

Policy – Environmental Policy

Policy

SRW shall demonstrate its commitment to providing sustainable water resources 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,
- 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 and impacts of climate change with due consideration of mitigation and adaption measures, having regard to economic and social impacts.

We will seek to identify and achieve real environmental improvements and outcomes. We will achieve this by:

- Maintaining an Environmental Management System (EMS) consistent with AS/NZS ISO 14001,
- Identifying objectives and targets and embedding these in SRW's Corporate Strategy, subordinate plans and operations,
- Building and maintaining relationships with customers, stakeholders and agencies to facilitate coordinated approaches to environmental issues,
- Reporting SRW's environmental performance internally and externally.

Definitions

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

DELWP – Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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 and to the General Manager Assets and Environment.

- SRW will report environmental performance annually as required by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Environmental Indicators Survey.
- The Manager Environment and Climate Adaptation will report annually to the SRW Board on performance against our Sustainability Strategy objectives and targets.
- Environmental incidents or breaches of environmental legislation will be reported internally and externally as appropriate and according to SRW's Environmental Management System, emergency procedures and legislated obligations.

Effective date and review date This policy takes effect on 1 September 2020.
It is due for management review in August 2022 and board review in September 2022.

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

Rationale 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 Environment.

- Related documents**
- SRW's Corporate Strategy
 - SRW's Environmental Management System
 - SRW's Statement of Obligations
 - Letter of Expectations
 - SRW's Zero 2025 Emissions Pledge
 - SRW's Risk Appetite Statement
 - SRW's Climate Change Adaptation Plan

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