

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

OFFICIAL

1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide corporate direction to ensure South Gippsland Water is committed to continual environmental improvement through the prevention of pollution, compliance with all relevant environmental obligations, meeting our General Environmental Duty (GED), and sustaining community expectations. This policy applies to us at South Gippsland Water, and must be observed by all staff, including board members, employees, contractors, and other workers.

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.

3 Policy

3.1 Policy Statement

At South Gippsland Water we are committed to ensuring that we deliver our services in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner. We strive to protect and enhance environmental values while improving the health and wellbeing of our local community.

3.2 Principles

South Gippsland Water are committed to:

- Protecting the environment for current and future generations by promoting an employee culture of understanding and valuing environmental protection;

OFFICIAL

- Maximising resource efficiency by building in circular economy principles into our organisation by minimising the use of water, energy, waste production and pollution;
- Understanding and learning from Traditional Owner knowledge and practices through meaningful engagement;
- Making informed decisions based off the best available information and accessible scientific data;
- Planning and adapting to climate change, including but not limited achieving 100% renewably sourced electricity by 2025 and net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035;
- Complying with relevant legislation, industry standards, internal commitments and other requirements that relate to our environmental aspects;
- Preserving our region's natural assets and protecting biodiversity values;
- Taking an integrated and whole of catchment/water cycle approach that recognises and responds to our environmental reliance and impact;
- Continually improving our environmental management systems and practices, including ensuring that staff and contractors have the requisite competency, training, and awareness;
- Encouraging and participating in responsible discussions on environment issues and actively communicating with relevant community and government organisations to promote the best achievable outcomes; and
- Maintaining our Environmental Management System (EMS) certification to the standard set out in AS/NZ ISO 14001.

4 Responsibilities

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 Team: is responsible for the review and revision of the policy, and introducing the policy to all new permanent, part-time and temporary personnel as part of the environment induction proceedings.

Project 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.

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

OFFICIAL

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

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

5 References

Environment Protection Act 2017

Environment Protection Regulations 2021

AS/NZS ISO 14001:2016 Amd 1:2024 (Amendment), Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with guidance for use

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

This document is to be reviewed in **February 2027** 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.: 342	Date: 19/02/2025
Resilience Environment and Delivery Committee:	Meeting No.: 08	Date: 27/02/2025
Managing Director Signature:	N/A	