

2020-21 Financial and Performance Outcomes



Department of
Environment, Land,
Water and Planning

Challenges we faced into during 2020-21



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Bushfire response and recovery

How we responded

- Threatened species, including the **Eastern Bristlebird and 13 aquatic species** salvaged from fire-affected areas returned to natural habitats
- **Biodiversity Grants** provided for 52 community environmental projects in fire-affected areas.
- \$5 million in grants paid to impacted landowners to repair or replace over **900 kilometres of boundary fencing** adjoining public land.
- Reopened more than **8,920 kilometres of fire-impacted roads**, reinstated **ten major bridges**, and **treated hazardous trees along 6,397 kms of roads** across the fire affected public land estate
- Over **116 kilometres of priority riparian fencing** repaired and **1,226 hectares of weed control**
- All **15 damaged water monitoring stations** were repaired.

Responding to COVID-19

How we responded

- Supported New South Wales-Victoria border closure operations
- COVIDSafe delivery of essential energy and water services
- Supported 5,252 vulnerable households through **Utility Hardship Support Packages**
- **Accelerated planning approvals** for \$14.8 billion worth of major development projects
- **Authorised officers monitoring non-compliance** with the directions of the Victorian Chief Health Officer
- **Assisted the Department of Health** across functions including communications, call centre operations, housing towers support and executive support
- Supported **public land entities** to manage their financial risks due to COVID impacts on trading.
- Employed **114 staff as part of the 'Working for Victoria' initiative.**

Responding to June 2021 Storms

How we responded

- Led a **cross-portfolio response to the energy emergency at the Yallourn power station site**
- **Support to Victorian households without power (235,000 homes without power at the peak)**
- Oversaw delivery and installation of **186 generators for residential customers**
- **166 staff directly deployed** to respond to the emergency
- Incident Control Centres rapidly stood up
- **12,500 km of roads and 7,600 crossings on public land systematically assessed**
- Impacts of the storm event on Aboriginal heritage places assessed alongside Traditional Owners
- Mitigation works to protect species at risk

Delivering on our outcomes



Net zero emissions, climate-ready economy and community



What was achieved

- Release of **Victoria's Climate Change Strategy**
- **Five-year pledges** outlining actions that will be taken to cut emissions from seven sectors: Agriculture; Energy; Industrial Processes and Product Use; Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry; Transport; Waste; and Victorian Government operations.
- 15 voluntary **emission reduction pledges** made by councils under the *Climate Change Act 2017*.
- Development of **Adaptation Action Plans (AAPs)** for seven statewide systems that are either vulnerable to the impacts of climate change or essential to prepare for future change
- **Regional Adaptation Strategies** to identify, prioritise and deliver place-based climate change adaptation action
- **Climate change training** attended by more than 170 local government councillors and executives
- Release of **Victoria's Future Climate Tool** to provide access to the most recent climate model simulations of Victoria's future climate

Healthy, resilient and biodiverse environment



What was achieved

- Achievement of key **Recycling Victoria** milestones:
 - Release of the draft statewide *Kerbside Transition Plan*
 - Commitment to the *Ban on Single-Use Plastics*; and
 - Launch of the *Circular Economy Business Innovation Centre*
- Management of pest animals resulting in an estimated 700,000 hectares of **herbivore control**, and 700,000 hectares of **predator control**
- Collection of 26 Spotted Tree Frogs in March 2021 to commence a **captive breeding program** and release of 400 Macquarie Perch in the Upper Buffalo River
- Launch of the **Reading and Healing Country** program in response to 2019-20 bushfires
- Delivery of over **250 applied science projects** to support biodiversity across Victoria
- Permanent protection of **2,800 hectares of habitat** on private land in Victoria

Reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services



What was achieved

- The **Solar Homes program** achieved significant results, including:
 - 61,473 solar PV rebate applications approved
 - 2,841 battery rebate applications approved
 - 150,000th home system installed in June 2021
 - 792,000 MWh of solar PV generation capacity installed in 2020-21
 - Reduced emissions by ~360,000 tonnes of CO₂-e
- Delivered **energy efficiency upgrades** to 284,000 households and 14,900 businesses through the Victoria Energy Upgrades program during 2020-21
- Protected approximately 28,000 kilometres of powerlines through installation of **Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters** at 28 zone substations across Victoria
- Commenced work to establish six **Renewable Energy Zones (REZs)**, with Directions Paper and preparation for Stage 1 procurement.
- Released the Victorian Government's **Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap**
- Supported 71 projects under the **New Energy Jobs Fund**

Productive and effective land management



What was achieved

- Delivered 13 campgrounds, five walking tracks, and 130 kilometres of upgraded priority four-wheel drive touring routes under the **Victoria's Great Outdoors** program
- Delivered **community outcomes** through:
 - Development of 17 dog parks
 - Improvement of tracks and facilities
 - Implementation of the Joint Management Plan for Barmah National Park
- Advanced the landmark **Digital Twin Victoria** project demonstrating potential to slash housing approval timeframes.
- Digitised almost 2 million land parcels under the **Digital Cadastre Modernisation Project** and added 75,000 new lots and 120,000 new addresses added to Vicmap
- First stage of significant **coastal protection works** completed at Apollo Bay
- Implemented the **Public Safety on Public Land and Waterways COVIDSafe Summer Plan**
- Delivered **Summer and Winter by the Sea** programs through a suite of online presentations and activities

Safe, sustainable and productive water resources



What was achieved

- 9,400 hectares of **vegetation works** and 3,711 hectares of **catchment stewardship** delivered
- 89.6 per cent of **environmental watering** actions achieved at planned sites
- Delivered water for the environment for the first time to **Annulus Billabong** in the Yarra system and to **Lake Leaghur** in the Loddon system
- Completion of major **water infrastructure projects**:
 - Goulburn-Murray Water Connections Project
 - South-West Loddon Rural Water Supply Project
 - Macalister Irrigation District Phase 1B
 - Sunraysia Modernisation Project 2
 - Mitiamo and District Reticulated Water Supply project
- Phase 1 construction (preliminary works at Werribee Recycled Water Plant) of the **Werribee Zoo Recycled Water Project** completed in February 2021
- Integration of Western Water and City West Water to a new water corporation, **Greater Western Water**

A safe and quality built environment



What was achieved

- Facilitated **approvals of major stimulus projects** with a development value of \$2.8 billion through 23 projects
- Implemented **Inclusionary Housing Pilot** on six surplus government land parcels
- 490 **buildings inspected** for combustible cladding and completion of **cladding rectification** works on 40 privately owned buildings and 21 government buildings in 2020-21
- Completed the **Smart Planning program**, which delivered a suite of reforms to Victoria's planning system including 40 new or modernised land use terms introduced in 2020-21 under Amendment VC159
- **Streamlining of planning schemes** was achieved through updates to local schedules and mapping of over 200 incorporated documents to the new Specific Controls Overlay
- Managed 166 **approval requests** from the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority including:
 - 13 level crossings
 - upgrade of four overland railway lines
 - four major roads
 - 33 approvals to support the North-East Link Project

Reduced impact of major bushfires and other emergencies



What was achieved

- 97 per cent of fires on public land were contained at less than five hectares in size and **95 per cent of fires were contained at 'first attack'** (against a target of 80 per cent)
- Delivery of **544.7 kilometres of strategic fuel breaks**, exceeding the target of 484 kilometres
- **470 planned burns** across the state covering **133,195 hectares** as well as **18,888 hectares** of mechanical treatment
- Supported **15 cultural burns** undertaken by **Traditional Owners**
- Completion of 16 **critical structures**, comprising of 15 bridges on the strategic road network and replacement of one fire tower
- **3,791 kilometres of roading upgrades and maintenance** delivered across the strategic fire access network
- Delivered approximately **2000 community-based emergency management engagement activities**

Thank you

