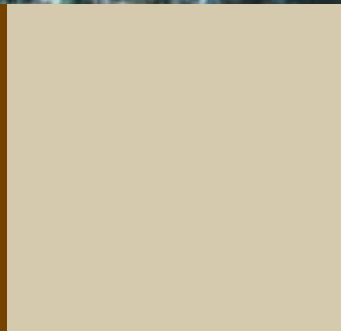


# PROTECTING OUR SPECIAL PLACES & SPECIES



**The government will provide funding for a number of measures to safeguard our unique environment, biodiversity and primary industries.**

### **NATIONAL WEEDS AND PRODUCTIVITY RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

- Invests \$15.3 million over four years to reduce the impact of weeds on farm and forestry productivity and biodiversity.
- Establishes a comprehensive national applied research program to investigate and provide solutions for the most serious invasive plant problems across the most populated parts of Australia.
- Brings together national experts, land managers and relevant stakeholders to develop improved understanding about the information required to effectively manage the risks associated with invasive plants in forests, pastures and native vegetation.
- Ensures better coordination and information exchange between researchers, land managers and regulatory agencies for management of invasive species.

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### **ANTI-WHALING ACTION – AERIAL MONITORING**

**Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

- Provided \$0.7 million in 2007–08 to undertake aerial monitoring and surveillance of whaling activity in the Southern Ocean using the Australia–Antarctica Airlink A319 aircraft as part of efforts to reinvigorate Australia’s pursuit of a permanent international ban on all forms of scientific and commercial whaling.

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### **SOUTHERN OCEAN WHALING PATROLS**

**Australian Customs Service**

- Provided surveillance and monitoring of whaling activity during the Southern Ocean whaling season.
- New funding of \$1.3 million in 2007–08 was provided to carry out the surveillance activities.

### **FISHERIES RESEARCH PROGRAM**

#### **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

- Provides \$4.4 million over three years to undertake research which underpins policy to ensure Commonwealth fisheries are profitable and managed for the long-term sustainability of the resource.
- Provides more certainty about the status of species, to determine whether current management approaches are contributing to a sustainable fishing industry.

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### **DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS – EXTENSION**

#### **Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

- Invests an additional \$4.4 million in 2008–09 to ensure that Kakadu National Park's World Heritage values are maintained and managed, following a loss of revenue from the abolition of the Park entry fees in 2004.
- Enables the Park to maintain current investment in park protection, visitor facilities and park infrastructure, and to continue to recompense the Park's traditional owners for the loss of their revenue stream from park entry fees when fees were abolished.

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### **GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PACKAGE – ADDITIONAL FUNDING<sup>9</sup>**

#### **Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

- Supports structural adjustment to finalise applications from eligible fishing and land-based businesses impacted by the increase in the size of the 'no take' fishing areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park through the provision of \$50.8 million in new funding in 2007–08.

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<sup>9</sup> This measure was previously reported in the Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2007.



