



Progressing environmental reform & protecting Indigenous heritage

\$192m

We are investing \$181m over 4 years to progress environmental reforms, delivering improved environmental outcomes. We are also investing \$11m in protecting our Indigenous cultural heritage.

Streamlining approvals and delivering better environmental outcomes

\$62 million

focussed on accelerated regional planning, delivering up to 10 regional plans in priority development regions. This will streamline the assessment process and provide greater certainty for businesses and communities while delivering better environmental outcomes.

\$19 million

to simplify and reform environmental offsets to deliver greater flexibility and certainty for business while encouraging investment in environmental protection and restoration. This funding will also strengthen our data for our protected animals and plants and scope a new advisory committee to ensure decisions are informed by the best available science and expert advice.

\$28 million

additional investment over 12 months to sustain on-time environmental assessments and approvals under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This injection of funding will provide additional resources and grow capability to maintain on-time assessments, deliver environmental outcomes and support economic growth.

\$52.5 million*

to slash green tape for industry, protect the environment and improve transparency in project approvals. Funding will expand a ground-breaking Digital Environmental Approvals Program (DEAP) being piloted in Western Australia, reducing unnecessary duplication and delay.

\$10 million

to finalise single touch environmental approval agreements, removing duplication between national and state-level environmental approvals. This funding will deliver approval bilateral agreements under the EPBC Act with the states and territories, underpinned by National Environmental Standards and strong independent assurance.

\$9.5 million

to strengthen environmental compliance and enforcement functions, including increasing funding for an appropriate risk based approach to compliance and enforcement activities and supporting approval holders to comply with their obligations.

**This measure is part of the Australian Government's deregulation agenda.*

The Australian Government is committed to delivering better environmental outcomes, supporting economic recovery and creating jobs. Investment in accelerated regional planning, and additional funding to deliver single touch environmental approvals will streamline assessment processes and deliver better environmental outcomes. Improving our scientific knowledge base for protected plants and species, modernising our policies and processes including our offsets policy to encourage greater flexibility and investment in land management and restoration activities and a further injection of funding to support on-time environmental assessments will support economic growth and new jobs, while building trust and confidence in our environmental protection framework.



Protecting our Indigenous cultural heritage

\$5 million

to support a process of modernising cultural heritage protections with the First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance, including a program of comprehensive formal consultations.

\$6 million

to support the continued investment in resources and capabilities to facilitate the timely consideration and determination of applications under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection (ATSHP) Act 1984*.

The Australian Government also is working to strengthen and modernise our cultural heritage protections by working with Indigenous Australians and communities. This reform process will review existing protections and legislative frameworks, undertake targeted consultation with Traditional Owners and will consider options to modernise our laws, processes and policies.

PROGRESSING AUSTRALIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL REFORM AGENDA

The Australian Government is adopting a regional approach to planning and assessment in key growth areas, advancing our commitment to streamlining environmental assessments and approvals via a single touch environmental approvals process and encouraging investment in land management and restoration activities through a new offsets policy. These reforms will support better environmental outcomes, grow investor confidence, and provide faster regulatory decisions for businesses and communities.

We are delivering reforms to ensure decision-making is supported by the best available advice and information. We are investing in our data and knowledge base for protected animals and plants, building our compliance and enforcement capabilities and scoping a new industry and technology advisory committee to ensure business has the right information to meet environmental approval requirements, and the community has confidence in the environmental regulatory system.

We are continuing to invest in our environmental regulatory systems and assessment processes to further enhance our capabilities and support on-time project assessment and decision-making. This will continue to build trust and confidence in capabilities and deliver effective decision-making for businesses and communities.

STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS HERITAGE PROTECTIONS

The Australian Government is investing in a partnership with the First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance to undertake a national engagement process, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are at the centre of Indigenous heritage reform in Australia. Findings from this process will inform policy approaches to reform and modernise Indigenous heritage protections.

We are ensuring timely decision-making and administration of applications under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*. This funding supports the continued work to improve the consideration and administration of applications currently under the Act and to deliver timely ATSHP Act decisions.



Fast Fact

Australian Government investment in timely environmental approvals has delivered a significant improvement in on-time approvals, with 96% of key decisions currently being made on time.