

Steve Dimopoulos MP Minister for Environment



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
2025-26 Budget Estimates Hearing
10 June 2025



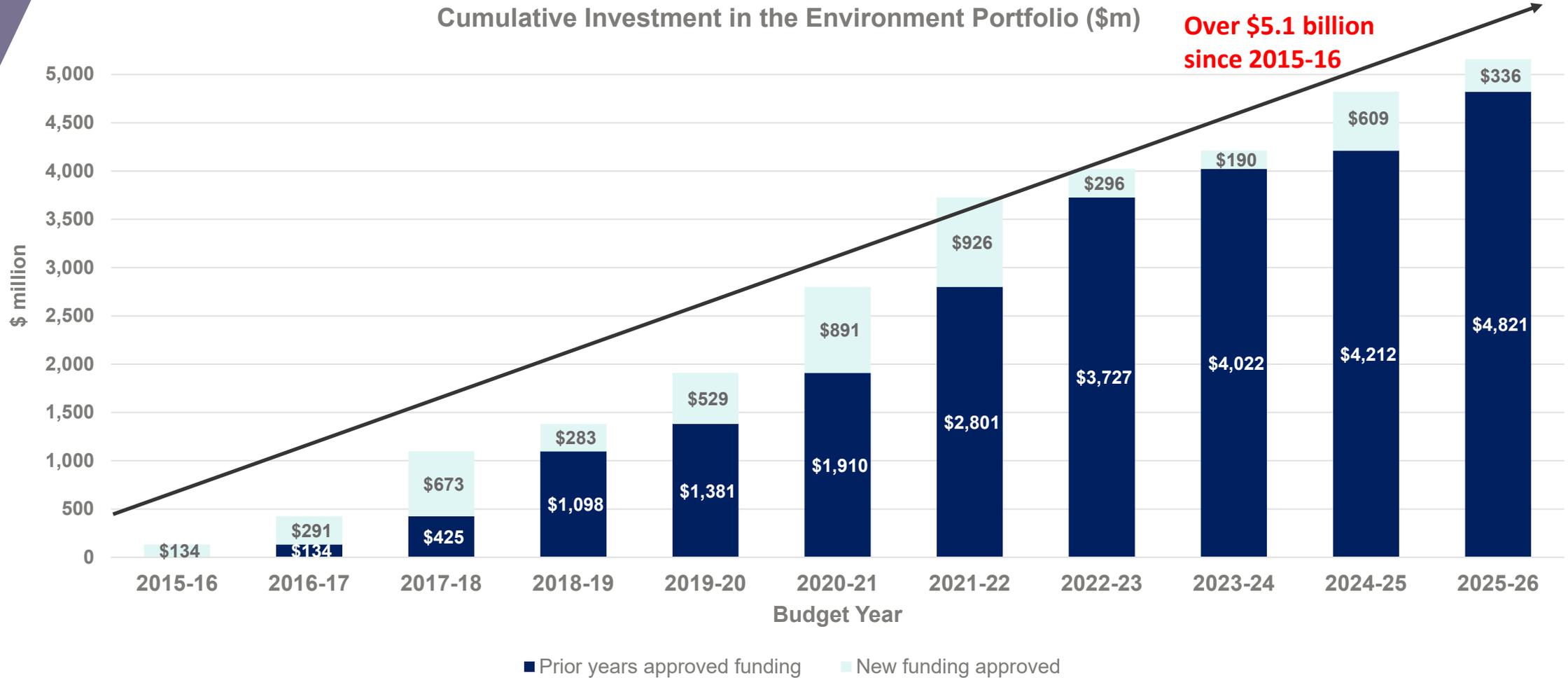
Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

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.

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

Investment in the Environment Portfolio



The **2025-26 Budget** has delivered additional investment of **\$336 million** for Environment-related initiatives.

This results in an investment with over **\$5.1 billion** since the 2015-16 Budget.

\$29.7 million for additional firefighting aviation resources to support the State's firefighting capability during the 2024-25 bushfire season.

\$23.5 million to complete additional planned burns and other fuel management activities across autumn 2025. Locations will be guided by the Joint Fuel Management Program, which was developed in consultation with Traditional Owners and other key stakeholders including local councils, wineries, beekeepers, flora and fauna specialists and Victoria's tourism industry.

\$48.3 million* to address recovery needs from the Western Victoria bushfires.



* Note some of the initiatives included may be cost-shared with the Commonwealth under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Estimates of the Commonwealth's contribution are yet to be determined. The total includes some funding that contributes to the Water portfolio output.

Improving access and protecting public land

\$15.3 million to continue the Kids Go Free Program, supporting children under 16 years of age to enjoy free admission to Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary, Kyabram Fauna Park and Werribee Open Range Zoo on weekends, public holidays and during school holidays.

\$10.5 million to support half-price camping at all of Parks Victoria's 131 paid campgrounds from 1 July 2025 until 30 June 2027.

\$6.0 million to support nature based tourism and the environment in the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks including funding for the new Twelve Apostles Visitor Experience Centre.



\$8.4 million to continue joint land management of the Barmah National Park in partnership with the Yorta Yorta people.

\$9.2 million for the Vertebrate Species Management Program to manage the increasing spread of foxes, feral pigs, goats and rabbits, and to reduce the negative impacts of these pest animals on agricultural production, biosecurity and Victoria's unique biodiversity.

\$3.8 million is provided for the Liwik Barring Landscape Conservation Area in Yellingbo. In addition, visitor facilities at Haining Farm will be improved and trail and signage works will be undertaken at Liwik Barring.

\$2.1 million for a package of initiatives that seek to protect Victorian wildlife including continuing the Wildlife Hotline to respond to reports of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife across the State. Funding is also provided for the Faraday Church Wildlife Shelter.

\$0.8 million for the coordination and commissioning of kangaroo population modelling, surveys and harvest models.



Strengthening our regulators and environmental health

\$124.9 million for the Environment Protection Authority to ensure it can continue to protect Victoria's environment from pollution and waste and fulfil its obligations under the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.

\$1.9 million is provided to maintain safety and environmental health on Victoria's parks and public lands.

\$1.9 million to maintain existing capacity for dedicated technical expertise and case management support for the environmental assessment processes associated with renewable energy projects.



\$17.4 million to support recovery efforts and address critical short-term public safety and access concerns following the August to September 2024 storm events.

\$17.3 million to continue the Landcare and Coastcare volunteer programs, enabling Victorian communities to engage in environmental conservation and help address biodiversity loss. Funding is also provided for tree planting in open spaces around Preston and Reservoir stations to address the low level of tree cover and improve existing green spaces

\$0.4 million to improve local nature-based experiences across Victoria.

\$5.0 million for a contribution towards heritage repairs and maintenance for Luna Park Melbourne's Luna Palace building.

