

Ingrid Stitt MP Minister for Environment



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
2023-24 Budget Estimates Hearing
14 June 2023



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

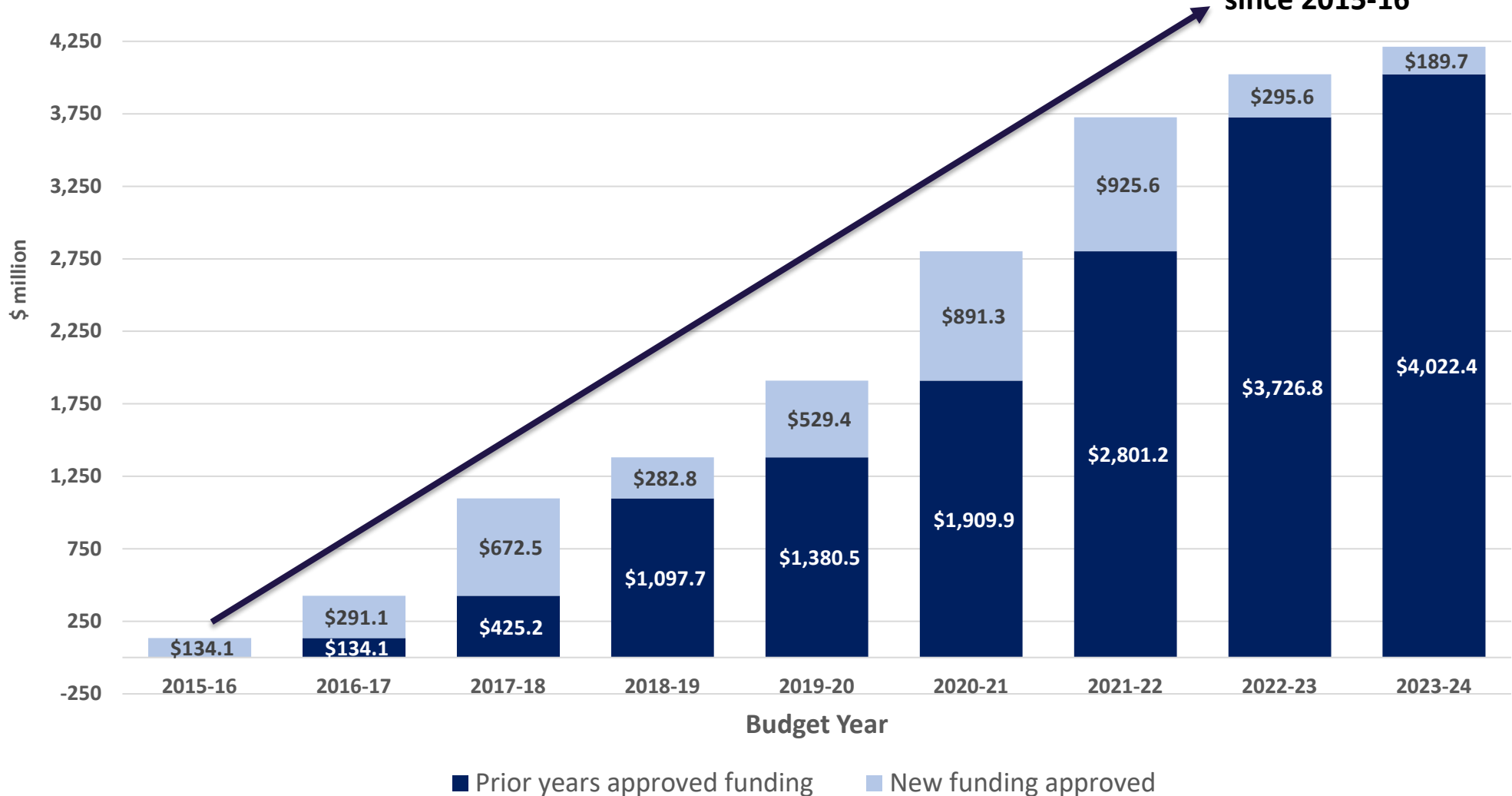
Investment in the Environment Portfolio

Cumulative Investment in the Environment Portfolio

Over \$4.2 billion since 2015-16

The **2023-24 Budget** has delivered additional investment of **\$190 million** for Environment-related initiatives.

This results in an investment with over **\$4.2 billion** since the 2015-16 Budget.



Delivering our election commitments



\$36.5 million to transition 50 short-term contract Forest Fire Management Victoria firefighters into full-time roles, ensuring public land is better protected from the threat of bushfire. An additional 54 short-term roles will also be continued for 2023-24.



\$10.9 million to upgrade visitor facilities and infrastructure at Serendip Sanctuary and the You Yangs (Wurdi Youang) to enhance and protect the natural and cultural precinct.



\$13.4 million to build six new dog parks in Armstrong Creek, Wollert, Sydenham, Endeavour Hills, Mount Waverley, and Wantirna and upgrade up to 22 existing dog parks



\$0.2 million to support Treasuring Our Trees to utilise fallen trees for local projects.



\$7.2 million for a package of wildlife welfare and conservation programs including:

- the creation of a wildlife hospital in south-western Victoria;
- support for the Wildlife Emergency Support Network;
- continuation and expansion of Zoos Victoria's Wildlife Outreach program; and
- support for Wildlife Victoria to run the Wildlife Hotline.



\$7.4 million for upgrades at parks, open spaces, and facilities.



\$0.7 million to provide funding to the Southern Otway Landcare Network and Kiewa Catchment Landcare groups, Parklands Albury Wodonga and Moriac Greenfields Reserve.

Invested over **\$515 million** to undertake a once-in-a-generation reform of our waste and recycling sector.

Rolling out a statewide **four-bin waste and recycling system**, including a new glass bin and organics bin.

Creating the most accessible **Container Deposit Scheme** in the country.

Banned problematic **single-use plastics**.



Supporting kids and families connect with nature

\$10.2 million to enable children under 16 to enjoy free admission to Victoria's world-class zoos

\$3.9 million to continue half-price camping fees at national and state parks across Victoria

\$2.9 million to continue the ResourceSmart Schools program, teaching young Victorians to combat pollution and waste

\$1 million is provided to progress the Community Enterprise Precinct Plan at CERES Environment Park



\$3.8 million to maintain strategic fuel breaks and reduce the risk of bushfires to communities, infrastructure and the environment

\$2 million to continue the Faunal Emblems Program and provide grants that combat the extinction risk of Victoria's endangered faunal emblem species

\$3.2 million to continue the operations of the Conservation Regulator's compliance and enforcement activities across the public land estate



\$46.9 million to enable the Environment Protection Authority to protect Victoria's environment from pollution and waste

\$20 million to complete the EPA's remediation of the Lemon Springs illegal waste site

\$2.0 million to secure environmental protection by retaining environment protection policy capability to identify and mitigate emerging environmental challenges



\$13.7 million to address critical erosion and flood risks, protect marine and coastal assets, and support the adaptation and resilience of coastal communities

\$4 million to implement reforms for the management of coasts and land under the management of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority



\$200 million in support for businesses, workers and their families to transition away from native timber harvesting, with funding commitments to:

- **secure** forest contractors for the 2023-24 financial year, with the intent to negotiate a longer term arrangement. These contractors will be offered alternative work in forest and land management across Victoria, including on bushfire prevention, response and recovery
- **deliver** additional land management works and regulatory functions to manage the 1.8 million hectares of public land currently subject to the timber harvesting allocation order, into the forest reserve system. An advisory panel will be set up to investigate the best use of these 1.8 million hectares



Sawpit Campground in Mount Clay State Forest