

**Commitments**

**Key Achievements**

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**NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

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Caring for our Country

- For the first time, set national and business plan priorities, establishing a new targeted, transparent and accountable framework based on good science and aimed at protecting our natural environment and investing in the resilience of our ecosystems.
  - Committed \$711m in secure funding to regional natural resource management organisations.
  - First ever multi-year project funding including \$19m to control feral camels in central Australia.
  - \$477m under the 2009-10 business plan to accelerate work on environmental and sustainable farming issues.
  - \$10.8m for Victorian bushfire-affected regions, for natural resource management bushfire recovery works.
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Community Coastcare

- Committed \$100m over 5 years to local community groups for Community Coastcare projects.
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Reef Rescue

*Protecting Great Barrier Reef as our most important natural asset*

- Reef Rescue \$200m extra funding to protect and improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef including through improved land management reducing the run-off of nutrients, pesticides and sediments from agricultural land.
  - More than \$74m to Qld community groups and farming industry bodies to improve Reef water quality.
  - Funded 700 Qld farmers to change their farming practices to improve reef water quality last year.
  - \$15m to support Indigenous communities in the development of Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements, Sea Country Management Plans and Indigenous training programs.
  - The release of the first-ever comprehensive assessment of the health of the Great Barrier Reef and its outlook.
  - The establishment of the GBR as the eighth matter of national environment significance under the EPBC Act.
  - Provided an extra \$12m over two years to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to help strengthen the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.
  - Employed a new Indigenous Community Compliance Liaison officer to help tackle illegal hunting and poaching of turtles and dugongs in Cairns and Cape York
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National Reserve System

*Our network of parks and reserves around the nation*

- The Government has quadrupled funding for acquisition under the National Reserve System program over 5 years.
  - Around one million hectares of land have been acquired in partnership with non-government organisations and state governments.
  - Significant new purchases including Mawonga (with Indigenous Land Corporation) in NSW, Toorale (with NSW govt) in northern NSW, Thundelarra in WA, Cranebrook in western Sydney, Witchelina in SA.
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Indigenous Land Management

- Added 3 million hectares of new Indigenous Protected Areas in 14 locations around the country, including the 2 million hectare Warddeken and Djelk IPAs in Arnhem Land.
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- Tripled funding to Indigenous Protected Areas to \$50m over 5 years
  - Assisted 630 Indigenous Ranger positions in 66 Working on Country projects across Australia.
  - Provided \$10m over 5 years to help Indigenous land managers participate in carbon markets
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National Parks

- Boosted the budget for visitor facilities, infrastructure and management of Commonwealth national parks by \$26.
  - A new Indigenous tourism strategy (Shared Vision for Tourism) for Kakadu National Park.
  - A new management plan for Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park including a roadmap to closure of the climb.
  - Released the Tourism Master Plan for Kakadu National Park.
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Natural Resource Management, and national biodiversity research and investment

- Renewed focus on biodiversity in the \$20m National Environment Research Program.
  - Launch of the landmark \$10m Bush Blitz including the world's first continental-scale survey documenting species and biodiversity across the National Reserve System.
  - Investing \$18m over 4 years to establish a groundbreaking National Plan for Environmental Information to establish National Environmental Accounts to parallel the National Accounts for the economy
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## BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

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BOM

- Established a new Tsunami Warning Centre
  - Launched new weather radars at Bairnsdale (VIC), Terrey Hills (NSW), Emerald (QLD) and Serpentine (WA).
  - Commissioned new weather radars at Mount Isa, Maningrida, Wollongong and Hobart.
  - Secured additional funding to roll out 7-day weather forecasting to 650 towns and cities across Australia.
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## WHALING & MARINE

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Whaling

- A \$32m commitment for non-lethal whale research and other marine mammal conservation initiatives, including through the Southern Ocean Research Partnership – the largest international whale research program in the world.
  - Unprecedented diplomatic engagement including through the International Whaling Commission.
  - Advancing a significant new proposal for whale conservation including ending whaling in the Southern Ocean and around the world.
  - Successfully led efforts in the IWC to prevent a compromise deal which would have legitimised commercial whaling.
  - Launched successful legal action in the International Court of Justice against Japanese 'scientific' whaling.
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Marine and Fisheries

- Initiated a network of marine protected areas in Commonwealth waters, following widespread consultation.
  - Identified Areas for Further Assessment in the South-West, North-West, North and East marine bioregions where community information is being collected to identify a system of new marine protected areas.
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- Declaration of Coral Sea Conservation Zone, nearly a million square kilometres, later incorporated as marine reserve
  - Further protection for critically endangered grey nurse sharks in New South Wales (Dec 2007).
  - The first ever Independent Expert Review of the East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery in Queensland to ensure sustainability, resulting in strict conditions for the East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery.
  - International leadership for the Coral Triangle Initiative, working with regional partners on environmental sustainability and food security including a \$2m commitment.
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## ANTARCTICA

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### Antarctica

- Launched the inaugural passenger flight to Australia's Antarctic Territory through the Antarctic Airlink (Jan 2008).
  - Boosted Antarctic funding by \$36m including an extra \$25.2m for the Australian Antarctic Division and \$11.7m in both 2009-10 and 2010-11 budgets to continue the Airlink program.
  - Re-established Australian Parliamentary Antarctic Alliance (June 2008).
  - Launched Mawson's Huts Historic Site Management Plan (June 2008).
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## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT

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### EPBC Administration

- Effective and rigorous administration of the *EPBC Act* including the unprecedented use of powers including 'clearly unacceptable' provisions.
  - Significant decisions including:
    - Rejection of the Traveston Dam in Queensland,
    - Approval, with the strictest conditions ever imposed for a project of this kind, of the \$50 billion Gorgon Gas development in WA,
    - Approval, with stringent conditions, of Beverley Uranium mine expansion,
    - Raising the environmental bar for the proposed Gunns Pulp Mill including world's best practice for waste discharge,
    - Approval of the new Fiona Stanley hospital in West Australia with conditions protecting substantial new areas of habitat for threatened Carnaby's Cockatoos,
    - 'Clearly unacceptable' rejection of proposed Waratah Coal open cut coal mine, 500 km rail line and coal port at pristine in Shoalwater Bay,
    - 'Clearly unacceptable' rejections of proposed 24 hectare development near Mission Beach because of the potential impact on Southern Cassowary habitat and large-scale development on Great Keppel Island,
    - Stopped the import of the Savannah Cat, a cross between the African serval and the domestic cat,
    - Rejection of the proposed expansion of the Christmas Island phosphate mine because of unacceptable environment impacts.
  - Facilitation of more than 40 high priority and major infrastructure projects initiated through the stimulus with the states and territories, while ensuring high standards of environmental protection. Examples include:
    - Hume Highway duplication projects at Holbrook, Tarcutta and Woomargama in NSW
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Protection of  
threatened species and  
ecological communities

- Gold Coast Light Rail project, Qld
  - Noarlunga to Seaford Rail extension, SA
  - New or increased levels of protection, including for:
    - The Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo from WA, listed as vulnerable.
    - The Tasmanian Devil, uplisted from vulnerable to endangered.
    - The Woylie from WA listed as endangered.
    - The Kuranda Tree Frog from northern Qld listed as endangered.
    - Lowland Native Grasslands, Tas.
    - Natural Temperate Grassland and Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain.
  - Released draft plan to tackle the threat posed by Cane Toads.
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## WASTE

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Waste management

- Secured agreement of the states and territories for the first time for the development of a National Waste Policy.
  - The first ever e-waste management program commencing in 2011.
  - The first ever 'fluoro-cycle' to recycle mercury-containing lamps from the commercial sector.
  - Leadership through the Environment Protection and Heritage Council on an agreement to develop a consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) on a National Container Deposit Scheme.
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## HERITAGE

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World Heritage

- World Heritage nominations submitted for the Australian Convict Sites and Ningaloo Reef in WA.
  - Committed \$38.5m for 17 World Heritage projects under Caring for our Country.
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National Heritage

- Expanded the National Heritage List to include:
    - Adelaide Parklands and City Layout
    - Australian Alps National Parks
    - Bondi Beach
    - Bonegilla Migrant Camp – Block 19
    - Myall Creek Massacre and Memorial Site
    - QANTAS Hangar in Longreach
    - Ningaloo Reef
  - Delivered on an important election commitment to formally hand over the 90 hectare former Quarantine Station at Point Nepean to Victoria, ended years of inaction and stalled negotiations.
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Heritage  
Infrastructure

- Successful rollout of \$60m for local heritage projects under Government's \$650m Jobs Fund component of *National Building – Economic Stimulus Plan* the first completed program under the stimulus plan.
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Shipwrecks

- Permanent protection for HMAS Sydney II, HSK Kormoran and Midget sub M-24 under the Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976.
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National &  
Commonwealth Historic  
Heritage Grants

- A new, ongoing fund of \$5m pa for historic built heritage.
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## **RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

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### Renewable Energy

- The largest ever rollout of household solar PV systems.
- Establishment of the National Solar Schools Plan, with funding already approved for over 2,400 Australian schools.
- New Solar Cities in Perth Moreland, Victoria and for Central Victoria Solar City (December 2008), Alice Springs (March 2008) and the Magnetic Island Solar Suburb in Townsville Solar City (Sept 2008).
- Supported:
  - installation of the largest roof-mounted solar system in Australia in Alice Springs (Feb 2009);
  - largest roof-mounted solar system in NSW at Blacktown Solar City (Feb 2008);
  - installation of solar panels at the Detroit Diesel building at the Keylink Industrial Estate, Rundle Lantern and the Adelaide Central Market;
- Funded the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Murdoch University, WA, to build a national Small Wind Turbine Test Centre (Aug 2008).
- Provided \$4.2m in funding for the Mt Barker wind farm in Western Australia, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 8,000 tonnes annually (April 2009).

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### Energy Efficiency

- Advanced household energy efficiency measures expected to prevent up to 19.5 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year by 2020 and save the economy more than \$10 billion over the next 16 years, including:
  - extension of the appliance energy rating labels from 6 to 10 stars (June 2008),
  - minimum performance standards and mandatory energy labels for televisions (Nov 2009),
  - accelerated phase-out of inefficient lighting (Nov 2009).
- Committed up to \$100m through the National Energy Efficiency Initiative for a partnership to develop a new 'smart-grid' energy network, inviting industry bids in October 2009.
- Established Green Precincts funding for 12 high-profile energy and water saving projects around Australia.
- Announced mandatory disclosure of energy use for commercial office buildings.
- Committed \$64.6m over 4 years as part of the Australian Government's contribution to the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency (May 2009).
- Secured COAG agreement to:
  - increase the energy efficiency of new homes to 6 stars,
  - develop national legislation for appliance energy performance standards and labelling (Oct 2008).
- Secured agreement to the National Hot Water Strategic Framework, progressing the Government's election commitment (Dec 2008).

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### NGOs

- Restored the Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations scheme for conservation organisations
  - Instituted regular roundtables with environment groups
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