

# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

## Inquiry into the 2019-20 Budget Estimates



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



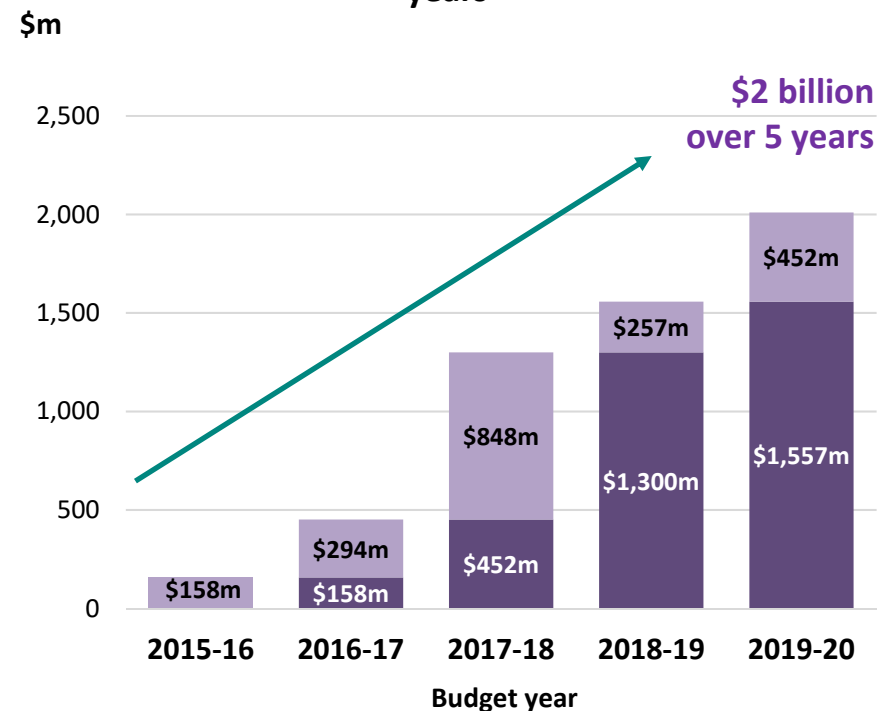
Environment,  
Land, Water  
and Planning

## Investment in Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Our last five state budgets have delivered unprecedented investment, with over **\$2 billion** in new funding approved.

This includes an investment of **\$452 million** in the **2019-20 Budget**.

Cumulative Investment in Energy, Environment and Climate Change over five years

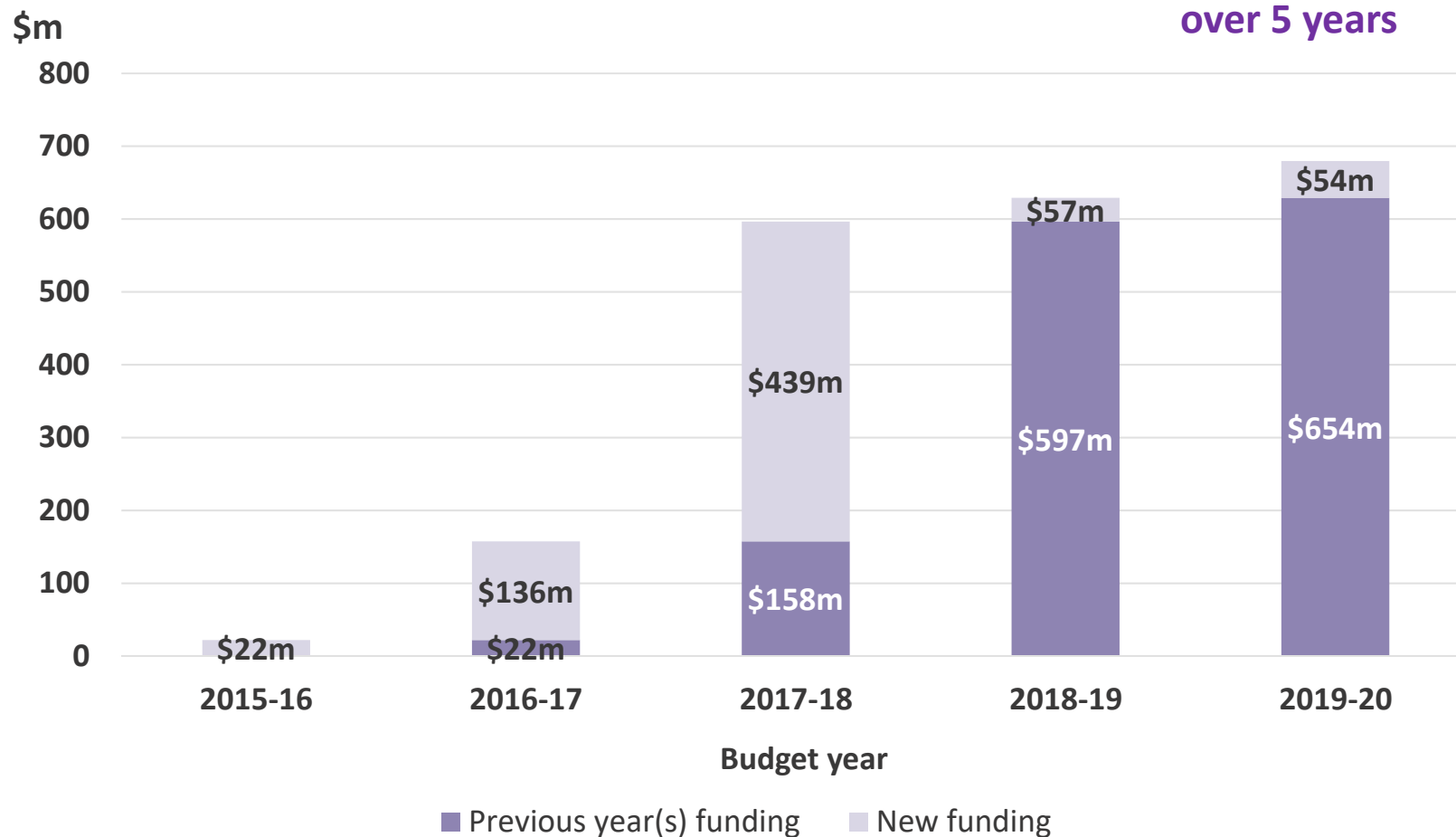


■ Prior year(s) funding approved  
 ■ New funding approved

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

## Cumulative investment from the Sustainability Fund

More than \$700m  
over 5 years



## 2019-20 Budget Highlights

**\$297 million** to manage public land and the environment

**\$43.3 million** to fire and emergency management

**\$66.1 million** to manage waste and recycling

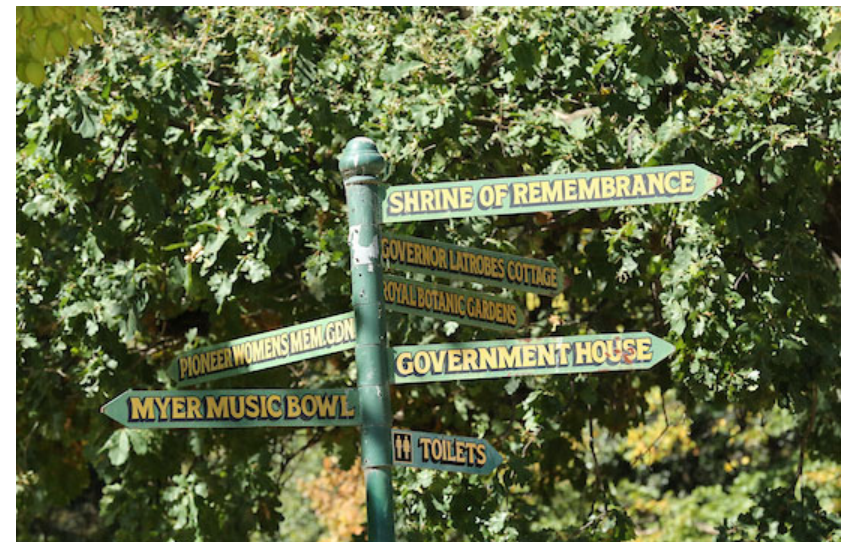
**\$34.2 million** for environment protection and climate change

**\$12 million** to improve energy services and support renewable energy

## \$297 million to manage public land and the environment

### Includes:

- **\$154 million** to create a ring of new parkland in our growing suburbs
- **\$105.6 million** to help more Victorians enjoy the great outdoors
- **\$11.2 million** to maintain on-ground wildlife management services, deliver the good neighbour program and minimise the impacts of wild dogs
- **\$3 million** to protect the future of Hanging Rock
- **\$3 million** to continue Victoria's Coastcare program



## \$297 million to manage public land and the environment (cont'd)

- **\$6.9 million** to continue the employment of 51 rangers and service delivery support staff
- **\$5 million** to upgrade the Botanic Gardens across the state
- **\$3 million** to continue giving kids free access to Zoos Victoria sites on weekends and holidays
- **\$1.79 million** to upgrade and rebuild of the Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve
- **\$1.5 million** for the Great Ocean Road action plan
- **\$1 million** to upgrade the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail
- **\$0.6 million** for a covered walkway at Portarlington Pier
- **\$0.47 million** to the Wildlife Victoria Hotline



## Over \$43 million to fire and emergency management

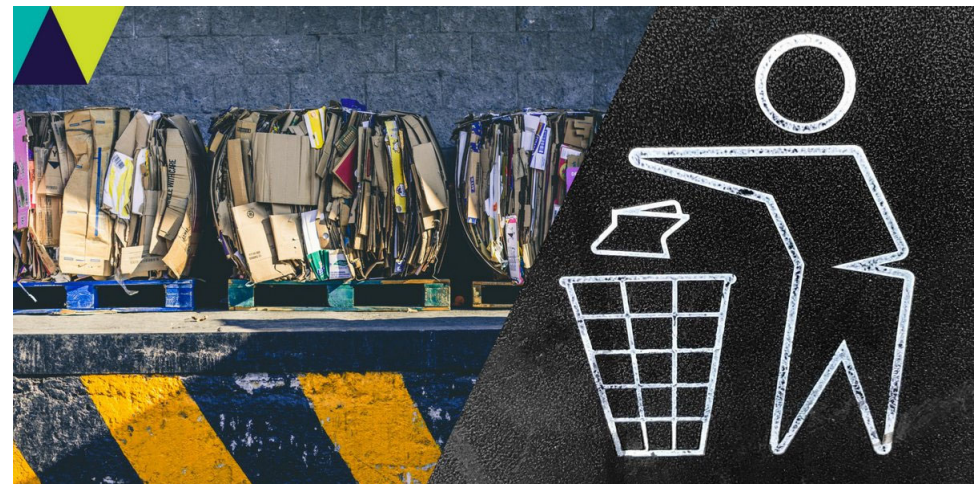
- **\$25.7 million** to continue Safer Together
- **\$17.5 million** for digital radio transition



## Over \$66 million to manage waste and recycling

- **\$34.9 million** for immediate priorities to strengthen the Victorian recycling sector
- **\$30 million** for Lara waste site rehabilitation
- **\$0.8 million** to the Landfill Levy Relief program
- **\$0.37 million** to support hazardous waste policy and planning

This brings this government's investment in the waste and resource recovery industry to more than **\$135 million**





## \$34.2 million for environment protection and climate change

- **\$15 million** to support EPA's transformation and deliver on critical reform
- **\$11 million** for Crown land remediation at Fitzroy Gasworks site
- **\$3.37 million** to extend and expand the Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment program
- **\$2.8 million** to continue the ResourceSmart Schools program
- **\$2 million** to develop the Climate Change Strategy



## \$12 million to improve energy services and support renewable energy

- **\$6.8 million** to fund national energy market reform bodies to enable the continued delivery of important national energy reforms during a period of rapid transformation
- **\$2.5 million** to support workplace safety and fairness at work by establishing a licensing scheme for electrical lineworkers
- **\$1.7 million** to take action on Gas Heater Safety program
- **\$1 million** for Newstead solar farm



## Energy

### **Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET)**

- 25 per cent by 2020
- 40 per cent by 2025
- 50 per cent by 2030

### **Renewable energy construction**

- 17 renewable energy projects providing 934 MW of new renewable energy capacity have been commissioned since 2014.
- 15 renewable energy projects totalling 2,809 MW are currently under construction in Victoria.
- A further 3,539 MW of new projects have received planning approval under our government but are yet to commence construction.

### **VRET 2017 Auction**

- Six successful projects totalling 928 MW, generating \$1.1 billion in investment and creating more than 900 construction jobs
- Three wind (all under construction), three solar (one under construction)

## Energy (cont'd)

### **Renewable Certificate Purchasing Initiative (RCPI)**

- Four successful projects totalling over 350 MW, around \$700 million in investment and approximately 700 construction jobs
- Two wind (both operational) and two solar (one operational and one under construction)

### **Bulgana Green Power Hub**

- 194 MW wind farm and 20 MW battery supporting the expansion of Stawell's Nectar Farms
- More than 1,300 jobs will be created including 280 direct ongoing jobs, with total investment of \$665 million. The project is currently under construction

## Energy (cont'd)

### Large-scale battery storage initiative

- Two successful projects totalling 55 MW and 80 MWh
  - Gannawarra - 25 MW/ 50 MWh
  - Ballarat - 30 MW/30 MWh
- Both batteries are operational and providing vital grid services

### The Energy Fairness Plan

- Simple, fair price for electricity to be available to all Victorian households - known as the Victorian Default Offer (VDO), to replace costly standing offers
- Power Saving Bonus extended to 30 June 2020

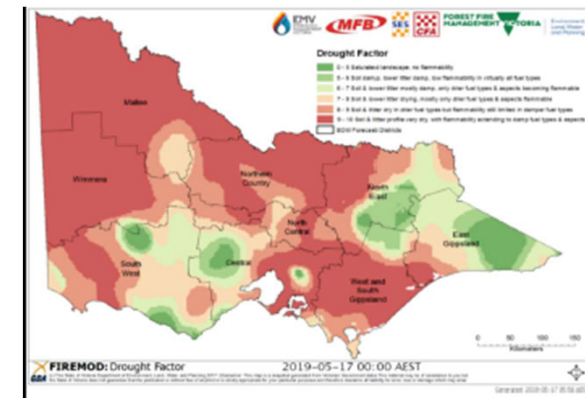
## We have also delivered on our commitments

- Large-scale batteries have been completed
- Powerline Bushfire Safety Program is in the final stages of delivery
- Victorian Energy Compare Website: more than 365,000 applicants for the \$50 bonus
- Victorian Renewable Energy Target 2017 Auction
- Securing the benefits of parks for all Victorians
- The Victorian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2018 was tabled in Parliament
- The *Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018* was passed and received Royal Assent
- Biodiversity 2037 Implementation Framework Annual Report was released

## Management of bushfires – fuel management in 2018-19 (to date)

Forest Fire Management Victoria are responsible for 8 million hectares of public land

- Total area burnt by bushfires 2018-19: 218,484 Ha
- Total fuel treatment 2018-19: 132,404 Ha
- Residual Risk (preliminary risk) 67 per cent
- Predicted drier than average winter and an early on set of summer
- A stronger focus on Cultural Burning with Traditional Owners



## Recycling Industry Reform Package

- **\$34.9 million** on immediate priorities to strengthen the Victorian recycling sector
- Builds on the \$37 million *Recycling Industry Strategic Plan* announced last year.
- The integrated package of reforms consists of:
  - **\$28.2 million** to:
    - accelerate collaborative procurement of recycling services by local governments, which will help strengthen and diversify the recycling sector
    - co-invest in increased secondary processing capacity to expand markets for recycled materials.
  - **\$2.2 million** to accelerate the uptake of recycled content in government procurement.
  - **\$1.9 million** for a review by the Essential Services Commission of waste and recycling services to ensure these meet expected standards.
  - **\$2.5 million** to expand existing community education and behaviour change programs.



## Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio

Investment through the 2019-20 Budget ensures that we continue to:

- **Create more parklands and encourage people to enjoy the great outdoors**
- **Take action on waste and recycling**
- **Protect our environment for this generation and the next**
- **Deliver a frontline services and manage bushfire risk across Victoria**

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