

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Sustainability drives our vision and is essential to our business, our communities and the environment. Sustainability means being able to continuously provide water supply and wastewater services which support our customers, staff and the region, and balance economic, social and environmental outcomes.

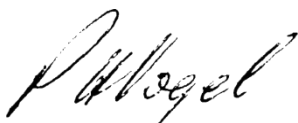
GWMWater will continually improve business practice and demonstrate regional leadership by integrating the following core sustainability principles throughout the organisation's culture and operations.

1. Water resources must be conserved and managed for sustainable use and for the benefit of present and future generations.
2. Decision making processes must be transparent, and encourage and facilitate stakeholder involvement, understanding and shared responsibility for the conservation and management of water resources.
3. Decisions must effectively integrate both long and short term economic, environmental, and social considerations.
4. The need to conserve biological diversity and ecological integrity is a fundamental consideration.
5. Where there is a threat of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty will not be used as a reason to delay preventative measures.

GWMWater will implement this policy through an ongoing Sustainability Strategy that enables compliance, proactive management of risks and innovative solutions.

GWMWater will communicate this policy to all internal and external staff, including contractors.

Approved by Board on the 14 August 2013.



Peter Vogel
Board Chairman



Mark Williams
Managing Director

1 PURPOSE

Sustainability drives our vision and is essential to our business, our communities and the environment. Sustainability means being able to continuously provide water supply and wastewater services which support our customers, staff and the region, and balance economic, social and environmental outcomes.

GWMWater will continually improve business practice and demonstrate regional leadership by integrating the following core sustainability principles throughout the organisation's culture and operations.

2 SCOPE

This policy covers all activities under GWMWater management. GWMWater will implement this policy through an ongoing Sustainability Strategy that enables compliance, proactive management of risks and innovative solutions.

GWMWater will communicate this policy to all internal and external staff, including contractors.

3 RESPONSIBILITY

All staff must act in accordance with this policy

The Executive Manager Infrastructure is responsible for the implementation, maintenance and review of this policy. The Executive Manager Infrastructure will report via the Managing Director to the Environment and Works Committee to ensure effective implementation of this policy.

Specific responsibilities are defined within the Sustainability Strategy and the Environmental Management System.

4 METHOD

4.1 Supporting Principles

- a) Preventative measures must be adopted in preference to measures to mitigate impacts or repair damage, as per the EPA waste hierarchy.
- b) Decisions should be based on a sound understanding of potential risk of damage to the environment, financial viability and stakeholder interests.
- c) Full life cycle costs must be included in the valuation of assets and services.
- d) The allocation of water resources should not exceed the capacity of natural systems.
- e) All actions must recognise the significance and diversity of our communities, landscapes and cultures.

4.1.1 GWMWater is committed through its Strategic Directions 2013-18 to:

- a) Developing strong partnerships for regional growth
- b) Providing services and making investments that stimulate regional growth and enhance liveability
- c) Establishing benchmarks for efficiency and productive business practices by managing our assets through their lifecycle
- d) Being efficient with our use of natural resources
- e) Embedding environmental considerations into our decision making.
- f) Partnering with others to maintain and improve the condition of the region's natural resources
- g) Facilitating the sharing of the region's water resources to achieve multiple benefits

4.1.2 To achieve this GWMWater will:

- a) Continually integrate the principles of sustainability in all areas of the business.
- b) Utilise the Sustainability Strategy, Energy and Greenhouse Strategy, ISO14001-2004 based Environmental Management System and other tools to develop and manage appropriate objectives, targets and programs.
- c) Comply with applicable legal requirements and other requirements to which the organisation subscribes which relate to its sustainability aspects.
- d) Continually develop and implement measures of sustainable performance and report on performance against these measures.
- e) Monitor and participate in the development of legislation and state policies and discussion papers which may affect our obligations.
- f) Advise staff of their responsibilities, promote awareness and understanding of sustainability and environmental issues to employees.
- g) Ensure all staff (including contractors) have the skills and commitment to exercise due diligence in the management of sustainable risks.
- h) Promote responsible sustainable management by customer groups and the community.
- i) Ensure that decisions and actions allow for effective contribution by government and non-government agencies, customer groups and other interested parties.
- j) Display this policy at all GWMWater sites and communicate this policy to all staff and the public.

5 RELATED LEGISLATION

Key legislation includes:

- a) Water Act 1989
- b) Water Industry Act 1994
- c) Water Governance Act 2006
- d) Environment Protection Act 1970
- e) Planning and Environment Act 1987
- f) Environment Effects Act 1978
- g) Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- h) Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
- i) Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

- j) Health Act 1958
- k) Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)
- l) Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)

A complete list of related legislation is provided in the Environmental Management System.

6 RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- a) CMS Policy
- b) Sustainability Principles Statement
- c) Sustainability Framework
- d) Sustainability Strategy
- e) Energy and Greenhouse Strategy
- f) Environmental Management Systems
- g) Risk Management Policy
- h) Alternative Wastewater Systems
- i) Bulk Water Wastewater Supply
- j) Occupational Health and Safety

7 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- a) Commitment and implementation of sustainable methodology into all aspects of GWMWater divisions.
- b) Implementation of the Sustainability Policy through strategic documents and management systems.
- c) Continual improvement of operational standards and sustainable environmental performance.
- d) Increased awareness and implementation of sustainability actions in our business, and external influences.

8 DOCUMENTATION

- a) AS/NZ ISO14001 - Environmental Management Systems - Specification with guidance for use.
- b) Statement of Obligations GWMWater;
 - i. Section 6 - Guiding Principles, and
 - ii. Section 25 - Sustainability Management.