



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

A business approach to delivery 2010–11

Presented by:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



Aims of information session

- overview of Caring for our Country
- highlights of the 2010–11 business plan
- 2010–11 priorities for investment
- how to apply
- key dates
- supporting information



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Overview of Caring for our Country

- Caring for our Country is an ongoing initiative
- integrates delivery of previous natural resource management programs including: Natural Heritage Trust, National Landcare Program, Environmental Stewardship Program, Working on Country Indigenous land & sea ranger program
- over the first five years, over \$2 billion in funding will be provided
- more than \$455M was approved for single and multi-year projects under the 2009–10 business plan
- over 1200 community groups and approx 12 000 landholders received funding under the 2009–10 business plan



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Overview of Caring for our Country



- a new way of delivering natural resource management
- a business approach to investment:
 - clear view of the highest priorities for the Australian Government
 - identify the outcomes and targets the Australian Government is seeking to achieve
 - will select investments that will be effective, good value for money, carried out by organisations that are best placed to deliver
- encompasses a number of the 2007 election commitments
 - Reef Rescue
 - Community Coastcare
 - Cane Toads
 - Gippsland and Tuggerah lakes

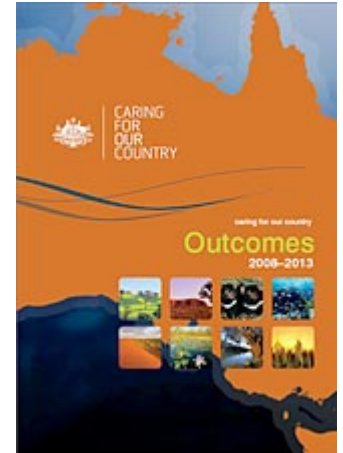


CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



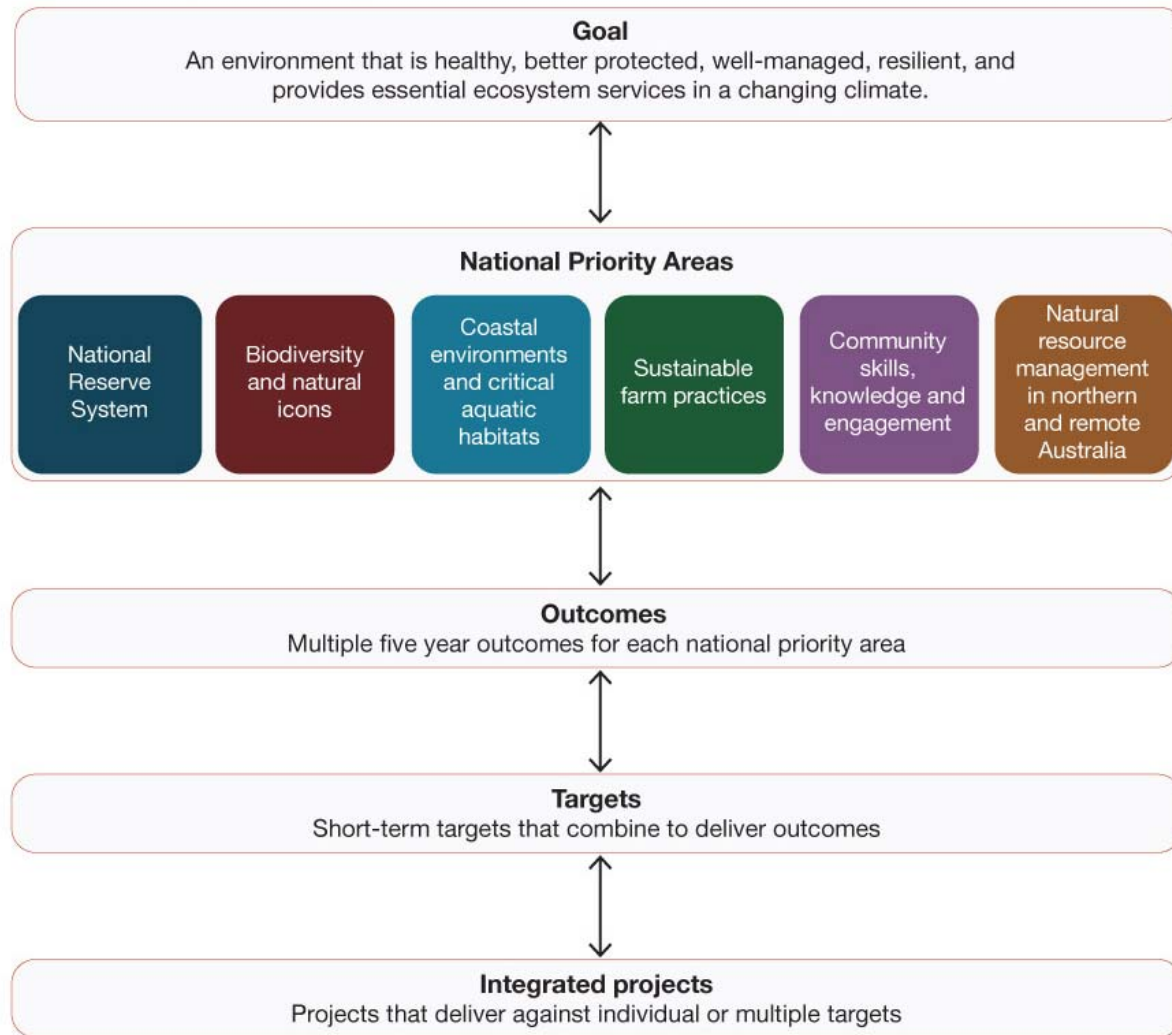
Overview of Caring for our Country

- outcome statements details what will be delivered in the first five years of Caring for our Country between 2008–2013



- shorter-term targets are identified in each annual business plan to meet the outcomes
- flexible investment options for delivery

Caring for our Country framework



Caring for our Country

key issues from stakeholder feedback

We received valuable feedback from stakeholders which has been used to present a user friendly business plan

- **More detail**

- Available budgets across the national priority areas
 - clearer about what we will and won't fund

- **Greater content**

- More detailed maps and other information
 - Investment approaches specific to different scales and stakeholders
 - Community Action Grants

- **Simplified application**

- online forms
 - tailored to specific stakeholder needs
 - simpler to complete with more assistance available



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Caring for our Country 2010–11 business plan

- **was released by Ministers Thursday 7th Jan 2010**
- provides a consolidated call for proposals
- provides detailed information on priorities for investment for 2010–11
- seeks projects that best deliver effective, efficient and timely results to enable the delivery of the Caring for our Country outcomes
- multi-year funding is encouraged
- this year has different investment approaches for added flexibility



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Highlights of the 2010-11 business plan

This business plan outlines:

how we will invest – different approaches:

- Open call
- Co-investment
- Expression of interest
- Regional base-level expression of interest



the revised/new targets

- revisions to targets to reflect improved information and government priorities
- some removed – camels, cane toads, rats (on small islands) where substantial funds already applied
- revisions to target numbers (e.g. hectares) - more meaningful and better defined
- increasing participation in natural resource management target incorporated across the other national priority areas

the available budgets for priority areas



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Highlights of the 2010-11 business plan

This business plan outlines:

the investment scope

- ineligible activities and exclusions
- only some targets have identified priority areas (Ramsar, HCVAE, coastal hotspots, World Heritage Areas)

the range of supporting maps and other information

- key information sources including maps and site investment guides
- further information

the available funding amounts

- funding for individual projects generally ranges from \$20k to \$1.5M (over three years)
- for some targets the ceiling is \$300k or two years



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Highlights of the 2010-11 business plan

This business plan outlines:

the number of targets proposal can address

- maximum of three targets will be used to assess proposals
- except for regional natural resource management organisations base-level funding expression of interest – are able to apply against all relevant targets

Indigenous participation

- expectation that all proposals seeking funding in this business plan will explore opportunities for Indigenous people to participate in the delivery of the targets where it makes sense to do so



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Priorities for investment



- Section 2 of the business plan
- outlines the targets for which investment proposals are currently being sought
- details rationale, investment approach, priority locations and activities, exclusions and ineligible activities



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



National Reserve System

Notional multi-year budget available under the 2010–11 business plan — \$48 million

| Target | Scope (see pg 26 for details) |
|--|---|
| <p data-bbox="86 449 743 542">Increasing the National Reserve System</p> <p data-bbox="86 564 792 906">To increase the area that is protected within the National Reserve System by at least five million hectares a year (including Indigenous Protected Areas) with a priority in under-represented bioregions.</p> | <ul data-bbox="830 449 1864 564" style="list-style-type: none">•Funding to buy land for new reserves•Funding to establish covenants on private land. <p data-bbox="830 685 1477 749">Investment approach</p> <ul data-bbox="830 771 1864 1128" style="list-style-type: none">•No limits to funding – (determined by land price)•Open call – one-off land purchases and covenants (closes 15 April)•Separate application – complex proposals for a package of landscape projects (closes 15 April) |



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



National Reserve System (cont:)

| Targets | Scope (see pg 30 for details) |
|---|--|
| <p>Increasing Indigenous Protected Areas</p> <p>To increase the area of Indigenous-owned land declared as Indigenous Protected Areas and managed as part of the National Reserve System by at least two million hectares a year.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Funding to support Indigenous organisations knowledge of Indigenous Protected Areas•Funding for the development of management plans•Funding to support co-management arrangements for existing protected areas. |
| <p>Increasing Indigenous best management practice</p> <p>To use traditional ecological knowledge in the development of management plans in at least 32 newly initiated Indigenous Protected Area projects over three years.</p> | <p>Investment approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•\$20 K to \$1.5 M over three yrs•Separate application form available now (closes 15 April) |



Biodiversity and natural icons

Notional multi-year budget available under the 2010–11 business plan — \$22 million

| Targets | Scope (see pg 36 for details) |
|--|--|
| <p>Increasing native habitat</p> <p>To increase by at least 600 000 hectares by June 2013 the area of native habitat and vegetation that is managed to reduce critical threats to biodiversity and enhance the condition, connectivity and resilience of habitats and landscapes.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priority on projects that incorporate listed threatened species and communities and habitat important to the long term persistence of these.• Funding for restoration work, managing refugia, buffers, market based approaches etc. |
| <p>Increasing participation in natural resource management target</p> <p>Can be selected once a biophysical target has been selected</p> | <p>Investment approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$20 K to \$1.5 M over three yrs• Open call (closes 15 April) |



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Biodiversity and natural icons (cont:)

| Target | Scope (see pg 39 for details) |
|--|---|
| <p>Environmental Stewardship Program To secure at least 30 000 hectares of nationally threatened ecological communities through the Environmental Stewardship Program by June 2011.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivery agent for the single Environmental Stewardship Program targeting regions in SA focused around:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peppermint box grassy woodland• Iron-grass temperate grassland• Swamps of the Fleurieu Peninsula <p>Investment approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding amount – via Tender• AusTender – open now (closes 2 Feb) |



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Biodiversity and natural icons (cont:)

| Targets | Scope (see pg 42 for details) |
|---|--|
| <p>Improved regeneration of native vegetation and productive landscapes from better management of invasive vertebrate pests</p> <p>Reduce or manage the impacts of vertebrate pest animals (specifically rabbits, feral pigs and wild dogs) to maintain or improve biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem, world heritage and sustainable practices outcomes. This will allow regeneration and recovery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•at least 10,000 hectares of native habitat that supports critically endangered, endangered and threatened species and communities; and•at least 10,000 hectares of native vegetation by control of vertebrate pest animals on agricultural land over the next three years. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Consistent with the Australian Pest Animal Strategy & the relevant threat abatement plan•Focus on regeneration, recovery and reduction of impacts on species listed in Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)•High priority species listed in Table 6 & 7 of business plan pages. |
| <p>Increasing participation in natural resource management target</p> <p>Can be selected once a biophysical target has been selected</p> | <p>Investment approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•\$20 K to \$300 K over three yrs•Open call (closes 15 April) |



Biodiversity and natural icons (cont:)

| Targets | Scope (see pg 47 for details) |
|---|---|
| <p>Reducing the impact of Weeds of National Significance</p> <p>To reduce the impact of Weeds of National Significance on high quality native vegetation on public and private land (including agricultural land). Impact will be reduced by undertaking collaborative activities that control outlier infestations, strengthen containment lines and/or bring core infestations under management control or eradicate where feasible, to reduce the risk of new infestations.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborative projects that control outlier infestations and/or strengthen containment lines• Core infestations where demonstrated to reduce the risk of new infestations• If large private benefit should be lodged under a sustainable practices proposal |
| <p>Increasing participation in natural resource management target</p> <p>Can be selected once a biophysical target has been selected</p> | <p>Investment approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$20 K to \$300 K over three yrs• Open call (closes 15 April) |



Biodiversity and natural icons (cont:)

| Target | Scope (see pg 50 for details) |
|--|---|
| <p data-bbox="73 361 722 401">Managing World Heritage Areas</p> <p data-bbox="73 422 865 615">To address identified key threats to the outstanding natural values of ten state-managed World Heritage Areas achieving on-ground outcomes by 2013.</p> | <ul data-bbox="962 361 1870 843" style="list-style-type: none">• Proposals only accepted for 10 World Heritage Areas• Actions to improve on-ground management practices• Each World Heritage Areas has specific identified eligible activities• Agreement with World Heritage Areas manager required <p data-bbox="962 893 1605 951">Investment approach</p> <ul data-bbox="962 975 1624 1093" style="list-style-type: none">• \$20 K to \$1.5 M over three yrs• Open call (closes 15 April) |



Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats

Notional multi-year budget available under the 2010–11 business plan — \$85 million

| Targets | Scope (see pg 58 for details) |
|---|--|
| <p>Protecting the Reef</p> <p>To increase by 1300 the number of farmers who have adopted land management practices that will improve the quality of water reaching the Reef lagoon by 2013.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reef Water Quality research and development• Priorities outlined in the Reef Rescue research and development plan (available on website) |
| <p>Protecting the Reef</p> <p>To increase by 650 the number of pastoralists over an area of 3.8 million hectares, who have improved ground cover monitoring and management in areas where run-off from grazing is contributing significantly to sediment loads and a decline in the quality of water reaching the Reef lagoon by 2013.</p> | <p>Investment approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• no specific funding limits.• \$9 million available over four yrs (2009–13)• Expression of interest application available now (closes 15 Feb) |



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats (cont:)

| Targets | Scope (see pg 61 for details) |
|---|--|
| <p>Protecting Ramsar wetlands</p> <p>To address identified key threats to the ecological character of priority Ramsar listed wetlands by 2013.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identified on-ground actions to address key threats to the ecological character• Site investment guides for each site• 14 priority open call sites• 58 regional base-level funding expression of interest sites |
| <p>Increasing participation in natural resource management target</p> <p>Can be selected once a biophysical target has been selected</p> | <p>Investment approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$20 K to \$1.5 M over three yrs• Open call (closes 15 Apr)• Regional expression of interest (closes 31 March) |



Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats (cont:)

| Targets | Scope (see pg 64 for details) |
|--|--|
| <p>Protecting critical aquatic ecosystems (HCVAEs)</p> <p>To address identified key threats to the environmental values of priority high conservation value aquatic ecosystems through implementing on-ground management actions by 2013.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identified on-ground actions to address key threats to the environmental values• Site investment guides for each site• 12 priority open call sites• 44 regional base-level funding expression of interest sites |
| <p>Increasing participation in natural resource management target</p> <p>Can be selected once a biophysical target has been selected</p> | <p>Investment approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$20 K to \$1.5 M over three yrs• Open call (closes 15 Apr)• Regional expression of interest (closes 31 March) |



Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats (cont:)

| Targets | Scope (see pg 67 for details) |
|--|--|
| <p>Improving coastal hotspots</p> <p>To address the threats contributing to poor or declining water quality of priority coastal hotspots through implementing on-ground management actions identified in Water Quality Improvement Plans by 2013.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-ground actions to improve water quality – guided by existing water quality improvement plan (WQIP) • 7 on-ground priority open call sites • Completion of WQIP with existing planning and partners • 2 WQIP open call sites • 13 regional base-level funding expression of interest sites |
| <p>Increasing participation in natural resource management target</p> <p>Can be selected once a biophysical target has been selected</p> | <p>Investment approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 K to \$1.5 M over three yrs • Open call (closes 15 Apr) • Regional expression of interest (closes 31 March) |



Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats (cont:)

| Target | Scope (see pg 70 for details) |
|---|---|
| <p data-bbox="108 411 724 502">Increasing coastal community engagement</p> <p data-bbox="108 521 840 763">To engage at least 500 community organisations in coastal and marine rehabilitation, restoration and conservation actions from July 2010 to June 2012.</p> | <ul data-bbox="931 411 1864 835" style="list-style-type: none">•Community groups to engage in on-ground rehab, restoration and conservation actions•Increasing participation and enhancing skills and knowledge•Priority Ramsar, High conservation value aquatic ecosystems and hotspots alignment <p data-bbox="931 878 1574 935">Investment approach</p> <ul data-bbox="931 956 1854 1142" style="list-style-type: none">•\$20 K to \$50 k over two yrs•Devolved grants up to \$1.5 M over two yrs•Open call (closes 15 Apr) |



Sustainable practices

Notional multi-year budget available under the 2010–11 business plan — \$15 million

Targets

Improving Management Practices

- An additional 42 000 farmers (including aquaculture farmers) have improved their management practices to reduce the risk of soil acidification, soil loss through wind and water erosion and increase the carbon content of soils or improve water quality (aquaculture only) by 2013. Improved management practices have been applied to an additional 70 million hectares of land under cropping, horticulture, and grazing (including dairy).

- To increase by 250, commercial fishers who have improved practices by 2013 to optimise sustainability.

Improving knowledge and skills

Can be selected once a linked target has been selected

Scope

- Four categories for open call & expression of interest
- Soil condition, Landscape scale conservation, Aquaculture and Commercial fisheries
- Investment guides provide details

Investment approach

- Open call (closes 15 Apr)
- \$20 K to \$300 K over three yrs
- expression of interest online (closes 15 April)
- Up to a total of **five** projects
- \$300 K to \$1.5 M over three yrs



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Sustainable practices (cont:)

| Targets | Scope |
|---|---|
| <p>Landscape Scale Conservation Increase by 6700, farmers adopting activities by 2013 that contribute to the ongoing conservation and protection of biodiversity.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Proposals must contribute to either of the two improving management practice targets and/or the landscape scale conservation target and may also contribute to commercial fishing. |
| <p>Improving knowledge and skills To increase by 42 000, land managers, farmers and fishers by 2013 who have demonstrated an improvement in knowledge and skills in natural resource management.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•All proposals must contribute to the improving the knowledge and skills target through extending the knowledge or experience gained from the project.•No separate funding is available for this target as an end in itself. |

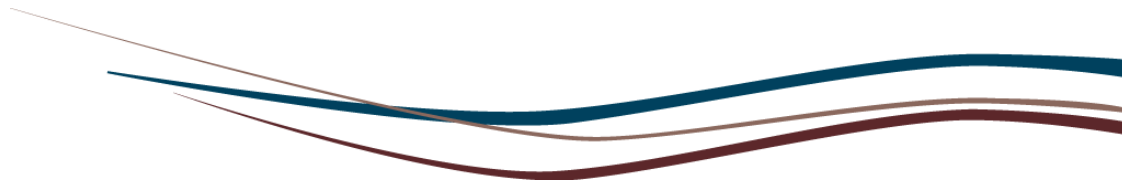


Northern and remote Australia

- Proposals for activities in northern and remote Australia must deliver against targets in the other Caring for our Country national priority areas
- Caring for our Country is particularly seeking to invest in opportunities relevant to Indigenous peoples, such as:
 - the expansion of Indigenous Protected Areas as part of the National Reserve System in under-represented areas,
 - employment of Indigenous rangers to deliver environmental outcomes, and
 - the protection of coastal areas and threatened ecological communities.
- Work funded to manage World Heritage Areas, protect Ramsar wetlands, improve land management practices and the knowledge and skill of land managers will also contribute to the delivery of northern and remote outcomes.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Community skills, knowledge and engagement

| Target | Scope |
|--|--|
| <p data-bbox="112 429 813 525">Increasing participation in natural resource management</p> <p data-bbox="112 544 865 791">To increase the recruitment and retention of volunteers in community groups involved in managing natural resources, over the next three years, in particular youth.</p> | <ul data-bbox="909 429 1818 719" style="list-style-type: none">•Activities will only be supported as part of a broader proposal which contributes to the on-ground delivery of other targets.•Proposals for this target only will be considered ineligible. |



Community skills, knowledge and engagement (cont:)

| Targets | Scope |
|---|--|
| <p data-bbox="69 448 506 486">Indigenous participation</p> <ul data-bbox="69 501 966 1115" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="69 501 966 758">•To resource at least 10 projects by 2013 that will systematically record traditional ecological knowledge at a cultural landscape scale in a way that records Elder's knowledge and can be used to support biodiversity, coastal and other conservation outcomes for Caring for our Country.<li data-bbox="69 853 966 1115">•To implement at least 10 existing land and sea management plans by 2013. Priority will be given to Indigenous organisations with strong governance and existing land and sea country management plans that will contribute to biodiversity, coastal and other conservation outcomes for Caring for our Country. | <ul data-bbox="1020 448 1816 796" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1020 448 1816 558">•Only Indigenous organisations can apply<li data-bbox="1020 572 1816 796">•NRM regions can direct base-level funding as long as they can demonstrate strong partnerships with Indigenous organisations. <p data-bbox="1020 858 1622 925">Investment approach</p> <ul data-bbox="1020 939 1680 1068" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1020 939 1680 996">•\$20 K to \$300 k over three yrs<li data-bbox="1020 1011 1680 1068">•Open call (closes 15 Apr) |



Community skills, knowledge and engagement (cont:)

Community Action Grants

- Supports groups undertaking both on-ground and engagement activities
- Contribute to Caring for our Country national priority areas
- Grants between \$5000 and \$20 000
- Will fund activities such as:
 - Tree planting, revegetation, dune rehabilitation
 - Field days and improving land management practices
 - Recording traditional ecological knowledge
- Can undertake engagement activities without the need for on-ground works
- Guidelines and eligibility criteria will be available when the round opens
- Anticipated in July 2010



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Summary of investment approaches

- **Open call online application**
 - principal method of applying
 - \$20 000 to \$1.5M total value
 - Some targets have funding limits of \$300K
 - could be >\$1.5M for land acquisition proposals under the National Reserve System
- **Expression of interests**
 - Reef water quality research and development
 - Sustainable practices proposals greater than \$300k
 - regional base-level funding
 - Environmental Stewardship Program – through Austender
- **Other applications (electronic)**
 - Indigenous Protected Areas
 - National Reserve System - complex



How to apply



■ Open call online form

- submitted online, not emailed in
- separate online forms for open call, regional base-level expression of interest, sustainable practices expression of interest
- various closing dates

■ MERI

- projects over \$80K required to develop and implement a MERI plan
- projects under \$80K required to develop a program logic

■ Communications

- all proponents required to incorporate communication activities
- projects over \$80K required to develop a communication plan



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Key dates - 2010

| | |
|----------|--|
| 2 Feb | Environmental Stewardship Program AusTender closes |
| 15 Feb | Reef water quality research and development expression of interest closes |
| 31 March | Regional base-level expression of interest closes |
| 15 April | Open call applications close Indigenous Protected Areas applications close Sustainable Practices expression of interest closes National Reserve System complex applications close |
| July | Community Action Grants anticipated next round |



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Supporting information



Website

- business plan – electronically available (pdf and word)
- supporting maps and other information

Resources

- business plan, maps, site investment guides & investment guides
- frequently asked questions and glossary
- application form guides and questions from the open call application
- hard copies of the open call application form will be available on request



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Questions

Further assistance

**Caring for our Country Community Information Line:
1800 552 008**

Website: www.nrm.gov.au

Email: business.planning@nrm.gov.au

Australian Government Land and Coasts staff



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

