

Financial Performance and Outcomes

2021-22 and 2022-23



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

One-DEECA: This is our business

Our Vision

Supporting thriving, productive and sustainable communities, environments and industries.

What we do

We're focused on creating a liveable, inclusive and sustainable Victoria with thriving natural environments - where the community is at the centre of everything we do.

DEECA brings together Victoria's energy, environment, water, agriculture, forestry, resources, climate action, and emergency management functions into a single department to maximise connections between the environment, community, industry and economy.

Our challenge is to improve Victoria's liveability with a population that is expected to almost double by 2050, while responsibly tackling climate change and protecting our natural environment, but ensuring that enough natural resources are produced.

Our public value outcomes



Challenges we faced during 2022–23

Responding to the October 2022 flood emergency

- Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) crews completed more than **15,000 shifts**
- Agriculture Victoria coordinated over **28,000 calls** to farmers impacted by flood in late 2022 and early 2023 to provide urgent animal welfare and technical support to farmers
- Completion of works to mitigate critical and immediate risks to **aquatic threatened species**
- Cleared and **re-opened roads, parks and other visitor sites**, including the rebuild of the Lower Snowy Campground in Gippsland

Bushfire response and recovery

- Responded to **838 fires** across Victoria that impacted **4,299 hectares** of land
- Deployed crews to support firefighters in Canada and the Kimberley region
- Supported the delivery of **20** Traditional Owner burns and conducted **76 of 160** identified priority burns

Other emergencies and actions

- Assisted with other emergencies including **blue green algae** responses, **whale and dolphin** emergencies and supporting the New South Wales **Varroa Mite Response**

Challenges we faced during 2021-22

Bushfire response and recovery and other actions

- Cleared and reopened **459 kilometres of bushfire-impacted public land roads**, with a total of 8,979 kilometres reopened since the 2019-20 bushfire season
- Since the 2019-20 bushfire season to 30 June 2022, nearly **one million hectares** of herbivore, predator and weed control was delivered through the Bushfire Biodiversity Response and Recovery Program
- During 2021-22, FFMVic crews responded to **1,066** fires impacting 12,588 hectares of public and private land
- Supported wildlife with **430 hectares** of pest animal control, **60 nest boxes** and a trial of carved hollows for **over 30 species** reliant on hollows for breeding and nesting

Responding to the June and October 2021 storm and flood events

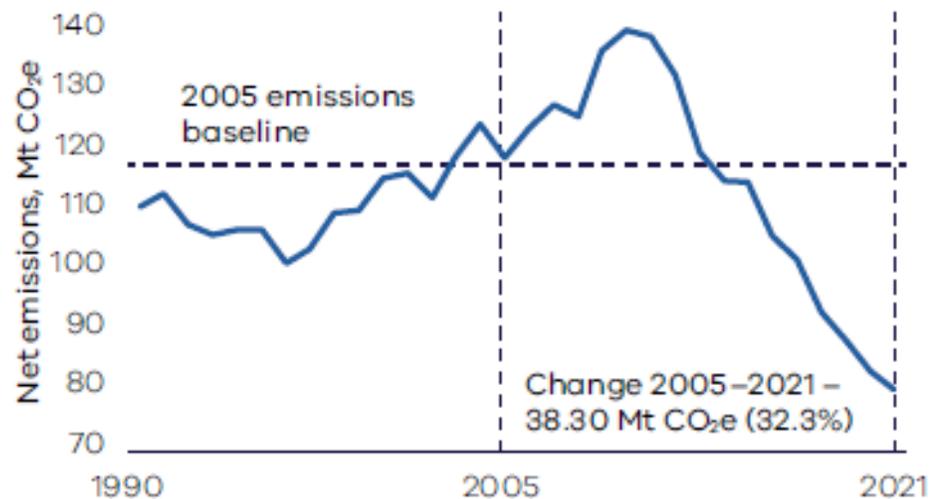
- Worked with essential services to **restore power to 300,000 homes and 520,000 businesses**
- Rolled out two relief packages including the prolonged power outage payments and small generator loan program
- FFMVic crews cleared more than **6,600 kilometres of public land roads** and reopened **2,854 kilometres of the strategic fire access network**
- Reinstated **88 bridges** and crossings, **210 recreation sites** and **167 walking tracks**
- **Repaired 23 damaged water monitoring gauges** and supported Catchment Management Authorities in Gippsland to stabilise waterways and stream banks at **over 177 sites** and the Thomson River Fishway
- Ag Vic provided **Clean-up and Restoration Grants** through DRFA of up to \$25,000 to primary producers impacted by this event.

Achieving our outcomes in 2022–23

Net zero emission, climate-ready economy and community

- Set a new 2035 target to **reduce Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions** by 75–80 per cent below 2005 levels and brought forward the date to achieve net zero emissions from 2050 to 2045

Indicator: Reduction in Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions relative to 2005



Reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services

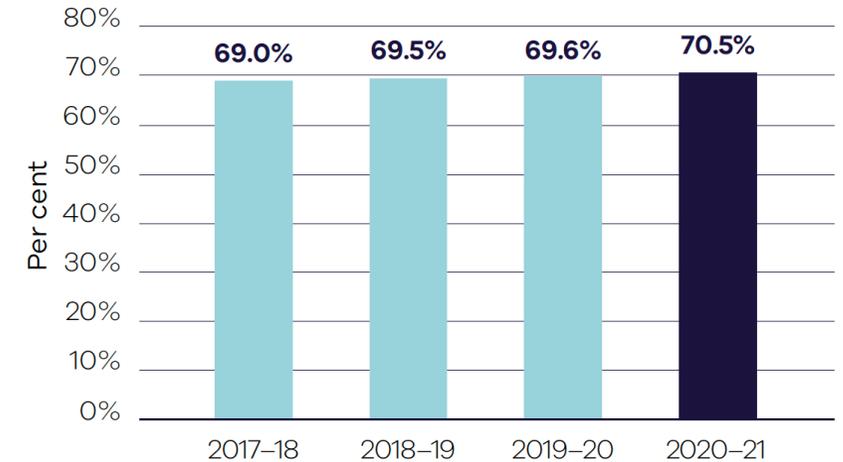
- Third round of the Power Saving Bonus Program received more than 1.84 million applications, totalling more than **\$460 million in payments to Victorian households**
- The first 35 public **electric vehicle chargers** funded under the Destination Charging Across Victoria program were completed in May 2023
- Progressed the **neighbourhood batteries** initiative to lead to the rollout 100 Neighbourhood Batteries
- Almost 500,000 households and businesses participated in the Victorian **Energy Upgrades program**
- Approx **70,000 rebates and loans were provided for solar panels, battery storage and energy efficient hot water systems**

Achieving our outcomes in 2022–23

Healthy, resilient and biodiverse environment

- Provided grants under the **Regional Recycling Fund** of up to \$500,000 to help upgrade infrastructure for recyclable materials including cardboard, plastic, paper, glass and mixed recyclables
- Concluded the Bushfire Biodiversity Response and Recovery Program, **delivering 1.5 million hectares of herbivore, predator and weed control** to benefit more than 4,400 native flora and fauna
- Supported wildlife shelters and foster carers to rehabilitate and release injured and orphaned wildlife with over \$1 million provided
- Under the BushBank Program, secured a delivery partner to revegetate and **restore native vegetation across at least 20,000 hectares of land**

Municipal and industrial waste diverted from landfill



Productive and effective land management

- Acquired **391 hectares of land for the Three New Parks project** and 84 hectares of former landfill for the Sandbelt Parklands project
- Completed delivery of 20 pocket parks, 13 off-leash dog parks, five trails and 36 parks revitalisation projects under the **Suburban parks** program
- Awarded more than \$582,000 to 67 community-led projects through the **Coastcare Victoria Community Grants Program**

Achieving our outcomes in 2022–23

Safe and sustainable water resources

- Launched ***Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap*** to support pathway to genuine, meaningful outcomes for and in partnership with Traditional Owners
- Launched the **Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy**
- Secured funding for future **flood mitigation activities** following the October 2022 flood emergency
- Improved access to recreational opportunities on and around **water-based natural spaces** with all-abilities equipment, new shelters, BBQs

Reduced impact of major bushfires and other emergencies on people, property and the environment

- 2,155 kilometres of **road upgrades** and 10 large **crossings/bridges replacements** delivered across Victoria's strategic fire access road network
- Delivered 28 **ecological burns** covering 11,802 hectares, to promote beneficial outcomes in vegetation that requires fire for regeneration

Promote productive and sustainably used natural resources

- Reforms introduced to enable vets and registered animal shelters to directly reunite lost dogs and cats with their owners
- Provided leadership to the Victorian Government Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Preparedness Program
- Supported programs to assist Victoria's native timber industry to align with the cessation of commercial harvesting by 1 January 2024
- Critical mine rehabilitation policy and works progressed in 2022–23 to keep local communities safe
- A draft Code of Practice for Common Risk Management Techniques for Quarries was completed in June 2023

Achieving our outcomes in 2021-22

Net zero emission, climate-ready economy and community

- Released Victoria's **Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans**
- Released **Regional Adaptation Strategies**
- Worked with local councils across Victoria to achieve 21 voluntary **council emissions reduction pledges** being made

Healthy, resilient and biodiverse environment

- Introduced the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Bill 2021 into Parliament in October 2021
- **Phased out certain single-use plastic items** across the Victorian public service from February 2022
- **Released 18 Helmeted Honeyeaters** into the Yarra Ranges National Park in May 2022, marking a major milestone for the critically endangered species
- Delivered Biodiversity Community programs with **almost 1,000 grants and contracts** totalling \$17.4 million to support the volunteering community in delivering on-ground action

Reliable, sustainable and affordable energy services

- Received more **than 400,000 applications through the Power Saving Bonus program** with nearly \$100 million in payments to vulnerable Victorian households
- The **Victorian Big Battery** completed its first summer of safeguarding the state's energy supply
- Provided \$37.9 million in funding to support the initial development of three **offshore wind projects**
- More than **5,000 zero emission vehicles purchased** with support from the Zero Emission Vehicle program
- Provided **70,000 rebates and loans** for solar panels, battery storage and solar hot water systems

Achieving our outcomes in 2021-22

Reduced impact of major bushfires and other emergencies on people, property and the environment

- More than **78,000 hectares** of land was treated using planned burns and mechanical treatments
- Responded to **58 non-fire emergency** events, including cetacean, wildlife, search and rescue and blue green algae events
- Worked in partnership with **10 Traditional Owner Corporations** for implementing cultural fire

Productive and effective land management

- Completed remediation works at **five contaminated land sites**
- Released the Marine and Coastal Strategy
- Supported Traditional Owners in developing the **Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy**
- Released the Yellingbo (Liwik Barring) *Landscape Conservation Area 10-year Plan* to enhance its beauty, biodiversity, cultural heritage and community enjoyment



Achieving our outcomes in 2021-22

Safe and sustainable water resources

- Supported water returns of **1.36 GL** to Traditional Owners in Northern Victoria and **2.5 GL** to Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation
- Released: *Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo (Yarra Strategic Plan)*; *Waterways of the West and Rivers of the Barwon (Barre Warre Yulluk) Action Plans*
- Assisted more than **1,300 vulnerable and hardship households** and more than **200 non-for-profit organisations** in saving over **77 ML** of water per year, through the community rebate/retrofit programs

Promote productive and sustainably used natural resources

- Commenced the On-Farm Action Plan Pilot to **support 250 farm businesses** to measure and implement actions to reduce emissions
- Supported farmers to reduce energy costs and be more energy efficient and productive through the Agriculture Energy Investment Plan
- **Supported more than 1,000 workers** to enter the horticulture industry through the Seasonal Harvest Sign-On Bonus Program and facilitated the arrival of **1,630 Pacific workers**
- Facilitated new minerals exploration investment in Victoria, with a quarterly record of \$64.1 million minerals exploration expenditure in December 2021
- Delivered new **petroleum regulations** to govern the onshore conventional gas sector
- Introduced the Sustainable Forests Timber Amendment (Timber Harvesting Safety Zones) Bill 2022 to Parliament



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