One-DEECA: This is our business 2025-26

# Our vision

Thriving, productive and sustainable communities, environments and industries.

# First Peoples Self Determination

Portfolio priorities are informed by DEECA’s commitment to our eight Outcomes and Pupangarli Marnmarnepu ‘Owning our Future’ Aboriginal Self‑Determination Strategy 2020–25.

# Supporting priorities

* Drive informed, evidence-based decision making
* Prioritise process improvement
* Deliver strategic leadership
* Leverage technology and digital solutions
* Support a strong, inclusive and high performing workforce

# Our outcomes

## Agriculture and Forestry

### Productive and sustainably used natural 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
* Expand and develop the economic potential of the agriculture sector while managing biosecurity, animal welfare and other risks, and minimising 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

#### Success in 2025–26 looks like:

* 2,000,000 trees planted under the Gippsland Plantation Investment Program to ensure a long-term and sustainable plantation timber industry
* 90% of preparedness activities implemented, in line with agreed plans, to ensure response readiness for emergency animal and plant pest, disease and natural disaster incidents
* 50% ratio of external funds co-invested in agriculture research and development projects

## Climate Action

### Net-zero emissions, climate-ready economy and community

#### To succeed, we must:

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

#### Success in 2025–26 looks like:

* 8.5 million kWh saved by Victorian schools participating in the ResourceSmart Schools program managed by Sustainability Victoria
* 100% of statutory outputs under the *Climate Action Act 2017* delivered on time
* On track for 28-33% reduction in Victoria’s emissions by 2025

## Earth Resources

### Sustainable development of Victoria’s earth resources

#### To succeed, we must:

* Increase investment in Victoria’s earth resources, including new critical minerals required to support decarbonisation and develop value-adding industries
* Build confidence in the performance of the earth resources sector in Victoria and its regulation
* Secure the supply of quarry materials essential for new infrastructure and construction

#### Success in 2025–26 looks like:

* At least 80 million tonnes of new quarry resources approved for extraction in 2025-26
* 95% of mineral license applications and work plans processed within regulatory timeframes in 2025-26
* 10 Geoscience data packages released in 2025-26 to promote earth resource opportunities across the State

## Emergency Management

### Reduced impact of major bushfires and other emergencies

#### To succeed, we must:

* 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

#### Success in 2025–26 looks like:

* Statewide bushfire risk is maintained at or below 70%
* 80% of bushfires contained at less than 5 hectares/first attack to suppress fires before they become established, minimising impact
* 12 stakeholder and community forums on bushfire management and planning held
* All readiness and response plans completed by October 2025, prior to the upcoming fire season

## Energy

### Reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services

#### To succeed, we must:

* 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 within the renewable energy sector
* Enabling Aboriginal self‑determination in the energy transition sector
* Increase access to affordable renewable energy for Victorians and reduce emissions

#### Success in 2025–26 looks like:

* 74,700 Solar Homes Program rebates and loans provided to Victorian households
* 7.3m Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates surrendered under the Victorian Energy Upgrades program
* 25 neighbourhood batteries installed, including batteries specifically for Traditional Owners and First Peoples communities
* 3 000 vulnerable Victorian energy consumers supported to navigate the energy market by the Energy Assistance Program
* 70% of users of the Victorian Energy Compare website who report they are likely to recommend the website to others

## Environment and Circular Economy

### Healthy, resilient and biodiverse environment

#### To succeed, we must:

* 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
* Reduce waste and increase circularity of resources in the Victorian economy
* Regulate public land use, biodiversity and fire prevention to support equitable and safe access to public land and natural resources, while protecting biodiversity and heritage values
* Restoring our native forests following the end of native timber harvesting, including regeneration works and seed collection programs

#### Success in 2025–26 looks like:

* 72% of municipal and industrial waste diverted from landfill by 2025
* One billion drink containers collected during the year
* 400,000 environmental volunteer hours contributing to the health of Victoria’s biodiversity
* 70% of weed and pest animal control targeted towards priority locations to improve native species populations and habitats

## Land Management

### Productive and effective land management

#### To succeed, we must:

* 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

#### Success in 2025–26 looks like:

* 22 local parks, playgrounds and dog parks completed
* 70% Traditional Owner satisfaction with DEECA’s progress in enabling
self-determination
* 75% of recreational facilities in state forests maintained to have a life expectancy greater than five years.

## Water

### Safe, sustainable and productive water resources

#### To succeed, we must:

* 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 2025–26 looks like:

* 6 New flood studies funded to ensure communities understand flood risk and to inform investment in flood warning and mitigation measures
* 900 Households or community housing assisted in the Community Rebate and Housing Retrofit Program
* 8,000 hectares of waterway vegetation works undertaken to improve the health and resilience of waterways

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