




# 2022-23

## Annual Report



Cape York  
Natural Resource Management



Cape York Natural Resource Management acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we work and recognises their continuing connection to Country and community. Cape York NRM pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



## Sally Gray

### Chairperson

*"We invite you to walk with us..."*

From the Uluru Statement of the Heart 2017

Last year I wrote of the immense social, environmental and economic transformation we face, and that the release of the State of the Environment Report was a clear call to action for every Australian.

This year again, and still, with The Voice referendum, we face profound social and economic questions for First Nations and non-Indigenous responsibility and agency.

By the time this report is published, the many different points of view within our nation will have had the opportunity to be heard with their vote.

Regardless of the outcome of the referendum, and within this national, transformative discussion, our organisation, Cape York Natural Resource Management (Cape York NRM), our staff and our Board are committed to listening to our Cape York Peninsula community.

We all appreciate the privilege and opportunity we have working side-by-side with our diverse and complex Cape York First Nations community, our regional and remote communities, and all local industries and sectors that shape this genuinely unique region.

I am excited about the growth of our Board of Directors, which represents the diversity of culture, region and skill. This team of professionals is dedicated to crafting and guiding a new and relevant strategic future for Cape York NRM.

At this time, I would also like to acknowledge and welcome Pip Schroor who stepped into the CEO position in June this year. Pip previously served as a Director on the Board, so brings extensive strategic and organisational knowledge to the role as well as 15 years' experience living and working with community in the Cape York Peninsula.

I believe with Pip at the helm, supported by our Board of Directors, the future of Cape York NRM as an organisation to support our community is spirited and resilient.



## Pip Schroor

I am delighted to present my inaugural annual report as the CEO of Cape York NRM. Having lived and worked in Cape York for the past 15 years, this new role is a true honour and I'm thrilled to share with you our achievements, challenges, and aspirations over the past year.

It has been an active five months since I took on this role, and I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this remarkable organisation. Our team is dedicated, and I have witnessed their hard work firsthand. Despite some significant changes within the organisation, we have continued to deliver outstanding projects across the region.

Highlights from the past year include our collaborative efforts leading to the discovery of a thriving cassowary population in partnership with the Ipima Ikaya rangers, securing additional funding to bolster turtle protection activities through the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA), and providing support to property managers in building climate and drought resilience across Cape York. These accomplishments are a testament to our commitment to the region's sustainable future.

As we move forward, Cape York NRM

remains committed to our core principles of sustainability, collaboration, and community-led natural resource management. One of my top priorities is to ensure we are attentive to the voices of our stakeholders and cultivate meaningful partnerships.

Over the past decade since Cape York NRM's inception, there have been significant land tenure changes within the region. The granting of Native Title and Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) has given Indigenous communities greater control and authority over their traditional lands. As we enter into a post-tenure era I want to provide greater emphasis on collaborative partnerships between Traditional Owners, government agencies, non-government organisations and industry stakeholders.

I want to express my appreciation to the Cape York NRM team and thank the Board for its leadership and support as I start this new chapter with the organisation. I will finish by thanking our committed partners and the communities of Cape York for their support. Together, we will continue to make a positive impact on the people and places of Cape York.



**Esther Ward**  
*Corporate Services Manager*



**Paula Pooles**  
*Human Resources & Safety  
Manager*



**Paul Chamberlain**  
*Interim Finance Manager*



**Sandra Gane**  
*Executive Assistant to CEO*



**Andree Stephens**  
*Communications Manager*



**Lars Kazmeier**  
*GIS Officer*



**Ben Lister**  
*Systems Analyst & Program  
Support*



**Marnie Basham**  
*Board Support &  
Administration Officer*



**Starrlia Colley**  
*Administration Assistant*



**Toby Eastoe**  
*Biodiversity & Fire Program  
Manager*



**Kathrina Southwell**  
*Sustainable Industries Officer*



**David Preece**  
*Coastal Ecosystems  
Coordinator*



**Andrew Drenen**  
*Fire Coordinator*



**Dr James Dobson**  
*Biodiversity Project Officer*



**Dr Manuela Fischer**  
*Biodiversity Project Officer*



**Francis Malcolm**  
*Biodiversity & Partnerships  
Officer*



**Katrina Shaw**  
*Regional Agriculture  
Landcare Facilitator*



**Daniel Lock**  
*Grazing and Water Quality  
Project Officer*



**Yasmin Wilson**  
*Engagement Officer*



**Sienna Thomason**  
*Junior Project Officer*

# About Us

## Vision

A healthy landscape, healthy community and healthy economy for Cape York Peninsula.

## Mission

We nurture and empower our community to embrace NRM knowledge and practice across the Cape York Peninsula.

## Values

Diversity

Transparency

Integrity

Respect



Threatened  
Species



Fire  
Management



Water  
Quality



Sustainable  
Agriculture



Erosion  
Control



Community



□ Cape York NRM Area  
▨ Joint Management Area







# Threatened Species

The Biodiversity Bright Spots (BBS) Woodlands program focused on progressing Traditional Owner engagement in the Golden-shouldered parrot (GSP) (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*) program. This included actions such as removing pest weeds from the birds' habitat, erecting exclusion fencing and holding a workshop with the GSP project partners, recovery team and other stakeholders to review achievements and plan for future needs.

The BBS Rainforest program achieved major advances in the knowledge and threat mitigation of Cape York littoral rainforest, ant plants and cassowaries. The results of a camera capture survey conducted with Ipima Ikaya rangers in Apudthama National and nearby areas of Gudang/Yadhaykenu country revealed a thriving cassowary population previously unknown that made national headlines.

Fire management activities reduced wildfire risk to primary cassowary habitat in the Pascoe River region.

Littoral rainforest flora surveys were conducted in Cape Melville and Juunjuwarra country with Traditional Owners, building ranger capacity and partnerships through pre-survey training and the surveys themselves. An additional survey was conducted with Cook Shire Council within Cooktown area council reserves.

The Juunjuwarra survey report produced by Cape York NRM was followed up with on-ground works with Juunjuwarra which included woody weed removal over approximately 50 hectares and access management structures created to protect and rehabilitate the littoral rainforest patch on their country.

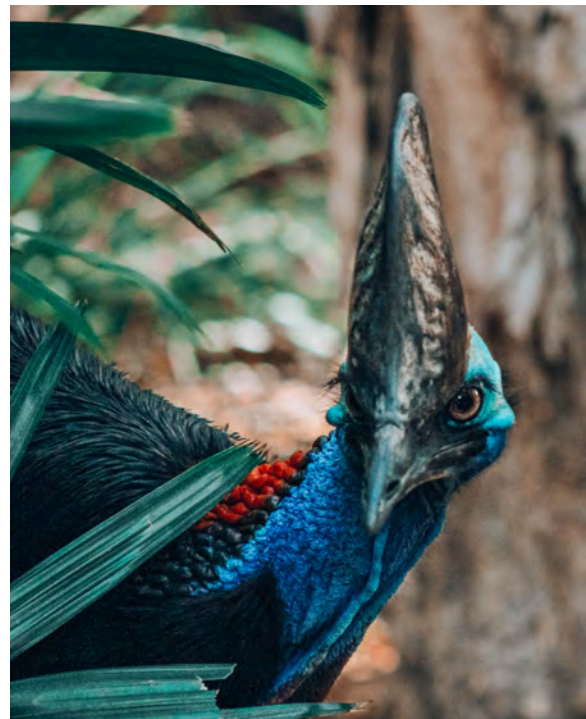
The Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA) increased its membership with AAK Puul Ngantum (APN) joining the group in late 2022. In 2023, Cape York also recruited a dedicated WCTTAA Coordinator. The annual WCTTAA workshop was held in

Weipa in December 2022 to discuss nesting season data. Of the seven beaches across 130km of the western Cape coastline, WCTTAA monitored 1,786 turtle nests, of which 70 per cent remained intact and produced hatchlings. Predator control resulted in 1324 feral pig removals.

In April, a second WCTTAA workshop was held in Cairns to assess the needs of members before the 2023 nesting season. Actions include the roll-out of a new data collection system, and funding established for the Marine Turtle Climate Change Resilience and Nest Protection project which will monitor rising temperatures of turtle nests using data loggers, and implement actions to reduce heat (shade protection).

1,786

Turtle Nests Monitored



# Fire Management & Landscapes

The Catchments to Coral program delivered a range of landscape-scale projects to improve the health and resilience of Great Barrier Reef catchments through reducing threats to significant wetlands, floodplains, coastal habitat and threatened species.

On the east coast of Cape York, aerial pig control programs were conducted to reduce turtle egg and hatchling predation and protect coastal wetlands, with 518 pigs removed across 385,984 hectares, as well as marine debris clean-ups across 40.2 hectares.

High value wetlands and floodplains at Kings Plains Station, Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park (CYPAL) and Cape Melville National Park (CYPAL) were treated for the invasive pond weed *Hymenachne*.

A multi-agency taskforce, supported by Cape York NRM, treated 6,257 hectares of Gamba grass throughout the Annan-Endeavour catchments.

Our fire program conducted regional stakeholder workshops at Coen and at Moreton Telegraph Station, collectively bringing together over 60 people to collaborate on regional fire planning.

During the 2023 early dry season, the aerial prescribed burning program delivered over 9,100 ignition points across six properties to create strategic fire breaks. Four accredited fire training events were delivered in 2022-23.

**515,060**

*Hectares of Controlled early-season burns*

**6,257**

*Hectares of Gamba Control*

**539**

*Hectares of Hymenachne control*









## Water Quality

The Lakeland Water Quality Monitoring project completed its second year of sampling from the Laura River catchment around the Lakeland Agricultural Area.

Seven monitoring sites were re-established in the lead up to the 2022 wet season, as well as a successful relocation of the auto-sampling station to a wet season, access-friendly site. Over the 2022/23 wet season, 177 water samples were collected using both the automatic sampler and manual grab-sampling during rainfall events.

Project staff continue to conduct ambient sampling into the dry season.

**1,189**

*Tonnes of soil saved  
from entering  
waterways*

**177**

*Water quality  
samples collected*

# Sustainable Agriculture

The five-year long Australian Government Regional Land Partnerships program, Healthy Farming Futures, ended this year. It facilitated early-season aerial burn programs, later in conjunction with Reef Trust 7, as well as feral animal control programs at grazing properties across western draining Cape York Peninsula.

Thirteen properties participated in property planning processes with funds allocated to selected on-ground works in paddock and riparian fencing and erosion control.

The Natural Resources Recovery Program was also established and our Landscape Resilience Project attracted expressions of interest from 27 grazing land managers across Cape York Peninsula.

Proposals included measures to mitigate threats to vegetation or improve grazing practices by including new fencing for riparian vegetation, new paddocks for wet season spelling, weed control, and new watering points.

Funding was available for six applicants, who are now working alongside project staff to develop condition monitoring plans and deliver their proposals.

Soil solutions continue to progress through the Endeavour Valley Smart Farms Soil Extension Program, with four demonstration farms maximising soil health and production.

New participants have joined the program for soil testing advice or to learn more about soils at workshops hosted throughout the year.

**69**

*Land condition assessments completed*

**29**

*New grazing land management projects developed*

**70**

*Soil samples collected*









# Erosion Control

The Reef Trust Phase IV Scaling Up Normanby Basin Gully Remediation program wrapped up this year, with works completed at Spring Creek, Crocodile-Welcome Station, Olivevale Station, Normanby Station and NB2.

Local contractors and land managers carried out works including reshaping, soil amelioration and revegetation of eroded land, and installation of rock chutes and porous check dams.

Overall, the five-year program has delivered 45 hectares of erosion remediation, 43 kilometres of exclusion fencing, over 2,500 kg of native and improved pasture seed revegetation, 1,100 hectares of rubber vine control and more than 4000 tonnes of sediment savings at sites (over 800 tonnes at

the coast). The program has also delivered 44 training days and community events.

Through the Australian Government's Reef Assist 2.0, Cape York NRM has commenced a two-year training program for Indigenous participants in machinery operation and gully remediation. The schedule will aim to deliver four rounds of a week-long intensive training course, for Level 1 Machinery Operator accreditation, in addition to providing skills in treating erosion sites.

The training will be delivered at Normanby and Melsonby Stations.



# Community

Cape York NRM continues to build its strong community engagement with the establishment of two dedicated community engagement positions, one situated in Bamaga, to increase our understanding of, and develop new partnerships with, Indigenous land managers across the region.

We have been highly visible and active across the Cape, facilitating two fire forums, two nature refuge workshops, a horticulture roundtable, a weed roadshow, an agribusiness field trip for students, soils workshops, ranger fire-training workshops, skills training courses, and the annual Cape York Grazing Forum. Turtle protection activities through the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance have been boosted with the appointment of a new WCTTAA coordinator.

Staff attended the Weipa Schools Expo, the Cooktown State High Schools Expo, the Western Cape Futures Symposium, and the Cooktown Community Big Day Out. Cape York NRM hosted the inaugural Reef Fair and co-hosted the Community Action Plan (CAP) program events and workshops.

Cape York NRM also successfully co-hosted the North Queensland Threatened Species Symposium, and presented at the inaugural National Feral Pig Conference in Cairns.

<b>203</b> <i>Members</i>	<b>40</b> <i>Active projects</i>
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# Corporate Services

## Geographic Information Systems

Our Geographic Information Systems (GIS) officer provides staff and stakeholders with up-to-date, high-quality physical and digital cartographic resources which includes spatial data-derived analyses, representations and statistical calculations to assist with effective project design, delivery and reporting. The work also includes monitoring application and developments within the Queensland Government's State-wide Indicator Framework.

## Information Technology

Information Technology and Business Systems remain of high importance within the organisation. Over the past year, we have continued to evaluate and identify opportunities for improvement and reduce costs where possible without sacrificing access, quality and ease of use.

Cape York NRM now has three conference room facilities providing greater connectivity between staff. We are also actively testing innovative data collection platforms that give us greater insight into business and on-ground activities and we are moving towards a more integrated environment for staff.

## Communications

Communications continues to maintain products to improve engagement with stakeholders and provide information to the community about Cape York NRM. These include a monthly news e-bulletin, the bi-annual LandsCAPE magazine, social media engagement, news media products, event support, video development, editing and production of booklets and guides, and building materials and merchandise for public events and engagement across all age ranges and interests.

Communications has also been an active member of the NRM Regions Queensland forums and departmental communications planning meetings and has provided case studies and media material on request.

**LandsCAPE magazine** was published in July 2022, as a 54-page document and the January 2023 edition grew to 60 pages. Demand continues to grow, with requests for contributed articles to be included from academics, stakeholders and government agencies.

In the 2022-23 financial year, 48 media releases were circulated, which were picked up by local media on a regular basis. A number of these reports also generated national and statewide coverage, such as the confirmation of a cassowary population in Northern Cape York Peninsula, the Grazing Forum, Reef Assist funding, Endeavour River rehabilitation, turtle protection and drought resilience landholder grants. Media releases and bulletin stories were supported by short videos and social media coverage.



**Facebook**  
156.6K reach  
145 posts  
2969 followers



**Instagram**  
9.7K reach  
72 posts  
712 followers



**LinkedIn**  
16.5K reach  
338 followers

# Board



**Sally Gray**  
Chair



**Hurriyet Babacan**  
Vice Chair



**Jim Turnour**  
Director



**Clifford Harrigan**  
Director



**Pauline Smith**  
Director



**Marilyn Morris**  
Director



# Financial Summary

The 2022-23 financial year was Cape York NRM’s 12th full year of operation as a directly funded regional natural resource management body. The primary source of income during the financial year was provided by the Australian Government from its Reef Trust Program, Regional Landcare Program, and from the State Government through its Natural Resources 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.

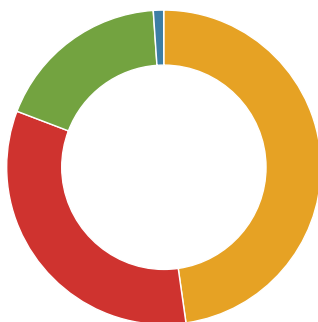
The community financial report is provided for the information of the people of Cape York Peninsula.

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 2023. The Audited Financial Report is available on the Cape York NRM website – <https://capeyorknrm.com.au/about>

## Commitments

Cape York NRM does not use an overdraft facility and does not have any borrowings. Committed expenditure is monitored carefully to ensure we operate within the expenditure levels set out by our grant funding agreements.

Expenditure

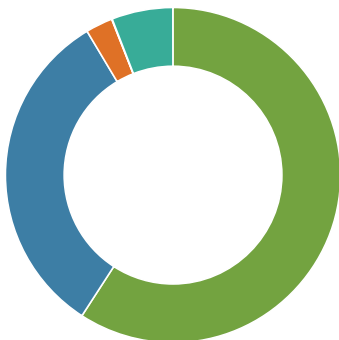


■ Direct Project   
 ■ Employment   
 ■ Corporate   
 ■ Board

### EXPENDITURE

Direct Project	\$2,427,394
Employment	\$1,895,792
Corporate	\$676,412
Board	\$89,211
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,088,809</b>

Income

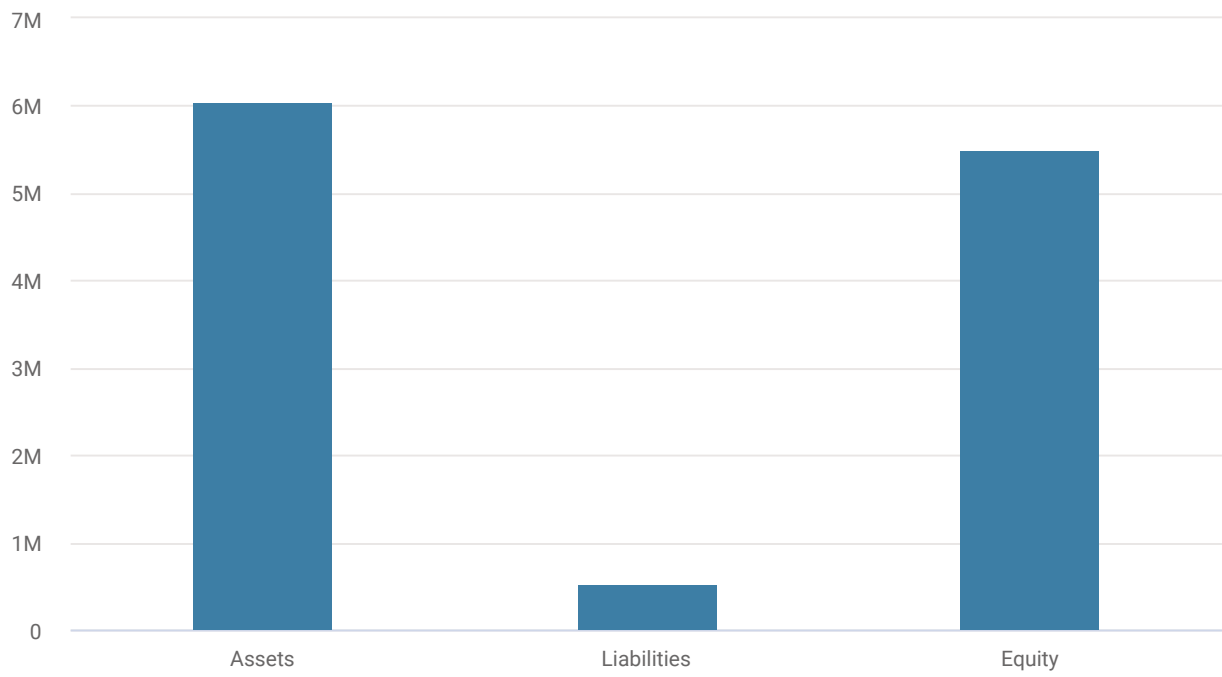


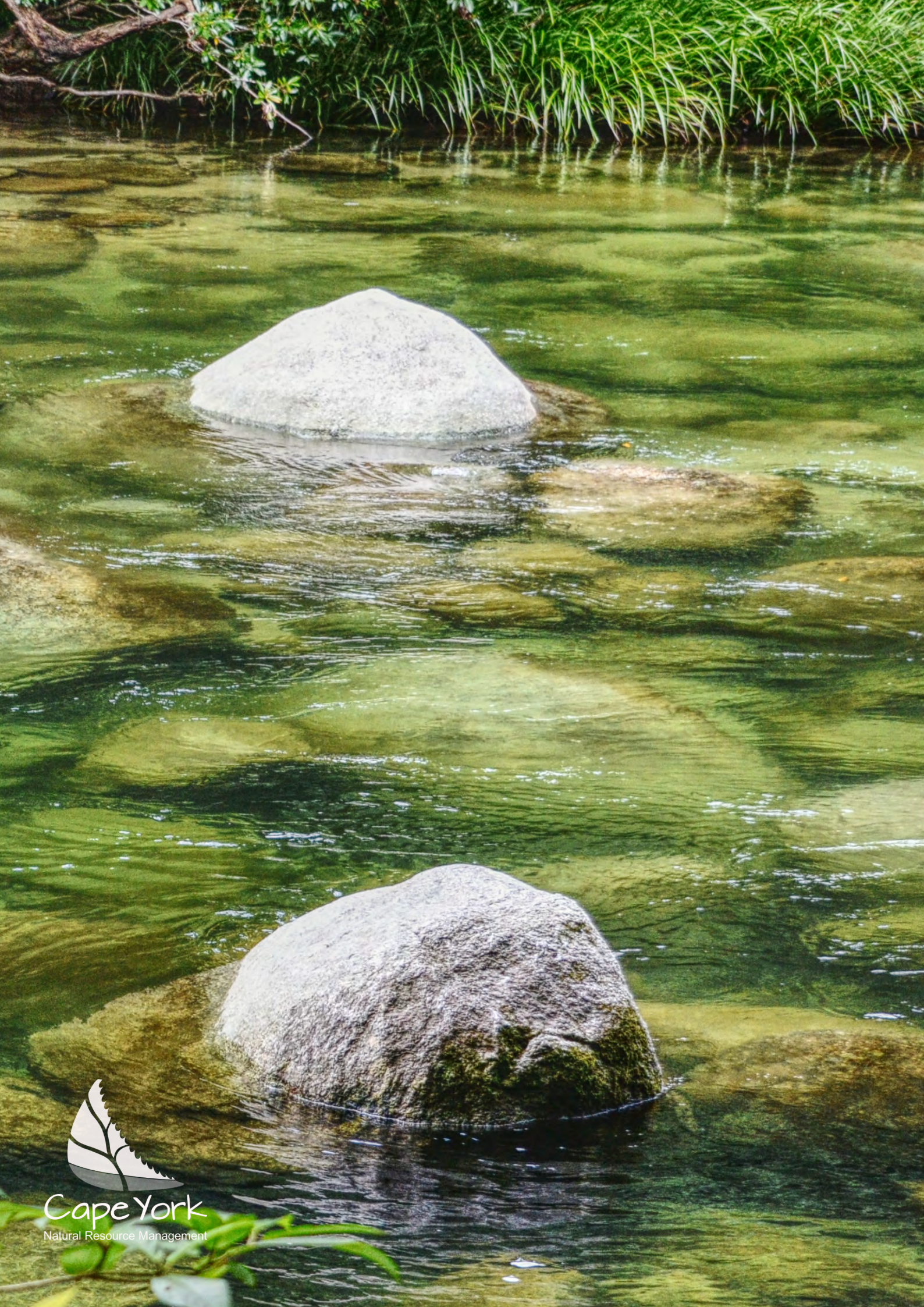
■ Federal Government   
 ■ QLD State Government   
 ■ Non-Government  
■ Interest   
 ■ Miscellaneous Income

### INCOME

Federal Government	\$3,373,702
QLD State Government	\$1,827,856
Non-Government	\$494,476
Interest	\$4,226
Miscellaneous Income	\$66,349
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,766,609</b>

## Assets, Liabilities and Equity





Cape York  
Natural Resource Management