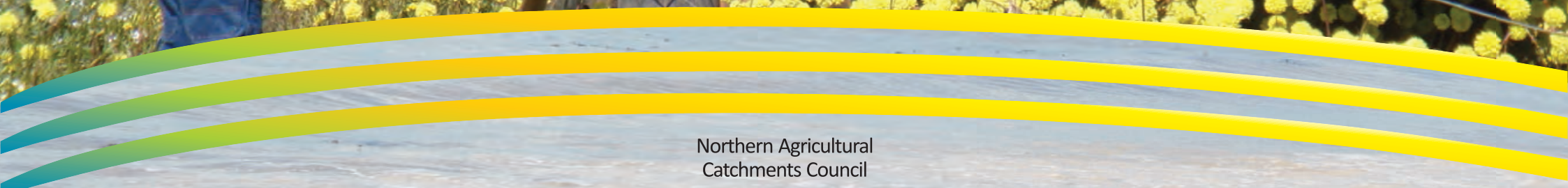




nacc
managing natural resources

Protect, Prepare, Repair



Northern Agricultural
Catchments Council

Annual Report 2009 - 2010





Protect, Prepare, Repair

NACC Vision

...a leading influence in the creation of a regional community that exercises a high level of environmental stewardship in the sustainable management of its natural resources, for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations...

NACC Mission

NACC will achieve regionally sustainable outcomes for:

Land;
Water;
Coastal and Marine;
Biodiversity; and
Community Assets

with our collective skills and expertise, through working in partnership with our stakeholders and building capacity within our community and organisation. NACC will continue to grow as a successful natural resource management organisation through our values and philosophy.

Governance

NACC is a not for profit organisation managed under the direction of an elected skills-based board with a voting membership base of more than 600 people from all areas of the 7.5million hectares of the Northern Agricultural Region.

The Board meets face to face around the region every second month; every other meeting is a teleconference.



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About NACC

NACC is a community organisation – based in the community, managed by the community, working in the community for the community.

The work we do is to help manage our precious natural resources for the benefit of all by enabling people to undertake projects aimed at sustainability, for the benefit of all.

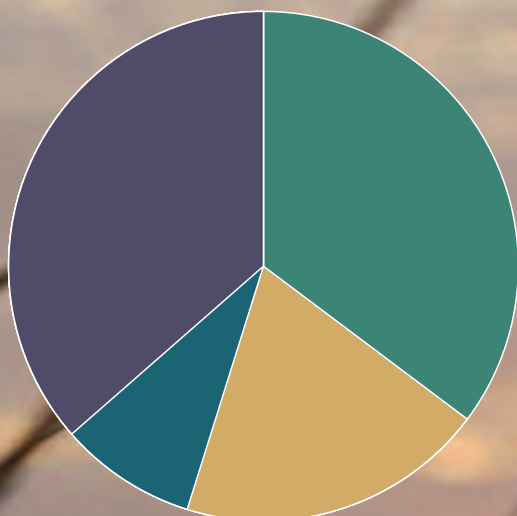
Our community is the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR), a 7.5 million hectare expanse of wonderfully diverse ecological importance that stretches from metropolitan Perth to the edges of WA's pastoral north, some 550km distant.

Our geographical community comprises 16 local government authorities, all but one of which are small rural shires, some with mere hundreds of residents. The regional centre is the City of Geraldton-Greenough which has 35,000 residents.



NACC Programs

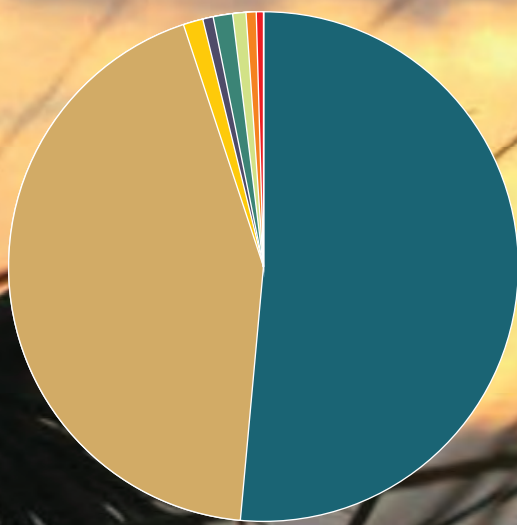
Programs & Projects



Total funding* by Program

- BIODIVERSITY
- COASTAL SYSTEMS
- KNOWLEDGE SHARING
- SUSTAINABLE FARMING SYSTEMS

* Funding refers to approved cash for NACC projects.



Total funding* by funding source

- CFOC TRANSITIONAL FUNDING TOTAL
- CFOC BASE ALLOCATION FUNDING TOTAL
- CFOC LANDCARE FACILITATOR FUNDING TOTAL
- DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING - COASTWEST FUNDING TOTAL
- MWDC ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS
- CITY OF GERALDTON - GREENOUGH
- GERALDTON PORT AUTHORITY
- DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

* Funding refers to approved cash for NACC projects.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING SYSTEMS

- Wind Erosion
- Sustainable Farming
- Landcare Facilitator

COASTAL SYSTEMS

- Dune Restoration and Rehabilitation
- Coastal Engagement
- Coastal Beach Monitoring
- Reducing Tourism Impacts at Turtle Bay
- Jakes Point Beach Access

BIODIVERSITY

- Threatened and Invasive Species
- High Value Biodiversity Protection
- Estuaries, Streams and Wetlands
- Weeds of National Significance
- Rabbit Suppression to Protect Threatened Species

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

- Regional Capacity Building
- Community, Skills, Knowledge and Engagement
- Indigenous Ranger Program
- Training for Country

Chair's Report

The world of natural resource management (NRM) seems to move more quickly every year – or perhaps that's just the way it feels with everything that has been going on at the national, state and local level over the year that was 2009/10.

All NRM groups, not just NACC, have grappled with adapting to the new directions in NRM investment from both the Australian and State Governments. This year, and for the foreseeable future, NACC has been focussed on delivery of very specific targets determined by the Australian Government in its Caring for Our Country (CfOC) initiative. CfOC replaces the more familiar Natural Heritage Trust (NHT), National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) and National Landcare Program (NLP) initiatives which, between them, funded natural resource management in this country for over a decade.

Contrasting the two funding eras demonstrates why we have made such substantial changes to NACC over the past year:

- Under the older programs regional communities identified assets and threats in their own backyard, so to speak, and prioritised those assets and threats in terms of when and how to address them; with CfOC the assets and threats to be addressed in each region are

according to national priorities.

- The previous programs were jointly funded by the Australian and State Governments through bilateral agreements; CfOC is an Australian Government initiative with the State Government running a reduced competitive grants-style NRM program.
- The earlier programs were generously funded to allow community organisations like NACC to address a range of issues; the current program provides about a third of the previous total funding and allows only a few issues to be addressed.
- Where previously funding was largely reserved for community organisations like landcare and catchment groups, and regional NRM bodies, the money both governments now allocate for their funding rounds is also available to government agencies and NGOs so less is reserved for community-led organisations such as NACC.

I am pleased and proud that the NACC Board and staff have responded quickly, taking a longer term view: over the past year we have reassessed where we stand and where we want to get to, and have given a great deal of thought about how to get there. That thinking will go on for a while and I invite members to provide input into planning our future.

Improving landscape and coastal condition, the purpose of

NACC, is uppermost in the minds of each of the seven directors. Their input shapes the direction and policy that our CEO and staff then put into practice. Each of the Board members has listened to their constituency.

We re-structured the organisation to meet the future, moving to a more collaborative partnership model, seeking to play a facilitator role to achieve greater outcomes across the region from a greater number of organisations.

There have been changes in personnel too. New to the Board in this financial year is Dr Jill Wilson, who has, for many years, worked with several organisations and government right across the NAR. Her experience is very much welcomed and is already making its mark. Jill replaced Will Easton, a farmer from Moora who retired from the Board in 2009 after having been appointed to the Board when NACC was created in 2005. Will made a significant contribution to the Board, including a period serving as treasurer.

This year each one of the NACC Board members has undertaken professional development with the Australian Institute of Company Directors, demonstrating clearly each individual's commitment to a highly professional approach to guiding NACC into the future.

Board Members



Yvonne Marsden



Barry Johnson



Dr Jill Wilson



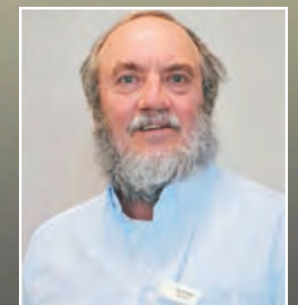
Geoff Erickson



Chris King



Chris Gillam



Paul Findlater

One of the key changes during this time was the resignation of Alan Bradley, NACC CEO for more than four years. On behalf of the Board I thank Alan for his major contribution to the development of the organisation.

Staff turnover is inevitable when both the financial base and the operational focus of an organisation changes dramatically. I am pleased to say that we have retained strong ties with many of the staff who have contributed to on-ground achievements during previous years. Many remain in the region and continue to make tremendous inroads into improving the condition of our natural assets.

Under the operational expertise of incoming CEO Shelley Spriggs, the organisational restructure has set NACC on a path towards growing and nurturing partnerships across all sectors. I am pleased that this ushers in a new era of community focus and social obligation.

To the new staff who have recently joined NACC, welcome. To the long-serving team members, thank you for your continued commitment. The Board appreciates your dedication to the organisation and its goals, your tremendous contribution in helping reshape NACC in such a very short time, and for your considerable skill and professionalism in providing sound advice and support to clients.

I commend this report to you as NACC members, and look forward to another year of great outcomes for NRM.

Chris King
Chair, NACC



CEO's Report

NACC's aspirations and work depend on the people of the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR). Every one of the achievements outlined in this report has been the result of collaboration between NACC, funders, government agencies, regional organisations and many committed individuals in our community. In my first few months I travelled extensively across the region, meeting as many people and visiting as many project sites as possible, so I know this to be true. I thank everyone for their commitment to our collective work, and also for your welcome to me. My appointment to NACC in February this year (initially as interim CEO) coincided with the dust settling on the previously very well-resourced NHT/NAP/Transitional Caring for our Country programs. Of necessity NACC reduced, restructured and re-focused.

For the second half of this reporting year NACC was focused on meeting the environmental outcomes prescribed by the Australian Government's fully implemented Caring for our Country initiative which would have been impossible but for the close cooperation and support of our principal partners: Moore Catchment Council, West Midlands Group, Yarra Yarra Catchment Regional Council, Mingenew Irwin Group and the Shire of Chapman Valley. Together these organisations have ensured that the Australian Government investment of approximately \$4 million towards sustainable ecological and productive systems has permeated throughout the entire region. As is appropriate for this highly productive region, almost 50 per cent of this investment is directed to sustainable farming: working with individual farmers to improve soil condition that, over time, will realise a public benefit in increased ecosystem services. Around 30 per cent of effort and expenditure has been on repairing and protecting our biodiversity assets inland and on the coast; and almost 20 per cent has been invested directly into enhancing the knowledge and capacity of our community to take a stewardship role in identifying and protecting assets.

The WA State Government, too, has invested directly in NACC and therefore the region. The State Natural Resource Management Office provided some bridging funding to assist in the transition between the earlier well-resourced programs and the more targeted Caring for Our Country initiative; and the Department of Planning provided funding to allow NACC to work closely with volunteers to restore areas of the coast and Islands.

NACC team members have been privileged to work closely with, and learn from, peers in the regional and district offices of the WA departments of Agriculture and Food, Environment and Conservation, Water, Fisheries, Planning and Transport.

Local governments in the region (particularly the City of Geraldton - Greenough) and the Mid West Development Commission have provided welcome support, mainly for coastal work and in running the very successful State NRM Conference in 2009.

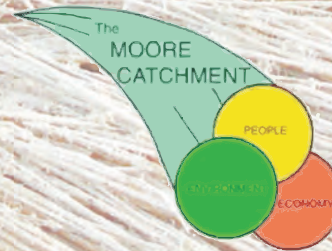
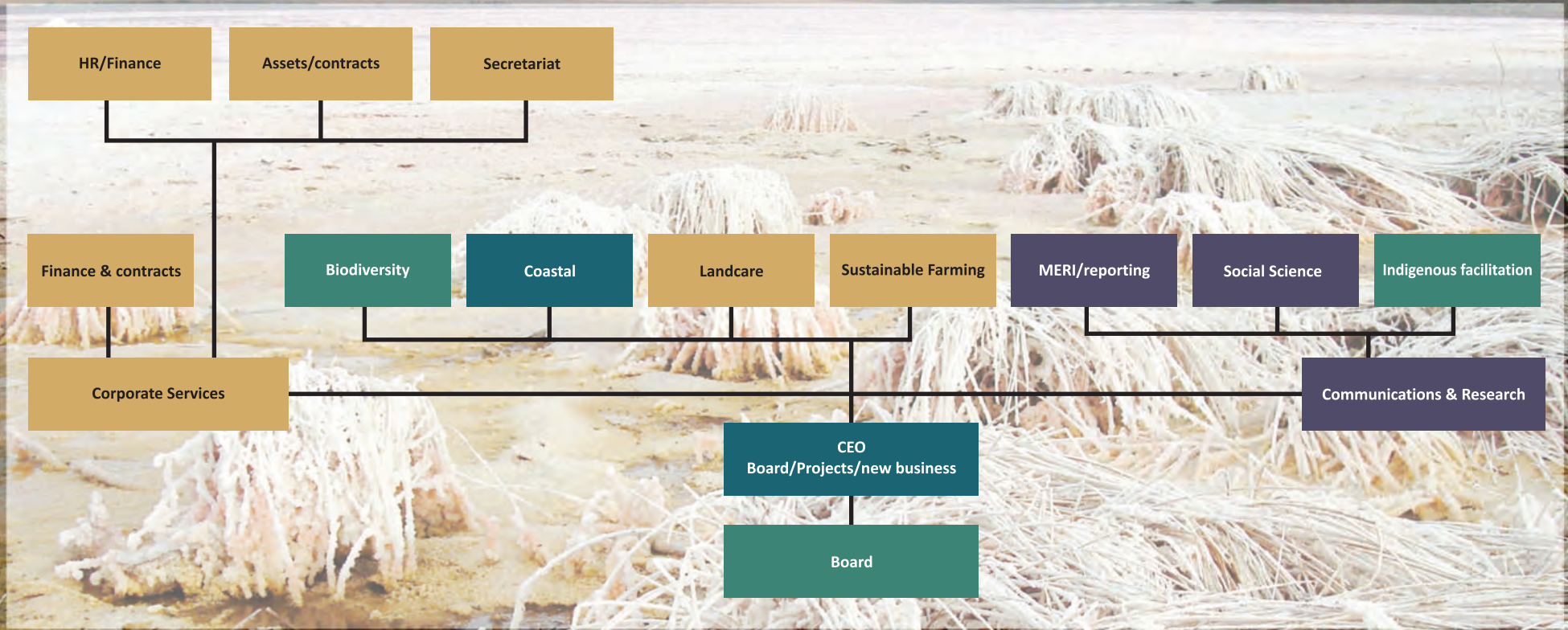
In the coming year the NACC team will continue to seek collaboration and partnership in both sourcing funding and in delivering projects that the NAR community has identified as priority actions for the region.

A very special thanks to the NACC team for their readiness to visualise the way things could be and to collaborate on making it so; and to the Natural Resource Management Officers working in organisations across the region for their quick adoption of the operational changes and their willingness to support us in changing our projects to better reflect what their clients want. Tremendous work under tremendous pressure from a great extended team. It has been a joy to work with you.

Shelley Spriggs
CEO



Organisational chart

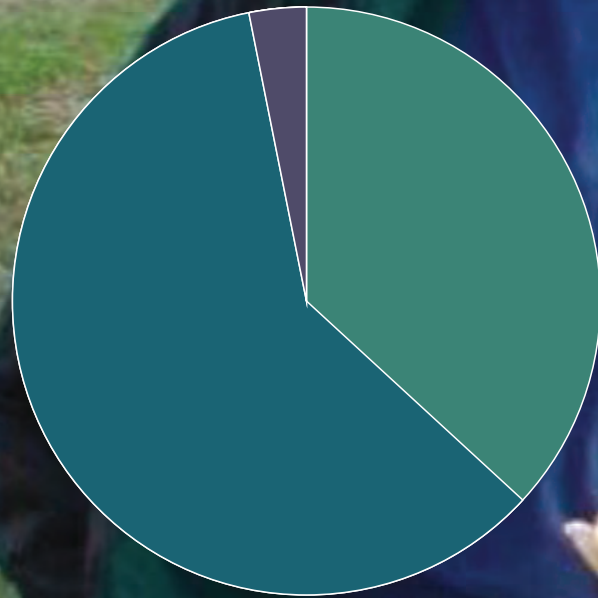


NACC Programs

NACC Programs

Sustainable Farming by Funding Source*

- CFOC TRANSITIONAL
- CFOC BASE ALLOCATION
- CFOC LANDCARE FACILITATOR



* Funding refers to approved cash for NACC projects.

Sustainable Farming Systems

Agriculture accounts for approximately 35 per cent of the regional economy. Fittingly, sustainable farming has been the principal focus of NACC's work over the past year and will be for the foreseeable future, accounting for almost half of the organisation's expenditure in the region. During the 2009/10 year NACC completed all projects associated with the previous programs (NHT, NLP and NAP).

CfOC (including transitional CfOC) funding was devolved through three key projects: Wind Erosion and Sustainable Farming which encompasses on-ground work; and the Landcare Facilitator position which promotes the uptake of sustainable agricultural practices.



Wind Erosion

Soil erosion is a significant issue in this windy region causing landscape deterioration and degradation of productive agricultural land. NACC supports individual landholders, through CfOC funding, to address this issue on their land through a mixture of workshops run by nationally recognised technical experts in best management practices for grazing and cropping, individual site assessments to determine the best approach for specific conditions, and financial support (incentives payments) to revegetate denuded soils or provide wind breaks to protect soil.

Achievements:

- 106 landholders took up incentives and training opportunities totalling 4,381ha of land protected against the risk of wind erosion.
- 2,885ha of perennial grasses planted.
- 322,000 oil mallee seedlings planted.
- 61,960 saltbush seedlings planted.
- 75ha of agricultural land has been revegetated with native species to form wind breaks.
- 11 small projects, including research trials, were funded through NACC devolved grants

Sustainable Farming

This project, funded under the transitional CfOC program, sought to assist farmers to take up new practices to improve soil condition, develop site management plans, and encourage the adoption of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) for individual properties.

Achievements

- 64 site management plans completed for oil mallee plantings.
- 49 farmers planted a total of 1.2m oil mallee seedlings covering 1,443ha.
- Project material and training developed for EMS. The program was adapted and piloted by the Liebe Group from the original Mingenew-Irwin Group Healthy Farms program.
- 21 farmers planted 1,040ha of perennial grasses.
- 422ha of saline land protected from grazing by fencing.

Landcare Facilitator

A component of the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country initiative is provision for a Landcare Facilitator in each of the 56 NRM regions in Australia. Hosted by NACC, this whole-of-region resource supports the development of landcare and production groups. Importantly it promotes opportunities for networking and information sharing between groups, government agencies and research bodies through field days, bus tours and regular newsletters.

Achievements

- 3 field walks covering strategic revegetation, perennial pastures and establishing sub-tropical grasses.
- A bus tour with 14 farmer participants.
- Regional workshop, training events and a study tour for university students.
- 8 extension articles to increase knowledge and recognition of available sustainable farming and biodiversity practices.
- 4 newsletters to highlight funding opportunities and sustainable agriculture issues.
- 4 case studies highlighting the benefits of implementing sustainable farming options.
- Promotion articles around funding opportunities for groups within the region.



Researching practice change

People and the relationship they have with their environment are at the core of natural resource management (NRM). Ways of 'doing' can change when people change their way of 'being'. Social science makes pathways into understanding how different people relate to their environment and provides insights into what motivates behaviour, develops perspectives and directs actions. As Lovett states in Australian Government (2006: 55):

If we fail to understand ourselves, we will fail to improve our management of scarce and precious resources in equitable and sustainable ways.

Since the 1970s social scientists have recognised that human behaviour is the greatest determinant in environmental degradation and sustainable natural resource management (Roughley & Salt 2005).

KASAP (knowledge, attitudes, skills, aspirations and practices) is an integral component of assessing the success of all projects, including our incentive and extension projects. The KASAP method combines qualitative and quantitative approaches: essentially words and numbers. It has enabled NACC to report on the social dimension or the 'human change' aspect of its projects.

Our findings at this point in time indicate that recipients of NACC's Wind Erosion incentives have reported, on average, a 35 per cent increase in knowledge and 29 per cent rise in skills. At the same time they value the workshops, field days and training provided by NACC. KASAP data also shows that lack of finances and lack of technical knowledge inhibit most farmers and land managers in the adoption of new practices to mitigate erosion. The data effectively shows that the work NACC is doing is needed, supported and deeply appreciated by farmers and land managers.

References

Australian Government (2006) *People, Practice and Policy. A review of social and institutional research. Land & Water Australia.*

Roughley, A. & Salt, D. (2005) *Introduction of social science in natural resource management agencies. Journal of Research Practice, 1(2), article M2.*



NACC Programs

NACC Programs

Coastal Systems

The NAR coastline is under increasing pressure from urban development, changing climatic conditions, industry and tourism. NACC invests in coastal on-ground works and in building the expertise of local volunteers to restore and rehabilitate areas along their mostly pristine coastline.

During the 2009/10 year NACC invested in four key projects with funds drawn from all levels of government and regional development commissions.

Coastal Dune Restoration and Rehabilitation

Through transitional CIOC funding and support from several local governments, NACC planned and implemented projects to stabilise a proportion of the region's highly threatened dune systems. In addition to on-ground works, NACC supported local community groups to gain the knowledge and resources to protect their own stretch of coast. Importantly the NACC coastal team assisted in the development of coastal strategies in priority areas to provide best practice options for the ongoing management of threats.

Achievements

- Technical advisory group established with membership from local government, Geraldton Port Authority, the Department of Planning and Transport and the City of Geraldton - Greenough.
- Dongara, Jurien, Cervantes, Greenhead and Geraldton conducted successful clean up days.
- Site plans completed for works at Buller River, Greenhead and Ledge Point.
- Gap analysis project and report completed and data submitted to partners.
- 10-12km of coastline had on-ground works carried out to remove invasive species.
- Extensive on-ground works undertaken at Horrocks with assistance from Shire of Northampton.
- Coastal Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Program planning report completed, with some priority projects identified in the report already underway with assistance from partner organisations in the Geraldton area.

Coastal Engagement Project

This project, funded through CfOC, aims to engage community organisations and volunteers from the seven major coastal towns to participate in rehabilitating and conserving their own strip of coast. A Regional Coastal Assessments and Restoration Report (2008) identified and prioritised activities to be undertaken such as protecting the conservation values of coastal ecosystems, dune stabilisation and rehabilitation.

Achievements

- Stage 1 of the Buller River dune rehabilitation project completed, including signage, bollards and brushing of degraded areas.
- Kalbarri District High School involved in tree planting days.
- Ledge Point Coastcare group participated in a workshop on rehabilitation methods, community tree planting and clean up days.
- Coastcare groups in the towns of Lancelin, Cervantes, Jurien Bay and Green Head were engaged in local projects.
- The Indigenous community of Wedge Island were supported to rehabilitate a coastal wetland with funding from the CfOC Community Action Grants program.
- Planning commenced for works to stabilise vegetation at the Irwin River mouth in conjunction with the Irwin Shire Council and newly established Dongara Coastal Community group.
- Six devolved grants for small projects were awarded to community groups.
- In total 11 coastal community events were held; 300 community volunteers involved; 18,500 seedlings planted; 2000 metres of fencing erected to protect dune systems.

Coastal Beach Monitoring

The development and implementation of a coastal monitoring program that involves community members regularly monitoring and advising on asset condition (citizen science) is the result of Coastwest (WA Department of Planning) investment in our region.

This project also aims to bring together the aspirations of local government and community groups to facilitate projects for coastal protection. In many cases this involves supporting coastcare groups in the region to apply for, and complete, projects funded by Coastwest.

Achievements

- Coastal monitoring program developed and endorsed by the City of Geraldton - Greenough.
- Field day on the Coastal Formations of Greenhead.
- Ledge Point Coastal Rehabilitation workshop.
- 8 meetings facilitated between local government and coastcare groups.
- Many articles published in local papers.
- 4 community groups supported to complete coastal projects with various sources of funding.

Reducing tourism impacts at Turtle Bay

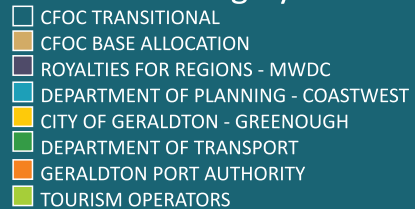
The Mid West Development Commission provided funding through the Regional Grants Scheme (Royalties for Regions) to plan and implement on-ground works to minimise the impact of increased tourism pressure on East Wallabi Island at the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.

This project, scheduled for completion in December 2010, is in collaboration with the WA Department of Fisheries.

Achievement

- Steering committee established to guide this project has met regularly to oversee the site planning process for critical on-ground works for this ecologically delicate environment. The committee includes representatives from the Departments of Fisheries, Tourism WA and Environment and Conservation, Tourism WA and private tourism operators, and the Island community.

Coastal funding by source*



* Funding refers to approved cash for NACC projects.



Sandy Cape Boardwalk

Picturesque Sandy Cape near Jurien Bay is a favoured tourist destination with pristine sandy white beaches and coastal environment. With increasing numbers of visitors and changing climatic conditions the fragile limestone cliffs began to deteriorate, coastal erosion became evident and native vegetation declined.

After extensive consultation, the local community identified the need for on-ground works. Working in partnership with the West Midlands Group and community volunteers, NACC invested around \$150,000 (CfOC funding) to build an elevated boardwalk (constructed from recycled plastic) to allow native vegetation to grow underneath. The boardwalk features three lookouts along its length as well as interpretive signage, allowing visitors to not only enjoy the unique coastal environment but also to learn about it.

Revegetation of the area is being carried out by the Jurien Bay Coastcare Group and the school. The boardwalk was officially opened on 29 March 2010 at the site.

Jakes Point

Funded by Coastwest (WA Department of Planning) this project, driven by the Kalbarri Boardriders Club, established a ramp to improve beach access for people with a disability at Jakes point in Kalbarri. The project included brushing and fencing to assist with dune stabilisation.

Achievements

- Beach access ramp installed by volunteers from the Kalbarri Boardriders Club.
- Revegetation, brushing and fencing completed by the Kalbarri Boardriders Club with facilitation and project management assistance from NACC.

NACC Programs

NACC Programs

Biodiversity

Australia is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world. The Northern Agricultural Region (NAR) with its huge array of flora and fauna sits within one of 34 international “Biodiversity Hotspots”. This program was the most affected by the introduction of national targets (CiOC initiative) for investment as distinct from regionally identified targets. To address biodiversity issues of high priority to the NAR community in coming years it will be important to seek new sources of funding.

During 2009/10 NACC concentrated on five projects: Managing Threatened and Invasive Species, Protecting High Value Biodiversity Areas, Protecting Wetlands and River Areas, Weeds of National Significance and Rabbit Suppression to Protect Threatened Species.

NACC's coastal program also included a strong biodiversity element, reflected in projects such as a vegetation study from Cape Burney to Dongara and the publication of a small handbook on identifying coastal vegetation.



Threatened and Invasive Species Management

The Threatened and Invasive Species Management project sought to increase biodiversity outcomes for the endangered and threatened species of the NAR in two ways: by reducing the threats and impacts on the species, and by protecting habitat and feeding grounds for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo and Mallee Fowl. This project was funded under the transitional CfOC program but is not a priority target for current CfOC funding.

Achievements

- 110 threatened and endangered flora species listed on State and Australian flora databases identified as occurring in the NAR.
- 95ha of vegetation containing threatened species under active management.
- 326ha of wandoo woodlands (Carnaby's habitat) protected.

High Value Biodiversity Protection

Also funded under the transitional CfOC, this project supported landholders to actively manage high value remnant vegetation areas for biodiversity conservation. An important aspect of this project was the collection of native seed as well as the cataloguing, cleaning and storage of the seed.

Achievements

- 11 landholders protecting 800.1ha of high value vegetation.
- Seed cleaning and storage facilities obtained for use by local community groups.
- Community training on seed collection and storage held November 2009 with several Indigenous participants.
- 14.7637kg of seed collected available for use by the Community Nursery.

Estuaries, Streams and Wetland Health

Also funded under transitional CfOC, this short-term project proved extremely popular with landholders. Local demand for work to improve water quality, manage discharge into the coastal environment, enhance habitat for native fish, and reduce salinity and nutrient levels in river systems was very high.

Achievements

- 36 agreements for rivercare and wetland works in the NAR.
- 519ha of wetlands protected.
- 1,702ha of riparian vegetation protected.
- 190ha of revegetation.
- 68.2ha of weed control.

Weeds of National Significance

This CfOC - funded project aims to identify occurrences of Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) in the NAR - lantana, athel pine, bridal creeper, boneseed and mesquite - and, where possible, to control them.

These weeds require different control methods dictated by location, type and size of infestation. In this program the removal of the widely established lantana, athel pine and bridal creeper require considerable community involvement.

Achievements

- Media releases and WoNS identification materials have been distributed.
- Best practice workshop with the National Athel Pine Coordinator.
- Regional survey of existing athel pine populations to determine the extent of self-seeding which has occurred.

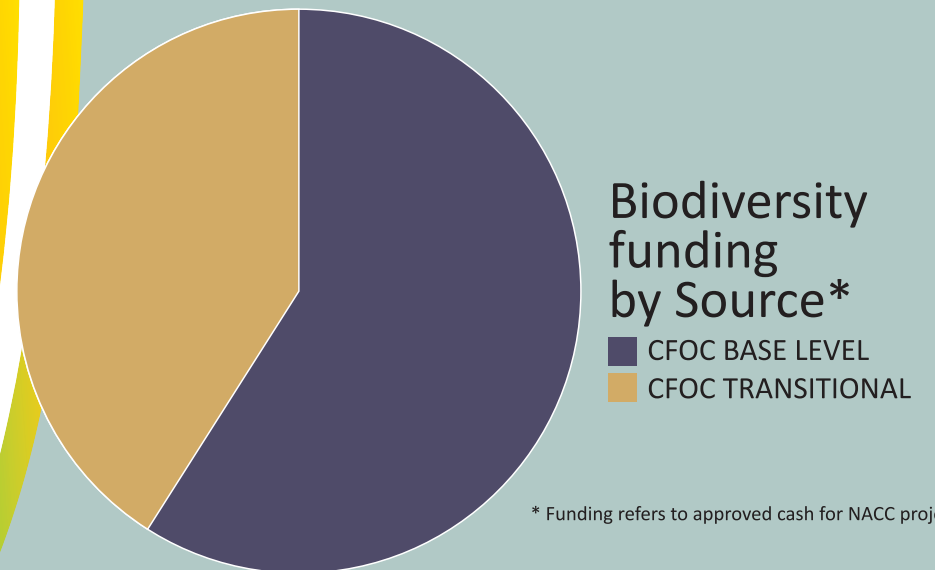


Rabbit Suppression to Protect Threatened Species

The aim of this CfOC - funded project is to protect Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (TECs) from rabbits. [Threatened Species and Ecological Communities as listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.] NACC has identified the following priority habitat sites in the NAR where threatened species are under pressure from rabbits: Hutt-Northampton, Yandanooka-Three Springs, Carnamah, Gingin East and Gingin West.

Achievements

- 39km of bait trails.
- Ripping of 2 warrens.
- Fumigation of 30 warrens.



* Funding refers to approved cash for NACC projects.

NACC Programs

NACC Programs

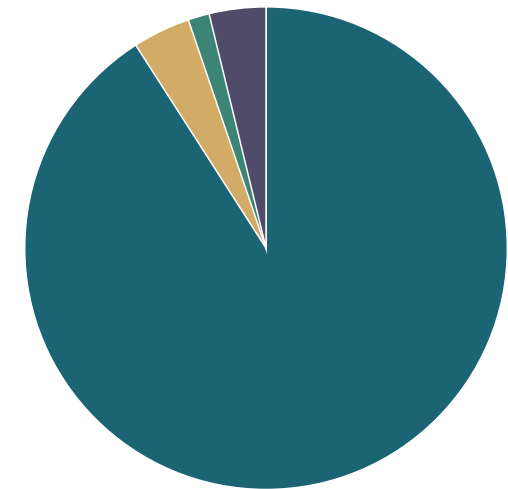


Knowledge Sharing

- NACC has two important roles in natural resource management:
- Encouraging on-ground works to promote sustainability and productivity of the land and coast into the future, and
 - Creating awareness within the community, of the importance of the environment, and how each person can contribute to its protection and repair.

Sharing knowledge is the foundation of changing understanding and practice. To do this NACC uses many communication tools: education, training, case studies, stories, research and data collection.

Though much of NACC's work is with land managers and organisations implementing on-ground works with tangible outcomes, we also acknowledge the critical importance of engaging the wider community in understanding the economic, cultural and social benefits that flow from a well managed environment.



Knowledge Sharing funding* by source

- CFCO TRANSITIONAL
- CITY OF GERALDTON - GREENOUGH
- MID WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
- LOTTERYWEST

* Funding refers to approved cash for NACC projects.

Regional Capacity Building Project

Under the transitional CfOC funding NACC managed several projects aimed at raising awareness of natural resource management and climate change issues in the wider community, as well as improving technical skills among NRM professionals, land managers and community organisations.

Achievements

- The 2009 State NRM Conference was hosted by NACC in Geraldton with around 400 participants and sponsorship from the City of Geraldton - Greenough, Caring for Our Country, Mid West Development Commission and Lotterywest. Support was also provided by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA and Crosslands Resources.
- The new NACC website - NACC Knowledge Base – was launched in 2009/10 and now houses up-to-date information on NACC programs, NRM and events.
- Banjar – Social Networks for NRM – Creating communities of common interest is the basis for an innovative web based tool to engage people in environmental work. Banjar, developed by NACC in conjunction with local companies Modo Software, Synergy Network Management and Community Technologies Australia, is for people interested in NRM and the environment to find other people who share their interests and to become active in their communities.
- The Greener Life – This popular initiative which featured a weekly three page newspaper supplement, a web site, the 'Green office' program and competitions supported by businesses including Bunnings and IGA finished in December. The Greener Life was sponsored by the City of Geraldton - Greenough and the Midwest Times. A sponsor continues to be sought to continue this initiative.
Training for NRM professionals and the wider community included: cultural awareness training; land program forum; soil carbon; river restoration workshop; project management training; governance training; soil biology workshop; the Coastal Conversation series; coastal rehabilitation workshops and coastal seed collecting workshop just to name a few.
Take up of media and news was high, and regular issues of the e-newsletter NACC
- Notes remain popular. The Naturally magazine ceased production in December 2009 and has been replaced by a regular insert in local community newspapers around the region. NACC has also assisted partners with media and communications over the year.
NACC was also represented at the Mingenew Expo where photographs from the
- 2009 Photographic Exhibition were very popular.



Community, Skills, Knowledge and Engagement

Increased engagement and participation in natural resource management is the aim of the CfOC community, skills, knowledge and engagement initiative. In addition to the workshops, field days, community events and newsletters incorporated into all of its projects, NACC monitors change in knowledge and practice through social research, and facilitates training in conservation and land management for those not directly managing land. NACC also provides general information on environmental issues through local community newspapers.

Achievements

- Regular surveys undertaken to measure extent of learning and changed practices of landholders participating in NACC's incentives projects.
- Production of a series of video case studies featuring landholders participating in NACC projects commenced.
- Regional communications – regular newsletters in each local community newsletter, fact sheets and e-newsletter.



Indigenous Ranger Project



NACC's Indigenous ranger project, funded through CfOC transitional funding, aimed to engage traditional owners in the management and protection of sites of Aboriginal significance. It also aimed to increase awareness of Aboriginal culture and heritage within the community through improved relationships with traditional owners.

NACC supported an Indigenous ranger role with Yamatji Marpa Aboriginal Corporation. This role engaged traditional owners in site planning and incorporated their traditional ecological knowledge into the process. The resulting site plans for the region were endorsed and implemented through the project.

Training for Country

12 Indigenous people enrolled in a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management. Called Training for Country this project is in partnership with local training provider Wila Gutharra Community Aboriginal Corporation and TRACS (Twin River Aboriginal Conservation Services).

'Changing Environments': State NRM Conference



In October 2009 more than 450 natural resource managers, environmentalists, concerned citizens, government, business and industry representatives converged in Geraldton over four days to discuss the state of the environment and what the future may bring.



The conference title "Changing Environments: New Challenges for the Living Country" reflected the changes that are being felt in NRM around Australia and the world in regard to climate change, the global financial crisis and social and generational change occurring in land and marine management.

In conjunction with the two day conference additional activities were held including Discovery Day tours throughout the region, a climate change forum and social science forum, two Great Gardens events, the 2009 NACC photographic competition exhibition and the 2009 the State Landcare Awards Dinner.

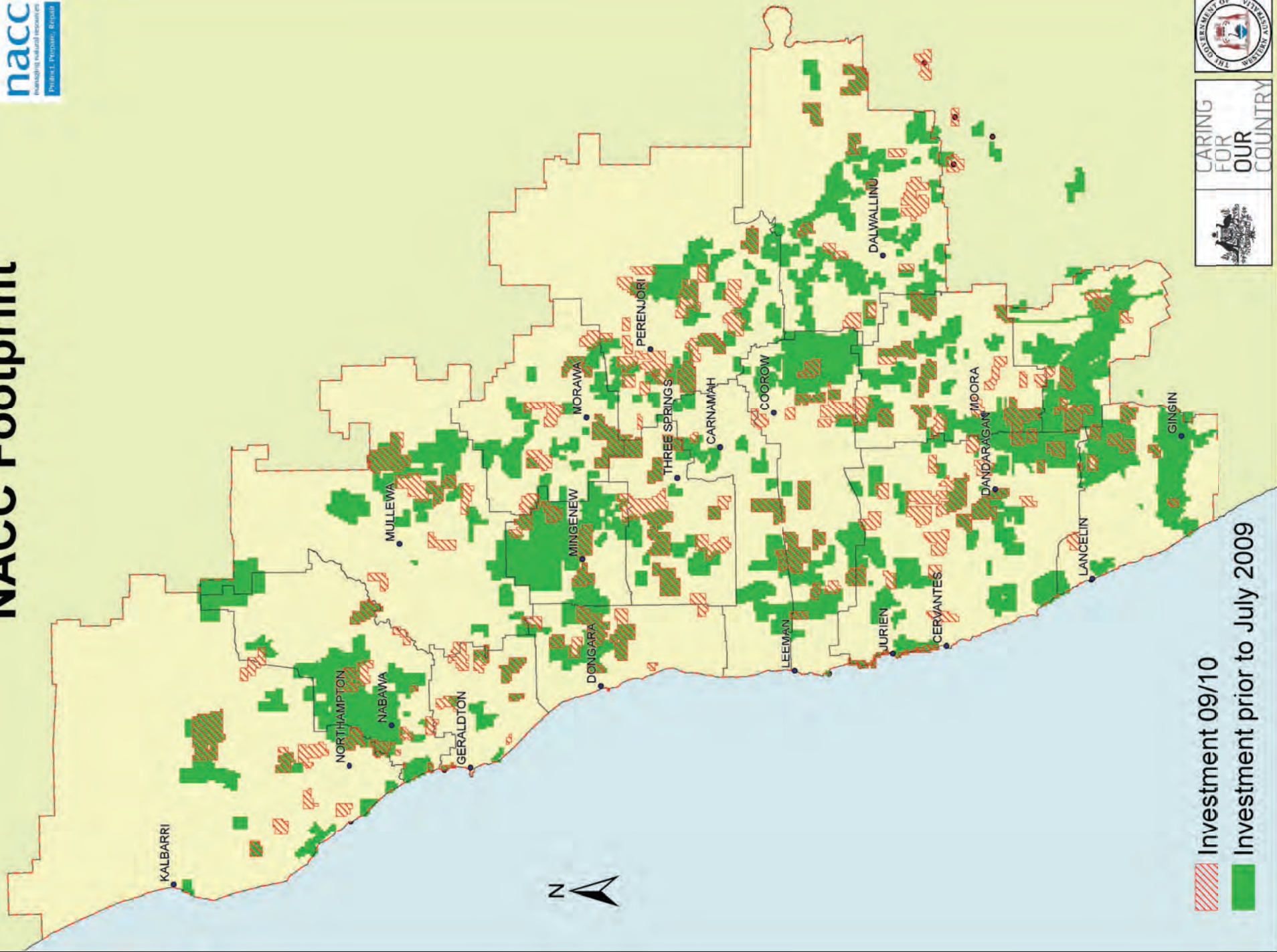
The two-day plenary session involved a diverse range of guest speakers from all over Australia and included sessions on Caring for Our Country and the National Landcare Strategy.

Although the conference focused strongly on sustainability and the agricultural industry, recognising the important role sustainable farm management practices have in adapting to climate change, it also connected the dots between the soil, bush and wildlife, exploring the fundamentals and importance of biodiversity and how resilient catchments can be created and preserved.

Changing Environments was a partnership between the City of Geraldton - Greenough and NACC. Funding came from Caring for Our Country and the Mid West Development Commission, as well as from the Department of Agriculture and Food WA and Crosslands Resources. LotteryWest subsidised the cost of many delegates.

"I have been to many conferences and this would have to be one of the best."
Conference Delegate

NACC Footprint

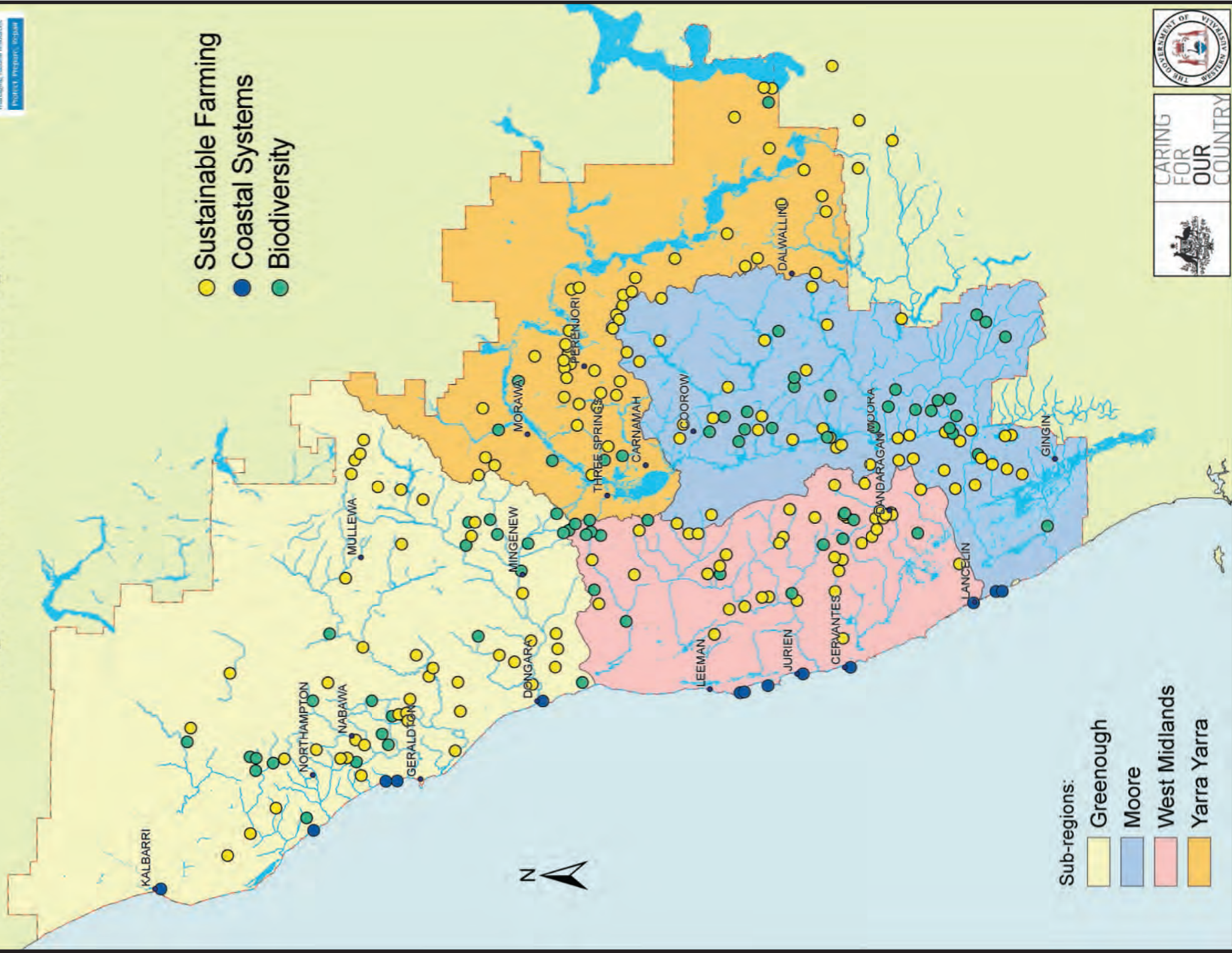


CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



NACC Investment 09/10

on-ground works across the region



- Sustainable Farming
- Coastal Systems
- Biodiversity

- Sub-regions:
- Greenough
 - Moore
 - West Midlands
 - Yarra Yarra



**AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO
NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL INCORPORATED**

To the members of Northern Agricultural Catchments Council

Report on the financial report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Northern Agricultural Catchments Council, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2010, operating statement and detailed income and expenses statement, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the governing committee's declaration.

The responsibility of the Governing Committee for the financial report

The Governing Committee are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian accounting standards (including the Australian accounting interpretations). This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian auditing standards. These auditing standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the governing committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Matters relating to the electronic presentation of the audited financial report

The auditor's report relates to the financial report of Northern Agricultural Catchments Council for the year ended 30 June 2010 included on Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's website. The association's governing committee are responsible for the integrity of Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's website. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of Northern Agricultural Catchments Council's website. The auditor's report refers only to the statements named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to / from these statements. If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on this website.

Directors
Shane Van Styn CPA
Andrew Ford CPA
Kevin Cassidy

Liability limited by a scheme approved under
Professional Standards Legislation

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Northern Agricultural Catchments Council as of 30 June 2010, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian accounting standards (including the Australian accounting interpretations).



Andrew Ford CPA
Certified Practising Accountant

Dated this 11th day of September 2010.

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

STATEMENT BY RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYEE

The attached financial report of the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council being the audited financial report and supporting notes and other information for the financial year ended 30 June 2010 are in my opinion properly drawn up to present fairly the position of the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council at 30 June 2010 and the results of the operations for the financial year then ended in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards (except to the extent that these have been varied in the statement of Accounting Policies required by Australian Accounting Standard AAS6 "Accounting Policies" and the accompanying notes to the annual report).

Signed on the 21st day of SEPT 2010


Shelley Spriggs
Chief Executive Officer

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	NOTE	2010 \$	2009 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash assets		3,872,715	9,426,808
Receivables	3	<u>193,586</u>	<u>502,586</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		3,866,301	9,929,396
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property plant and equipment	4	49,314	55,742
Furniture and fixtures	4	<u>3,766</u>	<u>6,533</u>
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		53,080	62,275
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>3,919,381</u>	<u>9,991,671</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	5	1,422,770	1,088,266
Provisions	6	79,291	234,565
Unexpended grants	7	2,211,948	8,506,469
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>3,714,010</u>	<u>9,829,300</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>205,371</u>	<u>162,371</u>
EQUITY			
Retained Surplus		205,371	162,372
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>205,371</u>	<u>162,372</u>

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL

OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	NOTE	2010 \$	2009 \$
OPERATING REVENUES			
Operating Income		<u>12,334,558</u>	<u>12,799,792</u>
		12,334,558	12,799,792
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Operating expenses		<u>12,291,558</u>	<u>12,897,291</u>
		12,291,558	12,897,291
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		<u>43,000</u>	<u>(97,499)</u>

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	NOTE	2010 \$	2009 \$
RETAINED SURPLUS			
Balance as at July 2009		162,371	259,871
Net Surplus (Deficit)		43,000	(97,499)
Balance as at 30 June 2010		<u>205,371</u>	<u>162,371</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>205,371</u>	<u>162,371</u>

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report are:

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements. The report has also been prepared on the accrual basis under the convention of historical cost accounting.

Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of a financial report in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that effect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances; the results of which form the basis of making judgments about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

(b) Goods and Services Tax

In accordance with recommended practice, revenues, expenses and assets capitalised are stated net of any GST recoverable. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of applicable GST.

(c) Fixed Assets

Property, plant & equipment and other non current assets are brought to account at cost or at independent or management valuation less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation, amortisation or impairment losses.

(d) Depreciation of Non-Current Assets

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of the future economic benefits embodied in those assets.

Depreciation is recognised on a straight-line basis, using rates which are reviewed each reporting period. Major depreciation rates are:

Office Equipment	20%
Computer Equipment	40%

(e) Impairment

In accordance with Australian Accounting Standards the NACC's assets, other than inventories, are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication they may be impaired. Where such an indication exists, an estimate of the recoverable amount of the asset is made in accordance with AASB136 "Impairment of Assets" and appropriate adjustments are made.

An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

(f) Investments

All investments are valued at cost and interest on those investments is recognised when accrued.

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(g) Employee Benefits

The provisions for employee benefits relates to amounts expected to be paid for long service leave, annual leave, wages and salaries and are calculated as follows:

(i) Wages, Salaries and Annual Leave

The provision for employees' benefits to wages, salaries and annual leave represents the amount that the Council has a present obligation to pay resulting from employees services to balance date. The provision has been calculated at nominal amounts based on remuneration rates that NACC expects to pay and includes related on-costs.

(ii) Long Service Leave

The provision for employees' benefits for long service leave represents the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the employer resulting from the employees' service to balance date.

(h) Interest Rate Risk

NACC's exposure to interest rate risk, which is risk that a financial instrument's value will fluctuate as a result of changes in the market interest rates, is considered negligible for all financial instruments other than borrowings.

(i) Credit Risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for doubtful debts, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statement. NACC does not have material credit risk exposure to any single debtor or group of debtors under financial instruments entered into by NACC.

(j) Fair Value

The fair value of assets and liabilities approximate their carrying values. No Financial assets and financial liabilities are readily traded on organised markets in standardised form. Financial assets where the carrying amount exceeds fair value have not been written down as NACC intends to hold these assets to maturity.

The aggregate fair value and carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities are disclosed in the balance sheet and in the notes to and forming part of the accounts

(k) Rounding Off Figures

All figures shown in this financial report are rounded to the nearest dollar.

(l) Comparative Figures

Where required, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	2010	2009
Income	\$	\$
Unexpended grants b/f	8,506,469	10,913,379
Project Grants	4,020,000	5,187,250
Operating grants	1,107,029	4,110,619
Interest Income	203,306	387,793
LSL entitlement	-	27,043
Donations	1,144	950
Farmers market	-	4,300
Map Sales	-	70
Insurance recoveries	5,999	-
Unspent Grant funds	229,564	459,284
Miscellaneous	472,996	215,573
Unexpended Grants c/f	(2,211,948)	(8,506,469)
Total Income	12,334,558	12,799,792
Expenses		
Accommodation Expenses	27,787	1,939
Advertising	-	-
Asset Expense	-	-
Audit Fees	24,201	55,250
Bank Fees	3,883	1,233
Book purchase	-	-
Catering	62,528	26,298
Cleaning	6,747	7,095
Communications	71,936	100,022
Computer Sundries	-	-
Consultants Fees	969,378	681,108
Depreciation	25,345	45,805
Electricity	4,021	4,106
Freight	-	-
General admin costs	31,553	2,550
Housing assistance	11,865	8,110
Insurance	18,976	13,058
Interest Expense	-	1,163
Internet Expense	6,105	7,816
Meetings	-	-
Merchandise	25,383	15,748
Miscellaneous Expenses	17,840	18,512
Mobile phone	-	-
NACC Chairman Sitting Fees	22,330	23,015
NACC Committee Sitting Fees	20,220	20,120
NACC Committee Travel Expense	27,820	27,624
NACC Committee Expenses	8,487	5,210
NACC Meeting Expenses	15,752	12,785
Office equipment	11,614	18,728
Office Rent	99,677	99,029
Office Support	-	-
Petty Cash	313	506
Photocopying	10,936	345
Postage	10,118	11,161
Printing Costs	15,951	13,483
Project invoices written off	-	-
Resources	42,647	28,541

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Repairs & Maintenance	6,527	5,419
Seminar/Display Held Exp	13,088	23,741
Seminar Attended Expenses	55,798	-
Sitting fees	-	660
Sponsorship	800	-
Staff Uniforms	100	-
Stationary/Office Exp	20,378	52,183
Subscriptions	7,075	2,258
Technical Data Support	327,098	127,323
Telephone	52,753	50,440
Training Costs	122,658	100,557
Travel Costs - Other	7,798	-
Travel Costs - Staff	85,770	93,389
Venue Hire	12,602	20,880
Unspent project funds	2,096,385	504,324
Web Site Expenses	-	-
Employer Expenses	-	-
Wages & Salaries	1,506,211	1,628,392
Superannuation	135,539	148,992
Employee leave entitlements	(136,906)	148,497
Fringe Benefits tax	9,255	10,293
Workers Compensation	-	5,443
Motor Vehicle Allowance	17,472	17,472
Uniforms	5,218	6,988
Total Motor Vehicle Expense	113,499	185,296
Incentive payments	2,364,810	1,651,653
Project expense	750,064	209,591
Project Payments	3,124,354	6,653,141
Project Management Expenses	-	-
	<u>12,291,558</u>	<u>12,897,291</u>
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	43,000	(97,499)

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

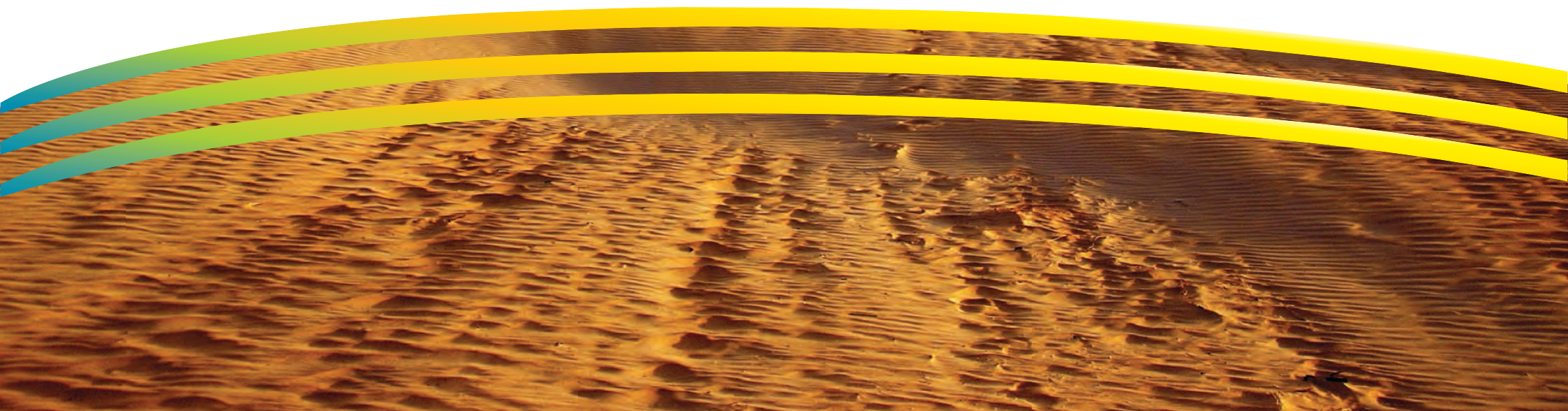
	2010	2009
	\$	\$
2. NET CURRENT ASSETS		
Composition of Net Current Asset Position		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	3,672,715	9,426,808
Receivables	<u>193,586</u>	<u>502,588</u>
	3,866,301	9,929,396
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables and Provisions	1,502,061	1,322,831
Unexpended Grants	<u>2,211,948</u>	<u>8,506,469</u>
	3,714,009	9,829,300
NET CURRENT ASSET POSITION	152,291	100,096
SURPLUS C/FWD	<u>152,291</u>	<u>100,096</u>
3. RECEIVABLES		
Debtors	142,790	482,327
Prepaid Expenses	50,796	19,380
Accrued Interest		-
Other		880
	<u>193,586</u>	<u>502,588</u>

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
4. NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment	193,837	177,687
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(144,524)</u>	<u>(121,945)</u>
	49,314	55,742
Furniture and fixtures	26,333	26,333
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(22,567)</u>	<u>(19,800)</u>
	3,766	6,533
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	<u>53,080</u>	<u>62,275</u>
5. PAYABLES		
Trade creditors	465,224	804,886
GST	(135,910)	12,776
PAYG	14,612	33,528
Superannuation	12,122	104
Business Credit Cards	4,987	9,229
Accrued Expenses	1,061,735	225,372
Other	<u>2,372</u>	<u>2,372</u>
	1,422,770	1,088,266
6. PROVISIONS		
Provision for employee entitlements	61,915	198,821
Provision for fringe benefits tax	(3,424)	(3,756)
Provision for audit fees	<u>20,800</u>	<u>39,500</u>
	79,291	234,565

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
7. UNEXPENDED GRANTS		
043050 Surface Water and Erosion	-	692
04N1-04 Forestry	2,170	2,170
051 IP2 Management funds	-	33,189
051 NRM0	-	617,755
53001 Traditional Owners	-	6,527
53018 Community Landcare Coordinator	-	486
53064 Long Term Sustainability	-	1,187
53070 Benchmarking Saline Land	-	32,632
53086 CDI Implementation	-	358,907
05N1-13 Targeted Investment Programs	-	1,338,636
05N1-14 Soil and Climate	-	1,999
05N1-15 Drainage	-	36,822
05N1-16 Intro Perennials	-	144,780
05N1-17 Coastal & Marine	-	75,292
05N1-18 Biodiversity	-	126,906
05N1-19 Water	-	234,622
05N1-20 Comm Leverage	-	12,394
05N1-21 Resource Condition	-	923,717
63046 Bunfine Marchagee	-	49,242
63051 Erosion in the Warradarge	-	94
63053 Soil Type Variability	-	61
81001 Slip Officer	1,148	1,148
08N-01 Threatened species	192,430	590,083
08N-02 Biodiversity	265,375	538,783
08N-03 Coastal dunes	145,218	799,906
08N-04 Estuaries and Wetlands	-	438,877
08N-05 Sustainable Farming	186,385	817,328
08N-06 Capacity building	55,298	484,618
08N-07 Indigenous Ranger	108,190	142,355
08N-10 Wind Erosion Project	394,552	-
08N-11 WONS Project	313,235	-
08N-12 Rabbits Control Project	262,309	-
09N-01 CFOC Base Level Funding	66,421	-
1000 Coastwest Funding	29,879	250,125
300 Regional Administration - State	168	362,289
400 CFOC Administration Funds	-	15,035
500 Centre for Regional Climate CS	15,602	29,387
700 DAFF - Landcare Facilitator	42,088	-
900 - Jakes Corner Rehabilitation	1,147	-
NOR1 Grain and Graze	30,409	38,222
RGS-09 Turtle Bay Royalties For Regions	92,664	-
RGS1001 Farmers Market Project/MWDC	949	-
NRM Conference	6,310	-
	<u>2,211,948</u>	<u>8,506,469</u>





CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Photographs thanks to NACC staff, Debra Mitchell, James Thompson and residents of the Northern Agricultural Region who entered images in the NACC Photographic Competition.