

Australia's Major National Funds

National Submission
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We have broadly interpreted knowledge transfer and exchange to relate to the encouragement of creation and/or strengthening of national and international learning networks or communities. For example, in Australia these can be identified through such initiative as community awareness and engagement, implementation of communication strategies, Indigenous landcare facilitators, grants involving knowledge transfer and exchange through mechanisms such as museums, tertiary education institutions and universities.

MAJOR NATIONAL FUNDS AND FUNDING INITIATIVES				
Name of fund	Date of inauguration	Purpose	Value (AUD)	Knowledge transfer & exchange
Australian Government Water Fund	2004-05	The Australian Government Water Fund is a \$2 billion programme to invest in water infrastructure, improved water management, and better practices in the stewardship of Australia's scarce water resources. The Fund supports practical on-ground water projects that improve Australia's water efficiency and environmental outcomes.	AUD 2 Billion	The Fund comprises three programmes: The Water Smart Australia Programme was established to accelerate the development and uptake of smart technologies and practices in water use across Australia. The Raising National Water Standards Programme aims to assist the development of the necessary tools for good water management in Australia. It is managed by the National Water Commission and will direct targeted investment to improve Australia's national capacity to measure, monitor and manage its water resources. The Community Water Grants Programme will promote wise water use through community engagement, education and awareness and investment in saving and conserving water.
National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality	2001	The National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) addresses the two major	AUD 1.4 Billion (50% Australian Government, 50% States)	Australian and State and Territory Governments work with people in communities to find solutions for salinity and water quality problems. Regional planning and

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		natural resource management issues facing Australia's environment, rural industries and regional.		investment at a regional level is the principal delivery mechanism for the NAP. At this level the NAP is jointly delivered with the Natural Heritage Trust.
Maintaining Australia's Biodiversity Hotspots	2004	The three-year hotspots programme, commencing in 2004-05, will protect and conserve Australia's biodiversity hotspots - areas which are rich in animal and plant species but where their habitats are under some degree of threat. The programme brings a proactive approach to managing threats in areas that are still relatively intact, and maintaining their biodiversity values.	AUD 36 Million	The Hotspots programme aims to improve the conservation of biodiversity hotspots on private and leasehold land by enhancing active conservation management and protection of existing terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems as habitat for native plants and animals. The programme uses a market-based approach to identifying investment targets, through the delivery of a tender for biodiversity stewardship funding. The programme is being delivered by a panel of non-government conservation organisations, who work directly with land-holders to achieve the best value-for-money biodiversity outcomes.
The Living Murray Initiative.	2002	To recover up to 500 gegalitres of water to achieve environmental objectives at six Icon Sites of national environmental value.	AUD 1 Billion	A communication strategy has been developed for the initiative which is implemented through the Murray Darling Basin Commission and resourced through a dedicated community consultation project within the Commission.

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Australian Antarctic Science		Understanding the unique ecosystems and wildlife of the Antarctic is crucial to its protection. The Australian Antarctic Science Grants Programme, administered by the Australian Antarctic Division of the Department of the Environment and Water Resources, assists researchers to undertake studies of high scientific merit that contribute to Australia's Antarctic Science programme.	Individual grants of up to \$60 000 are available on an annual basis	Grants to the following Australian organisations: universities university-funded staff in Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) other tertiary education institutions, and State museums and State-funded institutions.
Australian Biological Resources Study	1975	The Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) Grants Programme supports the documentation of Australia's biological diversity, and improves and increases the national taxonomic (scientific classification) effort.	\$1.8 Million in 2007	The programme supports taxonomic and bioinformatics research to allow systematic studies and dissemination of these studies on the Australian fauna and flora including micro-organisms. A range of support programmes exist including research grants, PhD scholarships and travel bursaries for students.

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Education for Sustainable Development Grants Programme		This programme aims to support sustainable development in Australia through improved approaches to education and learning for sustainable development.		The funding is provided for the activities that will act as a catalyst for systemic change in support of sustainable development and enhance the effectiveness and national coordination of existing education for sustainable development programmes, policies or institutions and to provide new and innovative approaches in areas of need in education for sustainable development at the national level.
Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities	Initiated in 2005	The Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) programme aims to improve Australia's capacity to understand and respond to its priority environment concerns. The fund will significantly contribute to the development, delivery, understanding, adoption, evaluation or improvement of management and public policy relating to Australia's environmental assets.	AUD \$100 million	CERF represents a commitment to world-class public good research. Two broad streams of research will be funded over the next 5 years. The Nation-wide research component has been allocated \$60 million to develop collaborative work between Australia's best environmental researchers. The Marine and tropical science component is a \$40 million allocation for a Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility to support research relating to Great Barrier Reef and its catchments, the Wet Tropics and its catchments and the Torres Strait.

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National Landcare Programme		The focus of the National Landcare Programme (NLP) is on developing alliances with sustainable primary industries and community groups wanting to be involved in the improvement and repair of their renewable natural resources.		<p>The NLP has two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Support component - which is directed towards community and primary industry landcare activities including those on-farm that address offsite NRM issues. • National component - which funds projects that have a broad scale rather than regional or local outcomes. Investments are made through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Landcare Support – which administration and funds publications, newsletters, conferences and workshops. ○ Natural Resource Innovation Grants - one-off grants to groups or individuals to develop innovative approaches to natural resource management in primary production or processing. ○ Sustainable Industry Initiatives - investments in projects to help industry groups and organisations identify, address and assess the broad NRM issues facing them. ○ Priority National Projects - funds projects in high priority areas identified by the Australian Government.
Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations		The Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) programme helps eligible	Grants of up to \$10,000 per annum	Over the last ten years, the Australian Government has provided over \$13 million to environment and heritage groups to assist with administration costs and employment of staff who liaise with the community on

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		community based environment and heritage organisations to value, conserve and protect Australia's natural environment and historic heritage by assisting with their administrative funding.		issues relating to the natural environment and historic heritage. The last two years of the programme has seen a total of 269 groups receiving assistance, of which 161 were new grant recipients.
Tasmanian Forest Conservation Fund		The Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) is an Australian Government initiative, developed as part of the 2005 Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement.		The FCF provides financial incentives to private landowners recognising their participation in helping to ensure that all forest types, especially old growth, are adequately protected for future generations under covenanting arrangements.
Global Environment Facility	1991	The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established in 1991 and helps developing countries fund projects and programs that protect the global environment. GEF grants support projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the	\$59.8 Million (2006-2010) \$240 Million Overall	

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		ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.		
Natural Heritage Trust overarching and sub-projects				
Natural Heritage Trust	Began in 1997.	The Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funds the repair, conservation, and sustainable use of Australia's natural environment. The NHT provides funding for environmental activities at a community level (through the Australian Government Envirofund) the regional level and the National/State level. More about the Natural Heritage Trust	AUD 3 Billion (overall NHT funding figure)	The Trust funds activities that tackle environmental and natural resource management problems at their source rather than treating the symptoms. With financial support from the Trust, regional and local communities are delivering protection for threatened species, cleaner beaches, healthier waterways, more productive agricultural land and cleaner air.
Australian Government Envirofund (Natural Heritage Trust)		Through the Australian Government Envirofund, community groups have access to small grants to provide the opportunity and means for groups and individuals to undertake short-term natural resource	AUD 135 Million (Individual grants of up to \$50,000)	To date the Envirofund has funded 6900 projects for a total of \$110 million enabling thousands of community groups and landholders to protect native vegetation and undertake re-vegetation works, to improve water quality in rivers and estuaries, to protect wetlands and the marine environment.

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		management projects tackling important local problems.		
Threatened Species Network Community Grants	Grants began 1998/99 financial year	The Threatened Species Network is a community-based programme of the Natural Heritage Trust and WWF Australia. It targets the needs of species and ecological communities recognised as threatened by the Australian Government.	Individual grants of up to \$50,000	To date, \$4.5 million of Natural Heritage Trust funding has been provided to 320 projects around Australia, enabling thousands of people to start conserving their local threatened species. Through its Community Grants Programme, communities are encouraged to take long-term responsibility for the health of our natural environment
Threatened Bird Network	1997	Birds Australia has been contracted under the Natural Heritage Trust since 1997 to deliver the Threatened Bird Network (TBN); a community based communication program designed to encourage and support community participation in conservation activities for Australia's threatened birds.	Funding provided to TBN = \$518,400	The TBN forms the communication hub for the gathering and dissemination of information on threatened bird species and recovery activities in Australia. Strong relationships and extensive communication networks have been developed and their maintenance and expansion remains an important feature of annual activities.
Marine Species Recovery and Protection		The Marine Species Recovery and Protection fund		

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		is a project under the Natural Heritage Trust which looks at supporting projects that contribute to the implementation of recovery plans for threatened marine species.		
National Reserve System Programme		The establishment of the National Reserve System (NRS) programme under the Natural Heritage Trust meets the requirement under the <i>National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity</i> to establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of terrestrial protected areas. There is a separate programme to establish marine protected areas.		The NRS programme works with all levels of government, industry and the community to establish and manage new ecologically significant terrestrial protected areas and develop and implement best practice standards for their management.
Indigenous Land Management Facilitator Network		A national network of 13 Indigenous Land Management Facilitators,		Among other things the Indigenous Land Management Facilitators foster the involvement of Indigenous people in

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		which provide assistance to Indigenous people involved in land management		national, regional and local activities for achieving ecologically sustainable development

REGIONAL FUNDS				
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Regional Natural Heritage Programme	2004	The Regional Natural Heritage Programme (RNHP) provides grants to non-government organisations (NGO's) and other relevant agencies to protect outstanding biodiversity in hotspot areas of South-East Asia and the Pacific.	\$10 million over 4 years 03-07	The RNHP works by using partnerships with NGO's, community-based organisation, private sector, regional governments and other regional organisation through existing and new programmes for sustainable biodiversity conservation.