

Environmental Policy

PEV-001
Revision 02

1 Background

ISO 14001:2004 specifies requirements for environmental management systems to enable organisations to formulate policies and objectives. An environmental policy establishes the principles of action for the Corporation. It sets the level of environmental responsibility and performance required of the Corporation against which all subsequent actions will be judged. The policy should be appropriate to the environmental aspects of the Corporation's activities, products and services (within the defined scope of the environmental management system) and shall guide the setting of objectives and targets.

2 Purpose

The environmental policy describes the overall intentions and direction of the Corporation related to its environmental performance. The environmental policy provides a framework for action and for the setting of its environmental objectives and environmental targets.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this policy only, the following shall mean:

Continual improvement: recurring process of enhancing the environmental management system to achieve improvements in overall environmental performance consistent with the organisation's environmental policy

Environment: surroundings in which an organisation operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelation

Environmental aspect: element of an organisation's activities or products or services that can interact with the environment

Environmental impact: any change to the environment whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organisation's environmental aspects

Environmental management system: part of an organisation's management system used to develop and implement its environmental policy and manage its environmental impacts

(definitions derived from ISO 14001:2004, Terms and definitions)

4 Policy

The Corporation's objective is to protect the environment by conducting all operations in accordance with the principles of its policies and procedures, Environmental Management System, operating licences and environmental legislation and regulations.

In making this commitment, the Corporation:

- a) Recognises that, in addition to supporting the social and economic values that have helped make South Gippsland popular and prosperous, it must also do its part to protect the environmental interests of the area;
- b) Will ensure that the extraction, storage, treatment and distribution of potable water is undertaken with due consideration for our important natural assets and that the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater is managed in an environmentally safe and sustainable manner;
- c) Will make all reasonable efforts to minimise the environmental impacts associated with our activities by endeavouring to operate in accordance with Best Practice protocols that will enable us to meet our environmental obligations;
- d) Comply with relevant legislation, industry standards and internal commitments and other requirements that relate to our environmental aspects;
- e) Is committed to continual improvement in environmental performance and prevention of pollution.

The policy is underpinned by our environmental management system which provides the foundation for the management of our environmental aspects.

The environmental policy is the driver for implementing and improving the Corporation's environmental management system so that it can maintain and improve its environmental performance. It forms the basis upon which the Corporation sets its objectives and targets and reflects its commitment to comply with applicable legal requirements.

The display version of this environmental policy is proudly displayed at South Gippsland Water facilities (and is attached to this policy) and is communicated to all persons working for or on our behalf during induction or contract proceedings. The policy is available to the public upon request or via the South Gippsland Water website.

The Board and senior management of South Gippsland Water fully support the development and implementation of the environmental management system through on-going commitment and leadership.

5 Responsibilities

Senior Management and the Corporation Board is responsible for implementing this policy and for providing input to the formulation and modification of the policy.

The **Wastewater Trade Waste EMS Coordinator** is responsible for the review and revision of the environmental policy.

The Human Resources Officer is responsible for introducing the policy to all new permanent, part-time and temporary personnel as part of induction proceedings.

The Projects Manager is responsible for ensuring that all contractors are aware of and that their activities are consistent with the content and intent of this policy.

Area Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that operational activities are consistent with the content and intent of the policy.

All Corporation staff is responsible for ensuring that their duties are consistent with the content and intent of the policy.

6 References

AS/NZS ISO 14001:2004, environmental management systems – Requirements with guidance for use

AS/NZS ISO 14004:2004, Environmental management systems – General guidelines on principles, systems and support techniques

SEV-001 Environmental Management System – Scope

This policy is to be reviewed in April 2010 or earlier as required.
This document must not be released to external parties without approval by the Managing Director.

DOCUMENT REVIEW & APPROVAL		
SMT Review:	Meeting N ^o : 195	Date: 03/03/2008
Board Approval:	Meeting N ^o : 158	Date: 24/04/2008
MD Signature:		

The Corporation's objective is to protect the environment by conducting its operations in accordance with the principles of its policies and procedures, Environmental Management System, operating licences and environmental legislation and regulations.

In making this commitment, the Corporation:

- a) recognises that, in addition to supporting the social and economic values that have helped make South Gippsland popular and prosperous, it must also do its part to protect the environmental interests of the area;
- b) will ensure that the extraction, storage, treatment and distribution of potable water is undertaken with due consideration for our important natural assets and that the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater is managed in an environmentally safe and sustainable manner;
- c) will make all reasonable efforts to minimise the environmental impacts associated with our activities by endeavouring to operate in accordance with Best Practice protocols that will enable us to meet our environmental obligations;
- d) comply with relevant legislation, industry standards and internal commitments and other requirements that relate to our environmental aspects;
- e) is committed to continual improvement in environmental performance and prevention of pollution.

This policy is underpinned by an environmental management system which provides the foundation for the management of our environmental aspects.

The environmental policy is the driver for implementing and improving the Corporation's environmental management system so that it can maintain and improve its environmental performance. It forms the basis upon which the Corporation sets its objectives and targets and reflects its commitment to comply with applicable legal requirements.

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South Gippsland Water
14-16 Pioneer Street
PO Box 102
Foster, Victoria 3960
(03) 5682 1222

or: www.sgwater.com.au

The Board and senior management of South Gippsland Water fully support the development and implementation of the environmental management system through on-going commitment and leadership.

Llew Vale - Chairman

Date

Steve Evans - Managing Director

Date