

# Sustainability Fund Activities Report

Investing in a more sustainable future.



2023



Energy,  
Environment  
and Climate Action

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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# Secretary's Report

## I am pleased to present the 2022–23 Sustainability Fund Activities Report.

The Sustainability Fund is a cornerstone of Victoria's waste reduction and climate action efforts. Using funds collected through the Municipal and Industrial Waste Levy (MIWL), the Fund helps foster the environmentally sustainable use of resources and best practice in waste management and supports Victoria's response to a changing climate.

In 2022-23, the Fund provided \$167.2 million to a range of waste reduction and climate action initiatives. This included 511 grants providing a wide range of policy, behaviour change, infrastructure, regulatory and market support programs.

For the first time, this year's Activities Report highlights the Fund's achievements over the past five years. In this time, over \$1 billion from the Fund has been invested in waste reduction and climate change initiatives. As a result of that investment, almost 1 million tonnes of waste have been diverted from landfill, 15 new markets for recovered materials were created or enhanced, and almost 18,000 Victorians safely disposed of their household chemicals. In addition, over 780 Victorian schools participated in programs to take positive environmental action, almost 10,000 kilowatts of renewable energy capacity were deployed, and over 310,000 CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions were reduced or avoided across Victoria.

In 2023, the Government set new renewable energy targets for Victoria – increasing to 65 per cent by 2030, and 95 per cent by 2035. Victoria aims to reach a massive 2.6 gigawatts of renewable energy storage capacity by 2030, with an increased target of 6.3 gigawatts of storage by 2035 – that's enough renewable energy to power around half of Victoria's current homes at their peak energy use. The Government has also set an emissions reduction target of 75-80 per cent by 2035 and has brought forward the state's net zero emissions target by five years to 2045 – the most ambitious from any mainland state in Australia. Sustainability Fund programs such as the *Driving Growth in Renewables* program and the *Energy Safety and Security* program are contributing to the achievement of these goals.

During 2022-23, DEECA conducted an internal evaluation of the Fund as part of its commitment to continually improve its operations. The evaluation showed that the governance of the Fund is strong, reflecting the hard work that DEECA has invested over the last five years to build a strong operative framework.

This ongoing commitment to good governance has been championed by the Sustainability Fund Committee, headed by the Chair Freya Marsden. I am confident that the Committee's pursuit of governance excellence will help ensure that the Fund continues to deliver outstanding results for Victoria.

Through these ongoing efforts, the Sustainability Fund is well positioned to support the government's objectives in waste reduction and climate action into the future.

### **John Bradley**

Secretary  
2022–23  
Activities Report



# Overview of the Activities Report

**The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) has prepared this Activities Report to provide highlights of the activities and achievements of the Sustainability Fund (the Fund) during the 2022–23 financial year.**

The report sets out the strategic objectives, source of revenue and governance of the Fund, along with detailed information on financial expenditure and funded programs. It highlights how a range of funded policy, regulatory, behaviour change, and infrastructure-based projects contribute to the Fund's strategic priorities and to Victoria's broader environmental vision. It also articulates how funding collected by the waste levy contributes to Victoria's sustainable development.

The aim of this report is to provide relevant information on the Fund to a wide range of stakeholders and to highlight the practical and concrete efforts made by government agencies, businesses and community organisations towards the sustainability goals of Victoria.

Building on previous years' reports, this year's edition also highlights the achievements of the Fund over the past five years, demonstrating the short, medium and long-term benefits the Fund is delivering for Victoria. The report also includes a series of case studies highlighting a selection of projects made possible by the Fund. These case studies provide a snapshot of the innovative and best practice approaches taken by funding recipients to tackle climate change and waste across the state.



# SNAPSHOT: Sustainability Fund 2018–23

**\$** over **\$1 Billion** invested resulting in:

## BEST PRACTICE WASTE MANAGEMENT

**New organics and dedicated glass recycling household services**



rolled out to hundreds of thousands of Victorian homes.

**930,000<sup>+</sup> tonnes of waste** avoided going to landfill.



Reduction of **90,000<sup>+</sup> tonnes of dangerous materials** in landfill.



**139 e-waste collection services** upgraded.



## ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**15 new markets**



were created or enhanced for recovered materials, including recycled plastic for drainpipes and waste tyres for permeable pavement.

## ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES

**9,166<sup>+</sup> kilowatts**



of newly deployed renewable energy capacity.

**2 million<sup>+</sup> megawatt hours of renewable energy** generated.



This is equivalent to the power usage of over 90,000 homes over the 5 year period<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Assuming an average yearly consumption of 4,727kWh (Australian Energy Market Commission's Residential Electricity Price Trends 2021 report)

## FACILITATING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**755**  
new partnerships



formed to deliver waste reduction and climate action projects.

**17,993** people



attended Detox Your Home events to dispose of hazardous household chemicals.

## ADAPTING THROUGH BIODIVERSITY

**5.5 million**  
hectares (55,000 km<sup>2</sup>)  
of land was treated  
for pest control.



**456,343** hectares  
(4,563 km<sup>2</sup>) of land  
was revegetated.



## REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

**310,744**  
tCO<sub>2</sub>-e emissions  
were reduced or avoided.



This is the equivalent of 25,000 Victorians' per capita annual emissions.

## IMPROVE COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**780+**  
Victorian schools



participating in positive environmental action.

**40,000+**  
tonnes of illegally  
dumped materials  
removed from charities.



**857,255**  
volunteer hours  
supported.



# About the Sustainability Fund

Established in 2005, the Sustainability Fund (the Fund) is an ongoing source of funding that helps Victorian communities tackle critically important climate change, resource use and waste management challenges for a more resilient, sustainable and pollution-free future.

The Fund is enshrined in legislation and has been managed by DEECA since 2015. The Fund receives its revenue from the Municipal and Industrial Waste Levy (MIWL). Funding from the levy is initially distributed to key environmental agencies with the remaining revenue then transferred to the Fund.

The Fund's legislated objectives, as defined by section 449 of the *Environment Protection Act 2017*, are to foster:

- environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management to advance the social and economic development of Victoria, and
- community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas substance emissions, or adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria.

Money can be allocated to strategic or ongoing initiatives that align with the purpose and priorities of the Fund and are delivered through government departments and statutory agencies. Some initiatives may include grant programs that are open to a wide range of recipients across local government, businesses and the community.

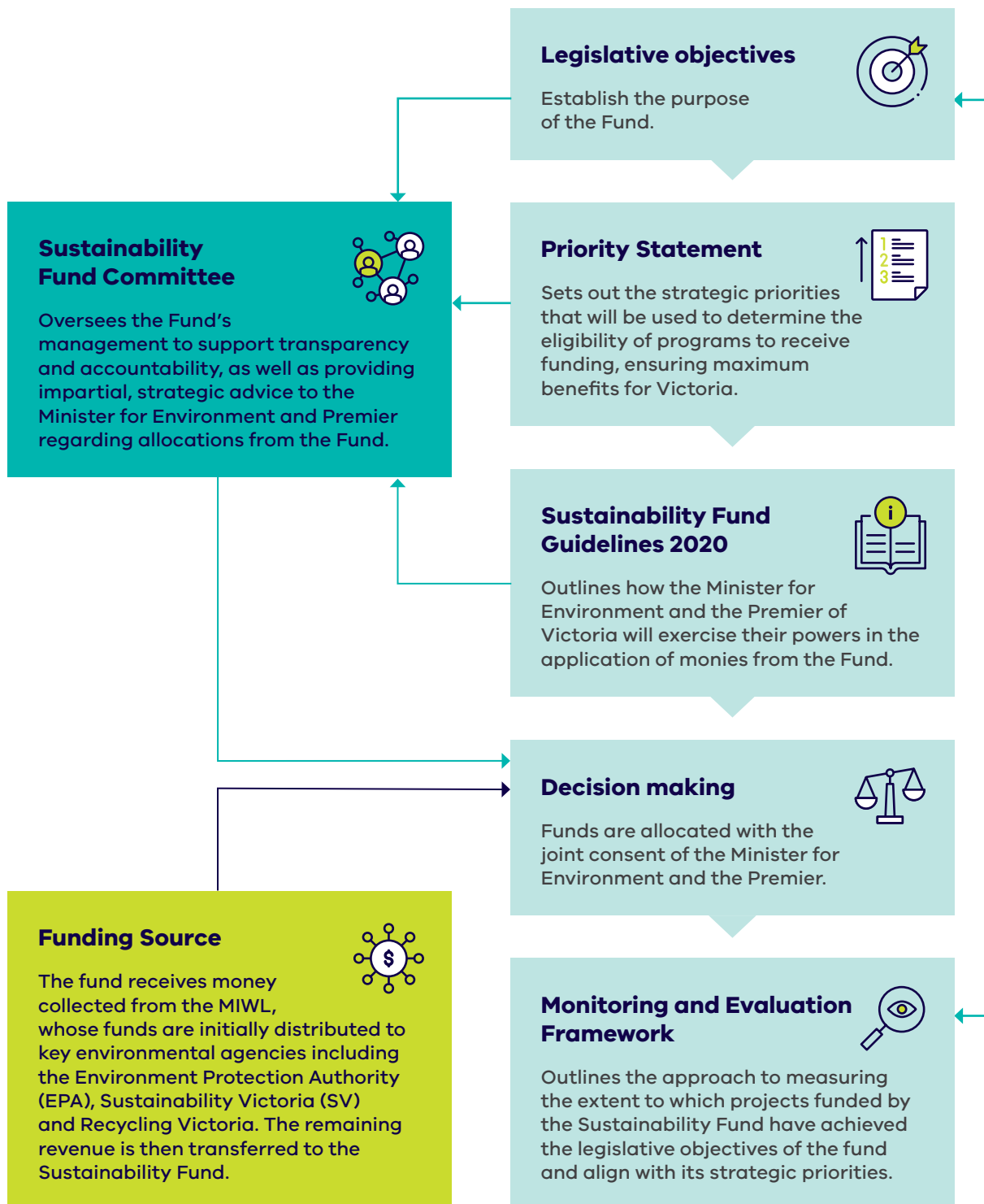
The Fund is overseen by an independent Sustainability Fund Committee (the Committee) of five members with expertise in sustainability, governance, finance and project management. The Committee provides:

- impartial and strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and Premier on requests for funding from the Fund, and
- advice in line with the **Sustainability Fund Guidelines 2020** and the **Sustainability Fund Priority Statement 2020**.

The Sustainability Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (the Framework) is used to measure how initiatives contribute to the priorities of the Fund. The Framework includes a series of outcomes and indicators and is incorporated in recipients' funding agreements to enable the collection, review and reporting of data.



Figure 1: How the Fund works



## CASE STUDY

# Local Parks Program



**Photo:** Evelyn Park at project completion.

**The Victorian Government's Suburban Parks Program is a \$315 million project to create, connect and upgrade more than 6,500 hectares of green open space across Greater Melbourne. A component of this program, the Local Parks Program, has utilised the Sustainability Fund to establish 29 new pocket parks.**

The Local Parks Program aims to:

- create new green spaces to improve the health and wellbeing of communities in built-up urban areas
- help prepare Melbourne for the effects of increasingly hotter summers, establishing Melbourne as the parks capital of Australia
- provide local opportunities for Melburnians to connect with green open space and exercise.

The Evelyn Street Pocket Park in Frankston is just one project of the 29 being delivered as part of this exciting program. The site, owned by Frankston City Council, had been vacant and underutilised for many years prior and was identified by the council as an area for open space activation.

When Frankston City Mayor Nathan Conroy spoke at the opening of the new pocket park he said, *"Green open spaces, particularly in city urban centres, are absolutely precious; they should never be lost and instead preserved for people of all ages to enjoy today and into the future."*

This project was supported by not only the Sustainability Fund, but also additional contributions that were made by the Frankston City Council as well as in-kind project design and delivery costs.



**Photo:** Evelyn Park - Before the transformation.

**Photo:** Evelyn Park recreational area.

The Evelyn Street Pocket Park features an amphitheatre and elevated performance space, a rainforest garden incorporating water-sensitive urban design principles, planted arbours, a large new grassed area, footpath connections to Nepean Highway and Fletcher Road, several seating and outdoor dining options, solar lighting, barbecues, a drinking fountain and bike hoops.

This new pocket park provides a beautiful gathering space for the Frankston community and beyond. This investment was the first significant open space upgrade to occur in the Frankston Central Business District in 50 years.

The project provides a number of tangible outcomes for the Frankston community including:

- the design of the pocket park caters for all abilities and is suitable for people using wheelchairs
- significant visitation to the new park and increased connection between the Bayside Shopping Centre, Police Station and Nepean Highway
- open and visible design for clear lines of sight which improves the safety of park users
- pedestrian pathway improvements which connect to other trails in the region and adjacent parks
- planting of trees which improves localised cooling, tree canopy and urban greening effort
- increased employment of contractors throughout the project.

In a recent DEECA survey of program delivery partners, one delivery partner highlighted the value of the funding:

***"If we want to respond to climate change and deliver open space that provides respite to those who are more vulnerable to heat impacts or are unable to afford to pay for activities, then these grants provide a transformational impact on many people's lives."***

## Legislated objectives

- The broader Suburban Parks Program produces outcomes that align with the Sustainability Fund's legislative purpose of 'fostering community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas substance emissions [mitigation] or adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria'.
- This is accomplished by the creation and development of green open spaces for the community to connect with, helping Victoria adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- These pocket parks provide cooler places in warmer weather and aid in combating the effects of hotter summers as our climate changes, improving the resilience of our built environment.

For a full list of pocket parks near you, check out this map: <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/suburban-parks/local-parks>



## CASE STUDY

# Protecting Traditional Owner cultural values through parkland planning



**Photo:** Merri Creek Parklands, Suburban Parks Program, DEECA.

### Creating parklands centred on embedding the self-determined priorities of Traditional Owners.

A key component of the Victorian Government's Suburban Parks Program is the creation of four of Melbourne's largest metropolitan parklands in partnership with Traditional Owner Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP).

The four parklands are:

- On traditional land represented by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC):
  - Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands (1,000 ha)
  - marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands (2,700 ha)

- Quarry Hills bunjil nganga Regional Parklands (1,000 ha)

- On traditional land represented by the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC):

- Cardinia Creek Regional Parklands (600 ha)

An innovative and collaborative approach was taken to create these parklands, which centre around embedding the self-determined priorities of the Traditional Owners. For each of the parklands, a Parkland Partnership Group was formed, comprising the Traditional Owners, local councils, water corporations, Parks Victoria, committees of management and community groups.

Large parklands conserve green space for communities and help to mitigate the effects of climate change. They reduce the urban heat island effect by cooling the air through shade



**Photo:** Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung elders Alice Kolasa and Sean Hunter at Jacksons Falls' (Credit: Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands Plan 2022).

**Photo:** Merri Creek Parklands, Suburban Parks Program, DEECA.

from trees, evaporation of water, and evapotranspiration from plants and grasses. The parklands provide protected areas for flora and fauna, reduce erosion and help to improve sediment management. By funding these natural spaces, the Sustainability Fund is improving Victoria's resilience in a changing climate.

The three key elements of the new approach to parklands are:

- 1. Cultural Values Study.** Funding Traditional Owners to undertake a Cultural Values Study, to set out their priorities for the cultural landscape.

A Cultural Values Study or cultural mapping plays a central role in enabling Traditional Owners to set out their self-determined priorities for their cultural landscape. Traditional Owners determine the methodology, with support from the Suburban Parks Program.

The studies look at archaeological evidence on the sites and examine the cultural, spiritual and living connections that the Traditional Owners have to their Country. It acknowledges traditional practices and envisions waterways and parklands as one living entity. Importantly, it acknowledges the active colonial resistance of the landscape that is part of the cultural story. The studies then suggest practical next steps and recommendations to guide parkland planning.

Extensive research goes into each Cultural Values Study and each is highly valued by the Parkland Partnership Group as a whole. The use of Cultural Values Studies has changed the way partners and the community consider the landscape.

For Jacksons Creek biik wurrdha Regional Parklands, the Cultural Values Study revealed the biik wurrdha cultural landscape to be rich in artefacts and stories, demonstrating the role of the valley as an important living space for the marram baluk and Wurundjeri willam clans. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community also identified the Sunbury Earth Rings as central to their custodianship, ongoing connection to Country, and cultural responsibilities.

The study revealed that biik wurrdha, meaning 'land of many', will be one of metropolitan Melbourne's most important cultural landscapes to showcase parts of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung culture. Further information can be found in the *Towards Cultural and Environmental Renewal of Jacksons Creek: biik wurrdha Regional Parklands Cultural Values Study* <https://engage.vic.gov.au/download/document/18282>.

For Cardinia Creek Regional Parklands, the Cultural Values Study revealed Cardinia Creek to be very significant to Bunurong people, with the parklands being part of a larger watercourse and wetland that has sustained devastating impacts since colonisation. It was part of a travel corridor from Western Port Bay to the uplands and is considered to have important spiritual connection to gathering places, and ritual places and journeys.



- 2. Parkland Plans** are co-designed by all parkland partners through Parkland Partnership Groups that embed Traditional Owner cultural values.

Using the Cultural Values Study, the Parkland Partnership Groups co-design Parkland Plans which set the principles and direction of progressive parkland establishment and management.

The Parkland Plans detail the commitments to cultural values, biodiversity, climate change, identity, access and visitor experience. Reflecting the commitment to self-determination, the Parkland Plans commit to returning Country to Traditional Owners in the long-term, and ensure that any current land managers are managing the land as a transitional measure until such time that the Traditional Owners have the capacity and resources to take on the land manager role.

Returning Country to Traditional Owners, represented by their RAP, can involve a suite of measures, ranging from longer term legislative changes about land tenure, to more immediate options including appointment of RAP groups as Committee of Management, or as partners on relevant land management decision committees, or contractors for revegetation and ecological works. The commitment to return Country is already being actioned in land management contracts and Committee of Management discussions with WWCHAC.

- 3. Communications.** Shared communications to help more people understand the cultural value of the parklands.

Shared communications to help people understand the cultural value of the parklands has been integral to the success of the Parkland Plans. This includes:

- Multiple rounds of community consultation to identify key values of the local residents. The feedback from residents respected the role of Traditional Owners, and communities overwhelmingly expressed a desire to learn about the cultural landscape and Traditional Owner values of the land. Residents would also like the parklands to conserve habitats and provide opportunities to walk, explore and relax. The balance between community needs and those of the Parkland Partnership Group members is the key innovation of this parkland planning approach.
- Traditional Owners providing names in language and artwork for parklands, which is an important component of increasing the Aboriginal identity and connection to the parklands. The artwork is used in all communications and is to be used in park signage, with installation of signage

commenced at marram baba Merri Creek Parklands in May 2023. The names are being used in conjunction with the English language names in communications and reporting. The names identified by WWCHAC are:

- biik wurrda – meaning 'land of many' at Jacksons Creek
- marram baba – meaning 'body of mother' at Merri Creek
- bunjil nganga – meaning 'eagle view' at Quarry Hills
- The name 'Cardinia' is being retained, as it derives from 'Kar Din Yarr' in Bunurong language meaning 'looking at the rising sun' and 'sunrise'.

Promotional videos by Traditional Owners, featuring Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung elders and WWCHAC representatives sharing their connection to land, can be found here:

▶ **Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Values – biik wurrda Jacksons Creek**

▶ **Cardinia Creek Regional Parklands**

This innovative approach to parkland planning, with Traditional Owners at the heart of all components, has been made possible through approximately \$6.3 million from the Sustainability Fund.

## Legislated objectives

This program supports the Sustainability Fund's legislated objective of 'fostering community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas substance emissions and adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria' through creating, connecting and upgrading more than 6,500 hectares of green open space across metropolitan Melbourne with a strong focus on Traditional Owners' values.

**Photo:** Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders Dave Wandin and Julieanne Axford talking with archaeologist whilst overlooking biik wurrda valley (Credit: Jacksons Creek biik wurrda Regional Parklands Plan 2022).





## CASE STUDY

# Road surface treatment in Lilydale



**Photo:** Green bike lane along Anderson Street.

**Announced in February 2020, Recycling Victoria: a new economy is the Victorian Government's 10-year circular economy policy, which will invest more than \$300 million to transform our recycling sector.**

The Market Acceleration Program (\$25.858 million funded through the Sustainability Fund) contributes to the goals of the circular economy policy by investing in research, industry capability uplift and market development activities, to increase Victoria's capacity to produce and supply recycled materials for re-use domestically, while working to improve end user confidence in recycled products.

Yarra Ranges Council was awarded funding under the Sustainable Infrastructure Fund, one of four grant programs delivered as part of the Market Acceleration Program. It recognised projects incorporating recycled materials to: showcase sustainability, support the local recycling industry and encourage residents to adopt their own sustainable behaviours by showing them where their recycled items end up.

The council commissioned the Lilydale project – the first green bike lane in the Yarra Ranges, running along Anderson Street in Lilydale – using a durable, skid-resistant coloured surface treatment made with Australian recycled glass.

The surface treatment used glass aggregates containing seventy to eighty per cent Australian recycled glass, combined with a resin binder.

The bike lane is close to two existing shared paths and will encourage people to make more short trips by bike.

School Crossing Supervisors have reported feeling safer and buffered from traffic.

This sustainable form of road surface treatment with recycled glass will now be considered by the council for use across a broad spectrum of future projects.

*"This will be the first area to have formal bike lanes in Lilydale, improving rider safety around the shopping centre and school. Infrastructure that supports walking and cycling can help reduce congestion and encourage community members to enjoy their towns in new ways. We hope to add to the bicycle lane network in coming years, as we plan more infrastructure improvements around Lilydale."*

– Mark Varmalis, then Director for Environment and Infrastructure, Yarra Ranges Council

## Legislated objectives

Fostering environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management to advance the social and economic development of Victoria through the creation and expansion of markets for recycled materials by providing funding to encourage the use of recycled material when building infrastructure.

## Governance

### The Sustainability Fund Committee

This Committee:

- oversees Fund governance to support transparency and accountability, and
- provides impartial, strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and Premier regarding allocations from the Fund.

The Committee plays a key role in ensuring that all allocations are consistent with the legislated objectives of the Fund. The Committee's terms of reference are updated regularly to ensure they reflect any changing legislation, guidance or procedure.

The Committee is composed of five members, fully independent and supported by the Sustainability Fund Team within DEECA.

### Committee members

#### Freya Marsden Chair



Freya is an experienced Chair and Non-Executive Director with extensive governance, corporate strategy and finance background. As an economist, Freya has a keen interest in ensuring long-term, effective outcomes and value for money for the Victorian government as well as for taxpayers.

Freya has deep experience in driving optimal outcomes supported through her extensive sustainability, environmental management, finance, risk and audit capability. This includes establishing and utilising frameworks that protect and create value, manage risks and optimise opportunities.

Freya brings to her role significant knowledge in the energy, water, infrastructure, transport and environmental sectors, including sustainability policy within government and the private sector, both in Australia and internationally.

**Tom Mollenkopf AO**  
Deputy Chair



Tom is an independent adviser on water policy, strategy and governance and an experienced Non-Executive Director. He is a Senior Associate with consultants, AITHER and President and Chairperson of the International Water Association. Tom has a background in law, first in private practice and then as corporate counsel, before undertaking a series of executive roles in the water and environment sector.

Tom is passionate about sound, evidence-based decision-making and the role of informed and respectful conversations in good policy. He is a member of the Australian Water Partnership Expert Review Panel and a Non-Executive Director on several Boards. He holds degrees in jurisprudence and law from Monash University, an MBA from Melbourne Business School, and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

In January Tom 2023 was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) for his distinguished service to business, particularly through the essential services industry, and to the community.

**Joan Ko**



Joan has spent her career providing sustainability advice as a consultant to government and industry, with a focus on decarbonisation, resilience and circular economy for cities. She is Arup's Climate and Sustainability Leader in the Australasian region, responsible for developing new approaches to sustainable development challenges.

Examples of Joan's work include advising policymakers on the role of infrastructure in resilient communities, helping organisations transition towards a circular economy, and identifying barriers and drivers for net-zero emissions precincts in Australia. She is also a member of the Committee of Management for Working Heritage.

Joan holds a Master of Philosophy in Engineering for Sustainable Development from Cambridge, as well as a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Environmental Engineering. Joan is a Graduate of the AICD Company Directors course.





### Kate Andrews



Kate is a professional company Director and independent management consultant with expertise in governance, organisational strategy, marketing and digital disruption. She is passionate about addressing climate change and working towards a circular economy.

Kate's governance experience as a Board Member and Committee Chair spans community services, aged care, private health insurance, and member and advocacy organisations. As an executive, Kate held senior management positions in strategic marketing and corporate strategy at a \$30 billion superannuation fund and at top-tier advertising and marketing organisations locally and internationally.

She holds a Bachelor of Commerce / Bachelor of Arts, a Graduate Diploma of Marketing, a Diploma of Financial Services (Superannuation), is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors' Company Directors Course and a former fellow of the Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees.

### Tim Lo Surdo



Tim is the Founder of Democracy in Colour, Australia's first racial and economic justice organisation led by people of colour. Before starting Democracy in Colour, he worked with low-paid workers to set up Hospo Voice, a new union in hospitality. Previously, Tim was the Head of Campaigns at Oaktree, a senior adviser to two senators, the Campaigns Director at Jhatkaa, the National Communications Director at UN Youth Australia, and co-founded Open Sky.

Tim has served on 18 Community and Government Boards. He is currently the Chairperson of No to Violence and the Jane Goodall Institute Australia, and a Non-Executive Director of Plan International Australia, the Australian Marine Conservation Society, Environment Victoria, the Alliance for Gambling Reform, Inner Melbourne Community Legal, the Cultural Facilities Corporation, the Consumer Policy Research Centre and the Funders Initiative for Civil Society.

For his work, Tim was named an Asia-Pacific Obama Leader, the 2021 Victorian Young Achiever of the Year, a Commonwealth Young Person of the Year finalist, one of the 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australians and one of 17 UN Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Source of funding

The Municipal and Industrial Waste Levy (MIWL) is the revenue source for the Fund. This levy is paid by licenced landfill operators throughout Victoria.

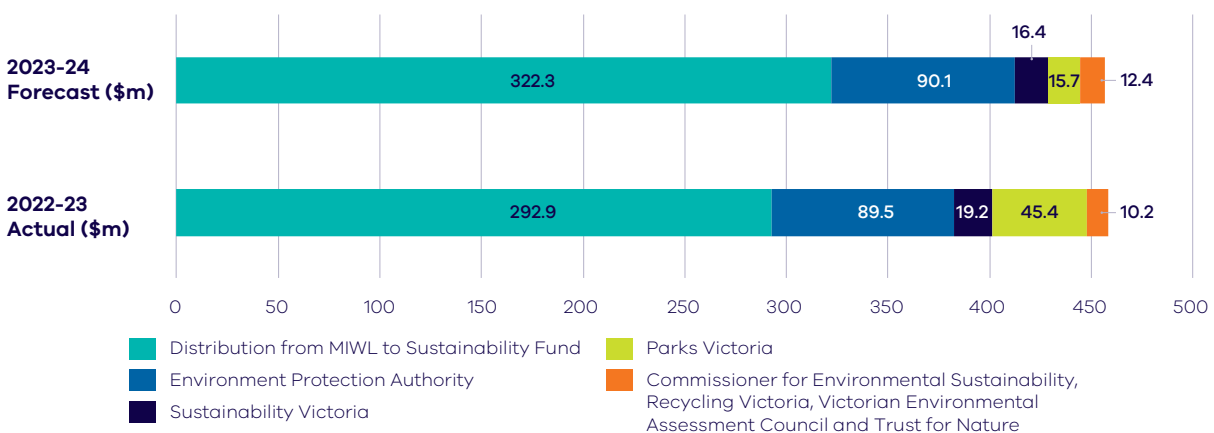
The landfill levy system has supported Victoria to lower our impact on the environment, influenced industry investment in resource recovery infrastructure, and encouraged people to find alternative, more innovative ways to dispose of their waste than landfill. The MIWL's aim is to encourage waste generators to look for ways to reduce the amount of waste they generate and send to landfill.

The *Environment Protection Act 2017* sets out how the funds generated through the MIWL are to be managed and distributed. The Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is responsible for collecting the levy and transferring it to a trust account managed by DEECA. From there, the Act specifies how these funds can be applied.

Funds are distributed to key Victorian environmental agencies driving better environmental outcomes for the state. These include EPA, Sustainability Victoria, Recycling Victoria and Parks Victoria. Any remaining funds after distribution are then transferred and held in the Sustainability Fund. Forecasts are developed based on anticipated volumes of waste going to landfill over a period of time and committed distributions to agencies.

In 2022–23, \$164.3 million was distributed from the MIWL to Victorian environmental agencies, while \$292.9 million was transferred to the Sustainability Fund (**Figure 2**).

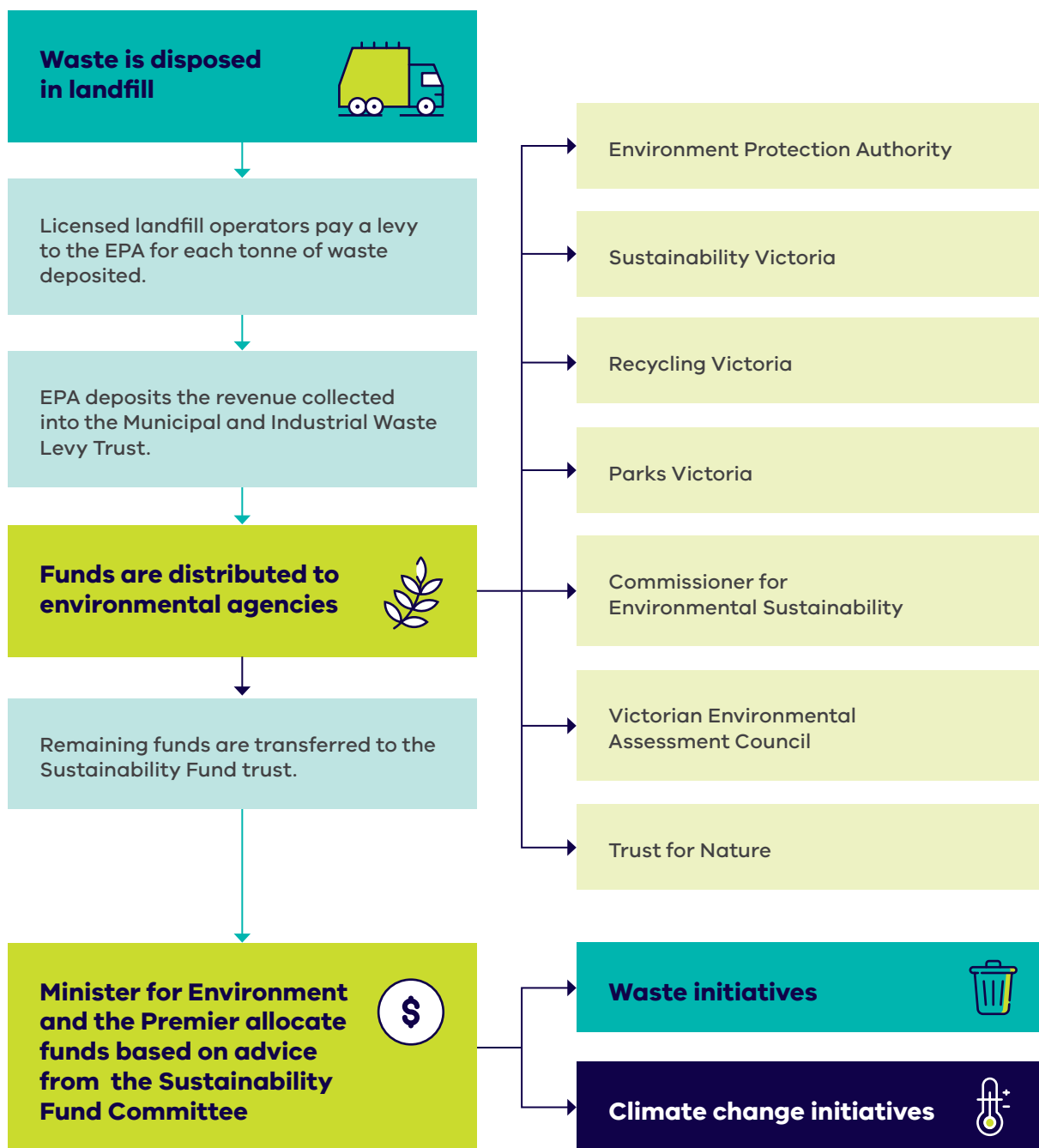
**Figure 2: Source of the Fund**



**Notes:**

1. DEECA forecast as at 11/7/23

Figure 3: How the Waste Levy is distributed





# Guiding our funding decisions

## Strategic priorities

The Sustainability Fund **Priority Statement 2020** sets out the strategic priorities of the Victorian Government and guides how funds are invested.

The current Priority Statement was issued by the Minister for Environment and the Premier in 2020. It positions Victoria as a leader in resource recovery, waste management and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Under the stated legislated objectives, it sets out the strategic priorities that will be used to determine the eligibility of programs to be supported by the Fund, ensuring maximum benefits for Victoria (**Figure 4**). These priorities are based on those of the Victorian Government.

***"We work together to make sure our environment remains healthy and can support the prosperity of Victorian families now, and into the future. To do this we must minimise our impact on the environment by generating less waste and recovering valuable resources from the waste we do generate. We must prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we emit into our atmosphere."***

– From the Priority Statement



Figure 4: The Fund’s legislative objectives and strategic priorities



## Alignment with government priorities

**Liveable, inclusive, sustainable communities and thriving natural environments underpin the Victorian Government's vision of a stronger, fairer and better Victoria.**

The government has launched a series of policies, strategies and targets to help create a more liveable, inclusive and sustainable Victoria. These include:

- **Recycling Victoria – A new economy**
- **Victoria's Climate Change Strategy**
- **Victoria's 2035 Emissions Reduction and Renewable Energy and Storage Targets**
- **Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037**

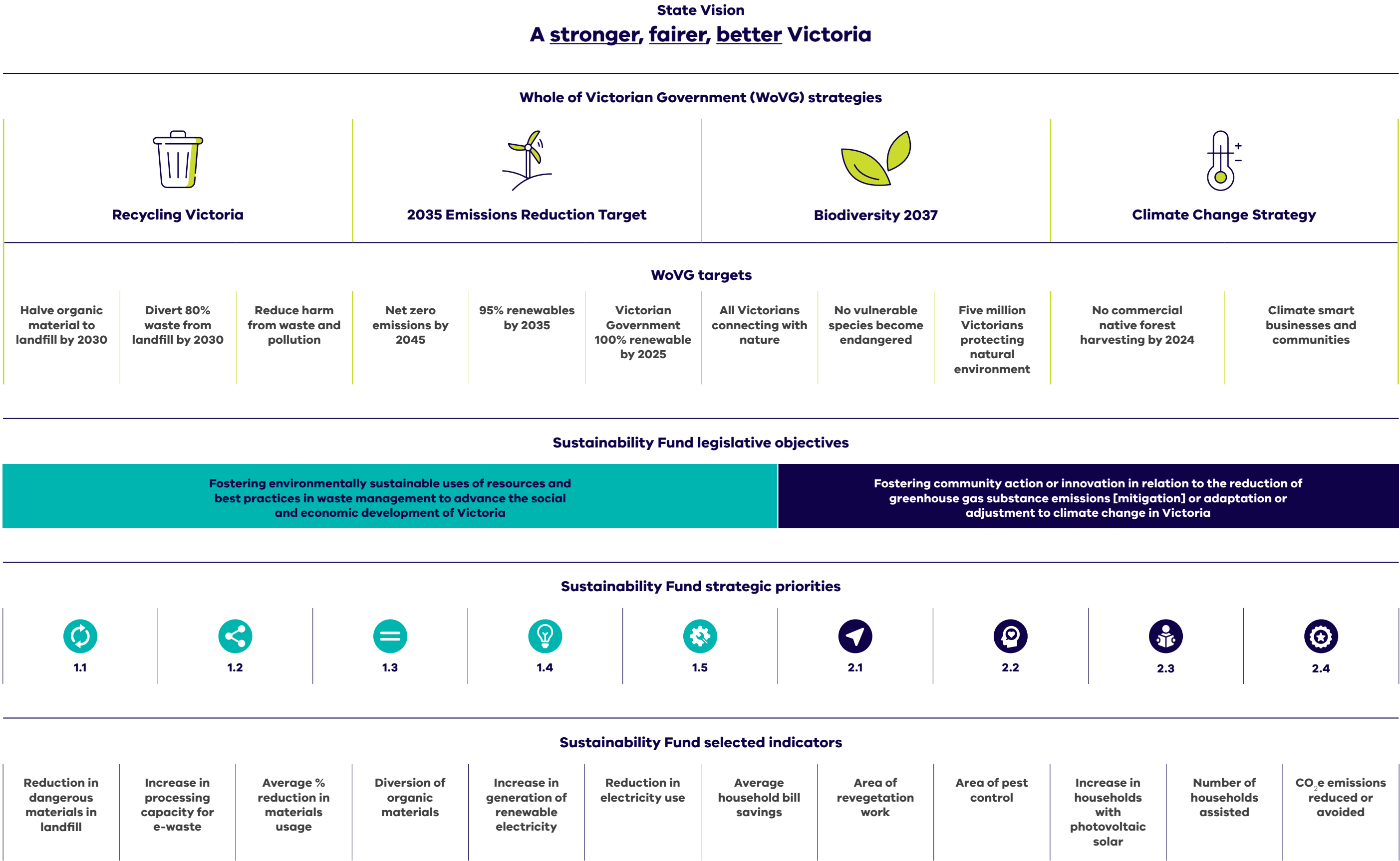
The Fund's core objectives closely align with the Victorian Government's environmental priorities and policy responses. The programs supported by the Fund are assessed to ensure that their outcomes contribute to the government's vision. They include outcomes that address policy updates and strategy development, support installation of energy saving equipment, and support community development in schools, volunteer organisations and local governments. By covering a variety of programs and recipients, the Fund flexibly tackles emerging issues in areas such as waste, litter, contaminated land, illegal dumping, energy efficiency, renewable energy, resource efficiency, climate change adaptation, conservation and biodiversity.

The Fund's Framework (see [page 23](#)) also adopts a flexible approach that responds to the evolving state-level policy landscape. Projects are diverse and funding may cascade down several layers to other projects and/or entities. The Framework therefore recognises the need for indicators and data collection to be flexible and accommodate different levels of capability (of stakeholders) and complexity (in project design).

**Figure 5** illustrates how a selection of Fund indicators contribute to the Victorian Government's vision.



Figure 5: How the Fund contributes to Victorian Government priorities





## Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

### The Fund applies its Framework to evaluate the outcomes of the programs it supports.

The purpose of the Framework is to:

- provide transparency and accountability for the Fund's monies
- show achievement against the Fund's legislated objectives
- support decision-making
- support learning from the delivery of funded projects and programs (i.e. lessons learned).

The Framework includes guidance on:

- how the Fund will report against its legislative objectives, including key outcomes and indicators, and
- the focus, timing and responsibilities of monitoring and evaluation activities.

The alignment of funding proposals to the Framework means that decision making and selection of projects align with the outcomes and strategic priorities. The Framework is included in all funding agreements. This allows DEECA and the Sustainability Fund Committee to better understand how the Fund performs against its legislative objectives.

The Framework includes a wide range of outcome indicators, both quantitative and qualitative, that support a bottom-up approach by aggregating project-level achievements up, to enable reporting on outcomes and achievements at a whole-of-Fund level.

The Framework was implemented during the 2018–19 financial year and was designed with an initial focus on gaining consistency in reporting on key indicators. This involved embedding standard outcome indicators in new funding agreements commenced from 2019 onwards, as well as retrofitting them into existing funding agreements over time. This has enabled DEECA to provide consistent reporting on outcome areas for the past four financial years.

## 2022–23 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Review

In line with principles of continuous improvement, the Framework is intended to be adapted and refined as it is implemented.

During 2022–23, DEECA's Sustainability Fund Team (the Team) reviewed the Framework with the following objectives:

- to assess the performance of the Fund since the Framework was first implemented,
- to identify any opportunities to improve and enhance the Framework moving forward.

The performance of the Fund over the past five years, including headline outcomes demonstrating the difference the Fund is making to Victoria, is outlined on [page 4](#) under Snapshot: Sustainability Fund 2018–23.

In considering the overall governance of the Fund, the review found that:

- all funded programs clearly demonstrated a link to one or both of the Fund's legislative objectives
- funding advice provided by the Fund's Committee to the Minister for the Environment was fair, consistent and transparent, and based on clear, established criteria
- the Team has effective systems and controls in place to oversee adherence to funding agreements
- some measures within the Framework could be better defined to improve consistency in data collection and reporting across all funded projects
- there is an opportunity to develop more sophisticated evaluation methods for reporting on higher-order and longer-term outcomes.

In 2023–24, DEECA will undertake further work on the Framework to incorporate the improvement opportunities identified in the 2022–23 review and consider any further areas for improvement.

## CASE STUDY

# Collective action builds community solutions



**Photo:** Mernda Repair Cafe (Credit: HIVE Creative).

To transition to a circular economy, Victorians must become world-class recyclers, repairers, resellers and re-users. Renting and sharing of products then becomes a more common choice and items are used for longer or by more people – saving consumers money and reducing waste.

Communities are well placed to support this transition at a local level. The Sustainability Fund has committed \$6.9 million to the Circular Economy Communities Fund (the Communities Fund) which supports projects that are soliciting creative solutions for issues and gaps in the current waste management system, delivering activities which enable a reduction in cost of living pressures, build local skills, encourage social connections and create new business opportunities.

*“The impact of giving [the] community a choice in what they do with their belongings, buying for longevity and knowing they are doing something positive for our collective future, leaves an important, positive impact.”*

– Maylei Hunt, Project Coordinator Mernda Repair Café

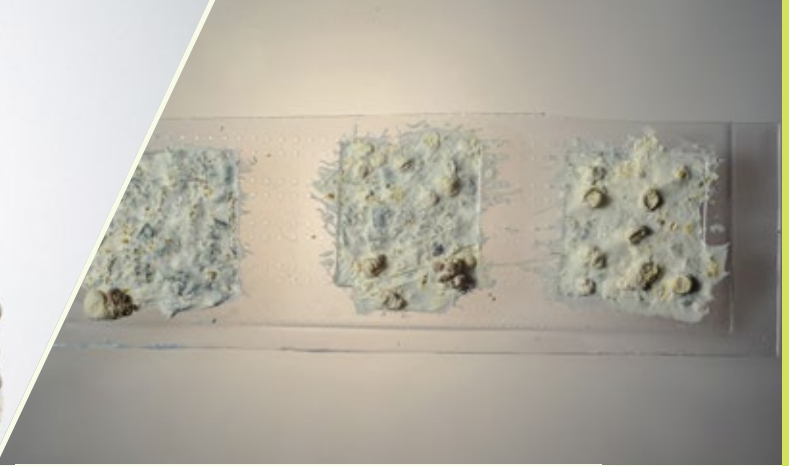


**Photo:** Mernda Repair Cafe (Credit: HIVE Creative).





**Photo:** No More Butts & Fungi Solutions (Credit: Visual Assets by Emily Medbury @nicefilm.co).



**Photo:** Mushrooms enjoying a meal (Credit: Visual Assets by Emily Medbury @nicefilm.co).

The Communities Fund program supports local community groups, social enterprises and other not-for-profit businesses to reduce waste and improve recycling. Funded projects include repair and share initiatives, community gardens, food rescue, and innovative re-use, recycling and re-purpose initiatives.

Highlights from three projects:

- Mernda Repair Café has had community action at its heart. The grant allowed them to fund a Project Coordinator, with their project resulting in the diversion of over 600 kg of household waste from landfill and delivering numerous workshops teaching people how to do their own repairs.
- Australian charity No More Butts and Melbourne-based mycologists Fungi Solutions have teamed up to launch CigCycle, a research project which will determine whether Australian fungi can be used to create a viable recycling stream from cigarette butts.
- Darebin Information Volunteer & Resource Service (DIVRS) is making a difference to households experiencing food insecurity in Melbourne's inner north. The *Darebin Fruit Squad* unites volunteer pickers with local backyards burdened by excess fruit. The fresh produce is then included in food parcels shared with around 1,500 people each month.
- "It's not a coincidence that there are these two parts: food and community. Community grows food and food grows community." – Holly Gallagher, Coordinator Darebin Fruit Squad.

The Communities Fund is set to well exceed its targets across two funding rounds with Round 1 projects alone resulting in almost 1,700 tonnes of waste avoided or diverted from landfill, 17,500

individuals adopting positive environmental action, 58,000 volunteer hours and 42 (FTE) jobs.

With many community groups relying on volunteer hours and grant funding, the Communities Fund provides vital resources to enable communities to build their own circular economy initiatives. Access to funding for trained staff boosts the local economy and gives projects a better chance of being sustainable in the long-term.

## Legislated objectives

The Circular Economy Communities Fund (the Communities Fund) supports the delivery of the Sustainability Fund's legislated objective to 'foster environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management' by supporting local community groups, social enterprises and other not-for-profit businesses to reduce waste and improve recycling.



**Photo:** Darebin Fruit Squad - Pear Picking (Credit: Sustainability Victoria Jeff Hoogenboom).

## CASE STUDY

# Data and intelligence-led compliance and enforcement

**Under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* and *Environment Protection Regulations 2021*, waste producers, transporters, and receivers in Victoria have been mandated to utilise Waste Tracker for Reportable Priority Waste (RPW). Since 1 July 2021, Waste Tracker has provided Environment Protection Authority (EPA) with unprecedented data on the movement of hazardous waste and the potential to unearth illegal disposal.**

Under the Illegal Dumping Strikeforce Program, funded by the Sustainability Fund, the functionality and useability of Waste Tracker has been enhanced, resulting in improvements to the data quality and development of the foundational reports commencing the detection waste anomalies.

The enhancement and foundational reports support EPA in the detection of individual waste movements and detection of Waste Tracker non-participation. In the long-term, this significantly progresses EPA towards detecting system-wide discrepancies, such as differences between the volume of waste produced and the volume of waste moving through legitimate systems.

### **Harnessing data-led intelligence products**

In December 2022, EPA Victoria unveiled a suite of data-led intelligence products that check for inconsistencies in waste records as well as indicators of duty holder non-participation. A series of checks is then done between each waste record received by the transporter or receiver and that duty holder's permissions.

These aggregations deliver a prioritisation scoring system for ranking the scale of potential non-compliance of all transporters and receivers. This system recognises that a level of potential non-compliance may be a result of user error, while higher rates of these may indicate deliberate non-compliances and potential illegal disposal.

### **Targeted operations for non-compliance**

Enabled by the new intelligence products, EPA's Authorised Officers have been conducting compliance inspections at waste transporter and receiver businesses that have been identified as likely non-compliant with their waste duties. These operations have proven to be highly effective in increasing compliance post the program's closure.

Since the conclusion of the program, three notices, 36 compliance advice and one sanction have been issued to businesses with non-compliant waste duty practices.

These activities are collectively bringing more legitimate businesses into the Waste Tracker framework which increases visibility of all stages of waste chains, giving EPA Victoria more opportunities to detect when and where the chain is broken and whether this may be a result of illegal disposal.

### **Expanding compliance and deterrence**

Waste Tracker and the accompanying suite of intelligence products have significantly bolstered EPA's capabilities, enabling it to detect and respond to non-compliance at an early stage. As more businesses embrace their tracking and disposal obligations, the visibility and effectiveness of Waste Tracker continues to grow, acting as a powerful deterrent against hidden waste crime.

## Legislated objectives

Environment Protection Authority is continuously enhancing its ability to detect and deter waste crime. Under the Illegal Dumping Strikeforce Program, EPA has invested in its Waste Tracker system to achieve the program objective of 'embedding strong systems to deter and detect illegal waste disposal offenders'.

The program also supports delivery of the Sustainability Fund's legislated objective of 'fostering environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management' by reducing illegal dumping of waste.



# It's worse than an eyesore, it's harmful.

## Report illegal dumping in minutes.

### 1300 372 842



**Photo:** EPA Waste Dumping Banner.



## CASE STUDY

# Driving renewable energy transition in Victoria



**Photo:** Victorian Big Battery (Credit: Neoen).

**Victoria's electricity sector is undergoing an accelerated transition from emissions intensive thermal electricity generation towards renewable energy, which will require a generational investment in renewable electricity generation, zero emissions energy storage and electricity transmission capacity.**

With funding from the Sustainability Fund, the Driving Growth in Renewables Program commenced in July 2021 to support an orderly transition to renewable energy for Victorians through the achievement of Victoria's renewable energy targets and the development of further energy policies necessary to support this transition.

Over 2021 and 2022, the Driving Growth in Renewables Program supported policy work that led to the Victorian Government committing to targets of 65 per cent renewable electricity generation in Victoria by 2030 and 95 per cent by 2035. This policy work also led to the Victorian Government setting new energy storage targets of at least 2.6 gigawatts (GW) of energy storage capacity in Victoria by 2030 and at least 6.3 GW by 2035.

These targets will provide greater policy certainty that will help incentivise Victoria's renewable energy sector to deliver the new renewable energy and energy storage capacity needed for Victoria's renewable energy transition, and where appropriate, to ensure the State is prepared to support the delivery of this capacity.

Victoria's first energy storage targets are critical to signal the importance of investment in energy storage to ensuring an orderly renewable energy transition for Victoria. Specifically, Victoria's renewable energy targets will ensure Victoria has sufficient renewable electricity generation to meet its future electricity needs while the storage targets will ensure this electricity is available to Victorian consumers when it is needed.

Victorians will realise economic, social and environmental benefits from the investment that will be required to achieve the targets. Achieving Victoria's renewable electricity and energy storage targets is estimated to deliver around \$9.5 billion (in net present value terms) and around 59,000 two-year jobs to Victoria's economy over the period from 2023 to 2035<sup>1</sup>. This transition is also estimated to see Victoria's electricity sector emissions fall from around 40 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e (million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) in 2022 to around 3 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2035.

## Legislated Objectives

The program aligns to the legislated objective of 'fostering community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas substance emissions or adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria'.

The Driving Growth in Renewables Program is contributing to this objective through the delivery of policy work that contributes to an increase in the share of renewable electricity generation in Victoria's electricity mix.

<sup>1</sup> *Victorian electricity sector renewable energy transition – Economic impacts modeling*: A report prepared for the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, October 2022 (<https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/victorian-renewable-energy-and-storage-targets>)

# Outcomes of the Fund 2022–23: progress on selected indicators

Since 2017–18, the Sustainability Fund Activities Report has grouped indicators into a series of outcome areas consistent with the objectives and priorities of the Fund.

These outcome areas consider a triple bottom-line definition of sustainability, to incorporate the government's commitment to social cohesion and economic development and provide a thematic grouping of indicators to allow for a logical and consistent method of tracking performance of funded programs.

The seven outcome areas are:

- best practice waste management
- encouraging economic development
- environmentally sustainable uses of resources
- facilitating social development
- improving community capacity to take action on climate change
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- adapting through biodiversity.

**Appendix 2** identifies alignment between these outcome areas and a selection of indicators from the Framework.

The Team conducts an annual data request of its current programs to ascertain what they have achieved in the year. Achievement data is initially collected by each funding recipient, and then provided to DEECA for collation. DEECA critically reviews the data for feasibility and consistency, analysing the results within the Framework.



## Outcome Area – best practice waste management

Part of the Fund's waste objective is to foster best practices in waste management in Victoria. All of the Fund's waste strategic priorities direct government's investment towards projects that achieve this.



The waste and resource recovery system provides an essential service to manage Victoria's waste and recycling material streams. Without proper management, waste can cause a range of issues that may affect the community and the environment, such as odour, dust, noise, leachate (which can contaminate groundwater and soil) and greenhouse gases.

### Sustainability Fund contribution to this outcome

As the state's flagship circular economy policy, over the next decade Recycling Victoria will transform how Victoria's economy uses materials and how the state reuses, repairs and recycles. Funding provided by the Sustainability Fund contributes to the creation of jobs, reducing household costs and establishing a recycling system that Victorians can rely on.

The Fund is working towards achieving best practice in waste management by investing in initiatives that:

- reduce or avoid waste going to landfill through reduction in waste and improved recycling
- increase the number of organisations implementing improved policies, standards and practices
- deal with the illegal dumping of waste
- promote and facilitate new markets for recycled materials.

## FUND IMPACTS IN 2022–23

# 347,381

**tonnes of waste avoided going to landfill in 2022–23.**



This is **over 30 per cent more** than 2021–22. This is equivalent to the mass of nearly **500,000 Victorians'** annual landfill waste.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Using the 2021–22 average of 696 kg per person, sourced from internal documentation of waste programs.

# 175,022

**more households**

**with new organics collection services in 2022–23.**



# 133,181

**more households**

**with new separate glass collection services in 2022–23.**



# 6,179

**people**

**attended dedicated locations for disposal of dangerous household materials as part of the Detox Your Home Program.**



# 12,224

**tonnes**

**of illegally dumped material were removed.**





## Outcome Area – encouraging economic development

Investment in sustainable development drives long-term sustainable economic growth. Government investment creates jobs, attracts private sector investment and creates certainty in markets. The Fund has two waste and two climate change strategic priorities that direct government's investment specifically towards encouraging economic development.



### Sustainability Fund contribution to this outcome

As with all government portfolios, the Fund has continued to contribute to the post-COVID economic recovery of the state. Funded initiatives, including those set out in *Victoria's Climate Change Strategy* and *Recycling Victoria – A New Economy*, show that we can reduce the impacts of climate change and make better use of resources while also supporting the economy.

The Victorian Government also has a role to play in adapting to the impacts of climate change that are now unavoidable. The Fund's projects assist individuals, communities and ecosystems to be more resilient to climate change and help us avoid potentially massive future costs of climate extremes.

The Fund is promoting economic development by investing in initiatives that:

- increase employment
- leverage investment and support
- upskill industry members to enable participation in a more sustainable economy
- increase certainty required for investment in a more sustainable future
- result in savings for households and organisations.

## FUND IMPACTS IN 2022–23

**148**  
full-time equivalent  
(FTE) jobs



**were created or sustained in 2022–23 in waste management, recycling or renewable energy generation sectors which were directly supported by Fund programs.**

This is **up from 102 FTE jobs** in 2021–22.

**\$53,090,340**  
of public and private investment

**was leveraged in 2022–23. Funds leveraged came from a variety of sources such as local government and private businesses that contributed additional funds as part of the total cost of programs.**



## Outcome Area – environmentally sustainable use of resources

Part of the Fund's waste objective is to foster the environmentally sustainable use of resources. All the Fund's strategic priorities related to waste direct the government's investment towards projects that achieve this.



Some climate change projects also foster the sustainable use of resources, notably renewable energy projects. The Fund has three climate change strategic priorities that support this outcome.



### Sustainability Fund contribution to this outcome

Victoria's circular economy will continually seek to reduce the environmental impacts of production and consumption and commit to more productive use of natural resources. Recycling Victoria initiatives enable more efficient business models that encourage recovery and reuse instead of a traditional linear economy mindset of take, use and throw away.

The Fund's contribution to achieving Victoria's renewable energy targets also results in more environmentally sustainable resource use. Reducing reliance on fossil fuels will decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience to future price shocks affecting finite resources.

The Fund is fostering the environmentally sustainable uses of resources by investing in initiatives that:

- reduce the use of electricity, gas, water and materials
- increase generation of renewable energy
- increase the use of recycled and recovered materials
- increase the number of individuals adopting positive environmental action
- increase research and information, as well as the number of ways to access information
- increase energy efficiency audits/assessments.

## FUND IMPACTS IN 2022–23

**2,783kW**  
in renewable energy  
generation capacity



**was installed in Victorian households, businesses and commercial and industrial sites. This is enough to power over 850 homes<sup>1</sup> and contributes to enabling energy resilience and security for decades to come.**

<sup>1</sup> Assuming an average yearly consumption of 4,727kWh (Australian Energy Market Commission's Residential Electricity Price Trends 2021 report)

The Fund supported a number of programs during 2022–23 that helped improve resource use and demonstrate the viability of previously untested or underutilised recycled products, including:

- Circular Economy Reuse Pilots – you can read 15 champion success stories [here](#).
- Recycled First products demonstrating procurement information for greater uptake from [recycled asphalt](#) to [recycled plastic decking](#). This has included [events](#) to promote this work.

## Outcome Area – facilitating social development

Advancing the social development of Victoria is one of the Fund's objectives. The integration of social measures involves the community's participation, collaboration and education to support Victoria's natural environment.

The Fund has three waste and three climate change strategic priorities that direct government's investment specifically towards this outcome.



### Sustainability Fund contribution to this outcome

Caring for natural habitats, creating jobs and supporting community participation are pillars of the government's environmental policy. The Fund's legislated objectives address these elements in existing strategies such as *Victoria's Climate Change Strategy* and *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*.

The Fund also continues to support programs that help the community to engage with nature and participate in conservation and citizen science programs. By facilitating community programs, delivering information campaigns and forming partnerships, Fund programs lead to innovative solutions for complex issues.

The Fund is promoting social development by investing in initiatives that increase the number of:

- households (including vulnerable households) and organisations assisted to reduce their energy bills
- people attending training or receiving support and information on household environmental sustainability efforts
- new partnerships formed to deliver waste management and climate action projects.

## FUND IMPACTS IN 2022–23

**6,819** households

with access to new or upgraded pocket parks.



**1,481** people

attended training or received support on environmental sustainability efforts.



**274,068** Victorians

were exposed to messaging on environmental sustainability.



**24**

charitable organisations

were supported to remove illegally dumped material from their premises.



## Outcome Area – reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Another part of the Fund's climate change objective is to foster action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The Fund has two strategic priorities that direct government's investment to meet this outcome.



### Sustainability Fund contribution to this outcome

In 2017, the government set a legislated target for net-zero emissions by 2050. It has since committed to achieving this target by 2045.

Victoria's emission reduction target will be achieved through increasing energy efficiency, moving to cleaner energy supplies, 'greening' resource-intensive sectors such as transport and agriculture, and harnessing the carbon sequestration capacity of natural assets.

In 2022–23, the Fund helped fund the development of a new calculator to show the impact in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>-e) emissions reduced or avoided by recycling different materials. In doing so, the project achieved both of the Fund's legislative objective by helping to address waste and climate change.

Other funded projects this year have included efforts to:

- increase generation of renewable energy
- increase the efficiency of energy generation
- reduce demand for energy.

By advancing new technology, investing in innovation and driving the creation of new jobs for Victorians, the Fund has continued to help position Victoria as a global climate change leader.

## FUND IMPACTS IN 2022–23

# 378,000

**MWh of renewable energy generated, including through wind and solar energy.**



This is equivalent to **over 80,000 Victorian households.**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Assuming an average yearly consumption of 4,727kWh ([Australian Energy Market Commission's Residential Electricity Price Trends 2021 report](#))



## Outcome Area – improving community capacity to take action on climate change

Part of the Fund's climate change objective is to foster the adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria. All of the Fund's climate change strategic priorities direct government's investment towards projects that achieve this outcome.



### Sustainability Fund contribution to this outcome

While reducing greenhouse gas emissions will help combat climate change, some impacts of climate change will be unavoidable. For communities to best respond to these impacts, they need to be resilient, well-informed and able to adapt to changing conditions.

The government is supporting Victorian communities, especially vulnerable Victorians, to prepare for a changing climate, manage the risks of climate change and understand how they can take action. In 2022–23 the Fund supported work on key targets being revised and strengthened to provide businesses and community with a clearer path to net zero emissions. For more details, see case studies on [pages 28](#) and [40](#).

In 2022, the government also introduced time-limited relief from certain regulatory requirements to trial innovative concepts or new technologies in the energy market. In 2023, the government banned embedded networks in new residential apartment buildings. Embedded networks are private electricity networks that serve multiple premises. Embedded networks generally buy electricity in bulk and then on-sell it to customers inside their network. Historically apartments might not have been able to directly choose their electricity plan. The government is working both publicly and behind the scenes to implement policies that empower communities to take action on climate change.

The Fund is supporting this work by investing in initiatives that increase the number of:

- organisations adopting positive environmental action
- community members participating in climate and sustainability-related initiatives
- education and information sessions and products
- ways to access information
- climate change research projects.

## FUND IMPACTS IN 2022–23

**528** schools



were supported to achieve environmental and educational outcomes through the ResourceSmart Schools program.

**120+** community grants



were provided through our recipients' grant programs.

**New policy and regulatory frameworks**



to enable Victoria to achieve its renewable energy targets (65% by 2030; 95% by 2035) and net-zero emissions target by 2045.

## Outcome Area – adapting through biodiversity

The Fund supports projects that assist Victoria's biodiversity to adapt to the impacts of climate change and mitigate decline driven by climate change. The Fund has a specific strategic priority to ensure government invests in projects that meet this objective.



Victoria's natural environment, and the biodiversity within it, is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of every Victorian. It provides clean air and water, productive soils, natural pest control, pollination, flood mitigation and carbon sequestration – and supports productive activities that underpin the state's liveability and economic advantage.

Victoria's biodiversity is in decline. Many native plant and animal species are at risk from a range of pressures, including climate change. Protecting biodiversity, as best as we can, will help us protect the future health, wellbeing and prosperity of all Victorian communities as well as the economy.

The Fund is supporting Victoria's biodiversity to adapt to the impacts of climate change by investing in projects that:

- increase and improve the area and quality of protected habitats
- improve management of invasive and threatened species.

## FUND IMPACTS IN 2022–23

# 807,000

hectares of land received pest control.



# 7,200

 hectares

of land received primary weed control.



# 87,000

unique users



visited DEECA's **NatureKit** – a free online mapping and data exploration tool for biodiversity data integration and decision support.

On this platform, users can overlay and link related biodiversity datasets, and use several tools to query, extract and download information by areas or other layer features. The site attracted consistent interest during the previous three years (2021-22 – **89,987** users; 2020-21 – **113,600** users; 2019-20 – **112,115** users).

## CASE STUDY

# Port Phillip Bay Fund



### Building resilience of our bay, and helping native flora and fauna deal with climate change.

The Port Phillip Bay Fund program supports projects that aim to protect the health of Port Phillip Bay and bay catchment area, including:

- encouraging partnerships across a range of interested groups and organisations who support the environmental health of the bay
- enhancing the amenity and environmental values in the bay and on the foreshore
- reducing and addressing threats to the health of the bay, including nutrients, pollutants and litter.

The Port Phillip Bay Fund is a grant program that supports direct action from the public and scientific communities, and leveraging the private sector to protect the health of Port Phillip Bay. Our waterways are often described as the lifeblood or lungs of our ecosystems. Protecting marine life, habitats and water quality have both direct and subsequent effects on our ability to respond to the climate emergency today and into the future.

Ten thousand marine plant and animal species live in Port Phillip Bay, making it one of Melbourne's most important ecosystems. In addition to providing valuable habitat, the bay also supports recreational fishing and tourism, is the entrance to one of Australia's busiest ports and has over 4.5 million people living and working in the catchment area.

The Port Phillip Bay Fund connects people with nature – both through volunteering opportunities and by raising awareness of the issues impacting the immediate environment around Port Phillip Bay.

### Case study - Removing invasive kelp

Widespread throughout Port Phillip Bay, *wakame* is recognised as one of the 100 worst invasive species globally. The kelp species is deemed a nationally significant marine pest on the Australian Priority Marine Pest List. This fast-spreading pest has displaced native kelp species in the bay and disturbed the functioning of local ecosystems.

The Sustainability Fund has funded Underwater Weeding – Removal of Invasive Kelp (*Undaria pinnatifida*) by Divers. This project is delivered through the Port Phillip Bay Fund and led by the Victorian National Parks Association (VPNA). Through the project, recreational divers were recruited and trained to remove Wakame from the bay.



**Photo:** Undaria underwater.



**Photo:** Brighton volunteers.

Delivered in partnership with three local dive stores over a one-year period, regular dives were conducted to remove and monitor Wakame at key locations throughout the bay.

The project delivered the following:

- 70 divers trained in the correct identification, removal, disposal, and monitoring of Wakame
- removal of thousands of Wakame plants
- development of two guidebooks to educate volunteers and the community
- training of eight team leaders to independently lead removal dives in the future, helping to ensure future Wakame control long after the end of the project
- increased broader community education on marine pests, with over 1000 people engaging with VPNA's online Wakame content

With community infrastructure now in place, this project is suitable for upscaling. It has the potential for continued training of new volunteers and expansion to new locations.

The project is contributing to a 'future-proofed' Port Phillip Bay – one that is more resilient to the impacts of climate change – while helping to protect native kelp species already at risk due to warming water and increased acidification. It is also supporting the many marine species that live amongst the kelp and has fostered direct action amongst the community to prevent the spread of marine pests and protect the health of the bay.

***"Having people visibly tackling problems such as marine pests, helps to educate not only those doing the activity, but also the general public observing the work. The exchange of knowledge from participant to public cannot be underestimated in its impact. Participants feel appreciated for the work they are doing and the public feel buoyed that there are people trying to tackle difficult problems."***

– Kade Mills, ReefWatch Coordinator

## Case study - Removing Northern Pacific Sea Star

The Sustainability Fund also helped fund the project, Bay Protection – Community Rapid Response Task Force, delivered through the Port Phillip Bay Fund and led by the Port Phillip EcoCentre. This project received a grant to train and establish a cross-sectoral rapid response network across Port Phillip Bay, to facilitate early community responses to outbreaks of the marine pest *Asterias amurens* (Northern Pacific Sea Star).

Northern Pacific Sea Stars are recognised as a nationally significant marine pest on the Australian Priority Marine Pest List and are a significant threat to the marine ecosystems of Port Phillip Bay. Mass aggregations of the sea stars have attracted widespread community concern. Removal is often done by a handful of volunteers without any regional coordination strategy.

This project will provide critical early warning of new pest introductions, to facilitate rapid community action to outbreaks, and to activate and support Victorians in protecting valuable marine assets. It has also protected many native species that are preyed on by the sea stars including oysters, mussels, and scallops – species already at risk due to warming water and increased ocean acidification.

The project has fostered direct action among the community to prevent the spread of marine pests and protect the health of the bay and has built their capacity to care for their local environment.

As a result of this project:

- five self-sufficient volunteer Community Rapid Response Teams have been established, with their working areas collectively covering the entire coast of Port Phillip Bay
- 15 volunteer team leaders and 35 additional volunteers have been trained to identify and safely remove the sea stars
- thousands of sea stars were removed, counted and measured across ten removal events





**Photo:** Volunteers measuring and counting NPS St Kilda.

- divers are already reporting a drop in sea star numbers around highly valued community assets, including Frankston Pier.

Following the success of this project, the work will be expanded. The Community Rapid Response Teams will be trained in identification and removal of two additional marine pests – Asian Shore Crab and Sea Urchin Barrens.

***“There is huge support and interest in the dive and volunteer communities for tackling marine pests. There is limited knowledge, but an appetite and support within the general public around marine pests and the work being done to tackle them. The extension of both projects for two years through Port Phillip Bay funding provides a fantastic opportunity to strengthen and develop the knowledge, skills, education and participation of the community.”***

- Fam Charko, marine scientist at the Port Phillip EcoCentre and coordinator of the Community Rapid Response Task Force project.

## Case study - Port Lillias

The Sustainability Fund also contributed to the project, Protecting Cultural Heritage and Restoring a Threatened Ecosystem at Point Lillias. This project was delivered through the Port Phillip Bay Fund and led by Deakin University and partner Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC). It aimed to restore a degraded coastal grassland site under significant weed threat. A number of Wadawurrung cultural heritage sites are located at Point Lillias, making this an area of high cultural and biodiversity value.

Prior to weed management by the project, 93 per cent of vegetation plots at Point Lillias surveyed by Deakin University consisted of over 75 per cent weeds. This is especially critical considering only 1 per cent of Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain remains today. These invasive weed species outcompete and replace native species and reduce biodiversity. The grassland ecosystem is then disrupted, leaving native insects, reptiles, and birds (including

threatened species such as the Swift Parrot and Striped Legless Lizard) without an optimal habitat.

This project has fostered direct action among the community to maintain and improve vegetation at Point Lillias. Vegetation workshops brought together local community, researchers and Traditional Owners to develop strong new partnerships and increased understanding for the cultural and environmental value of threatened grassland ecosystems. It has built their capacity to care for the local environment going forward.

As a result of this project:

- 45 community members participated in seasonal workshops hosted by Deakin University, WTOAC, Parks Victoria and the Arthur Rylah Institute, aimed at developing environmental knowledge and ensuring better ongoing management of the site into the future
- 50 hectares of weed management control was carried out at Point Lillias with a notable decrease in noxious weeds such as serrated tussock
- WTOAC was supported in its on-going management at Point Lillias
- new partnerships and relationships between WTOAC and volunteer groups who visit and care for Wadawurrung Country were created.

## Legislated Objectives

The program aligns to the legislated objective of ‘fostering community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas substance emissions or adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria’.

It does this by focusing on direct action by communities to manage challenges to local ecosystems.

These on-the-ground actions will help restore and build resilience in the bay and will improve the ability of local species and communities to adapt to climate change impacts.

## CASE STUDY

# Climate Action – expert advice



**Photo:** The Independent Expert Panel for Victoria's 2035 emissions reduction target meeting with researchers at Ellinbank SmartFarm, Gippsland to discuss reducing methane emissions from dairy cows.

Victoria sets its climate targets based on expert advice and evidence. As a part of the Climate Change and Community Action program funded by Sustainability Fund, an Independent Expert Panel was appointed in January 2022 to provide this advice on a 2035 emissions reduction target for Victoria. The panel's advice was provided to the Minister for Climate Action on 1 March 2023 and supported the Victorian Government in its decision to be one of the first jurisdictions in the world to set an ambitious 2035 emissions reduction target.

The panel's report provides advice to:

- position Victoria to reap the benefits of and maintain competitiveness in the global transition to net zero emissions
- clarify decarbonisation implementation and investment
- rapidly manage transition of Victoria's electricity system
- accelerate the phase out of natural gas
- accelerate the uptake of zero emissions vehicles
- invest in carbon-rich and biodiverse landscapes
- begin a step change in emissions from livestock.

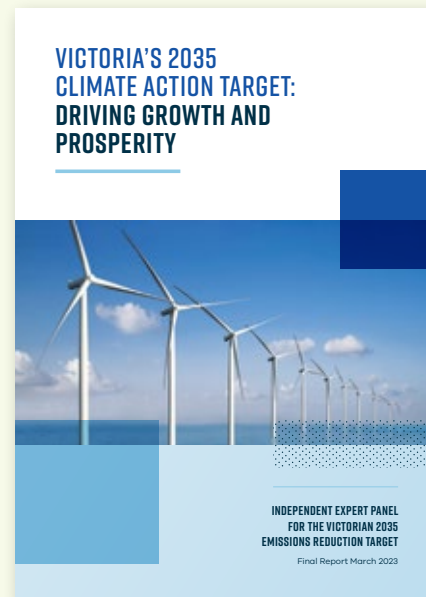
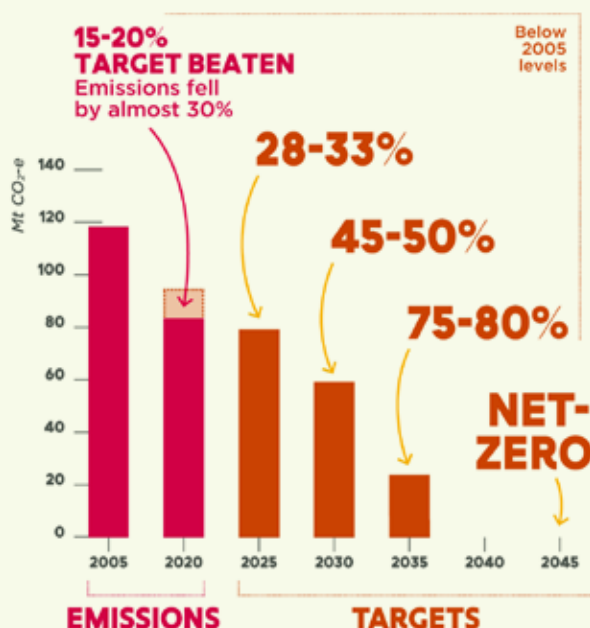
The panel's advice was informed by their significant experience, as well as broad consultation with other experts, research organisations, businesses and the Victorian public. Consultation found strong community and business support for ambitious emissions reduction targets and increased government climate action.

Panel members, Martijn Wilder AM (Chair), Emma Herd and Tennant Reed, have world-leading expertise and experience with climate finance, investment, law and the decarbonisation of Australian industries.

The panel received over 1000 responses to their public consultation, with 996 people completing a general survey, 381 completing a youth survey and over 100 organisations and individuals making written submissions. The panel held additional bilateral meetings and roundtables with a range of stakeholders and organisations, including targeted consultation in the Latrobe Valley and with Victorian youth.

The panel's advice supported the Victorian Government in setting a strong emissions reduction target of 75-80 per cent below 2005 levels by 2035. The target is among the most ambitious in the world and represents Victoria playing its part in global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C by the end of the century to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

The strong target is also a major opportunity for economic growth, allowing Victoria to harness the significant private investment available for the transition, develop new industries and jobs, and increase Victoria's resilience to future economic shocks.



*"... the policies and measures Victoria puts in place to achieve the recommended target can help drive sustained economic growth and revitalisation through new industries, innovation and efficiency. Victoria's communities and ecosystems will also flourish, experiencing benefits such as cleaner air, more comfortable homes and increased biodiversity."*

– Independent Expert Panel Report

## Legislated Objectives

The Climate Change and Community Action program delivered on the Sustainability Fund objective of action and innovation on climate change with the panel providing advice on how to achieve an ambitious 2035 emissions reduction target including new emissions reduction opportunities for the whole of the Victorian economy. Victoria has set world-leading targets to cut the state's greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net zero emissions by 2045.



## CASE STUDY

# Victorian energy security and preparedness



**Photo:** Energy Safety and Security visit to APA's Dandenong Storage Facility. This facility is critical to gas supply to Victorians during peak demand winter days.

Almost all economic and social activity within the Victorian community requires a reliable supply of energy – it's a foundational prerequisite to business and individual activity right across our state from Nelson to Mallacoota. The renewable energy transition has increased the complexity associated with providing reliable and affordable energy supply. The Sustainability Fund is providing over \$25 million to support the Energy Safety and Security program.

This program:

- examines energy supply risks to Victoria, and implements mitigation and readiness strategies, should there be unnecessary risks to energy supply
- oversees resilience improvements of Victoria's energy critical infrastructure sector (electricity, gas and liquid fuels).

This program has three major components:

- energy emergency capability, preparedness, readiness, and response
- oversight and assurance of critical infrastructure resilience and preparedness
- responsive and robust regulation, policy and system stewardship.



The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) had forecast risks to meeting peak day gas supply from winter 2023 during high demand conditions. In response to this forecast, the Energy Safety and Security program undertook robust industry engagement to:

- strengthen relationships with key stakeholders – including for emergency readiness and response
- seek assurance that Victorian gas industry participants were prepared for winter
- help facilitate the delivery of infrastructure projects to support reliable supply
- deliver better market rules to improve gas reliability
- brief stakeholders on the risks to gas supply, to communicate and encourage business resilience. The Sustainability Fund has supported the delivery of key gas infrastructure projects, sought reform to the National Gas Law and National Gas Rules to improve gas supply, and strengthened its emergency response capabilities to potential gas shortages. Energy Safety and Security also undertook a robust industry engagement program to support the industry's preparedness and resilience.

Key engagements were undertaken with Victoria's eight critical infrastructure sectors, to provide joint forums for industry and government to discuss sector challenges, dependencies, opportunities, and better practices. This work facilitated further engagement with the energy, water, transport, health, food and grocery, government, banking and finance, and telecommunications critical infrastructure sectors, enabling further dissemination of this key messaging to their respective stakeholders.

Broadly, the sub-component of this Sustainability Fund program helped prepare the critical infrastructure sectors for the heightened risks to gas supply for the coming and future winters. The continued operation and resilience of critical infrastructure sectors is essential to reduce the impact of energy supply disruptions on these sectors, in addition to the broader consequences experienced throughout the broader community and especially vulnerable communities, as a result.

This program contributes to the prevention and mitigation of gas supply shortages that could impact the Victorian community through the third major component mentioned (policy and system stewardship). More robust legislation and improved infrastructure have facilitated a more favourable environment for the market to operate and deliver a reliable supply of gas.

Should gas supply disruptions occur, Victoria's government and critical infrastructure sectors are better prepared and more resilient than they were prior to the industry engagement work of this program. This in turn, may reduce the impacts to the community in the event of a gas supply disruption.

## Legislated Objectives

This program aligns with the Sustainability Fund objectives by supporting the reliable supply of energy in Victoria through the renewable energy transition, which is beneficial to the health, wellbeing, and safety of the Victorian community.

This program also builds Victorian communities' capacity, capability, and skills in responding to climate change, through education, guidance, monitoring, and assurance, of industry preparedness. This sets clear expectations for owners and operators of energy infrastructure of the actions they must take to prepare for, and respond to, disruption caused by climate change; and provides guidance to support them to take this action. The project will also deliver guidance to the community and the operators of critical infrastructure (i.e., across key sectors like water, health, telecommunications, and food and grocery supply) about how they can prepare for and mitigate energy supply disruption.

**Photo:** Energy Safety and Security visit to APA's Dandenong Storage Facility.



# Yearly comparison of indicators

This table compares indicators as reported annually by active programs. Indicators vary across programs depending on their reportable outputs. Fluctuations in indicator values from year to year are due to changes in level of outputs across programs or as programs commence and conclude.

**Table 1:**

Indicator	2018/19 Result	2019/20 Result	2020-21 results	2021-22 results	2022-23 results	Unit
<b>Best practice waste management</b>						
<b>Waste avoided going to landfill</b>	184,959	11,200+	128,127	263,212	347,381	tonnes/ year
Organics waste		5100+	58,446	58,853	97,384	tonnes/ year
Timber waste		-	24,334	29,007	40,094	tonnes/ year
Plastic waste		6,100+	36,044	36,998	130,365	tonnes/ year
Paper/ Cardboard waste		-	9,303	14,486	14,632	tonnes/ year
Glass				69,688	55,548	tonnes/ year
Other <sup>3</sup>				48,413	13	tonnes/ year
Metals				4,996	6,864	tonnes/ year
e-waste				771	2,481	tonnes/ year
<b>Reduction of dangerous materials in landfill<sup>3</sup></b>		27,792	46,765	15,722	438	tonnes/ year
<b>Contaminated soil avoided - Aggregate Masonry and soil recovered</b>				531,502	273,160	tonnes/ year
<b>e-waste collection services upgraded<sup>4,5</sup></b>	53	47	25	12	2	upgrades / year

3 The reduction in tonnage after 2021–22 is due to completion of works in a project that provided the majority of reported data.

4 The e-waste ban program, which is reassociated with these figures is coming to the end of its lifecycle.

5 In last year's Activities Report, the number of infrastructure upgrades was reported as 137 for the year 2021–22 alone. However this was incorrectly calculated and represented the cumulative total from 2019–20 to 2021–22. The figure for 2021–22 shown in this table is now correct.

Indicator	2018/19 Result	2019/20 Result	2020-21 results	2021-22 results	2022-23 results	Unit
Policies or standards implemented	-	1	4	2	5	number of policies or standards implemented / year
Amount of illegally dumped material removed	-	10,000	9,588	11,539	12,224	tonnes/ year
Number of people who attend Detox Your Home events	-	-	4,133	7,681	6,179	number
<b>Encouraging economic development</b>						
Additional jobs created <sup>6</sup>	300+	49	74	102	148	FTE
Investment leveraged, including in kind contributions	-	10,500,000	1,809,885	19,153,389	53,090,340	\$ equivalent
New markets created or enhanced for recovered material	6	-	-	8	1	number
<b>Environmentally sustainable use of resources</b>						
Increased deployment of renewable energy capacity in Victorian households, business and commercial and industrial sites	-	203	2780	3,400	2,783	kW
<b>Facilitating social development</b>						
Households and organisations assisted <sup>7</sup>	2752	2100	384	544	111	number
Households with access to pocket parks <sup>8</sup>					6,819	number

6 Figure includes both temporary contracts and jobs that continue beyond 2022-23.

7 The reduction in households and organisations assisted in 2022-23 is due to completion of works in a project that provided the majority of reported data.

8 Calculated as dwellings within 400 metres of new or upgraded pocket parks.

Indicator	2018/19 Result	2019/20 Result	2020-21 results	2021-22 results	2022-23 results	Unit
Partnerships and collaborations formed and continued	154	103	200	240	58	number
Victorians exposed to messaging / information on sustainability <sup>9</sup>	1,323,710	-	-	2,201,156	274,068	number
Volunteer hours supported <sup>10</sup>	600,000	87,828	84,051	85,376	-	volunteer hours
Number of charitable organisations supported	-	27	25	24	24	Number of charitable organisations supported and sustained
People attending training or receiving support <sup>11</sup>	-	-	618	3,490	1,481	number
Organisations implementing improved policies / standards / practices <sup>12</sup>	-	-	81	124	200	number
<b>Reduce greenhouse gas emission</b>						
Kilowatt hours of renewable energy generated	389,000,000	491,000,000	446,000,000	457,000,000	378,619,000	kWh
CO <sub>2</sub> -e emissions reduced or avoided <sup>13</sup>					310,744	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
<b>Improve community capacity to take action on climate change</b>						
Number of organisations adopting positive environmental action <sup>14</sup>	-	48	81	115	16	number of organisations

<sup>9</sup> A program associated with this indicator was unable to provide figures prior to publishing date. The 2022-23 figure will be revised in 2023-24's report.

<sup>10</sup> No programs reported on volunteer hours in 2022-23.

<sup>11</sup> Where a person attends more than one training session or receives support more than once, each is counted separately.

<sup>12</sup> Where an organisation implements two or more policies / standards / practices, each is counted separately.

<sup>13</sup> The 2022-23 figure is an aggregated total of the past five years.

<sup>14</sup> Where an organisation implements more than one new policy or standard, each is counted separately.



Indicator	2018/19 Result	2019/20 Result	2020-21 results	2021-22 results	2022-23 results	Unit
Schools supported to adopt positive environmental action	784	128	584	457	528	Schools adopted positive environmental action
<b>Adapting through biodiversity</b>						
Nature Kit and other apps # of visits and use	120,218	112,118	113,600	89,987	86,853	# of website hits per year
Area of protection or rehabilitation <sup>15</sup>	-	-	14,100	8,046	967	ha
Area of pest control	-	-	1,261,268	396,240	-	ha
Area of pest herbivore control <sup>16,17,18</sup>	706,000	810,000	-	632,943	577,000	ha
Area of pest predator control <sup>19,20</sup>	245,000	560,000	-	146,441	230,000	ha
Area of primary weed control <sup>21,22</sup>	164,000	180,000	79,719	27,374	7,200	ha

**Notes:** A dash ( - ) is used throughout the table to indicate that data was not collected.

15 2021-22 result was reported incorrectly in the 2021-22 report.

16 2022-23 figures are an estimate, but were not able to be confirmed at the time of publication.

17 Figure represents summary of all pest herbivore control actions undertaken. Figure is likely to exceed total 'footprint' of pest predator actions due to overlapping area between them.

18 2021-22 result was reported incorrectly in the 2021-22 report.

19 2022-23 figures are an estimate, but were not able to be confirmed at the time of publication.

20 The 2021-22 figure has been revised down from last year's report as a result of 'flattening' (spatial analysis of activity data to "dissolve" overlapping areas of control to calculate the footprint of activity).

21 2022-23 figures are an estimate, but were not able to be confirmed at the time of publication.

22 2021-22 result was reported incorrectly in the 2021-22 report.

## CASE STUDY

# Single-use plastics ban



**Photo:** Single-use plastics ban resources - metal straw.

**The Sustainability Fund has contributed \$1.9million to help develop Victoria's new single-use plastics ban. The aim of the program is to ban problematic plastics and reduce plastic pollution in Victoria. By doing this, it also reduces single-use plastics ending up in landfill and contamination caused by non-recyclable single-use-plastic items at recycling facilities.**

With support from the Sustainability Fund, the Victorian Government banned single-use plastic drinking straws, cutlery, plates, drink-stirrers and cotton bud sticks, and expanded polystyrene food and drink containers, from sale and supply in Victoria from 1 February 2023.

This ban was a national first because Victoria defined 'reusability' in the single-use plastic Regulations, to ensure that only genuinely reusable and durable alternatives to the banned single-use-plastic items could be sold.

Removing the banned items from circulation will avoid an estimated 1,893 tonnes of single-use plastic litter from entering the Victorian environment, producing a benefit valued at around \$15.08 million over 10 years.<sup>1</sup> While voluntary steps to stop using certain single-use plastics items had already been taken by a number of organisations and businesses, more needed to be done to build on actions taken by first-movers.

<sup>1</sup> Regulatory Impact Statement – Single-use Plastic Ban 2022, PWC



**Photo:** Single-use plastic ban, DEECA – Seadragon.

#### Single-use plastics:

- Make up a third of the litter we see on our streets and in our waterways – they are difficult and costly to clean up. For example, in 2018–2019, over 217,700 single-use plastic foodware items were collected in litter clean-ups and over 55 per cent of these items were single-use plastic straws.<sup>2</sup>
- Are often used for only a few minutes but remain in the environment for a long time. Prior to the ban, Australians were using 270 single-use plastic items, per person, each year, excluding cotton bud sticks.
- Pollute the environment – harming wildlife and contaminating our food and water. Prior to the ban, the number of single-use plastics used by Victorians was growing every year. Australians consume 3.5 million tonnes of plastic annually, of which 130,000 tonnes leaks into the marine environment as litter.

The new laws were designed after a wide consultation with the Victorian public and businesses, with 52 submissions and over 1,600 responses to an online survey received. The overarching message from this feedback was strong support for the ban. Victoria's single-use plastic ban has successfully removed these problematic items from the supply chain, so businesses cannot sell or supply them and consumers can no longer access them, thereby reducing the need to manage them in the environment.

#### Business engagement

The Victorian Government supported businesses and organisations in preparing for the ban through a comprehensive engagement program including information sessions, guidance material, a hotline and factsheets translated into 14 languages. Sustainability Victoria also supported business to avoid the use of banned items and transition to reusables.

#### Legislated objectives

The Single-Use Plastics Ban Program supports the Sustainability Fund objective of "Fostering environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management to advance the social and economic development of Victoria". This was achieved by phasing out selected single-use plastic items from across the Victorian Public Service from February 2022 and then banning these items from sale and use across Victoria as of February 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Regulatory Impact Statement – Single-use Plastic Ban 2022, PWC

## CASE STUDY

# Supporting businesses to ban single-use plastics



**Photo:** Banh Mi Shop owner with poster to promote reusable to customers.



The Single-Use Plastics Business Engagement Program was delivered by Sustainability Victoria (SV), with support from the Sustainability Fund, alongside the ban on single-use plastics items, to support businesses to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics.

The Victorian Government banned single-use plastic drinking straws, cutlery, plates, drink-stirrers, cotton bud sticks, and expanded polystyrene food and drink containers, from sale or supply in Victoria from 1 February 2023.





**Photo:** Wanderlust Chefs in Wonthaggi.

**Photo:** Discussing reusable alternatives with BEANd San Remo Cafe.

The Single-Use Plastics Business Engagement Program supported hospitality businesses to avoid providing single-use plastics items and to use or accept reusable alternatives. This includes stainless-steel straws, durable bamboo cutlery and encouraging customers to bring their own cups and containers.

To maximise the number of businesses reached, SV engaged three intermediaries to deliver face-to-face engagement in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Their role was to act as local and trusted organisations providing key information and resources on how to reduce single-use plastics use through avoidance and reuse solutions.

Geelong Sustainability and Gippsland Climate Change Network were the intermediaries for Barwon South West and Gippsland. Both had experience in delivering business engagement and place-based programs, were in the target region and were employing local people with knowledge of their community and region.

The LOTE agency was the intermediary delivering this program in metropolitan Melbourne with expertise in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) engagement, language skills, networks and existing partnerships. This approach was found to increase the success of the program as the in-language engagement was required and worth the investment in areas with a high percentage of CALD communities. Engagement officers recorded 29 language preferences other than English. Twenty-five per cent of business owners in metropolitan Melbourne preferred to engage in a language other than English.

***“This tailored communication could not be achieved to the same degree in advertising campaigns, emails or even phone calls. The personal interaction was vital to convey the necessary information and capture accurate data for SV.”***

– Geelong Sustainability

The program found that many SMEs, even if not yet aware of the ban, were taking action to reduce the use of single-use plastics.

Businesses showed significant interest in taking action to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics, confirming the benefits of engaging with businesses in this manner, to bring about real change to tackle plastic litter and waste.

## Legislated objectives

The Single-Use Plastics Business Engagement program has delivered on the Sustainability Fund’s legislated objective of ‘fostering environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management’ by working with Victorian hospitality businesses to prepare for the single-use plastics ban by implementing reusable alternatives.

## CASE STUDY

# Improving household recycling habits



Photo: Regional mural.

As Victoria transitions to a standardised four-stream waste and recycling system by 2030, helping householders understand what belongs in each bin is critical to achieving 80% diversion of waste from landfill. The \$26.6 million Household Education and Behaviour Change Program being delivered by Sustainability Victoria aligns statewide and council-level communications to educate Victorians to better manage and reduce their household waste.

The Household Education and Behaviour Change Program, with support from the Sustainability Fund, fosters environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices

in waste management, and the strategic priority of improving waste education, by educating Victorians on waste minimisation and recycling at a statewide and local level.



Photo: Metro mural.





**Photo:** Yarriambiack campaign materials.

**Photo:** Yarriambiack campaign materials.

The program includes delivery of statewide behaviour change campaigns comprising advertising, public relations, activations, events, interventions and multicultural engagement. With the theme 'Small acts make a big impact', the campaign aims to increase understanding and trust in the recycling system, motivate Victorians to recycle correctly and educate them on how to do so.

The program has a strong focus on multicultural engagement, including transcreation of campaign materials into ten languages, targeted advertising, and activations at shopping centres and community events. The centrepiece of the multicultural engagement in 2022 involved commissioning culturally diverse artists to create eye-catching murals based on the campaign theme. These were painted in diverse communities to remind every community member of the big impact that small acts can make.

The program also provides funding for councils to deliver communications aligned with the campaign through the Circular Economy Household Education Fund. All Victorian councils and alpine resorts had the opportunity to apply for funding to deliver a tailored campaign either supporting the introduction of new recycling services or paving the way for future changes. They also have access to an extensive library of campaign materials developed by Sustainability Victoria. Most Victorian councils and alpine resorts (81%) have applied for funding and localised campaigns are now underway across the state.

Yarriambiack Shire Council was one of the first fund recipients. The shire used the campaign materials to introduce a glass recycling service and delivered information directly to households through letters, brochures, calendars and fridge magnets to prepare residents for the transition. They also used social media, local newspaper advertising and attendance at community events to reinforce the messages and conducted targeted interventions such as bin audits and tagging once the service was introduced. Clear and consistent communication led to the successful establishment of the new recycling stream, with a contamination rate of just six per cent (well under the targeted maximum of ten per cent) in its first year.

***"Having access to good, clear and consistent communication materials and resources for our kerbside glass campaign was a big help for our council. Introducing new kerbside services is not something we do often so not having to worry about developing those resources ourselves was very helpful in the roll out."***

– La Vergne Lehmann, Waste and Sustainability Coordinator, Yarriambiack Shire Council

## Legislated objectives

The Household Education and Behaviour Change Program is delivering on the Sustainability Fund's legislated objective to 'foster environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management' and the strategic priority of 'improving waste education' by educating Victorians on waste minimisation and recycling at a statewide and local level.

# Financial Information

## Support for Victoria over time

**The chart below illustrates how investments from the Fund were allocated across its waste and climate change strategic priorities in 2022–23.**

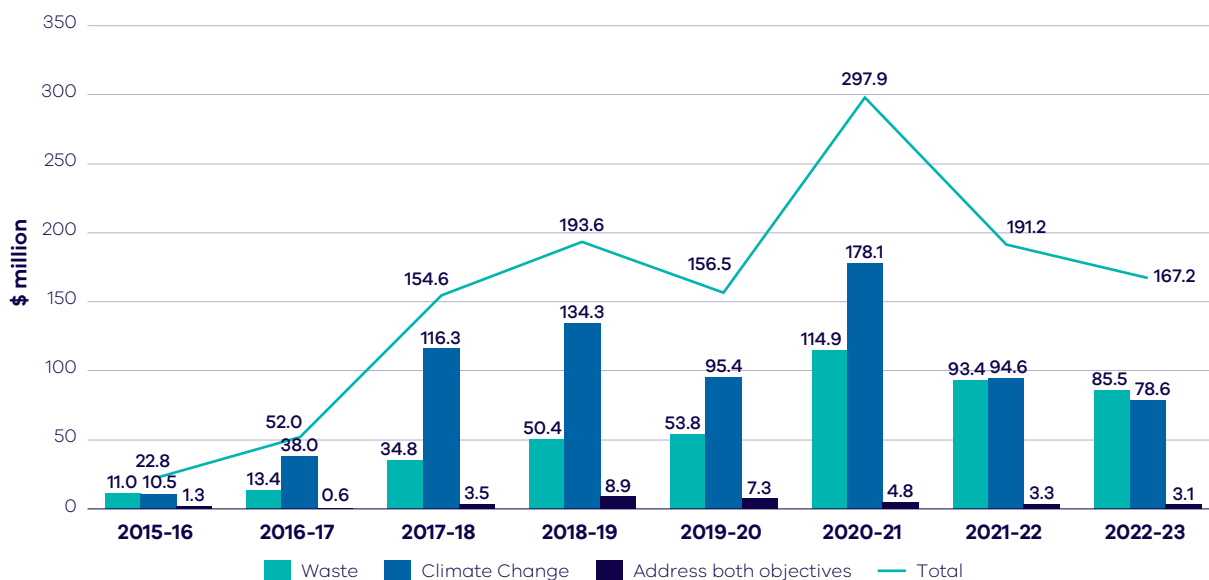
For the second consecutive year, investment across the two legislated objectives of the Fund were close to parity. During the year, 51.1 per cent of funds were invested in waste management, 47.0 per cent in climate change and 1.9 per cent in projects that address both objectives.

Total Fund expenditure in climate change and waste management initiatives has increased by 633 per cent since 2015–16. This investment demonstrates the government's ongoing commitment to strengthening Victoria's waste and recycling industry and responding to the effects of climate change.

Total expenditure year to year reflects the cumulative results of annual budget allocations combined with variations to planned expenditure for certain programs. In 2022–23, the legacy effect of supply-chain and skilled labour challenges arising from the pandemic continued with \$74 million of program expenditure rephased to 2023–24 due to delays across a number of programs.

The relatively lower expenditure over the past two financial years compared with 2020–21 is due to two primary factors. Firstly, the cash balance of the Fund was drawn down significantly by investments approved in previous state Budgets leading up to and including 2020–21. Secondly, a planned increase in the waste levy rate was deferred from 2020–21 to 2021–22 as a response to COVID-19. The combination of those two factors resulted in less funding being available to support new investments in the last two budget cycles. Fund revenue and cash balance is forecast to increase again in 2023–24 and future years.

**Figure 6: Expenditure over time in strategic priorities as proportion of total spend**



**Note:** Expenditure excludes Fund administration costs



## The Fund in the community

A major strength of the Fund is that it supports a diverse range of organisations and entities, ensuring that funding reaches various communities across Victoria. In 2022–23, the Fund assisted 369 unique organisations via targeted grant programs to undertake projects that deliver better environmental outcomes for Victoria.

Grants are not provided directly from the Fund itself, but via the individual grant program application processes administered by the delivery agencies. In 2022–23, a total of 511 grants worth \$83.5 million were provided. **Figure 7** illustrates the number and total value of grants since 2015–16.

Businesses were the major recipients of grant funding across the state in 2022–23, receiving more than \$32 million through 102 grants provided by the Fund program.

As the tier of government closest to the community and the main provider of waste services, local government remains a vital stakeholder in driving Victoria to a sustainable future that delivers equitable prosperity for all Victorians. In 2022–23, this sector received 31 per cent of grants worth more than \$14 million in addition to the funding and resources provided each year to local government by DEECA and other government agencies.

The following charts illustrate the extent of different organisations and entities supported through the Fund in 2022–23. A full list of grants made possible by the Fund can be found in **Appendix 4**.

**Figure 7: Number and value of Fund grants provided over time**

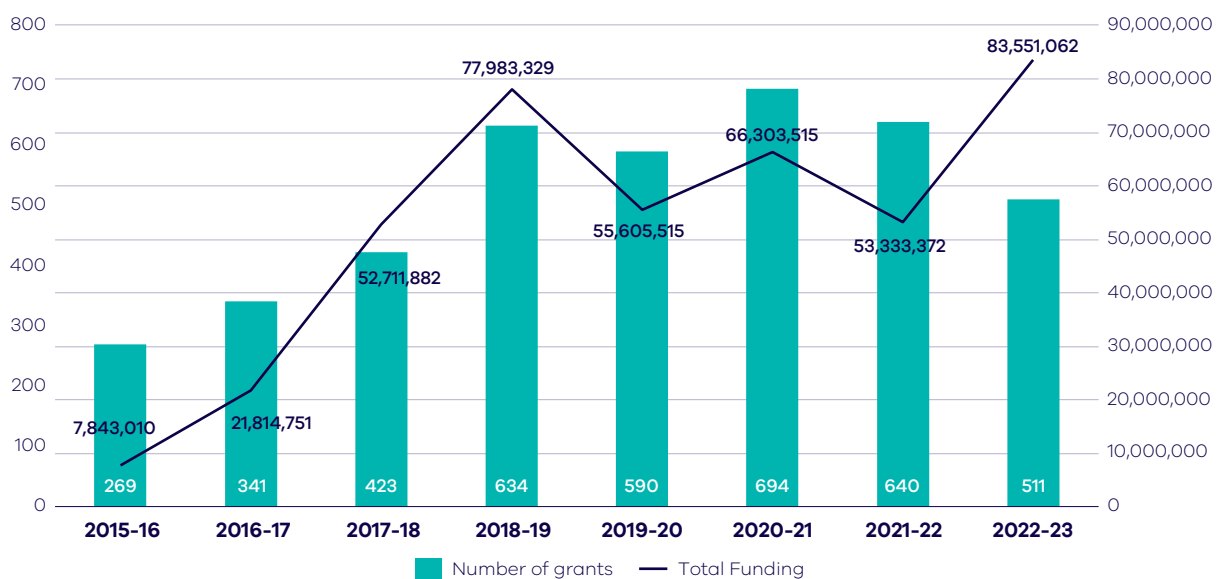


Figure 8: Proportion of 2022–23 total grant funds received by sector (Total: \$83,551,062)

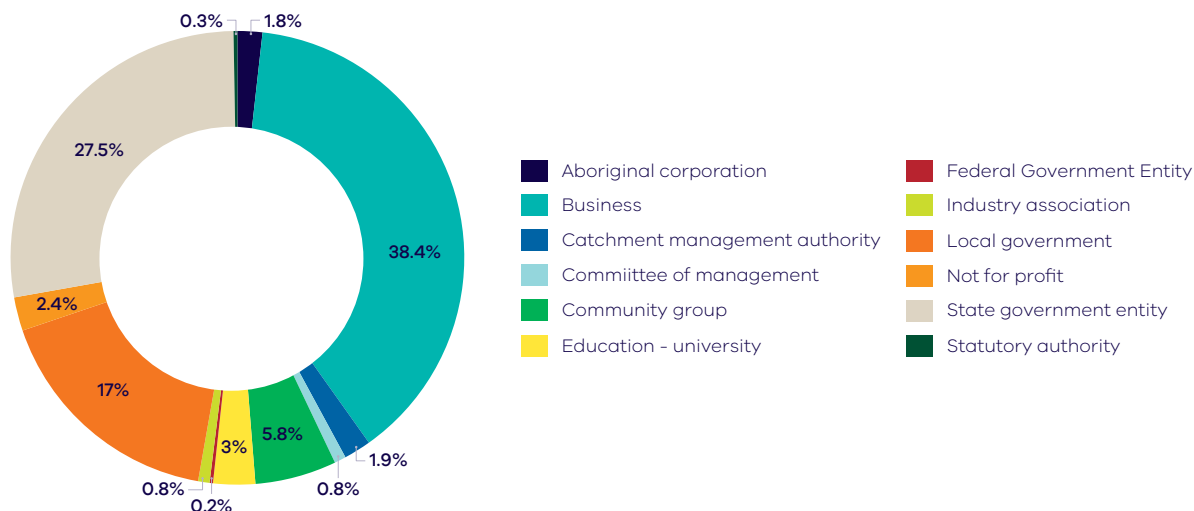


Figure 9: Proportion of 2022–23 unique grant recipients by sector (Total: 357)

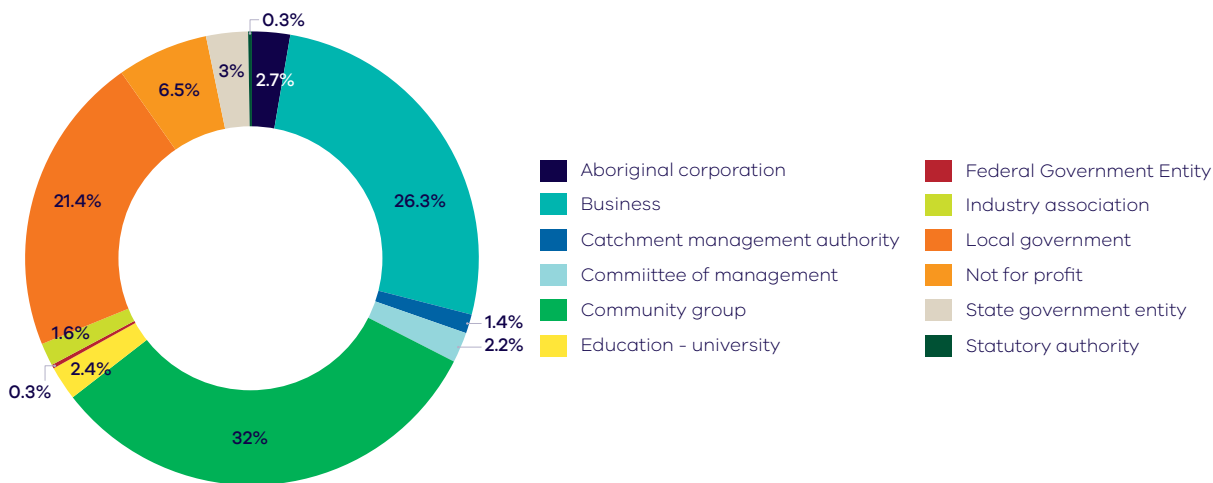
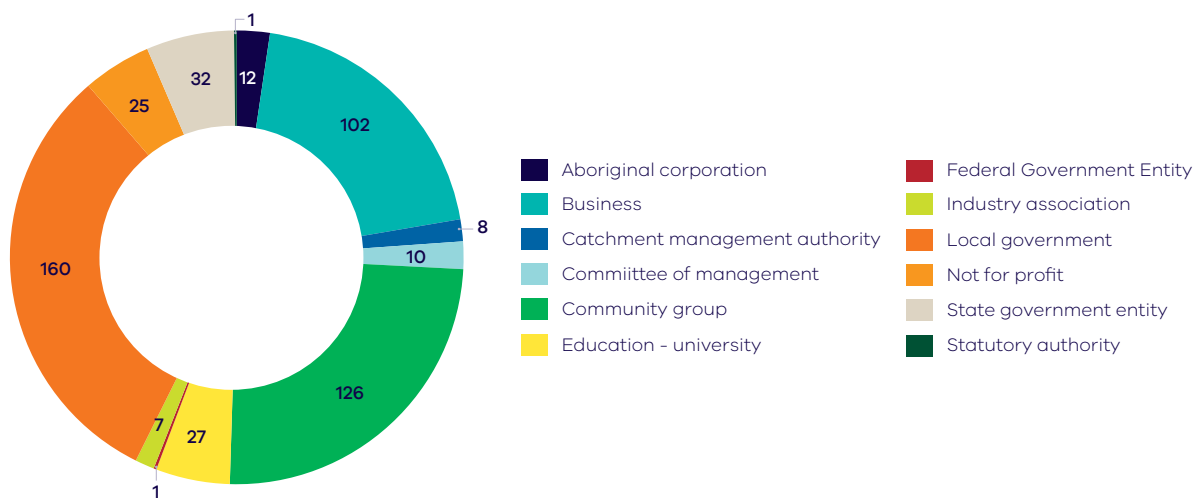


Figure 10: Number of 2022–23 grants received by sector (Total: 511)



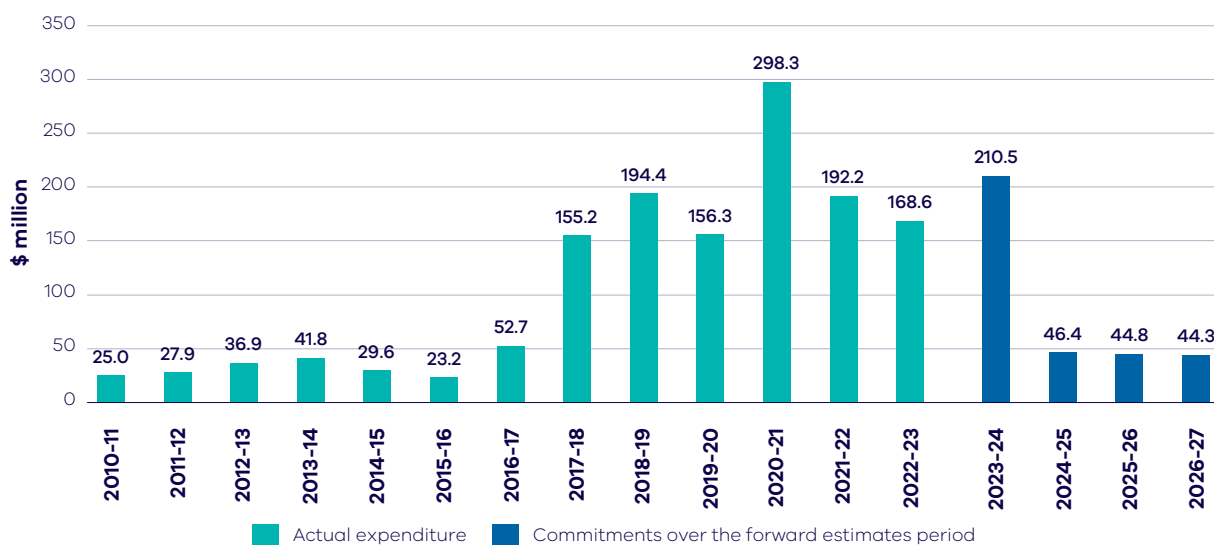
## Investment over time

### Expenditure from the Fund

Since its establishment, the Fund has provided essential support to a wide range of programs to help lower our impact on the environment and assist Victorian communities to respond to the impacts of climate change. The chart below illustrates the significant investment that has been made by the Victorian Government since the Fund was transferred to DEECA on 1 July 2015.

Commitments over the forward estimates (indicated in **Figure 11**) relate to commitments announced as part of state Budget processes, and do not take into account any potential allocations from the Fund made as part of future state Budgets. Additional allocations from the Fund will be subject to future state Budget consideration.

**Figure 11: Expenditure from the Fund**

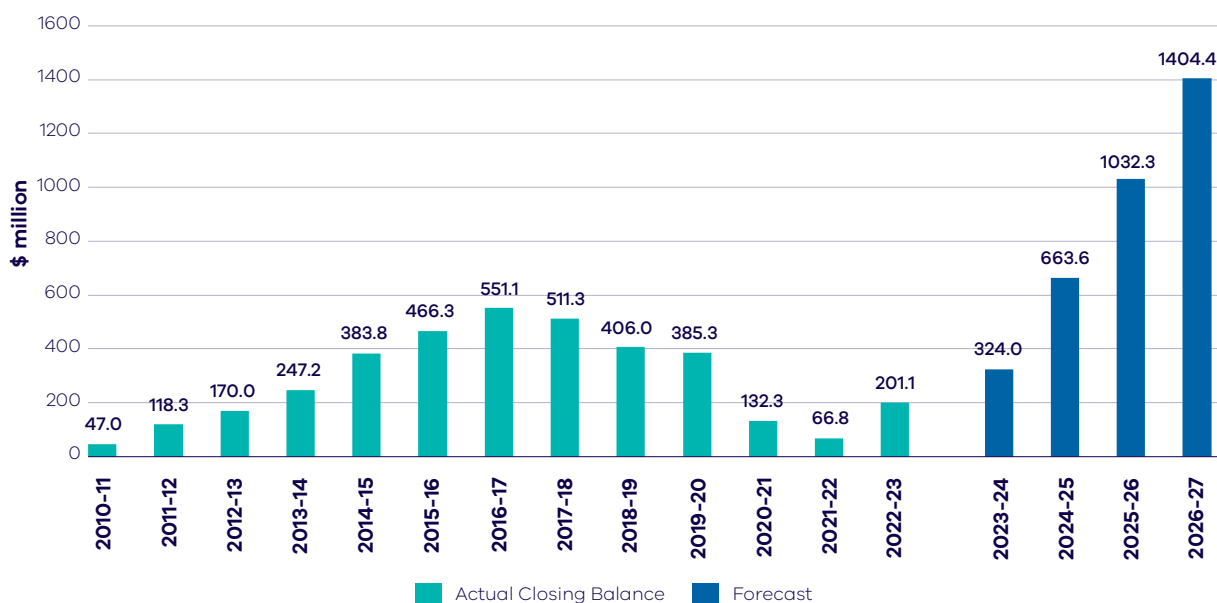


**Note:** This chart includes both program and administration expenditure for the Fund. Actual expenditure figures from the Fund in the years prior to 1 July 2015 have been sourced from the Victorian Auditor General's Office report, *Managing the Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy*, July 2018, (Figure 2E, p.43)

## Projected cash balance

After drawing down the cash balance to \$66.8 million in 2021–22, the closing balance of the Fund increased to \$201.1 million at 30 June 2023 as cash revenue increased and a number of large programs concluded.

Figure 12: Cash balance of the Fund



The projected cash balance of the Fund is reflective of the investment phase cycle that the Fund is within. Of the 64 existing (funded) programs active at 30 June 2023, 44 of those are currently scheduled to conclude during the 2023–24 year. **Figure 12** above illustrates the capacity forecast for the Fund over the next four years based on the current level of budget commitments.

Current forward commitments made by the Fund as of 30 June 2023 are detailed in **Table 2** below. This table does not take into account any potential allocations from the Fund made as part of future state Budgets. The DEECA 2022–23 Annual Report provides further detail on movements in the MIWL trust account and the Fund trust account.



Table 2: Commitments 2023-24

Program Title	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Ongoing
<b>Recycling Victoria (Circular Economies)</b>	83.80	0.25	-	-	-
Build strong domestic markets for priority recovered materials	30.97	-	-	-	-
Reform the way households recycle	15.14	-	-	-	-
Support safe and effective high-risk and hazardous waste management	11.20	-	-	-	-
Support Victorian communities	4.43	-	-	-	-
Increase Victoria's landfill levies to incentivise waste avoidance and recycling	4.55	-	-	-	-
Improve business productivity and reduce waste	8.08	-	-	-	-
Recycling Victoria oversight	1.66	-	-	-	-
Expand Victoria's waste data systems	1.22	-	-	-	-
Governance and regulation	1.22	-	-	-	-
Phase out single use plastics	0.37	-	-	-	-
Education and Behavioural Change	4.97	0.25	-	-	-
<b>Suburban Parks Program</b>	14.77	-	-	-	-
Deliver the Sandbelt Parklands	5.50	-	-	-	-
Local Parks Program - Pocket Parks	3.79	-	-	-	-
Suburban Parks Program project management office	2.41	-	-	-	-
Planning and Managing Together - Cardinia Creek, Jacksons Creek, Quarry Hills Parkland, Upper Merri Creek and the Frankston Greenbelt Parklands (Seaford Wetlands)	1.75	-	-	-	-
Local Parks Program - Park Revitalisation	1.33	-	-	-	-
<b>Timber Plantation Establishment</b>	55.00	-	-	-	-
<b>Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037</b>	19.03	19.03	19.03	19.03	19.03
<b>Maintaining Essential Energy Functions</b>	14.82	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
<b>Delivering Climate Action</b>	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	-
<b>Securing Our Energy Future – Solar Trams</b>	4.69	4.69	4.69	4.69	-
<b>ResourceSmart Schools</b>	2.90	-	-	-	-
<b>Environment Protection and Air Quality - DEECA</b>	2.42	-	-	-	-
<b>Recycling Victoria- Household Chemical Collection Program</b>	2.25	-	-	-	-
<b>Core Environmental Programs and Traditional Owner Programs</b>	1.59	0.92	0.60	0.10	-
<b>Securing Environmental Protection</b>	1.00	1.00	-	-	-
<b>Recycling Industry Strategic Plan</b>	1.00	-	-	-	-
<b>Environment Protection and Air Quality - EPA</b>	0.35	-	-	-	-
<b>Administration and Minor Project Expenditure Pending Approval</b>	1.88	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>210.50</b>	<b>46.38</b>	<b>44.81</b>	<b>44.31</b>	<b>34.53</b>

## CASE STUDY

# Investing in Victoria's recycling infrastructure to meet the needs of Victorians



**Photo:** Seymour Resource Recovery Centre.

**The Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund (RRIF) began in 2016 with an aim to improve the collection and processing of recycled materials, create jobs and increase the recovery of priority materials: food organics, rigid and soft plastics, paper and cardboard, and e-waste.**

This was achieved by facilitating investment in resource recovery infrastructure that targeted the priority materials for recovery identified in the Market Development Strategy and the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan. These plans identified materials prioritised for investment to increase their recovery as well as fill existing gaps in infrastructure capacity.

Since 2016, RRIF has been able to respond to key Victorian and global events impacting the Victorian recycling sector, such as:

- China's National Sword Policy in 2018
- the collapse of one of the major material recovery facilities in 2018
- the Victorian Government's ban on disposing of e-waste in landfill
- the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over this time, \$19 million of funding was provided to 69 projects: 42 projects in metropolitan Melbourne and 27 in regional Victoria.

### The geographical spread of RRIF-funded projects



The funds were used for investment in key infrastructure for waste and resource recovery and assisted small and large businesses, as well as councils, to overcome financial hurdles for investment in infrastructure to increase resource recovery.

This led to environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management to advance the social and economic development of Victoria.

As of 30 June 2023, these projects have created 198 jobs and recovered approximately 575,044 tonnes of RRIF priority materials, comprising 218,643 tonnes of food and garden organics, 93,435 tonnes of timber, 221,957 tonnes of plastics and 41,010 tonnes of paper and cardboard. In addition to the RRIF priority materials, the program has recovered 164,298 tonnes of glass, 804,662 tonnes of aggregate, masonry and soil, and 15,438 tonnes of metals.

The RRIF program reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 290,434 tonnes. It has added 1.37 million tonnes of capacity to Victoria's resource recovery sector and the Victorian community. The RRIF investment via Sustainability Victoria has leveraged industry investment of \$70.64 million and local government investment of \$11.81 million. Every \$1 of Victorian Government investment has resulted in direct industry co-investment of \$5.20 and direct local government co-investment of \$2.40.

Mitchell Shire Council received funding to build the Seymour Resource Recovery Centre where households can drop off recyclable items like e-waste, mattresses and tyres, as well as whitegoods, fluorescent lighting and batteries.

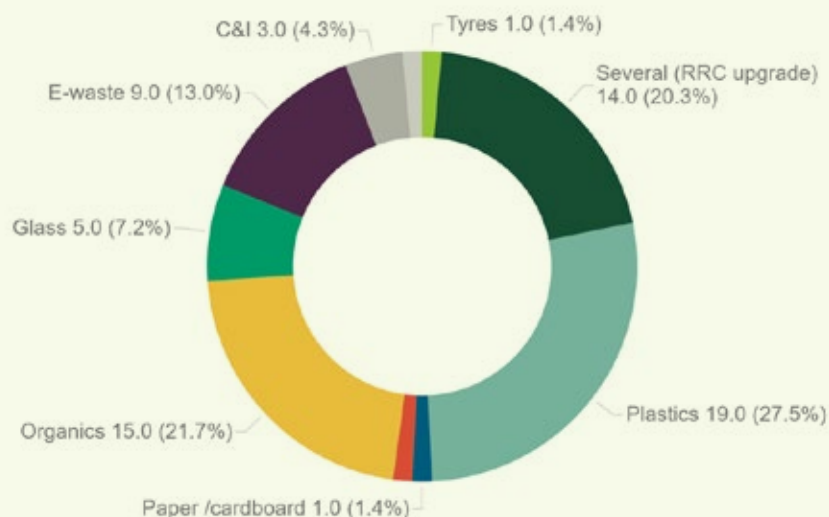
***"Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill is something we need to do together, with both council and residents playing their part. A facility like we now have here in Seymour makes it easier for all of us to do our bit."***

– Fiona Stevens, Mayor of Mitchell Shire Council

### Legislative Objectives

The RRIF is delivering on the Sustainability Fund's legislated objective to 'foster environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management' through facilitating investment in resource recovery infrastructure that targeted priority materials for recovery, identified in the Market Development Strategy and the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan.

### Breakdown of the material streams targeted



## CASE STUDY

# Supporting our regions to adapt to climate change



**Photo:** Gippsland wetland citizen science project (Credit: Blue Carbon Lab).

**The Supporting Our Regions to Adapt Program was Victoria's first place-based climate change adaptation program. The program supported collaboration within regional communities to address the unique challenges and opportunities that climate change brings to Victoria's regions and prioritise investment in locally relevant climate change actions.**

The program received \$8.652 million over five years to provide practical support for regional communities to build their resilience to climate change. During this time, the program supported:

- community-led development of six Regional Adaptation Strategies (RASs) and 54 regional priorities projects
- awarding of 17 Community Climate Change Adaptation (3CA) Grants
- initiatives to help build the capability and capacity of local government to support communities to adapt to climate change.

The projects and initiatives delivered built the adaptive capacity of regional communities and supported the delivery of adaptation actions to

reduce or manage risks presented by climate change.

### Community-led Regional Adaptation Strategies

These five-year practical strategies were developed by the community to address the unique challenges and opportunities that climate change brings to Victoria's regions and guide locally relevant practical action. The RASs were developed over four years by community-based working groups, informed by best practice guidance and policy briefs based on climate science and projected climate change impacts at the localised level.

Each region identified a vision or focus areas most important to them to support the identification and creation of innovative community adaptation projects. For example, the Gippsland RAS identified the following vision for the region:

- ensuring our communities and people are climate ready and capable of coping with climate change challenges and impacts, with support available for the most vulnerable
- ensuring our landscapes of built and natural environments can support our people, our wildlife, our businesses and our producers
- our regional economy is prepared to cope with the impacts and challenges of climate change and can continue to provide both economic and employment security and opportunities.

Adaptation projects implemented through the RAS and the 3CA Grants Program in the Gippsland region will allow the community to begin to realise this vision.

### Building Adaptive Capacity in the Gippsland Region: Wetland Restoration Citizen Science Program

Funded by the Sustainability Fund, the 3CA Grants Program awarded funding to community-led adaptation projects that addressed identified gaps and priorities in Victoria's regions, to build resilience to climate change through community-driven adaptation activities.





**Photo:** Gippsland wetland citizen science project  
(Credit: Blue Carbon Lab).



**Photo:** Gippsland wetland citizen science project  
(Credit: Blue Carbon Lab).

The Building Adaptive Capacity in the Gippsland Region: Wetland Restoration Citizen Science Program was awarded a 3CA grant of \$75,000 to undertake wetland restoration citizen science on Gunaikurnai Country in the Gippsland Lakes area.

From local children to landholders, citizen scientists from across Gippsland were involved in a project led by Deakin University's Blue Carbon Lab to collect important data used to improve the health of the region's wetlands. The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation worked closely with Deakin University on the project to help raise awareness of the importance of the wetlands to the cultural heritage of the Gunaikurnai people.

Throughout the project, field days and workshops supported community members to get involved with coastal wetland restoration by educating them on what they could do in their local communities to make a difference. Indigenous youth group, Gippsland's Culture Connect helped to bring together children aged 6-16 years to participate as citizen scientists and learn how coastal salt marshes can contribute to climate change action.

The children involved in the project extracted soil samples from salt marsh habitats – contributing to important research on the amount of carbon trapped within the plants and soil. Evie, a citizen science participant, found it "really cool [to] get more people restoring wetlands and understanding the opportunities for contributing to climate adaptation."

Participants who attended a field day with Deakin University's Blue Carbon Lab learned how salt marshes can be used as carbon sinks, a natural climate solution to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Citizen scientists participated in vegetation surveys, soil sample collection and calculating greenhouse gas concentration levels in the soil collected.

Supporting both climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, this project has utilised the carbon capturing properties of wetlands, while also helping to protect communities and the environment from climate change impacts by reducing the intensity of waves and storm surges, and shielding the coastline from flooding, property damage and loss of life.

This project contributed to the vision of the Gippsland community as outlined in their RAS by supporting the people and natural environment to adapt to and withstand the impacts of climate change.

## Legislated objectives

The Supporting Our Regions to Adapt program supported the Sustainability Fund's legislated objective of 'fostering community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas substance emissions or adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria.'

The community led, place-based approach taken throughout the delivery of this program empowered Victorian communities to take action to build adaptive capacity in their region, expand their knowledge and understanding of climate change, and encouraged emerging leadership within communities to support further action on climate change.

The program links with the following Sustainability Fund strategic priorities:

- supporting Victorians to adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly those most vulnerable
- building Victorian communities' capacity, capability and skills in responding to climate change

Funded projects directly supported vulnerable and at-risk community members and groups, and created opportunities for collaboration on climate adaptation across communities and local governments.

View the videos here:

▶ [Climate change adaptation stories](#)

▶ [Gippsland Citizen Science Wetlands](#)

## CASE STUDY

# Protecting Biodiversity Program



**Photo:** Pookila 'Waverley' (Credit: Melbourne Zoo).

The Protecting Biodiversity Program aims to deliver strategic, targeted and sustained action to improve Victoria's biodiversity. It is helping to deliver the Victorian government's strategic biodiversity plan, *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*. The program delivers integrated pest plant and animal control to optimise environmental outcomes in priority locations to increase the likelihood of persistence of Victoria's threatened species.

The Sustainability Fund provides \$20 million annually towards this program, 75 per cent of which is used for on-ground activities and 25 per cent for tools and activities to support, analyse and improve programs.

This program delivers on-the-ground projects with the community, key agencies and organisations to manage threats to biodiversity. Projects are targeted at natural assets exposed to significant continuing changes – particularly those resulting from climate change. Financial support to the projects supports natural resource managers to help build biodiversity resilience and adapt or adjust to climate change impacts.

## Case study one – Nature Fund

The aim of the Nature Fund, a component of the broader Protecting Biodiversity Program, is to catalyse co-investment by philanthropy and the private sector to accelerate the protection, conservation and restoration of Victoria's biodiversity, including its threatened species. For example, with a Nature Fund investment of \$690,000 and a co-investment of \$950,000, Zoos Victoria aims to bring the Pookila (New Holland Mouse) back from the brink of extinction.

Derived from the Ngarigo word for mouse – bugila – Pookila (pronounced, POO-kee-lah) was adopted by the Federal Government in 1995 as the Indigenous name for the species formally known as the New Holland Mouse. The small, burrowing rodent, native to south-eastern Australia, played an important environmental role by spreading seeds and fungal spores and keeping soil healthy. It is now endangered in Victoria, with fewer than 3,000 Pookila thought to be left in the wild. The massive decline of the Pookila population in Victoria is due to habitat loss, including from drought and bushfire, feral predators, competition from non-native rodent species and loss of genetic diversity.

To combat this decline, a team of scientists has 'paired' 22 mice, – specially matching them based on where they were collected, their genetic diversity and behaviour. The program aims to breed more genetically healthy and resilient mice that can be released into the wild, strengthening existing populations and creating new ones. This includes the genetic rescue of the Wilsons Promontory population, where the majority of remaining pookila live.

The program is also focused on ongoing research and monitoring of extant Victorian populations and development of management guidelines around habitat and planned burning. With so many native species of mice and rats now extinct in Australia, it is really important to look after the ones that we have left like the Pookila.

***"We're making record investments into biodiversity so our unique native species – big and small – can thrive in the wild for generations to come."***

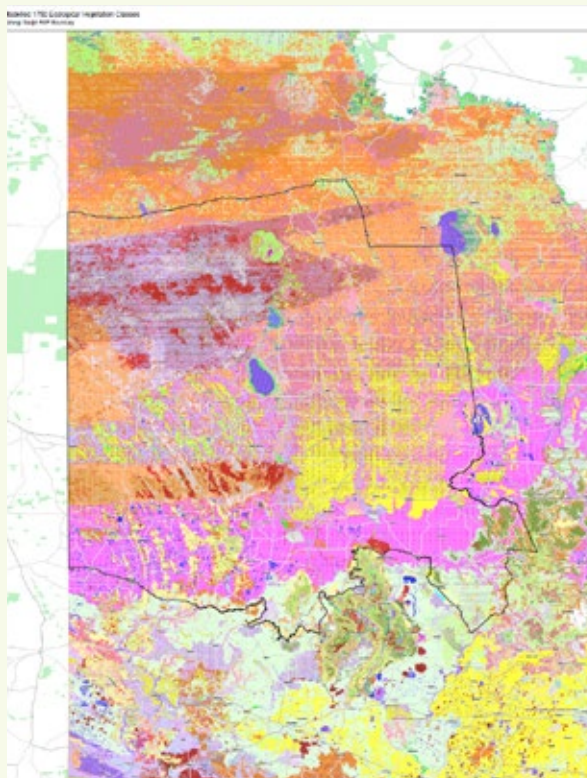
– Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

***"It's exciting to be able to make a real difference in the long-term conservation of this gorgeous native mouse."***

– Dr Phoebe Burns, Zoos Victoria Native Rodent Biologist



**Photo:** Traditional Owner land and Victorian administrative boundaries.



**Photo:** Registered Aboriginal Party boundary and modelled 1750 ecological vegetation classes.



## Case study two – On Country view of biodiversity data

Communities and government need easy access to biodiversity knowledge to inform critical management of Victoria's natural environment. Biodiversity data and information products are available via Victoria's **NatureKit**, a free online mapping and data exploration tool for biodiversity data integration and decision support. NatureKit was developed with funding from the Sustainability Fund initially awarded in 2017-18.

As part of the \$20 million per annum Protecting Biodiversity program, the Sustainability Fund has contributed \$5 million per year to a suite of activities to enable better management and protection of biodiversity. These activities develop and support biodiversity decision-making tools and systems, address knowledge gaps, monitor and measure progress of key biodiversity metrics to deliver nation-leading adaptive biodiversity policy to respond to changing environments under climate change.

In addition to providing public access, the team behind NatureKit also responds to bespoke requests from Traditional Owner organisations for maps that meet their specific needs on Country. Maps have been created displaying biodiversity data such as species observations, ecological vegetation classes, and general spatial information such as aerial imagery and government administrative boundaries. The maps have been provided in a range of electronic and hardcopy formats to meet an organisations' specific needs. A popular option is a wall-size A0 printed map to assist the organisation and its partners to gather and plan actions in a tactile way.

Other requests have included locality maps of species significant to specific Traditional Owners in A3/A4 printable size for use in field work or for Elders who can't easily access online tools that display biodiversity datasets, like NatureKit. In addition, the team have produced customised species lists from the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas to match the country boundaries of a range of Traditional Owner organisations.

Feedback from fulfilled requests so far has shown that the service is highly valued and has started conversations around Indigenous data sovereignty, rights of Aboriginal people to govern data collection and ownership, and use of data about their communities, people, land and resources. This further increases the capacity of Traditional Owners to build their data governance and processes which will in turn support self-determination. It also provides the NatureKit and Victorian Biodiversity Atlas teams with direct feedback and ideas for future enhancements to support Traditional Owner information needs.



**Photo:** Aerial view of Registered Aboriginal Party boundary.



**Photo:** Pookila 'Waverley' (Credit: Melbourne Zoo).

## Legislated Objectives

This program aligns to the legislated objective of 'fostering community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas substance emissions or adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria'.

This is accomplished through delivery of on-the-ground actions with the community, key agencies and organisations to manage threats to biodiversity. Actions are targeted at natural assets exposed to significant continuing changes particularly as a result of climate change.

The projects are supported by state-of-the-art decision-making tools to help build biodiversity resilience in the face of climate change impacts.



# Appendices

## Appendix 1 – Figures not reported in 2022–23 due to conclusion of programs

Indicator	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Unit
<b>Best practice waste management</b>						
Notices issued relating to illegal waste disposal <sup>23</sup>	-	108	136	137	na	number of notices issued per year
<b>Encouraging economic development</b>						
Recommendations to Minister for Circular Economy Business Innovation Centre focus areas <sup>24</sup>	-	-	2	0	na	number of recommendations
<b>Reduce greenhouse gas emission</b>						
Number of Zero Net Carbon homes <sup>25</sup>	-	-	24	11	na	Number
<b>Improve community capacity to take action on climate change</b>						
Community members participated in activities to help protect Victoria's coast <sup>26</sup>	10,500	11,767	1,650	9,094	na	community members participated in activities to help protect Victoria's coast
Number of community members participating in conservation action/improved land management (Weed Control) <sup>27</sup>				3,118		#
<b>Adapting through biodiversity</b>						
Area of revegetation <sup>28</sup>	1,100	455,194	-	49	na	ha

**Notes:** A dash ( - ) is used throughout the table to indicate that data was not collected.

<sup>23</sup> The program associated with this work has closed.

<sup>24</sup> The program associated with this work will not make any further recommendations. An amendment to the 2021-22 result from 1 to 0 has been implemented due to double counting.

<sup>25</sup> The program associated with this work has closed.

<sup>26</sup> The program associated with this work has closed.

<sup>27</sup> The program associated with this work has closed.

<sup>28</sup> The program associated with this work has closed.

## Appendix 2 – Relationship between Fund outcome areas and Framework indicators

Linkages to Sustainability Fund broad measures (based on indicators)		
Sustainability Fund outcome areas	<b>Best practice waste management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce or avoid waste going to landfill</li> <li>• increase in the number of organisations implementing improved policies/standards/practices</li> </ul>
	<b>Encouraging economic development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase in employment</li> <li>• leverage investment and support</li> <li>• increase in or enhance the number and value of markets for recovered materials</li> <li>• savings for households and organisations</li> </ul>
	<b>Environmentally sustainable use of resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce the use of water, electricity, gas and materials</li> <li>• increase generation of renewable electricity and energy and solar</li> <li>• increase materials recycled/recovered</li> <li>• increase the number of individuals adopting positive environmental action</li> <li>• increase research and information, as well as the number of ways to access information</li> <li>• increase energy efficiency audits/assessments</li> </ul>
	<b>Facilitating social development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase in households, including vulnerable households, and organisations assisted</li> <li>• increase in people attending training or receiving support</li> <li>• increase in people exposed to messaging/information</li> <li>• new partnerships formed to deliver projects</li> </ul>
	<b>Improve community capacity to take action on climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase in organisations adopting positive environmental action</li> <li>• increase in community members participating in climate and sustainability-related initiatives</li> <li>• increase in education/information sessions and products</li> <li>• ways to access information</li> <li>• research projects</li> </ul>
	<b>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce or avoid the level of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere</li> </ul>
	<b>Adapting through biodiversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase and improve the area and quality of protected habitats</li> <li>• improve management of invasive and threatened species</li> </ul>

## Appendix 3 – Programs funded by the Fund in 2022–23

Program Name	Total (\$)	Expected Priority Outcome			Theme	
Climate change community action						
Community Climate Change and Energy Action	2,000,000		2.1	2.2	Climate Change	
The key objective of this program is to support local community groups to invest in their facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.						
ResourceSmart Schools	2,900,000	1.4	2.2	2.3	Both objectives	
The purpose of ResourceSmart Schools 2020-23 is to achieve best practice sustainability in Victorian Schools which leads to a reduction in resource use and increase in action on climate change.						
Environment Protection and Air Quality						
Air Quality Improvement Precincts	420,000	1.5			Waste	
The Program will establish two Air Quality Improvement Precincts to support Small to Medium Enterprises to minimise air pollution in the Inner West and Outer West Precincts to better manage long standing air pollution issues through modernisation of processes or approaches.						
Expansion of the Financial Assurance Framework	523,000	1.3	1.5		Waste	
Aims to apply and administer a robust and consistently applied financial assurance framework, which assesses the risks from certain activities, predominantly relating to the management of a range of wastes.						
Maintaining Essential Energy Functions						
Energy Safety and Security	7,130,000		2.1	2.2	2.3	Climate Change
This project aims to ensure the effective regulation of the safety, security and resilience of energy supply and infrastructure; prevent, mitigate, and respond to energy emergencies, and improve community preparedness for and resilience to energy emergencies.						
Ensuring the rights of energy consumers	2,347,000		2.1		2.3	Climate Change
This project aims to advance the rights and interests of Victorian energy consumers; Promote consumer impacts to the forefront of policy and program development; and Promote renewable energy technologies through policies that empower Victorian energy consumers to make informed choices.						
ESD Driving Growth in Renewables	2,109,000		2.1	2.2	2.3	Climate Change
This project aims to ensure the government meets its obligations under the <i>Renewable Energy (jobs and Investment) Act 2017</i> , achieves the states renewable energy targets and develops future energy supply policies to support an orderly energy transition in Victoria beyond 2030.						
ESR Driving Growth in Renewables, reducing emissions and improving reliability	2,195,000		2.1	2.2	2.3	Climate Change
This project aims to ensure legislative, regulatory and market frameworks for electricity transmission, wholesale markets and security are in alignment with the transition to clean energy; and promote action to reduce greenhouse gases and enable Victorians to respond to climate change.						
Supporting Victorians through the Energy Transition	3,019,000		2.1		2.3	Climate Change
This project aims to ensure that new energy technologies drive Victoria's energy future.						

Program Name	Total (\$)	Expected Priority Outcome						Theme			
Non-regulatory support for e-waste landfill ban											
Non-regulatory support for e-waste landfill ban	100,000	1.2		1.4		Waste					
The objective of this program is to provide non-regulatory support for the implementation of Victoria's electronic waste (e-waste) landfill ban.											
Port Fairy Landfill											
Port Fairy Landfill	150,000	1.5		2.2		2.3		Both objectives			
Aims to modernise the management of legacy contamination and pollution of historic landfills and implement a suite of treatment works to protect the landfill sites from coastal erosion.											
Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037											
Protecting Biodiversity 2021-25	20,200,000						2.3	2.4	Climate Change		
The Protecting Biodiversity Program aims to deliver strategic, targeted and sustained action to improve Victoria's biodiversity as detailed in Biodiversity Division's strategic plan: Protecting Victoria's Environment –Biodiversity 2037.											
Recycling industry response interim measures											
Industry and Infrastructure Development Package	16,889,000	1.1		Waste							
The objective of the fund is to increase investment in Victoria's resource recovery sector for kerbside materials. Investment is needed to improve the capacity and capability of recycling infrastructure to produce higher quality recovered materials to meet market requirements.											
Recycling Victoria: A new economy											
Circular Economy Business Innovation Centre	153,008	1.1		1.4		2.1		2.2	2.3	Both objectives	
This program provides policy support and collaborates with Sustainability Victoria to develop and deliver the Circular Economic Business Innovation Centre to help Victorian businesses take advantage of circular economy business opportunities to deliver the state-wide dual benefits of a circular economy.											
Circular Economy Communities Fund	2,584,000	1.1		1.4		Waste					
The objective of this program is to assist Victorian communities to transition to a circular economy by providing grant programs to solicit creative solutions for issues for gaps in the current waste management system.											
Circular Economy Councils Fund	925,500	1.1		1.2		1.3		1.4		1.5	Waste
The objective of this program is to transition to a circular economy by providing grant programs to assist Victorian communities to transition to a circular economy by providing grant programs to solicit creative solutions for issues and gaps in the current waste management system.											
Education and Behaviour Change	6,687,000	1.4		Waste							
The objective of this project is to deliver a comprehensive and cohesive household education and behaviour change program for Victorian households											
Environment Protection Policy and Reform Delivery	600,000	1.2		1.3		1.4		1.5		Waste	
This project will ensure the completion and implementation of reforms to the Environment Protection Act, including priority subordinate instruments, and ensure alignment with reforms delivered through Recycling Victoria.											



Program Name	Total (\$)	Expected Priority Outcome					Theme
<b>EPA High Risk Sites</b>	<b>2,042,000</b>	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	<b>Waste</b>
The objectives of this program are to minimise risks and potential impacts to the Victorian community and environment from hazardous waste and high-risk sites, advance the management of high-risk wastes and waste management practices and introduce new measures to ensure that the cost of managing or cleaning up high-risk sites is borne by those responsible for the site, to the greatest extent possible.							
<b>Expanding Victoria's Waste Data Systems</b>	<b>1,219,000</b>				1.4		<b>Waste</b>
A new system is required to expand SV's waste data to cover the entire Victorian economy, from product and process design to material use, reuse and recycling and ultimately safe and effective disposal. This will require establishing a framework for monitoring progress towards the circular economy, including the identification of indicators and metrics.							
<b>Hazardous Waste and Waste to Energy Policy</b>	<b>359,047</b>	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	<b>Waste</b>
The Hazardous Waste and Waste to Energy Policy initiative aims to develop and implement a framework for waste to energy in Victoria, primarily involving capping the amount of feedstock available for thermal waste to energy facilities in Victoria. It also consists of developing and implementing clear and integrated policy and planning for hazardous waste to inform investment and regulatory decisions.							
<b>High Risk Sites</b>	<b>1,037,000</b>				1.4	1.5	<b>Waste</b>
The High-Risk and Hazardous Waste Sites program will implement the Coordinated Prevention and Response Framework for government to minimise community and environmental risks most cost-effectively and respond effectively and efficiently to manage high-risk waste sites.							
<b>Kerbside Reform</b>	<b>26,065,490</b>	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4		<b>Waste</b>
This program will transform Victorian's recycling sector, reduce waste, and create jobs by implementing the four-bin waste and recycling system to improve the State's recycling processes to maximise the diversion of recyclable material from landfills and improve the value of recycled materials.							
<b>Market Acceleration Program</b>	<b>4,500,000</b>	1.1		1.3			<b>Waste</b>
The Market Acceleration Package includes utilising a range of market interventions and incentives to address current and potential market failures for priority recycled materials (plastics, paper, cardboard, glass and tyres) across the economy. It will develop and deliver projects to identify new domestic, commercial, and industrial uses and build demand.							
<b>New Regulation to Improve Recycling</b>	<b>932,320</b>		1.2	1.3	1.4		<b>Waste</b>
The project's objective is to create a new Waste Act that provides the establishment of a waste authority, a container deposit scheme and supporting regulations and related subordinate instruments increasing transparency, management and accountability for delivering quality to Victoria's waste and resource recovery goals.							
<b>Planning for Waste and Recycling Infrastructure</b>	<b>1,363,000</b>	1.1	1.2			1.5	<b>Waste</b>
The purpose of this program is to plan for and support the development and establishment of waste and recycling infrastructure. This will manage solid wastes generated in Victoria, including hazardous wastes and some liquid wastes.							
<b>Recycled First</b>	<b>349,000</b>	1.1					<b>Waste</b>
The program aims to support Victorian's local governments and alpine management resort boards to use more recycled content in the construction and maintenance of local infrastructure.							
<b>Recycling Markets Acceleration Package</b>	<b>577,136</b>	1.1	1.2	1.3			<b>Waste</b>
The project's objective is to develop and expand markets for recycled materials in Victoria. Increasing the demand for recycled materials in Victoria will enable more of the lost value embodied in waste to be recovered and used locally while ensuring that recovered materials re-enter the value chain at the highest possible value.							

Program Name	Total (\$)	Expected Priority Outcome					Theme
<b>Recycling Victoria Household Chemical Collection</b>	<b>1,750,000</b>	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	<b>Waste</b>
The objectives of the program is to divert hazardous household chemicals from landfills, recover materials where possible and dispose of waste products appropriately while delivering a safe and effective service that meets householders' needs.							
<b>Recycling Victoria Project Management Office</b>	<b>1,417,000</b>	1.1			1.4	1.5	<b>Waste</b>
The Recycling Victoria Project Management Office provides a centralised Portfolio Management Office function for Recycling Victoria implementation to optimise and manage the RV portfolio and to co-ordinate with agencies to improve quality assurance and governance practices at portfolio level.							
<b>Reducing Regulatory Barriers EPA</b>	<b>439,000</b>	1.1	1.2		1.4		<b>Waste</b>
This program aims to support Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) actions in reducing unnecessary regulatory barriers for reuse of recycled materials and provide regulatory certainty to support innovation, especially for recovered organics and specifically the by-products of waste to energy processes.							
<b>Single-use plastic ban and government phase out</b>	<b>384,360</b>	1.1					<b>Waste</b>
The objectives of this program are divided into two phases: phase one will phase out single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates, drink stirrers, expanded polystyrene plates and beverage containers, and cotton bud sticks. Phase two will ban single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates, drink stirrers, expanded polystyrene plates and beverage containers, and cotton bud sticks from sale and use.							
<b>Single-Use Plastics Business Engagement</b>	<b>204,000</b>			1.3	1.4		<b>Waste</b>
Supports the ban on single use plastics via regulation and recommending alternatives, especially prioritising reductions in waste generation and litter prevention by promoting avoidance and reuse practises.							
<b>Statewide Education and Behaviour Change</b>	<b>97,313</b>				1.4		<b>Waste</b>
The objective of this program is to support the design and delivery of Recycling Victoria programs to ensure changes in behaviour occur.							
<b>Supporting Charities</b>	<b>1,620,000</b>	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4		<b>Waste</b>
The objectives of this project are to reduce some of the financial impacts of illegal dumping on charitable recyclers by providing partial immediate financial relief for charitable recycling organisations, support charitable recyclers during a time of unstable resource recovery markets at a time when the charitable sector is facing increasing cost pressures, retain the capacity of charitable recyclers to devote resources to core social work, support charitable recyclers to continue to reduce waste to landfill through preventing illegal dumping and increasing recycling, complement the active role of the charitable sector will play in Victoria's circular economy as identified in Recycling Victoria and support the sector as it transitions to become self-reliant, and act as a first step in a series of interventions to support the sector as a pillar of the circular economy and its transition to become self-reliant and reduce long-term need to landfill levy relief.							
<b>Victorian Container Deposit Scheme</b>	<b>1,764,376</b>	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4		<b>Waste</b>
This project aims to mitigate the economic and environmental impacts of beverage container waste by implementing a beverage container deposit scheme improving recycling rates and reducing litter.							
<b>Waste Crime Prevention</b>	<b>9,691,000</b>	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	<b>Waste</b>
Establishment of a new Waste Crime Prevention Directorate to prevent, detect and disrupt waste crime. Effectively regulate waste and resource recovery facilities and priority chemical waste sites. Enhance the ability to combat adverse consequences forecast from increases in the landfill levy. Grow the investigative capability across the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to prevent waste crime.							

Program Name	Total (\$)	Expected Priority Outcome			Theme	
Safeguarding Marine and Coastal Environments in the Face of Climate Change						
Coastal Protection Assets	9,887,000		2.2	2.3	Climate Change	
The objective of this program is to contribute towards the ongoing viability of coastal communities across Victoria that will otherwise be compromised due to increasing coastal hazards						
Securing Our energy future – Solar Trams						
Renewable Certificate Purchasing Initiative	4,687,875		2.1		Climate Change	
The objectives of the Solar Trams initiative are to: demonstrate visible leadership in tackling climate change by committing to a meaningful TAKE2 pledge for the transport sector; create a precedence for government departments to pledge to visible and cost effective carbon emissions reductions; and, contribute to decarbonising Victoria’s electricity sector.						
Securing our modern energy future - Renewable Energy Action Plan						
Microgrids Smart Trials (Microgrid Demonstration Initiative)	79,000		2.1		Climate Change	
The Microgrid Smart Trials program aims to facilitate innovative, market driven commercial microgrid demonstration projects to enable lower energy costs, more reliable power and reduced emissions to support Victoria’s transition to a low carbon economy.						
Seizing the economic opportunity of a net zero, climate resilient State						
Seizing the economic opportunity of a net zero, climate resilient State	10,000,000		2.1	2.2	2.3	Climate Change
The program objectives are to provide strategic advice on how Victoria can reach net zero emissions efficiently, effectively and fairly while seizing the economic opportunities of the global transition to net zero emissions; strengthen ownership and delivery of effective actions across government to manage climate risk and build Victoria’s climate resilience; Improve and broaden the scopem relevance and application of Victoria’s evidence base for managing climate risk and building the state’s climate resilience; and identify, analyse and advise on key policy issues to support the effective management of climate risk across Victoria and building the state’s climate resilience.						
South-East Metropolitan Advanced Waste Processing (SEMAWP)						
South-East Metropolitan Advanced Waste Processing (SEMAWP)	1,000,000	1.1	1.2	1.3		Waste
The program objective is to facilitate the procurement for the South-East Metropolitan Advanced Waste Processing project.						
Suburban Parks Program - Fire, Forests and Regions and Land Management Policy						
Suburban Parks Program	14,774,000		2.2			Climate Change
This initiative provides for the creation, enhancement and connection of parks and green open spaces in our growing suburbs to benefit Victoria environmentally, socially and economically. This will be delivered by DEECA in conjunction with Parks Victoria and local governments.						

## Appendix 4 – Grants and projects funded by the Sustainability Fund in 2022–23

### Circular Economy Business Support

#### Sustainability Victoria

The objective of this program is to support the delivery of the Business Support Fund (BSF) Programs. The BSF programs aim to help Victorian businesses take advantage of circular economy opportunities. The program will contribute towards stronger economic growth and protecting our environment, including reducing waste.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>ABCH Pty Ltd</b>	Circular Sourcing Marketplace	Funding to build a digital platform to connect the oversupply of textile materials with demand through a business-to-consumer and business-to-business marketplace. It will provide the digital infrastructure to redistribute Victorian surplus textiles, capturing the variety of enterprises in the textiles, clothing, and footwear industry.	\$65,100
<b>Australian Furniture Association Inc</b>	Building a Sustainable Business to Business Furniture Procurement	This project aims to develop an industry sector plan and business case that understand the issue and opportunities to improve circularity. With the aim to reduce waste generation of commercial furnishing products.	\$20,000
<b>Australian Toy Association</b>	Circular Economy Action Plan and Roadmap for Toys	The project successfully provided valuable insights into the material flow of toys in the Australian and Victorian economy, contributing to the understanding of establishing a circular toy industry.	\$39,534
<b>B-Alternative Pty Ltd</b>	Upgrading B-Alternative's Reusable Crockery Service and Infrastructure	Upgrading B-Alternative's reusable crockery service and infrastructure to enhance capacity, efficiency, and sustainability. Project aims to reduce waste and promote sustainable practices in events and venues.	\$23,211
<b>ConnectOne Club Pty Ltd</b>	Building a sustainable circular economy ecosystem	The project will develop a robust demo for a digital B2B platform focused on reducing on-farm waste and increasing profits. Providing a range of tools to inform, promote collaboration, and boost organic waste commercialisation.	\$15,000
<b>Coreo Pty Ltd</b>	Investigating opportunities for a circular mixed-use precinct	This project aimed to improve the circularity of material flows in mixed-use corporate and retail precincts in Victoria, with a focus on the QV centre precinct, by understanding, measuring, and mapping these flows during use and at end-of-life	\$69,104
<b>Cross Laminated Offsite Solutions Pty Ltd</b>	CLOS: 50% Construction Waste Reduction through Prefab	Demonstrate and validate the cost, time, and waste-saving performance of pre-fabrication construction compared to traditional methods in Victoria. This project will leverage digital design-for-manufacture to demonstrate the potential of prefab in Victorian affordable housing and deliver a waste reduction case study to share with the industry.	\$110,000
<b>Cumulo Group (Returnr)</b>	Returnr Marketplace	Returnr Marketplace is Australia's first zero-packaging-waste, membership-based, online grocery delivery service. This new business model enables local producers and food brands to sell their products in fully reusable packaging, collected from customers after use to be washed, sanitised and reused repeatedly. Returnr makes packaging a service, not a product, enabling robust circular economy outcomes.	\$60,000



Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>D5 Building Group Pty Ltd</b>	Reducing waste in Victoria through a circular modular housing system	The project aims to deliver research by prototyping a modular housing system using connector design, demonstrating a design concept that enables different configurations and sizes. A method that designs out waste significantly.	\$70,000
<b>Dairy Australia Limited</b>	Developing a Dairy Sector Food Waste Action Plan	To create Australia's first food waste action plan for the dairy sector. Quantifying volumes of dairy waste in processing and households. Identifying solutions such as new products, services and business models to establish a circular dairy sector.	\$40,000
<b>Deakin University</b>	Biofibres for Sustainable Apparel Inspired by a Humble Bee	Research and develop a bio-inspired textile as a viable alternative to polyester. The new fibres and textiles will be made from recombinant protein-based biopolymers, inspired by the nesting material of a native Australian solitary bee.	\$29,650
<b>Dr Robert P Christopher Pty Ltd (Cathedral Cherries)</b>	Transforming cherry waste into commercially viable and high-value products	Focusing on transforming on-farm cherry 'waste' into valuable new food and drink products. Developing a business case to demonstrate the most viable option for new high-value product that can be produced on-site with specialised processing equipment.	\$31,894
<b>Fresh Select (Aust) Pty Ltd</b>	Zero waste farming: building Melbourne's first food upcycling hub	Establishing a food processing hub in the South Werribee 'Salad Bowl' growing district, this Victorian-first facility now upcycles surplus vegetables and by-products into value-added foods and ingredients. This will help local growers achieve 100% crop utilisation, while minimising food waste on farms, pack-houses and in food manufacturing. The project has already launched three new products into the market, with nine more ready for launch later in 2023.	\$206,000
<b>Innovative Mechatronics Pty Ltd</b>	A sustainable business model for retired electric vehicle batteries	To create Australia's first scalable reuse and recycling program for retired lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles. Activities include feasibility studies, pilot projects and business case development for the new service.	\$65,450
<b>Innovative Mechatronics Pty Ltd (Infinitev)</b>	Commercialisation of Retired Electric Vehicle batteries for Energy Storage (BESS)	This project will be the first to make a circular economy solution for electric vehicle batteries by reusing, repurposing and recycling end-of-life batteries.	\$205,000
<b>Kathmandu Pty Ltd</b>	Kathmandu Apparel Life Extension Pilot with The Renewal Workshop	This project aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of The Renewal Workshop's approach to repair and renewal, which is already being practised in the US and EU. It will identify and recover Kathmandu product feedstock for the renewal process, set up and pilot the renewal production process and partnerships, and create a renewal marketing and sales plan.	\$15,000
<b>Kmart Australia Limited</b>	Producing the Unlocking Clothing Circularity report	Researching clothing consumption and disposal in Australia to build a suite of recommendations for possible actions for government and businesses to drive transition toward circular clothing.	\$35,000
<b>Mantzaris Fisheries Pty Ltd</b>	Enzymatic conversion seafood waste into products	This project aims to convert squid gut waste into high-quality omega-3 rich oil and a protein-rich co-product. The project is part of Deakin University's BioFactory, which is exploring ways to reduce organic waste going to landfill.	\$35,000
<b>Monash University</b>	Sparking the circular economy in Melbourne's manufacturing industry	Delivered a series of seminars and workshops with manufacturing businesses to enhance their capabilities to adopt circular economy models and practices that create efficiency and reduce waste.	\$45,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Mortar Art</b>	Formwork for a Sustainable Future	Pilot a reusable formwork system from recycled materials and share open source 'Precious Plastic Brick'. The project aimed to create an alternative to single-use timber formwork, demonstrated pilot in March 2023.	\$66,000
<b>National Paper Industries Pty Ltd (Broadford Mill)</b>	Establishing Victoria's First Sustainable Edgeboard Manufacturing Line	Building a new regional facility to transform 10,000 tonnes of paper and cardboard waste into a new recyclable edgeboard product. This project will create a new recycling market in Victoria and a new locally manufactured product that can replace single-use plastic edgeboard, which is currently imported from overseas.	\$14,000
<b>Open Food Web Foundation Limited</b>	Whole Crop Purchasing	Whole Crop Purchasing is a practice that helps to reduce on-farm food waste. It involves buyers committing to the purchase of an entire crop from a producer. This provides the buyer with value for money and supply chain control, while the producer benefits from a secure market that reduces overproduction, storage, and other supply chain waste. The Open Food Network employed Whole Crop Purchasing practices to secure a local supply of produce for social procurement.	\$45,000
<b>Peakstone Global Pty Ltd</b>	Converting brewers spent grain waste to food products	This project aims to create a state-of-the-art pilot facility that can convert the waste into specialty food ingredients for human consumption. The facility will produce premium flour that is rich in protein, prebiotic dietary fiber, and micronutrients such as iron, zinc, and magnesium, offering various health and sustainability benefits. This will be the first facility of its kind in Australia.	\$70,000
<b>RMIT University</b>	Victoria Circular Activator	The Victorian Circular Activator will provide a physical circular economy hub and lead catalysing activities including research, a business data platform, frameworks to support business collaboration, four business-focused capability-building programs and innovation showcases.	\$74,615
<b>Rocket Seeder</b>	Accelerating new circular business models to reduce food waste in Victoria	This project developed and successfully delivered Australia's first accelerator program focused on solving food waste problems. The program supported fifteen early-stage Victorian businesses to develop and refine their business models.	\$20,000
<b>Select Harvests Limited</b>	Innovative almond waste digestion systems for nutritional fertilizer production	Conducted pilot trials using a modular digestion vessel to evaluate the commercial feasibility of a nutrient-rich fertiliser. Greenhouse crops, such as wheat and tomatoes were part of various fertiliser recipes testing.	\$120,400
<b>Southern Cross Recycling Group Pty Ltd</b>	Establishing HOMEcycle Smart Centre feasibility study	Investigate the feasibility of permanent 'HOMEcycle Smart Centres' which will receive, sort, test, repair, resell or recycle a variety of household, commercial and potentially industrial goods. This feasibility study will lead to permanent Smart Centres across Metro Melbourne and Regional Victoria. The funding is only for the feasibility component of the work.	\$37,000
<b>Streat Limited</b>	Open Sauce	The Open Sauce project, led by Moving Feast, aims to reduce waste and make the most of all produce and by-products. It will audit and map the supply chains, waste streams, assets, and capabilities across a network of Victorian food and social enterprises, and then invite the public to collaborate with environmentalists, chefs, and product developers to create circular retail products. Open Sauce also provides training and employment opportunities for individuals facing obstacles.	\$180,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>The Frank Wild Company Pty Ltd</b>	Preventing glass waste in the events industry	This project will develop a new business model that avoids glass waste in the events industry. Focusing on creating a new reusable keg service and reusable glass bottles for wine at events in-place of traditional wine bottles.	\$6,500
<b>Tuff Group Holdings Pty Ltd</b>	Building Australia's First Synthetic Turf Recycling Hub	The project aims to deliver Australia's first synthetic turf recycling facility capable of processing synthetic turf and recovering 98% of the raw materials for repurposing and redistribution. This 100% sustainable end-of-life processing plant will be based in regional Victoria and will support the Victorian economy by providing businesses with a low cost, ethical alternative to using virgin materials, and by influencing behaviour change to achieve a circular, climate resistant economy.	\$355,000
<b>University of Melbourne</b>	A Novel, Extended-Use Infection Protection Gown	The project aims to develop a safe and novel solution to extend the use of disposable medical gowns in Victoria by evaluating and demonstrating whether a coating can be applied to the gown. The approach involves a 'systems thinking' approach to fix the disconnect between purchasing, use, and disposal, and includes testing two controls - an untreated isolation gown and a fabric sample of 100% cotton. The project also considers the recycling process.	\$30,000
			<b>\$2,198,458</b>

## Circular Economy Communities Fund

### Sustainability Victoria

The objective of this program is to assist Victorian communities to transition to a circular economy by providing grant programs to solicit creative solutions for issues and gaps in the current waste management system.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Acces Australia Group</b>	Bendigo Share and Repair Shed	Funding to establish a community 'Share and Repair Shed' including a repair café, tool library, and recycling collection point.	\$26,550
<b>Acres &amp; Acres Co-op Ltd</b>	Acres and Acres Food Waste Recycling	Funding to establish a community commercial-scale worm farm using organic waste collected from local businesses and other facilities.	\$26,250
<b>Albury Wodonga Regional Foodshare</b>	Feed More Waste Less	Increasing access to rescued food to be distributed to schools, individuals, and families across the Albury Wodonga region. This region has been significantly impacted by COVID-19 and a series of natural disasters in the past few years.	\$31,900
<b>Antiochian Community Support Association Inc.</b>	ACSA Salvage	Funding to Repair and upcycle donated uniforms and clothing, which will be donated to second-hand clothing distributors.	\$13,100
<b>Assembled Threads</b>	Towards Circular High Visibility Apparel	Funding to establish a community manufacturing hub to make high-visibility industrial uniforms from recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic and deliver them in bio-degradable compostable bags.	\$10,000
<b>Assembled Threads</b>	Tackling the textile crisis in Victoria's uniform procurement channels	Expanding the current 'Towards Circular High Visibility Apparel' project by recycling hi-vis vests at end of life and creating recycled fibre medical scrubs using recycled bottles and textile waste.	\$50,094

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Ballarat East Neighbourhood House Inc.</b>	Zero Waste Homes Ballarat - Pilot Community Education Project	Delivering a hands-on course for householders to enable them to confidently address waste and recycling issues.	\$5,700
<b>Banksia Gardens Community Services</b>	Composting is circular: a story of food and forest	Diverting organic waste and transforming it into nutrient-rich soil to be used to regenerate their community services spaces.	\$25,000
<b>Big Group Hug</b>	The Sustainable Collective	Collecting and upcycling pre-loved items for children (from newborns to teens). Distributing the items to families experiencing hardship, in Western Melbourne and surrounding areas.	\$105,972
<b>Boots for All Inc.</b>	Sport for All - Uni Hill: Sporting Goods Rebound Platform	Reducing waste generation and diverting from landfill by salvaging sporting goods and redistributing to those in need across Banyule and Whittlesea. In addition to prolonging the life of these items, this project aims to increase participation in community sport.	\$53,100
<b>Brainwave Australia</b>	LGA Bike Recycling program	Partnering with Mercedes-Benz, Good Cycles and 99 Bikes to recycle used bicycles in Melbourne.	\$34,000
<b>Brunswick Neighbourhood House Co-operative Limited</b>	Waste Less Recycle More	Creating a community-based education resource that will demonstrate how to grow one's own food and incorporate closed loop agricultural practices through composting and worm farming.	\$26,550
<b>Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre</b>	Delivering community circular economy waste solutions	Providing a recycling collection point for batteries, e-waste, soft plastics, lightbulbs, and plastic tags and delivering a recycling education program targeting migrants and refugees.	\$26,400
<b>Circular Economy Victoria Inc.</b>	Hume Collaborate to Thrive	Supporting the City of Hume community in transitioning to more circular ways of living by making changes at a local government, industry, and community level.	\$3,562
<b>Cire Services Incorporated</b>	Upcycling with Cire	Delivering workshops to re-purpose unusable clothing donations and divert textile waste from landfill. This project will provide support to vulnerable women, upskilling them and providing financial security and repurposed textile items will be donated to the homeless.	\$18,100
<b>Cultivating Community Incorporated</b>	Collingwood Children's Farm Community Composting, Learning and Sustainability Hub	Establishing a sustainability hub to support community education through activities such as composting and worm towers.	\$24,000
<b>Darebin Information Volunteer &amp; Resource Service</b>	Harvest. Rescue. Share. Connect. For a thriving Darebin.	Reducing organic matter going to landfill by re-purposing through food rescue and other community initiatives such as the 'Darebin Fruit Squad' – volunteers harvesting excess fruit from backyard trees in 100 households for use in emergency relief packages.	\$40,000
<b>Darley Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre</b>	Bacchus Marsh Circular Economy Community Hub	Developing the 'Bacchus Marsh Circular Economy Community Hub' through a repair café, borrowing service, and shared learnings workshop space.	\$18,910
<b>Diamond Valley Community Support Inc.</b>	The Food Collective - Next Level Project	Diverting organic material from landfill and facilitating access to food relief through food rescue and donation.	\$56,128



Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Enable Social Enterprises Limited</b>	Connecting Communities - Reusing/ Repairing old tech, tackling digital/ social exclusion	Expanding their tech recycling service to repurpose items and provide employment and education to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.	\$11,250
<b>Garage Sale Trail Foundation</b>	Multi-unit dwelling circular economy hubs	Delivering a series of pop-up circular economy hubs for multi-unit dwellers within the City of Melbourne featuring reuse markets and swap and repair workshops.	\$5,000
<b>Geelong Sustainability Group</b>	Geelong Circular Living Challenge	Engaging around 300 participants in an 8- to 12-week mobile app-based competition during Geelong Design Week (March 2022).	\$21,325
<b>Hub Foundation Castlemaine</b>	YIMBY	Establishing 10 neighbourhood compost hubs in the backyards of participating households.	\$5,898
<b>Jesuit Social Services</b>	Regenerative Plastics: A Community Education Project	Partnering with Precious Plastics to repurpose plastic bottle lids and providing education and job readiness programs for those with different abilities and the long-term unemployed.	\$30,000
<b>Kensington Neighbourhood House</b>	Kensington Community Waste Wisdoms Program	Transitioning Kensington to a circular economy through repair cafés, community compost hubs and an educational campaign.	\$22,250
<b>Kororoit Creek Neighbourhood House Inc.</b>	Brimbank Repair Café and Workshop Series	Establishing a volunteer-led repair café in Brimbank to support the community to gain skills in repair, re-use, and re-purposing.	\$17,280
<b>Lalor Neighbourhood House</b>	Lalor interactive arts, permaculture and waste reduction precinct project	Creating an interactive arts, permaculture, recycling, and waste reduction precinct drawing on the skills of migrant residents.	\$26,550
<b>Landcare Victoria (Ultima Landcare)</b>	Recycling Agricultural Waste Plastic throughout the South East Mallee	Collecting and recycling grain bags to divert agricultural plastic waste from landfill across the Mallee Region.	\$20,934
<b>Leadership Great South Coast Inc.</b>	Loved & Shared	Repurposing, refurbishing and distributing donated children's goods (such as nursery items, prams, car seats, clothing, toys and books) to families in need in the Port Fairy area.	\$35,644
<b>Living Learning Pakenham Inc.</b>	Eastern Alliance for Waste Reduction and Sustainability	Building a network of community composting hubs.	\$176,711
<b>Maker Community Inc.</b>	The Complete Repair and Upcycle Centre	Purchasing industrial woodworking tools for the community repair café.	\$10,680
<b>Milparinka Adult Training Unit Inc.</b>	Contributing to Sustainability Through Community Composting	Implementing a sustainable and accessible circular compost system, converting organic waste into usable compost.	\$21,000
<b>Morwell Neighbourhood House &amp; Learning Centre</b>	Morwell War on Waste: Local Solutions for Low Waste Living	Encouraging sustainable household practices through the Free Store – redirecting usable items from landfill to those in need, and the repair café – extending the life of items.	\$25,200

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Neighbourhood Collective Australia Ltd</b>	The Neighbourhood Op Shop and Slow Fashion Hub	Establishing an op-shop and a 'slow fashion hub'.	\$25,000
<b>No More Butts Ltd</b>	MycoCycling Community Cigarette Butt Waste to Re-direct from Landfill	Capturing and recycling cigarette butt waste and transforming it into usable items such as packaging through the process of mycology.	\$39,000
<b>Northern Community Church of Christ</b>	Turning Food Waste into Fertiliser	Diverting organic material from landfill, converting it into fertiliser to be used on site, and educating the community on food recycling and the circular economy.	\$30,000
<b>Open Table</b>	Open Table's Food Rescue Hub	Providing food sharing initiatives through the establishment of surplus food collections, community lunches, composting, and community education.	\$26,100
<b>Outer East Foodshare Inc.</b>	Who thought it could taste so good?	Partnering with Feed One Feed All to increase surplus food collection and repurposing it through food charities and school breakfast programs.	\$11,649
<b>OzFish Unlimited</b>	Shell Savers - Saving shells by the seashore	Diverting shells from landfill to use in biodiversity restoration activities in local waters.	\$8,850
<b>OzHarvest</b>	OzHarvest Melbourne Food Rescue Expansion	Expanding their food rescue service by adding a new van to collect and distribute food in greater Melbourne.	\$118,000
<b>Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre Inc.</b>	Turning a Micro-Circular-Economy into a Micro-Industry	Implementing a Heavy Materials Repair Facility to repurpose camping, boating and fishing items that would otherwise end up in landfill.	\$8,700
<b>Reground</b>	Reground Ground Coffee Collection and Community Service Expansion	Expanding their current coffee grounds collection service to serve another 19 local government areas and 100 businesses.	\$60,000
<b>Reground</b>	Remote Reground - sustainable coffee for all Victorians	Expanding their existing project to provide 'Remote Reground', a coffee collection service reaching more businesses and redistributing coffee waste to be repurposed across Victoria.	\$100,300
<b>Rethink Recycling Co-op Ltd</b>	Rethink Recycling Co-op Mobile Education Trailer	Setting up a mobile education trailer to educate on plastic waste re-manufacturing.	\$35,400
<b>Richmond Community Learning Centre</b>	Yarra Repair Pop Ups	Providing fixing and mending services and educating and upskilling community members.	\$8,500
<b>Soap Aid Ltd</b>	Soaping Our Way to a Circular Economy	Establishing a soap repurposing centre in Melbourne to divert soap from landfill and redistribute to community groups and vulnerable Victorians.	\$121,100
<b>Span Community House</b>	Span Community Recycling Hub	Expanding their current community composting program to include a range of reuse, recycling and repairing initiatives.	\$20,000
<b>St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Inc.</b>	Vinnes Victoria Electrical Test & Tag Expansion Project	Equipping Vinnie's 111 stores in Victoria with the resources to: resell donated electrical items; upskill staff and volunteers in testing and tagging electrical donations.	\$87,500

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Sustain: The Australian Food Network</b>	Oakhill Food Justice Farm Resource and Composting Hub	Expanding on the activities at the Oakhill Food Justice Farm to become a centre of sustainability, resource recovery and composting.	\$26,550
<b>Sustain: The Australian Food Network</b>	Unboxed Victoria	Providing farmers with reusable packaging and creating more sustainable and efficient shipping of fresh produce around Victoria.	\$63,000
<b>Tangaroa Blue Foundation</b>	Let's Strain the Drains - Melbourne Round 2	Expanding their current 'Strain the drains' project by installing 158 additional litter traps across 7 local government areas. This includes sharing findings on the Australian Marine Debris Initiative Database, analysing and mapping pollutant locations, and holding events to change littering behaviour in the community.	\$117,640
<b>Tangaroa Blue Foundation</b>	Rig Recycle - Victoria	Expanding on their existing programs to collect and repurpose recreational fishing and packaging items through an innovative repair, reuse and recycle framework.	\$124,800
<b>The Bicycle Recycle Shed</b>	Bicycle Landfill Diversion Through Education and Empowerment	Educating and upskilling community members in bicycle maintenance, upcycling, and re-purposing with a particular focus on female-identifying residents.	\$12,436
<b>The Scout Association of Australia Victorian Branch</b>	Campsite Food Waste Diversion	Implementing food waste recycling at Gilwell Park campsite to divert food waste from landfill and educate the community.	\$18,450
<b>The Trustee for The Salvation Army (Victoria) Property Trust</b>	Electronic Circularity Best Practice	Expanding their electronic Test and Tag services to increase the accessibility to reuse of electronic goods across Victoria.	\$72,580
<b>Upper Goulburn Landcare Network</b>	The Community Compost Project	Dehydrating and composting organic waste from local hospitality businesses, a florist, and a fruit and vegetable shop.	\$2,000
<b>West Welcome Wagon</b>	Rescue, revive and repurpose to support new Australians in need	Expanding the collection and redistribution of unwanted goods and rehoming them with new residents in the western suburbs of Melbourne.	\$76,400
<b>Western District Employment Access (WDEA)</b>	Toward a Sustainable Recycling Social Enterprise in Hamilton	Repairing and recycling clothing and household items to sell through The Big Shed.	\$40,800
<b>Whittlesea Community Connections</b>	Mernda Repair Café	Establishing a repair cafe at Mernda Community House – this will be the first repair cafe in the City of Whittlesea.	\$20,000
<b>Wholefoods Unwrapped Moreland</b>	Unwrapped	Reducing the amount of packaging being used in the hospitality and food service sector by creating reusable containers (such as tubs, crates and insulated bags) for food transportation.	\$11,000
<b>Yarra Valley ECOSS</b>	UpCycle Hub	Funding to establish a ReCycle Repair hub where youth can receive training on how to recycle old bicycles.	\$27,000
			<b>\$2,337,793</b>

## Circular Economy Councils Fund

### Sustainability Victoria

The objective of this program is to assist Victorian councils to transition to a circular economy by providing grant programs to solicit innovative solutions for issues and gaps when it comes to the reuse, repair, repurpose, and recycle of materials and products in the current waste management and resource recovery systems.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Alpine Shire Council</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Alpine Reuse Shop	Project to investigate the feasibility and develop a business case for a reuse shop for Alpine Shire	\$20,000
<b>Brimbank City Council</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Brimbank Resource Centre 2.0	Assessing the feasibility of developing a new "full service" resource recovery centre at Sunshine Energy Park through the 'up-cycling' of the precast concrete industrial building.	\$20,000
<b>Central Goldfields Shire Council</b>	Circular Economy Councils Implementation Circular Economy Central Goldfields Energy Breakthrough Event Waste Management	Funding to be used for supporting education and materials for the Energy Breakthrough event for 2 years. This will assist in diverting waste from landfill.	\$60,000
<b>City of Ballarat</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Circular Ballarat Materials Flow Analysis	Funding to develop detailed materials flow analysis and end market opportunities to establish Ballarat as a Circular Economy hub.	\$10,000
<b>City of Boroondara</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Boroondara Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO)	Project to investigate options and recommendations for commercial and larger Multi-Unit Developments (MUDs) including issues and barriers for Food Organics Garden Organics FOGO collection.	\$20,000
<b>City of Boroondara</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Boroondara Small Business Circular Economy Capacity Building	Pilot project for 3 councils Boroondara, Stonnington and Melbourne to enact capacity building activities for owner-operators of Small-Medium-Enterprises in retail, hospitality and professional service sectors. Hold a forum to share lessons and connect participants.	\$45,000
<b>City of Casey</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Casey Waffle Pods	Project to investigate the feasibility & develop a business case for EPS options by connecting with Circular Economy Victoria, university researchers, local builders and the community to develop alternative options and increase diversion of EPS material from landfill and waterways.	\$20,000
<b>City of Glen Eira</b>	Circular Economy Councils Implementation Glen Eira Best Practice Reusable Nappy Program	Recommendations from the Round 1 Feasibility study will be implemented to enable thirteen councils to offer best practice bespoke reusable nappy programs.	\$60,000
<b>City of Greater Bendigo</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Bendigo Circular Scan	Eight council partnership mapping upstream materials and resources to understand opportunities and end markets for materials for central Victoria.	\$80,000



Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Greater Geelong City Council</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils - Feasibility Geelong Regional Resource Recovery and Reuse Hub	Creating a business case for a regional waste, resource recovery and reuse hub in the Geelong region.	\$5,000
<b>City of Melbourne</b>	Circular Economy Councils Implementation Melbourne High Rise Food Organics Collection Service.	Recommendations from the Round 1 Feasibility study will be implemented to establish food organics (FO) collection services in City of Melbourne buildings greater than six storeys.	\$120,000
<b>City of Melbourne</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility City of Melbourne M9 Co-mingled Recycling and Glass Processing Development	Development of feasibility and business case for the nine largest Melbourne councils to take carriage of co-mingled and glass recovery & processing at a council-owned location.	\$80,000
<b>City of Melbourne</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility City of Melbourne M9 Organics Processing Development	Development of feasibility and business case for the nine largest Melbourne councils to take carriage of organic material recovery and processing at a council-owned location.	\$80,000
<b>City of Melbourne</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility E-Waste Diversion Pilot	City of Melbourne pilot project with e-cargo bike to collect e-waste from inner city residents, partnering with social enterprise.	\$10,000
<b>Monash City Council</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility - Monash - Best Practice Reusable Nappy Program	Business case development - 12 council partnership to investigate the options for dealing with single use nappies to assist kerbside collection of landfill bins to go fortnightly.	\$10,000
<b>City of Stonnington</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Stonnington Regional Materials Flow Analysis	Regional materials flow analysis across three metro councils to gain a city lens on materials and opportunities to identify circular economy opportunities.	\$40,000
<b>City of Stonnington</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Stonnington Transfer Station Upgrade Business Case	Feasibility study to determine options and recommendations for operation of the transfer station including options, barriers and costings.	\$20,000
<b>City of Stonnington</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Implementation - Darebin Best Waste Practice in Multi Use Dwellings	Stonnington (previously Darebin) now lead the 10 council partnership to implement best waste management practice Circular Economy across 60 MUDs buildings.	\$90,000
<b>City of Whittlesea</b>	Circular Economy Councils Implementation Whittlesea Circular Resource Practices at Retail Business Precincts	14 metro council partnership to work with 140 small businesses to establish circular resource practices in business precincts.	\$60,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>City of Whittlesea</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Whittlesea Resource Recovery Solutions	Investigate the feasibility & develop business case for a resource recovery & resale options for Whittlesea.	\$20,000
<b>East Gippsland Shire Council</b>	Circular Economy Councils Implementation East Gippsland Organics Composting Facility	Implement the recommendations of Round 1 Feasibility study to establish a composting facility adjacent to Bairnsdale landfill.	\$100,000
<b>Knox City Council</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Knox Reusable Sanitary and Incontinence Aids Program	Feasibility study to determine options & recommendations for reusable sanitary and incontinence products for 6 metro councils, to assist with transition to reduce landfill bin collection services, and kerbside reform.	\$70,000
<b>Melton City Council</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Melton City Council Circular Economy Hub	Investigate the feasibility and develop a business case for circular economy hub for reduction of material from landfill and potential resale.	\$20,000
<b>Moonee Valley City Council</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Moonee Valley Expanding Polystyrene Recovery	Investigate the feasibility and develop a business case for Expanded Polystyrene options by connecting with Construction and Industry and the community to increase diversion of material from landfill and waterways.	\$15,000
<b>Moorabool Shire Council</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Moorabool Transfer Stations Resale Shop and Increased Resource Recovery	Investigate the feasibility and develop a business case for resale shop and increased diversion of material from landfill.	\$20,000
<b>Murrindindi Shire Council</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Business Case for a Modern Resource Recovery Facility in Yea	Delivering a business case for best options for a resource recovery centre to service Yea township and surrounding areas.	\$10,000
<b>Nillumbik Shire Council</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Nillumbik Library of Things	Investigate the feasibility and develop a business case for a library of quality items to be borrowed by residents, rather than residents purchase cheap items that go to landfill.	\$18,000
<b>Northern Grampians Shire Council</b>	Circular Economy Councils Implementation Northern Grampians Public Place Recycling	Install public place recycling infrastructure in major towns of Northern Grampians to complement kerbside reforms, build community momentum for resource recovery and meet tourist expectations for recycling options.	\$160,000
<b>Mansfield Shire Council</b>	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Mansfield Local Options for Food Organics Garden Organics	Investigate the feasibility and develop a business case for Food Organics Garden Organics options.	\$40,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Recycling Victoria Councils Implementation - Swan Hill Compost Facility Stage 1	Establish composting facility to complement organics collection services from Swan Hill Rural City Council and neighbouring councils and industries.	\$40,000
Wyndham City Council	Circular Economy Councils Implementation Wyndham Park Tool Library	Implement the recommendations of Round 1 Feasibility study to establish a tool library stocked with quality equipment to be borrowed by residents, to reduce the purchase of cheap items that go to landfill.	\$60,000
Wyndham City Council	Recycling Victoria Councils Implementation - Wyndham Bulk Resource Recovery Centre	Establish resource recovery centre at Werribee landfill to accommodate building and bulk materials to divert waste from landfill for construction and industry and to service western suburbs, educating residents with recovered materials available for purchase.	\$140,000
Yarra City Council	Recycling Victoria Councils Feasibility Yarra's Circular centre	Delivering a business case for a potential 'Yarra's Circular Centre' where hard rubbish can be reused, repaired and repurposed.	\$20,000
Yarriambiack Shire Council	Recycling Victoria Councils Implementation - Yarriambiack - Wimmera Mallee Councils Recycled Glass Processing Collaboration	Given the distance to Melbourne for processing, a glass crushing machine shared among 5 councils, to support council glass collection service rollout.	\$80,000
			<b>\$1,663,000</b>

## Community Climate Change and Energy Action

### Sustainability Victoria

The key objective of this program is to support local Community groups to invest in their facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Anglican Diocese of Melbourne	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installations at Yarraville Anglican Parish & St Matthews Anglican Church	\$17,574
Anglican Trusts Corporation of the Diocese of Gippsland	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at St Paul's Anglican Cathedral	\$6,023
Anglo Indian Australasian Association of Victoria	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Anglo-Indian Australasian Association Of Victoria	\$5,764
Apollo Bay Football Club Inc	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$835
Association of Ukrainians Geelong Branch & Mrs L Pryslak	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$432

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Association of Ukrainians Geelong Branch & Mrs L Pryslak	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Efficient appliance installation at Ukrainian Community Hall	\$10,244
Australia Light Foundation Inc.	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$1,485
Austrian Club Geelong Inc.	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Austrian Club Geelong	\$4,570
Ballarat North Bowling Club Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Battery installation at Ballarat North Bowling Club	\$1,882
Bass Coast Shire Council	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$3,000
Bass Coast Shire Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installations at Bass Coast Children's Centre & San Remo Pre-school, solar & battery installation at Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre	\$35,379
Bayside City Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Black Rock Yacht Club, lighting & efficient appliance installation at Sandringham Bowls Club, lighting installation & building modification at Hurlingham Park Tennis Club	\$118,165
Bayswater Bowls Club Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar & efficient appliance installation at Bayswater Bowls Club	\$5,851
Beth Weizmann Community Centre Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre	\$31,233
Black Rock Sports Club Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar & battery installation at Black Rock Sports Club	\$19,485
Boronia Bowls Club	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar, lighting, efficient appliance installation at Boronia Bowls Club	\$20,636
Borough of Queenscliffe	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Battery, lighting, efficient appliance installation at Queenscliffe Neighbourhood House	\$13,959
Box Hill Tennis Club Inc.	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Box Hill Tennis Club	\$8,241
Brimbank City Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installations at Ainsworth Reserve Pavilion, Keilor Sports Pavilion & McKechnie Reserve Pavilion. Efficient appliance installation at Churchill Reserve Club House	\$73,703
BW Community Centre Ltd	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$1,482
BW Community Centre Ltd	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at BW Community Centre	\$12,459
Cardinia Shire Council	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$1,600
Cire Services Incorporated	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$1,652
Cire Services Incorporated	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Efficient appliance installation at Cire Services	\$3,885
City of Darebin	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$54,250
City of Glen Eira	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar & battery installation at Caulfield Park Tennis Centre, lighting installation at Glen Orme Tennis Club	\$32,484
City of Greater Bendigo	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$1,470



Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Greater Geelong City Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Ocean Grove Tennis club	\$9,081
City of Melbourne	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar, battery, efficient appliance installation at Powlett Reserve childcare centre and community room	\$30,323
Monash City Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installations at WA Scammell Reserve Pavilion & Monash Men's Shed	\$16,355
City of Stonnington	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$450
City of Stonnington	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Battery installation at Dunlop Pavilion	\$4,368
Clarinda Tennis Club Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Lighting, efficient appliance installation at Clarinda Tennis Club	\$1,150
Coleraine Golf Club Incorporated	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$1,425
Coleraine Golf Club Incorporated	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Coleraine Golf Club	\$2,519
Dandenong Club	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Dandenong Club	\$50,000
Darebin Community Health Service t/a Your Community Health	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Your Community Health Northcote	\$4,894
Eastern Districts Polish Association (Melbourne)	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar & battery installation at Eastern Districts Polish Association (Melbourne)	\$15,750
Echuca Workers and Services Club Ltd	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Echuca Workers	\$50,000
Faithland Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Lighting, efficient appliance installation at Faithland	\$15,060
GARFIELD GOLF CLUB INC.	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Garfield Golf Club	\$11,620
Geelong West Kindergarten	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$662
Greater Shepparton City Council	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$8,727
Hamilton Golf Club Inc.	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Hamilton Golf Club	\$9,147
Hepburn Shire Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar & battery installation at Hepburn Kindergarten, solar & efficient appliance installation at Attitude Ageing Well	\$18,461
Holy Family Catholic Church	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Holy Family Catholic Church	\$5,542
Horsham Golf Club	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Horsham Golf Club	\$25,532

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Kadampa Meditation Centre Australia	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Efficient appliance installation, building modification at Kadampa Meditation Centre Australia	\$22,417
Kerang Baptist Church	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Kerang Baptist Church	\$7,964
Laverton Community Integrated Service	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Laverton Community Education Centre	\$6,595
Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism	\$1,422
Manningham City Council	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$840
Midlands Golf Club Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Midlands Golf Club	\$7,500
Mildura Rural City Council	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$5,924
Mildura Rural City Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installations at Mildura Workers Bowling Club & Mildura Football Netball Club	\$8,292
Moora Moora Co-Operative Community Limited	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Efficient appliance installation, building modification at Moora Moora Cooperative Community	\$41,252
Moreland City Council	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$10,000
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar, efficient appliance installation, building modification at Mt Eliza Bowls Club. Lighting installation at Sorrento Community Centre. Solar, lighting, efficient appliance installation, building modification at Mt Eliza Neighbourhood House. Solar installation at Mt Eliza Fifty Five Plus Club	\$33,951
Morwell Bowling Club Rec Centre Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Morwell Bowling Club	\$35,000
Morwell Football and Netball Club Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar, battery installation at Morwell Football Netball Club social rooms	\$26,961
National Trust of Australia (Vic)	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Efficient appliance installation at Mooramong Homestead	\$28,350
Nillumbik Shire Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar, battery installation at Greensborough Hockey Club Pavilion. Lighting installation at Eltham Tennis Club	\$18,980
Ouyen Roxy Theatre Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Efficient appliance installation, building modification at Ouyen Roxy Theatre	\$8,707
Pascoe Vale RSL Sub Branch Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Pascoe Vale RSL	\$39,947
Phillip Island Board Riders Club Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar, battery installation at Phillip Island Boardriders Clubrooms	\$8,843
Phillip Island Football Netball Club Inc Trading Account	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Phillip Island Football Netball Club	\$2,091

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Portarlington Golf Club Inc.	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Portarlington Golf Club	\$50,000
Project Platypus	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Project Platypus	\$8,800
Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Ramahyuck Community Facility	\$1,860
Returned & Services League of Australia (Victorian Branch) Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Clayton RSL Sub Branch	\$50,000
Robina Scott Kindergarten	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Robina Scott Kindergarten	\$4,136
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at The Cat and Small Animal (CASA) Care Centre at RSPCA Peninsula	\$42,500
Wangaratta Rural City Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar, lighting, efficient appliance installation at Moyhu Community Hall	\$12,384
Sandybeach Community Co-Op Society Ltd	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar, battery installation at Sandybeach Centre	\$25,421
Moira Shire Council	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$1,500
Strathbogrie Shire Council	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$820
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$40,000
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Lighting installations at Bimbadeen Preschool & Chirnside Park Preschool. Solar & battery installation at Yarra Junction Bowling Club	\$11,965
St Alphonsa Syro-Malabar	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at St Alphonsa Cathedral Parish	\$33,345
St Luke The Evangelist Church Account	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at St Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church	\$11,179
St Marys Syro-Malabar Parish	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at St Alphonsa Cathedral Parish	\$11,512
St Timothy's Forest Hill Church Account	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at St Timothy's Catholic Church Forest Hill	\$5,743
Tamil Educational Cultural & Charitable Association Inc.	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar & battery installation at Kundrathu Kumaran Hindu Temple	\$6,863
The Echuca Club Inc.	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at The Echuca Club	\$9,762
The Historical Society Of Mooroopna Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar & battery installation at Historical Society of Mooroopna Museum	\$6,165

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
The Old Colonists' Association of Victoria	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$4,450
The Roman Catholic Trusts Corporation	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at St Augustine's Catholic Church Yarraville	\$8,228
The Uniting Church in Australia	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Efficient appliance installation at Glen Waverley Uniting Church, Yarragon Uniting Church, Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church. Efficient appliance installation, building modification at Queenscliff Uniting Church	\$27,369
Timboon Golf Club Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Timboon Golf Club	\$3,797
Trustees of Kildare Ministries	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Efficient appliance installation, building modification at Saltbush, Balnarring Beach	\$2,303
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Building modification at VACCHO	\$50,000
Warragul Country Club Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Warragul Country Club	\$50,000
Warrnambool City Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Russells Creek Club	\$4,832
Wellington Shire Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar & battery installation at Cameron Sporting Complex. Solar installation at Port Albert Water Sports And Safety Centre	\$18,400
Whitehorse City council	Energy Assessment	Energy Assessment to determine energy saving opportunities for the building	\$1,404
Whitehorse City council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Lighting installations at Koonung Park Tennis Club, Nunawading Tennis Club & Heatherdale Tennis Club	\$83,075
Wodonga Bowling Club Incorporated	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar, battery installation at Wodonga Bowling Club	\$13,475
Wonthaggi Workmens Club Inc	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at MJ McMahon	\$24,533
Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Battery installation at Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club	\$4,080
Yarra City Council	Energy Efficiency Upgrades	Solar installation at Princes Highway Reserve. Solar, lighting, efficient appliance installation at Walker Street Kindergarten. Solar, efficient appliance installation at Clifton Childcare Co-op. Solar, efficient appliance installation at Dancehouse Carlton. Battery installation at 2nd Clifton Scout Hall. Solar, efficient appliance installation at North Carlton Neighbourhood House. Efficient appliance, lighting installation at North Fitzroy Neighbourhood House. Solar, lighting installation at Burnley Backyard. Solar, efficient appliance installation at Richmond Multicultural Children's Centre.	\$54,442
			<b>\$1,768,187</b>

## Coastal Protection Assets Year 2

### DEECA

The objective of the program is to contribute towards the ongoing viability of coastal communities across Victoria that will otherwise be compromised due to increasing coastal hazards.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc.	Stairs and beach access replacement Ocean Grove	The project aims to replace current staircase and access with a new structure that conforms to the Australian standards whilst providing an improve access and balustrading protection.	\$34,496
Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc.	Stairs and Beach Access Replacement Ocean Grove	The project aims to renew the foreshore beach access. The structure will conform to the current building codes, particularly with balustrading on platforms, along with the alignment of staircases to improve accessibility and positioning with primary dune system. The project will utilise existing land based components to minimise costs.	\$36,729
Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Incorporated	Northern Bellarine Foreshore Landslide Risk Management	The project aims to install landslide/rockfall risk warning signage at key locations along the foreshore from Portarlington to St Leonards, in accordance with the recommendations of a geotechnical investigation undertaken in June 2021.	\$11,560
Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Incorporated	Indented Head Salt Marsh Boardwalks (Boardwalk 3)	The project aims to design and construct three boardwalks through the endangered Coastal Salt Marsh where residents and visitors currently access the adjacent beach.	\$217,000
Corinella Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management Inc.	Clearing and remediation of contaminated beach site	The project aims to remove rubbish that has fallen on the beach on the southern side of Settlement Point (Corinella), as a result of cliff collapse from an old illegal rubbish dump, and stabilise and remediate the cliff to prevent further collapse and contamination of the beach.	\$66,100
Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management Inc.	Merricks Beach 'Pine Slide' path upgrade	The project aims to address safety/erosion risks at the 'Pine Slide' path in the Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve, by constructing additional steps, extending the provision of handrails, and resurfacing and improving run-off from the path.	\$25,018
Nelson Reserves Committee of Management Inc.	West Bank Carpark Foreshore Rejuvenation	The project aims to formalise, seal and line mark the existing Western Foreshore car/bus park on the West Bank of the Glenelg River at Nelson. This will reduce safety hazards, separate vehicle traffic from pedestrians, control stormwater runoff including pollutants from entering the river system.	\$135,222
Point Leo Foreshore Committee of Management	East Creek Beach Pedestrian Access	The project aims to construct a safe, easily traversed gravel platform path and steps away from vehicle movement for pedestrians to access the public toilet, parking and beach from the campground, office and shop.	\$15,692
Sandy Point Foreshore Committee of Management Inc.	2021 Dune Erosion Reinstatement	The project aims to construct approximately 100m of Beachmaster Dune protection fencing along the toe of badly wind, tide and public damaged primary dunes and to the adjoining current main public access walkway and also the separate vehicle and beach wheelchair access ramp. The protected dune area will also be revegetated using native species.	\$47,262



Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
City of Port Phillip	Sandbar Beach Access Upgrades	The project aims to upgrade the existing concrete ramp outside the public toilet facilities that adjoins Sandbar Café on the Middle Park Beachfront to provide a fully compliant DDA path of travel to the toilets and onto the beach.	\$60,291
Glenelg Shire Council	Portland Foreshore Bollard Installation	The project aims to install bollards along Lee Breakwater Road to prevent off-road access to grassed areas of the Portland Foreshore reserve by unauthorised vehicles. The project will protect reserve users and prevent damage to the reserve.	\$64,000
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Fishermans Beach Geotechnical Risk Assessment & Mitigation Options - Stage 2	The project aims to complete further geotechnical investigations at Fishermans Beach, in an extended area to include cliff adjacent to beach boxes. Intrusive investigation will characterise cliff materials and materials behaviour, landslide risk assessment will be undertaken and risk to persons and property identified. Preliminary design for mitigation options will be presented.	\$36,245
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Cliff Risk Assessment and Remediation - Kennon Cove, Flinders	The purpose of this project is to complete a detailed risk analysis and identify and design long term mitigation measures for the cliff, which continues to pose an unacceptable risk to the public. This will include a review of existing risk assessments; updated geotechnical risk analysis; intrusive geotechnical investigation; remedial options analysis; and detailed design of remedial measure.	\$38,090
Warrnambool City Council	Wild Coast Landscape Master Plan Access Improvement	The project aims to implement recommendations of the Wild Coast Landscape Master Plan to improve signage; delineate approved access tracks; minimise unauthorised access to dunes and fire marshalling area; and replace ageing beach access infrastructure.	\$150,000
Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority	Beach Safety Sign Installation and Replacement	The project aims to design, manufacture and replace or install beach safety signs at every beach access point under management of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, from Torquay to Marengo, in line with Lifesaving Victoria audit recommendations.	\$150,000
Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority	Beach Access Point at Apollo Bay - Gambier St	The project aims to close one of two beach access points at Gambier Street Apollo Bay and re-establish the main path with a boardwalk and steps.	\$59,136
Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority	Wye River Caravan Park Beach Access	The project will support the construction and installation of a new, safe and wheel chair friendly beach access for visitors, campers, SLSC patrolling members and the community. It will also act as a new emergency access for caravan park patrons.	\$9,779
Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority	Jan Juc Emergency Access Ramp	The project aims to design and build an access ramp adjacent to the Jan Juc Surf Lifesaving Club to upgrade beach access for pedestrians, lifesaving and emergency vehicles onto the beach. The project will improve the design of the access ramp to adapt to sand movement/erosion at foot of ramp which has recently forced closure of the informal access ramp.	\$150,000
			<b>\$1,306,620</b>

## Digital Energy Economy Program

### DEECA

The aim of the CivVic Labs Digital Energy Challenge is to support energy technology start-ups develop and refine their innovative digital solutions to current issues and gaps in the market. Two start-ups with the most prospective solutions are further supported to bring their ideas to life and test with customers.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Ben Kushinsky	CivVic Labs - Empowered by Net Zero	Web-based platform that will present tailored, relatable, actionable solutions for consumers, driving behavioural change.	\$15,000
Environmint Pty Ltd	CivVic Labs - Environmint	Digital twin of any household, enabling households to assess return on investment on energy-related decisions based on their actual energy usage data.	\$15,000
HAL Systems Pty Ltd	CivVic Labs - HAL Systems	Predictive climate control for a building's HVAC equipment to make energy savings in real-time.	\$15,000
HAL Systems Pty Ltd	CivVic Labs - HAL Systems (Additional Funding)	Predictive climate control for a building's HVAC equipment to make energy savings in real-time.	\$30,000
Jon Knight	CivVic Labs - BuzzBay	Automation device with a digital interface that manages energy consumption in relation to solar production.	\$15,000
L.O.L. Consultants Pty Ltd (Trading as Volta Rocks)	CivVic Labs - Volta Rocks	Mobile app to plan, track and achieve energy goals. We collect your data consumption and help you model a plan to achieve your goals.	\$15,000
RE0 Pty Ltd (Trading as N0de)	CivVic Labs - N0de	Net zero decision engine and operating system for commercial buildings.	\$15,000
Shrunk Innovation Group Pty Ltd (Trading as Shrunk Labs)	CivVic Labs - Deepwater by Shrunk Labs	Software as a service digital product that manages all energy flows within an internal network, both on the generation side and the consumption side.	\$15,000
Top Property Media Pty Ltd	CivVic Labs - Top Property Eco	Digital tool for potential tenants and homeowners to understand the energy efficiency of any given property.	\$15,000
Top Property Media Pty Ltd	CivVic Labs - Top Property Eco (Additional Funding)	Digital tool for potential tenants and homeowners to understand the energy efficiency of any given property.	\$30,000
Trade With Africa (Trading as ReSwitch Energy)	CivVic Labs - ReSwitch	Helping consumers identify inefficient in their daily energy use and tools to remedy it in real time.	\$15,000
Yu, Kanghui (Trading as Nature Electric)	CivVic Labs - Nature Electric	Digital retail platform for trading 100% renewable electricity in a transparent, safe and efficient manner.	\$15,000
			<b>\$210,000</b>

## Education and Behaviour Change Program

### Sustainability Victoria

The objective of this project is to deliver a comprehensive and cohesive household education and behaviour change program for Victorian households.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Alpine Shire Council</b>	FOGO Service Communications Plan	Introducing Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside and drop-off service in July 2023. The FOGO service will be available for kerbside collection across the township and drop-off for rural properties.	\$28,200
<b>Ararat Rural City Council</b>	Household Education and Behaviour Change	Introducing an "all in" residential collection service for rural residents with property over five hectares for waste, recyclables and glass (the 3-bin system). Residents of the town areas and villages will have a 4-bin system with the addition of an organics bin to the 3 bins provided to rural residents.	\$34,860
<b>Gannawarra Shire Council</b>	New Glass Recycling Collection	Delivering a local campaign to introducing a glass drop-off service.	\$8,560
<b>Greater Shepparton City Council</b>	Council's new 4-stream kerbside collection service	Introducing a change in collection frequency, with the green lid bin transitioning to a weekly collection and the red lid bin transitioning to a fortnightly collection. In addition, there will also be the introduction of the purple lid bin for glass in March 2024.	\$37,459
<b>Hindmarsh Shire Council</b>	New Glass collection	Introducing glass kerbside in four towns and glass drop off points for three towns.	\$22,109
<b>Hobsons Bay City Council</b>	4 stream recycling service	Educate Hobsons Bay residents to support better management of household waste, with a focus on increasing correct use of the 4-stream household waste service.	\$59,430
<b>Macedon Ranges Shire Council</b>	Let's Get Sorted	Supporting their 4-stream household recycling services by targeting all households with a new campaign in March 2023 to reduce contamination, increase use of the FOGO service and minimise waste.	\$34,400
<b>Melbourne City Council</b>	Staged organics collection service rollout for low-rise Multi-Unit Dwellings	The City of Melbourne is introducing a new kerbside Food and Garden Waste (FOGO) collection service for two to five storey Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs 2-5 storey). This roll out represents the second stage of a planned staged introduction of the new FOGO service across the municipality.	\$41,720
<b>Melton City Council</b>	FOGO Collection Service	Changes to the waste service charge will now see residents have the option to access the FOGO service at no additional cost.	\$62,720
<b>Merri-bek City Council</b>	New 4-stream kerbside waste service	Council will expand existing opt-in FOGO to a universal service and introduce glass kerbside and drop off service in July 2023.	\$51,118
<b>Moonee Valley City Council</b>	Moonee Valley City Council - Expanding FOGO service	For the expansion of the existing opt-in food and garden organics service to a mandatory universal food and garden organics service in July 2023.	\$46,038
<b>Yarriambiack Shire Council</b>	New Glass Drop-Off and Kerbside Collection System	Introducing a glass kerbside service. In addition, there will also be drop off points at the transfer station network for rural customers who do not receive a kerbside service.	\$15,480
			<b>\$442,094</b>

## Environmental Volunteering Plan and Support for Landcare

### DEECA

This program aims to:

- enhance service delivery, systems and communications to sustain and revitalise existing volunteering efforts
- develop and use contemporary approaches to build an evidence base to support environmental volunteering
- establish effective governance to coordinate and leverage efforts across the sector
- value volunteer contributions using a range of strategies to improve visibility of environmental volunteering
- identify opportunities for new groups and individuals to be involved in environmental volunteering expanding participation and diversity
- to deliver support for Landcare and other community-based environmental volunteer groups in Victoria
- support an engaged and active community of volunteers undertaking projects and activities to improve the health and resilience of the land and natural environment.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Sustainability Victoria</b>	Sponsorship of the Premier's Sustainability Awards 2022	The Environmental Volunteering Plan sponsored an award in the 2022 Premier's Sustainability Awards with a focus on environmental volunteering category. With the outcome of raising the profile of environmental volunteering as a pathway to supporting and improving Victoria's sustainability.	\$15,000
<b>Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Barengi Gadjin Landcare for Country Pilot	Landcare for Country Pilot to support First Nations capacity, capability and employment and enable opportunities to deliver caring for Country project and activities and test different approaches for partnerships and connections with Landcare.	\$340,000
<b>Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Duduroa Dhargal Landcare for County Pilot	Landcare for Country Pilot to support First Nations capacity, capability and employment and enable opportunities to deliver caring for Country project and activities and test different approaches for partnerships and connections with Landcare.	\$340,000
<b>Tati Tati Kaiejin Ltd</b>	Tati Tati Caring for Country Pilot	Landcare for Country Pilot to support First Nations capacity, capability and employment and enable opportunities to deliver caring for Country project and activities and test different approaches for partnerships and connections with Landcare.	\$340,000
			<b>\$1,035,000</b>

## Gippsland Plantation Investment Program

### Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

This projects primary objective is to further diversify timber supply away from native forests to increased supply from plantations.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
VicForests	Gippsland Farm Forestry Program	A forest-products focussed grant program encouraging tree growing on farms in the Gippsland region. This program supports farmers to plant for-harvest plantations, with VicForests providing grants for this purpose. Fibre generated under the program is expected to flow to Opal and other Gippsland-based processors.	\$2,300,000
VicForests	Crown Land Plantings	A discreet program establishing plantings on vacant crown land suitable for forestry plantations within proximity to the Maryvale pulp mill. The planting program aims to avoid crown land parcels becoming repurposed for other economic activity when plantation expansion to support Gippsland processors is required following the government's announcement of the end of native timber harvesting. Wood flows from the plantings are expected to flow to Opal and/or other Gippsland-based processors.	\$1,626,190
			<b>\$3,926,190</b>

## Industry and Infrastructure Development Package

### Sustainability Victoria

The objective of the fund is to increase investment in Victoria's resource recovery sector for kerbside materials. Investment is needed to improve the capacity and capability of recycling infrastructure to produce higher quality recovered materials to meet market requirements.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Allstone Quarries Group	Glass Washing Facility	Installation of a new glass washing facility at Allstone Quarries existing recycling and glass crushing plant, to remove sugars, yeast and organic contaminants from the glass and produce a higher quality glass sand product.	\$322,000
Bio Gro Victoria (Dandenong)	Dandenong South Organics Processing Facility Upgrade	Funding provided to expand Bio Gro's current Dandenong South Organics Processing Facility. The facility will decontaminate and shred Food Organics Garden Organics before it is composted at their secondary facility.	\$103,290
Bio Gro Victoria (Regional)	Regional Organics Recovery and Processing Facility	Bio Gro will establish a new Regional Organics Recovery Facility in the Colac Otway region to process kerbside and commercial organics.	\$470,000
Circular Plastics Australia	Post-consumer plastics reprocessing plant	Circular Plastics Australia (PE) Pty Ltd, a joint Venture between Cleanaway and Pact Group, will build a new plastics reprocessing facility capable of processing 20,000 tonnes of plastic per annum into food grade resin.	\$600,000
Citywide Service Solutions	Commercialisation of dry process glass crushing and cleaning plant	CityWide Services Solutions will purchase and install a commercially viable dry process glass crushing and cleaning plant to recycle postconsumer glass. The plant will process 20,000 tonnes per annum (10 tonnes per hour) of post-consumer glass cullet to produce clean sand, manufactured to VicRoads specifications potentially diverting up to 19,000 tonnes per annum of glass from landfill.	\$186,000



Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Corex Recycling</b>	Project Succeed	Corex Recycling will install new processing equipment to process difficult-to-recycle plastics (such as coat hangers and car bumper bars) for remanufacturing.	\$90,000
<b>EQ Plastics</b>	Extrusion line to produce Post Consumer Recycled PET films	E.Q Plastics will purchase equipment to recover 2,400 tonnes per annum and produce new polyethylene terephthalate (PET) rigid films using locally recycled PET material for the packaging manufacturing industry. The project will create six jobs in Dandenong.	\$132,550
<b>G.T. Recycling</b>	Flexible Plastic Capacity and Technology Upgrade	The new technology includes shredding, washing, polymer separation and extrusion equipment for plastic types including low density polyethylene film and Polypropylene flexible packaging.	\$1,740,000
<b>Garden City Plastics</b>	Expansion of garden pot stewardship program increasing recycled plastic in the production of new pots	Garden City Plastics will expand their facility, with the installation of new equipment which will increase the use of recycled plastic in their production of plant pots. The project and funded machinery and equipment will achieve 5,676 tonnes per annum of recycled polypropylene.	\$1,918,827
<b>J.J. Richards and Sons</b>	Wangaratta and Bendigo MRF upgrades	J.J. Richards' Materials Recovery Facilities in Bendigo and Wangaratta will be upgraded, including by installing glass decontamination equipment to enable the use of recycled glass in constructing local roads.	\$216,000
<b>Martogg &amp; Company</b>	Processing post-consumer PET bottle waste to food grade plastic packaging	Martogg & Company will establish a new PET HotWash Flake plant. The new plant will include installation and commissioning of a PET sorting and prewash plant to process 24,700 tpa of post-consumer PET containers; and aPET wet grinding and hot caustic wash plant to produce 17,300 tpa of food grade PET flake.	\$2,890,000
<b>Mount Alexander Bio Energy</b>	Mount Alexander Bio-Energy	Mount Alexander will deliver the pre-construction phase, namely the selection of the prime engineering contractor who will design and build the bio-energy plant. This, along with submitting the respective regulatory approvals will enable the project to reach "financial close".	\$20,000
<b>Plasgain</b>	Waste Single Plastic to Corrugated Pipe Project	Plasgain will install new manufacturing equipment to produce corrugated pipe from recycled plastic.	\$251,064
<b>Polymer Processors</b>	Increase capacity to reprocess mixed plastics into pellets	Polymer Processors' will increase its capacity to 18,600 tonnes per annum to reprocess hard and soft post-consumer plastics (Plastic mixed (low-density polyethylene and polypropylene) into pellets for manufacturing.	\$5,922,177
<b>Socobell</b>	CLEVA POD Recycled Plastic Void Former System for Concrete Foundations	Socobell is installing a patented new CLEVA POD void forming system, which creates concrete slab foundations made from 100% recycled plastic – which will be marketed to the construction industry. This will increase the capacity to utilise recycled polypropylene by 1640 tonnes per annum.	\$690,000
<b>Tambo Waste</b>	Tambo Waste MRF Upgrade & Glass Recycling Operation	Tambo Waste's Materials Recovery Facility in Bairnsdale will be upgraded and expanded with the establishment of a glass recycling facility, improving recovery, processing and the end uses for recyclables in the region.	\$453,430

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd</b>	TWS Brooklyn – Liquid Waste Plant Upgrade	Veolia Environmental Services will purchase, install and commission equipment for a new Liquid Waste Plant (LWP) at their TWS Brooklyn site. The new more efficient, modern and automated plant is estimated to increase the system capacity by at least 20%. It will allow the decommissioning and demolition of the old plant enabling the installation of extra hazardous waste receipt and treatment capacities.	\$230,000
<b>Visy</b>	New drum pulper technology at a paper mill	Visy Industries will install advanced Drum Pulping technology to recycle 95,000 tonnes of mixed kerbside paper each year.	\$11,050,000
<b>Wangaratta Rural City Council</b>	Wangaratta – Organics Expansion to 12,000 Tonne	The funding will be used to expand the processing capacity of the Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility.	\$52,555
<b>Wheelie Waste</b>	Wheelie Waste Warrnambool Recycling Facility	Wheelie Waste is establishing a new facility to sort and process glass as well as bale paper and plastic for transport. This project will develop end markets for approximately 7,500 tonnes per annum of reprocessed glass that will be recycled and reused into local reprocessing and end use markets.	\$300,000
			<b>\$27,637,892</b>

## Kerbside Reform

### DEECA

The objective of this project is to oversee the implementation of transition plans and reform of Victoria's kerbside recycling services, ensuring actions delivered are aligned with the overall vision to improve the State's recycling processes to maximise the diversion of recyclable material from landfill and improve the value of recycled materials.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Greater Geelong City Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund – Round 2	The project aims to upgrade the two resource recovery centres which will provide households in the City of Greater Geelong improved access to glass drop-off services. With the purchase of three hook-lift bins and ten 660 litre wheelie bins, the upgrade will increase the recovery of materials and improve the quality of recyclables collected. The 660 litre bins will be used by residents to safely drop-off glass bottles and containers. Signage installed to promote the circular economy and direct people to the Council website to learn more about recycling and resource recovery.	\$56,000
<b>Alpine Shire Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund – Round 1	This project will include upgrades to Porepunkah, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty transfer stations, enabling residents to divert food organics and garden organics and improve recycling separation through the collection of separated glass. Works include construction of retaining walls, hardstands and associated infrastructure. The project also includes purchase of 240 litre bins and installation of signage.	\$268,504
<b>Baw Baw Shire Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund – Round 1	The project provides glass access deposit and drop off facilities at Council's Lardner and Trafalgar Transfer Stations, allowing residents to dispose of their glass in a practical and effective method to meet State Government regulations. The proposal includes skip bins on concrete pads, retaining wall, railing, and signage.	\$10,926

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Colac Otway Shire Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	The project delivers Transfer Station and drop off site upgrades in Colac Otway Shire aimed to separate the community's recyclables and maximise glass disposal quantities. Colac already had a kerbside FOGO service. Works were carried out at all three transfer stations (Apollo Bay, Alvie and Birregurra) and five household waste drop off locations (Carlisle River, Gellibrand, Lavers Hill, Beech Forest and Wye River). The works included installation of saw tooth drop off areas for glass, separated glass hardstands, installation of three-door skip bins, installation of concrete slabs to facilitate storage of glass and construction of a roofed enclosure at one drop off location.	\$27,957
<b>East Gippsland Shire Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	The project delivered Transfer Station Upgrade to provide equitable access to separate glass and food organics and garden organics recycling infrastructure for all residents of East Gippsland through the provision of suitable collection sites. This involved the following works at nine of the municipality's 16 transfer stations to allow for collection and storage of glass and food organics and garden organics in the future: concreting, purchase, construction and installation of hardstands, signage, stillages, 15m3 transfer bins, glass collection trailers and plastic vegetable bins.	\$59,600
<b>Gannawarra Shire Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	The project provides four transfer stations with a dedicated locally designed and manufactured hook bin to be placed on new concrete hardstands. This will allow glass to be separated from the present commingled recycle bin. Two additional glass bins are required to allow a 'switch out' of bins.	\$23,009
<b>Macedon Ranges Shire Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	The project delivered upgrades to Council's Kyneton transfer station to enable food organics and garden organics drop off. This includes construction of a food organics and garden organics bay. This will provide rural residents with drop off access to food organics and garden organics services.	\$155,210
<b>Mildura Rural City Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	The project delivered upgrades to Council's five rural transfer stations and one landfill, including installation of concrete hardstands for the glass collection bins. This is in order for the glass to be collected separately from the commingled recycling skips located at these sites.	\$9,980
<b>Mitchell Shire Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	The project aimed to design and construct bulk bin bays at two of Council's Resource Recovery Centres (Broadford and Pyalong) to enable the future collection of food organics and garden organics materials. The project will include the purchase of bulk bins, construction of hard stand and retaining walls and design and installation of signage.	\$233,778
<b>Moira Shire Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	The project aims to provide drop off points at nine transfer stations for separate glass and food organics and garden organics streams. Infrastructure upgrades include installing concrete pads, hardstands for collections as well as procurement of 1.5 m3 and 3.0 m3 front lift bins with custom lid for separate glass drop off, 240 litre Mobile Garbage Bins (MGB)'s for separate FOGO drop off as well as various signages.	\$229,812

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Surf Coast Shire Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	The project includes upgrades to Council's three transfer stations (Lorne, Anglesea & Winchelsea) and the Torquay drop off site. Upgrades aimed to provide residents that had limited access to kerbside services with access to food organics and garden organics and glass drop off sites. Works included construction and installation of concrete slabs, bin lifters, skip bins with lids and signage at each site.	\$44,899
<b>Wangaratta Rural City Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	The project delivered the transfer station upgrades to provide glass drop off bins at each of Wangaratta's four transfer stations and establish a new glass drop off point in Wangaratta North to improve waste access coverage. Works carried out at all locations includes construction and installation of hook lift bins, construction of access ramps and signage.	\$2,052
<b>Wellington Shire Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 1	This project will provide the Heyfield and surrounding community with access to glass separation including provide safe manual handling practices for this process at Heyfield Transfer Station. Works include earthworks, pavement preparation, steel structure for bin compound area, one dump master and retaining wall system.	\$47,091
<b>West Wimmera Shire Council</b>	Transfer Station Upgrade Fund - Round 2	The project aims to establish seven community glass drop-off collection points and upgrade seven existing transfer stations to enable glass collection. This will be achieved by constructing concrete hardstands, purchasing bins for the sites and installing signage. The project also seeks to provide a Mobile Glass Collection Station to the community as a facility for recycling management at events and for outlying areas of the Shire. The aim of the project is to improve glass recycling infrastructure in the Shire and to improve public access to recycling facilities.	\$214,560
			<b>\$1,383,378</b>

## Market Acceleration Program

### Sustainability Victoria

The Market Acceleration Package includes utilising a range of market interventions and incentives to address current and potential market failures for priority recycled materials (plastics, paper, cardboard, glass and tyres) across the economy. It will develop and deliver projects to identify new domestic, commercial, and industrial uses and build demand.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>ARRB Group Ltd</b>	Australian Roads Research Board (ARRB) - High friction surfacing for road safety incorporating recycled glass	Investigate the use of an aggregate blend incorporating recycled glass to reduce the volume of imported treated natural aggregate and add value to recycled glass fines to make the use of High Friction Surface Treatment (HFST).	\$14,000
<b>ARRB Group Ltd</b>	Commercialisation of Reclaimed Used Paint in Road Applications	ARRB and its partner Paintback are commercialising reclaimed paint as soil stabilisation and dust suppression. The project will involve conducting pilot and commercial trials and supporting the establishment of a pilot manufacturing plant at Deakin University's Future Economy Precinct.	\$10,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Bintani Australia Pty Ltd</b>	Bintani Australia Grain Loop Project	This project aims to reduce the amount of woven polypropylene bags that go to landfill by introducing returnable bulk grain discharge bins under a return/refill/reuse model.	\$2,851
<b>Blampied Kooroocherang Land Care Group Inc</b>	Blampied Kooroocheang Land Care Group agricultural compost utilisation trial.	This project is an on-farm trial in the Central Highlands of Victoria to demonstrate the benefits of compost application in broad-acre grazing and cropping systems. Funding has been sought for the purchase of a compost spreader and to undertake a trial of products.	\$23,000
<b>Buloke Shire Council</b>	Charlton Park Recycled and Reclaimed Car Park	Buloke redeveloped a 3,257m <sup>2</sup> carpark area at the newly developed Charlton Park precinct using asphalt containing recycled glass and reclaimed asphalt pavement.	\$26,503
<b>Burdett Sands Pty Ltd</b>	Compost 360 to enhance sports precincts	This project seeks to develop a market for compost use on sporting fields, with a focus on decontamination. Funding is sought for screening and separation equipment to produce a finer grade of compost that will be suitable to blend with current turf sands supplied to Melbourne's sporting grounds and public open spaces.	\$200,000
<b>Camperdown Compost Company</b>	Camperdown Compost Site Upgrade Stage 2 and Marketing Development	Upgrades to the facility include an interactive weighbridge, upgraded litter fencing, end user seminar room, enhanced testing for contaminants both at receipt and prior to sale. It also includes a new laboratory on the site. Funding was also provided to develop a 36-month marketing plan and implement the first 6 months of marketing work. The marketing strategy will reflect improvements made to their composting process and composting site.	\$15,000
<b>Central Goldfields Shire Council</b>	Carisbrook Transfer Station Pavement Upgrade	Central Goldfields Council have installed a new concrete pavement replacing the sealed granular pavement that had failed less than ten years after it had originally been installed. This is a heavily trafficked area including traffic by heavy vehicles as they turn and change skip bins, and the public reversing cars, utes and trailers up to the drop off point.	\$17,500
<b>Central Ringwood Community Centre</b>	Central Ringwood Circular Solution for Plastic Pollution	Central Ringwood Community Centre will create a new avenue for used bottle lids, repurposing it as 100% recycled plastic bricks.	\$2,500
<b>Christie Centre</b>	Cardboard Shredder	Christie Centre Inc. will purchase an additional industrial paper and cardboard shredder for its social enterprise Aroundagain Document Destruction, to further boost its environmental and social impact.	\$14,400
<b>Cirque Du Soil</b>	Cirque du Soil's GrowGood Fertiliser: A hyperlocal food waste agri-product	This project seeks to develop fertiliser products derived from food waste diverted from landfill through rigorous soil and plant testing trials, leading to the creation of a commercially viable product.	\$58,221
<b>Monash City Council</b>	Monash paves the way to recycled content infrastructure	The project delivered 227 tonnes of local road resurfacing in Wellington Rd and a car park in Bogong Reserve, Glen Waverley, a program of 100% recycled rubber bike lane separators, road cushions and speed humps across the city, and a footpath renewal with EG Tech Ecolite (98% recycled glass).	\$56,049
<b>Corangamite Shire Council</b>	Twelve Apostles Trail - 'Closing the Loop'	Corangamite Shire installed recycled plastic fence posts and end-assemblies, and bollards along the 20km stretch of shared walking and cycling path linking Timboon and Port Campbell.	\$48,463



Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)</b>	CSIRO - Improved recycling of uPVC	This project will develop material specifications for unplasticized Polyvinyl Chloride (uPVC) recyclate with Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) compounders and manufacturers. Develop a prototype device that will analyse the composition of PVC recyclate and determine what compounds need to be added to a particular input blend to achieve an output that meets the developed standard.	\$200,000
<b>Deakin University</b>	Particles derived from textile wastes for sustainable coloration of products	This project will investigate the production of particles from natural/synthetic/blended fibre textile waste to be used as pigments in a range of applications including for printing/colouring textiles, vegan leather, and to create art. An economic and life cycle analysis will be conducted to demonstrate viability.	\$20,000
<b>Deakin University</b>	Transforming Contaminated Paint Containers into Value Added Products	This project will develop simple, innovative processing methods to produce functional, economically viable product prototypes from post-consumer polypropylene paint containers. The prototypes will be evaluated with regard to their economic viability and potential for high volume manufacturing.	\$30,000
<b>Deakin University</b>	Recycling Polypropylene Waste for High Value Applications	The objective of this project is to maximise the amount of recycled polypropylene that can be incorporated into Gale Pacific's existing product the 'Landmark polyfabric'. Testing and evaluation will be undertaken to determine the maximum amount of recycled polypropylene that can be used without adversely impacting the final product.	\$76,500
<b>Eco Guardians Pty Ltd</b>	Eco Guardians SoilFood™ Processing Plant	This project will address multiple barriers to market adoption related to rapidly dehydrated food waste, including plastic contamination, logistics and quality assurance. The project seeks to establish a facility in Mentone and start a new service which would include collection, screening, blending, testing, packaging, and sales logistics. The aim is to overcome identified barriers of plastic contamination, logistics and quality assurance.	\$10,000
<b>Elmore Compost &amp; Organics Pty Ltd</b>	Deep soil amelioration research and demonstration promotional program	The project will establish a deep soil amelioration research and demonstration trial site in dryland grains cropping on unstructured red sodosol clay soil in north central Victoria. Findings will inform an engagement program for farmers and agronomists, sharing knowledge in the application of compost and biochar blend products in deep soil amelioration.	\$98,600
<b>Gekko Systems</b>	Commercializing FOGO and other organic waste using anaerobic digestion	This project aims to address two key barriers that currently prevent Anaerobic Digestion (AD) from being commercially viable in Australia. These barriers include the ability to monetize digestate, and optimize the value of the renewable energy generated. As a result, commercially viable solutions to these barriers will be established as well as positive businesses cases for the widespread adoption of AD.	\$220,000
<b>Happy Planet Toys</b>	Happy Planet Toys New Bucket project	Happy Planet Toys will purchase, install and commission a second injection molding tool, which will recycle High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) milk bottles into a recyclable toy product.	\$9,136
<b>Heathcote WineGrowers Association</b>	Turning green waste into wine.	The project focuses on encouraging the uptake of compost use on vineyards.	\$70,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Horsham Rural City Council</b>	Wimmera Riverfront Activation - a sustainable approach	Council have installed a new asphalt shared path, outdoor furniture, bin surrounds, picnic settings and permeable surface containing recycled materials at the southern end of Firebrace Street in Horsham, as part of the Federal and State funded Riverfront Activation project.	\$40,000
<b>Innovative Plastic Solutions</b>	Innovative Plastic Solution Shopping Handbasket Expansion	Innovative Plastic Solutions will expand operations with the purchase of a second injection moulding tool to produce their handbasket product in Victoria using recycled high density polyethyleneplastic from milk bottles.	\$12,500
<b>Jesuit Social Services</b>	Merri-bek Organic Waste Composting Pilot Program	This project involves the collection of grass clippings from local cricket and croquet grounds and composting with wood shavings and organic waste on site in Brunswick. Product will be used in community gardens and to inform a business case for a council-wide scale up.	\$40,000
<b>Kebet Packaging Services Pty Limited</b>	Arts and Culture: Let's close the loop.	This project aims to make cardboard a viable medium to be used in the use of Sets Stage; TV and Movie and fit outs of stores and short term (less than 6 months) sites. The objective is to commercialise an existing demand for cardboard (as a medium) for temporary and fit out medium and reduce the use of high environment cost construction inputs to temporary installations. Kebet will continue to pursue demonstration work, while promoting and document the scaling up activities in this space.	\$20,000
<b>La Trobe University</b>	Product assessment of a novel plastic waste recycling technology	Rtec novel plastic melting technology is currently in late prototype trials and provides one step, continuous processing with significantly low capital and operational costs. The project will complete research to validate the potential of the process, product design, and performance trials of difficult-to-recycle post-consumer plastic waste.	\$60,000
<b>Mavin Group Pty Ltd (Waste Mining)</b>	Organics & Aquaculture Sustainable Industrial Symbiosis (OASIS)	This project will use Anaerobic Digestion (AD) and aquaculture technologies to treat separated food waste with the resulting digestate utilised as nutrients for growing spirulina for human consumption and duckweed (lemna) for animal consumption. This combined treatment seeks to maximise the recovery of nutrients while generating valuable by-products.	\$20,000
<b>MCI (Vic) Pty Ltd</b>	Re-purpose & Reduce Cardboard and Plastic Packaging Waste	MCI project aims to commission a plotting cutter and associated hardware for processing used cardboard boxes into new customizable size boxes and void filling that will be used to package the companies manufactured components. In addition, they will install a baling press for the management of both plastic pallets wrapping waste and un-usable cardboard/small cardboard offcuts.	\$4,000
<b>Melbourne Water Corporation</b>	Enhancing uptake of composted recycled green waste in Victorian vineyards	This project is an on-farm trial to demonstrate the use composted urban green waste under vines in the Macedon Ranges Shire. The trial will compare small particle size with coarse composted mulch in vineyards over 2 years.	\$5,000
<b>Monash University</b>	Next generation composite plastic railway sleeper for mainline rail application.	The overarching project objective is to complete product research and develop the next generation advanced composite plastic railway sleeper suitable for concrete sleeper replacement in mainline railway networks in Victoria.	\$50,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Moon Dog Brewing Pty Ltd</b>	Moon Dog Cardboard Baling Initiative	Moon Dog Brewing proposes to install a pneumatic baling system to bale cardboard waste produced through the packaging process and to divert polypropylene woven grain bags from ending up in landfill.	\$3,000
<b>Omnigrip Direct Pty Ltd</b>	Certifications for high-friction recycled-glass surfaces to reduce crashes	OmniGrip Direct and the Australian Road Research Board have developed a new high-friction surface, comprising a post-consumer recycled-glass blended aggregate. This project will prepare and register an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for the product and a Social Procurement Plan for the business that clearly articulates the environmental and social benefits of the new road surface comprising post-consumer recycled-glass and its installation of public roads, in order to increase confidence in, and uptake of, the product.	\$56,500
<b>Plant Micropath Consulting Services</b>	Quantifying Mineralisation and Biological Status from Organic Amendments and Soil	This project proposes to better understand the potential for a range of organic products to improve soil health and plant yield. Based on the research results, product-specific recommendations will be made available as well as contributions to existing government standards or specifications on the recycling and use of organic products	\$130,000
<b>Polymeric Powders Company Pty Ltd</b>	Production and commercial evaluation of new upcycled car speed humps.	In collaboration with project partners Austeng, the project will upgrade pilot manufacturing plant and produce 200kg of recycled plastic-rubber composite material pellets. The recycled material pellets will be manufactured into car speed humps by project partner, Innovative Plastic Solutions. Project partner, the Barrier Group will conduct field testing of the new car speed humps produced from recycled (as opposed to virgin) materials and produce a commercial evaluation report.	\$24,174
<b>Porous Lane Pty Ltd</b>	Waste Tyre Permeable Pavement, Commercialisation Support for a Victorian Innovation	This project aims to progress the Contracting Party's Waste Tyre Permeable Pavement product into large-scale infrastructure and private development markets through financial, economic, market and life cycle analysis.	\$20,000
<b>Preston Neighbourhood House</b>	ISGP R2 Darebin Paper Loop-Circular Economy Scheme	Preston Neighbourhood House proposes to repurpose cardboard boxes donated by Darebin businesses and individuals into new packaging products to be reused within the community.	\$14,100
<b>Pv Industries Pty Ltd</b>	Validating a new commercial pathway for solar panel glass	PV Industries are establishing a pilot plant in Victoria which demonstrates a viable process to recover the glass from solar panels. PV Industries will test the recovered glass to inform process design and validate its use in non-structural concrete applications. The solar panel glass will be analysed, tested and validated against key VicRoads specification Section 703 (Sec703) for General Concrete Paving or any other relevant specifications which arise.	\$40,000
<b>Rcallan Pty Ltd</b>	On-line continuous paper strength measurement	This project seeks to finalise development, test and identify potential users for a non-destructive, continuous measure of paper strength. By controlling quality continuously, it is intended that recycled content can be increased in existing paper products while still meeting quality and performance requirements.	\$19,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Rcallan Pty Ltd	On-line continuous paper strength measurement	This project seeks to finalise development, test and identify potential users for a non-destructive, continuous measure of paper strength. By controlling quality continuously, it is intended that recycled content can be increased in existing paper products while still meeting quality and performance requirements.	\$20,000
Reground Pty Ltd	Reground Commercial Coffee Bag Project	Reground will expand existing operations in which they collect problematic commercial plastic coffee bag ensuring recyclability and quadrupling their capacity, improving data tracking and reducing contamination in recycling streams within the café industry.	\$8,750
Rentiers Machinery Pty Ltd	Accelerating Adoption of Recycled Organics through Subsoil Amelioration in Agriculture	This project focuses on developing an integrated recycled organics Sub Soil Amelioration (SSA) solution that can be easily deployed across a wide range of cropping operations in the medium and high rainfall zones of Victoria. As a result, a pathway will be established for accelerating the adoption of recycled organics through subsoil amelioration (SSA) in agriculture.	\$15,000
Resilience Farming	Receival and storage bunkers	This project aims to improve distribution of organics by constructing concrete receival and storage bunkers. The bunkers will allow for receival of higher moisture compost inputs and enable storage of mature compost for easier distribution. Funding has been sought for the concrete base, perimeter blocks and labour.	\$5,000
RMIT University	Manufactured Novel Concrete products integrating Reclaimed Waste for Commercial Applications	This project aims to develop, demonstrate and test concrete roof tiles, precast acoustic barrier panels and concrete bricks made using upcycled textile, paper-cardboard, and waste glass.	\$50,000
RMIT University	Novel Recycled Plastic Products for Structural Applications	Project objectives are to develop roof purlins and panels for roof infrastructure using recycled materials as sustainable alternatives to steel and aluminium products, develop a suitable manufacturing process to keep the costs and energy consumption low, demonstrate the performance of the products through extensive structural testing, develop design methodologies for the products to enable wide application and conduct sustainability assessments by considering Environmental Impact Assessment and Whole Life Costing of these products.	\$75,000
RMIT University	Recycled cardboard trusses for housing construction	Relevant research, construction and testing of a recycled cardboard truss. This proof-of-concept design and application will be tested to Australian Standard loading conditions in the laboratory and evaluated by industry partners with practical application to case study sites.	\$40,000
RMIT University	Re-qualifying cardboard waste to develop light-weight precast concrete structures.	Develop a low carbon concrete containing pre-treated cardboard waste as partial replacement for natural coarse and fine aggregates. This mix-design will be developed for adoption in a light and efficient precast wall panel system which is capable of being used in multi-unit residential and commercial constructions.	\$75,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>RMIT University</b>	Upcycling plastic waste into graphene for boosting solar cell performances	Funding provided to develop a technology to transform unsorted plastic waste into a product that can be used to boost the energy efficiency of solar panels.	\$50,000
<b>RMIT University</b>	Novel Recycled Plastic Products for Structural Applications	Funding provided to develop roof purlins and panels for roof infrastructure using recycled materials as sustainable alternatives to steel and aluminium products, develop a suitable manufacturing process to keep the costs and energy consumption low, demonstrate the performance of the products through extensive structural testing, develop design methodologies for the products to enable wide application and conduct sustainability assessments by considering Environmental Impact Assessment and Whole Life Costing of these products.	\$25,000
<b>Sequence Digital Pty Ltd</b>	New life for resource recovery centre harvested Li-ion batteries	Sequence Digital Pty Ltd will develop a proof-of-concept, scalable Lithium-ion battery management system (BMS), designed for use with discarded 18650 batteries. The BMS will be demonstrated powering and being charged by a temperature monitoring device currently manufactured by Sequence Digital.	\$15,000
<b>Southern Alpine Resort Management Board</b>	Release the Puddles AND Stop that Load of Rubbish!	Southern Alpine Shire installed recycled plastic drainpipes (The Green Pipe) in specific locations where water run-off and springs are problematic. In addition, Southern Alpine Shire installed 18 clearly coloured and labelled Glasdon recycled plastic outdoor bin enclosures to improve its waste streams. These bins are made from a durable product suited to the extremes of the alpine environment, and will reflect the new recycling streams for glass, organics, in addition to the existing co-mingled and landfill stream. These bins are made from recycled content sourced internationally.	\$13,446
<b>Southern Ocean Environmental Link</b>	Southern Ocean Environmental Link Recycling Initiative	Southern Ocean Environmental Link will expand its program in low density polyethylene and high density polyethylene collection, repurposing / manufacturing and education throughout Geelong, the Bellarine and the Surf coast regions.	\$6,869
<b>Surf Coast Shire Council</b>	Stribling Reserve Sustainable Upgrades	Surf Coast Shire to installed an elevated footpath/ boardwalk, elevated building entry decking, terrace seating, and seating at the Stribling Reserve Pavilion as part of a major redevelopment. The decking and seating contained recycled plastic and reclaimed wood materials.	\$43,031
<b>Swinburne University of Technology</b>	Converting Used Tyres to Road Safety Roller Barrier: Technology Development	This project will develop a technology to use ground tyre rubbers (GTR) in manufacturing ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA)-based road safety roller barriers. The new process to be developed aims to incorporate recycled tyre rubbers into the manufacturing of the rollers to bring down the cost and increase the strength and impact energy absorption capacity.	\$65,000
<b>Swinburne University of Technology</b>	Injection Moulding of Reinforced Recycled Plastics for Innovative Bedding Solutions	Explore new applications for utilisation of recycled plastics in innovative bedding solutions, including frames and mattresses.	\$100,000
<b>The Dirt Company Pty Ltd</b>	The Dirt Company's Refill, Return program	The Dirt Company will transition from packaging procured offshore to partly manufacturing some its plastic packaging in house, using waste created through its process and additional appropriate consumer waste.	\$3,021



Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>The Trustee for the Total Viticulture Solutions Trust</b>	Agriculture Compost Market Expansion	This project is an on-farm trial using a new posi-track loader to greatly increase efficiency with a larger bucket size and faster loading time. Funding provided for the purchase of the new compost spreader will result in cost savings being passed on to consumers.	\$5,000
<b>University of Melbourne</b>	Educational Institution Post-Consumer Plastic Packaging to Additive Manufacturing	This project will support onsite recycling of educational institutions own plastic waste back into valuable 3D printing filament. A novel pellet extruder retrofittable printhead will be installed in its maker space and used to conduct shredding, pellet printing and print quality experiments using plastics of various types, mixes, shapes and levels of contamination. Guidelines and operating instructions will be developed to support educational institutions to replicate the process and recycle their food and beverage plastic packaging in their own 3D maker spaces.	\$20,000
<b>University of Melbourne</b>	Innovative advanced catalytic microwave pyrolysis for recycling polystyrene waste	Funding provided to develop a new, low-cost, low-energy catalytic microwave pyrolysis (LCMP) process to recover styrene monomer from polystyrene waste, the precursor material for producing polystyrene.	\$70,000
<b>University of Melbourne</b>	Waste Tyre Permeable Kerbs; Design, Testing and Field Monitoring	This project aims to advance the engineering of waste tyre permeable kerb and channel systems by creating new knowledge on their mechanical and hydrological performance. The project will develop new improved products, new design guidelines, identify the governing mechanisms and develop a performance prediction framework based on laboratory and field tests, and analytical modelling.	\$20,000
<b>Upper Goulburn Landcare Network</b>	A home for Alexandra soil food.	This community compost project in Alexandra is seeking to expand their operations, develop their product further and look for local markets. Funding has been requested for market analysis, equipment (including storage facility), trials and certification of product.	\$20,000
<b>Victoria University</b>	Used textile and cardboard fibres as reinforcing-agents in structural concrete	The project aims to develop research-grade fibre-reinforced concrete beams from used synthetic textile and pre-treated cardboard fibres. Additionally, end-of-life considerations of using recycled concrete will be investigated using laboratory testing, economic and environmental modelling. The project findings will be used to develop a sustainable lightweight concrete solution that can be employed for residential and commercial building construction.	\$40,000
<b>Yarra City Council</b>	Utilising Waste Rubber Tyres and Recycled Glass as Permeable Pavers	City of Yarra installed a carparking area of permeable pavement made from recycled tyres. This project demonstrated a new way to passively irrigate and grow trees by having a reservoir layer underneath, while still provide cooling, water treatment and flood mitigation using high filtration permeable pavers made from recycled content.	\$64,035
<b>Yarra Ranges Shire Council</b>	Road Surface Treatment (Blacksmiths Way, Belgrave & Anderson St, Lilydale	Yarra Ranges Council to installed recycled glass as a coloured road surface treatment for the replacement of traditional surface paint on two roads, increasing the perception of safety of cyclists and/or pedestrians on these roads through road calming effects. OmniGrip road surface treatment containing recycled PET and 70% post-consumer glass was applied to Anderson St Lilydale and Blacksmiths Way Belgrave.	\$55,524
			<b>\$2,685,672</b>

## Microgrids Smart Trials (Microgrid Demonstration Initiative)

### DEECA

The Microgrid Smart Trials program aims to facilitate innovative, market driven commercial microgrid demonstration projects to enable lower energy costs, more reliable power and reduced emissions to support Victoria's transition to a low carbon economy. The projects are developed by or include a wide set of relevant stakeholders.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Alpine Resorts Victoria</b>	Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort Trial Renewable Project	This project installed 15kW of rooftop solar and 15kWh battery storage at Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort's potable water treatment plant to deliver immediate environmental and energy cost savings.	\$230,000
<b>Earthworker Energy Manufacturing Cooperative</b>	Earthworker Energy Emergency Portable Renewable Energy Systems	This project will design and test three pilot portable renewable energy systems comprised of solar and battery storage for the replacement of large diesel generators in emergency response settings. The pilot energy systems will be able to provide safe, portable, reliable, clean and quiet power for disaster management operations.	\$239,120
<b>Embedded Networks Company Pty Ltd</b>	Rathdowne Microgrid - best practice for a new urban community	The project aims to optimise solar energy generation, storage and control in a new urban development in Wollert, creating a best practice model for the development, building and energy sectors.	\$140,000
<b>Gippsland Climate Change Network Incorporated</b>	Yallambee Aged Care Energy Optimization demonstration	The project installed 276kW rooftop solar PV system at the Yallambee Traralgon Village for the Aged which will provide energy savings to the residents and a cost savings model for the operators of aged care facilities.	\$317,368
<b>Gippsland Climate Change Network Incorporated</b>	Agricultural demonstration of floating solar	This project installed 50kW of floating solar on a dam at Lardner Park. This will be used to demonstrate the use of floating solar in agriculture reducing water loss due to evaporation.	\$209,149
<b>Gippsland Employment Skills Training Inc.</b>	Solar panels for 1 Hoyle Street office	This project installed 39kW of rooftop solar at the Gippsland Employment Skills Training head office and training centre reducing greenhouse gas emissions and electricity costs.	\$33,735
<b>Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Ramahyuck Battery Storage Project	This project installed two battery storage systems (16kWh and 12.8kWh) at the Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation head office and community facility in Sale. The project resulted in signification savings which can be redirected into the work of Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation.	\$36,358
<b>Sunny Afternoons Pty Ltd</b>	Dairy Energy Storage	This project installed 292kWh of battery storage across three dairies in the Sale and Maffra region, providing significant energy savings and electricity bill reductions. This project serves as a demonstration for the potential of battery storage systems located at Victorian dairies.	\$214,362
<b>Wellington Shire Council</b>	Renewable Growth for Heyfield	This project installed 39kW of rooftop solar at Heyfield's sporting and recreation grounds, the Gordon Street Reserve. The project has had far reaching benefits for the local community and has delivered social, economic and environmental benefits and has contributed to the findings of the MyTown Microgrid Project.	\$33,256

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Wellington Shire Council	Pre-feasibility of precinct-scale renewable thermal and solar energy	This project conducted a study into the feasibility of a scalable precinct-based approach for the Wellington Shire Cultural hub. The project explored the opportunities for geoexchange, geothermal and solar to reduce energy consumption for a number of high energy consuming sites including the aquatic centre, Customer Service Centre and Entertainment Centre.	\$50,000
Wellington Shire Council	Yarram Rec Reserve secure back-up power supply	This project installed 36kW of rooftop solar and 127kWh of battery storage at the Yarram Recreation Reserve. This project seeks to increase the ability of the site to service the community by having backup power supply during the event of power outages.	\$180,000
			<b>\$1,468,986</b>

## Non-Regulatory Support for Landfill Ban

### Sustainability Victoria

The objective of this program is to provide non-regulatory support for the implementation of Victoria's electronic waste (e-waste) landfill ban.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
East Gippsland Shire Council	E-waste Infrastructure Upgrade - East Gippsland Shire Council: Lakes Entrance Transfer Station	Funding was provided to upgrade e-waste collection and storage infrastructure. This will provide reasonable access for the Victorian community to safe e-waste disposal points of an agreed standard and enable compliance with new regulatory requirements specifying how e-waste must be managed.	\$35,063
Envirostream Australia Pty Ltd	Electrolyte Management in Rechargeable Battery Recycling	Investment in new equipment to safely manage increased volumes of mixed battery feedstock for recycling in Victoria and to support capacity expansion of Envirostream's Berwick Rd facility to process Lithium-Ion Batteries from ~200t/y to over 500t/y.	\$145,000
Resource Pty Ltd	Low Grade E-Waste Processing	Investment in new equipment to safely and effectively process increased volumes of emerging e-waste in Victoria resulting from the e-waste landfill ban. Focus is on low grade e-waste typically not included in the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NTRCS) and other similar schemes.	\$360,000
Scipher Technologies Pty Ltd	Scipher Technologies Plastics and Mixed Metal Fractions Recovery	Funding was provided for the installation and commissioning a multi-sensor sorting system and upgrades to existing processing lines to improve the quality and quantity of plastics and metals recovered from e-waste generated from Scipher Technologies current pre-processing of e-waste at their licensed Dandenong Facility.	\$356,000
			<b>\$896,063</b>

## Protecting Biodiversity 2021-25

### DEECA

This program aims to: link biodiversity, science and decision support systems to ensure effective investment, prioritisation, awareness and support for communities to deliver biodiversity outcomes; implementation of frameworks that guide coordinated investment in monitoring and research to address priority knowledge gaps; improved decision making and reporting; increased participation of Victorians in biodiversity management and collaboration through the establishment of Biodiversity Response Planning; and, support implementation of *Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017–2020*.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Murrk Ngubitj Yarram Yaluk Regeneration	This project will support actions to protect biodiversity as part of a broader program to create 30 hectares of environmental and public open space at Murrk Ngubitj Yarram Yaluk (meaning 'head waters of continuous flowing river' in Wadawurrung language), Barwon Water's former Bellarine Basin site. Funding will support: landcare activities, including planting, weed management and pest control, where Wadawurrung will provide guidance on the most culturally sensitive approach; establishment of a 'friends of' group to undertake work onsite; construction of walking paths and boardwalks to protect native vegetation (including FFG listed orchids and remnant grassy woodland) and carparking to access the site without damaging key biodiversity areas.	\$22,250
<b>Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Nature Fund Caring for Country	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC) will apply Traditional Cultural practices to care for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country on their Nunganala property in Healesville. This project will provide an opportunity for WWCHAC's Narrap Ranger/s to practice and share traditional land management knowledge and restore this important part of Wurundjeri Country.	\$15,000
<b>Djandak</b>	Healing Mt Buckrabunyule	This project will continue to maintain and build upon past and existing works through delivery of a sustained, coordinated, and strategic approach to fox control in the expanded Barry Mountains Great Dividing Range area.	\$200,000
<b>First People of Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (FPMMAC)</b>	Fencing project by FPMMAC for Safe Haven at Ned's Corner	Led by Traditional Owners, FPMMAC, this project involves fencing to enable a 9,000-hectare Safe Haven reserve for rare native fauna and flora species at Ned's Corner Station, North Western Victoria. The project will assist in healing and restoring country including by the potential reintroduction of >10 regionally extinct animal species.	\$37,750
<b>Corangamite Catchment Management Authority</b>	Bellarine Peninsula Saltmarsh Restoration	Through an INFERR (Investment Framework for Environmental Resources) assessment completed in 2019, the eastern shoreline of Lake Connewarre was highlighted as having significant saltmarsh habitat for species such as the Orange-bellied Parrot, as well as carbon sink potential. The CCMA will work with existing landholders on up to eight different sites with a potential total of 280 hectares (minimum of 150–200 hectares) with on-ground works conducted including vegetation monitoring to assess improvements over time.	\$40,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority</b>	Saving 17 threatened species on the Victorian Volcanic Plain	The project seeks to improve the net condition of 350-hectares of Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP), Western Victoria. VVP Stewardship and roadside restoration sites occur on the VVP in Moyne, Southern Grampians, Ararat, Pyrenees and Corangamite shires. Establishment of a seed production area and re-introduction program will improve the trajectory of 17 threatened and culturally significant species increasing population numbers and the overall quality of the sites.	\$250,250
<b>Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority</b>	Reversing decline of the critically endangered Southern Bent-wing Bat	The project will reverse the decline in critically endangered species in the Portland area. The focus will be on improving 375-hectares of Southern Bent-Wing Bat (Critically Endangered) foraging habitat and other direct species interventions. The project will protect and improve high biodiversity remnants and the habitat of other critically endangered species.	\$368,500
<b>North Central Catchment Management Authority</b>	Small Fish, Big Impact: Securing Four Threatened Wetland Fish in Northern Vic	The project will reintroduce Olive Perchlet (FFG extinct) into Northwest Victoria; double the number of known populations of EPBC Critically Endangered flat-headed galaxias in Northeast Victoria; undertake habitat restoration, conservation stocking, and translocations of Southern Pygmy Perch (Vulnerable) and Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon (Critically Endangered); and undertake research to improve species reintroductions.	\$173,250
<b>North East Catchment Management Authority</b>	Bringing back the Maccas to Livingstone Creek	This project will restore habitat for the endangered Macquarie Perch ("Maccas"), a large-bodied native fish within the Murray Darling Basin. Habitat restoration will support the long-term resilience of the species by creating conditions suitable for both spawning and the survival of newly recruited fish. The project will also support selective harvesting of adult broodfish for captive breeding efforts and surveying to better understand the population of Maccas.	\$529,073
<b>WILD RESEARCH PTY LTD (auspiced by Goulburn Broken CMA)</b>	Securing Spotted Tree Frogs and co-occurring native freshwater fauna	This project will create a safe haven for the Spotted Tree Frog and other co-occurring native freshwater fauna from non-native predatory fish. It will also help to establish a Spotted Tree Frog captive conservation breeding program that can support future reintroduction and population augmentation recovery activities for the species.	\$235,950
<b>Melbourne University</b>	Restoring golden kelp forests on rocky reefs in Port Phillip Bay	Funding is to support a project aiming to address the expansion of urchin barrens, resulting from overgrazing of seaweed by urchins in Port Phillip Bay in recent years. This will be delivered by restoring golden kelp forests on rocky reefs in the bay. This will be accomplished by upscaling kelp forest restoration activities through five funded objectives.	\$473,230
<b>Moogji Aboriginal Council East Gippsland Inc</b>	Lower Snowy River Symplocos Protection and Reintroduction	This project will protect known locations of Symplocos thwaitesii (buff hazelwood) on the lower reaches of the Snowy River. This will be achieved through the protection measures such as deer fencing and weed removal. Work will be carried out to commence searching for seed and take cuttings from known populations and commence propagation to relocate into fire effected areas.	\$5,000



Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd</b>	Western Port Blue Carbon Planning Project	The funding will be used to design, plan, and prioritise on-ground works. Partnering with Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation Ltd, the project will build on research already undertaken along Victoria's coastline to identify how future ecosystem management could optimise carbon sequestration (capture) and storage.	\$450,000
<b>Wetland Revival Trust</b>	Drought-proofing threatened species on the Lower Loddon floodplain at Wirra-lo	The project will involve securing ownership of a 180-hectare property called "Wirra-Lo" at Murrabit West in Northern Victoria. The project will involve ecological restoration, including weed and pest predator control, revegetation and restoration of hydrology to create and protect essential habitat for FFG (Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act) listed species including, for example, the Growling Grass Frog (Vulnerable) and Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon (Critically Endangered). This project will involve collaboration with Traditional Owners with the long-term vision of the Wetland Revival Trust to employ indigenous rangers to manage the site.	\$380,050
<b>Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance Inc</b>	Spring Plains Watershed Repair	This is a demonstration project which will apply a combination of innovative ecological restoration techniques to a 138-hectare catchment that is a hot spot for the endangered Swift Parrot, to 're-set' the damaged forest so that it can recover ecological health and better withstand the impacts of climate change.	\$72,600
<b>Connecting Country (Mount Alexander Region) Inc.</b>	Habitat connectivity for phascogales in central Victoria	The project supports Brush-Tailed Phascogale by creating and promoting habitat stepping-stones in a degraded landscape. Project will fence and revegetate 25x25 m blocks around large old trees, protecting potential nest sites and providing stepping-stones for habitat connectivity. An education event and volunteer nest box monitoring will also be delivered to engage community members.	\$61,600
<b>Friends of Mallee Conservation</b>	Repairing the past, Returning Semi-arid Woodlands	This project will involve landscape-scale revegetation of Semi-arid woodlands in North-west Victoria, and plantings of significant flora, largely missing from the Mallee landscape. The project will manage grazing pressure, control weeds, improve habitat for the Mildura Ogyris Butterfly (Endangered). Planning occurs together with First Peoples and propagation services provided at their Nursery.	\$27,000
<b>ODONATA FOUNDATION LTD</b>	Widgewah Conservation Reserve Expansion	Widgewah Conservation Reserve is a 90-hectare section of a property in Avenel, Victoria, with a predator proof fence that is preparing to welcome its first group of Southern Brush-Tail Rock-Wallaby (Critically Endangered). Widgewah is managed by Odonata and with the land-owners we are working towards expanding the sanctuary to 421-hectares.	\$330,000
<b>Phillip Island Nature Park Board of Management Inc</b>	Observation Point: Safe Haven for Fairy Terns	This project will support recovery of the Fairy Tern (critically endangered) through improving and expanding suitable breeding habitat and significantly improving capacity to respond to feral cats and other threats at Observation Point, the only successful Fairy Tern breeding site in Western Port and Port Philip Bay since 2016.	\$55,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Threatened Species Conservancy Inc.</b>	Crucial steps to save Australia's most unique and threatened butterfly community	This project will deliver conservation actions for threatened invertebrate communities in the Goulburn-Broken Catchment near Broadford. Continuing on from a four-year recovery program for the threatened Small and Large Ant-Blue Butterflies (Endangered) and 'Butterfly Community No. 1', the project will implement key actions including habitat restoration activities, continued research and monitoring, community engagement and continue captive breeding investigation efforts.	\$104,500
<b>DEECA Gippsland</b>	Deer Control - NEP (Natural Environment programs) Gippsland	This project will continue to deliver on ground feral horse (herbivore) control and removal for the relief and recovery of critical habitat, Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) and threatened fauna.	\$680,000
<b>DEECA Gippsland</b>	Weed control - NEP (Natural Environment programs) Gippsland	This project will continue to collaborate with land managers within the Victorian Alps area to search for and treat weed species within fire affected areas and associated refugia of high biodiversity value for the protection of threatened flora and significant ecological vegetation communities.	\$210,000
<b>Parks Victoria</b>	Feral pig control	Ground shooting of omnivores (pigs) will also be undertaken within the activity area.	\$450,000
<b>Parks Victoria</b>	Feral horse management	This project will continue to reduce the impacts of feral horse behaviour such as soil disturbance, trampling, grazing and wallowing, in sensitive ecosystems and high value biodiversity areas.	\$500,000
<b>DEECA Barwon South West</b>	Cross-tenure landscape scale invasive species threat management across Budj Bim cultural heritage landscape	This project will continue to implement a cross-tenure, landscape scale approach to invasive species management across the Budj Bim cultural landscape through effective leadership, coordinated partnerships, and community engagement and education.	\$433,580
<b>DEECA Gippsland</b>	Southern Ark fox baiting - extension	This project will continue fox control to reduce predation of native species in Lake Tyers State Park and Providence Ponds Flora and Fauna Reserve. The project will also continue to support capacity building with Traditional Owners within the Joint Management Plans, under the <i>Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010</i> .	\$340,000
<b>DEECA Gippsland</b>	Upper Snowy pest animal control	This project will continue to minimise the impact of introduced foxes on threatened species within the Southern Ark footprint.	\$80,000
<b>DEECA Hume</b>	Barry Mountains expanded fox control	This project will continue to deliver on-ground shooting and baiting activities to reduce the impact of introduced pest animals on the survival, and recovery of, critical national and state threatened fauna, especially where predation has the potential to expedite localised extinction.	\$460,000
<b>DEECA SISP</b>	Landscape Feral Pig Project	This project will continue to reduce the impacts of deer on recovering <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG)</i> listed vegetation communities at highest-priority sites within or adjacent to the 2019-20 bushfire footprint.	\$550,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Parks Victoria	Otway Biodiversity Protection	This project is helping to protect a range of threatened species including the Leafy Greenhood Orchid, Metallic Sun-Orchid, Swamp Antechinus and Long-nosed Potoroo. This is being achieved through undertaking weed control on a number of priority weed species including Sallow Wattle and Sweet Pittosporum, trapping of feral pig populations and fox control works. These works complement existing projects such as Otway Ark and Otway Eden.	\$310,000
Parks Victoria	Gariwerd (Grampians) Landscape herbivore management	This project is controlling deer and goats across the Gariwerd-Grampians National Park and Black Range State Park, which have a significant and detrimental impact on the integrity of biodiversity through over-browsing of native flora and trampling of vegetation and waterways, damage to the soil and trees and habitat, in the unique Gariwerd landscape.	\$222,600
Parks Victoria	Protecting and enhancing biodiversity in North-western Victorian Parks	This project will reduce rabbit and feral goat populations, remove feral pigs and treat invasive weeds in the Mallee landscape. This will give native trees and plants the chance to naturally regrow and recover, benefiting the wider ecosystem. The reduction in grazing pressure and impact of invasive species will protect perennial plant species, allowing native animals the opportunity to successfully breed in their preferred habitats.	\$599,445
Parks Victoria	Managing feral pigs in the eastern borderlands	The Parks Victoria led feral pig control program is seeking to reduce the impacts of these invasive pest animals across a variety of alpine environments in Eastern Victoria. Through controlling feral pigs and the subsequent reduction of their natural behaviours including soil disturbance, trampling, grazing, and wallowing, sensitive ecosystems and high value biodiversity assets will have time to recover and prosper.	\$329,000
Parks Victoria	Managing the impacts of transformative coastal weeds in Far East Gippsland	This project will control high priority weed infestations and contain transforming weeds at a diverse suite of inlets, rocky headlands and isolated beaches of high ecological value on the Far East Gippsland coastline. This includes the Cape Howe Wilderness and Sandpatch Wilderness, Croajingolong National Park, Cape Conran Coastal Park, Marlo Coastal Reserve, Gabo Island Lighthouse Reserve and Pt Hicks Lighthouse Reserve.	\$194,800
Parks Victoria	Ground shooting	This project will continue to reduce localised abundance of introduced deer for the relief and recovery of critical habitat, vegetation and threatened fauna.	\$1,000,000
Parks Victoria	Far East Eden	This project will continue to control, reduce, and prevent further westerly spread, of the feral pig population.	\$400,000
Parks Victoria	North East weed control	The Far East Eden area is in the south-east corner of Australia and is renowned for its wildlife and plant diversity. This invasive weed control project aims to implement recommendations from the Far East Eden Strategy.	\$300,000
Parks Victoria	Collaborative Ox-eye Daisy project	This project will continue to search for and treat invasive weeds to protect threatened species habitat and the natural environment.	\$300,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Parks Victoria	Fox Control	This project will continue to reduce post-fire weed threats in high priority Rainforest Sites of Significance to a point where only occasional monitoring is required to identify new weeds or weeds that have regenerated because of new disturbance. This project will also continue to treat all sites to Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion (WESI) weeds to reach a zero detectable presence and establish control at new sites.	\$152,000
Parks Victoria	Addressing the Major Mitchell's Cockatoo habitat crisis: Restoring semi-arid woodlands	This project will restore ecosystem function in semi-arid woodlands and address the shortage of nest hollows for Major Mitchell's Cockatoos and other threatened fauna. This will be delivered by creating artificial hollows; reducing hollow competition and fire threats; and supporting the establishment and development of the next generation of nest trees through revegetation and grazer control.	\$300,850
Parks Victoria	Avalon Coastal Complex Conservation Action Plan	This project will develop a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for the Avalon Coastal Reserve. The CAP will provide an agreed vision for the reserve, prioritised actions to undertake site management, and succinct information that can be used to seek investment for restoration opportunities to achieve the established vision for the site.	\$60,000
Royal Botanic Gardens Board	Raising Rarity: Preventing the extinction of Victoria's threatened flora	This project will use an integrated conservation framework to prevent extinction of 24 endangered Victorian plants. Framework includes (1) threat assessment and community surveys (2) seed and essential symbiont collections (3) genetic assessment to inform propagation (4) developing permanent ex-situ living collections (5) reintroductions using knowledge of suitable habitat and pollinator availability.	\$67,528
Zoos Victoria	Back from the brink; a future for Victoria's threatened wildlife	This project will target key threatened species in Victoria where tangible, high impact conservation interventions can be enacted rapidly to drive conservation progress. This includes the Pookila, Watson's Tree Frog and Giant Burrowing Frog species. The program involves recovery actions utilising a combination of translocations, ex situ breeding, wildlife health, community engagement and research investigations to advance knowledge.	\$794,750
			<b>\$12,565,556</b>

## Single Use Plastics Business Engagement

### Sustainability Victoria

The objectives of this program are to support Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) with its regulatory obligations to develop legislation and assist in communicating the policy to priority stakeholders likely to be most affected, Support Victorian small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to implement avoidance and reusable solutions, and increase awareness of problematic single-use plastic(SUP)items and alternatives.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Bendigo Health Care Group</b>	Bendigo Health – Reuse pilot	Implementing a pilot project for the use of reusable cups. Polystyrene cups will be replaced by reusable Melamine cups for the visitors and staff. Stainless steel cups for medicine will also be trialled.	\$20,614
<b>Billy Van Creamy Pty Ltd</b>	Ice Cream RE-CONTAINED	Sourcing, purchasing, and customising reusable 500ml and 1 litre take home ice-cream tubs. Containers will be distributed with a nominal deposit amount attached which is refundable to the customer on return of the container to Billy van Creamy.	\$6,800
<b>Cercle Co Pty Ltd</b>	Cercle Melbourne Pilot	Establishing the Cercle reuse system for takeaway coffee cups at 2 office buildings in Melbourne's central business district (CBD). The project will install an on-site washing facility to clean and dry the reusable coffee cups supplied to office workers through this project.	\$45,000
<b>City of Wodonga</b>	Cube Reusable Cup project	Installing a water bottle refill station, purchasing reusable cups to replace all current single-use cups used at water, tea, and coffee stations at the art and entertainment centre Cube Wodonga. This project also includes purchasing reusable stemless wine glasses to replace plastic cups for large outdoor events, where glass cannot be used.	\$13,785
<b>Deakin University</b>	We Choose Reuse at Deakin	Introducing a reuse system at the Waurin Ponds Campus. Through this pilot, Deakin University will install a commercial dishwasher; purchase reusable crockery, cutlery and cups; provide collection stations; install signage and other communication items; and provide training to staff.	\$85,000
<b>Free To Ltd</b>	The round and round table	Providing corporate catering in reusable and returnable packaging. This pilot will enable Free to Feed to trial different collection methods to understand feasibility to scale the use of returnable containers.	\$13,690
<b>Huskee Pty Ltd</b>	HuskeeSwap Collaboration with CoGround Social Enterprise	Collaborating with social enterprise CoGround and Swinburne University to deliver the HuskeeSwap system to reduce single-use coffee cups and lids across 11 permanent venues and booked events during the pilot period.	\$18,000
<b>Investa Asset Management Pty Ltd</b>	Eliminate SUP @ 567 Collins	Applying the Returnr Micropool reuse system for 23 hospitality businesses at 567 Collins Street allowing 4,600 users per month to switch from disposables to reusable items. This project will also test the impact of initiatives on an individual's willingness to use returnable containers.	\$12,500
<b>La Trobe University</b>	Wash Against Waste at La Trobe	Enacting "The Reusable Revolution" Pilot program by providing reusable crockery to food businesses at its Bundoora campus. A dish-washing hub with a commercial dishwasher centrally located to the Agora food court will be installed. La Trobe University will purchase crockery, cutlery and cups, provide collection stations, install signage and other communication items, and provide training to staff.	\$64,500



Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Monash University</b>	Monash University Ditch Disposables	Promoting and providing reusable solutions through the Monash University Ditch Disposables program. Monash University will implement a centralised reusable crockery and cutlery system to support the food outlets at Clayton campus.	\$73,800
<b>One Good Cup Pty Ltd</b>	Reusable Coffee Cup Pilot with Barwon Health	Providing reusable coffee cups and software so that Barwon Health staff can easily reduce single-use coffee cups at work. OneGood Cup will provide access to memberships which grants access to 2 cups at a time.	\$28,582
<b>Responsible Cafes</b>	Reuse program for single-use coffee cups and containers	Reducing waste generated by disposable coffee cups and food containers. By partnering with Whitehorse City Council, Geelong City Council, City of Greater Bendigo, Geelong Sustainability and Australian reusable brands Huskee and Replated, 60 participating cafes will be accredited as Responsible Cafes, gaining access to a customised sustainability score, and receiving a fleet of reusable containers, coffee cups and lids.	\$31,732
<b>Ricardo Correia Pinto and Anneline Correia Pinto</b>	Sorrento Returnables pilot	Implementing reusable containers for food and beverages within the Sorrento area. The pilot will run in the popular holiday and beach destinations of Sorrento over a 2-month period.	\$16,702
<b>Sandringham Traders Association Inc.</b>	Village Zero Sandringham Plastic Free	Working with multiple partners to trial 2 systems to increase reusables in the Sandringham business precinct that has 34 food outlets. The first system will focus on encouraging customers to bring their own containers and the second a reusable container system using Infinity Box and Returnr.	\$28,800
<b>The Corner Store Network Ltd</b>	A double shot of good	Removing single-use takeaway coffee cups across its 5 venues with its 'borrow, return, wash' program. This system will be implemented in both the permanent cafes and across the mobile coffee van service.	\$5,000
<b>The Partners of S.J THOMAS &amp; J YAP Trading as Untwine</b>	ZeroTag - a passport for reuse systems	Developing a multimedia label called 'ZeroTag' that can be used for different reuse systems. The dishwasher-safe label with a QR code can be applied onto any reusable container, and when scanned, shows the brand and product information.	\$20,455
			<b>\$484,959</b>

## Supporting Charities

### DEECA

The objectives of this project are to reduce some of the financial impact of illegal dumping on charitable recyclers by providing partial immediate financial relief for charitable recycling organisations supporting charitable recyclers during a time of unstable resource recovery markets at a time when the charitable sector is facing increasing cost pressures.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations</b>	Supporting Charities program	The Supporting Charities program provides relief to charities for a portion of their costs of dealing with illegal dumping or inappropriate donations, and works with charities to reduce the incidence of illegal dumping. The grant funding is distributed to Charitable Recycling Australia who then distribute the money to individual charities.	\$1,620,000

## Supporting our Regions to Adapt

### DEECA

The aim of this program is to build an understanding of state-wide and regional priorities for climate change adaptation action as well as to develop and deliver tailored initiatives and projects to support regional communities to prepare for future and adapt to current and climate change impacts.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Tangent Consulting</b>	Community of Practice – Climate resilient vegetation project development and support	This project supported the development of a Community of Practice for Climate Resilient Vegetation to be transitioned to Melbourne Water/ Councils. A workshop was run by Tangent Consulting to facilitate this process with the assistance of the DEECA Climate Change Adaptation Team.	\$10,000
<b>Corangamite Catchment Management Authority</b>	Adaptation Pathways for Biodiversity of the Barwon South West	This project provided a forum for showcasing current climate change information/projects that are relevant to the management of biodiversity within the Barwon South West. The forum included a workshop and facilitated a co-designed approach for how the region can develop a 'Knowledgebase' of current climate change information that is relevant to the management of biodiversity within the Barwon South West. The 'Knowledgebase' will be incorporated into the current South West Climate Change Portal.	\$12,000
<b>Corangamite Catchment Management Authority</b>	Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program (Feasibility & Design)	The project delivered a feasibility assessment and design of a Barwon South West (BSW) Carbon Offset program. The program was a joint initiative between the Councils and CMAs within the BSW region. The program's main objective was to support the region's Councils to offset their carbon emissions locally.	\$13,500
<b>Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions (BREAZE)</b>	Sustainable Planning and design workshop	The project delivered a community workshop on the topic of "Top 10 things to consider when building, designing, or renovating your sustainable home". The session covered what sort of things should you be talking to your builder, or designer about before you start.	\$3,000
<b>Central Grampians Local Learning and Employment Network</b>	Climate Adaptation in the Central Grampians	The project facilitated a series of industry tours for secondary students to increase their knowledge of how local businesses implement climate adaptation. It was also designed to link participants with future career opportunities.	\$4,000
<b>Highlands Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN)</b>	Captains Creek Farm Tour	The project aimed to increase youth involvement and understanding of climate change. It provided a Youth focused site tour demonstrating climate adaptation measures used in a modern organic farming enterprise.	\$4,000
<b>Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN</b>	Wimmera River Revegetation Plan	The project aimed to increase youth involvement and understanding of climate change. It involved the revegetation of an area of Wimmera River frontage incorporating climate change considerations.	\$4,000
<b>West Wimmera Health Services</b>	Focussing the Lens on climate change adaptation - Extended Focus	The project expanded on the research from the previous Climate Lens project. The further work aimed to achieve a West Wimmera Health Service organisation wide understanding of climate adaptation values and opportunities for engagement / outputs with community and service users.	\$27,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Golden Plains Shire	Central Highlands Integrated Water Management Planning for Small Towns - On ground works	The project built on previous work to develop a green blue infrastructure guide for small towns in the Central Highlands region. This project installed a water tank and rain garden at the Haddon Community Centre as a demonstration site.	\$5,900
Hepburn Shire Council	Expanding the Hepburn Z-NET Model into Climate Change Adaptation	The project built on previous work to expand on the Hepburn Z-NET mitigation model (the first zero-net emission shire in Australia) to develop an approach to climate change adaptation that is place-based and locally appropriate. The project extension focused on deeper community engagement and partner engagement on options and outcomes. Additional engagement materials were produced (climate adaptation postcards).	\$9,000
Hepburn Shire Council	Climate Adaptation - Applying the GRAS for sustainability and biodiversity	The project provided two workshops for local government and government authorities exploring the application of the Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy to local government policy / strategy development.	\$10,900
Warrnambool City Council	Warrnambool and region Heat Vulnerability Analysis	This project identified high-risk areas across the municipality of Warrnambool which are vulnerable to extreme heat and heatwave. The project informed the management of heatwaves on vulnerable communities and provided an assessment of impacts on critical interconnected urban systems and services across Warrnambool and the broader region. The project aligns with 'Green Warrnambool' which sets the community vision to become the most environmentally sustainable regional city in Australia.	\$6,000
Jesuit Social Services	Community of Practice - Resilient Community Sector 2	The project delivered the continuation of the Resilient Community of Practice which was co-designed with Community Sector partners. The CoP is aimed at building community resilience and supporting a better understanding of stakeholders and leverage points for climate equity; building strong partnerships to achieve shared impact; and improved connection and cross-collaboration between organisations.	\$10,000
			<b>\$119,300</b>

## Suburban Parks Program: Fire, Forests and Regions and Land Management Policy

### DEECA

This initiative provides for the creation, enhancement and connection of parks and green open spaces in our growing suburbs to benefit Victoria environmentally, socially and economically.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Banyule City Council	Waterdale Road Pocket Park and Shared Zone, Ivanhoe	A new pocket park and shared zone for passive recreation and socialising in the busy Ivanhoe shopping precinct.	\$325,000
Banyule City Council	Were Street Reserve Pocket Park, Montmorency	An activated green space in the heart of the activity centre with a new plaza, performance space, seating, landscaping, artwork and playful elements.	\$325,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Brimbank City Council</b>	Leslie Street Pocket Park, St Albans	The project will create an open space for local community enjoyment, relaxation and connection. The raised pedestrian crossing platform will also enhance pedestrian safety and connectivity.	\$286,750
<b>Brimbank City Council</b>	Cary Street Pocket Park, Sunshine North	This project activates an existing park in an area deficient in open space. The park adds value to Stony Creek wetland by providing recreation opportunities not offered at the wetland site.	\$280,000
<b>Brimbank City Council</b>	Keilor Park Recreation Reserve	Upgrade existing play space to provide a new playground for all ages including water play, picnic and socialising opportunities, a new shelter, BBQ and drinking fountain.	\$75,000
<b>Brimbank City Council</b>	Sydenham Park, Keilor North	Cycling and walking trails will be constructed to access scenic routes throughout the reserve. Visitors will have access to passive recreational activities including, cycling, walking, jogging and bird watching.	\$75,000
<b>Cardinia Shire Council</b>	Part 2 Cardinia Creek Pedestrian Bridge Concept Design OPP-55617	The scope of works covers a feasibility assessment, concept design and costings for shared path over Cardinia Creek.	\$30,000
<b>City of Boroondara</b>	Victoria Park, Kew	The new playground will be a space where locals and visitors can bring the family, spend some time and have fun. The project will enhance park amenities, improve accessibility and create a place for the community to enjoy.	\$75,000
<b>City of Casey</b>	Bayview Park, Narre Warren	Funding for the delivery and construction of park upgrades and revitalisation at Bayview Park.	\$150,000
<b>City of Stonnington</b>	Mouclif Pocket Park, Prahran	The new park will increase open space in the area and create more tree canopy cover and achieve the vision of Chapel ReVision and the Mount Street Masterplan.	\$325,000
<b>City of Stonnington</b>	Bangs Pocket Park, Prahran	Created on vacant land, the project forms one link in a chain of open spaces planned under the Mount Street Area Masterplan and provides a garden, trees, a grassy lawn and pedestrian link.	\$325,000
<b>City of Stonnington</b>	Sir Zelman Cowen Park, Kooyong	Upgrade of existing playground into a regional play space for all ages and abilities. Delivering inclusive play equipment, including nature and sensory play.	\$75,000
<b>City of Whittlesea</b>	Parkland Planning - Quarry Hills Regional Parklands OPP-51267	Future Directions Plan scoped and consultation underway. Investigate potential renaming options for Quarry Hills to reflect Woiwurrung values.	\$60,000
<b>City of Whittlesea</b>	Regional Park Delivery - Quarry Hills Regional Parklands	Support the creation of a Quarry Hills Regional Parklands Planning Lead to ensure the timely delivery of the Quarry Hills Future Directions Plan and infrastructure investment.	\$30,000
<b>City of Whittlesea</b>	Yan Yean Pipe Trail - Stages 1 & 2	Construction of a shared path (cycling and walking trail) with an approximate length of 1.7 km.	\$500,000
<b>City of Whittlesea</b>	Hendersons Creek Trail - Stages 3, 4 and 5	Construction of a shared path (cycling and walking trail) with an approximate length of 1.6 km	\$500,000
<b>City of Whittlesea</b>	Riverside Reserve, South Morang	A new playground to provide a range of varying slide heights, a range of swings, a flying fox and rope walls. Nature play with a focus on exploratory learning and a multi-use basketball space.	\$75,000

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Frankston City Council	Evelyn Street Pocket Park, Frankston	An engaging gathering and event space. Features include an amphitheatre, informal performance space, floral arbours, seating, lighting and landscaping.	\$325,000
Frankston City Council	Carrum Downs Recreation Reserve	Creation of a new family recreation area for all ages. Features include playspace with nature play elements, picnic area with BBQs, tables, seating, bins, new paths linking the area and canopy tree planting for shade.	\$75,000
Glen Eira City Council	Bentleigh Plaza Pocket Park, Bentleigh (Stage 1)	Transforming Bentleigh Plaza into an engaging urban green space. A green pedestrian corridor will link to a future urban space in Vickery Street.	\$325,000
Greater Dandenong City Council	Herbert Street Pocket Park, Dandenong	A new pocket park and green spine with shade, seating and plantings to be close to nature and seniors exercise area.	\$137,500
Hume City Council	Progress Reserve, Coolaroo	Key project features include a new playground, public toilet and soft landscaping with improved accessibility.	\$75,000
Hume City Council	Seabrook Reserve, Broadmeadows	Creating a passive recreational open space. Featuring a district level playground, shelters, picnic tables, a drinking fountain, BBQ's and landscaping.	\$75,000
Knox City Council	Peregrine Reserve, Rowville	Upgrade will provide a new passive recreation area for local residents. Delivering a BMX pump track, picnic shelter and seating, and outdoor gym equipment.	\$61,500
La Trobe University	La Trobe University Shared Path	Construction of a shared path (cycling and walking trail) with an approximate length of 1.9 km.	\$697,500
Manningham City Council	Wonguim Wilam, Warrandyte	A substantial playspace expansion and upgrade. Features include sensory and nature play elements such as towers, swings, ropes and logs, seating, BBQ and shelter.	\$75,000
Maribyrnong City Council	Birmingham Street Pocket Park, Yarraville	Transforming an existing closed street space into a new park. It will provide a green urban space for unstructured uses such as sitting, resting, gathering, informal play and connecting with nature.	\$259,414
Maribyrnong City Council	Lilardia Pocket Park	Design features include open lawn, large canopy trees, garden beds, water play and street furniture as well as informal play elements.	\$325,000
Maribyrnong City Council	Cruickshank Park, Yarraville	Revitalisation of this popular local and district level park. Features include rain gardens, extension to the 'dinosaur' playground for all abilities, more nature play features, BMX track improvements and additional planting.	\$150,000
Maroondah City Council	Yarrunga Reserve, Croydon Hills	Redesigning the existing BMX track and multi-sports area. Proposed works include upgrading park furniture, shelter area, pathway network, additional vegetation.	\$75,000
Melton City Council	Centenary Park, Kurunjang	Upgrade of existing area to include play, social and active infrastructure.	\$150,000
Merri Creek Management Committee Inc	Upper Merri Creek Regional Parkland – Aligning Merri Signage	Complete audit of existing signage, design signage template drafts and undertake consultation.	\$100,000
Merri-bek City Council	Gilpin Park, Brunswick	Parks revitalisation with features to include new accessible picnic facilities (shelter, picnic tables, seating and BBQ's), path upgrades, exercise stations, drinking fountains and revegetation.	\$75,000



Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>Monash City Council</b>	Cambridge Street Pocket Park, Oakleigh	Funding to create additional space for passive and active recreation. Features include new playground, improved street frontage, access connections and safety, new paths, shade and shelter, picnic areas and water fountains.	\$175,000
<b>Monash City Council</b>	Cameron Avenue Pocket Park, Oakleigh South	Funding to expand and reinvigorate green space, enhancing social recreation opportunities. Features will include a rope course with climbing wall, BBQ/ picnic area with shelter, active play areas, additional landscaping and more.	\$225,000
<b>Monash City Council</b>	Carlson Reserve, Clayton	The creation of a new forecourt near recently reinvigorated playspace. Providing passive recreation spaces, landscaping, pathway linkages and seating areas.	\$75,000
<b>Moonee Valley City Council</b>	Pattison Street Pocket Park, Moonee Ponds	A new pocket park on a former residential property to the adjacent shared trail. The park will improve access and visibility for trail users and provide another green recreation space for the local area.	\$370,000
<b>Moonee Valley City Council</b>	Strathaird Reserve Pocket Park, Strathmore	Creation of a new playspace with landscaping on part of a vacant and underutilised reserve adjacent to the Essendon Airport. The park's features will be designed in consultation with the local community.	\$650,000
<b>Nillumbik Shire Council</b>	Andrew Park Pocket Park, Eltham	Active recreation areas will be created to facilitate all age groups. Features include basketball/netball courts, exercise equipment for senior residents, toilets and cycling infrastructure to enhance the Diamond Creek Trail.	\$325,000
<b>Nillumbik Shire Council</b>	Eltham Skate Park, Eltham	Community co-designed skate park to meet community needs and safety to enhance the existing space diversifying the park to be an all inclusive skate park.	\$75,000
<b>Parks Victoria</b>	Marram baba galada tamboore Infrastructure	Funding to undertake resurfacing of track, reinforcement works to an existing bridge, and wayfinding and safety signage installation.	\$100,000
<b>Parks Victoria</b>	Three New Parks Clean up and establishment	Funding for post acquisition clean up and. Funding to scope and run activities for community connections to the new land, Install park sign at each park (subject to cultural heritage approval), and commence Cultural Heritage Planning.	\$12,150,000
<b>Port Phillip City Council</b>	Moubray Street Pocket Park, Albert Park	Design and Construction of a new pocket park at Moubray Street, Albert Park.	\$650,000
<b>Whitehorse City Council</b>	Scott Grove, Burwood	The park will include passive seating areas, open lawn areas for social sports and a playspace focusing on nature play and local native vegetation.	\$75,000
<b>Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Galada Tamboore Weed Treatment and Ecological Restoration Works	Deliver weed treatment and ecological restoration works for sections of Galada Tamboore.	\$70,000
<b>Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation</b>	Quarry Hills Cultural (Woiwurrung) Values Study OPP-50369	Funding was provided to develop a place-based Cultural (Woiwurrung) Values Study for Quarry Hills Regional Parklands to document the Woiwurrung historical and cultural associations, traditional land use and significance of the Parklands.	\$25,500

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Yarra City Council	Cambridge Street Pocket Park, Collingwood	Extending this popular local park in a precinct currently lacking in open space. The park's design is being community-led to meet the needs of local residents and workers.	\$325,000
Yarra City Council	Alphington Park, Alphington	The playground upgrade includes multi-play tower, scramble nets, climbing features, walkways, tiered platforms, slides, fireman's pole, group spinner, swings, and sand play area.	\$70,000
Yarra City Council	Fitzy Bowl, Fitzroy North	Extension and upgrade of the popular Fitzy Bowl skate facility in Edinburgh Gardens. Design features will cater for users of different skill levels and abilities.	\$135,000
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	Luke Polkinghorne Memorial Reserve, Mooroolbark	A revitalised playspace and recreation areas in this popular local reserve. Features include variety of play equipment and nature play for all abilities, boardwalk, memorial seat, cry creek bed and vegetation, paths and paving art play items.	\$53,750
			<b>\$22,041,914</b>

## Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program

### DEECA

The aim of the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program (VCMP) is to provide communities with information on coastal conditions, changes, hazards, and the expected impacts associated with climate change that will facilitate evidence-based decision making.

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
Monash University	Improving coastal erosion assessments - embayments and living shorelines	This project is led by the Monash University in partnership with University of Wollongong and Macquarie University to lead a citizen science training and erosion pin monitoring, sediment transport compartment modelling and remote sensing for mudflats in sheltered embayments that exhibit mangrove, saltmarsh and wetland dominated shorelines.	\$60,000

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