

2013-14 budget estimates hearing

Environment and Climate Change Portfolio

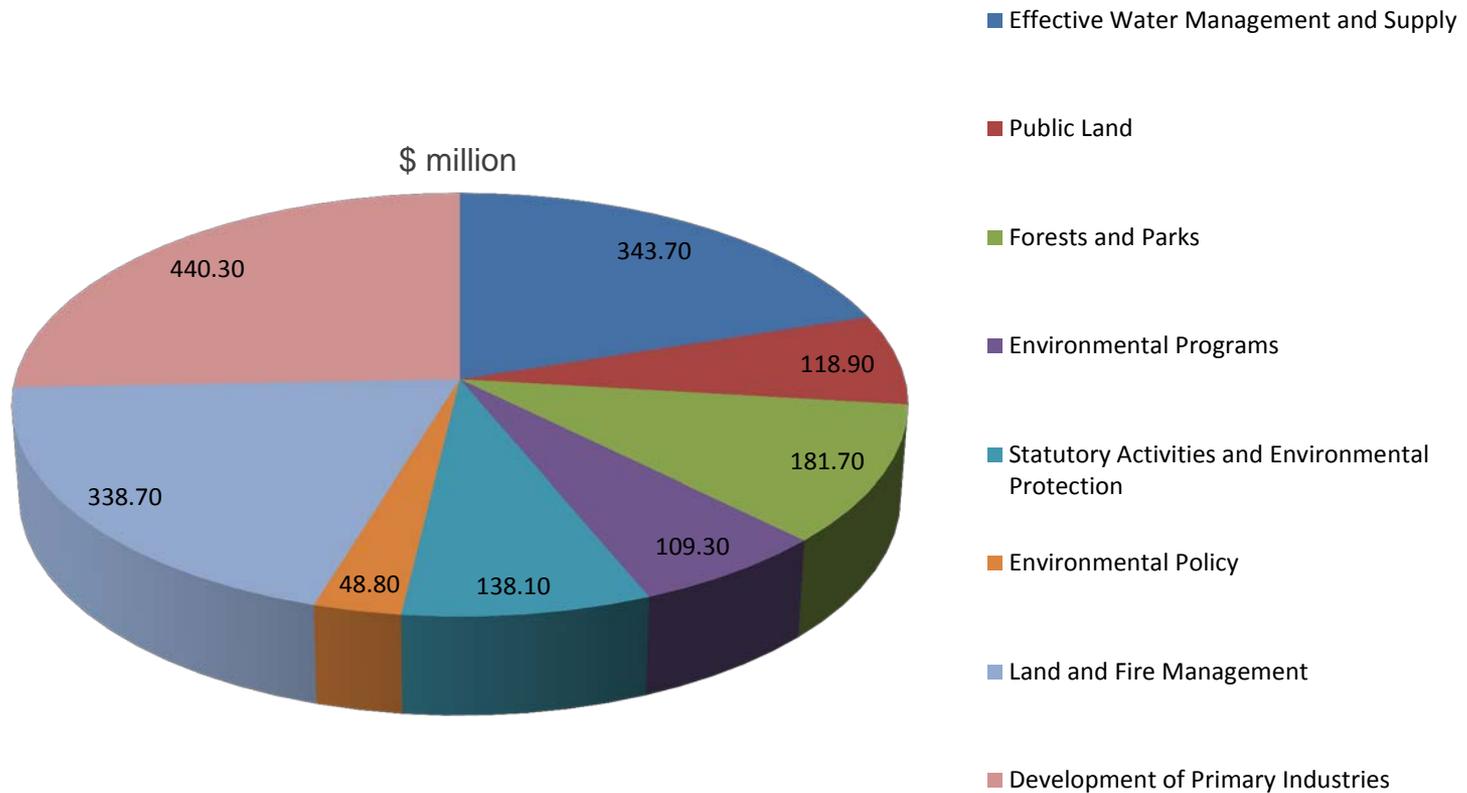


Curlew Sandpipers at Werribee

DEPI – 2013-14 budget

- Department of Environment and Primary Industries announced by Premier Napthine on April 9 to:
 - provide a better and more efficient management approach for public and private land and water for the people of Victoria
 - boost service delivery to regional areas
 - provide a “one stop shop” for environment and primary industries.
- The former Department of Sustainability and Environment has been renamed the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI).
- Land Victoria has moved from the former Department of Sustainability and Environment to the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure.
- The Department of Primary Industries components relating to Agriculture and Food Security to be transferred into DEPI on 1 July 2013.

DEPI – 2013-14 budget



\$935 million: total 2013-14 Budget for the Environment and Climate Change portfolio

Effective environmental and adaptation policy, investment and regulation

- \$16 million over two years to help support Native Vegetation and Threatened Species.
- This Environmental Partnerships program will provide grants for landholders and regional organisations to undertake essential on-ground works to protect key environmental assets, native vegetation and threatened species.
- The largest share of this investment will fund market-based on-ground efforts to protect habitat and manage threatened species such as:
 - the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby (through fox control in East Gippsland and reintroduction in Grampians) and
 - the Helmeted Honeyeater (through reintroduction and habitat enhancement in Woori Yallock/Gembrook area).
- This initiative will also help measure the outcomes associated with the above work through Environmental Economic Accounting to help improve reporting and investment into the future.

Effective environmental and adaptation policy, investment and regulation

- \$7.02 million over four years to implement the Government's Cleaner Yarra River and Bay Action Plan to establish new partnerships with community, local government and businesses.
- \$12 million over four years to reduce the amount of waste generated by Victorians by implementing initiatives outlined under the new Victorian Waste and Resource Recovery Policy – “Getting Full Value”.
- These initiative include:
 - developing market strategies for organics
 - expanding EPA's illegal dumping strikeforce
 - supporting the household food waste program
 - helping improve the environmental performance of landfills across Victoria.

The community benefits from the effective management of Victoria's land assets

- \$9.11 million over four years for Coastal Environments Program grants. This will extend the grants program to open coastal communities around the bay. Grants are provided for carrying out on-ground coastal risk management works
- \$2.29 million in 2013-14 towards extending the River Red Gums program that employs 13 park rangers and 11 field service officer to manage the important iconic River Red Gum parks.

Reduced impact of major bushfires and other extreme events on people, infrastructure and the environment

- \$33.7 million over two years to scale up the planned burning, including:
 - \$9 million in 2013-14 to scale up the planned burning program to 260,000 hectares.
 - \$24.7 million to further scale up the program in 2014-15.
- \$7 million over two years to treat trees affected by fire on public land to improve safety. This initiative will reduce the risk of damage from trees affected by fire that pose a threat to public safety when they weaken and limbs may fall.

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