



ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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< Moresby Range. Photo by Graeme Gibbons.



NACC continues its quest to support people to support the natural environment by providing support to the very local volunteer-based groups while also applying its expertise on landscape scale projects.

^ Biodiversity Walk, Chapman River.

I am pleased to report that, over the past year, the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) has continued to grow in size, activity and expertise despite the ups and downs of both the state and federal governments' environmental policies and funding. The continued level of uncertainty does play havoc on just about every aspect of the business and makes it extremely difficult to plan for more than 12 months at a time, but it has developed a level of nimbleness within the organisation, allowing it to adjust activities and services at the drop of either government's hat.

While NACC is thankful that the federal government continues to support Natural Resource Management (NRM) it has been a challenge to deal with the many recent changes in policy and commitment. In July 2013 the previous government extended the Caring for our Country program into a second term (2013-18) but, along with many other similar organisations, NACC received significant reductions in both our base-level funding and some specific programs.

NACC has been particularly disappointed in the uncertainty surrounding the future of its extremely successful and innovative Coastal and Marine program. At the time of writing this remains unresolved, potentially affecting the ability of 14 coastal groups and hundreds of volunteers to continue working on restoration projects along the Northern Agricultural Region's (NAR) 400 km of coastline.

The new federal government has also made some significant changes to NRM policy: overall funding has been reduced, some programs such as the Biodiversity Fund have ceased, and Caring for our Country has been rebadged the National Landcare Programme with an unknown structure still being developed. A new focus is the Green Army program: while the grass-roots nature of this is interesting and the promised environmental outcomes are welcome, it is unclear how they will be achieved.

In recent years the commitment of the WA state government to NRM has also diminished, particularly its support of community-led programs. Together with other regional NRM organisations NACC is working to try to increase the focus by assisting with the development of a state NRM policy.

Dim future for regional delivery? We don't believe so. NACC's base-level funding has slid to just one quarter of its 2002 level (from Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality days), forcing a re-think of the way it delivers its programs and a re-focus on areas where it has specialist expertise.

NACC's heart remains with community-delivered environmental activities but acknowledges this is a crowded space, especially at the sub-regional level. NACC continues its quest to *support people to support the natural environment* by providing support to the very local volunteer-based groups while also applying its expertise on landscape scale projects such as biodiversity

Chair's Report Continued

corridors; on emerging issues such as carbon reduction and climate hazard risk assessment; on new technologies and decision making tools like *Photomon*, a photo-monitoring phone app; and, through its subsidiary company, CarbonQuest Australia, which this year was successful in gaining a climate hazard risk assessment consultancy overseas.

In 2013, long-term Chair of NACC, Chris King, stepped down and we welcomed a new Director, Claire Sullivan from Greenough. The NACC Executive also changed: I was elected Chair, Kent Broad was elected Deputy Chair. Yvonne Marsden was re-appointed as Treasurer and Geoff Erickson as Secretary; and John Braid was appointed to NACC's Audit Committee. All of NACC celebrated the election of Shane Love MLA to the seat of Moore, and were pleased when he chose to remain a Director of NACC.

I would also like to thank the magnificent work of all the staff. They are a very talented and committed group of people and we are fortunate to have them working for us in the region. In particular I acknowledge the wonderful lead role played by CEO Shelley Spriggs, ably supported by Corporate Services Manager Tom Maina and other dedicated members of her management team.

While the NACC Constitution decrees a skills-based Board and the aggregate of its Directors covers the requisite range of skills important for overseeing a business-focussed organisation,

all Directors live regionally and all are integrally involved in environmental issues and activities in their neck of the woods, complementing NACC's co-focus on community-driven NRM.

In 2013-14, NACC continued its practice of internal and external review of its performance, undertaking an Organisational Performance Excellence Review conducted by the Australian Knowledge Management Group using the *Performance Excellence Guide for Regional Natural Resource Management Organisations*. It has provided the organisation with some pointers for our commitment to continuous improvement, but a particular highlight for us was being scored above the national benchmark for 'client and community focus'.

On behalf of the NACC Board and staff, I thank our members from the many NAR communities and our colleagues in the grower, catchment, landcare and coastcare groups for their continued collaboration in our combined commitment to improving the region's natural environment.

We remain extremely grateful for the continued support of our program delivery partners at the Departments of Agriculture and Food WA, Water and Correctional Services and Durack Institute of Technology; and the Shires of Perenjori, Dandaragan, Gingin and the City of Greater Geraldton.

Jill Wilson
Chair



I would also like to thank the magnificent work of all the staff. They are a very talented and committed group of people and we are fortunate to have them working for us in the region.

^ Jill Wilson, Pinnacles. Photo by Jo Ashworth.

02 Who We Are

NACC's vision is to build a community committed to environmental stewardship.



^ Natural Resource Management Training, Geraldton.

Who We Are

NACC is one of Australia's 56 regional NRM organisations working to accomplish nation-wide management, restoration and protection of Australia's natural environment by addressing national environmental priorities at the regional level.

NACC's vision is to *build a community committed to environmental stewardship*. As a proud not-for-profit NRM organisation now in its second decade of operation, NACC's purpose remains to support people to *support the natural environment* across the NAR of Western Australia.

With 492 voting members, NACC delivers activities and programs in combination with community groups, business and industry, non-government organisations, and all levels of government to conserve and enhance natural assets and advance sustainable outcomes in the region.

The foundation of NACC's work is driven by the NAR *Regional NRM Strategy* originally published in 2005 and currently being updated through consultation with regional stakeholders. The strategy guides environmental investment in the region and the new strategy, called *NARvis*, will also incorporate important climate change considerations.

Across and within all of NACC's core programs — Sustainable Farming, Coastal and Marine and Biodiversity — NACC seeks to engage local Aboriginal people to advise about and participate in Working on Country and, where possible, to record and preserve traditional ecological knowledge.

This 2013-14 Annual Report provides an overview of NACC events and activities undertaken in the last 12 months to improve the inland and coastal environments of the region.



^ Goodness Festival Geraldton.

03 Where We Work



Where We Work

NACC operates within the 7.5 million hectare boundary of the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR) of Western Australia.

The region has a Mediterranean climate. However, with climate change predictions, we are starting to push the perimeter into a sub tropical climate.

The predominant industry in the NAR is mining, followed by broadacre agriculture, covering 70 per cent of the region's land mass.

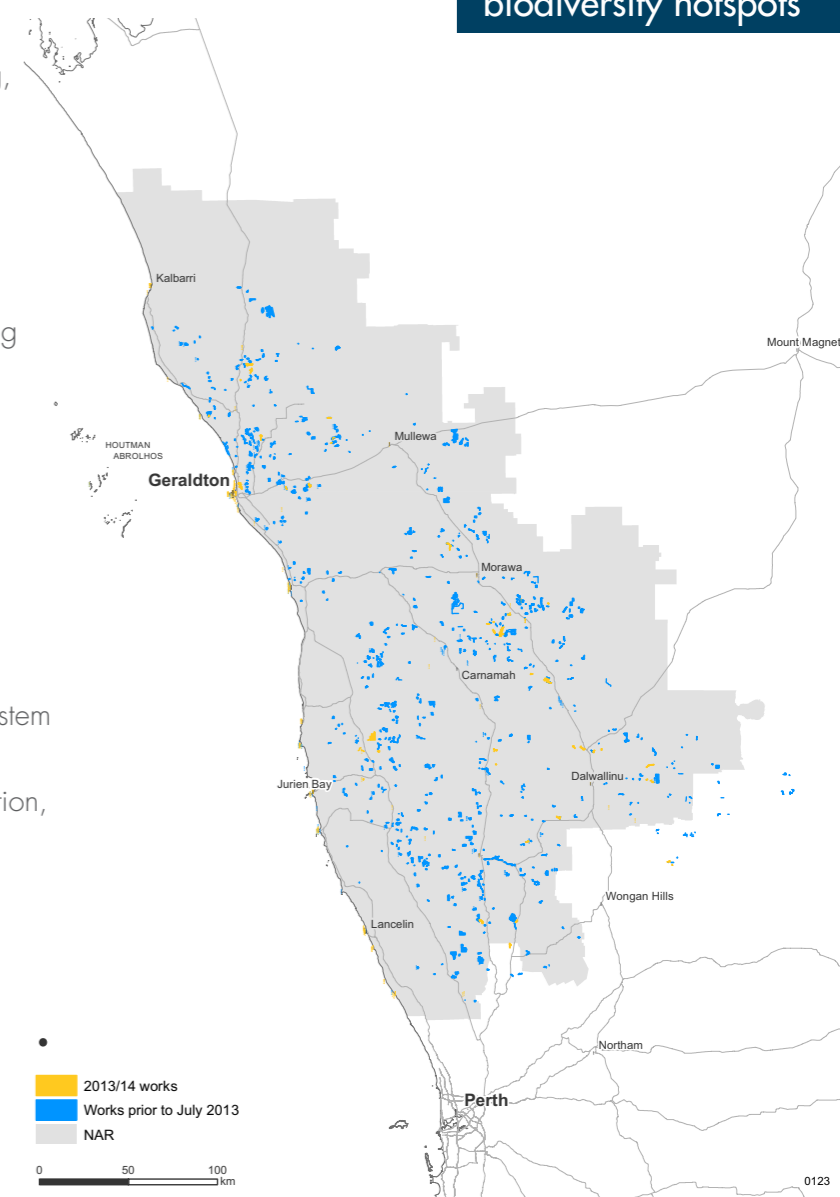
The large percentage of land cleared for broadacre agriculture generates environment management issues such as salinity, non-wetting soils, acidic soils, herbicide resistance and erosion.

The region's coastal strip houses the largest proportion of the NAR's 62,000 people, with approximately half the population living in the Geraldton-Greenough area.

The NAR's diverse and sensitive coastal ecosystem is impacted from infrastructure development, invasive species, erosion, ecosystem modification, pollution and eutrophication of coastal waters.

The NAR is home to two of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots, and is part of the internationally recognised Southwest Australia Biodiversity Hotspot (IUCN), Australia's only internationally recognised hotspot for its wealth of natural diversity.

The NAR is home to two of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots

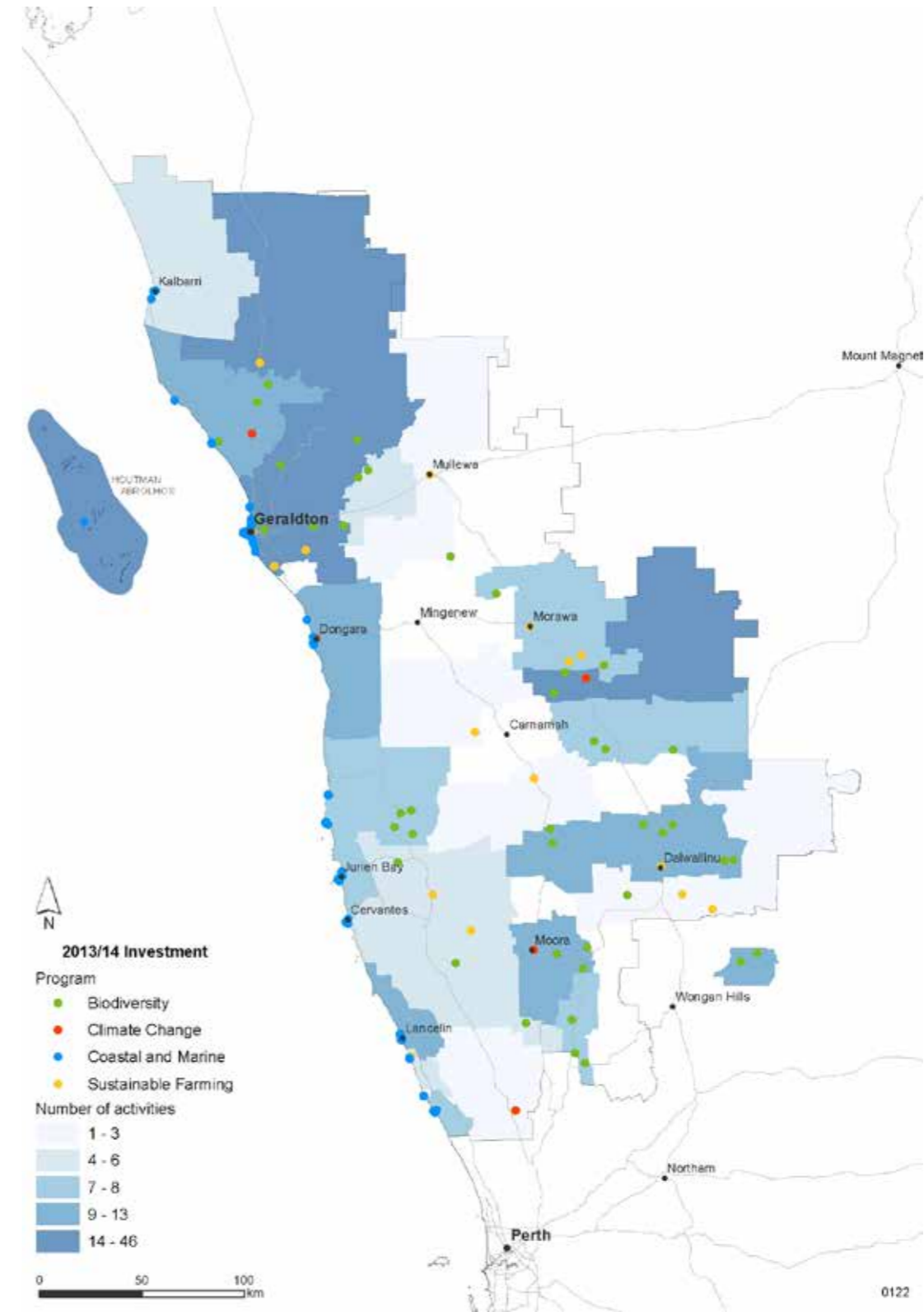


^ Weed Management Workshop, Cervantes.

^ Footprint Map.



^ Coastal Bus Tour, Grigsons Lookout.



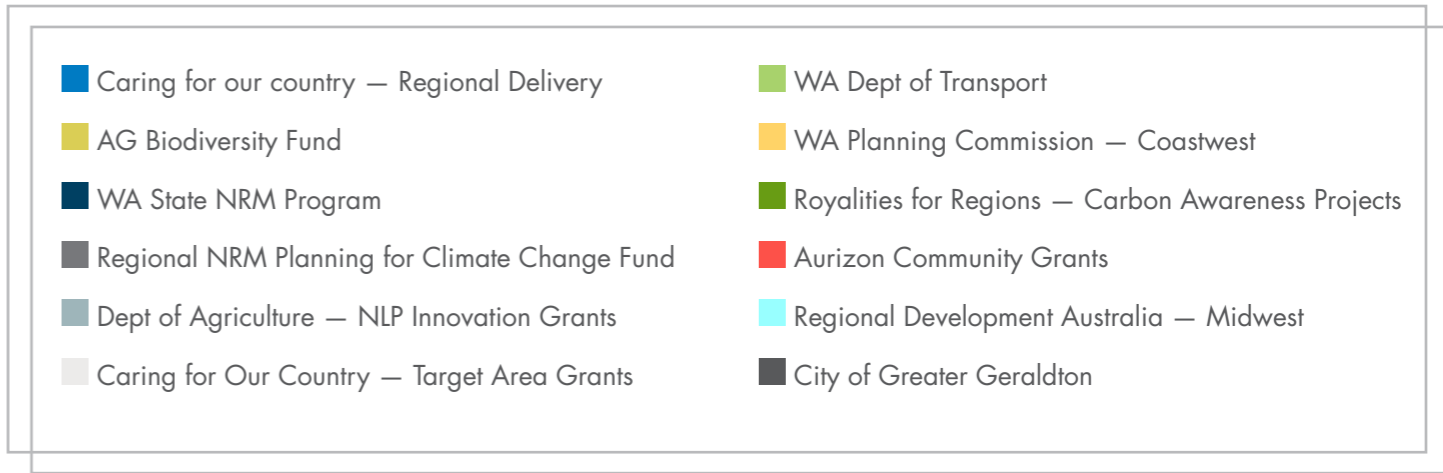
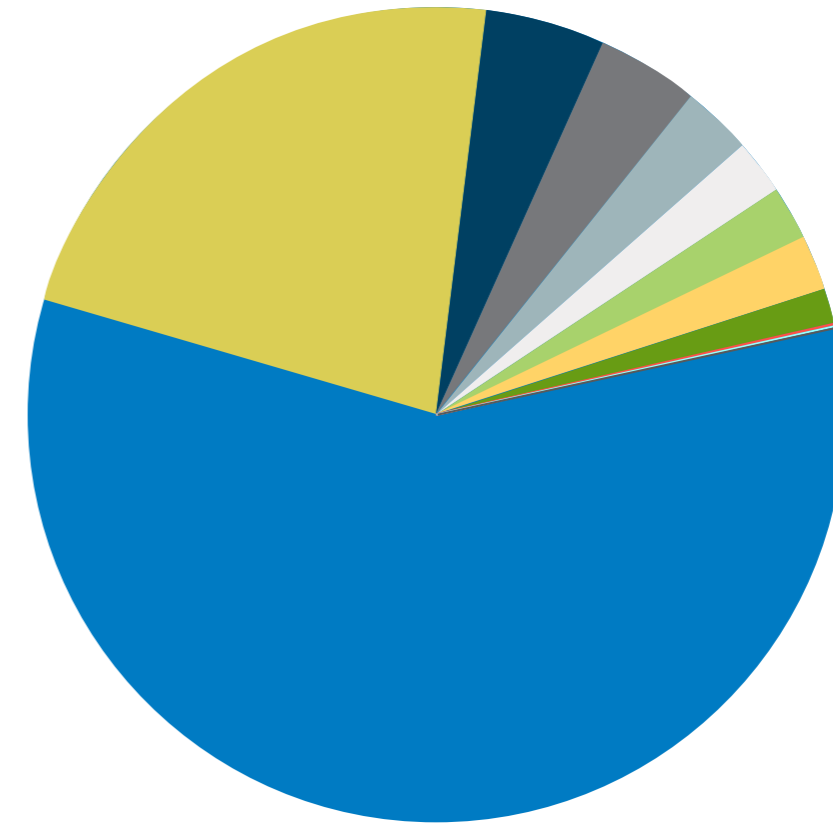
05 Our Funding Structure



^ Emu's, Ninghan Station.

Our Funding Structure

NACC Funding by Source 2013-14 Graph.



06 Our Regional Strategy



^ NRM Strategy Workshop, Moora.

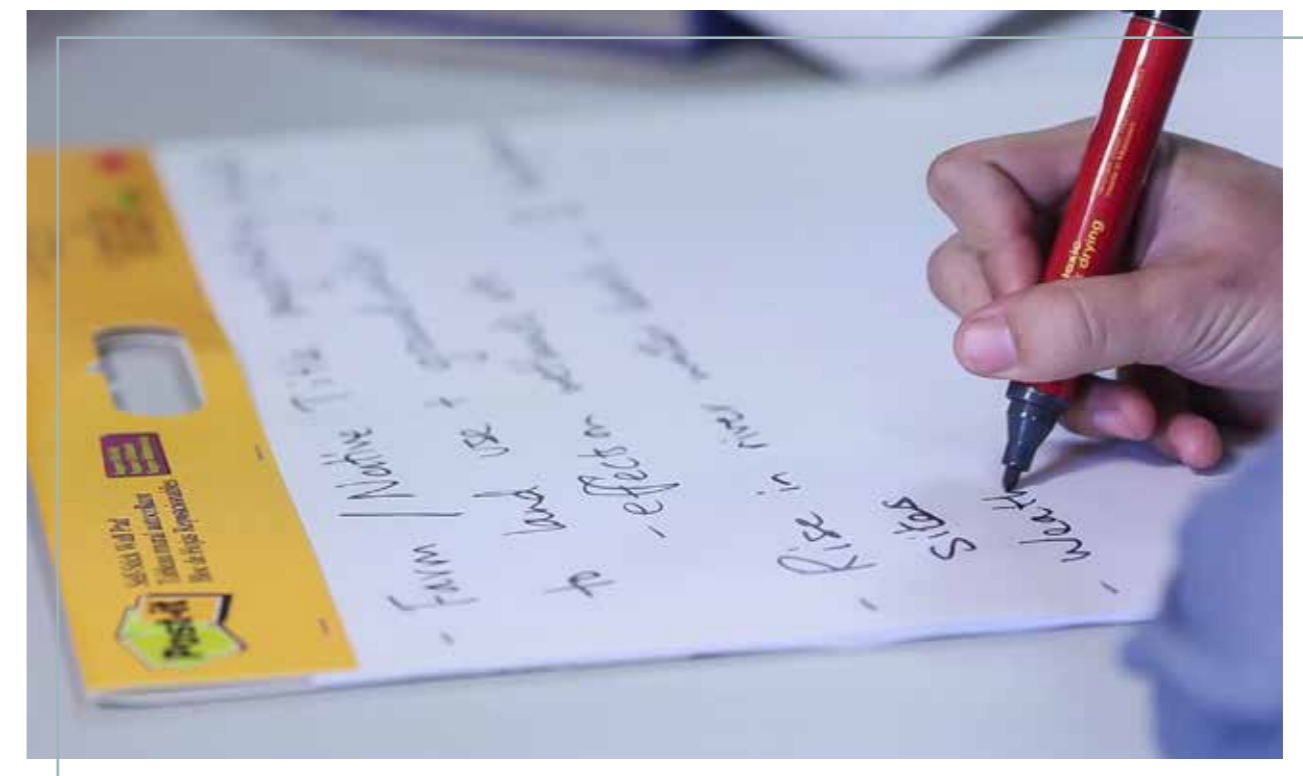
Our Regional Strategy

Creating a clear vision and direction for the NAR, the regional strategy for NRM is a fundamental tool for any person or industry working with our natural resources.

In 2013-14 NACC worked extensively with state and local government agencies and grower, catchment, landcare and coastcare groups across the region to update the Regional Natural Resource Management Strategy (2005).

With funding from the Australian Government's NRM Planning for Climate Change Fund, the updated regional strategy, re-branded as NARvis (the Northern Agricultural Regional Vision) is due to be released for public comment toward the end of 2014. NARvis presents the updated strategy in an innovative website platform that utilises interactive maps to aid in the uptake and communication of the strategy.

The NARvis platform provides many layers of information including economics, population and culture in association with the region's natural assets and, importantly, demonstrates impacts from climate change. The information is also able to be viewed at both a regional and local government authority scale for greater target area use.



^ NRM Strategy Workshop, Moora.



^ Small Landholder Field Day, Greenough.

- Sustainable Farming
- Indigenous Participation
- Coastal and Marine
- Education
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change



^ Hidden Treasures Field Day, Bagingarra.



The NACC-developed individual NRM farm plans provide individual farmers with a blueprint of what can be done on their farm.

^ Controlled Traffic Farming Bus Tour, Binu.

NACC's Sustainable Farming program is one of NACC's core programs. It works to protect and support the approximately 70 per cent of region's land mass that is used for broadacre agriculture.

The region's agricultural land has ongoing challenges with salinity, non-wetting soils, acidic soils, herbicide resistance, erosion, and climatic variability associated with large scale clearing and climate change. These issues place great environmental, economic and social stress on the region as well as impacting the region's food and fibre production.

In 2013-14, NACC's Sustainable Farming program engaged landmanagers and landholders in the projects listed below to support the adoption of practices for economically and environmentally sustainable farming in a changing climate, and to build knowledge and capacity for NRM on private land.

Land Use and Practice Change in a Variable Climate

In 2013 NACC began delivery of the *Facilitating Land Use / Practice Change to Match Land Capability in a Variable Climate* project. In this first year of the project's five year life, NACC has worked with private landholders in the NAR and the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) to establish five demonstration sites, and develop individually tailored NRM farm plans.

The demonstration sites showcase techniques for ameliorating soil acidity and reducing soil compaction, focussing particularly on lime incorporation techniques at soil depths below 10 centimetres and controlled traffic farming (CTF). A number of extension activities have been delivered by NACC and in partnership with other groups and organisations around these demonstration sites and the learnings from them.

The NACC developed individual NRM farm plans provide individual farmers with a blueprint of what can be done on their farm, as and when resources become available. These plans aim to provide farmers with the tools and information to increase the viability and resilience of the natural resources on their farm, and manage any issues identified.

The launch of the *Controlled Traffic Farming Technical Manual* in early 2014, provides farmers with a comprehensive and user friendly guide to soil compaction and CTF systems. This manual, funded through the Caring for our Country program and developed in collaboration with DAFWA and the Northern Stirling Pallinup Natural Resources group, builds on NACC's previous CTF project and will continue to support farms adopting CTF on their farm both within the NAR and beyond. Electronic copies of the manual are available for download on NACC's website.

Over the next four years of the *Facilitating Land Use / Practice Change to Match Land Capability in a Variable Climate* project, NACC aims to increase the number of landholders establishing demonstration sites, and facilitate peer to peer learning in order to increase uptake of new practices to address the challenges facing agriculture and natural resources in the region.

Ameliorating Sub Surface pH for Soil Health

For land to be at its most productive, pH levels in the plants root zone should ultimately be above 5.5 in the topsoil and 4.8 at soil depths below 10 centimetres. In the NAR approximately 45 per cent of the region's soils have a pH below five in the plant root zone; meaning the soil is highly acidic.

It has been identified that effective amelioration of subsoil acidity is not well understood by growers or industry. Highly acidic soils serve to diminish the health, functionality and production of our farming systems, including a reduction in biomass, soil biota and diversity, and the protection from wind and water erosion.

Through the *Demonstrating Principles of Ameliorating Sub Surface pH to Improve Soil Health* project, NACC in partnership with Department of Food and Agriculture Western Australia (DAFWA), is identifying and establishing demonstration sites and undertaking subsoil pH testing.

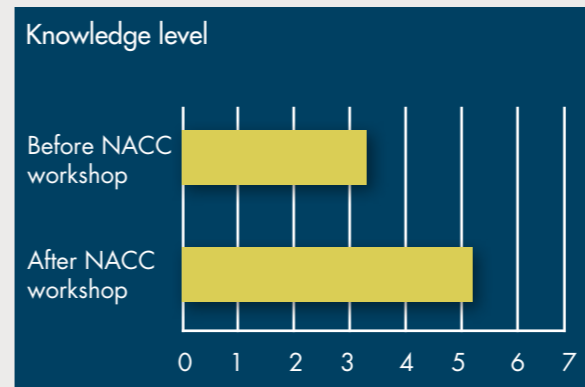
These demonstrations aim to improve community understanding of subsoil acidity amelioration and the relative advantages and disadvantages of different techniques.

Four large scale demonstration sites utilising a variety of innovative methods to manage subsoil acidity and improve soil health at depths below 10 centimetres will be established over the two years of the project. In the 2013-14 period, one demonstration site and associated field day was implemented in Binnu, and an in-field information session was held at the Bundybunna Farm.

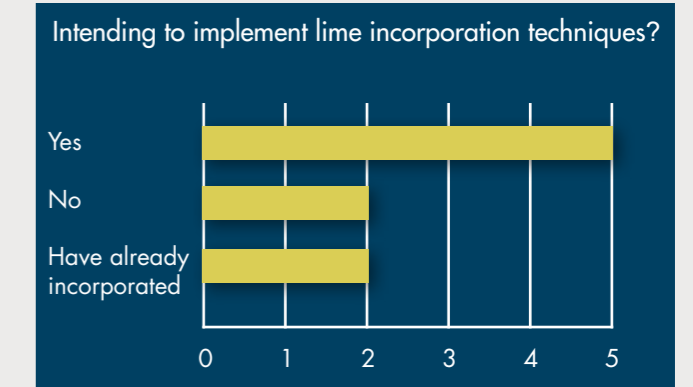
The next phase of the project will have a suite of associated field days, workshops and training days for growers, service providers and regional leaders within the industry.

What did this program achieve?

On the CTF Grower Tour attendees were asked what level of general knowledge they had on CTF before and after the workshop. Survey results indicated that participants' knowledge increased by 61 per cent as a result of the tour.



At the Ameliorating Sub Surface pH for Soil Health Demonstration Site Field Day participants were asked if they intended to implement new lime incorporation techniques on their farm as a result of knowledge gained during the field day. More than half the participant's indicated they intend to incorporate lime for improved soil health.



^ Soil Acidity Field Walk, Carnamah.

Regional Landcare Facilitator

NACC's Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF) Program works closely with community landcare groups, grower groups and related community organisations across the NAR to support and improve their capacity in activities that lead to sustainable agricultural outcomes. In 2013-14 the RLF has done this by facilitating community capacity building.

The RLF program was established through the Australian Governments Caring for our Country program in 2010, and has been extended into the new National Landcare Programme through to 2018. Unlike in the previous Caring for our Country program where the role was directly employed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the role is now directly embedded into NACC's Sustainable Farming Program.

The role is overseen by a steering committee comprising representative from a cross-section of the community including community landcare and grower groups, DAFWA and the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Community Capacity Building

In 2013 -14, the RLF held a series of events developed with input from the target audience, and held in collaboration with groups across the region:

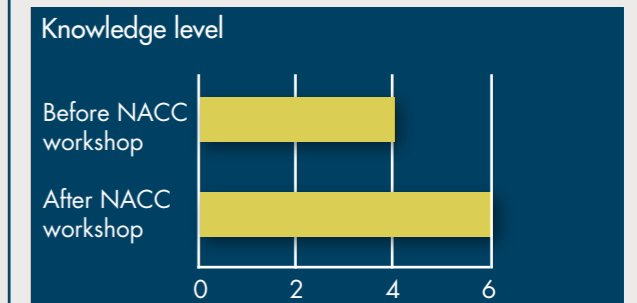
- Supported delivery of three Red Card for Foxes and Rabbits activities in partnership with the Shires of Perenjori, Coorow and Chapman Valley to reduce the threats of pests on agriculture and biodiversity.
- Partnered with Bundybunna Aboriginal Corporation to facilitate training on advanced agricultural technology (precision farming) for Aboriginal people to prepare them for future employment opportunities.



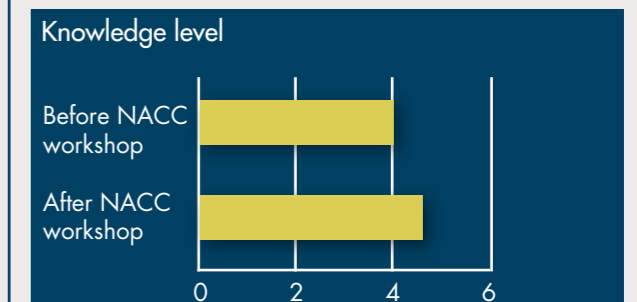
^ Rural Womens Feild Day, Moora.

What did this program achieve?

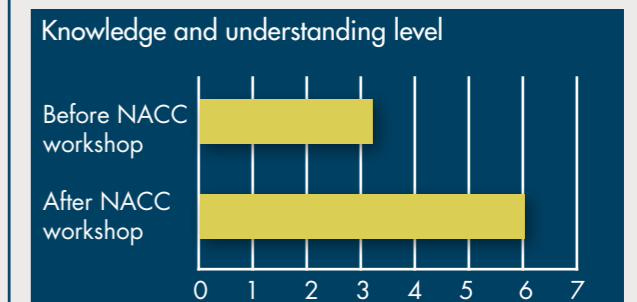
Participants of the Heavenly Hectares workshop increased their knowledge and skills on how to establish and manage their pastures successfully by 71 per cent as a result of the workshop.



Women participating in the Women's Field Days indicated that their knowledge and skills on agricultural budgeting and marketing to improve business profitability increased by 24 per cent.



Participants of the Grant Application Writing Workshop increased their level of skills, knowledge and understanding of grant application writing by 88 per cent as a result of the workshop.



Sustainable Farming Continued

Carbon Farming

In its simplest form Carbon Farming is farming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or to capture and hold carbon in vegetation and soils. In 2013-14 NACC Carbon Farming program has continued to support farmers in the NAR to understand the complexities of the Carbon Farming legislation, methodologies and policy shifts.

Carbon Awareness Project

The Carbon Awareness project funded through Royalties for Regions and managed by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA), is being delivered across the State by each of the six Regional NRM organisations of which NACC is one.

Commencing in 2013, the project aimed to provide landmanagers across WA with a clearer understanding of Carbon Farming in Australia. While many activities (workshops and seminars) were delivered throughout the State, the constant and continuing re-jigging of policy and legislation at the national level has left the majority of farmers and businesses flummoxed.

The project included bringing national and international experts to the region to assist landmanagers to make better informed decisions about the opportunities and risks involved in the carbon economy. It demonstrated ways to progress through the major risk of policy uncertainty by finding other market opportunities, provided information on the benefits of sequestering carbon in vegetation on soils not suited for cropping, and alerted farmers to the



^ Carbon Farming on Saline Land, Coorow.

Sustainable Farming Continued

co-benefits of acquiring some income from carbon farming activities as well as increasing biodiversity on their land.

The Carbon Awareness project developed 16 Carbon Farming Factsheets to help people untangle the complexity of the rules of the game and gain some understanding of what opportunities they could tap into.

Carbon Driven Solutions to Salinity Project

The Carbon Driven Solutions to Salinity project is an innovative project funded by the WA State NRM Office, NACC and DAFWA investigating the carbon sequestration potential of native salt-tolerant species as an economic driver for land management.

NACC and DAFWA collected data from six sites in 2013-14, involving destructive sampling and carbon sequestration analysis of 300 mature trees and measurement of 5000 trees and shrubs. Interim results show that trees grown on saline land can sequester a substantial amount of carbon.

The Carbon Driven Solutions to Salinity project has demonstrated that unproductive saline land can now create an alternative income for farmers from land hitherto unarable, provide wildlife habitats, mitigate land degradation and provide fodder reserves for paddocks - all by planting salt tolerant native species.



^ Carbon Farming on Saline Land Field Day, Dalwillinu.



^ Dune Rehabilitation, Sandy Cape.

The NAR has a diverse and spectacular coastline; from the soaring sandstone cliffs of Kalbarri to intricate networks of ancient sand dunes now compacted into limestone reefs; from islands surrounded by coral to broad aprons of clean, white beach.

NACC's Coastal and Marine program protects the region's sensitive coastal ecosystems by working to reduce the negative impact from invasive species, erosion, ecosystem modification and increased pollution and eutrophication of coastal waters. These impacts serve to diminish the health and functionality of our coastal ecosystem, including protection from erosion, sand stabilisation, biodiversity habitat, food production, and increased aesthetic, commercial and recreational values.

In 2013-14, the Coastal and Marine program completed the first of what was to be a five year funded program aimed at improving the coastal environment by undertaking the projects listed below. With government withdrawing funding after December 2014, the Coastal and Marine program will apply for further funds from the National Landcare Programme due for release in late 2014.

Dune Restoration

North Guilderton

The unique flora and fauna north of Guilderton is under significant threat from recreational four-wheel driving along the coastal dunes.

In 2013-14 NACC's Dune Restoration project, in partnership with Moore Catchment Council, began implementing a range of on-ground measures to reduce the significant impact recreational four-wheel driving is having on the coastal dune systems. Works include a track closure, signage and track rehabilitation.

Cervantes and Jurien Bay Pyp Grass Management

Pyp Grass (*Ehrhata villosa*) is a fast-growing, invasive weed threatening the region's dune ecosystems by out-competing native vegetation and degrading habitat quality for local fauna. In 2013-14 NACC's Pyp Grass Management project involved the spraying of low density Pyp Grass, follow-up spraying and recording of new infestations. Further follow-up works are planned for sequential seasons.

A *Pyp Grass Management Plan* for Jurien Bay was instigated by NACC and will guide weed control activities in following seasons. This plan will include photo-monitoring procedures to measure the success of weed eradication works by using the NACC developed *Photomon* application for smartphones.

Irwin Estuary Weed Management Plan and Boxthorn Management

In 2013-14, NACC developed an *Irwin Estuary Weed Management Plan*, providing detailed control methods and priorities for a range of weed species around the estuary. One weed of

concern residing around the estuary is African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), a declared Weed of National Significance (WoNS) which invades pastures, roadsides, dunes, bushland and waterways.

To help eradicate the weed NACC commenced removal and spraying, with follow-up works planned for a second phase of the project. A number of photo-monitoring points have been established throughout the treatment area which will measure the success of eradication works and regrowth.

Geraldton Beach Wrack Quantification Survey

NACC has done extensive work to protect beach wrack (seagrass and seaweed material washed up onto beaches) on the region's beaches. Beach wrack provides important ecosystem services such as fisheries enhancement, nutrient recycling and beach protection from erosion.

To measure beach wrack quantities and dynamics on Geraldton beaches, NACC conducted aerial surveys using an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). Ground-truth studies were also carried out to support data collected by the UAV. The long term aim is to develop informed management guidelines for beach wrack removal from beaches by local governments.

This project is being carried out in partnership with Edith Cowan University.

Coastal Devolved Grant Program

NACC offers devolved grants to coastal community groups and land managers to undertake on-ground works and education activities. This year the following projects were supported:

- The Friends of Bluff Point undertook a number of restoration works, blocked vehicle tracks and installed signage along the Chapman River in Geraldton.



^ Beach Wrack, Geraldton.

- Green Head Coastcare Group carried out rehabilitation works and installed public seating and interpretive signage on the north side of Dynamite Bay, Green Head.
- The Shire of Coorow received funding to purchase two iPhones to assist volunteers with coastal hazard photo-monitoring in Leeman and Green Head.
- The Shire of Dandaragan and Shire of Gingin held two community workshops to engage the Gingin and Dandaragan communities in preparing and adapting to the future impacts of coastal hazards.
- The Department of Fisheries WA held two community seminars on the impacts of the WA marine heatwave and created classroom education resources for mid-west teachers.
- Moore Catchment Council installed interpretive signage along the Moore River estuary.
- Moore Catchment Council held a bus tour which engaged and networked coastcare group members, industry representatives and local communities.

Community Skills, Knowledge and Engagement

NACC recognises the value in engaging local communities in activities that support the natural environment. The Coastal and Marine program works with many coastcare groups and 'Friends of' groups, and endeavours to include a range of opportunities for public involvement and learning.

NACC has engaged coastal communities of the NAR during the following events:

- Irwin River Weed Management Workshop – delivered this workshop to raise awareness of local weed species and teach people about management and control techniques.
- Beach Wrack Walks – local media was used to raise awareness of the ecological value of beach wrack, and a number of community workshops have taught both children and adults about why beach wrack should be conserved.
- Photo-monitoring Training – this ongoing monitoring program now involves 37 skilled volunteers regularly collecting photo-monitoring data which records coastal change.
- Zest Fest Kalbarri – the coastal and marine team took the opportunity to speak to local community members about coastal NRM issues by holding a stall. NACC also engaged others through a native plant workshop and wrack walk.
- Beach Clean-ups – community members were involved in helping collect rubbish from local beaches, whilst learning about coastal plants and ecosystems.
- Community Seabird Monitoring Workshop – people from Geraldton participated in a workshop to learn from experts about local seabird ecology and monitoring methods.

- Community Group Meetings – NACC staff attended a number of community groups meetings to offer technical advice and leadership on community-run projects.
- Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Workshop and survey – a workshop was held in early 2014 to collect valuable information from community members regarding local impacts from ORV users. Information gathered from this workshop and online surveys would be later used to identify potential sites for a gazetted ORV-use area.
- Boxthorn Eradication Workshop, Dongara – local community members and farmers learnt about African Boxthorn eradication techniques by an expert in the field.
- Photo-monitoring Bus Tour – Photo-monitoring volunteers, coastcare groups and other interested people were treated to a tour of the coastal NAR between Guilderton and Geraldton. The aim of the bus tour was to bring like-minded people from across the region together to show-case and discuss local coastal rehabilitation projects and coastal hazard issues.

Beach Photo-monitoring Project

NACC has been using time-series photography to further understanding of coastal shoreline change since 2010. Beaches in the region are experiencing rapid change to the point where infrastructure, community amenity and lifestyle are at threat.

The NACC *Beach Photo-monitoring* project engages local community members to collect data that can be used to inform decision-makers on coastal hazard adaptation planning in the region. At the end of the 2013-14 year the program had a total of 88 established Photo-monitoring sites across 490km of coastline between Guilderton and Kalbarri. Thirty-seven volunteers collected over 2000 photos over the year which are stored in an online database and available on an interactive map through *NARvis*.

Volunteers also assisted in trialling a new smartphone application called *Photomon* which has been designed to make photo-monitoring easier and more accurate. NACC plans to continue to collect valuable data to capture seasonal, episodic and medium-long term coastal change through this program.

Management of Off-Road Vehicles in the NAR

The unmanaged use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) has been having a significant impact on coastal ecosystems in the region. Coastal rangers have reported that most ORV users are frustrated by the lack of dedicated areas where they can operate their vehicles legally. With funding from Coastwest to work with ORV users and local communities, NACC has been conducting a feasibility study for the establishment of a gazetted ORV area in the northern part of the region.

A working group meeting was held to allow stakeholders to contribute to the scope of the study and online surveys have collected responses from both riders and the general community. The outcomes from these activities will lead to a review of potential sites for gazettement.

Coastal Clean-ups

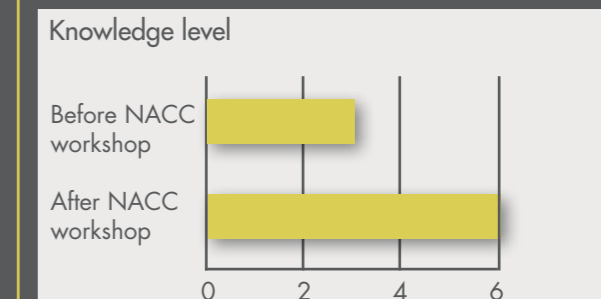
Plastic and other marine debris threaten the lives of coastal and marine animals and pollute the world's oceans. It is a global issue which, despite it receiving increasing recognition, still affects at least 77 species of Australian marine wildlife.

NACC co-organised a Geraldton beach clean-up day in October 2013 and supported the Jurien Bay Progress Association and Jurien Bay Coastcare Group's clean-up day in November 2013. These two clean-ups collected over 300kg of rubbish.



What did this program achieve?

Participants of the Irwin River Weed Management workshop increased their knowledge and skills on how to establish and manage their pastures successfully by 41 per cent as a result of the workshop.



What participants of the Photo-monitoring Bus Tour had to say about the day:

"Great effort guys. Well organised by people who care."

"Very informative event about things that I didn't know much about"

"A top day – well organised, conducted in friendly atmosphere"

"Thanks for a great day, learnt lots and would like to be involved in similar events."

"This bus tour has increased my knowledge of coastal changes and their relationship to revegetation in coastal dunes and infrastructure. Very well organised and catered for."

^ National Beach Clean-up, Geraldton.



^ Carnaby's Cockatoo. Photo by Rick Dawson.

Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms on earth – the different plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems of which they are a part. It is a vital life support system that generates clean air and water, is a source of food, pollinates crops and delivers spiritual and recreational benefits for the community.

Within NAR high levels of biodiversity can contribute to the long-term health of the agricultural sector through provision of essential ecosystem services. It is also valuable for health and wellbeing and contributes to tourism and the beauty of the NAR. Losing biodiversity threatens the health of the environment, economic productivity for farmers and local communities.

NACC's Biodiversity program is working to restore the NAR's biodiversity by conserving and stabilising native habitats and managing ongoing threats hand-in-hand with locals. By partnering with landholders, local community and local government, NACC is seeking to protect and restore the region's unique natural qualities and values in order to preserve them for future generations.

The NAR contains two of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots, and is part of the internationally recognised Southwest Australia Biodiversity Hotspot (IUCN). It is Australia's only internationally recognised hotspot, recognised worldwide for its wealth of natural diversity, particularly in plants, and therefore conservation of this globally significant area is crucial.

Hidden Treasures

The *Hidden Treasures* project is based on protecting and preserving remnant vegetation within the NAR with the intent to increase connectivity at the local, catchment and landscape scale. To achieve this, NACC provides financial incentives to land managers to support fencing of high value remnant vegetation.

In 2013-14, 10 *Hidden Treasures* management agreements with landmanagers are now protecting more than 1,300 hectares of remnant vegetation that contain important threatened species and/or ecological communities within the NAR. Specifically, more than 850 hectares of vegetation containing species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC), 150 hectares containing Australian Government priority assessment listed threatened ecological communities, 340 hectares containing WA State Government threatened species / ecological communities and 11 hectares containing remnant vegetation mapped as 18 to 35 per cent remaining in Geraldton region are being protected through these agreements.

The *Hidden Treasures* project worked directly with the participating land managers to increase understanding of EPBC-listed species, priority ecological communities and other potentially important regional environmental sites and their associated threats. As a result of this community engagement, all land managers

Biodiversity Continued

involved reported a dramatic increase in their understanding and expertise in relation to natural asset rehabilitation practices. Demand from land managers to participate in this program has continued to grow and NACC has secured funding for the *Hidden Treasures* project to 2017-18.

Rivers and Wetlands

The *Rivers and Wetlands* project is another of NACC's focal biodiversity incentive projects. Despite rivers and wetlands occupying a small proportion of the region, they frequently support a higher diversity of plants and animals than the surrounding landscape. Consequently, restoring relatively small areas has a multiplying effect on species that can use these riparian green corridors to habitat and move across the landscape.

The *Rivers and Wetlands* project protects and restores riparian vegetation on agricultural lands that are under threat from weed invasion, unrestricted stock access, erosion, sedimentation, elevated nutrient levels and salinisation.

In 2013-14, 26 *Rivers and Wetlands* management agreements with land managers are protecting more than 2,300 hectares of riparian land across the NAR. This was accomplished through the use of fencing to protect remnant vegetation and exclude stock from sensitive areas, strategic revegetation along riparian zones to stabilise stream banks,

installation of alternative watering points and stock crossings, supplementary planting to revegetate and enhance relatively intact native vegetation and invasive species management in riparian zones.

Biodiversity Corridors

The *Biodiversity Corridors* project is taking an innovative approach to landscape scale conservation and connectivity. It plans to demonstrate that by promoting the use of multi-purpose corridors alongside sustainable farming, it is possible to achieve numerous benefits throughout the region. A feasibility study including desktop analysis, GIS analysis, on-ground truthing and consultation with landholders commenced in 2013 to investigate ecological linkages and potential corridor configurations and networks across the NAR.

Teaming up with BirdLife Australia

During 2013-14, a partnership between NACC and BirdLife Australia focussed on two iconic bird species: the Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo and the Malleefowl.

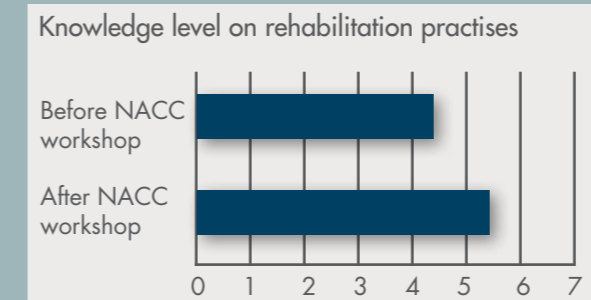
Due to habitat loss and fragmentation the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo is listed as 'Endangered' under the EPBC Act and as 'Specially Protected Fauna' under the Western Australian Wildlife Conservation (WAWC) Act 1950. The Malleefowl is listed as 'Vulnerable' under the EPBC Act, and 'Rare or likely to become extinct' under the WAWC Act.

Biodiversity Continued

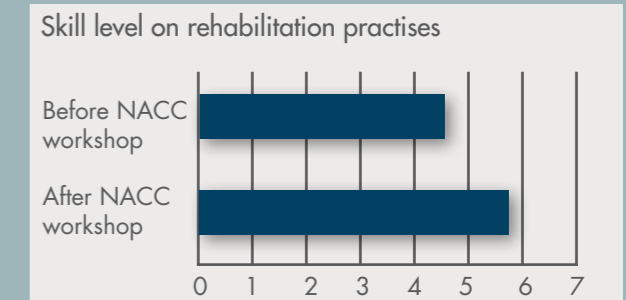
The ongoing success of the partnership between NACC and BirdLife Australia has seen the rehabilitation of breeding areas for these two species, as well as management of invasive pests (particularly invading birds) and the implementation of management plans that will include surveys to assess the effectiveness of this conservation work.

What did this program achieve?

Participants of the *Rivers and Wetlands* project increased their knowledge on rehabilitation practices by 24 per cent as a result of participating in the projects information session.



Participants of the *Rivers and Wetlands* project increased their skills on rehabilitation practices by 23 per cent as a result of participating in the projects information session.



Fifty eight per cent of participants of the *Rivers and Wetlands* project said they intended to change management practices as a result of participating in the projects information session.



11 Indigenous Participation



^ Weed Management Through The NRM Capacity Building for Greenough Prison Inmates Project.

Indigenous Participation

NACC recognises the long-held cultural and traditional knowledge Aboriginal people have for land management and conservation of the region's natural assets.

Represented within the NAR's boundaries are two significant Aboriginal groups; the Yamatji regional group in the north and the Noongar regional group in the south. The Yamatji region has six language groups while the Noongar regional group is represented by one main language group (Yuet) in the NAR.

NACC's Indigenous Participation program works alongside all NACC program coordinators, to encourage Aboriginal participation in all areas of NACC's work, as well as working with Aboriginal people to protect land and natural assets that have significant cultural and spiritual meaning to Aboriginal people in the region.

NRM Capacity Building for Greenough Prison Inmates

In 2013-14, NACC partnered with the Department of Corrective Services and Durack Institute of Technology to implement the *NRM Capacity Building for Greenough Prison Inmates* project, aimed at supporting Aboriginal people to work on country. Other partners in this project include the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Shire of Chapman Valley, City of Greater Geraldton, Department of Parks and Wildlife and private landholders for conservation work.

Ninety five per cent of the inmates in Greenough Regional Prison are Aboriginal. This project offers them the opportunity to achieve a nationally recognised qualification in conservation and land management while undertaking on-ground work in their day-release period to deliver important environmental outcomes for the region.

Since the project commenced, 15 males and 16 female have completed relevant subjects towards conservation and land management training.

Through the project inmates learn weed mapping, seed collection and plant propagation, fencing and spraying. They have worked to vegetate degraded land that adjoins high bio diverse vegetation and have undertaken control of three Weeds of National Significance — Lantana, Boxthorn and Tamarisk — in the Moresby Range, Buller River and Eradu areas.

Since the project commenced, over 200 hectares with high conservation value has been protected and revegetated, this includes Aboriginal heritage sites, rivers and waterways and conservation estates.

Indigenous Participation Continued

Cross-program Aboriginal Participation

Traditional Owners are custodians to a significant amount of ecological knowledge that has high value for natural resource management. To encourage Aboriginal people to be working on country across the region, NACC involved several Aboriginal groups in the following projects:

- NACC consulted with representatives from groups connected to the coastal areas between Guilderton and Kalbarri. Consultation on coastal issues in 2013-14 has occurred with Yuet Elders for projects in the southern NAR, and Amangu Elders for projects around the Geraldton region.
- In 2013-14 various conservation work was carried out by Aboriginal contractors, landholders and the Greenough Regional Prison participants for weed control work.
- Particular focus was made to engage Aboriginal participants in the *Hidden Treasures* and *Rivers and Wetlands* projects. Incentives agreements were successful with Aboriginal landholders at Mt View (near Kalbarri), Bundybunna (North of Mingenew), Joorndaloo (at Nabawa).
- Sustainable farming information and demonstrations were offered to Aboriginal landholders through a Precision Farming and Liming Information Day that was held at Bundybunna.

- Interested Aboriginal leaders were engaged to participate in the updating of the regional strategy for NRM.
- A contract with a local business in Moora to carry out NRM works on Heritage sites on the Moore River at Mogumber as well as other sites on tributaries resulted in five Aboriginal people working on country, protecting sites and receiving training in a variety of aspects of NRM.

Indigenous Participation Continued



Traditional Owners are custodians to a significant amount of ecological knowledge that has high value for natural resource management.

^ Soil pH Testing Demonstration, Bundybunna.



What local teachers and schools had to say about Inland to Ocean

"I have the NACC USB man sitting here on my desk."

"I have moved schools. I would like to speak on behalf of both schools (Eneabba and Badgingarra). Inland to Ocean is easy to use. The local links are very helpful for us. We would definitely like to be involved in the competition."

"I like the way my questions were answered very quickly, (on the website.) My first question was, 'what areas are included in the Northern Agricultural Region?' And I came across a map straight away."

"I really like the Project Record Sheet and Roles. It gives kids a chance to be involved in the creation of their own learning."

Inland to Ocean Education Package

Inland to Ocean is a national curriculum based education package, designed to provide children in year's three to six with local knowledge on the environment and to help them continue sustainable education into the future.

Inland to Ocean was specifically designed as a teaching resource for schools in the NAR of Western Australia, however many aspects can be used, or adapted for use across Australia.

Launched in mid-2013, *Inland to Ocean* has been distributed to all schools in the NAR and it is assumed activities in the package conducted by schools will lead to better environmental outcomes for the region.

Inland to Ocean is an easy to use educational package developed for primary schools in the region. It engages students and teachers

to learn more about the value of their local natural resources. Through activities offered in the package students can learn in an inquiry based style. By playing out the roles of different characters like scientists, photographers, innovators and farmers they acquire multiple views on the wealth and challenges of managing resources in the NAR.

NACC's main aim in developing *Inland to Ocean* in 2013-2014 is 'Helping kids to help the environment'. *Inland to Ocean* fits with new curriculum requirements and is freely available on the website www.inlandtooceano.com.au.

Late 2013, NACC launched *Inland to Ocean* in hard copy and digital format. Local schools were notified and also invited to participate in a competition showcasing an activity undertaken from the package. NACC received numerous entries and several schools were awarded prizes at an Environment Fun Day at the Greenough Museum.



^ Beach Wrack Walk, Cervantes.

^ National Tree Planting Day, Perenjori.

13 Climate Change



^ Erosion Greys Beach, Geraldton.

Climate Change

Climate change is a major environmental challenge for the South West of Western Australia. The region's climate is influenced by the southern subtropical ridge and cold fronts generated over the Southern Ocean (Tille et al., 2001 in Land Assessments Pty Ltd, 2005) and the warm southerly flows of the Leeuwin current.

These systems have been responsible for reliable seasonal rainfall, with most rain falling between May and September, however in recent years there has been a consistent decline in winter rainfall in the south-west area since the 1970s.

In 2013 the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology produced a series of 'interim climate projections for the South Western flatlands' (of which the NAR is a part). These interim projections are based on a new set of global climate modelling from the Climate Intercomparison Project 5 (CMIP5). Key messages from the 'interim climate projections for the South Western flatlands' indicate higher temperatures, lower rainfall, more extreme weather events, sea level rise and more bushfires.

Coastal Hazard Risk Assessment

NACC works in partnership with local government to develop *Coastal Hazard Risk and Adaptation Management Plans* to manage land impacted by changing coastal processes as a result of changing weather events. This coastal planning is crucial in the NAR as the

majority of settlements that are located along the region's coastline are on low lying sandy coastal landforms and as such are heavily impacted on by coastal processes. Coastal inundation and recession hazard are the principle source of risk in the coastal zone and generate significant hazards to coastal land and assets.

These plans provide the participating communities with an assessment of their risks to coastal hazards.

NACC is working with the Shires of Gingin and Dandaragan with an assessment of their risks to coastal inundation and recession hazard. Using LiDAR technology, NACC was able to acquire two metre resolution elevation data with a vertical precision of ± 15 centimetres (Figure 1), which allowed us to model flooding and inundation patterns for the entire Gingin Dandaragan coastline. The assessment will help local decision-makers identify opportunities to improve their resilience to climate change and sea level rise.

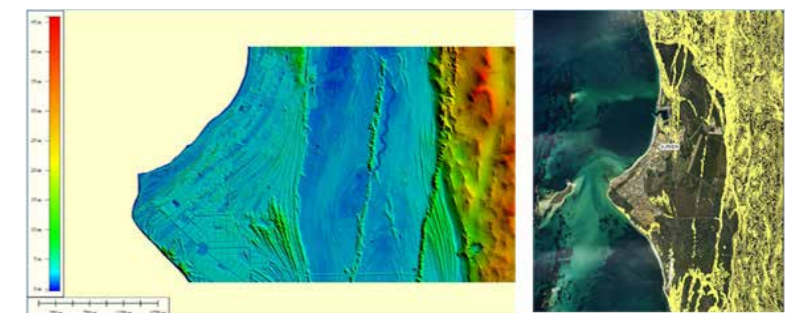


Figure 1. Jurien Bay LiDAR mapping and Digital Terrain Model (each line is a 4 meter contour line or more (6 meter, 10 meter, etc)).

14 Carbon Footprint Report



^ National Tree Planting Day, Perenjori.

Carbon Footprint Report

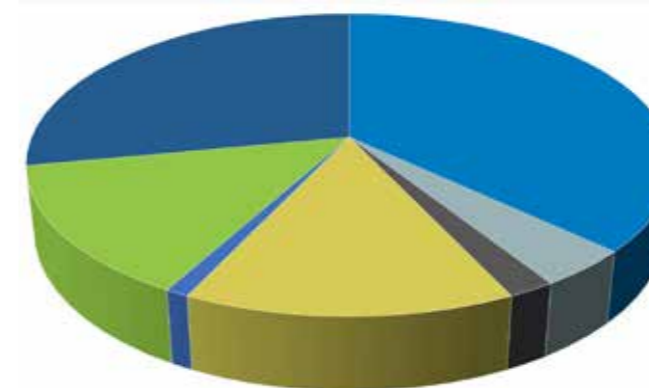
This year NACC engaged Evan Beamont from Energy Farmers Australia to assess its carbon emissions for the 2013-14 year to determine a base line from which to identify where changes can be made to reduce both emissions and cost.

Greenhouse gas emissions and accounting procedures have been calculated and reported using The Greenhouse Gas Protocol with close alignment with the *National Greenhouse Accounts (NGA) Factors* workbook.

NACC's total emissions for the accounting period were 92.35 tonnes of CO₂-e. Purchased electricity was the largest contributor representing 37 per cent, followed by purchased diesel at 26 per cent, flights and waste both at 14 per cent.

Comparison of the major emission sources for the accounting period, show that there has been a slight increase in emissions for diesel (17 per cent) and electricity (8 per cent). Waste emissions have increased markedly (this could be due waste amounts being estimated, a more thorough method for measuring waste may need to be adopted going forward). There is however, a significant decrease in flight emissions (54 per cent).


Emissions (tCO₂-e) by source



- Purchased Electricity
- Consumption of Purchased Electricity (Losses)
- Fuel Losses
- Flights
- Paper
- Waste
- Purchased Diesel

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**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 2014, 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 2014 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
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 2014, 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 21st day of September 2014.



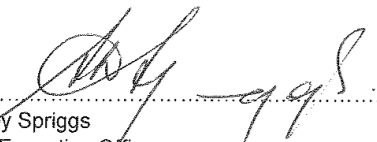
NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

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 2014 are in my opinion properly drawn up to present fairly the position of the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council at 30 June 2014 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 AASB108 "Accounting Policies" and the accompanying notes to the annual report).

Signed on the 9th day of October 2014


Shelley Spriggs
Chief Executive Officer

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

	NOTE	2014 \$	2013 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets		3,953,379	1,760,031
Receivables	3	<u>337,161</u>	<u>296,668</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		4,290,540	2,056,699
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property Plant and Equipment	4	60,604	100,555
Motor Vehicles	4	<u>57,294</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		117,898	100,555
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>4,408,438</u>	<u>2,157,254</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	5	1,987,953	806,811
Provisions	6	237,348	183,418
Unexpended Grants	7	1,838,689	826,111
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>4,063,990</u>	<u>1,816,339</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>344,448</u>	<u>340,914</u>
EQUITY			
Retained Surplus		344,448	340,914
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>344,448</u>	<u>340,914</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 2014

	NOTE	2014 \$	2013 \$
OPERATING REVENUES			
Grant Income		5,836,115	6,902,580
Other Income		95,052	148,949
		<u>5,931,167</u>	<u>7,051,529</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Employment Expenses		2,011,130	1,676,564
Governance Expenses		122,075	119,808
Other Operating Costs		722,421	751,171
Project Costs		3,072,008	4,411,775
		<u>5,927,634</u>	<u>6,959,318</u>
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		<u>3,533</u>	<u>92,211</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 2014

	NOTE	2014 \$	2013 \$
RETAINED SURPLUS			
Balance as at 1 July 2013		340,914	248,704
Net Surplus (Deficit)		3,533	92,211
Balance as at 30 June 2014		<u>344,448</u>	<u>340,914</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>344,448</u>	<u>340,914</u>

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

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
Cash at Beginning of Year	1,760,031	3,173,771
Operations		
Cash receipts from customers	6,903,253	6,784,547
Cash paid for		
General operating and administrative expenses	(2,719,945)	(6,647,556)
Wage expenses	<u>(1,921,572)</u>	<u>(1,449,951)</u>
Net Cash Flow from Operations	<u>2,261,735</u>	<u>(1,312,960)</u>
Investing Activities		
Cash paid for		
Purchase of property and equipment	<u>(68,387)</u>	<u>(100,779)</u>
Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities	<u>(68,387)</u>	<u>(100,779)</u>
Net Increase in Cash	<u>2,193,348</u>	<u>(1,413,740)</u>
Cash at End of Year	<u>3,953,379</u>	<u>1,760,031</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 2014

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 special purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards and 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%
Motor Vehicles	15%

(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 2014

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 NACC 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
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
2. NET CURRENT ASSETS		
Composition of Net Current Asset Position		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	3,953,379	1,760,031
Receivables	337,161	296,668
	<u>4,290,540</u>	<u>2,056,699</u>
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables and Provisions	2,225,301	990,228
Unexpended Grants	1,838,689	826,111
	<u>4,063,990</u>	<u>1,816,339</u>
NET CURRENT ASSET POSITION	226,549	240,359
SURPLUS C/FWD	<u>226,549</u>	<u>240,359</u>
3. RECEIVABLES		
Debtors	251,958	121,220
Prepaid Expenses	81,955	74,852
Accrued Income	3,249	100,596
	<u>337,161</u>	<u>296,668</u>

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
4. NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment		
Plant and Equipment	199,641	190,962
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(139,037)</u>	<u>(90,407)</u>
	60,604	100,555
Motor Vehicles	59,708	-
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(2,414)</u>	<u>-</u>
	57,294	-
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	<u><u>117,898</u></u>	<u><u>100,555</u></u>
5. PAYABLES		
Trade Creditors	149,343	522,400
GST	151,914	(250,542)
PAYG	44,640	32,772
Superannuation	18,368	4,907
Business Credit Cards	7,358	16,869
Accrued Expenses	71,958	52,437
Committed Funds	<u>1,544,372</u>	<u>427,968</u>
	<u>1,987,953</u>	<u>806,811</u>
6. PROVISIONS		
Provision for Employee Entitlements	106,339	104,297
Provision for Long Service Leave	107,069	54,321
Provision for Audit Fees	<u>23,940</u>	<u>24,800</u>
	<u>237,348</u>	<u>183,418</u>

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
7. UNEXPENDED GRANTS		
12028 Carbon Driven Solutions	43,829	56,612
12036 Biodiversity Corridors State	157,895	43,096
12N-01 NACC Climate Change Program	-	13,385
12N-03 Water Monitoring Activities	-	10,369
12N-04 Regional Sch Education Project	15,682	32,163
12N-06 LIDAR Project	-	49
12N-07 Rivers & Wetlands	-	239,940
12N-09 INFFER/Landview Project	-	145
12N-12 EDRMS/ TRIM Project	19,743	20,583
13N-03 GIS/MERI Expenses	-	15,095
13N-04 RFR carbon Awareness Project	7,832	-
1418 Office Overheads	124,003	-
1419 NRMO Delivery	758,127	-
148005 State - Service Provision	74,936	-
201334 Plan for Climate Change	-	89,054
201359 Coast West Beach Monitoring	-	8,069
201455 Off Road Vehicle Study	10,214	-
48N-13 Coastal E &CAH Project	617	1,646
48N-14 Hidden Treasures Project	-	62,578
AA Operating	483,432	169,827
CRM13002 Coastal Hazard Risk Management	65,223	10,000
INNOV-292 Soil Acidity	77,068	-
SIE13003 Sustainability & Innov Expo	89	43,500
TAS13001 Target Audience Survey	-	10,000
	<u>1,838,689</u>	<u>826,111</u>



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