

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Budget does not deliver scale of action needed for climate and environment**

The Australian Conservation Foundation welcomed the Renewable Energy Future Fund and money for water buy back but said the budget did not deliver the scale of action needed on climate and the environment.

#### **ON CLIMATE ACTION**

“The \$652 million Renewable Energy Future Fund is welcome and will support investment in the clean energy economy, but doesn’t deliver at anywhere near the scale that a price on pollution would,” said ACF executive director Don Henry.

“This budget has not changed the fact that Australia’s big miners and big polluters are not paying for their pollution – which is destroying our climate – and they are not paying a fair price for fuel.

“The budget still gives away billions of taxpayers’ dollars to promote pollution.

“The Government has failed to act on the recommendation of the Henry Review to restructure Fringe Benefits Tax concessions for company cars so they no longer encourage excessive driving.”

#### **ON OVERALL SPENDING ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

“Cutting back the major national environmental protection program, *Caring for our Country*, by \$80 million over four year is the wrong way to go, particularly when the UN’s Global Biodiversity Outlook has warned of ‘rapid degradation and collapse’.

“We welcome the \$330 million brought forward to purchase water entitlement for the Murray-Darling, but cutting \$250 million from urban water initiatives undermines efforts to make our cities and towns more water efficient.”

#### **SUMMARY**

“While the renewable energy fund is welcome, both major parties are lacking leadership on climate change and the environment, and the Australian public have to give them a wake up call in this election year.”

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