

# Steve Dimopoulos MP Minister for Environment

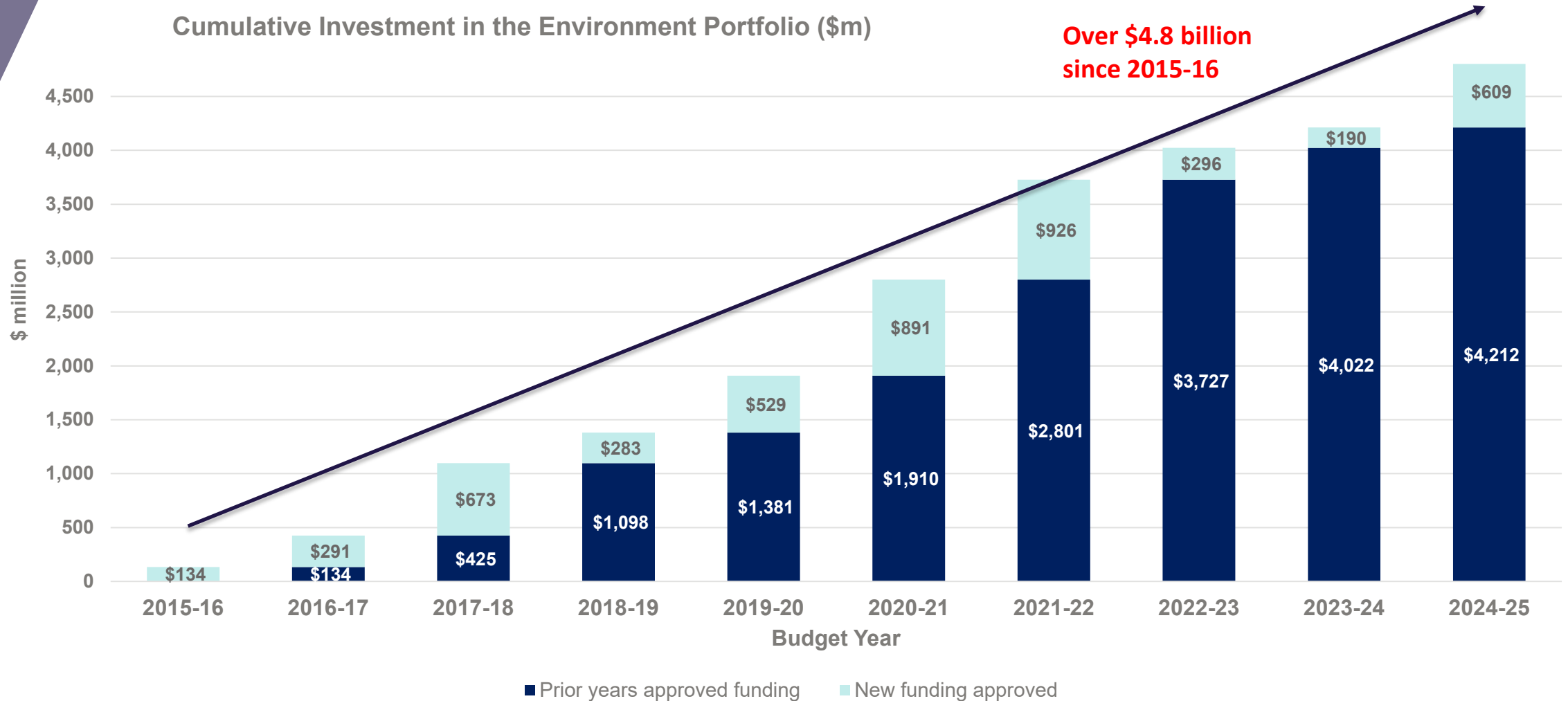


Public Accounts and Estimates Committee  
2024-25 Budget Estimates Hearing  
27 May 2024



Energy,  
Environment  
and Climate Action

# Investment in the Environment Portfolio

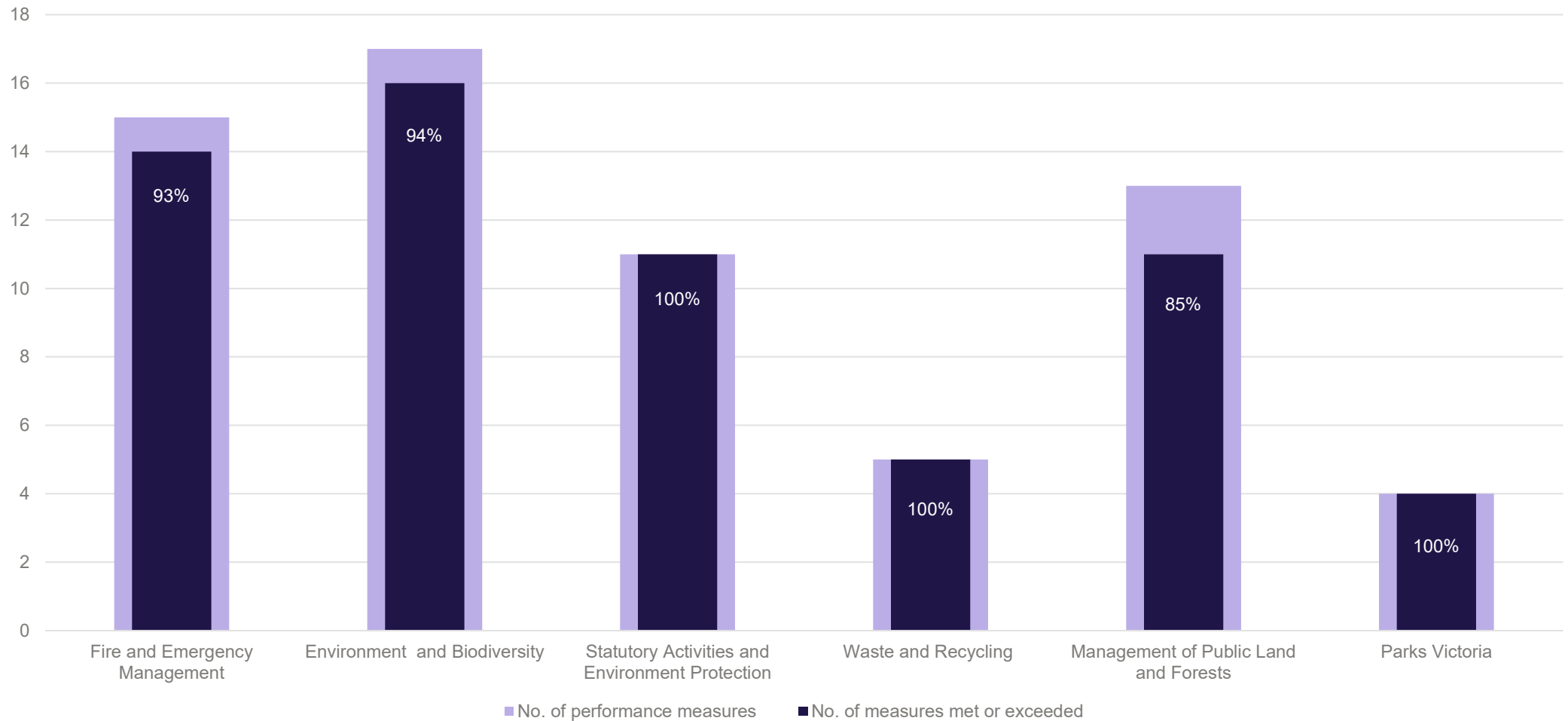


The **2024-25 Budget** has delivered additional investment of **\$609 million** for Environment-related initiatives.

This results in an investment with over **\$4.8 billion** since the 2015-16 Budget.

# Published BP3 expected outcomes vs performance measure targets

## 2023-24 expected outcome vs performance measure targets



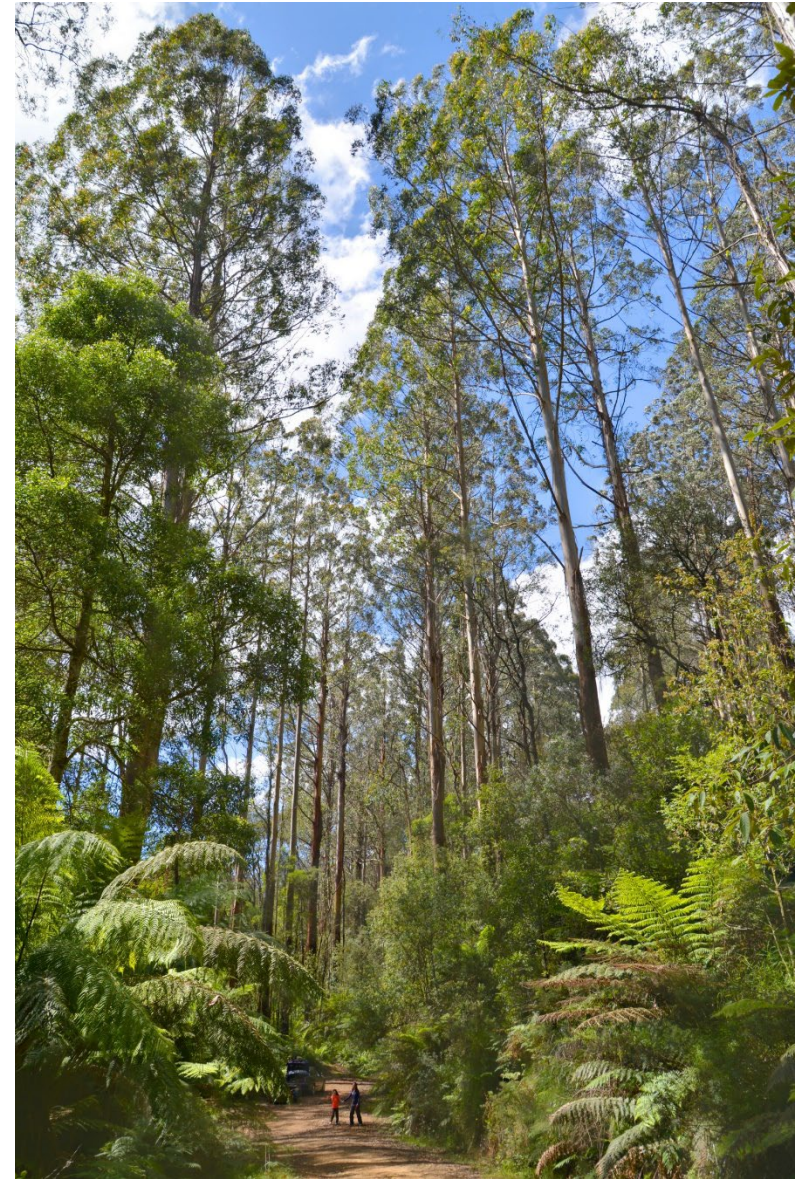
Note: two measures in the Parks Victoria output are not able to be measured in 2023-24 as the biennial survey will be next conducted in 2024-25 3

# Transitioning from Native Timber Harvesting

**\$290 million** to secure the services of forestry sector harvest and haulage entities for forest and fire management purposes. This will maintain important capability and equipment for forest management purposes, including bushfire prevention and response.

**\$115.7 million** to manage over 1.8 million hectares of state forest where timber harvesting will no longer occur due to the transition out of native timber harvesting that occurred on 1 January 2024. This includes restoration of forests post timber harvesting, collecting and storing tree seeds to restore forests including after bushfire, targeted on-ground biodiversity actions to support healthy forests, and a firewood strategy to strategically manage firewood supply pressures.

Funding is also provided for the Great Outdoors Taskforce to make recommendations to the Government on the future of how State forests are managed, including the 1.8 million hectares of State forests previously subject to the timber harvesting allocation order.



Toolangi State Forest

# Protecting Victorian communities

**\$36.9 million** to transition 54 short-term Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) firefighter roles to full-time roles on an ongoing basis to, alongside the Country Fire Authority, Fire Rescue Victoria and other emergency services, prepare and respond to bushfires on public land.

**\$21.3 million** for additional firefighting aviation resources to support the State's firefighting capability.

**\$20 million** to replace and renew critical fire and emergency assets. This will support the State's preventative bushfire services and rapid response to emergency events. This funding will go towards maintenance and replacement of heavy plant and machinery, basecamps and critical fire fighting vehicles safety systems, as well as maintenance and upgrading of ICT systems.

**\$14.5 million** for the extension of project firefighters conducting bushfire protection and fuel management works, including planned burns and aerial ignitions.



# Driving our Circular Economy

**\$12.5 million** to maintain circular economy policy functions within DEECA to continue to improve Victoria's waste and recycling system and help achieve the Government's ambitious circular economy targets.

**\$7.5 million** for the continuation of the existing waste levy grants rebate program for the charitable recycling sector to help manage waste management costs arising from illegal dumping. This initiative is in lieu of the proposed waste levy exemption announced in the 2023-24 Budget.

**\$8.9 million** for the ResourceSmart Schools program to embed sustainable behaviours among Victorian school communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, resource usage and the amount of waste going to landfill.

**\$10.0 million** for a landfill gate fee rebate so that all emergency related waste within affected local government areas can be disposed of free of charge until April 2024

**\$2.4 million** to support Recycling Victoria in providing stewardship and oversight of the State's waste, recycling and resource recovery sector. This includes funding to realise the benefits of previous investments in Victoria's waste data systems and infrastructure.



**\$11.9 million** to continue the successful Zoos Victoria Kids Free Policy that supports Victorian families to visit zoos on weekends, public holidays and school holidays.

**\$12.5 million** to improving amenities for regional tourism. This will provide upgrades of water treatment plants at Tidal River in Wilsons Promontory National Park. Funding is also provided to plan and install car parking infrastructure at the Twelve Apostles and other coastal towns along Victoria's Great Ocean Road.

**\$2 million** to Trust for Nature to facilitate the establishment of land conservation covenants on up to 50 parcels of eligible privately owned land in Melbourne.



**\$2.2 million** to continue joint land management of the Barmah National Park in partnership with the Yorta Yorta people.

# Strengthening our regulators and environmental health

**\$44.4 million** for the continuation of a variety of Environment Protection Authority (EPA) programs, including, to detect, prevent and disrupt waste crime and protect against negative environmental and health consequences.

**\$1.2 million** for make-safe works to various parks and public land to address the health and safety of Victorians, manage the environmental health of sites and increase visitation.





**\$3.2 million** to acquire lots in Ninety Mile Beach, a 25-kilometre strip of land between Bass Strait and Lake Reeve in East Gippsland, to add to the surrounding Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park and ensure greater environmental protection and public enjoyment.

**\$1.0 million** to support community organisations and volunteer groups to maintain Victoria's marine and coastal environments.

