

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearing

Energy, Environment and Climate Change



\$811.2 million investment across the portfolio

Healthy, Resilient and Biodiverse Environment

\$293.8 million invested in:

- EPA
- Biodiversity
- Waste
- Coasts
- ResourceSmart Schools
- Contaminated crown land

Reliable, Efficient, Accessible, Safe and Sustainable Energy Services

\$122.0 million invested in:

- Securing our modern energy future
- National energy markets - Reform and advocacy
- Energy affordability: Putting consumers first
- Solar trams

Reduced Impact of Major Bushfires

\$ 273.3 million invested in:

- Reducing bushfire risk

Productive and Effective Land Management

\$ 96.7 million invested in:

- Parks and reserves estate
- Forest and wildlife
- Zoos

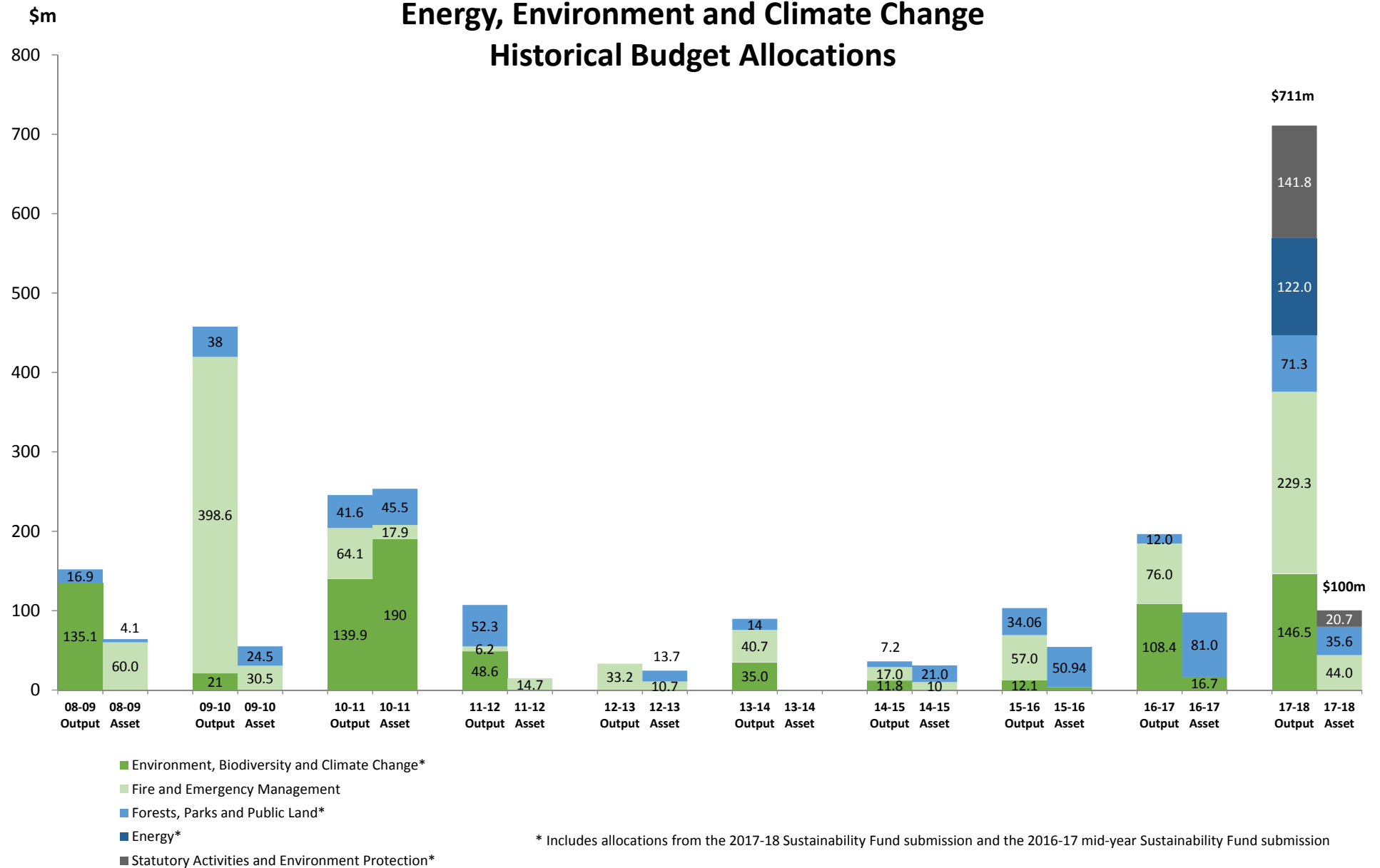
Zero Emission, Climate Ready Economy and Community

\$25.4 million invested in:

- Understanding and adapting to climate change
- Taking decisive action on climate change

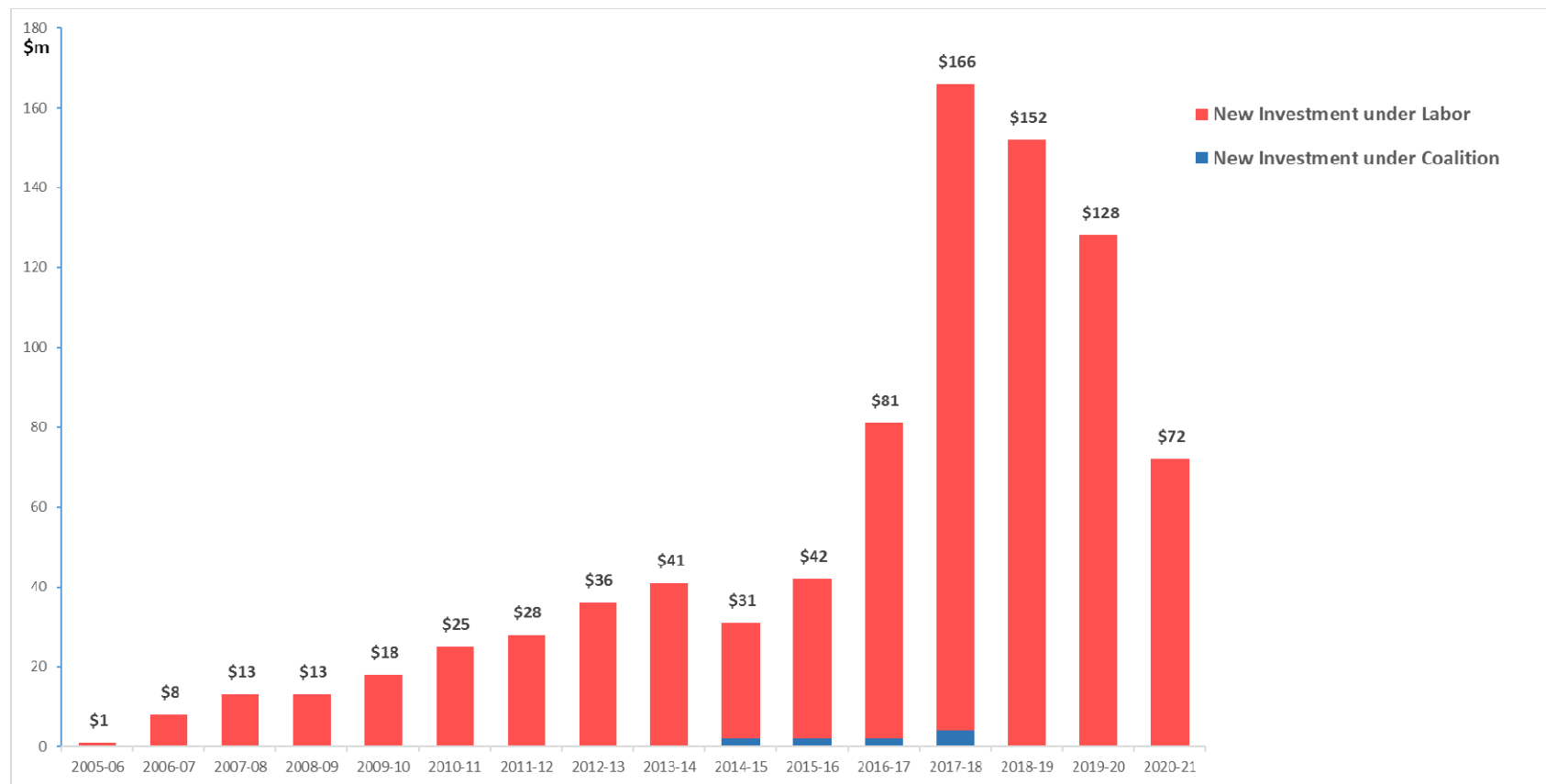


Energy, Environment and Climate Change Historical Budget Allocations



Sustainability Fund

- 2017-18 is the highest ever single year allocation from the Sustainability Fund **\$166 million**



A Healthy, Resilient and Biodiverse Environment

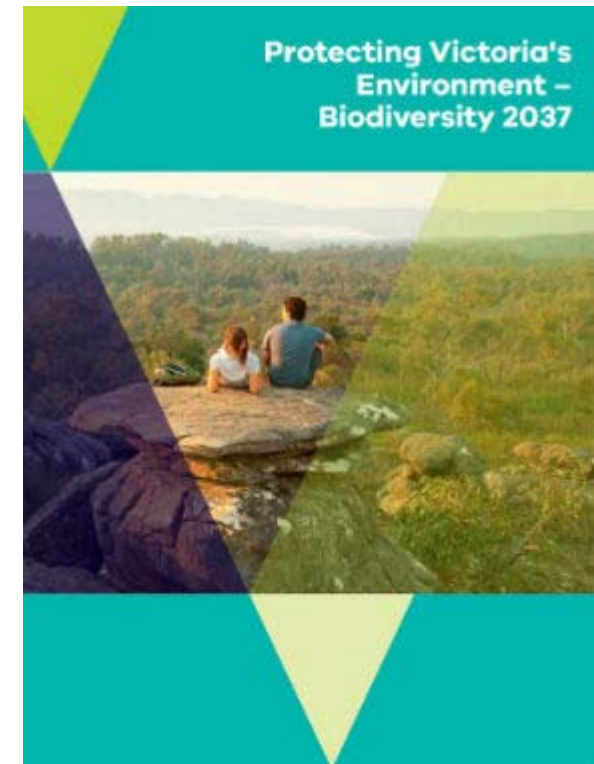
Biodiversity

\$86.3 million to support the implementation of *Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037*.

\$20 million on-going funding from the Sustainability Fund.

A blueprint for how we will work together to stop the decline of Victoria's unique biodiversity, including

- **\$65.5 million** for targeted on ground biodiversity actions
- **\$5.8 million** for measuring progress
- **\$5.4 million** for native vegetation regulations reform and reporting



Consultation on the new
Marine and Coastal
Act

Release of the proposed
amendments to the Victorian
Planning Provisions to give
effect to the native vegetation
review

The release of the Flora and
Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
Review Consultation Paper

Release of State of the Bays
report

Key Achievements

A Healthy, Resilient and Biodiverse Environment

EPA

\$162.5 million to *bring our EPA into the modern era* initiative, which includes:

- **\$65.6 million** for EPA's expanded functions and expertise
- **\$49.5 million** to implement new legislation, regulations and standards and to re-train staff
- **\$24.4 million** to provide more financial certainty for the regulator
- **\$19.3 million** to improve EPA's functionality and public access to information
- **\$3.1 million** for reforms to EPA governance to ensure its independence and accountability
- **\$0.5 million** to support strategic coordination of environmental protection across government



A Healthy, Resilient and Biodiverse Environment

Waste

\$30.4 million for the *investing in Waste and Resource Recovery for a growing Victoria* initiative to:

- make greater investment in the waste and resource recovery sector
- keep e-waste out of landfill
- enhance Victoria's capacity to manage waste, litter and resource recovery

Key Achievements in the last 12 months:

- Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan sets ten year infrastructure goals for Melbourne
- Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund and Waste to Energy Infrastructure Fund leverage private investment
- Litter Innovation Fund supporting local communities



A Healthy, Resilient and Biodiverse Environment

Towards a healthy and resilient marine and coastal future

\$7.2 million to improve the management of Victoria's marine and coastal environments and deliver on the Victorian Government's related election commitments.



ResourceSmart Schools

\$4.4 million to continue the *ResourceSmart Schools* program

- Award-winning Victorian Government program that empowers schools and their communities to embed sustainability and act on climate change
- Over 1,300 schools have participated, reaching approximately 600,000 students.

Remediation of gun club sites

\$3.0 million to investigate and scope remediation requirements for a number of contaminated gun club sites.



Reliable, Efficient, Accessible, Safe and Sustainable Energy Services

Energy

\$122 million committed to:

- *Securing our modern energy future*
- *Energy Affordability: Putting Consumers First*
- National Energy Markets - Reform and Advocacy
- Solar Trams

Key Achievements:

\$25 million utility scale energy storage announcement

Parliament passed amendments to the Feed-in Tariff legislation to recognise the environmental and social value of renewables

Release of \$6 million Affordable Upgrades program - providing deep retrofits to 800 vulnerable Victorian households

Reliable, Efficient, Accessible, Safe and Sustainable Energy Services

Securing Our Modern Energy Future

\$88.8 million to modernise Victoria's energy system, including

- supporting large-scale storage initiatives
- encouraging the development of the renewable energy sector in Victoria through actions such as trialling micro grids and smart grids





Reliable, Efficient, Accessible, Safe and Sustainable Energy Services

Energy Affordability: Putting Consumers First

\$10.8 million to minimise energy costs for consumers, including a comprehensive *Victorian Energy Compare* consumer awareness campaign, a concept study to plan the delivery of an energy data hub to increase consumer and third-party access to energy data and a pilot energy brokerage service to support hardship and culturally and linguistically diverse consumers

National Energy Markets - Reform and Advocacy

\$12.9 million to supporting and influencing the reform and advocacy program of the Council of Australian Governments' Energy Council

Securing Our Energy Future – Solar Trams

\$9.5 million towards Solar Trams rollout.

Productive and Effective Land Management

Strengthening the protection of our forests and wildlife

\$36.3 million for more effective regulation, compliance and enforcement.

\$6 million to improve the quality of visitor infrastructure in State forests – BBQs, toilets, picnic tables – attracting more visitors and providing a better experience



Productive and Effective Land Management

Unlocking the Benefits of Parks for All Victorians

\$31.8 million for Parks Victoria to:

- Ensure safe and equitable access to parks and the benefits they provide
- Digitally transform Parks Victoria and its interactions with the community
- Sustain and grow regional visitor economies
- Deliver an additional 60 full time rangers
- Improve ecosystem health and provision of ecosystem services
- Conserve Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage and ensure Traditional Owners are meaningfully engaged in the management of Country.

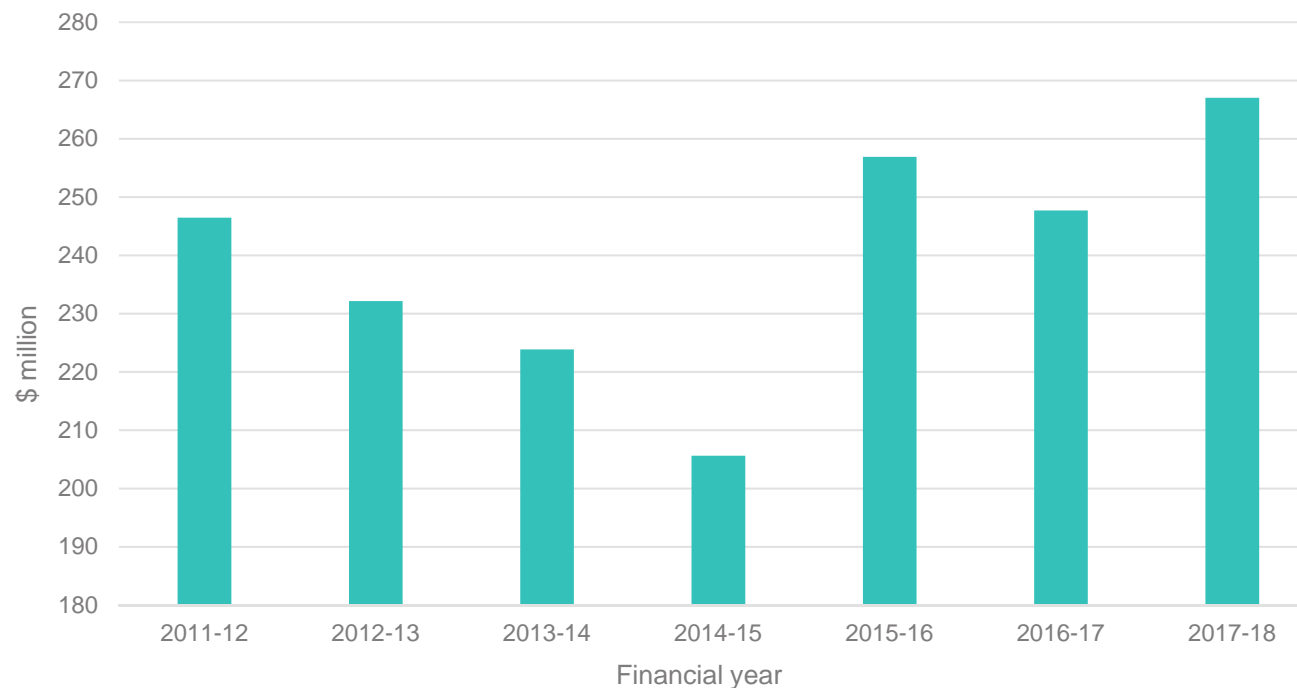


Productive and Effective Land Management

Unlocking the Benefits of Parks for All Victorians

Under the former Coalition government, total funding for Parks Victoria fell from \$246 million in 2011-12 to \$206 million in 2014-15

Total Parks Victoria Funding, 2011-12 – 2017-18



Productive and Effective Land Management

Enhancing Victoria's liveability through improvements to the parks and reserves estate

\$22.8 million to contribute towards;

- acquiring land to establish three new metropolitan parks in Melbourne's growth areas
- incorporating Anglesea Heath into the Great Otway National Park

Zoos Victoria Kids Free Policy

\$5.8 million to continue the program.



Zero Emission, Climate Ready Economy and Community

Climate Change

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to restoring Victoria's status as a leader in tackling climate change providing **\$25.4 million** in climate change funding.

- **\$12.6 million** for the *Taking decisive action on climate change* initiative
 - to implement elements of Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020
- **\$12.8 million** for the *Understanding and Adapting to Climate Change* initiative



*Climate Change
Act 2017* was
passed by
Parliament on 23
February 2017



Zero Emission, Climate Ready Economy and Community

Key Achievements:

- *Climate Change Act 2017*
- Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020
- *Climate Change Framework*
- *TAKE2 Climate Change Pledge*

Fire and Emergency Management

I have had the privilege of visiting and participating in a number of fire related activities across the state throughout 2016/17.

**Highlights have included visiting the following
FFMVic Depots across Victoria.**

- Avalon
- Daylesford
- Erica
- Heathcote
- Colac
- Bairnsdale
- Bendigo/ Epsom
- Beaufort
- Benalla
- Forrest
- Orbost



Fire and Emergency Management

Other activities have included:

- Attending the 2016 Fire Awareness Awards,
- Touring the Avalon and Latrobe Valley Airbases,
- Risk assessment briefings at Tyers Lookout,
- Overseeing hazardous tree preparation and blacking out activities at Mt Cole fire ground,
- Receiving briefings on Barwon South West bushfire and emergency management at Colac ICC,
- Planned burning briefing at Moggs Creek,
- Official opening of upgraded facilities at Orbost,
- Fuel reduction discussions in Marlo State Forest and
- Traditional burning practices discussions with Traditional Owners in Epsom.



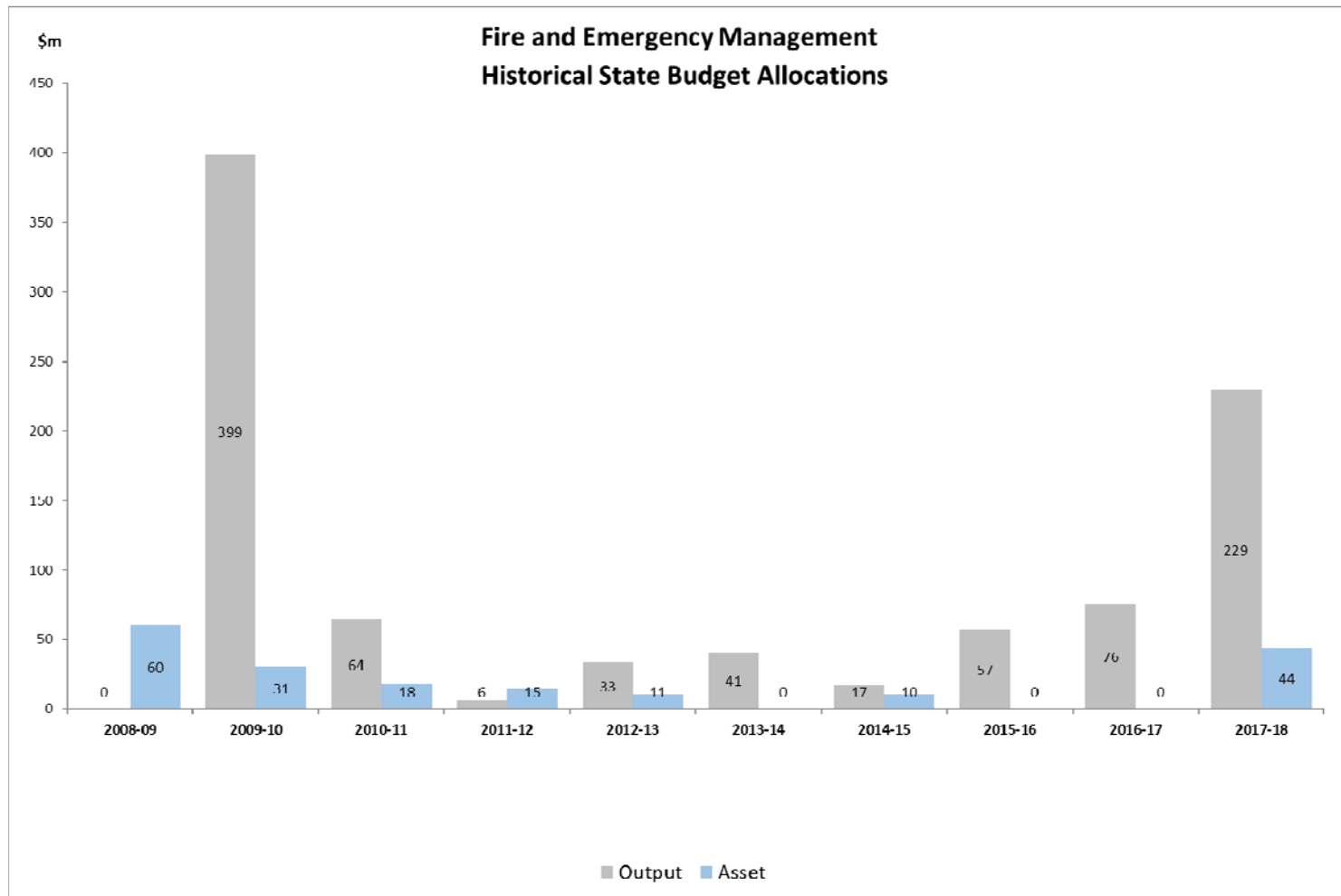
Reduced Impact of Major Bushfires

\$273.3 million for the *Reducing bushfire risk* initiative, including

- **\$205.7** million to continue an expanded program of bushfire mitigation on public land, improve forest access, egress and firefighter safety, build firefighter capacity and diversity- creating an additional 231 jobs.
- **\$44** million for roads, bridges and fire towers
- **\$11.4** million for targeted fuel management on private land and roadsides to reduce bushfire risk
- **\$6** million for innovative application of bushfire risk modelling,
- **\$4** million for landscape level bushfire risk planning, and
- **\$2** million for community-based bushfire management.



Fire and Emergency Management – Historical Funding





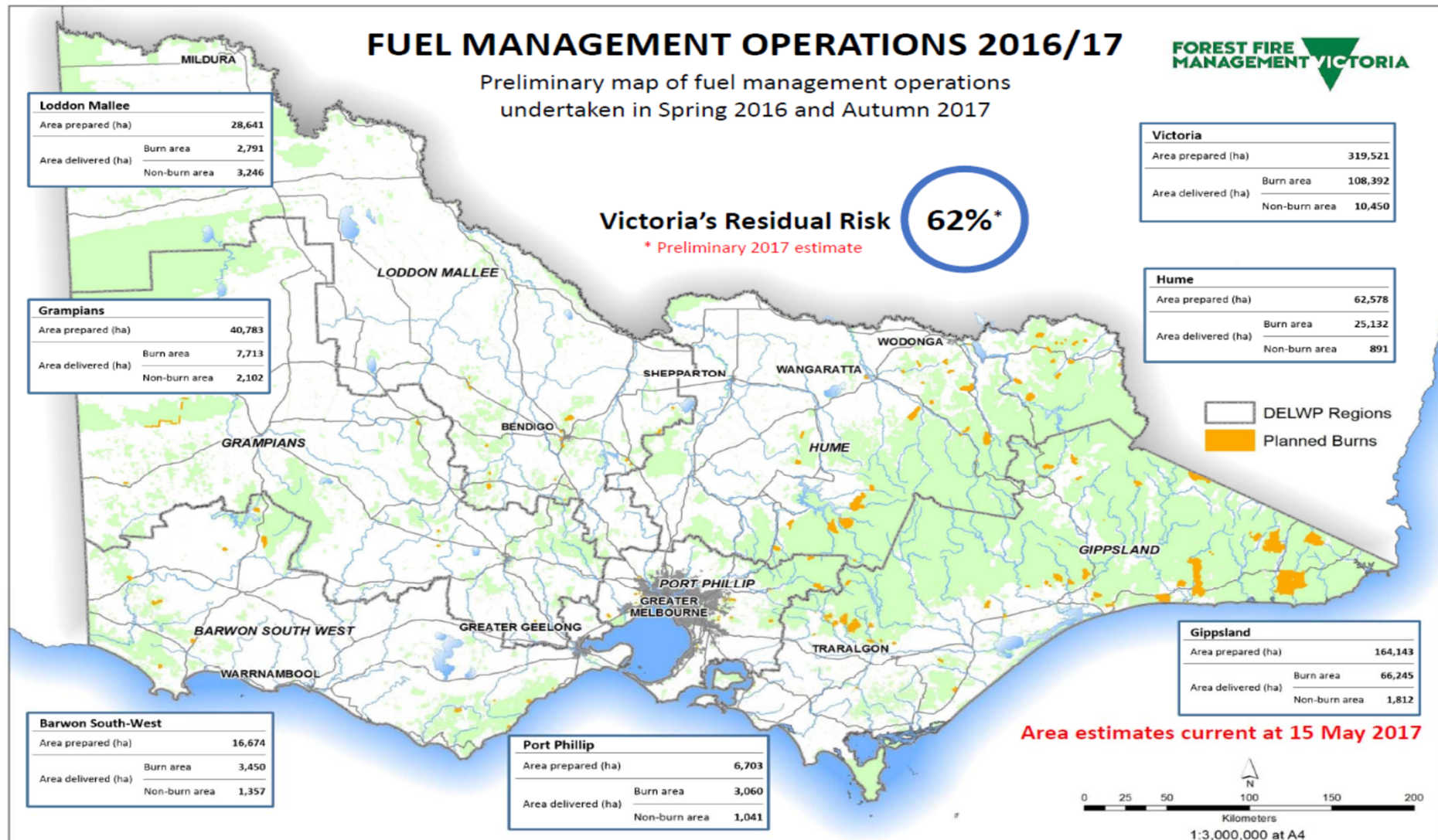
Reduced Impact of Major Bushfires

Reducing Victoria's Bushfire Risk

Safer Together and planned burning

- Since July 1, 2016, a risk reduction target is guiding fuel management on public land to maintain bushfire risk at or below 70%
- Current risk reduction sits at: 62%
- *Planned burning program as of Monday 15 May, 2017: 118,842 hectares treated*

Reduced Impact of Major Bushfires





Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio

- The investment in my portfolio through the 2017-18 State Budget will protect our environment and ensure a reliable and affordable energy supply for every Victorian.
- Through the significant investment in my portfolio the Andrews Labor Government is:
 - taking action on climate change, protecting our environment for this generation and the next,
 - delivering a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy supply to Victoria; and
 - providing one of the most significant investments towards keeping Victorians, their property and the environment safe from the threat of bushfires.