



**THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP**  
Minister for the Environment and Energy

**MEDIA RELEASE**

5 June 2018

**LAUNCH OF ANTARCTIC SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

Australians now have the unique opportunity to contribute to our nation's scientific endeavours on the icy continent and surrounding ocean with the Coalition Government's launch of the Antarctic Science Foundation.

Driving new public-private partnerships, the Foundation is set to further advance our Antarctic research and protection efforts.

"Antarctica has always been a place where nations, scientists and a wide range of organisations work together in the shared spirit of peace and science," Minister Frydenberg said.

"Building on this tradition of collaboration, the launch of the Antarctic Science Foundation offers an opportunity for all sectors of the community to take part in Australia's new era of Antarctic engagement and contribute to new and important research, conservation and education.

"Antarctic research helps us understand and plan for the impacts of climate change, support industries such as fisheries and understand and protect the unique Antarctic environment.

"Self-funded from donations and under the direction of former Federal Environment Minister, the Honourable Robert Hill, the Foundation will bring together government, philanthropic and private partners to better understand and protect Antarctica, with benefits for both Australia and the world."

The establishment of an Antarctic foundation was identified as a priority of the Coalition Government in the *Australian Antarctic Strategy* and *20 Year Action Plan*.

Its launch is a continuation of the Coalition Government's commitment to a new era of Antarctic endeavour with a \$1.9 billion investment in a new state-of-the-art icebreaker, *R/SV Nuyina*, \$50 million for the replacement station on Macquarie Island and \$45 million for an overland traverse capability to help with the search for a million year ice core.

In addition, Budget 2017-18 included more than \$13 million per year over 10 years for Antarctic science. The Government also recently announced its intention to build a paved runway at Davis research station, subject to environmental approvals, which will provide further opportunities for Antarctic science to better understand and protect the icy continent.

The involvement of the Antarctic Science Foundation and the broader community in supporting Antarctic research has the potential to be a significant multiplier of these government funds.

**Ends**

**A vision package is available for media use:**

<https://cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au/plus/s/jiGm3Aim6xmYIot>

Media contact: Kane Silom – Office of the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP – 02 6277 7920  
The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP | Minister for the Environment and Energy | MELBOURNE