



The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
 Prime Minister of Australia  
 House of Representatives  
 Parliament House  
 Canberra ACT 2600

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2 April 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

## Re: Potential COVID-19 economic stimulus measures in conservation and land management

In light of the current and anticipated impacts of COVID-19 across every sector of society, it is clear that decisive action and unprecedented investment is needed to temper the worst social and economic impacts of this crisis. We recognise the important measures taken by federal, state and territory governments to date, particularly in relation to the immediate health and economic threats posed by the rapid spread of the disease.

**The road to recovery will be a long one, which will require each sector of society to contribute in its own way. We stand ready to help in any way we can.**

Right now, hundreds of thousands of workers have lost their job across the country and we write in the interest of assisting government to find ways to give these people security of employment over the next couple of years.

It is in this spirit that we share these ideas on the role that the conservation and land management sector could play in immediate, medium and long-term economic stimulus efforts.

**Investment in a jobs-rich conservation and land management program, as part of broader economic stimulus measures, presents important opportunities for safe, meaningful and socially beneficial work during the period of economic crisis, while leaving enduring benefits for the environment, tourism and farm businesses.**

The sector is ready to be part of the **'bridge to recovery'** and can take on an expanded workforce once social distancing measures are eased. During the period of economic recovery, there is scope for tens of thousands of skilled and unskilled workers to be employed in the conservation and land management sector in roles that are:

- practical and labour intensive;
- located in both regional and metropolitan areas;
- appropriate for temporarily repurposing existing workforces which are under pressure, including tradespeople and workers in the tourism and small business sectors;
- contributing to building Australia's natural capital, through helping improve land condition and resilience;
- supportive of long-term sustainability of food and fibre production;
- will not create long-term structural commitments in the budget.

Please find attached a briefing note outlining a proposed \$4 billion combined federal and state economic stimulus package. This would provide jobs to **24,000 workers** at its peak to undertake **practical conservation activities** such as weed and pest control, river restoration and bushfire recovery and resilience.

Developing this package early will allow for **good program design** and the opportunity to learn the lessons of past programs. If funding is committed, then projects can be developed, partnerships formed and positions advertised, so that the program can hit the ground running as social distancing measures are eased.

**We would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with government in designing this program.**

If you have any questions or would like to organise a meeting, please contact Jack Gough, National Pastoral Conservation Manager at the Pew Charitable Trusts on 0427 713 101 or by email [jgough@outback.org.au](mailto:jgough@outback.org.au).

Yours sincerely,

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**Doug Humann AM**  
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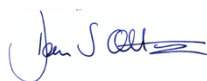
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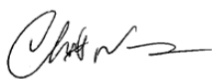


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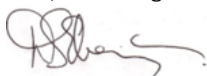
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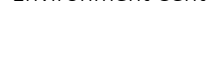
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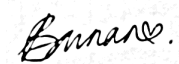
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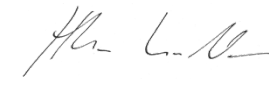
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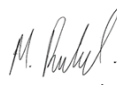


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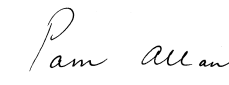
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