

2026-27 Budget Estimates Hearing Environment Portfolio

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
19 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.



The Environment portfolio protects nature, strengthens resilience and enables economic growth

Public Land Access and Management



- **Management of Victoria's approx. 8 million hectare public land estate**, including parks, reserves and biodiversity assets.
- **Leadership of major land and parks reforms**, including establishment of new parks.
- **Delivering programs** in partnership with Traditional Owners, statutory bodies and 1,000+ Committees of Management.
- **Supporting tourism and outdoor recreation** in Victoria's public land estate.

Building a Circular Economy



- Implementing **circular economy and waste reforms** to reduce waste and support economic growth.
- Invested over \$500 million to boost local recycling capacity, improve source separation, and **create more Victorian jobs**.
- **Delivering the Container Deposit Scheme** in collaboration with Vic Return and our three Zone Operators - so far, the CDS has returned **over 3 billion containers and generated 615 jobs**

Bushfire and Emergency Management



- **Lead agency for bushfire management on public land** – prevention, preparedness, response and recovery and **wildlife emergency** response.
- Supports response to **storms, floods and other emergencies**.
- Co-ordination of **post-disaster recovery** across environment portfolio.
- Maintaining over **48,000 km** of forest roads - **24%** of all Victorian roads

Environmental Regulation and Compliance



- Wildlife and threatened species protection.
- Conservation and regulation of our natural environment.
- Environment protection and regulation of **waste and recycling sector**.
- Facilitation of **faster and better environmental assessments and planning approvals** while protecting Victoria's unique biodiversity.

The 2026-27 Budget is safeguarding what makes our state special

This Budget invests \$269.7 million to strengthening bushfire resilience, protecting the environment, and supporting Victorians to enjoy nature

- **Bushfire prevention response and recovery**

- **Access to enjoy parks and nature**

- **Protecting the environment**

- **\$146.8 million** to secure critical aviation fire services
- **\$44.5 million** to maintain critical assets for emergency and land management
- **\$25.6 million** for bushfire prevention through more planned burning and other fuel management activities.
- **\$5.0 million** to cover waste levy fees, to support fire-affected residents to clean up their property and dispose of waste free of charge



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- **Bushfire prevention response and recovery**

- **\$15.5 million** for Zoos Victoria Kids Go Free

- **\$10.0 million** to manage Victoria's forests

- **\$7.9 million** to enhance Great Ocean Road visitor facilities

- **\$5.7 million** to secure quality water supply and support Alpine Resorts Victoria's future as a key tourist destination

- **\$1.7 million** to help more Victorians access and make use of our open spaces

- **Access to enjoy parks and nature**

- **Protecting the environment**



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- **Bushfire prevention response and recovery**

- **Access to enjoy parks and nature**

- **Protecting the environment**

- **\$3.0 million** for the implementation of Traditional Owner Agreements
- **\$2.1 million** for faster, fit for purpose environmental assessments and approvals
- **\$1.9 million** to extend the Detox Your Home program



The Government is helping Victorians enjoy the great outdoors and supporting local economies

Investing in the Environment portfolio creates jobs, promotes outdoor recreation, and helps to protect and conserve Victoria's unique natural assets

\$1.4 billion annual spend by tourists and 14,000 jobs (FTE)

are underpinned by investments in Victoria's parks.

\$25 million

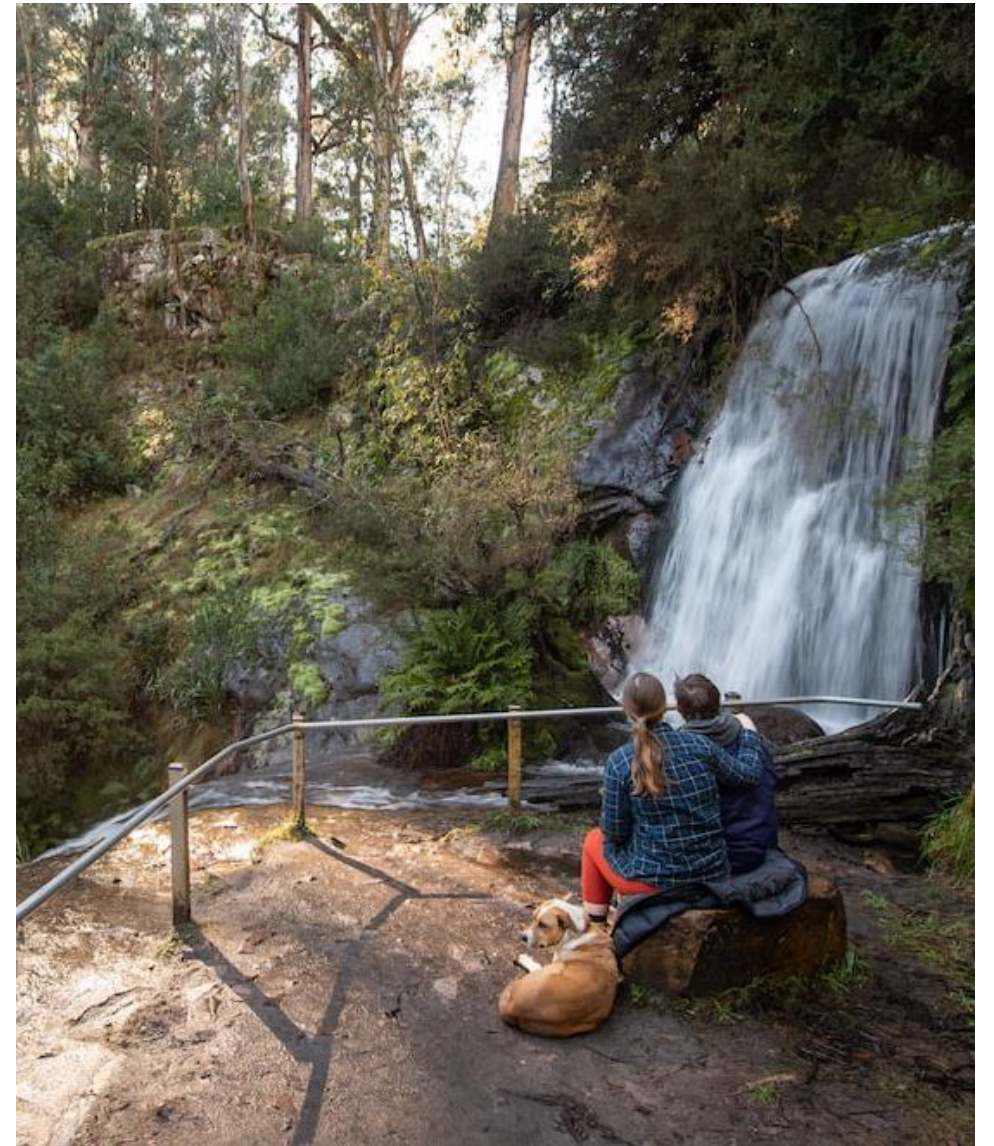
will promote outdoor recreation and drive Victoria's visitor economy through Zoos Victoria Kids Go Free, enhancement of Great Ocean Road visitor facilities and upgrades to playgrounds and other community facilities in open spaces across Victoria.

\$30 million

will open up 1.8 million hectares of state forests in Gippsland and North East Victoria, with better tracks, trails and amenities to support regional tourism and recreation.

\$31 million investment

supports a clean and healthy natural environment through tackling illegal dumping and planting 500,000 more trees across Melbourne.



Investment in preparedness and mitigation reduces long term costs and keeps communities safer

The Budget invests \$217 million boost to strengthen firefighting capability and preparedness to make Victoria and Victorians safer from bushfires



Investment in bushfire mitigation and rapid response avoids long-term costs. Annual economic loss from bushfires is projected to double to \$387 million by 2050.



The Budget invests in aviation resources, heavy plant and machinery, better and safer ultralight tankers, and maintenance of radio communications and the fleet of forest firefighting vehicles.



This investment includes \$25.6 million of 2025-26 supplementation funding provided to support additional planned burns and fuel management activities in the 2026 autumn period.





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