

# Media Release

Hon Jacinta Allan MP  
Premier



Tuesday, 23 September 2025

## NEW SECRETARY APPOINTED TO LEAD DEECA

The Victorian Government has today appointed Kate Houghton PSM as the new Secretary to lead the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Kate currently serves as the Secretary at the Department of Justice and Community Safety and brings more than ten years of senior public sector experience to the role.

Kate previously led the Water and Catchments group as Deputy Secretary and the Environment Policy Division as Executive Director at DEECA and brings with her extensive experience, leadership and insight in natural resources, climate change and environmental work.

In 2022, she was awarded the Public Service Medal in recognition of her contribution in support of Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kate's appointment follows the departure of Mr John Bradley PSM, who led the department for more than eight years and made an outstanding contribution to DEECA.

His dedication and expertise helped Victoria through some devastating natural disasters and supported Victorian farmers with biosecurity challenges, and through the current drought conditions.

John also delivered significant policy outcomes for Victorians, including overseeing the transition of Victoria's energy sector and taking nation-leading climate action.

### Quotes attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

*"I congratulate Kate on her new appointment and look forward to the leadership, insight and expertise she will bring to this important role."*

*"DEECA plays an essential part in tackling climate change and protecting our natural environment, infrastructure and heritage for future generations."*

*"I want to thank John for his significant role in driving progress across the public sector and helping build a more sustainable Victoria. We wish him all the best in his next endeavor."*