



Fact sheet

Over the next five years, around \$4.9 billion will be spent on major water infrastructure projects, including the Food Bowl Modernisation Project in northern Victoria, which will deliver major water savings to irrigators, communities and the environment, and provide water security for the region.

The 2008 Victorian Climate Change Summit acknowledged that a changing climate will affect certain industries, regions and communities more severely than others. The Government believes Victoria has the skills and resources to seize opportunities in developing cleaner industries and more sustainable communities in response to climate change.

A number of Government-led and community initiatives are assisting in combating the effects of drought and change. The Government will continue to encourage and support these activities.

1. Developing water and energy efficiency

The Government will allocate a further \$10 million over two years under the *Regional Infrastructure Development Fund* to support industry with new energy and water efficiency projects.

The program aims to ensure that regional industry remains competitive despite climate change-driven increases in energy and water costs and threats to water security.

2. Improving strategic planning for environmentally sustainable growth

The Government will provide up to \$375,000 over two years for five communities to undertake joint projects exploring how best to tackle local sustainability challenges.

A community from each of the five State Government-defined regions will be given the opportunity to use CSIRO's knowledge and experience as part of the national *Sustainable Communities Initiative*.

3. Supporting provincial industries affected by drought

The Government will provide \$500,000 over two years for a new *Business Response Program* to support provincial industries affected by climate change.

The initiative will focus on a broad industry sector approach involving companies, industry associations and other economic development bodies to establish how businesses can build capability to respond to the challenges of climate change.

*The Victorian Government's provincial economic statement Moving Forward: Making Provincial Victoria the Best Place to Live, Work and Invest was launched in November 2005. This \$502 million program aimed to build on provincial Victoria's strong economic success since 1999, drive further growth and development in regional cities, communities and industries, and attract more people, jobs and investment to regional and rural areas. Consultations conducted by the Government in November and December 2007 showed strong support for the direction taken by Moving Forward, but also highlighted new challenges. Moving Forward: Update – The Next Two Years responds to these consultations. It reinforces the Government's strong support for provincial Victoria, continues to deliver the highly successful Moving Forward agenda and introduces additional initiatives to tackle the challenges ahead. Moving Forward: Update addresses five key areas: **growth and change; industry; skills; infrastructure; and drought and a changing climate.***

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