



WHEATBELT NRM  
**Annual  
Report**  
2013/14



## Congratulations to Greg Warburton

2013 Western Australian  
Landcare Champion

Wheatbelt NRM Project  
Officer (Biodiversity)

Tireless Community  
Environmental Advocate  
(Front Cover)



## Acknowledgments

Published: September 2014

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Keywords: Natural Resource Management  
Wheatbelt  
Annual Report

ISBN: 978-0-9924243-1-2

Written, designed and edited by Wheatbelt NRM  
Printed on 100% post production recycled paper  
using vegetable inks.

*This publication is produced by Wheatbelt NRM  
through funding from the Australian Government  
and the Western Australian Government's State  
NRM Program.*



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## About Wheatbelt NRM

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Incorporated (Wheatbelt NRM) is an independent community-based organisation involved with natural resource management (NRM) endeavours within the Avon River Basin. The organisation operates from its Northam office, Western Australia, and exists as the second largest of the seven NRM regional organisations in the state, with responsibility for the 12,000,000 hectares of the Avon River basin.

### Wheatbelt NRM's succinct strategy statement for 2012-15 is:

By 2015 have 3,500 (10%) members of the Wheatbelt community actively improving the environment of the Wheatbelt through our regionally-focussed, multi-disciplinary, high quality strategies and programs.

The **Wheatbelt NRM's vision is:** To bring exemplary natural resource management to the Wheatbelt to create healthy environments and livelihoods.

### This vision is supported by Wheatbelt NRM's mission to:

1. Lead NRM through excellence in our regional strategy and delivery, our team and our governance.
2. Work in collaboration with our community and partners in pursuit of fulfilling our vision.
3. Engage with Governments in National, State and local NRM initiatives.
4. Identify and support beneficial research.
5. Promote and co-ordinate improvements in environmental, cultural, social and industry practices beneficial to NRM.
6. Empower and build capacity with the community to create healthy environments and livelihoods.

Wheatbelt NRM has a team of about 30 staff that works delivering projects in partnership with the community. Our team includes NRM and communications professionals as well as a support group with strengths in administration, finance and governance. Project management is a core strength of the organisation with over half of the staff having formal project management qualifications.

- Children tree planting in Cunderdin



## What we achieved in 2013-2014

4,220 members  
of the  
community  
active in our  
projects and  
programs

Surpassed  
1500 Associate  
Members

Over 1600  
people  
participating in  
NRM activities  
through our  
biodiversity  
projects

20 on-ground  
trial and  
demonstration  
sites established  
with many more  
on the way!

An active  
Aboriginal  
Elders Advisory  
Group playing  
an increasing  
role in advising  
NRM projects

More than  
55,000  
biodiverse  
seedlings in-  
ground across  
our region

- The Wheatbelt NRM team tree planting in Quellington



# 2014 Chairperson's Report

Jim Sullivan

How does one adequately describe 2014 for Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management?

Celebrating 20 years of continued Landcare and sustainable management of the natural resources.

A change of venue, moving to the new Wheatbelt NRM premises in the centre of Northam, achieving an abundance of on-ground work to enhance the environment, whilst increasing productivity within the Wheatbelt area.

Wheatbelt NRM'S Mission Statement :“By 2015 have 3,500 (10%) members of the Wheatbelt community actively improving the environment of the Wheatbelt through our regionally -focussed, multi-disciplinary, high quality strategies and programs”.

To date in 2014 this target has been surpassed, proving the growth, strength and acceptance of the Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management strategies by the communities across the Wheatbelt.

• Kulin Stormwater Reuse Project launch



The audited financial statement enclosed with this report shows Wheatbelt NRM has placed itself in a strong financial position. This strong position will allow Wheatbelt NRM to continue to be the Federal and State Government's priority environmental and land care facilitating organisation within the Wheatbelt.

Supporting tangible evidence that research and the work undertaken by Wheatbelt NRM four and five years ago on soil and environmental health is now a major focus of other grower groups within the sustainable agricultural stream. Other Biosecurity areas are also adapting many of the practices.

During 2014 Wheatbelt NRM conducted an independent audit of the Board of Directors to ensure that the Governance structure, forward planning and risk management policies are adequate to carry Wheatbelt NRM forward.

This procedure has been essential in relation to ongoing Government



• Jim Sullivan, Wheatbelt NRM Chairperson

policies and auditing processes to ensure that Wheatbelt NRM remains at the forefront of environmental management in the Wheatbelt

Farewelling the longest serving board member Mr Ian Hall was not easy. Thank-you Ian for your generous contribution , wisdom and support of Wheatbelt

“ By 2014 to achieve 10% (3500) of the Wheatbelt Community actively improving the environment... to date this Statement has surpassed the target figure”

NRM these past 10 years, your cheery disposition and positive input at meetings will be sorely missed.

We all wish you well in your new endeavours.

Dear thanks also to Mrs Genevieve Whisson who is moving along; Gen your contributions have been invaluable to the decision making process.

It is always encouraging when a

talented next generation director comes on board, I am sorry you could not stay longer we look forward to welcoming you back at a later time.Thank you Gen it has

been a pleasure working with you

Words are hard to find to thank Chief Executive Officer Mrs Natarsha Woods and the dedicated staff for their untiring work during the year, they make it all happen. please enjoy a round of applause, a year well done.

It is a privilege to work with such an enthusiastic, energetic group who are obviously dedicated to the work, your enthusiasm and care for the environment is something special.

Congratulations to all the members of Wheatbelt NRM, nothing could be achieved without your participation at field days, community forums, discussion groups, your evident concern for the environment shines through.

To all our farmers and those who care for their land, may the season be bounteous, to all may your lives be filled with happiness, drive safely, take care, each of you is invaluable, look forward to catching up with you and your friends come 2015.

Season's Greetings

**Jim Sullivan**  
Chairperson

# 2014 Chief Executive Officer Report

## Natarsha Woods

2014 could be coined our 'year of independence' – Wheatbelt NRM turned 20 and we moved into our own place.

Finding independent premises has long been a strategic goal of the organisation to differentiate us from 'government' and reinforce our status as a community-based, independent, not-for-profit organisation. That we realised this goal in our twentieth year was serendipitous.

### A Brief history:

- 1994** The Avon Working Group was formed as part of the Swan-Avon Integrated Catchment Management Group with support from the Water and Rivers Commission. Operations located at Department of Agriculture, Northam
- 1997** The Avon Working Group becomes incorporated
- 1998** The Avon Catchment Network supported the group, with support from the Water and Rivers

- Commission. Operations located at 'the old girls school' Wellington Street, Northam
- 2002** Avon Catchment Council adopted as new name and staff employed with Natural Heritage Trust funding. Operations located at Department of Agriculture, Northam campus
- 2009** Wheatbelt NRM chosen as name to better reflect the community it works with
- 2014** Wheatbelt NRM leases independent premises from Northam Shire in Fitzgerald Street, Northam.

Doing the big 'renovate and move' during 2014 was daunting and questions were raised about whether we could achieve it. Would we all fit comfortably in the new building? Could we afford it? Was it worth it? After four months in the new building, I'd have to say YES – on all counts. The level of community traffic through our building

- Wheatbelt NRM new office opening June 2014



- The new Wheatbelt NRM office

has increased, up from nearly nil to a daily occurrence, with anecdotal community support about Wheatbelt NRM's profile in the new location.

### So what else have we been doing this year?

#### Project planning

The latest five year funding round from the Australian government kicked off in July 2013. These projects form the bread-and-butter of the organisation's work. The teams have turned our learnings from wrapping up the Caring for our Country projects into tangible benefits for project planning. Since completing planning, the teams have got cracking and on-ground works are underway.

#### Developing revenue streams

We hit four out of seven revenue stream targets, with the team doubling the target set for them in consultancy work for the second year running. Doubled it! Our revenue development objectives are to diversify revenue for business stability and generate discretionary funds, so that the Board can make independent decisions for our projects in the Wheatbelt. Self-funding seems like a dream, but while this doesn't compare to the investment

that governments make through us each year, our efforts to date have secured \$400,000. Consider what could be done with \$400,000 to generate ongoing income while delivering tangible outcomes for the Wheatbelt environment. What big business idea would you love to see Wheatbelt NRM take on?

“...we have exceeded the target by engaging 4,220 members of the community active in our projects and

#### Community involvement

Our associate member numbers have reached another milestone – 1,500 –outstripping our 2012-2015 strategy target of a 20% annual increase. Our strategy also states a target of 3,500 community members actively involved in our projects and programs, which we have

already exceeded with 4,220 and another year to go.

The Australian Government has undertaken extensive industry and community consultation to set up the National Landcare Program. While not yet finalised, some actions are underway and we expect to be negotiating with them in the coming months. The program's theme is about supporting community action which aligns well with Wheatbelt NRM's strategy.

Thank-you for a great year.

**Natarsha Woods**

Chief Executive Officer

# 2014 Biodiversity Report

Rowan Hegglun

Over 1600 people participating in NRM activities achieving meaningful on-ground change through our biodiversity projects in 2013/14 protecting and enhancing the Wheatbelt

### Key achievements:

- Over 1000 people participating in the Red Card for Rabbits and Foxes program across the South West of WA reducing pests in the environment by more than 10,000 through direct action activities
- More than 55,000 biodiverse seedlings in-ground across our region engaging more than 400 people in revegetating the Wheatbelt
- Our first round of Bushcare grants for the new program has attracted 56 applications from all over the region

The 2013/2014 financial year has seen the Wheatbelt NRM biodiversity program plan initiate a program of targeted investment across the region, setting ourselves up for both quality conservation outcomes on-ground and increased community participation throughout the region.

- Foxes and cats eradicated at the Wickepin shoot 2014



The Red Card for Rabbits and Foxes program continues to grow from strength to strength engaging community all over the South West in a coordinated control program. The program itself has been running for around 10 years. The 2014 Autumn effort

throughout the South West saw more than 1000 volunteers take over 10,000 pest animals out of the system. While the coordinated control occurs in punctuated events, it does put the role pest animals have on both production and the environment at the forefront of people's minds and forms the basis for more sustained management in the long term. Wheatbelt NRM are housing the Red Card coordinator Jacqui Lucas who has done an outstanding job facilitating community pest control and

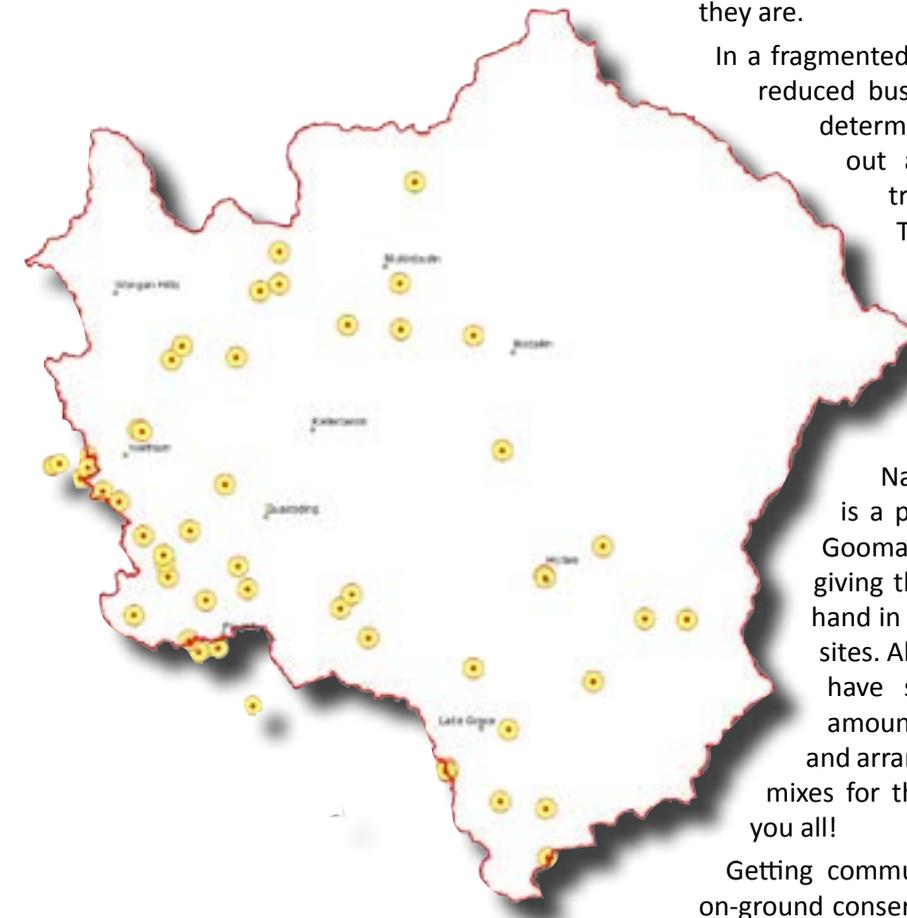
“ This year we provided access to 55,000 free biodiverse seedlings for community to participate in NRM activities”



• Goomalling Primary School 2014, Shire of Goomalling tree planting

ensuring the local coordinators are up to date and have the right tools to support community in feral management. Jacqui is backed up by Anika Dent who project

manages the state funded project Red Card sits in, as well as more regionally specific predator control work. A huge thank-you to all the Red Card community volunteers who make the program successes what they are.



In a fragmented region with significantly reduced bush cover our officers are determined to have people out and involved in getting trees into the ground. This year we provided access to 55,000 free biodiverse seedlings for community to participate in NRM activities. Some of these activities involved National Tree Day. Above is a picture of students from Goomalling Primary School giving the Shire of Goomalling a hand in one of their revegetation sites. All of the biodiversity team have spent and considerable amount of time assessing sites and arranging appropriate species mixes for them. A big thank-you to you all!

Getting community involved in quality on-ground conservation outcomes is what

• 2014 Bushcare Grant applications received around the region

we are all about. Being able to provide a framework that ensures work is not only useful at a local level on the farm but also in a regional context to move towards a more resilient Wheatbelt region. The way that our biodiversity program is structured requires that we look after those aspects of the natural environment that the community regards as precious. The map on the previous page represents Bushcare Grant round one expressions of interest. We have gone on to negotiate with 36 of these applicants around activities which will make up their conservation management. The biodiversity team of Anika, Barbara, Greg, Mike and Rachael have worked tirelessly to carefully assess potential projects and develop site specific project proposals for landholders this year.

In line with Wheatbelt NRM's strategic objectives, we are making biodiversity management relevant to landholders in a site specific local context. We are working with people to ensure that, based on the suite of available tools, management activities work

for both them and the environment. // The focus remains on connectivity, addressing key threats and securing priority...”

From here we will solidify the initial investment footprint of the program and work towards helping community secure those aspects of the Wheatbelt which are both special and make the region unique. The focus remains on connectivity, addressing key threats and securing priority habitat for Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act listed species in our region. The biodiversity team have spent significant time carefully planning the shape of the current funding investment. While on the face of it , we are supporting people to achieve tangible conservation gains on their individual properties, the projects collectively are contributing to quality conservation outcomes for the Avon River Basin as a whole. The biodiversity team is looking forward to working with as many of you as possible in the coming years to help create meaningful change in our region.

Finally, a big thankyou to Anika, Barbara, Greg, Mike and Rachael for putting in the time and effort with each and every individual project to ensure we make best use of public money in the region.



# 2014 Sustainable Agriculture Report

Dr Guy Boggs

Wheatbelt NRM's Sustainable Agriculture Program assists farmers to maintain a productive and environmentally sustainable agricultural industry.

The Sustainable Agriculture Program aims to increase the adoption of farm practices that improve the ecosystem services, including productivity, that can be provided by land used for agricultural production. Over the past year, we have supported over 59 farmers to adopt such practices through the establishment of over 20 on-ground trial and demonstration sites, organisation of over 10 community workshops and field days and publication of key information. We have also prepared information that will help farmers maximise the biodiversity values that can be achieved from forage shrub and agroforestry plantations.

## Establishment of Trial and Demonstration Sites

The sustainable agriculture program worked on four projects that were establishing new trial or demonstration sites based on five types of activities, including;

- Brushwood harvesting field day in Dalwallinu



1. Sites that showcased innovation in conservation cropping management, sustainable grazing systems, agroforestry and soil management.
2. Sites that undertake standard soil testing to evaluate the effect of management practice already being trialled by the farmer.
3. Sites that undertake non-standard soil testing, to explore the use of new approaches to evaluating soil function and status for informing nutrient management decisions.
4. Sites that demonstrate carbon farming practices.
5. Sites that demonstrate how to optimise the biodiversity benefits from agroforestry and forage shrub systems.

Between now and 2018, over \$500 000 will be invested into these on-farm trial and demonstration sites through grants of between \$2,000 and \$20,000. The projects already funded cover a range of topics and locations and are listed in Table 1. These are great projects and we would like to acknowledge the effort put in by Wheatbelt

- Table 1 - 2014 Sustainable Agriculture Trials and Demonstration projects

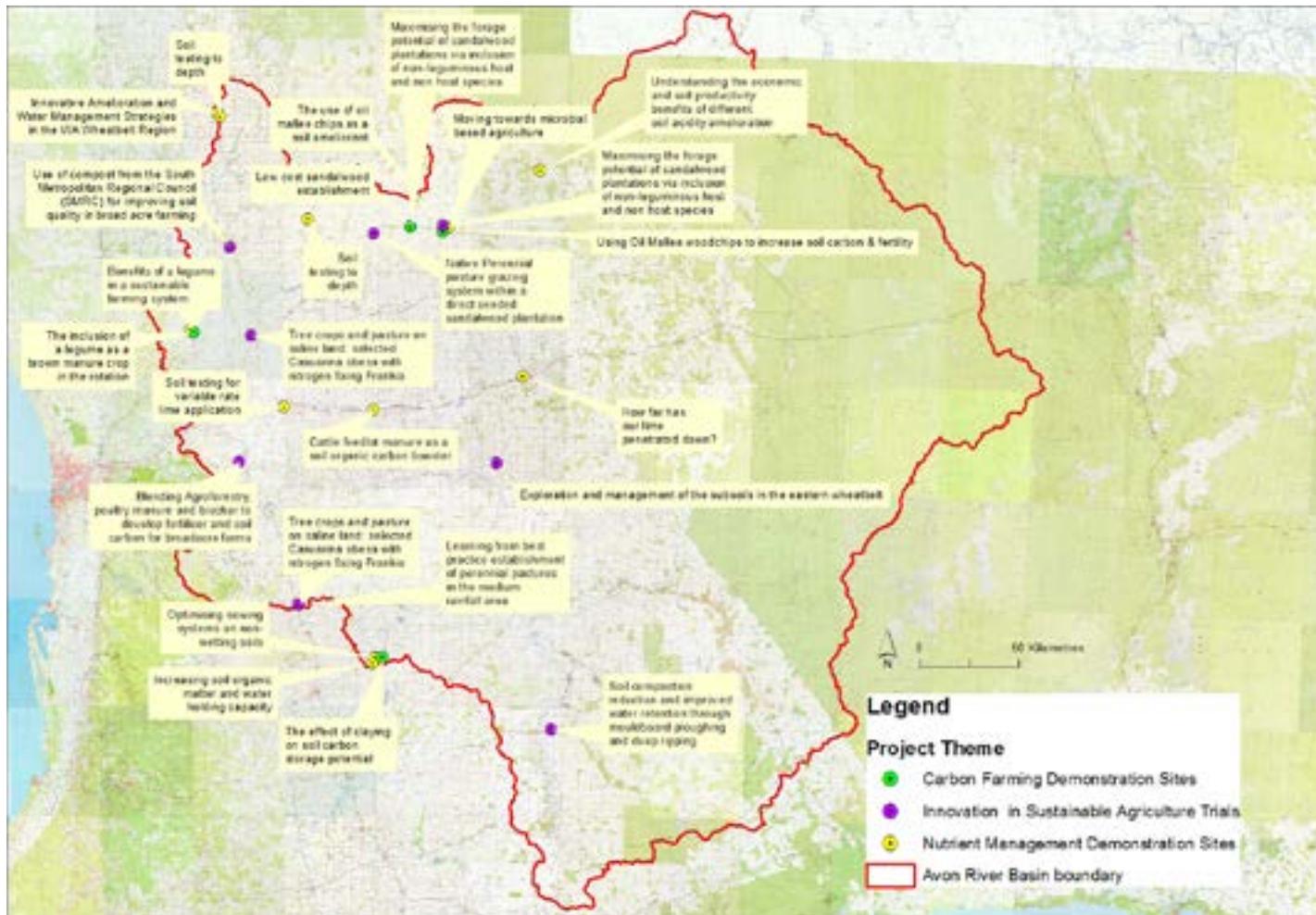
Project Title	Location
<b>INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TRIALS</b>	
Maximising the forage potential of sandalwood plantations via inclusion of non-leguminous host and non-host species	Bencubbin/Gabbin
Native perennial pasture grazing system within a direct seeded sandalwood plantation	Koorda
Tree crops and pasture on saline land: selected Casuarina obesa with nitrogen fixing Frankia	Goomalling/Pingelly
Learning from best practice establishment of perennial pastures in the medium rainfall area	Pingelly
Blending Agroforestry, poultry manure and biochar to develop fertiliser and soil carbon for broadacre farms	York
Use of compost from the South Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) for improving soil quality in broad acre farming	Wongan-Ballidu
Exploration and management of the subsoils in the eastern Wheatbelt	Bruce Rock
Soil compaction reduction and improved water retention through mouldboard ploughing and deep ripping	Lake Grace
<b>NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION SITES</b>	
Innovative amelioration and water management strategies in the WA Wheatbelt Region	Dalwallinu
Using Oil Mallee woodchips to increase soil carbon & fertility	Bencubbin
Soil testing to depth	Dalwallinu
Soil testing to depth	Cadoux
How far has our lime penetrated down?	Merredin
Understanding the economic and soil productivity benefits of different soil acidity amelioration	Bonnie Rock
Moving towards microbial based agriculture	Bencubbin
Soil testing for variable rate lime application	Meckering
Benefits of a legume in a sustainable farming system	Bolgart
Optimising sowing systems on non-wetting soils	Wickepin
Increasing soil organic matter and water holding capacity	Wickepin
Cattle feedlot manure as a soil organic carbon booster	Tammin
<b>CARBON FARMING DEMONSTRATION SITES</b>	
Low cost sandalwood establishment	Gabbin
The use of oil mallee chips as a soil ameliorant	Bencubbin
The inclusion of a legume as a brown manure crop in the rotation	Bolgart
The effect of claying on soil carbon storage potential	Wickepin

NRM staff Jo Wheeler, Tracey Hobbs and Georgie Troup, and the individual farmers, farming groups and technical experts involved in getting these projects up and running.

Project Manager Jo Wheeler commented that one farmer was particularly happy to receive their grant. "They are extremely excited about establishing a native grasses grazing system within their sandalwood plantation and particularly valued the prospect of increasing the biodiversity on their farm".

## Sustainable Agriculture Workshops and Field Days

We have delivered a number of great events this year across the region. The 'Making Sense of Soil Tests Workshop' series was led by Wayne Pluski, with three workshops held in Cadoux, York & Wickepin (with support of DULI, Living Farm and Facey Groups respectively). With over 50 people attending in total, these workshops highlighted the key aspects of interpreting soil test information to inform on farm decision making. We also organised two 'Perennial Grazing' workshops, with great information provided by Eureka prize winning ENRICH scientist Dr Dean Revell and DAFWA veterinarian Roy Butler. Finally, our 'Harvesting Brushwood' field day demonstrated the best techniques for harvesting brushwood to supply to brushwood fencing manufacturing, with a YouTube video clip capturing this information for all to access (see <http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/our-information/video-gallery>).



• Sustainable Agriculture Trial and Demonstration sites established in 2014

“Are you extracting maximum value from your soil test results? Do you want to better understand soil tests to improve returns on fertiliser? What nutrient and lime inputs make most cents?”

Quote from flyer for ‘Making Sense of Soil Tests’ Workshops

The Regional Landcare Facilitator, Leigh Whisson, has also supported a large number of NRM community activities and events ranging from the Wheatbelt NRM Community Morning Tea, to supporting the development of a Wheatbelt Agroforestry Alliance. RLF community group event support grants

“ They are extremely excited about establishing a native grasses grazing system within their sandalwood plantation”

were also offered this year, with funding of up to \$1000 provided to six groups who planned to run events over the winter/spring period of 2014.

**Enhancing Biodiversity from Agroforestry and Forage Shrub Systems**

This project, which will be completed by mid 2015, has focussed on maximising the biodiversity benefits that come from tree or shrub based production systems used across the Wheatbelt. Over the past year, Dr Aaron Gove from Astron Envi-

ronmental Services has undertaken a review of past studies that have documented the biodiversity values of these systems, and produced recommendations regarding species selection, site characteristics and the spatial layout of planned activities that will maximise the biodiversity benefits from these production focussed systems.

For example, did you know that planning your plantation around an existing old and established tree will greatly increase the biodiversity value of your plantation?

We have also begun establishing demonstration sites that take these recommendations and put them into practice. At the end of the project eight sites will be established across a range of locations (from Bonnie Rock to Wickopin) and agroforestry systems (from forage shrubs to Casuarina Obesa plantations).

The past year has been busy and exciting as we both concluded the five years of work undertaken for Caring for our Country and began the planning and implementation of our new program that will run until 2018. We are very proud of the achievements made by the program over the last funding cycle, and it is being extremely satisfying to have the new projects build on the learning and information we have developed over these past projects.

**The key message going forward?**

In sustainable agriculture production and environmental values must BOTH be present and we look forward to working with our partners to achieve this.

• Jo Wheeler with Bob Hingston pegging out trial sites



2014

# Sustainable Communities Report

Dr Elizabeth Kington

Empowering and building the capacity with the community by informing, educating and building programs, with an initial focus on the Aboriginal community has been the focus of the Sustainable Community program.

## Wheatbelt NRM is committed to building the Aboriginal Community capacity in NRM

The Northam Aboriginal women collaborated over the past year to celebrate and develop a management plan for the historic women's birthing site next to the Avon River on the old Northam Aboriginal Reserve. The site was recognised with a bronze plaque and all families collaborated on artwork to recognise their history at the site.

2013 saw the creation of the Moorditj Boodjar website dedicated to the promotion of community stories about Country. This is an independent place where community can contribute their own story about the culture and the natural environment.

The Noongar Budjar Carer traineeship is

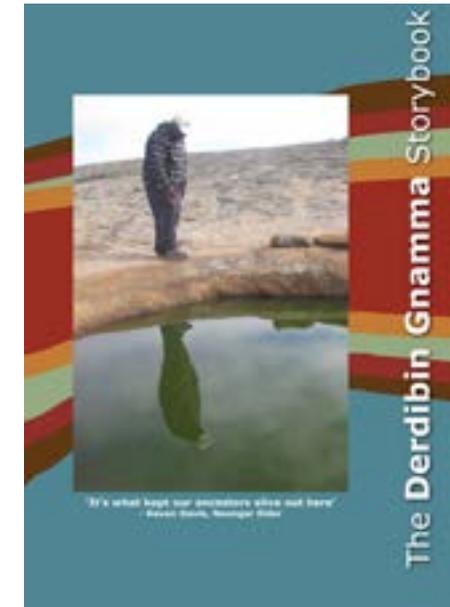
an initiative aimed at young Aborigines who would like to learn NRM skills through working at Wheatbelt NRM and increase their understanding of environmental issues. Judd Davis, our Carer during 2013, was able to obtain two TAFE certificates (one in Conservation and Land Management the other in Internet Technologies) as well as field experience in the eradication of weeds of national significance.

Promoting Aboriginal knowledge about Caring for Country occurs in a number of ways. We identify and promote places of cultural significance, we conduct management where it improves these places natural environment, and through publications we teach the wider community. The Derdibin Gnamma Storybook was a significant final achievement of this journey. The Derdibin rock gnamma hole was identified through the Wyalkatchem Shire and a local Elder. It was cleaned, restored and future access to the site was negotiated. The storybook was developed in close partnership with the Elder for the site and a prominent scientist, as a resource

• Yorkrakine Rock women's day participants



• Mt Stirling revegetation project, Quairading Primary School student Brodie planting trees



• (Above) The Derdibin Gnamma Storybook

for both professionals and school children.

## Wheatbelt NRM puts high importance on communicating to its community about NRM

Wheatbelt NRM is now a regular social media communicator. A new website, Twitter account and Facebook page are managed daily alongside enews, which has been sending out bulletins fortnightly since 2008. Readership of our e-news has increased to 1143 recipients this year and there isn't a week that goes by where we are not promoting our work in the regional newspapers.

Our annual Noongar season calendar for 2013 featured our Aboriginal Elders and their stories about this region. We aspire to keep this free publication for our members innovative, fresh and relevant.

Wheatbelt NRM has a new Marketing and Communications strategy, developed with Metrix Consultants, that will guide future communication processes with our key stakeholders.

This past year the sustainable communities

team has capitalised on new ways to engage its community in NRM. Our attendance at important community events, such as the Dowerin Field Day, social media and our engagement programs continues to build the Wheatbelt NRM profile and inform our community about why NRM is important. We are dedicated to ensuring that all of community are supported in NRM and the Aboriginal program remains a high priority.

### Stormwater Reuse project

This year the Stormwater Reuse project really got moving with seven projects breaking dirt across the region. This project is funded by DAFWA through the Royalties for Regions Program and is working with the Shires of York, Merredin, Lake Grace, Toodyay, Northam, Kulin and Nungarin to undertake infrastructure work that will enable the harvesting and reuse of stormwater for community benefits.

Projects include construction of dams, road works to capture more water, dam covers to reduce evaporation and upgrade of pump systems. All of these projects have the aim of providing more water for town ovals to reduce the use of scheme water and reduce the cost to the community. All the projects are well underway and expected to be completed by early 2015.

### What do the past achievements mean for the future

Moving forward we will continue our current program, with a focus on developing the capacity of the Aboriginal Land managers and community in the region through trials of traditional bush-tucker and bush-medicine. We plan to also develop our urban sustainability program. Historically we have focused on rural landscape issues so moving forward we aim to develop a focus on urban and household sustainability and increasing the engagement of our young community.



- The new Wheatbelt NRM website, Knowledge Hub and Mooditj Boodjar website



- Shire of York Stormwater Reuse Project begins construction

# Regional NRM Strategy



Wheatbelt NRM Inc. has developed the Regional NRM Strategy to guide future understanding and priorities for the management of the natural resources of the Avon River Basin. Healthy natural resources are important to support current and future environments and community.

The Regional NRM Strategy 2013 builds on 20 years of natural resource management activities to meet the vision of, 'A Healthy environment that has a viable agricultural industry and retains a strong sense of place'.

The role of the Regional NRM strategy is to set broad priorities and establish a framework for informing investment in the region. It is expected that this strategy will evolve and guide other organisations and they will use this strategy where it meets their priorities. The document explains how the Strategy was developed, documents system resilience today, and provides future regional-scale management actions.

In 2010, a review of the Avon NRM Strategy was initiated using a resilience assessment framework. Community was engaged to determine how the system worked and what values were important to them. Experts were engaged to understand the way the system interacted. A systems analysis of the Avon Region can be found at: [www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/nrmstrategy](http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/nrmstrategy)

A draft set of five-year Strategic objectives was presented to the 2013 Wheatbelt NRM AGM and feedback was obtained. Identification of priorities and key Thresholds of Potential Concern (TPC) for the region are now provided, as well as strategic priorities for NRM in the region.

Wheatbelt NRM would like to thank all who had input into this review. A list of all contributors can be found at: [www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/nrmstrategy/acknowledgments](http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/nrmstrategy/acknowledgments)

Feedback can be provided at: [www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/nrmstrategy/feedback](http://www.wheatbeltnrm.org.au/nrmstrategy/feedback)

# Risk Appetite Statement

Risk management is a key process within the organisation. Wheatbelt NRM has identified risks and management approaches within its annually reviewed Risk Management Plan and monitors changes quarterly.

As a community based not-for-profit organisation predominately using Government funding, Wheatbelt NRM has a low tolerance for reputational risk. In alignment with the 'precautionary principal' Wheatbelt NRM has a high tolerance for strategic risk as it is acknowledged that the complexity and lack of knowledge about environmental management means strategic decisions must be made using the best available information. The projects that Wheatbelt NRM take on will have a worthwhile and meaningful outcome while taking a level of considered risk. While there will be a high level of confidence in projects being successful, Wheatbelt NRM is willing to prematurely cancel a project if it is not going to yield appropriate outcomes.

Financial risk tolerances for the organisation vary according to the origin of funding and its intended use. Wheatbelt NRM is conservative in financial management. It is of paramount importance that funding for business continuation be maintained. The elevated importance of business continuity funding is due to the historical dependence on a limited number of funders. Business continuity funding requirements change with external funding rounds and are reviewed regularly. The use of government funds for project delivery has a low risk tolerance; the use of the organisations funds for business development has a higher risk tolerance in line with the intent of developing on-going revenue streams.

Wheatbelt NRM strives to reduce exposure to operational and strategic risks through continuous improvement management approaches. Wheatbelt NRM considers risks which may cause serious injury to staff or violate Australian laws to be unacceptable.

# WHEATBELT NRM Annual Financial Statements

Financial Year 2013 - 2014

## Basis of Preparation and Significant Accounting Policies

Wheatbelt NRM's primary purpose as constituted is of a not-for-profit nature. Therefore Wheatbelt NRM is a not-for-profit entity under the Tax Assessment Act, and holds a number of tax concessions and endorsements. As such, Wheatbelt NRM is required to publish financial statements to its members, prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 (WA) and Australian Accounting Standards.

Wheatbelt NRM is a not-for-profit organisation and its activities do not generate profit or losses for distribution to members.

Annual audited financial statements are special purpose (SPFR), prepared for the use by Wheatbelt NRM to satisfy the requirements of the Wheatbelt NRM Constitution and the Associations Incorporations Act; material accounting policies adopted by Wheatbelt NRM in preparation of the annual SPFR are applied on a consistent basis, unless otherwise stated specifically in the financial statements.

The SPFR is prepared; on an accrual basis; based on historical cost modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets; and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

### 1. Assets and Liabilities

Assets will be recognised at fair value at a time when a resource from a past event from which future economic benefit is expected, and adequate provision is made for any permanent diminution in the value on non current assets; carrying amounts of all non current assets are reviewed at least annually to determine whether they are in excess of their recoverable amount and amended accordingly to present value.

Adequate provision will be made for allowances which may be given and for losses which may be sustained, in connection with collection of accounts receivable and non-trade receivables; deficiencies and encumbrances attached to title of Wheatbelt NRM will be reflected in the SPFR; Contingent Asset will be recognised at a time when the asset realisation of income associated with it, is virtually certain;

liabilities which have arisen or which will arise out of the activities of Wheatbelt NRM will be recognised and included in the SPFR.

Material commitments for capital expenditure will be included in the notes to the SPFR; Contingent Liabilities including guarantees or assets including those arising under derivative financial instruments, will be recognised at a time when the liability is probable, and disclosed in the SPFR.

### 2. Income

The Organisation's principal receipts are funds provided for specific projects and not available for general activities. Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

### 3. Depreciation

Depreciation of a Recognised Asset is on a straight line basis over the asset's useful life, commencing from



the time of acquisition. The assets' residual value and useful life are reviewed, and adjusted as appropriate, at each balance sheet date. Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income statement.

#### **4. Cash and Cash Equivalent**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, including short term highly liquid investments.

#### **5. Goods and Services Tax**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

#### **6. Cash Flows**

Cash Flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

#### **7. Employee Entitlements**

The provision for employee benefits relates to the amount liable to be paid for the long service leave and annual leave resulting from the employees services provided to balance date. All entitlements are calculated at their nominal amounts using remuneration rates and expected to be settled within one year.

#### **8. Retained Earnings**

Retained earnings represent income received over time that is not specifically allocated to a project, and can be used in the future for projects or initiatives at the organisation's discretion.

#### **9. Consolidated Funds**

Consolidated funds represent income received that is specifically allocated to project outcomes and can only be used for the purposes described in the contractual agreements for the delivery of NRM services and organisational operation. During times of funding discontinuity, consolidated funds are provisional for ongoing essential NRM work, through organisational continuity. The character of the funding is to be retained.

#### **10. Tax Concessions and Endorsements**

##### **Income Tax Exemption**

Wheatbelt NRM is a not-for-profit organisation and thus exempt from income tax liability by virtue of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (ITAA).

##### **Tax Concession Charity**

Under the Fringe Benefit Tax Assessment Act 1986, and the Taxation Administration Act 1953, tax concession charity endorsement has been granted to Wheatbelt NRM as a charitable institution. Wheatbelt NRM is a not-for-profit entity that operates for the public benefit to protect, preserve, care for, and educate the community about the environment and charities.

##### **Payroll Tax Exemption**

For the purpose of Payroll Tax Assessment Act 2002, and the Taxation Administration Act 2003, Wheatbelt NRM is granted exemption from payroll tax for the purpose of section 40 (2)(n) of the Act effective 2007 financial year.

##### **Deductible Gift recipient / Register of Environmental Organisations**

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Public Fund has received endorsement as a deductible gift recipient. Entry has been granted onto the Register of Environmental Organisations 27th April 2012. Under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 item 6.1.1 of subsection 30-55(a) Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Public Fund is entitled to receive tax deductible donations.

# Statements of Financial Position

ASSETS	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at Bank		6,863,475	5,595,266
Public Fund		1,021	273
Accounts Receivable		1,012	65,666
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>6,865,487</b>	<b>5,661,205</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	11	<b>6,865,487</b>	<b>5,661,205</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Corporate Cards		24	6,008
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>6,008</b>
Trade Creditors	18	69,790	270,805
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>		<b>69,790</b>	<b>270,805</b>
GST Collected		221,420	(63,898)
GST Paid		(53,520)	(32,244)
<b>Total GST Liabilities</b>	18	<b>167,900</b>	<b>(96,142)</b>
<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>	12	<b>580,670</b>	<b>235,951</b>
Staff Fees and membership		132	814
Purchase Reimbursement		-	1,084
Premises Provision		-	100,000
PRE-PAID INCOME		2,001,571	2,171,532
<b>Total Deposits Collected</b>		<b>2,001,703</b>	<b>2,273,429</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,820,088</b>	<b>2,690,050</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Leave Provisions		90,642	90,642
<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>		<b>90,642</b>	<b>90,642</b>
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>90,642</b>	<b>90,642</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>2,910,730</b>	<b>2,780,692</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>3,954,757</b>	<b>2,880,512</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings	8	424,536	404,836
Consolidated Funds	9	3,530,221	2,475,676
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>3,954,757</b>	<b>2,880,512</b>

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# Statement of Change in Equity

	Note	Retained Earnings \$	Consolidated Funds \$	Total Equity \$
<b>Balance at 1st July 2013</b>		404,836	2,475,676	2,880,512
Corrections to Prior year		0	0	0
<b>Restated balance</b>		<b>404,836</b>	<b>2,475,676</b>	<b>2,880,512</b>
<b>Changes in Equity for FY2014</b>				
Surplus / (-) Deficiency from operating		19,700	1,029,833	1,049,533
Expense to Payroll Provisions		0	(394,523)	(394,523)
Grant Funds Accrued to Profit and Loss		0	1,812,164	1,812,164
Unexpended grant funds reinstated to fee payments		0	(1,392,920)	(1,392,920)
<b>Net Change in Equity</b>		<b>19,700</b>	<b>1,054,545</b>	<b>1,074,245</b>
<b>Balance at 30th June 2014</b>	8	<b>424,536</b>	<b>3,530,221</b>	<b>3,954,757</b>

The Statement of Change in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# Statement of Cash Flow

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	14		
Grants		5,733,033	6,408,374
Interest		141,202	189,000
Other		57,235	192,843
Consultants and Contractors		(1,295,909)	(2,795,734)
Employment Expenses		(2,465,707)	(2,324,432)
Payments to Suppliers		(900,795)	(1,162,843)
Return of unused Grant Funding		(2,618)	(20,904)
<b>Net Cash Provided by (used in) Operating Activities</b>		<b>1,268,957</b>	<b>496,304</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Asset Purchases		-	-
<b>Net Cash Provided by (used in) Investing Activities</b>		<b>1,268,957</b>	<b>496,304</b>
<b>Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash Held</b>		<b>5,595,539</b>	<b>496,304</b>
Cash at Beginning of Year		1,268,957	5,099,235
<b>Cash at End of Year</b>		<b>6,864,496</b>	<b>5,595,539</b>

The Statement of Cash Flow should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# Statement of Income

INCOME	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>Grants Received</b>			
CWTH Grants Received		4,998,532	5,413,083
SNRMO Grants Received		240,000	262,159
OTHER Grants Received		722,569	340,237
<b>Total Grants Received</b>		<b>5,961,101</b>	<b>6,015,479</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Miscellaneous Income		8,879	120,212
Interest Earned		143,202	189,000
Business Stream		48,356	72,629
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>200,438</b>	<b>381,841</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>6,161,538</b>	<b>6,397,320</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Agricultural Supplies		87,076	105,437
Board of Directors		76,448	87,720
Conferences & Seminars		57,240	137,719
Contractors and Consultants		1,352,628	2,945,752
Community Grant Funding		87,292	0
Employment Exp and Staff Development	13	2,810,426	2,275,855
Hardware Software and IT Delivery		210,268	272,163
Industry Group Payments & Subscriptions		48,548	23,316
Marketing & Communications		7,573	36,344
Operating and Administration		332,824	394,816
Project Based Committees		17,151	9,579
Return of unused Grant Funding		2,618	20,904
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>5,087,294</b>	<b>6,309,596</b>
<b>Operating Position</b>			
<b>Net Position</b>	\$	<b>1,074,245</b>	<b>87,724</b>

The Statement of Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



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Our Ref: F01002v2  
Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014



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**STATEMENT BY DIRECTORS**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

The Board has determined that the accompanying financial report of Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (Inc) has been prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporations Act (WA) from proper accounts and records, to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ended 30 June 2014.

In the opinion of the Board, the financial report fairly presents the financial position and performance of Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (Inc) as at 30 June 2014. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (Inc) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed for, on behalf of the Board by:

  
Jim Sullivan  
Chair, Board of Directors

  
Natarsha Woods  
Chief Executive Officer

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management

Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management



**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**

**TO THE MEMBERS OF WHEATBELT NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC.**

**Report on the Financial Report**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc., which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2014, and the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the Board.

*Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The Board of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (WA) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Board's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Board's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act (WA).

Byfields Pty Ltd ACN 150 608 398  
DIRECTORS: Andrew Northcott B.Com CPA • Craig Lane B.Com CPA • Dale Woodruff B.Bus CPA • Jon Bush B.Com CPA  
Leanne Oliver B.Com CPA • Neil Hooper B.Com CPA • Simon Northey B.Bus CPA • Glenn Waldock B.Bus CPA • Roger Thomson B.Bus CA  
ASSOCIATES: Ian Jones B.Com CPA • Lea Williams B.Com CA • Brant Jansen B.Bus CPA • Ryan Naughton B.Bus CPA • Tony Umbrello B.Bus CA  
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We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

*Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion the financial report Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc. presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Inc. as of 30 June 2014 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

*Emphasis of Matter*

The financial report is prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework and accordingly may not be suitable for other purposes. The opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



LEANNE K OLIVER CPA  
 Director

Dated 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2014



# WHEATBELT NRM Annual Report 2013/14

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**wheatbelt**  
natural resource  
management

*This publication is produced by Wheatbelt NRM through funding from the Australian Government and the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.*



**Australian Government**

