

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

Corporate Plan 2023-2027



We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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Secretary's Message

The start of 2023 saw the establishment of our new Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), bringing many opportunities for integration and shared benefits for Victoria's community, environmental sustainability and economic potential.

Our Corporate Plan 2023-27 lays out DEECA's commitment over the next four years, and how we will evaluate our performance. It highlights our focus on putting the community at the centre of everything we do and our commitment to serve all Victorians.

Our staff partner with communities, industry and First Nations people to undertake our key functions including:

- supporting a strong, innovative, sustainable agriculture, food and fibre sector through Agriculture Victoria;
- managing our public land tenure, through delivery and maintenance of recreation assets, tourism services and forest health activities and preparing for, and responding to, fire and other emergencies;
- implementing energy projects, programs and reforms to support a sustainable, orderly energy transition and its economic opportunities;
- supporting communities, workers, and businesses across the state during the transition from native timber harvesting in state forests;
- coordinating the Victorian government's climate action agenda, through strengthening climate resilience, reducing emissions and reforming Victorian Government operations
- providing leadership and regulatory oversight of waste and resource recovery services to support the circular economy, through Recycling Victoria;
- implementing nature-positive programs and biodiversity initiatives, while ensuring environmental protection, the management of natural and built assets on public land;

- driving the self-determination reform agenda across DEECA and building our cultural capability, cultural safety and developing DEECA's Aboriginal workforce.
- ensuring Victoria has safe, sustainable, and productive water resources to meet current and future urban, rural, environmental and cultural needs; and
- enabling the sustainable and responsible development of Victoria's earth resources through geoscience, policy and modern risk-based regulation.

The Corporate Plan also puts our work in a global context, linking our objectives with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets. These goals and targets support the United Nations' ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – an action plan that provides a transparent and globally accepted framework which we are using to measure our contribution to sustainable development locally and globally.

I'd like to acknowledge that all of the work we do at DEECA occurs on the lands and waterways of Traditional Owners. This Plan underscores our commitment to meaningful partnerships in accordance with our self-determination strategy Pupangarli Marnmarnepu.

All of us in the department look forward to collaborating with our community, colleagues, and partners across the state in the delivery of this Plan, with a shared vision of thriving, productive and sustainable communities, environments and industries.



John Bradley
DEECA Secretary

Welcome to DEECA's Corporate Plan

The DEECA 2023-27 Corporate Plan communicates the overall vision and goals for the department into the future and describes the plan for how DEECA will prioritise its resources and deliver initiatives to achieve these goals and realise benefits for the Victorian Community.

The Corporate Plan is the department's medium-term plan, consistent with the Victorian Government's objectives, priorities and budget decisions. The four-year plan is refreshed annually in accordance with requirements under the *Financial Management Act 1994*.

Our portfolio priorities are underpinned by a commitment to Aboriginal self-determination, effective action on climate change and sustainable economic growth through investment in renewable energy through our circular economy plan.

This Corporate Plan document outlines the organisational context and operating model for DEECA, before articulating the strategic planning structure then goes on to detail the outcomes DEECA sets out to achieve over the medium term and how we will measure our performance.

About us

Our Department

DEECA brings together Victoria's agriculture, climate action, energy, environment, emergency management, forestry, resources and water functions into a single department to maximise connections between the environment, community, industry and economy.

Our challenge is to improve Victoria's liveability with a population that is expected to almost double by 2050, while responsibly tackling climate change and protecting our natural environment, infrastructure and heritage for future generations.

To best serve Victorians, we strive to build a positive organisational culture built on strong leadership, diversity collaboration, innovation and developing our people.

Our vision for diversity and inclusion is a workplace culture that embraces individual differences in all forms and fosters innovation. We live our diversity and inclusion values when our people embrace the following principles:

- connect effectively with our diverse customers and communities to understand their needs
- embrace different viewpoints
- have equal opportunity in the workplace
- feel they belong and know their unique contribution is valued
- leverage the experience and ideas of others.

Our Ministers

DEECA's four portfolio ministers lead the work of the department and are key members of the Victoria Government. The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP is the coordinating minister for DEECA.



The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Climate Action
Minister for Energy and Resources
Minister for the State Electricity Commission



The Hon. Harriet Shing MP

Minister for Water



The Hon. Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Environment



The Hon. Gayle Tierney MP

Minister for Agriculture

Our Groups

DEECA is organised around the ten key business groups listed below. Please see our DEECA Organisational Chart for details.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides advice and support to all DEECA groups, as a partner in the delivery of projects, programs, and services. The group delivers whole-of-department corporate functions including legal and legislation services, risk and audit, finance, infrastructure and facilities, procurement, information services, digital and customer communications (including the Customer Contact Centre), strategy and performance as well as people and culture services and transformation.

Agriculture Victoria

Agriculture Victoria supports a strong, innovative, sustainable agriculture, food and fibre sector, and works with industry and the community to enhance productivity, improve animal welfare, connect the sector with international markets, create jobs, support growth, and maintain effective biodiversity. The group also works alongside research institutions to modernise Victorian agriculture through research, innovation, investment, and education.

Bushfire and Forest Services

Bushfire and Forest Services (BFS) is the public land manager for 3.2 million hectares of State forests, including delivery and maintenance of recreation assets, tourism services and forest health activities, and leads DEECA's works across the state in preparing for and responding to fire and other emergencies, to reduce impacts on people, property and the environment.

Underpinned by our commitment to work in partnership with Traditional Owners, BFS collaborates across government and DEECA to deliver key policies and outcomes in support of communities and industries that use our forests and is directly responsible for recreation policy and service delivery in state forests.

BFS plays a key role in working alongside emergency services under the Victorian Government's 'all communities, all emergencies' operating framework, including to meet DEECA's responsibilities before, during and after an emergency event.

BFS undertakes regulatory functions for timber harvesting, biodiversity, public land use and fire prevention, leads development and advice on forest, fire and emergency management policy, strategy and legislation, and delivers safe and fit-for-purpose

capability solutions including state-wide assets, equipment, technology and learning, ensuring consistency with the Victorian Government's broader strategic objectives

Energy

DEECA's Energy group supports current and future energy projects, programs and reforms, as Victoria's electricity and gas systems undergo a major transition, and the state pursues its targets for renewable energy, energy storage and offshore wind. The group advocates, leads and delivers strategic state-wide policies and programs, stimulates sector development, facilitates large-scale projects and contributes to national initiatives.

The Group delivers this through strong partnerships, and maintains a focus on enabling Aboriginal self-determination through the energy transition. Other areas of focus include energy efficiency and affordability, electrification, energy safety and emergency management, transmission and distribution, and enabling reform in wholesale and retail markets.

Forestry Transition

The Forestry Transition division is largely focussed on the Forestry Transition Program to provide a range of support for communities, workers, and businesses across the state. Native timber harvesting in Victoria's state forests will end by 1 January 2024 with existing supports being brought forward and scaled up. The Forestry Transition Program is supporting the native timber industry while protecting as many jobs as possible.

Regions, Environment, Climate Action, and First Peoples

The Regions, Environment, Climate Action and First Peoples (RECAFP) Group provides expert policy advice on directions, principles, strategies and actions to lead the Victorian government's responses to climate action, the circular economy, environmental protection and management of natural and built assets on public land across Victoria. Through the Regional Directorates, the Group also provides integrated, place-based design and delivery of programs, projects and services across departmental portfolios. The RECAFP Group is also responsible for driving the self-determination reform agenda across DEECA and building cultural

capability and a culturally safe environment and developing DEECA's Aboriginal workforce.

The RECAFP Group works across DEECA, with portfolio agencies, regional communities and other external stakeholders and ministers to implement DEECA's state-wide objectives in the environment and climate action portfolios. This supports service delivery partners and portfolio agencies to be as successful as they can be in delivering for government and Victorian communities. As DEECA's regional delivery arm, the Group provides the main connection to local communities and environments across the state, and in the process provides valuable intelligence on how policy and programs can be designed and delivered to better meet the needs of Victorians.

Recycling Victoria sits within the group and provides leadership and oversight of waste and resource recovery services to support the circular economy

Resources Victoria

Resources Victoria aims to build a thriving and responsible earth resources sector that is valued by the community. Through the delivery of geoscience, policy and legislation and a modern risk-based regulator, we enable industry to responsibly and sustainably develop Victoria's earth resources for the benefit of all Victorians, whilst minimising harm.

RV works with industry to build community knowledge and confidence in the social, environmental and economic performance of the resources sector across the project lifecycle from exploration to rehabilitation. RV ensures the state has the raw materials to power our homes and industries, is developing its critical minerals resources to support energy transition and supports Victoria's quarry sector to ensure the state has enough building materials for our infrastructure boom.

Solar Victoria

Solar Victoria's purpose is to enable Victorians to access clean and affordable energy through rebates and loans on solar panels, hot water systems and batteries. It is responsible for delivering the Victorian Government's flagship 10-year, \$1.3 billion Solar Homes Program, one of the most ambitious and transformative renewable energy programs in Australia. The group also assists Victorians to reduce their energy bills, boosting our renewable energy supply, supporting solar jobs and improving our grid security.

State Electricity Commission Implementation Office

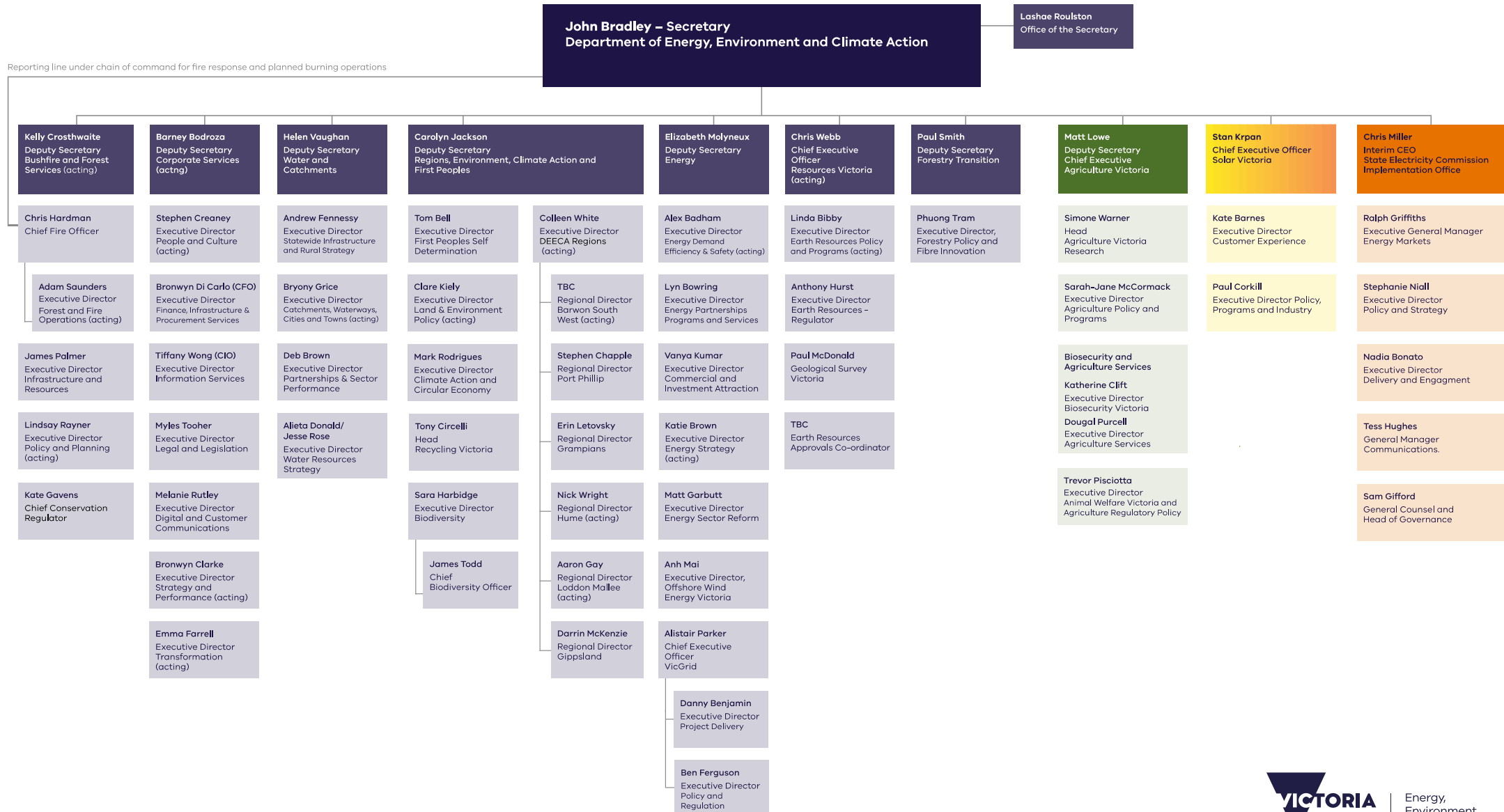
The Implementation Office is responsible for standing up the State Electricity Commission (SEC) to accelerate Victoria's energy transition. The SEC will invest \$1 billion towards delivering 4.5GW in renewable energy capacity. This will push more renewable energy into the system, driving down emissions and wholesale power prices, and creating thousands of jobs. The SEC will do this by being an active energy market participant, working with industry to invest in renewable energy projects, and investing in training and workforce outcomes through the SEC Centre of Training Excellence.

Water and Catchments

DEECA's Water and Catchments group ensures Victoria has safe, sustainable, and productive water resources to meet current and future urban, rural, environmental and cultural needs and is responsible for the implementation of the government's long-term water plan, Water for Victoria, which sets the strategic directions for the state's water management. The group works in partnerships with water corporations, catchment management authorities, government agencies, industry, community, and Traditional Owners to balance the economic, environmental, and social values of water. This work helps to deliver secure water supplies, greener and liveable cities and towns, health waterways and aquifers.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

Functional Organisational Chart and Ministers from 31 July 2023



Aboriginal Self-determination

DEECA is committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader expectations and aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.

Aboriginal self-determination is about Aboriginal people being at the centre of decision-making around the issues that affect their lives. In practice, this means transferring decision-making power from the government to Aboriginal peoples.

Government's commitment to Aboriginal self-determination

In December 2015, the Victorian Government committed to Aboriginal self-determination as the central policy principle for guiding Aboriginal affairs.

The Victorian Government Self-Determination Reform Framework guides public service action to enable self-determination in line with the government's commitment.

Our commitment to self-determination - Pupangarli Marnmarnepu

Pupangarli Marnmarnepu 'Owning Our Future' – Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020-2025 is our 5-year roadmap that enables self-determination at DEECA by honouring the rights and dignity of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians.

Historically, DEECA has implemented policies that have not recognised the needs of Aboriginal people. In many cases, these policies acted to exclude Aboriginal people from many aspects of land and waterways management. Pupangarli Marnmarnepu was developed by listening to the needs and priorities of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians and outlining how DEECA can undertake significant reform, undoing systematic bias to build a better future for all Victorians.

Pupangarli Marnmarnepu Implementation Action Plan

The delivery of projects aligned to Pupangarli Marnmarnepu has laid the foundations for DEECA to fulfill its commitments. The Implementation Plan extends across all DEECA Groups in a 'whole of DEECA' approach to self-determination and continues to build on previous achievements and highlights priority actions that must be delivered.

Aboriginal-led accountability mechanisms

In 2020 DEECA established the Statewide Caring for Country Partnership Forum (SCfCPF) in partnership with Parks Victoria and the 11 formally recognised Traditional Owner Corporations (TOCS) under the TOC Caucus as a Traditional Owner-led mechanism to hold DEECA accountable for the implementation of Pupangarli Marnmarnepu. The SCfCPF meets and develops strategies that enable the transfer of relevant decision-making powers and resources to Traditional Owners, and enables decision-making, leadership and self-governance on state-wide matters across DEECA's portfolios as determined by TOC Caucus.

Wirgara intranet resource hub

Wirgara is DEECA's online portal for all things relating to Traditional Owner and Aboriginal community policies, protocols engagement and self-determination.

Wirgara provides:

- an overview of DEECA's role in Aboriginal self-determination including an introduction to Pupangarli Marnmarnepu
- Best practice tips and advice for partnering and engaging with Traditional Owners
- key information on Treaty and the Yoorrook Justice Commission
- a list of policies and initiatives, including links to documents, websites, contact lists and further information
- case studies and stories providing examples of self-determination in practice
- a range of opportunities and resources to help get involved in the self-determination journey.

Achieving our vision

DEECA's vision is a thriving, productive and sustainable Victorian community, environment and industry.

In order to achieve this vision DEECA undertakes medium-term planning in line with the Victorian Governments Outcomes Framework and in consultation with the community.

Recognising the interdependent and interconnected nature of the Victorian Government, strategic planning activities consider DEECA's contribution to key whole of Victorian Government priorities, represented by DEECA's cross cutting themes, and the United Nations Sustainable development goals.

Victorian Government Outcomes Framework

The Victorian Government's Outcomes Framework, provides the architecture for strategic planning to ensure that planned initiatives and services contribute to the realisation of department's outcomes and the overarching vision.

The architecture, shown at Figure 1, includes outcomes, outcome indicators, outcome measures and activities (initiatives). These key strategic elements are detailed within the Outcomes section of this document aligned under the eight DEECA outcomes that articulate what DEECA aims to achieve for the Victoria Community.

Framework element	Description
Outcomes	Outcomes articulate what success looks like and reflect our ambition for Victoria. They are clear, unambiguous and high-level statements about the things that matter for people and communities.
Outcomes Indicator	Outcome indicators specify what needs to change in order to achieve a desired outcome and set the direction of change. Outcome indicators reflect the key drivers and influences on progress towards an outcome.
Outcome Measures	Outcome measures provide the more granular, specific detail about what will change and how you will know if you are making progress. Outcome measures are the specific way we know or count the size, amount or degree of change achieved.

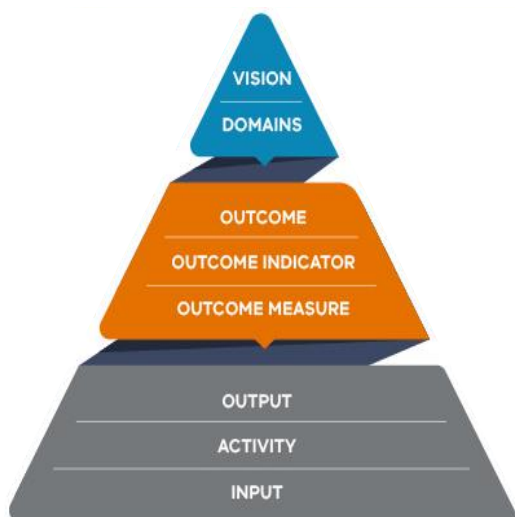


Figure 1: Victorian Government Outcomes Framework Architecture

This is our business

The following 'One-DEECA: This is our business' summary document has been developed to communicate a snapshot of DEECA's medium-term plan and outlines outcomes, selected priority initiatives and 2023-24 success measures.

One-DEECA: This is our business



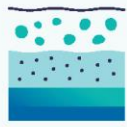
Agriculture and Forestry

Productive and sustainably used natural resources



Climate Action

Net-zero emissions, climate-ready economy and community



Earth Resources

Sustainable development of Victoria's earth resources



Emergency Management

Reduced impact of major bushfires and other emergencies



Energy

Reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services



Environment and Resource Recovery

Healthy, resilient and biodiverse environment



Land Management

Productive and effective land management



Water

Safe, sustainable and productive water resources

To succeed, we must:

Advance the prominence and growth of the agriculture sector by supporting primary producers with sustainable agribusiness initiatives

Increase innovation to meet future production, climate, biosecurity, market access and workforce challenges within agriculture

Manage biosecurity, animal welfare and other risks, and minimise adverse impacts to the environment and public health

Manage the transition away from native timber harvesting, supporting timber communities and timber industry businesses and workers

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Our targets are:

- 28–33% by 2025
- 45–50% by 2030
- 75–80% by 2035
- Net-zero by 2045

Strengthen community and government resilience to climate change hazards

Implement Circular Economy legislation and Subordinate Instruments

Increase investment in the State's earth resources including the critical resources required to support new infrastructure, decarbonisation, and value-adding industries to grow Victoria's economy

Build community and industry confidence in the importance, regulation, and performance of the earth resources sector in Victoria

Protect the environment and reduce the State's exposure to mine rehabilitation liabilities

Increase the level of preparedness for bushfires and other emergencies

Increase community understanding of potential risks and impacts of bushfires and other emergencies

Increase the ability of communities, the environment, local economies and ecosystems to recover from bushfires and other emergencies

Increase energy affordability, consumer control and access to energy services

Improve the reliability, security and stability of the energy system

Reduce emissions from Victoria's energy system

Increase jobs and economic development in the new energy sector

Enabling Aboriginal self-determination in the energy transition

Increase access to affordable renewable energy for Victorian households and businesses, and reduce emissions

Support Victoria to generate the most value from our resources and reduce waste through our circular economy policy "Recycling Victoria: A new economy".

Reduce the harmful effects of pollution and waste on human health and the environment

Improve Victoria's native species populations and their habitat through targeted management

Strengthen the resilience of the Waste, Recycling and Resource Sector through the transition to a circular economy.

Increase Victorians valuing nature

Increase the sustainable management of public land

Increase self-determination of Traditional Owners in land management decision-making and practices

Increase public value benefits from government land

Increase security and resilience of Victoria's water systems

Increase implementation of Traditional Owner determined priorities for water management

Improve the environmental condition of Victoria's waterways and catchments

Increase inclusion of social and community values in water management

Increase efficiency of water use

Improve water sector governance, systems integration and water emergency management

Success in 2023-24 looks like:

75% clients satisfaction rating of agricultural services and industry investors in agriculture productivity research and development

85% of stakeholders engaged in timber communities and timber industry workers and businesses

700 timber industry workers and their families engaged with the Worker Support Services

On track for 28–33% reduction in Victoria's emissions by 2025

100% of Adaptation Action Plan actions commenced in 2023-24

Release of the Critical Minerals Development Framework by June 2024

Unlock 75 million tonnes of extractive resources for future supply

Release of the Declared Mine Rehabilitation Guidelines by March 2024

Percentage of bushfire residual risk on public land maintained at or below Victoria's state-wide target of 70 per cent

80% per cent of bushfires contained at first attack and/or under five hectares to suppress bushfires promptly, keep bushfires small and minimise loss

12 stakeholder and community forums on bushfire management and planning held

All readiness and response plans completed by October 2023, prior to the upcoming fire season

38.8% of Victoria's Share of energy sourced from renewables

63,000 Victorians supported by the Solar Homes Program

On track for 72% of municipal and industrial waste diverted from landfill by 2025 and 80% by 2030

330,000 environmental volunteer hours contributing to the health of Victoria's biodiversity

On track for 121m visits to the public land estate managed by Parks Victoria

70% traditional owner satisfaction with DEECA's progress in enabling self-determination

9 place-based plans and actions underway for healthier communities and environments that encompass multiple values

1,800 Schools signed up to Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP)



Portfolio priorities are supported by DEECA's commitment to our eight Outcomes and *Pupangarli Marnmarnepu 'Owning our Future' Aboriginal Self-Determination Strategy 2020-25*.

Our vision

Supporting thriving, productive and sustainable communities, environments and industries.

Our pillars




- High performance and delivery for Government
- Trusted leadership and inclusive culture
- Empowered people with a One-DEECA mindset
- Strong engagement, partnerships, and service excellence
- Aboriginal self-determination is enabled

Community Charter

Our community charter describes what the Victorian Community can expect from us. We recognise that communities are made up of diverse sectors, organisations, rights holders, interest groups, influencers, families and individuals.

We will work collaboratively with you to deliver services and create opportunities that support thriving, productive, and sustainable communities, environments and industries.

In all aspects of our work and interaction with the public we will:

 Be available	Issues and place-based focus	Connect with you where you live, work and play on issues that matter to your communities
	Accessibility	Make sure we are easy to contact and our information is straightforward and available in a variety of ways
	Flexibility	Recognise and respect the way you want to work with us and adapt our approach according to needs of individuals, organisations and industries.
 Speak and listen	Active listening and understanding	Listen to and understand your views and needs, actively seek and respect different opinions
	Honesty and transparency	Be honest about what's driving our priorities, what we can and can't promise to do, our timelines and why decisions have been made
	Clarity and purposefulness	Be clear about why and how we are engaging, making sure we give you real opportunities to participate, shape decisions and make a difference
 Take action	Timely and proactive	Engage with communities as early as we can. Identify opportunities and be responsive to issues and feedback
	Consistency	Ensure we are consistent in the way we approach decisions
	Closing the loop	Share outcomes with communities and report back on what we heard, and how we adapted

Read more about our [Community Charter](#).

Our Stakeholders and Partners

We prioritise a strong engagement with our stakeholders and partners as they support DEECA in the delivery of our outcomes.

Please see a list below of our key stakeholders and partners:

Stakeholder/Partners	Description
Traditional Owner Groups (Partners)	<p>DEECA is committed to meaningful engagement and working in genuine partnership with Traditional Owners to fulfil a range of obligations to manage and Care for Country, including those defined by agreements under the <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i> and/or the <i>Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic)</i>. In addition to the protection of cultural heritage under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)</i> DEECA also works with Traditional Owners to deliver on joint priorities articulated in various Traditional Owners' Country Plans and through the State-wide Caring for Country Partnership Forum.</p> <p>The Forum provides Traditional Owner Corporations with a means for their representatives to engage with DEECA and Parks Victoria to progress matters of priority to them and ultimately affect the transfer of decision-</p>

Stakeholder/Partners	Description
	<p>making power and resources back to Traditional Owners. The Forum aims to be a first step in developing a formalised accountability mechanism in partnership with Traditional Owners.</p> <p>Traditional Owners fulfil critical roles in the management of parks and reserves through Traditional Owner Land Management Boards and other ministerially appointed bodies established under joint management arrangements.</p>
First Peoples	<p>We work alongside First Peoples to manage the public land estate and its natural values. In their strong connection to Country culture and community, First Peoples have many interests and roles within the biodiverse environment, land, water, planning, heritage, energy, climate action and communities.</p>
Community Groups / Committees of Management	<p>We work to build better relationships, involve the community to reach decisions through a number of different channels, including Engage Victoria, and improve engagement between community members and DEECA staff to enhance liveability and decrease bushfire risk.</p> <p>We will continue to support participation in environmental works, biosecurity, climate adaptation and other activities by a diverse range of local community groups through Landcare and other not-for-profit and volunteer organisations.</p>
Victorian councils	<p>In accordance with the Victorian State-Local Government Agreement, we work with Victoria's 79 councils and peak bodies to support effective local governance, plan for growth, support sustainability, and to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters and other emergency events.</p>
Water Corporations	<p>We work with Victoria's 18 state-owned water corporations constituted under the <i>Water Act 1989</i> that provide a range of water services to customers within their service areas including water supply, sewage, water delivery for irrigation and domestic and stock purposes, and salinity mitigation services.</p>
Catchment Management Authorities	<p>We work closely with the ten Catchment Management Authorities that are responsible for the integrated planning and coordination of land, water and biodiversity management in each catchment and land protection regions.</p>
Victorian Government departments and agencies	<p>We work with all departments in joint strategic planning and will continue to work with Energy Safe Victoria, the Essential Services Commission, and national institutions including the Australian Energy Regulator, the Australian Energy Market Operator and the Australian Energy Market Commission to ensure efficient, sustainable, reliable and safe energy services for households and businesses in Victoria.</p>
Commonwealth Government	<p>We work with the Commonwealth (and its agencies) to deliver major projects, reform national legislation and markets, and support national agreements and initiatives. We work with the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and Clean Energy Finance Corporation to facilitate investment in innovative energy projects and technologies across Victoria.</p>
Industry and business	<p>We work with industry and businesses to identify and facilitate opportunities for improving the state's productivity, attract new investment and generate jobs and growth.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working alongside industry and research institutions to modernise Victorian agriculture through research, innovation, investment, and education • attracting investment in energy technologies • supporting energy efficiency and energy management by businesses • delivering sustainable industrial and housing development generating value from our resources in the transition to a Circular Economy

Stakeholder/Partners	Description
Statutory and Ministerial advisory bodies	<p>We work with statutory and ministerial advisory bodies across portfolio areas of responsibility.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birrarung Council • Four-Wheel Drive Advisory Committee and the Metropolitan Development Advisory Panel • National Parks Advisory Council and the Reference Areas Advisory Council • The Victorian Marine and Coastal Council • Victorian Environment Assessment Council • Victorian Environmental Water Holder
Industry stakeholders, peak bodies, and academia	<p>We work with state-wide organisations, industry bodies, policy institutes, peak bodies, not-for-profits, research centres, and universities, including RMIT, Deakin and Melbourne Universities. These relationships encompass research, policy development, program implementation and funding support.</p> <p>Our key partners include:</p> <p>Association of Bayside Municipalities</p> <p>Association of Mining & Exploration Companies (AMEC)</p> <p>Austmine Limited</p> <p>Australian Industry Group</p> <p>Australian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy (AUSIMM)</p> <p>Australian Ocean Energy Group</p> <p>Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA)</p> <p>Australian Property Institute</p> <p>Bureau of Meteorology</p> <p>Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA)</p> <p>Centre for New Energy Technologies</p> <p>Clean Energy Council</p> <p>Construction Material Processors Association (CMPA)</p> <p>Consumer Action Law Centre</p> <p>Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities</p> <p>Energy Consumers Australia</p> <p>Energy Networks Australia</p> <p>Environment Victoria</p> <p>Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)</p> <p>Victoria Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations</p> <p>First Nations Clean Energy Network</p> <p>Future Energy Exports CRC</p> <p>Future Fuels CRC</p> <p>Grattan Institute</p> <p>Land surveying, conveyancing, and planning and environmental organisations.</p> <p>Law Institute of Victoria</p> <p>Monash Sustainable Development Institute</p> <p>Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority</p> <p>Minerals Council of Australia (MCA)</p> <p>Municipal Association of Victoria</p> <p>Planning Institute of Australia</p> <p>Property Council</p>

Stakeholder/Partners	Description
	<p>Prospectors Miners Association Victoria (PMAV)</p> <p>RACE for 2030</p> <p>Scientific Advisory Committee</p> <p>Smart Energy Council</p> <p>Urban Development Institute of Australia</p> <p>VicParks Caravan Park Association</p> <p>Victorian Planning Authority</p> <p>Victorian Farmers Federation</p> <p>Victorian Federation of Traditional Owner Corporations</p> <p>Victorian Fisheries Authority</p> <p>Victorian Hydrogen Cluster Network</p> <p>Victorian Mineral Water Committee</p> <p>Victorian National Parks Association</p> <p>VicWater</p> <p>VR Fish</p>
International engagement	<p>We continue to maintain our ties with international government agencies, as well as Non-Government Organisations and investors. We are exchanging knowledge across our portfolios on liveability and sustainability initiatives, on managing the challenges of population growth and climate change, biosecurity, agriculture innovation and growth to influence international practice. We are facilitating investment in Victorian priorities, including Victoria's energy transition, working closely with Invest Victoria, the Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office network, Austrade, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and local chapters of various bilateral chambers of commerce and industry.</p>
Fire and emergency services	<p>DEECA works with Emergency Management Victoria (EMV), Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), the Country Fire Authority (CFA), the Victoria State Emergency Service (SES), Victoria Police and other fire and emergency services under the 'all communities, all emergencies' operating model for emergency management.</p>
Wildlife and conservation organisations	<p>DEECA works with wildlife and conservation organisations to protect wildlife and their habitats in both marine and terrestrial environments.</p>

Our Resources

The below table outlines the resources DEECA leverages to achieve its Vision and deliver value for Victorians.

Resources	Description
DEECA employees	DEECA employs more than 5,600 staff in 87 locations across the state.
Total assets	We are a key manager of Victoria's public estate and manage total assets worth more than \$9.9bn, with 79 per cent (\$7.8bn) comprising various categories of public land.
Other assets	The department owns and manages a further \$2.1bn of other assets, including more than 40,000 kilometres of roads and tracks, office buildings, depots, public toilets, picnic shelters, recreational facilities, firefighting and road maintenance equipment, crossings, water bores and mobile plant equipment.

Outlook

For details on DEECA's financial outlook, refer to [2023-24 Budget Paper No.5 Statement of Finances](#).

DEECA's Cross-cutting themes

The projects and services delivered by DEECA deliver on key government priorities. The department approaches the delivery of these priorities through a holistic One-DEECA lens.







































The cross-cutting themes outlined below are key government priorities that cut across all DEECA's outcomes. The corresponding projects and services aligned to these themes demonstrate our One-DEECA approach to delivering on these critical government priorities.

The cross-cutting themes for 2023-24:

- **Economic Transition and Growth** – Leading major transitions to a modern, clean economy by bringing together our portfolios to maximise connections between the environment, community, industry and economy.
- **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action** – Conserving natural resources, protecting global ecosystems and maintaining an ecological balance in our planet's natural environment to support the wellbeing of current and future generations.
- **Aboriginal Self-Determination and First People** – Strengthening DEECA's contribution to the processes the Government is leading towards reconciliation and Treaty for Victoria's First People.
- **Emergency Management** – Continuing to assist and support Victorian communities recovering from natural events and adjusting our approach so that recovery is more effective when events occur.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

DEECA's Outcomes align with eight of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as noted in the 'Core SDG' column below. Further details on the SDG's can be found on the [United Nations SDGs webpage](#).

DEECA Outcome	Core SDG	Additional SDG		
 <p>Productive and sustainable used natural resources</p>	 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>
 <p>Net-zero emission, climate-ready economy and community</p>	 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>
 <p>Sustainable development of Victoria's earth resources</p>	 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	
 <p>Reduce the impact of major bushfires and other emergencies on people, property and the environment</p>	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	
 <p>Reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services</p>	 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>
 <p>Healthy, resilient and biodiverse environment</p>	 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>
 <p>Productive and effective land management</p>	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	 <p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>
 <p>Safe, sustainable and productive water resources</p>	 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	 <p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>

Outcomes



Agriculture and Forestry



Agriculture and Forestry

Productive and sustainably used natural resources



This outcome delivers services to the agriculture, food and fibre sectors to enhance productivity, connect the sector with international markets, create jobs, support growth and maintain effective biosecurity.

Budget Outputs

Agriculture

This output delivers effective, and efficient regulation, compliance, emergency management, biosecurity research and development, and diagnostic services to protect and enhance market access by addressing trade barriers and managing the risks of pests, diseases and chemical use. The Department undertakes research and development to develop new technologies and practices and provides services to enhance their adoption to increase farm productivity and supply chain efficiencies. It provides policy advice and support to industries and businesses to innovate, manage economic and climatic volatility, natural disasters and biosecurity emergencies, and meet consumer and community expectations for food quality, food safety and animal welfare and environmental standards.

The output also creates the conditions to grow the natural resources economy by ensuring resources are sustainably allocated and used for both recreational and commercial purposes.

Outcome Indicators

The areas that DEECA have identified that need to change in order to achieve productive and sustainably used natural resources are:

- Advance the prominence and growth of the agriculture sector by supporting primary producers with sustainable agribusiness initiatives
- Increase innovation to meet future production, climate, biosecurity, market access and workforce challenges within agriculture
- Manage biosecurity, animal welfare and other risks, and minimise adverse impacts to the environment and public health
- Manage the transition away from native timber harvesting, supporting timber communities and timber industry businesses and workers

DEECA Initiatives

BP3 output initiatives

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
Backing Victoria's world-class producers to grow	\$7.2m	\$12.0m	\$8.5m	\$3.4m
Implementing animal welfare commitments	\$4.1m	\$1.8m	\$1.8m	\$1.8m
Protecting Victoria from biosecurity threats	\$13.8	\$3.6m	-	-
Timber Harvesting Transition Support	\$79.0m	-	-	-
Timber worker and industry support	\$5.5m	\$4.0m	\$0.2	-

**Source: BP3 2023-24, Chapter 1 - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Output Initiatives. **The figure in this table is the DEECA component for Agriculture output only, there are other components to be delivered by other departments under other outputs. The phasing of funding reflects the updated cashflow in a subsequent ERC decision post the publication of the Budget Paper.*

Priority initiatives

Name	Description
Deliver an emergency animal disease preparedness program	Deliver a dedicated preparedness program to optimise response, relief, and recovery arrangements for an Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) outbreak, focussing on a potential foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or lumpy skin disease (LSD) incursion.
Accelerate action by the agriculture sector to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change	Deliver priority projects that underpin a low-emissions agriculture sector that is well-placed to manage climate risks.
Develop and deliver high impact, outcomes focussed research and innovation programs	Design, develop, deliver and evaluate research and innovation programs that are outcome-focused, high impact, and highly-valued by government and industry stakeholders which are fully aligned with DEECA and Agriculture Victoria strategies; that implement Agriculture Victoria Research Strategic Action Plans; that are fully aligned with research investment cases and business plans; that are fully aligned within AVR's roles under the National Primary Industries Research, Development and Extension Framework (NPIRDEF); and are delivered on time and on budget.
Deliver biosecurity regulatory services	Biosecurity regulatory services delivered to reduce harms within an extensive state, national and international system. Regulatory function include biosecurity, livestock animal welfare, product integrity and traceability, food safety and agricultural and veterinary chemicals.
Strengthening diversity and inclusion through skills in the Agriculture workforce	Strengthening diversity and inclusion in the Agriculture workforce is a priority for the Victorian Government. Recognising the contribution Victorian women make to primary industry, helping the next generation of rural and industry leaders and supporting aboriginal skills and representation in agriculture underpin a diverse, inclusive, innovative and sustainable agriculture workforce
Reform Victoria's animal welfare laws	Work is underway, through Animal Welfare Victoria, to draft new laws to replace Victoria's current Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 for public comment in 2023. Contributing to the Victorian Government's commitment to Caring for and Protecting Victorian Pets and Wildlife, new laws will ensure Victoria has fit-for-purpose and modern legislation to support vital animal industries and maintain good animal welfare standards.
Support agriculture recovery from floods and storms	Support agriculture farm businesses, farming communities and industry to recover from the impacts of the October 2022 floods and storms through tailored services informed by strong on-ground connection with affected industries and communities.

Measuring our success

Outcome Measure	Target 2023-24
Client satisfaction rating of agricultural services and industry investors in agriculture productivity research and development	75%
Stakeholder engagement in timber communities and timber industry workers and businesses	85%
Timber industry workers and their families engaged with the Worker Support Services	700

Additional Information

Links to additional information
Agriculture Victoria
L Agriculture Victoria – Animal Disease
L Agriculture Victoria – Animal Welfare Victoria
L Agriculture Victoria – Climate and Weather
L Agriculture Victoria – Emergency Management
Forestry Transition Program
2023-24 State Budget Papers

Climate Action



Climate Action

Net-zero emission, climate-ready, economy and community



This outcome involves leading the whole of government delivery of Victoria's climate action, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the impacts of a changing climate, and supporting the economic and social transition to a net zero emissions and climate resilient future.

Budget Outputs

Climate Action

This outcome leads the development and implementation of strategic, whole of government climate action policy and programs that contribute to Victoria's 2045 target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions and building the State's resilience to climate change.

Outcome Indicators

The areas that DEECA have identified that need to change in order to achieve Net-zero emission, climate-ready, economy and community are:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Strengthen community and government resilience to climate change hazards

DEECA Initiatives

BP3 output initiatives

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
Delivering climate action	\$5.0m	\$5.0m	\$5.0m	\$5.0m
ResourceSmart Schools	\$2.9m	-	-	-

**Source: BP3 2023-24, Chapter 1 - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Output Initiatives*

Priority initiatives

Name	Description
Drive climate action: reduce Victoria's emissions	<p>The Climate Change Strategy is a five-point plan that sets Victoria on a course that creates jobs, strengthens our economy, protects our communities and environment, and ensures we play our part in the global transition to net-zero emissions.</p> <p>DEECA will drive, coordinate and monitor progress in Victoria's transition to net-zero emissions by 2045 including by: coordinating and planning for an efficient and effective transition to net-zero emissions that seizes opportunities to create new jobs, industries and a fairer state; developing new and innovative emissions reduction policies and actions to achieve targets; amending the <i>Climate Change Act 2017</i> to incorporate emissions reduction targets; and enhancing Victoria's emissions data and inventory to inform evidence-based policy development.</p>

Name	Description
Drive climate action: lead through Victorian Government operations	<p>As a leading organisation on climate change, DEECA provides advice on a consistent, coordinated, and strategic approach to understanding and managing climate risk and reducing emissions across Victorian Government operations.</p> <p>This includes strategic oversight of climate change management; developing climate change guidance for government decision makers; improving climate risk assessment, management, and disclosure; identifying emissions reduction opportunities and improving the climate resilience and emissions management of Victorian Government assets.</p>
Drive climate action: strengthen Victoria's climate resilience	<p>DEECA will support communities, businesses and governments to effectively manage climate risk and build resilience to the impacts of climate change by developing updated climate projections and Victoria's next climate science report, and by identifying and communicating the impacts and opportunities of climate change to guide adaptation action across the state.</p>

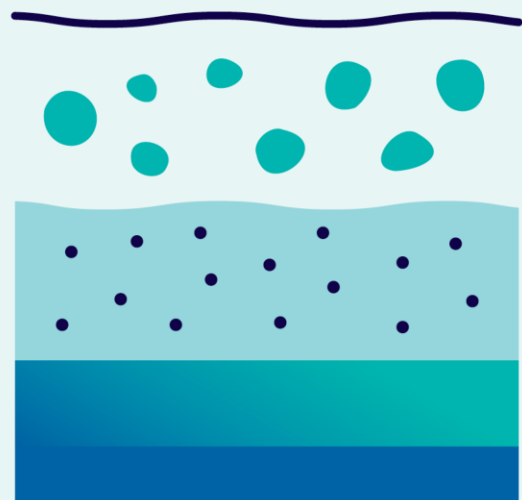
Measuring our success

Outcome Measure	Target 2023-24
Progress towards Victoria's emissions reduction targets	28-33% by 2025
Adaptation Action Plan actions commenced	100%

Additional Information

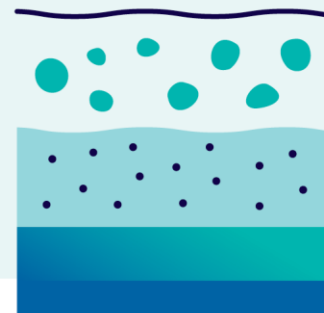
Links to additional information
Victoria's Climate Change Strategy
Climate Change Act 2017
Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions and targets
2023-24 State Budget Papers

Earth Resources



Earth Resources

Sustainable development of Victoria's earth resources



The Resources outcome develops and delivers policy, programs and regulation to enable investment and generate jobs through the sustainable development of the State's earth resources, including extractives, minerals and petroleum.

Budget Outputs

Resources

This output develops and delivers policy, programs and regulation to enable investment and generate jobs through the sustainable development of the State's earth resources, including extractives, minerals and petroleum. DEECA acquires and provides access to high-quality geoscience data and knowledge to inform government decision making and attract new investment and jobs to the State. It develops and implements legislative and regulatory reforms in the earth resources sector to improve outcomes for all stakeholders.

Supporting investment in resources and low emission technologies, DEECA fosters innovation, productivity, jobs and trade in the state's earth resources sector. Through strategic resource and related land use planning, new opportunities are able to be identified for Victoria's earth resources, along with supporting major infrastructure development in the state. DEECA also regulates the earth resources sector through transparent, consistent and timely regulatory processes that provide industry with confidence to invest and have regard to the needs of communities and minimise impacts to the environment.

Outcome Indicators

The areas that DEECA has identified that need to change in order to achieve Sustainable development of Victoria's earth resources are:

- Increase investment in the State's earth resources including the critical resources required to support new infrastructure, decarbonisation, and value-adding industries to grow Victoria's economy
- Build community and industry confidence in the importance, regulation, and performance of the earth resources sector in Victoria
- Protect the environment and reduce the State's exposure to mine rehabilitation liabilities

DEECA Initiatives

BP3 output initiatives

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
Enabling a more streamlined approach to resources decision-making	\$2.8m	\$2.6m	\$0.9m	\$0.5m
Reform to Perform: Resources sector support to achieve Net Zero and the Big Build	\$16.5m	-	-	-

**Source: BP3 2023-24, Chapter 1 - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Output Initiatives*

Priority initiatives

Name	Description
Developing Victoria's critical minerals	Developing Victoria's critical minerals - \$7.413 million over three years to grow and diversify the Victorian mineral resources industry, providing key inputs to support the transition to 'net zero' emissions. New geoscience data will support the identification of favourable geology and early exploration investment opportunities for priority critical minerals. A competitive critical minerals development grants program will also be established. Improving investor confidence, fostering diversification and economic growth, will enable the foundations for an industry that will grow in importance in a decarbonised economy.
Securing Victoria's extractive resources	To support Victoria's growing economy, the State needs access to good quality and competitively priced extractive resources to ensure we have the sand, rock and gravel to make affordable housing, roads and infrastructure. This includes a focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streamlined approval processes to expand production - Identify and protect extractive resources of strategic importance - Reduce the environmental impact of quarrying and deliver landscapes for the community Extractive Resources Strategy
Earth Resources Regulation	Earth Resources Regulation is focused on enabling businesses to have efficient and effective access to earth resources while fulfilling acceptable public safety and environmental standards. Our functions are to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a timely and clear authorisation process for earth resources exploration, production and other activities, and - to regulate earth resource operations to protect the public and the environment. Earth Resources Victoria

Measuring our success

Outcome Measure	Target 2023-24
Release of the Critical Minerals Development Framework	June 2024
Unlock extractive resources for future supply	75 million tonnes
Release of the Declared Mine Rehabilitation Guidelines	March 2024

Additional Information

Links to additional information
Earth Resources
↳ Earth Resources – Extractive Resources Strategy
↳ Earth Resources – Legislation and Regulations
2023-24 State Budget Papers

Emergency Management



Emergency Management

Reduced impact of major bushfires and other emergencies



This outcome plans and delivers integrated bushfire management. DEECA works together with land and fire managers and with the community to plan and deliver bushfire management across public and private land and uses world-leading science to manage fire and ecosystems.

Budget Outputs

Fire and Emergency Management

Through this output, DEECA works with land and fire managers to plan and deliver bushfire management across public and private land; involves local communities in decision-making, drawing on local values and insights to promote resilience; invests in science and partnerships to build knowledge of the relationship between fire and the environment to better manage risk; monitors and assesses the impact and effectiveness of fire management operations; ensures its workforce is effectively trained and prepared; and maintains a strategic road network to facilitate fire and emergency related activities and provide access for the community, timber and tourism industries.

Outcome Indicators

The areas that DEECA has identified that need to change in order to achieve Reduced impact of major bushfires and other emergencies are:

- Increase the level of preparedness for bushfires and other emergencies
- Increase community understanding of potential risks and impacts of bushfires and other emergencies
- Increase the ability of communities, the environment, local economies and ecosystems to recover from bushfires and other emergencies

DEECA Initiatives

BP3 output initiatives

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
Bolstering the forest firefighting workforce	\$14.6m	\$7.1m	\$7.3m	\$7.5m
Maintaining strategic fuel breaks	\$0.9m	\$0.9m	\$1.0m	\$1.0m

**Source: BP3 2023-24, Chapter 1 - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Output Initiatives*

Priority initiatives

Name	Description
Delivering the Fire Reform Program, including Safer Together	Better integrated bushfire management across public and private land using world-leading science and risk monitoring systems to manage fire and ecosystems.
Coordinating and delivering high quality works including those under DEECA's recovery program and Bushfire and Forest Services' (BFS) Roding and Bridge program, including the Thurra Bridge Project	Reducing risk on public land through fuel management, and by supporting early detection and rapid suppression of fires through building new bridges (including commencing the process for the full replacement of Thurra Bridge) and improving roads on our strategic road network.
Delivering the Fuel Management, Strategic Fuel Breaks and other fire related programs.	DEECA will maintain Victoria's network of Strategic Fuel Breaks to deliver key actions that form DEECA's Advanced Forest and Fire Management strategy. The strategy is designed to reduce the risk and impacts of more frequent, intense and damaging bushfires under a changing climate.

Measuring our success

Outcome Measure	Target 2023-24
Percentage of bushfire residual risk on public land maintained at or below Victoria's state-wide target.	70%
Bushfires contained at first attacked and/or under five hectares to suppress bushfires promptly, keep bushfires small and minimise loss	80%
Stakeholder and community forums on bushfire management and planning held	12 per annum
Proportion of Community-Based Bushfire Management partnerships rated as high functioning	80%
All readiness and response plans completed prior to the upcoming fire season	October 2023

Additional Information

Links to additional information
Safer Together
L Safer Together – Fuel Management
Forest Fire Management Victoria
Fire Services Reform
2023-24 State Budget Papers

Energy



Energy

Reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services



This outcome delivers a comprehensive suite of energy programs that improve energy efficiency, electrification, strengthen consumer protections and improve affordability. DEECA provides policy advice to government on how to deliver clean, reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services to Victorians.

Budget Outputs

Energy

The Energy output contributes to this outcome through state-based energy programs, including renewable energy development, energy efficiency, electrification, affordability improvements and facilitation of new investment.

Solar Victoria

Solar Victoria implements multi-year programs to incentivise the uptake of solar panel energy systems, hot water systems and interest-free loans for solar battery storage for homes

Outcome Indicators

The areas that DEECA has identified that need to change in order to achieve Reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services are:

- Increase energy affordability, consumer control and access to energy services
- Improve the reliability, security and stability of the energy system
- Reduce emissions from Victoria's energy system
- Increase jobs and economic development in the new energy sector
- Enabling Aboriginal self-determination in the energy transition
- Increase access to affordable renewable energy for Victorian households and businesses, and reduce emissions

Initiatives

BP3 output initiatives

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
Driving down bills with 100 neighbourhood batteries	\$5.2m	\$12.3m	\$12.4m	\$12.4m
Driving down gas bills for businesses and households	\$1.2m	\$1.3m	\$1.3	\$1.3
VicGrid functions and delivering the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework	\$17.9m	\$2.7m	-	-
SEC Centre of Training Excellence <i>*includes funding for the State Electricity Commission (SEC) Centre of Excellence business case, Victorian Energy Jobs Plan and new renewable energy Vocational Education & Training (VET) certificates</i>	\$3.5m	\$6.5m	\$2.0m	-

**Source: BP3 2023-24, Chapter 1 - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Output Initiatives*

Priority initiatives

Name	Description
\$250 Power Saving Bonus program	This \$250 Power Saving Bonus program provides a \$250 payment to eligible Victorian households when they visit the Victorian Energy Compare website. The current round of the program (PSB4) builds on the success of the previous three rounds of the program, which provided payments to Victorian households, and generated millions of visitors to the Victorian Energy Compare (VEC) website.
Bringing back the SEC – Implementation	<p>The Victorian Government is bringing back the State Electricity Commission (SEC) to speed up Victoria's transition to renewable energy. The new SEC is investing in renewables to power Victoria's renewable energy future. It will invest \$1 billion towards delivering 4.5 gigawatts of power through renewable energy projects - the equivalent replacement of coal-fired power station Loy Yang A, which is set to close in 2035.</p> <p>This will provide renewable, more reliable and affordable power to Victorian households, businesses and industries. It will also invest in the training and skills to build our renewable energy workforce of the future.</p>
Renewable Energy Zones Priority Investments	Commence delivery of Stage 1 Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) projects to facilitate the connection of renewable energy to the grid. Coordinate development of transmission for offshore wind development in Gippsland and Portland. Further develop the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) and the first Victorian Transmission Plan and build social licence for necessary transmission.
Drive down gas bills for businesses and households	<p>This project will detail the pathways to deliver net zero emissions associated with the supply of fossil gas in Victoria and identify the policy and regulatory levers and optimal ways to deploy these mechanisms to facilitate a smooth, well-managed transition of the gas sector.</p> <p>The next cycle of the Roadmap includes the initiation and/or implementation of policy actions to support electrification, gas reliability and renewable gas.</p>
100 Neighbourhood Batteries	Implement 100 neighbourhood batteries across Victoria, including in 15 metropolitan and 14 regional local government areas announced prior to the election, and utilising a range of different business models to maximise the breadth of benefits delivered to households and communities (\$42.3 M over 4 years).
Offshore wind energy program	<p>The Parent Program of works to deliver Offshore Wind projects in Victoria. In order to support the transition toward renewable energy there is a business need to ensure Offshore Wind Energy Victoria is a fit-for-purpose entity to deliver the Offshore Wind program of works.</p> <p>This includes policy development, industry and community stakeholder engagement and managing social licence; Victorian regulatory reform and Commonwealth engagement; program design and procurement; coordination across government activities associated with delivery of ports, transmission, workforce skills, supply chains, and regional development.</p>
Victorian Energy Upgrades Program	Governance oversight of the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program and strategic planning for the future of the VEU program (including setting of targets for 2026-2030).

Measuring our success

Outcome Measure	Target 2023-24
Victoria's Share of energy sourced from renewables	38%
Victorians supported by the Solar Homes Program	63,000

Additional Information

Links to additional information
\$250 Power saving bonus –Victoria Energy Compare
Energy Victoria
↳ Energy Victoria – Efficiency and Productivity Strategy
↳ Energy Victoria – Neighbourhood Batteries
↳ Energy Victoria – Offshore Wind Energy
↳ Energy Victoria – Renewable Energy Zones
↳ Energy Victoria – Review of Electricity and Gas Retail Markets in Victoria
Solar Victoria
State Electricity Commission
Victoria's Climate Change Strategy
2023-24 State Budget Papers

Environment and Resource Recovery



Environment and Resource Recovery

Healthy, resilient and biodiverse environment



The outcome leads the development and implementation of strategic regulation and investment in environmental and natural resource programs across Victoria. DEECA works with portfolio partners, local communities and external stakeholders to develop effective, evidence-based policies, programs and regulatory responses for environment protection, waste, resource recovery and recycling, ecosystem resilience, native vegetation management, threatened species, and land management practices.

Budget Outputs

Environment and Biodiversity

The Environment and Biodiversity output contributes to this outcome by developing and implementing environmental policy and delivering investment, regulatory and research functions that support Victoria's diverse and resilient ecosystems.

Statutory Activities and Environment Protection

The Statutory Activities and Environment Protection output protects the environment and people by preventing and reducing harm from pollution and waste through better regulation, conducting research and gathering intelligence to inform compliance and enforcement activities, collaboration and the provision of advice.

Waste and Recycling

The Waste and Recycling output delivers investment into reducing waste, transforming recycling services and increasing value from recycled materials. These activities support industry, innovation, research and development and clean technologies to create new markets and business opportunities for recycled materials.

Outcome Indicators

The areas that DEECA has identified that need to change in order to achieve Healthy, resilient and biodiverse environment are:

- Reduce the harmful effects of pollution and waste on human health and the environment
- Improve Victoria's native species populations and their habitat through targeted management
- Increase Victorians valuing nature

DEECA Initiatives

BP3 output initiatives

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
CERES Environment Park – Community Enterprise Precinct Plan	\$0.3m	\$0.7m	-	-
Protecting our Faunal Emblems	\$1.0m	\$1.0m	-	-
Protecting our parks, pets and wildlife – animal welfare	\$1.3m	\$1.4m	\$0.9m	\$0.9m
Securing environmental protection	\$1.0m	\$1.0m	-	-

**Source: BP3 2023-24, Chapter 1 - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Output Initiatives*

Priority initiatives

Name	Description
Restore nature for carbon storage through the BushBank Program	The BushBank program will revegetate and restore native vegetation across public and private land. In partnership with private entities who can bring significant co-funding, the program is aiming to revegetate and restore at least 20,000 hectares of native habitat across land in Victoria. The program is delivered in several grant streams, including grants for public land managers, Traditional Owner Corporations and for private land restoration and protection.
Reform Household Recycling	Deliver reforms to the household waste and recycling system with the implementation of standardised bin services which includes the introduction of glass collection services and food organics and garden organics services.
Container Deposit Scheme	Oversee Container Deposit Scheme, Scheme Coordinator and Network Operator agreements from mobilisation and ongoing operations.

Measuring our success

Outcome Measure	Target 2023-24
Municipal and industrial waste diverted from landfill	72% by 2025
Environmental volunteer hours contributing to the health of Victoria's biodiversity	330,000
Strategic Compliance Operations Implemented by the Conservation Regulator	6

Additional Information

Links to additional information
Container Deposit Scheme
environment.vic.gov.au
L environment.vic.gov.au – BushBank Program
L environment.vic.gov.au – Environmental Volunteering Plan
L environment.vic.gov.au – Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037
State-wide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan
Recycling Victoria: A new economy
2023-24 State Budget Papers

Land Management



Land Management

Productive and effective land management



DEECA delivers effective management and governance of Victoria's public land to protect its social, economic and environmental values and maximise its use by all Victorians.

DEECA works with statutory agencies, committees of management, local governments and Traditional Owners to ensure that land is productive and is used in a sustainable manner; infrastructure on public land and in coastal environments is appropriate and well managed, the condition of marine, coastal and estuarine environments is protected, maintained and improved, and key biodiversity assets, priority habitats and ecological processes are healthy and secure.

Budget Outputs

Management of Public Land and Forests

This output provides for the improved stewardship of Victoria's forests, coasts and Crown land reserves. Through this output, the Department manages the natural, built and historic assets on public land responsibly, and incorporates management of public land in partnership with statutory agencies, committees of management and local government.

Parks Victoria

This output provides for the improved stewardship of Victoria's parks. Through this output, Parks Victoria manages the development and protection of natural, cultural and community assets for safe enjoyment and sustainable use by all Victorians. Parks Victoria works to ensure the State's park assets are managed efficiently and effectively.

Outcome Indicators

The areas that DEECA has identified that need to change in order to achieve Productive and effective land management are:

- Increase the sustainable management of public land
- Increase self-determination of Traditional Owners in land management decision-making and practices
- Increase public value benefits from government land

DEECA Initiatives

BP3 output initiatives

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
Delivering better parks and playgrounds	\$3.0m	\$4.4m	-	-
Doing what matters for local communities – environment	\$0.4m	\$0.3m	-	-
Implementing Great Ocean Road Management reforms	\$1.5m	\$1.4m	\$1.1m	-
Maintaining the Conservation Regulator	\$3.2m	-	-	-
Protecting our parks, pets and wildlife – dog parks	\$6.7m	\$6.7m	-	-
VicCoasts: Building a safe, healthier and more resilient marine and coastal environment for the community	\$7.0m	-	-	-

**Source: BP3 2023-24, Chapter 1 - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Output Initiatives*

Priority initiatives

Name	Description
Delivering Victoria's Regional Forest Agreement commitments	<p>This initiative delivers and implements Victoria's commitments under the Regional Forest Agreement.</p> <p>The fulfilment of intergovernmental commitments relating to forest regulation and management will improve environmental protections, support forest industries through improved regulatory arrangements, and empower Traditional Owners in forest management.</p>
Implement the Suburban Parks Program	<p>The Suburban Parks Program is creating over 6,500 hectares of new and upgraded parks and trails in Melbourne's growing suburbs, enhancing the city's open spaces and general liveability for residents and visitors.</p> <p>This includes the creation of 16 large new suburban parks, revitalisation of 41 existing parks, trails and infrastructure upgrades, and the creation of up to 14 new off-leash dog parks and 29 pocket parks.</p> <p>All leading agencies are working with Traditional Owners groups, partner agencies and local communities to deliver these projects.</p> <p>The program will ensure new areas of metropolitan Melbourne enjoy the same liveability as existing suburbs renowned for their active and passive recreational space.</p> <p>The parks will provide more green, open space to support community health and wellbeing, protect creek and habitat corridors, conservation areas, and rare and endangered plants and animals including significant native grasslands. Creating new and improved parks will also help communities adapt to the effects of climate change.</p>
Deliver the Open Space for Everyone Program	<p>DEECA will work with various public land managers to deliver up to six new dog parks, up to 22 dog park upgrades and 11 open space projects that will create new or improved parks and playgrounds across Victoria.</p>
Implement the Great Ocean Road Management Reform, visitor infrastructure improvements and erosion preparedness	<p>Delivery of this initiative as outlined in the Government's Great Ocean Road Action Plan will simplify the fragmented management arrangements of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks, and the broader region, protect and enhance the iconic coast and parks, improve the visitor experience and sustainably grow the visitor economy. It will also improve visitor infrastructure and increase the erosion preparedness of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority</p>
Deliver the VicCoasts Program to build a safer, healthier and more resilient marine and coastal environment	<p>The VicCoasts Program will deliver a range of initiatives from the Marine and Coastal Strategy 2022 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to Traditional Owners to self-determine priorities and embed their rights and obligations in marine and coastal management. • Implementation of the Victoria's Resilient Coast framework and guidelines, and Victoria's marine spatial planning framework. • Enhance the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program and the Marine and Coastal Knowledge Framework and continue the implementation of the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan. • Delivery of the 2023-24 Coastal Public Access and Risk grants program. • Implementing strategic asset management practices to identify priority assets for maintenance and replacement and deliver adaptation-based responses to manage the impacts of coastal hazards. <p>The VicCoasts program will build resilience in our marine and coastal areas and establish the foundations for climate adaptation of Victoria's marine and coastal environment.</p>

Measuring our success

Outcome Measure	Target 2023-24
Visits to the public land estate managed by Parks Victoria	121m
Traditional owner satisfaction with DEECA's progress in enabling self-determination	70%

Additional Information

Links to additional information
<u>Great Ocean Road Action Plan</u>
<u>Managing Crown Land</u>
<u>Marine and Coastal Act 2018</u>
<u>Parks Victoria – State of the Parks</u>
<u>State of the forest report</u>
<u>Suburban Parks</u>
<u>VicCoasts Program – Coastcare Victoria Community Grants</u>
<u>Victoria's Regional Forest Agreement</u>
<u>23-24 State Budget Papers</u>

Water



Water

Safe, sustainable and productive water resources



DEECA works to ensure that Victoria has safe, sustainable and productive water resources to meet urban, rural, environmental and cultural needs, now and in the future.

This objective increases the security of supply and the efficient use of water in cities and towns and improves the environmental condition of waterways to ensure Victoria has safe and sustainable water resources to meet future urban, rural and environmental needs.

DEECA works in partnership with water corporations, catchment management authorities, government agencies, industry, Traditional Owners and the community to balance the economic, environmental and social values of water. This helps to deliver secure water supplies, greener and liveable cities and towns, and healthy waterways and aquifers.

Budget Outputs

Effective Water Management and Supply

This output develops policies, provides strategic advice and oversees regulatory systems and institutional arrangements to effectively manage Victoria's water resources. Through this output, the Department delivers on-ground environmental programs to improve the health of waterways, water industry reform, governance and performance oversight, integrated water management, sustainable irrigation programs, and makes water resource information accessible to enable informed decision making.

Outcome Indicators

The areas that DEECA have identified that need to change in order to achieve safe, sustainable and productive water resources are:

- Increase security and resilience of Victoria's water systems
- Increase implementation of Traditional Owner determined priorities for water management
- Improve the environmental condition of Victoria's waterways and catchments
- Increase inclusion of social and community values in water management
- Increase efficiency of water use
- Improve water sector governance, systems integration, and water emergency management

DEECA Initiatives

BP3 output initiatives

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
Activating Tarago Reservoir for on-water recreation	\$2.3m	\$5.4m	\$0.4m	-
Delivering community benefits through implementation of the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy	\$1.2m	-	-	-
Protecting waterways so our wildlife can thrive	\$6.0m	\$3.0m	\$1.0m	-

**Source: BP3 2023-24, Chapter 1 - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Output Initiatives*

Priority initiatives

Name	Description
Improving the health of Victoria's waterways and catchments in the face of escalating impacts of climate change	<p>This initiative delivers an integrated set of programs designed to maintain and improve the condition of priority waterways and catchments across Victoria. Restoring these natural assets, which are of significant value to current and future generations, requires large-scale and long-term investment. This in turn, supports regional employment, primarily within catchment management authorities (CMAs) and their delivery partners and contractors.</p> <p>The initiative includes significant on ground works components at rivers, wetlands and estuaries, as well as management and delivery of water for the environment, and extensive stewardship and partnership projects with Traditional Owners and local communities. It also supports regulatory protection of waterways through the processing of permits, licenses and approvals.</p>
Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project	<p>The Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project (VMFRP) consists of nine projects that aim to return a more natural water inundation regime across approximately 14,000 hectares of high-ecological-value Murray River floodplain in Victoria by constructing new infrastructure and modifying the existing infrastructure. This water would bring new life and help these ecologically significant floodplains to survive through an increasingly hotter and drier future, so they can continue to be enjoyed by generations to come.</p> <p>This will improve the condition of vegetation communities and provide habitat for native fish, birds, frogs and turtles and work to restore the floodplains. It is key to meeting Victoria's water recovery obligations under the Basin Plan and reducing pressure on the regional community. Environmental water alone cannot achieve the overall environmental outcomes required to restore the floodplains. Apart from a lack of water, our floodplains are disconnected from the Murray River because of constraints created by agricultural and infrastructure development along the floodplains.</p> <p>This means we cannot water many parts of the floodplain without inundating private land or infrastructure, which is something Victoria will not do without prior consent. Victoria is exploring how we can overcome some of these constraints and support a more enhanced natural river flow, while addressing any minor inundation that may impact public and private land, infrastructure, stock, crops, and people.</p>
Urban Water Security – Augmentation readiness to improve urban water security and enable water returns to the environment and Traditional Owners	<p>Victoria's water sector faces a growing challenge in continuing to provide affordable water security for Victorians while minimising the environmental impacts of water extraction. The Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (CGRSWS), a comprehensive response to the water security challenges for all water users and the environment, has been developed in partnership with the water sector, Traditional Owners and the community.</p> <p>This program is one of four funding streams under the 2022-23 Phase One Implementation of the CGRSWS initiative, which will collectively deliver on immediate, priority actions under the CGRSWS. This program includes the following activities over two years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication, ongoing coordination annual review and update of the Water GridPlan. • South Central Reform Program. • Gippsland Water's Access to Tarago.

Iconic Urban Waterways Program including the Green Links Initiative	<p>Victoria's iconic urban waterways - including the Yarra, Maribyrnong, Werribee, and Barwon, hold significant social, cultural, environmental, and economic values. The pressure on these waterways is increasing as Victoria's urban population grows and climate change continues.</p> <p>This program will deliver the Yarra Strategic Plan, Waterways of the West Action Plan and the Rivers of the Barwon (Barre Warre Yalluk) Action Plan to protect and enhance the values of these waterways, and work towards achieving the communities' long-term visions for these iconic waterways.</p> <p>In addition, in response to population growth and development pressures, the 2022 Election Commitment 'Protecting Waterways So Our Wildlife Can Thrive' committed the government to establishing a \$10 million Green Links fund to support revegetation along our creeks, rivers, and waterways – to plant trees, help revegetate our waterways and protect our wildlife.</p>
Building Flood Resilience in Victoria	<p>Major flood events in Victoria cause significant damage to private and public property and infrastructure, lost productivity, and considerable stress and anxiety for communities.</p> <p>Preparing, planning for, and responding to a flood event is key to reducing damage and protecting livelihood. To support this aim, DEECA oversees the investment in, detailed flood studies for flood prone communities, designs for construction of flood mitigation infrastructure and improved flood warning systems. Flood studies will provide maps and other data to assist CMAs and LGAs to avoid building homes and businesses on land that will flood in the future.</p> <p>DEECA will partner with the Bureau of Meteorology to implement new and improved flood warnings, support Catchment Management Authorities with funding to implement regional floodplain management strategies, and continue to improve our online FloodZoom platform, thereby meeting our obligations to support VICSES in responding to floods.</p>

Measuring our success

Outcome Measure	Target 2023-24
Hectares of vegetation works undertaken to improve the health and resilience of waterways	9,050
Place-based plans and actions underway for healthier communities and environments that encompass multiple values	9
Schools signed up to Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP)	1,800

Additional Information

Links to additional information
Murray-Darling Basin Agreement
Water and Catchments
L Water and Catchments – Building Flood Resilience in Victoria
L Water and Catchments – Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy
L Water and Catchments – Iconic Urban Waterways Program
L Water and Catchments – Protecting and restoring rural waterways and catchments

L Water and Catchments – Water for Victoria

L Water and Catchments – Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap

L Water and Catchments – Victorian Flood Management Strategy

Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project

23-24 State Budget Papers



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