



# Working together to keep rangelands healthy

Rangelands Natural Resource Management (NRM) works with people to keep country healthy and productive for future generations.

Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group (Inc) is a forward-thinking and flexible environmental knowledge and skills hub operating across Western Australia. We aim to be the preferred partner for business, government and community in the delivery of best practice rangelands management in Western Australia.

Our goal is to facilitate the management of natural assets to support environmentally, socially and economically enriched communities within Western Australia's ruggedly beautiful rangelands.

We work on the ground with a broad range of stakeholders, including Traditional Owners, pastoralists, government, local groups and other land and coastal resource managers.

With rangelands covering 2.5 million square kilometres, we operate in the largest of the 54 natural resource management (NRM) regions in Australia.



**Rangelands NRM**  
Western Australia

**Strong community, strong country, strong future**

# Our approach

## Regional Investment

**We coordinate regional investment by identifying and facilitating partnering opportunities, and securing funding.**

Since 2002, we have secured funding in excess of \$47 million for more than 300 projects.

## Networks & People

**We design and coordinate on-ground programs and project support, with a focus on local people, networks and landscape-scale change. We collaborate with Aboriginal people, pastoralists, government and other land managers.**

We build networks and capacity across projects.

Our focus on local people generates enthusiasm and connections that help sustain local groups.

## Productive & Healthy Country

**Economically, environmentally & socially sustainable land**

## Knowledge & Technical Skills

**We provide expert knowledge and on-site technical guidance in the classification of natural assets, threat identification, and analysis and management options.**

Our people are passionate about the environment and have a healthy respect for land and country.

## Project Management

**We facilitate best practice in land management through our stakeholder engagement.**

The nature of our work means we focus on multi-use land issues, and local ownership and project design. We use quality processes to prioritise projects, and best practice models and frameworks to support project development, management, evaluation, monitoring and reporting.

# What we do

We are 'thinkers' and 'do-ers'. We combine our knowledge of networks and people, with our project management and technical skills, to generate projects that address land issues affecting the health and productivity of our rangelands.

We are also 'talkers' and 'listeners'. We engage and consult with a wide range of stakeholders, and work closely with landowners, pastoralists, government, Aboriginal communities, local groups and others.

Sustainable use of our rangelands is critical to Western Australia's long term economic, social and environmental development and prosperity.



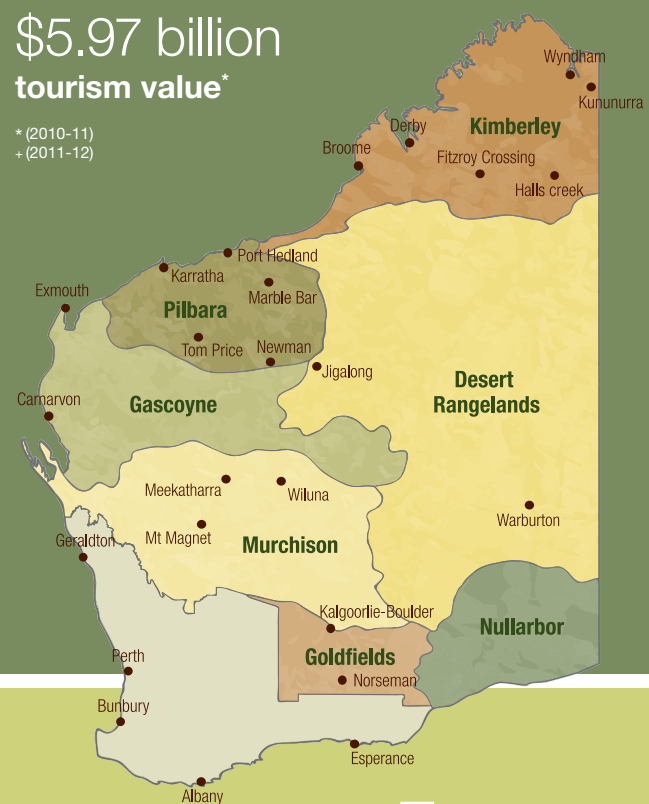
## Rangelands support our economy

**\$476.2 million**  
agriculture value\*

**\$106 billion**  
energy and minerals production value\*

**\$5.97 billion**  
tourism value\*

\* (2010-11)  
+ (2011-12)



**87% of WA is rangelands**

**20 bioregions exist**  
**within our rangelands**

**45% of rangelands**  
**are for pastoral land use**

Where we operate

Kimberley  
Pilbara  
Gascoyne  
Murchison  
Goldfields  
Nullarbor  
Desert rangelands

# Our work

Here are some examples of our recent rangelands management projects.

## Engaging Traditional Owners

### On country with Martu women

Rangelands NRM partnered with Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa to support around 180 Martu women from Jigalong, Parnngurr and Punmu, to undertake NRM activities on country, focused on fauna surveys and monitoring. Employed on a part-time basis over the past four years, the women utilise their traditional ecological knowledge and receive survey training. The project has expanded to include waterhole monitoring and GPS mapping, traditional fire practices and preservation of historical artefacts.

### Weed management with Ngurrawaana Rangers

Rangelands NRM partnered with Rio Tinto and the Juluwarlu Aboriginal Corporation to support the Ngurrawaana Rangers with local weed management. Working along three kilometres of the Fortescue River covering an area more than 150 hectares, the group treated Parkinsonia, an invasive Weed of National Significance that has infested the river banks. The project has delivered economic and social development through training and employment of local rangers and engagement with elders, providing positive role models in the community.

### Saving threatened ecological communities

Rangelands NRM collaborated with Environs Kimberley and Aboriginal rangers from the Dampier Peninsula to successfully campaign for the threatened Monsoon Vine Thicket (MVT) to be recognised as Nationally Endangered. The partnership identified health indicators to detect change in response to fire and invasion, and developed, trialled and implemented protocols, using the local Aboriginal language names and knowledge of species occurrence. The work has enabled the identification of the most vulnerable MVT's on Bardi Jawi and Nyul Nyul country, improve management and better protect MVT's significant eco-cultural values.

## Ecologically Sustainable Rangeland Management (ESRM)

Rangelands NRM's Ecologically Sustainable Rangeland Management (ESRM) program is a proven approach that assists pastoralists to develop property action plans that identify the factors driving landscape function, biodiversity and livestock productivity. Land managers are using this knowledge to assess management practices and develop appropriate interventions.

Trained Rangelands NRM staff are able to assist pastoral land managers to develop an ESRM plan for their property, or update an existing one, at no cost to the business. They will also assist with the implementation of priority activities identified in the ESRM plans through investment in on-ground works, such as fencing, stock watering points and other infrastructure, plus the installation of associated monitoring sites.

### ESRM Examples

On Yalleen Station, ESRM planning identified activities to control livestock in areas of high biodiversity value and heavy grazing pressure. This has the potential to improve ground cover vegetation condition and reduce the impact of pastoral use. On Mt Florance Station, ESRM planning identified better fencing and seeding management activities to improve degraded cracking clay soils and pastures. On Mt Wittenoom and Ullawarra Stations, ESRM planning incorporated local Aboriginal knowledge with science to benchmark the environmental status of both properties for future conservation, environmental management and pastoral production. Improvement actions included better paddock systems and better water infiltration and retention to increase ground cover.



**“The ESRM report helps us understand our country better in terms of habitat management. It’s played a vital role in all of our development.”**

Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation



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**“More than 2,700 participants attended 95 stakeholder meetings and educational workshops in 2012-2013, supporting skill development and ways to improve the rangelands environment and industry.”**

John Silver, Operations Manager with Rangelands NRM

## Pilbara Corridors Project

The 4.5 million hectare Fortescue River catchment in Western Australia's Pilbara region is the focus of the six-year Pilbara Corridors Project, aimed at protecting and improving existing native vegetation and managing threats to biodiversity. Rangelands NRM manages the project in partnership with Greening Australia WA, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, and the Department of Agriculture and Food.

We are sharing best practice and collaborating with pastoralists, mining land managers and Aboriginal communities.

The project has expanded on current management activities and initiated new activities that have enhanced functioning of landscapes and ecosystems, and protected the biodiversity of the Fortescue River wetland systems and the Hamersley and Chichester Ranges.

The project has established an Aboriginal ranger program in partnership with the Yindjibarndi people along the Lower Fortescue River. Project activities include:

- Fire management
- Managing total grazing pressure and livestock access
- Weed and feral animal management
- Investigating potential for carbon sequestration



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## Partner with us

We are an independent and politically neutral non-profit organisation. We partner with pastoralists, business, government, community groups and Aboriginal Corporations.

Join us in delivering best practice in rangelands management in Western Australia.

**“With Rangelands NRM support, Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa has successfully engaged with Martu to look after their country using both traditional and contemporary NRM practices so as to safeguard valuable flora and fauna for future generations.”**

Peter See, Chief Executive Officer, Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (KJ)

**“My role is to underpin knowledge of ecosystem benefits resulting from increased carbon sequestration by conducting scientific surveys of the distribution of carbon across our rangeland soils and vegetation.”**

Dr Peter Russell, Senior Rangeland Scientist with Rangelands NRM



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