

## 1 Purpose

The environment and sustainability policy describes the overall intentions and direction of the Corporation related to its environmental performance. It provides a framework for action and for the setting of its environmental and sustainability objectives and targets. This policy not only articulates South Gippsland Water's requirements to meet ISO 14001:2015 but also its commitment to a broader sustainability agenda.

South Gippsland Water has made a commitment to sustainability as part of its Corporate Sustainability Strategy 2013. An environment and sustainability 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. ISO 14001:2015 specifies requirements for environmental management systems to enable organisations to formulate policies and objectives. South Gippsland Water has also considered the State Government's Water for Victoria plan which aims to manage water to support a healthy environment, a prosperous economy and thriving communities, now and into the future.

## 2 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 environment and sustainability policy.

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

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

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

**Environment management system:** part of an organisation's management system used to manage environmental aspects, fulfil compliance obligations, and address risks and opportunities.

*(Definitions derived from ISO 14001:2015, Terms and definitions).*

**Sustainability:** creating a balance between the environment, social issues and economics, in order to meet the needs of the present, without compromising the needs of future generations.

## 3 Policy

### 3.1 Policy Statement

The Corporation's objective is to protect the environment by conducting all operations in accordance with the principles of its policies, strategies, procedures, environment 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 the region's natural ecosystems, and that the collection, treatment, reuse and disposal of wastewater is managed in an environmentally safe and sustainable manner;
- c) Will comply with relevant legislation, industry standards and internal commitments and other requirements that relate to our environmental aspects;
- d) Is committed to continual improvement in environmental performance and prevention of pollution;
- e) Will seek to identify efficiency measures and sustainable practices in the planning stage for all capital works and maintenance programs;
- f) Will seek to manage the urban water cycle in an integrated and innovative way to improve the resilience and liveability of the region, including through recycled water use;
- g) Will effectively plan and adapt to climate variability, including but not limited to seeking to become carbon neutral by achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;
- h) Recognises the recreational values of its assets;
- i) Recognises traditional owners and their values.

## 3.2 Principles

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

The environment and sustainability 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.

This policy can be found on the South Gippsland Water Intranet 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 environment management system through on-going commitment and leadership.

## 4 Responsibilities

**Corporation Board:** is responsible for monitoring of the formation and implementation of this policy.

**Senior Management:** is responsible for providing input to the formulation, modification and implementation of the policy.

**Environment and Wastewater Manager:** is responsible for the review and revision of policy, and introducing the policy to all new permanent, part-time and temporary personnel as part of environmental induction proceedings.

**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.

**Team Leaders:** are responsible for ensuring that operational activities are consistent with the content and intent of the policy.

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

## 5 References

AS/NZS ISO 14001:2015, Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with guidance for use

AS/NZS ISO 14004:2015, Environmental Management Systems – General guidelines on principles, systems and support techniques

State Government Water for Victoria Discussion Paper

[PFI-002 Purchasing Policy](#)

[SCEV-001 Environmental Management System - Scope Procedure](#)

[SEV-001 Elements of the Environmental Management System \(EMS\) Procedure](#)

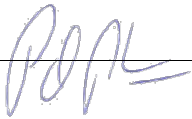
[SEV-001b Environmental Objectives, Targets and Programmes Procedure](#)

[SEV-001e Communication of Environmental Information Procedure](#)

[SEV-001h Environmental Management System Auditing Procedure](#)

[NWR-025 Water Supply Catchment Development and Land Use Guidelines Information](#)

This document is to be reviewed in **May 2022** or earlier as required.  
This document must not be released to external parties without approval by the  
Managing Director.

DOCUMENT APPROVAL		
Board Approval:	Meeting No.: 293	Date: 28/05/2020
Engagement and Planning Committee:	Meeting No.: 10	Date: 22/04/2020
Senior Management Approval:	Meeting No.: 603	Date: 14/08/2019
Managing Director Signature:		

*Notify Community Relations Officer when revised for external publishing*

# Environmental and Sustainability Policy



## ***“Committed to Responsible Environmental Management”***

The Corporation’s objective is to protect the environment by conducting its operations in a sustainable manner, in accordance with the principles of its policies and procedures, environment management system, operating licenses 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 the region’s natural ecosystems and that the collection, treatment, reuse and disposal of wastewater is managed in an environmentally safe and sustainable manner;
- c) Will comply with relevant legislation, industry standards and internal commitments and other requirements that relate to our environmental aspects;
- d) Is committed to continual improvement in environmental performance and prevention of pollution;
- e) Will seek to identify efficiency measures and sustainable practices in the planning stage for all capital works and maintenance programs;
- f) Will seek to manage the urban water cycle in an integrated and innovative way to improve the resilience and liveability of the region, including through recycled water use;
- g) Will effectively plan and adapt to climate variability, including seeking to become carbon neutral by achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;
- h) Will seek to become carbon neutral by achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;
- i) Recognises the recreational values of its assets;
- j) Recognises the traditional owners and their values.

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

The environment and sustainability policy is the driver for implementing and improving the Corporation’s environment 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.

This policy can be found on the South Gippsland Water Intranet 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. Our contact details are –

**South Gippsland Water**  
**14-18 Pioneer Street**  
**PO Box 102 or: [www.sgwater.com.au](http://www.sgwater.com.au)**  
**Foster, Victoria 3960**  
**(03) 5682 0444**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Schultz".

28 May 2020

David Schultz - Chair

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philippe du Plessis".

28 May 2020

Philippe du Plessis - Managing Director

Date

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.