

# Making Connections Building Resilience

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The magazine of the Premier's Sustainability Awards 2014

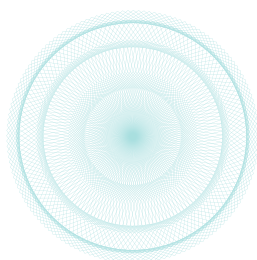
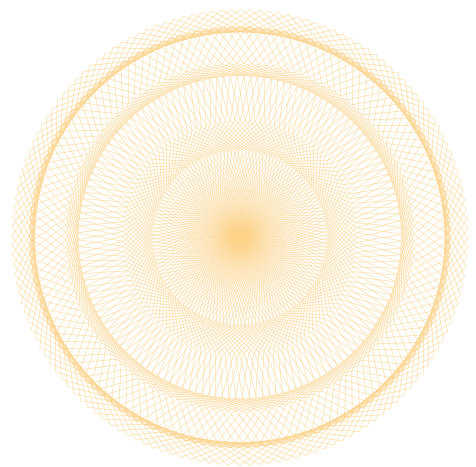
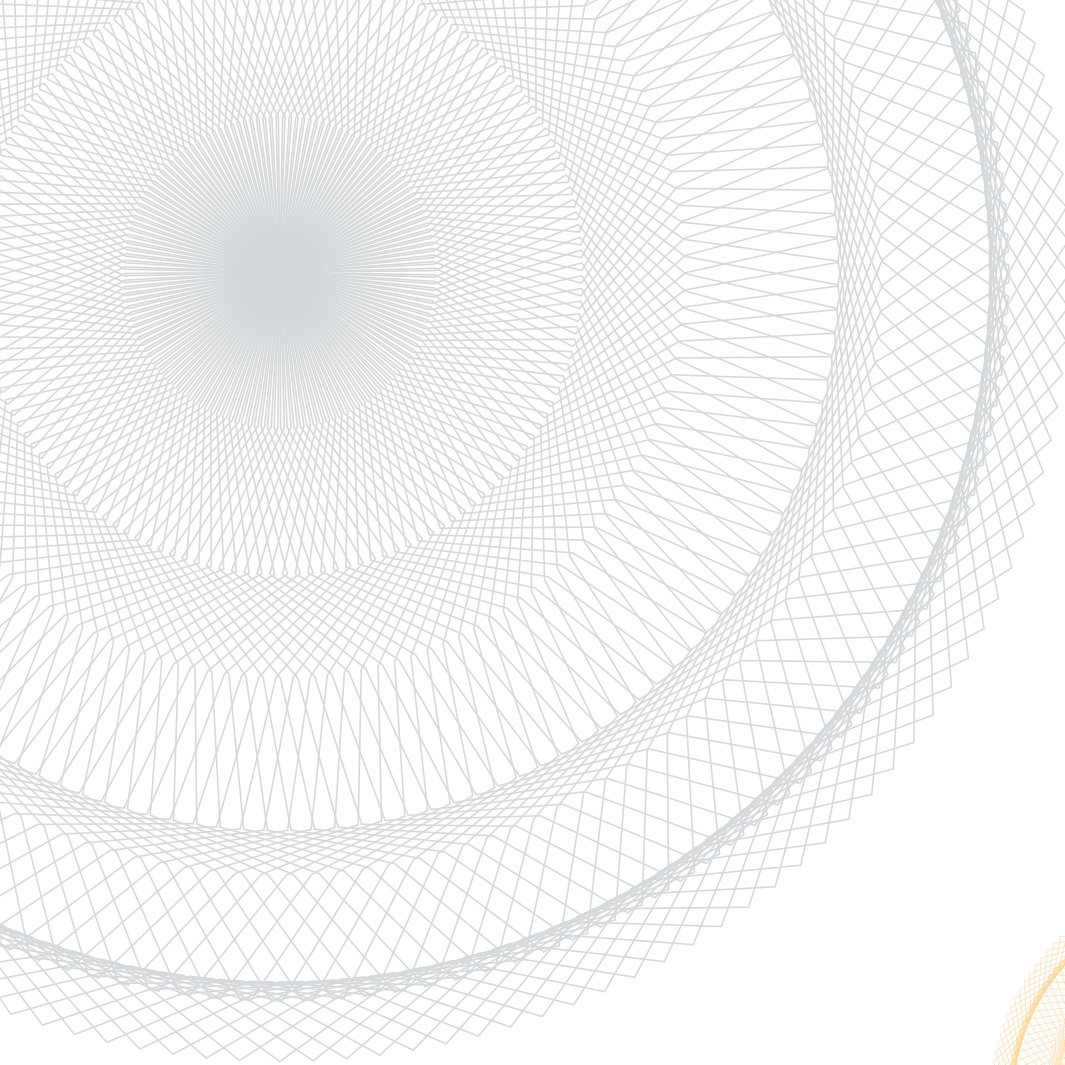
**Meet the 2014  
Awards Finalists**

**Sustainability  
in Action**

**Victorian Leaders  
in Sustainability**



**Premier's  
Sustainability  
Awards 2014**



# Table of Contents

**05**

**A message from  
the Premier**

**06**

**Recover your  
garden waste**

**07**

**Sustainability  
Victoria in Action**

**09**

**Energising  
home renovations**

**10**

**Keep Australia  
Beautiful Victoria –  
Sustainable Cities**

**12**

**Love Food  
Hate Waste**

**15**

**Minister's  
Introduction**

**16**

**Finalists  
& Winners**

**35**

**Smarter recycling  
for business**

**37**

**Improved  
sustainability =  
better business**

**39**

**Options for  
're-tyrement'**

**40**

**ResourceSmart  
Schools Awards**

**43**

**Way too cool  
for business**

**44**

**Keep Australia  
Beautiful Victoria –  
Tidy Towns**

**46**

**Meet the Category  
Sponsors**

**47**

**Acknowledgements**



A photograph of a modern park at night. In the foreground, a wide set of concrete steps leads up a grassy hill. To the right of the steps, several tall, slender, light-colored poles stand vertically, some with small lights at the top. The background features a city skyline with several illuminated skyscrapers under a dark blue sky. The overall scene is well-lit, suggesting a modern, sustainable urban environment.

# Welcome to the 2014 Premier's Sustainability Awards

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

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The Victorian Coalition Government understands that a healthy environment is essential to long-term growth, and that the community and economic benefits of protecting biodiversity and ecosystems greatly outweigh the costs of delivering this protection.

These awards have been running for 12 years now and continue to identify and celebrate the remarkable contributions being made towards a more sustainable Victoria.

In addition to the nine category awards assessed by an independent judging panel, I am delighted to have personally selected the winners for the Premier's Regional Recognition Award and the Premier's Recognition Award.

Throughout the Awards' history, one clear theme has emerged: *Sustainability is important to us all*. It is crucial that the choices we make and the actions that we take today are responsible and reflect the needs of the next generation.

The Victorian Coalition Government has a proven and ongoing commitment to our state's natural environment and has well-resourced programs in place to ensure it is protected and our practices are sustainable.

These programs involve business, community, local council and education bodies and are aimed at minimising waste, improving materials and energy efficiency, and enhancing the general liveability of our beautiful state.

And, as these awards demonstrate, individuals working together as part of communities can also make a lasting contribution.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories of people across the state who are making a positive difference to the environment.

I congratulate all finalists on their commitment, innovation and hard work. On behalf of all Victorians I thank them for so effectively supporting our state's sustainability efforts.

A stylized, dark-colored signature of The Hon Dr Denis Napthine MP.

The Premier of Victoria,  
The Hon Dr Denis Napthine MP





# Recover your garden waste

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A great example of state and local government working together to achieve a common vision

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Earlier this year, the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith, visited the City of Ballarat to announce \$500,000 in funding to roll out a new kerbside garden waste collection service to households within the municipality.

The funding is part of Building Victoria's Organics Recovery, a \$2.5 million fund to increase the recovery of organics in regional Victoria, administered by Sustainability Victoria.

It is expected that when the new service commences it will divert more than 8000 tonnes of garden waste annually, while creating 15 additional full-time jobs within the region.

In 2011–12, Victorians generated an estimated 620,000 tonnes of garden waste, of which about 40 per cent was disposed of to landfill.

As it breaks down, garden waste produces methane, leachate and odour, increasing the environmental, public health and amenity impacts of landfills. Recovering and processing garden material also provides a significant greenhouse gas reduction benefit.

Furthermore, composted products applied in agriculture can capture carbon in soil, improve soil quality and fertility and assist in water retention.

Building Victoria's Organics Recovery is supporting regional councils to recover valuable resources and reduce the amount of garden waste going to landfill. It's a great example of state and local government working together to achieve a common vision.



# Sustainability Victoria in Action



Sustainability Victoria has been busy working with stakeholders to deliver key programs. We are particularly proud of our achievements, not just in the last 12 months, but over the last few years.

Recently we launched a new campaign – Love Food Hate Waste – to encourage Victorians to adopt easy, money-saving measures to reduce the amount of food that ends up in the bin.

Almost a quarter of what we throw out is food and drink that we could have consumed; Victorians estimate the cost to households to be about \$2000 a year. By weight, some 250,000 tonnes of avoidable food goes to landfill.

Launched by Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith with celebrity chef Paul Mercurio (pictured above with Sustainability Victoria's CEO Stan Krpan), the campaign will arm households with handy hints, such as recipes using leftovers, storage ideas, suggestions for meal planning and shopping, and useful tips. (See page 12 for more details.)

Our work supporting households, businesses and schools to be more energy efficient is also an important part of what we do.

We are proud to have launched the Smarter Renovations program this year, which is designed to help Victorian home renovators incorporate energy efficiency measures in their renovation planning. Smarter Renovations assists home renovators make decisions that will have a long-term effect on their energy bills. (See page 9 for more details.)

More than 500 Victorian retailers are now participating in the Smarter Choice (Households) program, helping consumers make a smarter choice when buying new appliances, hardware and lighting.

Strong connections between government and business continue to deliver progressive waste and resource recovery solutions. In May, for instance, SITA Australia was supported with \$265,000 in funding from the Victorian Government's Driving Investment for New Recycling fund to install new screening and sorting equipment to improve the recovery of commercial and industrial (C&I) waste. This equipment upgrade should increase diversion from landfill by approximately 30 per cent, and at current rates, could equate to more than 60,000 tonnes of C&I waste diverted from landfill over the next 10 years.

The third round of Smarter Resources Smarter Business (SRSB) was announced during 2014.

With the assistance of the SRSB capital funding grants, businesses are predicted to save more than \$21 million over five years.

The ResourceSmart Schools program continues to grow with now over 1100 schools reached by the ResourceSmart Schools initiative. Since 2011, we have added 400 more schools to the program. This means over 400,000 school kids right across Victoria are looking at ways to make their environment more sustainable. The initiative brings sustainability to everyday school life, encourages student leadership and gives young people the skills and experience they need to excel in life and embed a culture of sustainability in our communities.

Sustainability has huge opportunities for all Victorians. Victoria's first Target Waste Zero Home, Burbank is a perfect example of this. Funded through the Victorian Government's Beyond Waste Fund and completed in 2014, Burbank was able to slash housing construction waste sent to landfill by an unprecedented 99 per cent, surpassing the original 'Target Zero Waste to Landfill' reduction target of 80 per cent. With support from Sustainability Victoria, Burbank has demonstrated that with smart design, intelligent management of logistics and ordering, and cooperation from trades and suppliers, it is possible to significantly reduce waste sent to landfill without compromising on quality or aesthetics. (See page 24 for more details.)

Victorians committed to sustainability have much to be proud of.

ADVERTORIAL

## Building real prosperity, now and for your future

As a Victorian superannuation fund, we operate in the metropolitan and regional communities where our members live and work. We understand that superannuation is more than just a savings account for retirement. It provides security and peace of mind and represents future choice, and the opportunity for a better quality of life and prosperity in retirement.

VicSuper has a long history of integrating sustainability considerations into the way we invest and operate our business. Today, we believe that sustainability for us is about building real prosperity.

To put it simply, our purpose is to optimise the financial prosperity of our members when they retire. Making sound investment decisions that deliver long-term value to our members is a key element of what we do. We are also focused on connecting our members to their money and their financial choices through personalised advice and education.

Imagine if retirement also came with a better community to live in, a healthier environment to enjoy, and a stronger economy for the generations to follow. We also believe that this is important. We are working to create positive change in Victoria through our thought leadership activities, community financial literacy programs and local investment activities.

For more information on VicSuper and our commitment to sustainability see our latest Annual Performance Report which can be found on our website at [www.vicsuper.com.au](http://www.vicsuper.com.au).



### Integrating sustainability and efficiency into our new Head Office

Our new head office building at 171 Collins Street Melbourne has been designed to obtain 6 Star Green Star and 5 Star NABERS Energy ratings. These ratings mean that our office has been designed to reduce energy consumption by 50 per cent and water consumption by 60 per cent, when compared to a typical Melbourne office building. Resulting in savings on operational costs and greenhouse gas emissions over the long term.

Our new office fit-out has also been designed to achieve a 5 Star Green Star rating. Thus helping us further reduce our environmental impacts, it will also help improve employee wellbeing and productivity across the business.

Together this will help improve our efficiency in what we do and how we run our business.

Our Melbourne head office building was awarded the highly prestigious United Nations Green Building Environment Award on 5 June 2014. This award formed part of this year's World Environment Day celebrations. The award judges described 171 Collins Street as a 'revolutionary building' recognising its best practice Green Star 6 Star Office Design.



This article is general in nature and does not take into account your financial situation, objectives or needs. VicSuper recommends you seek professional advice for your own circumstances. It is important that you read the relevant Financial Services Guide and Product Disclosure Statement before any investment decisions. You can contact VicSuper to make an appointment to see one of our VicSuper representatives. VicSuper Pty Ltd ABN 69 087 619 412 AFSL 237333 is the Trustee of VicSuper Fund ABN 85 977 964 496



# Energising home renovations

**Victorians spend more than \$2 billion annually renovating their homes.**

There are more than 370,000 renovations occurring in Victoria annually and more than half of Australian homeowners plan to renovate in the next four years. Each renovation is aimed at making the home more functional, comfortable and appealing.

Despite the volume of renovations, research conducted by Sustainability Victoria identified a knowledge gap in the home renovation market, where there is little practical information available on energy efficient improvements, or advice provided to help renovators add energy efficient features while renovating.

The lack of information available can result in missed opportunities that are crucial to the comfort and ongoing energy costs of living in a renovated house.

This year Sustainability Victoria launched Smarter Renovations, a new Victorian Government program designed to help guide renovators through the renovation process and highlight the key opportunities for long term cost savings from energy efficiency.

It provides renovators with interactive tools, information and independent advice on how to improve and maximise the energy efficiency of any home or size of project.



A new renovators' guide 'Your guide to a Smarter Renovation' shows the common mistakes made by many Victorian home renovators and highlights the top energy saving improvements to consider as part of a smarter renovation.

Renovators can also use the new online tool, the Smarter Renovations Planner, to find out how much they can save with an energy efficient renovation. The tool calculates a customised checklist for the renovation, with practical how to guides to assist renovators to get the best results.

[www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/smarter-renovations-planner](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/smarter-renovations-planner)

## Top 5 tips to a Smarter Renovation

A smarter renovation incorporates energy efficiency measures to both the existing house as well as the new parts of the home.

### 1. Insulation

Use your renovation to add or upgrade insulation in existing ceiling, walls and floors. This can save up to 45 per cent on energy costs of the renovated home.

### 2. Draught proofing

Sealing gaps and cracks around doors and windows, in floorboards and above exhaust fans and range-hoods can reduce heating costs by up to 20 per cent in winter.

### 3. Lighting

Carefully plan the lighting design of your renovated home to ensure adequate lighting levels and to enable use of the most energy efficient options like LEDs and CFLs. Upgrade fittings to minimise the number of down lights.

### 4. Energy efficient windows

Smarter window design and external shading can make the home bright and comfortable all year round. Maximise natural light when replacing old windows, install new energy efficient windows to reduce the heat flow through the glass by around 30 per cent.

### 5. Install more efficient appliances

When you are upgrading your kitchen, bathroom and laundry remember to also upgrade your appliances to more energy efficient models as this will save money over the lifetime of the appliance. Also consider installing more efficient heating and hot water systems, and investigate solar PVs.

# Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria 2014

## Melton's library and learning hub awarded

From its innovative library and learning hub to outdoor classrooms, Melton in north west Melbourne is a sustainability city. Melton City Council partners with and supports projects throughout its community to protect and enhance the natural environment and promote sustainable living.

The council recently won four award categories at the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainable Cities Awards – Environmental Sustainability, Cultural Heritage, Protection of the Environment and Active Schools.

The council's winning environmental sustainability entry was for the Melton Library and Learning Hub, the first library in Australia to achieve a 5 Star Green Public Building PILOT rating when it opened in June 2013.

The building features sustainable design and energy efficiency to minimise energy costs. During construction, 92 per cent of the old library demolition waste and 80 per cent of construction waste was recycled.

PV panels and solar thermal collectors generate more than 18,000 kWh of the library's annual power, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent. The building's roof captures 844,000 litres of rainwater annually which is used for toilets and irrigation.

In the cultural heritage category, the Melton Family History Group won for their work assisting the community to research local and family history.

A specially designed area at the Melton Library now incorporates an extensive microfiche and CD-ROM collection, as well as a range of books and sources. The group is currently undertaking a digitisation project to scan the documents and photos into electronic form and provided public access to information and a research service as part of ANZAC Day celebrations.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainable Cities Awards 2014 were presented in August to winners in 10 categories. The City of Brimbank was named Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainable City of the Year for 2014 with finalists in 5 categories. The awards recognise and celebrate positive actions taken in urban areas to protect and enhance their local environments.





## Meet an inspirational young leader

Mary 'Jess' Jeyasingham might still be at school, but she has already been recognised for her exemplary volunteer and school work in sustainability. In August 2014, Jess won the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Young Leaders Award. Jess was commended by the judges for demonstrating creativity, leadership and huge amounts of dedication in her pursuit of positive environmental and social change and sustainability.

Now a final year student at Mac. Robertson Girls' High School, Jess has been interested in the environment and sustainability for several years. As the Enviro Co Captain at school Jess is responsible for coordinating projects with 40 enviro representatives.

'It was something that was important to me. I was an enviro form representative at my previous school and got a real kick out of working on projects at school and in the community,' explained Jess. She went on to say that winning the award was 'completely unexpected'.

Jess has worked as a City of Port Phillip EcoCentre volunteer and presented at the Greening Australia Toolbox held at the Melbourne Museum.

Jess undertook Duke of Edinburgh community service while working on a project at the St Kilda-based EcoCentre in 2012. While surveying and sorting the materials from local beach clean-ups, she discovered a high incidence of plastic pellets.



These were identified as 'nurdles', or pre production plastic, which – thanks to Jess and the team at EcoCentre – has since become a key research area for the Port Phillip Baykeeper, including an EPA report tracking a source of this dangerous marine pollutant.

April Seymore from the Port Phillip EcoCentre says she has had the pleasure of working with Jess over the past three years, which has always been 'collaboration as much as mentorship'.

'Her poise, humour, compassion and intelligence make her a fun and dedicated colleague in action for sustainability', adds April.

'She has a natural optimism and looks for avenues to work with other students outside the 'environmental sustainability' silo, for example, creating projects with the Social Service Club and reaching beyond the school grounds with other secondary schools.'

### So, what does the future hold for Jess?

'When I leave school I'd like to study something to do with the environment,' Jess said. 'I don't know what I want to do yet, but sustainability will always be a really big part of my life'.



# New campaign helps to Love Food Hate Waste

Victoria is home to some of the world's best produce yet Victorian households waste enough food each year to fill the Eureka Tower.

Love Food Hate Waste is a new statewide campaign that is shining light on the issue of household food waste and will help Victorians to reduce waste, save money and reduce impacts on our environment.

Throwing away food costs Victorian households an estimated \$4 billion each year. Each Victorian household throws away an estimated \$2000 of wasted food every year.

Food waste costs households, but also our environment. Food thrown into our rubbish bins ends up in landfill. Because of the way food waste breaks down in landfill; it can create methane, a greenhouse gas. Unless well managed, it can lead to potential environmental and public health risks and generate up to 400,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year.

Wasting food has a significant impact on our precious resources too. It means that the energy and resources used to grow and transport food is wasted.

New research from Sustainability Victoria into what Victorian households throw away each week has found that up to 25 per cent of the contents of household garbage bins is food that could have been eaten. Across Victoria that's 250,000 tonnes of food waste each year – most of which could have been avoided. This includes 64,500 tonnes of bread and pastries, 35,000 tonnes of dairy and eggs and 5,000 tonnes of cakes and desserts!

The Love Food Hate Waste campaign features a website, recipes, social media campaign, competitions and an online video series full of helpful tips and hints to reduce food waste hosted by Australian celebrity cook Paul Mercurio, who is passionate about this subject.

The campaign is based on the successful Love Food Hate Waste campaign developed by Waste and Resources Action Program (WRAP) in the United Kingdom and the Environment Protection Authority in New South Wales.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith at the launch of the campaign in September said it would help all Victorian households.

'By putting in place simple strategies such as planning before you shop, storing food correctly and making the most of fresh produce, every Victorian household can save money while reducing its environmental footprint,' he said.







**LOVE  
FOOD**  
hate waste



[www.lovefoodhatewaste.vic.gov.au](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.vic.gov.au)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[facebook.com/LoveFoodHateWasteVictoria](https://facebook.com/LoveFoodHateWasteVictoria)







# LOVE *the* YARRA? CARE *for* *the* BAY?

Then be part of the plan  
to care for and protect  
our waterways

Visit [www.depi.vic.gov.au/cleaneryarrabay](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/cleaneryarrabay) to see what actions the Victorian Government, business and community are taking to care for and protect the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay.

*A Cleaner Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay – A Plan of Action* highlights why it's up to all of us to play a part in:

- ▶ Clearer, more responsive management
- ▶ Preventing pollution and reducing litter
- ▶ Providing accessible information
- ▶ Supporting community action



Look out for colourful reminders of how we all impact on water quality in the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay, in and around the city this October! [#lovetheyarra](https://twitter.com/lovetheyarra)





# Introducing the Premier's Sustainability Awards

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## MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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With Melbourne having earned the title of most liveable city in the world for the fourth consecutive year, we are clearly doing things right in our great state. A key contributor to our success is the health of our environment and commitment to sustainable practices.

It is through a united vision and strong partnerships that we have been able to successfully embed sustainable practices in everyday operations across Victoria. Together, with local governments and key stakeholders, we have strived to be innovative and support leadership in business, outstanding individuals and practical community action to transition to a future that all Victorians can be proud of.

It is through dedication and perseverance that the Victorian Government continues to foster environmental partnerships and lead a portfolio of programs contributing to a sustainable future. The Premier's Sustainability Awards recognises and celebrates the achievements of these partnerships.

Congratulations to this year's remarkable finalists and winners. Their projects continue to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits and will inspire more organisations to become more innovative in their sustainability efforts.

It is through their hard work that the Premier's Sustainability Awards continue to go from strength to strength each year. We not only introduced an important new category this year, Cleaner Yarra and Bay, we also had a record number of entries across all categories. This is testament to the reputation the Awards hold and is represented in this year's diverse and outstanding entries.

Through the Premier's Sustainability Awards program, we celebrate Victoria's talent, its innovation and competitive advantages, and the actions taken by individuals, organisations and communities, every day, right around the state.

In the following pages you can see why the 2014 finalists and winners have been recognised. Their innovative, practical and proactive approach will impress and inspire you to look into the future and see what difference you can make.

The Victorian Government is delighted to recognise their achievements and their dedication towards building a more environmentally sustainable future for us all.

**The Hon Ryan Smith MP**



**Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith announcing recycling funding at Melbourne's iconic Degraa Street.**

# Cleaner Yarra and Bay

## FINALISTS



### Multipro Civil Pty Ltd

#### Birrarung Marr Stormwater Harvesting Project

Multipro Civil began constructing the Birrarung Marr Stormwater Harvesting System in late 2012. Big on output and small on footprint, it captures stormwater from 37 hectares of Melbourne's CBD and railway runoff, providing over 35 megalitres of fit-for-purpose irrigation water per year for the Birrarung Marr landscape.

Unlike previous systems, it is not reliant on constant rainfall thanks to its storage capacity. This means that the harvesting system can meet irrigation needs all year round which is extremely important during summer months.

Birrarung Marr makes a significant contribution to the character and liveability of Melbourne. This work plays an important role in enhancing public awareness of the potential to undertake sustainable initiatives involving infrastructure and water supply, even in sensitive heritage-listed parkland.



### Zoos Victoria

#### Seal the Loop

Every year, thousands of marine birds, mammals, reptiles and fish are killed or injured in Australia due to entanglements in poorly discarded fishing lines and other waste. Zoos Victoria experiences the damaging effects of marine wildlife entanglement firsthand.

In November 2010 Zoos Victoria launched its Seal the Loop program, distributing 172 specially designed Seal the Loop bins free of charge across Victoria and collecting over 22 kilometres of fishing line. The bins are installed at popular fishing locations including 53 around Port Phillip Bay, to help keep fishing line and other waste out of waterways and to educate coast users.

In November 2013 over 250 people participated in the inaugural Seal the Loop Action Day, a Zoos Victoria beach clean-up hosted in Blairgowrie and Warrnambool. The event partnered with local schools and community groups to reduce waste and help save local wildlife.





WINNER

## Port Phillip EcoCentre

LIFE SUPPORT FOR THE BAY

Life Support for the Bay is Port Phillip EcoCentre's call to the Melbourne community to be more aware of the critical relationship between local catchments and Port Phillip Bay.

The Port Phillip EcoCentre is a place where environmental solutions are hatched and nurtured. A not-for-profit, community-managed, environment group, the EcoCentre provides a base for a number of affiliate groups involved in activities that promote biodiversity, environmental sustainability and community action.

The EcoCentre understands that the choices people make in waste disposal, transport options, horticultural practices, pet waste and energy use have an incremental effect on waterways. Litter is a pervasive issue that anyone can do something about.

Life Support for the Bay focuses on building relationships with people and organisations to promote systematic collection and analysis of smaller pollutants (microplastics and cigarette butts), providing evidence of their prevalence and ecological impact.

This action research on microplastics and cigarette butts has drawn attention to the consequences of polluting behaviour and helps the public to see the ecological impact of litter instead of just seeing it as an aesthetic issue.

A positive community approach has been the key to engaging community groups, schools and sporting clubs to undertake surveys and collection. This approach protects the bay and provides information on littering behaviour and polluting, making it clearer how everyone can make the whole system of catchments and the bay healthier.

# Community

## FINALISTS



### Aware Industries

#### Aware Industries Recycled Pallet Furniture

Aware Industries is a not-for-profit organisation with the primary aim to provide meaningful employment for people with a disability within a normal business environment. Several aspects of the organisation focus on sustainability.

This project – producing furniture and giftware from recycled timber pallets – has directly benefited the community by focusing on reducing waste while producing inexpensive, quality and popular products. The project demonstrates outcomes across the areas of environmental, social and financial sustainability.

Aware has been working for over 30 years from a base on the Victoria and New South Wales border. Aware provides cost effective labour solutions for businesses and work for people with disabilities so that they can secure meaningful employment and make a valued contribution to their community.



### Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd

#### Easy Energy Efficiency for SMEs

The Easy Energy Efficiency for SMEs (EEES) project was conceived by Moreland Energy Foundation Limited in response to rising energy costs and the subsequent effect on small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Traditional educational energy reduction schemes do not typically reach culturally and linguistically diverse SMEs. These SMEs needed better and more relevant information about energy efficiency opportunities within their businesses to stay competitive.

EEES is a three-year project that engaged with SMEs in four key employing sectors and partnered with six multicultural peak agencies to deliver information and support to empower energy efficiency action.

The project focused on longevity, on-the-ground support, local knowledge and local heroes, multicultural community leaders, sector-specific tools, resources and networks, and direct engagement with over 400 businesses.





WINNER

## Knox City Council, Alpine Shire, City of Melbourne, City of Port Phillip and Yarra Ranges Council

### SEEDLINGS: SUSTAINABILITY IN THE EARLY YEARS

The concept of sustainability has made its way into the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework, the National Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards.

The Seedlings Early Years Education for Sustainability (EYefS) Framework, funded by the Victorian Government, was designed specifically for the Early Years Sector. It is designed to be adaptable and flexible so that it can be implemented in any service type – Maternal and Child Health, Playgroup, Family Day Care, Long Day Care, Preschool or Integrated Service under any management structure.

The Seedlings approach has been tested by 60 services with representation from all service types and management structures across the local government areas of Knox, Yarra Ranges, Port Phillip, City of Melbourne and Alpine Shire.

These pilot projects have shown tremendous leadership within and across the sector, creating wonderful opportunities for the children in their care, their families and themselves as educators to help define what sustainability means to them and their community.

Participants have developed knowledge and skills, and built partnerships and collaborated with others, either in the sector or their local community.

The EYefS Framework identified and responded to a critical gap in the sustainability education sector, providing specific tools and a framework that can be replicated across a range of early childhood contexts.

# Education

## FINALISTS



### Nathalia & District Preschool

#### Nathalia & District Preschool's Sustainable Journey

In 2012 Nathalia & District Preschool in the Goulburn Valley began to examine their sustainable practices in dealing with waste (paper, food, food wrappers and water) and purchasing materials. This was the beginning of their sustainable journey.

In 2013 the school's sustainability work was gaining momentum as educators refined their practices, supporting the children's families' and wider community awareness and rethinking the resources used through a range of projects and activities.

The school was recognised by the Environmental Education in Early Childhood (Victoria) Inc RESPECT Awards in 2013, and received an 'Exceeding in the National Quality Standard Assessment Report' for sustainable practices.

The program has challenged the school's thinking, with a focus on awareness raising, behaviour change and education of the whole child.



### St Macartan's Primary School

#### Education for Sustainability

St Macartan's Primary School on the Mornington Peninsula is home to 550 students from Prep to Year 6. It is an environmentally friendly, sustainable site, built and maintained with the future in mind.

The primary objective in the school's development was to consider the built and natural environments as rich learning opportunities for the students who come to learn. Their environment, therefore, is a place that invites inquiry, stimulates the senses, engages the mind and allows for high levels of connection and interaction.

The spaces are rich in texture, flexible and transformable over time, and reveal nature, processes and systems in a transparent manner. Sustainable design systems are highly visible to students, encourage user participation and support the school's commitment for children to take their learning home.





WINNER

## St Louis de Montfort's Primary School, Aspendale

ST LOUIS DE MONTFORT'S LEADERS IN SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION

St Louis de Montfort's is proud of its achievements in creating a one-of-a-kind educational program and sustainable precinct that supports a whole school approach to developing active environmental citizens.

The school places a strong emphasis on using their site and local area within the teaching curriculum. Students are immersed in hands-on learning directly related to the Australian Curriculum in Victoria through the garden to kitchen program, and in their sustainability precinct, local wetlands and the nearby bay.

The school firmly believes in educating the whole child by providing opportunities to engage in nature and learn about the environment and sustainability in a real life context, including a strong focus on building leadership skills.

St Louis is seen as an exemplary school that practices sustainability. In the past three years, the school has gained ResourceSmart Schools accreditation in the core and waste modules, won the City of Kingston 'I Sea, I Care' Marine Ambassador Program awards, and created a sustainability education precinct plus a garden to kitchen program catering for 550 students.

A partnership approach has underpinned these results, in particular with the City of Kingston, Melbourne Water, South East Water and the Dolphin Research Institute. All of the school's work in sustainability is based on invaluable community support.

# Environmental Protection

## FINALISTS



Southern Rural Water in partnership with West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries and local irrigators

### Protecting the health of the Gippsland Lakes – Macalister Nutrient Reduction Program

The Macalister Nutrient Reduction Program is a series of multi-stakeholder joint initiatives carried out by farmers, local agencies and government. The program has achieved great outcomes for the environment, including water savings of 29,000 million litres per annum and nutrient reductions of more than 100 tonnes per annum.

The program includes the Macalister Land and Water Management Plan which provides an overall framework for environmental improvements, along with substantial on-farm improvement activities and major investment in modernising the irrigation district.

This program protects the long term viability of southern Victoria's premier irrigation district, along with the health of the iconic Gippsland Lakes.



## Veolia

### North West Organics Project, Bulla

In 2013 Veolia opened an in-vessel composting facility at Bulla, providing capacity to process 85,000 tonnes per year of organic waste from 11 local councils in the north west of metropolitan Melbourne. This state-of-the-art facility is the first of two commissioned under a long term contract to convert garden and other organics sourced from community kerbside collections into high quality organic soil improvement products.

Veolia's Bulla facility delivers sustainable diversion of organic material away from landfill into production of valuable recycled organic compost and related products for both metropolitan soil and regional agricultural markets.

Importantly the process is aerobic which means it avoids generating methane – the greenhouse gas that is released naturally when waste is disposed to landfill. Turning this green waste into a useful product not only makes business sense but is also good for the environment. The facility benefits the Victorian environment by avoiding carbon emissions and increasing resource efficiency.





WINNER

## Barwon Water, Plenary Environment and Water Infrastructure Group

### THE BARWON WATER BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Barwon Water Biosolids Management Project provides a sustainable, long-term management solution for the beneficial use of 100 per cent of the biosolids produced at Barwon Water's seven water reclamation plants.

Previously wet biosolids (85 per cent water) were transported to be stored and air dried. The Thermal Drying Facility, commissioned in September 2012 as part of the project, decreased Barwon Water's sewage treatment emissions by 30 per cent in 2012–13.

The small footprint, fully enclosed thermal drying facility is the first of its kind in Australia to achieve T1 Treatment Grade pelletised biosolids and is the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. It produces very dry pellets (more than 90 per cent dry solids) suitable for farm fertiliser

that can be safely handled, easily transported and reused immediately after processing.

The facility was delivered as a Public Private Partnership (PPP). The PPP approach was critical in introducing a new technology to Australia and delivering this Australian first.

Barwon Water has contracted delivery and operation of the project to Plenary Environment who in turn contracted the operations and maintenance to Water Infrastructure Group for a 20-year term.

The Thermal Drying Facility provides a model for Australia for sustainable biosolids management to address the environmental issues associated with biosolids stockpiling, disposal and reuse.

# Infrastructure and Buildings

## FINALISTS



### Burbank

#### Target Zero Waste to Landfill

Burbank has built what is expected to be the first zero waste home in Victoria. Target Zero Waste to Landfill was part of a feasibility study funded through the Victorian Government's Beyond Waste Fund and carried out in conjunction with project partners RMIT University and the Housing Industry Association.

When building the home in Melton South, Burbank slashed housing construction waste sent to landfill by an unprecedented 99 per cent, surpassing the original Target Zero Waste to Landfill reduction target of 80 per cent.

The home demonstrates that with smart design, intelligent management of logistics and ordering, and cooperation from trades and suppliers, it is possible to massively reduce waste sent to landfill without compromising quality or aesthetics.

The home is now being applied as a pilot across all Burbank's northern region residential projects, and will also form the basis of an industry education program.



### South East Water

#### Peninsula Early Connection Option (ECO) Project

South East Water's \$357 million Peninsula Early Connection Option (ECO) Project is the largest pressure sewer project in Australian history. It protects the environment and public health by connecting 15,000 unsewered properties on the Mornington Peninsula.

Testing showed E. coli levels above drinking water quality guidelines, elevated levels of nitrogen, and fluoride detected in the groundwater from failing septic tanks.

New technology (OneBox) developed by South East Water is being used to free up capacity in the existing sewage transfer system, enabling up to 4,000 early connections to take place. This also significantly reduces the investment in asset infrastructure.

South East Water's approach involves constructing the entire reticulation network along the Peninsula between Rye and Portsea (230 kilometres of pipes) in less than 30 months, as opposed to a conventional rollout timeframe of 16 years.





WINNER

## Regional Rail Link Authority

### REGIONAL RAIL LINK PROJECT

The \$4.1 billion Regional Rail Link Project is removing major bottlenecks in Victoria's rail network by untangling metropolitan and regional tracks from Melbourne's west to the heart of the city, benefitting both metropolitan and regional passengers.

The Regional Rail Link Project team set out to achieve sustainability outcomes that exceeded industry best practice. They were intent on delivering a major project with a positive legacy for communities living along its length, using innovative practices that could be adopted on infrastructure projects nationwide.

Key successes of the project include reducing construction-phase energy and carbon by 20 per cent, certifying a ground-breaking custom rating tool for railway stations and achieving a 4 star rating at West Footscray.

It also achieved over 80 per cent recycling/reuse of construction and demolition waste, large reductions in materials such as Portland cement, timber and base building materials, innovative use of materials and consequent changes to railway standards for future projects.

A key feature of the project's success was the close collaboration between competitors within the project, and between the project team and wider industry.

This project highlights that sustainability can be successfully embedded in large-scale infrastructure projects right from project inception.

# Innovative Products or Services

## FINALISTS



### Camperdown Compost Company Environmentally Sustainable Dairy Farming

Dairy farming operations are in the unique position of having access to large quantities of manure around the dairy and feed pad areas. This manure can be as much as two tonnes per milking cow per year. This material is an excellent starting medium for making on-farm compost.

The Camperdown Compost Company has developed a process to manage waste on dairy farms, turning raw manure into valuable compost. Incorporating this product into the farm fertiliser program significantly reduces the need for chemical fertilisers.

In 2013 the company formed a new milk company, Green Pastures Dairy Farmers which is now selling more environmentally friendly milk in over 400 supermarkets in Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales.



### Earthco Projects Pty Ltd PolyCom Stabilising Aid – collaboration with local government to achieve sustainable roads

PolyCom Stabilising Aid is an Australian-made road stabiliser used for construction and maintenance of sealed and unsealed roads, road shoulders, airstrips and other pavements. It is distributed in Victoria by Earthco Projects Pty Ltd.

A cost-effective and sustainable alternative to traditional soil stabilisation, PolyCom creates a stronger, longer lasting pavement and offers significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, water usage and maintenance expenses.

PolyCom Stabilising Aid is listed in ECO-Buy's green purchasing directory, ECO-Find. It is environmentally inert and does not leach into soil or leave residue in water run-off.

Earthco Projects' commitment extends to partnership with Swinburne University to research PolyCom's performance; onsite project support for works officers and engineers; sponsorship of a Municipal Works Officers Assoc. skills enhancements program for municipal workers; and collaboration with stakeholders to review reporting practices, sustainability data and assist with process changes.





WINNER

## Fieldtech Solutions Pty Ltd

FIELDTECH SOLUTIONS

The overuse of plastic is a serious problem, with many products being used once and then going to landfill. The Fieldtech Solutions philosophy is to not leave the plastic products used by this generation for future generations.

Fieldtech Solutions (FTS) is a manufacturer and supplier of biodegradable and recycled plastic products. Specialising in the contaminated land industry, FTS replaces imported non sustainable plastic products with its own manufactured, sustainable products. For short life disposable plastic items, biodegradable versions are produced and for long life items,

the items are made from recycled plastic. The biodegradable products made by FTS will be gone in a few years when disposed to landfill, whilst non-biodegradable plastics will last many 100s of years.

FTS now manufactures in Australia and overseas and most of its one-off-use consumable items use biodegradable plastics that will biodegrade in a landfill. Products made by FTS will biodegrade 95 per cent faster than traditional plastic items.

# Large Business

## FINALISTS



### Officeworks

#### Responsible Retailing

Officeworks is Australia's leading retailer and supplier of office products and solutions for home, business and education. As a responsible company, Officeworks understands its duty to operate sustainably, source products responsibly and minimise the environmental impacts of products, even after they leave the stores.

Officeworks makes a positive difference to communities, the environment and team members. Employee and customer engagement has been vital to their approach.

In the past year, Officeworks has continued to pursue initiatives to reduce energy, waste and water consumption, including product stewardship programs designed to make it easier and more convenient to recycle products.

In 2013 Officeworks recycled over 280,000 printer cartridges, 39,000 kilograms of computers and accessories and 1,663 kilos of batteries across regional and metropolitan Victorian store locations.



### ZF Boge Elastmetall Australia Pty Ltd

#### Establishing an Integrated Energy Reduction Mindset

ZF Boge Elastmetall Australia is one of three Australian subsidiaries of ZF, a German company ranked among the top 10 automotive suppliers in the world.

ZF Boge Elastmetall Australia is a global leader in chassis and driveline technology. Their project – Establishing an Integrated Energy Reduction Mindset has improved overall sustainability across a range of company initiatives. They became the first manufacturing business in Australia to achieve certification to ISO50001 (Energy Management) and have reduced the energy intensity of their manufacturing operation by 20 per cent to 2013. They have established a strong commitment to sharing challenges and seeking ideas, commitment and inspiration from their employees.

The company recognises the significant contribution employees make to its ongoing success and have established a strong commitment to sharing those challenges and seeking ideas, commitment and inspiration from their people. This commitment extends to improving overall sustainability performance across a range of initiatives.





WINNER

## Toyota Motor Corporation Australia

### SUSTAINABILITY – TOYOTA'S NEXT BIG STEP

Toyota Motor Corporation Australia Ltd (TMCA) is Australia's leading automotive manufacturer and employs over 3,200 Victorians at their manufacturing site in Altona and in associated facilities.

The company has a long and proud record of environmental commitment. The year 2013 marked another year of significant projects and achievements undertaken to improve the sustainability of the business, community and the environment described as their 'Next Big Step'.

Results of the program included a 500 kW solar PV installation – one of the largest such installations in Australia; a pioneering partnership to install a world leading biological treatment process which has reduced prescribed waste by 45 per cent;

continuing ISO 14001 certification with 15 years of consecutive zero non-conformances; and an ongoing commitment to the local community including the launch of their first Community Grant Scheme.

TMCA is recognised as a leader in the environmental field by their peers with requests for presentations on activities at the international level. The company is also recognised as the number one Brand in the Reputex Corporate Reputation Index.

TMCA has an ongoing and wide-ranging commitment to sustainable business practices across many aspects of its operations. The organisation is committed to contributing to society and the principles of sustainability – it understands that future success is dependent on a sustainable business model.

# Small and Medium Enterprises

## FINALISTS



### KIA-ORA Piggery Pty Ltd

#### Environmental Stewardship Pig Poop & Passion

KIA-ORA Piggery is a family-run operation with 1,950 breeding sows, producing around 950 pigs per week, representing over 4,000 tonnes of fresh pork sold each year.

The piggery incorporates a range of waste food by-products into their computerised liquid feed system for the pigs which include rejected or unused packaged or canned products from human consumption and liquid by-products from food manufacturing processes. This results in a huge reduction of organic waste products going to landfill and municipal tip sites.

The effluent treatment and recycling system used at KIA-ORA recently incorporated the use of anaerobic digestion in covered effluent ponds to capture biogas.

This is used to replace LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) for heating and to cogenerate sufficient electricity to replace all the on-farm electricity usage. It generates more than 15 per cent above the site's needs to be sold into the power grid as a greenhouse gas offset.



### The Linen Press

#### The Linen Press

The Linen Press is a small, wholesale souvenir supplier run by a mother-and-daughter team involved in the design, production, distribution and marketing of a range of Australian Certified Organic textiles – aprons, tea towels, pot holders and mitts, tote bags, purses and pouches, as well as locally-made olive oil soaps and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) certified recycled stationery.

Their products promote Australian native flora and fauna in beautiful designs created by local designers. Many customers are major cultural institutions from around Australia as well as large and small gift retailers.

Their Australian-made products proudly display the Australian Made logo, the packaging is fully biodegradable and are mindfully created.

The Linen Press is a carbon neutral business working with Climate Friendly, an organisation that provides carbon management solutions to businesses and households around the world.





WINNER

## Interface Constructions Pty Ltd

INTERFACE CONSTRUCTIONS PTY LTD

Interface Constructions, Australia's first carbon neutral building company, delivers high quality fitouts and developments while meeting strict, self-imposed environmental requirements.

The company represents a pioneering new social business model, focused on positive environmental and community outcomes. It works on apartments, restaurants, offices and retail fitouts with clients who like finding smarter ways to build things.

The business relishes the sustainability challenge and well understands its chain of custody responsibilities. It pays great attention to the quadruple bottom line – environmental, financial, social and ethical factors.

Recent projects include the Melbourne CBD Emporium development, restaurant B'Stilla and 84 Kerr Street – awarded the only platinum eTool rating of 2013.

Interface is showing just how versatile a green-focused company can be, using sustainable and recycled materials wherever possible. It engages eTool to quantify all carbon emissions from each project to then be offset. It signed up with the CitySwitch Green Office Program, a sustainable city initiative, and met the exacting social and environmental standards required to become a B Corp certified business, joining only 24 others in Australia.

# Tourism

## FINALISTS



### Conservation Volunteers Australia

#### Naturewise Eco Escapes

Conservation Volunteers Australia and Parks Victoria have pioneered an exciting cross-sectoral partnership to develop eco-voluntourism products in Victoria.

Together, the two organisations, with input from tourism and conservation industry leaders, formulated an industry-leading approach to identify and build products to meet priority protected area needs. Eight new Naturewise Eco Escapes were developed providing meaningful, small group experiences across the state, ranging from one day to two week adventures.

These all-inclusive tour packages offer participants an exclusive opportunity to work alongside environmental experts and park rangers to assist in key conservation projects while exploring some of Victoria's most spectacular natural areas.

Experiences include planting trees on the Great Ocean Road, monitoring threatened species in the High Country, Grampians and Gippsland regions, and close-up encounters with wildlife such as tiger quolls, penguins, owls, koalas and kangaroos.



### Polperro Dolphin Swims Pty Ltd

#### Sustainable Dolphin Tourism in Port Phillip Bay

Polperro Dolphin Swims offers passengers a unique experience in Port Phillip Bay by conducting swims with dolphins and seals, reef snorkels and providing environmental education.

The company's commitment to sustainability includes over 25 years' experience in the field. Sustainability continues to inform every aspect of its operations, from serving customers to minimising impacts on the marine environment.

Under the leadership of Polperro's owner, Judith Muir (who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2014), Polperro's award-winning sustainability philosophy is recognised across the tourism industry, and provides a benchmark for other operators. Polperro also complies with all standards set by Ecotourism Australia.

Despite an increase in demand for Polperro's services, the business owners choose to remain a small ecotourism business to protect a fragile and unique environment.





WINNER

## Zoos Victoria

### HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY

Healesville Sanctuary is a bushland haven for Australian wildlife, located just on the outskirts of Melbourne in the stunning Yarra Valley.

The sanctuary attracts over 340,000 visitors each year and offers them the opportunity to walk through tranquil tracks and meet over 200 species of Australian animals. From the moment they enter the site, visitors are engaged in the importance of sustainability and conservation. Campaigns such as Wash for Wildlife and Wipe for Wildlife involve visitors first hand.

Daily keeper presentations including the hugely popular Sprits of the Sky and Wade with the Platypus further promote sustainable action to help protect Australia's wildlife.

Healesville Sanctuary is internationally renowned for its work saving endangered Australian species at the Australian Wildlife Centre.

Visitors can freely visit the centre which treats more than 2,000 sick and injured native animals every year.

Healesville Sanctuary is one of three properties managed by Zoos Victoria (along with Melbourne Zoo and Werribee Open Range Zoo), a leading zoo-based conservation organisation that proudly integrates environmental education with the tourism experience.

Zoos Victoria is committed to continual improvement of its environmental sustainability practices. In June 2014 it launched the 2014–19 Zoos Victoria Environmental Sustainability Investment Prospectus, the first of its five year plan to guide its journey to becoming a world-leader in sustainability.

Certified by Low Carbon Australia, Zoos Victoria is the world's first zoo to achieve carbon neutral certification.

# New chief announced for EPA Victoria



State pollution regulator EPA Victoria has a new chief executive with a background in public sector administration in the United Kingdom and Australia.

EPA Chairman Cheryl Batagol announced Nial Finegan would take the helm at EPA, a role he commenced on 18 August.

Mr Finegan was most recently Deputy Secretary at the Department of Justice, heading up the people and stakeholder division.

Before that he worked at VicRoads, Department of Transport and Major Projects Victoria.

From 2002 to 2003 he was a principal policy adviser at the UK Cabinet Office in the Prime Minister's strategy unit.

Earlier this year he undertook a 'senior managers in government' course at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Executive Education.

Ms Batagol was reappointed to a second five year term as EPA's Chairman in June.

With her reappointment, Ms Batagol will continue to steer EPA on its journey towards fully delivering the 5 Year Plan in 2016 – as a transparent, accountable, responsive and decisive regulator.

Ms Batagol welcomed Mr Finegan and looked forward to working with him as EPA continued its journey as a strengthened and more robust governance arrangement, aimed at transforming the world's second oldest environmental protection authority into a modern regulator.







## Smarter recycling for business

Smarter Resources, Smarter Business – Recycling is a \$600,000 fund that aims to improve recycling and reduce costs to Victorian businesses through better material separation and is administered by Sustainability Victoria.

Earlier this year, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith, visited Bass Coast Shire Council's Recycling Bank following Victorian Government investment of \$110,000 to install new recycling infrastructure at the facility in Cowes, the largest town on popular holiday destination Phillip Island.

The installation of a new cardboard and general waste compactor at the Cowes Recycling Bank provides a site for local businesses and the thousands of tourists who visit Phillip Island every year to deposit paper and cardboard, a common waste material.

Local businesses and residents can now drop off cardboard packaging at a close and easy to access location at no cost, incentivising greater recovery and enabling economic value to be captured, rather than lost to landfill.

Cowes Recycling Bank will not only be able to accept and recycle more cardboard but will also save significantly on transport costs as more material can be transported per truck trip to Wonthaggi and Melbourne where the materials are reprocessed.

Bass Coast Shire Council estimates that the new compacting equipment will allow the Cowes Recycling Bank to collect and divert 300 to 600 tonnes of cardboard over the first few years of operation.

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Recycling demonstrates how strong partnerships between the Victorian Government, businesses and local government can drive market development for recyclable materials and deliver positive economic, social and environmental outcomes for the state.

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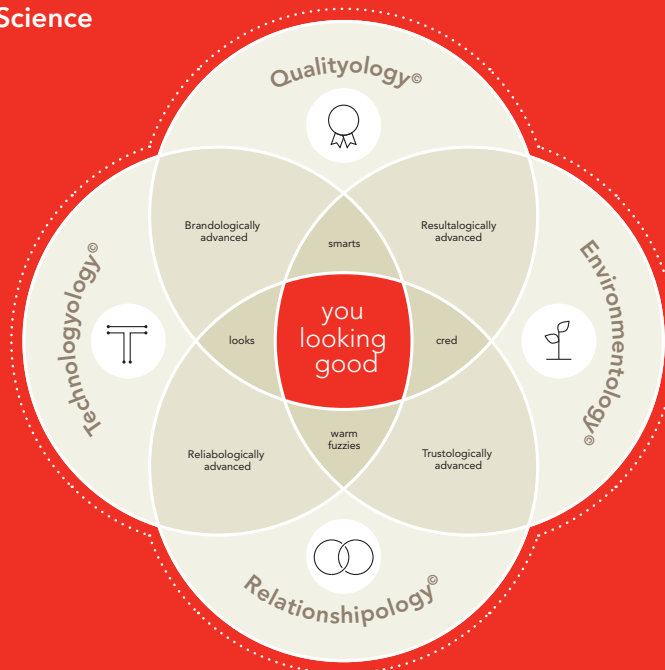
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# Improved sustainability = better business

Victorian small to medium businesses (SMEs) across all industry sectors are saving thousands of dollars a year by implementing measures to reduce the amount of energy and materials they use.

Supported by Sustainability Victoria's Smarter Resources Smarter Business – Energy and Materials program, over 120 businesses are or have undertaken energy or materials efficiency assessments. Results to date have identified opportunities to save around \$60,000 per business by implementing energy efficiency activities and more than double that through materials efficiency.

While many businesses have considered energy efficiency, the savings that can be made by increasing materials efficiency are also considerable and can significantly cut operating costs and increase competitive advantage.

Mackay Consolidated Industries, a Moorabbin based manufacturer of automotive parts, undertook a materials efficiency assessment with support from Sustainability Victoria, which identified opportunities to save the company tens of thousands of dollars a year. This included an estimated \$64,000 savings a year through a \$3,500 investment in machinery upgrades, and a further \$30,000 a year savings with a \$106,000 investment in new machinery.

'Our assessment identified an area where we could obtain maximum savings with minimal spend,' said Mackay Consolidated Industries Operations Manager, Noel Hawley. 'The assessment really helped us consolidate our knowledge, formulate actions and quantify the savings for us.'

Machinery upgrades, installation of variable speed drives and deployment of LED lighting are just some of the measures identified to help businesses.

'The assessments offer a strong case for business investment with the average payback periods for recommended actions being less than four years for energy projects and under two years for materials efficiency,' says CEO Sustainability Victoria, Stan Krpan.

Sustainability Victoria's capital funding program has provided grants to more than 140 businesses across Victoria to help them improve their energy and materials efficiency and boost productivity. These grant recipients will, together, save around \$4.6 million per annum.

In addition to funding support for businesses, the program is supporting industry associations to deliver a variety of initiatives including workshops and seminars. This helps information and learnings to be shared with businesses across Victoria so they can become more energy and materials efficient.

'I encourage businesses to visit our website to find out more about opportunities as part of the Smarter Resources Smarter Business program, and also to have a look at our case studies which provide a useful insight into some of the measures taken by businesses to really cut their energy and materials use and associated costs,' said CEO Sustainability Victoria, Stan Krpan.

'As well as sustainability benefits, the time and money savings alone make good business sense.'

[www.sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au).

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## Flavourful Hydroponics

A tomato grower based in Pylong in central Victoria, received a Capital Funding grant to upgrade the climate control system for its greenhouses. The new system has resulted in an 18 per cent increase in productivity. 'I now have far greater confidence

in the system's ability to regulate the greenhouse climate. It also frees up my time to do other necessary things around the business,' said Ross Mathiesen, owner and general manager at Flavourful Hydroponics, who has employed more staff as a result of the increased productivity.

Wrigley is a proud sponsor of the Victorian Association for Environmental Education, encouraging responsible litter disposal in local schools.



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# Options for 're-tyrement'

Some 88,000 tonnes of tyres a year in Victoria reach the end of their useful life. Described as 'end-of-life' (EOL), about half these waste tyres are thought to be stockpiled, exported or illegally dumped and only about 20 per cent recycled.

To address the problem, the Victorian Government announced an interim waste management policy in April 2014, effective for one year, to provide stricter regulation around how tyres are stored in order to manage fire risk.

And in September, the EPA released a draft regulatory impact statement (RIS) on the storage of waste tyres to facilitate public consultation on the proposed Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises and Exemptions), (Fees) and (Industrial Waste Resource) Amendment Regulations which are intended to follow on after the interim policy ends.

The draft RIS affects premises that store more than 40 tonnes of waste tyres and proposals include an annual licence fee and amendment of current regulations so that premises storing waste tyres become scheduled premises, with both works approval and licensing requirements.

Other government initiatives include a grant of \$500,000 to Victorian-based Tyrecycle (which makes products from recycled tyres including road surfaces and building insulation) to enable expansion of local processing capacity, and market analysis and development work.

Together with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Sustainability Victoria and the EPA will continue to investigate potential improvements to address EOL tyres.

The Victorian Government is also working with the new industry-led product stewardship organisation Tyre Stewardship Australia and other tyre recycling associations to ensure that support meets market needs.

The draft RIS is out for comment, with implementation due in 2015.



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**Only around 20% of the 88,000 tonnes of tyres discarded annually in Victoria are presently recycled.**

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# ResourceSmart Schools Awards 2014



‘Victorian schools and early childhood centres are among the most sustainable in Australia.’

## Children at the heart of a sustainable future

Dunkeld Kindergarten and Poowong Kindergarten were joint winners in a new category for early childhood services in this year's ResourceSmart Schools Awards.

Dunkeld Kindergarten gives children the opportunity to be in nature, to enjoy and learn and develop a deep respect for the environment. The centre has several sustainable initiatives such as its Bush Kinder program and creating natural play outdoor spaces.

Bush Kinder aims to nurture an appreciation of the natural environment as well as developing confidence, resilience, co-operation, curiosity and a sense of belonging. The children's learnings are documented in a journal which they revisit to remind them of what they have learned and experienced.

Poowong Kindergarten has taken on some courageous and challenging initiatives including developing a bush tucker sensory garden and participating in the ResourceSmart early childhood pilot project.

Poowong Kindergarten aims to raise socially and environmentally responsible individuals and has successfully raised the profile of sustainable practices in its small town community through local hands-on engagement.

The children participate in activities such as making communication pockets out of old jeans and regularly sorting rubbish and taking some to the worm farm and some to the recycle bin.

‘These two kindergartens are inspirational to Victorians of all ages’, says Sustainability Victoria's CEO, Stan Krpan.

### ResourceSmart Schools Awards

The awards are run by Sustainability Victoria as part of the Victorian Government's ResourceSmart Schools initiative, which helps schools benefit from embedding sustainability in everything they do. The award categories recognise community leadership and the work of early childhood services and schools across the resource areas of the ResourceSmart Schools framework – water, waste, energy and biodiversity – as well as teacher and student led initiatives.

The theme for the awards in 2014 was ‘Ideas + action = change’ – the formula for a successful sustainability project.

‘Every day, thousands of children and students across the state are working on innovative and interesting projects that engage them on a sustainability journey,’ said Mr Krpan.





## Morwell school takes newcomer award for bringing life back to their school

Commercial Road Primary School in Morwell received the ResourceSmart Newcomer of the Year award in 2014 in recognition of its work in the biodiversity module and for overcoming adverse and challenging circumstances.

This award recognises the achievements of schools that have started their sustainability journey within the past 12 months. To be considered, a school must be a finalist in at least one resource module category – water, waste, energy or biodiversity.

Many Morwell citizens were adversely affected by the fire in the Hazelwood Coal Mine in February and March of this year. Commercial Road Primary School in Morwell was closed and students relocated to schools outside the Morwell area. The school's playground, like most of Morwell, was affected by the smoke haze and covered in a fine ash.

The students returned to find much of the school grounds damaged or destroyed. The frogs in their frog bog had all disappeared or died due to lack of oxygen in the pond.

The school worked together to rejuvenate the inactive frog bog, creating the right conditions to successfully raise frogs again.

Students participated in planting, testing water quality, investigating insect life and the lifecycle of frogs, and learned about the importance of a balanced ecosystem. Their efforts were rewarded in mid 2014 as they witnessed the start of new life, spotting a couple of tadpoles.

The school also constructed vegetable boxes and planted seasonal vegetables and herbs. Students harvested produce for use in the school cooking program and for selling to the school community. They set up worm farms for food scraps and harvested worm castings to use as fertiliser on the gardens.

The school's Water Group installed collection buckets to collect water from the overflow of drinking taps for use on the gardens.

Community members enjoyed tours of the frog bog and vegetable gardens during the local sustainability festival.

After the fire, students demonstrated results in waste reduction, biodiversity improvements and awareness of the importance of water, backed by audits and comprehensive data. The students were strongly engaged and committed and showed fortitude in overcoming the devastating impacts of the fire.

### ResourceSmart School of the Year 2014

Manchester Primary School in Mooroolbark won the ResourceSmart School of the Year award in 2014.

Manchester Primary School encourages students to be leaders in reducing energy at home and school. Students enter data and compare usage from one year to another. This data is used by teachers in other areas of teaching like science and mathematics.

Savings made are used to improve Manchester's energy efficiency.

The school also forged links with national businesses, negotiating payment for removal of its waste (rather than having to pay) and establishing student-run social enterprises. The profits from these ventures are used to fund waste and other school sustainability initiatives.



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# Way too cool for business

Research has identified that heating ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems account for the majority of energy consumption in commercial and office buildings.

By using an energy efficient HVAC system, inefficient buildings can expect to save up to 40 per cent of their HVAC energy costs. If all stand-alone office buildings improved their HVAC system performance by 10 per cent, their combined savings would be equivalent to \$60 million.

No standard rating tool to measure and benchmark the performance of HVAC systems in Australia has existed – until now.

Calculating Cool is a program developed by Sustainability Victoria in collaboration with industry bodies including the Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air-conditioning and Heating (AIRAH), the Property Council of Australia (PCA), the Facilities Management Association of Australia (FMAA), and the Air-conditioning and Mechanical Contractors' Association (AMCA). Industry participants included Mirvac, Colliers, Knight Frank, ISPT, A.G. Coombs and Stockland.

An extensive pilot incorporated data from approximately 70 buildings to help develop the assumptions for the calculator in the tool.

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**'The Calculating Cool tool is an easy to use and helpful way to assess the performance of heating ventilation and air conditioning systems,'**

**Bryon Price, Strategic Development Director, A.G. Coombs.**

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The result is that the Calculating Cool rating tool makes use of both quantitative data and qualitative information covering HVAC design, installation and operation to benchmark energy efficiency performance and enable the person using the tool to identify potential areas for improvement.

'The Calculating Cool tool is an easy to use and helpful way to assess the performance of heating ventilation and air conditioning systems,' said Bryon Price, Strategic Development Director, A.G. Coombs. 'It is proving to be a great tool for measuring the energy efficiency of HVAC systems and providing a framework for improvement that we can use with system owners and operators.'

The Calculating Cool project forms part of the COAG Building Committee funded Heating Ventilation and Air-Conditioning High Efficiency Systems Strategy (HVAC HESS), the funding is administered by the commonwealth Department of Industry, the project is managed by Sustainability Victoria and Team Catalyst is contracted to produce the calculator.

The project is governed by a steering group consisting of representatives from government jurisdictions from WA, VIC, QLD, SA, NSW and the federal government and has a Technical Advisory Group comprising Industry and Government representatives.

Calculating Cool has been designed to be used alongside national programs such as Green Star and NABERS and can be used to help identify ways to improve the NABERS and GreenStar Ratings. The calculator can be used throughout all stages of the lifecycle of a Heating Ventilation and Air-conditioning system – initial design, commissioning, operation and decommissioning.

Building owners, HVAC consultants and managers are encouraged to use it to assess their HVAC performance and identify opportunities to improve comfort, and for improvements which save energy and money.

The tool is now available for use for free at [www.calculatingcool.com.au](http://www.calculatingcool.com.au).

# Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria 2014

## Cohuna community rescues Gilrule Park

Gilrule Park and Gunbower Creek sit peacefully within the town of Cohuna. Over time, the park had become severely overgrown.

The Cohuna Neighbourhood House with the support of Gannawarra Shire decided to lead a project to clean-up and restore the park with funding from Communities to Nature.

The Friends of Gilrule cleared the area, ready for planting and rejuvenation by the Girl Guides and Scouts who share the area. The Lions Club, Progress Association, students, Men's Shed, Neighbourhood House Committee and disability outreach program members also helped out at working bees.

In total, volunteers contributed around 2000 hours of their time, making it a large scale project.

Thirty-two palm trees were removed as well as other noxious weeds and plants, opening up the area beautifully and allowing locals to see the creek again. Native plants slowly returned along with bird life. New signage helps locals and visitors to identify birds, fish and indigenous plants. Summer saw more people fishing thanks to North Central Catchment Management Authority stocking the creek with fish, and the new fishing platform.

The town is delighted to see so many people now using the new walking paths along the creek – young, old, parents and children, and various walking groups.



The creek also has many recreational uses – fishing, canoeing or even just sitting and reflecting in a peaceful setting.

The Cohuna Neighbourhood House is a finalist in the Clean Beach/Waterway category of the 2014 Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards. Since 1982, the Tidy Towns awards have showcased efforts by communities in rural and regional areas to protect and enhance their local environments.







## Horsham Tidy Towns Committee Bringing the wagon back



Samuel May and James Millar established May & Millar in 1874, operating as iron founders and agricultural implement makers in Horsham.

Both partners were very involved in the community and its organisations and Samuel May generously donated 9000 pounds, as well as bestowing nearby land and providing for its upkeep.

This land still exists today under the name of May Park. It provides a valued and welcome stopover for travellers and a space to rest and play for young and older citizens of Horsham and its surrounds.

Amongst the many items of manufacture at the May & Millar, is a horse drawn wagon that was used originally as a farm vehicle on May Farm still resided on the property.

Over time and many years of exposure to weather the wagon had become in poor condition.

Inspired by an idea from Horsham Rural City Council, the Tidy Towns Committee decided to take on the project to restore the wagon as a tribute to May & Millar.

A dedicated team of volunteers stripped the wagon down, sourced old hardwood timber to replace rotted parts and began reconstruction with the assistance of the local Men's Shed. After completing the timber work, including meticulous work on the old wooden-spoke, iron-rimmed wheels the entire unit was dismantled for painting. The final touch was reassembly and pinstripping.

The project entailed over 700 hours of voluntary work and financial support from Horsham Services Club and other community members.

The wagon has been meticulously restored and is a valuable part of Horsham's history.

Funding is now being sought to place the wagon in the historic precinct of May Park where it can be enjoyed by the locals and seen by passing drivers on the highway.

The Horsham Tidy Towns Committee is a finalist in the Cultural Heritage category in the 2014 Tidy Towns awards.

Category winners and the Tidy Town of the year will be announced at the awards celebration on Saturday 11 October 2014 at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre.

For more information on KABV Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities go to [sustainability.vic.gov.au/kabv](http://sustainability.vic.gov.au/kabv)

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