

Environmental Policy

Policy

SRW shall demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development and the protection of Southern Victoria's environment by;

- recognising the inherent impacts of our established assets and the regulated nature of water delivery;
- understanding the need to balance social, economic and environmental values in our everyday operations, future modernisation and improvement works; and
- complying with all relevant legislation and continually improving our practices. In particular, we will seek to prevent or minimise:
 - Resource and energy consumption
 - Greenhouse gas emissions
 - Waste generation and pollution
 - Adverse waterway impacts
 - Adverse biodiversity impacts
- responding to the challenges of climate change with due consideration of mitigation and future adaptation measures, having regard to economic and social impacts

Where possible, we seek to:

- Enhance environmental conditions and
- Improve water use efficiency.

We will achieve this by:

- Maintaining an Environmental Management System (EMS) consistent with AS/NZS ISO 14001
- Maintaining a Sustainability Strategy with objectives and targets
- Maintaining relationships with customers, stakeholders and agencies to facilitate coordinated approaches to environmental issues
- Reporting SRW's environmental performance internally and externally

Reporting

- SRW will prepare and deliver an Annual Report including environmental performance data to DELWP.
- Updates on environmental issues and EMS implementation will be provided at SRW Health, Safety and Environment Committee

meetings.

- SRW will report environmental performance annually as required to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Environmental Indicators Survey.
- The Manager Sustainability will report annually to the SRW Board on performance against our Sustainability Strategy objectives and targets.
- Environmental incidents shall be managed and reported through the EMS or by the relevant existing plan (e.g. Blue Green Algae Incident Management Plan). The Corporate Incident Management Plan will be activated as appropriate.

Definitions

AS/NZS ISO 14001 - International Standard for Environmental Management Systems

DELWP – Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Effective date and review date

This policy takes effect on 2 February 2016.

It is due for board review in August 2020.

Who is affected

This policy applies to all Southern Rural Water staff and contractors.

Rationale

Southern Rural Water's vision is to boost Southern Victoria's food, fibre and regional productivity through outstanding rural water management.

This policy has been developed to state SRW's ongoing commitment to managing its business in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner.

Contact

For more information please contact the Manager Sustainability

Related documents

- SRW's Environmental Management System
 - SRW's Sustainability Strategy
 - SRW's Statement of Obligations
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Communications

This policy will be made available on SRW's external website and internal Wiki.
