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STATE FUNDING WILL PROTECT SOUTH COAST ENVIRONMENT

South Coast NRM Inc. has welcomed the allocation of funds from the Government of Western Australia to help protect and care for our iconic natural resources and assets.

In an announcement by Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman, \$6 million is allocated to support the six regional natural resource management groups and to fund immediate, high priority NRM projects.

Mr Redman said the State's natural resources supported a number of important industries, which contributed significantly to the State's economy.

"The agricultural, forestry and fishing industries are all underpinned by a healthy and thriving environment," Mr Redman said.

South Coast NRM Inc. Chairman Alex Campbell applauded the commitment by the Western Australian Government to continue to work in partnership with the community to support existing and ongoing valuable NRM activity.

"The funding will ensure that we can continue our long-term work and make a significant difference to the health and condition of South Coast natural resources and assets," he said.

According to Mr Redman's announcement, of the total figure, \$1.5million will provide support for the ongoing operation of the six regional community Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups. Another \$1million will support the operation of the State NRM office, the State-wide co-ordination of Aboriginal engagement in NRM and a review the State's NRM arrangements.

\$3.5million is available for immediate, high priority projects, subject to For example, projects to address salinity, control invasive weeds or protect threatened species.

Additional funding of up to \$15million has been identified for projects addressing the State's natural resource priorities in 2009. These projects will require full business cases, including scientific evidence and a cost benefit analysis.

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Part of the new funding would also be used to review how NRM is delivered across the State. The review will be headed by Garry English, a former Esperance farmer, past South Coast NRM group chair and winner of the national McKell Medal for excellence and achievement in NRM.

South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. is the regional group for natural resource management on the South Coast of WA. It is funded through the Australian Government and Government of Western Australia.

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