



using our resources more efficiently

THE FACTS:

- Victorians use around 1.1 billion bags per year, approximately ten million of these bags end up as litter and all of them take hundreds of years to break down in the environment.
- Since 1993, Victoria's solid waste stream has increased by 78 per cent, reaching 9.5 million tonnes in 2003-04. Just under half of this waste goes to landfill.
- Only seven per cent of the materials used to make products end up in the final product, and eight out of ten of those final products are thrown away after just one use.
- The economic opportunity offered by resource efficiency is significant, individual companies can gain up to three per cent of annual turnover, and gains of up to \$4.5 billion are possible for the Australian economy.
- 30,000 tonnes of office waste are produced per year. Paper makes up the majority of office waste, with food and food packaging, toner cartridges, magazines and printed material and obsolete equipment and furniture also occurring in significant quantities.

- Victoria has access to 15 per cent more solar energy than Barcelona – using solar hot water can reduce your household hot water bills by more than 60 per cent each year, that's a saving of around \$200 - \$300 each year for the average family.
- Of the total primary production in Victoria, 14 per cent per year is re-used on farms (ie. wheat fed back to cows), 51 per cent is used in manufacture of processed food and 2.2 per cent goes to wholesale retail and hospitality.

A future sustainable community will have ...achieved the goal of becoming a zero-waste society, in which products are routinely reused or their materials recycled at the end of their useful life.
Professor Ian Lowe

Victorians have achieved a great deal over the past decade, increasing the household recycling rate from 14 per cent in 1993 to 34 per cent in 2004.

Victorians enjoy a high standard of living but we use an enormous amount of resources to support our lifestyles.

We want everyone to enjoy a high quality of life in Victoria but the challenge is to do it in a way that impacts a lot less on our natural resources, so we don't compromise the choices of future generations.

Every year, millions of tonnes of unwanted goods are discarded, with a large amount ending up in landfills.

But that is only the tip of the problem. When Victorians think of waste, they usually picture their rubbish bins at home and work. However, a lot of waste occurs before then, from inefficient use of fossil fuels, minerals, wood, water and other materials in manufacturing processes.

One study found that only seven per cent of the materials used to create products end up in the final product, and eight out of ten of those final products are thrown away after just one use.

Waste and inefficiency increase the need to source more materials – which means more mining, increased pressure on natural resources such as forests, and more agricultural intensification. In agricultural production, intensification enables land managers to increase the value of production per hectare (with significant economic and social benefits), but also increases pressure on the environment so it must be carefully managed.

Victoria is using resources faster than they can be regenerated and we need to get a lot smarter in how we produce and consume goods and services.

Since 1993, as Victoria's population has grown and consumption of goods and services has increased, our solid waste levels have increased by 78 per cent.

As one of the driest inhabited continents in the world, we also need to be a lot more efficient with our precious water resources.

Unless we change our ways, we are likely to have an additional three million tonnes of waste to manage over the next decade.

Doing more with less is not the same as doing without. We can still have the products we need and desire, but they can be better – they can cost less energy and water to run, be reusable and recyclable and have minimal disposal costs. Smarter and more efficient means of production, and the development of more durable and reliable consumer goods can save resources and money.

We need to seriously rethink how to extend and maximise the life of products and materials with greater emphasis on the entire life cycle – production, consumption and disposal.

The Australian environment industry is estimated to be worth \$16.7 billion, with Victorian environmental technologies contributing over \$4 billion. Victoria's focus has largely been on pollution management so there are significant opportunities to expand resource efficient technologies and become leaders in transport, liveability, food production without further land degradation, resource efficiency and energy supply.

New directions in primary industries are enabling us to capitalise on some of Australia's unique strengths, and respond to environmental and economic challenges in regional areas. For example, farming some species of native trees is helping protect land from wind erosion and biodiversity loss, sequester carbon, and produce renewable energy while aiding regional development through attraction of new investment and jobs in rural areas.

What we have done

Victorians have achieved a great deal over the past decade, increasing the household recycling rate from 14 per cent in 1993 to 34 per cent in 2004. The Government's *Towards Zero Waste Strategy* has set a target to increase waste recovery and recycling to 75 per cent by 2014.

More than half of all construction waste is also recycled, and many industries are now working to reduce the generation of waste in the first place. Victoria has led the nation on reducing plastic bags, recycling more packaging and mobile phones, and is recognised as a leader in recycling throughout Australia, with much of the drive coming from local councils.

The Government has played a leading role in the national development of a strengthened National Packaging Covenant to address packaging waste after consumer use.

The siting, management and rehabilitation of new landfills have been subject to increasingly rigorous standards to ensure that damage to the environment is minimised.

Leading by example, the Government has set minimum energy efficiency standards for office accommodation, is purchasing 10 per cent Green Power and has increased energy efficiency by 15 per cent.

The number of Victorian families choosing Green Power has increased from about 10,000 in 1999 to over 100,000 today, and a further 120,000 households received rebates for installing water efficient products like rainwater tanks and low flow shower heads.



Large commercial water recycling projects are underway putting Victoria on track to meet a target of recycling 20 per cent of Melbourne's wastewater by 2010.

We have provided record funding for improved irrigation infrastructure for farms and changed the water pricing structure to conserve this precious resource.

Efficiency in primary industries has been supported through substantial Government and leveraged private investment in R&D. The Government's innovation statement, *Bright Ideas, Brilliant Future*, has supported innovation that conserves, manages and protects the use of our natural resources.

We have put our native forest industry on a sustainable basis by reducing logging by over 30 per cent and we have released a State Forests Sustainability Charter to help ensure the most effective forest management decisions are made for our future.

Victoria is one of the few jurisdictions in the world to have a Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability reporting on government performance in environmental management.

The Government has introduced the concept of product stewardship to the Environment Protection Act to give producers, users and government a shared responsibility to limit the environmental impacts of products throughout their entire life cycle, from design to end-of-life.

While consumers can make choices to support environmentally preferred products, it is the manufacturers, brand owners and retailers who are often in a far stronger position to reduce the environmental impacts of products. Eight organisations have signed up to Sustainability Covenants to work closely with Government to improve their operations.

From my travels around the world I have seen how much damage and pollution is done by the careless disposal of waste. It is also evident that we in the West produce far more and throw away far more than the developing world, almost without thinking.

Michael Palin, writer, actor and traveller

action 10: less waste and increased resource efficiency

Victorians need to become more mindful and innovative in the way we design, manufacture, choose, consume, and discard products and materials. By doing so, we all stand to benefit, through a more sustainable community using its resources more wisely.

We need to seriously rethink how to extend and maximise the life of products and materials with greater emphasis on the entire life cycle – production and consumption and disposal.

What we will do

10.1 Banning plastic bags

We will introduce legislation to ban lightweight plastic bags by large retailers by the end of 2008.

About 1.1 billion lightweight plastic bags which are a symbol of our inefficient use of resources are distributed in Victoria each year. As single use products, which are easily replaced by more durable alternatives, they represent unnecessary consumption of resources.

Around 10 million of these shopping bags become litter that endanger the health of marine wildlife, damage property through clogged drains and machinery and detract from the beauty of our environment.

Giving consumers incentives and stronger choices to “say no to plastic bags” is a way we can all contribute to environmental sustainability – in itself a small action but important in developing a more sustainable culture in Victoria.

Currently Australia’s retailers are working towards voluntary reductions in the use of these lightweight plastic bags.

The results so far, while commendable, are falling below the targets set by the retailers themselves. In the event that voluntary initiatives do not achieve the desired outcome regulations will be developed. In order to support and underpin the efforts of Victorian retailers, we will introduce legislation that prohibits the use of lightweight single-use plastic bags at point of sale unless:

- There is a minimum charge of 10 cents per bag;
- It is a small retail store;
- An exemption applies (eg. for health and safety reasons);
- An accredited phase-out plan is approved by the EPA.

Experience from other places where similar systems have been introduced, show that as consumers, we take much more care about deciding if we need a bag and what we do with it if there is a charge involved.

10.2 Take-back and recycling centres

We will establish 12 ‘byte-back’ and ‘detox’ centres to recycle household chemicals, paints and batteries, TVs, computers and other electronic equipment.

Detox your Home

Chemicals in the home are a problem for the community and difficult to dispose of due to incompatibility with the sewerage system safety and landfills. Sustainability Victoria has been collecting these materials through the Detox your Home program for a decade based on weekend events which are held in each Victorian council on an average of once every 20 months.

As our population grows, the resources allocated to the environment will need to be increased but environmental affairs can be managed, they can be protected, it is a matter of will, policy and resources.

Malcolm Fraser, former Australian Prime Minister

To move towards an improved service at a lower cost, we will provide \$2 million to establish a minimum of four further permanent Detox your Home facilities at transfer stations including locations in Melbourne's eastern and South-Eastern suburbs, Bendigo, Ballarat and Wodonga to provide householders with an easily accessed and convenient disposal point for common domestic chemicals (including paint, motor oil, batteries & gas cylinders).

Byteback

Our changing lifestyles have significant impacts on the types of waste that are currently going into landfill. For example, old electronic equipment is the fastest growing waste stream, with mobile phones replaced every 18 months on average.

Computer monitors and screens contain high lead content while keyboards, printers, scanners and hard drives contain a range of toxic chemicals. Landfill is not an acceptable place to store these hazardous, but potentially useful and valuable, materials – it is essential that we find a new way to handle our old or unused computers in a safe way.

A pilot computer recycling trial in the City of Boroondara, known as 'Byteback', is the first ongoing take-back facility in Australia and collected more than 78 tonnes of equipment in its first four months of operation. Of this 97 per cent has been recovered for recycling and these materials, such as plastics and metals, can be processed into raw materials for use in everyday products.

The Government will provide \$2 million to make the Boroondara centre permanent and to create new centres in conjunction with the computer industry in Melbourne's western, northern and south-eastern suburbs, and in Bendigo, Geelong, Latrobe Valley and the north-east of the state. In some cases these centres will be co-located with existing transfer stations.

10.3 Sustainable production and consumption taskforce

We will convene a Task Force on Sustainable Production and Consumption to draw together key industry and community stakeholders with an interest in product design, manufacture, recovery and disposal.

To develop the business case for sustainable production and consumption – to make it viable and profitable for businesses to build eco-design into their products and services – we will convene a Task Force on Sustainable Production and Consumption.

Towards Zero Waste

The *Towards Zero Waste Strategy*, released by the Government in September 2005, is a call to action for all Victorians to become more mindful and innovative in the way we design, manufacture, choose, consume and discard products and materials.

Towards Zero Waste is guided by three main objectives, to generate less waste, increase the amount of materials for recycling and reprocessing and reduce damage to our environment caused by waste.

By 2014, *Towards Zero Waste* aims to:

- Cut waste generation by 12 per cent - 1.5 million tonnes a year.
- Recover 75 per cent of solid waste (by weight) to be reused, recycled and/or converted to energy (currently 51 per cent).
- Improve 2003 levels of littering by 25 per cent.

Towards Zero Waste takes trends in waste generation, resource recovery and disposal into account, and identifies priority products, materials and industries for action.

This task force will draw together key industry and community stakeholders to develop ideas for practical action and to assist in the policy development process.

The Government will drive these actions through an *Integrated Products Stewardship Framework*, with new initiatives to achieve an integrated approach to product stewardship and products policy, to support businesses, industries and communities to shift to more sustainable production and consumption systems. These initiatives, utilising voluntary partnership, co-regulation and infrastructure provision, will draw together the various strands of the Government's existing policy in the areas of product stewardship, cleaner production, eco-design and extended producer responsibility.

10.4 National packaging covenant

The Government has played a leading role in the national development of a strengthened National Packaging Covenant. The Covenant, in place since 1999, has provided a stimulus to industry to look at the sustainability of packaging, resulting in innovation in packaging design and practice and has assisted local governments to establish their successful kerbside recycling systems. The strengthened Covenant will extend recycling efforts beyond kerbside collections and into businesses, major events and shopping centres, and it includes a national recycling target for packaging of 65 per cent (up from the current 48 per cent) by the end of 2010. As well as continuing to advocate and push for improved management of packaging at a national level, the Government will also explore options for consumer-driven packaging reductions, including possible trials of packaging take-back systems for some industry sectors.

10.5 Litter strategy

The Environment Protection Authority and Sustainability Victoria will develop a new Litter Strategy for Victoria for release and adoption by early 2007.

The Government is currently seeking a 25 per cent improvement in littering behaviour in Victoria which creates the need for a detailed and up to date litter strategy. The strategy will be developed in partnership with the Victorian Litter Action Alliance, local government and the Department of Sustainability and Environment. The strategy will cover enforcement, better education and awareness raising programs and link with the National Packaging Covenant.

10.6 Hazardous waste

We will dramatically reduce Victoria's hazardous waste going to landfill by raising landfill levies from \$30/tonne to \$130/tonne – and put the proceeds back into initiatives to help industry avoid waste and reuse materials.

In 2000, the Government released our *Industrial Waste Management Policy* (Prescribed Industrial Waste) to minimise prescribed industrial waste. Since then, Victoria has reduced the amount of hazardous manufacturing waste from over 122,000 tonnes to about 89,000 in 2005 (a 27 per cent reduction).

Avoidance remains our primary goal, and we have been working closely with industry to achieve this through the EPA's cleaner production program. This has led to some significant savings, including a lead smelter that has reduced the lead in its slag going to landfill by 40 per cent, saving \$40,000 on landfill costs.



By giving the proceeds of increased levies back to industry, we can further cut the amount of hazardous waste going to landfill. This is also an important transitional pricing signal to send to industry to help avoid the high future cost of sending waste to long-term containment.

10.7 Support smart business

We will provide \$2.5 million for the Resource Smart Business Program, to help Victorian businesses be more efficient.

We will provide grants and support to businesses that generate substantial quantities of hazardous and other waste. Building on the existing business innovation initiatives, this program will include support to businesses investing in leading edge eco-efficient solutions in a range of forms including new technologies, systems, processes, and business practices.

Metropolitan Waste Management Group

The Victorian Government has committed to reform Melbourne's solid waste planning and management arrangements. It will establish a new organisation, the Metropolitan Waste Management Group (MWMG), to help deliver improved resource efficiency and to achieve the goals of *Towards Zero Waste*.

The MWMG and a new metropolitan waste and resource recovery strategic plan will play key roles in turning waste into resources.

The MWMG will be a unique partnership between the 30 local governments of the Melbourne metropolitan area and the Victorian Government. It will provide regional coordination and facilitation of waste management and resource recovery services for the metropolitan area. The Victorian Government will support the development and implementation of the strategic plan and the MWMG to develop projects that establish new-generation waste processing facilities to maximise the recovery of valuable resources from household waste and organic material.

The Victorian Government will work with industry associations and businesses to showcase innovative ideas and systems that reduce waste. We will continue to cut red tape for business, reduce regulatory burden, streamline approval processes for leading sustainable projects and businesses and support investment to ensure that sustainable businesses and industries underpin Victoria's economic future.

10.8 Lifecycle management in business and industry

We will provide \$9 million through the EPA to improve the life cycle of products and services in key industries in Victoria.

The EPA will work with the Victorian Economic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Australian Industry Group and Plastic and Chemicals Industry Association to support improvements across the lifecycle of products and services in key industries. As well as improving the environmental performance and efficiency of companies, reducing hazardous and other waste, this project will be designed to reduce occupational health and safety risk, deliver financial savings and market advantages, develop new product lines, build business reputation, reduce liability and insurance premiums and improve working environments for staff.

10.9 Environmental code of practice for manufacturing

We will develop an Environmental Code of Practice for Manufacturing in partnership with the Australian Industry Group.

This Code will be developed and funded under Australian Industry Group's Sustainability Covenant with the EPA. The Code will help Victorian manufacturers to move "beyond compliance" and generate cost savings through reduced waste and more sustainable resource use. The Code will generate new market opportunities through more efficient manufacturing practices.

10.10 Trade waste

We will set new directions for trade waste through cleaner production and invest \$4 million to support rural food and dairy manufacturers to cut their use of potable water.

The disposal of industrial and commercial waste through the sewerage system is an important waste treatment route for many Victorian industries. On average about 70,000 million litres of trade waste is discharged through the sewer system each year. Unfortunately, this waste is a major source of salt and heavy metals, which prevents more water and biosolids from being recycled.

It is proposed to:

- Establish an independent trade waste standards setting process to enable efficient and effective trade waste improvement plans applicable for each regional urban or metropolitan water authority;
- Develop a state-wide framework for cleaner production involving partnerships between the water industry and their trade waste customers;

- Work with industry peak bodies to build closer co-operation with the water industry, facilitate education, training, and best practice management of trade waste at its source; and
- Explore the merits of establishing a public information resource on trade waste data that will directly support possible water trading in urban water markets.

Building on the Trade Waste Review, we will invest \$4 million to reduce trade waste volumes from Victoria's food and dairy industries and reduce their use of drinking water.

10.11 Detergents

We will drive the national agenda to develop minimum standards for labelling and salt levels in detergents so more water can be recycled.

The amount of salt from detergents in domestic waste-water impacts significantly on how that water can be reused or recycled. Through improved labelling, consumers can be better informed about the detergents they buy and the impact they have on the environment.

action 11: sustainable forests

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Forests are a priority area of action for the Victorian Government. Increasing recognition of the many uses of forested public land (including biodiversity conservation, water quality, timber and recreation); and the changing use patterns enabled by the reduction in timber harvesting (resulting from the *Our Forests, Our Future* policy), presents significant challenges but also exciting opportunities.

The Government remains committed to sustainable forest management. It will continue to ensure it has the right knowledge base to do this and will work with the community and industry to implement its new approach to public land stewardship which includes better valuation processes to inform decisions and a program of on-ground action. The Government remains committed to ensuring the forest estate is managed sustainably for the long term.

What we will do

11.1 Further protection of forests

We will protect key biodiversity areas in our State forests – including the Strzeleckis in South Gippsland – in the next stage of the Government's actions to safeguard our forests.

The Government has requested the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) to investigate the appropriate use and management of Victoria's River Red Gums and Goolengook Forest block. It is also consulting with community and industry on the future management of old growth areas in East Gippsland.

In addition, the Government will enter into negotiations with Hancock Victorian Plantations with a view to protecting high biodiversity sites in the Strzelecki Ranges in South Gippsland.

11.2 Sustainable forestry

We will make sure Victoria's sustainably harvested timber is accredited with the highest possible environmental standards to maximise sales in the international market.

Victoria has reduced its native timber industry by 30 per cent to be on a more sustainable level and we need to make sure this timber gets the highest credit through the international certification regime.

Victoria will progress with achieving both the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification standards. Having accreditation under both programs will maximise our international advantage.

Sustainability Charter for Victoria's State forests

The State Forests Sustainability Charter provides seven objectives to guide forest management decisions and actions. The State Forests Criteria and Indicators Framework will help track progress against these objectives. These initiatives together with the supporting policies for sustainable forests provide Government with a best practice governance approach to forest management.

This initiative will be kick-started with a \$500,000 investment in appointing a forestry expert to work with government and industry stakeholders on accelerating the process towards achieving FSC and AFS certification across Victoria's native forests. There will also be more long-term monitoring across the forest estate as part of this project.

11.3 Tourism development framework

We will develop a new tourism strategy to attract more Victorians and other visitors to our magnificent forests.

With the decrease in logging from *Our Forests Our Future* policies, more Victorians are becoming aware of the recreational value of our forests. We want more Victorians to be active and experience our great natural assets. We will continue to support forest tourism and recreation opportunities by developing a Tourism Development Framework for public land. This will be completed by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development in partnership with the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

With the decrease in logging from Our Forests Our Future policies, more Victorians are becoming aware of the recreational value of our forests. We want more Victorians to be active and experience our great natural assets.

action 12: increased water, energy and materials efficiency

Significant amounts of natural resources are used in the creation of goods and services. Victoria needs to move towards an economy that uses resources more efficiently, just as we do with our time and money. Smarter and more efficient means of production, and the development of more durable and reliable consumer goods, can preserve limited resources, reduce the environmental impacts of resource use, and deliver economic benefits through lower costs to businesses and households.

What we will do

12.1 Recognising business leaders

We will develop a voluntary 5 Star certification program to recognise the sustainability and resource efficiency performance of Victorian businesses.

We recognise the importance of acknowledging market leaders and supporting companies that are taking a lead in the sustainability challenge. Businesses have indicated that accreditation systems would encourage more action to be taken.

This new program will be on the use of materials, energy and water, rather than just the solid waste focus of the Waste Wise Business Program. The certification to five different levels will recognise the different levels of excellence achieved by Victorian businesses, enable sustainable performance to be measured and better managed and demonstrate where Victorian businesses are leading the world in sustainable practices.

12.2 Recognising sustainable products

We will lead the process of engaging national stakeholders, brand owners and interested parties to develop an agreed, easily identifiable, accreditation system for products.

We will work towards the development of a product accreditation system that identifies company performance in the management of life cycle impacts, particularly covering materials efficiency of products over their full life cycle as well as end-of-life management. This may incorporate producer/retailer product stewardship and Design for Environment considerations, and aims to provide consumers with information at the purchase stage that enables them to consider the product's life cycle and prioritise products which can be reprocessed.

12.3 Sustainability in SMEs

We will make environmental sustainability a key focus in government workshop and grant programs to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The Government's Office of Small Business offers a number of workshops across Victoria aimed at informing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on issues relating to starting and growing a small business. These workshops focus on issues ranging from accessing finance to effective business planning. Over 200 workshops are scheduled for 2006, and these workshops will include an increased focus on the potential for environmental sustainability and resource efficiency initiatives to deliver cost savings and increased productivity to SMEs.

The Government will use its existing Business Victoria website to improve targeting of information about environmental sustainability programs and grants to SMEs (www.business.vic.gov.au/sustainability).

12.4 Eco-innovation hub

We will invest \$1.5 million in an Eco-Innovation Hub to link the smartest brains in our universities with real-world applications for large sustainability improvements.

Innovation can also be about more than developing new technologies – many of the technologies that will enable vast improvements in sustainability already exist. Major opportunities exist in applying these technologies to sustainability and using them to reduce environmental impact, for example using information technology to improve monitoring of environmental quality and production efficiency.

By investing \$1.5 million in the establishment of an Eco-Innovation Hub in Victoria, in partnership with the Australian Centre for Science Innovation and Society, we will strengthen the vital link between research and the real-world applications for large sustainability improvements.

We will do this by linking university students across a range of design disciplines to sustainability projects with industry, government, communities and a sustainable cities network. Student research in key areas will be focused on sustainable outcomes.

12.5 Science and technology for environmental sustainability

Victoria's capabilities and needs in emerging technologies and innovation present opportunities to develop effective responses to environmental challenges that also increase jobs, private sector investment and export opportunities. Environmental sustainability will become a key consideration in science, technology and innovation across the spectrum of Victoria's capabilities. For example, Victoria will participate in, and promote the development and adoption of, exciting technological advances in areas such as biofuels, nanotechnology and agricultural biotechnology to secure the environmental benefits that they are expected to yield.

I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use our natural resources, but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.

Theodore Roosevelt, speech,
Washington, D.C., 1900

12.6 Enhanced sustainability in new investment

We will invest \$3.5 million to encourage companies investing in Victoria to adopt sustainability best practice.

This program will encourage companies considering investment or expansion in Victoria to adopt technologies and processes that deliver enhanced sustainability outcomes. This action will expand the successful greenhouse-specific investment facilitation program, with \$3.5 million in funding to provide matched incentives for investment in water saving and waste management as well as greenhouse friendly technologies. It will encourage companies establishing new business or premises in Victoria to exceed the sustainability standards required by the EPA or other regulatory regimes.

12.7 Responding to community expectations of mining

We will invest \$2.7 million in Victoria's earth resource sectors to achieve better environmental outcomes and more community involvement.

A major boom in the resources sector is underway, with over \$2.5 billion in new resource development projects coming on line in provincial Victoria in the last year alone. That is bringing new pressures and new issues for communities and the environment.

This initiative will minimise conflict by ensuring the resources sector talks with communities at an early stage and consults on how it will improve environmental and social outcomes and protect rural amenity through sustainable development practices.

12.8 Reducing emissions from the agriculture sector

We will invest \$400,000 to support research into greenhouse emissions from Victorian agricultural activities, with a particular focus on the dairy industry.

Victorian agriculture accounts for 13.5 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions each year (the third largest contributor after stationary generation and transport). Methane and nitrous oxide make up 1 per cent of emissions but they are more than 300 times more powerful pollutants than carbon dioxide. These emissions can be reduced through more efficient use of resources such as fertiliser and water (through changed irrigation practices), as well as being affected by animal treatment (inc immunisation). These areas are priorities for research and changed practice.

This is the next phase in the partnership work with Primary Industries Research Victoria to work to reduce methane emissions from cows and nitrous oxide emissions from fertiliser use.