

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
JOBS, TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES

PAEC PRESENTATION AGRICULTURE

18 MAY 2015

Department of
Economic Development,
Jobs, Transport & Resources



THE PORTFOLIO / SECTOR IN VICTORIA

ECONOMIC

\$8.4b or 2.4% contribution to Gross State Product (GSP) in 2013-14

Agriculture

- 79,680 employed persons
- \$11.6b total value of production

Biosecurity

- 20+ biosecurity incursions

Fishing, forestry and hunting

- 26,300+ employed persons
- \$75.2m total value of production (fisheries)
- \$463m gross value of production (forestry)
- \$439m to GSP (game licence holders)

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL

Recreational fishing

- 750,000 fishers, 5,200 employed persons (direct & indirect), \$2.3b value

Game hunting

- 47,000 licenced hunters

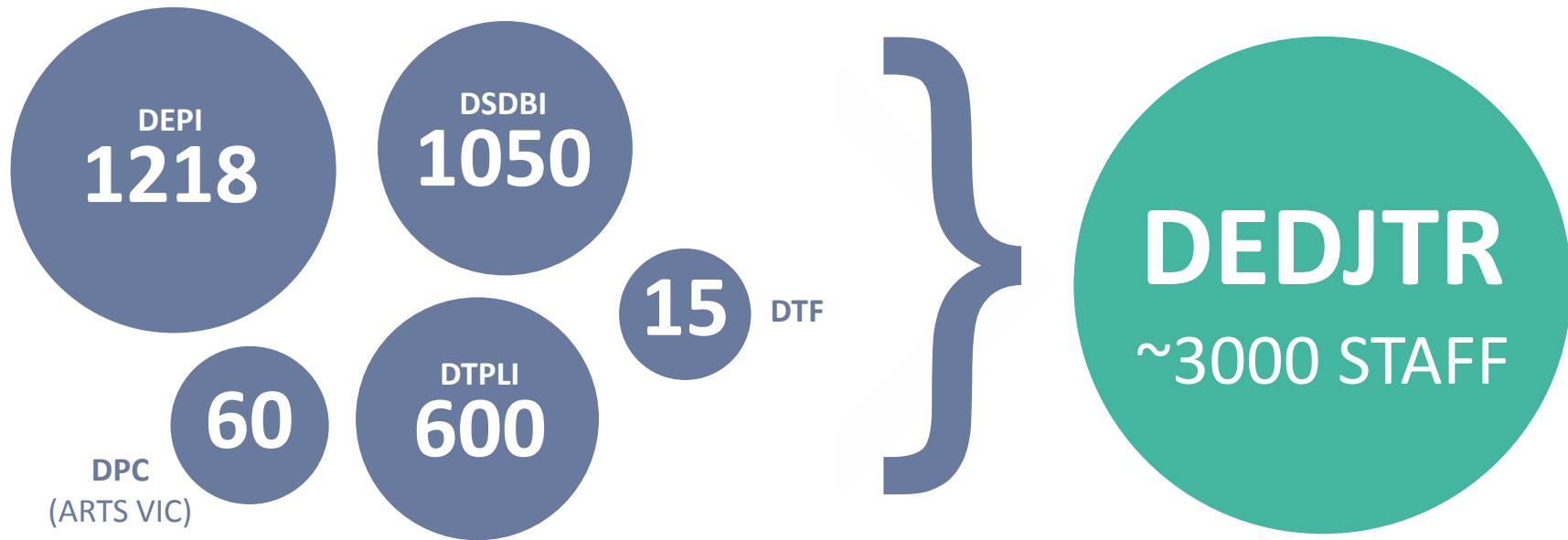
Domestic animals

- 673,000 registered dogs
- 213,000 registered cats

Animal welfare

- 773 livestock welfare reports
- 10,708 other animal welfare reports (RSPCA)

AGRICULTURE IN DEDJTR



WE NOW COVER	9 MINISTERS	13 PORTFOLIOS	7 GROUPS	
	87 SITES ACROSS VICTORIA	18 OVERSEAS OFFICES	\$8b OPERATING BUDGET	\$2-4b CAPITAL BUDGET

PORTFOLIO KEY OBJECTIVES

Agriculture

- Grow agriculture and food jobs, supporting farming families and regional communities to transition
- Grow exports, establish new markets and overcome trade barriers
- Support industry-driven research and innovation to meet market requirements

Biosecurity

- Maintain market access and industry productivity
- Minimise the impact of animal and plant pests and diseases

Animal welfare & domestic animals

- Protect the welfare of all animals
- Encourage responsible pet ownership

Fishing, forestry & game hunting

- Sustainably manage and allocate Victoria's fishery, forest and game resources
- Grow recreational fishing and get more families outdoors

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Agriculture

- Signed off on concessional loans and raised concerns with the Federal Government on behalf of Victorian farmers about eligibility
- Inbound trade mission of 80 importers 12-14 March
- Improved breeding values for dairy cattle
- Use of new technologies to accelerate breeding of disease resistant pulse varieties

Fishing

- Securing the future of fishing at Lake Toolondo and established an advisory committee
- Completed record stocking of 250,000 golden perch into Lake Eildon
- Establishing world first recreational trout cod fishery

Forestry

- New sustainability measures for timber industry and Leadbeater's Possum
- Continued strong financial performance of VicForests

Game hunting

- Effective compliance of a full-length duck hunting season with bag limit restrictions

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Biosecurity

- Successful Anthrax control program
- Eradication programs for Chestnut Blight, Blueberry Rust and Giant Pine Scale
- Updated code of practice governing the use of 1080 pest animal baits
- Announcement of a state-wide forum on Fruit Fly Management and the Ground Up campaign to fight Queensland Fruit Fly in the Goulburn Valley

Animal welfare & domestic animals

- Moratorium on the destruction of restricted breed dogs during the length of the Parliamentary Inquiry
- Strengthened the mandatory breeding code for dogs and cats
- Greater powers for the RSPCA to regulate pet shops and breeding businesses
- Increased powers for councils to regulate ownership of domestic animal businesses
- Visits to over 873 Victorian schools and 2,192 kinders promoting responsible pet ownership messages
- Greyhound racing industry live baiting investigation by the Chief Veterinary Officer

KEY BUDGET INITIATIVES FOR 2015-16

Agriculture

- Young Farmer Scholarship program (\$726k)
- Ministerial Advisory Council on Young Farmers (\$193k)
- Rural Financial Counselling Service (\$1.5m)
- Food Source Victoria (\$20m) through the Regional Jobs Fund
- Addressing trade barriers (\$5.2m)
- Food labelling review (\$600k)
- Horticulture Innovation Fund (\$1m) through the Regional Jobs Fund

Fishing

Target One Million- \$20 million over four years to:

- Halt commercial fishing in Port Phillip and Corio Bays
- Establish a Better Fishing Facilities fund to improve fishing and boating facilities
- Deliver fish stocking and education programs including increasing fish stocking from 3 to 5 million per year

BUDGET INITIATIVES FOR 2015-16

Biosecurity

- Restoring critical biosecurity services to maintain market access and productivity (\$9.4m)
- Continue the fox bounty program (\$1m)

Animal welfare & domestic animals

- Funding for the RSPCA to support establishment of a special inspectorate to clamp down on and prosecute illegal puppy farmers (\$5m)