# Annual Report
## 2025-2026

5 Rivers NRM is an incorporated, not-for-profit, community based Natural Resource Management organisation that promotes an integrated approach to catchment management and the way we protect and restore the environment

5 Rivers NRM
Working Together

*We acknowledge the Noongar people as Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to all Elders past and present*

# Message from our Chair

The team and Board are to be congratulated on the work that has been achieved in the last year.

The landmark decision made by the Board to remove the word Peel from our name, and the process of our renaming to 5 Rivers NRM was significant for not only our organization but particularly the First Nations communities we work with.

I commend and thank all involved in taking this decision and the following through to the successful launch and celebration. Once understanding the hurt and ongoing trauma this name, so closely linked to the Pinjarra Massacre had, it was clear we had to change our name.

Working to protect and preserve the special environment we live in continues to be challenging against the back drop of world events and the ongoing difficulties in engaging governments on the urgency of environmental repair and the huge impacts and costs to communities of ignoring and delaying what the science tells us need to be done now.

Despite this, we have continued to focus on what we can do and continue to advocate for much needed change. The combined impact of the rapid rate of clearing by Alcoa and South 32 on the environment, the impact on a scarce water supply and the effect it has on the people living with this continues to be one of the greatest threats to the environment especially with the impacts of climate change we are already seeing. However, we continue to work with others to focus on what we can do.

Our Deputy Chair Peter Zurzolo continues to represent us at NRM WA, and Sue Fyfe at Conservation Council of WA (CCWA). We continue to ensure that our networks at all levels are maintained.

Thank you to our Board for your contribution over the year. Your commitment is greatly appreciated. To Jane, staff and volunteers congratulations on what you have achieved across the catchment often in the face of great difficulties. We continue to celebrate the successes and understand that this catchment needs us more than ever.

Paddi Creevey OAM

# Our Vision

*The Peel-Harvey catchment is once again a flourishing network of interconnected, productive landscapes, with diverse, healthy and resilient ecosystems, globally and locally recognised, acknowledged and embraced for its environmental significance. It is wisely managed by a community that values it – people working together for a healthy environment.*

# Our Objectives

1. Govern, Lead and Manage
2. Secure our Future
3. Influence Key Decision-makers for Better Catchment Governance
4. Facilitate Collaborative Adaptive Management
5. Deliver Quality Environmental Outcomes
6. Engage and Enable Individuals and Communities

*Cover Image: Our River Restoration Officer, Kristy Gregory with Amanda Thomas and local Wandering landholder, Bob Little take a break from revegetation works on the Hotham River*

## Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF)

**$701,190**

Apr 2024 - Jun 2028

Aust Government
[Climate Smart Agriculture Program]

### Supporting sustainable agriculture practices through a designated central contact point for farmers, landholders, industry and community groups

*Objectives 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging*

- Supported delivery of on-ground works and events via Climate Smart Agriculture; Future Ready Farming and State NRM Resilient Farms, Nature and Community Projects
- Site visits informing community on regenerative agriculture, perennial pastures, soil and livestock health
- Supporting farmer and producer groups including, Western Beef Association and SJ Food & Farm Alliance
- Information sharing and networking through regional, state and national networks
- Delivery of events and producer narratives via Grower Group Alliance's Drought Hub
- Delivery of a Small Landholders Community of Practice with Perth NRM, RegenWA, Lower Blackwood Catchment Group & Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development (DPIRD)

## Future Ready Farming

**$1,109,046**

Nov 2024 - June 2028

Aust Government
[Climate Smart Agriculture Program]

### Supporting farmers to drive agricultural growth, while adopting sustainable natural resource management practices that protect and conserve natural capital and biodiversity

*Objectives 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging*

- 6 events, including 2 field days, 2 workshops, 1 seedling giveaway and 1 documentary
- 3.1 ha of revegetation across 2 sites on the Swan Coastal Plain
- 2.8 km of fencing to protect remnant bushland and revegetation
- 1 rotational grazing video and two brochures to support landholders with onground works
- 2.5 ha of weed control to prepare areas for upcoming revegetation activities
- 1 landholder group supported with feral pig control
- 4 new demonstration plots established across 24 ha for climate smart agriculture practices
- 5 ha of native saltbush planting established for demonstration for livestock fodder

## Resilient Farms

**$405,790**

Jan 2025 - Dec 2027

WA Government
[State NRM]

### Improve farmers' ability to withstand climate conditions through on-ground activities and community events, with the development of new methodologies to foster an increase in revegetation

*Objectives 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging*

- 128 Feral pigs and 66 unborn piglets removed through community group support
- 4 events delivered - 1 field day, 2 small landholder workshops and a feral pig management workshop
- 3.3 km of fencing installed to protect remnant vegetation
- 3.5 ha of weed control and 5.4 ha of revegetation in the upper catchment

## Science Integration

**$480,000**

Jul 2022 – Jun 2026

WA Government [DPIRD]
PHCC

### Enhance the health of the Peel-Harvey Estuary and Waterways and provide leadership for the incorporation of science into the management of the Catchment

*Objectives 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging*

- Revised Science Strategy for the waterways, providing strategic planning for scientific inquiry to support on ground management actions and inform policy and regulation
- Convened annual events to encourage and enable collaboration between research, government and industry including the Yalgorup System Ramsar Wetland Technical Advisory Group and the Commercial Fishing Industry and Science forum
- Ongoing input, advice and scientific evidence to support management of waterways
- Maintain relationships with researchers and facilitate research projects to provide evidence for better catchment management

## Ramsar (Ramsar 482)

**$2,950,314**

Jul 2023 - Jun 2028

Aust Government
[Natural Heritage Trust]

355 Volunteers 918 Hours
$32,130 in-kind

### Restoring Ramsar 482 Wetlands and Waterways

***Objectives 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging***

- 89 volunteers counted 54,079 migratory and resident birds across 24 sites for our annual shorebird count
- 2784 ha of land improved through controlling pest animals
- 210 ha of weed control around priority waterways
- 263 people supported Clean Up month, with Mandurah Environment and Heritage Group, removing 126 bags (nearly 2 tonnes) of rubbish
- >850 people attended our Annual Wetlands Festival with 65 people attending the sold-out Wetlands Cruise (learning about our birds and Cultural Heritage)
- 11 Community events building awareness, fostering engagement & building capacity and stewardship
- 5 Cultural events with local Traditional Owners engaged in two-way learning and cultural awareness
- 44 ha of wetlands in the Austin Bay Nature Reserve protected through the installation of a flow control structure to increase retention time of water in the wetland

## Numbat Neighbourhood

**$1,500,000**

Jul 2023 - Jun 2028

Aust Government
[Natural Heritage Trust]

5 Volunteers 55 Hours
$1,925 in-kind

### Supporting community to protect our endangered numbats

***Objectives 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging***

- 3.3 km fencing, 8 ha revegetation, 5 ha weed control through community on-ground works projects
- > 1900 ha pest animal control with 8 feral cats and 41 foxes culled
- 6 feral cat culls reported by farmers involved in the Farmers for Fauna project
- 53 people attended Wandering Fox Shoot breakfast with 150 foxes, 3 feral cats and 24 rabbits culled
- Supported Numbat Taskforce to conduct November and April Drive Surveys and Collaring Projects
- Continued as active members of the Numbat Recovery Team
- Walked with the Wilman community via a River Festival in Williams and Koompkinning Planting Day
- Hollow logs installed in an important habitat linkage to Dryandra Woodland National Park
- Value added to DBCA's fauna monitoring of Dryandra Woodland National Park satellite blocks
- 'Tips for Spotting Numbats' video produced and released to raise awareness of numbats
- Numbat Signs installed to prevent vehicle strikes in Dryandra Woodland National Park
- 'Living with Chuditch' brochure published in collaboration with DBCA
- 107 people attended Numbat Incursion at Narrogin Primary School
- 34 people attended Feral Pig Management workshop in Williams

## Defending Dryandra

**$183,865**

Apr 2024 – Mar 2027

WA Government
[State NRM]

1 Volunteer 21.5 Hours
$753 in-kind

### Targeted feral cat control on farmland surrounding Dryandra Woodland National Park to reduce predation on threatened species

*Objectives 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging*

- 50 feral cats and 29 foxes culled via targeted feral cat control by a pest animal control contractor for 20 hours per month on 3 properties surrounding Dryandra Woodland National Park
- 12 x 4G monitoring cameras installed to send images to pest animal control contractor to allow for more targeted feral cat control
- 5 fauna monitoring reports sent to landholders and pest animal control contractor

## Healing Waangaamap Bilya

**$1,987,210**

Jan 2025 – Feb 2028

Aust Government
[Dept of Industry Science & Innovation]

### Improving the ecological health and condition of the Lower Serpentine River to respond to climate change, to benefit native plants and animals and the ecological character of Ramsar site #482

*Objectives 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging*

- Work approvals received and design and planning for instream structures continued
- 3 weekly water quality and flow monitoring continued
- Modifications to swale infrastructure to allow deeper water and higher flows to treat drain water
- 2.96 ha of revegetation at priority sites (combination of mature trees and tubestock)
- 4 ha of ground preparation (ripping)
- 1 km of fencing installed with 1 way kangaroo gates
- 240 ha of feral animal control, removing 8 foxes and 1 fallow deer
- 50 ha of weed control undertaken across 240 ha site
- 5 days of cultural practices including contractor cultural inductions and cultural monitoring
- Monitoring sites established (National Vegetation Information System and Photo Monitoring)

## Moordidjabiny

**$1,000,000**

Jul 2023 - Jun 2028

Aust Government
[Natural Heritage Trust]

9 Volunteers 40 Hours
$12,600 in-kind

### Protecting Carnaby's Black Cockatoos for the future

*Objectives 2, 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging*

- 8 habitat structures (artificial hollows or water stations) installed and/or maintained
- 2 ha of disease treatment continued to protect Banksia bushland from *Phytophthora cinnamomi*
- 8.89 ha of revegetation, planting and protecting > 13,000 seedlings of forage and breeding species
- 2 events including Backyards for Black-Cockatoos and the Great Cocky Count with BirdLife Australia
- 2 km rabbit-proof fencing installed to protect important revegetation and breeding sites
- 5 days of fauna surveys, leading to discovery of Carnaby's breeding at Dryandra
- 2 brochures: celebrating Cockatoo photo competition and artificial hollows in breeding hotspots

## A World for Woodlands

**$1,000,000**

Jul 2023 - Jun 2028

Aust Government
[Natural Heritage Trust]

### Supporting community to protect Banksia and Tuart Woodland Threatened Ecological Communities

***Objectives 4, 5 & 6 Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging***

- 100 ha of pest control: Rabbit Warren Fumigation Program with 800 warren entrances fumigated
- 6 flora surveys to monitor vegetation condition at restoration sites
- 4 habitat boxes maintained and/or installed for ringtail possums and phascogales
- 2 ha of disease treatment to protect Banksia Woodland from Phytophthora cinnamomi
- 1 km of rabbit-proof fencing to protect remnant Tuart Woodland
- 50 ha of weed control and 4 ha of revegetation completed across 6 properties
- Native grass seed and seedling restoration trials established on 4 properties
- 2 days of seed collection with the Winjan Rangers
- 180 landholders participated in our Annual Lake Clifton Seedling Giveaway
- 2 events; Native Bee Workshop (90 attendees); Greenfield Primary School Excursion (55 attendees)
- 2 brochures developed: restoring Tuart Woodlands (with plant list) and Warren Fumigation Program

## Healthy Estuaries WA

**$904,000**

Dec 2020 – Dec 2024
Dec 2024 – Dec 2028

WA Government
[DWER]

### Driving action to improve water quality and restore environmental balance of the Estuary

***Objectives 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging***

- 25 participants took part in soil testing component of the program
- 9 farmers learnt to do their own soil testing at DIY soil testing field day
- 14 farmers attended workshops; nutrient calculator; Accu-spread field day; Integrated Soil
- 15 landholders engaged in fencing and revegetation activities
- 7.9 ha revegetation completed on 4 properties and 23.1 ha infill revegetation on 8 properties
- 14,500 riparian species planted
- 10.8 km stock exclusion fencing in application stage progressing to agreements
- 98 people attended the annual Estuary Forum
- Supported Winjan Rangers with fencing along Waangaamaap Bilya (Serpentine River)

## Bindjareb Djilba Protection Plan

**$771,000**

Dec 2021 - Jun 2026

WA Government
[Royalties for Regions]

### Driving action to improve water quality and restore environmental balance of the Estuary

***Objectives 3, 4, 5 & 6 Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging***

- 18.2 km Stock exclusion fencing on priority waterways across 9 properties (project total 30.8 km on 13 properties via 23 expressions of interest)
- 4.7 ha revegetation completed along priority waterways (project total 13.25ha on 4 properties)
- Cultural Engagement to protect cultural heritage and increase capacity for on-ground works

## Hotham-Williams Rivers

**$600,000**
Jan 23 - Dec 27
Newmont Boddington

40 Volunteers 160 Hours
$5,600 in-kind*

### Restoring the health of the Hotham and Williams Rivers

*Objectives 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging*

- 85 ha weed control at 5 sites, to encourage natural regeneration and prepare for revegetation
- 8,000 seedlings planted at 4 priority sites on the Hotham & Williams rivers
- 350 m riverbank rehabilitation at Pumphreys Bridge on the Hotham River to create habitat, mitigate erosion, and open areas up for revegetation*
- 4 community planting events (60 volunteers) at 3 priority sites
- 3 community events; Rivers Mini-Festival, River Walks with Williams Wildlife Warriors; project display at Wandering Agricultural Show
- Ongoing partnership and collaboration with the Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation

## Shared Country

**$447,481**

Mar 2026 – Mar 2029
WA Government
[State NRM]

40 Volunteers 160 Hours
$5,600 in-kind*

### Expanding rehabilitation and restoration efforts at 8 priority sites on the Hotham and Williams Rivers

*Objectives 5 & 6 Delivering, Engaging*

- 41 ha weed control at 5 sites, to encourage natural regeneration and prepare for revegetation
- 3000 seedlings planted at 3 priority sites on the Hotham & Williams rivers
- 350 m riverbank rehabilitation applied at Pumphreys Bridge on the Hotham River to create habitat, mitigate erosion, and open areas up for revegetation*
- 1 community planting event at (50 volunteers) at Tunbridge Gully, a tributary to the Hotham River
- Engagement and collaboration with the Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation

**These numbers reported across the above 2 projects*

## Other Highlights

*Governing, Securing, Influencing, Facilitating, Delivering, Engaging*

- We changed our name to 5 Rivers NRM, in respect of our First Nations communities
- We secured $3.7 million in Election Commitment funding to extend restoration works on the Serpentine River; design and implement an education program; and small grant program
- We discovered Carnaby's breeding at Dryandra National Park (over 100km from known breeding sites). This exciting finding was published in several articles, including Australian Geographic
- Boddington, Cuballing, Wandering & Williams Shires continued to fund works
- Partnered with Wheatbelt NRM to deliver CSIRO National Soil Monitoring Program
- Continued to work with SouthWest NRM to deliver Future Drought Fund activities
- Signed agreement with DPIRD to deliver Soil New Horizons program which extends soil sampling into part of the upper catchment (>550mm annual rainfall zone)
- Commenced partnership with UWA to deliver components of the Corridors 4 Carnaby's program
- Launched our Gabi Bidi Tiny Lab and Science Strategy with the Minister for Science
- Established the inaugural Dr Steve Fisher memorial scholarship
- Finalised our Noongar Participation Plan, in collaboration with our First Nations communities

# 16 Members

**Community**

**Paddi Creevey*** Chair
**Peter Zurzolo** Deputy Chair
**Harley Ross*** Treasurer
**Sue Fyfe** Secretary
**Marilyn Gray**
**David Cooling**
**Brent Johnson***
**Veronica Metcalf**
**Denyse Needham**

**Local Government**

**Rob Harris** (Inland)
**Robert Schmidt** (Coastal)

**Agency**

**Bob Pond*** Exec Comm. DWER
**David Rowe** DPIRD
**Melissa Evans** DBCA
**Andrew Ward** PDC
**Nicholas Dufty** DPLH

**Member Finance & Audit Comm.*

# 53 Partners

## Associate | Investment | Delivery

Accioly Livestock Industries Services/ Meat & Livestock Australia
BirdLife Australia
Coastal Waste Warriors
Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF)
Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water (DCCEEW)
Dept of Primary Industries & Regional Development (DPIRD)
Dept of Water & Environmental Regulation (DWER)
Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (DBCA)
Dept of Planning, Lands & Heritage (DPLH)
Estuary Guardians
Friends of Samphire Cove
Grower Group Alliance
Harvey Aboriginal Corporation
Harvey River Restoration Taskforce
Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group
Landcare SJ
Mandurah Environment & Heritage Group
Murdoch University
Newmont Boddington
NRM WA
Numbat Recovery Team
Numbat Taskforce
Peel Development Commission
Project Numbat
RegenWA
Serpentine-Jarrahdale Food and Farm Alliance
University of WA
Waroona Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Corporation (WAATSIC)
WA Feral Cat Working Group
WA Future Food Network
WA Landcare Network
Water Corporation
Winjan Aboriginal Corporation
Williams Environmental Group
Williams Wildlife Warriors
Wilman (Dryandra) People Corporation

## including 16 Local Governments

Shire of Boddington
City of Cockburn
Shire of Collie
Shire of Cuballing
Shire of Harvey
City of Kwinana
City of Mandurah
Shire of Murray
Shire of Narrogin
Shire of Pingelly
City of Rockingham
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
Shire of Wandering
Shire of Waroona
Shire of Wickepin
Shire of Williams

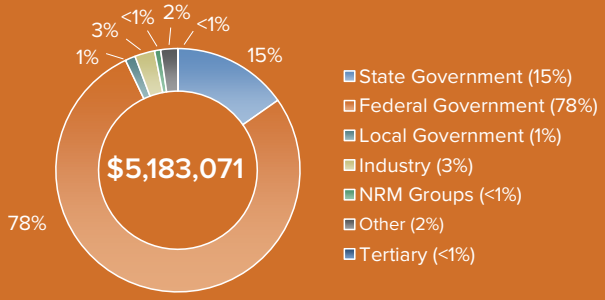
# 25 Staff

**Jane O'Malley** Chief Executive Officer
**Kellie Beckwith** Office Manager/Exec Support
**Jennie Beeson** Wetlands Science Officer
**Victoria Brockhurst** Admin Officer - Boddington
**Shauna Cohen** Finance Support Officer
**Lloyd Dean** Restoration Support Officer
**Jessica Dowsett** Admin Officer - Boddington
**Corrine Duncan** Co-ord Land Conservation
**Mel Durack** Ops Mgr Land Cons & Agriculture
**Danielle Eyre** Senior Scientist
**Kristy Gregory** Co-ord River Restoration
**Kathryn Horrocks** GIS Officer
**Tracey Hudson** Wetlands Restoration Assistant
**Gen Harvey** Project Officer Healthy Farms
**Karen Lyons** Co-ord Events and Engagement
**Rebecca MacKenzie** Healthy Estuaries Officer
**Julie MacMile** Co-ord Graphics & Comms
**Peter Muirden** Drainage Engineer
**Michelle Mullarkey** River Restoration Officer
**Janine Neeling** Admin Officer - Mandurah
**Amanda Thomas** Project Support
**Kyle Thoo** Healthy Farms Project Officer
**Christine Townsend** Co-ord Farmers for Fauna
**Nicole Wiltshire** Finance Officer

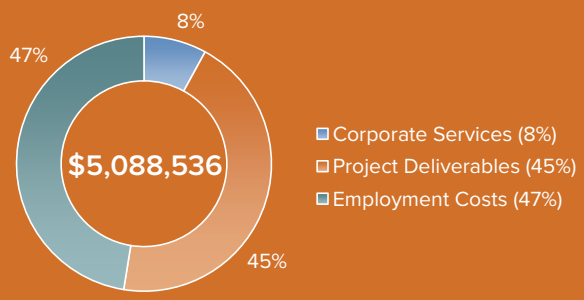
# 411 Volunteers

A big thank you to our regular pool of volunteers and also those that attend our events and activities

# Financials




**Funding**




**Expenditure**

Australian Government

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