



THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP
Minister for the Environment and Energy

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**50 NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND RESTORATION RESEARCH PROJECTS**

More than 50 new research projects that protect and restore our environment – from our oceans, northern landscapes and Great Barrier Reef to our urban places, climate and threatened species – have been announced under the Coalition Government’s National Environmental Science Program (NESP).

Each world class science project is designed to deliver practical and applied research that facilitates evidence-based decision making, informing policy and on-ground action.

“The new projects span a fascinating range of research topics and scientific disciplines,” Minister Frydenberg said.

“There’s urban greening, air quality, mine site rehabilitation and land-to-wetland conversion as well as a dozen projects searching for solutions to the challenges faced by our Great Barrier Reef in support of our Reef 2050 Plan.

“Almost half of the projects focus on threatened species, whether mitigating predators, restoring or conserving habitats, reintroducing species or estimating populations – many of which will contribute to our Threatened Species Strategy.”

Specific projects to be carried out by the six NESP research hubs include:

- studying the effects of shipping noise on the behaviour of marine mammals;
- examining the traits of coral that have survived recent bleaching events;
- identifying the most successful coral restoration and recovery techniques;
- assessing the Gulf of Carpentaria mangrove dieback;
- coordinating recovery planning for threatened eucalypt woodlands;
- understanding and combating myrtle rust;
- estimating the population abundance of southern right whales;
- creating safe havens for threatened Australian frogs;
- evaluating the extent of cat predation on the brush-tailed rabbit rat;
- trialling habitat restoration strategies for threatened reptiles; and
- saving endangered bettongs with changed fire regimes.

“The National Environmental Science Program has been operating for four years and its previous research is already being used by the Coalition Government and state, territory and local governments as well as industry, Indigenous people and hands-on land and water managers,” Minister Frydenberg said.

“Much of its success is due to eminent scientists working together with governments, industry and communities. Only together, can we improve the way we tackle today’s environmental challenges.”

Find out more: <http://www.environment.gov.au/science/nesp>

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