

## Environmental Policy

### 1. Overview

#### 1.1 At a glance

Sydney Water recognises the importance of maintaining a high standard of environmental care while providing essential and sustainable water and wastewater services that meet our customer needs.

We will reduce adverse impacts from our operations to protect the environment and fulfil our compliance obligations. We aspire to continually improve our environmental performance in ways that are commercially responsible and valued by our customers.

#### 1.2 Scope

This policy applies to all Sydney Water staff and contractors, and covers all aspects of our business including property acquisitions and disposals and the planning, construction, operation, maintenance of systems and services for water, wastewater, recycled water and stormwater throughout our area of operations.

#### 1.3 Objective

This policy defines our commitment to protect the environment and guides us to achieve the following outcomes:

- identify, assess and manage environmental risks
- fulfil relevant environmental compliance obligations
- protect the environment by delivering our services in compliance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, as required by the *Sydney Water Act 1994*
- continually improve in our environmental performance
- ensure our resilience to future environmental challenges.

Under this policy we strive to:

- reduce the impact of our discharges to the environment
- minimise environmental impacts from our use of energy, water and other substances by exploring appropriate technology and practices to reuse, recycle and recover valuable resources
- responsibly manage waste and minimise waste creation where possible
- restore, maintain and where possible, enhance our natural and heritage assets.

## 2. Policy in detail

Sydney Water is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment now and in the future.

Under this policy we will:

- proactively engage and partner with stakeholders, customers and community to achieve positive environmental outcomes and build their values into our environmental management decisions
- provide a supportive culture by embracing signature behaviours that contribute to sustainable and improved environmental outcomes
- require staff and contractors to operate in an environmentally responsible manner and provide environmental awareness and training, as appropriate
- apply a risk management approach to minimise adverse environmental impacts, while maximising opportunities to enhance customer value in a commercially responsible way
- plan for and respond to disruptive events and unforeseen impacts to minimise environmental harm
- take an innovative approach to enable us to be resilient to future environmental challenges
- make procurement decisions that are sustainable
- strive to continually improve our environmental performance through the Sydney Water Environmental Management System (EMS) and independently certify it against the international ISO14001 standard
- comply with all applicable legal, contractual and internal environmental obligations including associated standards, policies and procedures
- make transparent decisions, act with integrity, be quality driven, and communicate our environmental requirements and performance to stakeholders
- seek to outperform environmental regulatory requirements where customers expect us to and we can do so in a commercially responsible way.

## 3. Definitions

Term	Definition	Source
Compliance obligations	Legal requirements that Sydney Water has to comply with and other requirements that Sydney Water has to or chooses to comply with.	ISO14001:2015
Continual improvement	Recurring activity to enhance performance. Enhancing performance relates to the use of the EMS to enhance environmental performance consistent with this policy.	ISO14001:2015
Ecologically sustainable development	The effective integration of social, economic and environmental considerations in decision making processes. Referred to in this policy as 'sustainable'. Ecologically sustainable development can be achieved through the implementation of the principles and programs outlined in Section 6 (2) of the <i>Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991</i> as required by the <i>Sydney Water Act 1994</i> .	Section 6 (2) of the <i>Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991</i>