

*Accidental Pollution**1984-85 ANNUAL REPORT 5***Chemical spillage**

A mixed load of chemicals spilled onto the Hume Highway at Seymour in January, after the truck carrying the load was involved in an accident. Most of the chemicals were recovered and loaded onto trucks, supplied by the owner, Ajax Chemicals.

The remaining material was cleaned up and safely disposed of. Co-operation on the site between relevant organisations was excellent leading to a successful clean-up operation.

**Diesel fuel spillage  
— Frankston**

In February, a V/Line goods train was derailed in the Frankston railyards, spilling an estimated 2,500 litres of fuel. The oil spread through underground drainage systems to the Beach Street Drain, a major tributary of Kananook Creek, which drains into Port Phillip Bay at Frankston.



Operation "Oil-Mop" —  
Kananook Creek,  
Frankston

A major clean-up operation was undertaken by Dandenong Valley Authority involving containment and removal of fuel from both the drainage system and Kananook Creek. A device known as an "oil mop" successfully removed 800 litres of fuel from the surface of the creek in a clean-up operation lasting eight hours. The three-day operation prevented major pollution of both the creek and the beach nearby. Clean up costs in excess of \$8,200 are being sought from V/Line.

**Butler's chemical  
fire**

On Friday, April 12, a chemical warehouse in Dynon Road operated by the Butler Transport Company was destroyed by fire. The warehouse was used to store a variety of chemicals and food-stuffs. Officers from EPA and various other government and semi-government departments attended the fire in addition to the Melbourne Fire Brigade.

The three immediate areas of concern to EPA were to determine the composition and quantity of environmentally hazardous chemicals, to minimise the potential environmental damage caused by the chemically-contaminated water entering the waterways, and to assess the hazard caused by fumes from the fire. The types of chemicals stored were acids, oxidising agents, solvents, and various materials and cocktails used in plastic manufacturing.

EPA officers measured cyanide in surrounding areas. A maximum of three parts per million (ppm) of hydrogen cyanide was detected in the cordoned-off area surrounding the chemical store. No

*Damage from the fire was evident. The twisted metal had once been a chemical warehouse.*



cyanide emissions were detected outside of the cordon. The lethal concentration of hydrogen cyanide to humans is 150 ppm for 0.5 to 1 hour.

Polluted water from fire-fighting operations flowed into nearby drains connected to the Dynon Road tidal canal which feeds into the Maribyrnong River. Officers from EPA and MMBW contained the water in the canal by constructing a dam at the mouth of the river and a barrier approximately half way down the canal.

About 30 million litres of contaminated water was then pumped at a slow rate to sewer, reducing the risk of overloading the treatment system. To accelerate this process tankers removed some of the contaminated water directly to the Werribee Sewerage Farm.

The on-site drains were also blocked to reduce the risk of further pollution of the canal.

Severe rainstorms on the April 18 and 19 caused some setback in the canal-effluent removal programs.

Some damage to the vegetation alongside the canal was evident and a small wildlife reserve was badly affected. However, this was preferable to polluting the river. By confining the environmental damage to a small area a more rapid recovery rate was ensured. The wildlife sanctuary is expected to return to normal within six months and already new plant growth and wildlife return is evident.



*The clean-up begins as workers battle the sludge.*

When all the polluted water was pumped out, work began on the contaminated sludge. It was removed from the canal and treated with quicklime to render it solid. The treated material was then contained and stored nearby.

The canal was refilled and drained three times before analytical results were satisfactory. Further tests were done and the water given a "clean bill of health". On May 17 the bund at the river end was removed.

The treated sludge was tested for several chemicals including dioxin and organic compounds. No dioxin was found and only small traces of other organics.

**Gas leak — Clayton** In April approximately one tonne of maleic anhydride escaped from a pressure valve at the Dulux premises in Clayton. Drains and MMBW outlets were blocked off.

The material had been undergoing a reaction and solidified when it spilled onto the floor. Tests showed the material was stable and there was no threat of explosion in the drains. It was collected and put through the factory's treatment plant for subsequent disposal to sewer.

**Methanol spill — Footscray** Over 5,450 litres of methanol leaked from a tanker following a collision in Footscray in May. Foam was applied to the methanol which was then diluted with water and flushed into the stormwater system. As methanol is flammable, and can build up when confined, the drain was not blocked off. It was allowed into the Maribyrnong River because it is water soluble and presented no environmental threat.

## 1985-86 ANNUAL REPORT

**APPENDIX 6 Financial Statements****Summary of Revenue**

Source	1984/85 \$	1985/86 \$
Licence Fees	3804900	2711348.89
Waste Transport Permits	9600	34000.00
Works Approval Applications Fees	29200	71262.00
Sale of Carrier Certificates	2987	3055.25
Copies of Applications and Licences	571	288.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,847,258.00</b>	<b>2,819,954.70</b>

**Summary of Expenditure**

Item	1984/85 \$	1985/86 \$
Salaries and associated costs	5151950	6379407.00
General expenses	1659918	2222493.00
<b>Other Services</b>		
Environment Council	4495	4952.00
Newport Power Station predictive study	252443	565573.00
Delegated Agencies	2279016	1290000.00
<b>Non-recurring expenses</b>		
Works and services	164000	211000.00
Research Projects	19277	43725.00
Clean up costs associated with Butlers Transport Fire	—	836000.00
Industrial Waste Strategy	—	92000.00
Western Suburbs Pollution Project	—	67999.00
National Engineers Conference	—	3000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,804,099.00</b>	<b>11,716,149.00</b>

## 1986-87 ANNUAL REPORT

## APPENDIX I

## SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

## Summary of revenue

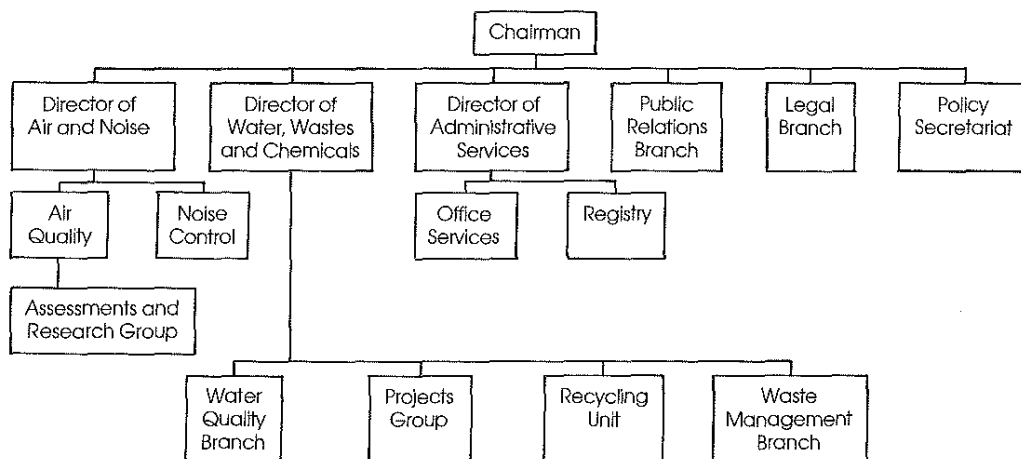
Source	1985/86 \$	1986/87 \$
Licence fees	2 711 348.89	2 790 687.32
Waste Transport Permits	34 000.00	55 178.00
Works Approval Applications Fees	71 262.00	88 900.00
Sale of Carrier Certificates	3055.25	2167.20
Copies of Applications and Licences	288.75	551.05
Certificate of Compliance	—	1350.00
Court Costs	—	45 734.51
Total	2 819 954.70	2 984 568.08

## Summary of Expenditure

Item	1985/86 \$	1986/87 \$
Salaries and associated costs	6 379 407.00	6 873 333.56
General expenses	2 222 493.00	2 315 883.78
Environment Council	4952.00	6191.36
Newport Power Station Study	565 573.00	18 000.00
Delegated Agencies	1 290 000.00	675 356.59
Works and Services	211 000.00	207 949.80
Research Projects	43 725.00	31 366.32
Western Suburbs Regional Action plan	—	13 665.20
Clean-up costs associated with Butlers Transport Fire	836 000.00	—
Industrial Waste Strategy	92 000.00	—
Western Suburbs Pollution project	67 999.00	—
National Engineers Conference	3000.00	—
PCB Clean-up costs	—	572 476.00
Total	11 716 149.00	10 714 222.66

## APPENDIX J

## ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



## 1987-88 ANNUAL REPORT

## Budget allocation 1987/88

The Authority budget is structured in terms of five major sub-programs: program support; policy and scientific services; country operations; metropolitan operations and mobile sources.

The following tables detail the allocation of revenue to each sub-program together with details of special projects.

	Program Support	Policy and Scientific Services	Country Operations	Metropolitan Operations	Mobile Sources	Totals
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Salaries</b>	2144000	1438000	1126832	2225470	562798	7497100
<b>Operating</b>						
Publicity	111000	-	-	-	-	111000
EDP	29500	165500	8000	6000	5000	214000
Laboratory services	50000	278100	118500	72000	34570	553170
Control & mgmt	-	26268	133040	51525	22185	233018
Payment to State Labs	-	610000	1500	9000	-	620500
Other support	751982	-	-	-	-	751982
<b>Sub-Program Totals</b>	<b>3086482</b>	<b>2517868</b>	<b>1387872</b>	<b>2363995</b>	<b>624553</b>	<b>9980770</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>			\$			
Western Suburbs Regional Action Plan			56340			
Works and services			212000			
Capital equipment replacement program			550000			
Environment Council			7000			
Newport Plume Tracking/Hydrocarbon Study			36782			
Research and other projects			67714			
Clean up-costs associated with Butlers						
Transport fire			78000			
Bayside Sandridge clean-up			250000			
Vehicle emission project			2000			
Melton tip site clean-up			15462			
<b>Total</b>			<b>1275298</b>			

## Summary of revenue and expenditure

Source	1986/87	1987/88
Licence fees	2790687.32	2652504.00
Waste transport permits	55178.00	53185.00
Works approval appln fees	88900.00	112173.00
Sale of carrier certificate	2167.20	25764.00
Copies of licences	551.05	-
Certificate of compliance	1350.00	2550.00
Court costs	45734.51	28444.00
On the spot fines	-	*17740.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2984568.08</b>	<b>2892360.00</b>

\*Commenced 1.1.88



## 1988-89 ANNUAL REPORT

**N Summary of Expenditure**

Item	1987/88	1988/89
Salaries & associated costs	7 408 687.24	7 940 297.17
General expenses	2 586 614.96	2 736 552.00
Environment Council	7 000.00	7 315.00
Newport plume tracking/hydrogen study	36 532.00	50 842.00
Works & services	204 685.08	226 479.52
Capital equipment replacement program	472 229.35	492 615.33
Research & other projects	30 000.00	29 950.00
Western suburbs regional action plan	26 933.94	8 409.78
Clean up costs associated with Butlers transport pipe	15 396.00	—
Co-ordinated salinity control	13 000.00	—
Nutrient study	24 714.28	20 525.40
Bayside Sandridge clean-up	250 000.00	—
Vehicle emission project	2 000.00	4 750.00
Melton tip site clean-up	15 462.00	—
Biomedical waste disposal	—	72 336.30
Rehabilitation of contaminated sites	—	—
Halons symposium	—	28 839.38
Walpeup storage site clean-up	—	9 189.53
Chemical clean-up Laverton	—	7 502.77
Rural chemicals collection	—	145 510.36
Clean technology incentive scheme	—	500 000.00
Waste recycling	—	220 000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11 093 254.85</b>	<b>\$12 501 114.54</b>