

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee



2024–25 Financial and Performance Outcomes Questionnaire

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

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Introduction – Financial and Performance Outcomes Questionnaire

The Committee's inquiry into the 2024–25 Financial and Performance Outcomes examines:

- the Government's actual versus budgeted expenditure and revenue
- the actual versus target performance outcomes at a departmental/agency level
- other expenditure unforeseen at the time of preparing the 2024–25 Budget, and outcomes achieved.

The inquiry aims to benefit the Parliament and the community by:

- promoting the accountability, transparency and integrity of the executive and the public sector
- encouraging the effective and efficient delivery of public services and assets.

This questionnaire seeks information on the departmental/agency financials for the 2024–25 financial year, what was achieved during the year and how that compares to expectations.

Timeline and format

Responses to this questionnaire are due by **5.00pm on Thursday 13 November 2025**.

Please email the completed questionnaire (in word and pdf) to paec@parliament.vic.gov.au

Consistency with the budget papers

When referring to an initiative/program/project that is in the budget papers, please use the same name as is used in the budget papers. This ensures that the Committee can correlate the information provided by the department with the information in the budget papers.

Basis of consolidation

For departments, please use the same basis of consolidation as was used in the budget papers and in the budget portfolio outcomes statement in the department's annual report.

Guidance

Please contact the secretariat should you require guidance in relation to any questions:

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Section A: Output variances and program outcomes

Question 1 (all departments) Completed output initiatives from past budgets

For all initiatives that were completed in 2024–25 please provide details of the expected outcomes for the community and the actual outcomes achieved to date. Please use initiatives names as specified in *Budget Paper No. 3: Service Delivery* and link the initiative to the responsible output(s) and portfolio(s).

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
	Budget year	Funding allocated (\$m)				
Agricultural College Modernisation Program	2020-21 Budget	50.0	June 2025	<p>The Agricultural College Modernisation Program (ACMP) was designed to support the Victorian agriculture sector to develop the skills required for the future, and to help more Victorians pursue careers in the sector. The ACMP was comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Fund: to build new, and upgrade existing, accommodation and teaching facilities at Victoria's three agriculture colleges: Longerenong College (near Horsham), Marchus Oldham College (Geelong) and University of Melbourne's Dookie campus (near Shepparton) to increase the colleges' capacity to accommodate additional students. 	<p>Outcomes achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Fund: the infrastructure projects increased the Victorian Agriculture Colleges' capacity to accommodate students by providing an additional 160 beds, as well as other on-campus upgrades to support engagement and retention of students and the colleges' capacity to deliver world class training. The new facilities have also been used to provide accommodation for emergency response. Skills Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported TAFEs and other training organisations to deliver high quality, modern and flexible training programs to ensure students can pursue careers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
	Budget year	Funding allocated (\$m)				
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Agriculture Skills Capacity Fund (Skill Fund): to develop training required to meet the future skills needs of the agriculture sector with funding provided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian TAFEs and other agriculture education and training providers and secondary schools to update curriculum, programs, equipment and technology; farm businesses to develop improved business planning skills through training and information provision; and First Nations' focused initiatives to ensure agriculture training is culturally safe for First Nations people to attract and support their increased connection to agricultural careers. 	<p>in agriculture. The program engaged 2,400 TAFE and school students (undertaking vocational courses within their regular schooling) across the 13 projects funded for delivery. Outcomes included updated curriculum design and delivery, equipment, and skills to support increased adoption of ag-tech.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported 42 projects that delivered vocational and applied learning programs and experience for 11,000 students across 278 secondary schools. Delivered 2,639 participant engagements with farm businesses including 997 business planning sessions and 639 intensive learning sessions. 582 farm businesses developed a farm business plan and 1,003 attended one-off events. 	

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
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Gippsland Offshore Wind Transmission Project	2024-25 Budget Update	12.5	June 2025	Funding was provided to progress development of the Gippsland Offshore Wind Transmission Project to support future offshore wind energy generation.	The Environmental Effects Statement progressed with scoping requirements published by the Impact Assessment Unit, the delivery case was developed and approved, and a project study area published.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy output. • Energy and Resources portfolio.
Zero interest loans for solar home batteries	2024-25 Budget	6.1	June 2025	Funding was provided to support eligible households with interest-free loans of up to \$8,800 to install solar battery storage systems in their homes.	<p>The battery loans program commenced on 1 July 2023 with more than 2,000 applications approved in 2023-24. As of the program's conclusion on 30 June 2025, the program has approved 5,073 battery loan applications, also exceeding the 2,500 target for 2024-25.</p> <p>The interest free loan of up to \$8,800 significantly reduced the up-front costs of a battery, which can be in excess of \$10,000. Solar Homes customers can save around \$500 a year on energy bills through use of power generated by their own solar PV systems and can double those savings to up to \$1,000 by maximising their use of the solar power generated through the day to avoid paying retail electricity prices. Customers could then add to their solar panel savings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Victoria output. • Energy and Resources portfolio.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
	Budget year	Funding allocated (\$m)				
					with a solar battery, saving up to an additional \$650 per year, providing a significant return on investment while reducing household energy bills for the long term.	
Establishing VicGrid	2024-25 Budget	12.5	June 2025	Funding was provided to support VicGrid's transmission planning reforms, including establishing VicGrid as the transmission planner for Victoria; and to continue policy development and engagement to support implementing the new Victorian Transmission Investment Framework.	<p>The Establishing VicGrid program delivered a second stage of legislative reform to implement the balance of the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF). Key features of this legislation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishing VicGrid as a State Business Corporation to take on electricity transmission network planning and procurement functions, new responsibilities for network access arrangements and community benefits, and to perform its commercial functions such as setting and recovering Transmission Use of System (TUoS) charges. a new Victorian Access Regime which will encourage new renewable energy infrastructure to be developed in renewable energy zones, supporting the orderly siting of infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy output. Energy and Resources portfolio.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
	Budget year	Funding allocated (\$m)				
					<p>and improving investment certainty for project proponents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> benefits for communities and Traditional Owners impacted by new transmission and renewable energy infrastructure. <p>The reforms enabled by the program will ultimately benefit all Victorians by facilitating the transmission infrastructure needed to connect new renewable generation in order to meet Victoria's commitments to net zero emissions and address the impacts of coal generation closure. The reforms will improve investment certainty for project proponents and deliver lasting benefits to Victorian Traditional Owners and communities.</p> <p>In September 2025, the Victorian parliament passed a Bill to implement Stage 2 VTIF reforms and support the establishment of VicGrid as a State Business Corporation.</p>	

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
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VicGrid functions and delivering the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework	2023-24 Budget	20.6	June 2025	Funding was provided to VicGrid to coordinate transmission planning and investment in Victoria via a fit-for-purpose framework that incorporates community and stakeholder engagement.	<p>The VicGrid functions and delivering the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework program delivered the first stage of legislative reform to implement the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing VicGrid as an Administrative Office of DEECA as an interim step to prepare VicGrid to take on electricity transmission network planning and procurement functions, new responsibilities for network access arrangements and community benefits, and to perform its commercial functions. Legislating a new Victorian Transmission Planning Objective and delivering the draft Victorian Transmission Plan which was finalised and published in August 2025. The Victorian Transmission Plan is a long-term strategic plan for transmission development in Victoria designed to make sure the right amount of energy infrastructure is built in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy output. Energy and Resources portfolio.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
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					<p>right places at the right time to keep Victorians connected to reliable, affordable power as coal retires.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for regulations to make payments to landholders hosting new transmission infrastructure. • Enabling the CEO, VicGrid to support the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) on major electricity transmission projects such as VNI West, Marinus Link and Offshore Wind. <p>In 2024-25, the program, together with additional funding from the 2024-25 Budget 'Establishing VicGrid' program, supported Stage 2 of the VTIF reforms.</p> <p>The reforms enabled by the VTIF will ultimately benefit all Victorians by enabling anticipatory investment, facilitating the transmission infrastructure needed to connect new renewable generation in order to meet Victoria's commitments to net zero</p>	

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
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					<p>emissions and to address the impacts of coal generation closure. The reforms will improve investment certainty for project proponents and deliver lasting benefits to Victorian Traditional Owners and communities.</p> <p>The first stage of VTIF legislation was passed by the Victorian Parliament in May 2024. The second stage of legislation was passed by the Victorian Parliament in September 2025.</p>	
Environmental watering infrastructure to restore Victorian high value sites in southern Murray Darling Basin floodplains and waterways	2024-25 Budget	9.7	June 2025	Funding was provided to ensure effective governance, management and environmental monitoring requirements for water supply and efficiency projects that aim to improve water infrastructure and delivery systems and deliver against the Murray Darling Basin Plan. The funding also supports Traditional Owner self-determined land and water aspirations for management of floodplains. Ongoing ecological monitoring requirements understood and used to inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (MER) plans for the Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project (VMFRP) with North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and Mallee CMA. Incorporation of outcomes of the environmental regulatory approvals processes for Environment Effects (EE) Act and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) Act requirements and completion of additional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Water Management and Supply output. Water Portfolio.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
	Budget year	Funding allocated (\$m)				
				adaptive management at all sites.	<p>ecological baseline monitoring requirements and data captured within central database held by Arthur Rylah Institute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately skilled staff engaged within DEECA Statewide Infrastructure Projects to provide oversight and governance in a transparent and accountable manner. • Empower and support Traditional Owners to identify floodplain aspirations and activities so potential Traditional Owner benefits of the VMFRP are realised. 	
Energy Resilience Solutions	2022-23 Budget	7.5	March 2025	Install 24 energy backup systems for towns heavily affected by prolonged power outages.	All 24 installations now complete with funding agreements closed. Community energy hubs across Victoria have been equipped with solar panels, batteries and generators that provide power back up for a minimum 15 hours during severe storm events to keep essential services running during prolonged power outages. The energy hubs are located in high-risk areas for severe weather impacts like the Yarra Ranges, Gippsland, Dandenong Ranges and along the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy output. • Energy and Resources portfolio.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
	Budget year	Funding allocated (\$m)				
					Great Ocean Road. The hubs have already had a positive impact with a number of systems kicking in, including in the neighbouring towns of Emerald and Gembrook – during the February 2024 storms.	
Community Microgrids and Sustainable Energy Program	2022-23	7.0	August 2024	Support three towns (Mallacoota, Corryong and Omeo) in Eastern Victoria with energy backup systems that were heavily impacted by bushfires causing prolonged outages.	The Community Microgrids and Sustainable Energy Program has supported the installation of a mix of solar, batteries, generators and other distributed energy resources for a range of buildings. Seventeen systems have now been installed at essential service, commercial and industrial buildings, and 65 residential systems completed that include 18 heat-pumps in Mallacoota. The energy back-up systems provide a reliable power supply and build energy-resilient rural communities. The microgrids and energy back-up systems provide crucial back-up power in the event of a power outage caused by a bushfire and other extreme weather events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy output. • Energy and Resources portfolio.
Emergency Management Sector Reform	2021-22 Budget	2.5	June 2025	This initiative will deliver projects to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that emergency management staff are 	DEECA provided strategic policy advice to inform Emergency Management Sector reform initiatives via the State Crisis and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire and Emergency Management output.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
	Budget year	Funding allocated (\$m)				
				<p>appropriately trained and accredited to carry out emergency management roles; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure that relevant information is provided to the community in times of emergency. 	<p>Resilience Council, the Policy and Strategy Sub-Committee and the State Emergency Management Planning Committee.</p> <p>DEECA worked with the sector on implementation of the Emergency Management Operating Model Review, including the co-design of the Full-time Incident Management teams project and delivery of an options paper (with Emergency Management Victoria). This included support for DEECA executive representation on the Operating Model Review Project Control Board.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment portfolio.
Deliver the Commonwealth's Energy Bill Relief	2024-25 Budget Update	4.3	May 2025	Funding was provided to support payments to residents and small businesses as part of the Commonwealth's Energy Bill relief program. This program provides rebates on electricity bills of \$300 for residential customers and \$325 for small business customers.	Victorian households in embedded networks were able to access energy bill relief by submitting an application via the Victorian Energy Compare website. Eligible embedded network customers received a one-off payment of \$300. Small businesses in embedded networks could also access the payment via an application on the Victorian Energy Compare website, to receive a one-off payment of \$325. Between 7 October 2024 and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy output. Energy and Resources portfolio.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
	Budget year	Funding allocated (\$m)				
					31 May 2025, over 35,000 embedded network customers applied for the Energy Bill Relief program.	
CERES Environment Park – Community Enterprise Precinct Plan	2023-24 Budget	1.0	December 2024	Funding was provided to progress the Community Enterprise Precinct Plan at CERES Environment Park.	CERES received funding for the Community Enterprise Precinct Plan at CERES Environment Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Biodiversity output. • Environment portfolio.
Doing what matters for local communities – environment	2023-24 Budget	0.7	June 2025	Funding was provided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the Southern Otway Landcare Network and Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups to continue protecting and preserving the local environment and to promote sustainable land management in those regions; and • support Parklands Albury Wodonga with a grant to perform conservation works along the Murray and Kiewa Rivers. 	The Landcare groups delivered community action for nature including seed collection and propagation, revegetation, weed control and protection of 1.8-hectare site. More than 150 community education sessions and field days were held with 1,900 participants. Increased capacity for landscape restoration was achieved through improvements to community nursery, and development of systems for monitoring future revegetation projects. Parklands Albury Wodonga have completed these conservation works along the Murray and Kiewa rivers with fencing, weed control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Public Land and Forests output. • Environment portfolio.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
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					and revegetation, as well as community engagement activities.	
Protecting our Faunal Emblems	2023-24 Budget	2.0	June 2025	Funding was provided for grant programs that help to improve the long-term sustainability of Victoria's endangered faunal emblem species.	The Leadbeater's Possum and Helmeted Honeyeater, Victoria's critically endangered faunal emblems, were supported through over 16 key projects across 2023–25. Achievements included installing artificial hollows with high occupancy by Leadbeater's Possum, continuing supplementary feeding for Helmeted Honeyeaters, securing 28 hectares of permanently protected habitat, preparing for the planting of 90,000 seedlings at Yellingbo, progressing construction of a 33-hectare predator-free Safe Haven, and identifying new habitat restoration sites linking to the Birrarung–Yarra River.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Biodiversity output. Environment portfolio.
Securing environmental protection	2023-24 Budget	2.0	June 2025	Funding was provided for environment protection policy capability to identify and mitigate emerging environmental challenges.	Policy work was undertaken to assess and implement the federal government's Industrial Chemical Management Standards into Victoria framework. Policy advice to Government was provided in the areas of waste, air quality, contaminated land, noise, the Environment Protection Act,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Biodiversity output. Environment portfolio.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
	Budget year	Funding allocated (\$m)				
					regulations and Environmental Reference Standard.	
Emergency animal disease preparedness	2022 Victorian Economic and Fiscal Update	18.6	June 2025	To enable Victorian Government departments and agencies to strengthen Victoria's preparedness to respond to a major emergency animal disease (EAD) outbreak, in light of the significantly increased risk of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) or Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) entering Australia.	<p>Preparedness activities were delivered under four main themes, including: policy and programs, communication, systems and workforce and skills.</p> <p>Key achievements of this program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing the EAD Taskforce, comprising representatives from all support agencies to oversee and support the delivery of the work program. • Progressing the acquisition of critical operations equipment such as mobile incident control centres and other equipment. • Finalising the EAD Surge workforce strategy and working to develop a sustainable emergency surge workforce. • Developing e-learns, webinars and other training material for Agriculture Victoria staff, Victorian Public Service (VPS) and industry. • Boosting Agriculture Victoria's capability to track and monitor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture output. • Agriculture portfolio.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
	Budget year	Funding allocated (\$m)				
					<p>livestock movements in the event of an outbreak, by completing the development of an on-line livestock movement permitting system, and completing key enhancements to Agriculture Victoria's biosecurity data system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing laboratory capacity to manage a surge in testing. A mobile laboratory van (LabVan), Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionisation Time-of-Flight (MALDI-TOF) mass-spectrometer, liquid handler, PCR sequencer, AssistPlus pipetting robot, and other laboratory equipment were purchased and received by Agriculture Victoria staff in June 2023. 	
Victoria's Fruit Fly Strategy	2021-22 Budget	6.4	June 2025	<p>Victoria's Fruit Fly Strategy 2021-2025 was developed to guide Victoria's transition to the management of Queensland fruit fly as a widespread and endemic pest.</p> <p>The Strategy focused on a shared and collaborative approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants were provided to the Greater Sunraysia, Yarra Valley and Goulburn Murray Valley Queensland fruit fly (QFF) Governance groups. Grants funded regional coordinators, and enabled the groups to remove host trees, monitor fruit fly populations, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio.

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
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				between government, industry and the community, and building awareness and capability for effective fruit fly control.	<p>manage hot spots, and educate community groups, nurseries, and rural supply stores about fruit fly management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive e-learning platform to provide ongoing training for agronomists and nursery staff who work with regional communities, workshops to reach communities where English is a second language, and a comprehensive practical booklet Fruit fly management for Fruit and Vegetable growers. • Program outputs over the life of the Strategy included removal of approximately 51,022 host trees, 58 radio and television interviews, 894 social media posts, 133 articles, and 228 events with 12,579 people. • The initiative also funded statewide communication and coordination, engagement and program delivery including administration of the grants program. 	

Initiative	Year and funding allocated		Actual date of completion (month and year)	Expected outcomes	Actual outcomes	Output(s) and portfolio(s)
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Climate Ready Agriculture	2022-23 Budget	1.4	June 2025	<p>To continue to deliver the Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) Program (2020-2025), jointly funded through the Commonwealth's Future Drought Fund. Key outcomes include delivering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nine regional drought resilience plans; and • nine regional implementation grants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine regional drought resilience plans were published, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gippsland, Goulburn and Wimmera Southern Mallee – August 2023. ○ Central Highlands, Barwon and Great South Coast – September 2024. ○ Mallee, Loddon Campaspe and Ovens Murray – December 2024. • Nine regional implementation grants were awarded and funding expended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture output. • Agriculture portfolio.

Question 2 (all departments) Program outcomes

Outcomes reflect the impact on the community of the goods and services provided by a department. The questions in this section relate to the outcomes that the department contributed to in 2024–25.

- a) Using the table below, please outline the five programs that delivered the most important outcomes in the community¹ achieved by the department in 2024–25, including:
- The name of the program
 - The output(s) and portfolio(s) responsible for delivery of the program
 - The program objectives
 - The actual outcome achieved
 - The actions taken to deliver the actual outcome (i.e. the most important elements/essential parts that led the department to deliver the outcome).

Program		Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program objectives	Description of actual outcome achieved	Description of the actions taken to deliver the actual outcome
1.	Container Deposit Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling output. Environment portfolio. 	Reduction of litter and a cleaner stream of recyclable containers.	<p>Since scheme commencement in November 2023, over 2 billion eligible containers have been returned, with more than 1.94 billion returned as at 30 June 2025.</p> <p>Containers collected through the scheme are highly sought after as they are a clean stream of recycling. A total of 1,282.5 million containers (63,198.2 tonnes) of scheme material was sold to recycling companies in 2024-25.</p>	<p>Recycling Victoria oversees and regulates the Container Deposit scheme to ensure its efficient operation. VicReturn is the scheme coordinator, with Return-It, TOMRA Cleanaway and Visy the three zone operators.</p> <p>Engagement with the scheme has been encouraged through the Feel Like a Million Bucks advertising campaign, Win a Million Cents competition campaign, and sporting partnerships with the AFL, Cricket Victoria and Tennis</p>

¹ 'Outcomes' are the impact of service delivery on the community rather than a description of the services delivered. An outcome could be considered important for a variety of reasons, such as the amount of funding allocated to the program, the public interest in the service or goods being delivered or where particular actions taken by the Department delivered improved outcomes.

Program		Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program objectives	Description of actual outcome achieved	Description of the actions taken to deliver the actual outcome
				Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme has generated over 600 jobs to 30 June 2025 across Victoria.	Australia. Multicultural event opportunities have seen the scheme coordinator engage with a range of community partners including for events around Diwali, Chinese Lunar New year and with groups like the Vietnamese Women's Association to increase participation in culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
2.	Develop local parks, playgrounds and dog parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Public Land and Forests output. • Environment portfolio. 	Funding was provided for the increased demand for open space for recreational use arising from population growth and higher population density; and projects that will optimise and revitalise the quality, safety, amenity, shared use, accessibility and function of the existing open space network.	<p>DEECA worked with public land managers across 11 locations to commence the planning for new and upgraded local parks and playgrounds in Victoria.</p> <p>DEECA worked with local councils across Victoria over two funding rounds to fund 45 new and upgraded dog Parks across Victoria.</p>	<p>Through the Better Parks and Playgrounds Program, DEECA delivered funding to 11 public land managers to revitalise and enhance community play spaces across Victoria. Program guidelines set clear expectations for accessibility, safety, shared use and amenity with funding agreements requiring strong community consultation and delivery by set timeframes. By requiring the majority of grant funding to be directed to construction, DEECA ensured that tangible, high-quality upgrades were achieved that improve liveability in high-growth and high-density neighbourhoods.</p> <p>The New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program was implemented in two funding rounds, providing grants to 45 projects across Victoria to</p>

Program		Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program objectives	Description of actual outcome achieved	Description of the actions taken to deliver the actual outcome
					establish new or upgraded dog parks. Projects were assessed against published program guidelines, which prioritised safety, accessibility, and amenity features such as fencing, shade, seating, water fountains, lighting and agility equipment. DEECA partnered with councils to confirm suitable sites, supported community engagement processes, and entered into funding agreements with milestone-based reporting to monitor delivery.
3.	Deliver the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy output. Energy and Resource portfolio. 	To continue to support Victorian households and business to reduce their energy consumption through energy efficiency upgrades.	<p>Actual outcomes achieved include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 348,000 discounted energy efficient upgrades were delivered to households and businesses. The program provided discounts to businesses and households undertaking energy upgrades to buildings, appliances and equipment. 8.2 million Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates (VEECs) were registered, some of which will be surrendered in future years. 	<p>New electrification activities including hot water, and space heating and cooling are increasing the supply of VEECs, and continued growth in their uptake is expected.</p> <p>The VEU program has introduced incentives for households to upgrade their gas cooktops to energy efficient induction cooktops, and reviewed and revised whitegoods activities including refrigerators, freezers, televisions and clothes dryers, making these easier to access.</p>
4.	Deliver the Safer Together Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management. 	Deliver the Safer Together program in partnership with the sector and communities to deliver improved	Delivered an integrated, cross-sector program of bushfire risk management activities in line with	Through the Safer Together program, governance and multi-agency collaboration delivered

Program		Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program objectives	Description of actual outcome achieved	Description of the actions taken to deliver the actual outcome
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment portfolio. 	bushfire risk management outcomes.	sector priorities aligned with Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy.	<p>bushfire risk reduction activities across fuel management, fire ecology, community engagement, bushfire planning, research, and modelling streams of work.</p> <p>The Safer Together program supports the sector to collectively progress the outcomes of Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy and the accompanying Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework.</p>
5.	Deliver the Gippsland Plantations Investment Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio. 	The \$120 million Gippsland Plantations Investment Program (GPIP) is a key part of Victoria's Plantation Strategy, supporting the expansion of the state's plantation timber estate as part of the managed transition away from native timber harvesting. Through this program, the Victorian Government has partnered with Hancock Victorian Plantations (HVP) to plant up to 16 million trees over a 10-year period. Trees planted under the program will also remove approximately 7.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over the next 25 years, contributing to the state's emission reduction targets.	In 2024-25, HVP purchased over 2,200 hectares of plantable land for the program and planted 1,134,360 seedlings across nearly 1,000 hectares of GPIP land during the 2024 winter planting season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided grant funding instalments in accordance with program requirements. Supported HVP to generate revenue through participation in the Australian Carbon Credit Unit scheme. By monetising carbon under the program there is a significant increase to the scale of GPIP plantings that may be incentivised by the program.

Program		Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program objectives	Description of actual outcome achieved	Description of the actions taken to deliver the actual outcome
6.	Developing Victoria's Critical Minerals Roadmap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources output. Energy and Resources portfolio. 	<p>Program objectives included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight the potential to develop Victoria's critical mineral opportunities through new geoscience information. Develop a Critical Minerals Roadmap. <p>Longer-term objectives included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To grow and diversify the Victorian mineral resources industry. Create regional jobs and investment. Generate royalty revenue streams. Assist in providing key inputs to support the transition to 'net zero' emissions. 	<p>Released new geoscience information through both 2023-24 and 2024-25 to promote opportunities for developing Victoria's critical minerals.</p> <p>On 9 December 2024, the government announced a new Critical Minerals Roadmap for Victoria to improve the state's competitive advantage, create new jobs and support manufacturing.</p> <p>The Resources Victoria regulator approved a mining licence for a Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project, located near Swan Hill in April 2025.</p> <p>The Resources Victoria regulator approved a Work Plan for Astron Corporation's Donald mineral sands project, allowing the company to make a final investment decision and progress towards production in 2026. The work plan approval allows Astron to mine 7.5 million tonnes of mineral sands per year for 19 years.</p> <p>Resources Victoria has commenced implementing the Critical Minerals</p>	<p>On 25 September 2024, a new critical minerals study was released by the Geological Survey of Victoria covering the state's north and east. The study focused on vanadium, rhenium, and rare earth elements. These critical minerals have renewable energy applications in wind turbines and grid scale batteries.</p> <p>Victoria's critical minerals potential was highlighted at the 2024 International Mining and Resources Conference. A record-breaking 9,500 delegates from more than 120 countries attended the three-day conference in late October 2024. The Geological Survey of Victoria delivered a presentation showcasing Victoria's Critical Minerals potential.</p> <p>Resources Victoria led the development of a Whole-of-Victorian Government Roadmap for Victoria's critical minerals.</p>

Program		Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program objectives	Description of actual outcome achieved	Description of the actions taken to deliver the actual outcome
				Roadmap with the Critical Minerals Coordination Office established to streamline critical minerals project approvals.	
7.	Community Rebate Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Water Management and Supply output. Water portfolio. 	Assist households in vulnerable and hardship situations and community housing properties to reduce water use and water bills.	1,605 households and community housing properties received leak repairs and water efficiency upgrades. In 2024-25, the program saved 48 megalitres of potable water, equating to average annual bill savings of \$72 per property.	DEECA administers the program and funding to all 15 Victorian urban water corporations. The water corporations deliver the program direct to eligible customers by sending out a plumber to complete a water efficiency audit, repairs and/or replacement of faulty and inefficient water fixtures and fittings such as taps, showerheads and toilets.

- b) Using the table below, please outline the five least performing programs² that did not deliver their planned outcomes in the community by the department in 2024–25, including:
- The name of the program
 - The output(s) and portfolio(s) responsible for delivery of the program
 - The program objectives
 - The actual outcome achieved
 - Explanation for not achieving the planned outcome (including a description of what actions were taken to try and achieve the planned outcome).

Program		Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program objectives	Description of actual outcome achieved	Detailed explanation for not delivering the planned outcome
1.	Bushfire management and planned burning program - stakeholder and community forums on bushfire management and planned burning held	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management. Environment portfolio. 	The program's objective in 2024-25 was to hold 12 stakeholder and community forums on bushfire management and planned burning.	In 2024-25, there were two stakeholder and community forums on bushfire management and planned burning held.	The performance was below target due to the impact of significant fires in the Grampians and Bullengarook, which resulted in the diversion of community engagement resources to bushfire response.
2.	Fire and Emergency Management program - State forests roads (Category 1) and bridges (on Category 1 roads) with documented inspections and/or maintenance programs to meet regulatory obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management. Environment portfolio. 	The program's objective in 2024-25 was to meet regulatory obligations of 100 per cent of State forests roads (Category 1) and bridges (on Category 1 roads) with documented inspections and/or maintenance programs.	In 2024-25, the actual outcome achieved was 21 per cent.	The performance was below target due to the diversion of resources to the extended bushfire season and priority planned burning activities, with the backlog to be completed in 2025-26.
3.	Neighbourhood batteries program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy output. Energy portfolio. 	The program's objective in 2024-25 was to install 25 neighbourhood batteries.	In 2024-25, nine neighbourhood batteries were installed.	The performance was behind schedule due to some projects requiring additional time to complete battery installations to enable extended community consultation at some locations;

² Note programs in this question relate to programs delivering services, and do not signify the department's five least performing performance measures.

Program		Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program objectives	Description of actual outcome achieved	Detailed explanation for not delivering the planned outcome
					and further network integration design and testing. The 2024-25 target of 25 batteries is anticipated to be reached by 30 March 2026 and the program's overall target of 100 neighbourhood batteries installed and 10,000 kWh of storage capacity created is still on track for completion by 30 June 2027.
4.	Animal pest, disease and residue control programs maintained to ensure Victorian agricultural produce complies with food safety and biosecurity standards required to access markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture output. • Agriculture portfolio. 	The program's objective in 2024-25 was to maintain five animal pest, disease and residue control programs to ensure Victorian agricultural produce complies with food safety and biosecurity standards required to access markets.	In 2024-25, three animal pest, disease and residue control programs were maintained to ensure Victorian agricultural produce complies with food safety and biosecurity standards required to access markets.	The performance was below target due to the significant redirection of resources towards managing multiple outbreaks of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Victoria in 2024 and 2025. Three programs were fully maintained, with elements of the remaining two programs being partially addressed to mitigate risks for international exports and food safety issues.
5.	Solar homes program - applications for solar PV rebates for rental households approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Victoria output. • Energy and Resource portfolio. 	The program's objective in 2024-25 was to approve 2,000 applications for solar PV rebates for rental households.	In 2024-25, 1,213 applications for solar PV rebates for rental households were approved.	The performance was below target due to lower customer demand reflecting changes in market conditions.

Question 3 (all departments) Treasurer's Advances and other budget supplementation

- a) Please identify all output(s) and portfolio(s) (and relate them to departmental programs) for which the department received additional funding after the 2024–25 Budget.

For each output, please quantify the additional funding, indicate the source of the additional funding (e.g. Treasurer's Advance, unused prior years appropriations under section 32 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* (Vic), supplementation through a Temporary Advance under section 35 of the FMA, or any possible sources of funding as listed in the Resource Management Framework (2024), (section 4)) and explain why additional funding was required after funding was allocated in the Budget. If the additional funding is a Treasurer's Advance, please also explain either how and why it was 'urgent and unforeseen' as per the RMF (section 4.4), or whether it was a contingency release.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management Output Environment Portfolio 	2024-25 Emergency bushfire responses	Delivery of emergency management related works.	0.0	156.6	Treasurer's Advance	156.6	Funding was required to deliver works for emergency events following significant bushfire activity across Victoria.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management Output Environment Portfolio 	Aviation Firefighting Resources	Access to aviation firefighting capability during the bushfire season.	0.0	29.7	Treasurer's Advance	29.7	This funding was required to supplement the department's core aviation capability and support Victoria's fire management activities. This will ensure the department has the necessary resources to support the State's firefighting capability during the bushfire season.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output 	Forestry Transition Program	To support the implementation of	0.0	29.2	Treasurer's Advance	29.2	Funding was required to support delivery of Forestry Transition programs.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Portfolio 		the Victorian Forestry Program.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Safeguarding the future of Victoria's agricultural sector and supporting animal welfare	To safeguard Victoria's agriculture sector from biosecurity threats.	0.0	27.1	Treasurer's Advance	27.1	Funding was required to support national biosecurity commitments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	Additional funding to support the Parks Authority and other agencies	To provide funding to Alpine Resorts Victoria and the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.	0.0	20.3	Treasurer's Advance	20.3	Funding was required to support the agencies' operations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	Severe weather event recovery	Working with delivery partners to address coastal storm surge impacts, safety risks and access issues along Victoria's coast as a result of the August to September 2024 severe weather events.	0.0	17.4	Treasurer's Advance	17.4	Funding was required to support recovery efforts following coastal storm damage, ensuring public safety and access to recreational areas.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management Output Environment Portfolio 	Bushfire prevention	Fuel management activities.	0.0	17.1	Treasurer's Advance	17.1	Funding was required for the fire prevention works ahead of the bushfire season including increased planned burning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Offshore Wind Program	The Victorian Government committed to achieving net zero emissions and achieving 2 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy generation capacity by 2032, 4 GW by 2035 and 9 GW by 2040. Offshore wind energy will play a critical role in achieving net zero emissions and addressing energy supply shortfalls associated with the exit of carbon intensive generation and	0.0	15.7	Treasurer's Advance	15.7	Funding was required to ensure milestone delivery of Victoria's offshore wind program, which includes the auction and support package design, coordinating enabling infrastructure and creating an offshore wind regulatory framework.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
		growing demand from households and industry.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Victoria Output Environment Portfolio 	Free Camping Trial	Free camping aligned to Victoria's national and state parks remaining accessible and affordable for families, individuals, and under-represented communities.	0.0	9.0	Treasurer's Advance	9.0	Funding was required to support the delivery of free camping in Victoria's parks from 1 December 2024 until 30 June 2025.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Drought Support Package for the South West region	To support primary producers in south west Victoria impacted by drought.	0.0	8.2	Treasurer's Advance	8.2	Funding was required to support primary producers in south west Victoria as part of the drought support package, including the On-farm Drought Infrastructure grants program and technical decision-making support.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management Environment and Biodiversity 	Disaster relief and recovery support	To address immediate short term recovery needs such as biodiversity protection, roading	0.0	5.3	Treasurer's Advance	5.3	Funding was required to support immediate recovery needs following bushfire impacts in Western Victoria.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circular Economy Output Environment Portfolio 		repairs, Parks Victoria visitor assets, and waste disposal support following the Yarram Gap Road bushfire of December 2024 – February 2025.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Supporting workers and communities with the Native Timber Harvesting Transition	To support the transition of native timber harvesting, including finalising the closure of VicForests.	156.8	5.1	Treasurer's Advance	5.1	Funding was required for the successful wind up of VicForests activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	Luna Park building works	To upgrade the Luna Palace building.	0.0	5.0	Treasurer's Advance	5.0	Funding was required for the completion of the Luna Palace building works at the Luna Park site.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management Output Environment Portfolio 	Environment Litigation Costs	Funding to support litigation costs associated with bushfire risk reduction activities.	0.0	2.8	Treasurer's Advance	2.8	Funding was required to support litigation costs associated with bushfire risk reduction activities.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Delivering the Commonwealth's Energy Bill Relief	Provide payment to eligible Victorian embedded network customers who visit the Victorian Energy Compare website.	0.0	1.8	Treasurer's Advance	1.8	Funding was required to support delivery of the Commonwealth's energy bill relief payments to Victoria's residential and small business embedded network customers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling Output Environment Portfolio 	Waste Litigation Costs	To support waste litigation.	0.0	1.4	Treasurer's Advance	1.4	Funding was required to support waste litigation costs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Regional Drought Resilience	To develop and implement regional drought resilience plans across nine regions of Victoria.	0.0	1.1	Treasurer's Advance	1.1	Funding was required to meet contractual commitments and support delivery of the regional drought resilience grants program.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) Program - Insulation upgrades	To develop a framework for the safe, managed introduction of ceiling insulation retrofits as an activity under the VEU program. As part of the activity development, Solar Victoria has	0.0	0.7	Treasurer's Advance	0.7	Funding was required to support the development of the VEU Insulation Program and the Safety and Quality Assurance Framework.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
		worked with the Energy Efficiency Council and registered training organisations to educate, train certify and expand the insulation installer workforce, consult with industry, regulators and stakeholders and establish a compliance program to ensure quality and safe work practices.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Supporting Investment in the Resources Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Critical Minerals Roadmap. Release new geoscience information to support the development of Victoria's 	0.0	0.2	Treasurer's Advance	0.2	<p>As part of the Economic Growth Statement released by the Government, new funding was allocated to support the development of the State's critical minerals sector. This program aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grow and diversify the Victorian mineral resources industry.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
		critical minerals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the coordination and facilitation of regulatory approvals by the Resources Victoria Approval Coordinator function. Work with community and Traditional Owners on a benefit sharing model. 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create regional jobs and investment. Generate royalty revenue streams. Assist in providing key inputs to support the transition to ‘net zero’ emissions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Cheaper cleaner energy to drive economic recovery - Energy Innovation Fund (EIF)	This program includes funding to attract investment in innovative energy projects that will deliver transformational benefits to Victoria, and fast	0.0	12.6	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	0.0	Funding was not utilised due to unforeseen and unavoidable factors such as global supply chain issues, uncertainties around federal government offshore wind processes and planning permit requirements. Milestone dates have been or are in the process of being

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
		track their development.					adjusted and the funding is still required over future years to meet EIF contractual obligations and targets.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program	Commonwealth funding provided to reduce impacts on local communities of natural disasters and coastal hazards.	0.0	7.9	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	1.9	Funding was required to deliver coastal hazard mitigation works and strategic planning activities to protect land and assets. The unspent funding in 2024-25 will be utilised in future years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Water Management and Supply Output Water Portfolio 	Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin	To support the delivery of milestone activities under the Murray-Darling Basin water reform program.	0.0	5.9	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	5.9	Funding was required to support the delivery of milestone activities under the Murray-Darling Basin water reform program.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling Output Environment Portfolio 	Circular Economy Infrastructure Fund	To support infrastructure projects that increase capacity and improve recovery of paper and cardboard, plastics, glass, tyres, organics, and textiles.	0.0	5.3	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	5.3	Funding was required to support Sustainability Victoria's delivery of recycling infrastructure projects.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Driving down bills with 100 neighbourhood batteries	The program's objective in 2024-25 was to install 25 neighbourhood batteries.	0.0	4.0	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	0.0	Funding was required to meet commitments made under 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program funding agreements. Some projects required additional time to complete battery installations to enable extended community consultation at some locations and further network integration design and testing. The 2024-25 target of 25 batteries is anticipated to be reached by 30 March 2026.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Future Drought Fund	To build the long-term resilience of farm businesses, farming communities and regions to drought and other climate risks.	0.0	3.6	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	3.6	Commonwealth funding carried forward from 2023-24 to deliver drought resilience and farm business support programs to the farming community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Domestic Animals Act	Victoria's domestic animal legislation encourages responsible pet ownership and protects pet welfare.	0.0	2.7	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	2.7	Funding was required to enable the department to fund priority projects relating to the administration of the Domestic Animals Act, promote responsible cat and

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
							dog ownership and animal welfare in Victoria.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	VicGrid functions and delivering the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework	To coordinate transmission planning and investment in Victoria via a fit-for-purpose framework that incorporates community and stakeholder engagement and is developed in partnership with Traditional Owners.	0.0	2.6	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	2.6	Funding was required to enable grant payments to support Victorian Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) to engage in and support the Victorian transmission planning process, and recruit renewable energy officers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar Victoria Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Solar for Apartments	Following strong interest in Round 1, funding was provided to support the continuation of the Solar for Apartments program which receives Commonwealth co-funding. The	0.0	2.5	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	0.0	Funding was required to continue delivering the Solar for Apartments program, with \$2.5 million in Commonwealth co-funding approved but not used in 2024-25. Existing program funding was sufficient to meet Round 1 and Round 2 applications in 2024-25.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
		Solar for Apartments was extended into 2024-25 to deliver a further 5,000 rebates of up to \$2,800 each to eligible apartment households.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	Wotjobaluk Traditional Owner Settlement Agreement	Implementation of Recognition and Settlement Agreements (RSA) objectives, in partnership with Traditional Owners. As a Crown land manager, DEECA has a major role in ensuring Traditional Owner rights and obligations under the RSA are adhered to.	0.0	2.5	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	2.5	Funding was required to meet the State's obligations under the Wotjobaluk Traditional Owners Settlement Agreement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output 	Cheaper cleaner energy to drive economic	The Renewable Energy Zone Development Plan	0.0	2.4	Unused prior years appropriations	0.0	Funding was required to continue to progress with the Renewable Energy Zone

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy and Resources Portfolio 	recovery - Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) projects	(RDP) Stage 1 infrastructure projects, which are funded through the Cheaper cleaner energy to drive economic recovery budget initiative, are near-term projects that reduce existing constraints on the energy network and support the connection of Victoria's pipeline of renewable energy projects.			under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994		Development Plan (RDP) Stage 1 infrastructure projects. The funding was not utilised as it was subsequently funded by the Sustainability Fund.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Horsham alternative proteins glasshouse complex and incubation hub	To build a research glasshouse complex and incubation hub at the Horsham Grains Innovation Precinct, which will deliver crop and pasture innovations for traditional and	0.0	1.8	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	1.8	Funding was required to meet the project's contractual obligations with key delivery partners.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
		alternative proteins that are climate resilient and targeted at emerging market and consumer preferences.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management Output Environment Portfolio 	Bushfire and emergency recovery - Land acquisition retreat and resettlement	To establish a Retreat and Resettlement program, facilitating the voluntary sale of principal places of residence to the Victorian Government, where property owners have experienced significant challenges in rebuilding to contemporary building and bushfire safety standards, rebuild cost and	0.0	1.5	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	1.5	Funding was required to continue supporting landowners to recover from the 2019-20 bushfires. Funding in 2024-25 supported the purchase of one further property by government and continued the work of two existing cases.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
		planning permit approvals.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Accelerating Adoption of Zero Emission Vehicles (EV)	<p>The program objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce barriers to EV uptake by facilitating the installation of EV chargers throughout Victoria; create project supply chain and local jobs, such as skills, capabilities and services across the industry; and support the transition of local council and business fleets to EVs 	0.0	1.2	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	1.2	Funding was required to support the Accelerating Adoption of Zero Emission Vehicles program funding agreements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Building resilience to manage fruit fly	A Commonwealth grant which funded the installation of a	0.0	1.1	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32	1.1	Funding was required to support milestone payments.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
		new x-ray irradiation machine at the Steritech facility for use in phytosanitary treatments and to boost market access capability.			of the Financial Management Act 1994		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Various Commonwealth initiatives (Agriculture)	To strengthen Victoria's biosecurity system, with a focus on enhanced traceability outcomes, targeted preparedness activities and ongoing surveillance to support trade.	0.0	0.9	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	0.9	Funding was required to deliver various Commonwealth projects in line with the revised delivery schedule.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	Investing in Serendip Sanctuary and the You Yangs, Wurdi Youang	To upgrade infrastructure car parks and picnic areas, improve and create new trails for activities like mountain biking,	0.0	0.9	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	0.9	Funding was required to support Parks Victoria's management of the project in line with the revised delivery schedule.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
		and refurbish visitor and education facilities. The plan also focuses on enhancing wildlife viewing and sensory experiences, such as at the new Serendip Sensory Garden, and preserving the area's significant Aboriginal cultural heritage in partnership with Traditional Owners.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Biodiversity Output Environment Portfolio 	Environment Restoration Fund	To deliver improved water quality in the lower Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay and to educate the public about the impact of litter on marine life, including	0.0	0.8	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	0.8	Funding was required to support milestone payments for improving the health of the Yarra River and litter reduction activities.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
		threatened and migratory species.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Clean Energy Worker Training Centres	To deliver clean energy worker training centres to meet the evolving needs of the wind sector through quality, innovative and industry-responsive training that is inclusive of individuals at all skill and career levels.	0.0	0.5	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	0.0	The initiative is being delivered as grant funding, and the application and assessment process was run from April to October 2025. The funding was therefore not utilised in 2024-25.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Biosciences Research Centre	To maintain the Biosciences Research Centre via a Public Private Partnership arrangement with La Trobe University.	0.0	0.4	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	0.4	Funding was required to support the continued functionality of the Biosciences Research Centre to meet operational obligations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Cheaper electricity for Victorians - Energy Assistance Program	To deliver tailored energy affordability support to 10,000 energy consumers experiencing	0.0	0.4	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial	0.4	Funding was required to support the delivery of project activities including program evaluation and engagement activities.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
		hardship or payment difficulty.			Management Act 1994		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	Management of Public Land and Forests Parks Victoria Services-Asset and Infrastructure Management on Public Land	To create the Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park. DEECA is delivering the legislative components of the new park establishment and land acquisition. Parks Victoria are delivering the capital works program for track and trail infrastructure and improvements. Both organisations are in partnership with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (Bunurong LCAC).	0.0	0.4	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	0.4	Funding was required to support land acquisitions and park creation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and 	Liwik Barring Landscape	To conserve biodiversity and cultural values,	0.0	0.3	Unused prior years appropriations	0.3	Funding was required to support the delivery of the infrastructure program in-line

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Program objectives	Funding allocated in 2024–25 Budget	Additional funding (\$ million)	Source of additional funding as per the Resource Management Framework	Funding utilised 2024–25	Reasons why additional funding was required
Forests Output • Environment Portfolio	Conservation Area	protect and restore habitat for critically endangered species like the Helmeted Honeyeater and Lowland Leadbeater's Possum, and improve water quality.			under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994		with the revised delivery schedule.
• Effective Water Management and Supply Output • Water Portfolio	Off-farm Efficiency Program	To enable State governance and oversight of the Lower Murray Water - Water Efficiency Project, which is improving irrigation delivery systems to make them more efficient in the Sunraysia region.	0.0	0.2	Unused prior years appropriations under Section 32 of the Financial Management Act 1994	0.2	Funding was required to support the completion of the Lower Murray Water - Water Efficiency Project by 30 June 2026, in line with the revised delivery schedule. This includes State oversight and governance of the project and auditing of water savings for the environment as a Commonwealth-State contractual requirement, and as part of Victoria's obligations under the Murray Darling Basin Plan.
Total 2024–25			156.8	416.3		388.3	

b) Please provide the details of the outcomes achieved from each of these programs.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Outcomes achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management Output Environment Portfolio 	2024-25 Emergency bushfire responses	<p>Funding was required to deliver works for emergency events following significant bushfire activity across Victoria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All six DEECA regions experienced fires throughout the 2024-25 season. The largest response was in the Grampians region, where 179 fires burnt more than 235,000 hectares. The funding allocated to this program enabled delivery of on-ground emergency response to bushfires and covered costs associated with emergency response including staff overtime, meals, accommodation, plant, aircraft and other costs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management Output Environment Portfolio 	Aviation Firefighting Resources	The funding provided contributed to the availability and readiness of the Victorian aerial firefighting fleet, including contracted aircraft and helicopters, available for the period of the fire season. This included Type 1 Helicopter, Type 2 Helicopter, Type 3 Helicopter, Large Air Tanker, Light Fixed Wing, Overwatch and Single Engine Air Tanker.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Forestry Transition Program	Funding was provided to bring forward and scale up supports for businesses affected by the cessation of native timber harvesting earlier than planned on 1 January 2024.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Safeguarding the future of Victoria's agricultural sector and supporting animal welfare	<p>Funding was provided for biosecurity activities in 2024-25 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain critical biosecurity surveillance, specialist technical capability and rapid response diagnostic capability; support the Varroa mite and avian influenza biosecurity response in Victoria; and for the State's contribution to national biosecurity and response agreements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	Additional funding to support the Parks Authority and other agencies	Funding provided to the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority and Alpine Resorts Victoria to allow each organisation to meet financial and operational requirements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and 	Severe weather event recovery	<p>Funding provided to coastal Crown land managers to undertake works including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dune protection; sand renourishment; repairs to stairs, walking trails, boardwalks and access ramps; and

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Outcomes achieved
Forests Output • Environment Portfolio		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> restoration of damaged seawalls and damaged piers.
• Fire and Emergency Management Output • Environment Portfolio	Bushfire prevention	<p>The funding was required for the fire prevention works ahead of the bushfire season including increased planned burning. The funding enabled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continued delivery of the Fuel Management Program and fixed term contract extensions of Seasonal Forest and Fire Operations Officers and Fire Support Officers to provide enhanced delivery capability through the long tail of the autumn 2025 fuel management season; and delivery of an additional 50,000 hectares of planned burning from late-April through to mid-May as the drier conditions meant good burn opportunities continued later into autumn.
• Energy Output • Energy and Resources Portfolio	Offshore Wind Program	<p>Key outcomes achieved in the Offshore Wind program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the release of the Offshore Wind Energy Implementation Statement 4 in April 2025 to guide industry, stakeholders and the community on the progress of Victoria's offshore wind industry; a Registration of Interest (ROI) process was conducted with strong participation from feasibility licence holders; and publishing and opening access to the Victorian offshore wind farm feasibility access licence in the Gippsland declared area. This licence outlines the rights and obligations of developers seeking to undertake feasibility studies on public land for the purposes of connection infrastructure.
• Parks Victoria Output • Environment Portfolio	Free Camping Trial	<p>The free camping initiative made 131 of Parks Victoria's paid campgrounds free from 1 December 2024 until 30 June 2025. The initiative resulted in a 27 per cent increase in the number of nights booked between 1 December 2024 to 30 June 2025 (284,196 compared to 224,313 nights booked for the same time last year), meaning more people were getting into Victoria's great outdoors.</p>
• Agriculture Output • Agriculture Portfolio	Drought support package for the South West region	<p>Funding was provided for south west Victoria in 2024-25 and delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,900 on-farm infrastructure grants in south west local government areas; 183 activities, engaging 2,207 farmers and 1,006 service providers to support complex farm management decisions, such as supplementary feeding livestock; tailored drought management support through a one-on-one farm advisory service to 140 farmers; mental health and wellbeing support to 50 high needs clients through a dedicated wellbeing officer employed by the Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria West; 215 engagements to stakeholders, undertaken by a dedicated south west regional drought coordinator; and

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Outcomes achieved
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a small business financial counsellor appointed in the south west to support small businesses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management Environment and Biodiversity Circular Economy Output Environment Portfolio 	Disaster relief and recovery support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding delivered significant restoration and safety works to the Grampians Peak Trail, and included public safety and recovery works to visitor asset sites and roads. Funding to Parks Victoria enabled supports to vulnerable species such as the Brush Tail Rock Wallaby. This included supplementary feeding, predator controls and the installation of temporary shelters for impacted species. A waste levy and gate fee rebate allowed impacted residents to dispose of disaster waste free of charge. These collective works enabled large areas of the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park to reopen in time for the September school holidays.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Supporting workers and communities with the Native Timber Harvesting Transition	<p>Funding was provided as a part of the State's transition out of native timber harvesting given VicForests was wound up on 30 June 2024, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> finalise outstanding contractual obligations to sawmills for shortfalls in timber volume commitments; enhance support for Community Forestry and Harvest and Haulage businesses; terminate contracts with suppliers and businesses; acquit legal expenses; migrate or decommission VicForests technology and data; pay separation packages for employees; and provide support for employees including for wellbeing, career planning and relocation support.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	Luna Park building works	Due to extensive water damage, the Luna Palace building had sat closed for many years. The funding allowed refurbishments to be completed. This will expand Luna Park's operational capacity to include a function centre, increasing revenue. The investment has improved the economic viability of Luna Park by broadening its revenue stream beyond the 'ticket to ride' income currently relied on to fund heritage maintenance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management Output 	Environment Litigation Costs	Funding supported litigation costs associated with bushfire risk reduction activities.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Outcomes achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Portfolio 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Delivering the Commonwealth's Energy Bill Relief	During 2024-25, more than 35,000 Victorian embedded network customers received an Energy Bill Relief payment after submitting an application on the Victorian Energy Compare website.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling Output Environment Portfolio 	Waste Litigation Costs	Funding supported waste litigation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Regional Drought Resilience	In 2024-25, the Regional Drought Resilience Planning program (2020-2025) continued to build drought resilience across Victoria's agriculture communities by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> publishing the remaining six of nine drought resilience plans; and awarding the final six implementation grants.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) Program - Insulation upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a dedicated project team with expertise in training, risk, policy, project management and stakeholder engagement, to support the development and delivery of the proposed VEU insulation activity. Targeted consultation with stakeholders on the introduction of ceiling insulation into the VEU Program. A Memorandum of Understanding between the department and the Energy Efficiency Council to work in partnership to build the insulation workforce capability and capacity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Supporting Investment in the Resources Sector	Resources Victoria has made significant progress on implementing the Critical Minerals Roadmap, including the establishment of a Critical Minerals Coordination Office to help streamline critical minerals project approvals. A mining licence was issued for VHM Limited's Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project (located near Swan Hill) in April 2025, as a well as a Work Plan for Astron Corporation's Donald mineral sands project, allowing the company to make a final investment decision and progress towards production in 2026. The Work Plan approval allows Astron to mine 7.5 million tonnes of mineral sands per year for 19 years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Cheaper Cleaner Energy to Drive Economic Recovery - Energy Innovation Fund	The funding was not utilised due to unforeseen and unavoidable factors such as global supply chain issues, uncertainties around federal government offshore wind processes and planning permit requirements. Milestone dates have been or are in the process of being adjusted and the funding is still required over future years to meet Energy Innovation Fund contractual obligations and targets.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Outcomes achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Public Lands and Forests Output • Environment Portfolio 	Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program	<p>Funding supported coastal hazard mitigation works and strategic planning activities to protect land and assets across the state. Projects included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Cape-to-Cape Resilience Project on ground works; • Port Phillip Bay North Western Shoreline (Adapt West); • Victorian Coastal Monitoring Early Warning Program Pilot System; and • sentinel sites.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective Water Management and Supply Output • Water Portfolio 	Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All milestones were met for the 2024-25 key performance indicators, including: advice provided to the Commonwealth on approaches to deliver water recovery programs towards reaching the 450 GL/year target of additional environmental water under the Restoring our Rivers Framework, and through Victoria's <i>Planning our Basin future together</i> prospectus. • Continued collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin states via the Environmental Water Committee to deliver priority cross-jurisdictional activities, in addition to those specific to Victoria, to deliver the Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan, improve protection of environmental water and contribute to connectivity. • Policy measures for protected environmental flows enabled through the state water entitlement framework legislated under the <i>Water Act 1989</i>, primarily through the Victorian Environmental Water Holder's (VEWH) bulk and environmental entitlements. • Environmental water accounting information provided monthly to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and other environmental water holders as required for adaptive management purposes. • Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and the VEWH worked with partners (e.g. river operators, storage and land managers and Traditional Owners) and stakeholders in the planning process that informs annual state priorities for the Seasonal Watering Plan. • Contributions provided to the Basin-wide Environmental Watering Strategy and the review of Basin Plan water quality and salinity targets and objectives, including identifying options to improve water quality through river management functions. • Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) program implemented, including development of the Constraints Relaxation Roadmap. • Delivery of the Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020-2025 and the Sustainable Yields Project supported through collaboration with Murray-Darling Basin Authority and other jurisdictions. • Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation, science, consultation, reporting and statutory review process requirements met.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Outcomes achieved
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued implementation of water markets reforms specified in the Market Reform: Final Roadmap Report. Strengthened implementation of the Metrological Assurance Framework (MAF2) through the Non-Urban Water Metering Policy, which was updated and published in January 2025. Commonwealth First Nations programs, including the Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program, supported including through the <i>Water is Life</i> Oversight forum held with representatives from Traditional Owner organisations across Victoria (including formally and non-formally recognised groups) and meetings held with Ngaweeyan Maar-oo (Victoria's Koorie Caucus for Closing the Gap) and the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations to discuss the Inland Waters Target.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling Output Environment Portfolio 	Circular Economy Infrastructure Fund	<p>Circular Economy Infrastructure Fund – Materials: Eight projects have been funded across multiple rounds, with three already completed. These projects are set to create 53 new ongoing full-time jobs and boost processing capacity for glass and organic waste by up to 337,000 tonnes annually. In addition, they will enhance the quality of up to 325,000 tonnes of recycled glass and organic materials each year, making them suitable for reuse in new products.</p> <p>Circular Economy Infrastructure Fund – Hazardous Waste stream advanced five major projects from Rounds 2 and 3, all now under contract and progressing toward completion in 2025-26. These projects are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recover 258,505 tonnes of hazardous materials annually; leverage industry investment; and create 46 full-time jobs. <p>One Round 3 project announced for 2024–25 was withdrawn, allowing funds to be redirected. Planning has commenced for a new funding round using these returned funds, with a launch anticipated in 2025–26. This ensures continued momentum in building Victoria's capacity to manage hazardous waste and drive circular economy outcomes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Driving down bills with 100 neighbourhood batteries	The funding was required to meet commitments made under 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program funding agreements. Some projects required additional time to complete battery installations to enable extended community consultation at some locations and further network integration design and testing. The 2024-25 target of 25 batteries is anticipated to be reached by 30 March 2026 and therefore the funding of \$4 million was not utilised in 2024-25.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Future Drought Fund	The Commonwealth Government's Future Drought Fund will continue to co-fund Agriculture Victoria to deliver the Farm Business Resilience (FBR) and Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) programs to 2029. In 2024-25, DEECA, through Agriculture Victoria, focused on working with the Commonwealth and other states and territories to co-design the Future Drought Fund Investment Strategy and the FBR and RDRP (2025-2029) program frameworks.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Outcomes achieved
		During 2024-25, the two programs continued to deliver and build regional drought resilience through the 2020-2025 program commitments. The Farm Business Resilience program (2020-2025) engaged 487 participants in intensive training activities and supported the development of 398 farm business plans. The Regional Drought Resilience Planning program (2020-2025) published six drought resilience plans and awarded six implementation grants.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Output • Agriculture Portfolio 	Domestic Animals Act	<p>Funding was provided for delivery of Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) education programs, regulatory reform and administration of Domestic Animals Act provisions in 2024-25 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivery of the RPO education program to kindergartens and schools with 3,086 presentations delivered; • operation Register and dangerous dog hotline to track and manage dogs that have been declared n of Victorian Declared Dogmenacing or dangerous under the Act, with 1,580 active dogs in the register; • provision of advice to council animal officers; and • administration of domestic animal regulations, including rehoming pet reforms.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Output • Energy and Resources Portfolio 	VicGrid functions and delivering the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework	As a result of this funding, 11 Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) entered grant funding agreements in the 2024-25 financial year that support engagement activities and nine RAPs entered grant funding agreements to each recruit a renewable energy officer for a three-year term.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Victoria Output • Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Solar for Apartments	Funding was required to continue delivering the Solar for Apartments program, with \$2.5 million in Commonwealth co-funding approved but not used in 2024-25. Existing program funding was sufficient to meet Round 1 and Round 2 applications in 2024-25.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Public Lands and Forests Output • Environment Portfolio 	Wotjobaluk Traditional Owner Settlement Agreement	The implementation of the Wotjobaluk Peoples (WJJWJ Peoples) and Dja Dja Wurrung RSA has delivered several key foundational outcomes. These includes a regular Natural Resource Agreement Partnership Forum and other governance forums, procurement and participation opportunities in the management of natural resources. Under the WJJWJ RSA, there is progress towards the establishment of a Traditional Owner Land Management Board by mid-December 2025.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Output 	Cheaper cleaner energy to drive economic recovery -	Funding was required to continue to progress with the Renewable Energy Zone Development Plan (RDP) Stage 1 infrastructure projects. The appropriation funding was not utilised as it was subsequently funded by the Sustainability Fund.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Outcomes achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) projects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Horsham alternative proteins glasshouse complex and incubation hub	Funding in 2024-25 delivered the hub and associated glasshouse complex. The facilities are operational and in active use during the defect liability period.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management Output Environment Portfolio 	Bushfire and emergency recovery - Land acquisition retreat and resettlement	Funding was required to continue supporting landowners to recover from the 2019-20 bushfires. The program closed to landowners on 30 April 2025. Three properties have been purchased across the lifespan of the project. One case is complete, and two cases remain open.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Output Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Accelerating Adoption of Zero Emission Vehicles (EV)	<p>The outcomes achieved include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 123 public EV chargers have been installed under the Destination Charging Across Victoria program, providing 224 individual public charge points across Victoria; 119 EV chargers have been installed across 55 Council sites, to encourage the uptake of EVs in 25 Victorian Councils under the <i>EV Charging for Council Fleets Program</i>; 40 EV chargers with the capacity to charge 62 EVs have been installed across 12 Victorian businesses under the EV Charging for Business Fleets Program; 100 smart EV charging solutions have been installed across Victorian residences to maximise self-consumption of rooftop solar under the <i>Zero Emissions Vehicle Emerging Technologies (ZEVET) program</i>; and a centralised EV charging solution for apartments is also being developed under the ZEVET program and works continue to deliver power pole-mounted public EV chargers under the program.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Output Agriculture Portfolio 	Building Resilience to Manage Fruit Fly	<p>In 2024-25, funding for this project delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> successful installation of a second irradiator at the Mickleham facility, resulting in a 92 per cent increase in throughput as well as produce undergoing phytosanitary treatments; a review and enhancement of the supporting national phytosanitary protocols for irradiated produce; and a pilot trial for a secure movement pathway to enable bio-secure movement of untreated fresh produce to treatment facilities.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Outcomes achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Output • Agriculture Portfolio 	Various Commonwealth initiatives (Agriculture)	Funding provided in 2024-25 for a range of Commonwealth initiatives strengthened Victoria's biosecurity system across 2024-25, with a focus on enhanced traceability outcomes, targeted preparedness activities and ongoing surveillance to support trade.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Public Lands and Forests Output • Environment Portfolio 	Investing in Serendip Sanctuary and the You Yangs, Wurdi Youang	This supported the delivery of the You Yangs precinct draft concept designs, and the sensory garden and display pond at Serendip Sanctuary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Biodiversity Output • Environment Portfolio 	Environment Restoration Fund	Delivered a new customised litter barge with an industrial vacuum to enhance Parks Victoria's ability to remove litter from the Yarra River. Upgraded the litter processing facility at the Parks Victoria Burnley depot for improved litter separation, grading, sorting, and recovery.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Output • Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Clean Energy Worker Training Centres	The initiative is being delivered as grant funding, and the application and assessment process was run from April to October 2025. The funding was therefore not utilised in 2024-25.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Output • Agriculture Portfolio 	Biosciences Research Centre	Contracted financial commitments for the Biosciences Research Centre project for 2024-25 were met, including the increased costs associated with volatility of gas and electricity prices and the Consumer Price Index related to reviewable services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Output • Energy and Resources Portfolio 	Cheaper electricity for Victorians - Energy Assistance Program	During 2024-25 the Energy Assistance Program supported 3,450 households experiencing vulnerability, providing them with assistance to apply for energy concessions and debt relief grants, find and switch to the best energy offer for their household, understand energy bills and engage with their energy retailer.

Output(s) and portfolio(s)	Program	Outcomes achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	Management of Public Land and Forests Parks Victoria Services- Asset and Infrastructure Management on Public Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition of 84 Chisholm Road, Wonthaggi for inclusion in the Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park. The final Crown allotment survey report has been received, splitting the block into northern and southern allotments. Draft Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) Planning Scheme Amendment and Report for San Remo and Wonthaggi properties received from consultant. Bespoke drone surveying of the High-Water Mark boundary at the San Remo properties and preparation of draft Plans of Subdivision. This enables a request for certified valuations to be submitted to the Valuer General for four San Remo properties and one Wonthaggi property. Other work on encroachments and related land management matters.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	Liwik Barring Landscape Conservation Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 20 hectares of land revegetated, comprising of 233,250 seedlings planted. Over 65 hectares of weed control has been undertaken, the majority of work was undertaken by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Rangers. Extensive deer control, including three kilometres of new deer exclusion fencing and removal of over 200 deer. Five new access tracks and one multi-use trail have been constructed to improve access for land managers and recreation opportunities for the community. To protect waterways from damage caused by livestock, grants have been provided to adjacent landholders which have facilitated the construction of 44 boundary fences totalling over six kilometres.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Water Management and Supply Output Water Portfolio 	Off-farm Efficiency Program	During 2024-25, the Lower Murray Water - Water Efficiency Project completed construction (November 2024). Further auditing, verification and issuing of water savings achieved under the project is due to be completed by June 2026.

Question 4 (all departments) Central contingencies

The Resource Management Framework (2024, Section 4.5, p. 90) provides guidance on how departments access funding from central contingencies.

Please provide information regarding funding received from central contingency in 2024–25, including: the output and portfolio or Government decision related to the funding, the amount of funding received, the amount of funding utilised, funding received through previous budgets for the same purpose and why funding from contingency was required.

Output(s) and portfolio(s) or Government decision associated	Funding received	Funding utilised 2024–25	Funding received in previous budget/s for same purpose. Please specify which budget	Reasons why funding was required
State Electricity Commission (SEC)	344.0	344.0	Not applicable.	Funding was required to support delivery of the SEC 2024-25 Business and Investment Plan.
Forestry Contractor Strategy	62.8	62.8	Not applicable.	Funding was required to secure the services of harvest and haulage contractors for forest and fire management through the novation of existing VicForests contracts.
Departmental operating and VPS EBA wages funding	47.3	47.3	Not applicable.	Funding was required for costs associated with the Victorian Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.
Gippsland Offshore Wind Transmission	12.5	12.5	Not applicable.	Funding was required to enable critical development and procurement activities to deliver key transmission milestones.
Critical Bushfire and Emergency Asset Maintenance and Replacement	11.0	11.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-22 Budget: Reducing bushfire risk in a rapidly changing climate initiative. 2017-18 Budget: Reducing bushfire risk initiative. 	Funding was required to replace and renew critical fire and emergency assets to support the State's preventative bushfire services and rapid response to emergency events.

Output(s) and portfolio(s) or Government decision associated	Funding received	Funding utilised 2024–25	Funding received in previous budget/s for same purpose. Please specify which budget	Reasons why funding was required
Enhancing core energy functions	9.0	9.0	Not applicable.	Funding was provided to strengthen the department's core energy functions and help ensure safe, reliable and affordable energy is maintained throughout the energy transition.
VicGrid establishment costs	8.2	8.2	Not applicable.	Funding was required to support the establishment of the VicGrid entity in 2024-25.
Improving Victoria's water resources knowledge and access	7.6	7.6	2020-21 Budget: Sustaining a resilient and secure water register for Victoria initiative.	Funding was required to support the continued operation and transition of Victoria's water register services.
Resources for Recovery: Securing the Resources for Victoria's Economic Recovery	3.2	3.2	Not applicable.	Funding was released from central contingency following confirmation of the pathway forward on cost recovery of regulatory activities. This funding supports the development and delivery of new geoscience information to enable the development of the State's earth resources to meet the growing demands for the transition to renewable energy and to enable economic growth in regional Victoria.
Regulating Safeguards for Gas Resources	2.6	2.6	Not applicable.	Funding was released from central contingency following confirmation of the pathway forward on cost recovery of regulatory activities. This funding enables key regulatory functions (licensing, assessments and compliance) to manage risks and regulation of the State's gas sector following the introduction of new petroleum regulations in November 2021.
Providing care and protection for wildlife across Victoria	0.6	0.6	Not applicable.	Funding was required to support targeted grants to improve animal welfare outcomes in the Victorian community.

Output(s) and portfolio(s) or Government decision associated	Funding received	Funding utilised 2024–25	Funding received in previous budget/s for same purpose. Please specify which budget	Reasons why funding was required
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority operational funding	0.3	0.3	Not applicable.	Funding was required to support operating costs for Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority associated with its Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.
Total 2024–25	509.1	509.1		

Question 5 (all departments) Victoria's Housing Statement

For output and asset initiatives delivered in 2024–25 that contributed to the *Victorian Housing Statement: The decade ahead 2024–2034* please list:

- The name of the initiative
- The timeframe of the initiative
- The funding allocated to the initiative in 2024–25 (\$ million)
- The actual funding utilised in 2024–25 (\$ million)
- What impact the initiative had in 2024–25 on:
 - i. Housing affordability
 - ii. Victoria's planning system
 - iii. Housing supply
 - iv. The regulation of rental properties
 - v. Public housing supply
 - vi. Community housing supply
 - vii. Affordable housing supply

Please quantify these impacts where possible, for example the actual impact on housing supply and public, community and affordable housing supply.

Initiative	Timeframe of initiative	Funding allocated 2024–25 (\$ million)	Funding utilised 2024–25 (\$ million)	Actual impact of initiative (quantify where possible)						
				Housing affordability	Victoria's planning system	Regulation of rental properties	Housing supply	Public housing supply	Community housing supply	Affordable housing supply
Sustaining the EPA's strengthened regulatory functions	Ongoing	30.0	30.0	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	The EPA is instrumental in this initiative, providing essential	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

				Actual impact of initiative (quantify where possible)						
Initiative	Timeframe of initiative	Funding allocated 2024–25 (\$ million)	Funding utilised 2024–25 (\$ million)	Housing affordability	Victoria's planning system	Regulation of rental properties	Housing supply	Public housing supply	Community housing supply	Affordable housing supply
							services to approve applications and ensure economic growth generated by housing projects do not adversely affect local Victorian communities or the environment.			
Supporting the resources sector to achieve Net Zero and the Big Build ³	Ongoing	11.4	11.4	Reducing supply chain cost pressures on housing	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Ensuring that new quarry resources can be	Ensuring that new quarry resources can be	Ensuring that new quarry resources can be	Ensuring that new quarry resources can be

³ 88 million tonnes of new extractive resources was approved in 2024-25. This exceeds the 80 million tonne performance target and will assist in keeping prices low for consumers as well as government in delivering the Big Build, in addition to assisting with domestic and commercial construction costs that affect cost of living pressures. Resources Victoria has reduced end-to-end approvals time for the supply of quarry materials with average end-to-end approval times for 2024-25 being reduced by almost 40 per cent compared to 2023-24.

				Actual impact of initiative (quantify where possible)						
Initiative	Timeframe of initiative	Funding allocated 2024–25 (\$ million)	Funding utilised 2024–25 (\$ million)	Housing affordability	Victoria's planning system	Regulation of rental properties	Housing supply	Public housing supply	Community housing supply	Affordable housing supply
				construction, as well as assisting domestic and commercial construction with cost-of-living pressures.			approved within timeframes required to support housing supply.	approved within timeframes required to support housing supply.	approved within timeframes required to support housing supply.	approved within timeframes required to support housing supply.
Water efficiency and diverse water supplies for water security, resilience and liveability	2024-25 to 2027-28	19.2	15.2	Not applicable.	This initiative will streamline and improve urban development decision-making processes (together with the Department of Transport and Planning) by	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

				Actual impact of initiative (quantify where possible)						
Initiative	Timeframe of initiative	Funding allocated 2024–25 (\$ million)	Funding utilised 2024–25 (\$ million)	Housing affordability	Victoria's planning system	Regulation of rental properties	Housing supply	Public housing supply	Community housing supply	Affordable housing supply
					ensuring that Integrated Water Management planning is undertaken consistently, at the right time, and links into the planning system are clarified.					
Reducing the risks of floods in a changing climate	2024-25 to 2027-28	9.0	9.0	Not applicable.	This initiative will deliver technical expertise through catchment management authorities and risk mapping	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

				Actual impact of initiative (quantify where possible)						
Initiative	Timeframe of initiative	Funding allocated 2024–25 (\$ million)	Funding utilised 2024–25 (\$ million)	Housing affordability	Victoria's planning system	Regulation of rental properties	Housing supply	Public housing supply	Community housing supply	Affordable housing supply
					(flood studies) to guide planning in regional Victoria.					
Water Planning for a resilient and secure Future	2024-25 to 2027-28	6.4	3.6	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	This initiative will ensure that Victoria's growing population in cities and towns will continue to have access to secure, reliable and affordable urban water services through better urban water system planning,	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

				Actual impact of initiative (quantify where possible)						
Initiative	Timeframe of initiative	Funding allocated 2024–25 (\$ million)	Funding utilised 2024–25 (\$ million)	Housing affordability	Victoria's planning system	Regulation of rental properties	Housing supply	Public housing supply	Community housing supply	Affordable housing supply
							<p>to meet the challenges of population growth and a drying climate.</p> <p>By ensuring that Victoria's water supplies keep up with the demands of increased housing and population growth, this initiative complements work that water corporations are</p>			

				Actual impact of initiative (quantify where possible)						
Initiative	Timeframe of initiative	Funding allocated 2024–25 (\$ million)	Funding utilised 2024–25 (\$ million)	Housing affordability	Victoria’s planning system	Regulation of rental properties	Housing supply	Public housing supply	Community housing supply	Affordable housing supply
							undertaking to deliver on the Housing Statement to get Victorians into their new homes faster by speeding up connections as our towns and cities grow.			

Question 6 (Department of Health only) 2024–25 Budget funding allocation by output and performance

Not applicable.

Question 7 (Department of Families, Fairness and Housing only) Victorian Contribution to National Disability Insurance

Not applicable.

Section B: Asset investment

Question 8 (all departments) Capital expenditure variances, completion date and scope changes – existing projects

Please provide details of all capital asset programs where:

- there was a variance between TEI at announcement compared to the TEI as at 30 June 2025 of equal to or greater than $\pm 5\%$ and an explanation for the variance
- the estimated completion date at announcement is different to the completion date as at 30 June 2025 and an explanation for the change
- the scope of the project at announcement is different to the scope of the project as at 30 June 2025.

Capital expenditure

Project	Output(s) and portfolio(s) and/or agency responsible for the project	Total actual expenditure from announcement to 30 June 2025 (\$ million)	TEI at announcement (\$ million)	Details of TEI changes between announcement and 30 June 2025 (\$ million)	Revised TEI as at 30 June 2025 (\$ million)	Variance between TEI at announcement compared to revised TEI as at 30 June 2025 Budget ($\pm 5\%$) explanation
Suburban Parks Program (Creating a Ring of New Parkland) (metropolitan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	201.3	74.3	138.0	212.3	The TEI has increased to reflect revised project costings for land acquisitions and parkland establishment.
National Water Grid Fund (statewide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Water Management and Supply Water Output Water Portfolio 	57.8	36.5	153.7	190.2	The TEI has increased to align with the allocation of Commonwealth funding.

Completion date

Project	Output(s) and portfolio(s) and/or agency responsible for the project	Estimated completion date at announcement	Revised completion date as at 30 June 2025	Explanation
Suburban Parks Program (Creating a Ring of New Parkland) (metropolitan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	June 2023	June 2026	The estimated completion date was revised to reflect timing of land acquisitions.
Bendigo mine-impacted groundwater long-term management (Bendigo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Water Management and Supply Water Output Water Portfolio 	June 2025	June 2026	The estimated completion date has been revised to reflect an extended design and tender process.
National Water Grid Fund (statewide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Water Management and Supply Water Output Water Portfolio 	June 2024	June 2029	The estimated completion date has been revised to align with the allocation of Commonwealth funding.
Additional recovery support for summer 2023-24 floods and storms (statewide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	June 2025	December 2025	The estimated completion date has been revised to reflect the updated project delivery schedule.

Scope

Project	Output(s) and portfolio(s) and/or agency responsible for the project	Scope at announcement	Details of scope change(s) and date(s) scope changes occurred
Protecting our parks, pets and wildlife - animal welfare (South-West Victoria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Biodiversity output. Environment portfolio. 	The 2023-24 Budget announcement identified funding for the creation of a wildlife hospital in south-western Victoria.	The hospital will now be developed at Kyabram Fauna Park to add value to existing infrastructure and ensure comprehensive support for wildlife in that region. Zoos Victoria are preparing initiatives to increase support for wildlife carers in the South West using existing funding.

Question 9 (all departments) Details of actual capital expenditure – completed projects (or expected to be completed)

Please provide the following details about asset investment projects that were completed in 2024–25:

- Project name, project objectives and Department(s), Output(s) and Portfolio(s) and/or Agency/Agencies responsible for delivery of the project
- Total Estimated Investment (TEI) at announcement
- Details of TEI changes between announcement and completion date, including when TEI was changed and what it was changed to
- Actual cost of project
- Estimated completion date at announcement
- Actual completion date
- Explanations for any variance in capital expenditure and/or completion date.

Project	Original project objectives	Responsible Department(s), Output(s) and Portfolio(s) and/or Agency/Agencies	TEI at announcement (\$ million)	Details of TEI changes between announcement and completion date (\$ million)	Actual cost of project (\$ million)	Estimated completion date at announcement	Actual completed date	Variance explanation (\$ value variance and/or time variance)
Yellingbo Conservation Area – Implementing the Yellingbo Conservation Area 10 Year Plan (regional)	Funding is provided to continue implementation of the Yellingbo Conservation Area and ensure recommendations made by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council are delivered. Actions include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	2.3	0.5	1.7	June 2024	June 2025	The actual cost of the project is lower than the TEI at announcement due to costs associated with the initiative being reclassified to align the project outlays to the nature of expenditure. The completion

Project	Original project objectives	Responsible Department(s), Output(s) and Portfolio(s) and/or Agency/Agencies	TEI at announcement (\$ million)	Details of TEI changes between announcement and completion date (\$ million)	Actual cost of project (\$ million)	Estimated completion date at announcement	Actual completed date	Variance explanation (\$ value variance and/or time variance)
	undertaking targeted revegetation and pest control, improving land management planning and practices and enhanced access to and amenity of the area.							date was revised to align with the recruitment of specialised contractors.
Werribee Open Range Zoo (Werribee South)	The Werribee Open Range Zoo will be expanded to accommodate higher visitor numbers with additional visitor amenities and experiences including a new open range elephant sanctuary at Werribee Open Range Zoo for the Asian elephant herd to be relocated from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Management of Public Lands and Forests Output Environment Portfolio 	83.8	0.0	83.8	June 2025	March 2025	The completion date was revised as works were completed ahead of the original completion date.

Project	Original project objectives	Responsible Department(s), Output(s) and Portfolio(s) and/or Agency/Agencies	TEI at announcement (\$ million)	Details of TEI changes between announcement and completion date (\$ million)	Actual cost of project (\$ million)	Estimated completion date at announcement	Actual completed date	Variance explanation (\$ value variance and/or time variance)
	Melbourne Zoo.							
Reducing Bushfire Risk in a Rapidly Changing Climate (statewide)	Funding is provided to continue the Reducing Bushfire Risk program and Safer Together strategy, which aim to reduce the impact of bushfires on Victorian communities, the economy and the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Fire and Emergency Management Output Environment Portfolio 	44.0	1.1	42.9	June 2025	June 2025	The actual cost of the project is lower than the TEI at announcement due to costs associated with the initiative being reclassified to align the project outlays to the nature of expenditure.
Safer public dams (various)	Funding is provided for infrastructure works to improve public safety at the Expedition Pass Dam near Castlemaine and to decommission the Upper Teddington Dam in Kara Kara National Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Environment and Biodiversity Output Environment Portfolio 	9.6	0.0	9.6	June 2025	June 2025	Not applicable.

Project	Original project objectives	Responsible Department(s), Output(s) and Portfolio(s) and/or Agency/Agencies	TEI at announcement (\$ million)	Details of TEI changes between announcement and completion date (\$ million)	Actual cost of project (\$ million)	Estimated completion date at announcement	Actual completed date	Variance explanation (\$ value variance and/or time variance)
Safeguarding Victoria's critical seed and botanical collection (South Yarra)	Funding is provided for critical building works at the Royal Botanical Gardens National Herbarium and to further develop a business case for long-term options to house and safeguard the State's botanic collection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Environment and Biodiversity Output Environment Portfolio 	4.8	0.0	4.8	June 2025	June 2025	Not applicable.
National Water Infrastructure Development Fund – National Partnership Agreement (regional various)	To support long-term regional economic growth and development by providing secure and affordable water through the construction of economically viable water infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Effective Water Management and Supply Water Output Water Portfolio 	39.0	77.1	116.1	June 2019	June 2025	The actual cost of the project is greater than the TEI at announcement to align with the allocation of Commonwealth funding.
Horsham alternative proteins	Funding is provided for a research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Energy, Environment 	12.0	0.0	12.0	June 2024	December 2024	The estimated completion date has been

Project	Original project objectives	Responsible Department(s), Output(s) and Portfolio(s) and/or Agency/Agencies	TEI at announcement (\$ million)	Details of TEI changes between announcement and completion date (\$ million)	Actual cost of project (\$ million)	Estimated completion date at announcement	Actual completed date	Variance explanation (\$ value variance and/or time variance)
glasshouse complex and incubation hub (Horsham)	glasshouse complex and incubation hub at the Horsham Grains Innovation Precinct. This will deliver crop and pasture innovations for traditional and alternative proteins that are climate resilient and targeted at emerging market and consumer preferences.	and Climate Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Output • Agriculture Portfolio 						revised in line with the tender process.

Question 10 (all departments) High-value high-risk projects, gateway reviews and business cases

Under the High Value High Risk (HVHR) Framework, a project will be classified as HVHR if it is a budget funded project that has a total estimated investment (TEI) of over \$250 million. HVHR projects are subject to compulsory Gateway reviews, where Gates 1 through 6 are compulsory for all eligible projects: Gate 2 outlines the development of a business case.

Please list all projects included in 2024–25 that were allocated to the department and were classified as HVHR and the project objectives. Please also specify which Gateway reviews, if any, were completed during 2024–25 and business case details for each project.

Not applicable. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action had no projects with a Total Estimated Investment of over \$250 million in 2024-25.

Question 11 (all departments) Public Private Partnership (PPP) expenditure – existing and completed

Please provide the following information related to the department's PPP projects:

- The total estimated PPP investment value, the total actual expenditure from announcement to 30 June 2025, or the actual expenditure to 30 June 2025 and the benefits of using the PPP financing model when delivering/funding a project over other financing methods. Please provide specific benefits for each individual project.
- Where the estimated completion date at announcement is different to the completion date in the 2024–25 Budget, and an explanation for any variance.
- Where the scope of the PPP at announcement is different to the scope of the project as it is presented in the 2024–25 Budget.

Investment value and benefit of using PPP model

Project name	Project objectives	Output(s) and portfolio(s) and/or agency	Total estimated PPP investment value at the start of the project (\$ million)	Total actual expenditure since the announcement to 30 June 2025 (\$ million)	Actual expenditure in year ending 30 June 2025 (\$ million)	Benefits of using PPP model versus other delivery/funding models
Victorian Desalination Project	The Victorian Desalination Project was initiated to design, build, finance and operate a desalination plant, transfer pipeline and 220 kV underground power cable capable of supplying 150 gigalitres (GL) of water per annum into the Melbourne network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Water Management and Supply output. Water portfolio. 	4,341 (NPV \$2012)^	7,766.5 (nominal)*^	573.5 (nominal)*^	The Victorian Desalination Project's payment under the PPP structure means water is only paid for when required, limiting the operations and maintenance costs when water is not ordered.
Showground Redevelopment	To enhance the Royal Melbourne Show, build on the link between urban and rural Victoria, help Victoria's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio. 	108 (NPV \$2004)^	221.8 (nominal)*^	6.0 (nominal)*^	The PPP model requires a public sector comparator to be developed as part of the evaluation, in order to

	agribusiness sector grow, and create a flexible, multipurpose events and exhibition precinct.					ascertain if the project provides better value for money outcomes. The PPP model also incorporates risk transfer to the private sector, where it retains whole-of-life asset risks. Performance standards are required. Payments may be abated if services are not delivered to contractual requirements.
Biosciences Research Centre	To develop a new world-class facility for agricultural biosciences research and development with La Trobe University.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio. 	288 (NPV \$2008)^	419.2 (nominal)*^	42.4 (nominal)*^	

* Expenditure includes all monthly/quarterly service payments paid under the PPP arrangement.

^ The value at the start of the projects is provided as NPVs, whereas the actual expenditure is provided in nominal amounts. These amounts are therefore not comparable.

Completion date

Project name	Output(s) and portfolio(s) and/or agency	Estimated completion date	Revised estimated completion date	Variance explanation
Not applicable.				

Scope

Project name	Output(s) and portfolio(s) and/or agency	Original scope	Revised scope	Explanation for scope changes
Not applicable.				

Question 12 (DTP only) Alliance contracting expenditure – existing and completed

Please provide the following information related to the department's alliance contracting projects:

- The total estimated investment value, the total actual expenditure from announcement to 30 June 2025, or the actual expenditure to 30 June 2025 and the benefits of using the alliance contracting model when delivering/funding a project over other financing methods. Please provide specific benefits for each individual project.
- Where the estimated completion date at announcement is different to the completion date in the 2024–25 Budget and an explanation for any variance.
- Where the scope of the alliance contract at announcement is different to the scope of the project as it is presented in the 2024–25 Budget.

Not applicable.

Section C: Revenue and appropriations

Question 13 (all departments and entities) Revenue – variances from previous year

Please explain any changes equal to or greater than $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million between the actual result for 2023–24 and the actual result for 2024–25 for each revenue category detailed in your operating statement. Please also indicate what any additional revenue was used for or how any revenue reductions affected service delivery and then link it to the relevant output and portfolio.

Please also detail the outcomes in the community⁴ achieved by any additional expenses or the impact on the community of reduced expenses (if there was no impact, please explain how that was achieved).

For departments, please provide data consolidated on the same basis as the budget portfolios outcomes statement in your annual reports.

If there were no revenue/income categories for the department/agency for which the 2024–25 expenditure changed from the prior year's expenditure by more than $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million, you do not need to answer this question. If this is the case, please indicate 'no relevant line items' in the table(s) below.

⁴That is, the impact of service delivery on the community rather than a description of the services delivered.

Revenue category	2023–24 actual (\$ million)	2024–25 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for changes $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million	How the additional revenue was used/the impact of reduced revenue. If no impact, how was this achieved	Relevant output(s) and portfolio(s)
Output appropriations	2,562	2,339	The variance is due to additional funding received in 2023-24 for initiatives relating to forestry/native timber harvesting transition, Power saving bonus, one-off establishment costs for the State Electricity Commission (SEC) Victoria, as well as the impacts of savings targets in 2024-25.	<p>Additional revenue in 2023-24 was allocated to support initiatives and programs in forestry/native timber harvesting transition and establishing the SEC. There was a reduction in funding in 2024-25 for Forestry transition following the wind-up of native timber harvesting operations, including the cessation of VicForests on 30 June 2024.</p> <p>The reduction in funding for the Power Saving Bonus was due to the fourth round of the program concluding in 2023-24. The impact of the program is the strong community awareness and trust in the Victorian Energy Compare website, in addition to the financial benefits of comparing options, and will support ongoing visitation and use of the service post program closure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture output. • Agriculture Portfolio. • Energy output. • Energy and Resources Portfolio.
Special appropriation	2	4	The variance is due to increased funding from the Commonwealth for initiatives relating to waste and recycling, agriculture, fire and emergency.	The additional funding received was utilised on the relevant programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste and recycling output. • Fire and Emergency Management output. • Environment Portfolio. • Agriculture output. • Agriculture Portfolio.

Revenue category	2023–24 actual (\$ million)	2024–25 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for changes $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million	How the additional revenue was used/the impact of reduced revenue. If no impact, how was this achieved	Relevant output(s) and portfolio(s)
Interest	29	41	The variance is due to an increase in cash holdings.	Not applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory activities and environmental protection output. Environment portfolio.
Sales of goods and services	146	158	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Grants	23	37	The variance is primarily due to grants received for initiatives including Protecting Victoria's water catchments, Fuelling the fire behaviour models of the future, Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail and the Victorian rural financial counselling service.	The additional grant funding received was utilised on the relevant programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Water Management and Supply output. Water Portfolio. Fire and Emergency Management output. Management of Public Land and Forests output. Environment Portfolio. Agriculture output. Agriculture Portfolio.
Fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration	0	4	Not a material variance.	No material impact.	Not applicable.
Other revenue and income	679	672	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

Question 14 (all departments and entities) Revenue – variances from budget to actual

Please explain any variances equal to or greater than $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million between the initial budget estimate (not the revised estimate) and the actual result for 2024–25 for each revenue category detailed in your operating statement. Please also indicate what any additional revenue was used for or how any revenue reductions affected service delivery and then link it to the relevant output and portfolio.

For departments, please provide data consolidated on the same basis as the budget portfolios outcomes statement in your annual reports.

Revenue category	2024–25 Budget estimate (\$ million)	2024–25 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for changes $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million	How the additional revenue was used/the impact of reduced revenue. If no impact, explain why	Relevant output(s) and portfolio(s)
Output appropriations	1,899	2,339	The variance is primarily due to the reinstatement of funding for and release of contingency associated with forestry transition programs and the delivery of preparedness and response activities in relation to managing emergency events across the State. The variance is also due to additional funding provided by the Commonwealth for initiatives such as the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program.	The increased revenue was utilised to support additional activities in forestry transition programs, emergency management and activities relating to bushfires, floods and biosecurity threats, and to deliver Commonwealth funded initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture output. • Agriculture portfolio. • Effective Water Management and Supply output. • Water portfolio. • Fire and Emergency Management output. • Management of Public Lands and Forests output. • Environment portfolio.
Special appropriation	0	4	Not a material variance.	No material impact.	Not applicable.
Interest income	46	41	The variance is primarily due to the lower-than-expected uptake of the	Less revenue is available for investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Victoria output. • Energy and Resources portfolio.

Revenue category	2024–25 Budget estimate (\$ million)	2024–25 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for changes $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million	How the additional revenue was used/the impact of reduced revenue. If no impact, explain why	Relevant output(s) and portfolio(s)
			Solar Homes concessional loan scheme.		
Sales of goods and services	123	158	The variance is primarily due to tripartite waste collection contracts that are managed by the department on behalf of local councils. For budget purposes, the revenue and expenses related to the contracts were netted off against each other, but were reflected in separate lines in the financial statements (so actuals were higher than budget). This difference is partially offset by revenue relating to the Melbourne Strategic Assessment fund which was included in the budget figure but was reported as 'other revenue and income' for actuals.	There is no impact as the differences were classification issues only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste and Recycling output. • Environment and biodiversity output. • Environment portfolio.
Grants	17	37	The variance is primarily due to additional grants from the Victoria State Emergency Service Authority, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and	The additional grant funding received was utilised on the relevant program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire and Emergency Management output. • Management of Public Lands and Forests output. • Environment portfolio

Revenue category	2024–25 Budget estimate (\$ million)	2024–25 actual (\$ million)	Explanations for changes $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million	How the additional revenue was used/the impact of reduced revenue. If no impact, explain why	Relevant output(s) and portfolio(s)
			Regions and the Department of Justice and Community Safety to support fire and emergency management activities and disaster risk and resilience works.		
Fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration	0	4	Not a material variance.	No material impact.	Not applicable.
Other revenue and income	590	672	The variance is primarily due to the reclassification of revenue for the Melbourne Strategic Assessment fund from 'sales of goods and services'.	No impact. The increase in other revenue and income reflects the reclassification of funding for the Melbourne Strategic Assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and biodiversity output. Environment portfolio.

Section D: Expenses

Question 15 (all departments and entities) Expenses changed from previous year

Please explain any changes equal to or greater than $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million with regards to the actual result for 2023–24 and the actual result for 2024–25 for each category of expenses detailed in your operating statement. Please explain any changes equal to or greater than $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million with regards to the actual result for 2024–25 and the 2024–25 budget estimate. Please also detail the outcomes in the community⁵ achieved by any additional expenses or the impact on the community of reduced expenses (if there was no impact, please explain how that was achieved).

For departments, please provide data consolidated on the same basis as the budget portfolios outcomes statement in your annual reports.

Expenses category	2023–24 actual \$ million	2024–25 actual \$ million	Explanations for variances $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million	Outcomes achieved by additional expenses/impact of reduced expenses. If no impact, how this was achieved
Employee benefits	881	1,008	The increase is primarily due to the VPS one-off cost of living relief payment from the new Enterprise Agreement, costs of overtime and allowances associated with emergency response activities in 2024-25, combined with increase in payroll on-costs.	The increase in staff costs is aligned with additional emergency response and planned burning activities which were delivered in 2024-25, as well as the impacts of the new Enterprise Agreement.
Depreciation and amortisation	115	120	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Interest expense	41	41	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Grants and other transfers	1,475	1,082	The variance is due to additional funding received in 2023-24 for initiatives relating to the wind up of native timber harvesting operation, Enhanced communications during emergencies creating a safer Victoria, the Power saving bonus program, Cheaper cleaner energy to drive economic recovery, and various other energy contract variations related to grant payments.	The outcomes achieved include support in 2023-24 for forestry transition programs to end native timber harvesting, enhanced communications during emergencies and additional funding for energy related initiatives, including the Power saving bonus program. The additional funding in 2024-25 provided financial support to control livestock disease and outbreaks such as Varroa Mite and Avian Influenza.

⁵That is, the impact of service delivery on the community rather than a description of the services delivered.

Expenses category	2023–24 actual \$ million	2024–25 actual \$ million	Explanations for variances $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million	Outcomes achieved by additional expenses/impact of reduced expenses. If no impact, how this was achieved
			This is partially offset by increased payments in 2024-25 related to Victoria's financial contributions to other states and territories under national cost-sharing arrangements, supporting control programs for outbreaks such as Varroa Mite and Avian Influenza.	
Capital asset charge	0	0	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Other operating expenses	742	921	The variance is primarily due to land compensation payments related to the Western Grassland Reserve and Melbourne Strategic Assessment commitments, compensation for livestock disease control (avian bird flu), as well as higher costs associated with firefighting, including aircraft, equipment hire and maintenance as fires in 2024-25 were longer and more complex than previous years.	The outcomes achieved include delivering on the Western Grassland Reserve and Melbourne Strategic Assessment commitments, responding to the impacts of livestock disease, and supporting firefighting efforts across the State.

Expenses category	2024–25 budget \$ million	2024–25 actual \$ million	Explanations for variances ±10% or \$100 million	Outcomes achieved by additional expenses/impact of reduced expenses. If no impact, how this was achieved
Employee benefits	712	1,008	The variance is primarily due to the progression increments as a result of the new Victorian Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, additional preparedness and response activities in relation to managing emergency events across the State, and new funding for Forest Contractor Strategy and VicGrid establishment.	The increase in staff costs is aligned with the human resources needed for the department to achieve its 2024-25 deliverables. Additional emergency response, bushfire prevention and resilience activities were undertaken across the State. Forest Contractor Strategy was progressed, and VicGrid was established to coordinate renewable energy transmission planning.
Depreciation	126	120	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Interest expense	38	41	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Grants expense	908	1,082	<p>The variance is primarily due to an increase in grant payments for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency preparedness and response activities across the State. • The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to continue protecting Victoria's environment from pollution and waste. • Parks Victoria to compensate for loss of revenue as a result the Free Camping Victoria initiative. • Alpine Resorts Victoria to assist in recovering from the 	The outcomes achieved include delivering emergency management preparedness, response and recovery activities across the State, strengthened environmental protection through EPA programs, support for Parks Victoria, financial assistance to Alpine Resorts Victoria to stabilise operations, and additional Commonwealth funded grants paid to deliver sustainable rural water programs.

Expenses category	2024–25 budget \$ million	2024–25 actual \$ million	Explanations for variances ±10% or \$100 million	Outcomes achieved by additional expenses/impact of reduced expenses. If no impact, how this was achieved
			<p>prolonged deterioration of commercial revenue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commonwealth-funded Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure initiative. 	
Other operating expenses	649	921	The variance is primarily due to additional emergency management preparedness and response activities across the State, funding for Forest Contractor Strategy, and additional costs for VicGrid to support the planning and development of Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones and the recognition of expenses related to the council waste management contracts which are netted off for budget reporting but reported separately in the financial statements (see sales of goods and services).	The outcomes achieved include additional emergency management preparedness, response and recovery activities across the State, Forest Contractor Strategy, and planning and development of Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones through VicGrid.

Question 16 (all departments, PFC, PNFC and entities) Changes to service delivery from savings initiatives

- a) For each of the savings initiatives detailed in the 2023–24 and 2024–25 Budgets please provide the following details of the impact on service delivery:
- Savings target in the 2023–24 and 2024–25 Budget and the amount of the savings target allocated to the department/entity.
 - Actual savings achieved in 2023–24 and 2024–25, the specific actions taken to achieve the savings target allocated, areas where savings were found and the impact of the measures taken to achieve the savings targets. Please include the link to the relevant output and portfolio impacted. Please be as specific as possible to your department or agency when providing your responses.

Savings initiative in the Budget	Savings target allocated to the department/entity in 2024–25 \$ million	Actual savings achieved in 2024–25 \$ million	Specific actions taken to achieve the allocated savings target	Areas where savings were found	What was the impact as a result of the measures taken to achieve the savings target? <i>(e.g. frontline and/or other areas of business that saw the impact)</i> If no impact, how was this achieved	Which output(s) and portfolio(s) were impacted (if relevant)
2024–25 Whole of Government savings and efficiencies	2.2	2.2	DEECA has reduced its operating expenditure through whole of departmental reforms that deliver efficiencies to functions including finance, communications, human resources and information technology. This includes more efficient operating models, leveraging technology to reduce costs and administrative overheads, and simplifying processes and streamlined operations across the portfolio.	Reduced marketing and advertising spend; Water portfolio general efficiencies.	No material impacts on frontline service delivery or asset/infrastructure projects.	All outputs and portfolios.
2023–24 Labor's Financial Statement savings	14.3	14.3	DEECA has reduced its operating expenditure through whole of departmental reforms that deliver efficiencies to functions including finance, communications, human resources and information	Reduced labour hire and consultancy spend; functions relating to finance,	No impact on frontline service delivery or asset/infrastructure projects.	All outputs and portfolios.

Savings initiative in the Budget	Savings target allocated to the department/entity in 2024–25 \$ million	Actual savings achieved in 2024–25 \$ million	Specific actions taken to achieve the allocated savings target	Areas where savings were found	What was the impact as a result of the measures taken to achieve the savings target? <i>(e.g. frontline and/or other areas of business that saw the impact)</i> If no impact, how was this achieved	Which output(s) and portfolio(s) were impacted (if relevant)
			technology. This includes more efficient operating models, leveraging technology to reduce costs and administrative overheads, and simplifying processes and streamlined operations across the portfolio.	communications, human resources and information technology.		
COVID Debt Repayment Plan – savings and efficiencies	59.9	59.9	DEECA has reduced its operating expenditure through whole of departmental reforms that deliver efficiencies to functions including finance, communications, human resources and information technology. This includes more efficient operating models, leveraging technology to reduce costs and administrative overheads, and simplifying processes and streamlined operations across the portfolio.	Functions relating to back-office support, finance, communications, human resources and information technology.	Frontline service delivery impacts from implementing the COVID Debt Repayment Plan savings aligned to the government decision to cease native timber harvesting on 1 January 2024. Four frontline roles were reduced as a result of this.	All outputs and portfolios.

b) If any savings initiatives listed above were met in part by reducing Victorian Public Service (VPS) roles in 2024–25 please list:

- The applicable savings initiative and budget
- The number of roles reduced in 2024–25 by actual FTE number
- The actual savings achieved by reducing roles in 2024–25 (\$ million)
- The number of roles reduced by each VPS/Executive classification by actual FTE number

- The functions or roles impacted by the reduction
- The impact of role reductions on service delivery. If there was no impact, how this was achieved.

Savings initiative in the Budget	Number of roles reduced in 2024–25 (actual FTE)	Actual savings achieved in 2024–25 due to roles reduced \$ million	Number of roles reduced by VPS/Executive classification (actual FTE)	Functions or roles impacted by the reduction	Impact of role reductions on service delivery If no impact, how this was achieved
COVID Debt Repayment Plan – savings and efficiencies	75	While DEECA tracks its savings implementation at the initiative level, it does not track and report on the related role reductions at a level which can provide the specific savings attributed to each role reduction.	While DEECA does track its savings implementation at the initiative level, DEECA does not currently report on this level of information for roles reduced as part of savings implementation.	<p>Reduced labour hire and consultancy spend across all DEECA Groups.</p> <p>The cessation of native timber harvesting.</p> <p>Roles and functions relating to back-office support, finance, communications, human resources and information technology within the Corporate Services, Bushfire and Forest Services and Water and Catchments Groups.</p>	<p>A proportion of the COVID Debt Repayment Plan savings were delivered through reductions in labour hire and consultancy spend, which did not impact VPS roles or service delivery.</p> <p>One frontline function was impacted, and included a reduction of four frontline roles. These savings and workforce reduction aligned to the government decision to cease native timber harvesting on 1 January 2024.</p> <p>The remainder of the COVID Debt Repayment Plan savings were implemented through organisational redesign and restructuring of corporate and back-office 'functions, which by design, do not deliver external services.</p>

Question 17 (all departments) Achievement of reprioritisation of existing resources

The 2024–25 Budget included targets for ‘reprioritisations and revenue offsets’ to fund new initiatives (2024–25 Budget Paper No. 2, p. 60). This is in addition to any savings or efficiencies resulting from expenditure reduction measures. For the department (including all controlled entities),⁶ please indicate:

- what areas of expenditure (including projects and programs if appropriate) the funding was reprioritised from (i.e. what the funding was initially provided for)
- what areas of expenditure the funds were spent on
- for each area of expenditure (or project or program), how much funding was reprioritised in each year
- the impact of the reprioritisation (in terms of service delivery) on those areas.

Area of expenditure originally funded	Area of expenditure actually funded	Value of funding reprioritised in 2024–25 (\$ million)	Impact of reprioritisation of funding. If no impact, how was this achieved	Output(s) and portfolio(s) impacted (if relevant)
Agriculture	Collaborative vertebrate pest animal management	2.0	Scaled back investment on project aspects that had no direct impact on frontline service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio.
Energy	Accelerating energy project delivery and mitigating biodiversity impacts	2.8	Scaled back investment on project aspects that had no direct impact on frontline service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy output. Energy and Resources portfolio.
Energy	Small-scale back-up generators program	0.1	Scaled back investment on project aspects that had no direct impact on frontline service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy output. Energy and Resources portfolio.
Environment	Supporting a circular economy	5.5	Scaled back investment on project aspects that had no direct impact on frontline service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling output. Environment portfolio.
Environment	Charitable recycler grants	1.8	Scaled back investment on project aspects that had no direct impact on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling output. Environment portfolio.

⁶ That is, please provide this information for the department on the same basis of consolidation as is used in the budget papers.

			frontline service delivery.	
Environment	Enabling joint management of Barmah National Park	2.2	Scaled back investment on project aspects that had no direct impact on frontline service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Public Land and Forests output. • Environment portfolio.
Environment	Ninety Mile Beach - Growing the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park	0.6	Scaled back investment on project aspects that had no direct impact on frontline service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Public Land and Forests output. • Environment portfolio.
Solar Victoria	Energy efficient hot water rebates	29.7	Scaled back investment on project aspects that had no direct impact on frontline service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Victoria output. • Energy and Resources portfolio.

Question 18 (all departments) Contractors, Consultants and Labour Hire Arrangements

- a) Please indicate how much the department spent on contractors (including labour hire) and consultant arrangements during 2022–23, 2023–24 and 2024–25. Labour hire arrangements include the cost of engaging the labour recruiting firm, plus additional costs paid to the labour recruiting firm for the provision of the services of the contractor. Please also explain variances equal to or greater than $\pm 10\%$ between years and list the business areas impacted and how.

Contractors (including labour hire)

2022–23 Actual \$ million*	2023–24 Actual \$ million*	2024–25 Actual \$ million*	Explanation for variances (2022– 23 over 2023– 24) $\pm 10\%$	Explanation for variances (2023–24 over 2024–25) $\pm 10\%$	Which business areas were impacted/benefitted and how?	Please link your response to relevant output(s) and portfolio(s)
332.4	323.6	397.6	Not applicable.	<p>The increase is due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> scaling up the workforce to respond quickly to emergency activities, including to prevent the spread of avian influenza, forest fire management services and the design and construction of bridges and crossings in the Snowy and Ovens districts; increased legal costs and other works in the energy space; and increased costs for the provision of IT services and telecommunication services for radios. 	<p><u>2023-24</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council recycling, waste and organics services. <p><u>2024-25</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency activities: benefitted the Victorian community through avian influenza biosecurity and agriculture services, forest fire management services and the design and construction of crossings and roads. Energy: VicGrid system integration, transaction and advisory services. increased costs for the provision of IT services and telecommunication services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio. Fire and Emergency Management output. Waste and Recycling output. Environment portfolio. Energy output. Energy and Resources portfolio.

**Actual costs are exclusive of GST.*

Consultants

2022–23 Actual \$ million*	2023–24 Actual \$ million*	2024–25 Actual \$ million*	Explanation for variances (2022–23 over 2023–24) ±10%	Explanation for variances (2023–24 over 2024–25) ±10%	Which business areas were impacted/benefitted and how?	Please link your response to relevant output(s) and portfolio(s)
32.8	56.9	87.1	<p>The increase in expenditure primarily relates to the capture of a full year of expenditure for agriculture, forestry and earth resources functions, and an increased number of consultancies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> commercial and trading advice for energy projects; and advisory services to support market engagement for forestry transition programs. 	<p>The increased expenditure primarily related to complex energy transition projects and establishing VicGrid as a separate entity.</p> <p>VicGrid requires consultants to supplement work force (capability and capacity) during its growth stages to ensure timely responses to time critical tasks associated with transmission planning.</p>	<p><u>2023-24</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of offshore wind energy and the establishment of VicGrid as an Administrative Office. <p><u>2024-25</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of offshore wind energy and the establishment of VicGrid and its' systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy output. Energy and Resources portfolio.

*Actual costs are exclusive of GST.

Question 19 (PNFC and PFC entities only) Dividends and other amounts paid to the general government sector

Not applicable.

Section E: Overall financial performance**Question 20 (all departments) Impact of unforeseen events on financial performance – 2024–25**

Please outline and quantify, where possible, the impacts of unforeseen events over 2024–25 on the department/agency's financial performance.

Line item in the comprehensive operating statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2025	2024–25 Budget	2024–25 Actual	Impact of unforeseen events
Total revenue and income from transactions	2,676	3,256	The increase in total revenue and income from transactions was partly due to the reinstatement of funding for and release of contingency associated with forestry transition programs, the delivery of preparedness and response activities in relation to managing emergency events across the State and additional funding provided by the Commonwealth for initiatives such as the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program.
Total expenses from transactions	2,432	3,172	The increase in total expenses from transactions was partly due to the progression increments as a result of the Victorian Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, additional preparedness and response activities in relation to managing emergency events across the State, new funding for the Forest Contractor Strategy, costs associated with VicGrid establishment and to support the planning and development of Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones. There was also an increase in grant payments to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to continue protecting Victoria's environment from pollution and waste, Parks Victoria to compensate for loss of revenue as a result the Free Camping Victoria initiative, Alpine Resorts Victoria to assist in recovering from the prolonged deterioration of commercial revenue and the Commonwealth-funded Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure initiative.
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	244	84	

Section F: Public sector workforce

Question 21 (all departments and entities) Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff by level

- a) Please provide total FTE as of 30 June 2023, 30 June 2024, 30 June 2025 and provide explanation for more than $\pm 10\%$ change in FTE between years. In the explanations of variance please list what categories and role types/functions variances predominantly applied to.

30 June 2023 Actual FTE	30 June 2024 Actual FTE	30 June 2025 Actual FTE	Explanations of variance $\pm 10\%$ between 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024 (including categories and role types/functions)	Explanations of variance $\pm 10\%$ between 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2025 (including categories and role types/functions)
5,632	5,809	5,735	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

- b) For 2024–25, please provide information regarding any staffing challenges faced by the department, including but not limited to: staff shortages by category or position name, positions that were hard to staff, positions that were vacant for 6+ months, positions that have not equalled or surpassed attrition.

The department faced some staffing challenges for mid to senior level specialist roles across the following functions:

- hydrologists;
- climate scientists;
- modellers;
- water market economists;
- sustainable irrigation, water security and ground water monitoring specialists;
- forest and wildlife officers;
- wild dog controllers;
- statewide coastal specialists; and
- renewable energy specialists.

Question 22 (all departments and entities) Salary by employment category

In the table below, please detail the salary costs for 2022–23, 2023–24 and 2024–25, broken down by ongoing, fixed-term and casual, and explain any variances equal to or greater than $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million between the years for each category.

Employment category	Gross salary 2022–23 (\$ million)	Gross salary 2023–24 (\$ million)	Gross salary 2024–25 (\$ million)	Explanation for any year-on-year variances $\pm 10\%$ or \$100 million
Ongoing	564.4	693.0	811.5	
Fixed-term	190.1	182.4	190.0	
Casual	1.5	1.2	1.2	
Total	756.0	876.6	1,002.7	<p>An increase in staff costs from 2022-23 to 2023-24 was to support the delivery of new government priority programs, the transfer of staff from other entities into DEECA and to support bushfire management activities.</p> <p>An increase in staff costs from 2023-24 to 2024-25 was driven by the impacts of the <i>Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2024</i>, as well as overtime costs, allowances and on-costs associated with emergency response activities in 2024-25.</p>

Question 23 (all departments and entities) Executive salary increases

Please detail the number of executives who received increases in their base remuneration in 2024–25, breaking that information down according to what proportion of their salary the increase was, and explaining the reasons for executives' salaries increasing in each bracket.

Increase in base remuneration	Number of executives receiving increases in their base rate of remuneration of this amount in 2024–25, apart from increases outlined in employment agreements			Reasons for these increases
	Female	Male	Self-described	
0-3%	1	1	0	(2) Lateral appointment to position aligned to scope, accountability and work value.
3-5%	1	1	0	(2) Lateral appointment to position aligned to scope, accountability and work value.
5-10%	8	3	0	(4) Contract renewal and retention of specialised expertise. (3) Lateral appointment to position with increased scope, accountability and work value. (4) Increase to incumbent's position scope, accountability and overall work value and retention of specialised expertise.
10-15%	5	6	0	(6) Contract renewal and retention of specialised expertise. (2) Increase to incumbent's position scope, accountability and overall work value and retention of specialised expertise. (3) Lateral appointment to position with increased scope, accountability and work value.
greater than 15%	2	6	0	(2) Appointed to different classification with increased scope, accountability and work value.

				<p>(2) Increase to incumbent's position scope, accountability and overall work value and retention of specialised expertise.</p> <p>(1) Lateral appointment to position with increased scope, accountability and work value.</p> <p>(3) Contract renewal and retention of specialised expertise.</p>
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Question 24 (all departments and entities) Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBAs)

Please list the Enterprise Bargaining Agreements (EBAs) concluded in 2024–25 that had an impact for the department/agency. For each EBA, please show the number of employees affected and the change in employee expenses attributable to the EBA.

The *Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2020* nominally expired on 20 March 2024, but remained in effect until 19 August 2024, when it was replaced by the *Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2024*. Within DEECA, 5,249 employees (or 4,758 paid FTE) are covered by this Enterprise Agreement, which represents 83 per cent of the department's workforce. The key features which have resulted in changes to employee expenses are:

- annual pay increases totalling 12 per cent over the life of the agreement;
- a once off \$5,600 lump sum payment (pro-rata for part-time and eligible casual employees), and was paid to all employees, regardless of classification, who were employed on 28 June 2024;
- an increase to the lump sum payment – from 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent – which is paid to employees classified at the top of their grade or value range who are assessed at the end of the performance cycle as having met their progression criteria; and
- increase in overtime ceiling cap for times worked on an emergency event from 4.1 to 4.2.

The Field Staff and Wild Dog Controllers Agreement 2021 nominally expired on 31 July 2024, however remains in place as bargaining for a replacement Enterprise Agreement has not concluded.

Enterprise Bargaining Agreement	Number of employees affected	Number of employees as a % of department/entity	Change in employee expenses attributable to the EBA (\$ million)	Change in employee expenses attributable to the EBA (\$ million) as a % of total employee expenses
Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2024 (DEECA)	4,758 FTE*	83%	Estimated at an approximate \$25 million** ongoing annual impact	Approximately 2.5%
Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2024 (Sustainability Victoria)	160 employees	75%	\$1.23 million	5.9%
Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2024 (Environmental Protection Agency)	771 employees	98%	\$9.63 million	N/A

* FTE is as at 30 June 2025 and excludes staff on Leave Without Pay (LWOP).

** First salary increase in the VPS 2024 Agreement was effective 1 May 2024 but not paid until October 2024, second salary increase was effective and paid 1 May 2025 – both increases are reflected in the above estimate.

Section G: Government decisions impacting on finances

Question 25 (all departments and entities) Commonwealth Government and National Cabinet decisions

Please identify any Commonwealth Government and National Cabinet decisions during 2024–25 which had not been anticipated/not been concluded before the finalisation of the State Budget in 2024–25 and their impact(s) on the department's/entity's finances or activities during those years (including new funding agreements, discontinued agreements and changes to funding levels). Please quantify the impact on income and expenses where possible.

Commonwealth Government decision	Impact(s) in 2024–25	
	on income (\$ million)	on expenses (\$ million)
Community Solar Banks initiative (Solar for Apartments)	2.5	2.5
Boosting High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza	1.3	0.1
National Cabinet decision	Impact(s) in 2024–25	
	on income (\$ million)	on expenses (\$ million)
Not applicable.		

Section H: General

Question 26 (all departments and entities) Reviews/studies/evaluations undertaken

- a) Please list all internal⁷ and external reviews/studies/evaluations, established, commenced or completed by or on behalf of the department/agency in 2024–25 and provide the following information:
- Name of the review/study/evaluation and which portfolio and output/agency is responsible
 - Reasons for the review/study/evaluation
 - Terms of reference/scope of the review/study/evaluation
 - Anticipated/actual duration of review/study/evaluation and completion date
 - Anticipated findings and outcomes of the review/study/evaluation
 - Estimated cost of the review/study/evaluation and final cost (if completed)
 - Where completed, whether the review/study/evaluation is publicly available and where. If no, please provide an executive summary and please explain why the full document is not publicly available.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Reasons for the review/evaluation	Terms of reference/scope	Anticipated/actual duration and completion date	Anticipated findings and outcomes	Estimated cost (\$)	Final cost if completed (\$)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, provide executive summary and explain why not available.
Draft Victorian Transmission Plan (Energy and Resources portfolio; Energy output)	To determine a long-term plan for new infrastructure to support the transition to renewable energy.	Prepare a draft long-term strategic plan for public consultation outlining Victorian transmission and renewable energy zone development to support the energy transition	September 2024 - June 2025	The Draft Victorian Transmission Plan was released in May 2025 for public consultation to support engagement and invite feedback. Feedback received during the consultation period between May and	\$1.3 million	\$1.3 million	Yes. Engage Victoria website

⁷ Internal reviews do not include internal costings. Internal reviews/evaluations include any reviews or evaluations undertaken by your department and not given to external consultants. Internal reviews/evaluations do not include inquiries carried out by Parliamentary Committees or reviews undertaken by integrity agencies.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Reasons for the review/evaluation	Terms of reference/scope	Anticipated/actual duration and completion date	Anticipated findings and outcomes	Estimated cost (\$)	Final cost if completed (\$)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, provide executive summary and explain why not available.
		over the next 15 years.		June 2025 informed the refinement of the final plan, ensuring it reflects stakeholder input and supports Victoria's energy transition. The final plan was released in August 2025.			
Enhanced System Planning Project (Energy and Resources portfolio; Energy output)	To develop a comprehensive modelling framework integrating distribution networks and consumer and distributed energy resources to improve whole-of-system planning.	Deliver electricity distribution network modelling, scalable tools and models to assess future residential load, consumer and distributed energy resource and electrification impacts, repeatable data-sharing methods and planning frameworks using distribution network service provider data.	January 2023 – June 2025	The final report builds practical foundations for cost-effective, integrated, coordinated, system-wide energy planning across the National Electricity Market. It enables better system coordination and policy alignment, reducing duplication and delays, and informs more timely, cost-effective infrastructure investment and a reduction of total energy system costs for consumer benefit.	\$0.1 million	\$0.1 million	Yes. C4NET website

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Reasons for the review/evaluation	Terms of reference/scope	Anticipated/actual duration and completion date	Anticipated findings and outcomes	Estimated cost (\$)	Final cost if completed (\$)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, provide executive summary and explain why not available.
Impact of Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme on beverage prices and consumption (Environment portfolio; Waste and Recycling output)	To analyse the impact of the introduction of Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme on beverage prices.	Examine the pricing and consumption of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages before and after the scheme started. The review focused on the first full year of Container Deposit Scheme operation: 1 November 2023 - 31 October 2024.	July 2024 – March 2025	The review found that prices of eligible alcoholic drinks in Victoria increased by an average of 3.6 cents and eligible non-alcoholic drinks by an average of 9.1 cents, which is less than the 10-cent refund. This increase is consistent with first year results for New South Wales and Queensland schemes.	\$0.3 million	\$0.3 million	Yes. Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme
Victoria's Climate Science Report 2024 (Climate action portfolio; Climate action output)	To summarise the best available scientific evidence on Victoria's climate including climate projections.	Provide a comprehensive synthesis of climate science relevant to Victoria. The scope includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> summarising changes in the global and Victorian climate context presenting the methodology and key findings from the latest 	March 2023-October 2024	The scientific evidence presented in the report will enable more informed decision making across businesses, the community and government including improved research, risk assessments and planning for climate resilience.	\$0.5 million	\$0.5 million	Yes. Victoria's changing climate

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Reasons for the review/evaluation	Terms of reference/scope	Anticipated/actual duration and completion date	Anticipated findings and outcomes	Estimated cost (\$)	Final cost if completed (\$)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, provide executive summary and explain why not available.
		climate projections for Victoria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> exploring the science behind climate hazards specific to Victoria, including the impacts of climate change on these hazards demonstrating the application of climate science in decision-making through case studies. 					
Longitudinal research into Solar Victoria customers' energy consumption and expenditure patterns following installation of an approved product (Energy	To quantify the potential and actual impacts of Solar Victoria programs on participating households' and businesses' energy consumption and expenditure (costs and savings), over time.	The research will quantify and analyse the effects over time, and potential savings realised as a result of installing Distributed Energy Resources and energy-efficient appliances on Victorian	September 2022 – June 2025	The research findings will be used to inform current and future policies and programs.	\$0.02 million	\$0.1 million	No. Summary to be published by end of 2025. <u>Summary:</u> Provided insights into the potential and actual impacts of Solar Victoria programs on participating households' and

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Reasons for the review/evaluation	Terms of reference/scope	Anticipated/actual duration and completion date	Anticipated findings and outcomes	Estimated cost (\$)	Final cost if completed (\$)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, provide executive summary and explain why not available.
and Resources portfolio; Solar Victoria output)		households and businesses participating in Solar Victoria's programs.					businesses' energy consumption over time.
Taskforce on Rehoming Pets (Agriculture portfolio; Agriculture output)	To deliver Recommendations 13-15 and 16-17 of the Taskforce on Rehoming Pets by evaluating the current situation for rehoming cats and dogs used in research and teaching.	The Analysis considered: a. Legislative reforms from other jurisdictions, such as NSW and New Zealand. b. Rehoming demands within Victoria and animal fate reporting processes. c. The roles and responsibilities for rehoming animals within research and teaching and the current lack of standardised processes and procedures across the sector.	November 2024 – November 2025	The science and teaching needs analysis identified two government initiatives that will be taken forward by the department, in liaison with critical stakeholders and the Animal Welfare Advisory Group, over the next six months. The scope of these initiatives will be expanded beyond cats and dogs to include other species which are suitable for rehoming from research and teaching.	\$0.1 million	Not applicable.	No. This internal analysis includes sensitive information provided from a small number of targeted stakeholders. The analysis was informed by consultation with impacted stakeholders and the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. The initiatives recommended by the analysis will be shared publicly once developed.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Reasons for the review/evaluation	Terms of reference/scope	Anticipated/actual duration and completion date	Anticipated findings and outcomes	Estimated cost (\$)	Final cost if completed (\$)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, provide executive summary and explain why not available.
		<p>d. The expertise and knowledge required for rehoming cats and dogs in research and teaching and the current lack of educational supports.</p> <p>e. Resource availability and funding.</p>					
Livestock predation survey (Agriculture portfolio; Agriculture output)	To supplement information on the impacts of livestock predation that was already available.	<p>The livestock predation survey was seeking up-to-date information to better understand how dingoes are affecting Victorian livestock farmers.</p> <p>The survey collected data on the impacts of livestock predation on Victorian farmers over the last five years, to complement long-term information collected by the</p>	The survey was open between 23 July 2024 and 6 August 2024. The survey report was published on the Agriculture Victoria website in April 2025.	<p>The intention of the survey was to supplement information on the impacts of livestock predation that was already available, and as such the survey was open to a broad self-selecting audience rather than restricted to a limited representative sample.</p> <p>As a consequence, the results of the survey are not</p>	\$0.02 million	\$0.02 million	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Analysis of Livestock Predation Survey 2024</p>

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Reasons for the review/evaluation	Terms of reference/scope	Anticipated/actual duration and completion date	Anticipated findings and outcomes	Estimated cost (\$)	Final cost if completed (\$)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, provide executive summary and explain why not available.
		Victorian Government's Wild Dog Management Program.		<p>representative of all landholders and are not able to be extrapolated to provide quantitative estimates of the total or overall impacts of livestock predation. The results should be used accordingly.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the survey does provide useful qualitative information regarding the impacts of livestock predation on landholders, and the quantitative data provided by the responses gives a useful indication of the impacts for a subset of landholders who completed the survey.</p>			
Science-based literature review of 1080 poison	To analyse the efficacy of 1080 poison use and its	Conduct qualitative research through a literature review of	Dec 2024 – May 2025	Informed policy and regulatory settings for the use of 1080	\$0.3 million	\$0.3 million	Yes.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Reasons for the review/evaluation	Terms of reference/scope	Anticipated/actual duration and completion date	Anticipated findings and outcomes	Estimated cost (\$)	Final cost if completed (\$)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, provide executive summary and explain why not available.
and its alternatives (Agriculture portfolio; Agriculture output)	pest control alternatives.	1080 poison and its alternatives.		poison and other pest animal control methods in Victoria.			Review of the use of 1080 and other pest animal control methods
Energy Safety Review consultation paper (Energy and Resources portfolio; Energy output)	To identify safety risks and regulatory gaps associated with emerging energy technologies and support policy development through the Energy Safety Review.	The consultation paper, informed by a foundational study, outlined proposed actions for government consideration to modernise Victoria's energy safety framework.	July 2024 – August 2025	<p>Key themes of the consultation paper include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify emerging risks from renewable energy technologies. Assess the strengths and gaps of the current regulatory framework. Develop recommendations for immediate, medium-term, and systemic reforms. <p>The outcome will be an Energy Safety Roadmap.</p>	\$0.6 million	\$0.6 million	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Energy Safety Review</p>

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Reasons for the review/evaluation	Terms of reference/scope	Anticipated/actual duration and completion date	Anticipated findings and outcomes	Estimated cost (\$)	Final cost if completed (\$)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, provide executive summary and explain why not available.
Network Outage Review (EES) (Energy and Resources portfolio; Energy output)	To provide independent, expert advice to government on the energy transmission and distribution system response to the February 2024 storms.	To inquire into and make recommendations in respect to the operational response of transmission and distribution businesses to the February 2024 storms, including contingency planning, timely and effective management of the incident, and restoration of supply.	March 2024 - August 2024	The final report made 19 recommendations which place community at the centre and aim to get better outcomes for all Victorians. These recommendations form a clear pathway for Victoria's transmission and distribution businesses to prepare better, prevent outages, and to more effectively reconnect and provide support to communities during and after events, and to continuously improve by learning from these experiences.	\$1.2 million	\$1.1 million	Yes. Network Outage Review
Evaluation of the fifth tranche of the Environmental Contribution (EC5) – 2024 End-	The independent evaluation details outcomes and achievements from the four years of the EC5 initiatives,	The evaluation focused on accountability and continual improvement. The report documents	November 2022 - November 2024	Positive outcomes for Victoria from EC5 investment, which demonstrated good alignment with (and progress toward) the	\$0.2 million	\$0.2 million	Yes. Environmental contributions

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Reasons for the review/evaluation	Terms of reference/scope	Anticipated/actual duration and completion date	Anticipated findings and outcomes	Estimated cost (\$)	Final cost if completed (\$)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, provide executive summary and explain why not available.
of-Tranche Evaluation (Water portfolio; Effective Water Management and Supply output)	fulfilling the requirement of Section 196 of the <i>Water Industry Act 1994</i> and EC governance requirements.	and reflects on the achievements, challenges, and lessons from the delivery of EC5 through analysis of the impacts, effectiveness, efficiency, appropriateness, and legacy of EC5 investments.		legislated EC objectives and key strategies (Water for Victoria, Water is Life and the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy). Outcomes were achieved at a 'high' or 'very high' level for most impact domains. The report made recommendations for continuous improvement in future tranches, which are being implemented through EC6.			
Gippsland offshore wind - shore crossing analysis (Energy and Resources portfolio; Energy output)	To identify and assess preferred shore crossing areas to support Gippsland offshore wind projects.	Prepare a report to document the identification and assessment of preferred shore crossing areas to support Gippsland offshore wind projects looking to connect to the new offshore wind	May 2025 - June 2025	Preferred shore crossing locations identified for further consultation with community, Traditional Owners and industry.	\$0.2 million	\$0.2 million	No. The shore crossing locations will be published with the draft declaration of Renewable Energy Zones which is anticipated in late 2025.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Reasons for the review/evaluation	Terms of reference/scope	Anticipated/actual duration and completion date	Anticipated findings and outcomes	Estimated cost (\$)	Final cost if completed (\$)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, provide executive summary and explain why not available.
		transmission project.					
Assessment of Syncline Community Cable Private Transmission Proposal Draft Victorian Transmission Plan (Energy and Resources portfolio; Energy output)	To assess the Syncline Community Cable Private Transmission Proposal and its suitability for formal evaluation.	Undertake an assessment of the Syncline Community Cable Private Transmission Proposal and its suitability for formal evaluation.	February 2025 - June 2025	Inform VicGrid and the Minister on the likely merits of the proposal, how it compares to WRL and VNI-West, and the likelihood of the proposal passing formal evaluation (including whether the proposal demonstrates justification for exclusive negotiation).	\$0.3 million	\$0.3 million	No. VicGrid is seeking approval from the proponent to publicly release the report, in line with the project Probity and Process Deed.
Grid Impact Assessment Consultation Paper (Energy and Resources portfolio; Energy output)	To develop an approach to managing how renewable energy projects access Victoria's electricity transmission network.	To present a proposed policy with criteria and an application process to determine whether proposed projects may be allowed to connect to the transmission network outside a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).	July 2024 - January 2025	The Grid Impact Consultation Paper was published on 8 January for public consultation through 14 February. Feedback was considered in the development of draft Grid Impact Assessment Guidelines which was released in September 2025.	\$0.1 million	\$0.1 million	Yes. Victorian Access Regime

- b) Please outline the Department's/Agency's in house skills/capabilities/expertise to conduct reviews/studies/evaluations of the programs and services for which the Department/Agency is responsible.

The department employs staff with specialist expertise across a broad range of portfolio areas to ensure it has the right skills and capabilities to deliver core services. As funding is allocated for new programs, the department will employ staff with the requisite skills to undertake the new functions required for these programs and services.

The department conducts in house reviews/studies/evaluations of its programs and services where the capability exists, or will employ staff with the skills and capabilities necessary to undertake or lead a review/study/evaluation.

In addition, the department's Strategy and Performance division within Corporate Services develops collaborative and integrated strategy, strategic analysis, process design, business planning, performance reporting, policy, science, and projects. The Strategy and Performance Division advises on long-term strategic options to meet Government and departmental outcomes and uses business intelligence to guide future priorities, directions and investment strategies.

The department conducts Post Implementation Reviews and Post Incident Reviews as part of its standard IT practice. These reviews are conducted by internal operational staff and project teams.

Question 27 (all departments and water corporations [question 27(c) only]) Climate change

- a) Under FRD 24 Reporting of environmental data by government entities, Victorian Government organisations must report their greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts. Please list the department/entity's internal targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in 2024–25 and the department/entity's performance against these internal targets.

Internal target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions 2024–25	Performance against internal target as at 30 June 2025
DEECA has committed to achieving net zero emissions from 2030 onwards.	<p>The total greenhouse gas emissions for DEECA over the 2024-25 reporting period was 24,210 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tonnes CO_{2-e}) compared to 21,959 tonnes CO_{2-e} for 2023-24.</p> <p>The 2024-25 fire season was Victoria's most intense since 2019-20, resulting in a substantial increase in aerial activity and the associated operational aviation emissions.</p> <p>DEECA achieved a 40 per cent reduction in electricity emissions through the additional Green Power purchasing commitment implemented from September 2023.</p>

- b) Please outline and quantify where possible the department's actions in 2024–25 that have contributed to the Whole of Victorian Government emissions reduction pledge.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) first policy to transition the DEECA shared passenger vehicle fleet to ZEVs, with 82 ZEVs now available for staff. Implementing Green Power purchasing across all department-controlled electricity accounts, in advance of the Victorian Government commitment to transition electricity accounts to 100 per cent renewable from July 2025. Replacing DEECA fossil gas assets at end-of-life with zero emissions alternatives.

- c) **[Water corporations only]** Victoria's water corporations have targets related to greenhouse gas emissions and renewable electricity under the *Statement of obligations (Emissions reduction)*.⁸ For each individual water corporation please list applicable targets from the statement of obligations and progress toward or performance against the target as at 30 June 2025.

Applicable target	Progress toward or performance against target as at 30 June 2025
Not applicable.	

⁸ https://www.water.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0029/668306/statement-of-obligations-emission-reduction-2022.pdf

Question 28 (DTP, DE, DH, DEECA) Adaptation Action Plans

Please describe the progress made and actions taken to implement the department's Adaptation Action Plan in 2024–25. What measurable impact have these actions had on addressing the impacts of climate change?

Please provide information regarding all Adaptation Action Plans your department is responsible for.

The seven Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans (AAPs) (2022 – 2026) were tabled in Parliament on 9 February 2022, accompanied by the publication 'Building Victoria's Climate Resilience' which sets out what Victoria is doing to adapt and build resilience to our changing climate. The seven AAPs include 127 actions to:

- improve public assets and services such as schools, health and transport to be able to withstand and bounce back from extreme weather events;
- adjust government policies, operations and decisions to reflect the latest climate science and prepare for climate impacts and opportunities;
- foster genuine partnerships with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to embed cultural knowledge in adaptation and support self-determination;
- help partners, industries and communities to access high quality, evidence-based climate information and guidance to inform their decisions; and
- provide Victorian workers and industries with opportunities to develop skills and take advantage of emerging technologies that will help Victoria prosper in a changing climate.

DEECA is responsible for the Natural Environment, Primary Production and Water Cycle AAPs. In addition, the Built Environment AAP (led by the Department of Transport and Planning) includes several actions relating to the Energy portfolio in DEECA.

Implementation progress is as follows:

Natural Environment:

The Natural Environment Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (NEAAP) includes 20 actions that aim to:

- improve our understanding of risks and vulnerabilities;
- help prioritise adaptation actions and focus efforts;
- create a framework to support climate-adapted decision-making;
- support and enable practitioners to better approach decision making in the context of a changing climate and increased uncertainty, and
- support Traditional Owner outcomes and objectives.

19 of the 20 actions have been embedded into existing initiatives. Work is progressing on the final action, to prepare a foundational guide to transformational adaptation in the natural environment, to be delivered in December 2025.

Work by partners across DEECA also continued to contribute to progressing NEAAP actions, including:

- strategies that consider climate change adaptation and the natural environment, like the whole of sector Victorian Bushfire Management Strategy, and the Victoria's Resilient Coast Adapting for 2100+;
- research projects that will improve our understanding of climate change risk to inform decision-making, like the Identifying and managing risks of climate change and altered fire regimes to biodiversity project being led out of the Arthur Rylah Institute; and
- programs like the 10inTen – recovering 10 threatened species in ten years at the Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery, and the Climate Resilient Forests – Adaptation Pathways Pilot project in the Otways.

Primary Production:

All 16 actions outlined in the Primary Production Adaptation Action Plan are either completed or embedded into ongoing work contributing to the four priorities of the Action Plan.

Water Cycle:

- All 21 actions of the Water Cycle Adaptation Action Plan (WCAAP) have commenced and are on track for delivery in 2026.
- The 2024-25 State Budget invested funding from the sixth tranche of the Environmental Contribution to maintain water cycle climate action.
- Funding investment in the 2024-25 State Budget will support implementation of the 2022-26 Water Cycle Adaptation Action Plan and development of a new plan for 2027-31.
- In 2024-25, government funding enabled:
 - Establishment of a water sector adaptation capability building working group, in partnership with VicWater, supporting the sector to build climate-related hazard and risk assessment capabilities, improving water infrastructure planning, design and investment decisions.
 - Management of regional grant-funded projects to build the resilience of our waterways and land to the impacts of climate change, including through use of existing pipelines to deliver environmental water to stressed landscapes in the MacKenzie River and Burnt Creek systems.
 - Management of integrated water management grants for projects being delivered by local governments, water entities and Traditional Owners to prepare our water system for more extreme weather conditions. One of those grants, to the Hume City Council, will keep the Kalkallo sports field green whilst protecting the Merri Creek from storm runoff with a new system to harvest and re-use stormwater.
 - Update of the Ministerial Reporting Directions in December 2024 to set clear expectations for the Victorian water sector on transparent and effective climate risk management (coming into effect from 2025-26).

Built Environment (Energy portfolio actions):

- Action 4: Pursue opportunities for upgrades of existing building stock, with a focus on improvements to housing for low-income and vulnerable Victorians to enhance resilience to increasing heat and other climate-related hazards
 - The Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program is delivering a range of cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades in public, community and Aboriginal Housing properties. As of June 2025, the Program has delivered over 20,000 social housing upgrades.
 - The Residential Efficiency Scorecard program is partnering with the Resilient Building Council to develop and trial home Resilience assessments covering disaster risk, including bushfire, flood, storm, cyclone and heatwave. These assessments also integrate energy efficiency ratings, using

Scorecard, to enable a low cost, easy to understand, assessment of risk, and customised actions identified for how to reduce this risk. A pilot study was recently completed in Mount Alexander Shire, with 150 homes receiving resilience assessments.

- DEECA worked with the Department of Government Services (DGS) on the new minimum energy efficiency standards for rental homes. These will be phased in over four years, beginning from 1 March 2027. These standards build on existing minimum standards that have been in place in Victoria since 2021. The new standards cover the most cost-effective measures for cutting energy waste in the home – ceiling insulation, draught proofing, and low-flow showerheads, as well as energy efficient hot water, heating and cooling.
- Action 5: The Distribution Network Resilience Review examined opportunities to strengthen energy infrastructure resilience including reviewing adequacy and robustness of existing frameworks
 - The 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program was expanded in Round 2 and 3 to allow eligible applicants to apply for grants for energy back-up systems that will increase energy resilience in their community. These energy back-up systems must include a neighbourhood battery and may also include solar photovoltaics, generators and energy management systems, as well as being publicly accessible during power outages, depending on the community's needs. Under Round 2, nine resilience projects were approved for funding, with round 3 applications closing in 2025-26.
 - On 16 July 2024, Victoria introduced new regulations for standalone power systems. These regulations allow electricity distribution businesses in Victoria to include expenditures related to standalone power systems in their regulatory proposals to the Australian Energy Regulator, encouraging investment in these resilience measures and delivering better outcomes for customers.
 - The government commenced two energy resilience studies to enhance network resilience and deliver energy backup systems in high-risk areas to ensure community relief hubs and key infrastructure maintain power during extreme weather events.
 - Through the Energy Resilience Solutions program, 24 energy back-up systems have been installed, with program of works completed in 2024-25. During the February 2024 outage, Loch Sport, Monbulk and Emerald benefited from these systems, which provided essential devices, such as charging devices and heating food. The systems include solar, batteries, and generators, offering up to 15 hours of backup power, with diesel generators providing additional power if needed. These hubs offer phone charging, showers, toilets, and cooking facilities during outages.
 - In Mallacoota, Omeo, and Corryong, the Community Microgrids and Sustainable Energy program is boosting bushfire and energy resilience through solar power, batteries, diesel generators, and advanced microgrid infrastructure. The final phase, a town-wide Corryong Islandable Microgrid, is in the design phase and will be completed by 2026.
 - In response to the February 2024 storms, small back-up generators were distributed to 17 residents to ensure they had access to power. Priority went to the most vulnerable who were remaining at homes with prolonged power outages.

Question 29 (all departments) Annual reports – performance measure targets and objective indicators

a) Please provide the following information on performance measures that did not meet 2024–25 targets.

Performance measure	2024–25 target (Budget)	2024–25 actual (Annual report)	Variance (%)	Explanation	Output(s) and portfolio(s) impacted
Victorian schools participating in the ResourceSmart Schools program	600	546	(9)	Performance is below target due to schools' competing priorities (water, waste and other day to day operations).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action output. Climate Action portfolio.
Environmental volunteer hours contributing to the health of Victoria's biodiversity	440,000	380,000 (estimate)	(14)	A final result will be available in late 2025 following the receipt and analysis of data from community groups. The 2024-25 expected outcome is below target due to decreases in volunteering, consistent with broader national trends showing that volunteers have less time available to volunteer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Biodiversity output. Environment portfolio.
Pest predator control in priority locations	700,000 hectares	650,000 hectares (estimate)	(7)	A final result will be available by early 2026 following the receipt and analysis of statewide data. The expected outcome is below target due to weather impacts and project plan modifications made to address requirements of delivery partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Biodiversity output. Environment portfolio.
Annual Arthur Rylah Institute Client Survey respondents rank the level of overall satisfaction with ARI's research as good, very good or excellent	95%	94%	(1)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Biodiversity output. Environment portfolio.
Victorian community trust in EPA	70%	50%	(29)	Performance is below target, consistent with 'trust' scores for similar organisations in other jurisdictions. EPA is continuing to focus on building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Activities and Environment Protection output. Environment portfolio.

Performance measure	2024–25 target (Budget)	2024–25 actual (Annual report)	Variance (%)	Explanation	Output(s) and portfolio(s) impacted
				community trust through communications and engagement.	
Proportion of Victorian households with access to organic food and garden waste recycling services	80%	68% (estimate)	(15)	The reported result is an estimate, with the final result to be published on Recycling Victoria's website by March 2026, following the consolidation of all data. The expected outcome is below target due to delays in some local councils implementing services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling output. Environment portfolio.
Proportion of Victorian households with access to separated glass recycling services	40%	35% (estimate)	(13)	The reported result is an estimate, with the final result to be published on Recycling Victoria's website by March 2026, following the consolidation of all data. The expected outcome is below target due to delays in some local councils implementing services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling output. Environment portfolio.
Cumulative increase in the capacity of Victoria's resource recovery infrastructure	2,200,000 tonnes	2,165,892 tonnes	(2)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste and Recycling output. Environment portfolio.
Neighbourhood batteries installed	25	9	(64)	Performance is behind schedule due to some projects requiring additional time to complete battery installations to enable extended community consultation at some locations and further network integration design and testing. The 2024-25 target of 25 batteries is anticipated to be reached by 30 March 2026 and the program's overall target of 100 neighbourhood batteries installed and 10,000 kWh of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy output. Energy and Resources portfolio.

Performance measure	2024–25 target (Budget)	2024–25 actual (Annual report)	Variance (%)	Explanation	Output(s) and portfolio(s) impacted
				storage capacity created is on track for completion by 30 June 2027.	
Vulnerable Victorian energy consumers reached through consumer support programs	5,000	3,450	(31)	Performance is below target reflecting program capacity resulting in a rescope of the program objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy output. Energy and Resources portfolio.
Users of the Victorian Energy Compare website who report a better understanding of their usage costs after using the website	65%	52%	(20)	Performance is below target due to the increasing volume of repeat visitors to the Victorian Energy Compare website who are already aware of their energy usage costs. While the result is 52%, the volume of users who report they already understood their energy usage and costs is 25%, which totals over 75% of users understanding their usage costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy output. Energy and Resources portfolio.
Applications for Solar PV rebates for owner occupied households approved	50,000	41,581	(17)	Performance is below target due to lower customer demand reflecting changes in market conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar Victoria output. Energy and Resources portfolio.
Applications for Solar PV rebates for rental households approved	2,000	1,213	(39)	Performance is below target due to low customer demand reflecting changes in market conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar Victoria output. Energy and Resources portfolio.
Rebated installations audited by the Solar Homes Audit Program within 6 months of installation	5%	4.86%	(3)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar Victoria output. Energy and Resources portfolio.
Annual visitation to Zoos Victoria	2.85 million	2.67 million	(6)	Performance is below target due to poor weather conditions on key visitation days, in an environment of higher cost of living pressures; and a two-month delay in the opening of the Elephant Trail at Werribee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Land and Forests output. Environment portfolio.

Performance measure	2024–25 target (Budget)	2024–25 actual (Annual report)	Variance (%)	Explanation	Output(s) and portfolio(s) impacted
Crown land leases directly managed by the Department	640	520	(19)	Performance is below target mainly due to the transfer of 97 leases to the Victorian Fisheries Authority, in line with direct management responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Land and Forests output. Environment portfolio.
Visitors to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne and Cranbourne	2.3 million	2.0 million	(13)	Performance is below target due to ongoing roadworks on South Gippsland Highway blocking the main entry to the Cranbourne garden. The roadworks are anticipated for completion in the first half of 2025-26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Land and Forests output. Environment portfolio.
Publicly elected Committees of Management that have a current statutory appointment	90%	89%	(1)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of Public Land and Forests output. Environment portfolio.
Total area of estate managed by Parks	4,120,000 hectares	4,102,000 hectares	(0.4)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Victoria output. Environment portfolio.
Significant built bay assets managed by Parks Victoria rated in average to excellent condition	80%	75%	(6)	Performance is below target as a result of aging infrastructure and adverse weather impacting on the condition of bay assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Victoria output. Environment portfolio.
Significant built park assets managed by Parks Victoria rated in average to excellent condition	88%	85%	(3)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Victoria output. Environment portfolio.
Area of waterway vegetation works undertaken to improve the health and resilience of waterways	5,000 hectares	4,543 hectares	(9)	Performance is below target due to additional time being required in this first year of a four-year program for funding agreements with associated targets to be finalised, and for planning and engagement activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Water Management and Supply output. Water portfolio.

Performance measure	2024–25 target (Budget)	2024–25 actual (Annual report)	Variance (%)	Explanation	Output(s) and portfolio(s) impacted
Schools signed up to Schools Water Efficiency program (SWEP)	1,900	1,500	(21)	Performance is below target due to schools' competing priorities (energy, waste and other day to day operations).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Water Management and Supply output. Water portfolio.
100 per cent of burns identified in the current year of the Joint Fuel Management Program ready for on ground delivery	Feb 2025	May 2025	(25)	Performance is below target due to changes in seasonal conditions that required adjustments to the program, to allow for parallel burning and preparation through to May each year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management output. Environment portfolio.
Stakeholder and community forums on bushfire management and planned burning held	12	2	(83)	Performance is below target due to the impact of significant fires in the Grampians and Bullengarook, which resulted in the diversion of community engagement resources to bushfire response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management output. Environment portfolio.
State forests roads (Category 1) and bridges (on Category 1 roads) with documented inspections and/or maintenance programs to meet regulatory obligations	100%	21%	(80)	Performance is below target due to the diversion of resources to the extended bushfire season and priority planned burning activities, with the backlog to be completed in 2025-26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management output. Environment portfolio.
Proportion of Community-Based Bushfire Management partnerships rated as high functioning	80%	60%	(25)	Performance is below target due to a pause in the delivery of the program while responsibility was transferred to the CFA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire and Emergency Management output. Environment portfolio.
Visits of the Responsible Pet Ownership program to Victorian kindergartens and primary schools	3,100	3,086	(1)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio.
Value of co-investment from external (non-state) funding sources attracted to the Department's research projects	\$36 million	\$34.3 million	(4.8)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio.

Performance measure	2024–25 target (Budget)	2024–25 actual (Annual report)	Variance (%)	Explanation	Output(s) and portfolio(s) impacted
that support productive agriculture					
Provision of technical advice, diagnostic identification tests on pests and diseases including suspected exotics within agreed timeframes	85%	83.7%	(2)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio.
Animal pest, disease and residue control programs maintained to ensure Victorian agricultural produce complies with food safety and biosecurity standards required to access markets	5	3	(40)	Performance is below target due to the significant redirection of resources towards managing multiple outbreaks of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Victoria in 2024 and 2025. Three programs were fully maintained, with elements of the remaining two programs being partially addressed to mitigate risks for international exports and food safety issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio.
Preparedness activities implemented, in line with agreed plans, to ensure response readiness for emergency animal and plant pest, disease and natural disaster incidents	90%	87%	(3)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio.
Plant health certificates issued within specified timeframes at the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market to support domestic market access	95%	91%	(4.2)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture output. Agriculture portfolio.
Facilitate the delivery of resources projects in line with grant agreements and project milestones	100%	74%	(26)	Performance is below target due to changes to project timeframes for implementing an increased safety and risk management focused approach for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources output. Energy and Resources portfolio.

Performance measure	2024–25 target (Budget)	2024–25 actual (Annual report)	Variance (%)	Explanation	Output(s) and portfolio(s) impacted
				rehabilitation works at Benambra, Bendigo and Red Robin, to inform final remediation plans and the safe removal of a processing plant at Bendigo. Delays also occurred due to transitioning to the new duty-based regulatory model, including aligning legislative reform with industry readiness to engage on the design of the new model.	
Mineral licence applications processed within regulatory timeframes	95%	92%	(3)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources output. Energy and Resources portfolio.
Mineral work plans processed within regulatory timeframes	95%	94%	(1)	Not material - variance is within the five per cent tolerance for DPS performance measure reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources output. Energy and Resources portfolio.
Site rehabilitation bonds processed within 90 days from issue of bond notice for work plans expanding access to resource	95%	78%	(18)	Performance is below target due to authority holder delays linked to securing funds, undergoing settlements or undertaking preparatory works for new sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources output. Energy and Resources portfolio.

b) Please provide the following information for objective indicators where data was not available at publication of the annual report 2024–25.

Objective indicators stated in annual report for which data was not available at date of publication	Best available data for 2024–25 and relevant date	Explanation for the absence of data in annual report	Action taken to ensure timely data for 2025-26 annual report
The economic impact of fire prevention and preparedness investment	Quantitative data was not available for presentation in DEECA's Annual Report. Rather, commentary has been provided that discloses the department's investment in bushfire prevention and preparedness activities, addressing the significant social, environmental, and economic costs associated with response and recovery.	DEECA partners with research institutions as part of the Safer Together initiative and invests in the improvement of existing bushfire risk models and data, and development of new modelling capabilities, which takes time to test thoroughly before use.	This objective indicator has been discontinued from 2025-26 due to the unavailability of timely quantitative data, as referenced in the 2025-26 Department Performance Statement.

Note that the department consistently reports on a number of objective indicators one year in arrears, reflecting the time required to collate and analyse data from multiple sources including the Australian Bureau of Statistics and other external organisations.

Question 30 (all departments and entities) Challenges experienced by department/agency

Please list a minimum of three main challenges/risks faced by the department/agency in 2024–25.

A significant challenge may be any matter or strategy that impacted the department/agency, whether it arose externally or internally or as a result of new policy or legislation.

	Challenge experienced	Internal/ External	Causes of the challenge	Action taken to manage the challenge/risk
1.	Ensuring cultural capability cultural safety are core business of DEECA	Internal and external.	Ensuring cultural capability and safety; supporting and valuing Aboriginal decision-making. Supporting Traditional Owners' rights on Country so that their aspirations for land, water and culture are realised.	<p>DEECA is committed to advancing Aboriginal self-determination. Under the department's Self-Determination Reform Strategy, <i>Pupangarli Marnmarnepu</i>, DEECA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> delivered 71 Aboriginal Cultural Safety Training sessions to more than 1,200 staff, including targeted training for managers and expansion of foundational Aboriginal Cultural Safety training to include Regional Cultural Awareness training; continued the delivery of monthly yarning circles (women's, men's and all staff), personal wellbeing sessions, Aboriginal Staff Network meetings, and introduced annual forums to support culture and wellbeing of Aboriginal staff; delivered DEECA and Traditional Owner Corporation Exchange Program, involving six participants; finalised the development of the Statewide Caring for Country Partnership Forum implementation plan, to support the Statewide Caring for Country Partnership Forum to deliver on its strategic priority areas and support the transfer of power and resources back to Traditional Owners; continued delivery of an annual survey to gauge and monitor Traditional Owner satisfaction with DEECA's progress towards self-determination; funded Department Liaison Officers until 2027 to support resourcing for Traditional Owners Corporations to engage with DEECA on their priorities and aspirations for Country; continued implementing DEECA's Pathway Towards an Indigenous Data Sovereignty Policy project to promote best practice for the collection, use and management of Indigenous data with a key focus on progressing the Systems and Data Audit workstreams identified in the Pathway;

	Challenge experienced	Internal/ External	Causes of the challenge	Action taken to manage the challenge/risk
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitated five funding agreements with Traditional Owners to support Joint Management, to involve Traditional Owners in decision-making about the management of land and natural resources in equal partnership with the State of Victoria; • facilitated the support of the three existing Traditional Owner Land Management Boards and the establishment of a new board, which will provide Traditional Owner-led governance in the implementation of Joint Management Plans; • continued implementing agreements with Traditional Owners, including supporting four Recognition and Settlement Agreements, one Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement, two Co-operative Management Agreement, and seven Native Title Determinations; and • assisted the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) in the negotiation of two new and three additional/revised components of existing Recognition and Settlement Agreements. <p>During 2024–25, DEECA continued preparedness and engagement to support Government’s participation in Treaty negotiations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Whole-of-Victorian-Government (WOVG) Treaty Model, DEECA actively participated in and coordinated department engagement with Statewide Treaty negotiations through the Treaty Executive Taskforce and Executive Treaty Coordinator Network. • DEECA progressed Treaty Preparedness, including Executive Treaty Coordinator briefings of DEECA executives, quarterly updates to the Aboriginal Self Determination and Treaty Committee (ASDTC) to ensure executive oversight of Treaty preparedness. The Treaty Subcommittee was established and met monthly through 2024-25 to provide strategic coordination and information and advice to support DEECA’s treaty preparedness and negotiations process. DEECA supported Treaty alignment and First Peoples Assembly engagement activity across DEECA including through bespoke guidance to operationalise refreshed WOVG guidance.

	Challenge experienced	Internal/ External	Causes of the challenge	Action taken to manage the challenge/risk
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with WoVG Treaty communications guidance, DEECA promoted Treaty awareness through regular updates to foundational messaging and staff communications. <p>During 2024–25, DEECA continued to engage with the Yoorrook Justice Commission’s (the Commission’s) historic truth telling inquiries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This included responding to the Commission’s Questions on Notice, coordinating the development of responsive action plans in preparation for the release of the Commission’s final interim report and contributing to the state-wide procedural fairness review on the final reports.
2.	Emergency preparedness and recovery from natural disasters	Internal and external.	Increased frequency and severity of natural disasters and biosecurity incursions requires DEECA to maintain and strengthen its emergency preparedness for such events and ensure recovery activities enhance resilience to future events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced the risk and impact of bushfires and other emergencies on people, the environment, critical infrastructure and local economies including the continuation of a risk based, integrated land and fuel management program. The Victorian Bushfire Management Strategy was launched in March 2024 which outlines how Victorians can work together to mitigate, plan and prepare for, respond to and recover from bushfire across public and private land. Ongoing firefighter roles were secured for DEECA’s firefighting workforce to ensure public land continues to effectively be protected from bushfires. The Strengthening Local Government Programs grant program was utilised to support local councils to design and implement community-centred approaches to reducing bushfire risk. Emergency plans were in place to mitigate the impact of natural hazard emergencies on Victoria’s critical water and energy supply in consultation with key sector partners and through continual improvement and adaption. Delivered the annual Energy and Water Sector Resilience Plans, which provided insights into the status of resilience across each sector, addressing risks and delivering continuous improvement actions in preparedness for natural disasters and extreme events. Protected Victoria from biosecurity threats by conducting surveillance and responding to suspected exotic animal and plant pests and diseases notifications in accordance with national agreements. Delivered the Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Program, which is increasing Victoria’s capability and capacity to manage large-scale, prolonged,

	Challenge experienced	Internal/ External	Causes of the challenge	Action taken to manage the challenge/risk
				<p>complex biosecurity emergencies in the context of increasing threats from exotic plant and animal diseases, including H5N1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased capability to respond to wildlife emergency activities in relation to fire, extreme heat, marine pollution, cetacean strandings and disentanglement events by developing a revised training program pathway for wildlife emergency response and integration of wildlife response processes and procedures. Training and accreditation of individuals from the veterinary and wildlife welfare sectors to become members of the Wildlife Emergency Support Network (WESN) enabling deployment as part of wildlife emergency responses for bushfire and extreme heat. Training was also provided to agency staff, volunteers, and veterinary contractors to participate in wildlife field assessments. Supported the recovery of regions and primary producers from recent emergencies including bushfire, storm, flood, wildlife, water, energy and biosecurity emergencies, including building resilience for future emergency events where possible.
3.	Supporting Victoria's energy transition towards renewables	Predominantly external.	The Victorian Government committed to achieving its legislated emissions reduction and renewable energy targets, which includes deployment of offshore wind energy generation. Offshore wind energy will play a critical role in ensuring reliable and affordable energy supply as demand grows over the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislated increased Victorian renewable energy target (VRET) of 65 per cent by 2030 and new VRET 2035 target of 95 per cent. Legislated new energy storage targets of at least 2.6 gigawatts (GW) of energy storage capacity by 2030 and at least 6.3 GW by 2035. Re-established the State Electricity Commission as a government owned renewable energy company with an initial investment of \$1 billion towards delivering 4.5 GW of new renewable energy capacity and storage. Worked with the Commonwealth to secure a minimum allocation for Victoria of 1.4 GW of renewable energy capacity in the May 2024 tender for 6 GW under the Commonwealth's national Capacity Investment Scheme. Making Victorian renewable energy projects eligible for an accelerated planning pathway under the Development Facilitation Program. Strengthen market engagement and commence new initiatives to support energy training and workforce, including commencing development of the Victorian Energy Jobs Plan and the Women in Energy Strategy.

	Challenge experienced	Internal/ External	Causes of the challenge	Action taken to manage the challenge/risk
			coming decade and beyond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established VicGrid as Victoria's transmission network planner to drive delivery of new transmission investments.

Question 31 (all departments) Lapsed or abolished bodies

Please list all existing bodies (authorities, offices, commissions, boards and/or councils) within the department that either lapsed or were abolished in 2024–25 and provide the following information:

- Date body lapsed/abolished
- Reason for closure of the body
- How much money is expected to be saved (if any) by the organisation’s abolition
- How many staff (FTE) are expected to impacted by the organisation’s closure

Name of the body	Date body abolished/lapsed	Reason for closure	Anticipated savings from closure	Number of staff (FTE) impacted
Not applicable.				

Question 32 (all departments) Newly created bodies

Please list all newly created bodies (authorities, offices, commissions, boards and/or councils) created within the department in 2024–25 and provide the following information:

- Date body created
- Expenditure in relevant financial year
- FTE staff at end of relevant financial year
- Purpose/function(s) of the body

Name of the body	Date body created	Expenditure in 2024–25	FTE staff	Purpose/function(s) of the body	Who the head of the newly created body directly reports to
VicGrid Body Corporate	15 April 2025	Nil – did not trade in 2024-25	0	VicGrid’s purpose is to support the State of Victoria’s strategic objectives for developing new energy transmission infrastructure and a smooth transition to renewable energy; undertake activities preparatory to, incidental to, or necessary for any future conferral of Victoria’s Declared Network Functions on VicGrid Body Corporate.	Minister for Energy and Resources

Section I: Implementation of previous recommendations

Question 33 (relevant departments only)

- a) Please provide an update on the status of the implementation of each of the recommendations that were made by the Committee in its *Report on the 2023–24 Financial and Performance Outcomes* and supported and supported-in-principle by the Government.

Department	Recommendations supported and supported-in-principle by Government	Actions taken at 30 September 2025
DEECA	Recommendation 2: In future annual reports the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action publish how many action statements (as required under the <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>) have been published and updated, reviewed or amended, and how many are outstanding. This should include the name of the flora or fauna the action statement applies to.	DEECA will report in future annual reports on the annual number of action statements published, reviewed or amended and outstanding each year. Each action statement will be published on the DEECA website.
DEECA	Recommendation 3: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action explore ways to monitor and inform the public on the implementation of action statements.	Action Statements are published on DEECA's website. Action Statements inform the Victorian Government's investment in biodiversity and are available to inform investment by other stakeholders. DEECA is also exploring opportunities to monitor and inform the public on the implementation of action statements within available resources.
DEECA	Recommendation 5: Departments and agencies make reports and studies listed in their Committee questionnaire responses or their annual reports publicly available wherever possible.	DEECA will continue to make reports and studies listed in its Annual Report and Committee questionnaire response publicly available wherever possible. For example, in the DEECA 2023-24 Annual Report in its 'Reviews and studies expenditure' section, every item listed contains a link to publicly available information. However, in a limited number of instances, reports and studies may not be made public where the research findings are not yet conclusive, where the research is ongoing or where the study was conducted to inform program design. In these cases, general or interim findings are

		shared, taking into account commercial sensitivity, Cabinet-in Confidence and the risk of misinterpretation of results.
DEECA	Recommendation 28: To promote greater transparency and accountability for its performance, the State Electricity Commission develop and publicly report on appropriate measures and targets for each of its objectives on its website and in its annual report.	<p>SEC Victoria Pty Ltd (SEC) has a range of measures in place that support public reporting on its operations and performance.</p> <p>Information about SEC responsibilities, related initiatives and long-term goals are outlined in the SEC Victoria Strategic Plan 2023-2035, and are available on SEC's website (www.secvictoria.com.au). SEC's Annual Report and website include information regarding SEC achievement towards its key objectives and financial performance.</p> <p>DEECA and SEC will continue to develop additional appropriate measures and targets for reporting on outcomes publicly, as SEC initiatives are fully implemented.</p>
DEECA	Recommendation 29: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action include relevant output objectives, objective indicators and performance measures for the State Electricity Commission in the 2025–26 Budget.	<p>Information about SEC Victoria Pty Ltd's (SEC) responsibilities, related initiatives and long-term goals are outlined in the SEC Victoria Strategic Plan 2023-2035. Additionally, the SEC's Annual Report includes information regarding SEC achievement towards its key objectives, as well as providing statements of its finances.</p> <p>DEECA's Department Performance Statement has an objective indicator that incorporates SEC outputs, as part of Objective 5 - 'Relative share of Victoria's energy sourced from renewables'. Generation from all renewable energy projects will be counted towards Victoria's renewable energy targets and included in the renewable generation share for the reporting year. Once operational, generation from SEC's projects will be included.</p>
DEECA	Recommendation 30: Once known, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action provide a public update on any impacts to the Victorian Government's offshore wind generation targets as a result of Commonwealth approval delays for offshore wind projects.	DEECA acknowledges the importance of keeping the public informed about offshore wind targets and has undertaken a program of explicit, transparent implementation statements which update the public, industry participants and interested parties on the overall status of the Offshore Wind program, targets and future activities.

- b) Please provide an update on the status of the implementation of each of the recommendations that were made by the Committee in its *Report on the 2021–22 and 2022–23 Financial and Performance Outcomes* supported and supported-in-principle by the Government.

Department	Recommendations supported and supported-in-principle by Government	Actions taken at 30 September 2025
DEECA	Recommendation 37 - Victorian Government Departments, the Parliamentary Departments and Court Services Victoria provide a breakdown of the additional funding received when accounting for discrepancies between budgeted and actual revenue in response to the Committee's future general questionnaires.	In its response to the general questionnaire, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action provides explanations for all material variances between budget and actual revenue, including identifying major drivers and programs where additional funding has been received. The department will continue to provide this level of information in relation to additional funding received when accounting for discrepancies between budgeted and actual revenue in response to the Committee's future general questionnaires.
DEECA	Recommendation 38 - The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, as a priority, publish the Biodiversity 2037 annual progress reports for 2021 and 2022.	The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action has published the <i>Biodiversity 2037</i> , 2022 progress report. Biodiversity 2037 Progress Report (environment.vic.gov.au)
DEECA	Recommendation 41 - The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action develop performance measures that report on the outcomes of the Solar Homes program rather than its outputs.	<p>Solar Victoria currently reports on its outcomes broadly at the end of each financial year. Solar Victoria reports publicly on its contribution to generating capacity through the Annual VRET Progress Report (the latest version is published here: VRET Progress Report 2023-24.docx (parliament.vic.gov.au)), and publishes estimated household bill savings information on its website and regularly in press materials.</p> <p>Reporting of outcomes on the Solar Victoria website and relevant publications also extends beyond energy generation and bills savings to include job creation in the clean energy sector and emissions reduction, consistent with the Solar Homes program's broader objectives.</p> <p>Solar Victoria reports on outcome metrics under the Department Performance Statement (DPS) Departmental Objective Indicators 'Electricity generating capacity installed under the Solar Homes program' and 'Solar panel systems and energy efficient hot water</p>

		<p>systems installed under the Solar Homes program’ and will continue to investigate options to publish additional outcome-based metrics in future Annual Reports.</p> <p>Solar Victoria’s current reporting on outputs is consistent with the Victorian Auditor-General’s 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 reports on The DPS and the DTF Resource Management Framework, which advise that performance measures should not report on outcomes but only on outputs. Solar Victoria will continue to review its budget paper performance measures and objective indicators to ensure they are fit for purpose as programs mature.</p>
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Section J: Department of Treasury and Finance only

Question 34 (DTF only) Net cash flows from investments in financial assets for policy purposes – General Government Sector (GGS)

Not applicable.

Question 35 (DTF only) Purchases of non-financial assets – General Government Sector (GGS)

Not applicable.

Question 36 (DTF only) Revenue initiatives

Not applicable.

Question 37 (DTF only) Expenses by departments – General Government Sector (GGS)

Not applicable.

Question 38 (DTF only) Economic variables

Not applicable.