



Community and Environment Policy

Scope

This policy governs Hunter Water's approach to managing its impacts on the environment and its responsibilities to the community for all Hunter Water activities and operations.

Policy Statement

Hunter Water Corporation is a State Owned Corporation and the water and wastewater service provider for over half a million people in the lower Hunter Region. Services include construction, operation, management and maintenance of systems for the supply of drinking water, collection and treatment of wastewater, the provision of recycled water and stormwater services.

Hunter Water is committed to:

- Adopting and promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals across our region
- Protecting and restoring the natural environment
- Ensuring reliable supply of drinking water with minimal environmental impacts
- Enabling the sustainable growth of the region and the services our communities desire
- Undertaking measures to prevent pollution and minimise or mitigate any adverse impacts operational activities may have on the community and environment
- Using resources efficiently, minimising waste and mitigating greenhouse gas impacts
- Improving operational resilience to extreme weather events and the challenges of climate change
- Understanding and responding to our customer, consumer and community needs and expectations

Application of Policy

Hunter Water will achieve this by:

- Balancing of economic, social and environmental goals to deliver the best outcomes now and for future generations
- Developing decision making processes that allow us to have meaningful and informed engagement with our community and stakeholders and gain their support for our decisions
- Encouraging innovation and sustainable solutions to allow continual improvement
- Contributing to sustainability and environmental awareness in the community
- Fulfilling the requirements of the Operating Licence
- Complying with applicable legislation and other relevant requirements
- Communicating this policy to all personnel and relevant stakeholders
- Making our employees accountable for the implementation of this policy
- Adopting an open and transparent approach to sharing information about our performance

Hunter Water's Environmental Management System and other business systems will provide the framework for developing, implementing, monitoring and reviewing our objectives, actions and targets in relation to our commitment to the community and the environment.

This policy will be made available on the Hunter Water intranet and website. It will be reviewed in accordance with Corporate procedures to ensure that it remains relevant to Hunter Water and the broader community's needs. This policy applies to all Hunter Water employees, contractors and consultants.

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Associated Regulations and Standards

Requirements for an environmental policy are outlined in the international standard: ISO 14001 Environmental management systems—Requirements with guidance for use; and ISO 14004 Environmental management systems—General guidelines on principles, systems and support techniques.

Terms, acronyms and definitions

Term	Definition
Greenhouse gas mitigation	Reducing the amount of greenhouse gases produced by the business through, for example, energy efficiency initiatives or renewable energy generation.
Greenhouse gases	Greenhouse gases are gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range. The primary greenhouse gases associated with the water industry are water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and sulphur hexafluoride.
ISO	International Standards Organisation
Operating Licence	The Operating Licence is issued by IPART. The licence enables and requires Hunter Water to lawfully provide water and wastewater services within its area of operations. The current Operating Licence extends to 2022.
Sustainability	A definition of sustainability in the context of the Australian Water Industry has been adopted as follows: "Understanding the long term independence between natural and financial capital with the objective of protecting and enhancing environmental capital so as to ensure maximum long term economic value to the community" Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) – Vision for a Sustainable Urban Water Future.

Signed: _____

Managing Director

Approved by:	Board	Approved date:	November 2018
Maintained by:	Manager Environment & Sustainability	Next scheduled review:	November 2021
File reference:	HW2012-738/6	Version:	4.0

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