

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2021-22 Budget Estimates



The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy,
Environment and Climate Change



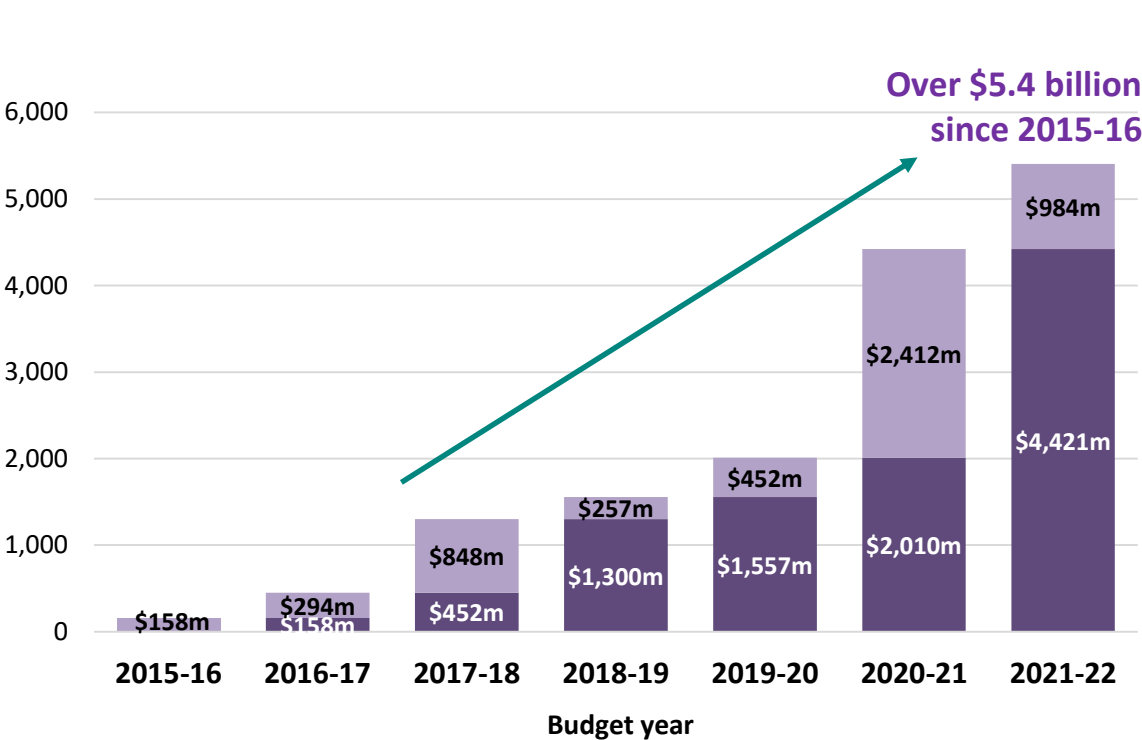
Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

Investment in Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Cumulative Investment in the Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio

The 2021-22 Budget has delivered additional investment, with \$984 million in new funding approved.

This results in an investment of over \$5.4 billion since the 2015-16 budget.



■ Prior year(s) funding approved
■ New funding approved

* Energy new investment only included from 2017-18 budget.

2021-22 Budget Highlights

\$517 million for
bushfire response
and preparedness

\$340 million for
the environment

\$110 million to
maintain essential
energy functions
and support zero
emission vehicles

\$517 million for Bushfire Response and Preparedness

- **\$133.5 million** funding for **Enhanced Communication during Emergencies** will deliver the transition to the digital Regional Mobile Radio Network.
- **\$383.6 million** funding to **Reduce Bushfire Risk in a Rapidly Changing Environment** including supporting the Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy, establishing the Office of Bushfire Risk Management and continuing the actions initiated in the Safer Together and Reducing Bushfire Risk Programs.



Management of bushfires – mechanical and non-burn fuel treatment

\$15.6 million of the \$383.6 million funding in the Reducing Bushfire Risk in a Rapidly Changing Environment has been provided for increased mechanical and non-burn fuel treatments to reduce the fuel load in high risk and long untreated areas.

These areas are difficult to treat using traditional methods such as burning due to steep slopes, heavy fuels and proximity to people and assets. Treatment can occur over a larger part of the year than fuel reduction burns.

The addition of \$15.6 million over four years will see the risk targeted program increase to 170 hectares in 2021-22 and 210 hectares ongoing.

The funding supports a key recommendation from the Inspector General of Emergency Management's Inquiry into the 2019-20 Victorian fire season Phase 1.



\$340 million for the environment

Includes:

- **Over \$90 million** to the Environment Protection Authority including **\$47.6 million to perform regulatory functions** under new legislation commencing on 1 July, **\$15 million** to deliver core services to protect Victoria's environment and health from pollution and waste, **\$13.8 million for the Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLE)** program as well funding for the **clean-up of two dangerous waste sites.**
- **\$31.7 million** to **Parks Victoria** to continue the park ranger program, retaining 57 park ranger and support staff roles and delivering a comprehensive and contemporary master plan for Wattle Park in Burwood.
- **\$37.9 million** funding to **Deliver Victoria's Regional Forest Agreement commitments** that will support the transition of Victoria's state forests over and beyond the next decade.



Environment continued

- **\$39.1 million** for **Bushfire Recovery Projects** to fast-track Victoria's recovery from the 2019-20 bushfires. This includes:
 - **\$22.0 million** over four years to continue opening roads impacted and cut off during bushfires, and to manage the ongoing safety risk of hazardous trees along these fire-affected roads. This will ensure continued safe access to and through public land.
 - **\$14.1 million** over four years to continue to reinstate visitor sites **across** fire-affected public land, support Parks Victoria to employ dedicated recovery works crews to restore visitor sites and assets and continue important safety works across parks and visitor sites – to welcome visitors back to fire-affected areas.
 - **\$2.0 million** over one year to provide direct support to Traditional Owners for Reading and Healing of Country activities – including application of cultural knowledge and practice and restoration of culturally-significant species.
 - **\$1.0 million** to improve wildlife welfare outcomes during future emergencies and purchase equipment, provide operational support and support a new training program for rehabilitators and veterinarians that will strengthen response activities.

Environment continued

- **\$20.0 million** to **Zoos Victoria** to continue the **Kids Free Zoos Victoria program**
- **\$8.7 million** to **Protect Regional Environments** to ensure the effective regulation and protection of Victoria's wildlife and forests can continue.
- **\$4.5 million** for **Great Ocean Road Management reforms and visitor infrastructure.**
- **\$2.8 million** for **EcoCentre Redevelopment** for a new facility in the Port Phillip EcoCentre.
- **\$2.9 million** to **make Public Land Safe from Contamination** which will fund environment assessments at three public reserves and wastewater treatment at two public reserves.



Environment continued

- **\$10 million** over two years to **Seize the economic opportunity of a net zero, climate resilient State** and deliver on the recently announced Climate Change Strategy.
- **\$5.0 million** to **plant new trees in Melbourne's west** – creating cooler spaces for families in the western suburbs.
- **\$4.0 million** funding for the **replacement of the wastewater plant and sewage network at Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort.**
- **\$3.0 million** for a comprehensive review of the **Wildlife Act.**
- **\$2.5 million** for **Emergency Sector Reform.**
- **\$1.8 million** funding over two years for **A Clean Air Future For Victorians.**



Environment continued

- **\$51.9 million to deliver unique biodiversity protection through community driven action** to protect Victorian plants and animals and continue the long term support provided to environmental volunteering and Landcare in Victoria.
- **\$8.8 million** over four years to continue the work of the **Port Phillip Bay Fund** partnering with community to address key issues impacting the Bay.
- **\$5.0 million** over four years to deliver **weed and pest management** in peri urban areas
- **\$4.0 million** over four years for the **Trust for Nature** to continue their work with private landholders increase the area of private land under permanent protection
- **\$5.8 million** funding over four years for a **wildlife protection and support package** which will support critical habitat protection, management of our faunal emblems, improved wildlife welfare outcomes and the Victorian Wildlife Hotline

\$110.4 million to maintain essential energy functions and support zero emission vehicles

- **\$62.9 million** to **maintain essential energy functions** focusing on network and community safety, the boom in renewable energy, and ensuring that retailers respect the rights of vulnerable customers through our Energy Fairness Plan.
- **\$1.5 million** to continue the **powerline bushfire safety program**, including a Legislation and Regulation Review, continued rollout of Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters, and investment in research and development such as the Private Overhead Electric Line Scheme.
- **\$46.0 million** to encourage and support the purchase of **zero emissions vehicles**, through the new Zero Emissions Vehicles subsidy.



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