

The Hon Harriet Shing MLC Minister for Water



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





Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action


Safe, Sustainable and Productive Water Sources


EC6 Investment Plan

PROBLEM

 Rapid population growth is compromising security of water supplies

 Climate change, with increasing severity and impact of extreme events on the water system

 Waterways are in declining environmental condition

 Traditional Owners have been excluded from water access and management

INTERVENTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Securing Victoria's water future

Robust and resilient water management frameworks

Valuing Victoria's waterways

Traditional Owner priorities for water management


INITIATIVES


- Water planning for a resilient and secure future (\$24.7m)
- Safeguarding and improving access to water (\$140.0m)
- Water efficiency and diverse water supplies for water security, resilience and liveability (\$95.7m)
- Accelerating water cycle climate action: becoming net zero and disaster ready (\$11.6m)
- Reducing the impacts/risks of floods in a changing climate (\$37.5m)
- Water wise and resilient rural communities (\$59.8m)
- Improving the health, resilience and enjoyment of Victoria's waterways, catchments and Country (\$270.4m)
- Implementation and operation of Murray-Darling Basin Plan Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) – projects (\$9.7m)
- Increased Traditional Owner access to water and decision-making in water management (\$41.2m)


OUTCOMES


- Urban water supplies & Victorian water systems are more secure and resilient.
- Victorians use water resources more effectively and efficiently, understanding water challenges.
- Robust and accessible water data, information, analysis and systems.
- Contemporary and adaptive water entitlement, trade, compliance & enforcement frameworks.
- Provision of fit-for-purpose water for clean energy transition.
- Reductions in water sector emissions.
- Waterways and their cultural landscapes sustainably managed, and condition improved or maintained at priority sites.
- Impact of human activities on these areas reduced or mitigated, with communities engaged in protection and restoration.
- Traditional Owners have a greater role in decision making in water management and increased access to water for self-determined purposes.


SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

 Increased security and resilience of Victoria's water systems

 Increased efficiency of water use

 Increased inclusion of social & community values in water management

 Improved environmental condition of Victoria's waterways and catchments

 Increased implementation of Traditional Owner determined priorities for water management

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

Promote sustainable water management

Address water-related adverse environmental impacts

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.



\$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 peri-urban 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.



\$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.



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