



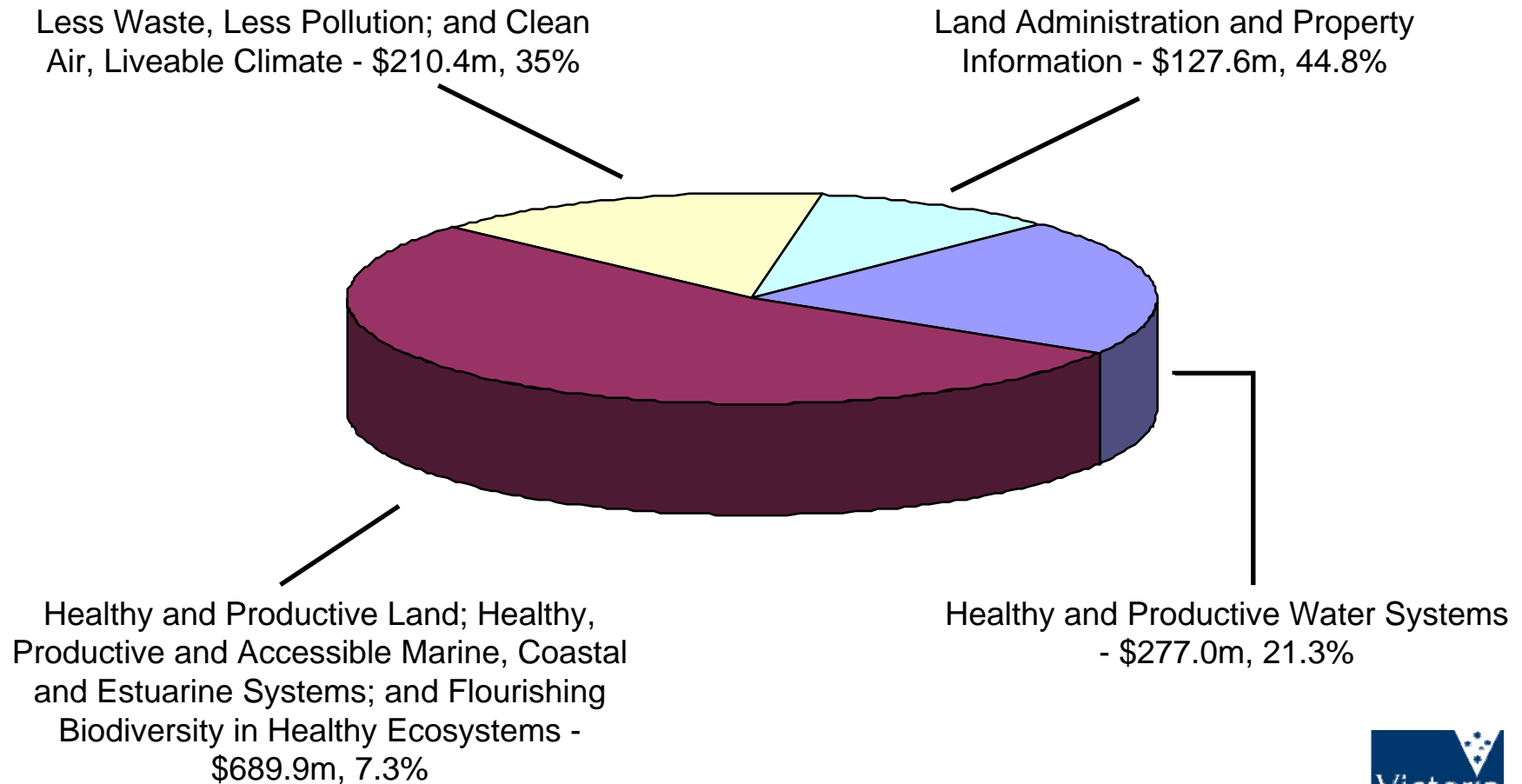
Department of  
Sustainability and  
Environment

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2008

# Water

Minister Holding

## Output Summary – DSE Budget by Portfolio 2008-09



## Our Water Our Future

- In July 2007, the Government released *Our Water Our Future – The next Stage of the Government's Water Plan:*
  - *\$4.9 billion investment*
  - *biggest boost to Victoria's water supplies in 25 years*
  - *5 key actions and priorities*

## Wonthaggi Desalination Plant

- Australia's largest desalination plant
  - Additional water of 150 gigalitres
  - *a third of Melbourne's needs*
- Delivered via a PPP
- Carbon neutral
- 2008-09 Budget - \$117 million for procurement activities

## Modernising Victoria's Food Bowl

- Victorian Government contribution of \$600 million to Stage One
  - *will capture 225 gigalitres currently lost through system inefficiencies per annum*
- 2008-09 State Budget - \$11 million for the Northern Victoria Infrastructure Renewal Project Board

## Expansion of Victoria's Water Grid

- Key projects funded under the 2008-09 State Budget:
  - *Wimmera-Mallee pipeline - \$99 million*
  - *Hamilton-Grampians pipeline - \$10 million*
  - *Geelong-Melbourne pipeline - \$20 million*

## Increased Recycling

- Melbourne recycled 22.5% of wastewater in 2006-07
- Key initiatives:
  - Upgrades to the Eastern Treatment Plant
  - Epsom Spring Gully Recycled Water Project
  - Barwon Water/Shell Recycling Project
- Stormwater and Urban Recycling Fund

## Water Conservation Programs

- Continuation of Water Restrictions
  - Melbourne's per capita water use is now 34% lower than the mid 1990's
- Smart Water Fund
- Industry Water Savings Plans
- Water efficient retrofits and rebates
  - *Over 180,000 rebates have been provided to Victorian households for water saving devices*



## Other Victorian Government Actions

- Unbundling Water Rights
  - *2008-09 Budget provides \$18.1 million for affected Local Councils*
- Water bill concessions and Water Wise program
- Victorian Government's Drought response:
  - \$55m in Water Rate Rebates
  - Permanent carryover of water entitlements