

Annual Report 2021

Gulf Savannah NRM



About Gulf Savannah NRM

We're a non-profit company and a registered charity, working with people and communities to create opportunities for current and future generations. Our projects help strengthen communities and industries. We cultivate living landscapes to support local livelihoods.

The Gulf Savannah NRM team works from offices in Georgetown, Croydon, Normanton and Mareeba, connecting science, technology and landcare to improve productivity for farmers and graziers. We balance social, economic and cultural interests and maintain environmental values and healthy ecosystems.

The company began in 2003 as Northern Gulf Resource Management Group, building on earlier landcare and Indigenous initiatives. The rebrand to Gulf Savannah NRM took place in August 2021.

About 10,000 people live in 234,000 square kilometres extending from the northern Tablelands west across the grazing lands to the Gulf of Carpentaria coast. Grazing is the main industry, along with agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and tourism.



Acknowledgment of Country

Australia's Indigenous people have lived in the Gulf Savannah region for tens of thousands of years. We respect their deep cultural understanding and connection to the rhythms and cycles of this beautiful place.

We acknowledge the Bar Barrum, Mbabaram, Wokamin, Olkola, Djungan, Muluridji, Wallara, Ewamian, Tagalaka, Western Yalanji people, Gkuuthaarn, Kukatj, Kurtijar, Koko Berrin, Yir Yoront and Kunjen peoples.

We acknowledge these groups, the traditional custodians of the land within the Gulf Savannah NRM region. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



Chair's message Ellen Weber

Dear friends and supporters across the Gulf Savannah region:

On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to present the 2020 - 2021 annual report, highlighting our achievements over the past year. We have continued to evolve, grow, and strengthen our foundations so that we can get on with the important business of delivering on-ground natural resource management. We can only do this with the collaboration and support of our partners, sponsors, industry, local government, the research community, Indigenous organisations, and Landcare groups. We extend our thanks and respect to you all for committing to a shared future.

It's been another big year. COVID-19 remains a defining event that showed we can adapt and change. We continue to see change and transition across the region, and within our organisation. The company is now trading as Gulf Savannah NRM, with a contemporary look and feel, a refreshed logo and new website. We made sure the change had minimal impact on communications and project delivery. Our legal name remains the same, and our purpose and mission are unchanged. We have the same dedicated team working across the region, with and for our communities.

Feedback on the new trading name has been very positive. It says more about the country here, the golden plains, the dirt roads, the brilliant sunsets. The new logo, designed locally, also reflects the savannah country, and it retains one element from the old design, the lotus flower. It's a powerful symbol of our region, seen in the beautiful wetlands, representing the connection between soil, water, and air.

We welcomed new directors Kate Eden and Kelly Bethel. Their skills, experience and strong leadership are terrific assets for our Board. Thanks to our Standing Independent Selection panel members, headed up by Russell Boswell from Savannah Guides, in leading the director recruitment processes. Bob Frazer continues in his role as company secretary. It is impossible to understate the depth of wisdom Bob brings. Formerly CEO of Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM and inaugural CEO of Cape York NRM, we are blessed to benefit from his skills and experience.

I thank my fellow directors, our CEO Zoe Williams, and our remarkable staff for their significant contributions this year. Through Zoe's leadership, the organisation has grown in staff and budget, no mean feat in such a challenging year.



The Board has worked hard to ensure the organisation continues to operate effectively, and considers the risks, challenges and opportunities that will impact or enhance the future of our region.

We are owned and directed by the people of the Gulf Savannah region. We work for living landscapes that support local livelihoods. We would not be here without you.

Community support is essential to our success as your local NRM group. Thank you for hosting our field days, coming to our workshops and meetings, or helping us plan and deliver projects. We are deeply grateful.

Sincerely

Ellen Alle_.

Ellen Weber



Board of Directors reports

Kate Eden

I've enjoyed my first year as a Director. It's been a steep learning curve. I was generally familiar with the group's activities, having followed Northern Gulf RMG since 2005, when I was the Queensland Government regional liaison officer with the National Heritage Trust program. Sixteen years later, it is gratifying to see the long-term success of the group, how it has matured, and the

diversity and scope of its projects. As the Director appointed to the finance committee, I'm pleased with the way the organisation has managed the transition from the shared services model, and that the finances are being well managed in-house by high quality staff.

Brian Muirhead

As I come toward the end of my three-year term, I reflect on the many accomplishments and the challenges we have faced in that time. The rebranding process signalled a new vibrant era for the organisation, while maintaining our continued focus on long term resilience and sustainability for the people and landscapes of our region. It's been an honour to play my part.



Jess Fealy

Jess Fealy finished her term as a Director in March 2021 after two and a half years of valued contributions. Kelly Bethel, a local grazier and business owner from Georgetown, was endorsed as an interim Director to replace Jess pending a formal recruitment process.







Anne Clarke

It has been a big year of changes, particularly in our corporate services delivery model. As Gulf Savannah delegate to the North Queensland NRM Alliance, I have worked with our Chair and Alliance Director Ellen Weber to represent our interests, in particular through the significant administrative and financial changes in our shared corporate services.



It's been a thrill to launch the new Gulf Savannah NRM brand. As part of this business refresh, I've been working with fellow director Brian Muirhead on a business prospectus to attract funding for priority projects in and across the Gulf Savannah region.

Kelly Bethel

I was endorsed as an interim Director in early 2021, replacing Jess Fealy until the next AGM. I have thoroughly enjoyed my short time in the role, learning from my fellow Board members. I believe Gulf Savannah NRM is heading in a good direction, building valuable partnerships and delivering wonderful projects that are achieving real results for people who've stepped up to host a trial or project.



CEO's message Zoe Williams

As I travel around our region, I always notice the kapok trees, a colourful species so emblematic of northern Australia. When I see their golden flowers appear, I'm reminded it's another year since I came to work at what was then Northern Gulf Resource Management Group, and it's time to write my message for the annual report.

This is the first time I've written as CEO of Gulf Savannah NRM, the trading name we adopted in August this year. We have a new logo and branding, unveiled at the Georgetown 150+1 celebrations. In this report, you'll see reference to both Northern Gulf and Gulf Savannah NRM, reflecting the transition period between the old and new brands. While our name has changed, our mission has not. We continue to work with community, industry and environment to deliver a brighter future for our region.

I am very proud of our team that supports the delivery of our vision every day. This year, we've welcomed talented new staff and former staff who have returned to the team. Together, they offer a wealth of skills, experience, and their regional networks and corporate knowledge.

In the following pages, you'll hear from the team about our projects this year. They could not have been delivered without our partner organisations. We're very grateful for their support and their faith in us.

We value our diverse range of local partners, including community groups, councils, schools and landholders. We also recognise the importance of broader strategic partnerships to put the issues of Gulf communities onto the state and national stages and drive investment into the region. I am very pleased to have brokered new partnerships and strengthened existing ones over the past 12 months with institutions like James Cook University, Tropical North Queensland Drought Hub, Australian National University, Pew Charitable Trusts and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. These partners bring skills, networks and resourcing which will support us over the coming year to deliver on our vision for a brighter future.

yullams.

Zoe Williams

NRM Alliance report Ellen Weber



NRM Alliance teams at their annual symposium in March 2021

The North Queensland NRM Alliance Ltd was formed to deliver natural resource management outcomes and advocacy across three NRM regions - Cape York, the Wet Tropics, and the Gulf Savannah - to improve delivery of community driven natural resource management across north Queensland. Corporate services, delivered through Corporate Nature, were included within the business model to increase efficiencies, build capacity, share knowledge, and strengthen corporate expertise and value.

Since the Alliance began, the three organisations have improved systems and procedures, strengthened their working relationships, shared skills, knowledge and understanding across NRM delivery, practices, and procedures.

Over the past four years, the Alliance brought substantial benefit to all involved, and enabled each NRM organisation to grow. In February 2021, we agreed it was time for a refresh of the shared services delivery model, including a transition of corporate services back to the individual NRM organisations. We continue to share some specialist technical services.

The Alliance is committed to being a collective voice, influencing the strategic direction of NRM across North Queensland. We look forward to working closely with our Alliance partners for the benefit of communities across our regions.

Marcus Mulholland

NRM Project Officer

Gully remediations complete

Gulf Savannah NRM has helped remediate seven eroded gullies across the Gulf region that were identified as priority sites. We secured funding from a \$36 million Environmental Recovery package from the Federal and Queensland governments in response to the early 2019 monsoon trough flood event in the Gulf country.

By June 2021, six of the eroded gullies were complete and were signed off by our investors. Landholder feedback on the gully repairs has been very positive, and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority used one of the remediation sites as a case study for their website.

Earthworks on the seventh gully system began in August 2021, with all major works completed by early September. Revegetation will occur during the early wet season rains. Gulf Savannah NRM will monitor all seven gullies during the wet season and into 2022, to gauge their performance under rainfall loads. This will include images from timelapse cameras at two of the gully sites.



One of the gullies before remediation

After works and wet season revegetation



Aquaponics community garden opens in Croydon



In September 2020, Gulf Savannah NRM commenced a community-based aquaponics garden project in partnership with Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation. The aim of this project was to help address some of the food security issues in the community.

When floodwaters close the roads to Croydon, food supply chains are cut, and many weeks can pass before they re-open and supply resumes.

The aquaponics garden now produces fruit, vegetables, herbs and fish. This local supply is a fantastic alternative and is a significant boost for a region facing many food security challenges. Remoteness, climate, and transport all affect the consistent and sustainable supply of fresh, nutritious food.

The Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation will continue to manage the system and allow people to grow their own produce. The project has been jointly funded by a Commonwealth and State disaster recovery funding arrangement under the Community Development Program.

Sarah Stevens

Intensive Agriculture Project Officer

Regional Land Partnerships

Healthy Farming Futures

The Healthy Farming Futures project has completed its third year, with four local farmers in the Intensive Support Program. We are inspired by their enthusiasm for farming practices that will improve the health of their soils and crops, increase their soil carbon and prevent hillslope erosion.

We held a field day to teach farmers about regenerative farming methods at John and Grace Gargan's farm in Mutchilba. About 45 people came, learning about pasture

cover cropping, orchard interrow multi-species cover cropping, microbial soil testing, and syntropic farming.

John Gargan showed how to use an AusCrimper Cover Crop Roller to terminate his cover crop and plant beans and corn directly into the crimped crop.

Auscrimper designer and manufacturer David Lange explained how the crimped cover crop forms a protective mulch layer, returning nutrients to the soil, boosting productivity through the growth cycle.

Cover crops are a central aspect of regenerative agriculture.

This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government National Landcare Program.



John Gargan (right) at the Mutchilba field day Below: The Auscrimper hooked up to John's tractor





Powerful Pollinators

This project promotes healthy populations of pollinating insects for horticultural crop production and native ecosystems. We show farmers the important role of pollinator species and host plants, and how to increase pollinator numbers on their farms.

Our key goal is to make farming and natural systems more resilient. We help farmers to implement practices to support pollinators, including changing insecticide spraying



Making hive frames at a beekeeping workshop

methods, and planting and maintaining on-farm insect habitats. A series of workshops is underway for budding backyard beekeepers, with presenters Graham Haigh, of Haigh's Honey, and Wim De Jong, sharing their collective wealth of beekeeping knowledge.

Smart Farms Small Grants

The first year of our two-year Healthy Farming Soils project has improved soil health in the region. It helps farm landholders introduce profitable, sustainable new management practices to build healthier, more resilient farming systems. Crop production value increases, with less need for synthetic chemical inputs.

We demonstrated the use of vermicast and vermiliquid products on a purpose-built commercial scale worm farm. Next, we'll hold an on-site practical workshop on successful worm farming. Farmers have engaged with a program promoting multi-species planting to build soil health, taking advantage of existing financial and technical support to plant pasture and orchard cover crops.

The project also introduces farmers to biological soil treatments. A shared 1000 litre compost tea brewer is available, giving farmers the capacity to produce their own biological fertilisers on-farm.

This project is supported by Smart Farms Small Grants, through funding from the Australian Government National Landcare Program.

Vickie Mylrea

Community Education Officer

Remote Food Gardens 2021

We continued to deliver the Remote Food Gardens Network project through financial year 2020-21. A funding increase enabled us to deliver the project to eight schools and one community garden in the northern Gulf region.

Three Gulf Kids Environment Days were held in 2020, attended by over two hundred students, hosted by Croydon, Georgetown and Mutchilba State Schools. We've recently revamped our quarterly newsletter, which also goes to all regional schools in digital form, offering garden support and updates, activities, crafts and competitions. There are now three project officers delivering the services to communities across the region.



In the garden at Chillagoe State School

We received a further 12 months of funding in July 2021, so next financial year we will deliver an expanded program to eleven schools, supporting 340 students to live healthy lifestyles, growing food in kitchen gardens. This project will also deliver three Gulf Kids Days and four Gulf Kids Newsletters.

The program is funded by the North Queensland Primary Health Network.



Indigenous Partnerships 2021



Ewamian Elder David Hudson at our Reconciliation event at Undara

Ewamian woman Alex Lacey helps students paint story poles

Our major project this financial year was Tagalaka Reading the Country for Future Generations. It was funded by the Department of Environment and Science through the Looking after Country program.

The project was delivered through a partnership between Gulf Savannah NRM, Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. It successfully delivered a five year On-Country plan for Tagalaka.

NAIDOC was celebrated in November 2020 with morning teas in Mareeba and Croydon, recognising our emerging First Nations leaders.

We held our first Reconciliation Day event in May, facilitated by Ewamian elder David Hudson. It was made possible through a strong partnership between Gulf Savannah NRM, Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation and the Etheridge Shire Council.

Sarah Rizvi

Community Partnerships Team Leader

There were big changes in our communications team this year. Sarah Rizvi became team leader for Community Partnerships, with the task of developing a new communications strategy.

Richard Dinnen became communications officer while Rachel Smith is on maternity leave, bringing 35 years of multimedia experience and finely tuned communications instincts to the role. The talented and energetic Chelsea Smith joined the team to focus on social media, event promotion and project communications, particularly for Gulf kids activities.

The new team formed as the company began a rebrand, from Northern Gulf Resource Management Group to Gulf Savannah NRM. This was a good time to take a fresh look at the way we communicate and engage with our region and our stakeholders.

We received funding for a series of small community projects during 2020-21, including:

Heywire Funded through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and the ABC. This project engaged 12 local young people from Mareeba and Dimbulah to work with experienced film makers James Leech and Sarah Scragg to produce three films featuring various local farming enterprises. The films were screened at a special event at Mareeba High School in May.



One of the Heywire student film crews on location at Stockade Farm, Dimbulah



Bloom and Prosper

Jointly funded under Commonwealth and Queensland disaster funding arrangements. In September 2020, three events for rural women were held at Mt Carbine, Mt Molloy and Mt Surprise. The events were attended by 49 women, who engaged and networked around natural resource management and disaster preparedness themes.

Paint and Sip

Funded by Croydon Shire Council (Regional Arts Development Fund). An evening for women in Croydon. Fourteen women gathered at the Doris Casey Hall for an evening of friendship and fun on February 18.

Acknowledgement of support

Thanks to the Queensland Museum for contributing to Gulf kids days in August 2020, and to the National Indigenous Australians Agency for funding a NAIDOC event in Mareeba. We also thank the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships for funding the Reconciliation day at Undara in June, where Ewamian Traditional Owners welcomed students from Mt Surprise, Greenvale and Forsayth schools to their country for a day of cultural awareness activity and lots of fun.



Gulf Savannah Communications team (L-R) Chelsea Smith Richard Dinnen Sarah Rizvi

Dan Winget

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator

The Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) supports landholders, industry and community groups to adopt new and innovative sustainable agriculture practices. The position is funded through the Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) program by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Dan has been busy helping our team spread the word about our projects, and he's engaged with project partners, community groups and stakeholders.

He helped run the successful Regenerative Farming Field Day at Mutchilba in April, where industry experts and specialists spoke to 60 people from farms across the region. Dan coordinated an Advanced Livestock Movement Management Course at Perryvale Station, south of Einasleigh. It focused on improving land condition and preventing degradation, showing graziers other ways to handle livestock, including working dogs.

Dan presented Gulf Savannah NRM's current projects at Mareeba State School, demonstrating ways we can look after our natural resources. Erosion was a school hot topic then, so Dan showed photos of erosion in the Gulf Savannah Region and talked about our projects to alleviate and repair it, and how to prevent land degradation.



Cattle handling course at Perryvale



Natural Resources Investment Program

Dan has developed and implemented projects on ten stations in the Gulf Savannah region as part of the Natural Resources Investment Program (NRIP) Gulf Rivers Riparian Improvement Project. The goal is to improve riparian condition along rivers and tributaries to improve management of endangered and of-concern vegetation.

Works have included fencing off riparian zones, controlling feral animals, managing livestock impacts and controlling weeds. Installing alternate watering points away from riparian zones reduces grazing pressure on sensitive riverine areas.

These projects work together to improve native vegetation and water quality, stabilise riverbanks to control erosion, and promote better ground cover for soil stability, reducing sediment run-off.

Dan is currently working with four enthusiastic stations to develop projects to deliver on these outcomes. Most will be completed before the wet season.



Our Regenerative Farming field day at Mutchilba in April

John McLaughlin Rangelands Project Office

E-Beef Smart Farming Project

The E-Beef Smart Farming Project enables graziers to investigate and adopt new and emerging technologies. It aims to use these tools to help producers implement grazing best management practice. We show how timely management decisions can enhance pastures, ground cover, soils, land condition, business profitability and adaptability. This project brings together the three Queensland rangelands NRM organisations - Gulf Savannah, Desert Channels Queensland and Southern Gulf NRM - along with the Queensland Department of Agriculture & Fisheries.

The team is shifting the paradigm among graziers towards the possibilities and opportunities of digital technology. We upskill graziers in AgTech, raising awareness of options and supporting successful adoption.

In 2021, we trialled walk-over weighing, virtual fencing, various GPS enabled ear tags, and water supplementation systems. The project has engaged hundreds of graziers across the Queensland rangelands over the past three years. Results have varied considerably, showing the need for demonstration projects with locally relevant case studies of tools often untested in commercial settings.

We're in the final six months of this three-year project. Gulf Savannah NRM will continue to build our AgTech capacity, drawing on our understanding of the unique challenges of the region and its businesses, to assist graziers on their journey into a digital future.



Agersens eShepherd virtual fencing collar trial at Namuel Station near Georgetown



GrazingFutures

This ongoing program supports grazing business resilience by assisting recovery from extreme climate events and improving future preparedness. It's funded through the Drought & Climate Adaptation Program (DCAP), building strong partnerships between regional NRM organisations and the Queensland Department of Agriculture & Fisheries.

With the Department, Gulf Savannah NRM organised these activities in 2021:

Wet Season Spelling Plots: two sites near Mt Surprise have been monitored in 2021 to analyse the benefits of spelling compared to continuous grazing. Over one season, spelling showed much higher pasture yields, improved ground cover, greater diversity of pasture species, and higher incidence of 3P species, along with an overall improvement in land condition.

GrazingFutures Roadshow: focused on improving cow fertility and reducing cow and calf losses in north Queensland. Three well-attended events over five days in June, beginning at Pinnacle Station on southern Cape York, concluding at Woodstock Station, between Croydon and Richmond.

Our staff presented at Beef Week, Laura Grazing Forum, Charters Towers Beef Expo, Mareeba Field Days and the NRM Alliance Symposium.

We also supported the Rain Ready Roadshow and show-cased a local carbon project near Croydon.

GrazingFutures engaged with more than 100 producers in 2021, who said they appreciated us travelling to the more remote areas of our region to deliver important information.



Dr Geoffry Fordyce speaking at our GrazingFutures roadshow event on Pinnacle Station

John McLaughlin

Rangelands Project Officer

Climate Mates Program

We're in our second year in the Northern Australia Climate Program, helping graziers better manage drought and climate risks through research, development and extension.

Climate Mates are chosen for their industry knowledge and ability to communicate with northern Australia producers.



NACP helps graziers manage climate risks

We aim to improve the use of weather and climate forecasts by graziers. Our Climate Mates help beef businesses, advisors and the broader extension community to adopt new climate tools and information.

Our Climate Mate, John McLaughlin, has helped Gulf graziers and industry stakeholders with tailored climate outlooks and updates. He provides information specific to our region, reflecting the needs of local graziers. John demonstrates the critical link between available climate information and decision making, suggesting relevant grazing land management practices for local beef operations.

We've also delivered one-on-one support to producers across the region, which is also a great learning opportunity for us. Graziers get to learn climate skills and tools at their own pace, and our Climate Mate learns about their businesses – which helps us give good advice about using seasonal climate information to make informed decisions.

The Rain Ready Roadshow took us to eight remote properties over five days in August, with our partners at Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. We delivered tailored services to improve understanding and interpretation of Gulf wet season forecasts and enhance climate information in grazing land management decision-making.

In April at Einasleigh, the Grazing & GLM Workshop introduced graziers to seasonal climate forecasts. With support from GrazingFutures and QDAF, the event delivered information about climate forecasts and its use in grazier decision-making.



John presented information about new tools and forecasts at Beef 2021, Mareeba Rotary Field Days, Richmond Field Days and the Forsayth turnout, along with the Gulf Savannah wet season preview webinar in September. Gulf Savannah NRM has also been developing a regional climate calendar. Graziers have welcomed this beginner's guide to our climate drivers and available monitoring tools. We hope local land managers will use it to take advantage of seasonal climate forecasts. We're pleased to offer landholders a way to mitigate climate extremes and variability, and make the most of favourable conditions when they occur.

De-risking broadacre cropping options for northern Queensland

We're in the second year of this exciting opportunity for graziers to consider diversifying revenue streams or improving animal production by bringing cropping into their enterprise. It's coordinated by the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia in a partnership between the University of Queensland, Gulf graziers, Radicle Seeds Australia, Elders and AgForce.

The project will identify best adapted maize, grain, and forage sorghum cultivars, cropping systems and agronomic practices for the Gulf Savannah region. We'll also identify optimum combinations of hybrid characteristics that might adapt to northern Queensland environments and markets, and we'll communicate results to producers and agribusinesses.

Variety and nutrition trials were held at Strathmore and Prestwood Stations, west of Georgetown. Birds damaged the Prestwood Station trial, but we learned a lot. Reducing rainfall runoff gives the best opportunity to de-risk cropping in northern Australia and improve environmental outcomes. Increase rainfall infiltration, reduce runoff and soil erosion by maintaining ground cover and promoting root activity via legumes. New varieties of sorghum show good adaptation to north Queensland, including those selected for higher digestibility. We need further analysis to identify crop management options to maximise productivity. Sorghum yields have not responded to increased nitrogen application in low and median rainfall seasons. We need research on other ways to improve soil condition.

The project was also involved in the inaugural Gilbert River Agricultural Forum, organised by Etheridge Shire Council with support from Gulf Savannah NRM, where we saw significant interest and growing support for more work in this area.

Better connectivity for the Gulf Savannah region

There are all sorts of reasons people love to live and work in the Gulf region, but there's one thing we all want to change. Telecommunication options are limited and unreliable, adversely affecting every aspect of daily life: doing business, staying connected, keeping safe.

Gulf Savannah NRM continues to work for improved digital connectivity in the region, leading a project to identify realistic solutions to local communications challenges.

We worked with the QUT Digital Media Research Centre, The Cairns Institute, Far North Queensland Organisation of Councils, Gulf Cattlemen's Association and AirBridge Networks to review mobile and broadband challenges prior to and since the January 2019 monsoon flood event.



Record-breaking rain cut off remote Gulf communities, devastated the livestock industry, and caused major disruptions to freight transport and food supplies. We've talked with local people across the region, from Dimbulah to Normanton, about what they need the technology to do for them, and we've audited what's currently available. We've also got expert advice from telcos operating in the region to create tailored solutions to community identified needs and priorities.

We've just released a landmark report: *Solutions for Improved Digital Connectivity in FNQ: Building community and disaster resilience in the Gulf Savannah.* It calls for substantial strategic investment in digital connectivity to increase safety, strengthen communities and boost local businesses. The report identifies viable solutions to increase digital connectivity, improve social cohesion and support development.



The report says key issues include insufficient mobile backhaul capacity in remote areas, where services are oversubscribed during busy periods, and there are large black spots on major roads. We rely on satellite systems for remote broadband, which can be less reliable than fixed line services.

We also need to build digital capability in households and businesses, so that people have the right information and skills to get the best service possible and make the most of being connected.

Gulf Savannah NRM will continue to work with our partner agencies and Gulf communities to bring about real telecommunications improvements. A strong regional approach is vital to future-proof development in the region and provide opportunities for individuals, business and local government to participate in the digital economy.

This project is funded under the Community Development Program, which is jointly funded under the Commonwealth State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018.



There are many mobile black spots along roads in the Gulf region



Directors for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

Ellen Weber (Chair) Brian Muirhead Anne Clarke Kate Eden Jess Fealy (until March 2021) Kelly Bethel (interim from March 2021)

Meeting attendance

Name	Number of eligible meetings	Number attended
Ellen Weber (Chair)	9	9
Brian Muirhead	9	9
Anne Clarke	9	8
Kate Eden	5	5
Jess Fealy	7	6
Kelly Bethel	2	2

Financial performance



Income by Source 2021



Commonwealth Government
Queensland Government
Other



ABN: 94 106 450 355

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

ABN: 94 106 450 355

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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Northern Gulf Resource Management Group ABN: 94 106 450 355

Auditors Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charites and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2020, there have been:

- (i) no contravention of the auditor independence requirements of the 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



CROWE AUDIT AUSTRALIA

Donna Sinanian Partner

Townsville, 11th Ocbtober 2021.

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The title 'Partner' conveys that the person is a senior member within their respective division, and is among the group of persons who hold an equity interest (shareholder) in its parent entity, Findex Group Limited. The only professional service offering which is conducted by a partnership is the Crowe Australasia external audit division. All other professional services offered by Findex Group Limited are conducted by a privately owned organisation and/or its subsidiaries.

ABN: 94 106 450 355

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	4	4,081,355	3,151,253
General administration costs		(473,562)	(420,384)
Employee benefits expense		(1,016,270)	(865,887)
Board and directors expenses		(78,955)	(77,080)
Direct project costs		(2,535,642)	(771,333)
Direct project costs (Motor vehicle)	_	(69,351)	(80,251)
Surplus/(Loss) for the year		(92,425)	936,318
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	=	(92,425)	936,318

ABN: 94 106 450 355

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	\$	\$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		1,758,927	2,012,315
Trade and other receivables	-	857	7,500
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	_	1,759,784	2,019,815
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5 _	71,074	101,059
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	_	71,074	101,059
TOTAL ASSETS	_	1,830,858	2,120,874
LIABILITIES	_		
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	77,024	261,960
Employee benefits	7	58,209	56,885
Lease liabilities		9,888	14,033
Loan from other related parties	10	50,000	50,000
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	_	195,121	382,878
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	_		
Employee benefits	7	18,214	18,160
Lease liabilities	_	-	9,888
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	_	18,214	28,048
TOTAL LIABILITIES	_	213,335	410,926
NET ASSETS	_	1,617,523	1,709,948
	-		
EQUITY			
Retained surplus	_	1,617,523	1,709,948
TOTAL EQUITY	_	1,617,523	1,709,948
	_		

ABN: 94 106 450 355

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2021

	Retained Surplus	
	\$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2020	1,709,948	1,709,948
Net loss for the year	(92,425)	(92,425)
Balance at 30 June 2021	1,617,523	1,617,523

2020

	Retained Surplus	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2019	205,835	205,835
Adjustment on initial application of AASB 15 / AASB 1058	567,795	567,795
Balance at 1 July 2019 restated	773,630	773,630
Net surplus for the year	936,318	936,318
Balance at 30 June 2020	1,709,948	1,709,948

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Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers	4,075,637	3,566,735
Payments to suppliers and employees	(4,315,427)	(2,064,510)
Interest received	1,878	3,062
Finance costs	(1,443)	(1,008)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(239,355)	1,504,279
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Repayment of related party loan	-	(50,000)
		<i></i>

Payment of lease liabilities	(14,033)	(4,474)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(14,033)	(54,474)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	(253,388) 2,012,315	1,449,805 562,510
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	1,758,927	2,012,315

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

The financial report covers Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd as an individual entity. Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd is a not-for-profit Company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The principal activities of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2021 were to plan and advise on issues and best practice for natural resources in Northern Gulf Region.

The functional and presentation currency of Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd is Australian dollars.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the Directors on the date the Responsible Persons' Declaration was signed.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-forProfits Commission Act 2012.*

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue and other income

Revenue from contracts with customers

The core principle of AASB 15 is that revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Company expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

- 1. Identify the contract with the customer
- 2. Identify the performance obligations
- 3. Determine the transaction price
- 4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations
- 5. Recognise revenue as and when control of the performance obligations is transferred

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the Company have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

The revenue recognition policies for the principal revenue streams of the Company are:

Grant Revenue

Grant Revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the company satisfies the significantly specific performance obligations stated within the funding agreements. If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the company is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue and other income

financial position as a liability until those conditions are satisfied.

Other Income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis and is recognised when the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd is entitled to it.

(b) Income Tax

The Company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(c) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

(d) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for significantly less than fair value have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

Where the cost model is used, the asset is carried at its cost less any accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses. Costs include purchase price, other directly attributable costs and the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and restoring the asset, where applicable.

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the assets useful life to the Company, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Plant and Mapping Equipment	20 - 30%
Motor Vehicles	19%
Office Equipment	25%
Computer Equipment	25%
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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(d) Property, plant and equipment

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

Right-of-use assets

A right-of-use asset is recognised at the commencement date of a lease. The right-of-use asset is measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for, as applicable, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date net of any lease incentives received, any initial direct costs incurred, and, except where included in the cost of inventories, an estimate of costs expected to be incurred for dismantling and removing the underlying asset, and restoring the site or asset.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the asset, whichever is the shorter. Where the company expects to obtain ownership of the leased asset at the end of the lease term, the depreciation is over its estimated useful life. Right-of use assets are subject to impairment or adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities.

The company has elected not to recognise a right-of-use asset and corresponding lease liability for short-term leases with terms of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets. Lease payments on these assets are expensed to profit or loss as incurred.

(e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

On initial recognition, other financial assets are measured at fair value plus transaction costs and subsequent measured at amortised cost in accordance with AASB 9 Financial Instruments.

(f) Leases

At inception of a contract, the Company assesses whether a lease exists - i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

This involves an assessment of whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset this may be explicitly or implicitly identified within the agreement. If the supplier has a substantive substitution right then there is no identified asset.
- The Company has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from the use of the asset throughout the period of use.
- The Company has the right to direct the use of the asset i.e. decision making rights in relation to changing how and for what purpose the asset is used.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(g) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled .

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

(h) Economic dependence

Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd is dependent on the Australian Commonwealth and State Governments for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report the directors have no reason to believe the Australian Commonwealth and State Governments will not continue to support Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd.

3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The directors make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

Key estimates - receivables

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. An impairment provision is included for any receivable where the entire balance is not considered collectible. The impairment provision is based on the best information at the reporting date.

Key estimates - provisions

As described in the accounting policies, provisions are measured at management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period. These estimates are made taking into account a range of possible outcomes and will vary as further information is obtained.

4 Revenue and Other Income

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Grant funding	3,865,127	2,997,900
Interest received	1,878	3,062
Other trading revenue	214,350	150,291
Total Revenue	4,081,355	3,151,253

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5

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Property, plant and equipment Motor vehicles At cost 352,709 352,709 Accumulated depreciation (298,474) (285,785) Total motor vehicles 54,235 66,924 Computer equipment 14,467 14,467 At cost Accumulated depreciation (13,725) (13,477) Total computer equipment 742 990 Plant and mapping equipment 94,951 107,588 At cost Opening balance - Owned (88,319) (98,106) Total plant and mapping equipment 6,632 9,482 Right-of-use assets At cost 28,395 28,395 Accumulated depreciation (18,930) (4,732) Total Right-of-use assets 9,465 23,663 Total property, plant and equipment 71,074 101,059

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

5 Property, plant and equipment

(a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Plant and				
	Mapping	Motor	Computer	Right-of-use	
	Equipment	Vehicles	Equipment	assets	Total
	S	ŝ	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2021					
Balance at the beginning of year	9,482	66,924	066	23,663	88,761
Disposals	(176)				(776)
Depreciation expense	(2,074)	(12,689)	(248)	(15,122)	(30,133)
Balance at the end of the year	6,632	54,235	742	8,541	57,852

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

6 Trade and Other Payables

	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT		Ŧ
Trade payables	20,683	151,898
GST payable	23,544	63,099
Employee benefits	-	23,410
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	32,797	23,553
	77,024	261,960

7 Employee Benefits

	\$	\$
Current liabilities		
Long service leave	10,494	9,212
Annual Leave	44,944	47,673
Toil	2,771	-
Total current employee benefits	58,209	56,885
	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Non-current liabilities		
Long service leave	18,214	18,160
Total non-current employee		
benefits	18,214	18,160

2021

2020

8 Key Management Personnel Remuneration

The totals of remuneration paid to the key management personnel of Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd during the year are as follows:

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	174,072	178,079
Long-term benefits	1,708	1,657
Post-employment benefits	15,428	16,108
	191,208	195,844

9 Contingencies

In the opinion of the Directors, the Company did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2021 (30 June 2020: None).

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

10 Related Parties

(a) The Company's main related parties are as follows:

Key management personnel - refer to Note 8.

Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd aligned with FNQ NRM Ltd trading as Terrain NRM and Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd and created a new entity, NQ NRM Alliance Ltd to perform the corporate services role for all 3 NRMs centrally. NQ NRM Alliance has also performed some grant coordination services for the 3 NRMs. Board members from Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd are present on the board of NQ NRM Alliance Ltd. Due to this relationship, The NQ NRM Alliance Ltd, FNQ NRM Ltd trading as Terrain NRM and Cape York Natural Resource Management Ltd are noted as a related parties to Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd.

The agreement between Northern Gulf Resource Management Group and NQ NRM Alliance as stated above has ceased on 30 June 2021. It is noted all functions previously performed by NQ NRM Alliance have returned to Northern Gulf Resource Management Group as at 1 July 2021.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel or their close family members.

(b) Transactions with related parties

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

The following transactions occurred with related parties:

			Balance outstanding	
	Purchases	Sales	Owed to the company	Owed by the company
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Related Parties				
NQ NRM Alliance	231,859	884,908	-	-
FNQ NRM Ltd	34,001	55,845	-	-
Cape York NRM Ltd	150,374	11,664	-	-
Board Member related parties Ellen Weber	231	-	-	-

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

10 Related Parties

(c) Loans to/from related parties

An unsecured loan was received from FNQ NRM Ltd Trading as Terrain NRM during the year ended 30 June 2019. This is on an arms length basis and is interest free.

Opening balance \$	Closing balance \$
50,000	50,000
100,000	50,000
	\$ 50,000

No interest is paid on the loans.

11 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

Since the end of the 2021 financial year Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd have changed their trading name to Gulf Savannah NRM. As part of the company's organisation review, it was determined that the financial and operational functions previously performed by NQ NRM Alliance would be performed internally.

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

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Dated

Responsible Persons' Declaration

The responsible persons declare that in the responsible person's opinion:

- 1. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- The financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission 2. Act 2021.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013.

Director

Ellen Weber Oct 11, 2021

Director Kate Eden (Oct 5, 2021 17:07 GMT+11)

Kate Eden



Independent Auditor's Report

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Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible persons' declaration.

to the Members of Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the ability of the Company to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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Independent Auditor's Report

to the Members of Northern Gulf Resource Management Group (cont.)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by those charged with governance.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of those charged with governance's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during the audit.

Crowe Audit Australia CROWE AUDIT AUSTRALIA

Donna Sinanian Partner Townsville, 13th October 2021.

The title 'Partner' conveys that the person is a senior member within their respective division, and is among the group of persons who hold an equity interest (shareholder) in its parent entity, Findex Group Limited. The only professional service offering which is conducted by a partnership is the Crowe Australasia external audit division. All other professional services offered by Findex Group Limited are conducted by a privately owned organisation and/or its subsidiaries.

Your Gulf Savannah NRM team



Zoe Williams CEO



Denise Hinks Corporate Services Leader



Kasmin Brotherton Executive Support Officer



Niilo Gobius Team Leader Agriculture



Marcus Mulholland NRM Project Officer



Dan Wingett RALF/NRM Project Officer



Vickie Mylrea Community Education Officer



Mandy Pickering Rangelands Project Assistant



Sarah Stevens Intensive Agriculture Project Officer



Keerah Steele Project Assistant



Chelsea Smith Community Partnerships Support



Wayne Young NRM Planning Officer



Richard Dinnen Communications



Rebecca Gray Business Support



Natarsha Bell Indigenous Engagement Officer



John McLaughlin Rangelands Project Officer



Rachel Smith Communications



Sarah Rizvi











Community

Industry

Environment