

Welcome to our future...

Welcome to *Southern Prospects* – a strategy to guide natural resource management on the South Coast of Western Australia between 2011 and 2016.

The people of the South Coast Natural Resource Management (NRM) region are working towards the vision of sustainable and resilient communities across the region.

Our Vision for NRM on the South Coast

Leading by example – Managing natural resources in balance with social and economic development.

Working together – Creating strong community, government and regional partnerships and working on integrated, coordinated and knowledge based management of urban, rural and natural landscapes.

Addressing priorities – Protecting, enhancing and sustaining our community, land, biodiversity, water, coastal and marine assets.

Innovation and sustainability – Addressing challenges through innovation and acting sustainably in all that we do.

South Coast NRM

Natural resource management (NRM) refers to the management of natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals, with a particular focus on how management affects the quality of life for both present and future generations. This strategy outlines how the South Coast community plans to carry out NRM activities between 2011 and 2016.

Protecting, enhancing and sustaining our coastal and marine assets.

The South Coast community is supported by South Coast NRM Inc. which is a community based, independent, not-for-profit organisation. South Coast NRM works with the community to improve the environment by preserving and protecting unique plants and animals, managing land and waterways sustainably and sharing knowledge and skills in natural resource management.

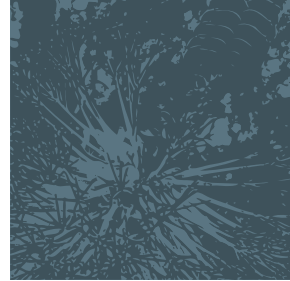
The community, government agencies, local government and industry have worked together to develop this strategy, which is a framework for managing the future of our key natural resources.

South Coast NRM benefits from strong community, industry and government support for activities organised under five major themes; Land, Biodiversity, Water, Coastal - Marine and Cultural Heritage. Overarching these themes is the concept of building community capacity so that NRM activities can be successfully undertaken.

South Coast NRM coordinates and administers funding from a variety of sources, including the Australian Government, Government of Western Australia (WA), corporations and businesses. Additional funding for the region is generated through the Southern Fund, established by



PHOTO: Venessa Sykes



South Coast NRM in collaboration with the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, Community Sector Banking and the Community Bank branches of Albany, Mount Barker, Tambellup and Cranbrook to support sustainable environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes across the region.

Southern Prospects outlines strategies for the time period between 2011 and 2016 and provides clear guidance for funding and resource allocation. Specific priorities, measures and activities will be developed in South Coast NRM Investment and Operational Plans.

South Coast NRM has worked with its partners to deliver 539 contracts and projects and almost \$60 million of investment directed by *Southern Prospects 2004-2009* (SCRIPT, 2004). Information regarding the achievements from these projects has been summarised in a status report (South Coast NRM, 2011).

The South Coast community faces many challenges in the future management of our precious resources. In some instances it will be an insurmountable challenge in an environment of global and market uncertainty. Hard decisions regarding priorities

will need to be made to ensure that funding and other resources achieve real benefits. History has shown that the dedicated, passionate South Coast community can work together to achieve great things. NRM requires a long term view and this strategy is the start of the next five years of NRM endeavours.

Using the strategy

Any group or individual with an interest in NRM in the region can benefit from using *Southern Prospects*. It will be useful for a wide range of people who want to know about our region, what has been achieved in NRM and where we are going.

Southern Prospects is supported by:

- a prospectus which summarises the key elements of the strategy and provides stories and examples of NRM in our region
- a status report that details outcomes from previous investment
- an Investment Plan (which is being prepared as the next step in the strategy).

Structure of the strategy

Southern Prospects 2011-2016 has been structured as follows:

SECTION 1	Provides a background and rationale to <i>Southern Prospects 2011-2016</i> , details how <i>Southern Prospects 2011-2016</i> was developed, reviews the achievements and deficiencies of <i>Southern Prospects 2004-2009</i> (SCRIPT, 2004) and summarises the threats and emerging risks to the South Coast NRM Region. Read this section for general information, context and history.
SECTION 2	Provides an overview of the South Coast NRM Region including the six subregions and describes the major stakeholders involved in NRM management within the region. Read this section to understand the different needs and values of sub regional areas.
SECTIONS 3 – 9	Details the strategy including the strategy framework, with regional capacity and the five theme areas of land, biodiversity, water, coastal and marine systems and cultural heritage. Read this section for Achievements, Aspirations, Goals and Outcomes, as they relate to the theme areas.
SECTION 10	Read this section for the next steps in implementing <i>Southern Prospects 2011-2016</i> .