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MEDIA RELEASE

13 April 2017

\$18 MILLION FOR SIX NEW REEF PROJECTS

The Coalition Government is providing more than \$18 million for six new projects to improve water quality and protect riparian coastal habitats and marine species in the Great Barrier Reef.

These projects will be funded through the Reef Trust under its Phase IV Gully and Stream Bank Erosion Control Program and delivered in partnership with landholders in the Burdekin, Fitzroy, Burnett Mary and Cape York regions.

Erosion of stream banks and gullies is responsible for 70 per cent of the fine sediment run-off into the Reef impacting the health of seagrass and corals, and also contributing to outbreaks of the Crown of Thorns Starfish—a coral predator.

A range of on-ground activities will be delivered by the projects across the Reef's catchments, to help repair areas of land that have become eroded over time and are contributing large amounts of sediment to the Reef.

Project activities will include fencing off gully areas, revegetation, and adoption of improved land management practices.

The projects are part of a coordinated effort to protect the Reef. Through them, we will continue building the skills and knowledge we need to adaptively manage the Reef.

Building on these priority projects, we will also continue to explore options to support additional projects that address sediment run-off and help improve the quality of water entering the Reef.

More information on the Reef Trust Phase IV Gully and Stream Bank Erosion Control Program can be accessed via <http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/reeftrust/addressing-stream-bank-gully-erosion>