

**INVESTING FOR A
SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA**

**COMMONWEALTH
ENVIRONMENT
EXPENDITURE**

2003-04

STATEMENT BY
THE HONOURABLE DR DAVID KEMP, MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE
13 MAY 2003

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MINISTER'S FOREWORD

The Howard Government puts the environment at the very heart of Commonwealth Government policy. A healthy environment is crucial to our wellbeing as a nation, while our natural, built and cultural heritage informs our national identity.

The *State of the Environment Report 2001*, the *Australian Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment 2002* and the results of other studies have highlighted those key aspects of the Australian environment that require a policy response. These include land and water degradation, ongoing loss of biodiversity, atmospheric pollution, and the impact of our cities and towns on the natural environment. These studies underpin the Government's priorities as we seek to increase the sustainability of our resource use and management.

Commonwealth environmental policy today is more strategic, comprehensive and balanced than it has ever been. With the backing of a substantial increase in annual Commonwealth environment portfolio expenditure since 1996 and ambitious legislative reform, this approach is based on the belief that the sustainability of the environment is inextricably linked with that of industry, of governments and of regional and urban communities.

The commitment of the Howard Government to Australia's sustainability is exemplified by the Prime Minister's leadership in building a genuine whole-of-government framework for environmental sustainability issues.

The Prime Minister leads the Sustainable Environment Committee of Cabinet, and the Ministerial Oversight Committee on Energy, which oversees the development of Australia's long-term energy policy.

The 2003-04 Budget builds on this approach, with a total commitment of \$2,014.5 million for new and continuing measures across Government, aiming for a secure and sustainable future not only for Australians but also for the millions overseas who benefit from Australian international environmental partnerships.

The Budget continues to support the revolution in natural resource management that is driven by the Commonwealth Government through the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. With the \$2.7 billion Natural Heritage Trust, including its \$1 billion extension to 2006-07, and the \$1.4 billion National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, 2003-04 will see regional communities tackle the underlying causes of the nation's most serious environmental problems.

In 2003, the International Year of Freshwater, there are few issues more important to our nation than the efficient and effective use of our scarce water resources. The Government has committed \$350 million through the Natural Heritage Trust to

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measures to improve water quality, and in 2003-04 will take steps with the States to restore environmental flows to Australia's food basket, the Murray-Darling System. As Australia puts in place a transparent and coherent set of nationally recognised water property rights, the environment and regional communities and irrigators will all benefit.

A new \$16 million programme (\$8 million from the Commonwealth over five years is provided as a new measure in this Budget and the Queensland Government has been invited to match this investment) aims to protect one of our most precious natural icons, the Great Barrier Reef, by improving the quality of its adjacent water catchments. For our oceans, \$18.2 million over two years will help finalise Australia's first regional marine plan, and further develop the second.

Climate change presents a real threat to our environment and our economy, which is why the Government has invested almost one billion dollars in tackling this challenge since 1996. In 2003-04, the Government, in consultation with stakeholders, will develop a long-term Climate Change Forward Strategy. Through the Australian Greenhouse Office, the Government will continue to support industry, government and community partnerships to cut national emissions of greenhouse gases while maintaining a strong and internationally competitive economy. Internationally, we will continue to work for a global climate change response that includes all major emitters.

At the same time, the Ministerial Oversight Committee on Energy, chaired by the Prime Minister, will oversee development of a long-term energy policy to secure our position as world leaders in the use of greenhouse friendly fuels and renewable energy.

This Budget recognises not only the challenges that face Australia, but also our global environmental responsibilities, articulated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. It will help Australia contribute to meeting the ambitious targets and timetables agreed to in Johannesburg, including the aim to halve poverty by 2015, and to find practical solutions through partnerships between governments, industries and communities by providing \$320 million through AusAID for direct and indirect environmental purposes.

A whole-of-government approach to basing good policy on sound science is reflected in the identification of 'An Environmentally Sustainable Australia' as one of Australia's four national research priorities. Three of CSIRO's national flagship research programmes focus on the environment. Healthy Country aims for a 10-fold increase in the social, economic and environmental benefits of water; Ocean's Wealth focuses on the generation of sustainable wealth from our marine resources; and Energy Transformed supports Australia's positioning as a world leader in clean, cost efficient, secure energy.

The 2003-04 Budget contains \$12.4 million of renewed funding over four years for the Australian Biological Resources Study to help fill the many gaps in our understanding of Australia's biodiversity, and to help land managers put that information to work. In the area of environmental protection, groundbreaking research will continue into the composition and effects of air pollution, of chemical waste and emissions.

As the Government works with land managers for a healthy country, and with marine industries for sustainable wealth from our oceans, it also works in partnership with industry, local governments and local communities for a healthy urban environment.

The Howard Government will spend \$40 million over the next five years on new initiatives to improve the sustainability of Australia's cities and towns. Developed by the Government in collaboration with the Australian Democrats, this new Sustainable Cities programme includes a two-year extension of the Australian Greenhouse Office's photovoltaic rebate scheme, the possible introduction of Australia's first mandatory water efficiency labelling system, and a national green buildings programme. It will also support the full introduction and enforcement of legislation for cleaner fuel, further measures to protect the ozone layer, and manage hazardous waste and chemicals.

We will be working closely with local councils – the sphere of government closest to the people – on these initiatives and more.

In Sydney, a net \$115.5 million commitment over eight years will be used to rehabilitate historic harbour foreshore sites and return them to the community as national heritage assets.

Finally, this Budget supports the Government's obligation to save money and protect the environment in its own business practices, with policies for sustainable purchasing, transport and land management. The Department of Defence alone, which manages three million hectares of Australian land, will spend more than \$30 million in 2003-04 on sustainable management.

This document illustrates that the Government has a stronger, more focused response to the challenge of environmental sustainability than ever before. Having mapped long-term, sustainable economic growth by achieving institutional and legislative reforms, this Budget ensures further reform in energy, transport, greenhouse, biodiversity management and water policy – and a more sustainable future.

DAVID KEMP

INTRODUCTION

Scope of the 2003-04 Environment Budget Statement

This statement documents the Government's key outcomes for the environment and outlines spending on environment activities for 2003-04 and the years ahead. It is presented as an overview of policy and expenditure for the whole of the Commonwealth Government. It also identifies new environment measures that are managed by Commonwealth portfolios.

Outline

Chapter 1 of this statement contains an overview of the Government's environmental expenditure, as well as a description of new initiatives arising from the Howard Government's environment strategic directions and priorities for 2003-04.

Chapter 2 describes key achievements and the Commonwealth's major strategic directions for protecting the environment, as well as discussing environment programmes in more detail.

Expenditure for environment activities undertaken by this Government is listed in Appendix 1.

Structure

Activities reported in this statement are grouped thematically. The themes reflect those used in the *State of the Environment Report 2001*, and are also aligned with the reporting structure of the Environment and Heritage Portfolio. The statement can therefore be cross-referenced with other budget publications, in particular the 2003-04 Portfolio Budget Statement for Environment and Heritage, and non-budget publications such as the *State of the Environment Report 2001*.

The extent to which spending can be identified and ascribed to environmental purposes varies across programmes. As a result, some expenditure with environmental implications may not be recorded in this statement.

Changes in reporting

Care needs to be exercised when comparing estimates for 2002-03 and estimates for forward years and when making comparisons between this edition and previous editions of the Environment Budget Statement. From 1 July 2003 the Government will discontinue the Capital Use Charge (CUC). The Commonwealth introduced, as part of the accrual budgeting reforms in 1999-2000, a CUC. The CUC is paid annually by general government sector agencies on their net assets. The CUC is an internal government transaction and therefore, does not affect the budget balances as the payment is offset by a departmental appropriation.

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The discontinuation of the CUC has the overall impact of lowering estimates of expenditure for programmes in 2003-04 and beyond. It does not have any impact on actual programme funding, as it is an accounting adjustment. In the 2002-03 Budget, the estimated total CUC and dividends for all agencies was \$6.5 billion. This is equivalent to 3.8 per cent of the total estimates of the Commonwealth general government expenditure of \$170.2 billion. Using this proportional percentage, as a rough guide, the CUC portion of the 2002-03 environmental expenditure would be around \$54 million. This is likely to be an understatement as the provision of environmental services frequently requires a higher proportion of capital stock (eg in National Parks, to support Antarctic research, and to conduct surveillance of illegal fishing) than general government services. For example, the environment elements of the environment portfolio alone have a CUC of over \$46 million for 2002-03.

There has also been a significant change in the way in which direct and indirect environmental expenditures are accounted for under Australia's foreign aid programmes, which means that it is not appropriate to directly compare estimates published for 2002-03 and previous years with those for 2003-04 and beyond.

CHAPTER 1: WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENT EXPENDITURE AND NEW MEASURES

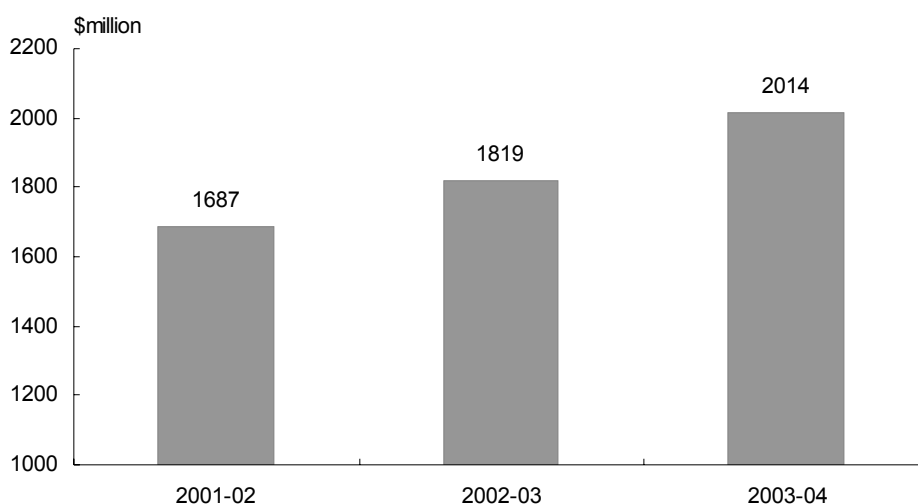
WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENT EXPENDITURE

The Howard Government believes that effective environmental policies require a whole-of-government approach and the active involvement of all sectors of the community. These efforts are creating a stronger, more strategic response to the challenge of environmental sustainability than ever before.

Achieving the Government's environmental goals requires resources, backed by a concerted and coordinated approach across the Commonwealth. The Department of Environment and Heritage and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry-Australia are at the forefront of delivering the Howard Government's environment and sustainability policies.

These efforts are supported by many other Commonwealth portfolios, including significant expenditure by the Departments of Education, Science and Training; Industry, Tourism and Resources; Transport and Regional Services; Defence; Foreign Affairs and Trade; Family and Community Services; and the Treasury and Attorney General's portfolios. This whole-of-government approach taken by the Howard Government has lifted environmental spending to new benchmarks – see Chart 1.1 and Table 1.1.

Chart 1.1: Whole-of-Government environment-related estimated expenditure

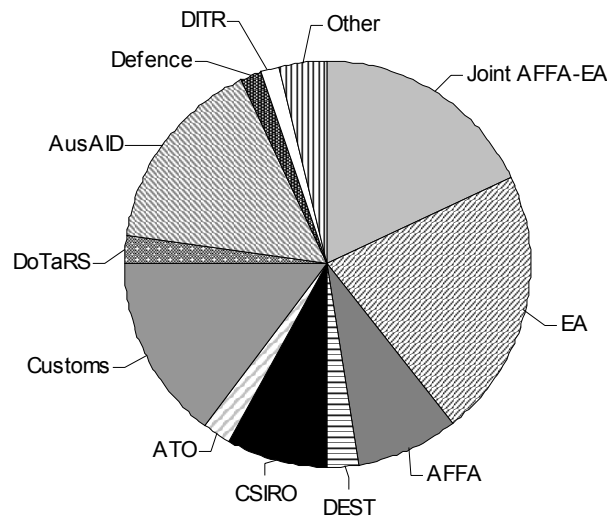


Note: see cautions in Changes in Reporting above in relation to precise inter-year comparison of expenditure.

The Commonwealth's environmental spending supports a broad range of initiatives including on-ground environmental protection and repair, research and development, collation and provision of data, taxation concessions and incentives, and overseas development assistance.

The Howard Government leads by example. By implementing environmentally responsible actions, this Government is working hard to continually improve the environmental performance of Government operations. Best practice environmental management approaches extend to the management of Commonwealth land and water, including the more than three million hectares of Defence lands.

**Chart 1.2: Major portfolio contributions to environment expenditure, 2003-04
(see Table 1.1)**



In 2001, the Prime Minister established the Sustainable Environment Committee of Cabinet to provide increased opportunities for whole-of-government consideration of environmental sustainability issues. This valuable initiative is complemented by the work of the Ministerial Oversight Committee on Energy, which oversees the development of Australia's long-term energy policy.

Commonwealth environment and natural resource management agencies are at the forefront of cooperative approaches across agencies and Ministers. Two key agencies, the Australian Greenhouse Office and National Oceans Office, report to more than one portfolio Minister, which helps to ensure that their work encompasses interests and actions across the sustainability agenda.

The Government's flagship natural resource management programmes – the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality – are delivered jointly by Environment Australia and Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia – see Table 1.1. This reflects the Howard Government's view that environmental protection, sustainable agricultural production and natural resource management will be most effectively addressed when seen as complementary, rather than as conflicting goals. Chart 1.3 illustrates the significant contribution made by these two portfolios and the overall growth in their total environment expenditure since 1996 to record levels in 2003-04.

Table 1.1: Major Portfolio contributions to environmental expenditure 2002-03 to 2006-07⁽¹⁾

Department/Agency	2002-03 \$m	2003-04 \$m	2004-05 \$m	2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m
AFFA	171.2	162.7	99.3	93.9	49.0
EA	451.5	431.2	436.3	428.0	405.9
Joint AFFA /EA	312.1	363.8	462.7	459.1	419.3
Subtotal AFFA-EA	934.8	957.6	998.3	981.0	874.2
AusAID ^{(a) (b)}	195.0	320.0	na	na	na
ATO	47.0	47.0	48.0	54.0	55.0
CSIRO ^(b)	151.2	160.2	na	na	na
Customs ^{(b) (c)}	253.4	294.8	na	na	na
Defence ^(b)	33.7	30.3	na	na	na
DEST	33.4	50.0	53.9	47.9	33.9
DITR	51.1	31.3	27.3	29.4	32.4
DoTaRS	35.4	45.5	30.3	22.7	22.1
Other (Departments/Agencies not separately listed)	83.5	77.6	78.1	69.5	67.0
Total	1818.6	2014.5	1235.9	1204.6	1084.5

(1) Care needs to be exercised when comparing estimates for 2002-03 and estimates for forward years and when making comparisons between this edition and previous editions of the Environment Budget Statement. From 1 July 2003 the Government will discontinue the Capital Use Charge (CUC). The Commonwealth introduced, as part of the accrual budgeting reforms in 1999-2000, a CUC. The CUC was paid annually by general government sector agencies on their net assets. The CUC is an internal government transaction and therefore, does not affect the budget balances as the payment is offset by a departmental appropriation.

The discontinuation of the CUC has the overall impact of lowering estimates of expenditure for programmes in 2003-04 and beyond. It does not have any impact on actual programme funding, as it is an accounting adjustment. In the 2002-03 Budget, the estimated total CUC and dividends for all agencies was \$6.5 billion. This is equivalent to 3.8 per cent of the total estimates of the Commonwealth general government expenditure of \$170.2 billion. Using this proportional percentage, as a rough guide, the CUC portion of the 2002-03 environmental expenditure would be around \$54 million. This is likely to be an understatement as the provision of environmental services frequently requires a higher proportion of capital stock (eg in National Parks, to support Antarctic research, and to conduct surveillance of illegal fishing) than general government services. For example, the environment elements of the environment portfolio alone have a CUC of over \$46 million for 2002-03.

There has also been a significant change in the way in which direct and indirect environmental expenditures are accounted for under Australia's foreign aid programmes, which means that it is not appropriate directly to compare estimates published for 2002-03 and previous years with those for 2003-04 and beyond.

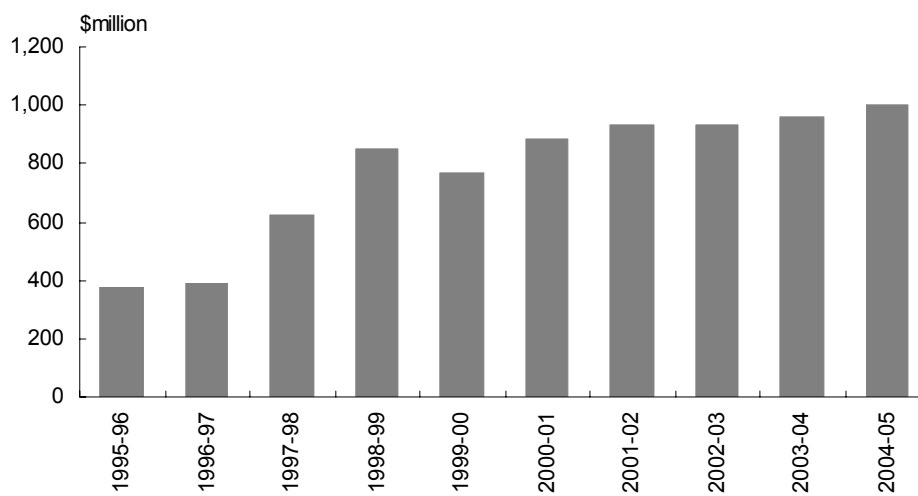
(a) Estimates for 2002-03 and previous years are not directly comparable with 2003-04 as these estimates were derived using a revised and more rigorous methodology. In 2003-04, the Government will provide

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an estimated \$95 million for activities that directly address environment problems in developing countries together with an additional \$225 million of indirect expenditure. These figures now incorporate aspects of expenditure related to water supply, fisheries and agriculture not identified as environmental outlays in previous years.

- (b) Forward estimates for some agencies are not readily available at this stage — this has resulted in a decline in outyear estimates.
- (c) This estimate comprises funding for the output within Customs that provides environmental services as part of the activities associated with civil maritime surveillance.

Chart 1.3: Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry — Australia and Environment and Heritage portfolios, environment funding, 1995-96 to 2004-05



NEW MEASURES

This table outlines new Budget measures that are additional to the Government's previous forward estimates. The Government's total environment-related expenditure in these activities exceeds the amount shown in the table below.

Table 1.2: Howard Government environment-related new measures, 2003-04 to 2006-07

Title of Initiative	2003-04 \$m	2004-05 \$m	2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m
Environment and Heritage Portfolio				
Distinctively Australian	1.3	3.2	4.0	4.8
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust - returning foreshores to the people	15.0	21.5	23.5	22.5
Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetland Protection Programme	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
World Class Weather Forecasting ^(a)	7.5	7.7	7.9	8.1
Shipping support for Australia's Antarctic Programme	17.4	17.4	17.4	17.4
National Oceans Office - Leading Oceans Management	9.1	9.1	-	-
ABRS - furthering our biological knowledge base	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Enhanced environment protection	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.5
Urban Environment Initiatives - Sustainable Cities	1.4	2.4	6.8	6.4
Industry Tourism and Resources Portfolio				
Cooperative Research Centre for Carbon Dioxide Sequestration	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.9
Education, Science and Training Portfolio				
Radioactive Waste Repository	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
International Centre of Excellence - Water Resources Management	1.5	3.0	2.2	-
Transport and Regional Services Portfolio				
Disaster Mitigation Australia Package	6.2	13.2	16.5	16.3
Confidential Marine Incident Reporting System	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Joint Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia and Customs Initiative				
Surveillance and Enforcement Programme - to provide for the protection of Australia's Southern Ocean Waters	12.0	-	-	-
Total	84.6	90.1	90.9	87.5

(a) This contributes to the maintenance of the climate record which is essential to monitoring and modelling long term climate change. Accurate weather forecasting is also fundamental to the ability of the Bureau of Meteorology to model pollution and related hazard events.

Distinctively Australian

The Howard Government will invest an additional \$13.3 million over the next four years in a new heritage initiative, *Distinctively Australian*, a new approach to the identification, management and promotion of our national heritage.

Funding for the initiative is conditional on the passage by Parliament of the new legislation. Existing funding for the Australian Heritage Commission of \$39.3 million will also be available to support this initiative on the passage of the new legislation.

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Distinctively Australian is based upon the Government's new heritage legislation that is currently before Parliament. It will establish the National Heritage List, comprising the places of Australia's greatest national significance. The funding provided through *Distinctively Australian* will protect our nationally significant heritage places and more deeply engage all Australians in experiencing our nationally significant heritage places, stories, anniversaries and people.

The initiative will provide a stronger sense for all Australians of what it means to be Australian and a stronger sense of shared values with fellow Australians. The listing of places on the National Heritage List will also provide increased heritage tourism and employment in surrounding regions, leading to regional social and economic benefits.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust — returning foreshores to the people

The Government will rehabilitate and return historic Sydney harbour sites — some of Australia's most beautiful and significant foreshore lands — to the people of Australia by 2012.

A net investment of \$115.5 million over eight years will be used to decontaminate and rehabilitate foreshore lands, conserve buildings and infrastructure, and return these lands to the community as national heritage assets.

The sites include defence land at Middle Head-Georges Heights, the former Army Maritime School at Chowder Bay, Woolwich Dock, Cockatoo Island, the former Marine Biological Research Station at Watsons Bay, the former Artillery School at North Head, the Macquarie Lightstation at Vaucluse and Snapper Island.

Great Barrier Reef coastal wetland protection programme

A new \$16 million (\$8 million from the Commonwealth over five years is provided in this Budget, and the Queensland Government has been invited to match this investment) Great Barrier Reef coastal wetland protection programme will protect and restore the wetlands in catchments adjacent to the reef lagoon. The Government is committed to improving the water quality of the Great Barrier Reef and in turn protecting the biodiversity, tourism and fishing values of the planet's largest World Heritage Area. The wetlands adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef play an important role in filtering the water entering the reef lagoon so that it is free of harmful sediments.

Additional funding of \$15 million from the Natural Heritage Trust will provide even greater protection for Queensland wetlands including these important coastal wetlands along the Great Barrier Reef.

National Oceans Office — leading oceans management

Australia is a world leader in the sustainable management of its oceans with the world's first nationally coordinated policy for its marine area of 16 million square kilometres — almost twice the size of its mainland. More than 80 per cent of the area's

species are unique to the region, and marine industries generate more than \$30 billion annually.

An additional \$18.2 million over two years has been committed to the Commonwealth National Oceans Policy. The funding will be used to finalise and implement the first regional marine plan for the two million square kilometres of ocean that comprise the South-east Marine Region. It will also support the development of a northern regional marine plan in the Torres Strait. These two marine plans and the Government's commitment to investigate new frameworks for regulation will reduce conflict between demands for ocean resources, and increase certainty for industry, conservation and the community in using and protecting the marine environment.

Surveillance and protection in the Southern Ocean

Illegal fishing in Australia's Fishing Zone at Heard and McDonald Islands is threatening the sustainability of the fisheries in the area, particularly the sought after Patagonian Toothfish.

In 2003-04 the Government will provide \$12 million to enhance Australia's patrol capability in the Southern Ocean. The Government's recent decision to increase surveillance and enforcement in Australia's Fishing Zone at Heard and McDonald Islands will assist in ensuring the long-term sustainability of Patagonian Toothfish stocks and dependent and associated species.

World class weather forecasting

The brutal drought and bushfires of 2002-03 highlighted the importance of accurate and timely weather monitoring and forecasting.

The Government will continue to support Australia's world-class weather forecasting services. Funding of \$31.2 million over four years will ensure greater public access to the Bureau of Meteorology's databases. This funding will also enhance rural and marine services and upgrade the national weather observing network for drought monitoring, water resources assessments, El Niño predictions, and seasonal climate outlooks. This contributes to the maintenance of the climate record which is essential to monitoring and modelling long term climate change. Accurate weather forecasting is also fundamental to the ability of the Bureau of Meteorology to model pollution and related hazard events.

Shipping support for Australia's Antarctic programme

It is vital to Australia's economic, security and environmental interests that we continue to maintain a strong presence in Australia's Antarctic territory.

The Government will continue to support Australia's territorial and scientific interests in the Antarctic. Funding of \$69.6 million over four years will enable the *RSV Aurora Australis* to deliver supplies to Australia's stations in the Antarctic and it will support

scientific programmes in the Southern Ocean, the Antarctic continent and the sub-Antarctic islands.

Confidential marine incident reporting system

The Government has committed \$0.7 million to establish a confidential reporting system to report marine safety incidents. The system will support the operations of the Australian Transport Bureau, which investigates incidents such as the 1999 *Laura D'Amato* oil spill in Sydney Harbour.

The reporting system will enhance marine safety and environmental protection.

Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) — furthering our biodiversity knowledge base

As one of the 17 most biologically diverse nations on earth, it is essential that we fill the many gaps in our knowledge about our biodiversity if we are to adequately manage and protect it. The Australian Biological Resources Study provides the taxonomic knowledge necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of Australia's biodiversity, with an increasingly comprehensive and authoritative print and Internet-based database.

The Government has committed \$12.4 million over four years to maintain the currency of the Australian Biological Resources Study's biodiversity knowledge base, further our knowledge of micro-organisms, and communicate that knowledge to land managers and other clients. There will be an increasing emphasis on online delivery.

Cooperative Research Centre for Carbon Dioxide Sequestration

Industrial sources are major contributors to carbon dioxide emissions in many countries. In Australia these sources are responsible for a total of almost 250 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

The geological environment has a high potential for cost-effective geological storage of carbon dioxide, about 45 per cent of national emissions.

The Government has committed \$11.6 million over four years to identify specific sites for carbon dioxide storage and to implement demonstration projects for the geological sequestration of carbon dioxide.

Enhanced environment protection

The Government, with the support of the Australian Democrats and Senator Lees, will provide funding of \$15.8 million over four years to implement and enhance a range of activities relating to the national standards for air quality, fuel quality, the management and control of chemicals, pollutants, hazardous waste and ozone depleting substances.

The ongoing development of national standards and increased emphasis on compliance and enforcement of these standards is the most effective way for the Commonwealth to protect the environment surrounding the 17 million people – 87 per cent of Australians – who live in our cities and towns. This will achieve the right balance between urban developments and environmental protection as well as make a significant contribution to improving the health of urban Australia.

Urban environment initiatives — Sustainable Cities

From 2003-04, the Howard Government will provide funding of \$24.2 million over five years for a range of urban environment initiatives, developed in collaboration with the Australian Democrats and Senator Lees. The Government will give priority to initiatives that address water quality, public information, air quality, renewable energy, chemicals, and waste management.

Specific activities to be supported include: water efficiency labeling and performance standards, improved water quality in local government areas, Year of the Built Environment, Green Buildings, the National Pollutant Inventory, Environmental Education in Schools, a Green Car Rating Scheme, cycling facilities, Air Quality Research and Data Collection, the Photovoltaics Rebate Scheme and a Chemicals Monitoring Database.

Disaster mitigation for Australia

The Howard Government has offered to provide an additional \$68.5 million over five years for a new Disaster Mitigation Australia Package that will help redress the adverse impacts of natural disasters in Australia. Mitigation aims to reduce risk, damage and the economic, social and environmental losses from natural disasters (including bushfires, cyclones, storms, floods, earthquakes and landslides), and it aims to achieve safer, more sustainable communities.

The funding is conditional on the availability of matching funding from State and Territory Governments and the implementation by State, Territory and Local governments of more effective statutory land use planning, development and building controls.

This money is in addition to the \$14.9 million in 2003-04 and \$9.6 million in 2004-05 for the highly successful Regional Flood Mitigation programme, which funds projects to reduce the impact of flooding in rural, regional and outer metropolitan communities across Australia. The programme will be extended with an additional \$9.6 million a year in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Responsible radioactive waste storage

The Government is pursuing an environmentally and economically responsible approach to radioactive waste by establishing a national repository for the safe disposal of Australia's low level radioactive waste.

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As part of the Government's commitment to the responsible storage of hazardous wastes, the Government has committed \$2.9 million over four years for the establishment of a national repository at a remote site near Woomera, South Australia.

International centre of excellence — water resources management

To promote world recognition of Australia as a leader in water resources management, the Government will establish an International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management. The Centre will develop formal networks with overseas counterparts, enable the international exchange of staff and researchers, conduct collaborative research, disseminate expertise and support innovative approaches to research and teaching.

The Government has committed \$6.7 million over three years to support the Centre.

CHAPTER 2: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

ATMOSPHERE

The Government is committed to Australia making its appropriate and responsible contribution to greenhouse gas reduction. This year it will make decisions that will provide a framework for action well beyond the Kyoto commitment period.

Energy policy is a pressing issue for Australia and in 2003 Ministers, supported by a high level energy task force within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, will develop a strategic plan for Australia's long-term energy policy. The plan will support economic growth and development while protecting the environment. The Council of Australian Governments' review of energy market directions led by the Honourable Warwick Parer has already provided recommendations in relation to stationary energy. Developing and implementing a government response to the Parer review will provide an opportunity for the Government to consolidate the achievements so far and build momentum for future practical reforms.

A major challenge in 2003 will be to bring together related greenhouse policy issues, including energy, transport, and the Government's current reviews of the *Ozone Protection Act 1989* and the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*.

Australia's Climate Change Forward Strategy

In 2003-04 the Government will continue to develop Australia's Climate Change Forward Strategy to address climate change and combat greenhouse gas emissions over the coming decades. This is well beyond the scope envisaged under the Kyoto Protocol. There will be ongoing consultations with business, and governments at all levels have been engaged in the review of the existing National Greenhouse Strategy. The Forward Strategy will ensure the best and least costly way forward for Australia. Four elements underpin the development of Australia's forward climate change strategy:

- Australia will strive for a more comprehensive global response to climate change;
- Australia will position itself to maintain a strong and internationally competitive economy with a lower greenhouse signature;
- domestic policy settings will balance flexibility with sufficient certainty to allow key decisions on investment and technology development, and also emphasise cost effectiveness; and
- Australia will implement policies and programmes to deal with the consequences of climate change.

Committed response to greenhouse

The best scientific data available show that global climate change is a reality. Global surface temperatures have risen by more than 0.6°C since 1900; the global sea level has risen by between 10 and 20 centimetres during the last 100 years. Average maximum temperatures during the recent drought were the highest on record. Australia is responding to climate change both domestically and internationally.

Through its commitment of almost \$1 billion, the Howard Government aims to reduce Australia's contribution to climate change and mitigate the effects of climate change that are inevitable. A balanced range of policy responses has been developed through the Australian Greenhouse Office – the world's first national agency that is devoted specifically to tackling greenhouse gas emissions.

Tackling greenhouse at home

Howard Government actions over the last six years have already been effective in addressing greenhouse gas emissions, a necessary step towards managing climate change. Examples include voluntary industry programmes such as the Greenhouse Challenge, mandatory requirements such as the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*, and grant programmes to support the development and uptake of renewable energy technology.

Funding for programmes to combat climate change will continue as the Howard Government formulates its longer-term strategy on greenhouse gas abatement. In particular, the Government will extend the Photovoltaic Rebate Scheme for a further two years, providing funding of \$5.8 million in 2003-04 for rebates for the installation of photovoltaic systems. This additional commitment to the scheme recognises that it has been very effective at promoting the growing renewables industry and enabling a direct greenhouse response by the community. Australia's world leading Cities for Climate Protection programme will also continue. This important local action programme, which assists councils and communities across Australia to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, has been allocated a further \$2.7 million in 2003-04.

Without these and other actions Australia's greenhouse gas emissions would have increased to 122 per cent of 1990 levels by the end of the decade, and even more without reductions in emissions from land use changes since 1990.

A high level panel is reviewing the Commonwealth legislation that set up the mandatory renewable energy target. The target commenced in April 2001 and requires the sourcing of 9,500 gigawatt hours of extra renewable electricity per year by 2010. This will be enough power to meet the residential electricity needs of four million people. The panel, with its mix of industry, academic and government policy skills and experience, will report later in 2003 and its findings will be considered in formulating national energy policy and the development of Australia's forward strategy on climate change.

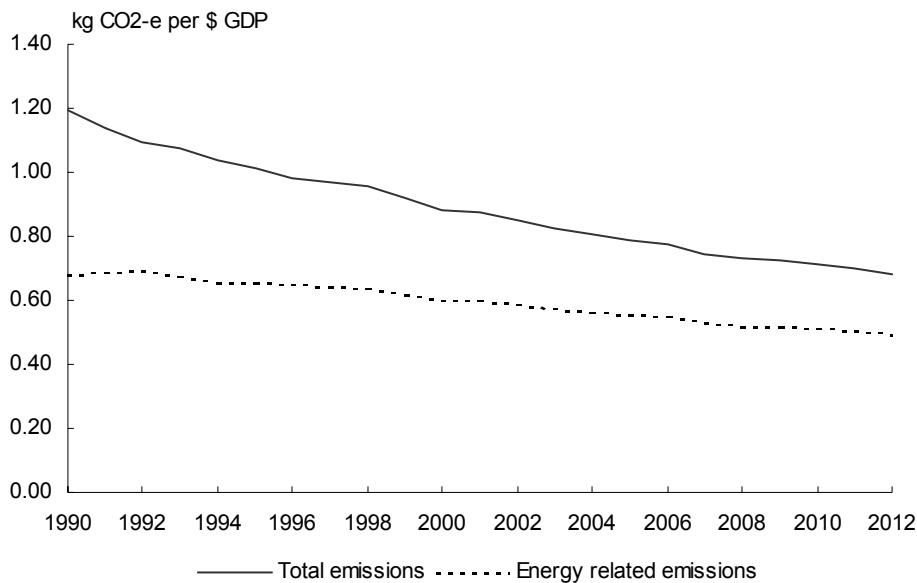
The Government sponsored Australia's first conference to explore the possible impacts of climate change in late 2002, and what adaptations may be required as a result of these impacts. Some of these impacts are outlined in the new Australian Greenhouse Office publication, *Living with Climate Change*.

Major emission achievements

The 2002 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections indicated that Australia is now within striking distance of its target of limiting greenhouse emissions as agreed at Kyoto. The next projections are to be released in 2003-04.

A major step forward for the Australian community has been to successfully decouple its economic growth from its growth in greenhouse emissions. The most recent *National Greenhouse Gas Inventory* showed Australia's greenhouse emissions grew by 2.1 per cent in 2000, while the economy grew by 4.3 per cent. Emissions per dollar Gross Domestic Product (GDP) were 24 per cent lower in 2000 than in 1990.

Chart 2.1: Greenhouse gas emissions per \$ of GDP, 1990 to 2012



The Inventory was also significant in that it included, for the first time, accurate emissions from land use change, using data from the \$12 million National Carbon Accounting System (NCAS). Developed two years ahead of schedule and with capabilities extending far beyond its initial scope, it represents a major achievement for Australian scientists. The NCAS is widely acknowledged as the cutting edge of world carbon accounting, as recently affirmed by a leading NASA scientist who stated that to the best of his knowledge this multi-temporal data set is the most robust, continental scale Earth observation data set of its type ever assembled.

Pursuing a global response

Internationally, the Government is working to put in place a global response that includes all major emitters, and to bring about the greenhouse reductions necessary to restrain climate change.

Action on climate change is being pursued with strategic and trade partners as well as through wider international forums.

The Climate Action Partnership established in 2002 with the United States of America is focusing on practical projects. These include the exchange of experience on the research and development of hydrogen fuel cell and clean coal technologies, and facilitating the installation of sustainable remote power in developing countries. In 2003-04 the Government will expand bilateral cooperation to other countries and continue to develop projects under the Climate Action Partnership.

Through its participation in the Australia-US Climate Action Partnership, the Government will help Pacific Island countries to build capacity to deal with seasonal to interannual climate variability and, in the longer term, climate change. Commencing in 2002-03, the Government has allocated \$2.2 million over three years towards the implementation of this project.

Extending ozone protection

Controls on ozone depleting substances will be extended to synthetic greenhouse gases in 2003 with the introduction of the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Bill, providing a nationally consistent approach through Commonwealth control of their use and management.

This step is necessary because, since 1990, Australian industry has used increasing amounts of synthetic greenhouse gases in various processes including as a replacement for ozone depleting substances. The greenhouse effect of synthetic gases can be up to 24,000 times greater than carbon dioxide and, if left unchecked, synthetic gases will increasingly add to Australia's total emissions of greenhouse gases.

Promoting air quality

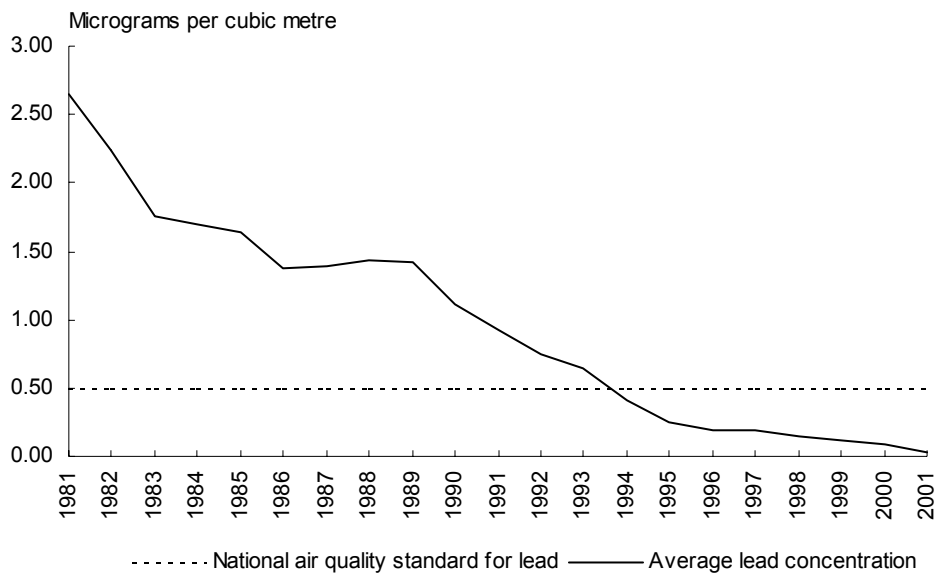
Latest data confirm the findings of the *State of the Environment Report 2001* that air quality in our cities and towns is improving. The health of urban Australians and their general lifestyle will continue to improve as the Government implements further reforms for cleaner air. These reforms include developing national standards for air pollutants and fuel quality, legislative controls on fuel quality, and implementing national strategies to address transport, residential and industrial emissions.

In concert with improvements to vehicle emissions standards, the Government's *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000*, which came into effect in January 2002, is expected to save the Australian community more than \$3.4 billion by 2020 in avoided air pollution-related health costs. The Act progressively mandates the quality of fuel

supplied in Australia and paves the way for the introduction of vehicles with improved engine technology and tighter emissions controls. The new standards are expected to cut the major pollutants associated with respiratory and cardiovascular diseases by up to 76 per cent in metropolitan areas by 2015.

As part of its programme of introducing fuel quality standards on a progressive basis, the Federal Government will move to set a 10 per cent limit for the blend of ethanol in petrol. The Government will also be introducing amendments to the *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000* to allow it to require labelling of ethanol blends at the petrol bowser.

Chart 2.2: National average lead concentrations in Australian capital cities, 1981 to 2001



Under the Diesel National Environment Protection Measure, the Government will reduce emissions from vehicles by sponsoring emissions testing – resulting in the repair of the worst polluting vehicles.

In 2003-04 the Government will continue to enforce the quality standards for petrol and diesel under the Act, and further refine the fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel. In accordance with the Government’s commitment under the *Measures for a Better Environment* package, the Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel Excise Differential will be implemented from 1 July 2003 to encourage the early uptake of ultra low sulphur diesel. This measure involves an excise increase of 1 cent per litre commencing 1 July 2003 on diesel with a sulphur content greater than 50 parts per million (ppm) and a further 1 cent per litre increase on 1 January 2004. The measure will ensure that

Investing for a Sustainable Australia

Australia continues to realise improved environmental benefits from evolving emission controls and fuel efficiency technologies.

The Government will also introduce the environmental component of the Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme which will include:

- payment of a grant for production or import of diesel containing 10 ppm or less sulphur content for 2 years from 1 January 2007 funded by an increase in customs/excise duty for all diesel; and
- payment of a grant for production or import of premium unleaded petrol containing 50 ppm or less sulphur content for 2 years from 1 January 2006 funded by an increase in customs/excise duty for all petrol.

The initiative, including the additional excise rates required to fund the proposal, will be reviewed in the period prior to the implementation to ensure that it aligns with the timing of the new fuel standards and market conditions.

The Government will include Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and biodiesel as alternative fuels under the on-road component of the Energy Grants (Credits) Scheme.

The Government will also develop fuel quality standards for alternative fuels and begin to implement the standard for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), set standards for biodiesel and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

In 2003-04 the Government will work with State and Territory governments to review the Air Quality National Environmental Protection Measure with a view to assessing the practicability of setting further standards for sulphur and ozone pollutants. This work will complement the new standard for fine particles to be agreed in 2003. Fine particles have been identified as particularly injurious to human health. The Government is also seeking to implement a new National Environment Protection Measure for toxic pollutants that will set standards for five carcinogenic and injurious air pollutants.

The Government will continue to provide national leadership in the management of fine particle pollution. The Launceston Wood Heater Replacement Programme will be extended to June 2004. Since 2001 this Programme has helped to halve the number of times the city has exceeded national air quality standards for particles.

BIODIVERSITY AND LAND

One of the top priorities of this Government is to halt two centuries of decline in our native vegetation that has led to so much of our biodiversity loss, salinity, poor water quality and soil erosion. This is a top priority of the Natural Heritage Trust, the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, and the *Environment Protection*

and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). Under the two flagship natural resource programmes, the Howard Government has negotiated significant and lasting institutional reforms through bilateral agreements with State and Territory governments. These reforms underpin Government investment in priority environmental issues identified locally by regional community-based groups. The EBPC Act provides protection for biodiversity of national significance.

Natural Heritage Trust

Since 1996, the Natural Heritage Trust has been instrumental in raising awareness and understanding of environmental issues and improving the ways in which we manage our natural resources.

With Natural Heritage Trust and related programme funding, almost 420,000 Australians have worked on more than 14,000 practical on-ground projects to clean up beaches, reduce erosion, improve the health of our land and waterways, reduce air pollution, increase the productivity of agricultural lands, and afford greater protection to our native vegetation and threatened species.

The Government will focus biodiversity conservation programmes on cost-effective actions to sustain natural systems and biodiversity, and giving priority within regions with biodiversity hotspots to investing in actions which conserve biodiversity.

The Government has committed \$2.7 billion to the Natural Heritage Trust. Under the extension of the Natural Heritage Trust, investment will be at three levels – national, regional and local – and through four programmes:

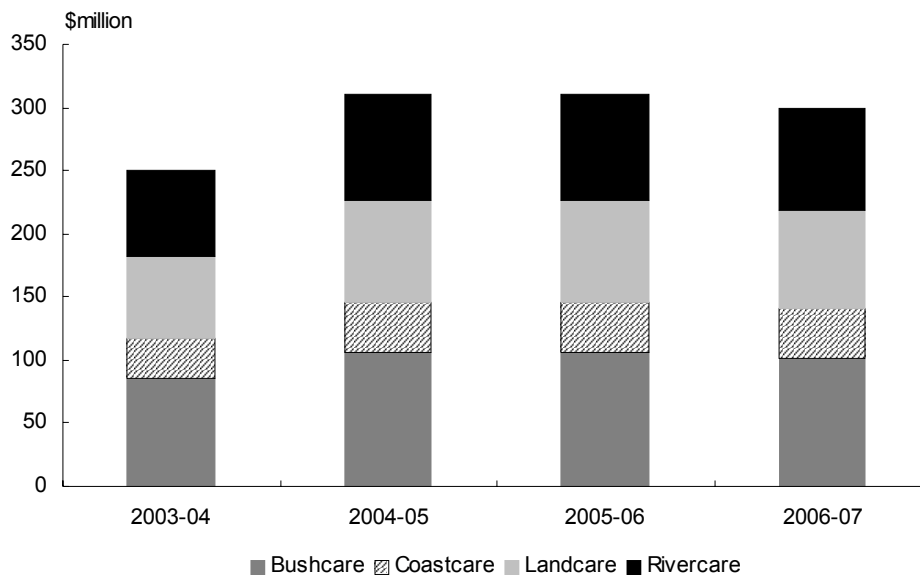
- Landcare – reverses land degradation and promotes sustainable agriculture, thereby increasing the profitability, competitiveness, and sustainability of Australian agricultural industries;
- Bushcare – conserves and restores habitat for our unique native flora and fauna that underpin the health of our landscapes and provides for the sustainability of ecosystems;
- Rivercare – improves water quality and environmental condition in our river systems and wetlands, and provides reliable allocations for human uses and for industry; and
- Coastcare – protects our coastal catchments, ecosystems and the marine environment, provides for the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources, and enhances coastal area amenity.

The Natural Heritage Trust supports national priorities such as additions to the National Reserve System, Indigenous Protected Areas, recovery planning for endangered species, major water quality infrastructure projects, national data management and communication, as well as statewide matters that cross over State

and regional boundaries. A Strategic Plan for national level investment under the Natural Heritage Trust will be supported with plans for investment, monitoring and evaluation.

At the local level, over 1800 projects have been supported by the Australian Government Envirofund worth \$20 million in 2002-03, with another \$10 million made available for a special drought recovery round. The Government's commitment to Envirofund will continue with an additional \$20 million in 2003-04.

Chart 2.3: Natural Heritage Trust expenditure (estimated), 2003-04 to 2006-07



National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality

For the first time in Australia's history, the Howard Government has achieved, through the Intergovernmental Agreement on the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, agreement on regulatory reforms for water and land use. This will work towards securing government investments and motivating best practice in land and water resource management.

The Prime Minister committed \$700 million of Commonwealth funding to the National Action Plan at the Council of Australian Governments meeting of November 2000. Through the Intergovernmental Agreement on the National Action Plan, this was matched by the State and Territory governments to give a total commitment of \$1.4 billion over seven years.

Under the National Action Plan, the Commonwealth Government has agreed to invest over \$76 million on foundation funding, priority actions and capacity building activities, principally in Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales.

These significant investments are a concrete demonstration of the Howard Government's long-term commitment to addressing dryland salinity and declining water quality issues in 21 of the worst affected regions in the country. These are two of the most serious resource management issues threatening Australia's rural industries, regional communities and our unique environment.

Regional plans lead the way

Through the National Action Plan and the regional component of the Natural Heritage Trust, the Howard Government aims to establish a three-way partnership between the Commonwealth, States and regional communities. The aim is to empower and motivate regional communities to use coordinated and targeted actions to address the natural resource management issues they face and tackle their underlying causes.

These major environmental programmes recognise that regions are the most effective scale at which the community can address environmental issues. It is communities who must support, adopt and implement regional natural resource management plans.

The Government will commit a further \$113 million in 2003-04 to help communities and landholders develop and implement integrated regional natural resource management plans. Such plans are the basis for investments under the Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan. These natural resource management plans will be accredited by the end of 2003-04. A Commonwealth Regional Natural Resource Management Team is ensuring that investment from the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan is targeted efficiently, with a single comprehensive regional plan for each of the 21 priority regions.

A network of facilitators and coordinators will be well resourced to retain and enhance the skills developed over the first phase of the Natural Heritage Trust, support the community through the Envirofund and assist regional bodies in developing plans and funding proposals.

Progress on recovery plans

Government progress in combating biodiversity decline will continue through its commitment to developing recovery plans for nationally listed threatened species and ecological communities, particularly by working in partnership with State and Territory governments. The Government will also consider regional biodiversity 'hot spots' across Australia for priority action under the Natural Heritage Trust.

Since 1996, the Government has implemented 146 recovery plans for 180 nationally listed threatened species and 10 ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act. The total commitment exceeds \$32 million. Projects have included protection for the endangered Northern Bettong, the Bathurst Copper Butterfly, the Black-eared Miner and the Helmeted Honey-eater.

Migratory waterbirds

The Government continues to lead the world in protecting and conserving migratory waterbirds and their habitat. A partnership of government and community interests has been funded to protect and rehabilitate important migratory shorebird sites.

An outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development will see Australia and Japan leading the way in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen international cooperation for migratory waterbird conservation. The Government is also working with the Government of the Republic of Korea to finalise a formal bilateral Agreement on Migratory Birds.

Furthering our knowledge base

Australia continues to be a world leader in managing, presenting and utilising biodiversity knowledge. Commonwealth support for taxonomy and bioinformatics through the Australian Biological Resources Study, the pioneering Australia's Virtual Herbarium, and the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research have positioned Australia in the vanguard of bioinformatics worldwide.

The Government has committed \$12.4 million over four years to maintain the currency of the Australian Biological Resources Study's biodiversity knowledge base, further our knowledge of micro-organisms, and communicate that knowledge to land managers and others with an increasing emphasis on online delivery.

Combating weeds and pests

Since 1996, the Howard Government has committed \$18 million under the Natural Heritage Trust to combat weeds and feral animals that threaten Australia's environment and natural resources. There have been some outstanding successes during that time, particularly in world heritage areas and Commonwealth national parks. The Government's impressive list of achievements includes virtual elimination of *Mimosa pigra* and the African Big-headed Ant from Kakadu National Park, the control of the Crazy Ant on Christmas Island, and the eradication of feral cats from Macquarie Island.

In 2003-04 the Government will develop plans to address ecological threats posed by pigs and by beak and feather disease to native parrots. Research will continue on ways to combat invasive species, such as biological control agents, and model field projects for the removal of weeds.

A commitment of more than \$10 million in 2003-04 will be used to develop a scientifically based bio-security risk assessment process that is designed to prevent newly imported species becoming weeds. This measure will permit safe trading while protecting Australia's plant, animal and human health, and the environment. The Minister for the Environment and Heritage will also continue to provide advice under the *Gene Technology Act 2000*. This Act controls the release of genetically modified

organisms into the environment, which if uncontrolled, may result in gene pool pollution and weediness.

Protecting native vegetation

The Government is making significant progress in achieving a truly national and sustainable approach to native vegetation management. The Howard Government through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality has secured commitments from all States to prevent land clearing in priority regions where it would lead to unacceptable land or water degradation. The Government is committed to the national goal to reverse the decline in the extent and quality of Australia's native vegetation, and has agreed targets with most States and Territories through the *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005*. Through the Framework for the Extension of the Natural Heritage Trust all governments have agreed to implement measures to prevent all clearing of endangered and vulnerable vegetation communities and critical habitat for threatened species, and limit broadscale clearing to those instances where regional biodiversity objectives are not compromised.

Eighty percent of land clearing in Australia occurs in Queensland. The Government recognises the important national implications of current Queensland land clearing rates and maintains its offer of financial assistance to Queensland to reduce the very high rates of land clearing.

In 2003-04 the Howard Government will invest in priority native vegetation management actions identified in regional plans by regional, community-based groups. The plans will identify on-ground actions to reverse the continuing decline in the condition of our native vegetation and increase revegetation, integrating multiple objectives including biodiversity conservation, salinity mitigation, greenhouse gas abatement, improved land stability and enhanced water quality.

Increasing protection through National Reserve

Since 1996, with an investment of \$76 million, the Government has increased the size of the National Reserve System by nearly one third with the addition of nearly 18 million hectares of land-based protected areas to reserves.

The Howard Government recognises that land conservation and management is not the sole jurisdiction of Governments and has initiated efforts to increase the involvement of individuals, conservation groups and Indigenous communities. Since 1998, the Government has provided \$15 million of support for the purchase of over 30 properties by non-government organisations covering more than 800,000 hectares.

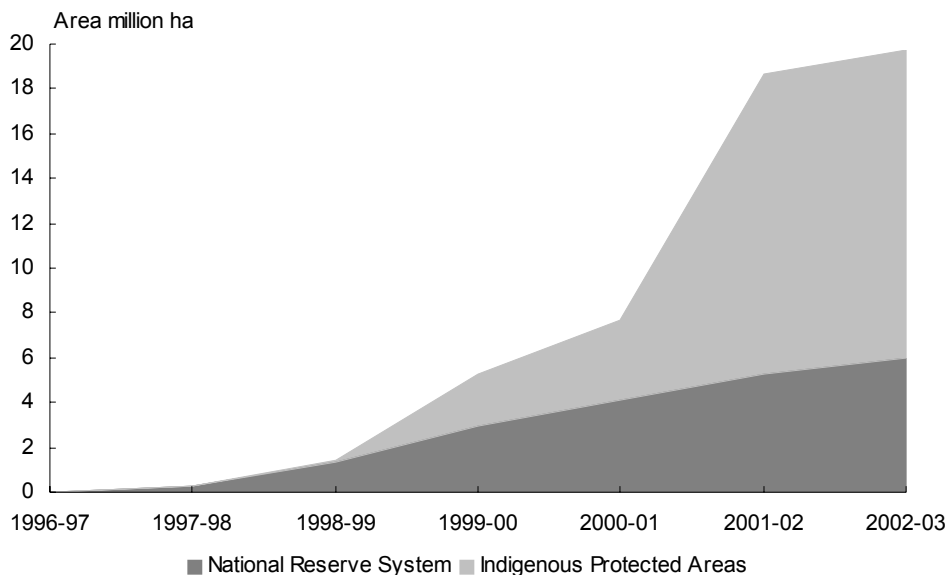
The introduction of the Indigenous Protected Area Programme in 1996 has seen the declaration of 17 Indigenous Protected Areas covering over 13.8 million hectares. Each area is planned and managed by their Indigenous owners and now make up approximately 17 per cent of the terrestrial protected area estate – a remarkable

contribution in a very short space of time. In 2003-04 another two Indigenous Protected Areas will be added to the National Reserve System.

The Government has also changed tax laws to encourage greater conservation on private land. In 2000, the Government took action to provide an income tax deduction for gifts of property valued at more than \$5,000; to allow a deduction to be spread over five years if the gift is made to an environment or heritage organisation; and provide a capital gains tax exemption for gifts of property left in a will to an eligible organisation.

The Government recognises that additions to reserves *per se* are not sufficient to protect environmental, economic and social values – reserves must also be comprehensive, adequate, representative and well managed. Establishing priorities for the development of the National Reserve System is undertaken within a bioregional (IBRA) framework. The Government has funded investigations through the National Land and Water Resources Audit on Landscape Health and Terrestrial Biodiversity which provide new information on the status of Australia's biodiversity. These investigations provide, for the first time, a comprehensive overview at a continental level on current levels of protection for biodiversity and major threatening processes and will be used to inform priority setting for wider biodiversity conservation measures.

Chart 2.4: Comprehensive, adequate and representative areas added to the National Reserve System, 1996-97 to 2002-03



Sustainable forest benefits

Australia is regarded as a world leader in the protection and sustainable management of forests. A key part of this has been the Commonwealth's Regional Forest Agreement process, which has resulted in 10 agreements over 11 regions in four states. The agreements are made between the Commonwealth and State governments for a period of 20 years. They provide a blueprint for the management of Australia's forests and the basis for an internationally competitive and ecologically sustainable forest products industry. Since 1996, the Government has invested around \$328 million to ensure the success of these arrangements.

Australia's reputation in forestry management will be further enhanced from the use of a new Australian Forestry Standard, recognised by Standards Australia in 2003. This will support sustainable forest management and certification and give Australian forest industries greater access to export markets.

In 2003-04 the Government's Farm Forestry Programme will continue to provide incentives to land holders to incorporate commercial tree growing on cleared agricultural lands. Farm forestry provides multiple benefits including a reduction in land degradation, lowering of water tables, pollination services, and carbon sequestration whilst producing a cash crop.

Building on Green Corps success

The Government's youth development and environmental training programme Green Corps has provided training opportunities for 8,740 young people who have propagated and planted almost eight million trees, built 3,100 kilometres of fencing, removed 33,000 hectares of weeds, collected 6,300 kilograms of native seeds and constructed or maintained 4,750 kilometres of walking track.

The Howard Government will continue to support this programme with a commitment of \$120.4 million over five years. This will deliver 170 projects each year, to build on the success of the programme in terms of environmental, heritage and youth development outcomes.

COASTS AND OCEANS

Australia's unrivalled reputation as a world leader in oceans management will continue through the Howard Government's use of a range of strategies to promote, support and implement the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's coasts and oceans. Examples include the use of legislation such as the EPBC Act and the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*; funding programmes under the Natural Heritage Trust; declaration of protected areas; and cooperative arrangements with State and Territory governments and stakeholders.

In the 2003-04 Budget, the Government has committed \$18.2 million over two years for the implementation of Australia's Ocean Policy, which includes initiatives such as regional marine planning, identification of marine protected areas, and strategic environmental assessments of Commonwealth and export fisheries.

Regional marine planning

In 2003-04 the Government will finalise the first regional marine plan for the South-east Marine Region, covering Australia's ocean waters off Victoria, Tasmania and eastern South Australia, far south New South Wales and Macquarie Island. This plan will become the model for the management of our ocean territory right around the continent. The Government will continue the regional marine planning process in the ocean territory around the Torres Strait, Gulf of Carpentaria and Eastern Arafura Sea.

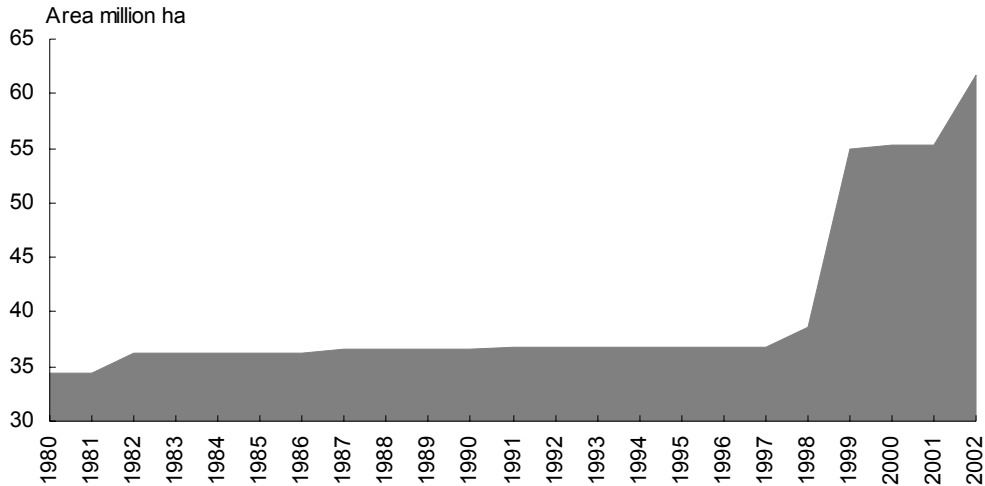
High quality science is essential for regional marine planning. In 2003-04 the Government will establish an Oceans Policy Science Advisory Group. An Oceans Board of Management, with representatives from across the Commonwealth, will oversee the National Oceans Ministerial Board's three-year work plan.

Establishing Marine Protected Areas

In 2003-04 the Government will progress the identification and selection of a system of representative Marine Protected Areas within the South-east Marine Region as part of the Regional Marine Planning process for that area.

The Government will also continue to develop and implement management plans for Australia's 13 Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas, including the Heard Island and McDonald Island Marine Reserve. This Reserve is the world's largest fully protected marine reserve and it protects the habitat and food sources of some of the world's most spectacular sea going creatures, including the Southern Elephant Seal, the Subantarctic Fur Seal, and several penguin species.

Chart 2.5: Marine Protected Areas in Commonwealth waters, 1980 to 2002 (Total area)



Advancing sustainable fisheries

By the end of 2003, the Government will have completed all of the strategic environmental assessments of the Commonwealth and state export fisheries, under the EPBC Act. Already the assessment process has caused a change in management practices across Australia's commercial fisheries, with a shift from largely target species focused management to a more ecosystem-based management approach. Assessment decisions are also providing increased certainty for fishery operators, processors and exporters as well as increasing opportunities for entry into export markets.

The Government has committed \$53.2 million over four years to support research that will help Australia's fisheries industry improve its environmental performance.

For 2003-04 the Government has committed new funds of \$12 million to strengthen Australia's surveillance and enforcement capacity against illegal fishing in the Australian fishing zone at Heard and McDonald Islands to ensure the protection of marine resources including the Patagonian Toothfish. The Government will continue to ensure that patrols of Australia's marine border are undertaken to report sea and wildlife mortality, oil pollution and environmental damage.

Protecting marine species

The Government will continue to provide international leadership on the protection of whales. In 2003-04 the Government through the National Whale Recovery Group will seek to progress the establishment of a South Pacific Whale Sanctuary and permanent ban on commercial whaling. The Government will be encouraging South Pacific

nations to consider the benefits of a regional arrangement for whales under the Convention on Migratory Species.

Threatened seals and sharks will be the focus of national recovery groups in 2003-04, while the Government continues work to protect seabirds and turtles with the Albatross and Giant Petrel Recovery Team, the Longline Fishing Threat Abatement Plan Team, and the Turtle Recovery Team. Sharks and seabirds will benefit from more sustainable fishing practices, with the development of national plans of action for sharks and seabirds. A management regime will be developed to help stop marine pests entering Australian waters through ships' ballast waters or fouled hulls, with an estimated expenditure of \$920,000 over the next four years.

Safeguarding the Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest World Heritage and marine protected area. It makes a major contribution to the local, regional and national economy as well as being of key social significance to the region and the nation. Since 1996, the Government has committed over \$147 million to address critical issues affecting the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area including issues of water quality, coastal development, fisheries, tourism, conservation and biodiversity.

A particular threat to the Great Barrier Reef is the impact of land use on the quality of water entering the Reef. In 2003-04 the Government will announce the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, which outlines a strategy to halt and reverse the decline in water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef within ten years.

The Government will also protect the Great Barrier Reef from offshore threats. In 2003, following extensive scientific review and public consultation, the Government will complete the rezoning of the Marine Park. The number and size of Green Zones – no take areas – in the Park will be expanded to ensure that critical habitats are adequately protected in perpetuity.

Sustaining coastal catchments

The impact of urban sprawl on coastal land and water quality is a major concern for the Government. In consultation with State and Territory governments, the Commonwealth has identified a number of coastal issues that would benefit from national cooperation. These include sustainable coastal resource use, opportunities and threats regarding climate change and threats to coastal environments and natural resources. In 2003-04 the Government will identify what can be done under these themes to achieve agreed outcomes.

Water quality in urban rivers and their estuaries is a strong focus of Natural Heritage Trust investment. The Coastal Catchments Initiative will identify 'hot spots' and a range of measures to improve their water quality under the framework of a water quality improvement plan for each site. This significant initiative will see partnerships

created between all levels of government, industry and landowners as well as community interests in the identified areas.

INLAND WATERS

There are few issues more important to our nation than the efficient and effective use of our scarce water resources. The Government will work to improve the environment whilst sustaining regional and rural communities and investors.

To ensure the sustainable management, rehabilitation and conservation of Australia's rivers and waterways, the Government is using a range of mechanisms. These include protecting internationally important wetlands through the EPBC Act; funding programmes under the Natural Heritage Trust; participating in policy development in a number of areas, in particular in the Murray-Darling Basin and Lake Eyre Basin; and supporting research on river health and community involvement in water quality monitoring.

The Government has committed \$350 million through the Natural Heritage Trust on measures to improve our water quality, whilst addressing broader structural issues through the reform of Australia's water policy.

There is an urgent need for greater certainty over water access rights and better water trading regimes. In 2003-04 the Government will work with the States and Territories to establish a transparent and coherent set of nationally recognised water property rights that will deliver the best outcome for the environment and assurance for irrigators and other users. Incentives to improve the performance of irrigated agriculture through better farm management and infrastructure will also be pursued.

Restoring the Murray-Darling Basin

Another key water issue is the restoration of river health to the Murray-Darling System. This area is the food basket of Australia, accounting for more than 40 per cent of the nation's gross value of agricultural production.

Consumption of water from the Murray-Darling System is unsustainable. The river and its associated ecosystems are suffering from the effects of over-extraction, regulation and over-development. In 2003-04, the Commonwealth will support a trial water trading project, on-ground works such as salt interceptions works and the installation of fish ways, and progress the Living Murray Initiative – a strategy to return additional flows to the Murray River.

In 2003-04 a further step towards restoring environmental flows in both the Murray and Snowy Rivers will be taken by pursuing the establishment of a Joint Government Enterprise between the Commonwealth Government and the New South Wales and Victorian Governments. The three Governments have agreed to a target of up to

70 gigalitres of new environmental flows in the River Murray and up to 212 gigalitres in the Snowy River. The proposal aims to achieve these targets by facilitating water efficiency projects in the Murray–Darling Basin.

Recovering the Great Artesian Basin

The Great Artesian Basin is one of the largest groundwater systems in the world. For a major portion of Australia's arid zone it is the main and sometimes only reliable source of water.

Capping of bores and piping in strategic areas of the Great Artesian Basin will help save water and recover water pressure, benefiting both the pastoral industry and the environment. The Government will provide \$9.4 million for this programme in 2003-04 to achieve sustainable use of this important groundwater resource.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

A growing challenge for the Government is to minimise the environmental impact of Australia's cities and towns – and to help make these built environments ecologically sustainable.

Since 1996, the Government has sought to match Australia's remarkable period of economic growth with an increased commitment to the sustainable management of our environment. To achieve this the Government has set national air quality standards and worked closely with industry and local government to improve environmental performance.

The Australian community rates environmental protection as of very high importance. The Government will continue to pursue standard setting for air quality and vehicle emissions, seek reform on waste issues of national significance, and to address air quality issues through broader Government energy and transport policy.

Cooperation and partnerships

Through the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, the Howard Government has achieved an unprecedented level of cooperation and shared responsibility between governments on nationally significant environment protection and heritage issues.

Chemicals policy, air quality, waste streams and national heritage policy are areas in which the Government will achieve major outcomes through the Council in 2003-04. For example, the Commonwealth and Clean Up Australia joined retail giants such as Coles, BiLo and Woolworths in the 2003 'Bag Yourself a Better Environment' month, working with other retailers and the community to reduce, reuse and recycle the 6.9 billion plastic bags Australians use each year.

In 2003-04 the Government will lead the Environment Protection and Heritage Council in implementing further measures to minimise impacts of plastic bags on the environment, including the possible introduction of standards for degradable plastic carry bags.

Recognising that green business is good business, the Government encourages industry to take voluntary action to minimise waste and improve environmental performance through partnerships such as the National Packaging Covenant and eco-efficiency agreements, through which industry associations promote eco-efficiency to their members.

The Government has entered into 25 eco-efficiency agreements with industry associations throughout Australia and these partnerships will continue in 2003-04, with a particular focus on agricultural sectors.

Government partnerships will continue to encourage industry and consumer action on dealing with waste from packaging, hazardous chemicals, electrical goods, cigarette butts, conversion of waste to re-use and recycling, waste to energy and waste tyres and end-of-life vehicles.

The *Product Stewardship (Oil) Act 2000* came into operation in 2001, introducing a levy on oil to fund benefit payments to encourage greater recycling of waste oil. Since then, the scheme has increased oil recycling by 24 per cent. In addition, the Government has issued grants valued at more than \$5 million to 240 local governments to install over 400 waste oil collection facilities. In 2003-04, the Government, in collaboration with peak oil industry bodies, will examine the viability of a market based tradeable credits system for waste oil.

Household water use

The drought of 2002-03 brought home to householders across urban and regional Australia the need for all Australians to use our water responsibly. Australian households use the second largest share of all mains water after agriculture – approximately 16 per cent – with the toilet and shower together using approximately 40 per cent of that amount.

In 2003-04 the Government will continue to work with State and Territory governments to reduce urban water consumption, protect urban water catchments and work towards the possible introduction of a mandatory National Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme for white goods and products such as taps and shower heads.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

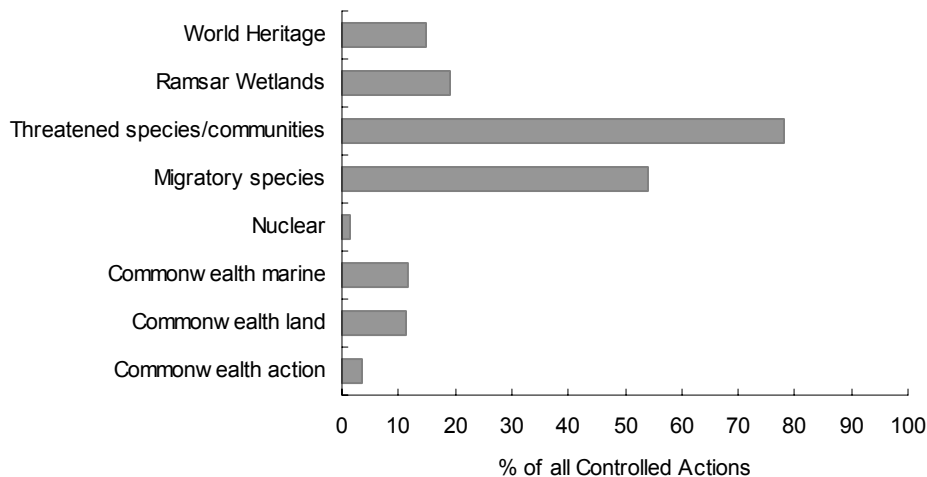
The EPBC Act was established by the Howard Government to provide, for the first time in Australia's history, a truly national framework for environment protection and biodiversity conservation. The Act allows the Commonwealth to demonstrate national

leadership in a manner that respects the role of the States in delivering on-ground natural resource management.

The operation of the EPBC Act has resulted in improved environmental outcomes in a wide range of significant development proposals, partly because the Act has encouraged proponents to discuss how their proposals can avoid, as far as possible, impacts on matters of national environmental significance.

Since its commencement in July 2000 the EPBC Act has substantially increased protection for matters of national environmental significance. The chart shows the distribution of matters of national environmental significance that have been assessed for the 222 actions that have triggered the EPBC Act since its commencement.

Chart 2.6: Matters of national environmental significance triggered under the EPBC Act



In 2003-04 the Government will further improve the operation of the EPBC Act by:

- providing increased guidance to potential users of the Act: with more guidelines on what actions are likely to have a significant impact; more assistance in the referrals stage; providing information on the standards of information required; targeted awareness raising activities; and practical assistance on the operation of the Act in particular sectors and regions;
- increasing public reporting on the operation of the Act, particularly in relation to trends and compliance activity;
- strengthening monitoring and review arrangements to ensure that conditions attached to approvals and specified manner requirements are met; and
- increasing the enforcement capacity of Environment Australia.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

As our nation matures, Australians can look to our heritage in developing a strong national identity and cohesive sense of purpose. This will help us better understand and contribute to the present and shape the future. To understand what it is that makes us 'distinctively' Australian, we should all have the opportunity to know our nationally significant heritage places, stories, anniversaries and people.

The Howard Government is committed to providing that opportunity. Over the next four years, additional funding of \$13.3 million will be invested in a new heritage initiative, *Distinctively Australian* – the Government's new initiative to engage the Australian community in protecting our nationally significant heritage places and experiencing Australia's origins, history and values. Funding for the initiative is conditional on the passage by Parliament of the new legislation. Existing funding for the Australian Heritage Commission of \$39.3 million will also be available to support this initiative on the passage of the new legislation.

Distinctively Australian is based upon the Government's new heritage legislation (currently before Parliament) that establishes the National Heritage List. This List will comprise the places of Australia's greatest national significance. For the first time, places of national heritage significance will be protected to the full extent of Commonwealth powers to ensure that they are maintained at a level appropriate to their national importance.

Through a public nomination process, the Australian community will be asked to help build the National Heritage List by putting forward the places that they consider of greatest significance to the nation. The List will include places that are of natural, Indigenous and historic heritage value, which authentically reflect the diversity of our national inheritance.

Discussion and celebration of the stories, values and great national issues surrounding these places will be as important as the listing of the places themselves. *Distinctively Australian* will seek to ensure that this is aided through partnerships with educational, media, creative and community organisations throughout Australia. Economic benefits will also be realised for regional communities through increased domestic and international heritage tourism to nationally significant places.

Through *Distinctively Australian*, we will better appreciate that we have a common heritage that embraces the many different origins and perspectives of contemporary Australians.

Historic Sydney foreshore lands

Australia's historic Sydney foreshore lands comprise some of the finest open space on Sydney Harbour. The area includes many buildings and sites of national, historical and military significance, but as restricted Commonwealth lands these sites have been

closed to the public for generations. From 2003-04 the Government will make a net investment of \$115.5 million over 8 years in decontaminating and rehabilitating the lands, conserving buildings and infrastructure, and returning the lands to the community as national heritage assets.

The sites include defence lands at Middle Head-Georges Heights, the former Army Maritime School at Chowder Bay, Woolwich Dock, Cockatoo Island, the former Marine Biological Research Station at Watsons Bay, the former Artillery School at North Head, the Macquarie Lightstation at Vaucluse and Snapper Island.

Protecting World Heritage

Australia's 14 World Heritage places play a central part in informing our national identity – a unique natural and cultural legacy that we are morally bound to pass on to future generations. A benefit is the boost that our World Heritage places afford our economy through tourism while protecting biodiversity.

In 2003 the international World Heritage Committee will consider Purnululu National Park in the east Kimberley region of Western Australia for inscription on the World Heritage List. The Committee will also assess the nomination of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens in Melbourne for inscription in June 2004.

The Government is also undertaking consultations for the development of future possible nominations including a series of Indigenous rock art sites, convict sites, the Sydney Opera House, and Cooloola (Queensland).

The Government continues to support strengthening of the management of Australia's World Heritage properties. Through the establishment of new Advisory Committees, consultative arrangements are now in place for community, scientific and technical advice on the management of two World Heritage properties – the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves and Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh and Naracoorte).

The Government is also providing regional leadership in the management of World Heritage properties through cooperative activities under the Asia Pacific Focal Point programme. Under the Government Sector Linkages Programme, Australia and Indonesia are working together for planning and management capacity building for the Lorentz National Park World Heritage property in West Papua, Indonesia.

Conserving national heritage

The Government will continue to help community groups and local government preserve their heritage places. Cultural Heritage Projects Programme funding in 2003-04 will help to preserve historic homesteads, courthouses, goals, bridges, convict roads, significant Aboriginal sites, and many other historic and Indigenous places.

In 2002-03, \$3.6 million in grants to 64 projects around Australia were provided under the Cultural Heritage Projects Programme. Projects supported include identification of

Indigenous rock art sites in Nitmiluk National Park (Northern Territory), and refurbishment of the Perth Town Hall (Western Australia). Funding has also been provided to 168 historic hotels in rural and regional areas to restore historic features under the Conservation of Rural and Regional Hotels programme.

To better protect Australia's nationally significant heritage objects and allow them to be enjoyed by the Australian community, the Government will provide up to \$500,000 per annum for the National Cultural Heritage Account, established under the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986*.

THE ANTARCTIC

Australia has a strong commitment to the protection of the Antarctic. We are a claimant to 42 per cent of the continent, and we are a party to both the Antarctic Treaty and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. The Government's efforts have seen significant progress in achieving protection of the Antarctic environment through conducting world-leading Antarctic scientific research, developing ways to minimise environmental impacts, remediating past work sites and attempts to combat illegal fishing.

Scientific programme

The Government is making a major contribution to understanding the Antarctic's role in influencing global climate systems, with a commitment of \$23.5 million over seven years to help the new Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre undertake scientific research. Specific projects include broadening the knowledge base for sustainable management of Antarctic and Southern Ocean fisheries and ecosystems; delivering systems for operational prediction of Southern Ocean currents and sea ice conditions; and increasing the reliability of predictions of sea level rise for Australia and neighbouring nations for use in coastal zone management and other planning considerations.

The Australian Government convenes the international Regional Sensitivity to Climate Change in Antarctic Terrestrial and Limnetic Ecosystems programme. This programme furthers the understanding of the effects of climate change on Antarctic biotas and ecosystem functioning. In 2003-04 a major field research programme will involve simultaneous research at four subantarctic islands by Australian, French and South African scientists.

Antarctic airlink

Scoping work will continue in 2003-04 to investigate the possibility of revolutionising access to the Antarctic for scientists through a proposed intercontinental air link between Australia and Casey Station and other Australian stations and field locations. Successful trial preparations of an ice and compressed snow runway near Casey Station were completed in the summer of 2002-03.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Australia continues to lead efforts through the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources to stop illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Southern Ocean. This includes the Government's new Budget measure surveillance and protection in the Southern Ocean that will combat illegal fishing of the Patagonian Toothfish around the World Heritage-listed Heard and McDonald Islands.

Environmental management system

Australia is the first national operator amongst the Antarctic Treaty parties to implement an environmental management system certified to the International Standard ISO 14001. As part of this, the Government has commissioned two 300-kilowatt wind turbines at Mawson Station in the first serious attempt to obtain significant electricity supply by wind generation in the Antarctic.

The environmental impacts of abandoned waste disposal sites and practical methods to remediate them have also been investigated. In 2003-04 the Government will remove waste materials from the old Thala Valley tip site near Casey Station.

METEOROLOGY

The Government's Bureau of Meteorology contributes to Australia's social, economic, cultural and environmental goals by providing critical weather, climate, hydrological and oceanographic services and by undertaking research into environment-related issues such as global climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion, air quality and water resources management.

Natural disaster warning

The Bureau's Environmental Emergency Response Service was recently upgraded and the system will be further enhanced to make predictions at finer scales. The Service uses computer models to predict the dispersion patterns for smoke and ash from bushfires and the atmospheric spread of hazardous pollutants from extreme events.

Meteorological and hydrological information are important inputs to effective natural disaster management, particularly in relation to mitigating the impacts on vulnerable environments, such as the influence of the marine environment on coastal lowlands and taking account of impacts of tropical cyclones and storm surges on agriculture and coastal resources.

Public weather information

The Bureau's website continues to be a valuable community resource for a wide range of meteorological and related information. Typically, the site receives between five and

eight million hits a day, a large proportion of which are associated with access to radar data.

SCIENCE SUPPORTING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Finding new solutions to environmental issues will improve the quality of life for all Australians.

In 2002 the Government announced Australia's first set of national research priorities, with An Environmentally Sustainable Australia as one of Australia's key research priorities. This agenda will focus and coordinate the Government's current investment in environmental and natural resources management research, including:

- geo-scientific research in the Australian Antarctic and Southern Oceans, coastal waterways and estuaries, monitoring of dryland salinity, water quality and sea temperatures, and mapping of the geomorphology of the Australian marine jurisdiction;
- Cooperative Research Centres for: Greenhouse Accounting; Carbon Dioxide Emissions; Biological Control of Pest Animals; Australian Weed Management; Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management; Catchment Hydrology; Freshwater Ecology; Water Quality and Treatment; Plant Based Management of Dryland Salinity; Tropical Savannas; the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and Torres Strait; Sustainable Tourism; Tropical Rainforest Ecology and Management; and Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems;
- application of nuclear related technologies for the protection and enhancement of the environment;
- marine scientific research including predicting climate change impacts upon marine biodiversity, sustainable development of tropical marine resources, water quality of the Great Barrier Reef, conservation of marine biodiversity and deriving benefits from marine biotechnology;
- scientific research into climate change and variability, stratospheric ozone depletion, ecosystems, biodiversity taxonomy, sustainable natural resource management and sustainable cities, air quality, vegetation and water resources management;
- the progressive documentation of Australia's biodiversity through Australia's Biological Resources Study; and
- Australia's Antarctic Science Programme.

HARNESSING THE MARKET

Incentive and market-based instruments have the potential to deliver improved environmental outcomes at significantly lower cost. Rather than prescribing behaviour or technology use, incentive and trading-based instruments reward innovation and allow greater flexibility in achieving environmental objectives.

The Government views as a priority innovative market based programmes that will help incorporate in decisions on natural resource management the value of our soil, water and biodiversity and the services they provide to us.

While economic instruments are a promising new addition to existing natural resource management tools, there are significant gaps in knowledge and other impediments which limit our ability to apply them to what are often complex environmental issues.

Under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, the Government will provide \$10 million over 8 years for the Market Based Instruments programme. The first phase of the programme will involve 10 pilot projects covering the use of trading mechanisms, auctions and price signals to change behaviour.

Water trading offers opportunities to water users to maximise the value of Australia's water resources. The Government is progressing the development through COAG of a nationally agreed set of principles for water entitlement and allocation. This involves working through the complex social, scientific and regulatory design issues in order to achieve robust, sustainable outcomes over the long term.

The Government is also investigating options for using market based instruments to cost-effectively manage industrial and domestic waste streams, including a separate study for a market based tradeable credits system for waste oil.

A range of environmental taxation incentives have been introduced by this government to encourage gifting to the environment (see page 40).

ASSESSING ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PROGRAMMES

The Government has a strong commitment to monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of environmental policy and interventions. In 2003-04 the Government will continue to support the:

- annual collation, analysis and publication of statistics on resource use;
- National Pollutant Inventory – a public Internet database providing information on types and estimated amounts of pollutant emissions from industrial and non-industrial sources to air, land and water around Australia;
- State of the Environment Reporting – a five-yearly report on the condition and prospects of the Australian environment;

- National Carbon Accounting System – a data system that underpins reporting on Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions, the *National Greenhouse Gas Inventory* and Kyoto Protocol; and
- National Land and Water Resources Audit – provides a framework for ongoing monitoring of Australia's land and water resources.

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ASSISTANCE

Oceans management, ozone protection, protection of wetlands, trade in hazardous waste, chemicals management, and the protection of biodiversity are just some areas in which Australia provides international leadership.

In our own region, closer working relations with Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and the Pacific are leading to better protection of the environment, ecosystems and species Australia shares with our neighbours. Work on implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation arising from the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) will produce a more sustainable future in Australia and globally. We will also support a number of voluntary partnerships that were announced at WSSD covering issues such as ocean resources, sustainable land management, energy, climate change, forestry and health.

Addressing sound environmental management is fundamental to the Government’s international aid objective of poverty reduction and sustainable development. A substantial portion of the Government’s international aid programme supports bilateral, regional and multilateral activities that directly address environmental issues in developing countries.

In 2003-04, the Government will provide an estimated \$95 million for activities that directly address environmental problems in developing countries, with an additional \$225 million of indirect expenditure. Priorities include promoting the environmental needs of the Asia-Pacific region in international forums and implementing improved environmental management guidance through the overseas aid provisions of the EPBC Act. The Government will continue to support multilateral efforts to address global environment concerns by contributing to the Global Environment Facility and the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund.

Australia will continue to take a leadership role in helping developing country partners to build their capacity to manage and plan water resources through the Government’s water aid policy of ‘Making every drop count’. This includes supporting an integrated water management project in Vietnam’s Mekong Delta, supporting the Australian Water Research Facility to undertake research on water issues in the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to working with the World Bank on water supply and security programmes and a WSSD partnership on the establishment of a Water and Coastal Resources Management Facility.

Investing for a Sustainable Australia

The Government will promote Australia as a leader in water resources management through its commitment of \$6.7 million over four years to support the establishment of an International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management.

The Government funds agricultural research as part of Australia's international aid programme. In 2003-04 the Government's investment in international agricultural research will include \$1.2 million on research projects that aim to reduce and mitigate environmental damage from agricultural practices; work towards the sustainable management of natural resources such as forests, soils and water supplies and marine fisheries; enhance and protect genetic resources associated with agriculture; and control threats to native environments from pests such as weeds and insects.

ENVIRONMENTAL TAXATION CONCESSIONS AND INCENTIVES

The Government provides a package of taxation concessions and incentives to encourage the community to participate in the conservation and sustainable development of the natural environment. These concessions and incentives provide:

- a donor, who has donated a gift of \$5,000 or more to an environmental organisation or the National Trust, the opportunity to claim the donation against their tax returns over a five-year period;
- a capital gains tax exemption for gifts of property left in a will to an eligible organisation;
- income taxation concessions for landowners entering conservation covenants with eligible organisations;
- environmental organisations with deductible gift recipient status through the Register of Environmental Organisations;
- a tax deduction for expenditure on environmental impact statements and remediation;
- a tax offset for capital expenditure on soil conservation, prevention of land degradation and related measures; and
- the funding of payments to businesses involved in sustainable recycling and the reuse of waste oil by the imposition of a levy on lubricating oils and similar products.

PRACTICAL RECONCILIATION — INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT IN CONSERVATION

The Government is committed to addressing the aspirations and interests of Australia's Indigenous people through symbolic and practical reconciliation. A key precept of ecologically sustainable development is respect for the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples. The Government is a world leader in integrating Indigenous land ownership, Indigenous knowledge and conservation, particularly in our World Heritage property management responsibilities.

Since 1996, 17 Indigenous Protected Areas covering 13.8 million hectares have been declared. Through the Indigenous Protected Areas programme the Government supports Indigenous landholders to manage their lands using traditional knowledge and management practices. The Indigenous Land Management Facilitators increase Indigenous access to the Natural Heritage Trust and they are an important link between Indigenous people and the Government.

Managed by the Government, two of Australia's best known natural and cultural icons – Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks – continue to set international best practice for working with Indigenous owners. External revenue raised through entry fees provides significant income for the traditional owners, and contributes to the management of these Parks.

In 2003-04 the Government will further progress practical reconciliation in nature conservation reserves by:

- expanding the role of traditional owners and relevant Indigenous enterprises that provide park services and increase the representation of Indigenous staff in senior management positions in jointly managed parks;
- declaring a further two Indigenous Protected Areas;
- clarifying and further improving the joint management arrangements between the Government and the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council, Jervis Bay, Australian Capital Territory; and
- working with the Northern Territory government to improve services to the Mutitjulu community in Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park and to increase the participation and involvement of Indigenous people in Northern Territory national parks.

GREENING OF GOVERNMENT — LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The Government leads by example when it comes to environmentally responsible actions. Commonwealth Government activities are largely office based, but like any

Investing for a Sustainable Australia

business operations, they can impact upon land, air, water and biodiversity. The Government is also a major landholder, and a significant purchaser of goods and services worth \$16 billion each year.

The Commonwealth Government has made significant progress on minimising its environmental footprint.

- 100 per cent of all Commonwealth Departments of State and Parliamentary Departments have Environmental Management Systems in place or under development to manage environmental risk and to measure and improve environmental performance, saving both resources and costs.
- More than 50 per cent of all emissions from Government operations are covered by partnership agreements under the Greenhouse Challenge Programme, a voluntary agreement between government, industry, and government agencies to abate greenhouse gas emissions.
- An environmental purchasing guide and checklists are nearing completion to help Commonwealth purchasing officers take environmental costs and benefits into account when purchasing goods and services.
- Guidance is being provided to Government departments and agencies on 'triple bottom line' or Public Environmental Reporting that reflects social and environmental, as well as traditional economic and financial parameters.
- An annual whole-of-government report on total energy use in government operations allows all Government departments and agencies to review their energy use and performance. The last report demonstrated that since 1997-98 the Government's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions had fallen by 14.2 per cent and 11.2 per cent respectively.

In 2003-04 the Government will continue to pursue best corporate environmental practice.

Setting the standard

In 2003, the Department of Defence will release the Commonwealth Government's first Public Environment Report.

The Department of Defence is entrusted with the stewardship of more than three million hectares of the Australian continent. As a significant user of the land, the waters in and surrounding Australia and the air space over it, the Department of Defence has set itself the goal of minimising its footprint on the environment through setting the standard for best practice environmental management.

Utilising an environmental management system framework, the Department of Defence is putting in place a comprehensive environment and heritage management

Achievements and Objectives

programme. Key elements of this programme include measures to: reduce greenhouse gas emissions; improve energy efficiency; manage environmental pests and weeds; aid the recovery of endangered species; undertake environmental research activities; manage and protect heritage places; and remediate contaminated sites.

In 2003-04 the Government has committed \$30.3 million to continue and further develop Defence's extensive programme of environment activities.

APPENDIX 1: ENVIRONMENT EXPENDITURE

Table A1: Environment Activities — programme and tax expenditure estimates⁽¹⁾

Division/ Agency	Description	2002-03 \$m	2003-04 \$m	2004-05 \$m	2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m
AFFA/EA-NHD	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality	62.1	113.8	152.7	149.1	119.3
	Natural Heritage Trust					
AFFA/EA	Bushcare	70.2	84.5	105.4	105.4	102.0
	Coastcare	38.0	32.2	40.3	40.3	39.0
	Landcare	70.4	64.6	80.6	80.6	78.0
	Rivercare	65.5	67.1	83.7	83.7	81.0
	Air & Waste	5.9	1.6	-	-	-
	Total	312.1	363.8	462.7	459.1	419.3
	ATMOSPHERE					
ARPANSA	Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2
ARPANSA	Measurement of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation Environment	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Defence	Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Programmes	12.6	0.2	na	na	na
DEWR	Energy Efficiency Programme	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
DITR	Renewable energy technology - research, policies and programmes	4.7	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.1
DVA	Energy Efficiency Programme	na	0.1	na	na	na
EA-SIAD	Fuel Quality and Vehicle Emissions	11.7	10.6	8.6	7.9	9.1
EA-SIAD	Air Quality Management	3.5	4.5	4.0	4.3	4.4
EA-SIAD	Ozone Protection	1.2	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.7
	Greenhouse - meeting the challenge of climate change					
AFFA	Climate Change Policy & Programs	3.4	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
AGO	Greenhouse Policy	21.9	19.7	11.8	0.2	0.2
AGO	Working with Industry	50.3	82.9	77.1	84.1	60.7
AGO	Working with the Community	21.4	21.9	29.8	26.4	23.9
Aust Post	Participation in Environmental programmes	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
CSIRO	Understanding and responding to climate change and variability	25.2	25.2	na	na	na
DIMIA	Reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions	na	na	na	na	na
	Total	160.2	176.3	142.8	134.7	110.5
	BIODIVERSITY AND LAND *					
AFFA	Quarantine activities	8.4	10.1	na	na	na
AFFA	Plants and Pests Programmes	17.5	22.6	9.0	3.8	2.1
AFFA	Agriculture Policy and Programs	29.1	32.6	1.2	1.2	1.2
AFFA	Forest Management	1.9	1.7	-	-	-
AFFA	National Landcare Programme	32.7	37.1	41.5	42.5	na
ATO	Tax Treatment of Conservation measures	22.0	22.0	22.0	27.0	27.0
ATSIC	Professional Services to Native Title Claimants	na	na	na	na	na
ATSIC	Advancement of Land and Sea Rights	na	na	na	na	na

Table A1: Environment Activities — programme and tax expenditure estimates⁽¹⁾

Division/ Agency	Description	2002-03 \$m	2003-04 \$m	2004-05 \$m	2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m
CSIRO	Sustainable Natural Resource Management	41.8	41.8	na	na	na
CSIRO	Knowing, protecting and benefiting from ecosystems	29.9	29.9	na	na	na
Defence	Conservation of Australia's biological diversity	4.4	0.7	na	na	na
Defence	Contribution to the sustainable management of Australia's land resources	3.8	0.2	na	na	na
DITR	Dryland salinity and water quality - mapping and monitoring environmental change	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2
DoTaRS	Mine Site Rehabilitation on Christmas Is	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
EA-AWD	Wildlife Trade and Protection	10.8	9.8	10.1	11.0	10.6
EA-NHD	Biodiversity	5.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3
EA-NHD	Threatened Species and Threat Abatement Policy and Programmes	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3
EA-NHD	Forests/Vegetation	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
EA-NHD	Natural Resource Management Policy and Programmes	5.3	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.4
EA-Parks	Australian Biological Resources Study	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.5
EA-Parks	Managing Commonwealth Parks and Reserves ^(a)	47.3	34.9	36.0	37.9	39.5
FaCS	Green Corps	23.1	23.5	24.1	24.6	25.1
	Total^(b)	293.7	283.9	163.3	167.2	125.2
	COASTS & OCEANS *					
AFFA	Fishery Policy & Programs	35.1	28.6	26.4	25.2	25.2
AFFA	Marine Policy	0.6	na	na	na	na
AFFA-Customs	Surveillance & enforcement program-protection of Australia's Southern Ocean water and resources	-	12.0	na	na	na
AIMS	Sustainable use and protection of Australia's Marine Biological Diversity	26.1	22.1	22.5	23.1	23.8
CSIRO	Ocean Wealth Flagship	-	1.0	na	na	na
CSIRO	Sustainable Marine ecosystems	24.3	24.3	na	na	na
Customs	Civil Maritime Surveillance and Response ^(c)	253.4	282.8	na	na	na
Defence	Protection and sustainable use of Australia's coasts and oceans	0.6	0.4	na	na	na
DITR	Offshore petroleum and coastal monitoring, mapping and management	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.6
DoTaRS	Confidential Marine Incident Reporting System	-	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
DoTaRS	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	4.5	4.6	4.0	4.1	4.1
EA-MWD	Coastal, Estuarine and Marine Environment	9.4	10.2	11.5	13.1	13.1
EA-MWD	Development of Sewerage Schemes for Boat Harbour and Sisters Beach, Tasmania	1.0	1.0	1.0	-	-

Table A1: Environment Activities — programme and tax expenditure estimates⁽¹⁾

Investing for a Sustainable Australia

Division/ Agency	Description	2002-03 \$m	2003-04 \$m	2004-05 \$m	2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m
GBRMPA	Care and Development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	33.9	30.6	31.1	31.4	31.7
NOO	Australia's Oceans Policy (NOO component)	1.8	1.8	1.8	na	na
NOO	Regional Marine Planning	7.3	7.3	7.3	na	na
TSRA	Indigenous representation in management of Torres Strait fisheries	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
	Total	401.0	429.9	108.4	99.7	100.8
	HUMAN SETTLEMENTS *					
ACA	Electromagnetic Radiation Health Exposure Regulations	0.4	0.4	-	-	-
AFFA	Environmental Assessment and Advice	15.6	-	-	-	-
ARPANSA	Development of National Codes of Practice	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
ARPANSA	Protection of the Environment from hazards arising from operation of Commonwealth nuclear installations	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
ATO	Deduction for expenditure on Environmental Impact Statements and Remediation	11.0	11.0	12.0	13.0	13.0
ATO	Product Stewardship Arrangements for Waste Oil	na	na	na	na	na
CSIRO	Sustainable Cities	30.0	30.0	na	na	na
DHA	International Programme on Chemical Safety	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
DHA	National Medicines Disposal Programme	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
DHA	National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	-
DITR	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act advice	na	na	na	na	na
DoTaRS	Environmental Impact of Airport development	25.8	31.5	11.2	0.6	0.1
DoTaRS	National Highways and Roads of National Importance	na	na	na	na	na
DoTaRS	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act compliance	3.3	0.8	na	na	na
EA-AWD	Implementation of Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	11.6	10.9	11.3	12.5	12.1
EA-HD	Measures for a Better Environment - Sustainable Cities	-	0.5	-	-	-
DEST	Establishment of Radioactive Waste Management Facility	-	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
EA-SSD	Uranium Mining Supervision and Research	8.7	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.8
EA-SIAD	Chemicals Management	4.0	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.4
EA-SIAD	Control of Hazardous Waste	1.0	1.7	1.6	2.0	2.0
EA-SIAD	Gene Technology Assessments	0.9	1.0	1.0	na	na

Table A1: Environment Activities — programme and tax expenditure estimates⁽¹⁾

Division/ Agency	Description	2002-03 \$m	2003-04 \$m	2004-05 \$m	2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m
EA-SIAD	Industry Partnerships	4.6	1.8	2.0	0.4	0.9
EA-SIAD	National Environment Protection Council	1.4	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.1
EA-SIAD	Measures for a Better Environment - Sustainable Cities	-	0.9	2.3	7.6	7.7
EA-SIAD	National Pollutant Inventory	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4
EA-SIAD	Product Stewardship Arrangements for Waste Oil	11.9	8.3	7.4	6.1	5.0
OGTR	Regulation of Gene Technology	8.1	8.0	8.3	na	na
	Total	143.7	128.7	77.3	62.4	61.2
	INLAND WATERS *					
AFFA	Water Policy	14.0	16.0	6.9	6.9	5.9
DEST	International Centre of Excellence - Water Resources	-	1.5	3.0	2.2	0.0
DITR	Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority - Environmental Flows	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
DoTaRS	Disaster Mitigation Australia Package	-	6.2	13.2	16.5	16.3
EA-MWD	Inland Waters	3.9	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.7
EA-SSD	Wetlands Ecology and Conservation	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
	Total	26.3	36.2	35.8	38.5	35.1
	NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE *					
AHC	New Heritage Regime / Register of the National Estate	9.3	9.6	9.7	9.9	10.1
ATSIC	Preservation and Protection of Indigenous Heritage and the Environment	4.2	na	na	na	na
Defence	Contribution to protection and conserving Australia's heritage places	0.6	2.5	na	na	na
DITR	Sustainable Tourism	..	-	-	-	-
DoTaRS	Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area - Norfolk Island	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
EA-HD	<i>Distinctively Australian</i> ^(d)	-	1.3	3.2	4.0	4.8
EA-HD	Administration of the <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Heritage Protection Act 1984</i> ^(e)	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
EA-HD	Administration of the <i>Protection of Moveable Cultural Heritage Act 1986</i> ^(e)	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.1
EA-HD	Conservation of Rural and Regional Hotels	3.5	0.5	na	na	na
EA-HD	Cultural Heritage Projects Programme & Other Cultural Heritage Grants ^(e)	5.1	5.0	5.1	2.4	2.5
EA-HD	Federation Fund/St Pauls Cathedral	1.3	0.1	-	-	-
EA-HD	Goondiwindi Serpentine Water Park	0.7	0.2	-	-	-
EA-HD	Historic Shipwrecks Programme ^(e)	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7
EA-HD	World Heritage programmes ^(e)	5.5	2.4	2.5	3.3	3.1
SHFT	Sydney Harbour Federation Trust	11.7	15.0	21.5	23.5	22.5
	Total	45.4	39.5	44.8	46.3	46.2

Table A1: Environment Activities — programme and tax expenditure estimates⁽¹⁾

Division/ Agency	Description	2002-03 \$m	2003-04 \$m	2004-05 \$m	2005-06 \$m	2006-07 \$m
	ANTARCTIC					
EA-AAD	Advancing Australia's interests in Antarctica	111.2	87.0	86.4	87.5	88.2
DITR	Antarctic Research	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
	Total	111.4	87.2	86.6	87.7	88.3
	METEOROLOGY					
BoM	National and International Activities ^(f)	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.4	9.3
	Other					
ABS	Environmental research, information and training	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6
ACIAR	Overseas Aid Programme	1.0	1.2	1.1	na	na
AFFA	Land and Water Policy	12.7	13.0	13.4	13.4	13.7
AGD	Emergency Management Australia	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	na
AGD	Commonwealth Community Environmental Legal Programme	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
ANSTO	Application of Nuclear-related technologies for the protection and enhancement of the Environment	8.6	6.9	7.1	7.4	6.5
AusAID	Overseas Aid Programme ^(g)	195.0	320.0	na	na	na
ATSIC	Community Housing and Infrastructure	na	na	na	na	na
ATSIC	Community Development Employment Projects	na	na	na	na	na
ATO/EA-PCD	Register of Environmental Organisations (Tax Deductibility)	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	15.0
CSIRO	Healthy Country	na	8.0	na	na	na
Defence	Environmental management and monitoring, and environmental works	11.7	26.3	-	-	-
DEST	Professional training for the Environment Industry	0.2	0.1	0.1	na	na
DEST	Cooperative Research Centres	33.2	49.9	53.8	47.9	33.9
DFAT	International Programs and Assistance	0.2	na	na	na	na
DHA	World Health Organisation	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
DITR	Environment policy, programmes and research	33.2	13.7	10.0	12.0	15.0
DoTaRS	Sustainable Regions programmes	0.4	1.0	0.4	na	na
DoTaRS	Local Government Financial Assistance Grants	na	na	na	na	na
DoTaRS	Secretariat to the Australian Bicycle Council	na	na	na	na	na
EA-PCD	Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations ^(h)	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
EA-SDD	Environmental Resources Information Network	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
EA-SDD	Community Environmental Education	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.0
EA-SDD	International Issues	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
	Total	315.1	459.2	104.8	99.7	88.8
	TOTAL ALL ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES	1818.6	2014.5	1235.9	1204.6	1084.5

- denotes nil; na denotes not available; ..denotes not zero, but rounded to zero.

(1) Care needs to be exercised when comparing estimates for 2002-03 and estimates for forward years and when making comparisons between this edition and previous editions of the Environment Budget

Environmental Expenditure

Statement. From 1 July 2003 the Government will discontinue the Capital Use Charge (CUC). The Commonwealth introduced, as part of the accrual budgeting reforms in 1999-2000, a CUC. The CUC was paid annually by general government sector agencies on their net assets. The CUC is an internal government transaction and therefore, does not affect the budget balances as the payment is offset by a departmental appropriation.

The discontinuation of the CUC has the overall impact of lowering estimates of expenditure for programmes in 2003-04 and beyond. It does not have any impact on actual programme funding, as it is an accounting adjustment. In the 2002-03 Budget, the estimated total CUC and dividends for all agencies was \$6.5 billion. This is equivalent to 3.8 per cent of the total estimates of the Commonwealth general government expenditure of \$170.2 billion. Using this proportional percentage, as a rough guide, the CUC portion of the 2002-03 environmental expenditure would be around \$54 million. This is likely to be an understatement as the provision of environmental services frequently requires a higher proportion of capital stock (eg in National Parks, to support Antarctic research, and to conduct surveillance of illegal fishing) than general government services. For example, the environment elements of the environment portfolio alone have a CUC of over \$46 million for 2002-03.

There has also been a significant change in the way in which direct and indirect environmental expenditures are accounted for under Australia's foreign aid programmes, which means that it is not appropriate directly to compare estimates published for 2002-03 and previous years with those for 2003-04 and beyond.

* Total expenditure for this theme does not include additional NHT expenditure that relates to these environment themes.

- (a) Decline in Parks Australia's expenditure is primarily due to removal of the CUC (\$11.5 million — see footnote (1)) and revised accounting for services received from Environment Australia.
- (b) Total for 2003-04 reduced by \$1.8 million for NAP administration which is already included in the NAP total on page 44.
- (c) The Australian Customs Service estimate comprises funding for the output within Customs that provides environmental services as part of the activities associated with civil maritime surveillance.
- (d) New measure. Provision of funding is contingent on passage of legislation before Parliament.
- (e) The process by which corporate overheads are attributed to Divisional outputs was changed for the 2003-04 Budget. This has resulted in a lower level of overheads being applied from 2003-04.
- (f) Estimated expenditure on environmental activities undertaken by the BoM. This is approximately 5 per cent of the total BoM expenditure including the renewal of the World Class Weather Forecasting initiative.
- (g) Estimates for 2002-03 and previous years are not directly comparable with 2003-04 as these estimates were derived using a revised and more rigorous methodology. In 2003-04, the Government will provide an estimated \$95 million for activities that directly address environment problems in developing countries together with an additional \$225 million of indirect expenditure. These figures now incorporate aspects of expenditure related to water supply, fisheries and agriculture not identified as environmental outlays in previous years.
- (h) GVEHO is under review during 2003-04.

APPENDIX 2: CONTACTS DETAILS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Table A2: List of Division and Agencies with Website and Contact Details

Acronym	Division / Agency	Website / Contact
AAD	Australian Antarctic Division	www.aad.gov.au (03) 6232 3209
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics	www.abs.gov.au 1300 135 070
ACA	Australian Communications Authority	www.aca.gov.au 1300 850 115
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research	www.aciar.gov.au (02) 6217 0500
AFFA	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry — Australia	www.affa.gov.au (02) 6272 3933
AGD	Attorney-General's Department	www.ag.gov.au (02) 6250 6666
AGO	Australian Greenhouse Office	www.greenhouse.gov.au (02) 6274 1888
AGS	Australian Government Solicitor	www.ags.gov.au (02) 6253 7000
AHC	Australian Heritage Commission	www.ahc.gov.au (02) 6274 2111
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science	www.aims.gov.au (07) 4753 4444
ANSTO	Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation	www.ansto.gov.au (02) 9717 3111
ARPANSA	Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	www.arpansa.gov.au (02) 9545 8333
ATO	Australian Taxation Office	www.ato.gov.au (02) 6279 7538
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	www.atsic.gov.au (02) 6121 4000
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development	www.ausaid.gov.au (02) 6206 4000
Aust Post	Australia Post	www.auspost.com.au (03) 9204 7484
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology	www.bom.gov.au (03) 9669 4000
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	www.csiro.au 1300 363 400
Customs	Australian Customs Service	www.customs.gov.au 1300 363 263
Defence	Department of Defence	www.defence.gov.au (02) 6265 9111
DEST	Department of Education, Science and Training	www.dest.gov.au (02) 6240 8111
DEWR	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	www.dewr.gov.au (02) 6121 6000
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	www.dfat.gov.au (02) 6261 1111

Table A2: List of Division and Agencies with Website and Contact Details

Acronym	Division / Agency	Website / Contact
DHA	Department of Health and Ageing	www.health.gov.au 1800 020 103
DIMIA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs	www.immi.gov.au 13 18 81
DoTaRS	Department of Transport and Regional Services	www.dotars.gov.au (02) 6274 7111
DOFA	Department of Finance and Administration	www.finance.gov.au (02) 6215 2222
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs	www.dva.gov.au 133 254
EA-AWD	Environment Australia — Approvals and Wildlife Division	www.ea.gov.au (02) 6274 1111
EA-HD	Environment Australia — Heritage Division	www.ea.gov.au (02) 6274 1111
EA-MWD	Environment Australia — Marine and Water Division	www.ea.gov.au (02) 6274 1111
EA-NHD	Environment Australia — Natural Heritage Division	www.ea.gov.au (02) 6274 1111
EA-Parks	Environment Australia — Parks Australia	www.ea.gov.au (02) 6274 1111
EA-PCD	Environment Australia — Policy Coordination Division	www.ea.gov.au (02) 6274 1111
EA-SDD	Environment Australia — Strategic Development Division	www.ea.gov.au (02) 6274 1111
EA-SIAD	Environment Australia — Sustainable Industry and Atmosphere Division	www.ea.gov.au (02) 6274 1111
EA-SSD	Environment Australia — Supervising Scientist Division	www.ea.gov.au (02) 6274 1111
FaCS	Family and Community Services	www.facs.gov.au 1300 653 227
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	www.gbrmpa.gov.au (07) 4750 0700
Green Corps	Family and Community Services — Green Corps	www.greencorps.gov.au 1800 077 700
ITR	Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources	www.industry.gov.au (02) 6213 6000
NOO	National Oceans Office	www.oceans.gov.au (03) 6221 5000
OGTR	Office of the Gene Technology Regulator	www.ogtr.gov.au 1800 181 030
ORER	Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator	www.orer.gov.au (02) 6274 2192
SHFT	Sydney Harbour Federation Trust	www.habourtrust.gov.au (02) 8969 2100
TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority	www.tsra.gov.au (07) 4069 0700