

# 2019-20 Financial and Performance Outcomes

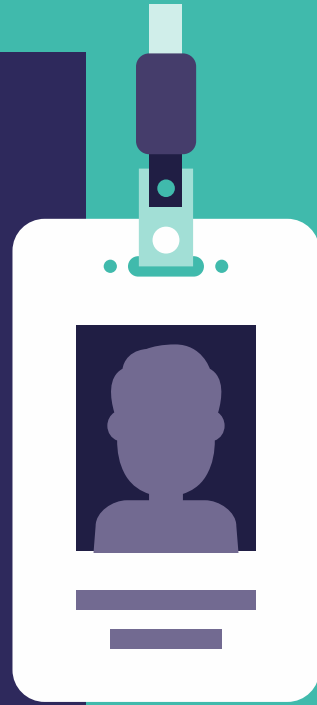


Department of  
Environment, Land,  
Water and Planning

# DELWP

We employ more than

**4500**  
staff



**91**

**locations**  
across Victoria



DELWP

Managing

**\$6.4 billion**  
in assets

including public land



2019-20 was a significant year with challenges, however DELWP was able to:

- **deliver bushfire response and recovery**
- **adapt quickly to keep our people safe by moving to remote working** and modifying existing roles, such as our field staff and firefighters who continued to work across Victoria to focus on public land and fire management
- **continue our efforts to make DELWP a safer, more diverse and inclusive workplace** through policies like the staff-driven Safe and Respectful Workplace Leaders program and LGBTIQ Ally Network, and our Safety and Wellbeing and Diversity and Inclusion strategies.

## 2019-20 bushfire response and recovery

- carried out ongoing recovery works
- delivered programs across DELWP portfolios
- 93 per cent of fires on public land were contained at less than five hectares in size (target 80 per cent)
- 95 per cent of fires were contained at 'first attack' or by 0800 hours the day after detection (target 80 per cent)
- DELWP and partner agencies responded to 1,160 fires impacting 1.51 million ha of public and private land





# Key initiatives and projects



## Recycling Victoria

- \$380 million plan - released in February 2020, key focus of the 10-year transformation of Victoria's recycling system is the roll out of a new four-bin household recycling system, a container deposit scheme to begin by 2023 and an associated statewide education program.
- Lightweight single use plastic bag ban - commenced November 2019.

## Victoria's Marine and Coastal Policy

- sets objectives and guiding principles to address long-term challenges and better protect precious coastal areas.



## Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019

- provides a modern and strengthened framework for the protection of Victoria's biodiversity.

## Reforms to protect the iconic Great Ocean Road coast and parks

- The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, which will start work by 1 December 2020

## Joint Management

- Completing joint management plans for national parks with the Yorta Yorta, Gunaikurnai and Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners and commenced engagement on our Aboriginal self-determination reform strategy.





## Waterway Health – Implementing Waterway Strategies

- Waterway vegetation works undertaken - 10,600 hectares
- On-ground works and watering programs were conducted at 356 river reaches and wetlands to maintain or improve their environmental condition in 2019-20.
- Environmental water sites managed to meet environmental objectives – 222 sites



## **Energy affordability for all Victorians**

- The Victorian Default Offer (VDO) came into effect 1 July 2019 and is a regulated fair price for electricity.
- \$3.7 million package introduced to help Victorian households struggling to manage their energy bills during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- Implementing all 11 recommendations of the Independent Review of the Electricity and Gas Retail Markets in Victoria.

## Solar Homes program

- 54,675 solar PV rebate applications approved
- 970 battery rebate applications approved
- 1,107 solar hot water rebate applications approved
- 29,734 interest-free loans taken up by customers installing solar PV



## Efficient, safe planning reform

- New safety regulations for private pools and spas, requiring property owners with swimming pools and spas to register their pool or spa with their local councils
- Smart Planning program - completed the translation of 30 planning schemes to the new Planning Policy Framework in 2019-20.
- Planning Digital Platform was established to provide a modern, extendable portal for new applications, commencing with Heritage Online in March 2020.



## Victorian Renewable Energy Auction Scheme

- Five of the six projects have now commenced construction, with the remaining project in development phase. The six projects are expected to deliver at least 650 MW of new renewable electricity generation capacity.
- The Bulgana Green Power Hub has progressed to network commissioning. Once complete the project is expected to generate more than 740,000 MWh of emission-free, renewable energy annually.



# Challenges faced in 2019-20



## **Coronavirus (COVID-19 )**

- all essential public services and facilities continued to operate
- continued support and engagement for DELWP industry sectors and portfolios
- supported and engaged with relevant industry and DELWP portfolio entities to ensure continuity of essential services
- supported Whole of Government approaches to the restoration and recovery of essential services

## **Operational response to bushfires and bushfire recovery**

- additional COVIDSafe procedures, resourcing and plant and equipment to address risks
- DELWP modified its delivery approach so it could continue to provide critical bushfire recovery services – limiting interactions between crews and minimising movements in and out of communities
- Forest Fire Management Victoria continued with fire season preparedness activities and are well placed to respond to bushfires as they occur

## **Financial sustainability of DELWP portfolio entities and agencies due to coronavirus (COVID-19)**

- established a Portfolio Entity Taskforce in April 2020
- financial support provided

## **Surge usage of the public land estate and impacts of resource requests to support surge capacity required**

- monitoring and reporting compliance across the public land estate and, overseeing public land compliance
- establishment of the interagency Public Safety on Public Land and Waterways Taskforce



### **The need to lay the foundations for Victoria's economic recovery through infrastructure projects and other activities to enable recovery**

- identify and fast track planning assessments and other required approvals for a pipeline of shovel ready development and infrastructure projects
- the Building Victoria's Recovery Taskforce and Fast-Track Approvals Teams were established in April 2020 - around 300 applications assessed
- changes to the Victorian Planning provisions were enacted, enabling deliveries, outdoor dining, live music venue protection and recognition, further facilitation of state and local infrastructure projects to be enacted and exemptions to repair building cladding.

