

# Financial Performance and Outcomes 2023-24

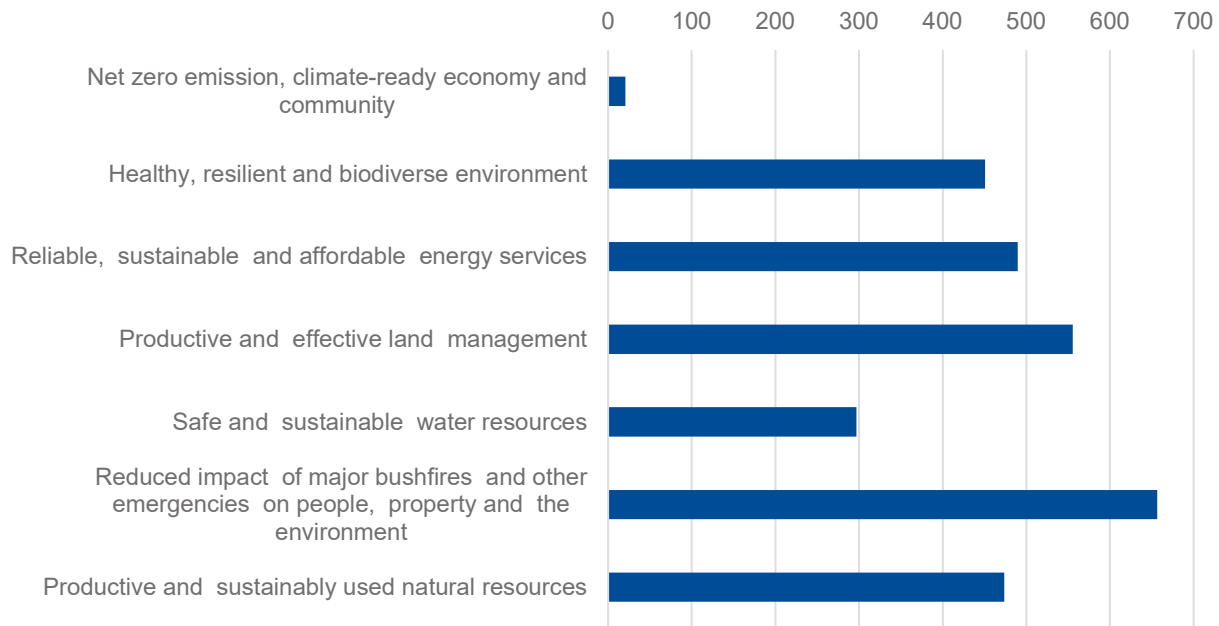


# One-DEECA: This is our business

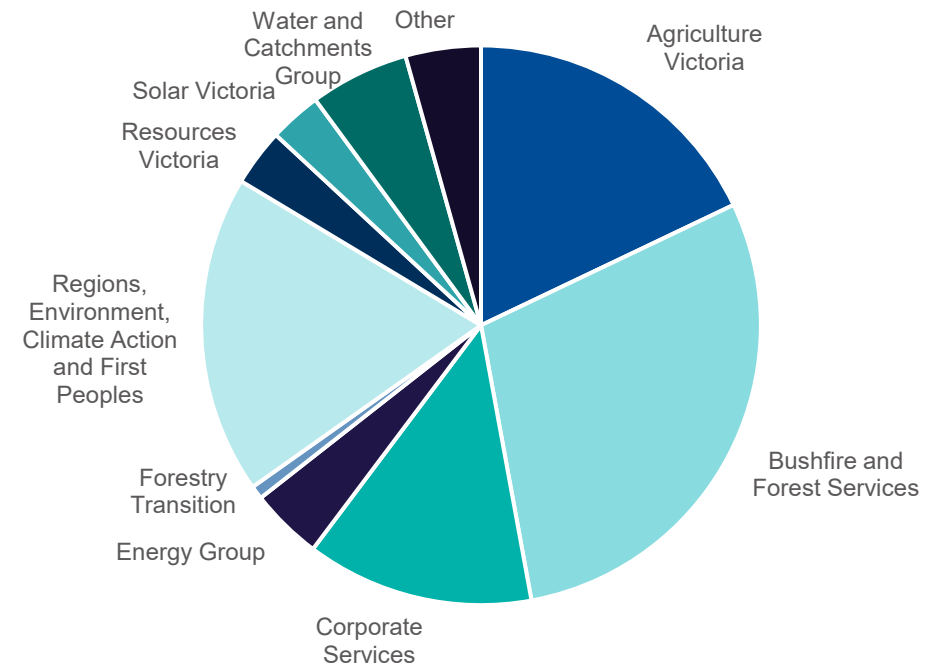
## What we do

DEECA brings together Victoria's energy, environment, water, agriculture, forestry, resources, climate action, and emergency management functions into a single department to maximise connections between the environment, community, industry and economy.

2023-24 expenditure by outcome (\$ million)



DEECA Staff (by headcount)



# DEECA's role in emergency management in 2023-24

## Energy supply disruptions

- Led the response to the energy supply disruptions caused by the 13 February 2024 storms, which resulted in more than 530,000 homes and businesses losing power at the peak of the event
- Supported the independently led Network Outage Review into the system response to the storms

## Water sector

- Responded to events including dam safety and water service disruptions
- Progressed critical actions identified from reviews of past events and clarified water emergency activation triggers and roles

## Managing wildlife welfare

- Completed wildlife emergency response activities in relation to fire, extreme heat, marine pollution, cetacean strandings and disentanglement events
- Trained and deployed individuals including vets to support wildlife affected by bushfires

## Biosecurity and natural disaster emergencies impacting agriculture

- Responded to the detection of avian influenza
- Worked with the apiary industry to successfully prevent an incursion of Varroa mite into Victoria
- Responded to the detection of Brown marmorated stink bugs in Melbourne

## Bushfire preparedness and response

- Suppressed 1,179 fires impacting 50,890 hectares of public land
- Completed planned burning and other bushfire risk-reduction activities covering 138,454 hectares to maintain risk at or below 70%



# Victoria's Outdoors

## Creating new parkland

- Established 7 suburban pocket parks
- Acquired 86 hectares of former landfill sites for the creation of the Sandbelt Parklands to connect areas of open space for communities in Melbourne's south-east
- Acquired 391 hectares of land for 3 new regional parks in Clyde, Deanside and Werribee
- Developed parkland plans for biik wurrdha Jacksons Creek, Cardinia Creek Regional Parklands, Marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands and Quarry Hills bunjil nganga Regional Parklands, with initial infrastructure planned to be completed by mid-2025

## Enhancing outdoor recreation and facilities

- Completed mapping of 400 sites on Crown water frontages to unlock public access and enable camping opportunities along Victorian rivers
- Continued half-price camping fees
- Reopened Buchan Caves Reserve in March 2024 following major flood recovery works, in collaboration with Gunaikurnai Rangers, Parks Victoria, and East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
- Progressed the opening of Tarago Reservoir to on-water recreation through investment in water treatment infrastructure, ensuring that recreational fishing does not compromise water quality



- Delivered 77 Summer by the Sea events through the Coastcare program, providing more than 2,000 Victorians and visitors the opportunity to connect to our coastal and marine environment

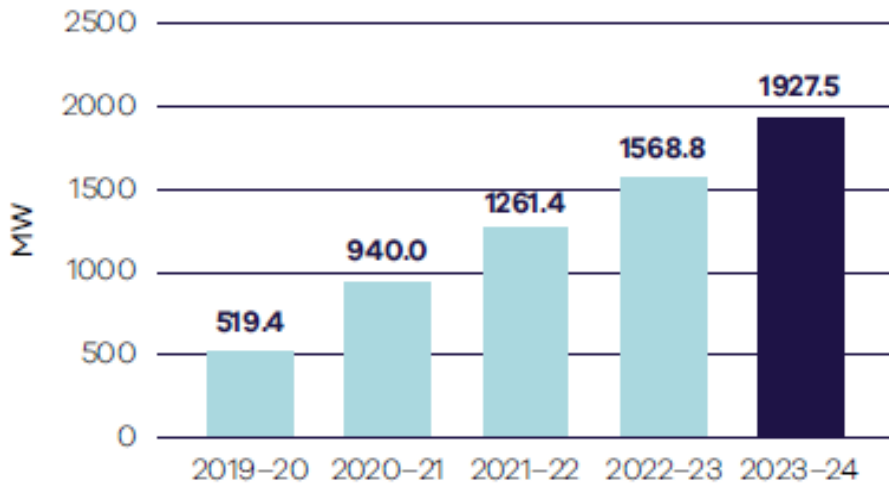
# Achieving our outcomes in 2023–24

## Net zero emission, climate-ready economy and community

- Net zero emissions reduction target brought forward from 2050 to 2045
- Delivered the Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report – showing Victoria’s emissions had fallen to 31.3% below 2005 levels, within the range of the 2025 target



## Indicator: Electricity generating capacity installed under the Solar Homes program

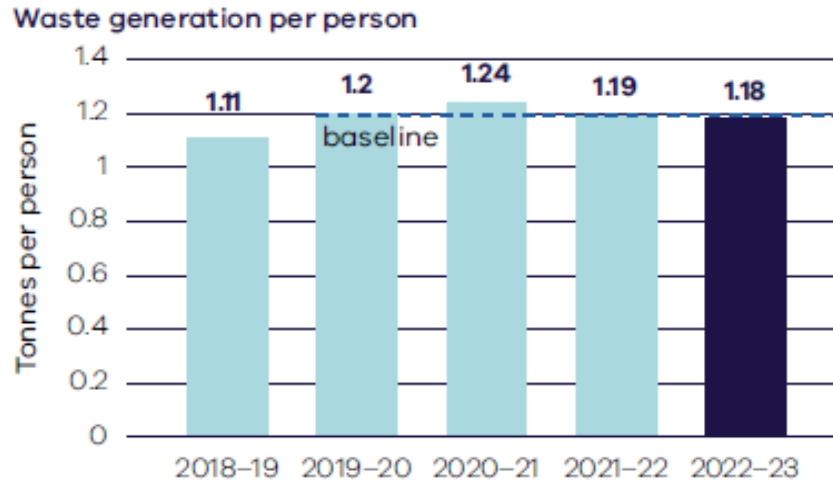


## Reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services

- Progressed Victoria’s energy transition through the legislation of offshore wind targets of at least 2 gigawatts (GW) by 2032; 4GW by 2035 and 9GW by 2040
- Delivered key reforms in the Gas Substitution Roadmap, including phasing out gas connections for new homes requiring planning permits from 1 January 2024
- Established the State Electricity Commission in October 2023
- Approved a record 78,626 rebate applications for households to install solar panels and energy efficient hot water systems

# Achieving our outcomes in 2023-24

## Indicator: Reduction in waste generation per person



## Healthy, resilient and biodiverse environment

- Supported 80 part-time Landcare facilitator positions to enable the effective participation of 740 Landcare and environmental volunteer groups, for activities that protect, enhance and restore the natural environment
- Progressed work towards restoring more than 20,000 hectares of land through the BushBank program
- Launched the Container Deposit Scheme, which facilitated the return of more than 628 million eligible drink cans, bottles and cartons
- Waste generation per person reduced with a generation rate recorded of 1.19 tonnes per person in 2021-22

## Productive and effective land management

- Completed 7 suburban pocket parks and progressing upgrades at existing parks including Seaford Wetlands and Toolern Creek Regional Park
- Delivered coastal protection works at Phillip Island, Point Lonsdale, Port Welshpool and Marengo
- Delivered Victoria's first statewide Marine Biodiversity Values Map to support environmental assessments and planning decisions across Victoria's marine and coastal environment



# Achieving our outcomes in 2023–24



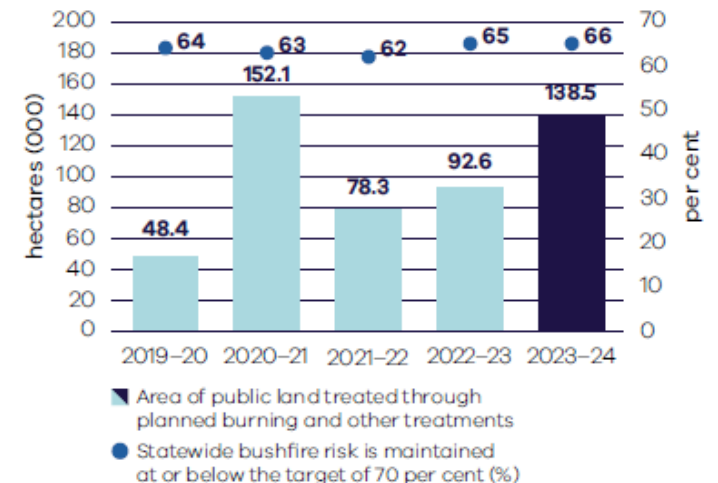
## Safe and sustainable water resources

- Increased community resilience to flooding, with more than \$2.9 million allocated for flood studies through the Building Flood Resilience in Victoria initiative
- Improved the health of Victoria’s waterways by supporting catchment management authorities in delivering 19,500 hectares of improved catchment stewardship
- Delivered priorities in the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy, including completion of the Wonthaggi Stormwater Harvesting project in November 2023 and returning water to Traditional Owners for self-determined use

## Reduced impact of major bushfires and other emergencies on people, property and the environment

- Released Victoria’s Bushfire Management Strategy to improve outcomes for bushfire management and directing resources to where they will have the greatest impact
- Delivered 316 planned burns on 138,454 hectares of land to reduce Victoria’s bushfire risk
- Transitioned 50 fixed term contract roles and 50 seasonal firefighting roles into ongoing year-round Forest and Fire Operations Officer roles
- Deployed vets and wildlife volunteers as part of the emergency response to a fire near Beaufort in February 2024 to search for and assess injured wildlife

Indicator: Area treated through planned burning and other treatments to maintain the statewide bushfire risk at or below 70 per cent

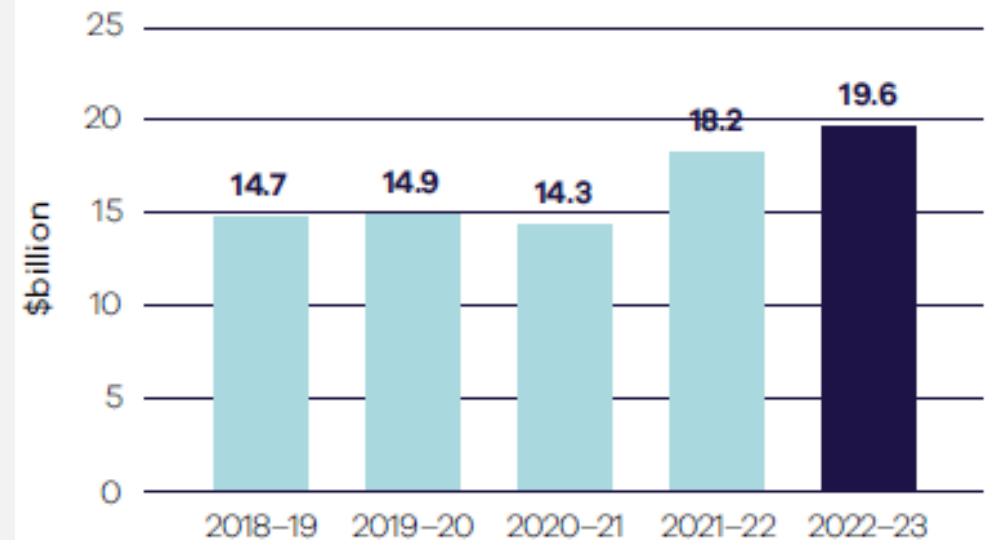


# Achieving our outcomes in 2023–24

## Promote productive and sustainably used natural resources

- Contributed to an increase in productivity of **Victorian food and fibre exports**, which reached a record high of \$19.6 billion (7% increase from the previous year)
- Delivered more than 60 **on-farm emissions action plans** across dairy, beef, sheep, pig and poultry, grains and horticulture industries, as part of the On-Farm Emissions Action Plan Pilot
- Expanded the **Free Air Temperature Extreme facility to support research into heatwaves and drought impacts** on crops, helping grain growers become more climate-resilient
- Developed a **digital orchard model** for apples and nectarines to facilitate research on optimising orchard design to enhance production and profitability
- Enhanced the competitiveness and **productivity of the pulse industry** through partnership with breeders to develop varieties with market-specific qualities
- Fast-tracked **world-class research and innovation** in genetics, feed, nutrition, animal welfare and emissions reduction to support the dairy industry to be productive and profitable
- Delivered increased **preparedness for emergency animal disease** through planning, workforce development, increased diagnostic capability, exercising and community awareness
- Increased **approvals for new quarries**, resulting in approximately 300 million tonnes of new quarry resources being approved in 2023–24

Indicator: Value of Victorian food and fibre exports





# First Peoples Self-Determination

## Partnering with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians

- Through *Pupangarli Marnmarnepu*, DEECA has formalised its commitment to support self-determination and embeds self-determination in our work



- DEECA supported the Statewide Caring for Country Partnership Forums with the creation of a draft implementation plan and improved reporting
- Commenced preparations to ensure DEECA is 'Treaty Ready' and able to actively support Government's participation in Treaty negotiations
- Led DEECA's engagement with the Yoorrook Justice Commission's historic truth telling process, to support the Commission's Land Injustice inquiry into land, sky and waters
- Implemented 7 *Native Title and Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* related Agreements
- Delivered the Traditional Owner Flood Recovery grants program, providing grants to 15 Traditional Owner Groups or their self-determined flood recovery needs



- DEECA supported 29 cultural burns on public land and delivered the Traditional Owner Flood Recovery Grants Program in response to the 2022 flood event, providing grants to 15 Traditional Owner Groups for their self-determined flood recovery needs



Energy,  
Environment  
and Climate Action