LEADERS IN Regional Natural Resource Management

Southern Gulf NRM is the Natural Resource Management organisation for the Southern Gulf region of north west Queensland.

We work with the community to deliver projects that improve and protect our region’s natural resources and to maintain the prosperity of industries that rely on these.

What is Natural Resource Management?
Natural Resource Management (NRM) is about looking after our most important natural resources:
It’s about caring for the environment LONG-TERM to ensure we have sustainable and productive natural resources for the future.

How do we do this?
Southern Gulf NRM partners with community groups and members to achieve local and regional NRM improvements. We work closely with pastoral, community, conservation, local government, mining, Indigenous, tourism and other industry sectors to identify priorities, projects and partnerships and deliver on-ground solutions. Our current major focus areas are:
- Weed management
- Grazing and rangeland management
- Conservation of biodiversity
- Supporting schools and community groups to participate in NRM

OUR VISION
A strong and vibrant community that prospers through sustainable natural resource management and respects the culture, rights and interests of all stakeholders.

OUR MISSION
Enabling and engaging the community to sustain and enhance, through best practice, the Region’s natural assets for current and future generations.

The Southern Gulf Catchments region includes all the land whose creeks and rivers run into the southern Gulf of Carpentaria. This encompasses an area of 215,000km².
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Front and inside cover images courtesy of Mel Bethel Photography
I am always humbled to witness our community’s approach in our region, tackling challenge and adversity with a positive and hardworking approach.

CHAIR Update

2019 has been a challenging year for many in our community, which was impacted by either the extreme flood event early in the year, or the ongoing dry conditions and low rainfall across many areas in the region. I am always humbled to witness our community’s approach in our region, tackling challenge and adversity with a positive and hardworking approach. During these challenging times, Southern Gulf NRM has been shoulder to shoulder with our community, making a positive contribution to regional recovery activities. Our consistent message has been about the importance of supporting our producers and landscapes to be well prepared for future disasters and that this should be an element of the recovery program.

Southern Gulf NRM’s success is due ultimately to the dedicated and driven team of staff we have working for us. The team works hard to ensure projects are being delivered to our regional communities, which will help to ensure the long-term sustainability of the region’s natural resources. With NRM investment into our region being unstable for several years previously and the ever-present threat that investment into NRM in the future is also reduced, I would like to thank the staff for their continued commitment. It’s a credit to their level of dedication that they have remained committed to our regional community when the future has been uncertain.

Our efforts to develop strong projects for our regional community that secure funding from government programs have paid off, with several new projects being established in the region during 2018/19. As a result, I’m happy to report that we end the year in a stronger financial position and we are confident that in the short term, we are able to continue working with our communities to deliver quality NRM projects across the region.

During 2018/19 Southern Gulf NRM and our neighbours, NQ Dry Tropics continued to explore a potential merger of the two organisations. Under the guidance of a merger committee comprised of representatives of the two organisations, a thorough due diligence process was completed. This ensured that all relevant company information was shared and understood by both organisations. In addition, detailed legal advice was obtained to guide the structure of the merged entity and the process for the merger. In May 2019, we formally commenced a comprehensive community consultation process, alerting all members and stakeholders to the process and inviting comment and suggestions about the prospect of a merger. Numerous group and one on one discussions provided valuable information. The consultation process is an essential part of the merger process, as it ensures the board is fully informed about key issues.

It’s vitally important that we maintain a strong organisation to support delivery of high standard NRM programs relevant to our region with locally based staff. The merger is one avenue that we are considering to help ensure this. It’s important to be aware that the ultimate decision for the merger to proceed is for financial members to make at a general meeting.

The Southern Gulf NRM Board has also worked very hard together, in order to ensure the organisation continues to operate effectively, and considers the risks, challenges and opportunities that will impact or enhance the future of Southern Gulf NRM.

We have farewelled our long-standing director Sophie Kiely who has recently retired from the board after serving over 6 years as a director. Sophie was a dedicated and committed director and her contribution to Southern Gulf NRM was invaluable. We thank Sophie for her strong commitment and contributions to the organisation and Sophie will no doubt be missed by all here at Southern Gulf NRM.

Following an open call for appointment to vacant board positions, we welcome to the board new director Mark Van Ryt. Mark has a long history of being involved with Landcare groups in the region. He is a dedicated Landcare volunteer in his spare time working out and about in the region. Mark also brings experience working on other boards. The Southern Gulf NRM board welcomes Mark and looks forward to working with him in the future.

Our community’s support is an essential element in ensuring the success we have working as an NRM group in the Southern Gulf region. To those of you that have contributed by hosting field days on your property, attending workshops and meetings or helping with project planning and delivery, I express my sincere gratitude.

Megan Munchenberg
CHAIRPERSON
Southern Gulf NRM continued to strengthen its capacity and performance in support of the regional community during 2018/19. Our work was framed in the four strategic goals of the 2016 Southern Gulf NRM Plan:

- Building Strong NRM communities
- Growing Regional Prosperity
- Securing Landscape Resilience
- Sustaining our Natural and Cultural Environment

The tragic flooding that devastated the Southern Gulf and adjacent regions in February 2019 demonstrated the relevance and importance of these goals. Local, State and Commonwealth authorities responded quickly and effectively to support the community, especially the cattle industry, to recover from the immediate impact of the flooding. Long-established in the region, Southern Gulf NRM focuses on the longer-term question of resilience. How can we best work together as a community to build knowledge and skills and, establish strategies at the property and regional scale to ensure the landscape and the community is more resilient in advance of future disasters? We have alerted Governments to that need and continue to advocate on behalf of our region.

A highlight for the 2018/19 year was the commencement of the E-Beef Smart Farming in Northern Queensland project. Our success in securing $4M from the Australian Government can be attributed to both the quality of the original project concept and the strength and scope of the project partnership. Consistent with the project plan, the first ‘Smart Farms’ under the project were established, along with the associated Innovation Hubs that collaborate in learning about the application of new technologies. We have established strong project coordination and management arrangements with our partners as a foundation for this nationally-significant project. At Southern Gulf NRM, we know that our projects must be relevant to the needs and priorities of our regional community. Our Australian Government-funded project, Profitable Producers Creating Healthy Landscapes, demonstrates our commitment by providing for producer engagement and leadership in a range of extension and advisory activities that will achieve positive NRM outcomes. Southern Gulf NRM is grateful for the efforts and leadership of the producers engaged in this project.

We were very pleased to secure one of the few grants made under the Queensland Government’s competitive Land Recovery Fund ‘Kickstarting the Market’ program. This will enable Southern Gulf NRM with project partners to engage with regional producers interested in participating in the carbon market, demystifying the process and collecting feedback for program managers. If producers were able to secure payment for reducing carbon emissions and providing other landscape services, we would see increased revenues for producers and clear financial incentives for good environmental outcomes.

Our success in securing new project funding has enabled Southern Gulf NRM to begin rebuilding staff capacity and capability after some lean years. New project staff have been recruited to deliver new projects and we anticipate being able to build further during 2019/20. An important capability development priority for all staff is to improve our ability to systematically measure our progress toward NRM goals. The Queensland Government’s Regional Coordination and Evaluation program has provided useful and flexible funding to support this.

As positive as 2018/19 has been, we must prepare for future challenges. We must continue to search for solutions that create a strong and stable organisational platform for delivery of projects. We must ensure that we meet the performance expectations of our stakeholders without diverting too much of our funding away from on-ground project delivery to sustain the organisation itself. Another critical challenge is to maintain organisational capacity for the design and delivery of projects in the face of inevitably uncertain funding.

I am grateful to our Chairperson and Board of Directors for their guidance and support. Their knowledge and networks are an important foundation for our work.

As a small organisation operating in a large region, we put great value on partnerships. I am grateful to our colleagues and partners in Australian and Queensland Government agencies, local governments, industry and the NRM community for their various contributions.

Finally, I must acknowledge the vital contribution Southern Gulf NRM staff make to our successes. Their expertise and commitment to the success of NRM in the Southern Gulf region is why we achieve as much as we do. They are a great team and our region is lucky to have them.

Andrew Maclean
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Southern Gulf NRM worked with the region’s community stakeholders throughout the year supporting community-led initiatives and sustainable development planning.

Regional community groups were invited to contribute to the review of Southern Gulf NRM’s Community Participation Plan. This plan outlines Southern Gulf NRM’s key stakeholder groups and the best ways to engage them in NRM project design and delivery. It outlines the processes and support that Southern Gulf NRM staff and Directors will provide the community in order to support delivery of natural resource management across the region.

Southern Gulf NRM supported the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (CLCAC) Indigenous Ranger Forum held in Burketown in September 2018. Attendees included Indigenous ranger groups from across Northern Australia as well as from Papua New Guinea. The forum included a variety of practical workshops, training and expert panel sessions covering topics such as biosecurity monitoring and management, snake handling, economic development and capacity building strategies.

Southern Gulf NRM provides important capacity for the region in relation to NRM issues and themes. Southern Gulf NRM has continued to represent the region on various committees and panels, providing local expert advice and contributing to regional planning. Some of the partnerships Southern Gulf NRM is involved with are summarised below.

NESP Northern Australia Steering Committee
The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) is the major program of investment by the Australian Government Department of Environment and Science into environmental research. The program is delivered through a series of self-administering thematic or geographic ‘hubs’. The Southern Gulf NRM CEO was invited to join the Northern Australia Hub Steering Committee, ensuring that the needs and interest of the NRM sector are considered, and that research findings are available to influence NRM decision making.

Queensland Government Bioregion Planning Assessment and Aquatic Conservation Assessments Expert Panels
Southern Gulf NRM staff contributed local knowledge and planning and assessment expertise to expert panels established by the Queensland Government undertaking a Bioregional Planning Assessment and an Aquatic Conservation Assessment. This program consolidates and makes accessible important information to assist planning and assessment decisions by the Queensland Government and other stakeholders in the region.

North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQ ROC)
Partnerships with local government play a vital role in natural resource management programs in the sparsely populated and remote Southern Gulf region. Southern Gulf NRM recognises local government as a key NRM stakeholder and an important element of regional NRM capacity. In turn, Southern Gulf NRM contributes capacity to local government regarding pest and weed management, biodiversity issues and community engagement. The NWQ ROC is a very important focus for this relationship and Southern Gulf NRM has valued the opportunity to participate in this important regional forum.

Meat and Livestock Australia
Meat and Livestock Australia plays a vitally important role in support of the beef industry. Southern Gulf NRM was pleased to partner with MLA in the delivery of their ‘Beef Up’ Forum in Julia Creek. Through our partnership we were able to assist MLA in the delivery of a program that aligned with regional NRM priorities.
North West Queensland Regional Beef Research Committee

Southern Gulf NRM staff are also active in supporting the North West Queensland Regional Beef Research Committee that advises the North Australia Beef Research Council. These partnerships underscore the point that through supporting research and sustainable land management, NRM has a key role in the economic future of the beef industry.

Other Contributions

Southern Gulf NRM took the opportunity to contribute information and expertise to a number of other forums and processes during the year. These included:

- Flinders Shire Council Biosecurity Plan Working Group, conducts regular reviews of the Flinders Shire Council Biosecurity Plan to ensure that it is current and implemented effectively
- Gregory River Landcare Group, both a funding agent and a group of members treating rubber vine and bellyache bush in the Gregory River environs.
- Gulf Catchments Pest Task Force, which provides a forum for leadership and participation by major stakeholders in weed and pest animal management in the North-West Queensland region
- McKinlay Shire Council Biosecurity Plan Working Group, conducts regular reviews of the McKinlay Shire Council Biosecurity Plan to ensure that it is current and implemented effectively
- Mount Isa Landcare Group, dedicated to the ongoing treatment of invasive weeds in the region’s riparian zones and rangelands
- North West Fire Management Groups, organised and run by the Rural Fire Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the groups focus on planning and fire mitigation activities and to ensure brigades are satisfactorily equipped
- Northern Australia Marine Parks Advisory Committee, which advises the Commonwealth Director of National Parks on the management of marine parks, including the Gulf of Carpentaria Marine Park
- Prickly Acacia Alliance, which is responsible for overseeing the development of coordinated prickly acacia control activities through strategic planning and management
- Queensland Biosecurity Roundtable, hosted by the Australian and Queensland Governments to consult with diverse stakeholders on biosecurity management
- Riversleigh Community and Scientific Advisory Committee, which provides advice on the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage property
- Shire Rural Lands Officers Group, is a forum for shires of the Western Queensland region to collaborate and improve implementation of weed and pest animal management initiatives
- The Rangeland NRM Alliance, and partnership that builds capacity for NRM planning and delivery across 80% of Australia
Sarus Crane Award

The Southern Gulf Region’s local government councils continued to support the Southern Gulf NRM Sarus Crane Awards in 2019 with the inclusion of the award in Australia Day Ceremonies. The Sarus Crane Award recognises individual and community group initiatives towards natural resource management. This year’s recipients were:

- Mount Isa City Council: Jesse Osborn for his involvement in local community groups supporting weed management, heritage projects and angler education
- Cloncurry Shire Council: Gary Baker for continued efforts to conserve and promote the region’s mining history
- McKinlay Shire Council: Susan Walker for her continued efforts in Prickly Acacia and Parkinsonia eradication
- Richmond Shire Council: David Fox for innovative and skillful weed management techniques and operations
- Flinders Shire Council: Towerhill and Torrens Creek Catchment Landcare Group for their weed eradication activities
Build Better Skills and Knowledge for a Sustainable Agriculture Future Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator Program (RALF)

The Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator program supports community groups, local government, industry groups and landholders across the region in building their capacity to carry out sustainable land management by increasing their skills and knowledge.

This year the RALF has coordinated, assisted and promoted the delivery of eight workshops and field days throughout the Southern Gulf region. Three workshops were in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and provided the latest information in relation to the changes of the Vegetation Management Act. Another three workshops were a collaboration between SGNRM and The North Australian Pastoral Company where expert presenters Darryl Hill and Bob Shepherd drew good responses from land managers by providing topical advice on avoiding and mitigating soil and silt loss during extreme weather events and in normal track and fence line management, and techniques for managing flood-damaged grazing land. The RALF assisted in organising two field days for ‘Profitable Producers Creating Healthy Landscapes’ project that covered Regenerative Agriculture Natural Sequence Farming and the latest on ground innovative technology to enhance grazing management. The events engaged 144 land managers across the region.

Stronger Pest Animal and Weed Collaboration in the Southern Gulf Region

‘WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT’

Supported by the Australian Government the Building Better Regions project focus is on building capacity in local government to achieve better management of invasive plants and animals in the Southern Gulf region of northwest Queensland. The partnership is between Southern Gulf NRM and local government members of the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, and includes the involvement of State agencies, Indigenous communities and other partners.

Under the project, Southern Gulf NRM with input from a Local Government steering committee will develop a collaborative North West Queensland Regional Weed and Pest Animal Management Strategy and coordinate, assist and promote the delivery of three workshops and field days throughout the region.

The non-statutory strategy will provide a framework for regional management that supplements and reinforces the biosecurity plans developed by each local government and other entities including Government agencies and utility providers. The Strategy will be endorsed by local governments and other stakeholders in the region and will be the agreed regional strategy for weed and pest animal management. Workshops will give Rural Lands Officers and Shire Rangers the opportunity to increase their skill development and facilitate resource-sharing to achieve more efficient and effective utilisation of scarce regional resources.
With more than 90% of the Southern Gulf region used for beef production, Southern Gulf NRM gives a high priority to working with graziers to promote and support sustainable grazing land management. As well as being the most profitable strategy, sustainable pasture management delivers regional-scale benefits for biodiversity, soils and water.

Southern Gulf NRM delivered three projects in support of sustainable grazing land management.

**Profitable Producers Creating Healthy Landscapes Across Southern Gulf**

Supported by the Australian Government Regional Land Partnerships program, this project facilitates a producer led extension and advisory program aiming to improve grazing land condition.

Following a call for expressions of interest, three Producer Performance Groups were established. Members are based around Cloncurry and Quamby; Julia Creek and McKinlay; and Hughenden and Richmond. The producer performance groups play a key role in identifying key priorities for improved grazing land management and regionally relevant means of communication and extension.

Guided by the Producer Performance Groups, 273 producers attended 12 workshops and field days. Topics included vegetation management, stockflow/cashflow, erosion control, pasture remediation and regenerative agriculture.

Forty Producer Performance Group members received one-on-one advice and on-property recommendations by consultants and the DAF team ranging from stockflow/cashflow after the monsoon event, erosion control, pasture remediation and regenerative agriculture.

**E-Beef Smart Farming in Northern Queensland**

The E-Beef Project is a partnership comprising Southern Gulf NRM, Desert Channels Queensland, Northern Gulf RMG, and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Funding for the project is from the Australian Government’s Smart Farming Partnerships Program and the Queensland Government Drought and Climate Adaptation Program. Comprising $4M over four years, the project is the largest funded under the Smart Farming Partnerships Program.

Securing this funding under a highly competitive program demonstrates the value and strength of the partnership brokered by Southern Gulf NRM.

The E-Beef Project demonstrates how the latest technologies can lead to improved grazing land and stock management. Technologies include a remote walk over weighing unit with auto draft, satellite monitoring and an online benchmarking program, to provide producers with almost real-time data to make earlier critical grazing management decisions and forward plan impacts on profitability.

During this first year of the E-Beef project, an E-Beef Smart Farm demonstration property was established at Redcliffe, Hughenden. Seventeen producers attended a workshop in nearby Hughenden to learn about the project and their opportunity to participate.
Following the workshop, an Innovation Hub learning group, associated with the Redcliffe Smart Farm, was established comprising 18 producers. Each Innovation Hub member has access to the Smart Farm’s weekly liveweight data and fortnightly pasture greenness data. Members will utilise the highly interactive Agrihive Farmecco program over four financial years to benchmark and undertake scenario testing. Southern Gulf NRM has the lead coordinating role for the E-Beef project under the funding agreement with the Australian Government. Funds are provided to project partners through sub-contracts to establish Smart Farms and Innovation Hubs in the adjacent Desert Channels Queensland and Northern Gulf Regions. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries provides important technical and animal production advice and support. Project partners are grateful for the support of the Queensland Department of Environment and Science for the provision of satellite data analyses.

The E-Beef Smart Farming in Northern Queensland project commenced part way through the 2018/19 financial year. Despite the impact of flooding during the year, all project deliverables were achieved, and the project now has a strong foundation for delivery over the remaining three years.

Exploring Carbon Market Opportunities with Southern Gulf Beef Producers

Participation in the Carbon market is widely recognised as a potential opportunity to diversify agricultural incomes while achieving positive environmental outcomes. Participation in the Southern Gulf region has been limited, reflecting industry uncertainty about the suitability and application of emission reduction methods relevant to the Southern Gulf region. In response, Southern Gulf NRM secured $195,723 through the Queensland Government Land Restoration Fund for a 12-month scoping project that aims to build regional landholder understanding of and participation in the carbon market. The Land Restoration Fund is administered by the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science to develop the carbon market by valuing carbon credits from projects with associated social, environmental and cultural co-benefits at a higher market value than a standard carbon credit.

This scoping project will build regional landholder understanding of the carbon market with focus on developing a Herd Efficiency Aggregation model to reduce financial and management barriers preventing participation. The project focusses on the existing Emissions Reduction Fund Beef Cattle Herd Management methodology to produce more beef from fewer, younger animals at a lower handling cost. Faster growth rates mean better meat quality and market prices; having fewer cattle puts less pressure on pastures, allowing herds to be maintained longer through challenging climatic conditions.
Weed Management Program
Prickly acacia, mesquite, parkinsonia, rubber vine and bellyache bush are the major weed threats to the productive and environmental values of the Southern Gulf region. Southern Gulf NRM has since 2001-02 implemented a strategic weed management program that supports land managers to minimise the risk of further spread and protect key grazing land and environmental assets. A multi-year prickly acacia program was finalised during 2018/19 with projects completed on Neumayer Valley - 1,765 ha of moderately dense prickly acacia along the Nardoo-Floraville Road, and on Punjaub and Lawn Hill Stations (scattered prickly acacia over some 12,000 ha). This work was supported by funding from the Queensland Government’s Queensland Feral Pest Initiative (QFPI). Southern Gulf NRM secured further QFPI funding of $553,000 out of a statewide pool of $1,000,000 in 2018-19 for a prickly acacia project in Flinders Shire to be delivered in partnership with Desert Channels Queensland. Project planning is well advanced with on-ground works to commence during 2019-20. A strategic rubber vine survey and management project in October 2018 aimed to reduce the risk of westward spread of the weed along the Gulf coast on Wentworth Station abutting the Queensland/Northern Territory border. This was successfully carried out by the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation Gangalidda-Garawa rangers with assistance from Southern Gulf NRM, Biosecurity Queensland and Northern Territory Weed Management Branch officers. Approximately 500 ha of rubber vine was treated at all known sites on the Queensland side to within 5 km of the NT border as well as five new sites located by aerial helicopter survey. The survey did not find any rubber vine in the Northern Territory and no new sites were found nearer the border.

A 2018-19 contract with the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads provided for weed treatment up to 100 metres into properties adjacent to State Controlled Roads to prevent further spread of weeds into road corridors. Participating properties were Werrina, Flers, Monstraven on Wills Developmental Road and Dryburgh on the Flinders Highway. Over 45 km of road length received treatment. Southern Gulf Graziers Leading Landscape Change was established as a new project in 2018/19 supported with $650,000 of funding from the Queensland Government Natural Resource Investment Program. To be delivered over 18 months, the project will support 12 Southern Gulf graziers to improve NRM management practices over 100,000 hectares in the Southern Gulf region through a structured program of property management planning and will provide related incentive payments for prioritised projects to combat threatening processes caused by: a) reduction of perennial native vegetation cover arising from excessive grazing pressure, b) increased risk of wind and water erosion arising from loss of vegetation cover, or c) loss of natural and production values in native rangelands ecosystems as a result of extensive woody weed invasion. The first properties were recruited to the project in 2018/19 with most of the project to be delivered in 2019/20.
February 2019 Flood Recovery

In early February 2019 an extreme Monsoon trough over North West Queensland, caused widespread flooding, infrastructure damage and significant losses of livestock in the Southern Gulf region. Our mapping indicated that 69,000 square kilometres in the Flinders and Leichhardt catchments were flooded.

During this period staff were in regular communication with some impacted graziers to ensure that the organisation was aware of the extent of damage and loss of livestock. Producers from over 100 flood-impacted properties were contacted or met with face-to-face by staff during and immediately following the monsoon and flood event to discuss and inspect the extent and types of impacts. 25 flood impacted properties were visited.

Southern Gulf NRM regularly collaborate with Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) staff, but this rapidly escalated during and following the flood event, to deliver support to producers and liaise with other agencies.

Immediately after the flood, Southern Gulf NRM prepared a disaster response strategy that focused our work, clarified our role and served as a basis for advocacy for our regional community.

This strategy seeks to rebuild community and landscape resilience by working toward four high level outcomes as follows:

Southern Gulf NRM staff have been in regular contact with the North Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Agency board and its staff, from when the Agency first visited the region. Staff spent three days escorting NQLIRA staff, visiting several properties to inspect the range of damage and impacted sites as well as speaking directly to landholders.

Relying on Southern Gulf NRM’s extensive regional networks and on-ground capacity, the Queensland Department of Environment and Science and Queensland Reconstruction Authority requested our support in gathering information for a state-wide submission to the National Disaster Recovery and Resilience Arrangements (NDRRA) for the NQ-NWQ monsoon event. The Department specifically requested information regarding environmental recovery on-ground works to watercourses, streambank stabilisation and riparian zones.

In response, Southern Gulf NRM put out an urgent call to primary producers for information on erosion impacts on their properties which saw the office inundated with information highlighting the devastation. In many cases photos showed how the force of the flood surge had stripped the top layer of soil resulting in extensive sheet erosion within and extending beyond riparian zones causing extreme environmental damage to the landscape. This information was contributed...
to support the Department of Environment and Science in development of the NDRRA application. The outcome of this work is that Southern Gulf NRM has secured $1,259,742 from the NDRRA program. This funding will be spent under the ‘Riparian Recovery Program’ and ‘Weeds and Pest Management Program’ over 2 years. It is expected that further funding for on-ground riparian recovery works will flow during 2019/20.

Southern Gulf NRM sought funding from other sources for projects in support of the regional community. Another $111,650 has been secured under the Community Development Program for a “Resilience Through Recovery – Southern Gulf Beef Industry” project to improve producer capacity to recover from the impact of the floods and build resilience.

Southern Gulf NRM will continue to focus on flood recovery and building resilience amongst the grazing industry and the environment.
**Biodiversity Bright Spots – Carpentarian Grasswren in the Buckley River Key Biodiversity Area**

Fire management for Carpentarian Grasswren conservation has been a primary focus for Southern Gulf NRM since 2016. The project gained momentum in the 2018-19 financial year and produced significant on-ground results. This project is supported by Southern Gulf NRM, through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.

In collaboration with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, a series of fire management training sessions and events were delivered to build regional collaboration. The forty-one participants of the events included representatives from both Indigenous ranger groups and the pastoral industry.

Proactive fire management continued for a second year on Calton Hills in March with large tracts of old-growth spinifex broken up. A total of 16,928 hectares were burnt throughout the property using aerial incendiaries to create the desired patch mosaic range of vegetation age.

With support from Southern Gulf NRM under this project, BirdLife North Queensland volunteers continued annual Grasswren survey works for the 11th year in May. This year, the volunteers focussed on surveying Calton Hills station, Thorntonia station and Boodjamulla/Lawn Hill National Park.

The results indicated that Carpentarian Grasswrens continue to persist in Calton Hills and are also present throughout Thorntonia and Boodjamulla National Park. These surveys yield vital information about the conservation status of the Carpentarian Grasswren and the results guide operational planning. They represent an excellent example of citizen science and Southern Gulf NRM is very grateful for the considerable efforts of the volunteers.
**BOARD of directors**

Megan Munchenberg  
Chairperson

Anne Neil  

Ray Campbell  

Ray Thieme  

Sophie Keily  

Roger Hill  

Shane McCarthy  

Mark Van Ryt

**SOUTHERN GULF NRM team**

Andrew Maclean  
Chief Executive Officer

Maree Berlin  
Business Manager

Charles Curry  
Project Coordinator

Steven Cobbin  
GIS Coordinator / Mapping

Pru Wharton  
Regional Agriculture Land Care Facilitator

Anne Alison  
Rangelands Officer

Kayler Plant  
Environment and Heritage

Holly Urquhart  
NRM Project officer
Financial Performance Summary

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* Profits are re-invested in NRM project delivery
Financial Position Summary

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<tr>
<td>OTHER CURRENT ASSETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNSPENT PROJECT FUNDS</td>
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<td>OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROVISIONS (NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES)</td>
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<td>RETAINED EARNINGS</td>
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SOUTHERN GULF NRM'S COMPLETE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019 ARE AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SOUTHERNGULF.COM.AU