

MEDIA RELEASE

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Economic analysis backs post-COVID19 natural resource management recovery Investment

Analysis by the global advisory firm, EY has concluded that a \$4 billion national recovery program focussed on natural resource management would raise economic output by an estimated **\$5.7 billion** and generate **53,000 jobs** over the next four years.

An outback-focussed element of the proposal comprising federal investment of \$150 million, matched by \$50 million in state and territory funding, would create 1,200 full-time equivalent positions over four years.

Regional natural resource management group, Southern Gulf NRM, is one of 70 organisations across Australia that has called on the Australian Government to invest in natural resource management as a means of stimulating the economy as the nation recovers from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Southern Gulf NRM has identified a range of project opportunities aligned with the proposal that would create real jobs and deliver valuable benefits to our landscape and communities.

Examples include projects such as Working on Country rangers; weed and pest management works; environmental monitoring; erosion and sediment control; and best practice grazing land management.

“This is a well-constructed proposal that deserves backing from regional leaders,” said Southern Gulf NRM CEO, Andrew Maclean.

“The natural resources of our extensive landscapes provide the backbone of our regional economy but COVID19 has created a big setback, with unemployment in outback Queensland predicted to double to 14%.

“This program is highly relevant to economic recovery in our region”, he said.

ENDS

See accompanying executive summary and outback proposal.

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