



Cape York
Natural Resource Management

ANNUAL REPORT



2018-2019



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 its respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.



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Cover image: Golden-shouldered parrots drinking | Barry Lyon

Back cover: Cape York Indigenous Fire Workshop, Mary Valley | Robyn May

This page: West Normanby Distal Gully | Juliana Foxlee

ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

240 MEMBERS

15  FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

129 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
EMPLOYED IN PROJECTS

 **10,000+**
STAFF HOURS IN CAPE YORK

14 HEAD
CONTRACTS

38 PARTNER
CONTRACTS

47
ACTIVE PROJECTS

\$5M
IN FUNDING

15,164

WEBSITE HITS
(UNIQUE USERS) 

3 NEWSLETTERS
PRODUCED &
DISTRIBUTED

 **2,014**
FACEBOOK LIKES

 **1,165**
TWITTER FOLLOWERS

 **173**
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

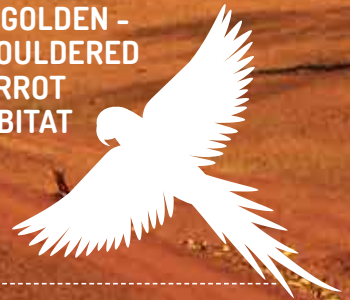


425,000 ha
OF GRAZING LAND
MANAGEMENT
PROJECTS COVERED



100+ ha
OF EROSION-PRONE
LAND DESTOCKED OF
FERAL CATTLE

CATTLE EXCLUDED
FROM 2,000+ HA
OF GOLDEN -
SHOULDERED
PARROT
HABITAT



2000+
FERAL PIGS
CULLED



3,500
TURTLE NESTS MONITORED

5 INDIGENOUS
RANGER GROUPS **7** WESTERN CAPE
YORK BEACHES

CONTROLLED EARLY SEASON BURNS ACROSS 750,000+ HA



Emma Jackson

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

With Cyclone Trevor impacting the northern parts of Cape York in March and the heavy rainfall following which caused tremendous damage to the central and western areas, the year for Cape York NRM began later than expected. The monsoonal trough impacted the Cape, with some properties receiving in excess of two metres of rainfall over the wet season.

This year saw new funding rounds from the Australian and Queensland governments. The projects under the Commonwealth's Regional Landcare Program and the Queensland Government's Natural Resources Investment Program kicked off a little later than hoped but are now in full swing.

We also remain committed to meeting with funding bodies to discuss the 'gaps', such as western Cape York water quality and the continual problem of weeds and feral animal control. We recognise that weed and feral animal control and uncontrolled fires are major threats to the regional environment and economy.

Our organisation will continue to encourage investment across the geographical areas that receive little funding for project delivery and we also recognise the huge expectation of landholders and land managers to address continuing and growing struggles in their back yards, such as the unpredictable seasons, flooding or quite the opposite; lack of rain, spread of weeds, increased feral animals and fires.

With pleasure, I share that our committed staff and partner organisations have exceeded expectations with on-ground delivery, with increased demands due to the impact of the heavy wet season to most areas. 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.

Principal Program Manager Will Higham finished up after four years with Cape York NRM. We wish him the very best of luck and thank him for his passionate contribution whilst he was with us.

Going forwards we aim to deliver projects and work with community to improve the resilience of the land and water and build 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, investors and dedicated staff for their hard work throughout 2018-2019.

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John Gavin

CEO'S REPORT

It has been just over 12 months since I started with Cape York NRM and I continue to be excited and inspired by the people and environments of the Cape, along with the projects that we get to support.

Over the last 12 months we have concentrated on finalising agreements with both the State and Australian Governments. The extended wet season was a challenge for implementing our on ground works program, but we have been working hard to deliver over the dry season.

With the changes in the National Landcare Program, Cape York NRM was successful in a competitive tender response and we have now got program designs finalised and work orders in place to deliver a number of programs including Healthy Farming Futures, Biodiversity Bright Spots Rainforest and Biodiversity Bright Spots Woodland. The final agreements came through early this year and after waiting for the Wet Season to finish, it has been all hands on deck to get projects delivered on ground.

Last year we were also successful with our application to the Queensland Government's Natural Resources Investment Program and have been working with Northern Gulf Resource Management Group and landholders to improve native vegetation and soil condition of grazing lands in the Mitchell

River Catchment. This program also sees us partnering with the Yalanji Joint Venture, Griffith University and the Department of Environment and Science to develop the Springvale Station West Normanby Distal Gully Demonstration Site.

As well as providing a summary of how we have invested over \$5m 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.

Some of the highlights from the last 12 months include:

- four successful on ground works projects in the Mitchell River Catchment;
- another successful Laura Grazing Forum followed by a great team effort supporting the Laura Rodeo and Campdraft Society;
- a successful fire workshop at Mary Valley attended by 97 people;
- supporting Cape York people to travel to the National Indigenous Fire workshop in Victoria;
- three road building workshops across the Cape were popular, with people sharing information and ideas to reduce erosion and road maintenance costs;

There is still very little funding available for Great Barrier Reef related activities on the Cape. To meet this challenge head on, we have continued to update and streamline our administrative functions and policies

- a \$700,000 increase in Reef Trust III activities enabling us to work with landholders to reduce erosion - making a total of \$3.2m in program funding over four years; and
- working with the Lockhart community to reduce the risk of wildfire to rainforest and cassowaries.

We have faced considerable budget challenges over the last twelve months with the wrap up of the Reef Trust Phase III projects and while we continue to work with potential funders, there is still very little funding available for Great Barrier Reef related activities on the Cape. To meet this challenge head on, we have continued to update and streamline our administrative functions and policies. We are implementing a revised internal structure which has also seen the reduction of three positions while we have maintained and increased support for our community partners across the Cape.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for its ongoing support and commitment to the organisation. I would also like to recognise the efforts of the staff and thank them for their dedication over the last twelve months. Most importantly I would like to recognise the hard work of our partners and the community across the Cape. It is these people that make the achievements and improvement in natural resources management possible.





Peta -
Marie
Standley

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

This was a challenging year for the organisation as old programs came to an end and new programs began. Negotiations for the delivery of the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnerships programs were finalised in early 2019. Shortly after that, contracts for the remaining years of investment (until 2023) were secured.

Staff worked hard to deliver the first quarter services and delivery reports, complete change orders for the moving of services into the new financial year in response to the long and heavy wet season and delayed contracting. Staff were busy in the office and in the field during this time to ensure processes and procedures were in place for delivery and contractual obligations met while conversations were continued with community partners involved in the delivery of outstanding events and workshops in the latter half of the financial year. Delivery is now well underway to improve the management of threats to golden - shouldered parrot (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*) habitat, cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius*) country and coastal littoral rainforest, while understanding more about ant plants (*Myrmecodia beccarii*).

The sustainable agriculture program has been particularly active with training events, workshops, field days, gully remediation and fire management programs being delivered across Cape York. Funding for the delivery of sustainable agriculture programs is provided by both the State and Federal Governments. Over the next four years the focus for these programs will be on vegetation condition, soils and ground cover, water quality, gully remediation, adaptation and innovation. The Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator continued to support the delivery of outcomes across programs working with Cape York land managers.

Cape York NRM continued to deliver improved outcomes for fire management by securing investment through the Queensland Government's Land Restoration Fund. Our Land Restoration Fund Project aims to increase opportunities for carbon sequestration and mitigation in Cape York along with, and in addition to, opportunities provided through the current savanna burning and sequestration programs.

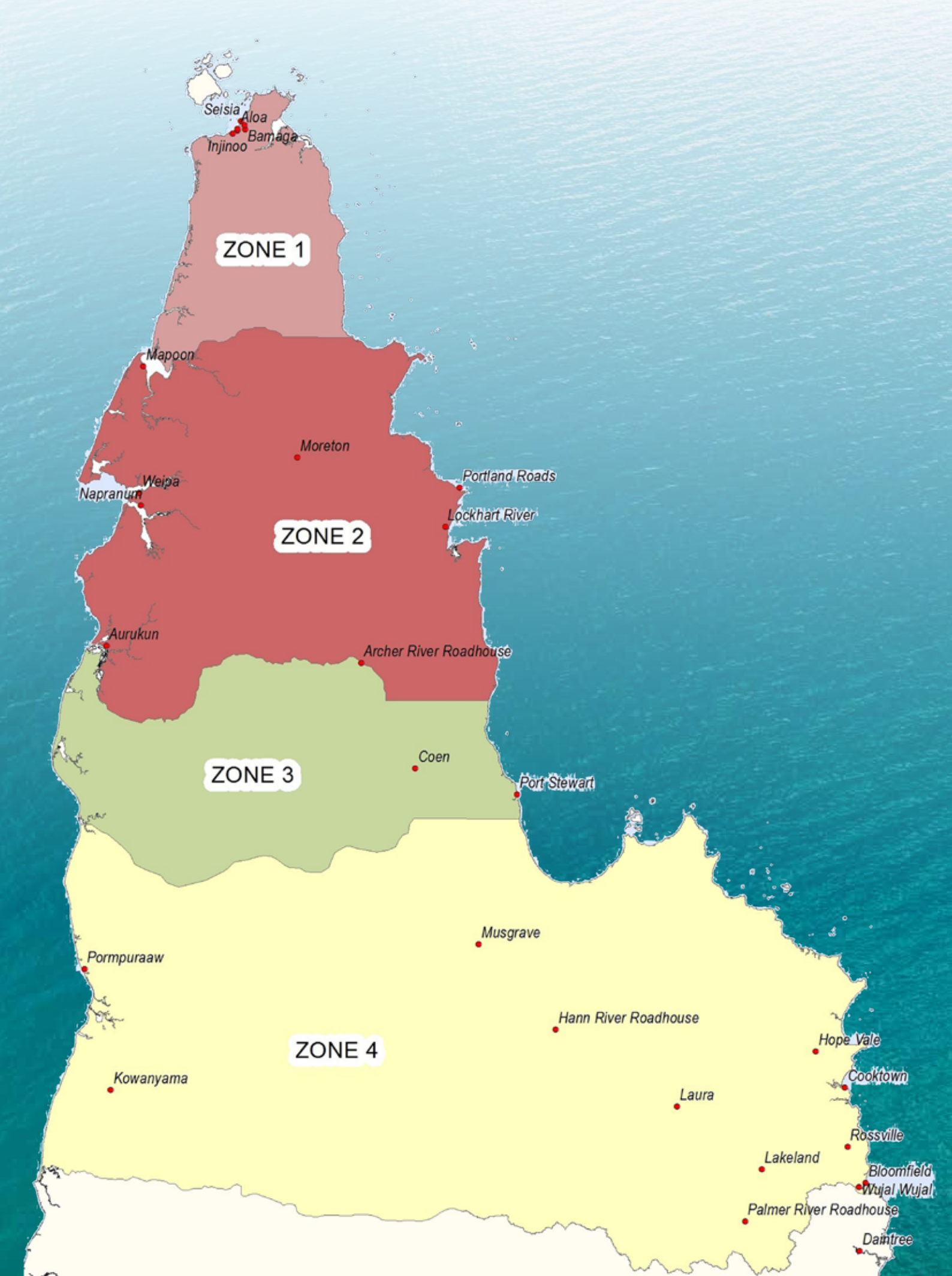
Cape York NRM continued to deliver improved outcomes for fire management by securing investment through the Queensland Government's Land Restoration Fund. Our Land Restoration Fund Project aims to increase opportunities for carbon sequestration and mitigation in Cape York.

Cape York and far north Queensland Traditional Owners involved in fire management programs in their communities attended the National Indigenous Fire Workshop in Barmah, Victoria to share knowledge on cultural fire management and Fire management is a critical component to all of the Regional Land Partnerships Program. The Nature Conservancy is working together with Cape York NRM to support the delivery of a Cape York Fire Forum in late 2019.

Through the wonderful work of the West Coast Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA) partner communities and Indigenous Ranger programs on western Cape York, turtle conservation continued to be achieved through predator control and nest monitoring. The WCTTAA Coordinator has worked hard to raise the profile of the achievements of the program, with Ministerial responses received on the programs achievements. Conversations continue with both the State and Federal Government on the future of the program for 2020-2021 and the development of future investment opportunities.

Throughout the last financial year Cape York NRM and community partners and land managers continued to provide significant in-kind to program delivery. Without your efforts this great work would not be possible.





BOARD REPORT

The Board has met consistently again this year with excellent attendance from all, beginning with the usual early wet season teleconference to kick off the year. Not too many changes have occurred over this past year, however the upcoming elections could see a different outcome with the Community and Primary Industry sectors open for nomination. Indigenous Zones 1 and 3 also remain open.

The Board is proposing changes to the constitution which will be presented at the 2019 Annual General Meeting in Cooktown. These changes complement existing processes and include reducing the Indigenous Zone 1 Directorship, from two Directors to one. We are succeeding in ensuring we have one Director for the far Northern Peninsula Area, but for the past eight years have been unsuccessful in retaining two full-term Directors.

As a Board, and an organisation, we are seeking to improve our ability to engage and consult with our membership across the region. Each Indigenous Zone was identified and mapped out, through consultation prior to the formation of Cape York NRM, but we respect that we now need to review that mapping again. We engaged with an external local consultant to assist us with the most appropriate and representative way to fully engage with our membership, particularly across Indigenous land. We appreciate that this will be timely and complex, but we have begun to review this and will continue to find the most suitable approach.

Each Director on this Board holds a position across a sector or geographical area, however this is to ensure a range of skills, knowledge and experience are contributed to the organisation, and the governance. We each represent the organisation of Cape York NRM with a holistic view and we have been so lucky to have had this.

As your Board of Directors, we have all contributed significantly to the decisions, processes and planning of the organisation and thank all our teams, partners and community for your support, passion and commitment to Cape York NRM.



West Normanby Distal Gully | Juliana Foxlee

DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE at Board Meetings 2017-18

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

During the year there were four related party transaction involving Directors. The transactions (listed below) were with entities in which Directors had 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.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS involving directors

DIRECTOR	RELATED PARTY	RELATIONSHIP	NATURE OF TRANSACTION	AMOUNT EX GST
Trevor Meldrum	Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc.	CEO of Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc.	Working with land managers to reduce the economic and environmental impacts of high priority weeds (CY175) - \$36,429 Laura River Rubber Vine Control Program (CY221) - \$147,909 \$184,338.00	\$184,338.00
Sal Gray	Piccaninny Plains	Manager Piccaninny Plains	Piccaninny Plains volunteered as the site for a Soil Saver Workshop. No payment was received.	N/A
Emma Jackson	Corporate Nature	Director of Corporate Nature	Corporate Nature is co-owned by Cape York NRM and provides contracted business administration services.	\$337,428.00
Eric Rosendale	Bonny Glen Station	Father of Bonny Glen manager	Bonny Glen participated in the Mitchell River Catchment Joint Management Area project.	\$20,000.00

TOTAL

\$541,766.00

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 2019. The Audited Financial Report is available on the Cape York NRM website - capeyorknrm.com.au/about.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

MONIES RECEIVED \$		EXPENSES (OUTGOING) \$	
Grant income during year	5,282,999	Board of Directors and employee costs	85,333
Interest received	32,103	General Administration	1,611,863
Other	31,658	Project operating	541,819
		Project contracts	725,249
			2,115,294
TOTAL	5,346,760	TOTAL	5,079,558

During the 2018-2019 financial year, most of our income was derived from state and federal government programs.

FINANCIAL POSITION

CURRENT ASSETS (WHAT WE OWN) \$		LIABILITIES (WHAT WE OWE) \$	
Cash and cash equivalents	3,436,011	Accounts payable	537,268
Trade and other receivables	237,317	Borrowings	116,160
Shares	10,000	Employee Entitlements	152,798
Plant and Equipment	136,714	GST Liabilities	57,235
Total	3,820,042	Total	863,461

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 2019

\$

Prior year retained earnings	1,232,372
Unexpended grant funds carried forward	1,353,384
Employee entitlements	152,792
Accounts payable	537,268
Public Fund	35,723
TOTAL	3,311,545

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 2019-2020.

Debtors (money owed to us)
At 30 June 2019 we were owed \$237,317

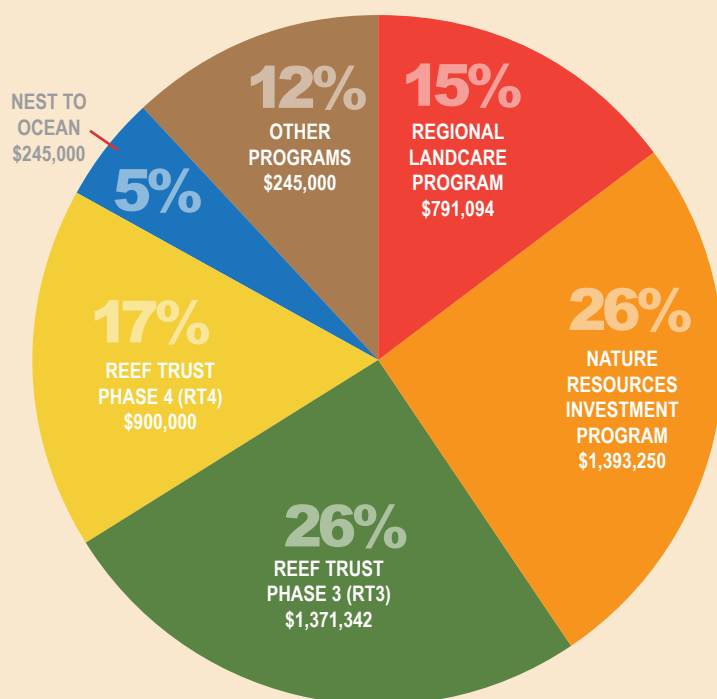
HUMAN RESOURCES

(OUR STAFF) AT JUNE 30 2019

EMPLOYMENT TYPE	2017	2018	2019
Full – Time: Fixed Term Contracts	11	9	12
Full – Time: Permanent	2	2	3
Part – Time: Fixed Term Contract	2	1	1
Casual: Mainly Seed Collectors		5	2
Hosted Positions: Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance and Graduate Extension Trainee	1	1	2
TOTAL	16	18	19

OVERVIEW

The 2018 -19 financial year was Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd.'s eighth full year of operation as a directly funded regional natural resource management 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 Regional Landcare Program, and the Queensland State Government from 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.



Cape York Indigenous Fire Workshop, Mary Valley | Robyn May



Cape York
Natural Resource Management

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

capeyorknrm.com.au