



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

# ***What is available to Land Holders***

## ***Australian Government Programs***

***Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum***  
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# CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

## ***Introduction***

- Goal: “An environment that is healthy, better-protected, well-managed, resilient and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate”
- Caring for our Country provides \$2.25 billion in funding over five years from 1 July 2008 to June 2013
- Six national priority areas for investment:
  - The national reserve system
  - Biodiversity and natural icons
  - Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats
  - Sustainable farm practices
  - Natural resource management in remote and northern Australia
  - Community skills, knowledge and engagement



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## ***Election Commitments***

- Great Barrier Reef Rescue Plan - \$200m
- Community Coast Care - \$100m
- Indigenous Rangers scheme - \$90m
- Indigenous Protected Areas scheme - \$50m
- Indigenous Emissions Trading Program - \$10m
- Gippsland Lakes water quality - \$5.25m
- Save the Tasmanian Devil program - \$10m
- National Cane Toad Plan - \$2m
- Tuggerah Lakes - \$20m



## *How will Caring for our Country be delivered?*

- The program will take a business approach to investment. This means the Australian Government will:
  - Be explicit about what we are intending to achieve
  - Direct our funding to achieve outcomes
  - Choose the most efficient and effective ways of taking action and the organisations that are best placed to deliver
  - Simplify and streamline administration
  - Be accountable to our stakeholders for our actions and achievements
  - focus on achieving results and reducing red tape.
- The Commonwealth will establish a single point of entry for Caring for our Country, which will be accessible throughout Australia
- All information, funding, contracting and reporting will be standardised



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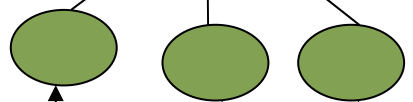
## Goal

An environment that is healthier, better protected, well managed, resilient, and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate

## National Priority Areas

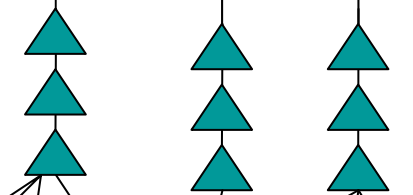
|                             |                                |                                      |                               |                                          |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| the National Reserve System | Biodiversity and natural icons | Coasts and critical aquatic habitats | Sustainable farming practices | Community skills, knowledge & engagement | NRM in northern and remote Australia |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

## Outcomes



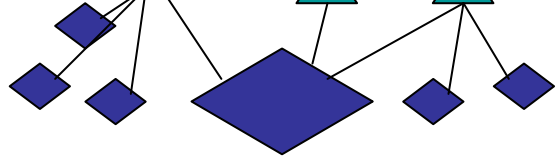
*Multiple 5 year outcomes for each priority area*

## Targets



*1-4 year targets that combine to deliver outcomes*

## Project/Programs



*Projects that deliver against individual or multiple targets*



## ***The Outcome Statements***

- Drafted by Australian Government policy areas
- Limited consultation with representatives of government agencies, Regional bodies, NGOs and industry
- Encompass all election commitments funded by Caring for our Country
- Ambitious but achievable
- Will be used to determine our priorities for the first five years of Caring for our Country



## ***Targets***

- The targets are like stepping stones to the outcome
- They will assist us to identify the highest priorities for our investment
- For planning purposes we are identifying the targets for each of the five years, including 2008-09
- In the 2009-10 business plan we will identify the specific targets that we are seeking to invest in
- We will not be seeking proposals for all components of Caring for our Country eg: election commitments that have specified delivery agents such as Gippsland Lakes



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## ***Business Plan***

- It will provide everyone with an overview of priorities for funding
- It will call for proposals to contribute to the delivery of the targets
- Stakeholders will only need to submit the one proposal to address the business plan, rather than responding to multiple calls for grants
- Multiple years funding will be encouraged
- Large part of the funding available will be contestable



## ***Environmental Stewardship***

- \$42.5 million over 4 years
- Assets on private land or impacted by private land
- Use of market based approaches
- **Focus on matters of NES – EPBC listed**
  - Nationally endangered species and ecological communities
  - Internationally listed wetlands
  - Internationally listed migratory species
  - Natural values of world and national heritage places
- **Contracts of up to 15 years**
- 2 year (2008-09) and 4 year (2010-11) reviews



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## *Environmental Stewardship Principles*

- Environmental Stewardship Program Strategic Framework
  - <http://www.nrm.gov.au/stewardship/index.html>
- Voluntary participation
- Reward environmental services provided for the public good
- Payment for services beyond regulatory requirements
- Consistency with Australia's international trade policies
- **Purchase outcomes** that protect/enhance quality/extent
- Competition by private land managers on basis of environmental significance, management services, surety of long term outcome and cost



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# Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project

