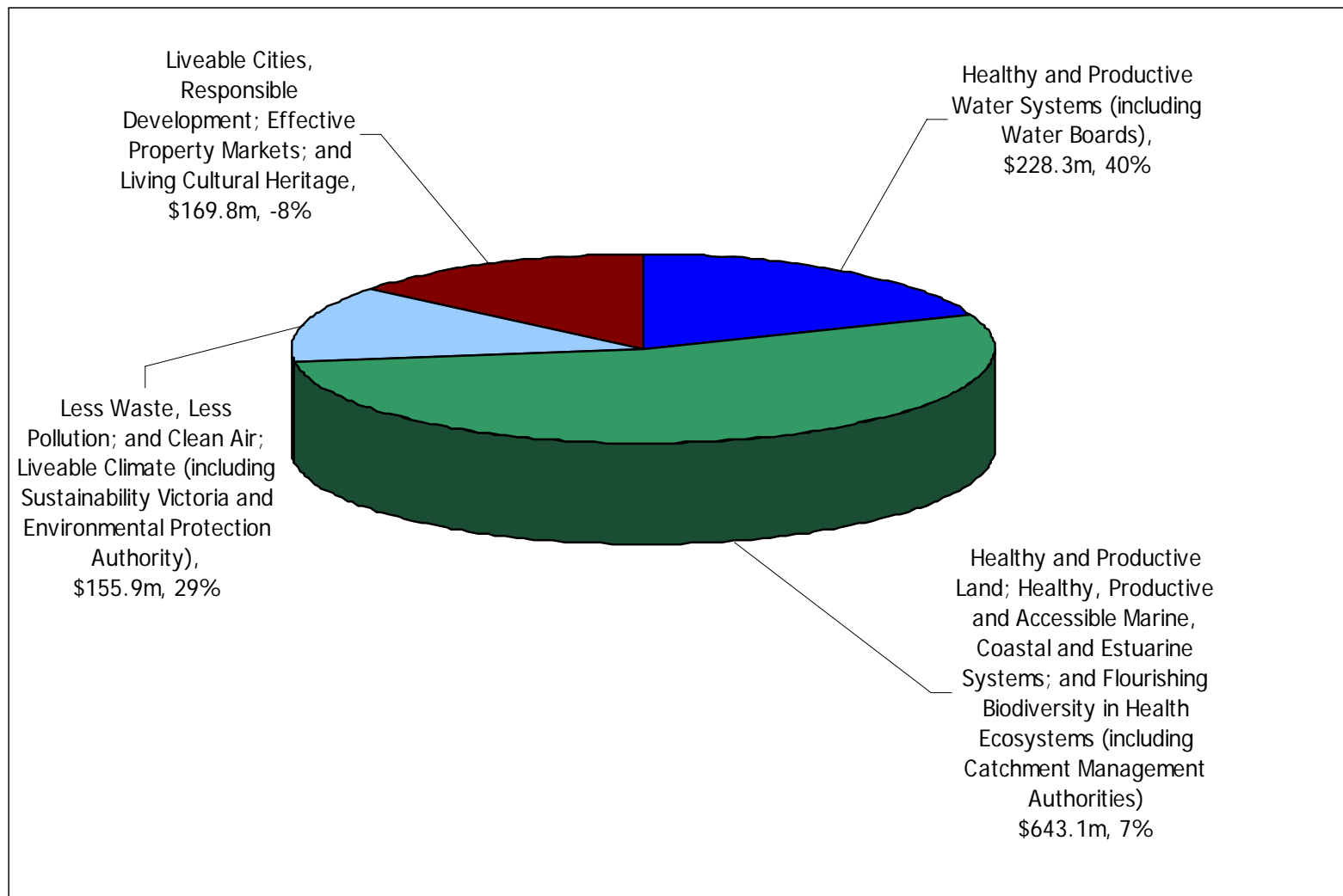


Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2007

Water, Environment and Climate Change

Minister Thwaites

Output Summary - DSE Budget by Portfolio 2007-08



Water for growth and the environment

Northern Mallee pipeline
completed saving 35 000 ML

Robinvale irrigation upgrade
(over \$20m TEI contribution)

Wimmera-Mallee pipeline (\$501m
TEI) proceeding, saving 100 000
ML

Bendigo Recycling
Project (\$6.6m TEI
contribution)

Goldfields
Superpipe (\$71m
TEI contribution)

Lake Wendouree
recycling project
(\$2.1m TEI
contribution)

Werribee recycling
scheme (\$20m TEI
contribution)

Goulburn irrigation
channel automation
(\$23m TEI contribution)

Eildon dam wall upgrade, dam
safety and irrigation system
improvements (\$26m TEI
contribution)

Eastern Treatment Plant
upgrade (\$300m)

Tungamah, Woorinen and Normanville
pipelines saving 10 000 ML

Boosted Mt Buller & Mt Hotham
recycling projects (\$5.2m TEI
contribution)

Snowy Environmental Flows
Initiatives (\$250m contribution)

Connecting Tarago Reservoir – increase
water supplies by 21 000 ML per year
(\$113m)

Gippsland Water Factory
(\$50m TEI contribution)

Irrigation channel automation in Macalister
district (\$8m TEI contribution), saving over 4
100 ML

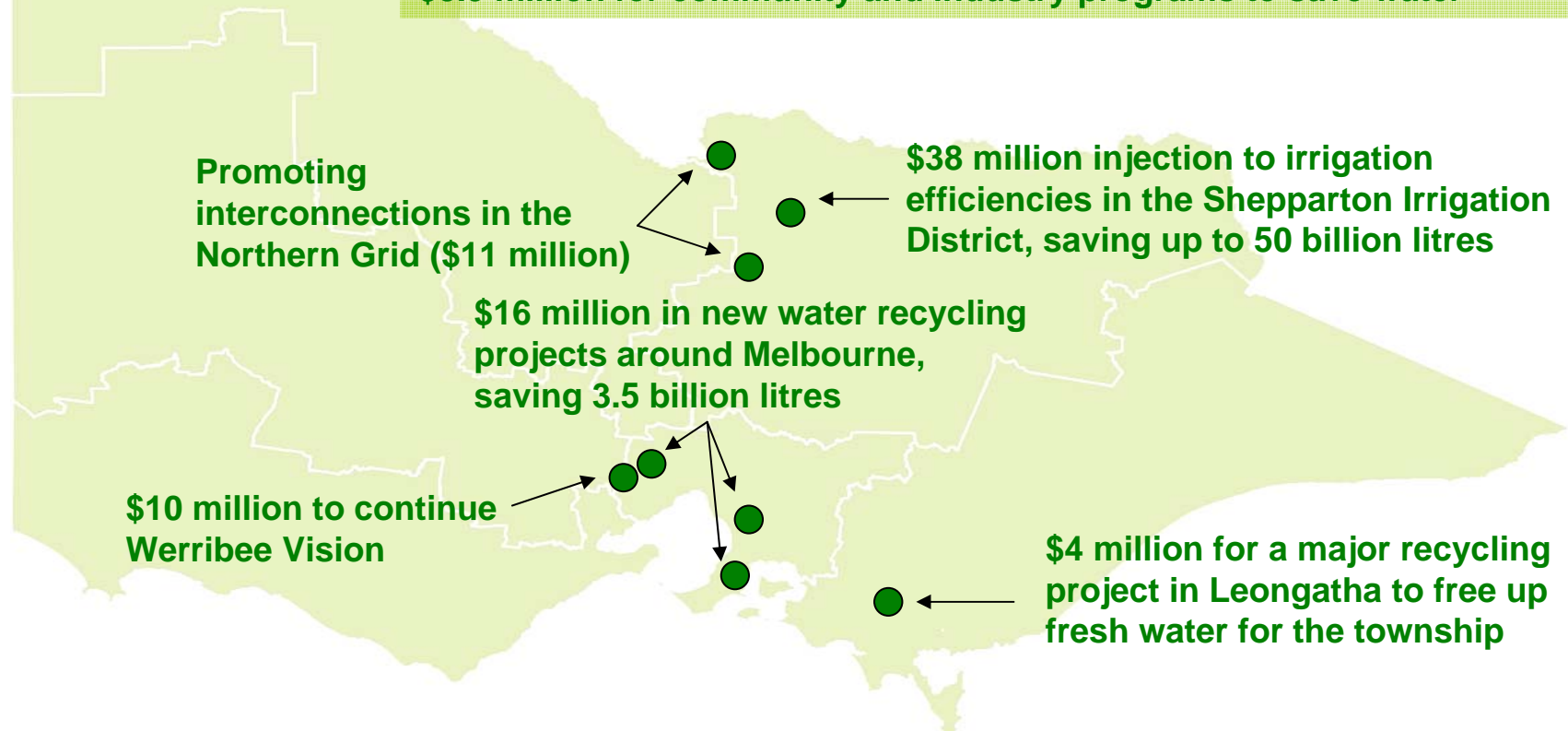
140 000 rebates on water saving devices for the home & garden

66 stormwater projects delivering 2 100 ML of savings & improved outfalls

Managing domestic & stock water saving 16 400 ML

\$136 million boost for water saving 80 billion litres of water

- \$20 million for rebates on household water saving products
- \$20 million to upgrade water quality in small towns across the state
- \$10 million to help industry and council use alternative water supplies
- \$10 million to improve on farm water efficiency
- \$8.9 million for community and industry programs to save water



Water Recycling Projects

\$39.6m investment in recycling, including:

- \$19.6m in new recycling projects at Altona Industrial, Westernport, Frankston, Leongatha, Australian Vinyls & Quenos
- \$10m extension of Stormwater and Urban Recycling Fund to provide alternative water sources
- \$10m extension of Werribee Vision, providing irrigation water for local industry

Incentives for Industry, Homes and Councils

\$29m to encourage industry and homes to save water:

- \$20m to continue the expanded Water Smart Gardens and Homes rebate scheme
- \$7.9m over two years to co-fund a range of water saving programs which are targeted at industry and residential water use
 - \$1.25m optimising cooling tower maintenance;
 - \$1.0m infrastructure for commercial laundries;
 - \$1.0m water management plans for Melbourne's top industrial water users;
 - \$0.7m Smart meters to monitor water use and detect leaks in real time;
 - \$3.95m expansion of Watersmart program to reduce household water use.
- \$1m over four years for the Top 1500 Industry Program, an expansion of the Pathways to Sustainability initiative.

Water Smart Farms

- \$10m over four years to continue efforts to improve irrigation practices across Victoria through the Water Smart Farms initiative.

Increased fire support

Over the 2006/07 fire season 1072 bushfires were recorded

Fire support included:

- Two extra 'Elvis' air cranes (1 full season, 1 part season)
- Early recruitment of season firefighters
- 845 seasonal firefighters (peak number)
- 19,000 volunteers mobilised
- 1,418 interstate and international firefighters
- 53 aircraft engaged

Bushfire Recovery - \$138 Million

Of the \$138 million package - \$31.06 million for essential infrastructure rebuilding and land recovery initiatives.

Essential Infrastructure rebuilding including:

- Re-opening priority roads and rebuild bridges in parks and forests
- Urgent works to trap sediment, water quality monitoring, stream protection
- Rebuild and replace visitor site assets on public land
- Fire severity mapping
- Assist volunteer groups restore high country huts
- Rebuild Craig's hut

Land Recovery Initiatives

- Regenerate 3,500 hectares in fire affected forests
- Better weed and pest control
- Protect vulnerable ecosystems
- \$650,000 mapping and protective works for indigenous sites
- Determine sustainable harvest levels of timber

Parks and Tourism

Investment over 4 years includes:

- \$25 million over four years for an extra 15 park rangers and to extend the employment of the additional 50 rangers announced in 2002
- \$21 million RBG Australian Garden at Cranbourne
- \$12 million to upgrade camping and recreation facilities for visitors in some of Victoria's favourite National Parks
- \$13 million for 26 projects to create and expand parks, gardens, and walking and bicycle paths in urban areas
- \$10 million for major upgrades to key piers and jetties within Port Phillip and Westernport Bays
- \$8 million to protect beaches and foreshores in Port Phillip Bay

Tackling Climate Change

\$44.4 million to fight climate change in the budget

Initiatives include:

- \$14 million Rebates for Being Green Program
- \$10 million *CarbonDown* program
- \$2.1 million over four years to expand the Energy and Water Taskforce program to low income households
- \$6 million to boost the Government's purchase of Green Power from 10 percent to 25 percent of its overall energy use by 2010
- \$5 million over four years to install solar panels at 500 schools and community buildings
- \$7.3 million to undertake strategic and economic research into the likely effects of climate change on the economy and establish the Office of Climate Change