



The Victorian Budget 2017/18 provides **\$162.5 million** over five years to deliver landmark reforms in environment protection that will protect Victoria's environment, liveability and the health of Victorians.

The investment implements the Andrews Labor Government's Response to the Independent Inquiry into the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) - the first comprehensive examination of the agency since 1971.

It will provide Victoria with a strong, modern and mature environmental regulator. For businesses, it will deliver efficient, consistent and risk-based regulation that is vital to ensure Victoria is an attractive place for investment.

For the community, it will deliver an EPA that proactively and effectively protects environmental values and their health and wellbeing.

The funding provides:

- **\$65.6 million** for EPA's expanded functions and expertise including in environmental public health, scientific leadership, land use planning, mining and emergency management;
- **\$49.5 million** to implement new legislation, regulations and standards. It will also provide guidance and support for the community and industry;

- **\$24.4 million** to provide more financial certainty for the regulator to meet its obligations in 2016-17 and 2017-18;
- **\$19.3 million** for data and information provision to improve public access to information;
- **\$3.1 million** for reforms to EPA governance to ensure its independence and accountability; and
- **\$500,000** to support strategic coordination of environmental protection across government.

This means more officers on the ground; more investigations and prosecutions; and expert advice to inform government, business and community decision making and understanding of the environment we live and work in.

The appointment of Victoria's Chief Environmental Scientist, Dr Andrea Hinwood, will strengthen EPA's efforts in providing this comprehensive expert advice to the community about our environment.

It also means a pilot program of Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment that will work closely with the EPA and their local councils to respond to smaller-scale and lower risk waste and pollution complaints.

Creating jobs

The reforms will create over **100 new roles** within EPA. Around 40 per cent of the new roles will be located across EPA's regional offices.

Find out more

www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/independent-inquiry-into-the-epa