

NACC NRM  
**CAPABILITY STATEMENT**  
**2024 - 2026**

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# ABOUT US

## NACC NRM's organisational goals are:

- To achieve measurable beneficial impact on: the region's terrestrial, coastal and marine biodiversity; the sustainability of primary production activities and the natural systems that sustain them.
- To increase community awareness of regional TEK, NACC NRM, and NARvis, and improve opportunities for the local community to contribute to NRM in the NAR.
- To work together with the region's Traditional Custodians to improve recognition, understanding, and integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and practices into NRM in the NAR in line with NACC NRM's Reconciliation Action Plan.
- To increase organisational capability through agile, robust, and resilient governance and business practices.



## Our Purpose

Is to ensure that the Northern Agricultural Region community values and actively protects our region's natural capital, consistent with the Visions and Goals of NARvis.

## Our Way

Is Catalysing Community Conservation through passionate delivery of collaborative on-ground projects and education.

## Our Impact

Will be that the health of the natural resources and environment of the NAR are improved.

# OUR VALUES



## Passion

For delivering our Purpose, Way, and Impact, and for making a lasting positive contribution to our region's precious and unique natural environment.

## Collaboration

Encompassing both teamwork within the organisation, and partnerships with external organisations and the wider community in working towards shared outcomes.

## Leadership

Demonstrating initiative and innovation aimed at ensuring that we and our communities thrive and adapt to ever-changing circumstances.

## Respect

Acting with integrity, for our natural environment, for colleagues and partners, and for others within the wider community.

## Impartiality

Remaining impartial in the way in which we conduct our business and interact with individuals, groups, and government and in so doing make informed decisions based on balanced and sound scientific information.



# OVERVIEW

**NACC NRM is one of 54 regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations around Australia, and one of seven in Western Australia.**

Regional NRMs were established in the early 2000s by the Australian Government to deliver community-based projects to strategically address environmental degradation at a regional or landscape scale.

NACC NRM developed an integrated natural resource management strategy for the Northern Agricultural Region, called NARvis. This has evolved from a hard copy document to an online, interactive website. Over time, our role has evolved to include delivering parts of the strategy. We are the custodians of NARvis ([www.narvis.com.au](http://www.narvis.com.au)) and take responsibility for promoting and updating it as and when required.

We are a membership-based organisation available to anyone with an interest in the region. Membership is free and we maintain a community focus across the organisation. We recognise that change to improve environmental health has to come from the whole community. We collaborate with farmers, community groups with any interest in natural resource management activities, Traditional Custodians, local government, industry and government.

NACC is short for the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council. The name represents the holistic nature of the work the organisation does in protecting and repairing the landscape. NACC NRM is a representative group of the catchments in the Northern Agricultural Region which include the: Murchison, Hutt, Bowes, Chapman, Greenough, Irwin, Hill and Moore.

Taking a 'whole of catchment view' which incorporates all the elements of the landscape (and coast if the catchment runs into the sea) is critical to securing the future of our precious natural resources.

# OUR LEADERS



## Katherine Allen

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Katherine is a natural resource management professional with 17 years of experience and currently serving as the CEO of NACC NRM in Geraldton, Western Australia. Her expertise encompasses contract management, operations management, strategy formulation and implementation, and team leadership.

Katherine is passionate about supporting regional communities, governance, and fostering collaborative efforts to implement nature-based solutions. Katherine is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has over 15 years of experience as a director in the not-for-profit sector. Her lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship and ensuring a sustainable future for her children serves as her primary motivation.



## Kane Watson

### PROGRAMS & OPERATIONS MANAGER

Kane is an Environmental Scientist with a focus on sustainability. He has completed qualifications in Business Administration to strengthen sustainability understandings in Natural Resource Management (NRM). He is also an educator, with a commitment to working with community to achieve passionate delivery of collaborative on-ground projects and education. Kane has been involved across the minerals, carbon sequestration, biodiversity restoration, and agricultural sectors for 20 years, working with leading practitioners and community groups.

This experience has provided a diverse understanding of the natural, social, and economic environment in Western Australia.

# OUR WORK

**NACC NRM believes natural resource management is about supporting and protecting our natural resources by delivering community-based projects to address environmental degradation at a regional or landscape scale.**

As the pressures facing our environment continue to grow, support of natural resources is crucial and clear planning for that support is essential. Founded in the Regional NRM strategy (known in the community as NARvis), NACC NRM operations focus on four main Programs delivered by a dedicated team over a number of projects.



# OUR PROGRAMS



## Aboriginal Custodianship

NACC NRM partners with Traditional Owners to encourage the reinvigoration and use of traditional knowledge to improve conservation outcomes and protect cultural heritage.

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## Biodiversity

NACC NRM's Biodiversity team collaborates with local communities, Aboriginal groups and government to protect and restore the NAR's unique flora and fauna, and manage ongoing threats.

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## Coastal & Marine

The NACC NRM coastal team works with the community, local and state government, educational institutes and Aboriginal groups to conserve, rehabilitate and monitor the region's coast.

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## Sustainable Agriculture

NACC NRM's Sustainable Agriculture Program is dedicated to helping farmers tackle environmental issues and ensure the sustainability of their natural resources.

# ABORIGINAL CUSTODIANSHIP

Over thousands of years, First Nations peoples have accumulated knowledge around the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR); its wildlife, landscapes, and environment.

The traditional ecological knowledge of the Yamatji, Noongar, Nanda, and Badimia people is invaluable in enhancing the ways in which we care for our environment.

NACC NRM recognises and seeks to support the unique understandings and management skills Aboriginal peoples have developed in managing our natural resources. The NACC NRM team works alongside traditional landowners to encourage the reinvigoration and use of traditional knowledge to improve conservation outcomes and protect cultural heritage.

By collaborating with First Nations peoples in Natural Resource Management (NRM), NACC NRM is improving the biodiversity of the NAR's ecosystems and strengthening social and economic outcomes across the region.

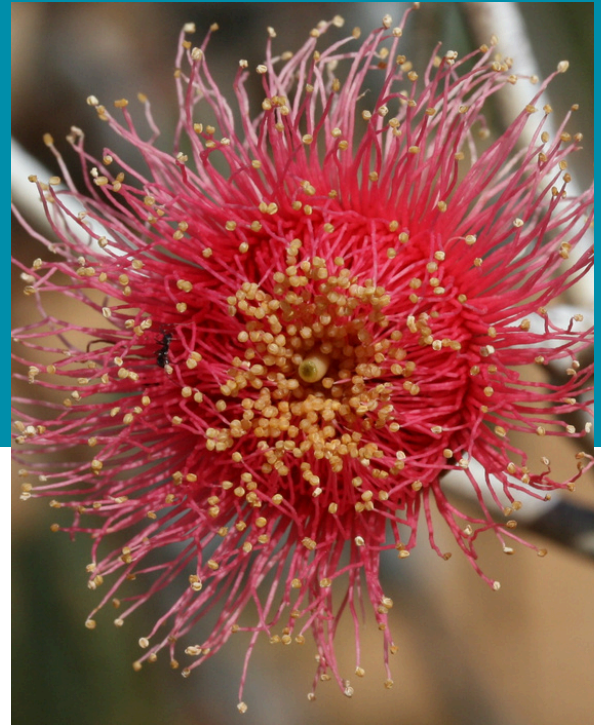
Through fostering partnerships built on respect, NACC NRM is bringing together traditional ecology and modern scientific knowledge to take steps forward in supporting our environment and First Nations community.



**NACC NRM respects the enduring connection to Country of First Nations peoples, the original natural resource managers of the Northern Agricultural Region.**

# BIODIVERSITY

The Northern Agricultural Region (NAR) is home to three of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots and forms part of the renowned Southwest Australia Biodiversity Hotspot.



This unique region is known for its extraordinary natural diversity, particularly in plant species, and is the only internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot in Australia. The conservation and protection of this area is of global importance.

Within the NAR, approximately 7,623 native species thrive, including mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and micro-organisms. Of these, around 6% (487 taxa) are endemic, found nowhere else in the world. The NAR's rich biodiversity is not only vital for environmental health but also for the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector, which relies on the essential ecosystem services it provides. Beyond agriculture, the region's natural assets contribute to health, wellbeing, and tourism. The loss of biodiversity threatens both the environment's health and the economic productivity of farmers and local communities.

NACC NRM's Biodiversity team works closely with local communities, First Nations groups, industry professionals and government to protect, restore, and manage the local flora and fauna, while addressing ongoing threats. These collaborative partnerships aim to safeguard the region's natural treasures for future generations. With the support of the NAR community, NACC NRM is working to ensure the region's habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes are valued, resilient, and protected for years to come.

**The Northern Agricultural Region is home to three of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots, and is part of the internationally recognised Southwest Australia Biodiversity Hotspot.**

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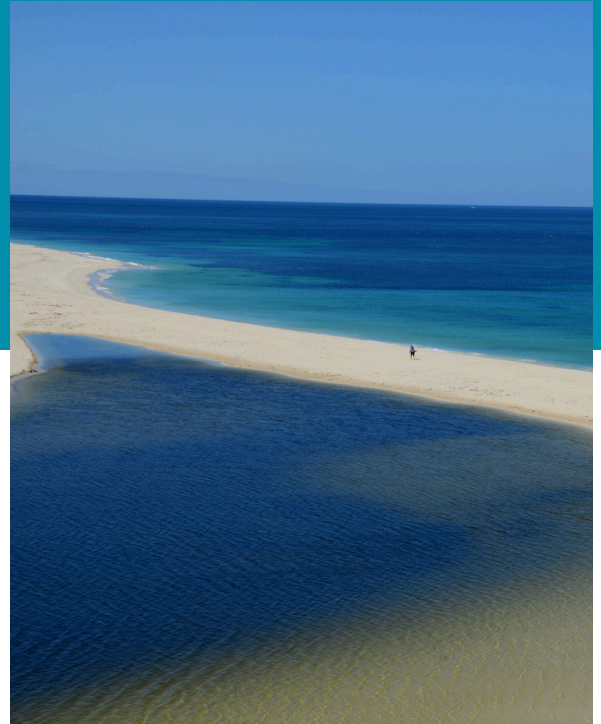
# COASTAL & MARINE

Spanning from Kalbarri in the north to Guilderton in the south, as well as out west to the Houtman Abrolhos Islands, the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR) boasts diverse and intricate coastal ecosystems.

The NAR's varying coastal environments and waterways provide abundant recreational and commercial opportunities for local communities and visitors alike. However, climate change, urban development, industry, and tourism pose a threat to these unique and vital ecosystems.

NACC NRM is dedicated to increasing awareness of the vital role our coastal ecosystems play in maintaining a healthy community and economy.

By collaborating with the community, local and state government, educational institutes and First Nations groups, NACC NRM's Coastal & Marine team works to conserve, rehabilitate and monitor the region's coast, ensuring a sustainable future for both coastal communities and future generations.



**Some of WA's most spectacular coastal ecosystems are found along the coast of the Northern Agricultural Region.**

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Within the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR), agriculture accounts for more than a third of the economy.

As ~70% of land in the NAR dedicated to farming, sustainability of this sector means sustainability of the region.

While agricultural land is productive, it's also under immense environmental stress. Wind erosion, soil degradation, salinity, and climate change are some of the many pressures the industry faces. NACC NRM's Sustainable Agriculture Program is dedicated to helping landholders tackle environmental issues and ensure the sustainability of their natural resources.

The NACC NRM team supports farmers to adopt NRM practices that benefit the health of the environment while also improving on-farm productivity. This is achieved through implementation of on-ground practices, planning and resource-based change, and theoretical and practical learning.

The Sustainable Agriculture team are actively engaged with landholders and grower groups, working collaboratively to realise a thriving future for farms, the environment, and the NAR community.



**The Northern Agricultural Region is comprised of 70% farming land, with broadacre agriculture being the region's predominant industry.**

# NARVis

NARvis is the official regional natural resource management (NRM) strategy for the Northern Agricultural Region, Western Australia.



## NARvis Vision Statement:

*Sound natural resource management by a vibrant local community will support a healthy and well-functioning environment and a diversified regional economy.*

NARvis – the NAR’s Vision – was created with the input and support of local and state government agencies, community groups and land managers.

There has been a regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) strategy in the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR) since 2005. It was updated in 2015 and again in 2021 to reflect the changing needs and priorities of the NRM sector in the region. The strategy is aimed at guiding environmental investment in the region, identifying priorities for conserving and enhancing natural assets and advancing sustainable development. The strategy is focused on:

- Conserving biodiversity;
- Promoting sustainable production;
- Responding effectively to climate change;
- Developing community capacity in NRM; and
- Grounding NRM planning and action in local ecological knowledge, particularly in meaningful collaboration with Traditional Owners.

Regional NRM planning is one of the core functions of the 54 regional NRM organisations across Australia. The regional NRM strategy in the NAR, NARvis, is coordinated and maintained by NACC NRM through funding from the Australian Government’s Regional Land Partnerships Program, and relies extensive community consultation and input from technical experts.

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