

National conservation and land management employment program

Meaningful work during the economic recovery period, delivering long-term environmental benefits

- In response to the profound economic impacts of COVID-19, more than 70 conservation, land management and farming organisations have come together to support a proposal for thousands of impacted workers to be employed to deliver practical conservation and land management activities across the country.
- This proposed conservation and land management program would provide important opportunities for safe, meaningful and socially beneficial work during the period of economic crisis, while leaving enduring benefits for the environment, local communities, tourism and farm businesses.
- Investment in conservation and land management presents a flexible tool for delivering employment where it is needed most, including (a) urban areas with large numbers of unemployed people; (b) regional centres with a high reliance on impacted sectors; and (c) vulnerable rural and remote communities.



Practical conservation work provides a proven pathway from welfare to work

Workers remain in their regions and contribute to the local economy

Opportunities for skills development, including traineeships and apprenticeships

Scenario 1

\$4 billion federal and state investment over 4 years

- National in scope
- Funding up to the capacity of the sector to deliver
- 40,000 FTE (direct)
- 13,428 FTE (indirect)
- **\$9.3 billion long-term economic benefits (NPV)**

Scenario 2

\$2 billion federal and state investment over 3 years

- National in scope
- Mid-range funding scenario (federal and state)
- 20,000 FTE (direct)
- 6,701 FTE (indirect)
- **\$4.7 billion long-term economic benefits (NPV)**

Scenario 3

\$500 million investment in priority regions over 2-3 years

- Regionally targeted
- Lower range funding scenario (federal)
- 5,000 FTE (direct)
- 1,690 FTE (indirect)
- **\$1.2 billion long-term economic benefits (NPV)**

Long-term environmental benefits

1. Enhance the condition and resilience of iconic natural assets and protected areas
2. Build natural capital to support long-term agricultural sustainability.
3. Support the recovery and resilience of habitats impacted by bushfire
4. Improve catchment health and restore rivers, wetlands and coastal habitats
5. Reduce impact of invasive species and support threatened species recovery

Case Study 1: Great Barrier Reef Catchments



Hard hit tourism reliant region, with unemployment predicted to reach 21% in Whitsunday and Port Douglas. Opportunity to employ **3,000 FTE workers** restoring reef catchments and rainforests, improving protected area management and delivering strategic species recovery and invasive control activities.

\$300m investment. \$720m long-term economic benefit

Case Study 2: NSW South Coast - Gippsland



COVID-19 and bushfires have taken a heavy toll on this region, with many people out of work. Opportunity to employ **1,000 FTE workers** to restore coastal habitats, support bushfire recovery and restore the alpine headwaters of the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Snowy.

\$100m investment. \$240m long-term economic benefit

Case Study 3: Western Australia



Tourism employs over 54,000 people in Perth and the South West, contributing \$8.5 billion to the national economy. Opportunity to employ **2,000 FTE workers** to support sustainable farming, restore rivers and coastal habitats, increase native seed supply and deliver strategic threatened species recovery actions.

\$200m investment. \$480m long-term economic benefit

Cross cutting linkages

- **Tourism and hospitality** sectors hit hardest by unemployment
- Economic impacts particularly acute in **tourism dependent regions**
- **Young people** disproportionately affected by unemployment impacts
- Risks of **long-term unemployment** and labour flight from regional centres
- Program costs partly offset by **avoided welfare costs** for federal budget
- Conservation stimulus well-suited to **regional and rural** communities
- Practical tool for delivering work to **vulnerable remote communities**
- Scope to build on successful **Indigenous land management** programs