stephen Morton	Deputy Chair (until 13/11/2018) / Director (until 20/02/2019)
Brooke Rankmore	Public Officer (until 13/11/2018) / Director (until 21/03/2019)
Sally Sullivan	Director and Chair Finance and Audit Committee
Ray Hall	Public Officer (from 13/11/2018 to date) / Director
Kate Peake	Deputy Chair (from 13/11/2018 to date) / Director
Bilawara Lee	Director
Rick Fletcher	Director
Jane Munday	Director (from 03/05/2019 to date)

- (b) The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were:

- Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated (TNRM) is one of 56 regional organisations that play a key role in managing Australia's natural resources.
- TNRM works in partnership with farmers, landholders, and community groups, non government and indigenous organisations, governments and business to secure our farming resource base; and protect the natural environment.
- The mission of the TNRM is focused on helping the Northern Territory's Natural Resource Management (NRM) community meet their aspirations. It does this by implanting a strategic approach to NRM through the NT Integrated Resource Management Plan using funding from the Australian Government.

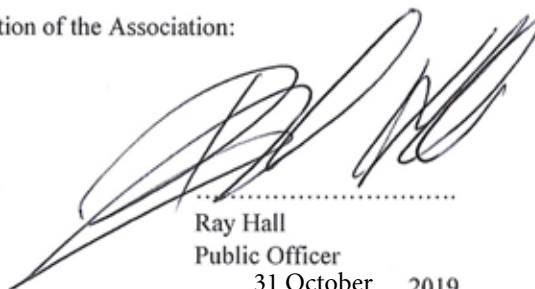
- (c) The net surplus of the Association for the relevant financial year was \$1,513,851 (2018: \$153,157).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Association:



Clare Martin  
Chairperson

31 October 2019



Ray Hall  
Public Officer

31 October 2019



# Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

## Opinion

We have audited the **Financial Report** of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated (the Association).

In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2019, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards* to the extent described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

The **Financial Report** comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019
- Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity, and Statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- Notes including a summary of significant accounting policies
- Statement by the Management Committee

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards*. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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 Association in accordance with 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 fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

## Emphasis of matter – basis of preparation and restriction on use

We draw attention to Note 2 to the Financial Report, which describes the basis of preparation.

The Financial Report has been prepared to assist the Management Committee of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated in meeting the financial reporting requirements of the Northern Territory Associations Act 2003 and the Association's Constitution.

As a result, the Financial Report and this Auditor's Report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.





Our report is intended solely for the Members of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated and should not be used by parties other than the Members of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated.

We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report, or on the Financial Report to which it relates, to any person other than the Members of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated or for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared.

### **Other Information**

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in the Association's annual reporting which is provided in addition to the Financial Report and the Auditor's Report. The Management Committee is responsible for the Other Information.

The Other Information we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report was the Statement by the Management Committee.

Our opinion on the Financial Report does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the Financial Report, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the Financial Report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information, and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

### **Responsibilities of the Management Committee for the Financial Report**

The Management Committee is responsible for:

- the preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Northern Territory Associations Act 2003 and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 2 is appropriate to meet the needs of the Members.
- implementing necessary internal control to enable the preparation of a Financial Report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern and whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. This includes disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objective is:

- 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. They 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report is located at the *Auditing and Assurance Standards Board* website at: [http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

KPMG

Darwin

31 October 2019





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