

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT



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CONTENTS

About us	4
Our members	5
TNRM's home is the Territory	6
Executive Summary	8
2016-17 Highlights.....	9
TNRM activities under the Programs in the 2016-2020 NT NRM Plan ..	10
Managing Fire	10
Preventing and managing weeds.....	12
Reducing the impacts of feral animals	16
Industry adoption of sustainable practices	18
Water resources and soil management.....	20
NRM based economic opportunities	22
Managing and protecting key natural and cultural assets	24
Knowledge, capacity and engagement	28
Community grants.....	30
Conference and Awards.....	32
The Board.....	34
Financial overview.....	38



Natural resource management

Natural resource management (NRM) is the sustainable management of natural resources (our land, water, marine and biological systems). NRM is vital to ensure our ongoing social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

ABOUT US

Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) is an independent, not for profit organisation that works with landholders, community groups, industry and government to support the responsible management of water, land, soils, plants and animals throughout the Northern Territory.

Since our establishment in 2005, we have worked to build the Territory's capacity to engage in natural resource management (NRM) activities. We do this by cultivating partnerships, enabling projects through planning, funding and support, providing training and skills development and recognising and sharing success stories.

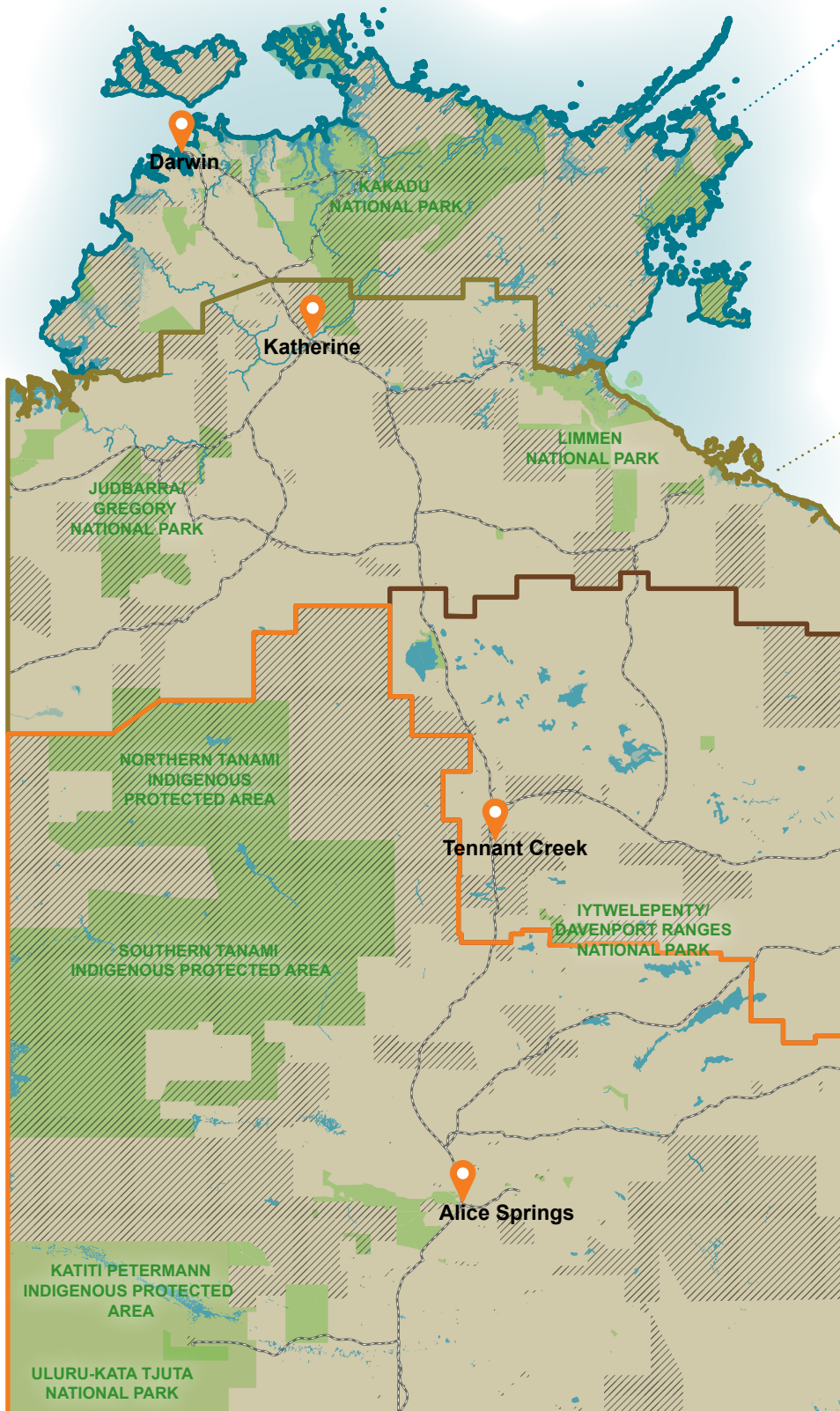
We are one of 56 NRM groups in Australia, and the only one in the Territory, responsible for coordinating and administering Australian Government funding provided specifically for natural resource management.

OUR MEMBERS

Community participation and input in our activities is important to us. TNRM welcomes and engages with groups interested in natural resource management in the Northern Territory. TNRM members include industry bodies, Landcare and community groups, local government, Indigenous organisations, primary producers and local businesses.

Aboriginal Carbon Fund Limited	Ludmilla Creek Landcare Group
ABS Scrofa (Australia) Pty Ltd trading as Wild Science	Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Incorporation
Arid Lands Environment Centre	MB Consulting (NT) Pty Ltd
Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association	McMinns Lagoon Reserve Assoc. Inc.
Bradshaw & Timber Creek Contracting & Resource Company	Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation
Centralian Land Management	Minerals Council of Australia - NT Division
City Of Darwin	MTP Contracting Pty Ltd
City of Palmerston	North Australia Rural Management Consultants
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Northern Land Council
Creative Territory	Northern Territory Cattleman's Association
Darwin Aquaculture Centre	NT Farmers Association
Demed Association Inc	NT Seafood Council
Desert Knowledge Australia	Olive Pink Botanic Garden
Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation	Outback Helicopter Airwork NT
Eco Logical Australia	Outbush Contracting
Ecoservices NT	Regional Development Australia NT
EcOz Environmental Services	Roper Gulf Regional Council
Environment Centre	Roper River Landcare Group
Environmental Defenders Office NT Inc	Savannah Guides Limited
Fire Stick & Associates	Savannah Way Limited
Friends of Fogg Dam Inc	School of Environment – CDU
Friends of Mitchell Creek Catchment Landcare Group	Shilo Station
Frogwatch	Thamarrurr Development Corporation (Thamarrurr Rangers)
Greening Australia (NT) Ltd	T.H.E. Kakadu Plum
Heytesbury Cattle Company	The Milingimbi and Outstations Progress Resource Association Inc. (MOPRA)
Indigenous Land Corporation	The Nature Conservancy Limited
Industry Skills Advisory Council NT (ISACNT)	Triple P Contracting
Jawoyn Association	Twin Hill Aboriginal Corporation
Land for Wildlife	Victoria River District Conservation Association
Landcare NT Inc.	Wangamaty (Lower Daly) Land Management Group
Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation
Live & Learn Environmental Education	

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

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

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

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

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 2016-17 NRM activities

Western Top End region fire management projects, Darwin Harbour Clean-Up Day, Finnis Reynolds Catchment Group *Mimosa pigra* and feral pig management

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 2016-17 NRM activities

Neem herbicide assistance program in Katherine and Mataranka, aerial granule herbicide trials on Prickly acacia in the Southern Victoria River District, home to the highest concentration of Territory Conservation Agreements

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 2016-17 NRM activities

Large scale management and treatment of Parkinsonia on pastoral properties, establishment of one of the Territory's biggest Territory Conservation Agreement at Brunette Downs

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 2016-17 NRM activities

Monitoring and raising awareness of the impact of cats on wildlife in Alice Springs, Cactus busting in outer Alice Springs, Soil conservation principles application projects on pastoral land, Cat and fox trapping trials at Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Through this year, TNRM continued to build on successful NRM programs and partnerships including the collaborative catchment scale weed and pest management project in the Finniss Reynolds Catchment and our Territory Conservation Agreement program, which supports land managers to improve production and conservation outcomes on their land. We achieved a record of ten TCA's established this year, covering over 7,000ha and bringing the total number of hectares under voluntary conservation through TCAs to more than 55,000ha.

The TCA and Finniss Reynolds project were supported through the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund, which ended in the 2016-17 financial year. We committed continued support for both these well-regarded programs through our regional funding allocation to June 2018.

We also continued our commitment to Indigenous employment and capacity development by growing our Indigenous Traineeship Program. Two new trainees, coming from the Mimal Rangers and Jawoyn Rangers, joined our second year Larrakia Ranger trainee in the program.

More broadly, our work with over 60 community groups and organisations to support natural resource management activities and events across the NT continued successfully. Through our programs, we delivered \$2 million of funding to the community through grants, subsidies and support for engagement, training and capacity building activities. \$1.7 million of this funding supported 50 community groups and organisations to undertake 73 NRM projects and activities. Partner groups and organisations contributed over \$1.7 million in cash and in-kind contributions towards these projects.

A snapshot of some of this work is showcased in the following pages, with activities featuring across the programs under the 2016 - 2020 Northern Territory Natural Resource Management Plan.

As the regional NRM organisation for the NT, we have the privilege of working in partnership with a diverse and dedicated range of groups, organisations and individuals across the Territory. None of the achievements captured in this annual report would be possible without the efforts and commitment of our project partners or the hard work and dedication of the Territory Natural Resource Management team. Thank you all for your contribution to managing the natural resources of the Northern Territory.

We also thank the staff from the Australian Government's Department of Environment and Energy and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for their support throughout the year.

2016-17 HIGHLIGHTS

Controlled burns carried out over

9,000km²

in the Western Top End

\$1.7 million

in contributions from partners in NRM projects

45,000ha

in Barkly Tablelands managed and treated for

Prickly Acacia

Worked with

60 community groups

and organisations to support NRM activities across the NT

2.2 tonnes

of rubbish picked up in the 2016 Darwin Harbour Clean Up Day

2,000ha

of floodplain now free from mature Mimosa plants and returned to grazing in Finnis Reynolds catchment

7,127ha

of land incorporated into 10 voluntary Territory Conservation Agreements

100 Indigenous rangers and scientists

shared practices to protect bilbies at the inaugural Ninu festival

\$356,000

awarded in TNRM Community Grants

2,360 photos

entered in the first 'Dragonflies and the Dry' citizen science project

380 delegates

attended 8th annual TNRM Conference

3 young people

joined TNRM's Indigenous NRM traineeship program

10

NT NRM Award recipients

29,000

visits to TNRM's website

6 videos

created showcasing NRM work across the NT

2016-17 ACTIVITIES

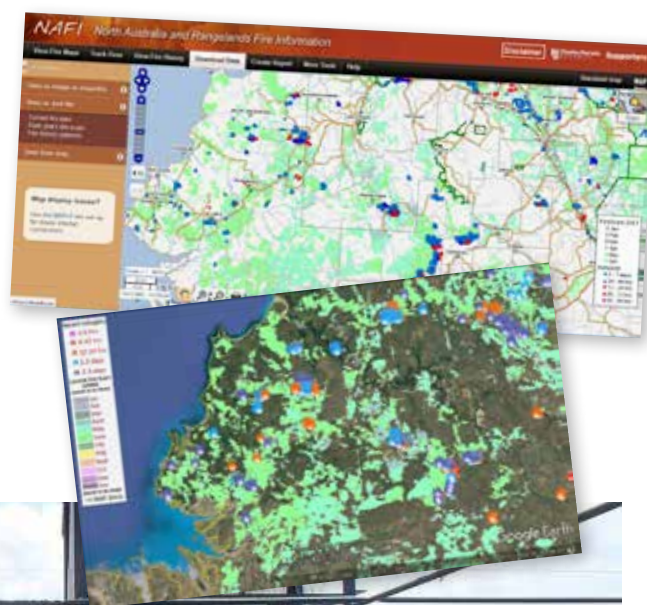
MANAGING FIRE

Large-scale, unmanaged fires have a damaging impact on people and landscapes as well as native plants, animals, significant sites and pastoral production. TNRM supports coordinated fire management to protect biodiversity, maximise production and abate greenhouse gas emissions.

Fire management strategy significantly reduces fire risk in Western Top End

TNRM continued to support the Western Top End strategic fire project in collaboration with the Northern Land Council and Bushfires NT. This project brings together a wide range of stakeholders from cattle stations, National Parks, and Indigenous held land across 9,000km² that previously had a poor fire history and limited resourcing. The project brings land managers together for preseason fire planning meetings and postseason reviews and provides financial assistance for planned burns. The project also helps manage grassy weeds that fuel fires. Through the project, early season fire management activities are coordinated to reduce risks of late, large fires, in an inclusive process that provides cultural knowledge transfer as well as economic

and biodiversity benefits. As part of managed burning, in 2016-17 the project established 2,470 kilometres of burn lines, using 25,000 incendiaries and involved 10 Aboriginal people in aerial burning. A further 10 rangers were trained in using an incendiary machine in a helicopter.





Tennant Creek sets up co-ordinated bushfire plan

TNRM supported Central Land Council to develop a co-ordinated bushfire management strategy for the Tennant Creek region, the most bushfire prone area in the Tablelands. The project area, which includes 5 Aboriginal Land Trusts, as well as land managed by pastoralists and mining companies, brought stakeholders together to build community capacity in fire management planning through a series of workshops to define roles and responsibilities and the development of the region's first risk-based plan.



Wardekken & Mimal joint ranger exchange program benefits wider community

TNRM supported a project setting up an exchange program between the Mimal and Jawoyn Rangers whose land has relatively low densities of gamba grass, and another weed species Prickly acacia. Since these weeds can spread easily and Gamba grass acts as a highly flammable fuel during bushfires, contributing to temperatures that can become so hot nothing survives the fire, not even trees, the ranger exchange program exposed rangers to these dangers. The Rangers visited Heytesbury Cattle Company's Moolooloo Station and Bushfires NT facilities to strengthen their firefighting skills and learn how to manage these weeds before

they take over new landscapes. The rangers also helped produce a publicly-released video warning of the dangers of gamba grass and how everyday Territorians can help manage the weed.



Roper River Landcare and Victoria River District Conservation Association fire management planning meetings

To encourage everyone who might be impacted by the forthcoming fire season, in March 2017, TNRM supported fire planning workshops in the Roper River and Mataranka regions. Participants formed groups with their closest neighbours to plan ways to reduce the risk. Roper River Landcare Group facilitated the meetings, in close collaboration with Bushfires NT. ABC Radio's NT Country Hour attended and broadcast learnings.



PREVENTING AND MANAGING

Weeds are an increasing threat to the NT's natural, economic and cultural assets. They compete with and often displace native species. Weeds contribute to land degradation, loss of biodiversity and adversely impact agricultural activity. TNRM supports strategic and long-term approaches to weed management across the NT.

Last major Prickly acacia infestation treated in the Barkly

More than 45,000 hectares of land in the Barkly Tablelands was managed and treated for Prickly Acacia, one of Australia's worst weeds. TNRM partnered with NT Weeds Branch and the pastoral leases of Rockhampton Downs and Brunette Downs to treat the last large standing infestations of Prickly acacia on the Barkly. Locally-owned and operated Indigenous business, MTP Contracting assisted with the control work. The area will continue to be monitored, with weeds re-treated as necessary with the aim of eradicating Prickly acacia from the region.



Biological control injected into Parkinsonia trees

A new biological herbicide called Di-Bak was used to inoculate 4,500 Parkinsonia trees over 10 hectares at Hayfield Station, as part of a TNRM supported project. Barkly Landcare trialed a biocontrol approach to managing Parkinsonia which involved injecting the biological herbicide Di-Bak, into the stem of the woody weed. The proceedings were captured in a video made by TNRM, to showcase the work to interested parties. It's anticipated the slow-acting biological control will help mitigate spread of this weed in the future. Landholders have committed to monitoring the weeds going forward and will re-assess future treatment options in conjunction with other weed management techniques.



G WEEDS

Top End floodplain untangled from aquatic grass weed blight

Thanks to the dedication of the Friends of Fogg Dam, with support from TNRM, the semi-aquatic grass, Olive hymenachne is being eradicated from the Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve. Removing the weed from the reserve's 300 hectare dam and surrounding floodplain has improved the area, which is rated as one of Australia's top 10 birding sites and attracts more than 80,000 people per year. The project also provided weed management training for 20 people.

Remote sensing and drone technologies used to monitor weeds in remote landscapes

TNRM has supported a project demonstrating the broad-scale application of biocontrol techniques as part of an integrated Parkinsonia management program on the Barkly Lakes. The project undertaken by the Australian Agriculture Company, working collaboratively with Barkly Landcare and other partners used remote sensing and drone technologies to monitor management outcomes. As part of the project, five people were trained in how to use biological agents against Parkinsonia and the use of drones to capture data. 10 monitoring sites were established across six pastoral properties. Results from the project will be assessed in late 2017.

Herbicide trial to provide best practice solutions for Prickly acacia

A trial assessing the effectiveness of the herbicide Graslan on the weed Prickly acacia is being supported by TNRM. The trial investigates the impact Graslan has on Prickly acacia growing in the red and black soils in the Victoria River

District during both the early and late wet seasons. Data analysis being undertaken by Northern Territory Weeds Branch will be used to help landowners decide on and implement the best management plan for Prickly acacia on their properties.

Tackling Chinese apple infestations around Katherine

Indigenous people have learned how to manage and reduce the spread of the weed Chinese apple near their homes around Katherine, thanks to a project supported by TNRM. The project involved surveying and mapping the areas around the Kalano and Rockhole communities. 14 local people were engaged on the project, developing skills in surveying and mapping, chemical handling and removing Chinese apple infestations. Once infestations were identified, the community was educated on how to manage the weed. A total of 5 indigenous people were engaged throughout the project, while an additional three were engaged to remove Chinese apple in a large infestation found in an area of 400 acres. In addition, a further two Indigenous people were engaged to help with the surveying and mapping, while four more completed a chemical handling course required to safely manage the weed.

Cactus busting in Alice Springs makes for good viewing

Alice Springs Landcare has removed nearly 300 kilos of the weed, Coral Cactus. During the project, volunteers were taught how to remove the cactus to prevent regrowth. TNRM created a video for anyone interested in seeing the work and how to appropriately remove the Coral Cactus.



Collaborative management of invasive species in the Finnis Reynolds Catchment

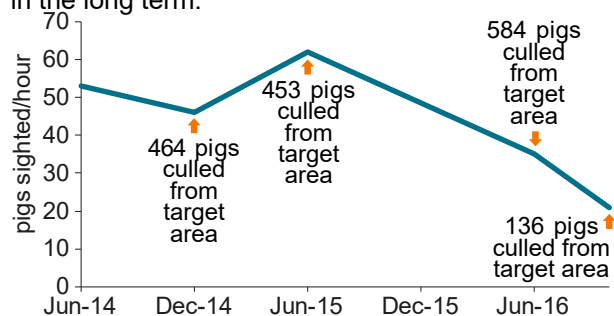
The Finnis Reynolds project has been running for five years. Throughout this time, TNRM has coordinated activities across an expansive 5,500km² catchment area, south of Darwin, and supported land managers and Indigenous Rangers to carry out a range of weed and feral animal control activities. TNRM helped facilitate aerial spraying of the weed *Mimosa pigra* across approximately 19,000 hectares annually between 2013 and 2016. Weed control has also included biocontrol application and site monitoring across high biodiversity value areas of the Finnis River and Anson Bay catchments. While improvements are evident across the catchment as a whole, the biggest changes have occurred in areas of densest infestation on Indigenous land. As a result of the project, 2,000ha of floodplain has become freed from mature *Mimosa* plants and opened up for grazing.

To encourage landholders in the area to manage *Mimosa* on their properties TNRM released a colourful, easy to read booklet in 2017, outlining helpful tips on how best to use biocontrol techniques. This information supplements earlier publications and advice on using traditional chemical methods.

Reflecting a change in funding source, the project has been renamed 'Collaborative management of invasive species in the Finnis Reynolds Catchment'. From mid-2017 the project will have two priorities. The first is coordinating feral pig management on floodplains, with a focus on supporting pastoral properties and other floodplain areas. The second is managing *Mimosa pigra* in the upper catchment, particularly by providing support for small property owners.



Feral pig populations in the Finnis Reynolds Catchment area have been kept under control for several years as part large-scale multi-year efforts managing weeds and pigs. In 2016, TNRM supported the third consecutive year of aerial culling work with Northern Land Council and Bulgul Rangers, resulting in pig numbers reaching an all-time low of 30% less than 2014 survey densities. The Rangers now have a maintenance plan in place to continue removing 300-350 pigs annually through a combination of trapping, systematic ground shooting by Rangers and aerial shooting. Removing this amount of feral pigs each year is both cost effective and prevents population growth in the long term.



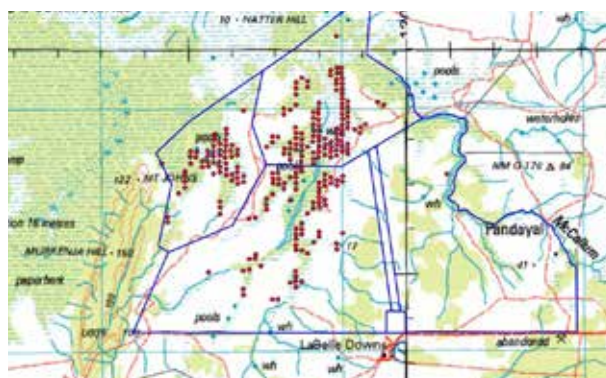
Pig sighting rates on Bulgul target area during 3 year management program, 2014-2017.

Note: The most recent pig sighting rate of 21 pigs/hr recorded for the target area in October 2016 is approximately 70% lower than the peak of 62 pigs/hr recorded in the target area in June 2015.

Biodiversity benefits

As a result of the 5-year weed treatment program, surveys before, during and after show magpie geese numbers have doubled in the catchment.

Camera trapping has also detected the endangered Northern quoll, the threatened Floodplain monitor and the Coastal Taipan, although there is insufficient information available to determine if the Taipan is threatened.



*Aerial survey data has been valuable in tracking change. Between 2012 (left) and 2015 (right) the area of high density *Mimosa* reduced by 26%.*



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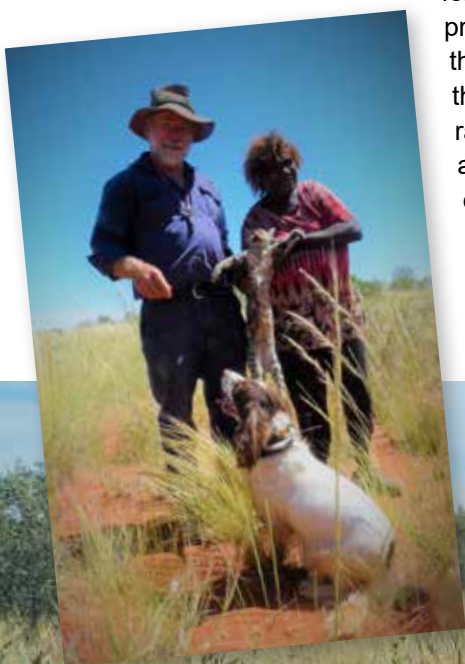
REDUCING THE IMPACTS OF

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.

TNRM and Sophie the dog attend Cat Camp

TNRM supported a 'Cat Camp' at the Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary, north-west of Alice Springs. This inaugural event was a place to share different cat management approaches including Indigenous Rangers' traditional hunting methods of the feral species, which eats countless native and threatened species each year. Representatives from the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee brought Sophie the dog to cat camp, demonstrating how she has been trained to sniff out and track

feral cats. TNRM produced a video from the camp showcasing the skills of Indigenous rangers in tracking and managing feral cats and drawing attention to the plight of threatened species from feral cats.



Alice Springs' roaming cats put on the map

TNRM supported two projects aimed at helping residents in Alice Springs keep their cats from roaming outside, where they can kill native wildlife. One project with Land for Wildlife involved tracking and monitoring several domestic cats' movements, and presenting the data to owners and the wider community to bring awareness of how far cats can travel and the importance of responsible cat ownership. Another project with Alice Springs Town Council also involved a cat education program for the local community as well as the purchase and use of cat traps to catch feral cats. Follow up engagement with cat owners continues, with early anecdotal reporting showing positive behavioural change. TNRM also supported Australia's inaugural Cat Symposium in Alice Springs, where more than 100 people heard the latest findings on the impact of cats on biodiversity and efforts to manage cats around the country. Attendees also heard a plenary talk from the Threatened Species Commissioner.

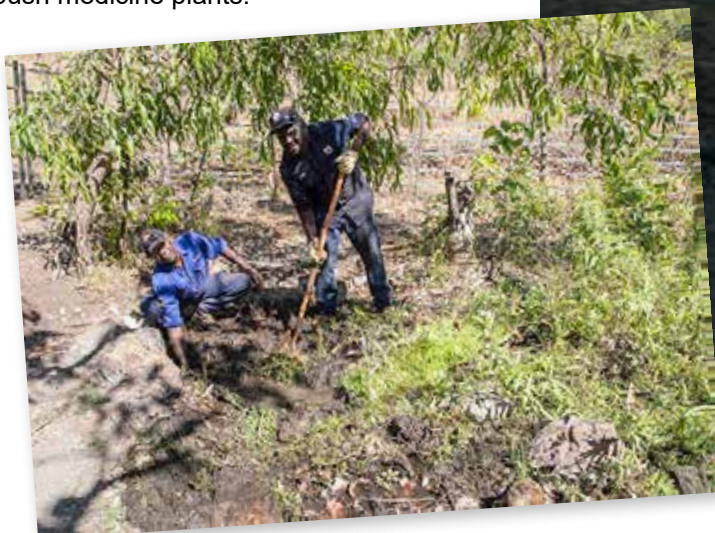
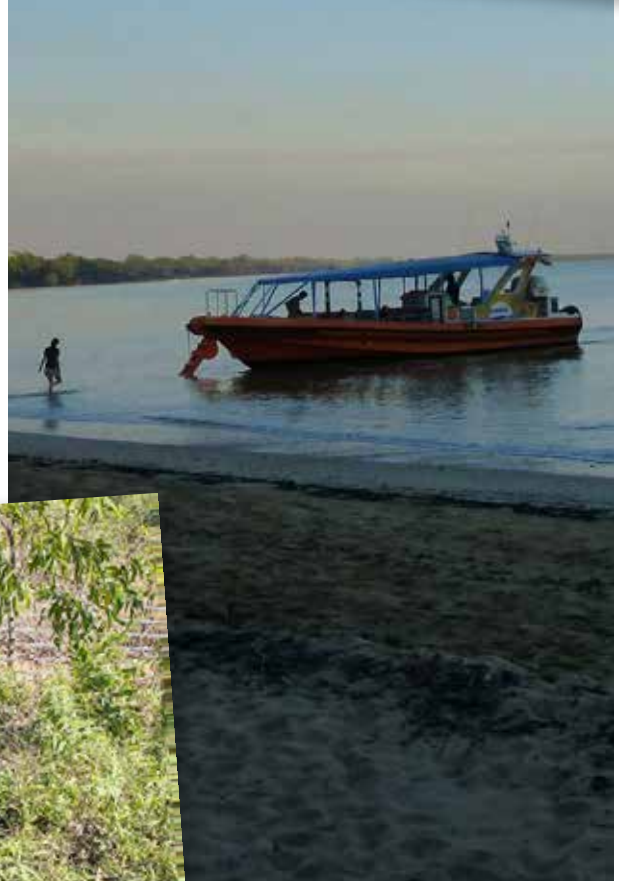
FERAL ANIMALS

Quolls set sail for island conservation experiment

Indian Island, off Darwin's Bynoe Harbour is now home to several dozen quolls which have been relocated there as part of a conservation mission, supported by TNRM. In 2017, 35 northern quolls were trained to avoid deadly cane toads and released on the island as part of a collaborative project between the University of Melbourne, Kenbi Rangers and Territory Wildlife Park. It is hoped the northern quolls, which are critically endangered in the NT, will thrive on the island, which has cane toads, but no other natural predators. Over the next few years scientists and rangers will work towards producing a population of toad-smart northern quolls, with an eye to reintroducing them in the NT. Scientists will also research the impacts of introducing a new predator to the island's biodiversity.

Gulin Gulin spring restored to former glory

TNRM supported Rangers from Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation to erect fences to protect and restore an important spring in central Arnhem Land. Mimal Rangers erected fencing around the spring to exclude feral animals such as horses, buffalos, donkeys and pigs, whose visits to the spring had degraded the area. The spring is now returning to good health thanks to Rangers who continue to monitor the area, carry out weed management and replant native bush tucker and bush medicine plants.



INDUSTRY ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

The key natural resource management objective for primary industries is to identify where sustainable practices can improve both profitability and environmental health. TNRM supports industry collaboration with NRM stakeholders to ensure efficient and sustainable practices are adopted and maintained.

Barkly pastoralists try new tools

A project delivered by Barkly Landcare has helped pastoralists better understand new tools available to help them improve sustainable grazing practices on their land, including through the use of spatial property planning tools. In all 16 participants, whose properties together represented more than 58,000km² attended the 3 day course. This was followed by regular meetings over 6 months to evaluate implementation of the plan and identify opportunities for improving safe long-term carrying capacity for land types in the region. Follow up communication in late 2017 with course participants will provide insight into what influence the course has had on their pastoral practices.

Sustainable growth plan for Kakadu Plum bush harvest being developed

The development of a management plan for wild populations of Kakadu Plum is being supported by TNRM. The plan aims to ensure the increasingly popular bush harvest crop can grow sustainably within the Northern Territory. This project is in the early stages of engagement and planning, and follows earlier activities supporting Thamarrurr Rangers and EcOz Environmental Consultants to grow the Kakadu plum industry more sustainably. This earlier project involved training 157 people in best practice harvest techniques and promoting understanding about how to avoid overharvesting or causing damage to the crops, which are an increasingly important source of income for remote communities.



STAINABLE PRACTICES



Horticulturalists partner for Soil Wealth

TNRM's Regional Landcare Facilitator has been working to develop and strengthen relationships with horticultural industry stakeholders in the NT and across Australia. This included a new partnership with Applied Horticultural Research, which has helped co-develop the Soil Wealth program connecting growers with best practice information and research that support healthy soil function and aim to deliver improved production outcomes.

Mud crab enthusiasts plan a sustainable future for the industry

To ensure mud crabs are not being overfished, TNRM supported the Northern Territory Seafood Council in holding a sustainable mud crab fishery stakeholder engagement process in the Top End. 48 stakeholders were involved in consultation including workshops, meetings and site visits. More than 60 people responded to a public survey. This information will be used to develop a formal sustainable harvest strategy.



2016-17 ACTIVITIES

WATER RESOURCES AND SOIL

Maintaining the health of the Territory's water and soil resources is vital, especially with increasing interest in improving the productivity of the pastoral sector, expanding irrigated agricultural ventures, and the development of new aquaculture, mining, and oil and gas projects. TNRM supports sharing knowledge and engaging with communities to inform best-practice water and soil management.

7th annual Darwin Harbour Clean Up improves waterways

About 2.2 tonnes of rubbish was picked up and responsibly disposed of at the annual Darwin Harbour Clean-Up Day. The event attracted over 200 volunteers from community groups, businesses, local councils and other organisations who worked at locations in and around the Darwin harbour.

TNRM is a major supporter of Darwin Harbour Clean-Up Day, which is organised by the Northern Territory Seafood Council. It aims to showcase how the seafood industry depends on a healthy marine environment and that rubbish can harm wildlife, the ocean and our coastlines.



SOIL MANAGEMENT

Kidman Springs Research Station hosts soil workshop

Participants from seven pastoral properties received practical advice on managing soil erosion, including using the land's natural drainage lines to help them better look after natural resources on their properties. The Victoria River District Conservation Association hosted the workshop held at Kidman Springs Research Station. The 16 participants benefitted from learning techniques to reduce top soil loss, to prevent soil erosion and how to carry out soil management practices correctly the first time to save time and money. Follow up meetings are set for later in 2017.

Katherine events promote ways to improve land condition

Two grazing fundamental workshops for pastoralists in 2016 helped 29 participants gain a better understanding of grazing production systems, pasture species ID and the core principles behind optimising grazing land productivity. These workshops, held at Katherine and Cape Crawford, included presentations from national experts who provided advice on how to incorporate grazing systems in a way that ensures good ecosystem processes and maintains or improves land condition. Follow up meetings to see how pastoralists are using their new knowledge are set for later in 2017.



NRM BASED ECONOMIC OPP

TNRM supports developing the conservation economy and rural livelihoods through activities including carbon farming, rehabilitation of mine sites and degraded land, producing bush food and sustainable harvests, and wildlife and biodiversity enterprises.

Remote communities gain access to Top End research orchard

A small research orchard has been established for cultivating Kakadu Plums. Existing infrastructure on the property in Wildman River, will be modified

and used to introduce remote communities to sustainable and organic orchard practices, making it a useful demonstration and training site for a crop prized for local consumption as well as its commercial opportunities.



ORTUNITIES

Arid Zone horticulturalists given a leg up

TNRM partnered with the Northern Territory Government's Department of Primary Industries and Resources to host a Horticulture and Bush Foods study tour. Land managers and horticultural stakeholders working in the NT's Arid Zone toured Adelaide's horticultural regions to see what new markets are being developed and meet with potential investors. Participants visited a plant accelerator, where scientists are researching plant salt and drought tolerance, nutrient and water use efficiency and disease screening. They also toured the Loxton Research Centre where drones are being used to map foliage density and leaf moisture.

Arnhem Land community develops rock oyster business

The Waruwi community on Goulburn Island are developing a tropical rock oyster industry. The new project is aimed at improving the skills of these oyster farmers in managing shellfish quality in line with national guidelines. Six Indigenous people were trained in water sampling and quality assurance program requirements. Work to establish a sustainable rock oyster farming site continues.



2016-17 ACTIVITIES

MANAGING AND PROTECTING KEY

The Territory is known for its magnificent natural landscapes, seascapes and significant cultural sites. TNRM supports the cooperative management of sites of natural and cultural significance.

Central Australians rally to conserve native species once thought extinct

An endangered skink, native only to central Australia was thrown a lifeline in April, at the first Slater's Skink forum in Alice Springs. TNRM, in collaboration with Central Land Council, coordinated the two-day event to determine how best to look after the skink, which once flourished in the Finke and MacDonnell ranges bioregion, and northern parts of South Australia. The forum brought together Indigenous rangers who have been working at the forefront of monitoring and managing Slater's skinks, as well as local landholders and scientists with an interest in protecting the animal. By bringing together interested stakeholders for the first time they were able to start creating a collaborative management approach and strategy to manage the 11 known remaining populations.

Recovery steps in place for threatened Atlas Moth

TNRM is involved in a number of projects in the Top End which will benefit the threatened Atlas moths, which were believed to be locally extinct in Darwin until rediscovered by Larrakia Rangers in 2015. TNRM is working with Berry Springs Primary School and Territory Wildlife Park, who have joined forces to inform students and the wider community about Atlas Moths using creative art projects. TNRM is also helping groups, including Larrakia Rangers, Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare group and Conservation Volunteers Australia, to manage weeds and grow host plants for Atlas Moth caterpillars in several areas around Darwin.



NATURAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS

Ninu (bilby) festival a national hit

At the inaugural Ninu (bilby) festival, rangers and scientists shared how they monitor and manage ninu populations and the cultural significance this threatened species holds in local communities with their peers as well as an additional 50 interested stakeholders. Traditional cat hunting techniques were demonstrated, as cats are a natural predator to bilbies, and scientific analysis was also showcased including using drones and remote cameras to monitor bilbies and its predators. To help share the story more widely TNRM recorded the proceedings in a video.



Making info accessible for IDing Howard Sand plains flora

Just 30 kilometres east of Darwin lies the Howard Sand Plains Site of Conservation Significance, home to rare species such as carnivorous bladderwort plants and endangered herbs. To help people better understand the unique flora of the plains and how to spot each species TNRM supported the Top End Native Plant Society to create an illustrated field guide. The field guide, which will be made freely available to the public, will be used to promote greater understanding and appreciation for sandsheet vegetation.



Wardaman Rangers lead Gouldian Finch recovery project

The discovery of a feeding group of Gouldian Finches in the Wardaman Indigenous Protected Area has led to coordinated efforts to ensure the threatened species' habitat is protected so their population can recover. The project, which TNRM supports, involves providing skills, local information and resources to better equip Wardaman Rangers to manage the area. Rangers have carried out strategic burning to protect key habitat areas and been involved in surveys to identify existing populations. An updated land management plan, which required ratifying additions to Wardaman's own IPA management plan to align with Commonwealth and NT recovery protocols for the Gouldian Finch, is being finalised. It's expected the Rangers' work will provide benchmarks of the Gouldian population on the IPA as well as guide fire and grazing management to protect the finches' population.

TERRITORY CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

TCA's go from strength to strength

TNRM has continued to expand its Territory Conservation Agreement (TCA) program, establishing 10 new TCA sites, totalling more than 7,000 hectares, in 2016-17. This brought the total number of TCAs at the end of the financial year to 42. Collectively, these sites encompass 55,146 hectares of ecologically significant habitat, including wetlands and rivers, escarpment country, woodland, and Indigenous-owned land.

The TCA program was established in 2011 to support land managers to voluntarily protect areas of conservation importance on their properties. TNRM has helped landowners, most of whom are pastoralists, conserve areas within their own properties by providing planning support and funding for the establishment of sites. Individual management plans are developed for each site, in collaboration with the landholder, and using advice from industry experts. One of the reasons the TCA program has been so successful is that management plans address site specific threats including weed, fire, feral, erosion and stock impacts while being consistent with the landowners' primary production goals and activities. In several instances changes in practice in line with management plans have created additional benefits including increased efficiency of pastoral operations.

Banatjarl, which became the 37th TCA, protects 168 hectares including two significant springs, a rainforest, and culturally significant areas home to Indigenous rock art, engravings and burial sites. Parts of the land once experienced intensive pastoral use but the Banatjarl Women's Group has since established a food garden and bush medicine base, while members of the Jawoyn community now hunt, fish and camp in the area.

Traditional Owners have begun removing feral buffalos, cattle, horses and donkeys from the area and installing six kilometers of fencing to keep them out. They are also setting up two permanent pig traps, carrying out weed control, and continuing appropriate fire management regimes. Scientific monitoring of the TCA will record changes in water quality, vegetation and expected recovery of existing erosion.

Surveys validate management actions taken

In 2017 surveys were undertaken on existing TCA sites, including those first established in 2011. Early results validate management actions taken. These are encouraging signs for the program, which is backed by landholders, and attracts positive media coverage and public support.



AGREEMENTS



KNOWLEDGE, CAPACITY AND

Natural resource management draws on diverse types of knowledge including scientific and traditional, Indigenous understanding and practices. TNRM works to help share best-practice advice as well as techniques, technologies and information that support sustainable NRM activities.

TNRM-hosted events help stakeholders develop skills, appreciate natural resources

Throughout the year TNRM hosted a number of workshops and courses that, in addition to the annual conference, provided dozens of NRM practitioners with extra skills. These events included workshops in Alice Springs on how to apply for grants, use digital media and spatial software, and how to improve governance. To mark World Wetlands Day, TNRM hosted a number of free events in the Top End and Arid Lands, which attracted many members of the public keen to learn more about wetland ecology, migratory birds, and the importance of the NT's many, and in some cases internationally-recognised wetlands. To encourage Alice Springs locals to remove buffel grass, TNRM also supported an open to the public 'buffel busting' inspiration tour showing the difference removing this invasive weed can make to the landscape and how best to do so.

Indigenous defence force recruits to help manage weed infestation

Finniss Reynolds Catchment Group project officer Susanne Casanova partnered with Batchelor Institute to expose students training as Indigenous defence force recruits to weed awareness activities. The collaboration, which helped the trainees learn more about environmental management also improved their maths and problem solving, through collecting, counting, and distributing a tiny biocontrol agent, *Nesaecrepida infuscata*. The biocontrol agent, also known as Nessie, is a flea beetle that when released on the

weed *Mimosa pigra*, slows the growth of the plant and reduces the amount of seed it produces.

TNRM represented on the world stage

As part of personal endeavours, two TNRM staff members attended international natural resource management events. Arid Lands Regional Coordinator Jon Hodgetts took part in the 10th annual International Rangelands Congress in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan giving a presentation about TNRM's TCA program. Spatial Scientist Philippe Puig, who was hired by the World Bank as an international expert, provided a QGIS training course to NRM practitioners in Laos.



Top End citizens get snap happy for dragonflies citizen science project

Following a TNRM musing on Facebook about the sudden influx of dragonflies in Darwin, Charles Darwin University decided to setup a unique citizen science project, which aims to lend scientific rigour to the age old phenomenon of large numbers of dragonflies appearing in the Top End during the dry season. Named 'Dragonflies and the Dry', TNRM went on to support this project, which included a photography competition. An app was developed for people to submit photos they took of dragonflies and damselflies and record the location they were spotted in. Prizes were given for the best photos and following the completion of the project in late 2017 a map will be produced showing the locations of dragonfly hotspots.

ENGAGEMENT

TNRM meets growing demand for trainee program by growing program

In 2017, TNRM expanded its Indigenous NRM Traineeship due to increased demand from Indigenous partners. TNRM now has three trainees through partnerships with Larrakia Nation, Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation and Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation. The new trainees have been involved in several NRM projects and training courses including working on Territory Conservation Agreement sites, where they have improved their knowledge about how best to manage, pests and weeds and learned innovative new fencing methods to keep out large feral animals without blocking smaller native animals access. They trained with Bushfires NT to learn how to interpret satellite imagery to carry out landscape scale fire planning, how to use 3D fire mapping technology, how to use firefighting tools, and how to incorporate cultural burning practices with prescribed burning principles. They also met inspirational male and female Indigenous leaders who started as trainees and have risen through the ranks to become managers involved in NRM.



TNRM nurtured connections with stakeholders online

Over the course of the 2016-17 financial year TNRM significantly expanded its online following and increased its engagement on social media. TNRM relaunched its website with a more interactive design. Over the course of the year the website attracted more than 29,000 visits. Likes on Facebook and follows on Twitter doubled in the 12 month period to exceed the 1,200 mark on both social media sites. Engagement also rose significantly, with TNRM's Klout score, a measure of online influence, rising 50 per cent. TNRM's Facebook posts reached more than 200,000 people and Tweets reached more than 180,000. More importantly, interaction online was used 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.

Annual flagship event continues to shine

Feedback about the 2016 TNRM Conference and NT NRM Awards was overwhelmingly positive. Surveys taken during and after the event revealed participants had a high level of satisfaction, gained valuable knowledge and were highly likely to attend future conferences and recommend them to others. The average satisfaction rating reported by all participants across each of the workshops and fieldtrips was 8.6/10. The event also attracted considerable media coverage from radio, TV, print and online newsrooms. More information on the conference and awards is on page 32.





In April 2017, 17 community groups and organisations from around the Northern Territory were awarded \$356,000 in TNRM Community Grant funding. The projects, which will attract cash and in-kind contributions worth an additional \$462,000, are designed to be completed within 12 months. They have a range of environmental and sustainable production benefits and align with the 2016-2020 NT NRM plan.

Organisation	Project	Funding (\$)
Top End		
Wangamaty Land Management Group	Working Closely with Private Landholders, Hay Growers and Volunteers of the Lower Daly Catchment Area to Manage and Prevent Grassy, Aquatic and Woody weed Infestations	25,000
Darwin Off-Road Cyclists	Strategic management of grass weeds in Charles Darwin National Park	5,000
Thamarrurr development Corporation Ltd	Strategic Management of Mimosa Pigra in the Daly River Port Keats Aboriginal Land Trust.	25,000
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Atlas Moth Block and Beach Block Rehabilitation Works	12,000
Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation	Turtles Today and Tomorrow: Promoting the sustainable use of marine turtles in Indigenous communities	25,000
Ecoz Environmental Consultants	Developing a draft Management Plan for Kakadu Plum, Terminalia ferdinandia	13,000
Gulf Savanna		
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	Identification and management of key sites for Carpentarian Rock-rats	20,400
Roper River Landcare Group	Collaborative vertebrate pest (buffalo, pig, donkey, horses) management at Eley station and surrounds	25,000
Victoria River District Conservation Association	Daguragu ALT / Winbox Parkinsonia Project: Strategic control of the weed Parkinsonia on Indigenous land	24,334
Consolidated Pastoral Company Manbulloo Station	Manbulloo Rotational Grazing: Supporting best practice land management with research and pastoral engagement	11,000
Jawoyn Association	Gamba control on Jawoyn Land Trust and freehold	25,000
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	Management of feral herbivores from the destocked zone at Wongalara	25,000
Tablelands		
Bluebush Cattle Aboriginal Corporation	Understand and Promote the Practical Benefits of Restoring Natural Resources, Biodiversity & Profitability by Improving Land and Livestock Management Practices	24,000
Central Land Council	Cat control and threatened species monitoring in the Murchison Ranges	24,500
Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association	Collaborative prickly acacia and mesquite management above Lake Sylvester and Lake Tarrabool	25,000
Arid Lands		
Central Land Council	Looking after the Sandover Lily	22,000
CSIRO	Cost effective predator control to protect refuges of threatened desert wildlife	24,800



Achievements and outcomes

The 2016 Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) Conference and Northern Territory Natural Resource Management (NT NRM) Awards were held 22- 24 November at Darwin's waterfront precinct.

The conference and awards ceremony is the only event of its kind in the Northern Territory. It brings together hundreds of people from all walks of life who are passionate about caring for our environment.

The conference attracted more than 380 people from pastoral companies, Indigenous

organisations, Landcare and community groups, government, Territory businesses and industry bodies.

Over three days conference delegates gathered to network, share and learn skills, develop professionally and be recognised for the hard work they do. For many of them, especially those based remotely, it was the only chance they had all year to meet fellow natural resource management practitioners.

Their positive experiences did not finish when the events ended. Many attendees spoke of lasting, positive impressions and shared plans for how they will incorporate new learnings into their daily work.

MORE THAN 90

groups, organisations, businesses and government departments were represented

3 DAY EVENT

attracted more than

380

DELEGATES

MORE THAN

200

came together to share their stories and network on the Presentation Day

MORE THAN

260

gained new knowledge and skills at the workshops and field trips

MORE THAN

230

celebrated NRM achievements at the NT NRM Awards Gala Dinner

88

people interacted with Conference presenters via online interactive tool sli.do,

ASKING 137 QUESTIONS CASTING 271 VOTES IN 6 ONLINE POLLS

Investment from local Territory organisations, businesses and government, including cash and in-kind contributions, came to

\$55,000



Congratulations to the winners

Ten recipients were recognised for their commitment to sustainably managing the land, water, soil, plants and animals within the NT at the annual Northern Territory Natural Resource Management Awards.

The winners were announced at a gala dinner held at Darwin Convention Centre on Wednesday, November 23.

NT NRM Awards Category	Winner	Region(s) operate in
Best Collaboration in NRM	Kenbi Rangers (Northern Land Council) and Ventia in collaboration	Top End
Indigenous NRM Champion	Josephine Grant – Central Land Council	Tablelands
Agricultural NRM	Curtin Springs	Arid Lands
NRM Volunteer	Brian McWilliam	Top End
Individual NRM Champion	Denise Lawangkurr Goodfellow	Top End
Junior NRM Champion	Katherine Junior Ranger Program – Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT	Gulf Savanna
Urban NRM Group	Land for Wildlife/Garden for Wildlife (hosted by Low Ecological Services)	Arid Lands
Small Business Initiative	North Australian Rural Management Consultants (NARMCO)	Tablelands and Arid Lands
Research in NRM	EcOz in association with Thamarrurr Rangers	Top End
People's Choice	Outback Helicopter Airwork NT	Top End

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. For thirteen years, she was a member of the Northern Territory Parliament, with six of those years as the Chief Minister carrying a range of portfolios - treasurer, police, arts, indigenous policy and tourism. Before politics, Clare was an ABC journalist and broadcaster. As well as chairing TNRM, she is also chair of the Defence Reserves Support Council Northern Territory/Kimberley, Vice President of Cricket NT and director of Browns Mart Arts.



Deputy Chair, Business Development and Communications Chair (re-appointed 21 Feb 2017) Dr Stephen Morton

Steve is an Honorary Professorial Fellow with Charles Darwin University in Alice Springs. He started his career as an ecologist with the Supervising Scientist at Jabiru, before moving to CSIRO in Alice Springs. He went on to become a member of the Executive Team of CSIRO, serving as Group Executive responsible consecutively for research in environment, energy, manufacturing, materials and minerals. Steve currently Chairs the Scientific Advisory Panel to the Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum, is a Member of Council for the Australian Institute of Marine Science, is a Member of the Australian Heritage Council, is Chair of Arid



Recovery at Roxby Downs in South Australia, Chairs the Steering Committee for the Threatened Species Recovery Hub, is a Board member of the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute, and is a Trustee for the Olive Pink Botanic Garden in Alice Springs.

Public Officer (re-appointed 22 Mar 2017) Dr Brooke Rankmore

Brooke's enthusiasm and drive is reflected in her completion of an Australian Rural Leadership Program and her engagement in multiple areas of NRM, including pastoral and Indigenous issues. Brooke runs her own environmental consultancy business that largely assists pastoralists with environmental issues. She brings with her a practical scientific and conservation background along with a good understanding of the pastoral industry.



Finance and Audit Committee Chair Sally Sullivan

Sally began her Territory life in 1987 as a Soil Conservation Officer based in Darwin, Katherine and then at Kidman Springs in the VRD for six years. Along with her husband Rohan and his family, Sally has been involved in the management of the family-owned Cave Creek Station near Mataranka since 1991. She 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. While raising her family of five, Sally maintained a connection to NRM through authoring and editing of technical publications. Sally has considerable experience in the management, accountability and governance of community organisations, for many years holding 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 Member (appointed 18 May 2017) Bilawara Lee

Aunty Bilawara is an Elder of the Larrakia Nation of Darwin NT and has lived in the Top End for over 67 years. She is the Larrakia Academic in Residence at Charles Darwin University, and an Authorised Marriage Celebrant and international published author with two books *Star Dreaming* and *Healing from the Dilly Bag*. Bilawara is internationally respected as a healer and teacher of the ancient wisdoms of Aboriginal Spirituality and Healing, and travels nationally and internationally to conduct special life-changing workshops and ceremonies. As a First Nations Elder of the oldest continuous surviving cultures on Earth, she brings with her a strong commitment to helping balance sustainable economic growth and the health and wellbeing of the land and environment.



Board member (re-appointed 9 Jan 2017) Kate Peake

Kate is a passionate advocate for the Northern Territory. She is a member of many northern Australian representative bodies and was formerly the Executive Officer of the NT Horticultural Association. In her current role as CEO of Regional Development Australia NT she works with a range of organisations to support the sustainable development of the Territory. A born and bred Territorian with experience across government and non-government roles, Kate is keen to secure a prosperous future for Territorians and she believes strongly in the need for locals to drive development through innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration.



Board member (re-appointed 9 Jan 2017) Ray Hall

Ray has been working in the environmental and NRM field in the NT for over 20 years. He currently owns and operates EcOz Environmental Consulting, the NT's largest locally owned and operated environmental consulting business. Prior to this, Ray was involved with the Maningrida-based Djelk Rangers and the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation where his role focused on sustainable development of natural resources and the creation of employment opportunities. He has also previously been involved with the Landcare Council, the Bushfires regional councils and government. Ray is very interested in the social and economic aspects of NRM and environmental values and hopes to use his skills and experience to add value to the TNRM Board and its activities.



THE BOARD

Board member (appointed 18 May 2017) 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 member until 22 Mar 2017 Rowan Foley

Rowan is the General Manager of the Aboriginal Carbon Fund, Chair of the National Indigenous Climate Change Steering Committee and member of the RIRDC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee. Rowan is studying a Master of Environmental Law at the Australian National University. He is a ranger by trade and has consistently played a leadership role in Aboriginal land and sea management, and more recently climate change and carbon farming. Rowan was appointed to the TNRM Board in March 2011 and completed his third term on the 22 March 2017.



Board member Dr Stephen Rogers

Steve commenced as the CEO of Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT Ltd) in January 2015. He has most recently been the Science and Industry leader at the Australian Institute of Marine Science in Perth. He has also been the CEO and Managing Director of two Co-operative Research Centre's and Principal Research Scientist with CSIRO Land and Water. He is an experienced company director with a strong vision for CAT as a national organisation delivering the technology innovation needed to stimulate economic development across remote Australia.



BOARD MEETINGS ATTENDED

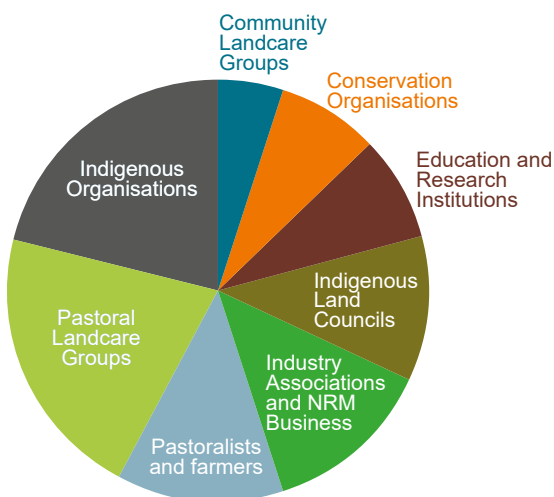
Director	2 September 2016 Meeting #60	22 November 2016 AGM #8	16 December 2016 Meeting #61	23 March 2017 Meeting #62	29 June 2017 Meeting #63
Clare Martin <i>(Chair)</i>	1	1	1	1	1
Steve Morton <i>(Deputy Chair)</i>	1	1	1	1	1
Brooke Ranmore <i>(Public Officer, FAC Chair until 22 Nov 2016)</i>	1	1	1	0	1
Sally Sullivan <i>(FAC Chair from 22 Nov 2016)</i>	1	0	1	1	0
Bilawara Lee					1
Kate Peake	1	0	1	1	1
Ray Hall	1	1	1	1	1
Rick Fletcher					1
Rowan Foley	1	1	1		
Stephen Rogers	1	1	0	1	1
Karen May <i>(Chief Executive Officer, Secretariat)</i>	1	1	1	1	1
Kimberly Inkster <i>(Executive Assistant)</i>	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL ATTENDED	10	8	9	8	10

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

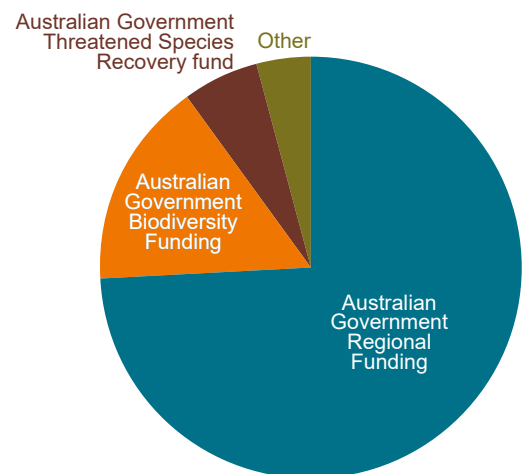
In the year that ended 30 June 2017, TNRM received almost \$3.65 million grant funding from the Australian Government, \$2.84 million of this funding was through Regional Baseline Funding. More than 40% of Regional Baseline funds were directly invested in community projects, contributing to National Landcare Programme outcomes. TNRM supported 74 projects and activities with NLP funding during this financial year, and 44 organisations received funding grants. Indigenous and pastoral sectors were the main recipients of funds devolved directly to community organisations, with Land Councils and Indigenous organisations receiving 32% and Pastoral Landcare groups and Pastoralists receiving 34% of funds provided to the community.

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. The audited Special Purpose Financial Report for Territory Natural Resource Management Inc. follows, along with a series of graphs representing financial activities for 2016-2017.

2016-2017 Expenditure by sector



Funding sources 2016-2017



Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

Special Purpose Financial Report

30 June 2017

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated

Special Purpose Financial Report

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	12
Independent auditor's report to members	13

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated

Special Purpose Financial Report

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,908,053	2,103,586
Other receivables	5	84,262	2,440
Other assets	6	219,101	212,909
Prepayments		22,462	21,567
Total current assets		2,233,878	2,340,502
Office furniture and equipment	7	3,290	9,172
Total non-current assets		3,290	9,172
Total assets		2,237,168	2,349,674
Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8	225,645	241,654
Provisions for employee benefits - current	9	163,605	173,914
Unexpended grants	10	1,446,934	1,571,741
Total current liabilities		1,836,184	1,987,309
Provisions for employee benefits - non current	9	55,483	40,029
Total non-current liabilities		55,483	40,029
Total liabilities		1,891,667	2,027,338
Net assets		345,501	322,336
Equity			
Accumulated funds		345,501	322,336
Total equity		345,501	322,336

The notes on pages 5 to 11 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated
Special Purpose Financial Report

**Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
for the year ended 30 June 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Income			
Interest income		31,809	37,005
Other income		110,640	121,407
Government grants		3,654,369	3,488,285
Total income		3,796,818	3,646,697
Expenses			
Depreciation and amortisation	7	5,882	5,987
Employee benefit expenses		1,244,346	1,407,898
Grants expended		2,144,617	1,755,839
Other operating expenses		503,615	639,402
Total expenses		3,898,460	3,809,126
Transfer from unexpended funds		124,807	178,951
Surplus for the year		23,165	16,522
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		23,165	16,522

The notes on pages 5 to 11 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated
Special Purpose Financial Report

Statement of changes in equity
as at 30 June 2017

	Accumulated funds \$
Balance as at 1 July 2015	305,814
Surplus for the year	16,522
Balance as at 30 June 2016	<u>322,336</u>
Surplus for the year	23,165
Balance as at 30 June 2017	<u><u>345,501</u></u>

The notes on pages 5 to 11 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated
Special Purpose Financial Report

Statement of cash flows
for the year ended 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Cash flow from operating activities			
Cash receipts from operations		3,683,187	3,626,752
Interest received		31,809	37,005
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(3,904,337)	(3,909,180)
Net cash used in operating activities	4	(189,341)	(245,423)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Investments in term deposits		(6,192)	(212,909)
Net cash used in financing activities		(6,192)	(212,909)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(195,533)	(458,332)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July		2,103,586	2,561,918
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	4	1,908,053	2,103,586

The notes on pages 5 to 11 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated

Special Purpose Financial Report

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 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 and the Association's Constitution and measurement and classification aspects of all applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) 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

(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 source. 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 in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. The accounting polices set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in the financial report.

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated

Special Purpose Financial Report

Notes to the financial statements

3 Significant accounting policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements, and have been applied by the Association.

(a) Revenue and other income

(i) *Grant and donation income*

Grant and donation 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 will be returned to the funding body.

(ii) *Interest income*

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

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

(b) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(c) Receivables

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less provision for doubtful debts. Receivables are usually due for settlement no more than 30 days from date of recognition.

(d) Property, plant and equipment

Items of property, plant and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Any gain and 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 write off the cost of property, plant and equipment less their estimated residual values using the straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. Depreciation is generally recognised in profit or loss, unless the amount is included in the carrying amount of another asset.

The estimated useful life of office furniture and equipment is between 4 - 10 years (2016: 4 -10 years). Management reviews the useful lives of its office and furniture equipment annually and aligns them with the current average estimates.

3 Significant accounting policies (continued)

(e) Impairment of assets

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated

Special Purpose Financial Report

Notes to the financial statements

At the end of each reporting period, the Association reviews the carrying values of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is recognised in profit or loss.

(f) Payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Association prior to the end of the financial year which remain unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

(g) 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.

(h) Tax status

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

(i) 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. Contingent rent arising under operating leases are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated

Special Purpose Financial Report

Notes to the financial statements

3 Significant accounting policies (continued)

(j) New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 July 2016, 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 9 Financial Instruments (2014)

AASB 9 replaces the existing guidance in AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement. AASB 9 includes revised guidance on the classification and measurement of financial instruments, a new expected credit loss model for calculating impairment on financial assets, and new general hedge accounting requirements. It also carries forward the guidance on recognition and derecognition of financial instruments from AASB 139.

AASB 9 is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 with early adoption permitted. The Association is assessing the potential impact on its financial statements resulting from the application of AASB 9.

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 January 2017 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 onto the balance sheet. 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 January 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.

(k) Going concern

The Association is currently funded by the Australian Government to June 2018 to deliver outcomes under the National Landcare Program (NLP). Funding for NLP NT Regional Delivery 2014-18 cover core operations and activities of the Association through to 24 August 2018. Under phase two NLP, the Australian Government has committed an additional \$450 million from July 2018 to June 2023 Australia-wide to deliver national priorities at a regional and local level through the Regional Partnership Program. Additionally the Association will be eligible to apply for funds to deliver outcomes through the Smart Farm program which runs for six years from 2017-18.

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated

Special Purpose Financial Report

Notes to the financial statements

3 Significant accounting policies (continued)

(k) Going concern (continued)

TNRM is one of 56 Regional NRM organisations across Australia that act as delivery agents under the regional stream of the Australian Governments National Landcare Program, as such management expects the commitment of funding from the Australian Government for Northern Territory regional delivery to continue through until 2023.

At reporting date management has determined that the Association expects to continue as a going concern and has prepared the financial statements on this basis.

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated
Special Purpose Financial Report

Notes to the financial statements

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
4 Cash and cash equivalent		
Cash at bank	1,907,803	2,103,377
Cash on hand	250	209
	<u>1,908,053</u>	<u>2,103,586</u>
<i>Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus adjusted for working capital movements:</i>		
Surplus for the year	23,165	16,522
Adjustments for depreciation	5,882	5,987
Change in other receivables	(81,822)	17,060
Change in prepayments	(895)	2,304
Change in trade and other payables	(16,009)	(95,518)
Change in provisions	5,145	(12,827)
Change in unexpended grants	(124,807)	(178,951)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(189,341)</u>	<u>(245,423)</u>
5 Other receivables		
Other receivables	-	2,440
Goods and services tax receivable	84,262	-
	<u>84,262</u>	<u>2,440</u>
6 Other assets		
Term deposits	219,101	212,909
	<u>219,101</u>	<u>212,909</u>
7 Office furniture and equipment		
Cost	51,542	51,542
Accumulated depreciation	(48,252)	(42,370)
	<u>3,290</u>	<u>9,172</u>
Carrying amount at beginning of year	9,172	15,159
Depreciation	(5,882)	(5,987)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>3,290</u>	<u>9,172</u>

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated

Special Purpose Financial Report

Notes to the financial statements

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
8 Trade and other payables		
Trade payables	141,072	85,341
Accrued expenses	56,742	43,732
Goods and services tax payable	-	61,990
Other payables	27,831	50,591
	225,645	241,654
	225,645	241,654
9 Provisions for employee benefits		
<i>Current</i>		
Provision for annual leave	163,605	173,914
	163,605	173,914
<i>Non-current</i>		
Provision for long service leave	55,483	40,029
	55,483	40,029
10 Unexpended grants		
Balance as at beginning of year	1,571,741	1,750,692
Funds received during the year	3,796,818	3,646,697
Funds expended	(3,921,625)	(3,825,648)
	1,446,934	1,571,741
	1,446,934	1,571,741
11 Operating lease commitments		
Less than one year	191,622	168,613
One to five years	310,203	397,693
	501,825	566,306
	501,825	566,306
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.		
12 Remuneration of auditors		
KPMG Darwin		
- Audit of the financial report	26,200	24,580
- Assistance with preparation of financial statements	5,800	5,600
- Audit of acquittal statements	9,000	11,400
	41,000	41,580
	41,000	41,580

Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated

Special Purpose Financial Report

Statement by the Management Committee for year ended 30 June 2017

In our opinion:

- (a) the accompanying financial report as set out on pages 1 to 11, being a special purpose financial statement, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2017 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:

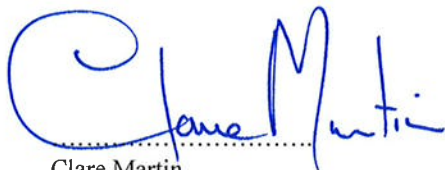
- (a) The names of the committee members of the Association during the relevant financial year were:

Clare Martin	Chair
Stephen Morton	Deputy Chair / Director
Brooke Rankmore	Public Officer and (Chair Finance and Audit Committee to 23/11/16)
Rowan Foley	Director
Sally Sullivan	Director and (Chair Finance and Audit Committee from 23/11/2016)
Ray Hall	Director
Kate Peake	Director
Stephen Rogers	Director
Mona Liddy	Director
Bilawara Lee	Director
Rick Fletcher	Director

Rowan Foley completed his term as Director on 22 March 2017. Bilawara Lee and Rick Fletcher were appointed as Directors to the Board 18 May 2017.

- (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 \$23,165 (2016: \$16,522).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Association:



Clare Martin
Chairperson
19 October 2017



Brooke Rankmore
Public Officer
19 October 2017



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Territory Natural Resources Management Incorporated

Report on the audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

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

In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Association as at 30 June 2017, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Notes 1 to 3 to the financial statements.

The **Financial Report** comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017
- Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity, and Statement of cash flows for the year then ended 30 June 2017
- 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 and distribution

We draw attention to Notes 1 to 3 to the Financial Report, which describes the basis of preparation.

The Financial Report has been prepared to assist the Management Committee of the Association in meeting the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Act (Northern Territory) 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 Resources Management Incorporated and should not be used by or distributed to parties other than the Members of Territory Natural Resources 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 Resources Management Incorporated or for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared.

Responsibilities of the Management Committee for the Financial Report

The Management Committee is responsible for:

- the preparation of the Financial Report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to 3 to the Financial Report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Act (Northern Territory), and the Association's constitution and are 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. 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 this 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_files/ar3.pdf. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

Clive Garland

Partner

Darwin

19 October 2017



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