

Monday 17 July, 2006

## **\$24 MILLION FOR GREEN LIVING INCLUDES 12 NEW RECYCLING CENTRES**

The Bracks Government today announced investment of more than \$24 million in a raft of measures to help Victorians live more sustainability – including 12 new household recycling centres in Melbourne’s suburbs and regional centres.

The funding is part of the Government’s \$200 million Environmental Sustainability Action Statement, released today by the Premier Steve Bracks.

Environment Minister John Thwaites said the new programs would help Victorians to save water and energy, reduce waste and save money on their household bills.

“With the right know-how and advice, everyone can live in a way that doesn’t waste precious water and energy, and without sending hazardous waste to the stormwater or landfill,” he said.

Mr Thwaites said \$4 million in funding to establish 12 Detox Your Home and Byteback centres would allow the statewide expansion of two of the State’s most successful recycling programs.

“The expansion of these great programs will enable more Victorians to safely recycle unwanted household chemicals, paints and batteries, computers and other electronic equipment.”

Byteback will be established in Melbourne’s western, northern and south eastern suburbs, and in Geelong, Bendigo, Latrobe Valley and the north east of the State, with a focus on taking back electronic goods such as computers.

Detox Centres will be established in Geelong, Melbourne’s eastern and south eastern suburbs, Ballarat and Wodonga, with a focus on taking back paint and household chemicals.

“Each year the Detox Your Home facilities will stop approximately 630 tonnes of unwanted and unused chemicals winding up in landfill, or worse – in our rivers and creeks.”

“The expansion of the ByteBack program could see as much as 1,600 tonnes of hazardous computer waste recycled each year.”

Additional practical programs to support households and communities to make greener choices unveiled by Mr Bracks today include:

- \$ 5.9 million for the *Learning to Live Sustainably* program that will fund specialists in energy, transport and water efficiency to work with community, business, schools and other groups. Seed funding will also be provided to reduce the impact of everyday actions on the environment.

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- \$4.2 million to roll-out the GreenHomes program, a hands-on program showing Victorians how they can make small changes to save water, use less energy and reduce waste.
- \$3 million to set up six Eco-living demonstration houses based on the successful Port Phillip Eco-house and the CERES centre on Brunswick.
- \$2 million to complement the Government's 'Black balloons' campaign by enlisting the help of hardware stores, appliance and lighting retailers to give consumers advice on energy saving options and for the provision of clear information at point of sale
- \$7 million to further roll out the 'Black Balloons' campaign ;
- \$1.5 million for a pilot program that will provide rebates for people wishing to upgrade old fridges and other appliances to make their houses more energy efficient. Old fridges can use twice as much energy as newer models.
- Up to \$1 million for green tradie training programs, will equip tradespeople to meet the growing demand for energy efficiency and water saving services.
- Expansion of minimum standards for the amount of energy new appliances can use to items such as televisions, computers, lights and heaters.
- A roll out of smart energy metres across the State to help people reduce their energy use, costs and greenhouse gas emissions.