



GREENPEACE



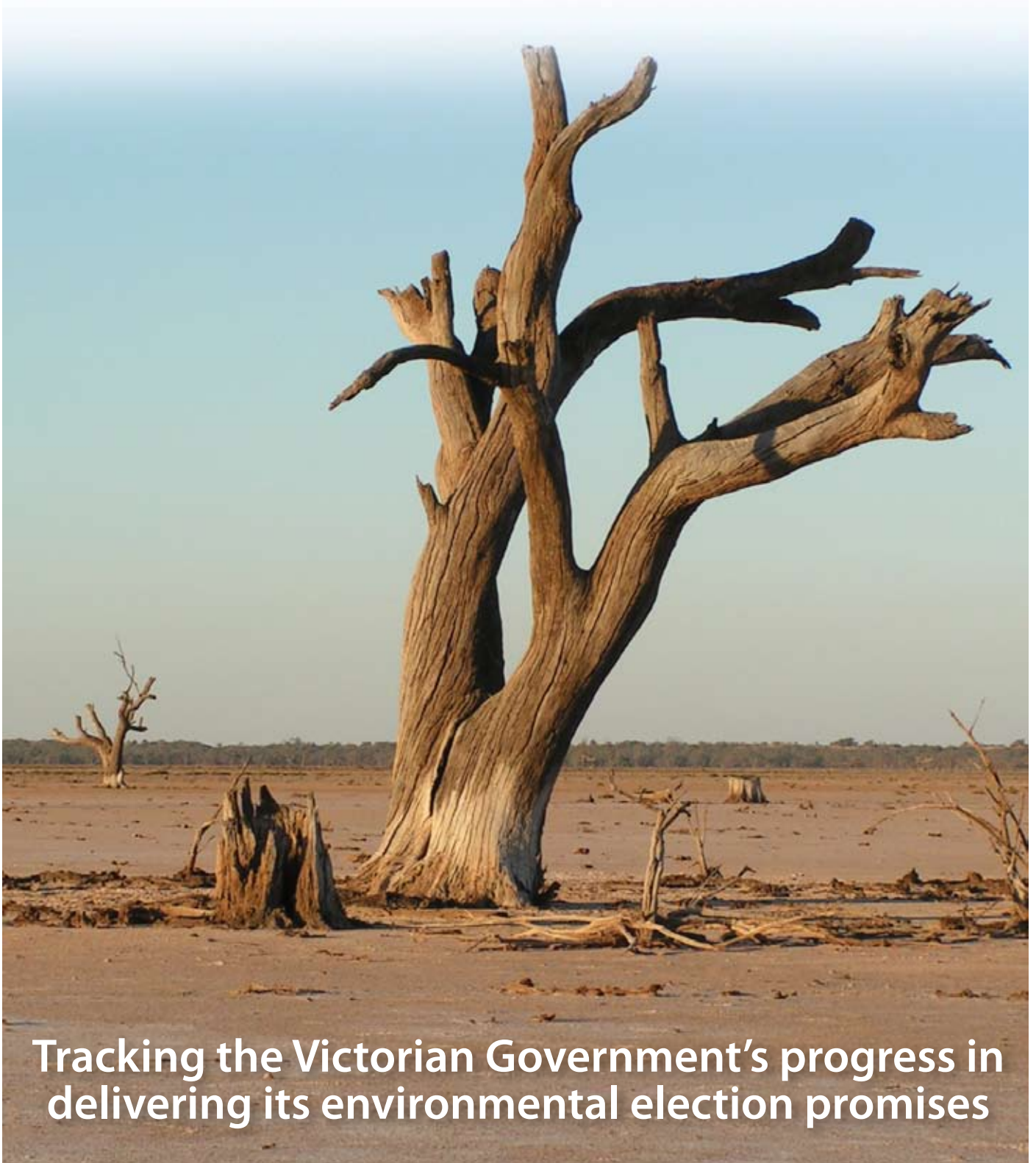
AUSTRALIAN
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one year in...

December 2007

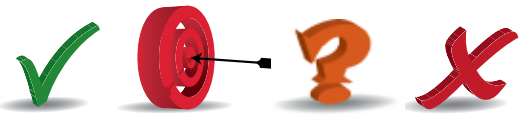


**Tracking the Victorian Government's progress in
delivering its environmental election promises**

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This is a report of the Victorian Government's progress on implementing the 2006 Victorian ALP election promises on the environment. It assesses the delivery of key promises made in the ALP's 2006 Platform Policy – Environmental Sustainability and Resources.





This report was compiled by Environment Victoria in partnership with the Victorian National Parks Association, Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace, The Wilderness Society and Friends of the Earth. All these groups are non-partisan environment groups. This report is not an endorsement by the environment groups of the ALP's election promises. It is simply to keep a watch on the delivery of those election promises.

This report was compiled on the 25th of November, 2007 – one year after the 2006 Victorian ALP election win. A report will be compiled each year on the anniversary of the Victorian election.



The logging of old-growth forests bordering the Errinundra National Park continues to threaten the area's unique biodiversity.

envirowatch report card assessment system

Promise status	Description	Indicator
Kept	Promise has been delivered	
On-target	Promise is on-track for delivery	
At-risk (or not progressed)	Needs significant work to meet promise by next election (2010)	
Broken	Promise broken	

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Climate

The Victorian Government has promised a number of innovative and important initiatives to tackle climate change. One year after the state election, over 50% of the Victorian Government's climate change promises are at-risk of not being delivered. In the next three years, it will need to significantly boost energy efficiency and renewable energy programs to meet election promises. Even if all these promises are met, they are unlikely to ensure Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions are reduced. A short-term emission reduction target is required to drive the innovation needed to move Victoria to a low-carbon future.

Water

Since re-election, the Victorian Government has had a bumpy ride on water. For example, it has made some world-class decisions to improve irrigation efficiencies but at the same time has been short-sighted when it comes to protecting the rivers that provide water for irrigation and urban use. Its decision to raid rivers of their legal water entitlements to provide water for urban use and agriculture indicates they do not truly value rivers and wetlands, which is a problem given that rivers supply almost all our water needs in Victoria and therefore underpin the economy. In the next three years, the Victorian Government must protect the environmental values of rivers.

It should be noted that the proposal to establish a desalination plant for Melbourne threatens to undermine the good efforts of the government at achieving reductions in water use through technological innovation and behavioural change.

Parks & biodiversity

The Victorian Government is on-track to deliver less than half its parks and biodiversity promises. One year on from the election, the Victorian government has not delivered on its promises for old growth forests in Gippsland, which they promised to do immediately after being elected. Some of these areas have subsequently been logged, meaning they lose values that supported their inclusion in the first instance. This has caused some concern that other promises currently at risk may also not be delivered.

Urban environment

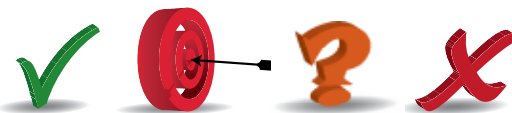
The government has not publicly progressed a number of these issues and will need to do so in the next 12 months to ensure their delivery.

It is critical the Victorian Government continues to push energy and water efficiency standards in new and existing buildings. In almost all cases, the efficient use of water or energy is much cheaper and less environmentally damaging than building new supplies of energy and water. Water and energy efficiency measures in new and existing buildings are at risk of being weakened unless there is strong support by government.

Resource efficiency and waste

The Victorian Government has delivered or is on target to deliver over half their promises on resource efficiency and waste. Resource efficiency and recycling is an area that will no doubt become more important into the future as we use resources quicker than nature can replace them.

	Promises	Delivery status			
		kept	on-target	at-risk	broken
Climate change	17	2	6	9	0
Water	21	2	11	6	2
Parks & biodiversity	13	0	6	6	1
Urban environment	9	1	1	7	0
Resource efficiency & waste	8	2	3	3	0
Total	68	7	27	31	3
		10%	40%	46%	4%



Progress report: climate change promises

What's good

- The Victorian Government's innovative and important initiatives to tackle climate change, compared to other Australian States.
- The commitment to a 10% emissions reduction target for households.
- The Industry Greenhouse Program.
- The commitment to a 10% renewable energy target and investment in renewable energy.

What's not

- The lack of visible progress on implementing a number of key promises such as developing a 'Climate Bill'.
- The lack of a fair price for householders and small businesses that feed solar and other renewable energy into the energy grid.
- The new projects supported by the Victorian Government that will lead to significant increases in Victoria's emissions.
- New HRL coal-fired power station. According to the government's own figures, this project will increase Victoria's annual emissions by 2.5 million tonnes.
- Alcoa expansion: There has been some discussion within government of expanding Alcoa's aluminium smelting facilities, though no concrete plans have been made public.
- Desalination plant: A commitment has been made to power this plant with renewable energy, which would mean the plant would be carbon

neutral. However, this renewable energy could otherwise be used to reduce Victoria's current high emissions. The government rejected less energy intensive water supply options such as water efficiency and recycling.

Overall



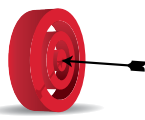


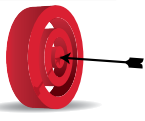

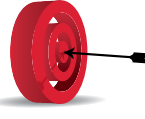
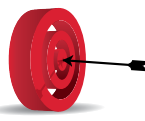
The Victorian Government has delivered or is on target to deliver nearly half its climate change promises but is at risk of not delivering the other half.

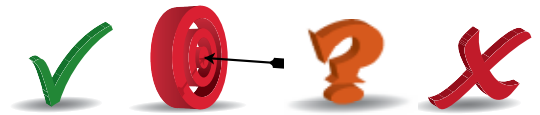
Victoria has introduced some innovative programs on climate change but Australia is a long way behind many parts of the world on meaningful action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Combined, the government's promises are unlikely to ensure Victoria's emissions are reduced, which is the ultimate test of climate change policy. In recent months, the Victorian Government has been quiet on climate change and many community members are unsure of the Brumby Government's position on this issue.

The big test for the Victorian Government will be how it deals with the coal-fired power plants that generate the majority of the state's emissions. The Government is clearly placing a lot of faith in so-called 'clean coal' technology and sequestration, though they remain unproven and decades from commercial-scale deployment. In the meantime emissions reductions will be required much earlier through proven energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that will also generate thousands of jobs for Victorians.

	Promises	Delivery status			
		kept	on-target	at-risk	broken
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	11	0	4	7	0
Boost renewable power	5	1	2	2	0
Keep Victoria nuclear free	1	1	0	0	0
Total	17	2	6	9	0

Climate change promises report card

Promise	Comment	Status
<p>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>Legislate a target to reduce greenhouse emissions by 60% by 2050 from 2000 levels</p>	<p>No visible progress has been made on this promise. This promise is increasingly being left behind by the science, which is suggesting that cuts of at least 80-90% (on 1990 rather than 2000 levels) will be necessary in developed economies by 2050. A short-term and interim target for greenhouse reduction will be required to drive the right policies to achieve on-going reductions in our greenhouse emissions.</p>	
<p>Adopt a 10% reduction target for household emissions by 2010</p>	<p>The Victorian Energy Efficiency Target and other existing programs will contribute a reduction of nearly 5%. Additional programs will be needed to reach this target.</p>	
<p>Introduce a new Victorian Energy Efficiency Target scheme to assist with meeting the above target</p>	<p>Legislation has been introduced into the Parliament and the scheme is set to commence in 2009.</p>	
<p>\$14 million on rebates for insulation or replacing fridges, heaters, coolers and other appliances with high-energy efficient models</p>	<p>\$14 million was allocated in the 2007/ 08 Budget. Of this, \$1.6 million has been made available for rebates on insulation and hot water upgrades. The remaining \$13 million has not yet been made available and promised rebates for fridge, heater and cooler and washing machine upgrades and other appliances are yet to materialise.</p>	
<p>Cut government energy use to 20% below 2000 levels and increase green power to 25% by 2010</p>	<p>The Victorian Government's Budget indicates that there will be no significant increase in green power purchase until 2009-10.</p>	
<p>National emissions trading scheme to operate as early as 2010</p>	<p>The Garnaut Review, administered by the Victorian government on-behalf of all ALP governments, is on track for delivery and will include recommendations on a national emissions trading scheme</p>	
<p>Introduce 'landmark' Climate Change Bill</p>	<p>No visible progress has been made on the promise.</p>	
<p>\$2.1 million to retrofit public housing with energy efficient improvements</p>	<p>Implementation progressing.</p>	
<p>Require industry to become more energy efficient under the EPA Industry Greenhouse program</p>	<p>While the election promise is vague this program is valuable and should be extended to the next tier of business.</p>	



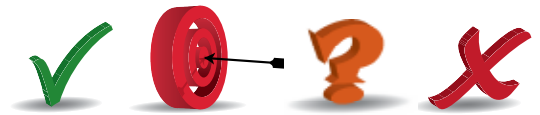
Climate change promises report card

Promise	Comment	Status
Provide \$7.1 million for a Clean Coal Authority in the Latrobe Valley	This promise is progressing with \$3.8 million allocated in the 2007/08 Budget over three years but as yet no authority has been established. This is one election commitment environment groups would be happy to see altered to support existing, proven renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies instead of unproven so-called 'clean coal'.	
Help farmers improve energy efficiency via on-farm energy grants	A \$4 million commitment was made in the Budget, though the program seems to be about improving energy supply reliability rather than energy efficiency.	
Boost renewable power Mandate a minimum of 10 per cent of Victoria's energy to come from renewable energy by 2016	This promise was delivered prior to the 2006 election.	
Work towards a target of 20% renewable and low-emissions energy generation by 2020.	No clear progress on this promise above and beyond the 10% delivered through the above promise.	
A fair price for householders and small businesses that feed solar and other renewable energy into the grid	While there have been some amendments to the Energy Act, a fair feed-in tariff for renewable energy has not yet been delivered. This is a key commitment that was strongly welcomed at the time it was announced. There is now significant concern government is wavering on this commitment.	
\$5 million to install solar power in 500 schools and community buildings	This small but useful program has been launched.	
\$50 million for a solar power station to be built in Victoria's north west	\$50 million committed in the 2007/08 Budget.	
Keep Victoria nuclear free Oppose moves to build a nuclear power station in Victoria	The Victorian Government remains opposed to a nuclear power station in Victoria.	

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Dead trees, reeds and weeds are replacing water at Dimboola.



Progress report: water promises

What's good

- Investment in irrigation efficiency to provide water back to rivers.
- Current investment in water efficiency and recycling, although this has not led to significant river health but has extended water supplies for consumption.
- Current investment in improving the health of the Yarra River.

What's not

- The stripping of legal environmental water entitlements from stressed rivers across the state to provide water for agricultural and urban use.
- Reactionary approach to short-term water supply by raiding rivers rather than accelerating efficiency and recycling programs.
- Government intervention and rejection of an independent scientific recommendation for water for River Red Gum Forests.
- Only 21% of Victoria's rivers in good (or better) condition.
- There is concern that the proposed desalination plant may undermine current and future water efficiency projects.
- Risking the health of Port Phillip Bay through the channel deepening project.

Overall

The Victorian Government has delivered or is on-track to deliver over half its water promises. However, it has reneged on key promises to protect the health of Victoria's rivers.



Water levels have been significantly reduced in the Wimmera River.

In his maiden speech Premier Brumby said water is not an environmental issue but an economic one. It appears that the Victorian Government is approaching water security without considering the environmental services provided by healthy rivers – these include provision of clean water for drinking, agriculture, recreation and tourism, business consumption as well as protecting Victoria's unique rivers and wetlands. Without healthy rivers, Victoria's economy is at risk. In the next three years, the Victorian Government must protect the environmental as well as economic value of rivers.

	Promises	Delivery status			
		kept	on-target	at-risk	broken
Improve river health	7	1	1	3	2
Boost water efficiency	6	1	4	1	0
Boost recycling & wastewater man.	6	0	4	2	0
Protect Victoria's coasts	2	0	2	0	0
Total	21	2	11	6	2

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Water promises report card

Promise

Improve river health

Deliver Victoria's commitment to The Living Murray

Comment

This promise is at serious risk of not being delivered by the 2009 target date. Of the three major projects to deliver this water, two are at-risk:

- The 120 billion litres committed from Goulburn-Murray Water Recovery Package is very low reliability water and our analysis indicates that this water would only be available three years in every 100.
- The decision to proceed with the Lake Mokoan Water Saving project remains unresolved.

Status



Significantly improve the health of Victoria's rivers by 2010

The latest Victorian Catchment Management Report indicates that only 21% of Victorian rivers are in good (or better) condition. It will be difficult for government to meet this 2010 target.



Deliver increased environmental flows to major stressed rivers, including the Snowy, Murray, Wimmera and Thompson

A small proportion of the environment's legal water rights have been delivered to the Thomson and Wimmera rivers, and to wetlands in northern Victoria to save a fish species (Murray Hardyhead) from extinction. However, there is significant evidence that the Victorian Government is backing away from promises to provide environmental flows to highly stressed rivers. The government has taken water from stressed rivers including the Yarra, Moorabool, Wimmera, Goulburn and Broken to boost supplies for urban and rural consumers. This combined with the unprecedented move to reject independent scientific recommendations to provide water to dying River Red Gums casts a shadow over the government's commitment to healthy rivers. No one wants to deny water for consumers but rivers are the hardest hit by the drought and climate change, and need their legal entitlements – and these entitlements are tiny compared with agricultural and urban use. Rivers require the same legal rights to water that consumers receive.



Ensure the Environmental Water Reserve that has been created for rivers retains its protected status in legislation

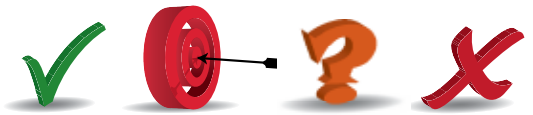
Given legal flow rights have been taken from rivers, the legislation does not provide adequate protection. Environmental water rights should have the same level of protection as all water rights (eg. irrigation and urban consumption) – if one is reduced because of water shortages, all should be reduced.



Investigate Murray-Goulburn interconnector, while maintaining environmental flows for the Barmah Forest

Investigations into the interconnector have lacked public transparency. There may be marginal benefits to the Murray, Goulburn and Broken rivers and the Barmah Forest although an iron clad agreement to protect the Barmah Forest environment flows would be required. This is a concern because government has broken other environmental flow promises.





Water promises report card

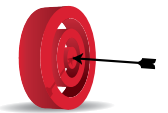
Promise

Implement Yarra River: Securing Water Quality for a Healthy Future to reduce stormwater pollution, install reticulated sewerage and reduce litter

Comment

The Action Plan will improve the health of the Yarra River but there are still huge water quality issues to solve. For example E.coli levels often exceed safe levels for swimming and boating.

Status



Continue \$100 million environment contribution from water authorities

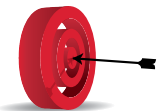
Transparent information on how this money is spent is required to ensure environmental benefits.



Boost water efficiency

Invest in upgrades to irrigation efficiency

The \$1 billion investment to increase the efficiency of the Murray-Goulburn Irrigation District and provide a third of the savings to the environment is excellent. Similar projects across Victoria's irrigation districts will be required as water availability decreases under climate change.



Price water to encourage people to use it more wisely

Alternative pricing for industry that supports recycling and conservation

Essential Services Commission is currently reviewing water prices. Government intervention set a price for water in Melbourne in 2008/09 that is significantly lower than that required to cover costs incurred by all water utilities. It is critical that the price of water is set to encourage water efficiency.



Extend water rebate program for another four years

This was delivered and is supported by environment groups.

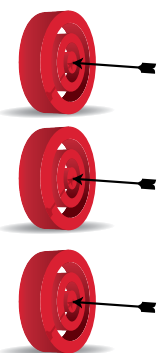


Install 180,000 water efficient showerheads by 2010









Achieve 10% reduction of water used by industry by 2017

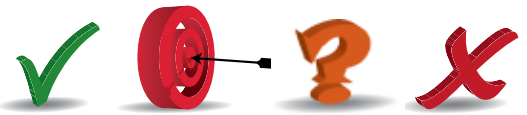
Reduce leaks from water distribution systems to save 2,500 ML by 2015

There is no doubt that government and water utilities have developed very good water efficiency programs and Victorian consumers have responded well, saving large quantities of water. However, given the severe water shortages and over-extraction of water from the state's rivers, water efficiency programs need to be accelerated so that water efficiency in Victorian homes and businesses mirrors that in highly-efficient European countries. There is serious concern that the proposed desalination plant will undermine water efficiency projects. Water efficiency is the cheapest and most environmentally friendly way of providing water.



Climate change promises report card

Promise	Comment	Status
<p>Boost recycling and wastewater management</p> <p>Upgrade ETP to treat wastewater to Class A standard for reuse by industry, new housing estates and agriculture</p>	<p>Government has committed to the upgrade of the Eastern Treatment Plant. However, the proposed 150 billion litre desalination plant and the 75 billion litre Sugarloaf Interconnector puts this upgrade at risk. It is unsure how or where this recycled water will be used.</p>	
<p>20% water recycling by 2020</p>	<p>The proposed desalination plant and Sugarloaf Interconnector places further investment in recycling at risk.</p>	
<p>Extend sewerage management programs</p>	<p>Government continues to extend seweraged areas.</p>	
<p>Establish Altona water recycling precinct</p>	<p>\$5 million has been committed to stage 1 of this project.</p>	
<p>\$10 million for local water recycling and stormwater projects</p>	<p>\$10 million over four years committed in the 2007/08 Budget.</p>	
<p>\$10 million for rainwater tanks connected to indoor uses</p>	<p>Committed over four years in the 2007/ 08 Budget.</p>	
<p>Protecting our coasts</p> <p>Implement the Victorian Coastal Strategy to protect coastal environments</p>	<p>The draft VCS is out and submissions are being sought until the 31st of January 2008. The draft strategy alerts the government to the potential impacts of climate change and recommends a report to investigate impacts rising sea levels, storm surges etc are likely to have on the coast. The final report needs to include clear and timely actions - not just recommending further research.</p>	
<p>Invest further in stormwater management to reduce litter, pollutants and sediments entering Port Phillip Bay and other coastal waters</p>		



Progress report: parks and biodiversity



VEAC has made strong recommendations for new Red Gum national parks, however two thirds of the iconic Gunbower Forest, an internationally recognised wetland, will remain open to logging.

What's good

- Victorian Government commitment to a White Paper on land and biodiversity. There are some concerns that this may not be comprehensive enough so while environment groups support the commitment from government to develop the White Paper, we feel its focus needs to be broader.
- Victorian Government commitment to establishing markets for ecosystem services.

What's not

- The delays in the implementation of new protected areas, particularly in East Gippsland, the Strzelecki Ranges and Cobboboonee forest in the South West.
- While progress is being made on protection of Red Gum forests through the independent Vic-






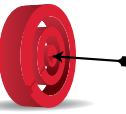
torian Environment Assessment Council (VEAC) process, the declaration by the Premier that there will be no consideration of further water recommendations has undermined the independence of the VEAC process.

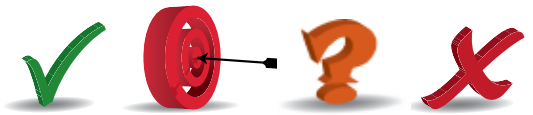
Overall

The Victorian Government is on-track to deliver half of the parks and biodiversity promises. One year on from the election, it has not delivered on its promises for old-growth forests in East Gippsland, which they promised to do immediately after being elected. This has caused some concern that other promises currently at risk may also not be delivered. Environment groups have welcomed the commitment for a White Paper on land and biodiversity, but feel it needs a greater strategic focus and better resourcing.

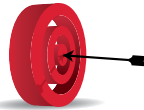


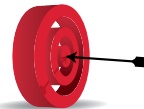
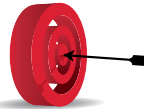

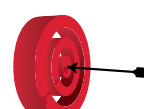
	Promises	Delivery status			
		kept	on-target	at-risk	broken
Stronger national parks	10	0	3	6	1
Protecting biodiversity	3	0	3	0	0
Total	13	0	6	6	1

Parks and biodiversity report card

Promise	Comment	Status
<p>Build stronger national parks system</p> <p>Immediately protect 33,500 hectares of Goolengook Block and the last significant strands of Victoria's old growth forests currently available for logging under the National Parks Act</p>	<p>Government has fallen short of protecting 33,500 hectares of land that was available for logging. Some of the land recommended for protection was already protected from logging activities.</p>	
<p>Create the Great Alpine National Park by adding a 5,000 hectare section of state forest, currently available for logging, and bid for World Heritage listing</p>	<p>As above.</p>	
<p>Protect over 2,500 hectares of icon state forest areas currently available for timber harvesting to the National Parks and reserve system in East Gippsland</p>	<p>As above.</p>	
<p>Provide \$7 million to complete the buy back of the high value Cores and Links forest areas in the Strzelecki Ranges</p>	<p>This commitment included the buy-back of 8,000 hectares of native forest and re-growth plantation from Hancocks. Government agreed to a once-off harvesting of 1,000-1,500 hectares before handing over management to the government. There appears to have been some back sliding with some interests pushing for 40% more logging than agreed to in the October 2006 Heads of Agreement. Some very poor logging practices in the areas set aside under the Heads of Agreement have been documented in the past year. There is extensive local community concern of a very poor outcome for the Strzelecki Core's and Links Reserve if there is not a significant political intervention.</p>	
<p>Create Cobboboonee National Park and Forest Park</p>	<p>The government committed to creating a new 27,000 hectare National and Forest Park in the unique high conservation Cobboboonee forest. Consultation is underway to determine the actual boundaries of the National and Forest Park. This promise will continue to be watched to ensure full delivery.</p>	
<p>Create new Red Gum National Park and Forest Parks if recommended by VEAC and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that resources will be provided to support the crea- 	<p>The VEAC released draft recommendations for over 100,000 hectares of new national and state parks and further water for environmental flows. However, the independent process was significantly undermined when the Premier pre-empted the final VEAC report by declaring the government would not consider any recommendations for</p>	



Parks and biodiversity report card

Promise	Comment	Status
<p>tion of any new Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore indigenous joint management arrangements 	<p>additional environmental water despite a range of studies showing Red Gum forests are dying. The final report for VEAC has now been delayed until May 2008, after which the government has six months to respond.</p>	
<p>Allocate \$24.9 million to expand the number of Parks Rangers across Victoria</p>	<p>\$25 million over four years committed in the 2007/08 Budget to add 15 new Park Rangers and continuing to fund the 50 new Park Rangers committed to in the 2002 election.</p>	
<p>Invest \$1.8 million to upgrade camping and recreation facilities in the new Great Victorian Alpine National Park</p>	<p>The extended "Great Victorian" Alpine National Park has not yet been established, so the proposal for camping and recreation facilities has not been implemented.</p>	
<p>Develop 'Old Growth' walking track near Goongerah, East Gippsland</p>	<p>One of five new walks proposed. The "Great Walks of East Gippsland" has \$750,000 allocated but is on hold while additional funding is sought from the Federal Government.</p>	
<p>Invest \$10 million in the protection of heritage sites at Point Nepean and \$600,000 to create a 1.5 km walking track linking London Bridge and the Quarantine Station</p>	<p>Funding for the walking track is available and planning by Parks Victoria for the track is proceeding.</p>	
<p>Protecting biodiversity</p>		
<p>Labor will provide a \$4 million boost to protect Victorian farms from pest animals and noxious weeds</p>	<p>\$4 million over four years committed in the 2007/08 Budget.</p>	
<p>Extend BushBroker, BushTender and other economic incentives to encourage landholders to improve the environment</p>	<p>Government committed \$2.7 million over three years to extend BushTender and \$14 million on 'market solutions' over four years. The programs are now being implemented.</p>	
<p>Develop a biodiversity White Paper that will be a comprehensive approach to sustaining biodiversity across Victoria in the medium to long term</p>	<p>The White Paper is underway but there are some concerns that the process may not be comprehensive enough to address the problems outlined in recent the Victorian Catchment Condition Report. The White Paper will largely exclude policy commitments on commercial forestry arrangements, fisheries management, mineral exploration, agricultural industry reform and wildlife exploitation.</p>	

Progress report: urban environment

What's good

- Government's commitment to leading by example through new 5-star office accommodation.
- Governments' commitment to improving the sustainability of commercial buildings and existing homes upon sale of the home. This should accelerate the adoption of efficiency measures.

What's not

- All of the Victorian Government's promises are supported but there is little publicly available information on its progress towards delivering these promises. To deliver on many of these promises, government will need to engage the community on these issues in the next 12 months.
- There is significant concern and active lobbying by some building groups to weaken the 5-star home standards, particularly in relation to water and the role of rainwater tanks in urban communities.

Overall

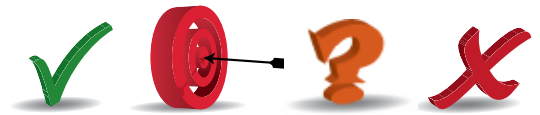
The Victorian Government has not publicly progressed a number of these issues and will need to do so in the next 12 months to ensure their delivery.

The amount of resources consumed in urban centres is often far greater than in regional and rural parts of Victoria. It is critical that the Victorian Government continues to push energy and water efficiency standards in new and existing buildings. In almost all cases, the efficient use of water or energy is much cheaper and less environmentally damaging than building new supplies of energy (eg. the proposed new coal-fired power plants) and water (eg. the proposed desalination plant). Water and energy efficiency measures in new and existing buildings are at risk of being weakened unless there is strong support by government.



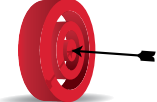








Water efficiency measures in new and existing homes could be weakened without strong government support.
Photo: Suzie Brown

	Promises	Delivery status			
		kept	on-target	at-risk	broken
Total	9	1	1	7	0



Urban environment report card

Promise	Comment	Status
Implement a green retrofit program for public and private buildings	The Victorian Government has funded a number of programs for public and private homes, but there is little coordination of programs to date. It is understood that government is currently cataloguing programs to determine a more holistic approach in 2008.	
Deliver a sustainability assessment methodology for all new residential building types and renovations	The FirstRate software application is available for designing new homes, to ensure they meet 5-star energy efficiency rating (focuses on energy only). The new 5-star standard is currently under development. There are some concerns that conservation requirements, particularly around water, will be weakened as a result of the state's focus on new energy and water resources.	
Phase out free, single-use lightweight plastic bags by 1 January 2009	In 2007 the Environment Protection Act was amended to enable regulations to be developed to meet this promise. The preferred approach is to develop a nationally consistent process but Victoria has committed to developing its own regulations if the national process does not deliver.	
Set a minimum 4-star water and energy efficiency standard for all new commercial buildings	No visible progress has been made on the promise. It is likely that work is being undertaken within government agencies on this promise but nothing as yet has been made public.	
Set minimum standards for heating and cooling appliances in new homes	This is being progressed through the 5-star homes review, which should be further developed in 2008.	
Investigate minimum water and energy efficiency standards for building renovations	Too vague to measure.	
Mandate 5-star environmental ratings for all new government office accommodation from 2007	Promise delivered.	
Investigate making rental homes greener	Too vague to measure.	
Require all homes to have 3-star showerheads and dual flush toilets before the home is sold by 2008	Public consultation on this has yet to begin.	

Progress report: resource efficiency and waste

What's good

- Government's increasing focus on waste and resource efficiency as a critical issue for the environment.
- Government's own leadership on sustainable procurement processes, although there is still some way to go to implement throughout all government agencies.
- Government's progress in helping industry redesign processes to use less water and energy and produce less waste.

What's not

- Government will need to accelerate its waste reduction programs to ensure it meets all the Towards Zero Waste targets. Municipal waste is a particular issue.

Overall

The Victorian Government has delivered or is on target to deliver over half of their promises on resource efficiency and waste.

The world only has a set amount of resources and we use those resources quicker than nature can replace them. In fact, the world is running low on key metals that are used in mobile phones and computers with some estimates stating that we could run out of some key metals within the decade (under a 'business as usual' approach). Therefore resource efficiency and recycling all waste is something we need to achieve to sustain Victoria's economy into the future.



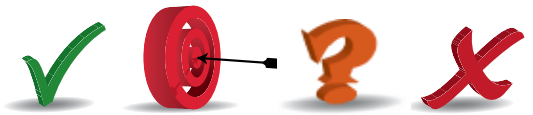
Many goods cannot be recycled.



All the items pictured left and below can be put into recycling bins.



	Promises	Delivery status			
		kept	on-target	at-risk	broken
Reduce waste	6	1	2	3	0
Green purchasing	2	1	1	0	0
Total	8	2	3	3	0



Resource efficiency and waste report card

Promise	Comment	Status
<p>Reducing waste</p> <p>Achieve Towards Zero Waste targets</p>	<p>There are five Towards Zero Waste targets to be met by 2014. According to a recent assessment funded by the Victorian Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three are likely to be met: (1) recover 75% of solid waste (by weight) for reuse recycling or energy generation; (2) 25% improvement (from 2003) in littering behaviour and (3) sector-based targets for commercial and industrial waste and construction and demolition waste. • Two are unlikely to be met with significant new programs: (1) 1.5 million tonne reduction in the projected quality of solid waste; and (2) 65% recovery rate (by weight) of municipal solid waste. 	
<p>Build 12 new recycling centres across Victoria and ultimately ban goods like TVs and computers from landfill</p>	<p>Three recycling centres have opened so far; two more are soon to open with no foreseeable barrier to the others. A landfill ban on electronic goods is likely to be part of a national scheme. There is some risk that the national process will be delayed, which would prevent Victoria banning electronic waste from landfill. This promise will be closely monitored to ensure it remains on-track.</p>	
<p>Use landfill levies to provide incentives to reduce waste and use funds to transition to a zero waste future</p>	<p>The government has increased landfill levies significantly for prescribed (hazardous) waste and moderately for non-hazardous waste. Environment groups believe that the landfill levies for non-hazardous waste should increase further to provide a stronger incentive for re-use and reduction.</p>	
<p>Introduce legislation to ensure producers of equipment such as TVs, computers and mobile phones have responsibility for their product waste</p>	<p>No such legislation has been passed as yet. The only state to do so is NSW (the Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2001). Discussion and agreement at the national level is likely before Victorian-based legislation is developed.</p>	
<p>Support high-tech waste recovery infrastructure plants to reuse valuable resources in waste</p>	<p>Investigation is underway.</p>	
<p>Reduce the amount of green waste to landfill by 80% and ultimately phase out green waste in landfill</p>	<p>There has been no genuine diversion of green waste from landfill despite substantial increases in the amount of green waste collected. For example, green waste collected by local councils has increased by at least 25% since 2005 but much of this green waste is used for daily cover at landfills, replacing the use of soil. The government does not yet have a plan to achieve this target.</p>	

Resource efficiency and waste report card

Promise

Comment

Status

Green purchasing

Set minimum environmental principles in government procurement processes

These principles have been incorporated in government procurement policies. However, these principles act as guidelines only. Government departments may choose to procure goods without reference to the standards.



Introduce best practice eco-efficiency standards for industry sectors for their use of water, energy and waste production

The government will partially implement this commitment when the EPA's Environment and Resource Efficiency Plan regulations come into force in 2008. This will focus on large resource users. Other programs supported by government and delivered by VECCI and water utilities should also develop best practice standards.

