

2019-2020

ANNUAL REPORT



Cape York
Natural Resource Management

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
2010 - 2020





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annual snapshot

267 MEMBERS

16  FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

18 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
EMPLOYED IN PROJECTS

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

13 HEAD
CONTRACTS

38 PARTNER
CONTRACTS

28
ACTIVE PROJECTS

\$5M
IN FUNDING



17,963

WEBSITE HITS
(UNIQUE USERS)



4 NEWSLETTERS
PRODUCED &
DISTRIBUTED

f **2,014**
FACEBOOK LIKES

t **1,165**
TWITTER FOLLOWERS

i **173**
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



425,000 ha

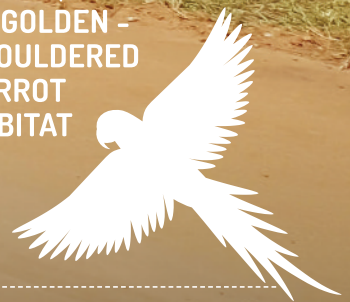
OF GRAZING LAND
MANAGEMENT
PROJECTS COVERED



300 ha

OF EROSION-PRONE
LAND DESTOCKED OF
FERAL CATTLE

CATTLE EXCLUDED
FROM 2,100+ 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

Every year I begin with how the year has been, but this year I am starting with a story...

A little over ten years ago, stemming from some quite stern advocacy from a handful of passionate Cape Yorkers, a group of people came together in Cairns to discuss the needs of our region. The room was so full that some people could not come in.

That discussion highlighted many gaps, but what was not a gap was the passion for building a region of strength and resilience, through Cape York people. One outcome was the consideration for our own regional NRM body.

We were all keen to see decisions around investment into Cape York, being influenced by the broader community of Cape York rather than externally and we were focused on building people, community and working with the landscape. Every key industry in this region relies on the landscape, as do the people, as do community. Without working with our landscape, for its' future then each industry will suffer. Tourism needs NRM, mining needs NRM, primary industries needs NRM and our local aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples need NRM. For NRM though, it needs everyone.

Every single person plays a significant role to NRM.

Out of that meeting, a Steering Committee was formed and working with a committed organisation, community engagement began to talk to people around what they wanted to see from our own NRM regional organisation, including how it would be set up and what governance model would best suit.

We worked on a report, sent it into the Australian Government and were soon up and running. Ten years later we have grown as has our landscape, capacity, partnerships and our bank balance. We are in a financially healthy position with some continuing and expanded projects and collaborations.

The NQ NRM Alliance was formed which is a collaboration between Northern Gulf, Terrain and us, and we are members of NRM

Regions Qld, which is a collaboration of the state NRM organisations. We sit with similar NRM organisations in the Rangelands Alliance and the Reef Alliance, and we are members of our national NRM organisation NRM Regions Australia who are the leading organisation for NRM advocacy and policy influence. We are also extremely proud of our more local relationships with community groups, land trusts, local governments and landholders across the Cape. Without these we would struggle to deliver.

We began with a vision to sustain our natural and cultural environment through state and federal funding and we can reflect over the past ten years and feel grateful, appreciative and humbled by our achievements.

Our leaderships have and will continue to change, as will our teams and Directors but the core strength of our organisation has and will continue to sustain our ability to deliver well. Building strong NRM communities is a priority for us, as we know that to achieve this, it starts with you.

The survival and condition of our landscape will always start and end with you.

The success of our projects and outcomes is because of our incredible teams, but also our partnerships over a large and diverse region. We must ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our stakeholders, community, and the landscape but also respect that without the vital contribution from our teams, this would not occur.

I thank our Board, staff and members for all your efforts through these past twelve months and I would like to thank previous staff and Directors for your valuable contributions in reaching this milestone.

I acknowledge our local partnerships, and also our broader partnerships with the Queensland and Australian Governments and thank them for their investment into NRM across Cape York.

Without NRM, the people and the place in which we all live, will suffer.

This was a short story that does not end there.

To be continued...



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John Gavin CEO'S REPORT

2020 is the 10-year anniversary of the formation of Cape York NRM. Rather than the year of celebration that had been planned, 2019-2020 has provided many challenges, but I am pleased to say that the organisation and its partners have risen to the challenge. The organisation has revised its operating structure to respond to reductions in funding and to tailor our approach to best meet the needs of the community and our contract funders. This has meant significant change in the organisation but we have come through this in a way that has meant we have greater capacity to sustain our operations into the future.

The Australian Government's Regional Land Partnership program and the Queensland Government's Natural Resources Investment Program are still the most significant source of funds for the delivery of NRM actions through Cape York NRM, however it is important to note that they are still dwarfed by the contribution our communities, land managers and partners, make towards natural resource management. The ongoing passion of the people and communities of Cape York, continues to shine through and will outlive funding programs, to provide longevity to the actions we can support from year to year.

The last 12 months were planned to be the first

full year of delivery of the projects funded through the State and Australian Government programs but as with all business across Australia we have had to significantly revise our approach due to the impacts of the response to COVID-19.

This has meant that we have significant delays in a number of projects and our end of year financial situation reflects this. The restrictions on access to the Cape have meant we have under delivered in a number of projects, but commitments made by the Board and the State and Australian Governments, have meant that we have been able to maintain funding and capacity, so we can accelerate delivery as the opportunities arise. All programs that weren't delivered in the 2019-20 year will see increased activity in 2020-21 and the support for NRM on Cape York will continue.

As well as providing a summary of how we have invested close to \$4M 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 for the last 12 months include:

- Indigenous Fire Workshop – Mary Valley
- Cape York Fire Forum – Cooktown
- Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance Annual Forum with special guest Threatened Species Commissioner Dr Sally Box
- Cassowary surveys with CSIRO and Traditional Owners in Kutini – Payamu (Iron Range) National Park
- Coordinated hazard reduction burn across 17 properties
- Gully remediation works in the Normanby basin

While work on projects has been restricted, we have commenced a review of the Cape York Regional NRM Plan and our organisation's strategic plan. Many of our members and the community have been involved in the development of these plans and more recently, the Regional Investment Strategy, but it is always a challenge to see the connection between a strategy and the on-ground action that comes from it. While it is time to review the plans, we are working to do this in a way that is relevant for the Cape and recognises all the input and work that has gone before it. At this stage we have laid the ground work for what will be a significant activity over the next 12 months.

This annual review contains our financial report and details of our funding and operations, but I hope that it provides more than that. I hope that when you read through this report you can see the projects and people that come together to support natural resource management on the Cape. I hope the efforts of the staff, the community and our partners are visible and I hope some of their passion and energy comes through. It is their drive, passion and the results they create, that means Cape York NRM can continue to "Help 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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Kerri Woodcock

BIODIVERSITY & FIRE PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

2019 -20 has been a big year for the Biodiversity and Fire Program. After a number of staff changes, the team now consists of Biodiversity and Fire Program Manager Kerri Woodcock who is based in Cairns, and Biodiversity Officer Dr Helen Penrose and Community Engagement Officer Joey Dix who are both based in Cooktown.

The team has been focused on threatened species work including working with Traditional Owner groups to progress understanding of Cape York populations, and to put threat remediation activities in place for the cassowary, golden-shouldered parrot, ant plants and coastal littoral rainforest. Highlights include meetings with the Cassowary and Golden-shouldered Parrot Recovery Teams, spending time on Country with Traditional Owners, and a week in the Kutini Payamu (Iron Range) National Park with Traditional Owners and CSIRO surveying cassowary numbers.

Providing opportunities for improved fire management has also continued, delivering an Indigenous Fire Workshop on Mary Valley Station in July 2019 with funding through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, and a Cape York Fire Forum in Cooktown in December 2019 with the support of the Queensland Government's Land Restoration Fund and the Nature Conservancy Australia. The team continues to seek funding to support ongoing opportunities to

coordinate and build capacity to deliver improved fire management to Cape communities.

With the support of Cape York NRM, members of the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance (WCTTAA) have continued to deliver positive outcomes for nesting turtle populations through successfully managing nest predation to protect these threatened populations. WCTTAA's end of season meeting for 2019 was held in Cairns in December with special guest Threatened Species Commissioner Dr Sally Box in attendance. The first half of 2020 saw two businesses in Western Sydney manufacture and donate 50 turtle nest cages to WCTTAA as well as a successful Community Benefit Gambling Fund bid which will enable the Alliance to purchase additional cages as well as equipment for monitoring sand temperatures.

The COVID-19 outbreak and restricted access to Cape York from March 2020 has prevented the delivery of significant on-ground projects and put face-to-face engagement activities on hold. However, the team has spent this time engaging with stakeholders remotely, developing training materials, and fine-tuning plans for on-country work once the access restrictions are eased. Once the health and safety of Cape York communities can be assured, we look forward to continuing to work with project partners to deliver improved outcomes for biodiversity and fire on the Cape.

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Michael Goddard

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & WATER QUALITY PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT



The Sustainable Agriculture and Water Quality team delivers on projects that aim to improve water quality and reduce sediment loss and assist landholders to improve management practices.

It's been a challenging year for the team. Emerging from the wet season into a period of lock-down due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions meant we had to review our project delivery options. Online delivery is not a simple alternative for the Cape. The region is remote, internet delivery varies enormously, and land manager technical equipment and abilities differ.

Coordinating a date and time to fit into land managers' demanding workloads means that running online forums have not been a simple alternative to on-site engagement. Since travel restrictions have been lifted, Cape York NRM's project staff have been working hard to catch up on on-ground delivery.

A Cape - wide coordinated early burn project was carried out recently in partnership with two community groups, four landholders, two Ranger groups, 17 properties and a government department in an effort to reduce the risk of late season wildfires. Landholders worked together across a vast area of Cape York to coordinate their annual hazard reduction burns.

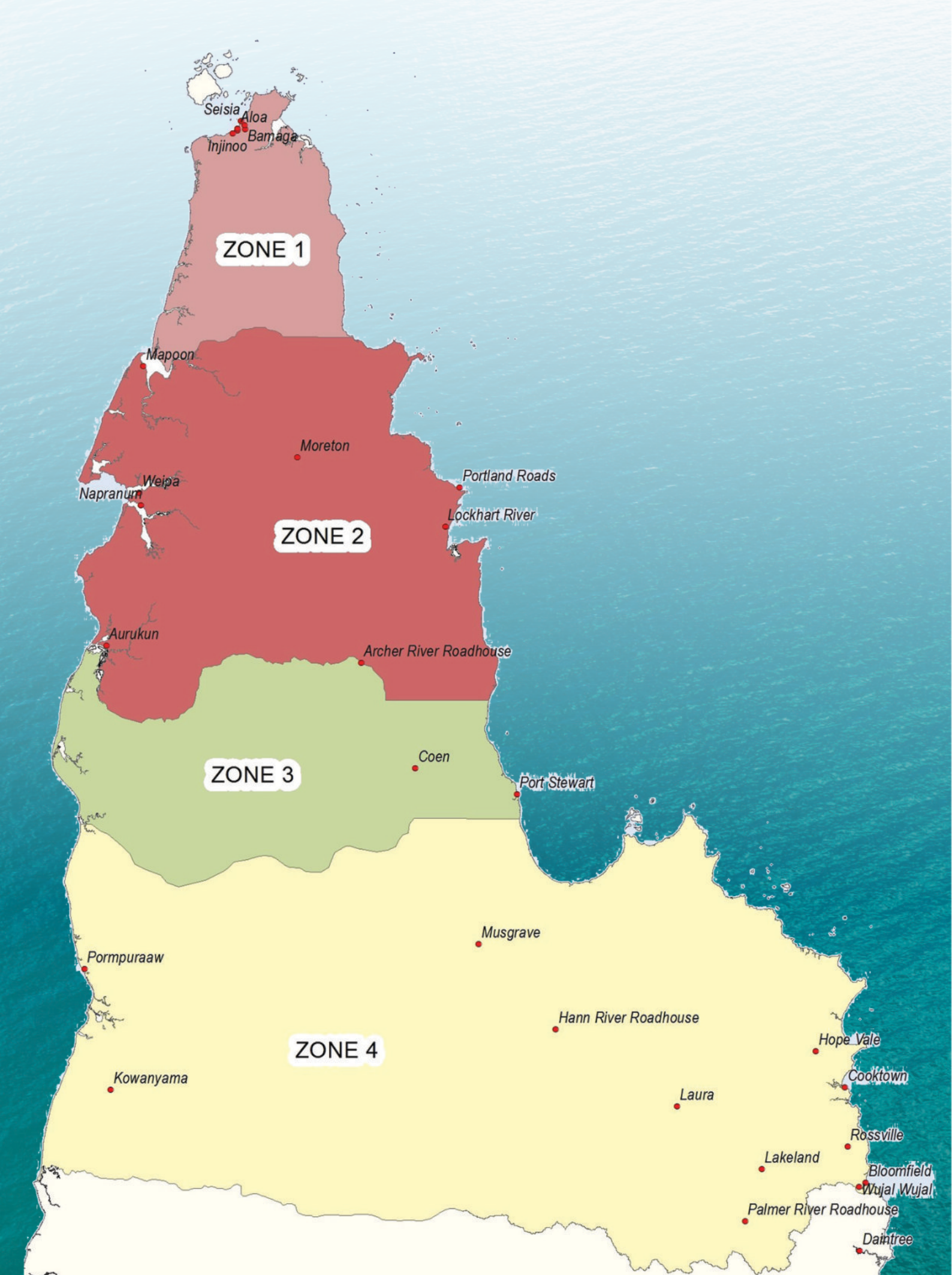
Gully remediation projects have continued across three properties in the Normanby basin. These projects aim to reduce sediment loss into

Princess Charlotte Bay. We are currently working on detailed engineering designs for four large projects before the Federal Government's Reef IV program wraps up in July 2021.

Our disaster relief program for streambank stabilisation is moving along with tenders being submitted for engineering design. On-ground works are scheduled to begin later in 2020 on the first site, with the second larger project scheduled for next year's dry season. This program will remediate areas along the Endeavour River—areas that are subject to changes in the river alignment and risk a loss to property infrastructure.

Cape York NRM continues to invest in the Cape by facilitating these and many more projects. Now that we're out and about we look forward to catching up with our stakeholders, and engaging with new ones, at every opportunity.

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Emma Jackson BOARD REPORT

2020 is a year like no other and whilst we celebrate our tenth year of existence as Cape York NRM, we reflect on the challenges that have restricted access in and across Cape York for our teams.

Our Board recognised in November 2019 that we need to press the reset button on our strategic direction, encouraging a Board with a broader skill set and recognising the importance of succession, whilst perhaps redefining how we, as a Board function. It was agreed that we need to consider our younger residents across the Cape and think more around engaging and involving them as well, before Director vacancies arise.

We recognise that we can change the way we as your Board operate, and although video hook ups and teleconferences are the flavour for 2020, we are committed to coming together in person to clarify why we are here as your Board, what we do, and how we can operate in an improved way to help the organisation function and deliver, in conjunction with our partners.

We have watched our teams think innovatively around project delivery and outcomes and are pleased to see our investors providing flexibility for us.

Your Board has discussed the importance of connection with each other and with our members across the whole region. We see this as a priority. You, as our members are the biggest advocates for managing the land, sea and water and it is critically important to improve and enhance the linkages between members, organisation and the Board.

We, as your Board, thank our members, partners, investors, and teams for continuing to support us and work with us. Whatever 2021 looks like, we know that land and water management needs to occur every day.

DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE at Board Meetings 2019-20

			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	2
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 (retired)	Indigenous Sector Zone 1	Seisia	4	0
Pauline Smith	Indigenous Sector Zone 2	Mapoon	4	4
Eric Rosendale	Indigenous Sector Zone 4	Cooktown	4	4

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS involving directors

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 & Feral Animals Inc.	Agreement CY247 Control works of Pond Apple with Jabalbina Rangers	\$9,000.00
			Agreement CY253 Cape York Progressive Peer to Peer Grazing Network	\$40,000.00
			Agreement CY254 Western Draining Cape York - Coordinated Pest and Feral Animal Control	\$8,000.00
			Agreement CY268 Coastal Catchments Focus Farm (CCFF) initiative	\$16,500.00
				\$73,500.00
Emma Jackson	Corporate Nature	Director of Corporate Nature	Corporate Nature is co-owned by Cape York NRM and provides contracted business administration services.	\$344,776.00
Sally Gray	Assistant Manager, Piccaninny Plains Wildlife Reserve	Director of Cape York NRM	AC062 Cape York NRM Public Fund - Northern Fire Coordination. Attended Northern Fire Management Planning workshop and participated in coordinated early burning program with other participants	\$000.00
	Support Property Manager in on-site project coordination		Agreement CY265. Remediating eroded high ecological value plains on Piccaninny Plains	\$20,000.00
				\$20,000.00
TOTAL				\$438,276.00

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 2020. 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	3,914,424	Board of Directors and employee costs	65,171 1,643,336
Interest received	17,819	General Administration	447,527
Other	66,467	Project operating	284,182
		Project contracts	1,281,228
TOTAL	4,132,710	TOTAL	3,721,444

During the 2019-2020 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	3,776,024	Accounts payable	187,019
Trade and other receivables	9,135	Borrowings	85,091
Shares	10,000	Employee Entitlements	175,642
Plant and Equipment	92,481	GST Liabilities	72,041
Total	3,887,640	Total	519,793

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 2020

\$

Prior year retained earnings	2,092,009
Unexpended grant funds carried forward	1,280,954
Employee entitlements	175,642
Accounts payable	187,019
Public Fund	40,400
TOTAL	3,776,024

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.

HUMAN RESOURCES

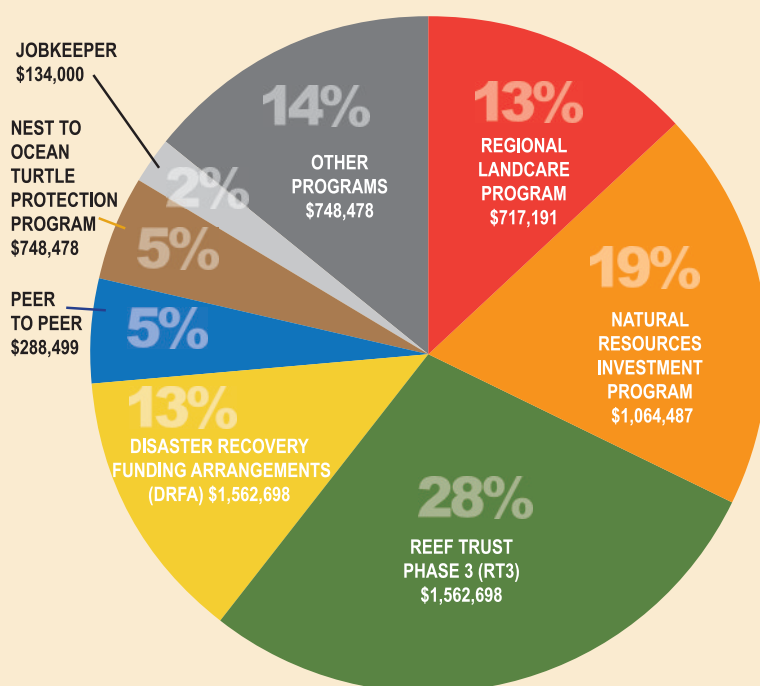
(OUR STAFF) AT JUNE 30 2020

EMPLOYMENT TYPE	2018	2019	2020
Full – Time: Fixed Term Contracts	9	12	15
Full – Time: Permanent	2	3	1
Part – Time: Fixed Term Contract	1	1	-
Casual: Mainly Seed Collectors	5	2	-
TOTAL	18	19	16

No staff had been employed as casual seed collectors since about January 2020

OVERVIEW

The 2019-20 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

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