

## ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Question on Notice 1

**Mr HIBBINS:** I think that assists the committee. Thank you, Minister. If you could also provide on notice just a breakdown in funding for that core environmental and traditional owner program. There are various elements to it. If you are able to provide the committee on notice, if possible, just the breakdown in funding of those different elements.

The 2020-21 State Budget allocated funding of **\$47.88 million** to deliver the *Core Environmental and Traditional Owner Programs* initiative. This funding is for a number of elements which will unlock and maximise the economic, social and environmental value of public and private land across Victoria through on-ground, predominantly outdoor, locally sourced works.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will work in partnership with Parks Victoria, Traditional Owners, Trust for Nature, Committees of Management, community groups and the private sector to employ people to rapidly deliver this value for all Victorians.

The program of work includes:

#### ***Partnering with local government to address weeds and pests***

The initiative commits \$1.00 million in 2020-21 to continue peri-urban weed management in partnership with local government. This program will be expanded in scope this year to encompass introduced animals, to deliver a more wholistic approach to improve protection of Victoria's biodiversity, reduce the impact of invasive species and facilitate more cost-effective protection of Victoria's land estate.

#### ***Conservation Pest Management Program***

The initiative commits \$0.25 million in 2020-21 to support the reduction of threats to biodiversity and the broader environment from introduced invasive animal species and improves the condition and resilience of parks and adjacent land, aligning with Victorian Government initiatives including Biodiversity 2037.

#### ***Community driven action to protect Victoria's unique biodiversity***

The initiative commits \$4.28 million in 2020-21 for community driven action to protect Victoria's unique biodiversity through supporting grass roots action and regional partnership programs.

The initiative will also develop evidence-based modelling and decision-support tools to better leverage investment, and support improved community knowledge to enable the natural resources, scientific, education and community sectors to connect through seminars, regional event and online forums.

***Victorian Wildlife Hotline***

This initiative commits \$0.49 million in 2020-21 to increase the services for Victoria's wildlife hotline, including increased hours for hotline staff and quality of service enhancement through increased education and community awareness of wildlife rescue.

***Lapsing Parks Victoria front-line FTE***

The initiative commits \$6.90 million in 2020-21 for Parks Victoria to deliver land management, visitor engagement and fire management services through the continued employment of 51 regional park rangers and support staff, critical roles in meeting community expectations for a range of safe visitor services with increasing visitor numbers across the parks estate.

***Caring for our Environment Faunal Emblems***

The initiative commits \$1.00 million in 2020-21 to fund grants to manage important habitat and implement important actions to better protect Victoria's faunal emblems.

***Port Phillip Bay Fund***

The initiative commits \$2.17 million in 2020-21 to re-engage various community groups to deliver priority actions in the Port Phillip Bay Fund Environmental Management Plan 2017-2027 and the government's coastal strategy as well as to align with the Victorian's coastal strategy, Biodiversity 2037 and the Environmental Volunteering Plan.

***Increasing support for Trust for Nature***

The initiative commits \$0.94 million in 2020-21 to continue to support Trust for Nature to improve systems and processes and leverage government's investment in conservation, volunteers and the environment to better protect habitat on private land.

***Environmental Volunteering Plan and Support for Landcare***

The initiative commits \$8.97 million in 2020-21 to:

- Continue funding to support Landcare programs and environmental volunteering programs including funding an extensive network of facilitators, coordinators and key staff until 30 June 2020, and grants for land management groups aligned to Biodiversity 2037, and volunteer and Traditional Owner engagement, research, and partnership development.
- Support the implementation of the State Government's Environmental Volunteering Plan, *Victorians Volunteering for Nature*, through existing and new models of environmental volunteering, diversifying the volunteer base and building the pipeline to compensate for an ageing volunteer force while also supporting youth volunteering.
- Support training and education for volunteers and develop partnerships to leverage investment and on-ground actions.

***Managing Country Together***

The initiative commits \$0.42 million in 2020-21 for Parks Victoria to deliver a range of core services for land and management services in partnership with Traditional Owners to address the increasing impact of climate change, particularly with the increased length, intensity and impact of fire seasons as well as ensuring compliance with laws to protect Aboriginal Heritage.

***Mange Management Victoria***

The initiative commits \$0.40 million over four years to support and test cost-effective and humane actions to treat wombat mange in targeted parts of Victoria.

***Implementation of Traditional Owner Settlement Agreements***

The initiative commits \$6.06 million over four years to support *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* agreements by undertaking implementation and coordination of the agreements, providing technical and specialist planning and stakeholder management for key deliverables, and undertaking compliance activities to partner with Traditional Owners to fulfil their role as custodians of Country to maintain and improve their lands, waters and living resources.

***Sustainable Asset Management***

The initiative commits \$15.00 million over two years to allow Parks Victoria to undertake critical asset management and capital works to ensure quality visitor infrastructure in Victoria's parks estate, replacing outdated and non-functional dams, toilets and wastewater systems to ensure public safety and meet visitor expectations.

## Question on Notice 2

**Ms VALLENCE: So two years. And in terms of budget paper 3, page 211, planned burning outputs: can you advise how many kilometres of roadside vegetation is targeted for planned burns and mechanical treatments on a quarterly basis for the next financial year or for the 2020–21 year?**

The treatment of roadside vegetation is a part of integrated operations and the number of kilometres treated is not separately quantified as a part of planning.

As part of the Joint Fuel Management Plan for 2020-21, roadside vegetation fuel management will be delivered through:

- mechanical fuel treatment, which will cover over 19,000 hectares. This includes slashing and mulching along roadsides, reserves adjoining private properties, communities and valuable assets, as well as areas of grazing on larger reserves; and
- planned burns, which will cover over 200,000 hectares, largely focussed on public land. This will include preparation of edges of planned burn areas to ensure safe burning and includes roadsides, tracks and private property boundaries.