

# Our environment, Our health

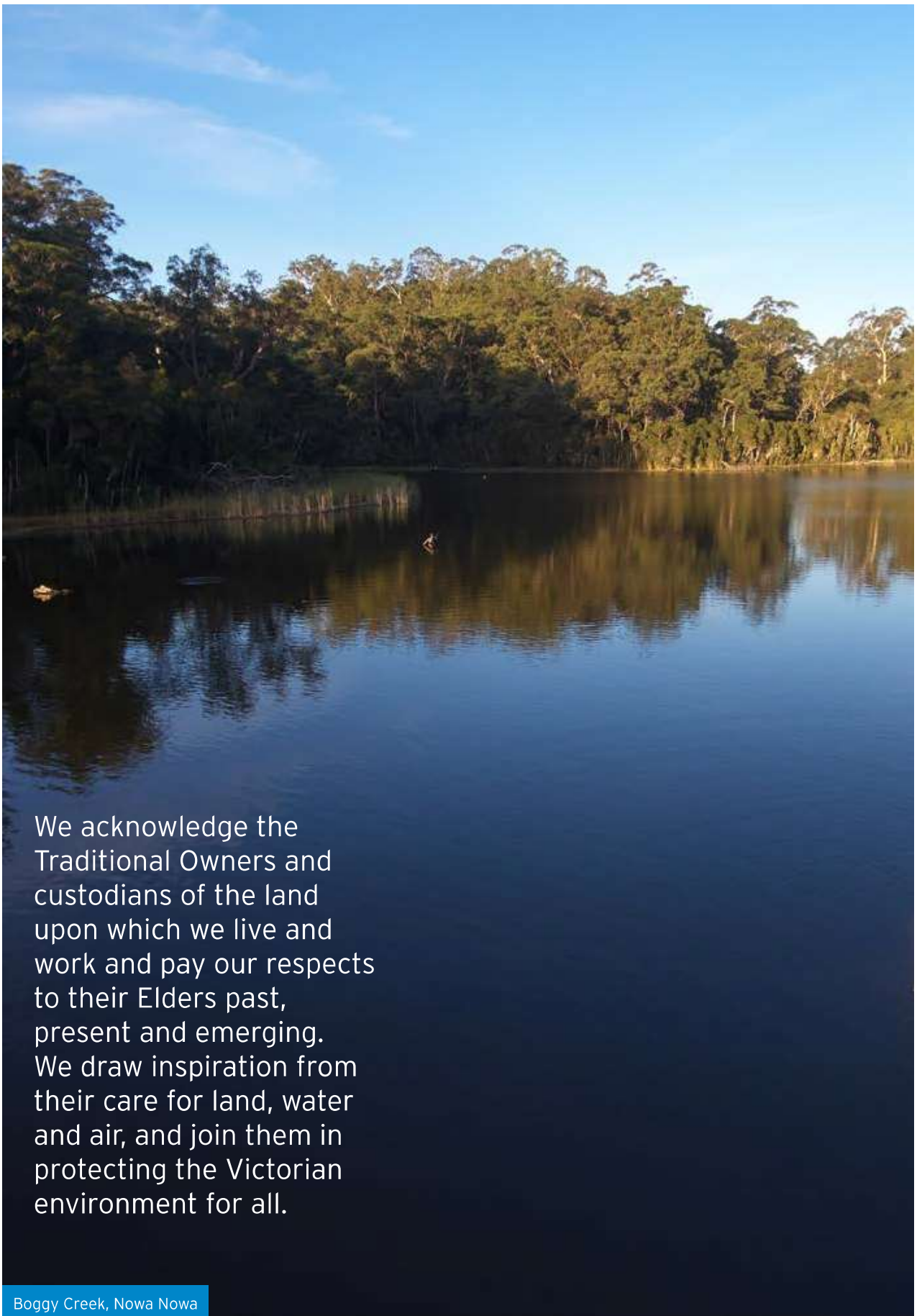
Building our future together  
EPA's organisational strategy



Environment  
Protection  
Authority Victoria



# 2



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land upon which we live and work and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We draw inspiration from their care for land, water and air, and join them in protecting the Victorian environment for all.

Boggy Creek, Nowa Nowa



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Barwon Heads

# Why we are here

Clean air, water, and land are essential to the health and lifestyle of every Victorian and our environment. Our enjoyment of good quality of life is reliant on minimal disturbance from noise and odour.

A healthy and sustainable environment underpins Victoria's economy. We will be responsive to the challenges presented by population growth, production expansion, new technologies, emerging chemicals and evolving threats such as climate change.

As a modern and agile regulator, Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) will work alongside community, business and government, to protect health and the environment by preventing the harmful effects of pollution and waste. We make that promise to the people of Victoria.

This strategy outlines how we will play our part in ensuring Victoria continues to be a great place to live, work and visit.

## Our vision

A healthy environment that supports a liveable and prosperous Victoria now and always.

## Our purpose

We protect the environment and people by preventing and reducing harm from pollution and waste.

## Our role

We are a world-class regulator of pollution and waste.

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# Where we want to be

Victorians cherish their quality of life and are confident that their environment and health is being protected. They acknowledge the increasing complexity of Victoria's environmental challenges, and understand the shared responsibility necessary to protect it now and into the future.

They value the role that EPA plays, understand and trust the advice and decisions of EPA, and know that we are guided by a contemporary regulatory framework designed to protect human health and environment.

They value our expertise and know that strong science underpins our actions. They can rely on our transparency and independence in taking action on their behalf, and believe we anticipate and prevent harm.

They recognise that we are strong and proportionate in holding to account those who do the wrong thing, serving as an effective deterrent to others, supporting a level playing field and minimising risk to human health and environment.

They actively engage with us, sure in the knowledge that we will guide and encourage best practice environmental management, and are well equipped to deal with current and emerging challenges.

They turn to us for information and support that empowers business and community to contribute to an environmentally healthy Victoria and helps them to make decisions about their own health.

They support us in the constant evolution that is required to be an agile and effective regulatory partner in protecting Victorians and their environment by preventing and reducing harm from pollution and waste.

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Melbourne

# What we will achieve

To do our part in creating a healthy environment that supports a liveable and prosperous Victoria now and always, we will focus on five goals.

## Goals

- Prevent harm
- Equip community and business
- Be an influential authority
- Respond to harm
- Organisational excellence



### Goal 1: Prevent harm

We prevent harm from pollution and waste by leveraging good environmental performance across community, business and government.

## Outcomes

- Regulatory effort delivers greatest preventative effect, when informed by science and intelligence
- Regulatory effort supports good performance, creates a level playing field, and encourages continuous improvement
- Increased participation by business and community in preventing and managing environmental risk
- Provision of early advice to influence land use planning decisions.





**Goal 2: Equip community and business**

We support Victorians to understand the condition of their environment and we work to ensure shared responsibility is accepted and understood by community and business.

**Outcomes**

- Timely, accessible information on the condition of our environment and expert advice on the human health impacts of pollution and waste
- Clear advice and guidance that supports compliance with environmental obligations
- Community engagement in environmental management and decision-making
- Acknowledged partnerships and clear role definition in environmental and human health protection.



**Goal 4: Respond to harm**

We hold polluters to account and work with our partners to respond to pollution and emergency incidents and legacy contamination to minimise harm to Victoria’s environment and people.

**Outcomes**

- Timely and proportionate consequences for those that do the wrong thing
- High quality reporting of pollution incidents and timely risk-based responses
- Technical advice on pollution and waste that makes a significant contribution to Victoria’s emergency management system
- Timely identification and management of legacy contamination that ensures land is efficiently returned to safe and useful purposes.



**Goal 3: Be an influential authority**

We are a trusted source of advice on Victoria’s environment and influential in working with others to address complex problems resulting from pollution and waste.

**Outcomes**

- Applied expertise that shapes the monitoring, identification and reporting of environmental and human health risk and subsequent response
- Leadership in partnering with others to address complex pollution and waste challenges
- Strong collaboration with other regulators to remain at the forefront of regulatory practice
- Enhanced environmental public health capability that gives community confidence.



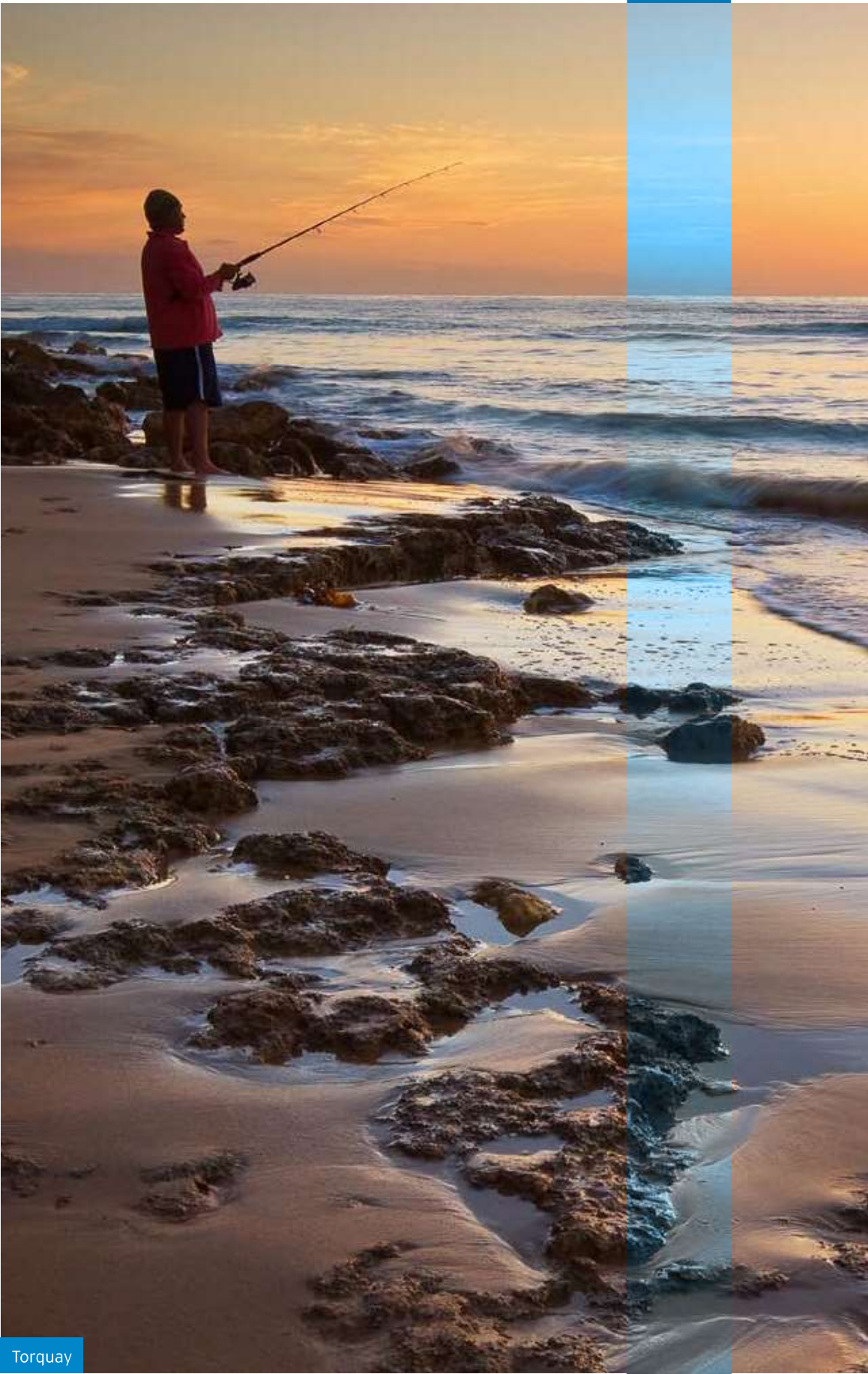
**Goal 5: Organisational excellence**

As an organisation, EPA commits to delivering on its goals by enabling a high performance culture that values our people, and supports them with fit-for-purpose systems and expertise.

**Outcomes**

- Service delivery that reflects community, business and government expectations
- Good governance
- Business systems and processes that continuously improve to support delivery
- Staff safety, health, wellbeing and development.

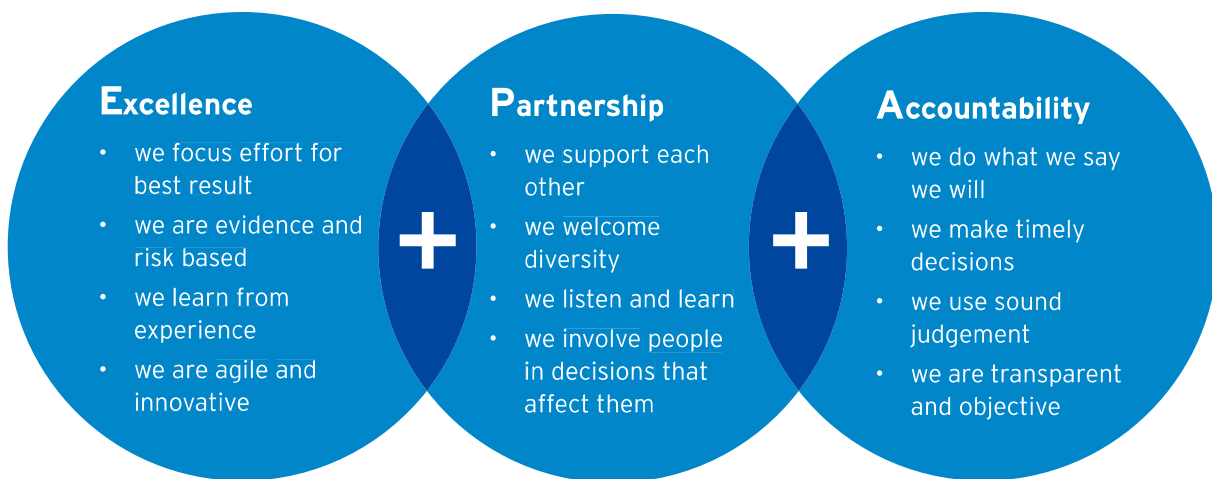
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Torquay

# How we will deliver

Successful implementation of this strategy requires every EPA staff member to live our values. These values applied consistently by each of us in our interactions with Victorians will deliver one experience of EPA.



We will also be exemplars of the Victorian Public Service values.



Goal 1



Goal 2



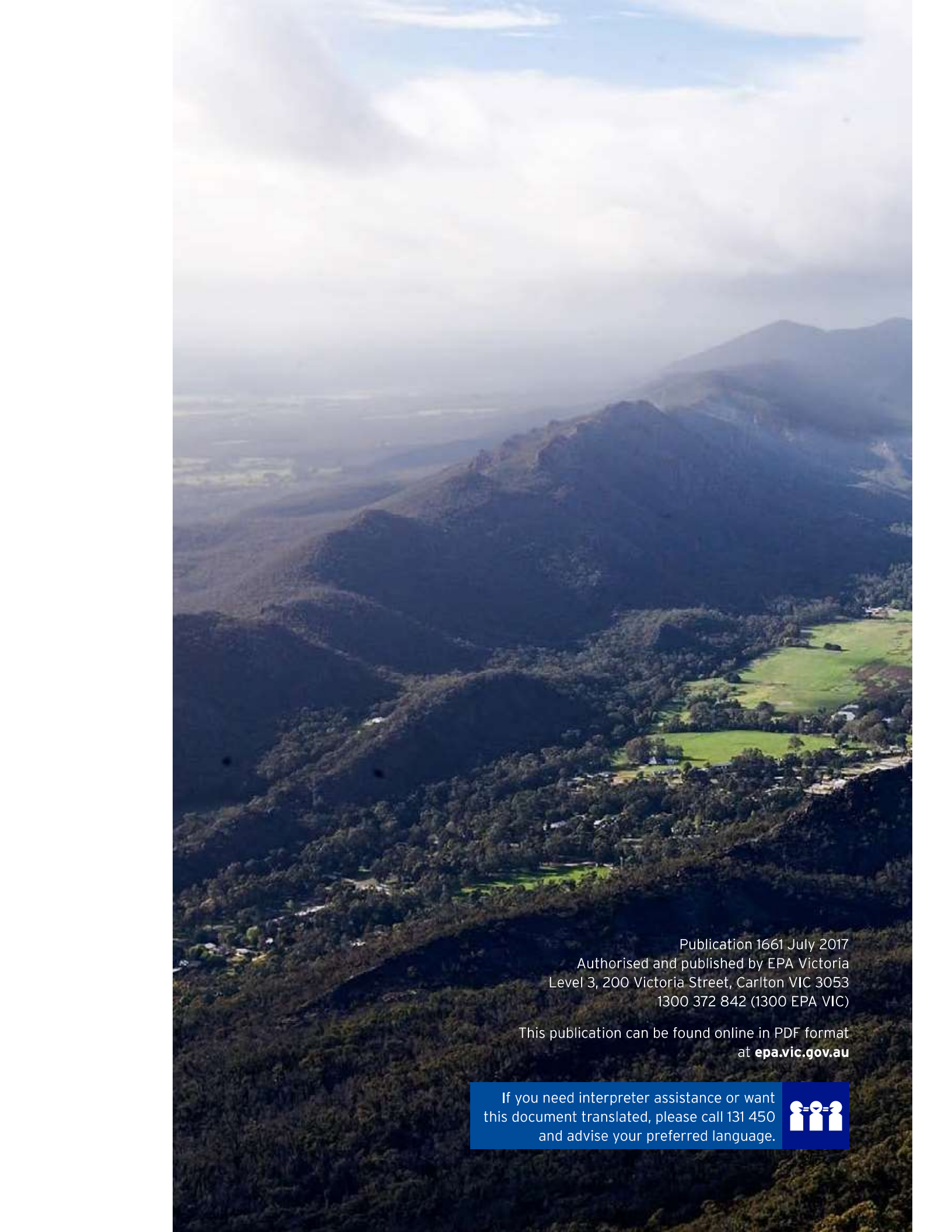
Goal 3



Goal 4



Goal 5



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