

Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Animal Protection

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Queensland
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 1 July 2028
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will provide funding to support the delivery of sustainable fisheries initiatives within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and surrounding Queensland state waters. These initiatives encapsulate joint Commonwealth and Queensland Government commitments to the World Heritage Committee and will support implementation of specific actions under the Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan. The key programs include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) \$22 million matched funding to support a multi-year independent monitoring and data validation program across fisheries with a high-risk of interactions with protected species during fishing operations. 2) \$14 million to support bycatch reduction initiatives including projects to increase the survivorship of fisheries bycatch, particularly protected species; and incentives for the fishing industry to transition to alternative fishing gear and practices that demonstrate low environmental impacts and reduced risks to protected species and habitats.

<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the State of \$36.0m in respect of this Schedule.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="427 383 1385 750"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Table 1</th> </tr> <tr> <th>(\$ million)</th> <th>2023-2024</th> <th>2024-2025</th> <th>2025-2026</th> <th>2026-2027</th> <th>2027-2028</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Estimated total budget</td> <td>2.2</td> <td>20.0</td> <td>19.0</td> <td>12.9</td> <td>9.1</td> <td>63.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- National Partnership Payments</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>18.0</td> <td>18.0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>36.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</td> <td>2.2</td> <td>2.0</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>12.9</td> <td>9.1</td> <td>27.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Table 1							(\$ million)	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	Total	Estimated total budget	2.2	20.0	19.0	12.9	9.1	63.2	- National Partnership Payments	0.0	18.0	18.0	0.0	0.0	36.0	Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	2.2	2.0	1.0	12.9	9.1	27.2
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<p>1) <i>Funding duration is from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2028. Should there be delays and significant budget underruns, such as impacts from a pandemic, extreme weather or other events, implementation delays due to availability of equipment or service providers, an option to extend the current project delivery timeframes, by up to 12 months, may be made by mutual agreement in writing between the parties. Further extensions are dependent on financial delegate approval and agreement between the parties.</i></p>																																			

Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
Independent Monitoring and Data Validation Program	<p>Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a multi-year program plan for commercial fisheries* operating in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and surrounding Queensland waters. The program must meet the principles of Attachment A.</p> <p>The program plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an implementation timeline • an operational plan for the establishment, roll out and resourcing of a fisheries Independent Data Validation review centre (or how this will be outsourced) • review protocols • operational procedures, and • details of an independent scientific observer component (if enacted) to value add and supplement camera monitoring. <p>*Commercial fisheries which this funding can be used for are the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery and the Queensland Gill net fisheries including the limited-life NX fishery. Expansion to any other fishery must be approved by the Commonwealth in writing.</p>	31/01/2025	\$9.0m
	<p>Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a regulatory plan to deliver mandatory Independent Monitoring and Data Validation on commercial fishing fleet(s).</p> <p>The plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An indication of the implementation timeframe and scope of the regulatory requirements • A summary of how fisheries will be made to comply and the intended enforcement and penalty regime, and • adoption within the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery, as a minimum. <p>The regulatory plan must be designed to support the principles of Attachment A.</p>	17/05/2025	\$9.0m
	<p>Acceptance by the Commonwealth of an inventory and installation plan to support the purchase of onboard camera equipment and associated hardware to support the mandatory roll out of independent monitoring and data validation.</p>	30/09/2025	\$1.0m
Program reporting	<p>Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a report covering work over the period from establishment of this agreement to 30 June 2025. The report should be compliant with Attachment B and include an overview of the independent monitoring and data validation program including coverage and data validation outcomes relating to reported interactions with protected species and bycatch from commercial fisheries operating within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and surrounding Queensland waters.</p>	31/07/2025	\$1.0m

	Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a report covering work over the period from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025. The report should be compliant with Attachment B and include an overview of the independent monitoring and data validation program including coverage and data validation outcomes relating to reported interactions with protected species and bycatch from commercial fisheries operating within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and surrounding Queensland waters.	31/01/2026	\$1.0m
	Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a report on the outcomes from the Alternative Gear transition and any bycatch reduction programs including number of licences with alternative gear types and new bycatch reduction devices, information on performance indicators around reducing risks to protected species.	15/05/2026	\$1.0m
	Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a report covering work over the period from 31 December 2025 to 15 May 2026. The report should be compliant with Attachment B and include an overview of the independent monitoring and data validation program including coverage and data validation outcomes relating to reported interactions with protected species and bycatch from commercial fisheries operating within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and surrounding Queensland waters.	29/05/2026	\$1.0m
	The Queensland Government will deliver ongoing annual reports (based on calendar year) on the performance of the co-funded Independent Monitoring and Reporting Program (in accordance with Attachment B) in good faith by 31 March every year for the remaining duration of this agreement.	31/03/2027 31/03/2028	\$0.0
Innovative bycatch reduction device uptake in the Queensland Trawl Fishery	Acceptance by the Commonwealth of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a list of approved bycatch reduction devices and evidence to demonstrate their ability to significantly reduce bycatch (particularly sea snakes, sharks and/or rays), and a costed roll out plan for the purchase and installation of approved bycatch reduction devices on eligible trawl vessels in the fishery. This roll out plan should also encompass strategies to increase the success of uptake, improved reporting, and education and training. 	17/4/2026	\$4.0
Alternative Gear Trial/ Bycatch Reduction uptake and fisheries data innovation	Initiative 1: Acceptance by the Commonwealth of an implementation plan for a transition to low risk alternative gears. This plan must specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> each gear type proposed and supporting evidence of its effectiveness to efficiently catch target species while also minimising risks to protected species and habitats, the proposed transition strategy to support uptake by fishers, including costings for design, development and installation of alternative gears, and <p>If there are alternative gears proposed by the Queensland Government which are not supported by the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth will specify this in writing which may alter the level of funding allocated to this item and instigate a variation.</p>	15/01/2026	\$9.0m

	<p>Initiative 2: If no suitable alternate gears are identified or Commonwealth Government funding does not support the proposed alternative gears, then the remaining funding quantum can be used for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a bycatch reduction initiative proposal (separate to the <i>Innovative bycatch reduction device uptake in the Queensland Trawl Fishery</i>) identifying viable bycatch reduction devices to reduce risks to protected species and habitats. This proposal must be supported with evidence of viability and align with the purpose of this Schedule; and/or• Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a fisheries data innovation program which supports the collection of biological and environmental data (e.g. sea temperature, eDNA, genetic samples) to address data gaps in ecological risk assessments for high-risk fisheries and improve understanding of the status of protected species.		
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The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by



The Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for Environment and Water

[Day] [Month] [Year]

7. 6. 2024

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by



The Honourable Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and
Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities

[Day] [Month] [Year]

23 August 2024