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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW COLLABORATIVE INVESTMENTS TO BOOST REEF HEALTH

The Coalition Government is providing \$9.5 million for two new projects to improve the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

Reef Trust Investment Strategy Phase V includes projects to improve the quality of water entering the Reef and restore priority wetlands along the Queensland coast.

In collaboration with partner organisations, these projects will deliver around \$27 million in new investments for the Reef.

The funding boost is part of a \$2 billion investment over the next ten years by the Australian and Queensland Governments as we work towards full implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan.

Under phase V the Coalition will contribute \$4.5 million to support an estimated \$12.8 million investment by the sugarcane industry to improve on-farm nutrient management and improve the quality of water entering the Reef.

The Project Uplift Farming Systems Initiative will be led by sugar milling company MSF Sugar and will assist 36 farming groups to transition to more efficient farming systems.

This is a new and innovative approach put forward by the sugar-cane industry and we are very enthusiastic about its potential application across coastal sugar farming in Reef catchments.

The Turnbull Government is also providing \$5 million to help restore priority wetlands along coastal areas of the Reef with the funding to be matched by Greening Australia.

A strong partnership has been forged with Greening Australia over the past year to help improve the health of the Reef.

This latest announcement brings our joint investments to \$14 million which is assisting the restoration and repair of 700 hectares of priority wetlands along the Reef's coast.

These new projects complement existing efforts and demonstrate how we can make private investment work effectively alongside public funding to maximise results for the Reef from each dollar invested.

Collaborative partnerships like the ones announced today are critical to address the threats and pressures faced by the Reef.

The Reef Trust was established in June 2014 to provide targeted investment to improve water quality, restore coastal ecosystems and enhance species protection in the Great Barrier Reef region.

The Government has committed a total of \$210 million to the Reef Trust.

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