



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and  
Members of the Scientific Committee  
**IWC.ALL.457**

**Voluntary financial contribution by the Australian Government**  
**Dr Nick Gales, Australian Commissioner to the IWC**

The Australian Government is pleased to announce a voluntary contribution of GBP £425,770 (AUD \$800,000) as follows:

- £159,664 to the general fund (cash reserve)
- £26,611 to the Voluntary Fund for Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling
- £15,966 to the Voluntary Assistance Fund
- £69,188 to the Southern Ocean Research Partnership Fund
- £58,543 to the Voluntary Conservation Fund – Conservation Management Plans
- £53,221 to the Voluntary Conservation Fund – Bycatch
- £42,577 to the Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Research and Conservation

Australia's support to the general fund will assist with cash flow challenges while the Commission continues the positive trajectory established at IWC68 of setting balanced forward budgets and implements sustainable budget measures as agreed at this meeting (the Budget Reform Strategy). Any decisions about spending general funds will be made by the Commission.

Australia's donation to the Voluntary Assistance Fund is made in recognition of the importance of ensuring that Contracting Governments in Capacity to Pay Groups 1 and 2 continue to be supported to fully participate in the work of the IWC.

Australia's donation to the Voluntary Fund for Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling is in recognition of the IWC's important role in providing scientific advice for First Nations communities relying on whales for subsistence needs, as well as aiding these communities to address environmental impacts such as ghost gear.

Australia's donation to the Southern Ocean Research Partnership Fund will support non-lethal research activities to increase understanding and maximise conservation outcomes for cetaceans within the Southern Ocean ecosystem.

Australia's donation to the Voluntary Conservation Fund (VCF) for Conservation Management Plans and Bycatch is made in recognition of the important work of the IWC's Conservation Committee and will help fund projects as agreed by the VCF steering group.

Australia's donation to the Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Research and Conservation will support high priority research that improves conservation outcomes for populations of small cetaceans, particularly those that are threatened or especially vulnerable to human activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Lent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Rebecca Lent  
Executive Secretary