

P R O T E C T I N G

Our environment from north to south



Australia boasts a unique and diverse landscape that extends from Cape York to Antarctica, and from the Indian Ocean to the islands of the Pacific. The Australian Government recognises the need to protect our native plants and wildlife and the complex ecosystems that sustain us.

Maintaining Australia's Presence in Antarctica - additional funding

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

- Australia's international reputation as a leading nation in Antarctic affairs and science will be maintained through an additional investment of \$25.2 million over two years.
- The Australian Government has undertaken scientific research expeditions to Antarctica for more than 60 years. This investment will ensure Australian operations and scientific research into priority areas such as climate change and environmental protection will continue.
- The Antarctic support industry is one of the largest industries in Tasmania. This additional investment will provide an important financial stimulus to the Tasmanian economy over the next two years.

Australia – Antarctica Airlink - continuation

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

- The Australia – Antarctica Airlink is an innovative, fast and efficient way of transporting scientists and other expeditioners between Australia and Antarctica.
- The Airlink is enabling Australia to significantly increase the efficiency, capacity and flexibility of Australia's Antarctic science efforts. Funding of \$11.7 million has been provided in 2009–10 to continue this important program.
- As the single biggest boost to the Australian Antarctic program since its inception more than 60 years ago, the Airlink is a major contributor to Australia's Antarctic endeavours.

Management of Commonwealth Terrestrial Reserves - additional funding

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

- The government recognises the importance of protecting our iconic parks and reserves. This funding will improve park facilities and visitor infrastructure, such as walking tracks, interpretation and visitor centres.
- An additional \$26.0 million will be injected over four years into the Commonwealth's parks and reserves including Christmas Island National Park and the World Heritage listed Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks.
- This investment will create employment opportunities, particularly in northern and regional Australia.
- This funding will help to enhance the quality of our parks that have and will continue to attract visitors from across Australia and all over the world.

Director of National Parks - continued supplementation

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

- The government will provide supplementation of \$7.6 million over four years to protect Kakadu National Park's World Heritage values to complement the reintroduction of park use fees.
- This funding will ensure that protection of biodiversity, control of weed and feral animals and park management of visitor facilities is maintained.
- Kakadu National Park makes a multi-million dollar contribution to the regional economy and tourism industry nationally each year.

Super Science Initiative – Marine and Climate Science

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

- The government will commit \$387.7 million over five years to support and enhance Australia's existing research strengths in marine and climate science. Funding will address critical infrastructure needs and deliver quality facilities.
- This crucial investment will underpin our nation's response to climate change by providing an integrated national platform for marine and climate research which is critical for the sustainable development and management of Australia's terrestrial reserves and ocean resources.

Working on Country – Regional Australia

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Closing the Gap - Community Development Employment Projects Program and the Indigenous Employment Program Reform

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Extension of the Northern Territory Emergency Response – Rangers*

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The Australian Government is committed to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The Working on Country initiatives create new jobs and training opportunities for Indigenous Australians to deliver vital environmental services for land, sea and cultural management.

- There is a real gap in Australia where Indigenous Australians have rights and obligations to land that is not Indigenous owned. The Working on Country – Regional Australia initiative strives to bridge this gap through contracting Indigenous Australians, under a fee-for-service basis, to undertake activities that will deliver environmental outcomes in partnership with land owners.
- A \$44.1 million investment over the period to 30 June 2013 is creating the capacity for Indigenous land and sea managers to undertake on-ground works that directly improve the environment and support Indigenous communities to work in partnership with land owners to sustainably manage the environment in remote areas of Australia.
- Under the Remote Rangers component of Working on Country, the government has, for the first time, offered positions tailored for Indigenous people with existing skills. These positions are flexible to reflect community members' changing work needs. Funding of \$16.6 million will be provided over four years to fund 60 full-time equivalent remote ranger positions.
- The government is committed to improving employment opportunities among Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory. Given the success of Working on Country, the government will provide ongoing support to Indigenous ranger groups in the Northern Territory to continue the vital work they do to protect the

* Funding for this measure is currently provided from a 'Flexible Funding Pool' account managed by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Ongoing funding from 2010–11 to be directly appropriated to DEWHA will be settled as part of the 2010–11 Budget process.

Reef Headquarters Aquarium

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

- This popular Townsville education facility is instrumental in creating greater awareness of the critical issues affecting the health and status of the Great Barrier Reef.
- The aquarium is giving the community the opportunity to appreciate and understand the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and its management.
- The government is committed to ensuring the operation of this national education centre is maintained at current levels and available for future generations to enjoy.

Rum Jungle Management & Monitoring

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

- The Australian Government will contribute \$8.3 million over four years to support the environmental management and monitoring of the Rum Jungle former uranium mine site.
- Funding will contribute to the protection of the Finnis River and assist the Northern Territory in developing environmental standards for regional mining activities and with Indigenous land access issues.
- Rum Jungle Traditional Owners, the Northern Territory Government and industry will guide and contribute to the management of this site.