

## Introduction - A new era for sustainability



In April 2005 the Government launched Victoria's Environmental Sustainability Framework. The Framework provides direction for government, business and the community on building environmental considerations into the way that we work and live. It will help us to make choices that are better for the environment, the economy and society.

### The Framework establishes three directions, which we must pursue to become a sustainable state:

1. Maintaining and restoring our natural assets.
2. Using our resources more efficiently.
3. Reducing our everyday environmental impacts.

The Government announced the formation of a new statutory authority - **Sustainability Victoria** - which will bring together the knowledge and expertise that exists across government on environmental sustainability.

EcoRecycle and the Sustainable Energy Authority will join forces to establish Sustainability Victoria in 2005. During the transition, the strategic and business plans for both organisations will continue into the 2005-06 financial year. The activities of EcoRecycle and the Sustainable Energy Authority will be progressively aligned. EcoRecycle remains committed to achieving outcomes with our partners and honouring our existing contracts, funding initiatives and grants.

The draft strategy, *Towards Zero Waste*, covers all aspects of solid waste management in Victoria, ranging from households to businesses and schools, and is aligned with the ambitions outlined in the Environmental Sustainability Framework. For the second year in a row, Victorians recycled more than half of all solid waste generated. However, Victorians are still generating significant quantities of waste and sending around half of this to landfill.

In 2003-04, Victoria produced approximately 9.5 million tonnes of solid waste. Forty-seven percent of this was sent to landfill. Two-thirds of this waste was generated by industry, costing businesses millions of dollars and lost opportunities to preserve worthwhile resources. This Business Plan for the 2005-06 financial year outlines the programs that will deliver the current objectives, priorities and direction described in *Towards Zero Waste* into the 2005-06 financial year.

EcoRecycle Victoria's programs focus on best practice, community education and leading edge infrastructure to build sustainability into everyday actions for business, communities, individuals and government. Effective working relationships with business and industry, local and state government, regional waste management groups and the community are central to the success our programs.

EcoRecycle Victoria will continue to work with Victorians to achieve the ambition of zero waste through innovation, while building on our previous successes.