



Capability Statement



**South West
NRM**



Our mission

To deliver landscape-scale solutions for healthy and productive ecosystems.

Our values

The South West is within one of only 36 internationally recognised Global Biodiversity Hotspots.

These are nature's most important places, where targeted investment can have the most impact on our global biodiversity. They're the most biologically rich, but threatened, places on earth.

At South West NRM, we're committed to protecting and restoring this critical region by applying our core values to everything we do.

- **Creativity**
- **Agility**
- **Inquisitiveness**
- **Objectivity**
- **Ambition**
- **Respect**



Who we are

South West NRM is one of 54 peak natural resource management (NRM) organisations across Australia responsible for delivering innovative solutions to environmental challenges across the natural and farmed landscapes.

We began life over 20 years ago as South West Catchments Council. Since then we've planted over 1.5 million seedlings, restored thousands of hectares of degraded land and protected iconic threatened species. We've built networks, implemented innovative projects, and connected with our wider community.

Now, we urgently need to do more.

It is critical that we address the threats of climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation by 2030. The healthier our ecosystem, the healthier the planet and its people. We're scaling up our work with industry, government, community, and landholders and invite you to be part of the solution.



We're profit-for-purpose

We're dedicated to developing and applying solutions for ecosystem health and agricultural productivity. Any profit we make is reinvested into our mission and into our region.

We're trusted

We've successfully delivered multimillion-dollar projects for the Australian Government and are a key advisor on environmental issues in the region.

We're diverse

Our region is home to a vast coastline and 4 million hectares of land, including jarrah and karri forest, the western Wheatbelt, three Ramsar-listed Wetlands of International Significance and over 150 threatened species. We have unique plants and animals found nowhere else on earth, many of which are threatened with extinction.

We're independent

We're a non-government organisation that can be agile, responsive and adaptable to the needs of our clients.

We're science-based

We're a team of environmental scientists, agricultural experts and sustainability professionals, with close links to research organisations. Our work is backed by the latest science and technology.

We're landscape-scale

We undertake regional planning on behalf of the Australian Government. We're the eyes and ears on the ground, with a direct voice on where investment is most needed. We develop programs that address the bigger picture, allowing us to maximise impact.

We're a network

As an incorporated association of South West environmental organisations, we represent a network of local experts. We're proud to partner with Traditional Owners, government, industry, academia and the wider community. We're about building connections – together, we're stronger.

Our solutions

Our team has a broad range of skills and experience, allowing us to tailor solutions to landholder and business needs.

ESG partnerships

Organisations large and small are increasingly expected to make meaningful environmental and social commitments and demonstrate lasting impact. We co-design ESG strategies and programs that contribute to big-picture, landscape-scale outcomes. From corporate planting days to co-delivering large ecological restoration projects, we have the expertise and capability to help you demonstrate your commitments.

Carbon farming

We're committed to ensuring that carbon offset projects take a systems approach, delivering environmental and social benefits beyond carbon sequestration. We can help you design your carbon farming project and identify potential partners.

Biodiversity planning

With the introduction of international frameworks and taskforces, corporate carbon and biodiversity action and reporting is becoming business as usual. Our knowledge of the region's ecosystems allows us to co-develop best practice strategies and action plans.

Ecosystem restoration

We're experienced in wetland and terrestrial rehabilitation, building habitat for wildlife, revegetation and sustainable agricultural practices.

Conservation

We have 20 years of demonstrated experience in conservation of threatened ecosystems and species via a suite of tailored interventions.



Our leadership team

South West NRM has a highly qualified, skilled and experienced team of NRM, sustainability, business management, communications and administration professionals.

We're responsive, adaptable and highly committed in our approach to getting the best results for our clients and community.



Sally Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer

Growing up on a farm in the South West with a passion for the natural environment, Sally leads innovation at the intersection between ecosystem health and agricultural productivity.

With over 25 years of demonstrated leadership, strategic planning and business development expertise, Sally has worked internationally with market-leading brands on proposition development for business innovation. She led the launch of the UK's first green-electricity product for PowerGen, the first UK grocery home-shopping service for Tesco, and Bankwest's east coast expansion in Australia.



Linda Metz
Sustainability & Environment Lead

Linda is the organisation's technical lead, with over 25 years of experience in environmental conservation and sustainability, and a Bachelor of Science in Botany from La Trobe University.

An experienced operational, project and team manager working with large corporates, government and community, Linda has led large-scale ecological restoration programs, including the high-profile 4.5 km Roe 8 corridor rehabilitation project in Perth.



Nicki Ledger
Sustainability Manager

Nicki leads South West NRM’s carbon accounting and sequestration activities, communications and ESG offerings. She has over 15 years’ experience in organisational sustainability, community engagement and communications and holds a BSc in Biology and an MSc in Corporate Environmental Management.

Nicki has worked extensively to drive sustainability outcomes for corporates, government and tertiary education, and is experienced in planning, performance measurement and reporting, and program management.



Brian Chambers
Program Manager Environment

Brian holds a BSc and PhD in Animal Science and has an extensive background in planning and implementation of conservation and rehabilitation programs, along with specialisms in fauna monitoring, feral predator control and on-farm conservation.

Brian manages the Environmental program, managing multiple stakeholders and project streams.



Peter Clifton
Program Manager Sustainable Agriculture

Peter is responsible for managing Sustainable Agriculture and Ramsar wetlands programs. He has nine years of experience working with farmers and farming groups to improve soil health, productivity and profitability.

Peter holds a BSc in Ecology and has extensive knowledge of soil health.



Some of our projects

Building environmental markets

South West NRM was selected as one of six regions to pilot the Federal Government's Carbon + Biodiversity program, which encourages landholders to build added biodiversity into carbon farming projects.

They are rewarded for this environmental stewardship with biodiversity payments, in addition to carbon credits. This work contributed towards the research base supporting Australia's Nature Repair Market, driving investment in nature and diversification of farm income.

We developed a planting protocol and price guide specific to the region and worked with four successful applicants to develop tailored carbon farming plans. The plans ensure compliance, maximise carbon credits, build biodiversity and tackle other issues like salinity and erosion.

We also work with landholders to produce land management strategies for carbon farming. They include a tailored assessment of the carbon and co-benefit potential of the land, along with a detailed plan for how to implement the project.

To support emerging environmental markets and accelerate the adoption of nature-positive solutions, South West NRM is working with leading organisations to develop natural capital accounting methods that can be applied on farms.



Pollinator & farm resilience project

By identifying and attracting beneficial pollinators like insects and birds, farm businesses can become more productive and resilient to changing conditions, as well as enhancing habitat for native species.

Working with canola farmers and orchardists, South West NRM is developing tailored revegetation regimes to boost pollination rates.

Demonstration sites across the southwest are testing innovative practices for increasing pollinator numbers, including planting unique species mixes for continuous food and shelter, interrow cropping, and hedge development using dense pollinator-friendly natives. Personalised farm management plans and regional flowering calendars have been developed for participating land managers. The region's Traditional Owners have held one-on-one and small group advisory sessions with farming families, to impart traditional ecological knowledge on management options, traditional plant use, the Noongar six season calendar and cultural burning. A highly-respected Elder, Vivienne Hansen, has produced a guide on the benefits of native plants to crop pollination. In partnership with Curtin University, environmental DNA technology is also being applied to avocado flowers at two orchards to assess pollinator activity and design improvements.



Strategic planning for the south west

On behalf of the Australian Government, we develop and maintain the regional natural resource management strategy for the southwest.

In collaboration with environmental, Traditional Owner and farming groups across the southwest, the most recent update was launched in February 2022.

The South West Region NRM Strategy identifies and prioritises crucial conservation and environmental management efforts for the coming decade. It sets out a clear, straightforward framework for those working within the sector to focus on priorities that have the most significant impact on the threats facing the region, such as climate change, drought, salinity and loss of biodiversity.

The Strategy will align actions through increased collaboration across the sector and help to secure vital funding for key initiatives. Crucially, it also recognises that Noongar people must be involved in all natural resource management endeavours in our region and that we have a great deal to learn from traditional knowledge.



Threatened species conservation

Habitat fragmentation, predation and the impacts of climate change create a pressing need to enhance and create suitable habitat for threatened native species.

South West NRM works with a wide range of stakeholders to improve conservation outcomes and enhance the viability of populations of threatened native species in the South West, including the western ringtail possum, numbat, chuditch, woylie and malleefowl.

We've worked with Traditional Owners in the Wheatbelt to track malleefowl nests, built foraging habitat near Carnaby's black cockatoo breeding sites, installed possum bridges to connect critical habitat and undertaken extensive feral animal and weed control.

We've demonstrated a 78% reduction in feral cat activity using innovative Felixer cat grooming traps.

Research into post-release interventions has led to a 71% higher chance of survival when western ringtail possums are released from wildlife care.

Our responsible pet owners behaviour change program has saved over 65,000 wildlife animals from cat predation.







Contact Us

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