



Policy

Commitment

As a resource steward SRW recognises the potential impacts of conducting its business and understands the need to balance social, economic, environmental and cultural values in everything we do.

SRW will demonstrate environmental leadership by going beyond compliance in areas aligned to our Corporate Strategy, protecting and enhancing the environment and setting aspirational targets for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In enacting this Policy, we respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and waters and the deep and ongoing connection Aboriginal people have to Country.

Objectives

SRW shall demonstrate its commitment to providing sustainable water resources and the protection of Southern Victoria's environment. We will:

- Meet and exceed relevant legislative requirements:
 - o Maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) consistent with AS/NZS ISO 14001.
 - o Take a risk-based, proactive approach to the prevention of harm to the environment in line with the General Environmental Duty.
- Take action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change:
 - o Meet net zero carbon emissions and 100% renewable energy targets
 - o Integrate climate change adaptation into planning and decision making across the business including how we manage source waters and assets to reduce vulnerability.
 - o Embed adaptation and mitigation into processes, systems and training.
- Demonstrate leadership:
 - o Empower staff to take ownership and responsibility for matters relating to environmental management and climate change.
 - o Apply the best available data and science to inform decision making.
 - o Align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (where appropriate).
 - o Consider sustainable procurement opportunities to use circular economy principles and meet emissions target..
- Deliver enhanced environmental outcomes through partnerships:
 - o Protect and enhance water quality, waterways and biodiversity including working with the Victorian Environment Water Holder, Catchment Management Authorities and Melbourne Water to manage water for the environment.
 - o Build and maintain relationships with customers, stakeholders and agencies to facilitate coordinated approaches to environmental and climate change issues.

Definitions	AS/NZS ISO 14001 - International Standard for Environmental Management Systems DELWP – Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Responsibilities	• The board is responsible for approval of the policy and overseeing the environment and climate change reporting framework • . • The Executive Leadership Team is responsible for incorporating our environmental and climate change responsibilities into business processes and operational activities consistent with this Policy. • Managers and Team Leaders are responsible for promoting, directing, empowering and supporting employees in adhering to the requirements consistent with this Policy. • All employees are responsible for understanding their requirements outlined in the EMS and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plans in delivering their activities
Reporting	• SRW will prepare and deliver an Annual Report including environmental performance data to DELWP. • The Manager Environment and Climate Adaptation will report annually to the SRW Board on performance against our Environment and Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Strategic Risks, Climate Change Adaptation Plan and Climate Change Mitigation Plan. • Environmental incidents or non-compliance with 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 6 September 2022. Due for management review in August 2024 and board review in September 2024.
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 demonstrating leadership and managing its business in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner.
Contact	For more information contact the Manager Environment and Climate Adaptation.
Related documents	• SRW's Corporate Strategy • SRW's Environmental Management System • SRW's Statement of Obligations and Letter of Expectations • SRW's Climate Change Risk Strategic Risk • SRW's Environmental and Cultural Heritage Damage Strategic Risk • SRW's Climate Change Adaptation Plan • SRW's Climate Change Mitigation Plan • SRW's Traditional Owner Policy
Communications	This policy will be made available on SRW's website and internal Source