



Cape York  
Natural Resource Management

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Cape York  
Natural Resource Management

*Cape York NRM acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, and recognises their continuing connection to land, water and community. Cape York NRM pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*

A photograph of two men wearing cowboy hats, seen from behind, looking out over a field towards a bright sunset. The man on the left is wearing a blue and white checkered shirt, and the man on the right is wearing a red and white checkered shirt. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect.

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# SNAPSHOT

**264** MEMBERS

**13** FULL TIME EMPLOYEES



**185** INDIGENOUS PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN PROJECTS



**10,267** STAFF HOURS IN CAPE YORK

**17** HEAD CONTRACTS

**51** PARTNER CONTRACTS

**84** ACTIVE PROJECTS

**\$4,663,858** INVESTMENT INTO CAPE YORK

**120** EPISODES OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



**15,164** WEBSITE HITS

**1070** TWITTER FOLLOWERS

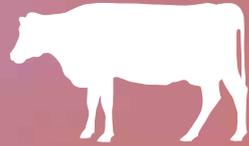
**1672** FACEBOOK LIKES

# 2017-18

Cape York Indigenous Ranger



**900,000ha**  
OF GRAZING LAND  
MANAGEMENT  
PROJECTS COVERED



**13,000+ ha**  
OF EROSION PRONE  
LAND DE-STOCKED OF  
FERAL CATTLE



**4,000+ t**  
OF FINE SEDIMENT  
CONTROLLED



**4571**  
FERAL PIGS  
CULLED

**1,785,746**  
HECTARES  
COVERED

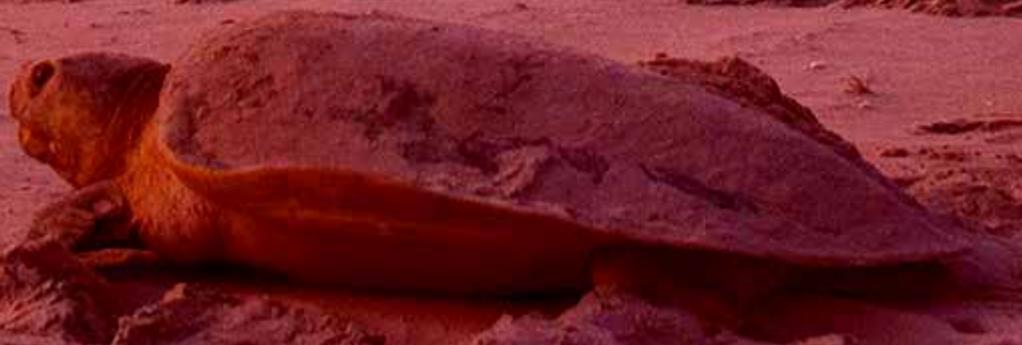
**2863**

TURTLE NESTS MONITORED



**4** INDIGENOUS  
RANGER GROUPS

**184** NEST PROTECTION  
CAGES DEPLOYED





**Emma Jackson**

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Often, I start my report by outlining how successful the year has been, however 2017 - 18 proved to be quite a challenge for our organisation. We transitioned our corporate services into the new entity, Corporate Nature, formed between Cape York, Northern Gulf and Terrain NRMs. Corporate Nature now oversees contracts, financial management, administrative support and human resource management for all three NRM regional bodies. The arrangement began in January, bringing additional and inevitable adjustments for our teams. Commonwealth and State government funding proposals were submitted this year, adding further intense pressure to the organisation. The unpredictability of this process was testing for teams and partners. 2017-18 was also the year we farewelled our long-standing CEO, Bob Frazer and Communications and Engagement Manager, Lyndal Scobell.

Bob was a part of this organisation since its early days, having kicked off as CEO with a small annual budget and working from a home office. He grew the organisation, staff, and partnerships, and earned the confidence of state and commonwealth governments. Lyndal brought so much passion and commitment for the people on the ground and the sharing of stories. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank them for their service, and wish them all the very best for the future.

In April, the Board recruited John Gavin as CEO of Cape York NRM. John is highly experienced and brings a dynamic understanding of, and passion for, natural resource management and regional bodies, along with high - level corporate and business understanding. John brings energy, ears and a steady pace. He will be getting to know this region over the next twelve months and meeting and talking to communities, townships and land managers. Please feel free to approach John for a chat as he is keen to understand the Cape, and get to know the people working, living and breathing Cape York.

With pleasure, I share that our staff and partner organisations have exceeded expectations with on-ground delivery. Natural resource and cultural heritage management outcomes are consistently high because of the dedication and commitment of our staff and partners. The on-ground delivery, operational performance, governance and drive to partner demonstrates our capacity to deliver efficiently, effectively and sustainably. I would like to also thank them for continuing to work for us and with us, this past twelve months.

We must thank the Queensland Government for supporting most of our investment applications. Our submissions aligned with their priority areas including Reef Water Quality, NRM Projects, Paddock to Reef and Regional Coordination and Evaluation. We also owe thanks to the Commonwealth Government for supporting our investment requests including continued funding from the National Landcare Program which supports improved land and water outcomes, knowledge exchange and identification of areas requiring attention. I also thank The Nature Conservancy for co-investing in a key position regarding fire management planning and practices across our landscape.

We pride ourselves in improving the resilience of the land and water and building the capacity of Cape York people. Increasing community participation in the management of our natural and cultural heritage values, increasing our understanding of people and their needs, and supporting key events across the region, remains important to us. To understand Cape York's land and water we need to understand the people.

I would like to thank our partners, members, Board and dedicated staff for their hard work throughout 2017-2018. This has been a very demanding year, but our organisation continues to reflect the values of Cape York — strength and resilience.

“  
**Natural resource & cultural heritage management outcomes are consistently high because of the dedication and commitment of our staff & partners.**  
”



Gully restoration at  
Crocodile Station



**John  
Gavin**

# CEO'S REPORT

The 2017 -2018 financial year has been a year of change and achievement for Cape York NRM. For the observant reader, you would have noticed that it isn't Bob Frazer's name beside this year's CEO's report. Bob retired in early 2018 and along with Lyndal (our communications and Engagement Manager) leaving created a big hole in our leadership team. I have been fortunate to be appointed to the role of CEO and look forward to working with the people, communities and businesses of Cape York to care for the natural environment and improve natural resource sustainability. Even though I have only been with the organisation for a short time, I am impressed by the scope and quality of the projects that Cape York NRM supports and the commitment to delivering through partnerships across the Cape.

Organisationally, we have continued to drive for efficiency in our delivery and have continued to roll out a cooperative approach via the NQ NRM Alliance - a partnership between Cape York NRM, Northern Gulf Resource Management Group and Terrain NRM. While this has involved considerable internal change, hopefully our external partners and members have seen little impact on services as we strive for improved governance and delivery while achieving time and cost savings.

Another significant change for the

organisation is the changes to both Australian and State Government natural resource management funding programs. While these are not our only funding sources, they have played a major role in supporting community driven natural resource management. The changes to the programs has made funding more specific than previous 'grants' rounds and in turn this has meant Cape York NRM has less discretion to respond to needs expressed by the community. We will be working to adjust our operating approach over the next 12 months, so that we can truly respond to, and support, our communities.

Cape York has continued to work through partnerships to not only improve natural resource management outcomes but also community outcomes across the Cape. Over the last 12 months our achievements have included working with 54 partners to deliver projects across the Cape.

Throughout the year the staff of Cape York NRM have worked through considerable uncertainty to develop a successful competitive tender response for the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnerships program. The details of the programs are still being worked through with the Australian Government but broadly we have received support to deliver a number of programs over

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”





the next 12 months including Healthy Farming Futures, Biodiversity Bright Spots Rainforest and Biodiversity Bright Spots Woodland.

Successful applications were also submitted to the Queensland Governments Natural Resources Investment program and this means that we will working with our partners to improve native vegetation and soil condition of grazing lands in the Joint Management Area, and developing the Springvale Station West Normanby Gully Distal Gully Demonstration Site.

One of our annual highlights was the My Produce, Your Plate, Our Future grazier's meeting in Laura. The event was delivered in collaboration with AgForce and attracted 78 Cape York graziers to Laura. It received high praise and was an excellent example of community capacity building and knowledge exchange.

Other successes include:

- Reef Trust Gully workshop in Cooktown
- Fire Workshop at Mary Valley
- Low Stress Stock Handling Workshop at Crocodile Station

#### • Community Seed Collection Program

As well as providing a summary of how we have invested over four million dollars across the Cape in the financial section of this report, we have a range of 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 website [capeyorknrm.com.au](http://capeyorknrm.com.au).

would like to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing CEO Bob Frazer for his commitment to Cape York NRM and the people of Cape York and wish him well in his retirement. I would also like to recognise the efforts of the staff and thank them for their dedication under difficult circumstances over the last 12 months. It is this passion and commitment combined with the knowledge, support and hard work of our partners across the Cape, which enables us to deliver and work for the people, businesses, and environment of Cape York.

#### Native seed collection program



**Peta-Marie Standley**

# OPERATIONS MANAGER'S

2017-18 has seen Cape York NRM deliver significant outcomes in on-ground land and water management practice change, social and economic benefits working alongside its community delivery partners, Cape York land and sea managers. Together, we completed actions that delivered against the regional NRM plan as well as State and National priorities through the three year investment from the National Landcare Programme and the final year of our State NRM program 2013-2018.

Over the life of the Queensland NRM investment \$1, 835, 533 was invested in community delivery partner contracts, \$1, 904, 183 provided administration, technical, GIS and mapping, communications, training and events, monitoring and evaluation and program management and delivery support. This enabled a return on investment of approx \$1, 124, 969.16 from Cape York community delivery partners cash and in-kind contributions. One of the strongest outcomes of this program was the impact the reduction of pests and weeds in strategic locations had on Cape York species, ecosystem function and land and water condition and another was people working together to achieve these results.

**Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc. Agricultural Chemical Distribution Control course**



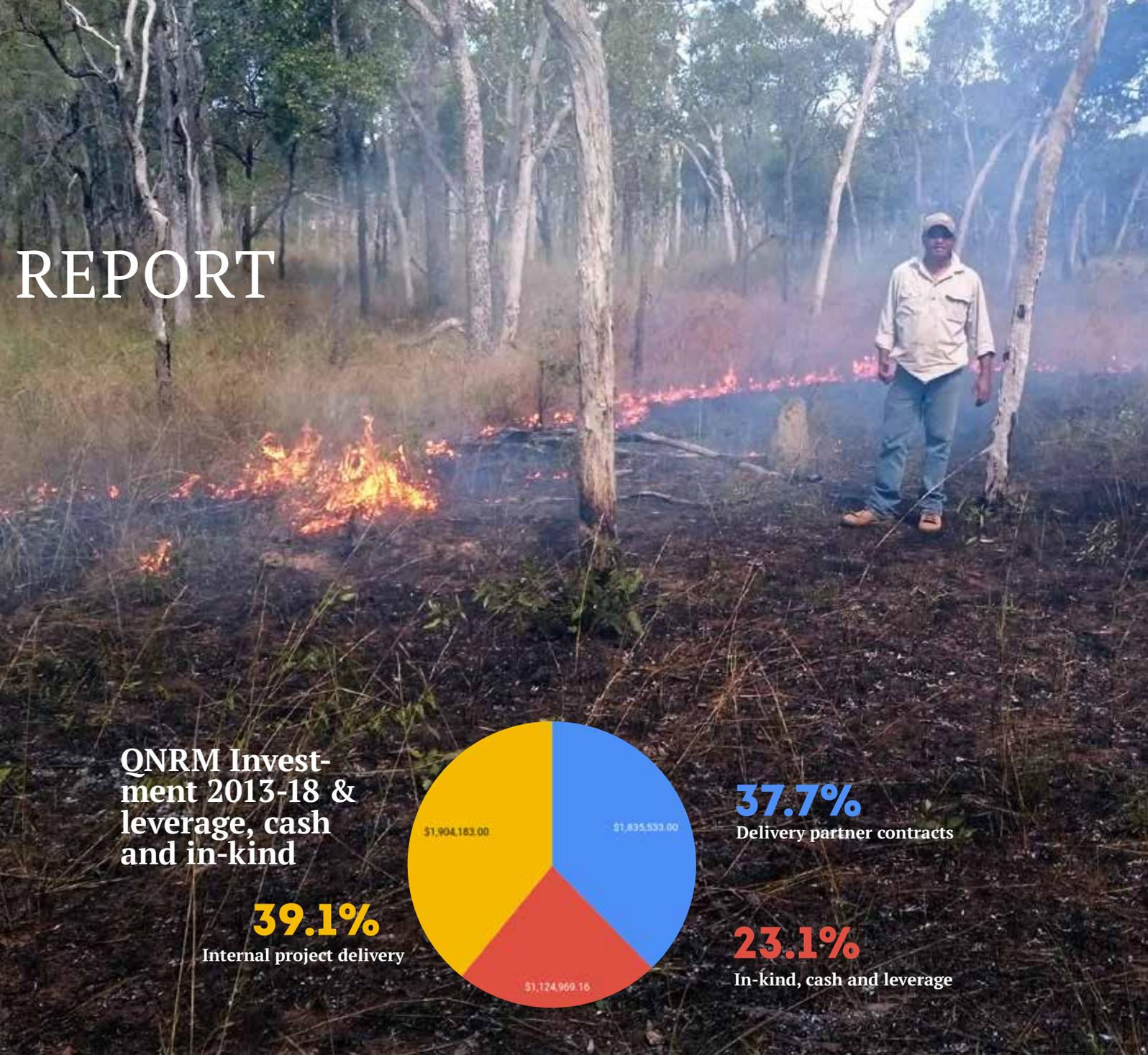
## Return on investment from QNRM State program

**T**he National Landcare Programme (formerly known as Caring for Country) 2014 - 2018 was a significant program for the organisation, delivering 40 community grant projects that were long - term, strategic and enabled improved conservation actions to be implemented to care for Cape York wetlands, springs and unique aquatic flora and fauna. This program not only supported the delivery of conservation actions but increased the capacity of the agriculture sector to come together and deal with regional issues while receiving training in best practice agricultural practices, both in the grazing and intensive agriculture sectors. The program also delivered significant training events, workshops and industry roundtables.

The National Landcare Programme enabled Cape York NRM to achieve outcomes against its mission to support the people of Cape York to work together to manage natural and cultural resources by deliberately connecting people to work together on over 20 projects.

In 2017-2018 we managed over \$4,663,858 dollars of investment, employed 185 Indigenous people in delivery of projects, with staff spending 10267 hours delivering programs for Reef water quality, biodiversity and threatened species conservation, improved fire management, benchmarking, implementing and monitoring changes in grazing and agricultural land management practices in Cape York alongside Cape York people. These hours also include full-time engagement staff such as the Regional Landcare Facilitator, the sustainable industries officer and Regional Fire project

# REPORT



## QNRM Investment 2013-18 & leverage, cash and in-kind

**39.1%**  
Internal project delivery



**37.7%**  
Delivery partner contracts

**23.1%**  
In-kind, cash and leverage

coordinator roles who live and work in Cape York.

On-ground investment and direct community engagement and support continued to be our priority in the 2017-2018 year. We managed 17 investment head contracts with 84 active projects with Cape York delivery partners in 2017-2018, 51 new sub-project agreements were established and eight new investment head contracts, securing investment into the region.

Support continued to be provided by Cape York NRM 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 to our delivery partners.

We have been working hard on development of the new funding programs from 2018-2023 and completing additional documentation required for delivery of our successful tender to the Australian government's new Regional Land Partnerships program. In 2017 we headed out across Cape York, consulting with over 200 individuals from over 40 organisations

to inform them on the new programs and get feedback on priority project development. We are currently finalising achievements against NRM plan and Regional Investment Strategy targets from 2013-2018 and reporting on investment secured from 2018-2023. We are also updating our website to improve delivery and ease of access to useful content to assist in planning and reporting on project achievements – please be patient. We look forward to working with you all on exciting projects into the future.

# BOARD REPORT

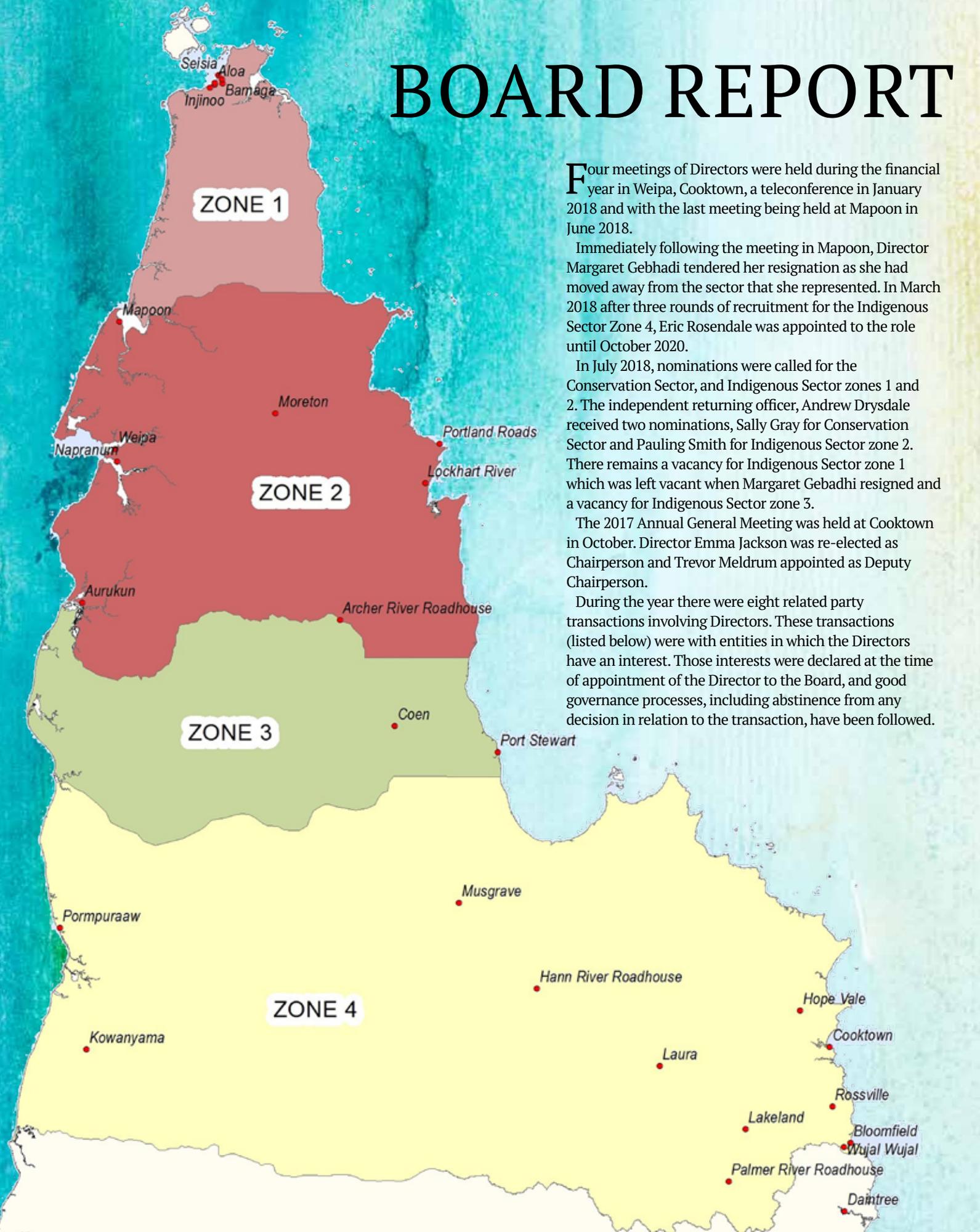
Four meetings of Directors were held during the financial year in Weipa, Cooktown, a teleconference in January 2018 and with the last meeting being held at Mapoon in June 2018.

Immediately following the meeting in Mapoon, Director Margaret Gebhadi tendered her resignation as she had moved away from the sector that she represented. In March 2018 after three rounds of recruitment for the Indigenous Sector Zone 4, Eric Rosendale was appointed to the role until October 2020.

In July 2018, nominations were called for the Conservation Sector, and Indigenous Sector zones 1 and 2. The independent returning officer, Andrew Drysdale received two nominations, Sally Gray for Conservation Sector and Pauling Smith for Indigenous Sector zone 2. There remains a vacancy for Indigenous Sector zone 1 which was left vacant when Margaret Gebadhi resigned and a vacancy for Indigenous Sector zone 3.

The 2017 Annual General Meeting was held at Cooktown in October. Director Emma Jackson was re-elected as Chairperson and Trevor Meldrum appointed as Deputy Chairperson.

During the year there were eight 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.



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

## DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE at Board Meetings 2017-18

			MEETINGS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	MEETINGS ATTENDED
John Charlton	Small Business, Tourism Mining and Other Industries	Seisia	4	3
Sally Gray	Conservation Sector	Piccaninny Plains	4	3
Emma Jackson	Primary Industry Sector	Wolverton Station	4	4
Desmond Tayley	Local Government Sector	Wujal Wujal	4	3
Trevor Meldrum	Community Sector	Cooktown	4	4
Joseph Elu	Indigenous Sector Zone 1	Seisia	4	4
Pauline Smith	Indigenous Sector Zone 2	Mapoon	4	4
Eric Rosendale	Indigenous Sector Zone 4	Bonny Glen	2	2
Margaret Gebhadi	Indigenous Sector Zone 1	Seisia	1	1

## RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS involving directors

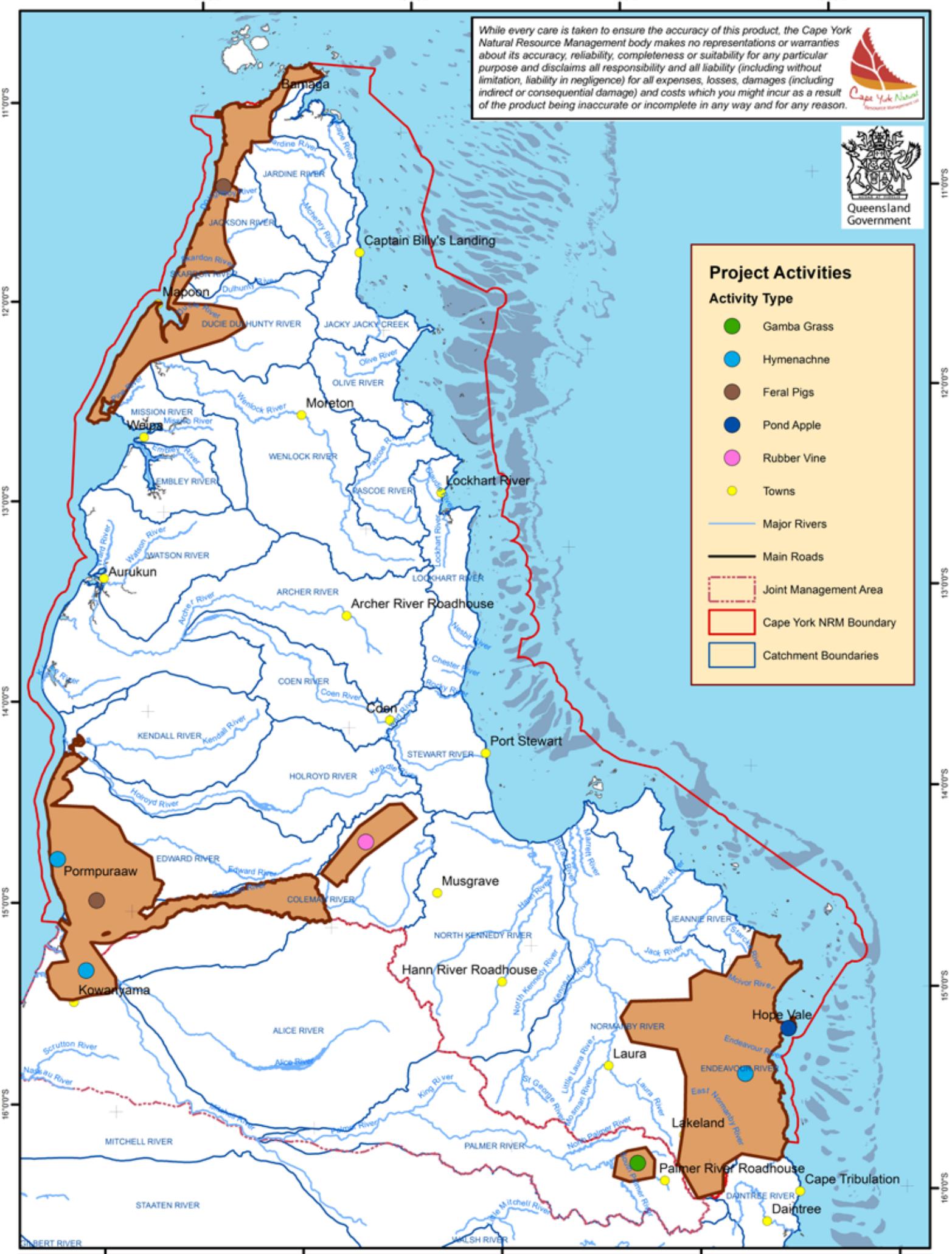
DIRECTOR	RELATED PARTY	NATURE OF TRANSACTION	AMOUNT EX GST
Trevor Meldrum	Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc.	Hopevale East Coast Pond Apple Control (CY162) - \$10,000	\$128,387.50
		Cape York East Coast Pond Apple Survey and Control (CY125) - \$20,000	
		Strategic Hymenachne Eradication Program (CY180) - \$12,000	
		Working with land managers to reduce the economic and environmental impacts of high priority weeds (CY175) - \$75,283.50	
		Containing and reducing the further spread of established Gamba Grass at the top of the Palmer River System (CY198) - \$5,500	
Pauline Smith	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council	Turtle Nest Monitoring and Protection Expansion - Namaleta Creek to Skardon River - \$28,800	\$72,800
		Nest to Ocean Round 2 - Mapoon - \$44,000	

**TOTAL**

**\$201,187.50**

142°00'E 143°00'E 144°00'E 145°00'E

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### Project Activities

**Activity Type**

- Gamba Grass
- Hymenachne
- Feral Pigs
- Pond Apple
- Rubber Vine
- Towns
- Major Rivers
- Main Roads
- Joint Management Area
- Cape York NRM Boundary
- Catchment Boundaries

11°00'S  
12°00'S  
13°00'S  
14°00'S  
15°00'S  
16°00'S

11°00'S  
12°00'S  
13°00'S  
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16°00'S



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

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 2018. 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

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2017-18

MONIES RECEIVED \$		EXPENSES (OUTGOING) \$	
Grant income during year	4,366,369	Board of Directors and employee costs	1,770,816
Interest received	35,132	General Administration	299,359
National Fire Workshop income	233,459	Project operating	687,664
Other	28,898	Project contracts	1,803,695
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,663,858</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,673,480</b>

During the 2017-2018 financial year, most of our income was derived from state and federal government programs.

## FINANCIAL POSITION 2017-18

CURRENT ASSETS (WHAT WE OWN) \$		LIABILITIES (WHAT WE OWE) \$	
Cash and cash equivalents	2,614,967	Accounts payable	426,866
Trade and other receivables	487,870	Borrowings	91,092
Shares	10,000	Employee Entitlements	267,262
Plant and Equipment	153,708	GST Liabilities	30,487
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,266,545</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>815,707</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 AT JUNE 30 2018

	\$
Prior year retained earnings	778,069
Unexpended grant funds carried forward	1,114,845
Employee entitlements	267,262
Accounts payable	426,866
Public Fund	27,925
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,614,967</b>

## HUMAN RESOURCES OUR STAFF AS AT JUNE 30 2018

Staff employment type	2017	2018
Full-time (fixed term contracts)	11	9
Full-time (permanent)	2	2
Part time (fixed term contract)	2	1
Casual (mainly seed collectors)		5
Positions Hosted at Cape York NRM (Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance)	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>

## OVERVIEW

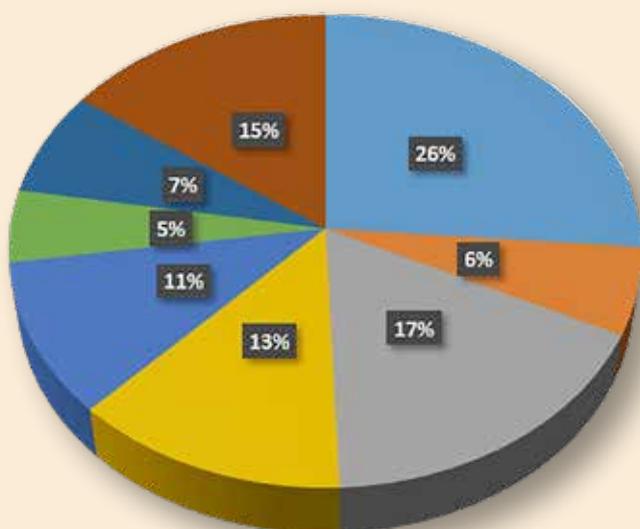
The 2017-18 financial year was Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd.'s seventh full year of operation as a directly funded regional NRM body. Further details of how money received was invested, and the outcomes of the work, can be found in the Operations overview of this report. The primary source 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.

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 2018-19.

Debtors (money owed to us)  
At 30 June 2018 we were owed \$487,870

## MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME DISTRIBUTION 2017-18



Project Name	% of Income	\$ Value
National Landcare Program	26	1,224,000
Reef Trust Phase 2 (RT2)	15	277,079
Reef Trust Phase 3 (RT3)	17	800,447
Reef Trust Phase 4 (RT4)	13	600,000
State Q NRM Program	11	490,000
Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program	5	229,689
Grazing Innovation	7	334,689
Other Programs*	15	707,974
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,663,858</b>

\*Includes Queensland Government's Litter and Illegal Dumping Community and Industry Partnerships Program, Queensland Government Department Environment and Heritage Protection and The Nature Conservancy and the Fire Workshop.



#### **Photo Credits**

**Cover: Nesting turtle tracks. Photo: Cape York NRM**

**Pages 2 and 3: Cape York land managers. Photo: Cape York NRM**

**Pages 4 and 5: Cape York Indigenous Ranger. Photo: Kerry Trapnell**

**Page 7: Gully restoration at Crocodile Station. Photo: Cape York NRM**

**Page 8: Participants of the Ranger Youth Forum, South Cape York Catchments. Photo provided by Jason Carroll**

**Page 9: Native seed collection program. Photo: Cape York NRM**

**Page 10: Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc. Agricultural Chemical Distribution Control course. Photo: Cape York NRM**

**Page 11: Cliff Harrigan carrying out a traditional burn at Normanby Station. Photo: Andrew Hartwig**

**Page 13: Milman Island nesting beach. Photo: Johanna Karam**

**Pages 14 and 15: Queensland Regional Landcare Facilitators visit Cape York. Photo: Darren Jennings**

**Page 16: Endeavour River, Cooktown. Photo: Cape York NRM**

**Page 17: Spring - fed creek on Cape York Peninsula. Photo: Cape York NRM**

**Pages 18 and 19: Milman Island nesting beach. Photo: Johanna Karam**

**Back Cover: Tiger crabs on Kimba Station. Photo: Cape York NRM**





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

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