## The Hon Harriet Shing MLC Minister for Water

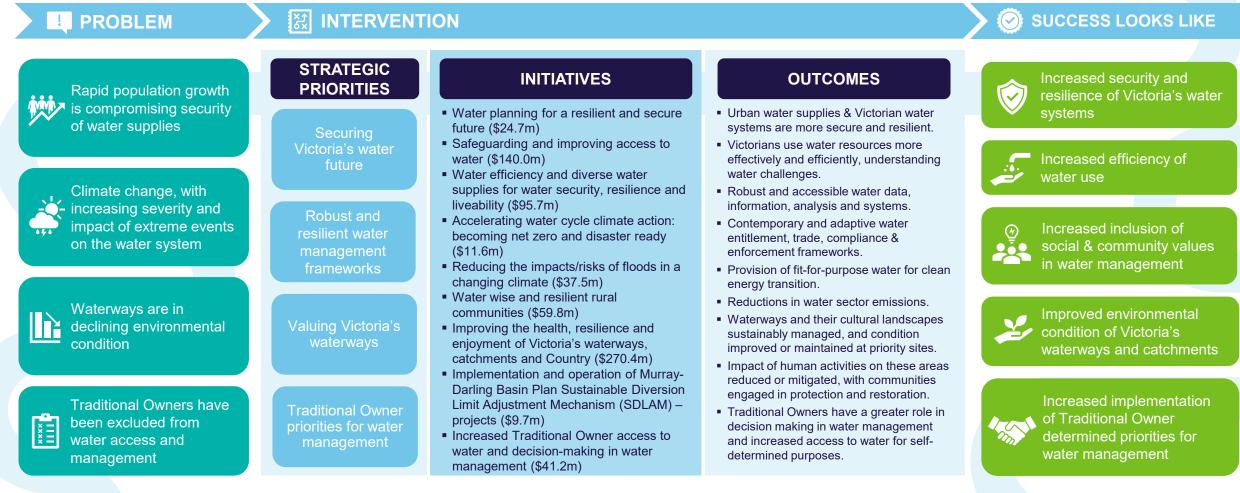
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2024-25 Budget Estimates Hearing 23 May 2024



Environment and Climate Action

### Safe, Sustainable and Productive Water Sources

EC6 Investment Plan



#### Investing \$705 million through 2024-28 to

## 2024-25 Budget initiatives

The 2024-25 Budget provides **\$690.6 million** for the Water portfolio:

**\$270.4 million** to continue to protect and restore Victoria's waterways and catchments through:

- delivering regional on-ground works on high-value waterways, including flagship waterways and Ramsar listed wetlands
- supporting healthy catchments, community resilience and Traditional Owner aspirations for Country through catchment stewardship and partnership projects
- delivering the Urban Waterways program, including development of action plans for the Yarra, Rivers of the Barwon, and Waterways of the West
- improving recreational planning, access and facilities at Victoria's waterways and lakes

### **\$140.0 million** to safeguard and improve access to water through:

- maintaining the water entitlement framework that underpins water entitlements across Victoria
- collection and publication of statewide groundwater and surface water data for over 2,000 water monitoring sites
- enhancement and maintenance of 15 water resource models to assess current and future water availability



• maintaining and improving the Victorian Water Register.

### 2024-25 Budget initiatives

**\$95.7 million** to diversify Victoria's water supplies and improve water-use efficiency through investment in integrated water management projects and programs that target behavioural change and reduce water wastage in schools, businesses and councils.

**\$59.8 million** to continue the existing work program to promote water efficiency and sustainable rural and regional irrigation communities and provide oversight of the delivery of significant rural, regional and periurban water infrastructure projects by water corporations in Victoria.

**\$41.2 million** to support Victoria's Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap to promote increased Traditional Owner access to water and decision making in water management.

**\$37.5 million** to continue the implementation of the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy and nine Regional Floodplain Management Strategies.



### 2024-25 Budget initiatives continued

**\$24.7 million** to enhance Victoria's water planning to deliver more resilient, coordinated and secure water systems in the face of a drying climate and growing demand for water.

**\$11.6 million** to implement the Water Cycle Adaptation Action Plan to reduce the vulnerability of the water system to climate-related risks. Funding is also provided to continue to address climate-related infrastructure deterioration.

**\$9.7 million** to ensure effective governance, management and monitoring requirements for water supply and efficiency projects that aim to improve water infrastructure and delivery systems and deliver against the Murray Darling Basin Plan.





# 2024-25 Budget Estimates Hearing Water Portfolio

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