



Our Environment Our Future

Using Our Resources More Efficiently

Victorians use an enormous amount of resources to support their lifestyles. We have a responsibility to use our resources more efficiently.

\$28 million has been allocated to a package of initiatives that will help all Victorians to use our resources more efficiently.

These include:

- I Trade waste:** investment in projects to reduce potable water use and trade waste volumes in rural and regional food and dairy manufacturers
- I Reducing emissions from the agricultural sector:** research into reducing greenhouse emissions from Victorian agricultural activities, with a particular focus on the dairy industry

Reducing Our Everyday Impacts

Everyone has an impact on the environment and everyone has a responsibility to reduce that impact. We can all contribute by taking a few simple actions.

\$58 million has been allocated to a package of initiatives that will help Victorians to change their behaviour and reduce their everyday impacts.

These include:

- I Sustainability skills:** a new centre at Swinburne to focus on developing skills in sustainable land management and eco-design
- I Regional sustainability:** strategies to identify regional needs, challenges and priorities, set out actions for driving better outcomes and ensure that decision making can occur at the right level
- I Biofuels:** a road map to promote and encourage the use of biofuels, and a Biofuels Action Plan to build local capacity to meet increasing demand
- I Local landscape management:** projects to map current landscape risk, biodiversity assets and sustainable land use

For further information visit www.dse.vic.gov.au

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Support
for Victorian
Farmers





In the last five years, Victorians have really got behind the push to be a sustainable state. We now recycle more than 50 per cent of all our waste, our farmers and households are becoming more water smart and Victorians are now buying more Green Power than any other State, but we still need to do more.

That's why the Bracks Government is taking this major step forward with *Our Environment, Our Future*, a \$200 million action plan to help Victorian communities reduce their impacts on the environment and deliver a lasting legacy for our children and theirs.

Farmers play a vital role in ensuring that our soil and waterways are healthy and productive, and maintaining native vegetation for wildlife. Key initiatives under *Our Environment, Our Future* to support Victoria's farmers to live and work more sustainably include:

Responding to the Challenge of Climate Change

Climate change is one of the most significant environmental challenges facing the world. Large cuts in greenhouse gas emissions are needed by the middle of this century if we are to avoid dangerous levels of climate change.

\$38 million has been allocated to a range of initiatives that will help Victorians to reduce their greenhouse emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

These include:

- | **Adapting for Victoria's future:** establishment of a research centre for climate change adaptation, increasing scientific knowledge, technical expertise and community capability to make agricultural systems resilient to climate change
- | **Local action:** extension of our regional climate change vulnerability assessment program and our support for regional partnerships

Maintaining and Restoring Our Natural Assets

Victoria's rich and diverse natural environments support our lives, communities, industries, jobs and economy.

\$65.5 million has been allocated to a package of initiatives that will help all Victorians to maintain and restore our natural assets.

These include:

- | **Landcare:** support for community Landcare volunteers with the recruitment of a State Landcare Coordinator and 10 Regional Landcare Coordinators
- | **Land Health and Biodiversity White Paper:** setting out a 50 year blueprint which ensures the long term sustainability of Victoria's land and biodiversity resources
- | **Market solutions:** creating markets for environmental goods and services produced by farmers such as habitat, improved water quality etc. This will mean we are able to improve the environment in a cost-effective way and reward farmers who are able to efficiently produce environmental goods and services

- | **Extending BushTender:** funding to enable state-wide roll-out of the successful BushTender program, which pays farmers and land managers to protect native vegetation on private land
- | **Native Vegetation Trust:** establishment of a Trust enabling offsets of native vegetation removed through development - developers will be able to pay into a pooled fund which can then be used for investment at a more environmentally valuable site
- | **Soil Health Initiative:** help for farmers to responsibly manage their soil assets through access to the best available information sources and diagnosis of the condition and health of their soil
- | **Gippsland Lakes Rescue Package:** assistance, technical support and incentives for landholders to convert to more sustainable land and water use practices and reduce their impact on the Gippsland Lakes

These actions will help farmers take the next steps towards environmental sustainability and make their landscapes more productive for their own livelihoods and those of future generations