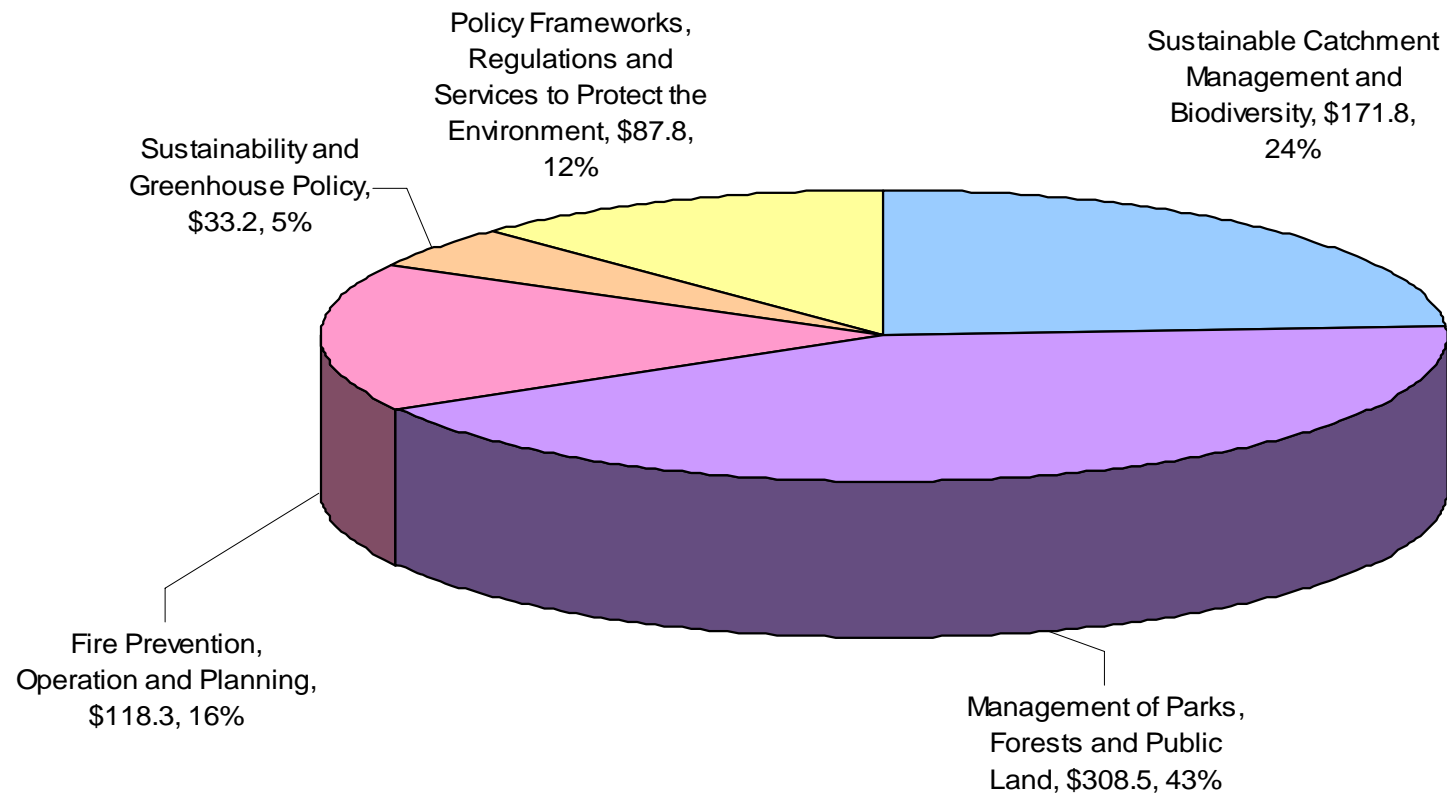


Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2006 Environment

Minister for Environment, John Thwaites

Budget 2006-07



New Initiatives – 2006-07

- Great Parks for a Liveable City \$10.43M over 4 years
- Bike Trails for a Liveable city \$8M over 4 years
- Caravan and Camping Parks on Coastal Crown Land (Grants Program)
\$4.8M over 4 years
- Revised model for Fire Management \$26.7M over 4 years
- Zoo's Victoria's Long Range Plan – Seal Pool Redevelopment \$20M
- Healthy and Active Victoria (DSE component \$5.2M over 4 years)
- Enhancing Game Management to deliver better outcomes on public and private land \$2.5M over 4 years

Fire Response

2005-06

- Attended 739 fires throughout 2005-06
- A cumulative total of 188,824 hectares of public land was burnt.
- 90 per cent of wildfires controlled within 5 hectares.
- 73 per cent of wildfires were controlled by 8am on the following day.
- Record breaking year for the Victorian Bushfire Information Line.
 - 2,500 calls in one day.



Fire Response

Grampians Fire (Mt Lubra)

- Mt Lubra fire in the Grampians burnt a total of 130,000 ha.
- 300 firefighters from DSE, Parks Victoria and DPI involved.
- 550 firefighters from the CFA involved.
- 190 firefighters from New South Wales involved.
- 150 fire trucks and 50 4WD slip on units used.
- 17 bulldozers and 16 graders used.
- 2 Erickson Aircranes, 2 Medium Helicopters, 5 Light Helicopters, and 6 Fixed Wing Bombers used.

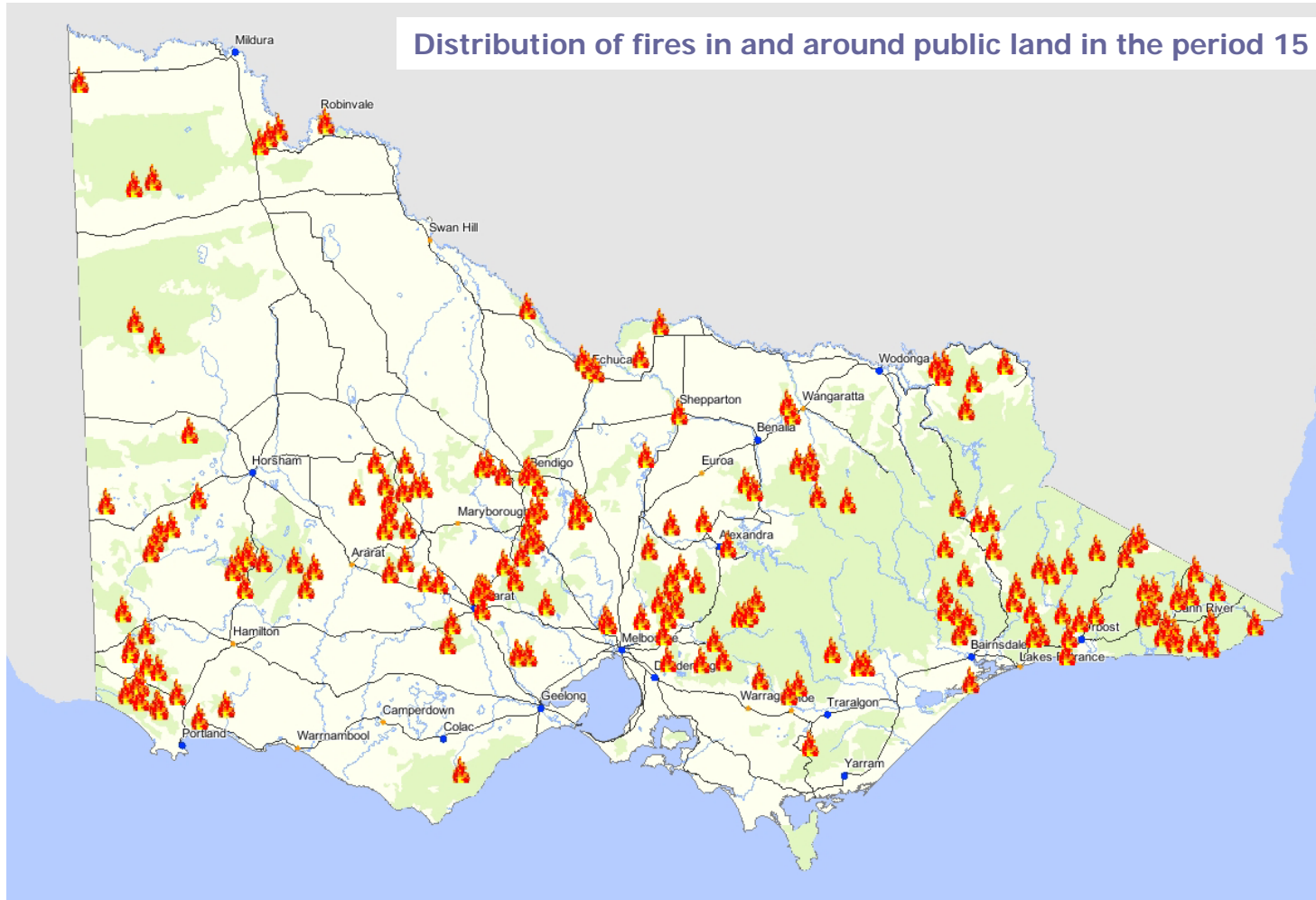
Moondarra Fire

- Moondarra fire burnt a total of 15,221 ha, with a perimeter of 144 km.
- Approximately 1000 community updates issued daily throughout the fire.
- 31 community meetings held.
- A total of 5,484 residents attended community meetings.



Fire Response

Distribution of fires in and around public land in the period 15 to 29 January 2006



Fuel Reduction Burns

- 150 additional Project Fire Fighters (PFF's) employed until end of May 2006 to carry out burns.
- Only 2 periods when burning could be done safely during autumn.
- Usually 6 to 8 burning safe periods available over autumn.
- 52 burns carried out in one day. Highest on record.

Parks

Metropolitan Parks

- 2006-07 Budget provides \$10.43M over four years to establish three new metropolitan parks at Melton, Werribee River, and Merri Creek at Craigieburn.
- \$2.82M is also provided for Point Gellibrand Heritage Park in Williamstown

Otways

- Otways - \$13.1M over 4 years. Great Otway National Park was established in December 2005 covering over 102,400 hectares

Weeds and Pests

- Through Government support for community programs, Serrated Tussock has been reduced from 130,000 hectares 82,000 hectares.
- Landcare groups, farmers, local governments, and industry have utilised incentives worth \$3M annually to tackle pests



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The Sustainable State

- **Bush Tender**
 - \$750K allocated for landholder payments
 - Agreements over 1,700 hectares with 47 landholders to date
- **Native Vegetation**
 - New approach to maintain ecological security and minimise economic costs
 - 30 regional native vegetation officers working with local government
- **BushBroker**
 - System to register and trade native vegetation credits
 - Landholders offered an opportunity to improve biodiversity and generate a new income stream



Coastal Spaces

\$2M to implement the Coastal Spaces Report

- \$1M for strategic planning of settlements
- \$600,000 to implement Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment and Great Ocean Road Region Landscape Assessment studies
- \$325,000 (NHT) funding for the development of policy and guidelines for addressing Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils
- \$100,000 to work with Wellington Shire to address old and inappropriate subdivisions on Gippsland's coast
- continuing investment in town and country water supply program.



Recommendations

April 2006



A Victorian
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The Place To Be

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