



Rangelands NRM
Enabling Prosperity

2024 - 2025

ANNUAL *report*

Photo by Bryce C - Yer 4

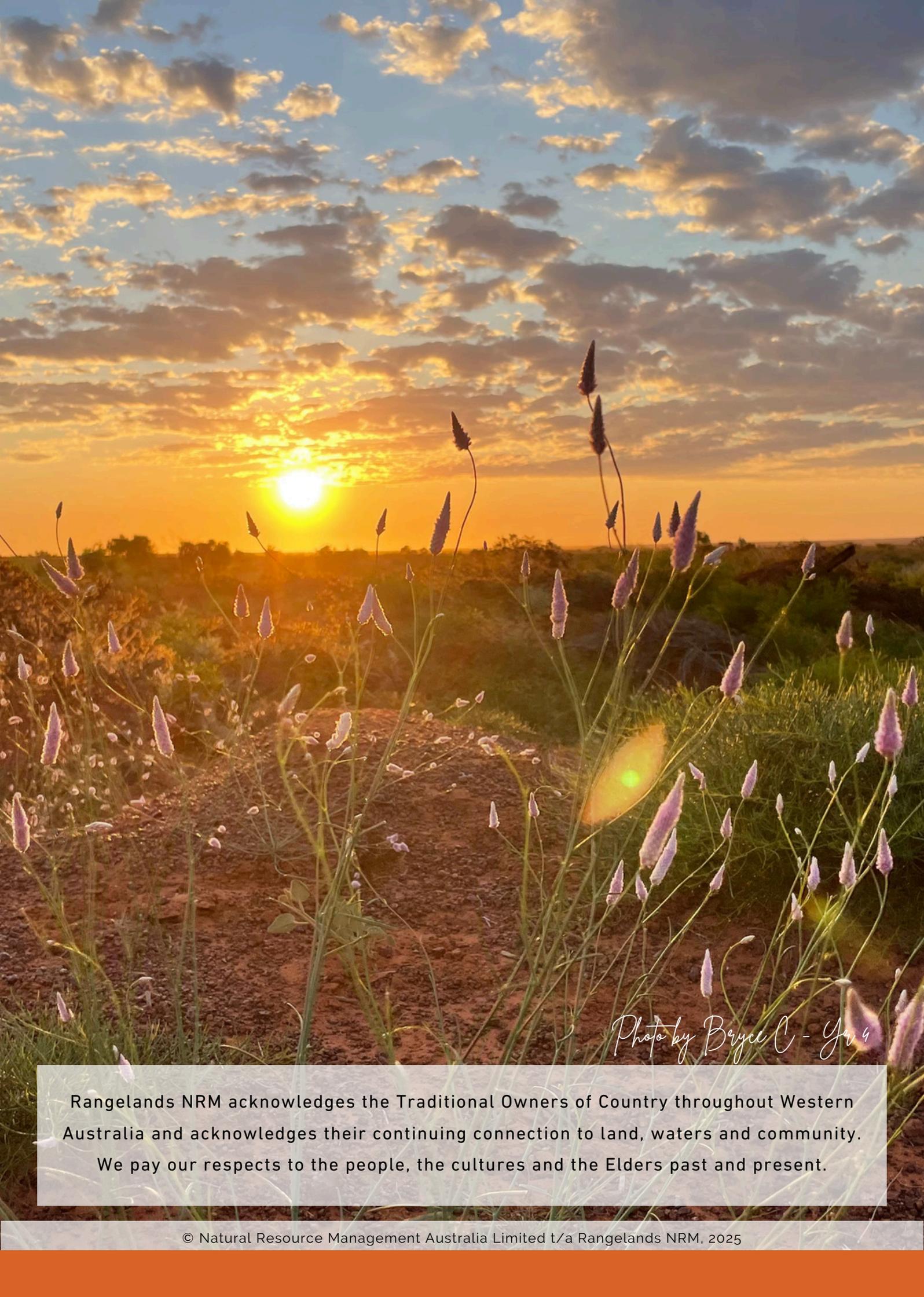


Photo by Bryce C - Year 4

Rangelands NRM acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Western Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

CONTENTS

About Rangelands NRM	Page 4
Chairperson & CEO Report	Page 7
Projects and Awards	Page 9
2025 SOTA Photography Competition	Page 12

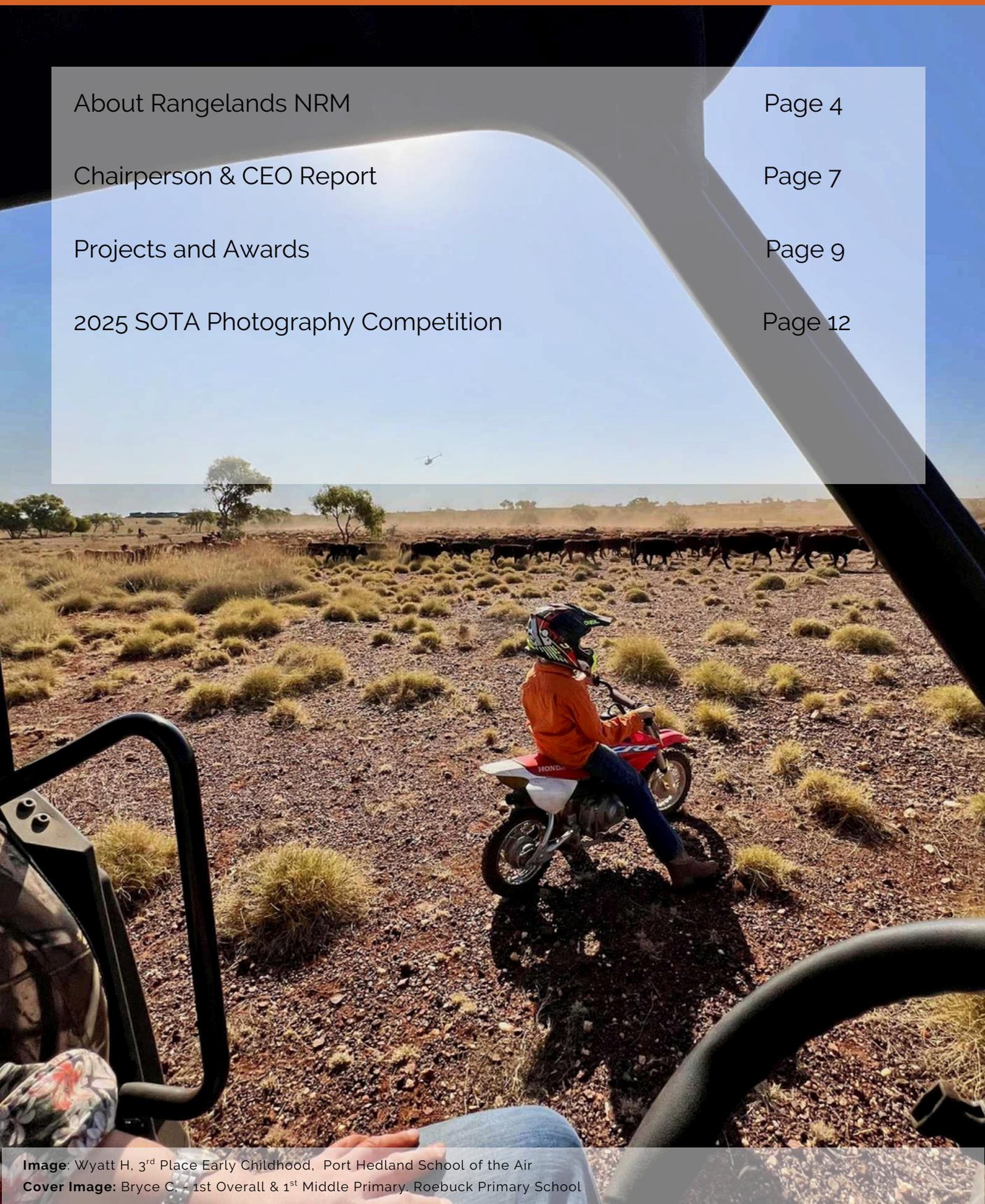


Image: Wyatt H, 3rd Place Early Childhood, Port Hedland School of the Air
Cover Image: Bryce C. - 1st Overall & 1st Middle Primary, Roebuck Primary School

ABOUT US

Our region was mandated by the Australian Commonwealth in 1997 and comprises of:



227 million hectares



85% of Western Australia (28% of Australia)



15,000km of the WA coastline



7 Sub Regions



25+ Regional Shires & Councils



100+ Traditional Custodian groups



27+ Ranger Groups



430+ Pastoral Leases



100+ Resource Interests



5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites



5 Ramsar Sites



Australian Government Priority Places



493 Natural Resource Assets



ABOUT RANGELANDS NRM

A LEADER IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Rangelands NRM region covers 85% of Western Australia's land, coast and sea, an area the size of approximately 28% of Australia. The region boasts Australia's most iconic landscapes, flora, and fauna, including spectacular World Heritage and Ramsar sites.

Rangelands NRM enables the integrated management and sustainable utilisation of the natural resources of the region; by working with pastoralists, landowners, traditional owners and their ranger teams, industry, government and community bodies, as well as the resource sector when delivering outcomes.

Rangelands NRM works to deliver ecological restoration, build drought and climate resilience, and facilitates community development. To enable this, we leverage our unique and complex project management methodology, problem-solving skills, and use our extensive networks and community relationships.

With a focus on ethical considerations and the empowerment of individuals and communities, Rangelands NRM has designed and delivered over \$100 million of environmental and agricultural projects, enabling prosperity for the people of the region and Western Australia.



Image: Hazel M | Year 5 Carnarvon School of the Air

The 2024/25 year has been both a time of achievement and challenges for Rangelands NRM. Our team has continued to deliver high-quality outcomes across Western Australia's rangelands, strengthening partnerships with Traditional Owners, pastoralists, communities, governments, and industry. This progress was achieved notwithstanding protracted delays in government investment decisions that placed significant pressure on the organisation, our delivery partners, and regional communities who depend on timely program rollouts.

Navigating a Changing Funding Landscape

Across both Federal and State levels, funding priorities have shifted to emphasise First Nations leadership, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture. These policy directions align closely with our own strategy and values. However, delayed funding announcements, contracting processes, and program approvals have slowed project commencements and constrained cash flow. In some cases, projects expected to begin in early 2024 were not confirmed until well into 2025, compressing delivery timelines and creating uncertainty for our stakeholders.

In addition, the Federal Government's evolving tender model places increasing emphasis on fee-for-service delivery. While this approach provides opportunities for technically capable organisations such as Rangelands NRM, it allows limited scope to build capacity within First Nations organisations and regional communities. Without dedicated investment in capability development, there is a risk that long-term resilience and knowledge transfer may be overlooked in favour of short-term service outcomes.

Our Response and Resilience

Despite these headwinds, Rangelands NRM has maintained momentum. Key highlights of 2024/25 include:

- Closing out legacy programs while initiating new five-year agreements as Regional Delivery Partners with the Australian Government.
- Strengthening partnerships with both State and Federal governments and agencies, working collaboratively to align regional delivery with policy priorities and to advocate for the needs of rangeland communities.
- Advancing First Nations collaborations, with new partnerships co-designed to support on-country based planning, fire management, threatened species, and cultural management.
- Delivering major landscape-scale projects, including ongoing Ramsar site protection, rehydration trials, drought management, and sustainable agriculture initiatives.
- Publishing knowledge and case studies that continue to draw national attention, particularly the Dampier Peninsula Fire Working Group, which is recognised as a model for community-driven, collaborative fire management. 2024 State Landcare Award recipient, and nominated for the National Landcare Award in September 2025

- Strengthening our commercial subsidiary, APC, positioning it to diversify revenue streams and deliver high-integrity projects with fee-for-service partners.

These achievements reflect the commitment of our team, who have adapted to shortened delivery windows, complex contracting arrangements, and the need for operational flexibility.

Looking Ahead

The year ahead will require us to continue balancing delivery against the realities of delayed government investment and the challenges of a shifting funding model. Our strategy is clear:

- - Advocate for more predictable and timely funding cycles.
- - Encourage funding approaches that recognise the importance of capacity building for First Nations and community organisations.
- Build stronger commercial and fee-for-service partnerships to reduce reliance on government contracts.
- Invest in staff capability and systems to ensure resilience in the face of uncertainty.
- Deepen relationships with First Nations partners, pastoralists, governments, agencies, and communities to deliver work that has both environmental integrity and enduring social value.
- Maintain our strong focus on WHS, with a target of zero reportable incidents.

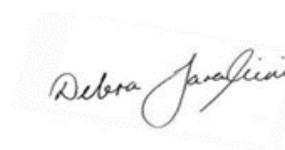
Acknowledgement

The Board and Executive are proud of the resilience shown across the organisation this year. We extend our sincere thanks to the Rangelands NRM team for their dedication and professionalism, to our Board of Directors for their guidance and stewardship, and to our CEO and her executive team for their leadership through a year of both challenge and achievement. Together, this collective effort ensures that Rangelands NRM continues to deliver meaningful outcomes on the ground, safeguarding the future of our landscapes, communities, and environment.

As this is the last year of my statutory term on the board of Rangelands NRM, I take the opportunity to thank Debra and all members of the team and my fellow directors for their amazing commitment to the organisation and what it stands for. I wish the best for incoming board, knowing Rangelands NRM is in capable hands.



Saliba Sassine
Chair



Debra Tarabini
CEO



Malleefowl PROJECT



The team delivered a comprehensive suite of services to support the conservation of the Malleefowl. The project is part of the Threatened Species Action Plan, requiring systematic monitoring of nesting mounds across priority sites, data collection and reporting into the National Malleefowl Monitoring Database, and training of local rangers and volunteers in survey techniques.

Our team has also coordinated predator control activities and facilitated landholder engagement to reduce habitat pressures.

These services ensures that both scientific data and community knowledge are driving adaptive management for this vulnerable species.

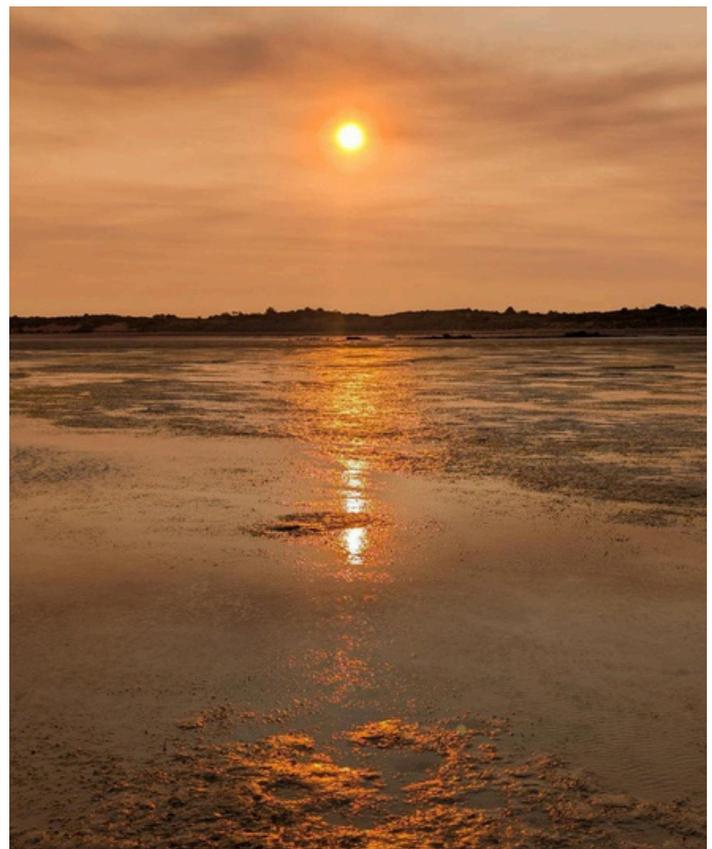
Under the Ramsar-listed Eighty Mile Beach project, we have completed services including shorebird population surveys, habitat condition assessments, and invasive species management.

Our team has coordinated ranger patrols to monitor threats, delivered data to meet Commonwealth reporting obligations, and supported all international migratory bird agreements through accurate population counts.

We have also facilitated community engagement activities to raise awareness of the site's global significance.

These services ensure compliance with federal contracts while delivering tangible conservation outcomes on the ground.

Eighty Mile Beach RAMSAR PROJECT



Dampier Peninsula Fire Working Group PROJECT



Our services on the Dampier Peninsula have focused on coordinating and supporting Traditional Owner ranger groups to implement cultural fire management.

We have facilitated fire planning workshops, provided mapping and technical support, and resourced early dry-season burns across key landscapes.

By delivering these services, we have reduced the extent of late-season wildfires, protected biodiversity values, and strengthened cultural practice. We also report outcomes to stakeholders, ensuring transparency and accountability in fire management across the region.

The Yampi Sound and surrounds priority place is an approximately 91,000 km² area located in northern Western Australia.

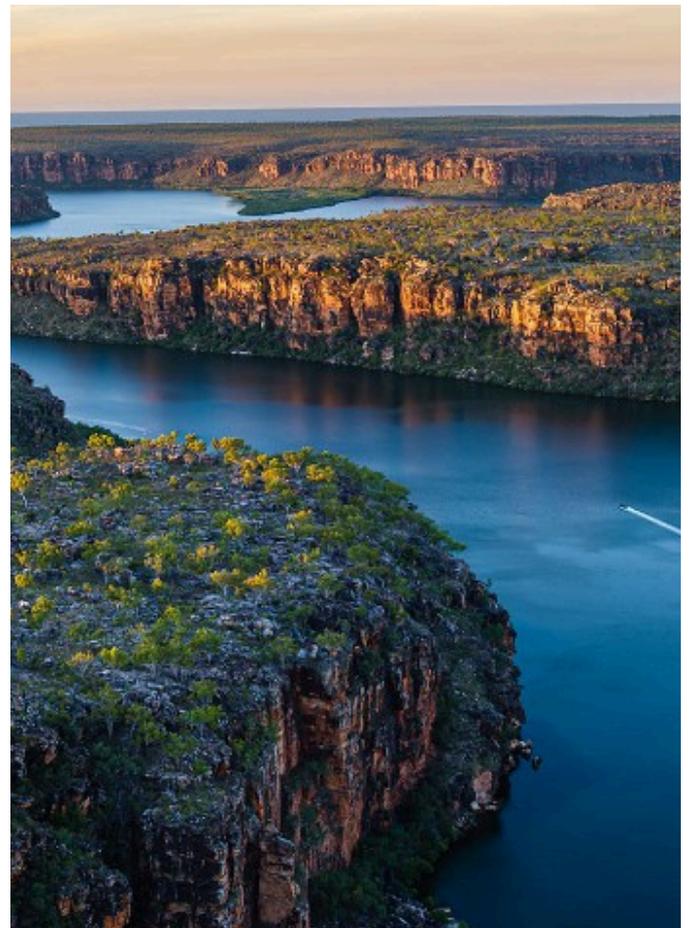
Our services have centred on supporting Traditional Owners to lead integrated land and sea management.

We have delivered a number of ranger training programs this year, facilitated Indigenous-led planning workshops, and coordinated monitoring of seagrass meadows, coral reefs, and coastal habitats.

Our services have also included logistical support for on-Country trips, data management, and reporting to funding partners.

By embedding cultural priorities into all activities, we ensure that both biodiversity and heritage outcomes are achieved in this ecologically and culturally rich region.

yampi sound PROJECT



Visit to Hamelin Station

ON-COUNTRY



Project Officer Sam Burges visited Hamelin Station Reserve as part of Rangelands NRM's ongoing collaboration with the Malgana Rangers. The trip focused on advancing restoration and mapping efforts within the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, where Hamelin Station plays a critical role in biodiversity conservation.

During the visit, Sam supported drone training sessions designed to empower rangers with skills for terrain mapping and monitoring, enabling more precise land management and cultural stewardship.

This initiative reflects Rangelands NRM's commitment to combining technology with traditional knowledge to protect and regenerate fragile rangeland ecosystems.

The 2024 Landcare WA Awards celebrated outstanding contributions to environmental stewardship, with the Dampier Peninsula Fire Working Group (DPFWG)—coordinated by Rangelands NRM—winning the prestigious Australian Government Community Partnerships Landcare Award and the First Nations Landcare Collaboration Award.

Rangelands NRM played a pivotal role in initiating and chairing the group, integrating traditional knowledge with science-based practices to reduce destructive wildfires, protect biodiversity, and strengthen community resilience.

This achievement highlights Rangelands NRM's leadership in fostering partnerships that deliver tangible environmental and cultural outcomes across Western Australia.

Landcare WA Award

2024 WINNERS



SOTA PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

About the Photo Competition

Each year, Rangelands NRM gives students living in the rangelands a chance to show off their amazing photography skills. Many of these students live in very remote places and learn through School of the Air, remote schools, or distance education. Their creativity is incredible, and we love seeing the world through their eyes. Every photo tells a story about what they see and experience in their own backyard – and that's what makes this competition so special.

Winners of the competition have their photos published in a calendar published the following year and is proudly sponsored by Rangelands NRM, WA Museum Boola Bardip and SCITECH. Some of the winning photos are also included in this report.

Acknowledgement and Thanks

We thank and acknowledge all the students, parents, teachers and schools that participated in this years competition, including:

Carnarvon School of the Air, Kalgoorlie School of the Air, Meekatharra School of the Air, Kimberley School of the Air, Port Hedland School of the Air and Roebuck Primary School.

The Winning Photos

Early Childhood



Lower Primary



Middle Primary



Upper Primary



Early Childhood

1st - Claire D

2nd - Daisy F

3rd - Wyatt H

Lower Primary

1st - Tanami F

2nd - Connor S

3rd - Connor S

Middle Primary

1st - Bryce C

2nd - Bryce C

3rd - Bryce C

Upper Primary

1st - Hazel M

2nd - Duke S

3rd - Jackson L



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Keep up to date with Rangelands NRM by following us:



IMAGE: Connor S | YEAR 2 Kimberley School of the Air

