

# 2026-27 Budget Estimates Hearing Agriculture Portfolio

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee  
20 May 2026



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.



# Agriculture matters to every Victorian

**It puts food on our tables, supports jobs and economies, and sits at the heart of regional communities:**

- agribusiness one of five priority sectors in Victoria's Economic Growth Statement
- well-earned reputation for quality, safe and sustainable food and fibre, delivered to domestic and international markets
- an ecosystem powered by farmers supported by a vast network of skills, services and systems right along the supply chain
- despite challenges and an increasingly complex operating environment, our sector continues to innovate and invest and is well positioned for future growth.



# Agriculture: A sector for everyone

Victoria's agricultural sector punches well above its weight on the national stage, and is a major contributor to the prosperity of Victoria

## \$22.1 billion

worth of food and fibre products were exported by Victoria in 2024-25, accounting for 28% of Australia's total.

## 174 countries

imported food and fibre commodities from Victoria in 2024-25, reflecting the state's geographically diverse export destinations.

## 150,750 people

were employed across the agriculture and food manufacturing sectors in Victoria in 2022-23, with 85% of agriculture jobs in regional Victoria.



# Support driving the sector to succeed

At the centre of the agriculture sector is a Government support network with deep expertise, trusted insights and connections, delivering support programs, services and resources



## Delivering biosecurity and animal welfare services



Supporting Victoria's economy and regional jobs



Building long-term industry capability



Delivering world-class research and innovation

- **460 investigations** that ruled out the presence of animal, marine or plants diseases across Victoria in 2025-26.
- Passed legislation to **establish an authorised pet rehoming organisation scheme**

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- Agriculture Victoria's services support **Victoria's 21,300 farm businesses.**
- Forestry Transition plan contributed to **192 new jobs and the retention of 524 existing jobs.**

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- **2,217 engagements to support 13,787 farmers** make complex drought management decisions.
- **Attended 123 recovery hubs and community events, and 130 meetings** with communities impacted by the January 2026 bushfires.

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Delivering world-class research and innovation

- **AgriBio and five regional SmartFarms** drive world-class research
- **More than 50% external co-investment** = approximately \$44 million in 2025-26.
- Research delivers an **estimated \$7.82 for every \$1 invested over 10 years.**

# 2026-27 Budget support: Bushfire Recovery

\$62 million is being provided to support farmers recover from the January 2026 bushfires.

Support programs include:

Bushfire Recovery Concessional Loans

Primary Producer Recovery Grants

Emergency Fodder distribution



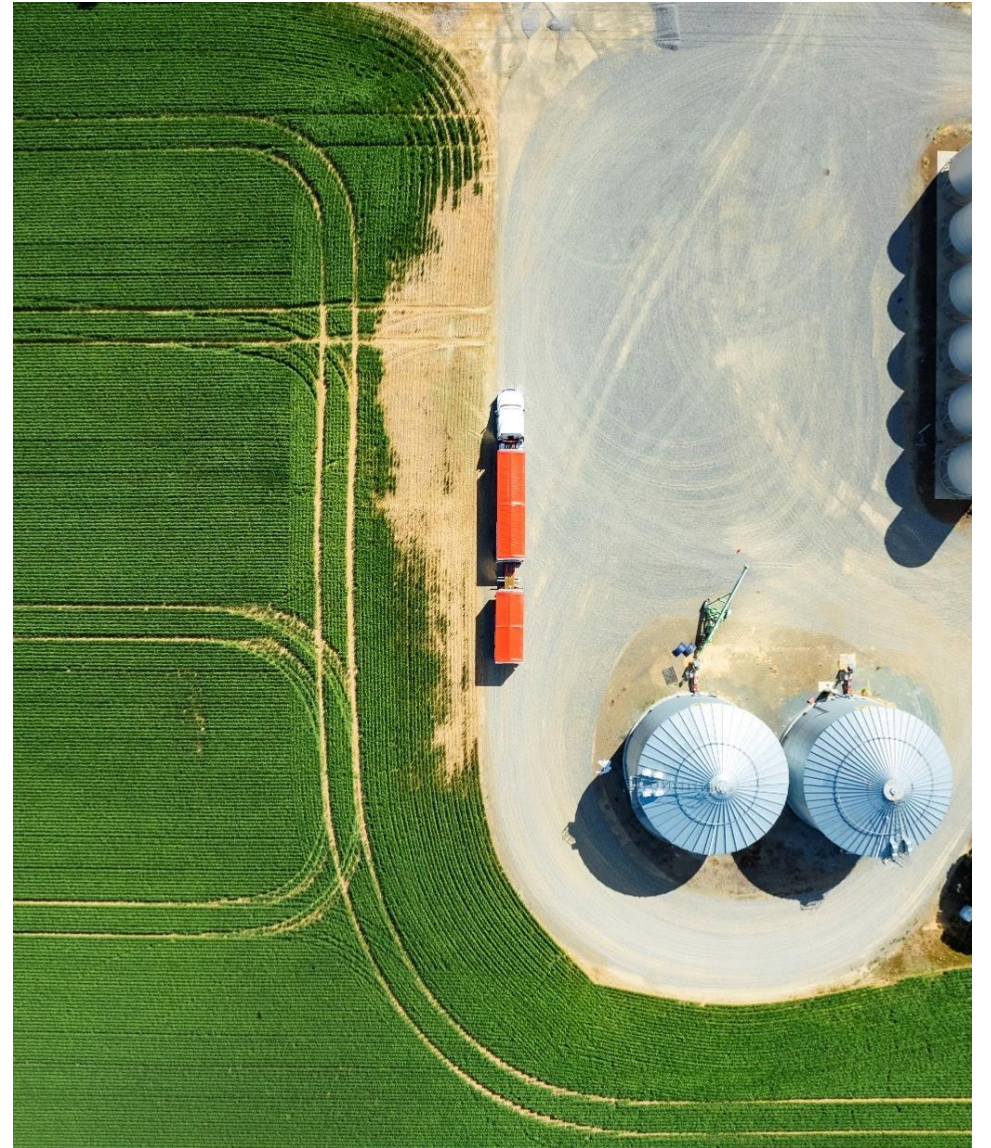
# 2026-27 Budget support: Biosecurity and animal welfare

\$16.9 million to bolster Victoria's first line of defense against biosecurity threats and support essential animal welfare. Support programs include:

Biosecurity surveillance and early detection

Domestic and international market access

RSPCA Victoria animal welfare services



## 2026-27 Budget support: Sector initiatives

The Government will continue to support a range of programs to drive growth, from the management of established pests to the state's acclaimed beverages sector.

**\$1.8 million**

for Rural Financial  
Counselling Service

**\$2.2 million**

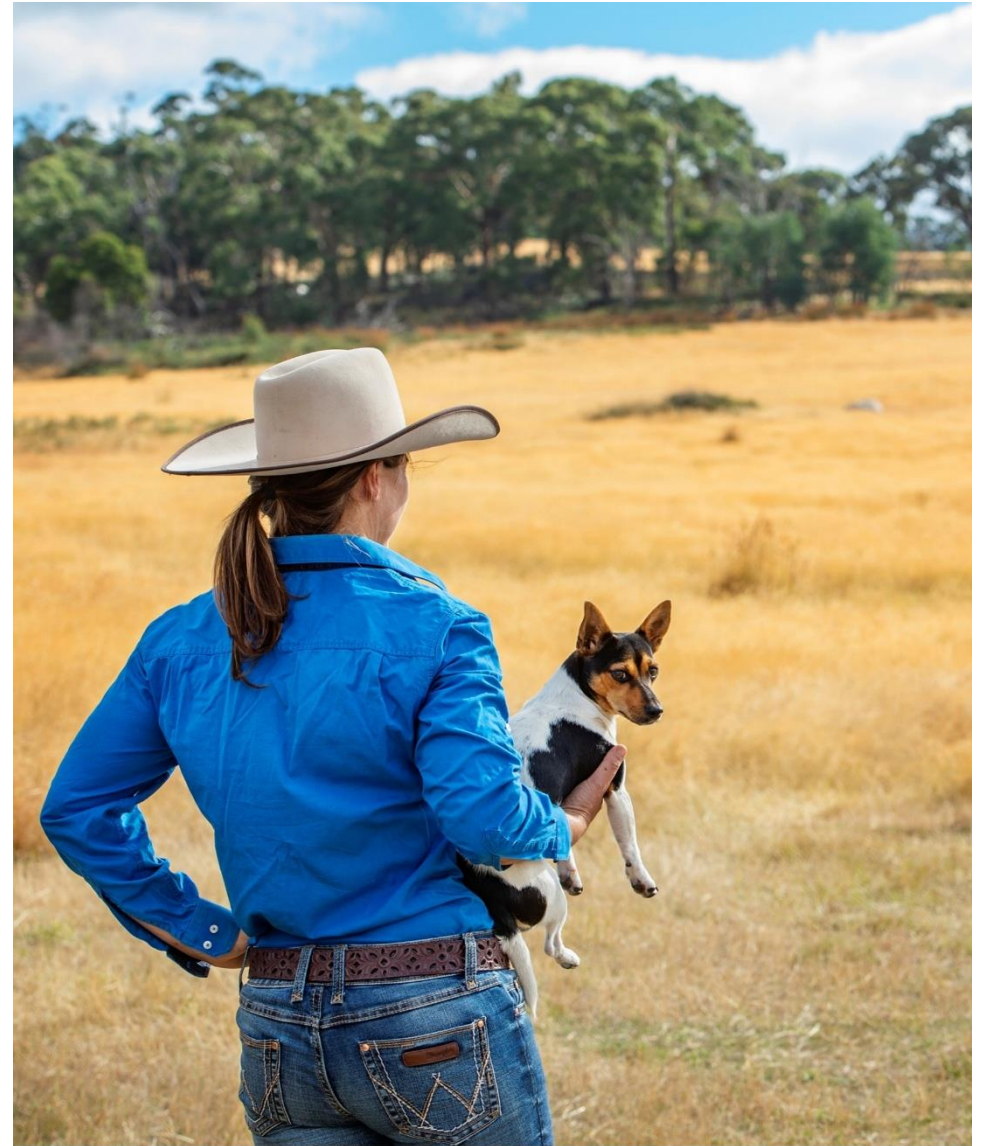
to continue the Fox  
Bounty program

**\$4.1 million**

investment in the  
people in agriculture

**\$1.6 million**

backing the beverage  
sector



# Positioning agriculture for the future

The Victorian Government continues to be on the ground protecting and growing the sector and supporting its response and recovery from natural disasters and economic disruption



Planted more than 3.5 million seedlings under the Gippsland Plantations Investment Program



Consolidated regulators under the *Safe Food Victoria Act 2026*, making it easier to grow and invest in Victoria



Supported the industry transition management of Varroa mite, exceeding all national performance targets



Delivered critical drought and fire support to farmers, through the \$146.5 million Drought Support Package and the Fire Recovery assistance program

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