



ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT 2016-2017





Australian Government

National
Landcare
Programme



Queensland
Government

Cape York NRM gratefully acknowledges the funding received from the Australian and the Queensland Governments, and other investors

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Cover Photos: Front - Traditional burning at Dawnvale, 2016 Indigenous Fire Workshop *Photo: Lyndal Scobell*
Inside cover (top): Balngarrawarra Ranger Larry Banning discusses Rock Art at Melsonby *Photo: Lyndal Scobell*; (bottom left) Flat back hatchling Flinders Beach; (bottom right) Thoughtful Travelling Cape York launch, Weipa *Photos: Cape York NRM*

This page (above): Milman Island *Photo: Kerri Woodcock*
(below - clockwise from top left): Cape York Fire Forum; Springvale cattle; Pormpuraaw sunset; Gully Remediation workshop on Crocodile Station *Photos: Cape York NRM*





Chair's Report

Emma Jackson

Looking back at the previous financial year I see success. Success with sharing what we are learning on the land and water, and success with implementing best practice land management across our region. Our land managers, landholders, Traditional Owners, Land Trusts and other organisations working across Cape York are considering, more than ever, how their actions could impact the land and how they can gain the largest outputs through the short dry seasons, whilst respecting land condition and values. We are all adapting and learning from the results.

Our Board of Directors are committed to strengthening the organisation, by constantly improving governance. We continued to work at a state and national level, and locally, to improve the way NRM was delivered in the paddock, and across the nation. I am proud to say that Cape York NRM have maintained our original delivery model – delivery through partnerships - with 80% of our funds going to on-ground delivery in the 2016-2017 financial year.

Our five partner organisations which form the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance have worked hard to increase the sea turtle hatchling successes and share with each other their successes and challenges. Their work is celebrated with the release of *One in a Thousand*, a documentary which has just been screened in WCTTAA communities.

This year has seen an increase in savannah burning methodology projects and landholders sharing strategies that work, and don't work. We are all starting to understand our projects better, to help us receive the best outcomes, environmentally and financially.

Our hard-working team have worked extensively with growers around the Lakeland area and central Cape York, as well as those successful with the National Landcare Small Grants Program. Workshops were held and liaisons carried out to better understand each others needs. For Cape York NRM to understand what the priorities are, we need to have regular communication with the people across the region. The priorities for this year have been water

quality program, fire management, climate change workshops and encouraging land managers to follow the management practice framework in their industry.

Building on the health of ecosystems, waterways and landscape resilience is important if Cape York land managers are to have a future on the land. By sharing experiences, working together and implementing best practice systems, our region is moving forwards. Our organisation is not about what is right or wrong on the land and we are not political advocates. Our core aspiration is to see Cape York people confident in their management activities so the environment benefits, whilst the people benefit.

One of our key challenges is the land mass we cover in ratio to the funding we receive. Travelling this region is time consuming and costly, but we respect that we need everyone's input to fully understand everyone's needs and ask you to contribute and participate as much as possible. We will be holding Regional Investment Strategy workshops in the near future which I encourage you to participate in, and contribute to, with openness and honesty. The workshops will inform our funding applications and areas of priority for Cape York.

As your Chairperson, and on behalf of your Board, I thank you all for working with our teams out in the field and our very committed staff who are 'behind the scenes'. I thank our passionate staff and contracted project partners for their efforts, and our funding bodies for investing in the work we carry out. Cape York NRM is a team consisting of a range of employees, Directors, land managers and organisations. Our team is getting stronger and for that, I thank you all.



Above: Cape York NRM Board meeting, Wujal Wujal *Photo: Robyn May*
Below: Lakeland water quality testing *Photo: Michael Goddard*



Above: Conquer the Corrugations walk *Photos: Lyndal Scobell*
Below: Emma Jackson getting ready for live cattle export from Weipa



Above: Napranum ranger, Ebony, cleans fishing line out of rocks at the 2016 beach clean-up *Photo: Lyndal Scobell*
Below: Normanby's Vince Harrigan is interviewed at the Fire Forum *Photo: Robyn May*





CEO's Report

Bob Frazer

It is encouraging to looking back on the natural resource and cultural heritage management outcomes that have been achieved during the past year. Those on ground outcomes are directly attributable to the way in which our staff and dedicated delivery partners have worked together as a team to meet and in many instances exceed, the expectations set by our funding bodies. In this time of uncertainty regarding future levels of funding, good governance, collaboration, partnerships and operational performance will be key factors in our ability to secure ongoing investment in Cape York from the Australian and Queensland governments and other investors.

Cape York NRM's delivery through partnerships is not a recent thing. It is a principle which has guided the way our Directors and staff approach their roles since establishment of the company seven years ago. As well as working closely with our delivery partners, Cape York NRM also engages and works with all levels of government, land managers and the wider community to make a difference to the region's natural and cultural assets. The extent of our delivery through partnerships is something that often differentiates us from other organisations and is something in which we take great pride.

An example of our broader relationships and what can be achieved through a partnership approach, is Cape York NRM's membership of the Reef Alliance, along with the five other Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Regional NRM bodies, Industry bodies such as the Queensland Farmers Federation, Growcom,

Agforce, CANEGROWERS, Australian Banana Growers and the World Wildlife Fund Australia. Through this partnership we were able to secure significant Australian Government Reef Trust program funding for the Cape over 5 years to 2020. That investment is targeted generally at improving the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon and more specifically at reducing sediment reaching the Lagoon from the Laura-Normanby basin. That system is the largest of Cape York's GBR lagoon catchments, and has been shown by researchers to be the region's greatest contributor of sediment. So the work that we are doing in that catchment has the potential to make a big impact. In line with studies which have shown that erosion from gullies along the length of the GBR is one of the greatest terrestrial risks to the health of the Reef, Cape York NRM and several other GBR regional bodies received dedicated funds during the year to carry out works to reduce this gully and streambank erosion impact. For Cape York the focus of this work is on identified 'hot spots' in the Laura-Normanby basin. Recent events have also shown that climate-related bleaching of coral is also a significant threat to GBR health, and it is clear that dealing with that issue will require partnerships and commitment at regional, state, national and international scales.

Another initiative during the year involved establishment of the NQ NRM Alliance in partnership with Northern Gulf Resource Management Group and Terrain NRM. The Alliance has in turn established a Joint Venture entity (trading as Corporate Nature) to cost effectively and efficiently provide



37

MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

66

MEDIA MENTIONS



8

PODCASTS
IN 1 SERIES OF
MY CAPE YORK LIFE



4

NEWSLETTERS

a range of corporate services to the three partner Regional NRM bodies. Cape York NRM is currently transitioning to this new and exciting arrangement, with full transfer of a range of financial, administrative and contract related functions to the entity from 1 January 2018.

As well as providing summaries of how we have invested our \$4,193,723 income for the year in the Financial and Operations Sections of this report, we have also shared detailed information about many of this year's achievements in sustainable grazing and farming, water quality improvement, fire, pest animal and weed management, ecosystem rehabilitation and community engagement and capacity building on our web site <http://www.capeyorknrm.com.au/about>

During 2017-18 we will continue deliver a range of initiatives funded from various Australian and Queensland government programs, and other investors. These will include an ongoing commitment to increasing community participation in the management of the Cape's natural and cultural heritage values. We will be organising and supporting events and engagement efforts to inspire the hearts

and minds of the people of Cape York and to create a deeper understanding of, and connection to, our region's natural assets.

Other highlights during the year include our participation for the second time in a performance excellence review based on International Business Excellence criteria. The independently-conducted review assessed our efficiencies and compared our operations to other NRM groups across the country. The results were pleasing: reflecting an improvement on the results of the first review in 2013; and the ongoing dedication our staff have to delivering on Cape York NRM's vision and mission, and the expectations of the people of Cape York.

I would like to thank the Cape York NRM team and our partners on the ground for their hard work during the past 12 months, and the Board for their continuing support for myself and other team members. I look forward to 2017/18 being another successful year for Cape York NRM.



Thenacull and Maryvalley Green Army participants undertake direct seeding at Crocodile Station *Photo: Michael Goddard*



Board Report

The Cape York NRM Board consists of ten representatives from six sectors; Indigenous, Conservation, Community, Primary Industries, Local government and Tourism, Small Business, Mining and Other Industries. The Indigenous Sector Directors are appointed by the Members from each of the four Indigenous Zones (see map).

Four meetings of Directors were held during the financial year at Cairns in July 2016, at Laura in October 2016, a teleconference was held in January 2017, with the last meeting being held at Wujal Wujal in May 2017. At the Meeting in Wujal Wujal, Director Barry Lyon tendered his resignation to take on an employee role as Project Coordinator of Fire Management. Director Pauline Smith was elected to replace Director Barry Lyon as Vice Chair and in line with the Constitution, nominations were called and the Board of Directors made an interim appointment to the Conservation Sector (until AGM 2018) of Director Sally Gray.

The 2016 Annual General Meeting was held at Laura in October 2016. This marked the end of term for Directors filling interim appointments, Dale Motlop, Indigenous Sector Zone 1; Jodi Hamilton, Community Sector; and Desmond Tayley, Local Government Sector. Director Desmond Tayley was re-elected to represent the Local Government Sector, Director Trevor Meldrum was elected to represent the Community Sector and Director Emma Jackson was re-elected as Chairperson.

Following the AGM, Director Marilyn Kepple tendered her resignation for Indigenous Sector Zone 3. A vacancy for both Indigenous Sector Zone 1 and Indigenous Sector Zone 3 was filled in line with the Constitution, nominations were called and the Board of Directors made an interim appointment (until AGM 2017) of Director Joseph Elu for Indigenous Sector Zone 1 and Director Mikayla Down of Indigenous Sector Zone 3.



Figure 1: Indigenous Sector Representation



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MEMBERS

Table 1: Director Attendance at Board Meetings 2016-17

Name	Sector	Location	Meetings eligible to attend	Meetings attended
John Charlton	Small Business, Tourism Mining and Other Industries	Seisia	4	3
Shane Gibson	Indigenous Sector Zone 4	Hope Vale	4	3
Joseph Elu	Indigenous Sector Zone 1	Bamaga	2	1
Emma Jackson	Primary Industry Sector	Wolverton	4	4
Mikayla Down	Indigenous Sector Zone 3	Coen	2	2
Marilyn Kepple	Indigenous Sector Zone 3	Coen	2	2
Barry Lyon	Conservation Sector	Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve	4	4
Dale Motlop	Indigenous Sector Zone 1	Injinoo	1	1
Pauline Smith	Indigenous Sector Zone 2	Mapoon	4	4
Desmond Tayley	Local Government Sector	Wujal Wujal	4	3
Sandra Woosup	Indigenous Sector Zone 1	Injinoo	4	1
Trevor Meldrum	Community Sector	Cooktown	3	3
Jodi Hamilton	Community Sector	Coen	1	1

During the year there were a number of related party transactions involving Directors. These transactions (listed below) were with entities in which the Directors have an interest. Those interests were declared at the time of appointment of the Director to the Board, and good governance processes, including abstinence from any decision in relation to the transaction, have been followed.

Table 2: Related Party Transactions involving Directors

Director	Related Party	Nature of Transaction	Amount Ex GST
Trevor Meldrum	Cape York Weeds and Feral Animas Inc.	Cape York East Coast Pond Apple Survey and Control (CY123) - \$20,000 Strategic Hymenachne Eradication Program 2016-2017 (CY149) - \$14,500 Hopevale and East Coast Pond Apple Control (CY162) - \$14,000	\$48,500.00
Sandra Woosup	Angkamuthi Tribal Aboriginal Corporation	Jardine Wetlands Angkamuthi Cultural Heritage Map (CY125)	\$7,630.00
Pauline Smith	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council	Nest to Ocean Support Round 2 (CY136) - \$122,500 Turtle Nest Monitoring and Protection Expansion - Namaleta Creek to Skardon River (CY146) - \$26,000 Support for targeted vertebrate pest program - Mapoon at Skardon Beach (CY165) - \$20,700	\$169,200.00
Dale Motlop	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Nest to Ocean Support Round 2 (CY139P) - \$64,780 Turtle Nest Monitoring and Protection Expansion - Slade Point to Skardon River, and Western Cape inshore islands (CY147P) \$0 Support for targeted vertebrate pest program (CY166P) \$22,400 Containing and reducing the spread of Gamba Grass (CYP070) - \$4976.36	\$92,156.36
Total			\$317,486.36



Operations Report

Peta-Marie Standley

Cape York NRM has reached maturity in its sixth year of operational delivery as an efficient and productive NRM organisation, one of 56 that operate across Australia. We are constantly improving our systems, accountability and transparency - our on-line Atlas (website) is constantly updated with information about our investments, projects, events and news, and an online visualisation of our projects is coming very soon.

In 2016 as part of our investment from the National Landcare Programme we began participation in the National Landcare Programme Performance Expectations self-evaluation and audit that sets out practices to be met by NRM organisations. In 2016 our result was 16/20, so improving the governance of Cape York NRM and the delivery of best practice NRM in the region was a focus in 2016-2017. As this annual report goes to print I am proud to say that our 2017 result was 20/20.

One of the strengths of Cape York NRM is our ability to examine and present data and information in different ways for different audiences. This is required as the complexity of planning, monitoring and reporting increases from our investment partners. In order to do this efficiently with minimal core staff we need good IT and data management systems.

Some key achievements in this area in the past twelve months included:

- the development of the on-line print on demand resource *The Grasses of Quinkan country*
- the digital mail-out newsletter
- the digitisation and use of the Cape York weed deck

on-line and promotion through social media

- the development of podcast series *My Cape York Life* to communicate profiles of land managers in Cape York.

These resources are available at landmanager.capeyorknrm.com.au or by contacting us. Cape York NRM was selected as a finalist in the Australian not-for-profit technology awards in early 2017, an acknowledgement of our expertise in this area.

On-ground investment and direct community engagement and support continued to be our priority in the 2016-2017 year. We managed 11 grants from funders, and had 69 active projects with Cape York delivery partners. 80% of investment went to the delivery of on-ground projects. This also included direct engagement staff such as the Regional Landcare Facilitator and the new Regional Fire project coordinator role who live and work in Cape York.

The support that Cape York NRM provides in administration, strategic oversight, ensuring sound governance such as financial, OH&S, meeting legislative requirements, project development, training in data collection, reporting support, mapping, communications, technical delivery, GIS and monitoring, evaluation, review and improvement, equals 20% of total investment.

Philanthropic investment from The Nature Conservancy supported the Cape York Regional Fire Forum in December 2016, and enabled us to secure additional investment to support a new regional fire role. The role is working to carry



926
DAYS
STAFF TIME
IN CAPE YORK



80%
OF TOTAL INCOME
TO ONGROUND WORKS
\$3,426,298



150+
ATTENDED
INDIGENOUS FIRE
WORKSHOP

forward actions identified by the 150 Cape York land managers that attended the forum, including the establishment of fire clusters across Cape York to improve fire management. It also support the development and improvement of the application of savanna burning methodologies in Cape York, including both Indigenous ecological burning and wildfire mitigation and response.

Through the State NRM program we worked with four Indigenous partner organisations in the Normanby Basin in the development of on-ground fire monitoring programs and resources to support fire planning, monitoring and implementation. This work included training in, and the application of, Indigenous ecological knowledge of fire. Training and facilitation was provided by Mulong. Our 2015 engagement with Jabalbina Yalanji Corporation has since enabled expanded work with Jabalbina, and with neighbouring Indigenous groups in the Normanby during 2016-2017. Indigenous fire management has since strengthened across this sub-region, with Melsonby Balnggawarra (Gaarraay) Land Trust hosting the 2017 National Indigenous Fire Workshop.

The 2016-2017 year saw a return to annual investment from the State NRM program and this program draws to a close in June 2018. This means that delivery is time critical as we need to develop the proposal with community partners; and develop, and have approved, monitoring and evaluation plans before we can get the money to you on the ground. This also forces quicker than usual turn arounds for sub-contracting, delivery and reporting on project outcomes.

We achieved great success with the delivery of the State NRM program focussed on the control of weeds of national significance such as Rubbervine, Hymenachne, Pond Apple and Gamba Grass. Vertebrate Pest Management has remained a priority on the West Coast of Cape York with ongoing removal decreasing predation on turtle nests. This important work continues to be delivered by the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance. The State NRM vertebrate pest management program investment focussed in this area complements funding that is available to support this work through the Nest to Ocean Program. Without both of these funding resources, the works program would not have the positive impact that it has had, that continues to contribute to endangered marine turtle species survival.

Through our agriculture and reef investment programs we have been able to:

- increase the level of paddock level water quality monitoring
- compile paddock to reef nutrient data
- secure Reef Alliance investment enabling comprehensive property mapping, extension, and management practice change actions and investment
- work with 17 properties across the east coast catchment delivering on Reef 2050 targets and the Cape York Water Quality Improvement Plan.

Investment support has enabled on-ground demonstration sites. Across Lakeland, electro-conductivity mapping, and nutrient and water quality monitoring, is being implemented. Fencing has enabled the protection of seven wetlands in the Saltwater Wetland Complex of National Significance at Violet Vale. The second destocking took place this year, and feral animal management continues to be a priority for land holders. Baseline aquatic surveys were implemented at three major project locations, prior to works being implemented. This involved partnering with Indigenous and non-Indigenous land managers across East Coast Cape York.

The first Gully remediation project is well underway and is yielding excellent results, with additional investment for our new Gully program secured. This will enable extension to the work, and additional gully remediation with delivery partners South Cape York Catchments and Normanby station. This new investment has also strengthened partnership opportunities with the Indigenous Land Corporation on Welcome and Crocodile stations.

There was so much more that was achieved in 2016-2017, than can't fit in this report. Thank-you to the Cape York NRM Board and staff for all their hard work throughout the year and importantly our Cape York community delivery partners - together we make a great team.

ATLAS WEBSITE	USERS	SESSIONS
 CLIMATE	53	99
 LAND MANAGER	1996	2796
 CORPORATE	9164	13134
 DATA HUB	138	138
 FIRE	102	150
 MAPS AND DATA	824	1089
 NRM PLAN	324	446
 WATER	215	363
 WHO PLANS HERE	117	158

Investment by Land Use

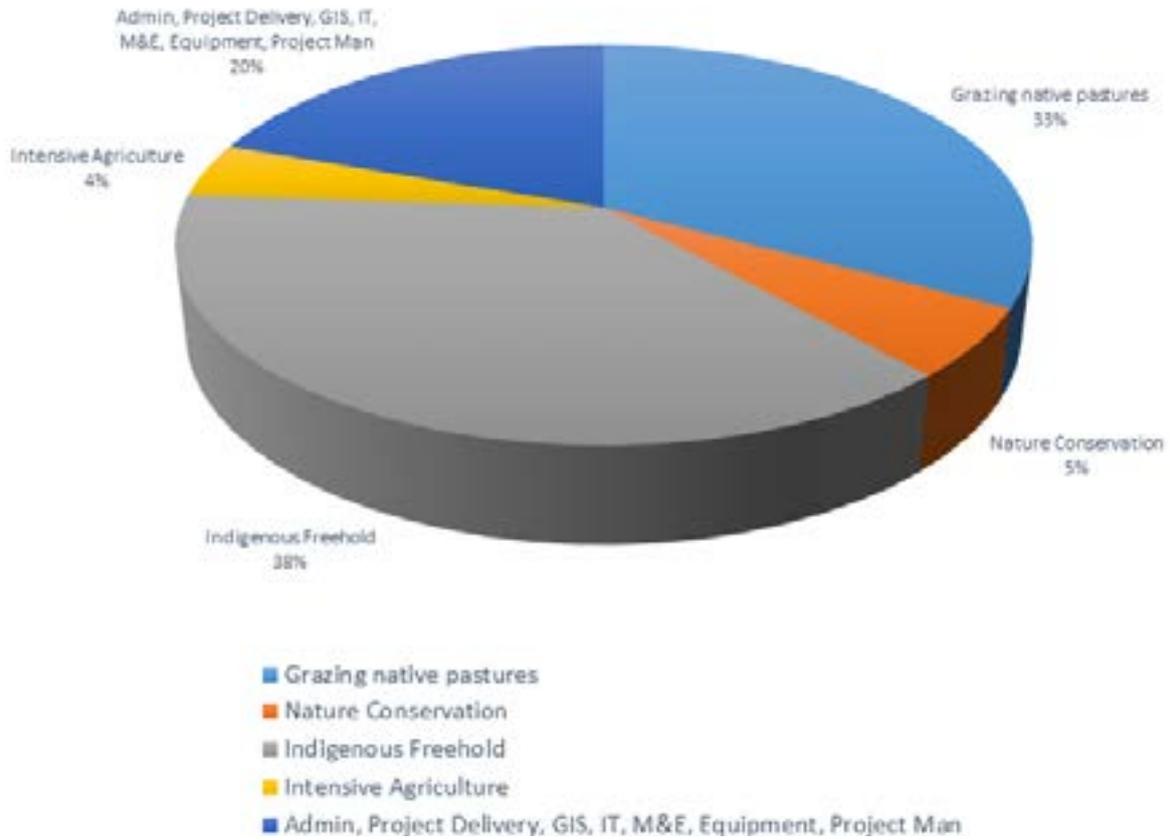


Table 3: Investment by Land Use Type

Land Use Type	Investment
Grazing native pastures	\$1,401,213.27
Nature Conservation	236,963.78
Indigenous freehold	1,601,087.75
Intensive agriculture	187,033.75
Admin, project delivery, GIS, IT, M&E, Project Management	864,742.80
Total	\$4,261,041.35

Note: Investment includes carry-over from previous financial year



Above (left to right): Cape York NRM staff at Laura AGM 2016 - Will Higham, Vicki Wundersitz, Bob Frazer, Gary Searle, Lyndal Scobell, Peta Standley, Jorg Edsen, Robyn May, Ben Lister, Kerri Woodcock, Michael Goddard.

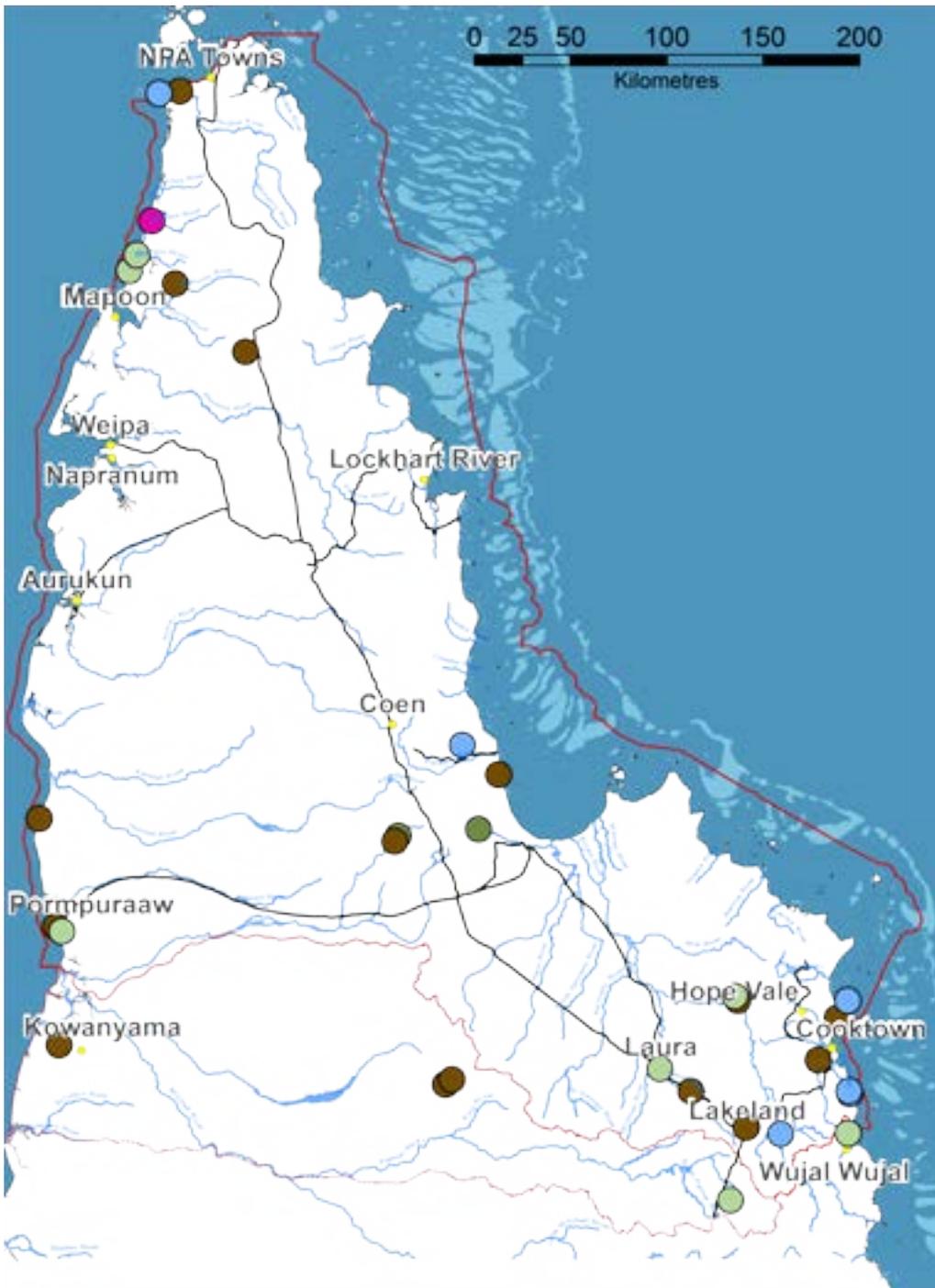


Figure 2: Cape York NRM Projects by Land Use Type 2016-2017



85
FULCRUM
APPS



104
FULCRUM
MEMBERS



6006
FULCRUM
RECORDS



179
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
EMPLOYED
THROUGH PROJECTS

Note: Fulcrum is the primary data collection tool used for Cape York NRM projects




121
 VOLUNTEERS

11
 GRANTS
 \$4,024,797 IN TOTAL

Figure 3: Pest and Weed Project Areas 2016-2017



EC Mapping at Red Valley Photo: Lyndal Scobell



Community Financial Report

Roxy Ikin

This community financial report is provided for the information of the people of Cape York. Our aim is to provide an easy to understand summary and analysis of our financial performance and position for the financial year ended 30 June 2017. The Audited Financial Report is available on the Cape York NRM website www.capeyorknrm.com.au/about. Please contact the office should a hard copy of the report be required.

Table 4: Financial Performance			
<i>Monies Received</i>		<i>Expenses (Outgoing)</i>	
Grant income during year	4,024,797	Board of Directors and employee costs	1,331,541
Interest received	28,903	Partner contracts, goods and services	1,702,589
Other	140,023	Operating surplus before tax	1,116,670
		Allowance for depreciations	42,923
Total	\$4,193,723	Total	\$4,193,723

During the 2016-17 financial year, most of our income was derived from state and federal government programs.

Table 5: Financial Position			
<i>Current Assets (what we own)</i>		<i>Liabilities (what we owe)</i>	
Cash and equivalents	2,809,138	Accounts payable	131,444
Trade and other receivables	18,996	Borrowings	12,978
Shares	10,000	Employee entitlements	127,841
Plant and equipment	180,373		
Total	\$3,018,507	Total	\$272,263

Commitments

Cape York NRM does not utilise an overdraft facility and its borrowings are in relation to a credit card facility and vehicle finance arrangement which are used for day to day operational activities. Committed expenditure is monitored carefully to ensure we operate within the expenditure levels set by our grant funding agreements. Our ongoing financial commitments are for rental of office space, vehicle leasing and accrued staff entitlements.

Cash at Bank

Cape York NRM operated within its budgeted constraints for the year, and whilst it is dependent on government funding the Company remains in a sound financial position in 2017-18.

Table 6: Cash at Bank at 30 June 2017	
Grant funding and company funds carried forward	2,549,853
Employee entitlements	127,841
Accounts payable	131,444
Total	\$2,809,138

Debtors (money owed to us)

At 30 June 2017 we were owed \$18,996.

Table 7: Human Resources (our staff)

Staff – employment type	2017	2016
Full-time (fixed term contracts)	13	12
Part-time/casual	2	1
Positions hosted at Cape York NRM (Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance)	1	1

Overview

The 2016-17 financial year was Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd's sixth full year of operation as a directly funded regional NRM body. Further details of how money received was invested, and the outcomes of the work, can be found in the Operations overview of this report.

The primary source of income for the company during the financial year was provided by the Australian Government from its Reef Trust program and National Landcare Programme, and the Queensland State Government from the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program. We have been able to continue to host the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance Coordinator through the joint Federal and State Government Nest to Ocean funding.

The major income sources for 2016-17 are shown below:

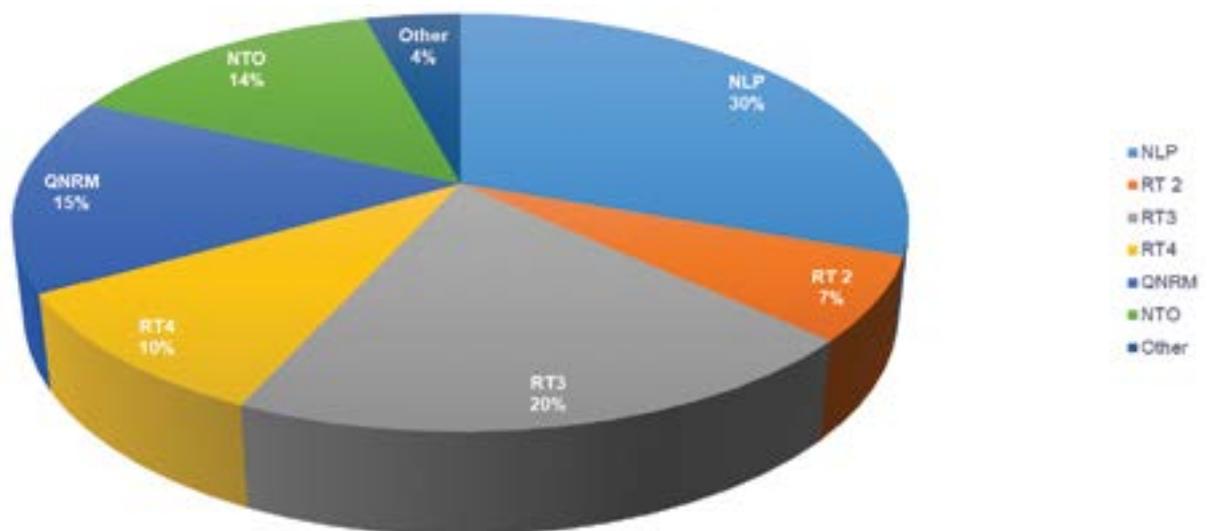
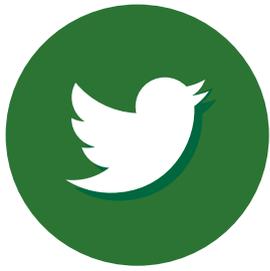


Table 8: Major Income Source and Distribution 2016-2017

Project Name	Percentage of Income	Dollar value
National Landcare Program	30%	1,224,000
Reef Trust Phase 2 (RT2)	7%	261,638
Reef Trust Phase 3 (RT3)	20%	800,447
Reef Trust Phase 4 (RT4)	10%	400,000
State Q NRM Program	15%	613,250
Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program	14%	560,132
Other Programs*	4%	165,330
Totals	100%	\$4,024,797

*Includes Queensland Government's Litter and Illegal Dumping Community and Industry Partnerships Program, Queensland Government Dept Environment and Heritage Protection and The Nature Conservancy.



912
TWITTER
FOLLOWERS



1518
FACEBOOK
PAGE LIKES



Above: Barry Lyon at Weipa Fishing Classic Photo: Kerri Woodcock



Above: Ben Lister and Colin Doughboy at Plantation Creek Photo: Lyndal Scobell



Above: Peta Standley at the 2016 Indigenous Fire Workshop Photo: Lyndal Scobell



Above (from left): Cape York NRM Director Desmond Tayley with staff - Michael, Ben, Andrew (work experience), Will and Vicki at the 2016 Indigenous Fire Workshop Photo: Lyndal Scobell



Above: Gully systems on Springvale Station *Photo: Lyndal Scobell*

Back cover: Sharks and Rays Australia research boat at work *Photo: Johnny Gaskell*



Above: Dr Brendan Ebner monitors Tiger Crabs
Photo: Vicki Wundersitz



Above: Cape York NRM 2016 AGM at Laura
Photo: Lyndal Scobell



National
Landcare
Programme



Cape York NRM gratefully acknowledges the funding received from the Australian and the Queensland Governments, and other investors



CONTACT US:

47-49 Maunds Road | PO Box 907

Atherton QLD 4883 | 1300 132 262

admin@capeyorknrm.com.au

Become a member: office@capeyorknrm.com.au

Subscribe to our newsletter: media@capeyorknrm.com.au

Visit our website: www.capeyorknrm.com.au

Helping people to work together
to care for the natural environment
and to promote the sustainable use of
Cape York's natural resources

Register

ACN: 146 770 167

ABN: 89 146 770 167

Photo: Johnny Gaskell