

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Annual Report 2017-18

Additional information available on request

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, details of the items listed below have been retained and are available to the relevant ministers, Members of Parliament and the public on request (subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*).

To ensure the department is meeting its accountability and compliance requirements, some of this additional information has been included in the Annual Report where relevant.

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Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

a) A statement that declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers of the department

Declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers.

b) Details of shares held by senior officers as nominee or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary

No shares are held by a senior officer as nominee or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary.

c) Details of publications produced by the department about the activities of the department and where they can be obtained

Publication	Date produced	Availability
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Annual Report 2016-17	September 2017	Available online (www.delwp.vic.gov.au and www.data.vic.gov.au) or from our Customer Service Centre on 136 186

d) Details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the department for its services, including services that are administered

Details of fees and charges are available on the department's website at www.delwp.vic.gov.au.

e) Details of any major external reviews carried out in respect of the operation of the department

Major external reviews	Conducted by	Purpose	Released
Managing Victoria's Native Forest Timber Resources (follow up audit)	Auditor-General	This audit examined whether the former Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) and VicForests were managing native forest timber resources on public land productively and sustainably, and whether DEPI and the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) were fulfilling their oversight and advisory roles adequately.	20 June 2018
Protecting Victoria's Coastal Assets	Auditor-General	The audit examined whether natural and built assets on Victoria's coastline are adequately protected against current and future erosion and inundation hazards.	29 March 2018
Improving Victoria's Air Quality	Auditor-General	The audit examined whether Victoria's air quality meets national standards for pollutant components such as ozone and particulate matter.	8 March 2018
Local Government and Economic Development	Auditor-General	The audit examined whether council's economic development activities help to improve the economic viability and sustainability of their municipalities.	8 March 2018
Managing Surplus Government Land	Auditor-General	The audit examined whether the systems and targets used by agencies support the best use of surplus land. It also examined whether agencies accurately identify surplus land and release it for sale in a timely way and whether agencies can demonstrate value	8 March 2018

Major external reviews	Conducted by	Purpose	Released
		from the sale of surplus land.	
ICT Disaster Recovery Planning	Auditor-General	The audit examined whether the disaster recovery processes of government departments and Victoria Police are likely to be effective in the event of a disruption.	29 November 2017
Effectively Planning for Population Growth	Auditor-General	The audit assessed whether state planning is meeting the needs of the rapidly growing population for birthing, maternal and child health, funded kindergarten services, and related infrastructure, in greenfield growth areas and established suburbs.	23 August 2017
Internal Audit Performance	Auditor-General	The audit examined the internal audit functions of all seven portfolio departments and assessed how well they use their internal audit resources.	9 August 2017

f) Details of any major research and development activities undertaken by the department that are not otherwise covered either in the report of operations or in a document which contains the financial statement and report of operations

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
Barmah-Millewa Fish and Crayfish Condition Monitoring	Arthur Rylah Institute	The project had two elements: (1) undertaking living Murray fish condition monitoring at Barmah-Millewa forest and (2) undertaking a pilot study of Murray crayfish monitoring.
Bio OnGround: Re-establishing Macquarie perch in the Ovens river	Arthur Rylah Institute	This project delivered the final year of actions and assesses the outcomes of a five-year recovery program aimed at re-establishing a self-sustaining population of the nationally endangered Macquarie perch in the Ovens river.
Biodiversity On-ground - Connecting Communities	Arthur Rylah Institute	This project provides opportunities to connect biodiversity specialists and the community to support biodiversity outcomes.
Breaking down the barriers - upgrading Victorian fishways	Arthur Rylah Institute	This project involves upgrading old fishways and leveraging funds from different organisations to gain maximum benefits to fishway outcomes.
Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (BNHCRC) Eco Model Consolidation	Arthur Rylah Institute	This project developed a consolidated framework for applying ecological models and metrics to manage risks to ecosystem resilience and threatened species.
Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) Deer and Disease	Arthur Rylah Institute	This project seeks to improve our understanding of the role of wild deer in the epidemiology and

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
		management of exotic and endemic livestock diseases in Victoria.
Community impacts of smoke	CSIRO	This project will develop a means of estimating and monitoring the impacts of smoke on the health of communities from bushfires and planned burns. Data will be sourced from health care sources (e.g. Nurse online, health clinics) and social media (e.g. locations of imagery, descriptions of smoke).
Conservation Status Assessment	Arthur Rylah Institute	Reassessing the conservation status of threatened species
Developing strategic intelligence for the environmental compliance regulator	EOI through the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC	This project develops capabilities (systems, tools and capacity) for DELWP to capture, analyse and strategically use under-utilised data sources to assess the performance and functioning of regulatory and compliance systems.
Dynamic smoke intelligence using remote sensing and fixed sensors	CSIRO	This research will build on the existing smoke intelligence system (model), integrated with the smoke modelling (prediction) system, which is used to collate and analyse sources of social media, remote, and field sensing data, to calibrate and validate smoke predictions.
Ecosystem resilience data	University of Melbourne	This project seeks to analyse the 2017-18 biological monitoring data and legacy data, to answer targeted Key Evaluation Questions (KEQs) set out in the Bushfire Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Framework and to utilise the methods developed by La Trobe University through the "Scientifically Based Monitoring Project".
Ecosystem resilience-establishment of collection and analysis for four priority Ecological Fire Groups (EFG)	EOI through the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC	This project will develop models that describe the relationships between native flora, fauna, habitat attributes and vegetation growth stages in Alpine, Box Ironbark and Heathland ecosystems. These models will contribute to our knowledge about ecosystems resilience and will be used to inform adaptive fire management and planning.

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
Effectiveness of wild dog control	Arthur Rylah Institute	This project assesses the effectiveness of aerial baiting and trapping as tools for the control of wild dogs in Victoria.
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Assessment	Arthur Rylah Institute	Refinement of EPBC Assessment process and ecological resilience technical methods.
EPA Statewide contaminants - Round 1 duck sampling	Arthur Rylah Institute	Working with volunteer licensed hunters to collect and prepare tissues samples for the analysis of chemical contaminants.
Fish management plans for Mallee CMA Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) offset projects & native Fish Discussion Paper	Arthur Rylah Institute	Collaborative project to develop Fish Management Plans for seven Mallee CMA SDL offset projects and develop a Native Fish Discussion Paper for the Mallee CMA.
Framework for using and updating ecological models to inform bushfire management planning	ARI, University of Melbourne, La Trobe University	This project will consolidate DELWPs approach to using ecological models for the three metrics of ecosystem resilience into a framework that defines the criteria for how the models should be curated, used to inform decision making, and updated with new monitoring and research data.
Gippsland Lakes Wetlands Spatial Prioritisation	Arthur Rylah Institute	This project involves the development of a spatial prioritisation plan for the Gippsland Lakes Wetlands
Greater Glider Strathbogie Surveys	Arthur Rylah Institute	Undertaking surveys for Greater Gliders in the Strathbogie Ranges.
Habitat Distribution Model (HDM) Production Streamlining	Arthur Rylah Institute	Software development to streamline the production of habitat distribution models on as as-need basis.
Housing outcomes in established Melbourne 2005 to 2016	DELWP - Land Use and Population Research	Research on the impact of long term planning policies on urban development outcomes
Hydrosight - development, trial and application of methods to assess groundwater use and aquifer parameters	University of Melbourne	Trial and application of new methods to assess aquifer parameters (including recharge) and groundwater extraction volumes using groundwater levels and climate data.
Immigration of diadromous fish in the Bunyip River 2017-18	Arthur Rylah Institute	To examine the influence of hydrology on the upstream migration of a range of diadromous fishes in the Bunyip River, a coastal stream that flows

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
		into Western Port.
Index of Estuarine Condition (IEC) - Fish Assessment 2016-2019	Arthur Rylah Institute	Monitoring of fish and water quality for the Index of Estuarine Condition.
Index of Estuarine Condition (IEC) - Submerged Vegetation Assessment 2016-2019	Arthur Rylah Institute	Monitoring of submerged vegetation and water quality for the Index of Estuarine Condition.
Landscape fuel moisture forecasting for bushfire risk assessment	University of Melbourne	This project will link satellite imagery estimates of forest fuel moisture with field-based intelligence to provide more dynamic, up-to-date and precise estimates of actual and predicted moisture conditions to support bushfire management decision making.
Long Term Intervention Monitoring - Fish Responses to Environmental Water	Arthur Rylah Institute	To examine the responses of the fish to environmental flows in the Goulburn river.
Market Based Incentive Program: validating vegetation responses to management interventions	Arthur Rylah Institute	Develop and refine models that are used to evaluate the relationships between management interventions, threat mitigation and native vegetation condition.
MER Framework development (Project #9)	Arthur Rylah Institute	This project includes the design and development of tools and mechanisms under the MER framework.
Monitoring the effect of environmental flow-Snowy River	Arthur Rylah Institute	Determine the effects of environmental flows on primary productivity of the Snowy River estuary, develop conceptual models on inflows and populations and produce a summary report.
Murray Darling Basin Fish Survey 2014-2018	Arthur Rylah Institute	Under the Basin Plan Monitoring and Evaluation program, Basin scale fish condition monitoring has been identified as a priority in 2014 and onwards to support tracking of the high-level fish targets identified in Schedule 7 of the Basin Plan, as well as more specific targets identified in the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy.
National Guidelines for the seizure and holding of wildlife	EOI through the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC	This project aims to develop national guidelines on the seizure and holding of the most commonly held and traded classes and orders of native and invasive wildlife. The guidelines

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
		will include elements such as housing, caging, atmospheric regulation, feeding, safe handling, security, document / evidence management, transport and disposal.
Native Fish Report Cards - DELWP	Arthur Rylah Institute	Assess priority rivers across the state to inform anglers on the health of native and threatened species.
Riparian Aquatic Health Monitoring Project - Part 2	Arthur Rylah Institute	Aquatic Health Monitoring Program to collect data to support the prioritisation and adaptive management of aquatic projects in the Murray region.
Riparian Intervention Monitoring Program: Implementation 2016-2019	Arthur Rylah Institute	Implementation of the monitoring program to demonstrate the outcomes of management intervention in riparian areas.
STC 2: Application of Self-Evacuation Archetypes	Strachan Research	This social research project will explore how findings from human behaviour archetypes research can be applied to bushfire risk reduction strategies in the context of <i>Safer Together</i> .
STCR 1: Predicting the impact of climate change on fire weather variables (revised environmental scan only)	Monash University with the Desert Research Institute (Nevada)	This research will bring together current knowledge and data about how climate change impacts on fire weather variables, such as temperature, precipitation, wind speed and relative humidity, and identify what further data is required to help us predict the likelihood and severity of bushfires with more confidence.
STCR 3: Creation of GDFI dataset	Monash University	This project will develop a historical Grass Fire Danger Index (GDFI) dataset to complement FFDI and to improve understanding of the entirety of the Fire Danger Rating system.
STCR 6: Identifying Planned Burn Windows	Monash University with the University of Melbourne	Through analysing historic data collected since 1972, this research project will provide a greater understanding of planned burning windows available on daily and seasonal basis. This information will help us better optimise the planning and delivery of our fuel management program.
STCR 7: User interface-platform	EOI through the Bushfire and Natural Hazards	This project will develop a user

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
for the Victoria historical fire weather gridded dataset	CRC	interface to facilitate access to historic fire weather grid dataset by land and fire managers. The project will design and test the interface, and develop online training for the wider user base.
STCR4: Cropland fire behaviour	CSIRO	Through carrying out experimental burns, this project will develop a baseline for measuring fire spread on cropland. It will consider a variety of factors, including whether croplands are harvested or unharvested and crop row orientation in relation to the wind.
STRC 5: Development of seasonal fire prediction tools	EOI through the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC	This project will review and clearly define the needs of fire agencies in Victoria to develop new seasonal fire forecasting products for risk assessment purposes to improve decision making.
STT 3: Effectiveness of resources to suppress bushfire: Aerial and ground based	EOI through the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC	This project will determine resource use and productivity at real incidents and experimental fires, with the availability of tracking devices on both ground-based and aerial resources.
Threatened Fish Monitoring in the Goulburn Broken Region 2017-18	Arthur Rylah Institute	Long term monitoring and addressing key knowledge gaps for Macquarie perch in the Goulburn Broken Catchment (Hughes Creek, King Parrot, Yea River, Sevens Creek, Hollands Creek, Lake Benalla).
TLM Vegetation Monitoring	Arthur Rylah Institute	To examine vegetation responses to strategic environmental watering events to address knowledge gaps and ecological questions.
Understand and apply climate science to water management (Victorian Water and Climate Initiative)	Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, and the University of Melbourne	To improve the water sector's understanding of climate change and climate variability, and its impacts on water resources.
Urban Development Program	DELWP - Land Use and Population Research	Research on land supply to support greenfield, infill and industrial development.
Urgent Action for 12 Threatened Orchids	Arthur Rylah Institute	Complete and report on a range of urgent actions for 12 threatened orchid species.
Use of emerging technologies for native wildlife population assessment and management	EOI through the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC	This project will use emerging technologies such as unmanned aviation vehicles, visual and non-

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
		visual sensor and machine learning to improve DELWP ability to assess wildlife populations and habitat condition. It will also develop survey standards, systems and methods for DELWP to undertake ecologically sound, repeatable and reliable assessment of wildlife populations and habitat condition.
Water Sensitive Cities	Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities based at Monash University. This includes:150 researchers and over 60 PhD candidates from seven national and international universities and research organisations	To undertake research into interdisciplinary responses to water problems; to synthesise diverse research outputs into practical solutions and to inform the development of policy, regulation and practice and to promote adoption.
Western Treatment Plant (WTP) Surveys	Arthur Rylah Institute	Waterbird monitoring for 2017/18 covering Shorebirds, Waterfowl, Ibis and Power Analysis as per the WTP funding agreement.

g) Details of overseas visits undertaken including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
Deputy Secretary, Planning	Hong Kong	Visit to Nanjing for the inaugural Victoria-Jiangsu Executive Leadership Exchange. The Exchange represents the next phase in deepening the existing strong friendship between Victoria and Jiangsu and sets an international benchmark in direct policy collaboration.	These discussions set the scene for engagements ahead of 2018, which will be a significant year for Victoria-Jiangsu relations. The Exchange enhances the existing connections that have been built in recent years between both public sectors and the first tranche of Victorian Public Service Asia Capability Scholars in early 2017. Following the success of the first Victoria-Jiangsu Executive Leadership Exchange, a reciprocal program in Victoria will be held in 2018.
Senior Scientist, Flora Ecology & Senior Scientist, Ecological Modelling & Statistics	Mongolia	To facilitate several workshops (with Wildlife Conservation Society Mongolia staff) in Ulaanbataar, in the small centre of Khanbogd, and in the field at established field monitoring plots (South Gobi region).	Increased scientific profile for DELWP and staff with exposure to international ecologists and publications.
Principal Research Scientist, Applied Aquatic Ecology, Arthur Rylah Institute	United States of America (USA)	To present as an invited speaker at the American Fisheries Society Annual Conference 2017. The presentation was entitled 'Catchment Scale approaches to fishery restoration; an Australian perspective'. Also a field visit to Seattle to look at new methods in monitoring fish population demographics, including how they may relate to systems in Victoria.	The conference showcased DELWP's leading expertise in integrating catchment management with community needs in Victoria. This led to increased knowledge of approaches to engaging communities in research, monitoring, effective engagement and science communication. Furthermore, the conference also indicated how information can be incorporated into catchment planning and governance frameworks that allow a return on investment in intervention applications, adaptive management, and improved stakeholder engagement. In addition to presenting on native fish outcomes from the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan, the visit assisted in obtaining information on key research priorities for the Victorian government including strategies to control carp (the use of koi herpes virus).
Project Officer, Liveability Victoria International	China	To attend the VPS In-Market Chinese Language Study Program	The program provided the opportunity for a VPS employee engaged in investment attraction and trade to undertake a four-week intensive Chinese language course at Nanjing University in Jiangsu Province, China. This course focussed on developing an understanding of Chinese culture and language. Beyond these key lessons the program also contributed to improving connections with in-market Victorian Government staff members and Chinese partners, along with an understanding of priority activities in China to inform LVI's long term work program.

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
Director - Water Resource Assessment and Planning	Karnataka State, India	To meet officials from the Karnataka State Water Resources Department to scope a potential project involving DELWP, partnering with water industry experts and academia from Victoria, to assist in addressing Karnataka State Water Resources Department's aspiration of achieving sustainable water resource management.	Foundations of a future working relationship with officials was established, an understanding of the technical needs of the Karnataka state department was achieved, as well as an understanding of the cultural context within India.
Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change & Minister for Suburban Development	China	To promote Victoria as a major centre for investment in the renewable energy sector and a world-leader in urban planning.	In addition to valuable lessons on energy, environmental and urban development practices, the trip provided a critical opportunity to meet with and explain to a range of potential Chinese investors, Victoria's approach to encouraging renewable energy projects to meet the VRET targets. This also stimulated significant interest in the participation by major Chinese energy investment companies in the forthcoming Reverse Auction process in Victoria. Further benefits included gaining a greater understanding of waste management and waste to energy practices and technology with potential applications in Victoria.
Executive Director, Suburban Development	China	To examine approaches to managing strong population growth and sustainable urban development in large Chinese cities with a view to applying relevant learnings in the Melbourne context.	The visit provided valuable insights on policies, strategies and critical success factors at play in the planning and delivery of successful urban development initiatives, including urban infill and renewal projects, social housing, transport (e.g. electric bus fleets), innovative approaches to renewable energy (e.g. micro-grids) and urban greening
Deputy Secretary, Local Infrastructure & Program Director International, Local Infrastructure	Timor-Leste	Progress the official relationship between the Governments of Victoria and Timor-Leste and inform a WOVG Timor-Leste strategy through meetings with existing and newly appointed key stakeholders within the Government of Timor-Leste and inspect progress of the Victorian Government funded conference facility at Balibo Fort.	A range of outcomes were achieved, including the confirmation of an ongoing commitment to the relationship by the newly appointed Minister of State Administration and key ministry executives, progressed detailed planning on a range of capability building activities including internal auditing, gender equity in government institutions and programs and urban planning and waste management. Additionally, confirmed the satisfactory progress of construction of the Balibo Fort conference facility and gained support and input for the forthcoming WOVG Timor-Leste strategy.
Deputy Secretary & Chief Operating Officer, Forest and Fire Operations	USA and Canada	To enable face to face meetings and field visits with counterparts in land and fire management organisations in the USA and Canada.	The visit demonstrated that partnership arrangements are working well, with DELWP deriving benefits in terms of staff development, and Victoria receiving reciprocal support arrangements. Relationships were formed, best practice identified and experience exchanged, which can and will inform policy development

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
			and reform in Victoria.
Executive Director, Land Registry Services	Scotland	To participate in the continued improvement and innovation for land registry systems. To provide and improve the land registry system for the advancement of the Victorian property market and its citizens.	The visit provided valuable insight into the participation for continued innovation in land registry systems.
Minister for Water & Executive Director, Policy, Governance & Legislation	China	To inspect water projects that had been led or assisted by Victorian companies and expertise and to explore options for future work for the Victorian Water Sector working in Jiangsu and other parts of China.	The trip supported the growth of the important partnership between Victorian and Chinese Governments. The insights from the trip will help inform future policy and budget decisions for the Water Portfolio. For Victoria's water sector, this relationship is already delivering outcomes for Victorian firms leading to further investment and jobs in Victoria. This visit embedded the already strong relationship and explored further opportunities for Victorian investment.
Director Knowledge & Planning	USA	The program provides DELWP, as a leader in Emergency Management ICT, with the opportunity to develop a technology road map, as well as technology solutions that improve our ability to connect to community and manage community risk. The particular areas of focus include Predictive Services for Emergency management and end to end customer service delivery. For predictive services, the focus would be on the development and use of sensor technologies to enhance intelligence gathering and improve decision support models, such a Phoenix RapidFire and the Smoke model. Other areas of interest involve how to better connect our workforce to the customer - how can our communities/users of forests and parks provide location based information and feedback that can go directly to the local WorkCentre.	The outcome of the Engage Program will include a jointly conceived technological vision and roadmap addressing our strategic needs, which will lead to PARC partnering with the department to develop and implement the solution. Participants will be part of a broader Victorian Government delegation including staff from the DPC Innovation area, VicTrack and VicRoads.
Minister for Local Government Victoria & Executive Director, Local Government Victoria	China	To support a better understanding of municipal links within the sister state relationship between Victoria and Jiangsu, through meetings with the Jiangsu Province Foreign Affairs Office, the Nanjing Municipal Administration, and two	Strengthening of the Victoria-Jiangsu sister-state relationship, through demonstrating local government portfolio support for the Regional Cities Alliance and demonstrating support for municipal level engagement within the Victoria-Jiangsu sister state relationship through meetings with Greater Dandenong and Frankston's sister cities (Xuzhou Municipal People's Government and Wuxi Municipal

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
		municipalities with active sister city relationships in Victoria.	People's Government respectively). An improved understanding of municipal operations and opportunities in Jiangsu, including the nature and benefits of sister city relationships, and an enhanced understanding of the strengths and opportunities associated with Victoria's China engagement, and how municipal activity can contribute to deliver mutual local benefit.
Team Leader Values and Assets Planning	USA	As a representative of Emergency Management Victoria, present on Victorian Aerial Firefighting Operations at the Aerial Fire Fighting North America Conference in Sacramento, USA.	The traveller presented to the conference a session titled: Aerial Firefighting Operations in Victoria, Australia.
Senior Manager, Long-Term Water Resource Assessment	United Kingdom	To deliver a presentation at an international conference, and to exchange ideas and experiences related to the water sector's response to climate change.	The visit provided insights into the approaches being used in the UK to maintain water security while adapting to changes in water availability and population. Opportunities for Victoria to learn from the experiences of the water sector in the UK were identified and the relationships established during the visit are being used to continue the exchange of ideas.
Minister for Planning & Deputy Secretary Planning	China	Creating liveable cities that support jobs and growth in the face of climate change and population growth is a key challenge for Victoria. The quality of our built environment will continue to influence Victoria's ability to attract investment needed to sustain our economy.	This visit continued to build on the significant relationships the State of Victoria has fostered with China and focused on the Jiangsu Province, with this year marking the 39th anniversary of our sister-state relationship and Sichuan Province to further our newly formed partnership.
Program Director International, Local Infrastructure	China	To participate in Latrobe City Council's delegation to its sister city, Taizhou (within Victoria's sister state of Jiangsu), with complementary engagement with the Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office in Nanjing.	A range of outcomes from this visit include: increased depth of understanding of opportunities and challenges of sister-city relationships within the sister-state relationship; professional development through in-country experience, which will benefit DELWP's future engagement with China; insights into delegation participation that will inform the design of future DELWP programs; and an improved understanding between DELWP and Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office in Nanjing.
Principal Advisor, Transport Projects	Costa Rica	To Chair the Technical Committee on Environmental Considerations in Road Projects and Operations, which is part of the World Road Association (PIARC) and to be a keynote speaker at the subsequent international conference.	The PIARC Technical Committee work is focussed on air quality and traffic noise. These issues are increasingly becoming problematic in urban areas. Any new research undertaken to support the committee work, will contribute to the department's understanding of world's best practice and leading-edge mitigation measures that can be applied to environmental

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
			assessments of major transport projects.
Principal Officer, Wildlife Emergencies	USA	To attend and present at the 13th International Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference.	The Effects of Oil on Wildlife (EOW) conference is the only global meeting that focusses on the planning, response, rehabilitation, and research aspects of oil spills and their impacts to wildlife species. Attendance at this conference provided DELWP with the opportunity to gain access to industry best practice on responding to wildlife that have been impacted during marine pollution events, as well as the opportunity to develop links internationally with subject matter experts and organisations. Technical information and procedures identified during this conference will be considered for incorporation into relevant response plans and safe work procedures.
Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Loddon Mallee & Director Aboriginal Inclusion Support Branch	USA and Canada	The travel was part of a Churchill Fellowship to the USA and Canada to enable face to face meetings and field visits with First Nations People and representatives of government agencies and departments with a view to gain knowledge and understanding on international approaches to strengthening partnerships/relationships between First Nations Peoples and government agencies/ departments and, to identify practices and solutions that may be utilised/adapted to assist DELWP to strengthen its partnership/relationships with Victoria's Traditional Owners, with a particular interest in Traditional Burning, and achieve DELWP's commitments under Munganin-Gadhaba and beyond.	<p>A report on the findings will be made widely available to Fire and Land Management Agencies and Traditional Owners in Australia, via the Churchill Trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This will include the learnings, key findings and recommendations to DELWP staff at an appropriate forum. - Strengthen DELWP's partnership/relationships with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians and achieve DELWP's commitments under Munganin-Gadhaba. - Identify potential innovative practices and solutions that may be utilised/adapted to assist DELWP to achieve Munganin-Gadhaba commitments. - Partnering with AFAC to distribute learnings more broadly.
Project officer, Forest, Fire and Regions	Canada	To understand Canadian forest inventory and monitoring practices, specifically in measuring ground plots, use of aerial imagery and LIDAR products.	This visit established an understanding of Canada's approach to forest monitoring in the context of spatial analysis, remote sensing and data management. This was accompanied by lessons on how Canada's Forest Service conducts ongoing remote sensing research into techniques to monitor deforestation, individual tree identification and biomass mapping which is similar to how the Victorian Forest Monitoring Program operates. This visit extends collaboration with a leading international government agency to strengthen DELWP's capacity, gain confidence and attain new ideas for implementation.
Senior Community	United States of America	To attend the Prescribed Fire Training Centre June training	The traveller successfully completed the training and was awarded the N9050 Application Of

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
Partnership Support Officer		session.	Prescribed Fire certificate.

h) Details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the department to develop community awareness of the services provided by the department

Activity	Description	Cost
Landcare awareness and promotion	<p>The Victorian Landcare Program is the State Government's major investment to support Landcare activity across the state and is delivered by DELWP and Victoria's 10 Catchment Management Authorities.</p>	Total cost - \$129,652 (budget breakdown below)
	<p>The Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine (published three times a year) is an important statewide communication vehicle for Landcare and environmental volunteers groups to share stories that illustrate best practice, learning and innovation, as well as raising awareness about Landcare and natural resource management issues. Content is contributed primarily by Landcare group members. However, contributed stories are also received from researchers, government and agency staff.</p> <p>Each issue of the magazine is themed and in 2017-18 the three issues were: issue 70 (spring 2017) was a feature on the 2017 Victorian Landcare Awards, issue 71 (summer 2017-18) was a feature on managing water, and issue 72 (winter 2018) was a feature on Landcare and research.</p> <p>In 2017-18, 13 per cent of online readers of the Landcare magazine accessed it via tablets and 25 per cent via mobile phones, with others reading the stories on their computers.</p>	\$90,055
	<p>The 2017 Victorian Landcare Awards ceremony was hosted by Her Excellency The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, at Government House on 1 September 2017, and was attended by 350 people. The cost of editing, design and printing of the Winners booklet and programme, and the frames and certificates for Awards winners was covered by DELWP. The other costs associated with the 2017 Victorian Landcare Awards were covered by sponsors.</p>	6,947
	<p>In 2017-18 DELWP provided sponsorship of Sustainability Victoria's 2017 ResourceSmart Schools Awards in the biodiversity categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity School of the Year (Primary) - Biodiversity School of the Year (Secondary) <p>This sponsorship delivered on a key recommendation from the Victorian Landcare Program Review (2015) strategy to increase youth participation. Support for the ResourceSmart Schools Awards provided longer-term benefits through brand recognition for both the Victorian Landcare Program and the Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037 plan. This partnership provided an opportunity to reach Victorian primary and secondary schools, including students, teachers, parents and the broader school community to reach audiences about engaging youth in Landcare and other environmental volunteering opportunities.</p>	\$20,000
	<p>In 2017-18, the maintenance contract for the Victorian Landcare Gateway website was in place to provide maintenance support and undertake site upgrades, as required. The Victorian Landcare Gateway is easily accessible by electronic devices and it hosts the online version of the Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine. In 2017/18, 24 per cent of users of the Victorian Landcare Gateway accessed it via mobile phones and 10 per cent via tablets. The site's most</p>	\$12,650

Activity	Description	Cost
	visited pages are "Resources" and "Find a group".	

i) Details of assessment and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees, not otherwise detailed in the report of operations

Details of initiatives undertaken to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of employees are included in the DELWP 2017-18 Annual Report, which is available at www.delwp.vic.gov.au.

j) General statement on industrial relations within the department and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes, which are not otherwise detailed in the report of operations

Information about industrial relations and time lost through industrial accidents and disputes are included in the DELWP 2017-18 Annual Report, which is available at www.delwp.vic.gov.au.

k) List of major committees sponsored by the department, the purpose of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved

Details of major committees sponsored by the department are included in the DELWP 2017-18 Annual Report, which is available at www.delwp.vic.gov.au.

- I) Details of all consultancies and contractors including:**
 - i) consultants/contractors engaged**
 - ii) services provided**
 - iii) expenditure committed to for each engagement.**

This information is available on request, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, from:

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