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**Territory Natural Resource Management is the regional organisation responsible for planning, coordinating and facilitating a strategic approach to natural resource management (NRM) in the Northern Territory.**

**We support and implement projects and activities that work to enhance the social, economic, environmental and cultural assets of the Territory.**

**Our aim is to build community capacity to engage in NRM through knowledge sharing, skills development and supporting our partners in the care and protection of our natural assets.**



## ABOUT US

Natural Resource Management (NRM) refers to how we take care of the resources that sustain us, including our soils, native plants and animals, marine environments and terrestrial aquatic systems. Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) is a not-for-profit community organisation that supports projects for the benefit of our environment as well as for Territorians. We work to ensure the community has the best available knowledge (including traditional knowledge) and tools to manage threats and resources, and that our communities can benefit economically and socially from NRM activities. With offices in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs, we work in partnership with landholders, Indigenous groups, pastoralists, community groups, non-government organisations, government and businesses.

### WHAT WE DO

TNRM works with Territorians to manage our natural resources now and into the future. We work with landholders and various groups to both identify NRM issues and implement solutions at local, regional and national scales.

## HOW WE DO IT

### THE NT INTEGRATED NRM PLAN

The INRM Plan, developed with input from the NRM community, identifies and prioritises key NRM issues across the NT as well as the necessary actions to address these issues.

### LEADERSHIP, PLANNING AND DELIVERY

We help project partners in planning their NRM activities, including catchment and property-wide management plans, setting and reporting on project targets and providing advice and guidance.

### PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS

We build and maintain partnerships, increase participation and support the capacity of Territorians to carry out NRM activities.

### INVESTING IN INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

An important part of our role is to collect, manage, develop and share NRM information and knowledge, including indigenous ecological knowledge. We do this through online resources (such as information databases, web tools and social media), contributing to research and on-ground action (such as field days, training sessions and workshops). We also host or support regular information sessions that focus on specific NRM issues.

### OPPORTUNITIES AND INVESTMENT

We identify and develop opportunities to support investment in NRM in the Northern Territory, including financial and human resources.

## CHAIR'S REPORT



I never fail to be impressed by the commitment and hard work of those involved in natural resource management in the NT. The two NRM Forums this financial year, in Alice and in Darwin, were a great showcase of the range of work being undertaken in natural and cultural resource management – the wide range of

people and organisations addressing a myriad of issues across our diverse Territory.

Territory Natural Resource Management is working to support you across this scope, and to continually improve how we do this. We also continue to advocate for natural resource management, and for the Territory, at the national level. We have provided input to a range of Australian Government programs and policies, and continue to work to improve the performance of regional bodies nationally.

The National Working Group of NRM Chairs of which I am a part has been working on a range of initiatives including:

Organisational performance excellence - adopted as a national approach to improve organisational performance and accountability it is based upon international standards, though tailored to regional bodies;

Trialling a National set of Regional Environmental Accounts - ten regions have been participating plus the Wentworth group, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Bureau of Meteorology and government agencies;

Identifying ways that NRM bodies could be better supporting Indigenous participation in NRM and Indigenous Land Management; and

Establishing a sustainable agriculture working group and engaging with the NFF's Blueprint for Australian Agriculture.

Through the Australian Landcare Council we have also been working on promoting the multiple benefits of NRM and Landcare - the many ways that NRM and Landcare contribute to the community and, as with Indigenous

Land Management, produce social and economic benefits along with environmental and production outcomes. NRM is still not good at making our funding case to the central agencies of Governments and we are hoping to use this work to improve that, also to help us understand how we might measure or capture some of these other outcomes to make a stronger case.

I was privileged to be at the World Indigenous Network conference in Darwin for which TNRM was a sponsor and had a strong presence. It was inspiring to hear what people are doing around the world, and despite the differences in environment and culture how similar the issues were that people are facing.

TNRM held its first AGM under the updated constitution, and elected its first selection panel for Board directors. As a result I would like to welcome 3 new directors onto the Board, selected through our new process. Mona Liddy, Steve Morton and Brooke Rankmore are bringing a diversity of skills and views to the Board, and useful fresh eyes and energy. To read more about the directors visit our webpage.

Thanks to Darryl Lacey for his contribution as a director and as TNRM secretary. Darryl has left the Board and we wish him luck in his new endeavours with his family.

Regionally we have also been helping to build an alliance of regional NRM organisations across northern Australia. Working towards a vision for the future is as important as slogging away on the day to day challenges.

Before I finish I'd like to pay tribute to Joye Madison who passed away in 2013. Any of you who knew Joye would be aware of how tireless and stoic Joye was in her work against weeds. Her efforts have made a big difference in the NT and she will remain a role model of perseverance against the odds.

I'd like to thank our directors, staff, and partners for their commitment to natural resource management in the Territory and helping us to achieve all that you'll find in this Annual report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate Andrews'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

KATE ANDREWS

## CEO'S REPORT



2012-2013 was a challenging but rewarding year for Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM). We continued to improve our organisational capacity and governance, build on our successful programs and work in partnership with groups and organisations across the Territory to support the work

being done by Territorians to manage and protect our natural resources.

This year we worked with 115 groups and organisations including urban and pastoral landcare groups, Indigenous ranger and conservation groups, as well as many individual pastoral and indigenous landholders to undertake activities to protect, restore and conserve our natural environment. Achievements include the completion of 85 projects, managing Weeds of National Significance across 450,000ha, pest animal management across 200,000ha, and the establishment of 13 new Territory Conservation Agreements to protect over 10,000ha.

June 2013 saw the completion of four years of project work to coordinate control of *Mimosa pigra* in the Daly, Moyle & Fitzmaurice catchments. This significant project, funded through the Caring for Our Country program, brought landholders together to control 17,000ha of mimosa across 70,750km<sup>2</sup>. It also provided training and built the capacity of landholders to manage this Weed of National Significance. Although funding for this project has now ceased, a 5 year catchment management plan is now in place and landholders remain committed to continued management. I would like to thank Caroline Biggs - who coordinated this project - for her dedication to the project and all her hard work to ensure that it succeeded. We also wrapped our Caring for Our Country funded Territory Sea Country Partnership Program. The program supported the successful delivery of 11 coastal projects engaging 240 Indigenous people in on-ground coastal and marine restoration activities.

There have also been some significant organisational developments this year. With amendments to our constitution, we established a membership body to provide a direct link between the community and the

Board of Territory Natural Resource Management. Fourteen organisations had joined as Members by June 2013 and we welcome their contribution to our organisation.

We established our own in-house geographic information system (GIS) capacity with the employment of a spatial scientist and the decision to use freely available GIS software which has kept costs down and enabled us share our expertise and data with partner organisations and groups.

Importantly we have developed a stronger focus on Indigenous capacity development this year. Guided by our Indigenous Employment Strategy, we have worked on developing an Indigenous Traineeship pilot program and have also employed an Indigenous Capacity Development Officer to support Indigenous engagement and capacity development in a range of NRM projects across the Territory.

We also worked on developing our social media profile this year. Our staff have been trained in the use of social media enabling us to more easily to share information and stories about on ground projects and activities across the NT. By the end of June 2013, TNRM had 200 Facebook fans and 250 Twitter followers.

This year we were successful in attracting funding under the Australian Government's NRM Planning for Climate Change Program to update and incorporate climate change planning into the 2015-2020 NT Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan. We look forward to working with the NRM community on the review of the current plan and the development of a new plan to guide strategic planning and coordination of natural resource management in the NT over the coming years.

None of the above could be achieved without the hard work and dedication of the Territory Natural Resource Management staff team and the efforts of all of our project partners. Thank you all for your hard work and contribution to managing the natural resources of the Northern Territory. I would also like to thank the Australian Government for the support provided to Territory Natural Resource Management through the Caring for Our Country program and Biodiversity Fund.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen May'.

**KAREN MAY**

## HIGHLIGHTS 2012-13

Amendment of our Constitution to become a membership based organisation, with 14 organisations joining as Members by June 2013.	Established 13 Territory Conservation Agreements covering 11,277ha with pastoral landholders.
Supported 115 groups and organisations across the NT including landcare groups, Indigenous ranger and conservation groups, as well as both local and Territory Government to undertake natural resource management and capacity building activities.	Hosted the 3rd Annual Territory NRM Forum attended by over 150 participants and associated workshops attended by 70 participants.
737 indigenous people participated in TNRM supported projects and training activities via 38 indigenous groups and organisations.	Supported regional field days, capacity building and training activities attended by 295 natural resource managers.
Completed 85 on-ground projects with partner organisations and groups addressing weed and feral animal management, fire management and projects to conserve biodiversity and protect significant areas.	Successful in gaining \$780,000 under the Australian Governments NRM Planning for Climate Change program to update and incorporate climate change planning into the NT Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
Completed the 4 year Coordinated response to control of Mimosa pigra in the Daly, Moyle & Fitzmaurice Catchments project that controlled 17,000ha of mimosa across 70,750km <sup>2</sup> .	Coordinated and supported an Open Standards Planning course with 30 participants from indigenous organisations, landcare groups and government, as well as TNRM staff.
Weeds of National Significance including Parkinsonia, Prickly acacia and Bellyache Bush controlled across 457,309ha.	Established in-house GIS capacity with 7 staff receiving training and established a GIS mapping focus group of GIS users from 6 key NRM and research organisations.
Over 32,000 feral herbivores removed from across 200,000ha to protect significant wetlands and reduce impacts on native vegetation and ground cover.	Developed an Indigenous Ecological Knowledge Manual to support and guide the appropriate capture, storage and transmission of traditional knowledge.
	Developed a Carbon Farming Initiative resource booklet to explain carbon farming opportunities available to landholders in the NT.





## OVERVIEW OF THE TERRITORY

*The Northern Territory is a region of extreme contrasts, with people from many walks of life – including pastoralists, indigenous groups and urban dwellers - living in a range of different environments. From the extensive and pristine coastal habitats of the Top End to the red deserts of our Arid Lands, the NT is characterised by its vast areas of woodlands, grasslands, escarpments, waterways and wetlands.*

While the Territory is the second largest jurisdiction and natural resource management region in Australia, encompassing 1,352,176 sq km—or 1/6th of the mainland - our small population (around 233,300 people) means we have the lowest population density of any state or territory. The NT's main population centres are Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. The NT economy is heavily reliant on its natural resources and it is often necessary to try and balance a range of stakeholder interests. Reconciling multiple land use issues is one of the main challenges for our region, from mining to recreational fishing, indigenous wild harvesting to tourism, there are many voices that contribute to how our land and sea resources are managed.

### KEY RESOURCE USE

The combined value of the NT's agriculture, forestry and fisheries is \$480m and it is 2.4% of Australia's Gross Domestic Product <sup>1</sup>.

There are around 300 cattle stations producing two million head of cattle (about 7% of the Australian herd) <sup>2</sup>. Most of these cattle stations are managed as extensive, large-scale operations where cattle roam freely across the savannahs and grasslands, but many of our pastoral stakeholders are still recovering financially from the 2011 Indonesian Trade export crisis.

Over 650 businesses are directly involved in the NT's seafood industry, employing around 1450 people. <sup>3</sup>

The Territory's horticulture industry has been steadily gaining ground in recent years, producing field crops and a diverse range of fruit, vegetables and cut flowers.

The mining and energy production sector contributes \$3.4bn to Gross State Product and represents 9.6% of Gross Domestic Product <sup>1</sup>.

The tourism industry is the NT's largest employing industry while the visitor economy has been valued at \$1.6 billion (Gross Value Added).

Facilitating the sustainable use of native plants and animals represents an important opportunity both for economic growth, employment opportunities and cultural preservation for Indigenous groups.

<sup>1</sup> NT Key Business Statistics 2013

<sup>2</sup> NT Cattlemen's Association

<sup>3</sup> NT Seafood Council

<p><b>2 MILLION</b> CATTLE FROM 300 CATTLE STATIONS</p> 	<p><b>650</b> BUSINESSES INVOLVED IN THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY</p>	<p><b>4351</b> KNOWN PLANT SPECIES IN THE NT</p>
<p><b>\$480</b> MILLION P.A FROM AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES</p>		<p><b>157</b> NUMBER OF NT THREATENED SPECIES</p>
<p><b>0.2 PEOPLE</b> PER KM SQ IN THE NT</p> 	<p><b>TOURISM</b> THE NT'S LARGEST EMPLOYING INDUSTRY</p>	<p><b>90% OF LAND OWNERSHIP</b> UNDER ABORIGINAL FREEHOLD AND PASTORAL LEASE</p> 

*Our native landscapes are still largely intact and have not been subjected to the same pressures of urban expansion or intensive agricultural development as in other parts of our country. However, natural resource management within the NT context is not without its challenges...*

TNRM supports and implements projects across the length and breadth of our region and tackles issues across various geographic scales. Because the NT's population is small, we face a number of challenges in carrying out project work, particularly in remote areas.

### DISTANCE AND CONDITIONS

Travel within the NT can often be expensive and time consuming. The weather can also cause access issues; during the monsoon months in the Top End and Gulf Savanna extensive flooding can cut off roads and floodplains while hot summer conditions in the Arid Lands can pose a risk to people working in the field. TNRM works hard to incorporate these challenges into our project plans to achieve the best possible outcomes.

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Although the Territory is 1/6th of the Australian landmass, we only represent 1% of the country's population and have a population density of 0.2 people per sq km. Consequently there is a strong reliance on a small number of landholders and their associated organisations to manage the majority of the landscape. Around 90% of land ownership is divided almost equally between Aboriginal freehold and pastoral lease and both of these sectors have challenges unique to their situation.

With industry sites that are far from markets and suppliers, it difficult to achieve economies of scale. Many Territorians need to travel extensively to restock supplies, access services or reach decision makers and our Indigenous project partners often face challenges around access to appropriate housing, education and employment prospects in the areas where they live.

### COMMUNICATION

The Territory has a diverse multi-cultural population. This can sometimes prove challenging when implementing best practice management based on information in

existing documents. Most NRM documents or best practice guides are written with a highly literate English speaking audience in mind, which can be a disadvantage for people working in NRM from indigenous or non-English speaking backgrounds.

*We work to support the development of communication tools and materials that meet the needs of a multicultural target audience.*

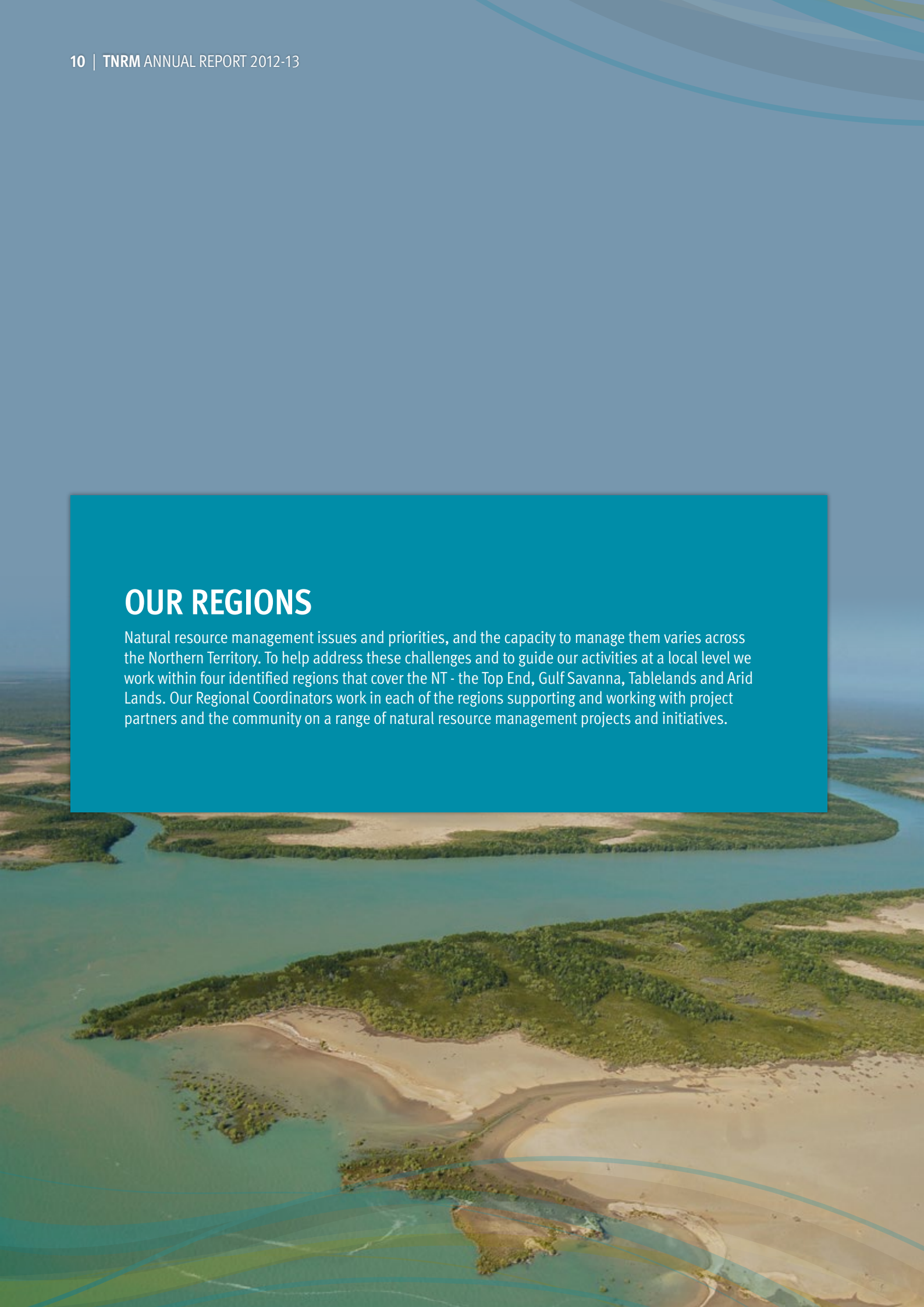
### THREATS

Though retaining much of their ecological integrity and productivity, Territory landscapes are coming under increasing pressure from disruption to long-standing fire regimes, while exotic weeds pests and diseases can have devastating effects on our soil, native vegetation, wildlife, crops and livestock. Some regions have seen significant population declines in small to medium sized mammals and while some of the mechanisms behind this decline are understood, we do not yet have a full understanding of why this is happening in certain areas. Large tracts of land—namely central Arnhem Land, the Sturt Plateau, the Burt Plain and the Finke— have been identified as some of Australia's least conserved bio-regions. Prevention and detection of emerging and existing threats is essential in preventing further degradation of Territory environments.

In addition to environmental threats, loss of culture and tradition in the Territory's indigenous population is an ongoing concern. There are over 130 indigenous language groups across the NT, and the traditional practices of these groups are often closely aligned with land management activities that have spanned thousands of years.

## OUR REGIONS

Natural resource management issues and priorities, and the capacity to manage them varies across the Northern Territory. To help address these challenges and to guide our activities at a local level we work within four identified regions that cover the NT - the Top End, Gulf Savanna, Tablelands and Arid Lands. Our Regional Coordinators work in each of the regions supporting and working with project partners and the community on a range of natural resource management projects and initiatives.



## TOP END

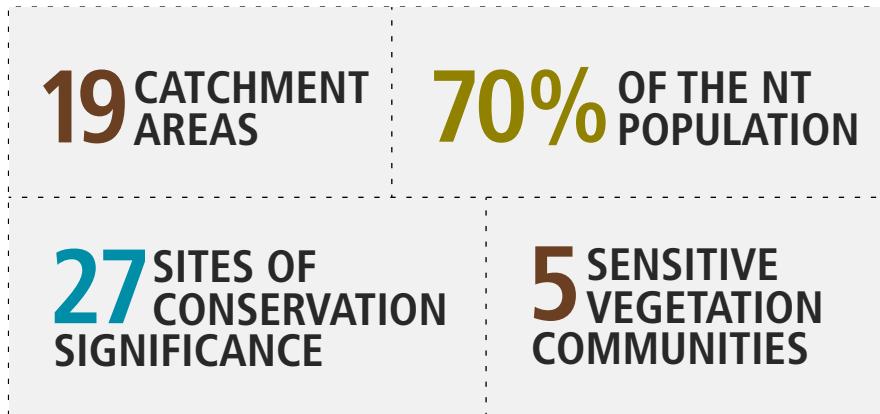
*Includes the Darwin Coastal, Tiwi-Cobourg, Arnhem Coast bioregions and parts of the Pine Creek, Arnhem Plateau, Central Arnhem, Daly Basin, Victoria Bonaparte, Gulf Fall and Uplands and Gulf Coastal bioregions.*

Characterised by extensive mangrove-lined coasts, wetlands and floodplains, the Top End comprises 19 catchment areas. The surrounding Arnhem and Timor seas are dotted with coastal islands, including the Tiwi Islands and Groote Eylandt. Most of the region is Aboriginal or pastoral land, with the horticulture industry concentrated in the Douglas Daly area.

The landscape has been shaped by fire and water, and the dominant vegetation is woodland and open forest, with smaller regions of open woodland and grassland. Monsoon forest and cleared land each make up around

1% of habitat. There are 27 ‘Sites of Conservation Significance’, almost all of which also have an international classification.

The Top End is where around 70% of Territorians reside, and Darwin is the main commercial and administrative centre of the NT with a population of about 127,532<sup>1</sup>. Located just 12 degrees south of the equator it has been described as Australia’s gateway to South-East Asia. With one eye on the land and another on the sea, Darwin has become the business hub for a range of resource-based industries that are rapidly expanding across the region.



<sup>1</sup> Source Australian Bureau of Statistics  
<sup>2</sup> Katherine Town Council  
<sup>3</sup> Barkly Shire website



## GULF SAVANNA

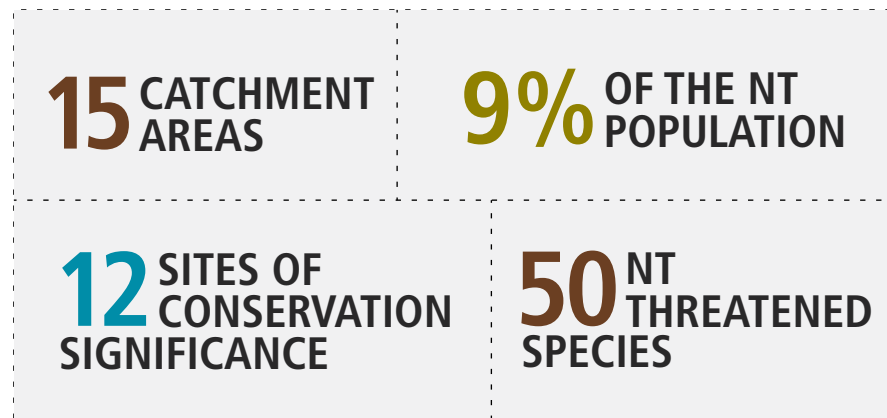
*Includes parts of Mitchell Grass Downs, Tanami, Gulf Fall and Uplands, Ord Victoria Plain, Sturt Plateau, Gulf Coastal, Gulf Plains, Victoria Bonaparte, Daly Basin, Pine Creek, Central Arnhem and Arnhem Plateau bioregions.*

With vast open woodlands and sheer escarpments, the Gulf region covers 23% of the N.T. The coastal region includes the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf and the Gulf of Carpentaria with the Sir Edward Pellew Group containing the most significant islands.

Around 66% of the region is pastoral land and 20% Aboriginal land while horticulture is a small but important industry. Vegetation type is mostly woodland/ open woodland with smaller areas of grassland

and open forest. There are 12 Sites of Conservation Significance located within a diverse range of areas.

Home to 9% of the Territory’s population its largest town is Katherine (around 10,000<sup>2</sup> people), situated 320km south-east of Darwin on the Katherine River. Katherine is often called the ‘Crossroads of the North’ as it is located on the junction of the Stuart Highway linking with the north and south and the Victoria Highway to WA.



<sup>1</sup> Source Australian Bureau of Statistics

<sup>2</sup> Katherine Town Council

<sup>3</sup> Barkly Shire website



## TABLELANDS

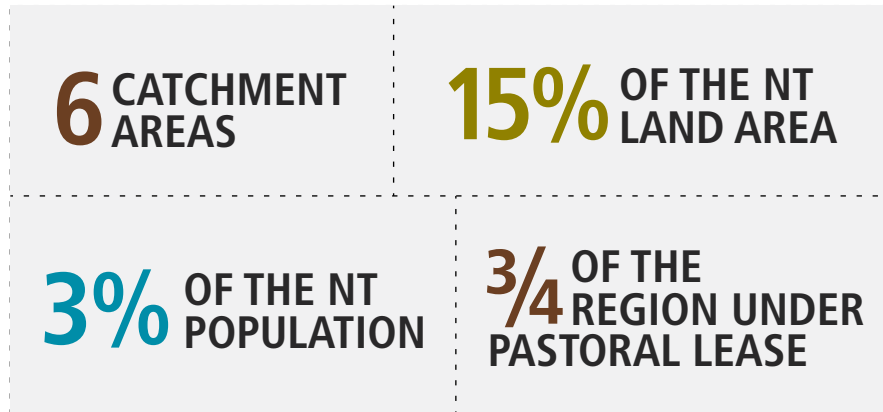
*Includes most of the Mitchell Grass Downs and Davenport Murchison Ranges bioregions, all of the Northern Territory section of the Mount Isa Inlier and parts of Tanami, Gulf Fall and Uplands and Sturt Plateau.*

The rolling grass plains of the Barkly Tablelands cover 15% of the Territory. Primarily cattle country, nearly 75% of the region is under pastoral lease, while 17% is Aboriginal freehold. Less than 1% is covered by conservation reserves. There are three internally-draining catchments and three north-flowing catchments.

The dominant habitat is a semi-arid savanna of Mitchell Grass, while vegetation is mostly open woodland and grassland with smaller areas of spinifex grassland and woodland. The Tablelands has four 'High Conservation Value Aquatic Ecosystems' and seven 'Sites of Conservation significance' which are nearly all

wetland systems (except the Wollogorang and China Wall Sandstone Ranges).

With a mere 3% of the NT's population, its largest towns are Tennant Creek and Elliott. Home to a population of approximately 3,500<sup>3</sup>, Tennant Creek is located on the Stuart Highway about 1000km south of Darwin and 500km north of Alice Springs at the junction of two great arterial roads, the Barkly Highway and the Stuart Highway. Tennant Creek was the site of Australia's last gold rush during the 1930s and at that time was the third-largest gold producer in Australia.



<sup>1</sup> Source Australian Bureau of Statistics  
<sup>2</sup> Katherine Town Council  
<sup>3</sup> Barkly Shire website



## ARID LANDS

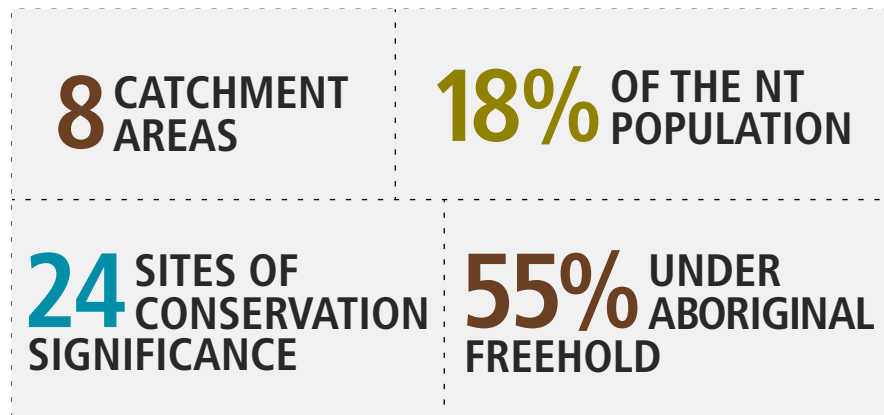
*Includes the MacDonnell Ranges and Burt Plain bioregions, sections of the Great Sandy Desert, Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields, Finke, Central Ranges, Channel Country and Stony Plains bioregions, and sections of the Tanami, Sturt Plateau, Mitchell Grass Downs and Davenport Murchison Ranges bioregions.*

Once covered in rainforests and inland seas, time has transformed the expansive Arid Lands region into the vast tracts of red sand and eroded ranges that we see today. Largest of all the regions, the Arid Lands cover almost half of the Territory, of which about 55% is Aboriginal freehold and 36% pastoral lease. Horticulture is a small, but important industry. Current and proposed protected areas make up 36% of the region; the vast majority of this is as proposed Indigenous Protected Areas.

There are eight catchments that drain internally towards Lake Eyre and the region is dominated by spinifex grassland, open shrubland, and open woodland. There are 24 Sites of Conservation Significance—around half are

ranges and the remainder wetlands (except for the Tanami Desert), eight are internationally significant and the rest are nationally significant.

Home to 18% of the Territory’s population, its largest town is Alice Springs, located 1,500km south of Darwin. This is the NT’s largest regional centre (with about 27,000<sup>1</sup> people) and is the central base for tourism activities around the Arid Lands region. Popular areas for tourists include Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (Ayers Rock and the Olgas), Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon), the Western and Eastern McDonnell Ranges and Rainbow Valley.



<sup>1</sup> Source Australian Bureau of Statistics

<sup>2</sup> Katherine Town Council

<sup>3</sup> Barkly Shire website





# THE NT INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010-15

*The Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) Plan is an NRM plan for all Territorians. The Plan offers us a road map for managing the land, water, biodiversity and coastal resources of the Territory while improving peoples' opportunities and quality of life. It has been put together by TNRM with the help of many people and groups involved with natural resource management around the Territory.*

The INRM Plan is used for good planning and decision making about natural resource management in the Territory. TNRM funds and supports activities based on the INRM Plan and other organisations also help to meet INRM Plan targets through their activities.

The purpose of the INRM Plan is to:

- Guide NRM funding, support and activities from 2010 –15
- Encourage more involvement in NRM in the Territory
- Identify opportunities for new partnerships and investors
- Inform government policies and priorities
- Encourage more funding for NRM in the Territory.

## THE PLAN CONTAINS FOURTEEN PROGRAM AREAS THAT ARE DIVIDED INTO FOUR THEMES.

### ADDRESSING THREATS

How to tackle the problems of fire, weeds and ferals across the NT.

### SUPPORTING ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As we grow and develop we face many new challenges in managing our resources. The plan helps to guide future developments so they are as sustainable as possible.

### MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS

We collect information about Territory landscapes, and provide advice on others can collect and use this information. TNRM promotes knowledge sharing between groups working with NRM issues.

### MAKING IT HAPPEN

We help natural resource managers and volunteers put plans into action through business support, identifying funding opportunities, information networks and training.

A simplified version of the INRM Plan was identified as a priority, in particular, a version of the Plan that could be understood through imagery. In 2013, TNRM developed a poster plan featuring a map of the NT and illustrating an asset and a threat for each region, along with a brief, simplified version of our program themes. This poster has been embraced by many land managers and has been distributed throughout the NT.



## 2012-13 FUNDING

Territory Natural Resource Management is allocated regional base-level funding through the Australian Government to address national environmental and sustainable agriculture targets and outcomes under the Caring for Our Country (CFOC) program.

Where national targets align with regional priorities identified by Territorians in the INRM Plan, TNRM funds and supports on-ground activities as well as engaging and building the capacity of our NRM community to achieve both national and NT targets.

The 2012-2013 financial year sees the end of the current 4 year Caring for Our Country Program and the wrap up of the 85 projects that are currently funded under our annual regional base-level allocation of \$3.687 million.

This year we also successfully completed three Caring for Our Country Open Call projects; the \$677,000 Coordinated response to control of *Mimosa pigra* in the Daly, Moyle & Fitzmaurice Catchments project, our \$230,000 Territory

Sea Country Partnership program, and a \$497,000 project that contributed to our Territory Conservation Agreement program.

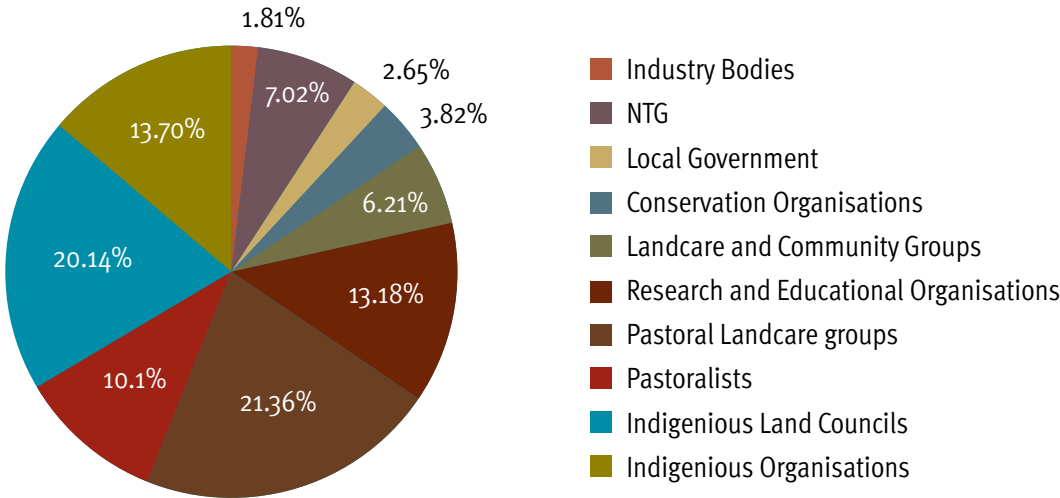
While unfortunately the Mimosa catchment project and the Sea Country Partnership project were not successful in gaining further funding, our Territory Conservation Agreement program will continue until 2018 through funding from the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund.

TNRM was successful in attracting \$780,000 over 4 years, under the Australian Government's NRM Planning for Climate Change program to update and incorporate climate change planning into the NT Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan.

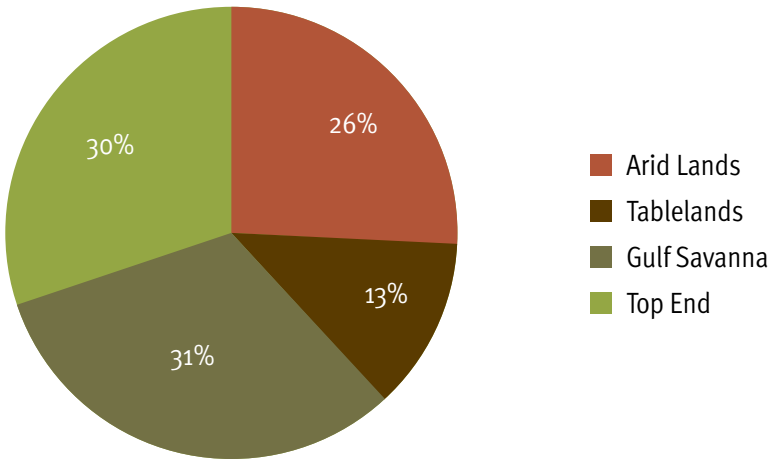
We also received confirmation of our Regional base-level funding allocation of \$3.555 million per year under the new five year Caring for Our Country program.



2012-13 BASELINE FUNDING ALLOCATION BY ORGANISATION TYPE



2012-13 BASELINE FUNDING REGIONAL ALLOCATION



## REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

### Top End

*In January 2013 we welcomed a new Top End Regional Coordinator, who has continued to develop our relationships with existing partners as well as catchment-based approaches to regional NRM issues.*

In and around Darwin, we allocated a number of Local Grants to projects that addressed the issue of threatened habitat in an urban and peri-urban context. The Rapid Creek Landcare Group was supported in removing over 18ha of Gamba Grass from within the Rapid Creek catchment, while at East Point Reserve 0.3ha of seedlings were planted, improving biodiversity values in this sensitive monsoon vine forest site. Out on the Howard Sand Plains – a unique and internationally significant habitat - Greening Australia were supported in removing grassy weeds from three sites.

In the Daly region, the work that the Wangamaty Management Group has been doing has had a significant impact on several billabongs and the Daly River area. With cooperation from block holders along Wooliana road, Wangamaty has been able to clean up several creeks which flow into the Daly, slowing down the spread of Olive Hymenachne and Salvinia in particular. Great results have been obtained from using bio-control agents to control Mimosa (with a moth species) and Salvinia (with a weevil species), and the involvement of the local indigenous community members in the breeding and release of these insects has been pivotal to the success of this project. Joye Maddison was a driving force in conservation and will be very much missed.

A catchment scale approach to integrated NRM has been the focus for the western Top End with a more regional approach being adopted in Arnhem Land. Discussions are ongoing with key stakeholders in this regard.

Several NRM focused workshops were held involving regional stakeholders. Three fire planning meetings (Douglas/Daly research farm and Daly River in April,

and Murganella in June) were held across the Top End. These meetings covered topics such as CFI, reducing cattle emissions, development catchment management plans and the use of spatial modelling tools.

In May, a field day focusing on best practice soil erosion and weed control management was held on Mt Bundy Station (Adelaide River). This workshop involved a variety of specialists and regional stakeholders.

A Vietnamese farmers meeting took place in May to identify opportunities to help growers manage resources. A Vietnamese translation of the “Vegetable Growing Manual” was launched, and discussions were had on funding opportunities to promote sustainable farm practices.

No new TCAs were signed on in 2012-13, but four potential TCA sites are in discussion at this time, including what will likely be our first TCA on Aboriginal land, and annual visits for established sites have taken place.

As well as our land based activities, we have also been busy, engaging with numerous coastal community groups, including indigenous rangers out on the Crocodile Islands. Rangers have engaged in a project to capture and apply traditional Indigenous Ecological Knowledge to fire management out on the islands, as well as adopting a modern-day scientific approach to carrying out wildlife surveys and recording and removing marine debris. In Darwin, we were one of the supporters of the Darwin Harbour Clean-Up Day and chipped in to get our hands dirty in collecting some of the total four tonnes of debris removed from the harbour. The Top End is reliant on a healthy fishing industry – both recreational and commercial - so events such as these make an important contribution in looking after the health of our marine systems.

**Anthony Kerr, Top End Regional Coordinator**





## Gulf Savanna

It has been a busy year in the Gulf Savanna region for the 12/13 period. It has mainly been a year of rounding up projects, looking back at where we've come from and where we are going with the next few years of investment.

Seven new TCAs were established on Tipperary, Maneroo, Lorella Springs Station, Lakefield, Camfield, Montejinni, Maneroo and Shenandoah, all improving the management of valuable high conservation areas throughout the region.

In addition to this, TNRM received nine Expressions of Interest for waterholes, rivers and springs, all of which look to be likely candidates for Territory Conservation Agreements in the near future. Needless to say, the TCA program has gained quite a lot of momentum throughout the Gulf Savanna.

As a result of ongoing capacity building in the Gulf region a new Landcare group has been formed in the gulf. On the 23rd of November the "Gulf Rivers Landcare Group" was formed. The group will improve coordination of weed management and feral animal control throughout the region.

TNRM hosted a three day grazing land management course in Katherine. The course was well attended with 23 land managers making the trip to town. There was great feedback from participants and TNRM was encouraged to fund this type of course again in the future.

The coordinated feral animal project has continued in the VRD through the 2012-13 year with further ground control

and aerial culls planned for later this year. Pastoralists within the project area have noted a significant reduction in feral animal numbers since the project commenced and they are expecting to see an improvement in land condition after a wet season.

The Pellew Island Cat control project has had some excellent results from its integrated management regime. Five consecutive fauna surveys conducted on West Island between 2003 and 2010 failed to capture a single native mammal. Since the project commenced in 2011 two species of native mammal have been recorded, indicating that the cat population was reduced and prey populations may begin to recover.

The Northern Territory Government received \$1,010,000 through the Biodiversity fund over five years for the project Protection and restoration of ecosystem function and values in the Daly catchment. TNRM has been contracted for the last year to manage this project on behalf of the Northern Territory Government. The project has achieved over 3500ha of aerial and on-ground spraying, 60 kilometres of fencing in order to establish improved fire and grazing management practices. The project aims to control outlying and upstream infestations of Bellyache bush and install and maintain Bellyache bush free buffer zones in key locations. The project will continue until 2017.

**James Wright, Gulf Savanna Regional Coordinator**

## Tablelands

Despite suffering dry conditions due to minimal rain over the traditional wet season, the Barkly Tableland region has achieved great NRM outcomes in the last year.

Stakeholder group meetings have been held throughout the year ensuring strong collaboration between NRM stakeholders where opportunity arises. These meetings provided a platform for Felicity Watt (CDU) to present on InfoNet, NAFI and Land Manager web tools available to assist land managers in their work, and for Regional NRM partners to map on-ground activities from the past 2 years and identify future actions that will deliver on the NT INRM Plan and CFOC targets.

TNRM continue to support BLCA in their coordination position ensuring strengthened capacity of the pastoral Landcare network to improve sustainable production while achieving biodiversity outcomes and also support adoption of innovative practices that protect critical aquatic habitats across Barkly Pastoral Land. The BLCA Coordinator has assisted in the promotion of Territory Conservation Agreements, and facilitated a Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) workshop in Tennant Creek.

Barkly Landcare Conservation Association (BLCA) continued to build on reducing the impacts of the WoNS Parkinsonia, Prickly Acacia and Mesquite on pastoral lands in priority Barkly catchments (Georgina, Lake Woods, Tarrabool and Lake Sylvester).

Their strategic management, through monitoring and best practice treatments have contributed to

- Protecting 2000ha of Lake Woods HEVAE from key threats
- Reducing productive potential of Parkinsonia infestations in the Georgina and Lake Woods catchments through treatment of 27,700ha of Parkinsonia in Newcastle Creek, James River, Ranken River, Buckley River and Georgina River riparian zones;
- Achieving 20,270ha of Parkinsonia treatment across pastoral lands in the Tablelands Region.

A Tablelands Regional Weeds Reference Sub-group has been established with the support of the Alice Springs Regional Weeds Reference Group (ASRWRG), TNRM, BLCA and NTG Weeds Branch, and will meet quarterly in Tennant Creek. The group is a sub-branch to the ASRWRG and will advise the Minister on regional weed management priorities.

The Territory Conservation Agreement on Alexandria Station (NAPCo) continues to protect an area of Bluebush Swamp and adjoining Mitchell Grassland on the Mitchell Grass Downs bioregion that has excluded grazing for approximately 40 years. The second year of annual condition assessment and biodiversity monitoring at the site will take place towards the end of 2013. A number of challenges were faced contracting a second TCA on the Barkly at Lake Nash station, and this potential site aims to be revisited next year. In addition, the BLCA Coordinator flagged a number of potential TCA sites during assessment and development of management plans for priority riparian areas identified in the "Register of Barkly Assets".

**Ilse Pickerd, Tablelands Regional Coordinator**





## Arid Lands

It was a busy start to the financial year in the Arid Lands with planning for the TNRM Southern NT Forum a regional priority. The forum was a well-attended event and saw approximately 120 people involved in NRM come together in September to share their NRM projects.

In September, the Arid Lands Regional Coordinator attended the National Landcare Conference in Sydney as TNRM and project partners from Central Australia were finalists at the National Landcare Awards. The conference provided an opportunity to see NRM projects happening elsewhere in Australia.

A collaborative project between the Department of Land Resource Management and TNRM has increased the understandings of the locations and nature of drought refuge waterholes and springs, and has determined fish species presence and identified management activities within the Lake Eyre Basin's Palmer River Catchment, Ooratippra Catchment and mid-Finke River Catchment, totalling 138,900ha.

The CLC has assisted Traditional Owners to actively manage large portions of the Simpson Desert for fire (over 1 million hectares) by preparing fire strategies to enhance the condition of biodiversity assets and cultural values and implementing priority on ground actions.

CLC completed systematic warru (Black-footed Rock-wallaby) surveys in the Mann Range region straddling the NT/SA border. This provided 25 indigenous rangers from Docker River and Northern SA the opportunity to work together to fill the knowledge gap concerning

natural value attributes of part of the Katiti/Petermann Indigenous Protected Area. This project provided further evidence of the historic and recent decline of warru, placing greater significance on managing threats to remaining populations.

Predator control activities have been achieved by the CLC Warlpiri Rangers in the Tanami Desert Sangster's Bore site through a cat and fox baiting program across 10,000ha. This project has involved 14 indigenous rangers, both men and women. The project was also presented at the Darwin and the Alice Springs forums in 2012.

The Northern Territory Cattlemens Association conference took place in Alice Springs in March 2013 and this provided the TNRM team to work together out of the Alice Springs office (as event partners) with an opportunity to discuss TCAs and other NRM activities with the membership base of the NTCA.

The Territory Conservation Agreement application was received for the Arid Lands region and management plans for on-ground activities around soil conservation and feral herbivore management which will improve the spring site over the next 10 years.

**Heidi Groffen, Arid Lands Regional Coordinator**

## PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

### Territory Conservation Agreements

*A Territory Conservation Agreement (TCA) is based on a management plan to protect important environmental sites on a property. TCAs are a 10 year voluntary agreement between TNRM and the landholder, aiming to encourage innovative multiple-use strategies which can demonstrate production benefits as well as delivering conservation outcomes.*

The Territory Conservation Agreement (TCA) program was introduced by Territory Natural Resource Management as a way to support landholders to protect areas of conservation importance on their properties. The first agreement was signed in September 2011 and now, two years into the program, a total of 22 TCAs have been established. Collectively, these sites encompass 12,543ha of ecologically significant habitat, including wetlands and rivers, escarpment country and woodland.

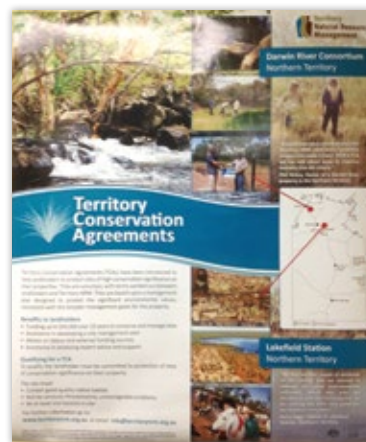
*Over the 2012-13 period a total of 13 TCAs were contracted, adding an extra 11,277ha of land to the program.*

The TCA program helps to protect special sites that do not fall within the system of nationally protected areas. This is important as it helps to create a network of healthy habitat that is linked throughout the broader landscape, creating ‘stepping stones’ for plants and animals.

As part of the jointly agreed obligations that make up the TCA between TNRM and the landowner, management actions may include fencing, weed removal, establishing alternative watering points for cattle, removal of feral animals or changes in burning practices. Follow up activities over the duration of the 10 year contract include monitoring as well as maintaining established infrastructure.

The TCA program has been successful largely due to the fact that TNRM make the process as uncomplicated as possible for landholders and aim to provide the best technical advice for each site. As news of the program has spread by word of mouth, Expressions of Interest have become more frequent, and an increasing variety of landscape types are now included within the program. While TCAs have primarily attracted the interest of pastoralists in the Top End and Gulf Savanna regions, TNRM has been developing the program to include Indigenous-managed areas and we have also been developing TCAs in the Barkly and Arid Lands regions. Another 8 TCAs are currently under review or near completion and there is every expectation that 2013-2014 will be yet another successful year for the program.

More information can be found about our TCA program on the TNRM website: <http://www.territorynrm.org.au/funding/tcas>





## Sea Country Partnerships Program

June 2013 saw the completion of the Territory Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Program (TSCPP), funded through the Australian Government’s Caring for Our Country (Open Call). The program supported the successful delivery of 11 coastal projects which engaged Indigenous communities in on-ground coastal and marine rehabilitation, restoration and conservation actions. NRM activities included dune rehabilitation and revegetation, control of invasive weed species, feral pig control, marine debris removal, fire management and the transmission of Indigenous ecological knowledge.

*This program achieved a very high level of engagement by Indigenous people with over 240 people involved in coastal NRM work, including older and younger generations, traditional owners, ranger groups and school students.*

Training and education for NRM was also a strong element of this program, which resulted in over 38 people completing key units in Certificates I and III, Conservation Land Management, as well as on the job training in feral animal management, native plant propagation and rehabilitation, and weed identification and treatment .

### ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

#### ENGAGEMENT

10 indigenous organisations engaged in 11 coastal projects

Over 126 indigenous people have been engaged in Coastal NRM planning and activities including:

- 30 indigenous students
- 21 Junior rangers

- 56 indigenous rangers
- 19+ Traditional owners and community members

#### ON-GROUND ACTIVITIES:

- Invasive weeds species controlled over 105ha; mimosa, gamba and woody weeds
- 10ha grassy weeds managed – fire hazard reduction
- 20ha of dune rehabilitation and revegetation
- 5 marine debris patrols
- Feral pig control measures undertaken in strategic locations across 800ha

#### CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

- Certificate I and II in Conservation and Land management
- 30 students trained in weed identification and treatment, small machinery operation and maintenance, and environmental sustainability and natural areas maintenance
- 6 rangers trained in tree felling
- 5 rangers received training in chainsaw use

#### ON THE JOB TRAINING

- 10 junior rangers attended work experience on Sea Ranger Boats undertaking snapper research for fisheries and learning the basics about crocodile harvesting.
- 7 rangers attended a two day field trip with AQIS learning blood sampling techniques and feral animal management strategies



## Coastal Engagement and Rehabilitation

### INVESTING IN HARBOUR KNOWLEDGE

In response to high levels of Enterococci bacteria being detected at some Top End beaches, the Aquatic Health Unit (AHU), responsible for marine, estuarine and freshwater monitoring in the Top End) and Larrakia Rangers worked together to test water samples at a number of sites in Darwin Harbour. The rangers went out sampling with AHU once a week for several months to monitor water quality. Testing sites included beaches at Casuarina, Nightcliff, Vestseys, Mindil, Little Mindil and Lameroo as well as the harbour and surrounding rivers and creeks.

This TNRM funded project gave Larrakia rangers a better understanding of what is happening in their local waters, as well as learning some useful field skills.

*“Some of the beaches we were getting samples from are significant sites for Larrakia people, such as the burial sites at Mindil Beach and our ancestor’s old camping grounds at Lameroo Beach. It is our responsibility to keep these places healthy” – Donna, Larrakia Ranger*

### DARWIN HARBOUR CLEAN UP

The annual Darwin Harbour Clean Up is organised by the NT Seafood Council and Ocean Watch Australia’s SeaNet Program. Launched in 2010, it involves volunteers, community, business and government organisations. Over 7.5 tonnes of rubbish was removed from the harbour in the first 3 years and volunteer numbers have grown from around 90 to 120 participants.

TNRM provides funding and communication support to the DHCU and staff members participate on the day.

As well as collecting rubbish, volunteers also sort and analyse it. Analysing the type and amount of debris helps identify trends and can show if any environmental initiatives are effective. The results of this analysis show that much of the Harbour’s debris comes from land-based activities. Since the ban of single use plastic bags was rolled out across the NT, the number of plastic bags collected has reduced, which shows the positive impact initiatives such as this can have on our environment.

### 2012 DHCU STATS:



### CROCODILE ISLANDS MARINE DEBRIS

The Crocodile Islands are located off the coast of north-east Arnhem Land in the Arafura Sea. The largest islands are Milingimbi (Yurruwi), Mooroonga (Murrungga), Yabooma (Rapuma), and north-west Crocodile Island (Gurriba). The islands are a site of national significance for marine turtles which are negatively impacted by ingestion and entanglement in marine debris. Due to the ocean currents around this region, debris accumulates in very high densities around the Crocodile Islands.

The Traditional Owners have strong links to sea country and one of the important roles of the Crocodile Island Rangers is conducting beach patrols to remove marine debris across all the islands—including highly hazardous ‘ghost nets’ (abandoned fishing nets) that can cause untold damage to a wide array of wildlife (e.g. birds, turtles, marine mammals and fish). TNRM provided targeting funding to support Crocodile Island Rangers in continuing this vital work, to promote community education on the impacts of marine debris and to carry out ranger training in Indigenous Ecological Knowledge. The rangers have also been using modern technology as part of their clean-up efforts, using trackers to record data on type and volume of debris found- as well as recording its location. A total of 9 rangers, 6 ranger volunteers and 15 junior rangers have been involved in this project and have removed piles of marine debris from the beach and surrounding seas, including 35 ghost nets.

rubbish  
 take it with  
 you





Territory Natural Resource Management

**Indigenous Ecological Knowledge Manual**

Territory Natural Resource Management

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

## Indigenous Engagement

*Territory Natural Resource Management endeavours to support Indigenous people to maintain, pass on and store traditional ecological knowledge, also known as Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (IEK).*

TNRM has continued to support the practice and recording of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (IEK) both through its on-ground projects and the development of relevant resources, including an IEK Manual and an Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Facts Sheet. Both documents are available on our website, and numerous copies were also distributed at the World Indigenous Network (WIN) held in Darwin in May. These documents help guide TNRM staff and other organisations to resource, plan and implement projects incorporating IEK, and to manage this knowledge appropriately.

The WIN conference was a wonderful opportunity for TNRM staff to join a large and diverse international gathering with a focus on showcasing and sharing Indigenous people's involvement in cultural and natural resource management. TNRM sponsored the conference and also had a stand at the venue, and our resource materials proved very popular with conference participants. Not only were we able to meet and share stories with attendees from around the world, it was also a valuable opportunity to meet a broad range of Indigenous representatives from across the NT.

### BUSH MEDICINE WORKSHOP

A Central Land Council project funded by TNRM facilitated an unprecedented sharing of Indigenous knowledge and experiences concerning bush medicines and their use, creating a network across eastern central Australia.

A 3-day Medicinal Plant Workshop was delivered, stage 1 of a 6 stage project, in response to concerns raised by Aboriginal people and TOs regarding potential over-harvesting of medicinal plant species and communities in the eastern region of central Australia.

In dealing with environmental and community concerns, some protocols around plant harvest and population sustainability were discussed in terms of 'Good Manners' when harvesting on your own country or neighbouring country.

The information gathered at this unique event was shared through development of booklets, within the CLC publication, Land Rights News and with the local media.

The breadth of the information has the potential to be used in each of the community areas where the participants come from; resulting in an increase of regional awareness to bush medicine and TOs concerns.

## BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF INDIGENOUS LAND MANAGERS

Out in the Corella Creek region of the Barkly Tablelands, locals voiced their interest in learning how to manage their own country and create future employment activities. Under the mentorship of Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association (BLCA) and with support from TNRM and MPTM contractors, wheels were set in motion to establish a community-based training program for weed eradication. Local company MPTM contractors provided travel assistance for a small trainee group to go to Pine Creek and complete a chemical handling course. The group were then able to undertake a weed management projects with support from TNRM.

Local trainees receive regular onsite training, monitoring and weed identification education and are now helping to eradicate stands of Parkinsonia that are taking over the region's lakes and waterways.

### INDIGENOUS ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE MANUAL

From 2008 – 2010 TNRM delivered the Australian Government funded Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (IEK) program in partnership with the Central Land Council (CLC) and the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA). The IEK program supported over 80 on-ground projects across the NT generating numerous written, audio and film recordings of IEK, and resulted in the development of thorough and informative resources on Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property. The IEK Program was highly collaborative and broad reaching, involving over 2,000 project participants and 60 different multi-sector organisations. IEK projects had achieved significant momentum across the Territory when program funding ceased in 2010.

The IEK manual, produced early in 2013, follows up the many successes of the IEK program, and responds to a specific recommendation in the 2011 IEK Program evaluation to produce a manual for successful IEK engagement in an NT context.

Indigenous people's ecological knowledge is an important part of living on and looking after country, and managing natural resources in the Northern Territory. It is a complex, localised and adaptable body of knowledge and practice which has provided the basis for Indigenous people to survive in and manage the Australian landscape for thousands of years. Built on information passed down between generations, Indigenous people's ecological knowledge is embedded and finds definition in family, cultural, social, spiritual and environmental contexts.

## Supporting Sustainable Production

*Sustainable primary industries are important to the long term management of natural resources and economic growth in the Territory.*

With the continuing growth and development in the Northern Territory, our agricultural systems are under increasing demand and, if these systems are to remain productive, they must first and foremost be sustainable. This year TNRM worked with pastoral landcare and primary industry groups to support sustainable practices through on ground projects and the sharing of knowledge and skills through activities such as field day and workshops.

We continued funding to support the coordination of the four pastoral landcare groups in the NT; Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association, Centralian Land Management Association, Roper River Landcare Group and Victoria River District Conservation Association. Funding also supported the implementation of projects that tackle the problems of weeds and feral animals, as well as building the capacity of land managers to undertake natural resource management activities and adopt new practices.

Consultation with the Plant Industries Group of the Northern Territory Government revealed a need to increase the availability of best practice sustainable agriculture information within the Top End and Gulf Savanna melon growers sector. TNRM staff worked with staff from the Plant Industries Group to develop and host a well attended forum that brought together growers from across the NT to hear an overview of the industry covering subjects such as cover cropping, export and grafting.

In central Australia, a week-long Landscape Literacy course hosted by Centralian Land Management Association and funded by TNRM provided land managers with insights into the Ecosystem Management Understanding (EMU)™ program. The course covered drainage system ecology; particularly key patterns and processes that optimize primary production and rainfall infiltration. Participants learnt to compile system assessments and discuss landscape and local restoration options and priorities.

TNRM also funded projects in the Gulf Savanna region to demonstrate the rotational grazing method – known to improve species diversity, groundcover and water infiltration as well as reducing erosion and the threat of weeds. This method involves intensively grazing stock in smaller fenced off paddocks thereby enabling land managers to spell large parts of their property. Overall, adoption of this method on the demonstration sites quickly delivered observable improvement in ground cover.

TNRM staff also supported a range of field days during the year. In the Douglas Daly region 80 people gathered to learn about and discuss fire planning, Leuceana browsing, cell grazing, senepol crossbreeding and heifer selection, carbon farming opportunities, gamba grass management and conservation and development planning for the Daly catchment. At a field day on Mount Bundy Station, 50 pastoralists, land managers, students and industry experts gathered to learn about soil erosion and discuss weeds, pastures and soil health. The field day included lessons in soil erosion and how leaving it unmanaged can lead to significant long term costs for graziers.



Mount Bundy Field Day Conservation Workshop, May 2013







## Landcare

TNRM supports urban Landcare groups across the NT as well as the four larger pastoral Landcare groups; the Roper River Landcare Group Inc (RRLG), Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association (BLCA), Victoria River District Conservation Association (VRDCA) and Centralian Land Management Association (CLMA).

### URBAN LANDCARE GROUPS

In 2012-13, TNRM supported a number of smaller projects in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. In and around Darwin, we funded a number of Local Grant projects that addressed the issue of threatened habitat in an urban and peri-urban context. The Rapid Creek Landcare Group was supported in removing over 18ha of gamba grass from within the Rapid Creek catchment, while in Katherine, funding provided to the Katherine Landcare Group was used in a targeted campaign to encourage landowners to manage and remove woody weeds from within the Katherine River corridor. In Alice Springs, the local Landcare Group has been removing the remaining stands of Athel pine from within the Todd River catchment.

### PASTORAL LANDCARE GROUPS

Nearly 50% of the NT comprises pastoral lease, and the work being done by TNRM can only be effective with a collaborative NT-wide network of information sharing and support. The relationship between TNRM and the NT's pastoral landcare groups is one example of collaborative NRM; the groups receive funding and support from TNRM, while the pastoral groups facilitate on-ground activities, deliver capacity building initiative and can serve as an intermediary between individual stakeholders and TNRM.

### ROPER RIVER LANDCARE GROUP (RRLG)

In the Roper River Basin, the Landcare group has been carrying out multiple activities to tackle the threats of weeds, ferals and soil condition. Erosion control (track and fenceline) workshops were held and engaged with 16 land managers. Following these workshops, the coordinator gave on-ground help to 5 station owners. Baseline activities included the removal of 2,766 ha of lantana, 5,102ha of bellyache bush, 4,380ha of prickly acacia, 3,530ha of mesquite and 6,900ha of parkinsonia in 2012-13.

### VICTORIA RIVER DISTRICT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (VRDCA)

The VRDCA has received TNRM's support in conducting a series of workshops and field days to promote best practise sustainable land use in the following fields; erosion mitigation, wild dog management and using dung beetles to control the spread of disease. Additional outcomes in the removal of weeds and ferals are highlighted in more detail in the corresponding sections of the Annual Report but include the removal of around 30,000 feral animals (donkeys and horses in particular) and the monitoring and control of weed species over 173,200ha.

### BARKLY LANDCARE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (BLCA)

The BLCA is a community organisation dedicated to improving land and environmental management practices on the Barkly Tablelands - which covers an area of around 240,000km<sup>2</sup>. The region covers a range of semi-arid landscapes including Mitchell Grass Downs and desert country south of Tennant Creek. Most land management activities in this region are centred on the monitoring and removal of 'prickle bushes' (namely parkinsonia, mesquite and prickly acacia). Over 40,000ha has been treated for WoNS species including prickle bushes, mimosa and chinee apple across the Barkly, including within the Lake Woods catchment – a high value aquatic ecosystem.

### CENTRALIAN LAND MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (CLMA)

The CLMA works to foster sound land management practices within the local pastoral industry for a productive and sustainable future. The association's region covers 300,000km<sup>2</sup> of pastoral lands in the southern NT. Funding from TNRM helped in the removal of Athel Pine from across 100ha and in the implementation of improved land management practices (such as soil conservation and erosion mitigation plans) across over 15,000ha.

## Managing Weeds

*Weeds can have a significant detrimental effect on the environment and production values by adding fuel loads to fire, competing with native species, blocking access to waterways and degrading agricultural land.*

Exotic plants are now a major component of some of our Territory environments. There are 61 identified weeds across the NT, of which 17 are classified as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS). A plant is classified as a WoNS when it has the potential to be highly invasive, the capacity to spread over a wide area and is likely to have negative economic, social and environmental impacts.

### COORDINATED RESPONSE TO ON-GROUND CONTROL OF MIMOSA (*MIMOSA PIGRA*) IN THE DALY, MOYLE AND FITZMAURICE CATCHMENTS.

Through collaborative landscape scale management this project focussed on protecting and improving native habitats in the Daly, Moyle and Fitzmaurice Catchments. The project commenced in 2009 and ceased in June 2013 and was funded through \$2.1million from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program and \$3 million in in-kind contributions from land managers.

Project activities included:

- Community consultation with Traditional Owners and Pastoral land managers
- Ground & aerial survey
- Development of property and catchment management plans
- Ground & aerial herbicide treatment
- Mechanical control (Chaining & Burning)
- Biological Control
- Site monitoring
- Development & sharing of skills & knowledge
- Resource development

With survey data collated for the whole project site it has been possible to identify and treat priority sites and develop a comprehensive 5 year catchment plan. Since 2010, project partners have been responsible for the annual treatment of over 17,000 hectares of Mimosa across 70,750 km<sup>2</sup> through a combination of aerial and ground spraying and mechanical control. Biological control agents have also been active and successful throughout the project site.

Overall the project has progressed well. Mimosa control techniques have seen a positive result in the state of infestations and outliers. Regular site visits and monitoring have shown that the ongoing treatment of Mimosa has reduced the size of larger infestations and the majority of outlier infestations are being well managed.

Annual aerial spray treatment has been extremely successful, achieving high Mimosa kill rates. Ground treatment has also had really positive results in some areas but has not been so successful in others. The lack of success in some areas can be attributed to limited access, meaning that at times, land managers cannot physically reach problem sites to control Mimosa.

Through on-ground activities and training courses, land managers within the catchment have increased their skills and improved their methods in managing Mimosa. Knowledge retention had been a limitation in some areas, however the project has responded to this through the provision of visual support tools.

Partner relationships and community engagement have been positive. The project has seen an increased interaction between pastoral stations and Indigenous ranger groups.



Mimosa treatment activities in the Daly-Moyle catchment





## QUOTES FROM MIMOSA PROJECT PARTNERS

### CHANGING ATTITUDES

“It really makes me happy to see the way the rangers are changing their attitude to Mimosa. I hate it and think of it as a fight, as a battle against it. Now I walk around and I hear them say “die you weed, die you weed” as they are spraying it, and I think that is great. They understand how bad it is and this is more than just a job they are doing.”

### THINGS ARE GOING PRETTY WELL...

“You can see the results on the ground. You almost need to be careful now that you don’t get complacent. That has happened here years ago. People were happy with the control and let it go for a few years. You can’t do that or you lose all your advantage. There is going to be a maintenance component all the time, and that will get less and less but if you don’t do it you will just create a monster again.”

### THE KIDS KNOW NOW

“The whole community is starting to understand. Even the kids are starting to recognise mimosa. The other day some kids came to me and said “I see that bullshit weed” and took me to a stand of mimosa we did not know about. If everyone knows, and we work together, we have a much better chance of finding it.”

### WEEDS BRANCH EVALUATION SURVEY

“Vast monocultures of mimosa in the Sabina district have been successfully treated; remnant dead stick burnt or broken down and the area has naturally revegetated suppressing the mimosa seedlings. Bullocky scrub (near Palumpa) was a ~5ha dense thicket of adult mimosa in 2010. It was almost impenetrable to all but buffaloes. The area now appears clear of all adult mimosa. There is in its place a carpet of seedlings, however minimal effort is required from the ground to control and prevent the plants from seedling.”

## BELLYACHE BUSH (JATROPHA GOSSYPIIFOLIA) MANAGEMENT IN THE DALY RIVER CATCHMENT

Bellyache bush) is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts.

This project supports land managers in the Daly River catchment to manage infestations of Bellyache bush on pastoral, aboriginal and NT Government land through a targeted control program aimed at creating Bellyache bush free buffer zones and reducing threats to biodiversity and production values.

The control program takes an integrated approach to Bellyache bush management utilising control methods such as chemical application, fire and grazing management and mechanical control.

Overall work has progressed well. A Daly River Catchment Bellyache Bush Stakeholder group has been established with representatives from seven affected pastoral properties, two Aboriginal lands trusts, two conservation reserves, the Victoria River District Conservation Association and the Department of Land Resource Management (Weeds Branch). The meetings have provided an opportunity for stakeholders to guide the direction of the project which has been a key factor in engaging stakeholders in project planning and for sharing knowledge amongst the group.

Property management plans for all properties in the project have been drafted. Aerial spray treatment has been extremely successful with a total area of 3,500ha treated across seven properties.

### TACKLING PRICKLE BUSHES IN THE BARKLY:

*Invasive plants such as prickly acacia (Acacia nilotica) parkinsonia (Parkinsonia aculeate) and mesquite (Prosopis limensis) are able to tolerate the harsh conditions of our Tablelands, and without competition from other trees they have been aggressively invading large areas, degrading huge tracts of land.*

The Consolidated Pastoral Company Pty Ltd (CPC) continued on-ground control of Parkinsonia at Lake Woods across approximately 13,384ha with an excellent reduction rate. Lake Woods is an important wetland ecosystem and a site of international significance supporting large numbers of waterbirds. Broad scale aerial surveys and on-ground assessments have shown the number of adult and juvenile Parkinsonia plants within the Lake Woods catchment have been reduced by 75%. Previously sprayed areas were re-treated over the course of this year.

### ATHEL PINE ERADICATION IN ALICE SPRINGS

Alice Springs Landcare Inc has removed remaining Athel Pines (*Tamarix aphylla*) from 4 sites in Alice Springs, which is located within the riparian zone of the Todd River catchment. This work builds on a control program that has been carried out over the last two decades, and removed a small number of remaining plants that posed a risk of spreading and impacting on the riparian native vegetation downstream. The group also facilitated a weeds awareness and removal workshop at Telegraph Station focusing on the *Cylindropuntia* Cacti.

## Protecting Habitat and Species

*Nearly 200 plant and animal species are considered threatened in the Northern Territory. To properly manage our biodiversity assets, we must learn more about which species are declining and why.*

Over 2012-13, TNRM has supported a number of projects – particularly in the Arid Lands region, to assess the status of some of our most threatened species and to plan and implement on-ground work to protect them.

A collaborative project between the Department of Land Resource Management and TNRM has increased the understanding of the locations and nature of drought refuge waterholes and springs in the Arid Lands. They also determined fish species presence and identified required management activities within the Lake Eyre Basin's Palmer River Catchment, Ooratippra Catchment and mid-Finke River Catchment, totalling 138,900ha.

In Central Australia, a collaborative project between Senior Traditional Owners, Rangers from Papunya, Docker River and Santa Teresa and Desert Wildlife Services; carried out surveys of the Common Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecular*); an endangered species in central Australia. The project surveyed sites where possums had been recorded 20 years ago and identified areas where possums had been present, giving insight into preferred habitat and potential threats such as weeds, fire, feral predators and herbivore impacts for on ground management and prioritisation.

A project with Central Land Council deployed remote sensor cameras on top of Mt Edward within the Haast Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust, resulting in the identification of the endangered Central Rock Rat as well as remains found in scats collected at the sites surveyed. It is therefore highly likely that Mt Edward is supporting a population of Central Rock Rat, a species only known to occur at sites within the West MacDonnell National Park.

Indigenous rangers and Central Land Council staff also completed a project in the Davenport and Murchison Ranges site of conservation significance (SOCS) looking after important rock holes on Aboriginal land through fencing approximately 50ha. Fauna surveys were carried out across 5000ha and results determined the presence of the Black-footed Rock Wallaby in the area, which is now the most northern population on record in the Northern Territory. Indigenous ecological knowledge was recorded on the Black-footed Rock Wallaby, as well as a bush medicine plant endemic to the area.

Systematic Black-footed Rock-wallaby surveys were also conducted in the Mann Range region straddling the NT/SA border. This provided 25 indigenous rangers from Docker River and Northern SA the opportunity to work together to build their survey skills and to fill the knowledge gaps around the natural values of part of the Katiti/Petermann Indigenous Protected Area. This project provided further evidence of the historic and recent decline of rock wallabies placing greater significance on managing threats to remaining populations.

There are 174 nationally and/or NT-threatened species across the Territory, including 68 plant species, 34 insect species, 8 fish species, 14 reptile and amphibian species, 20 bird species and 30 mammal species. The remote and often inaccessible nature of the NT means that there are many new species still being discovered by scientists today.









## Feral Animal Management

*Feral animals can harm the environment by contaminating waterways, overgrazing and/or competing with or killing native animals or livestock.*

In 2012-13 funding from TNRM has helped to remove over 32,250 feral herbivore species from across the NT. Targeted species were donkeys, camels, horses and buffalo.

Across the Victoria River District, an aerial control program has helped to remove 16,500 feral herbivores from 11 stations and Gregory National Park. Meanwhile, projects at Mistake Creek, Limbunya and Kirkimbie stations combined in a collaborative program to control donkey and horse populations moving into the Ord Catchment in Western Australia. A total of 10,266 donkeys/horses and 1,822 camels were successfully removed from an area of over 70,000ha

With support from TNRM, Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers from the Ramingining community in the Arafura region are participating in a buffalo control project. The Top End's Arafura swamp is a large freshwater wetland in near-pristine condition that supports a diverse array of plants and animals. The feeding and wallowing behaviour of buffalo has been impacting on native grasses, causing soil erosion and contributing to saltwater intrusion via their swim channels. The project involved aerial surveys across 42,978ha of swampland, the removal of 3000 buffalo, training two rangers in firearm use and the development of a 5-year management plan.

Traditional Owners of the Mungkarta Aboriginal Land Trust identified five rock holes in the Davenport and Murchison ranges (Tablelands region) that are susceptible to fouling when feral donkeys and horses become trapped in them. Feral horses present a challenge for land managers as they are capable of causing serious environmental damage by overgrazing and competing with native species. Indigenous rangers have taken steps to fence waterholes and women rangers have undertaken population surveys across 3,000 ha to identify rock wallaby distribution and habitat. These surveys, in conjunction with recording and transfer of IEK, will help land managers develop a management plan for the area.

On the Pellew Islands, introduced cats have caused a drastic decline in mammal populations and resulted in the possible extinction of five native mammal species and the disappearance of four more from most of the islands on which they formerly occurred. TNRM has been supporting a project that aims to eradicate cats from West Island where five consecutive fauna surveys since 2000 have failed to capture a single mammal. A pilot study on the island in July 2010 indicated cat sausage baits are palatable to cats and should be a successful method of control. After an integrated cat control program of trapping, tracking, spotlighting and baiting, the team has now reported a drastic reduction in the number of cats and have since observed the return of a relatively small but significant number of small native mammals on the island.

A central Australian project within the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust and Mt Edwards, has been working to protect significant sites across the Greater MacDonnell Ranges from the impact of camels—particularly around springs and waterholes. In arid areas, the survival of many native plants and animals depends on these permanent and semi permanent water reserves. Camels degrade these refuge sites by trampling and eating the surrounding vegetation as well as muddying, silting, destabilising, drinking and fouling the available water. In collaboration with Central Land Council staff, 7 Papunya Rangers and Traditional Owners worked together to fence 2.5km of the Ulumparru Spring complex and install 'decoy' alternative watering points. In addition, 130 camels were removed and camera traps were set up at unfenced springs to monitor camel impacts. Data from cameras has helped guide management decisions by Traditional Owners on which springs should be fenced as a priority.

Predator control activities have been undertaken by the Warlpiri Rangers and Central Land Council staff in the Tanami Desert Sangster's Bore site through a cat and fox baiting program across 10,000ha. This project enabled 14 men and women rangers to improve their skills in control techniques. Rangers also travelled to Darwin in November 2012 to present this project to an audience of 150 people at the TNRM Annual Forum and this project was presented at the TNRM Alice Springs forum in September 2012.

Feral animals can damage the environment by competing with native species for food and water, spreading weeds, contaminating waterways and degrading the production values of agricultural land. TNRM supports activities that strategically and humanely manage feral species at the landscape scale to protect our environmental assets such as our water resources, soil and native wildlife.

There are 28 feral species listed as occurring in the NT, of which 15 are mammal species. TNRM primarily supports projects tackling the threats from camels, horses, donkeys, cats, foxes, pigs, buffalo and wild cattle.

## Fire Management

*Large scale, unmanaged fires can have a damaging impact on native plants, animals, significant sites and pastoral production. TNRM supports coordinated fire management to strengthen culture, protect biodiversity, maximise production and abate greenhouse gas emissions.*

### MANAGING FIRE IN THE SIMPSON DESERT

A project with Central Land Council assisted Traditional Owners to actively manage large portions (over 1 million hectares) of the Simpson Desert for fire by preparing fire strategies to enhance the condition of biodiversity assets and cultural values and implementing priority on ground actions. With the recent hand-back of Crown land to traditional owners, Aboriginal people now have freehold title to large portions of the Simpson Desert. The CLC is keen to assist Traditional Owners in actively managing this country, with fire management identified as a key priority. Consultation meetings involving up to 60 Traditional Owners and community members have led to the preparation and implementation of fire management strategies. The project is focused on the main parcels of Aboriginal freehold land located in the greater Simpson Desert region.

### STRENGTHENING CULTURE THROUGH FIRE ON THE CROCODILE ISLANDS:

Laurie Baymarrwangga is an indigenous elder from north east Arnhem Land. Now well into her 90s, Laurie has worked tirelessly to save and pass on the priceless gifts of her culture; language, songs and customs as well as knowledge of countless generations of intimate coexistence with the sea. In 2012 she was awarded the honour of Senior Australian of the Year.

The Crocodile Islands rangers have used a TNRM grant to consult with Laurie Baymarrwangga and other Traditional Owners to understand and document the

Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (IEK) relating to burning on the Crocodile Islands and to develop a long-term fire management plan specific to this area based on this knowledge. Island environments face a number of unique conservation challenges that we do not see in mainland habitats, and there is currently no formal advice on how to best manage island burning except to use IEK.

This body of traditional knowledge offers an invaluable resource for maintaining the islands' rich flora and fauna biodiversity. However, as much of this knowledge is inextricably linked with the Yan-nhangu language itself – which is only spoken by a few people – then an essential aspect of management also involves the preservation of this language. The information collected during this research – previously unrecorded in this region of Australia – has shed light on the unique burning practices of these islands. Unlike mainland burning regimes which have a strong focus on game hunting, the mostly marine-based diet of the Yan-nhangu means that the islands have been burned at different times and for different reasons; more closely aligned with the reproduction of vegetable food, forests, fruits and grass resources. The rangers work with the old people and the junior rangers to learn the deep connections of kin with country. TNRM funding has enabled a tailored burning regime to be recorded for two of the inner and one of the outer Crocodile Islands.

*“The myths of the ancestors are fundamental to harmonising the process of burning, singing and caring for sea country, The TNRM grant allowed us to examine those metaphysical connections that make natural resource management more than a science but a way of life” – Bentley James, linguist with the CIR.*





## Building Knowledge and Capacity in NRM

*To achieve good natural resource management in the Territory, we need to work together across tenures, borders, landscapes and seascapes. Due to our small and sparse population in the NT, it is important to provide opportunities for people to get together and learn from one another.*

Over 2012-13, TNRM hosted the following events which enabled natural resource managers to learn from one another, increase their skills and knowledge, and participate in cross region networking:

### ALICE SPRINGS FORUM 11TH SEPTEMBER

**120** people gathered to listen to presentations on projects and activities in the region, share stories and discuss natural resource management in the Arid Lands and Tablelands

### TNRM ANNUAL FORUM 29TH NOVEMBER, DARWIN

**150** people from all over the NT gathered to hear presentations, share updates and stories on natural resource management projects and activities

### TNRM WORKSHOPS 30TH NOVEMBER, DARWIN

**70** people from across the NT came to gain training and learn new skills through a range of free community workshops covering social media, new media technology, GIS training, Itracker use, carbon farming and grant writing.

### HOSTING AND SUPPORTING FIELD DAYS

In collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, TNRM supported the Melon Growers Forum at Katherine Research Station. This forum attracted 30 people, many of whom had travelled over 3 hours to attend.

Gulf Land Management field day was supported by TNRM with 40 people attended resulting in the new Gulf River Landcare Group forming on November.

A Landscape Literacy course was supported by TNRM in Alice Springs with 14 participants learning how to read the landscape to support planning and implementation of on ground activities.

TNRM provided in-kind communication and GIS support for the Douglas Daly Field Day attended by 80 people and supported a Soil Management Field Day at Mt Bundy in May attended by 50 people.

TNRM also hosted a Grazing Land Management a course Katherine for 30 land managers from across the region.

In collaboration with Batchelor Institute lecturers we supported iPad training courses in Darwin and Alice Springs to teach 50 land managers how to produce videos of their NRM activities using iPads.



## Collaborative Planning

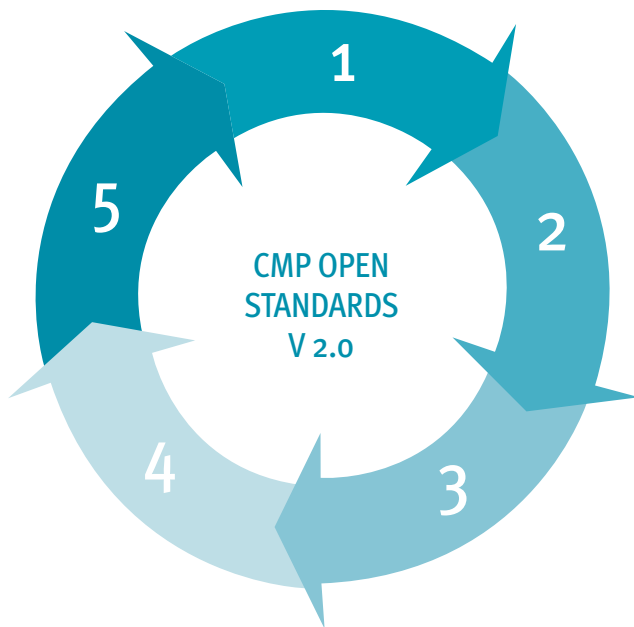
*To achieve effective natural resource management, we need to think outside our own sphere and plan and work collectively across the NT and beyond.*

TNRM facilitates stakeholder collaboration through meetings and events where NRM issues can be openly discussed and strategically tackled.

Most of the projects supported by TNRM in the past financial year have had a strong collaborative element to them and included some cross border activities with WA, SA and QLD.

## OPEN STANDARDS PLANNING

Good planning is essential to delivering good NRM outcomes. It is important to engage the community through sound participatory planning. To support planning at local and regional level, TNRM ran the first stage of the Open Standards Planning training program in Darwin. This event brought people from organisations such as the Central Land Council, Northern Land Council, Parks and Wildlife and Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association. The second stage of this planning is due to take place in September.



### 1. CONCEPTUALIZE

- Define team
- Define scope, vision, targets
- Identify critical threats
- Complete situation analysis

### 2. PLAN ACTIONS AND MONITORING

- Develop goals, strategies, and objectives
- Develop monitoring plan
- Evaluate capacity and risk

### 3. IMPLEMENT ACTIONS AND MONITORING

- Develop work plans
- Implement work plans
- Refine work plans

### 4. ANALYZE, USE, ADAPT

- Develop work plans
- Implement work plans
- Refine work plans

### 5. CAPTURE AND SHARE LEARNING

- Document learning
- Share learning
- Create learning environment

### RANGELANDS ALLIANCE

TNRM is a member of the Rangelands Alliance which is made up of regional NRM organisations across the rangelands, a region that makes up 80% of Australia’s land mass. The Alliance has identified a number of key themes as priorities to be addressed collaboratively across the rangelands including ground cover/ total grazing pressure, biodiversity management and pest control.

### NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

TNRM has been working with an alliance of NRM regional bodies across northern Australia, activity recently focussed on the development of a collaborative pan-northern bid for funding under the Biodiversity Fund: Northern Australia Targeted Investment Program.



## ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

*Our continued development over the past financial year has led to some significant changes to our structure and organisation;*

### CONSTITUTION

In September 2012, TNRM changed its constitution to become a membership based organisation.

Previously, Board Directors were appointed by the Chief Executive of the Department of Land Resource Management. Directors are now appointed through a recruitment process involving members of the organisation.

### MEMBERSHIP

It was important to TNRM that we provided an additional opportunity for the natural resource management community to communicate the needs of Territorians to our Board, this is now provided through the opportunity to become a member of the organisation.

Membership is open to associations and organisations that have an interest in natural resource management, are incorporated in the NT, or who represent people in the NT.

A membership structure encourages networking across our regional network, communication of events and the opportunity to spread news of the Members' Organisation. Each Member nominates a delegate, who holds a voting right at the AGM. The Delegate also has the opportunity to input on items provided to the Members for comment, and can nominate to participate in the Board Director recruitment process. At the end of June 2013, we had a total of fifteen members.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our first membership-based AGM took place on the 28 November. Of our then 12 members, five were present to provide quorum. The AGM included adoption of our financial statements, annual report, reports from the Board and election of Directors to Board offices.

The Director Selection Panel was elected and consists of two Directors and three Members, representing the Indigenous, pastoral and conservation sectors. When a Board Director vacancy arises the Director Selection Panel reviews applications, interviews and provides recommendations to the Board and Members.

Thank you to the three Member delegates who provided invaluable feedback and support during the Director recruitment this year which resulted in three new Directors joining the TNRM Board.

The Director Selection Panel term is one year, with election or re-election taking place at the AGM. The second member based AGM will be held later in the year to coincide with the Annual Forum.

### ESTABLISHING GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) CAPACITY

Efficient natural resource management is most effective when using the best available knowledge. In order to develop our capacity to deliver improved land management strategies, TNRM employed a spatial scientist in November 2012. The decision was made to use freely available GIS software which would keep costs down and would enable us to develop a tool which could be offered to interested partners and NRM groups without infringing copyright regulations.

Eight months later TNRM GIS is a multifaceted, fully functional and feature rich system. Seven TNRM members (more than 50% of the staff) have already received different levels of training tailored to their respective needs and previous experience. In-house GIS training in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs offices will remain ongoing to reflect evolving needs and capabilities. GIS support has also been provided to other groups with training as well as an initial GIS complete with free core datasets and QGIS.



## INDIGENOUS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

TNRM has developed a stronger focus on Indigenous capacity development this financial year. Guided by TNRM's Indigenous Employment Strategy, we have worked on developing an Indigenous Traineeship pilot program and have also employed an Indigenous Capacity Development Officer to support Indigenous engagement and capacity development in a range of NRM projects across the Territory.

## ESTABLISHING A SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

We worked with a consultant on the development of an organisation social media strategy. Our staff were trained in the use social media to enhance our ability to share on ground projects and activities across the NT. At the end of June 2013 TNRM had 200 Facebook fans and 250 Twitter followers.

## STAFF CHANGES

Contract Support Officer, Beth Corkery left the team for Melbourne and was replaced by Anita Hallam in July.

Alisa Westland joined us in October as Executive Support Officer, replacing Margaret Foster who moved to Maningrida.

Top End Regional Coordinator, Chantal Bramley left the position in November and was replaced by Anthony Kerr in January.

Nathalie Laurence initially joined the TNRM team in the Darwin office as a temporary assistant in October 2012 to help out with the annual forum but her role soon evolved to cover a broad range of NRM topics. Nathalie's contracted role as Special Projects Officer was formalised in early February.

Jamie Lewis joined the team as Bellyache Bush Coordinator on a 12 month contract and he took up the Katherine based position in October 2012.

Spatial Scientist Philippe Puig joined the TNRM team to develop and implement GIS, utilising existing data and seeking additional projects. TNRM are growing their data information and Philippe has been instrumental in expanding this area of expertise and making it accessible to our project partners.

Robert Fuller has joined TNRM as Indigenous Capacity Officer.

Christina Maloney has been contracted to assist with the coordination of the NRM and Landcare Awards in November.



## STAFF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TNRM encourages training and development of staff to support our team to grow and develop to maximise performance and achieve positive results.

Training and development undertaken by staff this year includes:

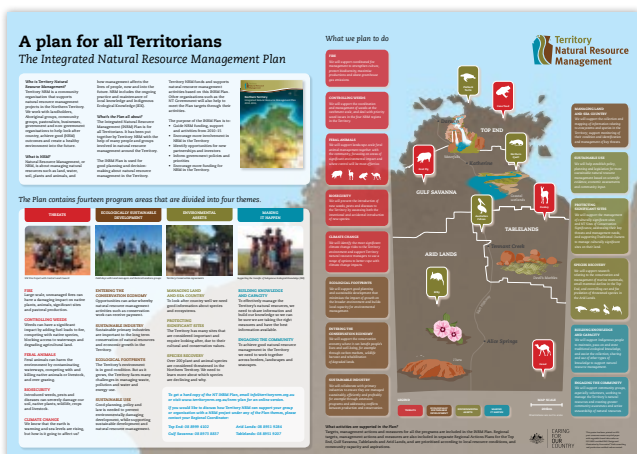
- First Aid training
- Four Wheel drive training
- Diploma in accounting
- Diploma in Management
- Geographic Information Systems training (in-house)
- Open Standards Planning
- CPA course
- Video production for reporting
- Grant writing course
- Social media mentoring
- iTracker

## INRM POSTER PLAN

A simplified version of the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan was identified as a priority, in particular, a version of the Plan that could be understood through imagery.

We decided to develop a poster which featured a map of the NT and illustrated an asset and a threat for each region, along with a brief, simplified version of the Program themes.

This poster has been embraced by many land managers and has been distributed throughout the NT.



## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Greater media exposure, community engagement and broadening of networks has led to an increase in the number of groups and people engaging with TNRM and participating in natural resource management activities.

Territory Natural resource Management and our related activities featured in approximately 60 news articles this year; include the ABC broadcasting live from our annual Territory NRM Forum and a 6 page spread in the Territory Quarterly magazine.

Our Communications Officer has worked in collaboration with a number of our project partners to raise awareness of natural resource management issues and to promote the projects and activities being under taken across the NT. In collaboration with the Department of Land Resource Management, we ran Community Service Announcements promoting the Gamba Grass Assistance program, resulting in over 1000 property owners participating this year. While in collaboration with the NT Seafood Council (SeaNet) we promoted the Darwin Harbour Clean Up event resulting in the participation of 144 people.

TNRM's Communications Officer participated in the National NRM campaign 'There's a lot happening in our backyard' which took place in October. This campaign focused on engaging people in NRM through social media. The Facebook page for this campaign gained 322 followers and 118 twitter followers and is maintained on a voluntary basis.

20 Lake Eyre Basin land managers, including four from the Northern Territory, were interviewed and their stories recorded through a collaborative project with TNRM, Desert Channels Queensland and the Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum Stories.

We produced a Carbon Farming Information booklet detailing the opportunities available to land managers in the NT and a well received Indigenous Ecological Knowledge Manual.



TNRM helped to produce an educational poster about a collaborative research project on shellfish health around Darwin Harbour

## THE BOARD

The members of the Board are now referred to as Chair and Directors. The Board grew with from six to eight Directors in the past financial year, including the Chair.

Director recruitment is based on the skills and knowledge required to support best practice governance and business development, capacity building and community development as well the management of the Northern Territory's natural resources. Directors are selected from across the Territory with consideration given to gender balance.

Board appointments are for two years and no Directorship can be held for longer than 3 consecutive terms.

### REAPPOINTMENT & RECRUITMENT

Tracy Jones and Rowan Foley were re-elected to the Board for a second term in February.

We said farewell to Darryl Lacey from the Board in May due to the demand of other commitments, he was unable to commit for a further term.

Three new Board Directors; Steve Morton, Brooke Rankmore and Mona Liddy, were recruited through the support of the Director Selection Panel. The new Directors attended their first Board meeting in early June in Alice Springs.



## 2012-13 Directors profiles



### KATE ANDREWS – CHAIR

With her family involved in the cattle and buffalo industries, Kate spent her early childhood in Darwin and then on Mudginberri cattle station. Since then she has lived in many parts of Australia, working for many years for a wide range of NRM and sustainable agriculture organisations and in a wide range of roles such as facilitator, researcher and manager.

Along with chairing TNRM, Kate also sits on the Australian Landcare Council, the Advisory Committee for CSIRO's flagship for Sustainable Agriculture and the National Working Group of NRM Chairs.



### MONA LIDDY

Mona is a Wagiman woman from the Daly River and is a language group spokesperson with strong cultural knowledge and land management experience. She has been working in community management for several years and her academic achievements include a degree in Applied Science (Community Management and Development).



### GEORGIA UNDERWOOD

Georgia is a third generation NT pastoralist actively involved in the day-to-day operations of an NT cattle station that incorporates NRM principles. Georgia holds a science degree and has a solid understanding of the NRM planning, implementing and monitoring process. She has served as Board Treasurer since her nomination in October 2007.



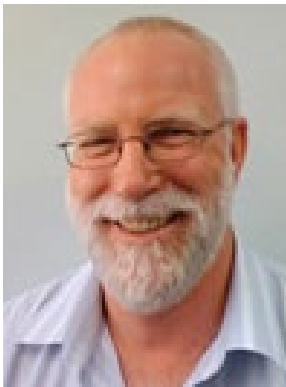
### ROWAN FOLEY

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 Masters 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 Territory NRM Board in March 2011.



### STEVE MORTON

Steve is an Honorary Fellow with CSIRO in Alice Springs. Steve worked with CSIRO for nearly 30 years, first as an arid-zone ecologist in Alice Springs and later as a senior leader in the Organisation. Having returned to live in the Territory, Steve now works as a Board member or advisor for a variety of natural resource management bodies such as Bush Heritage Australia, Desert Knowledge Australia, the Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum, and the Olive Pink Botanic Garden in Alice Springs.



### MATT DARCEY

Matt is the Executive Director of Water Resources at the Department of Land Resource Management. Matt has broad experience at a senior level in agricultural development, environmental regulation and natural resource management – primarily in the agribusiness sector. He brings a sustainable economic development perspective to the organisation.



### 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.



### TRACY JONES

As managing director of her own company, Tracy brings her business and marketing skills to the board. She trained as a journalist in Tamworth (NSW) before moving to Darwin in 1987 to take up a position on the Sunday Territorian. She moved to public relations and marketing in 1989, working in executive roles for the Northern Territory Government and Charles Darwin University before starting her own business in 2006.

## Board meeting attendance 2012-13

Mtg No / date	Location	Attendees
<b>Meeting 45</b> 12-13 September 12	Alice Springs	Kate Andrews (Chair) Georgia (Deputy Chair) Matt Darcey (Public Officer) Tracy Jones (Director) Rowan Foley (Director) Karen May (Executive Officer) Anita Hallam (Project Support Officer)
<b>Meeting 46</b> 27-28 November 12 <b>AGM</b> 28 November 12	Darwin	Kate Andrews (Chair) Georgia (Deputy Chair) Matt Darcey (Public Officer) Tracy Jones (Director) Daryl Lacey (Director) Karen May (Executive Officer) Alisa Westland (Executive Support Officer)
<b>Meeting 47</b> 19-20 February 13	Katherine	Kate Andrews (Chair) Georgia (Deputy Chair) Matt Darcey (Public Officer) Tracy Jones (Director) Daryl Lacey (Director) Rowan Foley (Director) Steve Morton (Observer) Karen May (Executive Officer) Alisa Westland (Executive Support Officer) Cara Burke (Communications Officer)
<b>Meeting 48</b> 6-7 June 13	Alice Springs	Kate Andrews (Chair) Matt Darcey (Public Officer) Tracy Jones (Director) Rowan Foley (Director) Steve Morton (Director) Brooke Rankmore (Director) Mona Liddy (Director) Karen May (Executive Officer) Alisa Westland (Executive Support Officer) Ann Palmer (Business Manager)

# TERRITORY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

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GPO Box 2775 Darwin NT 0801  
Email: [info@territorynrm.org.au](mailto:info@territorynrm.org.au)  
Website: [www.territorynrm.org.au](http://www.territorynrm.org.au)  
ABN: 52 624 459 784

MunLi Chee  
KPMG  
GPO Box 1616  
Darwin NT 0801

Our ref Territory Natural Resource  
Management Representation  
Letter

05 November 2013

Dear Madam

**Representation letter - audit of special purpose financial report for period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013**

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the special purpose financial report of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated (the Entity) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013 and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes (financial report) for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, of the financial position of the Entity and its performance in accordance with the accounting policies as determined by the Management Committee.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. We understand that omissions or misstatements of items are considered material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the economic decisions that users make on the basis of the financial report. Materiality depends on the size and nature of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, having such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

**General**

- 1 We have considered the status of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated and believe that the Entity is not a reporting entity as defined in AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*.
- 2 We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated 14 May 2013, for the preparation of the financial report that gives a fair presentation of the financial report. We have prepared the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Northern Territory Associations Act, the Entity's Constitution and in compliance with 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*, and AASB 1031 *Materiality*. We have also complied with all the recognition, measurement and classification requirements of other relevant Accounting Standards and, to the extent determined appropriate by the Management Committee, the disclosure requirements of those standards.

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**Territory Natural Resource Management is supported by the Australian Government**

Head office: Level 5 Harbour View Plaza, 8 McMinn Street Darwin Ph: 8999 3783  
Alice Springs: Suite 3 / 21 Gregory Terrace Alice Springs Ph: 8951 9284  
Katherine: 32 Giles Street Katherine Ph: 8973 8837



- 3 In preparing the financial report:
- We have considered the accounting policies necessary for the financial statements to present a fair view of the financial position and performance of the entity to the members of the Management Committee and have adopted these policies consistently throughout the financial report. We believe that the accounting policies are appropriate to meet the needs of the users of the financial report.
  - In adopting the appropriate accounting policies and disclosures for preparation of the financial report we have considered the substance of the underlying transactions as well as their form.
  - Measurement methods and significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
- 4 All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and reflected in the financial report.
- 5 We have provided you with:
- Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial report such as records, documentation and other matters;
  - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
  - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- 6 We acknowledge our responsibility for such internal control as we determine necessary for the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error. In particular, we acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.
- 7 We understand that the term “fraud” includes misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting and misstatements resulting from misappropriation of assets. Misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting involve intentional misstatements or omissions of amounts or disclosures in financial reports to deceive financial report users. Misstatements resulting from misappropriations of assets involve the theft of an entity’s assets, often accompanied by false or misleading records or documents in order to conceal the fact that the assets are missing or have been pledged without proper authorisation.
- 8 There have been no:
- (a) Frauds or suspected frauds that we are aware of that may have affected the Entity involving:
    - Management;
    - Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
    - Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial report.
  - (b) Allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Entity’s financial report communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.
- 9 We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report. Further, we have disclosed to you and have appropriately accounted for and/or disclosed in the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report.
- 10 All events subsequent to the date of the financial report and for which Australian Accounting Standards require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

- 11 Except as disclosed in the financial statements there are no significant matters that have arisen that would require a restatement of the comparative figures.
- 12 We confirm that there are no uncorrected misstatements that have not been adjusted in the financial statements.
- 13 We acknowledge that we will not publish the audit report on the financial report on our website.

#### **Assets and liabilities**

- 14 The Entity has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value of or classification of assets and liabilities. We believe the carrying value of all material assets will be recoverable.
- 15 The measurement, presentation and disclosure of fair values are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The amounts recorded or disclosed in the financial report represent our best estimate of fair value of assets and liabilities in accordance with AASBs. The measurement methods and significant assumptions used in determining fair values are appropriate in the circumstances and the resulting valuations and disclosures are reasonable.
- 16 We have recorded all liabilities and disclosed all contingent liabilities in the financial report in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*.
- 17 The Entity's cash generating units (CGUs) have been appropriately identified in accordance with AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*. We have appropriately assessed, at the reporting date, whether there is any indication that an asset or CGU may be impaired.
- 18 As at the statement of financial position date, the Entity had measured appropriately and obligations arising from contracts / agreements.

#### **Judgements and assumptions**

- 19 Judgements, apart from those involving estimations, management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

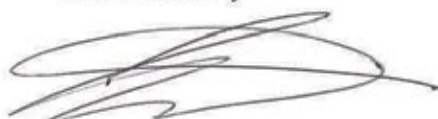
#### **Revenue**

- 20 The revenue recognition criteria have been applied to the separately identifiable components within a single transaction to reflect the substance of the transaction in accordance with AASB 118 *Revenue*.

#### **Records**

- 21 We have made available to you all minutes of meetings of the management committee and when applicable, summaries of actions of meetings held after the reporting period for which minutes have not yet been applied.

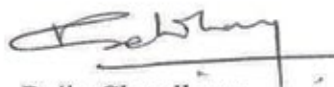
Yours faithfully



Kathryn Andrews  
Chair



Matthew Darcey  
Public Officer



Rajiv Chaudhary  
Finance Manager

**Private Enterprise**  
18 Smith Street  
Darwin NT 0800

GPO Box 1616  
Darwin NT 0800  
Australia

ABN: 51 194 660 183  
Telephone: +61 8 8982 9000  
Facsimile: +61 8 8941 0238  
www.kpmg.com.au

## **Independent audit report to the members of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, and the statement of income and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes 1 to 12 comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

### *The Management Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The Management Committee of the Association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in note 2 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Act (NT), the Association's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Management Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as they determine necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Management Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 2 to the financial statements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated's financial position, and of its performance and cash flows.



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

*Independence*

In conducting our audit we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

*Audit Opinion*

In our opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated as of 30 June 2013 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in notes 2 and 3 to the financial statements.

*Basis of Accounting*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to note 2 to the financial report which describes the basis of preparation. The financial report has been prepared to assist Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated to meet the requirements of the Associations Act (NT) and the Association's constitution. As a result the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

KPMG

KPMG

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MunLi Chee', written over a horizontal line.

MunLi Chee  
*Partner*

5 November 2013

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

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### Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2,533,432	2,989,083
Trade and other receivables	5	2,541	237,680
Prepayments		15,304	2,088
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>2,551,277</u>	<u>3,228,851</u>
Property, plant and equipment	6	26,413	20,971
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>26,413</u>	<u>20,971</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>2,577,690</u>	<u>3,249,822</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	233,518	159,051
Provisions	8	127,768	85,157
Unexpended grants	9	2,071,222	2,857,366
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>2,432,508</u>	<u>3,101,574</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>2,432,508</u>	<u>3,101,574</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>145,182</u>	<u>148,248</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated funds	10	145,182	148,248
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>145,182</u>	<u>148,248</u>

The notes on pages 5 to 10 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

Statement of income and other comprehensive income  
for the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Interest income	76,429	134,114
Other income	3,674	17,087
Government grants	5,126,184	4,459,318
Refunds and proponents	-	399,505
<b>Total income</b>	<u>5,206,287</u>	<u>5,010,024</u>
Depreciation and amortisation	7,063	6,617
Employee benefit expenses	1,347,630	1,215,215
Grants expended	3,954,256	3,175,583
Finance costs	-	2,342
Other operating expenses	683,461	498,686
Refund of unspent government grants	-	357,196
Refunded expenses	-	18,345
Disbursement refund	3,087	65,780
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>5,995,497</u>	<u>5,339,764</u>
Transfer (to) / from unexpended funds	786,144	329,740
<b>(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(3,066)</b>	-
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<u><b>(3,066)</b></u>	<u>-</u>

The notes on pages 5 to 10 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

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### Statement of changes in equity as at 30 June 2013

	Accumulated Funds \$	Total Equity \$
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2011</b>	148,248	148,248
Deficit for the year	-	-
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2012</b>	148,248	148,248
Deficit for the year	(3,066)	(3,066)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2013</b>	145,182	145,182

The notes on pages 5 to 10 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

**Statement of cash flows  
for the year ended 30 June 2013**

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>			
Cash generated from operations		5,269,590	5,281,034
Interest received		76,429	134,114
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		<u>(5,789,165)</u>	<u>(5,309,007)</u>
<b>Net cash (used in) / from operating activities</b>	4	<u>(443,146)</u>	<u>106,141</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		<u>(12,505)</u>	<u>(5,577)</u>
<b>Net cash (used in) / from investing activities</b>		<u>(12,505)</u>	<u>(5,577)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents		(455,651)	100,564
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 July		<u>2,989,083</u>	<u>2,888,519</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June</b>	4	<u>2,533,432</u>	<u>2,989,083</u>

The notes on pages 5 to 10 are an integral part of these financial statements.



## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

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### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

#### 1. Reporting entity

The Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated (the Association) is an entity domiciled in Australia. The principal place of business of the Association is Level 5, 8 McMinn Street, Harbour View Plaza, 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 (INRM) Plan.

In the opinion of the Management Committee, the Association is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the Management Committee 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 report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Association Act (NT) and the Association's Constitution and classification aspects of all applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

The financial report does not include the disclosure requirements of all AASBs except for the following minimum requirements:

- AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements
- AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows
- AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
- AASB 1031 Materiality
- AASB 1048 Interpretation and Application of Standards

*New Standards and interpretations not yet adopted.*

The standards, amendments to standards and interpretations which are available for early adoption at 30 June 2013 have not been applied in the preparation of this report. They are not likely to have any impact on the Association in the period of initial application.

##### (b) Basis of measurement

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and has been prepared on an accruals basis.

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.

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**Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

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**Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2013****2. Basis of preparation (continued)****(b) Basis of measurement (continued)**

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 policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in the financial report.

**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 consistently by the Association.

**(a) Revenue and Other Income**

(i) 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 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 depreciated from the date that they are installed and are ready for use.

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

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### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

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

##### (d) Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

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 the statement of income and other comprehensive income, unless the amount is included in the carrying amount of another asset.

The estimated useful life of office furniture and equipment is as follow:

	Useful Life	Depreciation Rate
Office Furniture and Equipment	4 - 10 Years	10 – 25%

##### (e) Impairment of Assets

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 the statement of income and other comprehensive income.

##### (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.

##### (i) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

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**Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

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**Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2013****3. Significant accounting policies (continued)****(j) Leased Assets**

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.

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 charged as expenses 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. Contingent rent arising under operating leases are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

**(k) Going concern**

The Association relies on funding from the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government for its operations. 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 Resource Management Incorporated

Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>4. Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Bank balances	2,533,222	2,988,877
Cash on hand	210	206
	<u>2,533,432</u>	<u>2,989,083</u>
<b>Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities</b>		
<b>Cash flows used in operating activities</b>		
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	(3,066)	-
Adjustments for depreciation	7,063	6,617
Change in trade and other receivables	(235,139)	404,228
Change in prepayments	13,216	(114,498)
Change in trade and other payables	(267,831)	(254,560)
Change in provisions	42,611	64,354
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<u>(443,146)</u>	<u>106,141</u>
<b>5. Trade and other receivables</b>		
Trade receivables	-	154,000
GST receivables	-	82,294
Other receivables	2,541	1,386
	<u>2,541</u>	<u>237,680</u>
<b>6. Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Office furniture and equipment – at cost	50,138	39,036
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(23,725)	(18,065)
	<u>26,413</u>	<u>20,971</u>
Total non-current assets - at net book value	<u>26,413</u>	<u>20,971</u>
<i>Office furniture and equipment reconciliation</i>		
Carrying amount at beginning of year	20,971	22,011
Additions	12,505	5,577
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation	(7,063)	(6,617)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>26,413</u>	<u>20,971</u>

## Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated

Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>7. Trade and other payables</b>		
Trade payables	67,067	3,763
Accrued expenses	59,838	47,623
GST payable	51,482	-
Super liability	9,528	39,932
Other*	45,603	67,733
	<u>233,518</u>	<u>159,051</u>
*Other payables include PAYG withholding payable		
<b>8. Provisions</b>		
Provision for annual leave	75,096	59,745
Provision for long service leave	36,115	8,829
Provision for leave loading	16,557	16,583
Balance at end of year	<u>127,768</u>	<u>85,157</u>
<b>9. Unexpended funds</b>		
Balance as at beginning of year	2,857,366	3,210,727
Funds received during the year	5,206,287	4,986,402
Funds expended	(5,992,431)	(5,339,763)
Balance at end of year	<u>2,071,222</u>	<u>2,857,366</u>
<b>10. Accumulated funds</b>		
Balance at beginning of the year	148,248	148,248
Loss for the year	(3,066)	-
<b>Balance at end of the period</b>	<u>145,182</u>	<u>148,248</u>
<b>11. Operating Lease Commitments</b>		
Less than one year	48,129	43,488
One to five years	81,273	-
	<u>129,402</u>	<u>43,488</u>
Operating leases relate to the lease of motor vehicles. The Association does not have the option to purchase the leased vehicle at the end of the lease period.		
	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>12. Remuneration of auditors</b>		
Audit of review of the financial report	20,000	16,500
Assistance with preparation of financial statements	5,000	4,000
	<u>25,000</u>	<u>20,500</u>

**Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated**

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**Statement by the Management Committee  
for the year ended 30 June 2013**

In our opinion:

- (a) the accompanying financial report as set out on pages 1 to 10, 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 2013 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 as follows:

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

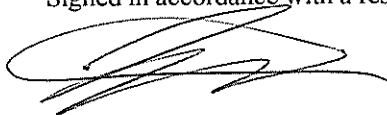
Kathryn Andrews	Chairperson
Georgia Underwood	Deputy Chairperson and Chair Finance and Audit Committee
Tracy Jones	Member
Daryl Lacey	Member
Rowan Foley	Member
Stephen Morton	Member
Brooke Rankmore	Member
Mona Liddy	Member
Matthew Darcey	Public Officer

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

- The Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated (TNRM) is one of 58 regional organisations that play a key role in managing Australia’s natural resources;
- The 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
- 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 and the Australian Government’s current environmental funding under the Caring for our Country initiative.

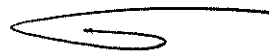
- (c) The net deficit of the association for the relevant financial year was \$3,066 (2012: Nil).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Association:



Kathryn Andrews  
Chairperson

Date 5/11/13



Matthew Darcey  
Public Officer

Date 5/11/13

