

# Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Annual Report 2016-17

## Additional information available on request

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, details of the items listed below have been retained and are available to the relevant ministers, Members of Parliament and the public on request (subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*).

To ensure the department is meeting its accountability and compliance requirements, some of this additional information has been included in the Annual Report where relevant.

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Environment,  
Land, Water  
and Planning

### a) A statement that declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers of the department

Declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers.

### b) Details of shares held by senior officers as nominee or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary

No shares are held by a senior officer as nominee or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary.

### c) Details of publications produced by the department about the activities of the department and where they can be obtained

Publication	Date produced	Availability
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Annual Report	October 2016	Available online ( <a href="http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au">www.delwp.vic.gov.au</a> and <a href="http://www.data.vic.gov.au">www.data.vic.gov.au</a> ) or from our Customer Service Centre on 136 186

### d) Details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the department for its services, including services that are administered

Details of fees and charges are available on the department's website at [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au).

### e) Details of any major external reviews carried out in respect of the operation of the department

Major external reviews	Conducted by	Purpose	Released
Planning for effectiveness of support for Local Government: follow up	Auditor-General	The follow up audit examined whether accepted audit recommendations from the February 2015 report have been effectively addressed.	22 June 2017
Board performance	Auditor-General	The audit examined whether boards are performing effectively and contributing to effective governance of public sector entities. The audit also assessed the guidance and support that portfolio departments give to the boards of public sector entities.	11 May 2017
Public participation and community engagement: Local Government sector	Auditor-General	The audit examined the effectiveness of community engagement and participation at the local government level. The audit looked at public participation at six councils as well as Local Government Victoria's role in supporting councils' public participation activities.	10 May 2017
Public participation in	Auditor-	The audit examined how effectively two central	10 May 2017

Major external reviews	Conducted by	Purpose	Released
government decision making	General	agencies (DPC and the Victorian Public Sector Commission) and three portfolio agencies (DELWP, DHHS, and the Level Crossing Removal Authority), support better practice public participation approaches across their areas of responsibility.	
Managing Victoria's Planning System for Land Use and Development	Auditor-General	The audit assessed whether DELWP and councils in their roles as planning and responsible authorities are managing and implementing the planning system to support the objectives of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> and the desired outcomes of state planning policies	22 March 2017
Effectiveness of the Environmental Effects Statement Process	Auditor-General	The audit examined if the department is managing the Environmental Effects Statement process effectively.	22 March 2017
Investigation into allegations of improper conduct by officers at the Mount Buller and Mount Stirling Resort Management Board	Ombudsman	An investigation into allegations of the misuse of alpine resort funds and government-owned snowfield apartments.	20 March 2017
Investigation into the transparency of local government decision making	Ombudsman	An investigation of councils' actions and whether decision making is transparent and balanced against the need for efficiency and any specific obligations to maintain confidentiality.	15 December 2016
Financial Systems Controls Report	Auditor-General	An audit of Information Technology Controls at 52 public sector entities, including DELWP, with a focus on two areas – wireless security and strategies to mitigate targeted cyber intrusions.	9 November 2016
Performance audit - Meeting obligations to protect Ramsar Wetlands	Auditor-General	The audit reviewed the effectiveness of management of Ramsar wetlands and the role of DELWP and the primary site managers like Parks Victoria.	14 September 2016
Performance audit - Audit Committee Governance	Auditor-General	The audit reviewed the governance arrangements for audit committees in all seven state government departments as well as Victoria Police.	31 August 2016

### f) Details of any major research and development activities undertaken by the department that are not otherwise covered either in the report of operations or in a document which contains the financial statement and report of operations

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
Provision of expert marine science, remote sensing and geographic information management product development services	Deakin University	Develop a statewide hierarchical marine habitat classification data set.
CSIRO marine indicator	CSIRO	DELWP and CSIRO partnership project to develop and

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
development		validate indicators of marine environmental health for Port Phillip Bay.
Quantitative Survey on Consumer Engagement in Victoria's Retail Energy markets	Newgate Research	Quantitative survey involving collection of copies of electricity and gas bills of residential and small business consumers. The bill data and consumer responses received through the survey was used to support the retail pricing and margins analysis work undertaken as part of the review.
Powerline Bushfire Safety Program - fault signature project	IND Technology	The Powerline Bushfire Safety Program's Research and Development Fund has entered a funding agreement with IND Technology to trial their powerline fault signature device on the Victorian electricity network.
Powerline Bushfire Safety Program - covered conductor project	Groundline Engineering	The Powerline Bushfire Safety Program's Research and Development Fund has entered a funding agreement with Groundline Engineering who are undergoing a solution for covered conductor on the 22kV network.
Leadbeater's Possum targeted surveys	Arthur Rylah Institute	Targeted surveys undertaken by DELWP to assist in identifying and protecting 200 new Leadbeater's Possum colonies in state forest.
Melbourne Strategic Assessment - Ecological Decisions Systems	Arthur Rylah Institute	The expansion of Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary will impact several species and ecological communities listed under Federal legislation. The <i>Melbourne Strategic Assessment Monitoring and Reporting Framework</i> provides the framework for monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving the program outputs and outcomes.
Victorian Environmental Flows Monitoring and Assessment Program - Stage 6 pilot projects	Arthur Rylah Institute	Four pilot projects were conducted to test new methods, refine data collection and collation processes, determine appropriate sample sizes and refine Stage 6 methods, prior to delivering the program across the state.
Strategic Management Prospects	Arthur Rylah Institute	Production of spatial models that are informative for policy development and management purposes within DELWP. These products will be used as key components for Native Vegetation reform, Ecological Vegetation Class review and other projects.
Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program	Arthur Rylah Institute	Victorian wetland monitoring program that will measure the response of wetlands to environment watering.
Murray-Darling Basin Fish Survey 2014-2018	Arthur Rylah Institute	Under the Basin Plan Monitoring and Evaluation program, basin-scale fish condition monitoring has been identified as a priority from 2014 onwards, to support tracking of the high-level fish targets identified in Schedule 7 of the Basin Plan, as well as more specific targets identified in the basin-wide environmental watering strategy.
Riparian intervention monitoring project	Arthur Rylah Institute	Demonstrate the return on investment in riparian management, using a robust experimental design at a subset of riparian intervention sites to measure ecological responses and understand sources of variability.
Rabbit Management	Arthur Rylah Institute	Research and monitoring to reduce the impacts of rabbits in Victoria.
Riparian intervention monitoring project:	Arthur Rylah Institute	Monitoring program to demonstrate the outcomes of management intervention in riparian areas.

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
Implementation 2016-2019		
Deer Disease Epidemiology 2016-17	Arthur Rylah Institute	Understanding the roles of wild deer in the epidemiology and management of exotic and endemic livestock diseases in Victoria.
Long Term Intervention Monitoring - Fish Responses to Environmental Water	Arthur Rylah Institute	Examine the responses of fish to environmental flows in the Goulburn river.
Murray-Darling Basin Authority Population Models	Arthur Rylah Institute	Development of a set of population models for selected native fish to estimate the response of populations to flow management. It is anticipated that these models will provide an important tool for annual and long-term planning at both basin and regional scales.
Environmental Water Knowledge and Research	Arthur Rylah Institute	Foundational activities for the fish theme of the Environmental Water Knowledge and Research project.
Pre / Post Fire Flora Monitoring and Flora Vital Attributes Database Curation	Arthur Rylah Institute	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pre / Post Fire Flora Monitoring of Planned Burning on Public Land - to undertake monitoring of flora in planned burn areas using standard protocols at a selection of 110-120 sites in Victoria and curate the database.</li> <li>2. Flora Vital Attributes Database Curation - to undertake the annual flora vital attributes database curation including incorporation of new data, responding to queries, data management and annual summary report.</li> </ol>
Breaking down the barriers - upgrading Victorian fishways	Arthur Rylah Institute	Upgrade old fishways and leverage funds from different organisations to gain maximum benefits to fishway outcomes.
Barmah-Millewa Fish and Crayfish Conditioning Monitoring 2016-17	Arthur Rylah Institute	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake living Murray fish condition monitoring at Barmah-Millewa forest.</li> <li>2. Undertake a pilot study of the Murray Crayfish monitoring.</li> </ol>
French Island koala trial translocation	Arthur Rylah Institute	Trial translocation of koalas from French Island to Tallarook area. Includes habitat modelling and assessments.
Influence of flow on diadromous fish recruitment	Arthur Rylah Institute	Examine the influence of hydrology on the upstream migration of diadromous fishes in the Bunyip River, a coastal stream that flows through Western Port Bay.
Index of Estuarine Condition - Fish Assessment 2016-2019	Arthur Rylah Institute	Monitoring of fish and water quality for the Index of Estuarine Condition.
Recreational Fish Report Card Surveys for Fisheries Victoria	Arthur Rylah Institute	Assess and evaluate the status of native fish species in selected priority rivers within each CMA region across Victoria, with a focus on inland recreational species and non-recreational species.
Interactions between fire, landscape patterns, and biodiversity	University of Melbourne	Improve knowledge to support decision making concerning the consequences of fire regimes on biodiversity values and ecosystem resilience, and to increase capacity to include biodiversity considerations in land management planning based on best science.
Relationships between flora, fauna, habitat attribute and vegetation growth stages in Victorian tall wet forests	University of Melbourne	Support management decision making through understanding the consequences of alternative fire regimes on forested landscapes and the values that they support, and an increased capacity to include biodiversity considerations in land management planning based on best science.

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
Resilience metric sensitivity analysis and growth stage optimisation in fragmented landscapes	University of Melbourne	Improve knowledge to support decision making about alternative fire regimes in fragmented landscapes, through understanding their consequences, and to increase DELWP's capacity to include biodiversity considerations in land management planning.
Using fire to manage biodiversity in fragmented landscapes	University of Melbourne	Improve the capacity of DELWP to quantify the effect of fire management (both planned burning and bushfires) on ecosystem resilience in fragmented landscapes. The improved ecosystem resilience metrics will lead to more efficient and effective bushfire management across the diverse and fragmented Victorian landscape.
Understanding and managing Victoria's forest carbon	University of Melbourne	Understand the size of our forest carbon assets (i.e. how much carbon is stored), how resilient these assets are to emerging fire and climate regimes, and how risks to carbon assets can best be identified and managed.
Integrating carbon into modelling frameworks for bushfire risk management reporting (Carbon Pledge)	University of Melbourne	Provide a scientific basis for integrating measurements of forest carbon into bushfire and forest management and reporting.
Integrated landscape decision support system	University of Melbourne	Develop robust knowledge and systems that enable land managers and communities to interactively explore the multiple forest value changes posed by policy interventions, and key external drivers.
Improving the representation of bushfire risk	University of Melbourne	Increase the accuracy of PHOENIX in emulating the effects of changes in fuels, especially in relation to reduction and recovery after fire, will improve predictions of individual fires and have flow on effects in improving landscape risk estimates through time.
Managing bushfire in tall mist forests - fuel hazard and moisture relationships	University of Melbourne	Assess processes that drive the flammability of tall forests, the change as forests age, whether conditions exist for the planned burning of tall forests with low intensity fire and the modelling of those conditions.
Improving firefighter safety with RADAR based warnings	University of Melbourne	Identify patterns indicating micro to lower mesoscale atmospheric perturbations (i.e. storm cell development or other forms of convective winds). These patterns can be a precursor to escalating fire behaviour or result in a change in the safety conditions for on ground firefighters.
Assessing and incorporating social, economic, ecological and community safety values of forests in bushfire risk decision-making.	University of Melbourne	Understand the range of values relevant to bushfire risk management, to develop methods to measure these values at different scales (e.g. local, regional, State) and to incorporate values into bushfire risk decision-making.
Incorporating values in bushfire risk decision making: further development of tools and strategies	University of Melbourne	Improve the capacity of DELWP staff to incorporate values of the Victorian public in bushfire risk decision making.
Landscape vulnerability and health	University of Melbourne	Improve understanding of the interactions between bushfire, land management practices and change in climate on plant communities.
Reversing the loss of Leadbeater's Possum habitat:	University of	Improve planning capability, to adapt and respond to the risks of flash flooding, water contamination and landslides following

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
an integrated stand and landscape-scale approach to accelerating habitat development	Melbourne	fire in the Otway Ranges.
Climate and fire regime: feedbacks, ecohydrology and water resources	University of Melbourne	Maximise understanding from the past projects and recent model development to further our modelling capability to understand and predict the combined impacts of fire and climate on forest hydrology.
Landscape fuel moisture forecasting for bushfire risk assessment	University of Melbourne	Develop and implement a system for generating current and future landscape fuel moisture condition information, in the form of digital maps and data, for application in strategic planning and operational bushfire management across Victoria.
Dynamic smoke intelligence using remote sensing and fixed sensors	CSIRO	Build a smoke intelligence system integrated with the smoke modelling (prediction) system, which is used to collate and analyse sources of social media, remote and field sensing data to calibrate and validate smoke predictions.
Community impacts of smoke	CSIRO	Develop a means of estimating and monitoring the impacts of smoke on the health of communities from bushfires and planned burns.
Severe fire behaviour – improved planning responses	University of Melbourne	Enable the programming of PHOENIX RapidFire to support bushfire management and other planning responses by better characterising bushfire behaviour and damage potential, and developing functions to better apply PHOENIX to support land use and development planning.
Probability of fire ignition and escalation	RMIT	Develop a probability framework for prediction of natural and human caused ignitions.
Smoke transportation modelling - transportation modelling and evaluation component	Monash University, CSIRO, Bureau of Meteorology	Develop a linked fire behaviour, fuel consumption and atmospheric model to predict smoke generation and accumulation.
Smoke emissions modelling - emission modelling component	Monash University, CSIRO, Bureau of Meteorology	Develop a linked fire behaviour, fuel consumption and atmospheric model to predict smoke generation and accumulation.
Social values in bushfire management decision making	University of Melbourne	Identify key areas of work needed to support the integration of community values into Strategic Bushfire Management Planning.
Estimating the cost and benefits of bushfire preparedness and response operations in the 2013-14 season	University of Wollongong	Describe the actual and potential costs and benefits of bushfire preparedness and response operations, through the assessment of specific case studies and an evaluation of overall fire season analysis.
Planned burn mapping in Victoria using remote sensing (BNHCRC Schedule 22)	CSIRO	Identify and develop future management options and technologies for planned burn mapping which capture changes in time and space, including horizontal and vertical changes in vegetation structure using remote sensing technologies, in a manner which is of known cost and known accuracy.

Major research and development	Conducted by	Purpose
Science based monitoring, evaluation and reporting	La Trobe University	Scientifically review and refine DELWP's existing approach to monitoring, evaluation and reporting of bushfire management outcomes; and to develop and document refined methods and evaluation approaches to support a consistent approach to data collection and evaluation of bushfire management outcomes.
Bushfire and forests monitoring data validation and analysis	Interpine	Evaluate the potential to leverage data management efficiencies between the Victorian Forests Monitoring Program and the Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program.
Index of Estuarine Condition - data collection	Arthur Rylah Institute	Data collection to support the statewide assessment of Victoria's estuaries, covering fish, water quality and vegetation.
Native Fish Report Card	Arthur Rylah Institute	Assess and evaluate the status of native fish species in selected priority rivers within each CMA region across Victoria, with a focus on inland recreational species and non-recreational species.
Water use efficiency benchmarking	DEDJTR	Report the water use benchmark for the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District for the 2016-17 irrigation season, using satellite data and other water use information gathered during the season. Formulate farm and paddock-scale water use efficiency targets for major crops grown in the Shepparton and Sunraysia irrigation regions of Victoria to inform benchmarking of irrigation water use trends.
Water Sensitive Cities	Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities	Multiple programs of research including: Water Sensitive Urbanism; Water sensitive transition strategies and implementation plans; Comprehensive economic evaluation frameworks; evidence-based integrated urban planning across different scales; achieving water sensitive outcomes for in-fill developments; and knowledge-based water sensitive city solutions for groundwater impacted developments.

### g) Details of overseas visits undertaken including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
Minister for Planning	United States of America, Canada	To examine best practice policy approaches to maintain Victoria's liveability whilst addressing urban challenges	The visit assisted in understanding policies, strategies and critical success factors at play in the delivery of a range of planning initiatives across jurisdictions. Insights gained have the potential to positively shape a range of Victorian Government initiatives across planning, urban development, housing and the opportunities that present themselves in planning for a growing Victorian population.
Deputy Secretary for Planning	United States of America,	To examine best practice policy approaches to maintain Victoria's liveability	The visit assisted in understanding policies, strategies and critical success factors at play in the delivery of a range of planning initiatives across jurisdictions. Insights gained have the potential to

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
	Canada	whilst addressing urban challenges	positively shape a range of Victorian Government initiatives across planning, urban development, housing and the opportunities that present themselves in planning for a growing Victorian population.
Two Senior Scientists at Arthur Rylah Institute	United States of America	To attend a training course - <i>Introduction to Structured Decision Making</i>	Enhance the professional capabilities of scientists and the ability of the Arthur Rylah Institute to support DELWP.
Executive Director, Local Government Victoria	Timor-Leste	Participate in the Fifth Conference on Decentralisation, Administrative Decentralisation and Local Government	Presentations to the conference and involvement in related discussions on decentralisation in Timor-Leste, including signing the Dili Declaration; progressed scoping and developing a range of support activities relevant to the decentralisation agenda and broader public sector skills strengthening.
Manager, Strategic and International Program	Timor-Leste	Participate in the Fifth Conference on Decentralisation, Administrative Decentralisation and Local Government	Presentations to the conference and involvement in related discussions on decentralisation in Timor-Leste, including signing the Dili Declaration; progressed scoping and developing a range of support activities relevant to the decentralisation agenda and broader public sector skills strengthening.
Deputy Secretary, Energy, Environment and Climate Change	United States of America	Attend the International Union for Conservation of Nature Congress	The congress provided valuable opportunities for information gathering, exposure to innovative programs, new technologies and a wealth of international experience in delivering successful environmental programs. The knowledge gathered at the congress will inform the finalisation and implementation of <i>Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037</i> .
Director, Community and Environment Programs	United States of America	Attend the International Union for Conservation of Nature Congress	The congress provided valuable opportunities for information gathering, exposure to innovative programs, new technologies and a wealth of international experience in delivering successful environmental programs. The knowledge gathered at the congress will inform the finalisation and implementation of <i>Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037</i> .
Policy Officer, Biodiversity	United States of America	Attend the International Union for Conservation of Nature Congress	The congress provided valuable opportunities for information gathering, exposure to innovative programs, new technologies and a wealth of international experience in delivering successful environmental programs. The knowledge gathered at the congress will inform the finalisation and implementation of <i>Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037</i> .
Regional Manager, Planned Burning Co-ordination	United States of America, Canada, Mexico	To attend the Forest Fire Management Agencies Study Tour to study Forest Fire Management topics of interest	This has resulted in significant improvements and development of Australian, New Zealand and North American forest firefighters, as well as fostered strong international relationships.

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
Analysis and Monitoring Team Leader	United States of America, Canada, Mexico	To attend the Forest Fire Management Agencies Study Tour to study Forest Fire Management topics of interest	This has resulted in significant improvements and development of Australian, New Zealand and North American forest firefighters, as well as fostered strong international relationships.
Executive Director, Integrated Water and Catchments	China	Attended and presented at the Victoria-Sichuan Liveable Cities Forum in Chengdu, Sichuan as part of new sister state agreement with Sichuan Province	The forum will help deliver the Victorian Government's China Strategy commitment for Sichuan and Victoria. This will assist in making our cities more liveable and become a solution broker by connecting respective public and private expertise to opportunities stemming from urbanisation challenges, and to develop knowledge exchange and research collaboration initiatives in liveability sectors.
Program Director, Liveability Victoria International	China	Organised the Victoria-Sichuan Liveable Cities Forum in Chengdu, Sichuan as part of the new sister state agreement with Sichuan Province	The forum will help deliver the Victorian Government's China Strategy commitment for Sichuan and Victoria. This will assist in making our cities more liveable and become a solution broker by connecting respective public and private expertise to opportunities stemming from urbanisation challenges, and to develop knowledge exchange and research collaboration initiatives in liveability sectors.
Senior Hydrogeologist	France	To attend and present Victoria's Groundwater Management regime at the Franco-Australian Bi-Lateral Workshop hosted by the International Association of Hydrogeologists	This provided the opportunity to gain new insights into different groundwater management regimes and management triggers. The information will be used to inform current and future policy development in the areas of groundwater trade, allocations, carryover, and management plan design and implementation to support delivery of Victoria's Water Plan. Other states and territories also presented at this workshop, allowing insight into developments occurring in other states.
Executive Director, Strategy Capability and Innovation	United States of America, France	To participate in the National Aerial Firefighting Centre working group on large air tanker procurement	Participation provided the opportunity to understand current and planned capabilities, different procurement alternatives, indicative costs and Large Air Tanker standards and specifications. The traveller explored the possibilities for fighting bushfires at night, using both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft; to evaluate the use of simulators as a tool for enhancing training; and currency of air and ground personnel using aircraft.
Senior Aviation Officer (Capability Development)	United States of America, France	To participate in the National Aerial Firefighting Centre working group on large air tanker procurement	Participation provided the opportunity to understand current and planned capabilities, different procurement alternatives, indicative costs and Large Air Tanker standards and specifications. The traveller explored explore the possibilities for fighting bushfires at night, using both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft; to evaluate the use of simulators as a tool for enhancing training and currency of air and ground personnel using aircraft.

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
Trail Bike Project Manager	United States of America	To attend and present at the joint conferences of the International Off-Highway Vehicle Administrators Association and the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council	Attendance at this conference directly supported the investigation phase of the current joint DELWP and VicRoads Trail Bike Rider Safety Project Pilot Program in Gippsland, enabling better choice of intervention options and associated track improvements. The long-term learnings will enable us to expedite the process, reduce costs and make more effective safety improvements and environmental protection in Victoria.
Manager, Risk and Resilience	Canada	To present a paper at the Canadian Dams Association Conference in Halifax, Canada	DELWP has pioneered the use of risk management techniques in regulating the safety of dams. In presenting this work to an international audience, the department's work was promoted among leading experts in the field and presented an opportunity for our work to be recognised as best practice. There have been references to our work by international organisations in the recent past.
Fire Equipment Development Officer	United States of America	To attend and represent the Forest Fire Management Group / Fire Equipment Development Officers Group at the US National Wildfire Co-ordinating Group Equipment Technology Committee 2016	The trip provides benefits to DELWP and Victoria through learnings, networks and innovations. The Altona Fire Equipment Development Centre and its representatives have made excellent use of knowledge gained from similar opportunities in the past contributing to safer and more fit for purpose equipment. Altona is recognised as a leader in Fire Equipment nationally and abroad.
Manager, Water Resource Monitoring	India	To present a paper on " <i>Meteorological and Surface Water Data</i> " at the international seminar on the National Hydrology Project	This enabled DELWP to promote Victoria's expertise as part of the Liveability Victoria International Initiative and the Australian Water Partnership.
Regional Director, Loddon Mallee	Singapore	Attend ANZSOG Executive Fellows Program	Participation has strengthened government networks, increased the traveller's understanding of contemporary public sector thinking and enhanced their ability to operate effectively as a Regional Director.
Executive Director, Policy, Governance and Legislation	China	To represent the Victorian Government and DELWP as part of the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities trade mission to Kunshan	Building on the sister state relationship between Victoria and Jiangsu Province, establishing contacts at senior government level, supporting the centre relationship with Jiangsu, identifying commercial opportunities for Victorian businesses in the liveability sector
Manager, Strategic and International Program	Timor-Leste	In partnership with DPC, progress planning on a range of support activities under the MoU between the Governments of Victoria and Timor-	Selected candidates for the 2017 Urban Planning and Waste Management Training Program; developed a joint DPC-DELWP submission for Commonwealth Government funding through the Australia Awards Program; explored several other possible support activities relevant to Timor-Leste's public administration reform priorities; finalised

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
		Leste, and finalise arrangements for a visit to Timor-Leste by Minister for Planning	arrangements for a visit to Timor-Leste by Minister for Planning.
Executive Director, Local Government Victoria	Timor-Leste	Accompany the Minister for Planning in visiting Timor-Leste in his capacity as Minister Responsible for the Relationship with Timor-Leste	Reaffirmed relationships between Victoria and Timor-Leste at the senior ministerial level (including through meetings with Timor-Leste's Prime Minister, and the Minister of State Administration); announced Victorian Government funding support for a conference facility in Balibo; and visited projects relevant to the Whole of Victorian Government Timor-Leste program.
Minister for Planning	Timor-Leste	Maintain good Victorian Government and Timor-Leste relations, as well as announcing funding initiatives in Balibo	Insights from the visit are being used to inform future bilateral activities, including training and work placement programs.
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change / Minister for Suburban Development	Denmark, Germany, United Kingdom	To consolidate Victoria's reputation as a centre for investment in the renewable energy sector and identify future trends in energy and suburban development	The visit will help to inform Victoria's future energy policy development including understanding energy industry transition and energy industry investment. The Minister reaffirmed and strengthened relationships and established new connections with senior government officials, and held meetings and events to strengthen Victoria's ties with investors and business leaders in the renewable energy sector
Executive Director, Renewable Energy	Denmark, Germany, United Kingdom	To accompany the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change / Minister for Suburban Development on official overseas travel to the United Kingdom, Germany and Denmark.	The traveller attended various meetings with Government and industry to gain an understanding of the renewable energy sector in the UK, Germany and Denmark. The traveller attended a series of investment roundtables to promote investment opportunities in the Victorian renewable energy sector, particularly from the VRET auction scheme. This also provided opportunities to promote investment opportunities in Victoria, which could create economic growth for the state and new jobs in the renewable energy sector. Several of the companies visited may be interested in applying to the VRET auction scheme, thereby assisting Victoria to meet its renewable energy targets.
Regional Director, Loddon Mallee	India	Liveability Victoria International representative for City of Melbourne Smart Cities India Mission. The purpose of this mission is to build networks with Indian government officials and facilitate business matching between Victorian companies and key Indian	The traveller attended all briefings and functions with City of Melbourne and presented at the India Smart Cities Conference on Bendigo's Smart Cities proposal. Key outcomes included gaining a clear understanding of the Smart Cities India program, business opportunities for professional services and establishing relationships for potential future collaboration.

Title of officer	Countries visited	Objectives	Outcomes
		contacts.	
Executive Director Statutory Planning Services	Japan	To attend and present at an international symposium at Keio University addressing strategic and tactical responses to the pressures of globalisation on cities and meet with senior government and international specialists on urban renewal and growth.	Participation enabled the building of networks with international experts and the opportunity in gaining international knowledge and experience on strategic and tactical responses to pressures of globalisation and liveability for input to DELWP, Liveability Victoria International and DPC's Smart Cities agenda for Bendigo Smart City and Latrobe Valley Initiative.

### h) Details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the department to develop community awareness of the services provided by the department

Activity	Description	Cost
Landcare awareness and promotion	The Victorian Landcare Program is the state Government's major investment to support Landcare activity across the state, and is delivered by DELWP and Victoria's 10 Catchment Management Authorities.	Total cost - \$679,852 (budget breakdown below)
	The <i>Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine</i> (published three times a year) is an important statewide communication vehicle for Landcare and other community-based natural resource management groups to share stories that illustrate best practice, as well as learning and innovation. Content is contributed primarily by Landcare and community groups. Each issue of the magazine is themed and contributions on specialist areas are also sought from researchers, government and agency staff etc. In 2016-17 online editions of the magazine were published for the first time, which enables the magazine to be accessed via electronic devices. The spring 2016 of the Landcare magazine was a 32 page (normally 24 pages) feature to mark the 30th anniversary of Landcare in 2016. The additional pages for that edition increased post and print costs, which were offset by reduced costs for the winter 2017 edition due to a reduced print run of 10,000 copies (down from 25,000 copies) after magazine subscribers confirmed their subscription preferences. The subscription confirmation process has ensured print copies are only sent to those who want to receive it.	\$155,798
	The 2016 National Landcare Conference that was held in Melbourne in September 2016 was attended by 600+ people from across Australia. DELWP, through the Victorian Landcare Program (VLP), provided conference sponsorship (\$165,000), and the VLP also had an exhibitor stall at the conference (\$10,000).	\$175,000
	To support and promote the 30th year of Landcare celebrations, a range promotional materials including: stickers, tear drop flags, pull	\$43,163

Activity	Description	Cost
	banners, hats, lapel pins, and tattoos, were produced for use and distribution at the 2016 National Landcare Conference and to the Landcare community via Catchment Management Authorities. The promotional material was branded as 'Landcare in Victoria since 1986', as this provides ongoing use beyond 2016.	
	Landcare in Victoria celebrated its 30 Year Anniversary on 25 November 2016. The Victorian Government supported the 30th year milestone by hosting a recognition event in Queens Hall, Parliament House, Melbourne, which was attended by over 300 community Landcarers. The event provided a forum for many long serving Landcarers from across the state to gather, celebrate and reflect on the achievements of 30 years of Landcare.	\$27,597
	The Victorian Landcare Program had an exhibitor stall at the Coast to Coast Conference in 2016 to promote Landcare more widely.	\$3,150
	In 2016-17, the Victorian Landcare Gateway website was rebuilt to improve user experience and increase its functionality. The rebuild of the website occurred through a co-design approach with Landcare stakeholders and community Landcarers. The Victorian Landcare Gateway is easily accessible by electronic devices and hosts the online version of the Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management magazine.	\$275,144

### **i) Details of assessment and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees, not otherwise detailed in the report of operations**

Details of initiatives undertaken to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of employees are included in the DELWP 2016-17 Annual Report which is available at [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au).

### **j) General statement on industrial relations within the department and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes, which are not otherwise detailed in the report of operations**

Information about industrial relations and time lost through industrial accidents and disputes is included in the DELWP 2016-17 Annual Report which is available at [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au).

### **k) List of major committees sponsored by the department, the purpose of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved**

Details of major committees sponsored by the department are included in the DELWP 2016-17 Annual Report which is available at [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au).

## I) Details of all consultancies and contractors including:

i) consultants/contractors engaged

ii) services provided

iii) expenditure committed to for each engagement.

This information is available on request, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, from:

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### Acronyms:

ANZSOG	Australia and New Zealand School of Government
BNHCRC	Bushfire and Natural Hazard Cooperative Research Centre
CSIRO	Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation
DEDJTR	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DPC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
kV	Kilovolts
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
PHOENIX	A fire characteristic mapping model
VLP	Victorian Landcare Program
VRET	Victoria's Renewable Energy Targets