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The right plan will do the job

COMMENT
JOSH FRYDENBERG

IT IS no secret that the Great Barrier Reef is under pressure.

Cyclone Debbie, successive bleaching events, and the insidious impact of the crown-of-thorns starfish have all taken their toll.

But the Reef is remarkably resilient, and with the right plan and the right investment, it will overcome these challenges and be enjoyed by future generations.

This is why the Turnbull Government's announcement today of an additional \$500 million for the Reef is so important. Our contribution, through the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, represents the single largest funding commitment ever for reef conservation and management in Australia's history.

It offers a unique opportunity to leverage further investment from the private sector and other philanthropic organisations. It also builds on the \$2 billion Reef 2050 Plan already put in place by the federal and state governments.

Significantly, the Reef 2050 Plan has received significant praise from the United Nation's World Heritage Committee.

This new funding will be directed towards three key objectives.

The first is improving water quality. Better fertiliser management, farming practices, and the adoption of new technology for irrigation and gully remediation will be the focus. The second is greater monitoring of the Reef's health, and measurement of its impacts.

And the third is a significant expansion in Reef restoration and long-term adaptation.

**JOSH FRYDENBERG
IS THE FEDERAL
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