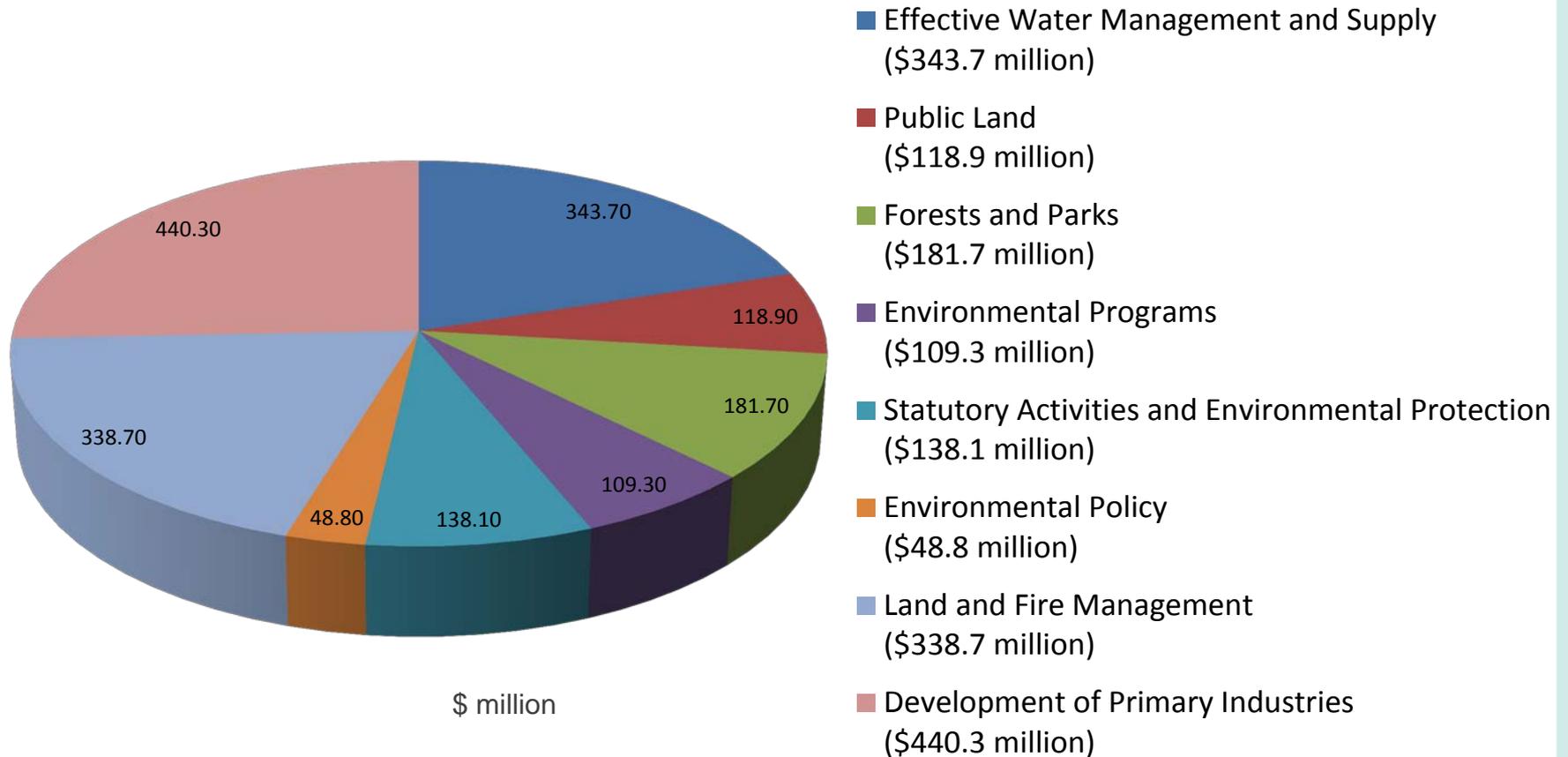


2013-14 budget estimates hearing

Water Portfolio



DEPI – 2013-14 budget



Water Portfolio

Water Budget Objective

Effective management of water resources to meet future urban, rural and environmental needs

Priorities

- Improved efficiency of supply and use of water in cities and towns to improve liveability
- A transition strategy for the Murray Darling Basin Plan that balances social, economic and environmental needs
- A more productive, efficient and sustainable irrigation industry, supported by improved irrigation infrastructure
- Improved environmental condition of waterways, supporting community needs
- Improved governance arrangements for a high-performing and efficient water sector
- Improved capacity to respond and adapt to a variable climate

Improved efficiency of supply and use of water in cities and towns to improve liveability

- Improved efficiency of supply and use of water in cities and towns to improve liveability will be achieved through:
 - Office of Living Victoria
 - Melbourne Integrated Water Cycle Strategy
 - Melbourne Planning Strategy
 - Building and planning controls
 - Other initiatives, such small town waste water management

Improved efficiency of supply and use of water in cities and towns to improve liveability

Office of Living Victoria

- Established – May 2012
- Business strategy released – December 2012
- \$10 million to establish Office and undertake key strategy work
- \$22.5 million to embed generational water cycle reform in Victoria
- Priorities:
 - Melbourne Integrated Water Cycle Strategy
 - Living Ballarat
 - Incorporate the Integrated Water Cycle Strategy into the Metropolitan Planning Strategy
 - Regulatory impact statement for building controls to improve the performance of new buildings
 - \$50 million Living Victoria Fund

Improved efficiency of supply and use of water in cities and towns to improve liveability

Melbourne Integrated Water Cycle Strategy

- Aligns Water Cycle Management and the Metropolitan Planning Strategy
- Recognises Melbourne's growth and climate variability will place significant stress on Melbourne's water supply and water cycle services
- A systems analysis demonstrates a new approach will:
 - Save on capital expenditure
 - Reduce energy use in the water sector
 - Reduce mains water demand and wastewater discharge
 - Reduce stormwater runoff and nutrient discharge

A transition strategy for the Murray Darling Basin Plan that balances social, economic and environmental needs

- Basin Plan finalised in late 2012 with 2750 GL target
- Victoria's key concerns addressed
- The Murray Darling Basin Plan still requires 1075GL from Victoria by 2019
- Victoria so far has recovered, or committed to recover, 730 GL and is on track with an integrated water recovery approach:
- This strategy will enable Victoria to maintain productive and sustainable irrigation industry, while still meeting water recovery obligations

A more productive, efficient and sustainable irrigation industry supported by improved irrigation infrastructure

- Victorian irrigators highly productive – Victorian Government wants to ensure this continues
- Infrastructure key part of solution to Basin Plan, and provides integrated environmental outcomes for a productive, efficient and sustainable irrigation industry.
- Key projects include:
 - G-MW Connections Project
 - Macalister Irrigation District 2030
 - Sunraysia Modernisation Project
 - Lindenow Valley Water Security Project
 - Wimmera Mallee Pipeline

Improved environmental condition of waterways supporting community needs

New Victorian Waterway Management Strategy (VWMS) will be in place in late 2013, which will deliver investment to meet waterway health priorities –

- Will further advance integrated program of activities, with devolved decision making, community participation to maximise environmental outcomes, including:
 - On-ground works undertaken in 130 rivers and wetlands (over 2000kms)
 - Living Murray environmental works – all in progress
 - Improving environmental water management across the state

Improved governance arrangements for a high- performing and efficient water sector

- To improve governance arrangements for a high-performing and efficient water sector, the Victorian Government is undertaking a number of actions, including:
 - Streamlined and modernised Water Act, which is currently being drafted
 - New groundwater management framework, completed and in place
 - Ongoing roll out of dam safety, risk and terrorism protection programs with Water corporations
 - Streamlined, in-house water resource accounting and reporting, and enhanced and efficient Water Register, delivering services for users
 - Rigorous process for water corporation board appointments and capability development

Improved capacity to respond and adapt to a variable climate

- To improve capacity to respond and adapt to a variable climate, the Victorian Government is undertaking a number of actions including –
 - Improved flood information for emergency services, land use planning and community education through:
 - 25 flood studies
 - Improved flood mapping
 - Flood intelligence platform
 - New State Flood Management strategy
 - Responding to the Parliamentary inquiries into Flood Mitigation Infrastructure and Rural Drainage once final reports delivered later in 2013
 - Better predictive capability for future water availability through Victorian Climate Initiative