



# Transformative evaluation: State of the Environment Reporting framed by the UN SDGs

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Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability  
30 October 2019



# Where is Victoria?





## Fastest growing of any state in Australia

As Victoria's population and economy continue to grow, it is important to understand both the state of our natural environment and the benefits that we derive from it.

We are aligning Victoria with international environmental reporting frameworks and rewiring the system so that the SDGs frame environmental monitoring and reporting in Victoria.

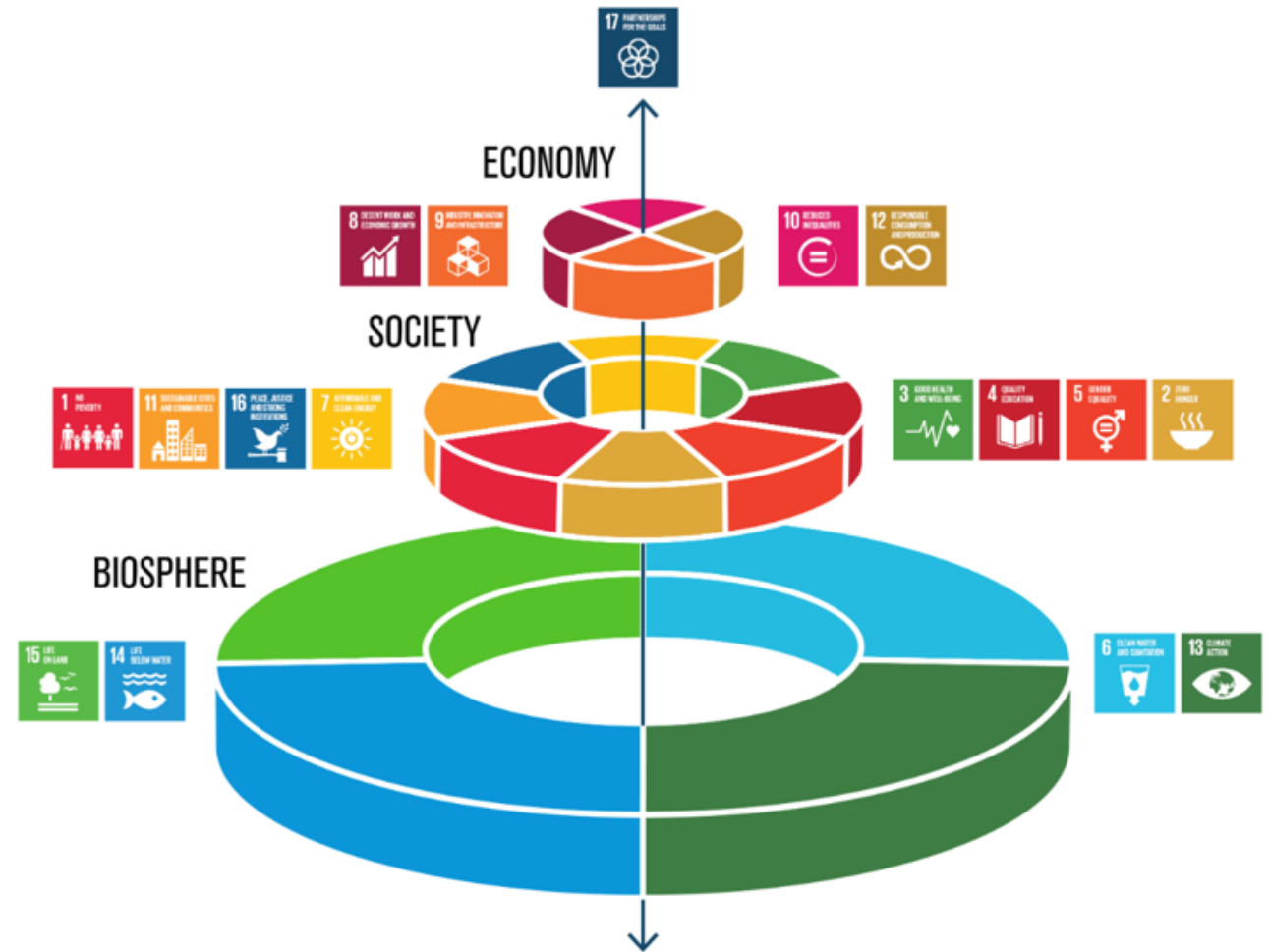


# Victoria is taking the lead *on* applying the SDGs *for* environmental reporting



# How do the SDGs help?

- The SDGs provide an internationally agreed framework that can help us tell a broader story about our progress toward ecologically sustainable development
- They help describe the benefits of a healthy environment to our economy and community
- Help us to have more informed conversations and debates about multiple outcomes
- Provide standardised reporting



#### 4. *What is ecologically sustainable development?*

- (1) Ecologically sustainable development is development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.

Ecologically sustainable development? Indicators have been the missing link – the SDGs change that

#### 7. *Objectives of the Commissioner*

The objectives of the Commissioner are to—

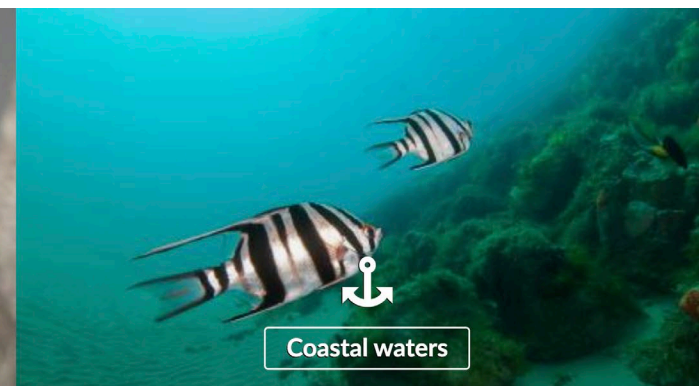
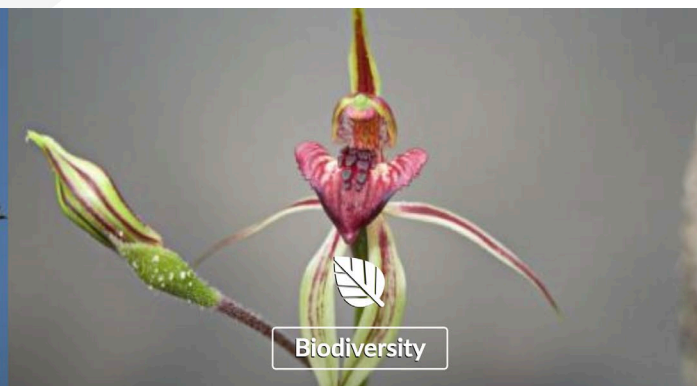
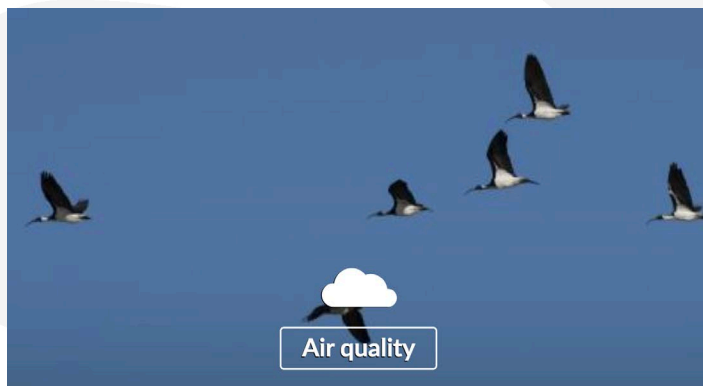
- (a) report on matters relating to the condition of the natural environment of Victoria;
- (b) encourage decision making that facilitates ecologically sustainable development;
- (c) enhance knowledge and understanding of issues relating to ecologically sustainable development and the environment;



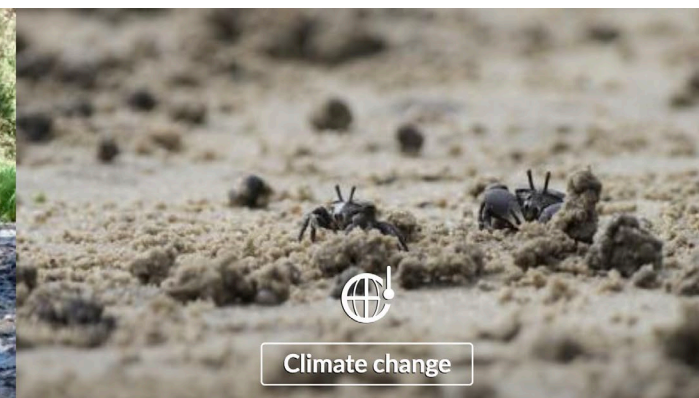
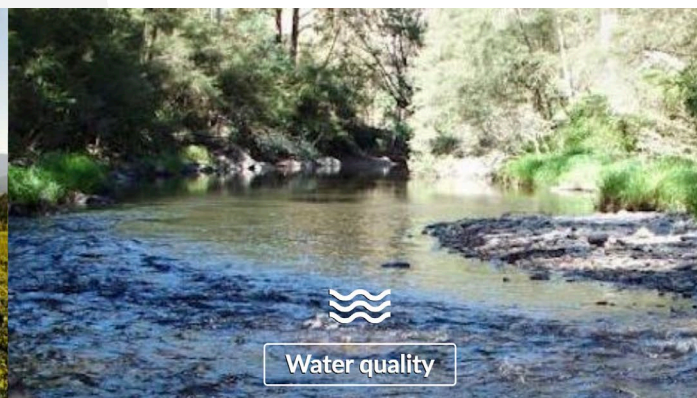
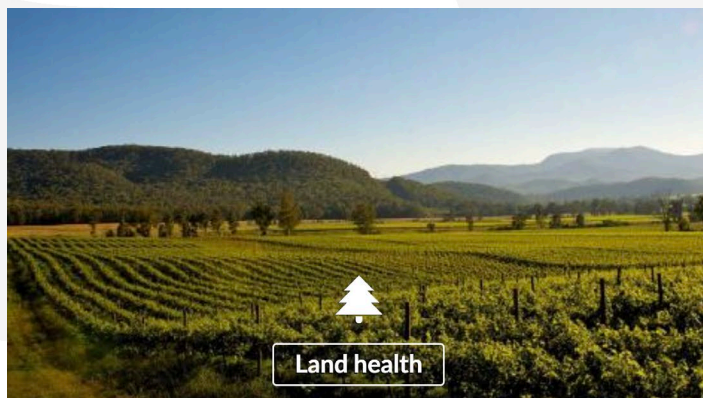
#### 10. *Accountability of the Commissioner*

- (1) In performing the functions and exercising the powers under this Act, the Commissioner must have regard to the following principles—

Implementing the SDGs in an authorizing environment



We report on the state of Victoria's environment to help government, business and the community take practical action









Climate change impacts



Air



Biodiversity: plants & animals



Land



Forests



Fire



Marine & coastal environments



Water resources



Water quality



Waste & resource recovery



Energy



Transport

# The 2018 #SoE tells three stories

1. The current health of Victoria's natural environment
2. The adequacy of our science
3. Future focus: what we need to do

THE  AGE

OPINION

## *Victoria's growth will place increasing demands on our environment*

By Gillian Sparkes

March 20, 2019 — 11.50pm

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The Victorian State of the Environment 2018 Report, [tabled in Parliament on Tuesday](#), is a landmark scientific report providing the baseline science and trend analysis that we need to protect the state's environment and focus our efforts over the next decade and beyond.



# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND SDG TARGETS FOR FUTURE REPORTING

# 20 Recommendations include...

**Climate Change Impacts:** Improve localised climate projection particularly in agricultural regions to reduce the uncertainties associated with rainfall projections.

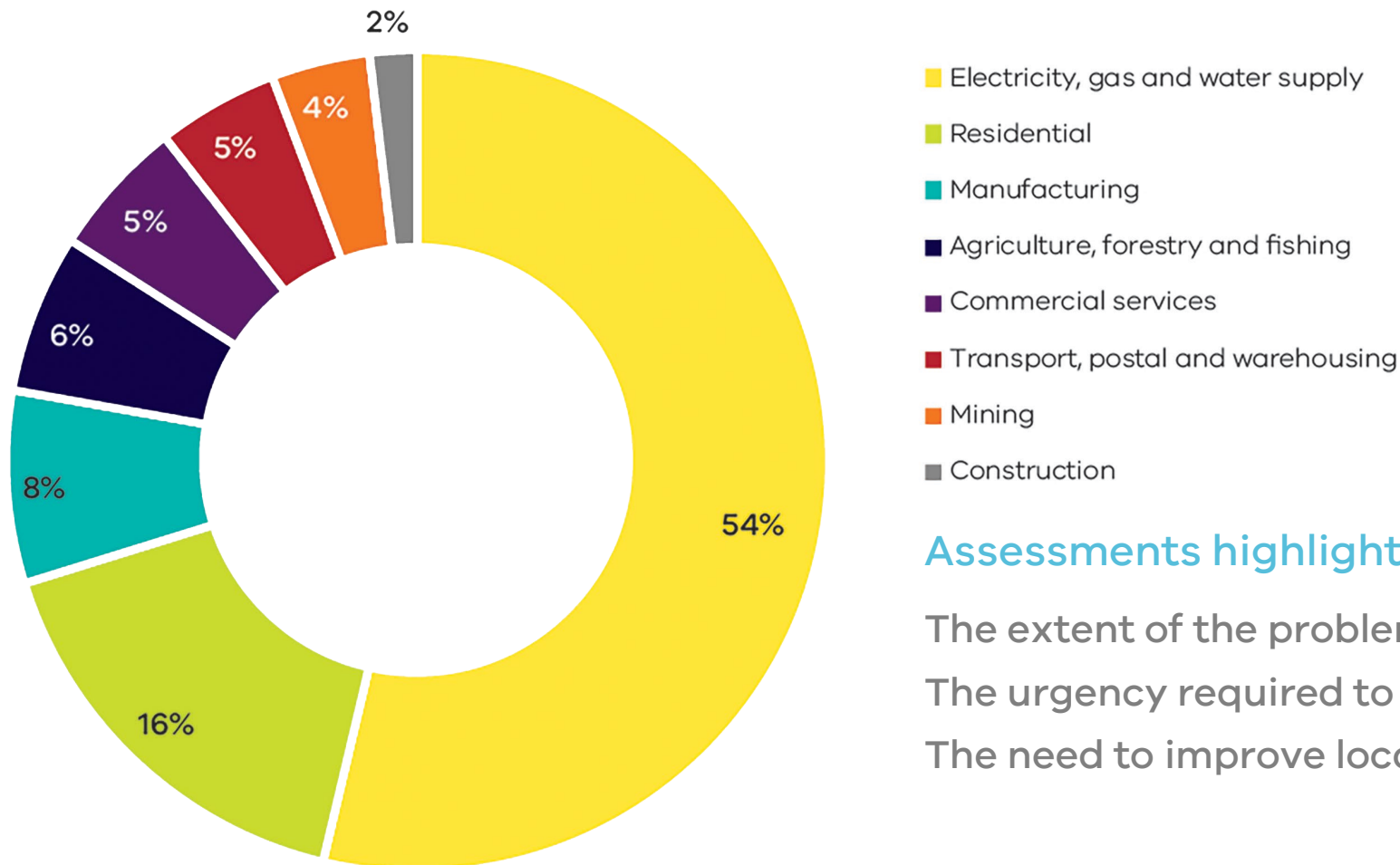
**Biodiversity:** Establishing the position of a chief biodiversity scientist for Victoria and resourcing permanent environmental protection measures on private land.

**Forests:** Improve statewide understanding of the impacts of forest fragmentation on forest-dependent species including an authoritative list of Victorian forest-dependent species.

**Spatial Information:** Improve data capability of all government environmental programs including and improve the coherence and impact of publicly funded scientific research.

**Energy:** Improve data and measurements that track the transition of Victoria's grid, transport and industry infrastructure to support a low-carbon future.

# The Big Issues Climate Change Impacts



## Assessments highlight three key issues:

The extent of the problem

The urgency required to mitigate and adapt to its influence

The need to improve localised climate projections

# Energy Recommendations

15. That DELWP establish a set of indicators, and implement measures to collect appropriate data, to track the impact of energy emissions reduction to meet interim targets set under the Climate Change Act 2017. The reporting should also track the transition of Victoria's grid, transport and industry infrastructure to support a low-carbon future.

## Challenges the recommendation addresses

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy is Victoria's principal challenge to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.



UN SDG targets for future reporting– 13.2, 13.3

# Energy Recommendations

16. That DELWP implement measures to collect data and track the impact of the transition to a low-emissions electricity system on:
- (i) consumer sentiment and behaviour,
  - (ii) investment in distributed, low and zero-emissions electricity generation, and
  - (iii) the associated markets, governance and business models.

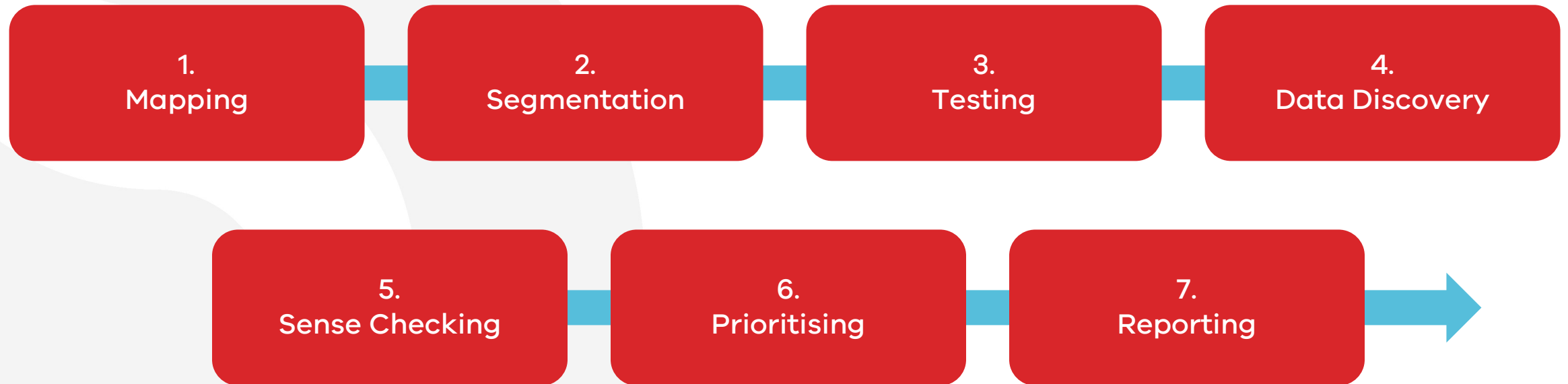
## Challenges the recommendation addresses

Victorian consumers will drive Victoria's transition to its net-zero emissions target. It is critical to collect data and build an evidence base to support Victorians and understand their needs and choices and develop appropriate markets and business models to serve them.



UN SDG targets for future reporting – 7.2, 13.3

To apply the SDG targets to our environmental reporting framework we developed a seven-stage process



## PHASE 1: Desktop Mapping

The first phase was to map existing environmental indicators, against all 169 SDG targets. We found strong alignment - a reflection of the pragmatism of the SDGs.



## OUTCOME:

Existing SoE indicators mapped to SDG targets.



## PHASE 2: Segmentation

Assessed all 169 SDG targets against 3 key criteria.  
Does the target demonstrate – benefits of ecosystem services, impact of society on ecosystem services and relevance to Victoria?

SDG Targets	
Out of Scope	118
Biophysical SoE indicators (definite)	21
Socio-economic SoE indicators (nominal)	30
Total	169

### OUTCOME:

Identified SDG targets potentially aligned with SoE reporting in Victoria.



## PHASE 3: “Stress testing” within government with policy experts

### OUTCOME:

Verified efficacy of process to Phase 2.  
30 SDG targets go to next phase.

## PHASE 4: One-on-one discussions with stakeholders & potential data custodians (government and NGOs)

First time in this process that data availability is considered

### Key questions:

- What data exists?
- How is the current data being used?
- Would they (how would they) use the proposed data?

### OUTCOME:

Available data (and gaps) identified for 30 SDG targets.

## PHASE 5: Sense checking – consulting external environmental NGOs and experts

It was agreed by the Commissioner's Reference Group that the ultimate purpose of the initiative to include SDG targets as part of SoE reporting should be to:

- Ensure Victoria has the data it needs in order to make the best decisions to protect and improve the environment
- Influence decision-makers
- Improve environmental outcomes
- Enhance ecologically sustainable development

### OUTCOME:

Support for process and decision to go to broader engagement to prioritise 30 SDG targets.

## PHASE 6: Prioritising. Live polling with 120 thought leaders from across the State



### OUTCOME:

Prioritised 30 SDG targets to include in Victorian State of the Environment reporting.



The workshop also increased awareness and understanding of the SDGs with leaders from across Victoria



## PHASE 7: Reporting

Collating data against 52 (21+30 +1) SDG targets for the first time by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability. The findings were presented in the 2018 Victorian State of the Environment Report, tabled in the Victorian Parliament 19 March 2019.



## OUTCOME:

2018 Victorian SoE report aligned with SDGs. Victoria has commenced the transition to the SDGs as the framework for state of environment reporting – reflecting our need to report on both the state of the environment and the benefits that society derives from it.

# Vic govt to build state's first digital twin

By Matt Johnston  
Jul 15 2019  
10:54AM

0 Comments



## For 30-year urban renewal project.

Land Use Victoria and the University of Melbourne will develop a "digital twin" for the landmark Fishermans Bend renewal project.





**“Putting the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals under the microscope to determine which are the most relevant to environmental reporting in Victoria is a crucial step in achieving meaningful, high quality and transparent reporting.”**

Hon. Lily D’Ambrosio MP  
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate change



# THANK YOU



@Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability  
@Gillian Sparkes



@ces\_victoria



@CommissionerVic