



# Cape York

## Natural Resource Management

**Annual Community Report  
2013-2014**





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Cover:	Nifold Plains - Kerry Trapnell
This page:	Bauxite Cliffs, Ussher Point - Kerry Trapnell
Page 2:	David Claudie, Cape York NRM Chair - Cape York NRM
Page 3:	Bob Frazer (right) Cape York NRM CEO, with Richard Tamwoy, former Zone One Director - Cape York NRM; Peninsula Development Road - Kerry Trapnell
Page 4:	Cape York NRM Board photos - Cape York NRM
Page 5:	Peta Standley and Dr Tommy George - Gus Arnott
Page 6:	Isabella Falls - Kerry Trapnell
Back Cover:	Nypa Palms 'Floating Islands', Wenlock River - Kerry Trapnell

**Abbreviations:** Cape York Natural Resource Management - Cape York NRM  
Natural Resource Management - NRM

# Chair's report

**David Claudie**

It is with great pleasure I bring you my first report as Chairperson for Cape York Natural Resource Management, for our third year of operations. We have continued to mature and grow, and our new board is setting strategic direction for natural resource management arrangements on Cape York.

We secured more than \$4 million for natural resource management on Cape York in this period, and we maintained our commitment to delivering a significant proportion of that funding to our service provider partners for delivery of on-ground projects.

Our new Board gives us broad and strategic representation for Cape York and has brought a diverse range of skills to the governance of the Company. In this period our Board has commenced strategic planning for the future direction of the Company, and introduced Director portfolios to the organisation. The first of these is our Finance Audit and Risk Sub-Committee which will oversee our financial accountability and monitor our approach to risk management.

It has been a significant period for Cape York in relation to regional, state and national planning. We made submissions to the Cape York Regional Plan and Northern Australia white paper, and attended numerous meetings on the Cape and



in Cairns, Brisbane and Canberra, and worked to provide opportunities for Cape York people to have their say on these important matters.

Cape York NRM has continued to build and strengthen its relationships with the people and organisations on Cape York and further afield. For example, this year we formalised a Memorandum of Understanding with Cape York Sustainable Futures. This agreement outlines our roles and provides a framework for working together for good natural resource management, social, cultural and economic outcomes for the people of Cape York.

As Chair I have continued to represent Cape York on the Regional Groups Collective, the body which represents all of the Natural Resource Management Groups in Queensland. This is an important strategic alliance for Cape York, as we are able to collaborate on state-wide projects, and advocate on issues that you, our members, have said are important.



**235 Cape York  
NRM Members**



**2000+ Newsletter  
recipients**



**194 Facebook  
followers**



**217 Twitter  
followers**

# CEO's report

**Bob Frazer**

Another busy and rewarding year has passed for Cape York NRM.

It is now four years since the company was formed and began its work to bring people together to care for the health of Cape York's land, water, creatures and cultures.

We have achieved a lot in that time and are proud to have been able to highlight in our regular newsletters and in this Annual Report, the many successes which we have shared with our partner community organisations, Land Trusts, Ranger Groups, graziers, farmers and Councils over the past year. If you do not receive our newsletters you can access them in the news and resources section of our web site and I would encourage you to log on and find out about the work of our partners who are definitely making an improvement on the ground.

During the year we celebrated our Inaugural Conservation and Land Management Award which was won by Western Cape College student Kiani Kris for her commitment to conservation and her community.

This year also saw the company commence roll out of the actions identified in its first Business Excellence Review which was conducted at the end of the last financial year. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the cross-section of people and organisations living and working on Cape York who took part in interviews with the independent reviewers and who helped us to identify opportunities to improve the way in which we carry out our work.

In terms of our strengths, the review reinforced the value of our willingness to work with and represent all sectors and people of Cape York. Other identified strengths were our commitment to supporting and building the capacity of our partners working on the ground, our independence and non-partisan approach to issues such as Wild Rivers, World Heritage and Land Use Planning. Underlying that approach



is the principle that decisions on such matters, which have often proved to be divisive, need to be made by the people of Cape York, and that to make the best possible decision on issues that have long term potential impacts on them, people need to have access to all of the views and information, forums and debates.

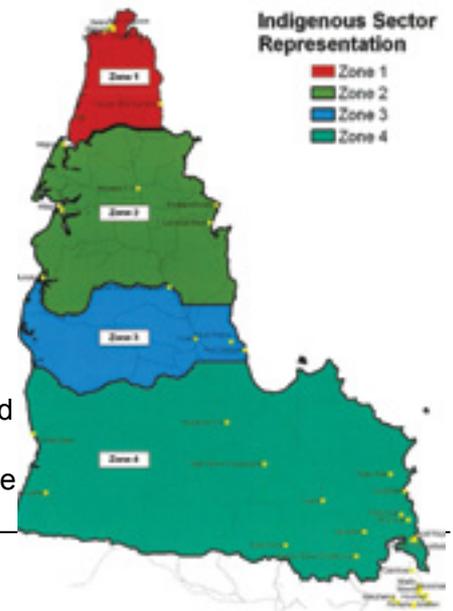
Finally, a heartfelt thank you to the Board of Directors for their support and guidance, and a huge thank you to Cape York NRM staff for their commitment to our values and contribution to what has been achieved throughout the year.



# Our Board

The Cape York NRM board consists of ten representatives from six sectors: Indigenous; Conservation; Community; Primary Industries; Local Government; Tourism; Small Business, Mining and other Industries. The Indigenous sector has five representatives from four zones (see right).

During the financial year, four meetings of Directors were held. The 2012-2013 Annual General Meeting was held in October 2013. This marked the end of three year term of appointment of the members of the Inaugural Board of Director's, resulting in the appointment of seven new directors to the board. The table displays all Directors and their attendance record during the 2013-2014 financial year.



## Cape York NRM Board of Directors

<i>Director Name</i>	<i>Portfolio</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Meeting eligible to attend</i>	<i>No. of meetings attended</i>
Richard Tamwoy	Indigenous Zone 1	Injinoo	1	0
Peter inderbitzen	Primary Industries	Lakeland	1	1
John Giese	Community	Cooktown	4	4
William Richard Foster	Tourism, Small Business and other Industries	Weipa	1	0
Barry Lyon	Conservation	Wenlock River	1	1
Reginald Williams	Indigenous Zone 1	Bamaga	1	0
Desmond Tayley	Indigenous Zone 4	Wujal Wujal	1	0
Gavin Bassani	Indigenous Zone 3	Silver Plains	4	3
David Claudie	Indigenous Zone 2	Chuulangun	4	4
Shelley Lyon	Conservation	Wenlock River	3	2
Penny Johnson	Local Government	Cooktown	3	2
Sandra Woosup	Indigenous Zone 1	Injinoo	3	3
Emma Jackson	Primary Industries	Wolverton	3	2
John Charlton	Tourism, Small Business, Mining and other Industries	Seisia	3	3
Christopher Lifu	Indigenous Zone 1	Bamaga	2	1
Alban Zingle	Indigenous Zone 4	Kowanyama	2	2

Former Directors from prior to October 2013 AGM



# Operations Report

**Peta-Marie Standley**

Cape York NRM's third year of funded operations successfully delivered projects across Cape York, achieving outstanding results. We have worked with the community, invited recording of their knowledge and used available data to successfully begin the mapping of sicklepod, other weeds and threatened species, community plans and climate stories. We supported community, council and ranger projects to control *Hymenachne*, Gamba grass, Class 2 emergent weeds and undertake pig management via on-ground and aerial programs. We have supported development of culturally appropriate management strategies for rare species. We have improved collation of regional data, plans and reports and their accessibility to communities through training in digital technologies.

We asked you what you knew about "Your Climate" and what your priorities were for natural resource management. We held industry roundtables, cattle management field days, Indigenous led fire management workshops, established demonstration sites, assisted with planning, supported fire scar mapping for the Northern Australia Fire Management site, supported West Coast Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA), worked with scientists on regional climate data and promoted and attended regional events. We invested in your community priorities and worked alongside you to deliver programs.

As Operations Manager the highlight of my year as has been the number of existing partnerships we have maintained and the number of emerging partnerships with communities, organisations and people of Cape York that have begun. Over the past year, our engagement strategy was based on active participation to improve planning, planning by doing while building capacity and knowledge, coordinating actions, responding to emerging challenges and opportunities, and monitoring activities and outcomes across all sectors of Cape York. Our staff travelled all



over Cape York to work with people from local government, ranger programs, Land Trusts, regional organisations, Indigenous groups, grazing and agricultural industries and the wider community. Our focus continues to be on improving capacity and building the skills and knowledge needed to strategically manage natural resources on Cape York. Our delivery model is centred on informed and collaborative planning and management, partnering with Cape York organisations and landholders to implement on-ground actions.

The financial year began with delivery of several new programs that were developed out of the regional investment strategy process of early 2013. The programs we delivered included the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Sustainable Agriculture and Environment projects, the Queensland Natural Resource Management Investment Program, Regional NRM Planning for Climate Change, Reef Rescue Water Quality Grants programme (in conjunction with Cape York Sustainable Futures) and the Ghost Nets programme on Cape York through our support to Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA). We also finalised the Traditional Fire Management project, Bioregional Assessments project, Business Navigator Initiative and Indigenous Reference Group projects.

Our efforts have improved co-ordination and community legacy for natural resource management outcomes. The new Sustainable Agriculture program, funded by both Queensland and Australian governments is working with land managers to map and manage weeds, undertake property planning, improve sustainable



management and monitoring of grazing and agriculture industries in central Cape York and Lakeland areas. We are also working hard to develop a demand-driven online Atlas to give voice to existing local planning and knowledge of climate and environmental change. The Atlas will be launched early next year. We facilitated strategic engagement with the community and awareness raising of the Queensland Government's Cape York Regional Planning process. Across all programs 64% of the regional investment program was delivered on the ground in Cape York and included on-ground works, improved strategic planning, business development and data management. The remaining 36% contributed to achieving regional delivery program outcomes and involved activities such as engagement, communications, monitoring and evaluation, program management, regional reporting and administration support.

Our communications program has expanded and supports and promotes Cape York groups while communicating outcomes from our programs. As we mature as an organisation, we have improved our policies, procedures, financial and administrative accountability, information, monitoring and evaluation systems, project preparation, mapping and spatial analysis.

The next year's programs are looking bright, as we continue the NRM planning project and QLD NRM Investment Program and launch the new Water Quality Improvement Planning project. With our partners, we will continue to host the WCTTAA coordinator position, deliver the Reef Water Quality Grants program in our alliance with Cape York Sustainable Futures, collaborate with Northern Gulf Resource Management Group on the Nature Refuge Project and work with the Rangelands Alliance NRM Spatial Hub.

Together with the Cape York community, we have faced challenges of the slow rollout of programs and the impacts of budget challenges forcing changes to Federal Government investment programs. The result was a reduction of our agreed five year environment program to one year and the need to re-negotiate outcomes with a general reduction in funding. We will soon be renegotiating our Sustainable Environment and Agriculture programs to align with the Australian Government's new National Landcare program. For this, we will work with the Cape York community and organisations to review and revise our investment strategy. We are looking forward to it!

# Key Events and Meetings Map 2013- 2014

This map shows the places Cape York NRM and our contracted partners have been working during the financial year for key events and meetings.

*The map excludes individual meetings and one-on-one engagement.*



**30 Service Delivery Partners**

**70 workshops and events delivered and attended by partners and ourselves**

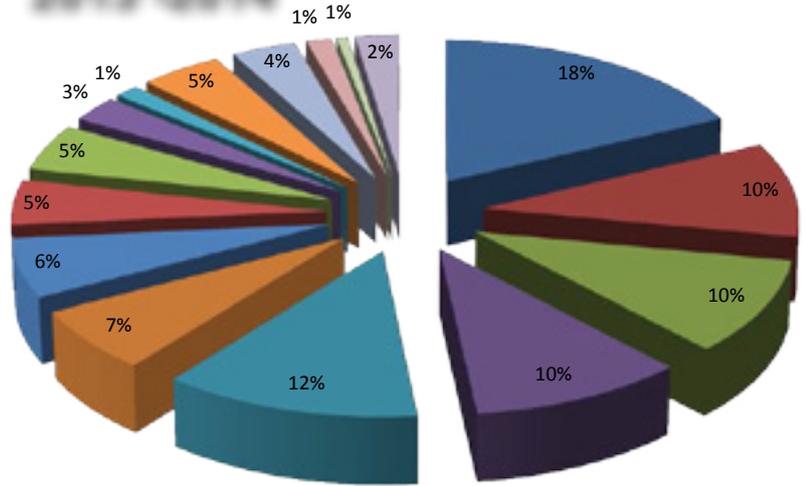
**75 Indigenous people employed or contracted**

120+ plans collated for NRM planning processes

25 small grants expressions of interest



## On-ground funding 2013 -2014



70+ Your Climate questionnaires completed by Cape York People

2000+ staff hours in the field

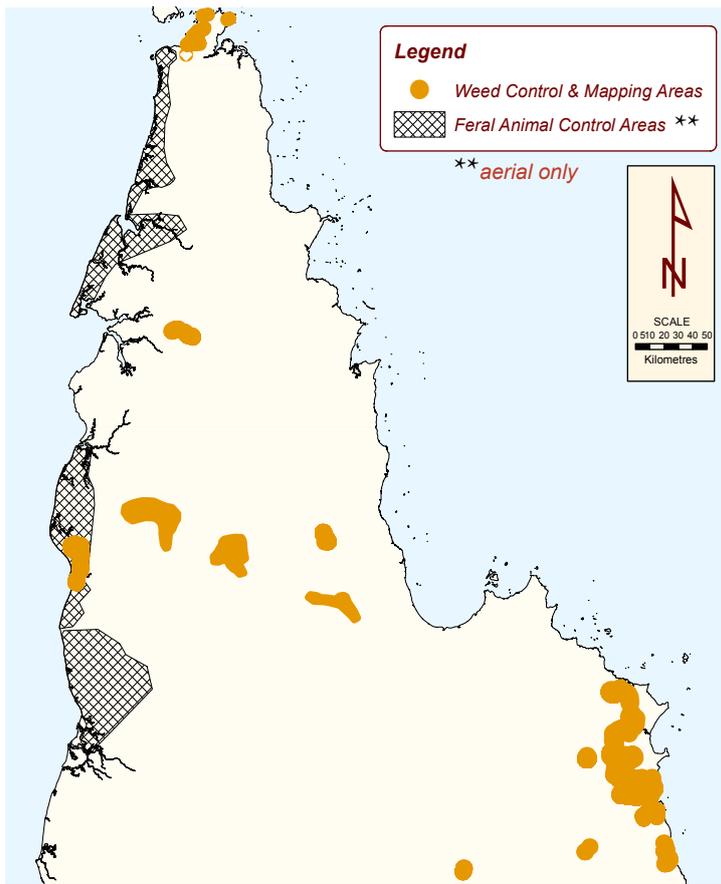


17 Fulcrum apps developed

41 Fulcrum users



- Fire Mapping and Reef Grants
- Regional Pest Management
- South Cape Community Engagement, Indigenous capacity building, Biodiversity Management, Your Climate
- Technical consultants planning, GIS and ATLAS development
- Integrated pig management
- Landcare Facilitator
- Indigenous fire management and climate stories
- Central and East Cape York weeds management and demonstration site
- On-country, property planning
- Small grants (\$10 000 or less)
- West Cape Turtle Threat Abatement/Ghost Nets
- Extension, planning and risk assessment Sustainable Agriculture
- Targeted Sustainable Agriculture pest management
- Industry Roundtables/Field Days
- Mitchell River catchment area engagement
- Business Development support



100 000+ hectares of weeds mapped



22 revegetation events



Feral animal control over 2 500 000+ hectares



10 species of weeds sprayed & 700+ hectares of weeds controlled



### WEEDS AND FERAL ANIMALS ON-GROUND ACTIVITIES 2013-2014

As funded by Cape York NRM



# Community Financial Report

This community financial report is provided for the information of the people of Cape York. Members have been provided with a full copy of the audited Financials Statements and Directors Report.

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 2014. Please contact us if you would like a copy of the full financial report.

<b>Financial Performance</b>			
<i>Monies Received</i>		<i>Expenses (Outgoing)</i>	
Grant Income during year	4 078 284	Board of Directors and Employee Costs	761 985
Interest received	20 196	Partner Contracts, goods and services	2 611 181
Other	2 351	Operating surplus before tax	699 575
Other	0	Allowance for depreciations	28 090
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 100 831</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4 100 831</b>

During the 2013-2014 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	1 470 671	Accounts payable	581 792
Trade and other receivables	65 803	Borrowings	-
Plant and Equipment	75 547	Employee entitlements	19 066
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 612 021</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>600 858</b>

## Commitments

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

## Cash in the 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 2014-2015.

<b>Cash at bank at 30 June 2014</b>	
Grant funding and company funds carried forward	869,880
Employee entitlements	19 066
Accounts payable	581 725
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 470 671</b>

## Debtors (money owed to us)

At 30 June 2014, we were owed \$65,803.

## Human Resources (our staff)

Staff – employment type	2014	2013
Full-time (fixed term contracts)	7	6
Casual	1	0
Positions hosted at Cape York NRM (Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance)	1	0

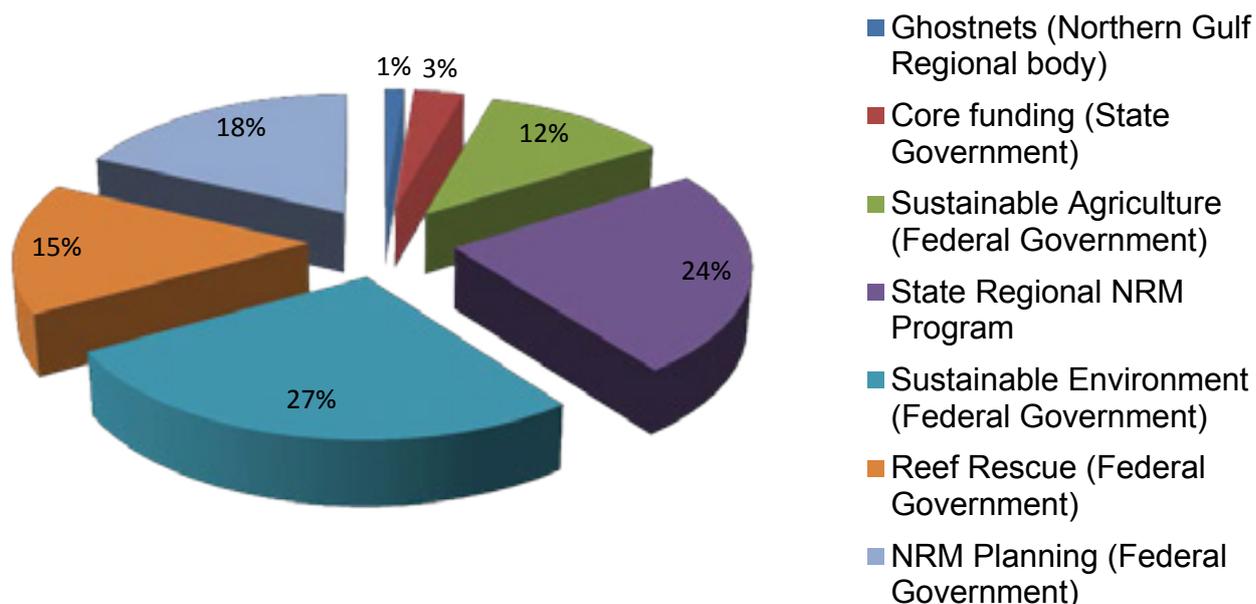
## Overview

The 2013-2014 financial year was Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd's third full year of operation, as a directly funded regional NRM body. Further details of how money received was invested and outcomes of the work can be found in the Operations overview in this report.

Regional NRM bodies (and in our case our delivery partners) faced significant funding challenges in the financial year, due to changes in State and Federal Government Programmes. The challenges related to changes in Program priorities, reductions in Commonwealth funding levels and the need to re-negotiate the allocation of program funds to on-ground projects which met those government priorities. This led to delays in receiving service agreements from Government which impacted on cashflow timing.

A further challenge for regional bodies in Queensland included the loss of the historical allocation of \$500k p.a. in core funding. This contribution (\$250k each from the State and Commonwealth) covered our Governance (Board) costs, CEO and admin, plus basic business expenses such as insurance, bookkeeping, audit costs etc. For 2013-14 we received a one-off allocation of \$125k from the State Government towards these costs. This assistance to transition the funding of those costs from our other funding allocations was much appreciated.

The major income sources for 2013-14 are shown below.





*"Helping people work together to care for the natural environment and promote the sustainable use of natural resources"*

**Contact us and become a member:**

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**Australian Government**



**Queensland  
Government**