



# Cape York

Natural Resource Management

## ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT 2015-2016





National  
Landcare  
Programme



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

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Cover Photos: Front - Orchid Swamp, Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve; Back - Field Trip at Trevathan Creek Photos: Lyndal Scobell  
Inside cover (top): Queensland Chief Scientist, Geoff Garrett, Christina Howley and Will Higham on the Annan River Photo: Lyndal Scobell; (bottom left) water lilies, Violet Vale wetlands; (bottom right) botanist James Hill undertaking vegetation surveys on Violet Vale Photos: Michael Goddard

This page (above): Gilly Llewellyn and Emma Jackson sign the WWF and Cape York NRM Memorandum of Understanding; (below - clockwise from top left): Cooktown Beaches clean-up; Announcing the National Landcare Programme small grants; Spear grass on Springvale; Andrew Brooks talking gully remediation on Springvale Photos: Lyndal Scobell





# Chair's Report

Emma Jackson

After sitting in the seat of Chairperson for the past twelve months I understand even more just who provides the core strength to Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd. Working with the knowledgeable CEO/Company Secretary, Bob Frazer, a passionate dedicated board and a team of amazing staff who make their work their life, as well as volunteers, external agencies and our constituents, I am overwhelmed. The extreme optimism I have for the strength of the future of natural resource management in our region is unlimited.

Thank you for working with us and contributing to the success of the year.

The year kicked off with Cape York NRM working with other groups whose regions impact the Great Barrier Reef, to form the Reef Alliance. The Alliance succeeded with almost \$45 million for improving land management practices across all those regions that will help protect the Great Barrier Reef. The opportunity to share resources, ideas, patterns and land management activities across natural resource management groups and other organisations will be an advantage in protecting the reef's future. Cape York NRM hosted a visit from Dr Geoff Garrett in Lakeland, who is the leading scientist for the Great Barrier Reef taskforce.

An invitation to support a forum on *Creating a Modern Outback; the Future of Australia's Heartland* at Parliament House, Canberra introduced me to some valuable groups and organisations who have priorities similar to ours. Conversations and messages all led to the same point: be opportunistic and find a way to create the desired outcomes. With funding I believe we are rising with our delivery of on-ground works to accommodate the outcomes of the Regional Investment Strategy. The Regional Investment Strategy is a document that advises our organisation about what you, the constituents are considering a priority in the region, including economic development, biosecurity issues and diverse landscapes as well as environmental protection and restoration. Our goal is to deliver cost-effective on-ground

outcomes which will maintain the future of the land and water.

After attending the *Developing Northern Australia Conference* in Darwin earlier this year, I have realised just how strong our Cape York region is. The people, landscape, ecosystems and the climate work simultaneously for us, and expect us to work for it in return. We can expect an extended future in Cape York if we are managing the land and water activities. This is where we come in quite strong; so many landholders in this region are acting in a sustainable, yet productive manner. There are many challenges but for the level of resilience I currently see on the ground now, I do not doubt our ability to progress through them.

As Chairperson, I am watching and helping our relationships grow, our communications improve and ability to share resources develop, so that on ground outcomes can increase. An example of this is the formation of North Queensland NRM Alliance. This will consist of us, Northern Gulf NRM and Terrain NRM as its members, and will begin to reflect and develop means 'behind the scenes' to reduce these associated costs to the organisation.

To be a successful organisation we need to continue to talk to our members, share ideas and resources and listen responsively to all comments and feedback.

To our members, agents and agencies, please continue to support us, work collaboratively and honestly. To our constituents, thank you very much for your contributions, attendance at events and meetings but also for just sharing your passions for NRM activities and the importance of the region. To our key investors, the Australian and Queensland governments, thank you for your continued support - making our on-ground delivery possible.

I request that you continue to carry out your passionate support for Cape York NRM and always be ready for the next opportunity with us.



Above: Woolly Sundew, Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve Photo: Lyndal Scobell

Below: Lakeland Horticultural Roundtable Photo: Michael Goddard



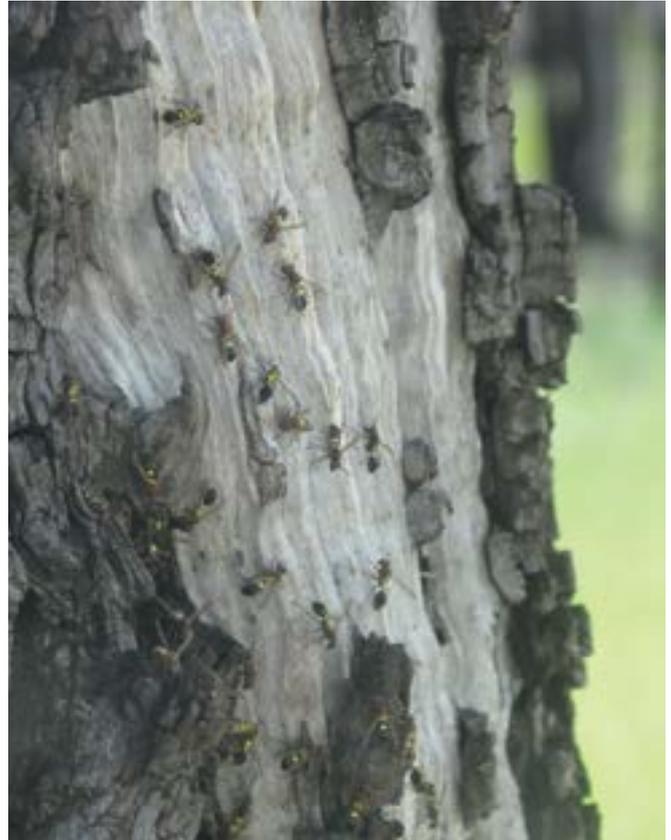
Above: Bladderwort, Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve Photo: Lyndal Scobell

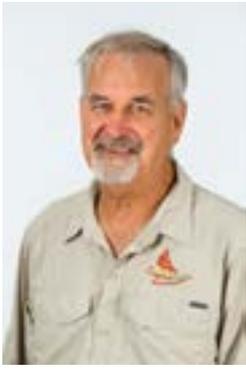
Below: Cape York NRM ATLAS launch Photo: Lyndal Scobell



Above: Mapoon Ranger Geraldine Mamoose using Fulcrum Photo: Lyndal Scobell

Below: Wasps at work Photo: Peta-Marie Standley





# CEO's Report

Bob Frazer

It is my privilege to update members on Cape York NRM's performance during the 2015-2016 financial year, and to provide an overview of key events and activities during that time.

The year began with a meeting of the Board of Directors beside the Wenlock River on Steve Irwin Reserve. This was the first of four such meetings during the year. Your Directors and the Operational Leadership Team (CEO, Operations, Communications and Corporate Services Managers) work together at these Board meetings, and throughout the year, to govern the company, oversee its performance and to ensure that it meets its statutory, contractual and legal obligations.

During the year Directors and staff also worked to review the organisation's strategic objectives and action plans. Our Engagement for Participation, Communications and Marketing and Risk Management Strategies were reviewed and revised,

and work began on a new Corporate Plan which will guide the direction and focus of the company through to 2020. Development of this plan involved gaining a better understanding of our external operating environment: the major political, economic, competitive, technological, social and cultural influences that impact the organisation, how they might change over time and their likely impact on the organisation's performance over the next five years. This work identified a number of current and future challenges in relation to the organisation's capability and competencies, and ways in which we allocate Cape York NRM's limited resources. The challenge is in achieving a balance between the expectations of our landholders and delivery partners, and those of our funding bodies, particularly in regard to the resources required to govern and lead the organisation, and to administer, monitor, evaluate and report on our contracted activities.

Below: Gully Erosion on Crocodile Station *Photo: Lyndal Scobell*



Other planning milestones reached during the year included finalisation of the Cape York Region NRM Plan, and the Water Quality Improvement Plan for Cape York's eastern catchments. The attendance and participation of a broad range of many of our members, landholders and partners at the launch of the NRM Plan in April was a clear indication of the level of community ownership and interest in this initiative, and its importance for the future management of Cape York's natural and cultural heritage. The Water Quality Improvement Plan will also guide investment and activity in the region's Great Barrier Reef catchments.

During the year the organisation worked hard to build and manage relationships with its members and the people and communities of Cape York. Despite ongoing changes in programs, priorities and levels of funding we were able to maintain and in some cases build on our 'delivery through partnerships' approach. This involves devolving funds for on-ground works to landholders such as graziers, farmers, Land Trusts, Land and Sea Ranger Groups and community organisations. We have also continued our focus on engagement, capacity building, support and the two-way sharing of information and knowledge with those that we serve.



Above: Cape York NRM Board meeting Coen *Photo: Lyndal Scobell*  
The participation of a broad range of our members, landholders and partners in our planning, on-ground delivery and their contribution to our other activities throughout the year is an indicator of the success of these efforts. The participation of a broad range of people in the independent evaluation of Cape York NRM's performance during the year is an example that many members would not be aware of. This evaluation indicated that the company had made significant progress since its first review in 2013, with improvement against all seven areas assessed during the process.

I would like to re-state a key principle, one that underpins Cape York NRM's mission, influences

its decision-making, and guides its approach to the way in which it approaches its work. That principle is that 'natural resource management is all about people'.



Above: Ling Creek *Photo: Lyndal Scobell*

In doing so I would like to end this report by acknowledging the contribution during the year of a myriad of people; our members, Directors, staff, delivery partners, landholders, communities, our elected Local State and Federal Government members, and the public servants in the government agencies that fund us. We could not have achieved what we did for the natural and cultural heritage values of Cape York and the Great Barrier Reef in 2015-16 without the involvement of each and every one of you. Thank You.



Above: Livistona sp. *Photo: Peta-Marie Standley*



# Board Report



The Cape York NRM Board of Directors 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 Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve and Coen during the dry season, a teleconference with some Directors participating from Cooktown and a meeting in Cairns during the wet. Directors had a half day meeting with Cook Shire Councillors in conjunction with the teleconference. The Cairns meeting incorporated Director governance training and the first stage of development of the company's Corporate Plan for 2016-2020.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting was held at Coen in November 2015. This marked the end of term for Directors Shelley Lyon and David Claudie. Directors Pauline Smith and Barry Lyon were elected to represent Indigenous Zone Two and the Conservation Sector respectively, with Director Jackson elected as Chairperson. In the meeting following the AGM, Director Giese tendered his resignation, and following the local government elections in March, Director Johnson resigned. This left vacancies in three sectors – Indigenous Zone One, Community and Local Government.

In line with the constitution, nominations were called and the Board of Directors made the following interim appointments (until AGM 2016) of Directors: Desmond Tayley – Local Government Sector; Dale Motlop – Indigenous Sector Zone One; and Jodi Hamilton – Community Sector.

**130** members

**4** newsletters distributed

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
John Giese	Community Sector	Cooktown	2	2
Jodi Hamilton	Community Sector	Coen	1	1
Emma Jackson	Primary Industry Sector	Wolverton	4	4
Penny Johnson	Local Government Sector	Cooktown	4	3
Marilyn Kepple	Indigenous Sector Zone 3	Coen	4	1
Barry Lyon	Conservation Sector	Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve	3	3
Dale Motlop	Indigenous Sector Zone 1	Injinoo	1	1
Pauline Smith	Indigenous Sector Zone 2	Mapoon	3	3
Desmond Tayley	Local Government Sector	Wujal Wujal	1	0
Sandra Woosup	Indigenous Sector Zone 1	Injinoo	4	3
<i>David Claudie</i>	<i>Indigenous Sector Zone 2</i>	<i>Chuulangun</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Shelley Lyon</i>	<i>Conservation Sector</i>	<i>Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

*Italics indicates a director whose term ended in 2015.*

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.

Director	Related Party	Nature of Transaction	Amount Ex GST
John Giese	Cape York Weeds and Feral Animas Inc. (Chairman)	Cape York East Coast Pond Apple Survey and Control (CY123) \$20,000 Chemical Certification ACDC Training at Bonny Glen (CYP095) \$5,016.96	25,016.96
John Giese	South Cape York Catchments Inc. (Chairman)	Traditional Owners and community working together to protect endangered wetlands (CY126)	110,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$135,016.96</b>



**5000+** hits on the  
Cape York ATLAS



**1220** facebook  
likes



**688** twitter followers



# Operations Report

*Peta-Marie Standley*

Five years of operations – time flies when you are having fun! While we encourage our staff to have fun when working with you all – there is a lot of hard work that goes on in the background. This is to ensure that community projects can continue to be supported and that we lift the burden a little with the ever-changing requirements with investment priorities and reporting to our funding providers. This hard work involves development and improvement of systems with contract and data management, reporting, evaluation, access to communications support, project proposal and delivery support including WH&S, information to assist in project planning and delivery and tools to improve monitoring of on-ground delivery. All of this means building on existing capacity to improve governance of natural resource management on Cape York.



Fulcrum training with Wunthulpu rangers *Photo: Supplied*

This year Cape York NRM completed the first iteration of the 'living NRM plan'. To view the ATLAS and the tools it contains, go to the ATLAS icon in the top right corner of the web page at [www.capeyorknrm.com.au](http://www.capeyorknrm.com.au). You will open up a world of locally relevant NRM information to assist you with planning and management of your property. You can get involved on our *Land Manager* site by creating a profile and contributing stories on the work you are undertaking – ask our staff how to do this when you see them in the field. We have included an evaluation section in our external contract reporting requirements. This is to help us improve delivery of our support and services and we encourage constructive feedback. We

completed the Eastern Cape York Water Quality Improvement Plan that is guiding future investment in the region.

We have significantly increased our agricultural investment into the region with our new *paddock to reef* and *sustainable industries* programs. The programs include a large gully remediation project and an increased extension, innovation and targeted grants program to assist you to continue to improve on the delivery of best practice farming and grazing enterprises. Watch this space!

We have maintained our industry roundtables with more to come so that we can continue listening to our grazing and horticultural communities. The Violet Vale demonstration site has been completed with the construction of 43 km of fencing to exclude cattle from a significant wetland complex that flows into Princess Charlotte Bay.

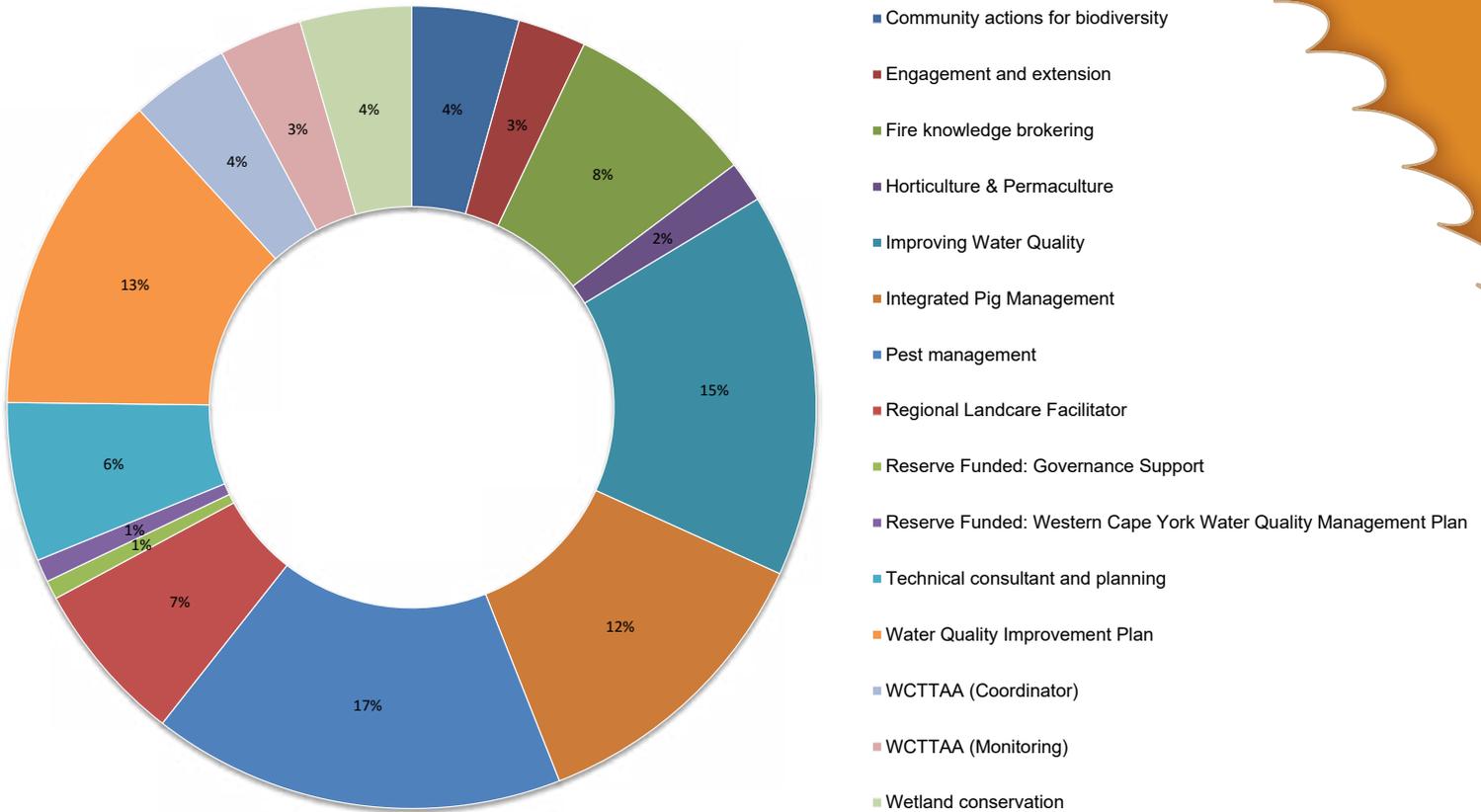


Water Quality Improvement Plan technical panel *Photo: Lyndal Scobell*

Terrestrial and aquatic monitoring has been established to evaluate the results of this work into the future. We have completed an additional four comprehensive grazing property management plans to add to the growing list and six comprehensive horticultural plans in the Lakeland region.

We continue to target high priority weeds of national significance on containment lines, and in places where control efforts will make a difference such as at the top of the catchments. We completed a draft Regional Biosecurity Strategy which integrated feedback from our partners that worked with us locally and regionally to bring this document together. We are planning to hold a regional pest forum in the

## Distribution of on-ground funding (percentage)



coming months to finalise this strategy and identify partners to deliver actions at both the local and regional scales.

We continued support to the West Coast Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance and this partnership goes from strength to strength. Our support to these communities to improve on-going turtle threat abatement including vertebrate pest management is making a real difference to the conservation of our endangered marine turtles.

The Cape York Indigenous Fire Workshop is a partnership with Mulong and hosting Cape York communities, and it continues to grow. The 2016 workshop was predominantly self-funded, however a significant contribution still comes from the State and Federal governments for staff time, and the costs incurred by the rangers and land managers who attend. While the organisation of the 2016 Indigenous Fire Workshop occurred in the 2015-2016 financial



Mapoon rangers Photo: Peta Standley

year, the event was held in the current financial year, and will be reported on next year.

I could go on but I have run out of space. This financial year has already started at a running pace and we are all busy with delivery prior to the on-set of our expected early wet.



**6000+** staff  
hours in the field



**43** service  
delivery partners



**160+** plans  
developed



**18** photo monitoring  
points established



**Cape York NRM funded projects to map and treat weeds in 2015-2016 financial year**



Weeds mapped over **20,000+** ha



**7** species of weeds sprayed over approximately 4000+ ha



**20** small grants for on-ground works



Above: Final meeting for the Wet Tropics Cluster - NRM Planning for Climate Change  
Photo: Peci Lyons



**3800+** Feral animals culled over **1,200,000+** ha



Above: Laura Rangers discuss gully erosion with Queensland Chief Scientist Geoff Garrett  
Photo: Lyndal Scobell



**Cape York NRM funded and supported projects to manage feral animals by aerial control in the 2015-2016 financial year**



**68** Fulcrum apps



**93** Fulcrum participants



**4507** Fulcrum records



# Community Financial Report

Roxy Voyce

This community financial report is provided for the information of the people of Cape York. Our aim here is to provide an easy to understand summary and analysis of our financial performance and position for the financial year ended 30 June 2016. The Audited Financial Report is available on the Cape York NRM website [www.capeyorknrm.com.au/about](http://www.capeyorknrm.com.au/about). Please contact the office should a hard copy of the report be required.

<b>Financial Performance</b>			
<i>Monies Received</i>		<i>Expenses (Outgoing)</i>	
Grant income during year	3,722,183	Board of Directors and employee costs	1,250,217
Interest received	22,469	Partner contracts, goods and services	2,265,801
Other	149,552	Operating surplus before tax	350,558
		Allowance for depreciations	27,628
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,894,204</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,894,204</b>

During the 2015-16 financial year, most of our income was derived from state and federal government programs.

<b>Financial Position</b>			
<i>Current Assets (what we own)</i>		<i>Liabilities (what we owe)</i>	
Cash and equivalents	1,762,347	Accounts payable	318,510
Trade and other receivables	140,857	Borrowings	12,977
Shares	10,000	Employee entitlements	91,519
Plant and equipment	152,354		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2 065 558</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$423,006</b>

## 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 2016-17.

<b>Cash at Bank at 30 June 2016</b>	
Grant funding and company funds carried forward	1,352,318
Employee entitlements	91,519
Accounts payable	318,510
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,762,347</b>

### Debtors (money owed to us)

At 30 June 2016 we were owed \$140,857.

### Human Resources (our staff)

Staff – employment type	2016	2015
Full-time (fixed term contracts)	12	10
Part-time/casual	1	1
Positions hosted at Cape York NRM (Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance)	1	1

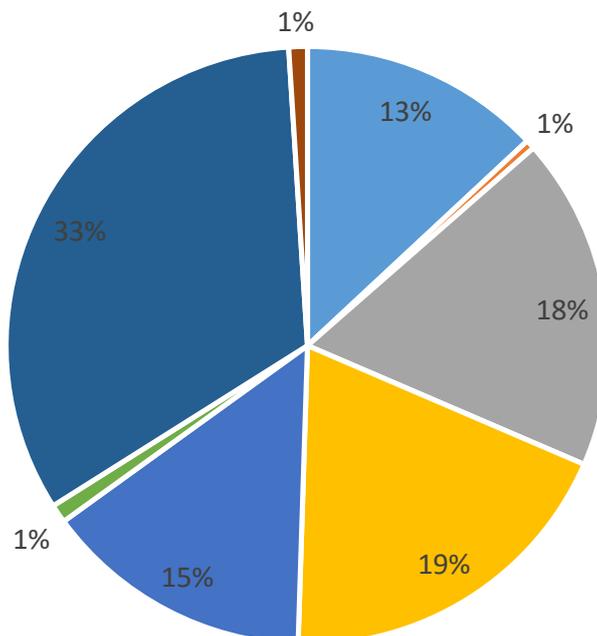
### Overview

The 2015-16 financial year was Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd's fifth 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 its Q2 Coasts and Country program. Additional Federal Government funding was provided under the Reef Programme. 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 2015-16 are shown below:

- Nest to Ocean (Federal and State)
- Regional NRM Program (State)
- Reef Trust (Federal)
- National Landcare Programme (Federal)
- Litter and Illegal Dumping (State)
- Reef Rescue (Federal)
- NRM Planning (Federal)
- Indigenous Land and Sea (State)





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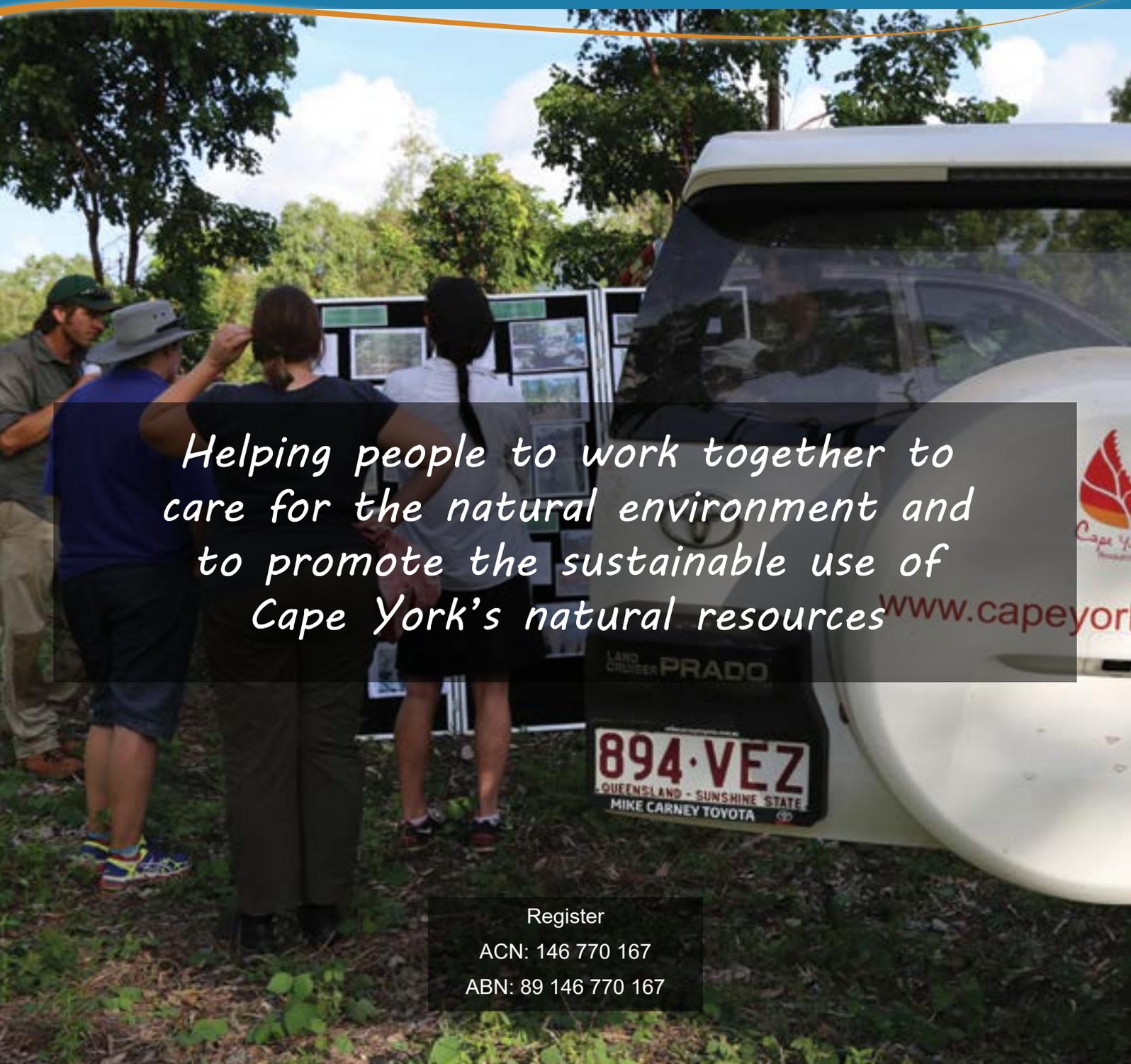
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A photograph showing a group of people gathered around an outdoor information display. In the foreground, a white Toyota Prado SUV is parked, with its rear wheel and a logo for Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd visible. The license plate reads '894-VEZ' and 'QUEENSLAND - SUNSHINE STATE'. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and a blue sky with clouds.

*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