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## ACTION ON CLIMATE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY BEGINS

Australians' call for action on climate change and climate resilience has been responded to in the federal Government's October Budget 22-23, with funding commitments redirected to support core carbon and waste initiatives.

[Circular Australia](#) today welcomed the suite of climate and circular economy measures, including \$60 million more funding for plastics recycling and to reduce hospital plastic waste, which account for seven percent of the nation's total emissions.

The funding follows a powerful show of unity on circular economy by [Australia's Environment Ministers](#) who last week committed to: **Design out waste and pollution, keep materials in use, fostering markets to achieve a circular economy by 2030; Establish a national nature repair market; And conserve 30 percent of landmass and marine areas by 2030.**

"Circular Economy is based on three principles: design out waste, keep materials in the economy for as long as possible at their highest value and ensure regenerative systems to promote biodiversity," Circular Australia CEO & Managing Director Lisa McLean said.

"We are inspired to see the federal Government lead a uniform commitment to the circular economy across the States and Territories and to keep funding intact for important circular economy approaches that can unlock a \$2 trillion economic opportunity for Australia.

"This ongoing funding recognises that the Albanese government leaves no stone unturned on Australia's journey to net zero."

Areas of benefit to the circular economy include:

### **Made in Australia**

Circular economy opportunities are supported through industry and manufacturing investment including:

- \$113.6 million for manufacturing upgrades to reduce carbon output and invest in regions for example: biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and low carbon zinc.
- \$15 billion for the national Reconstruction Fund investing in manufacturing technologies to help the transition to net zero emissions.

### **Recycling & Infrastructure**

- \$225M Recycled Modern Manufacturing Fund over four years for recycling infrastructure, including:
  - An additional \$60M for plastic technologies
- \$8M over four years for Building Australia's Circular Waste Economy including Implementing a Remade in Australia Scheme
- \$2.5M over 2 years for Incentivising Recycling Behaviours – supporting small business to adopt the Australasian recycling label
- \$9M for the Product Stewardship Investment Fund for this financial year with forward funding ending next financial year with a \$1.6M allocation, including:



- Adding mattresses and hospital plastics to the product stewardship commitments
- \$90 million to employ and upskill up to 1,000 Landcare Rangers to conserve and restore
- A new nature repair market will be established (no funding earmarked yet) to reward farmers and other landholders for their work in restoring and protecting nature.
- The Budget also provides \$141m over 10 years to develop Carbon Capture Storage for industries such as cement manufacturing in hard-to-abate industries

### **First Nations Leadership**

Australia's First Nations peoples have been leaders and designers of circular economy approaches for millennia. This Budget provides:

- \$105.2 million to support First Nations people in their local response to climate change - with the development of a First Nations Clean Energy Strategy and Community Microgrids Program to drive local self-sufficiency in the renewable energy transition.
- A new Torres Strait Climate Change Centre of Excellence will also be established to design and deliver local adaptation and mitigation building on existing initiatives such as the Climate Warriors training program.

### **Transparent Climate Action**

The Government has enshrined in law its emissions reduction targets of 43 per cent by 2030 and net zero by 2050 with the following allocations:

- \$47.1m over four years for the Climate Change Authority, which has been expanded after having its funding slashed by the Coalition
- \$306.5m for community batteries and solar banks
- \$275m for electric and zero emissions vehicle charging
- \$7.1 million going to reduce the Government's own emissions to net zero by 2030.
- \$39.1 million to improve the Australian Public Service's climate expertise, including by rebuilding Treasury's climate modelling capability.
- \$42.6 million over four years to restore the Climate Change Authority, expanding its role after the Morrison Coalition cut funding and introducing an Annual Climate Change Statement to Parliament to increase transparency around climate-related spending in the Budget.
- \$1.9bn "powering the regions" fund to support jobs and emissions cuts in regional areas.

### **Water, Land, Biodiversity Wildlife & Oceans**

- \$1.8 billion to protect, restore and manage the natural environment, including:
  - \$91.1 million over six years for the restoration of urban waterways and local biodiversity
  - \$224.5 million to the Threatened Species Action Plan (2022–2032). This falls short of [researchers estimates that \\$1.7 billion](#) is needed per year to recover Australia's listed threatened species
- \$224.5 million to help save Australia's most imperilled native species.
- \$91 million for the first round of the \$200 million election promise to improve local waterways through the Urban Rivers and Catchment Program.
- \$10.8 million to improve ocean and marine park management
- \$66.5 million to support 10 new Indigenous Protected Areas as part of the pledge to conserve 30% of Australian land and sea by 2030 to be announced at the UN Biodiversity COP meeting in December 2022
- The establishment of a new Environmental Protection Agency to ensure environment laws are enforced

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