

Regional snapshot of the actions taken by the Baillieu Government: *A State in Reverse*

North West Victoria

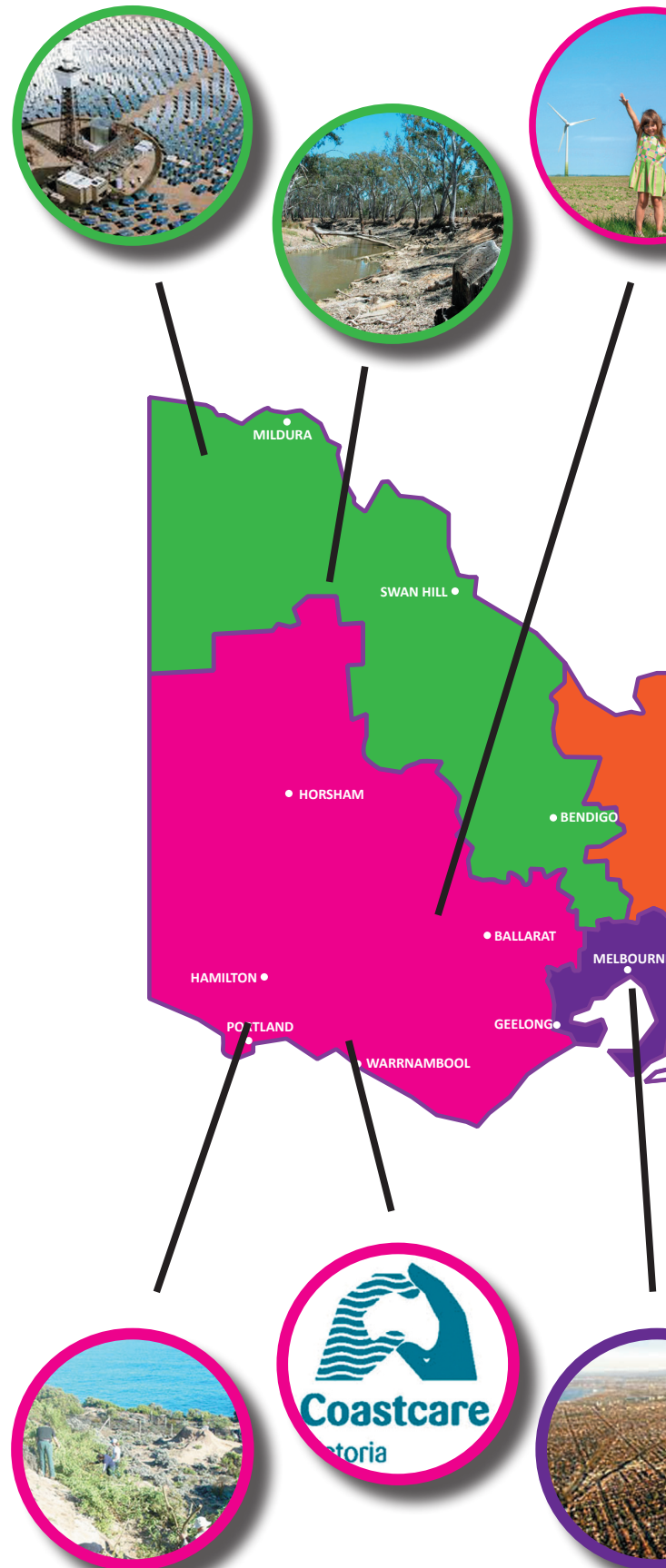
- Baillieu Government has reduced support for the Mallee Solar farm, refusing to commit the full \$100m promised prior to the election, and only providing the funds if the project receives Federal funding. The Mallee solar farm could be supported by federal Clean Energy Finance Corporation, though the Federal Coalition have promised to abolish this body if elected.
- No progress towards the 5% solar target by 2020 election promise which would deliver large scale solar projects in the north west.

Western Victoria and Surf Coast

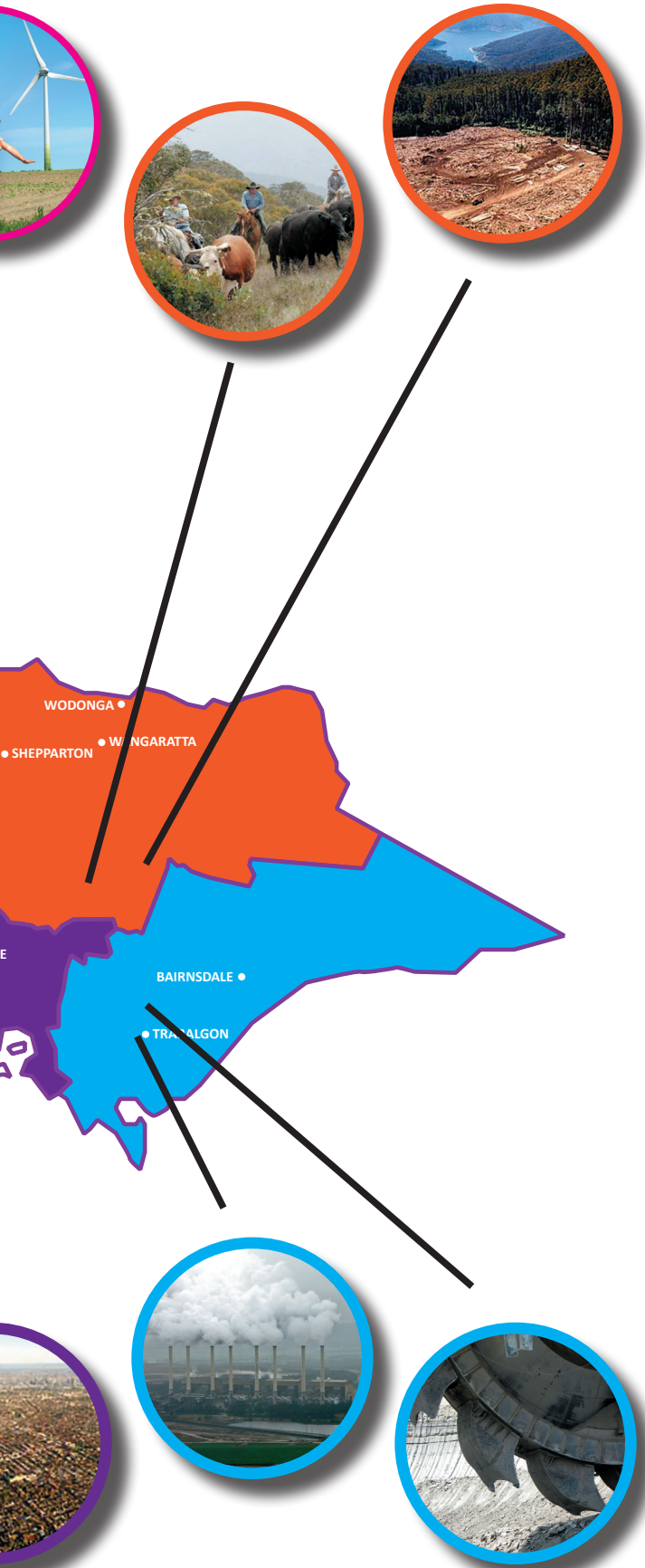
- Coastcare program slashed
- Renewed Alcoa's mining lease at Anglesea for 50 years with no further measures to reduce its pollution.
- 50 DSE jobs in Ballarat and 75-80 jobs in South-West cut in areas like bushfire prevention, wild dog and weeds control programs ^[13]
- At least 10 jobs in threatened species protection in Horsham cut ^[14]
- Department of Sustainability and Environment job cuts will reduce staff and program numbers at regional offices in Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Geelong, Gellibrand, Heywood and Maryborough. Staff cuts and office closures of Department of Primary Industries offices could also affect agricultural and environmental programs.
- New planning laws giving households power to veto wind turbines within two kilometres of their homes and declaring whole regions of the state out of bounds for wind farms lead to the Surf Coast community wind project, the Ben More wind farm, the Naroghid wind farm and the Pykes Hill wind farm being put on hold costing the region \$370m of new investment in clean energy projects. ^[15] No such laws apply to coal-fired power stations or coalmines.

Northern and Central Victoria

- Attempting to weaken the national plan to restore the health of the Murray - Darling Basin Plan by proposing just 2100 GL be returned to the river instead of the MDBA's proposed 2750GL.
- Allowing firewood collection indefinitely from Gunbower and Barmah national parks. ^[9]
- Backflip on pre-election promise to use Sugarloaf Pipeline water for the environment, instead auctioning it off to irrigators. ^[10]
- Put on hold ban on cattle grazing in new Murray River Park. Cattle are being allowed to graze right up to the edge of the Murray River. ^[11]
- Department of Sustainability and Environment job cuts will reduce staff and program numbers at regional offices in Alexandra, Beechworth, Benalla, Bendigo, Broadford, Corryong, Mitta Mitta, Nathalia, Ovens, Seymour, Tallangatta, Wangaratta and Wodonga. Staff cuts and office closures of Department of Primary Industries offices could also affect agricultural and environmental programs.
- New planning laws giving households power to veto wind turbines within two kilometres of their homes and declaring whole regions of the state out of bounds for wind farms lead to the Woodend community wind project, the Castlemaine community wind project, the Sidonia wind farm and the Baynton wind farm being put on hold costing the region \$373m of new investment in clean energy projects. ^[12] No such laws apply to coal-fired power stations or coal mines.



n reverse



Gippsland and Alpine regions

- Walked away from a State Government commitment to begin closing Hazelwood, our most polluting power station, giving no certainty to workers, the community or for new investment. ^[3]
- Want to allocate the remaining 13 billion tonnes of brown coal in the Latrobe Valley for new mines and export in late 2012. ^[4] This is the equivalent of 13 mines the size of the current Hazelwood pit.
- Returning cattle grazing to the Alpine National Park under the guise of scientific research when cattle grazing has been thoroughly proven to damage alpine biodiversity. ^[5]
- Cutting funding for the West Gippsland CMA which has led to the loss of 17 frontline river health jobs. ^[6]
- Supporting and funding a new polluting coal-fired power station just one kilometre from Morwell when a wind farm in the same location would be banned.
- Coal export plans would involve new pipelines across farms, infrastructure and port expansion in Westernport Bay or Port Anthony.
- Loggers can now seek exemptions from environment laws protecting endangered species under proposed changes. ^[7]
- Provided \$1 million for a feasibility study for a new dam in the Lindenow Valley on the Mitchell River.
- Department of Sustainability and Environment job cuts will reduce staff and program numbers at regional offices in Bairnsdale, Bendoc, Cann River, Erica, Mansfield, Marysville, Noojee, Nowa Nowa, Orbost, Powelltown, Toolangi, Traralgon and Yarram. Staff cuts and office closures of Department of Primary Industries offices could also affect agricultural and environmental programs.
- New planning laws giving households power to veto wind turbines within two kilometres of their homes and declaring whole regions of the state out of bounds for wind farms lead to the \$31 million Yarram wind farm being put on hold. ^[8] No such laws apply to coal-fired power stations or coal mines.
- Abandoned the voluntary Target155 water efficiency program putting more pressure on the Yarra and Thomson Rivers and increasing future use of the desalination plant.

Melbourne

- Urban sprawl set to continue with announcement of six more suburbs for Melbourne, covering productive farmland and green wedges, with less protection for threatened species in these areas. ^[16]
- Abandoned the voluntary Target155 water efficiency program putting more pressure on the Yarra and Thomson Rivers and increasing future use of the desalination plant.
- Seeking federal funding to advance the East-West tunnel freeway instead of investing in public transport.

Statewide

- Broke a pre-election commitment to keep Victoria's legislated target to reduce greenhouse pollution by 20 per cent by 2020.
- Support for households and businesses to support solar power is slashed from 60c/kWh to 25c/kWh putting the brakes on the solar industry state-wide.
- Environment protection and jobs slashed in state budget. Slashed 400 Department of Sustainability and Environment jobs in threatened species protection, bushfire prevention, river health, weeds and feral animal programs and the Environment Protection Authority. DSE will suffer greater job cuts than nearly all other departments.
- Failed to deliver on a \$20 million election pledge to replace energy guzzling street lights with more efficient lighting. ^[17]
- Weakening planning rules around sea level rise designed to reduce impacts of climate change. ^[18]
- Opposing the creation of any new marine protected areas.
- Returning duck hunting season to 12 weeks in 2011 putting more pressure on duck populations recovering from drought.