

THE CENTRO MANAGEMENT PLAN: A UNIFIED APPROACH TO SAFEGUARDING THE GREAT SOUTHERN REEF

The GSR is a biodiversity hotspot and a critical economic resource, contributing over \$10 billion annually to the Australian economy. The unchecked spread of Centro threatens this invaluable ecosystem, endangering marine species, commercial fisheries, and cultural heritage.

— S Bennett

THE ISSUE

The expansion and overpopulation of the native longspined Sea Urchin *Centrostephanus rodgersii* poses a significant threat to the Great Southern Reef (GSR), impacting marine biodiversity including key species such as abalone, rock lobster and kelp. A unified national approach, backed by critical investment and coordinated management strategies, is essential to address the challenge posed by longspined sea urchin.

The **Centro Task Force**, consisting of key national stakeholders, **proposes a national investment of \$55 million over five years to implement research, monitoring, removal, and management strategies** aimed at protecting and rehabilitating marine habitats affected by longspined sea urchin.

INVESTMENT ALLOCATION

- Reef Monitoring and Modelling (\$6 Million):
- In-Water Urchin Control and Rehabilitation Strategies (\$30 Million):
- Industry Support for Commercial Harvests and Processing (\$8 Million):
- First Nations Support for Management of Sea Country (\$2.5 Million):
- Research and Development (\$4 Million)
- Community Engagement and Communication (\$2 Million):
- National Management Planning and Policy Development (\$2.5 Million):

Strategic investment in Centro management will not only protect and restore marine biodiversity but also support sustainable economic opportunities.

— J Keane



Scan to view the full business plan, recommended by the Federal Government Senate Inquiry.