

# Environment Policy

Version No	V4
Approved By	Board
Approval Date	14 December 2021
Next Review Date	December 2024

## Purpose

Westernport Water aims to be a more environmentally sustainable organisation through minimising environmental impacts, mitigating and adapting to climate change, protecting and enhancing our environment as well as empowering the community to use water in a sustainable manner.

## Scope

This policy applies to all employees of Westernport Water and contractors or consultants working on behalf of Westernport Water.

## Policy Application

This policy aims to build awareness and motivate employees and all persons working for or on behalf of Westernport Water so they are aware of the importance of the policy, the significant actual or potential environmental impacts of their work activities and the consequence of departures from applicable environmental standards or controls. All staff receive an induction to the Environmental Management System (EMS) and principles and procedures that are used by responsible staff in Westernport Water's contract management system and site inductions and audits.

This policy is supported by an EMS based on the AS14001:2015 Environment Management Standard.

## Applicable legislation, regulation and standards

Westernport Water's Environment Policy responds to the WPW's governing bodies' requirements and the principles of good corporate governance.

- The following documents must be considered when editing this policy. AS14001:2015 Environment Management
- *Environment Protection Act 2017*, (as amended by the *Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018*) and underpinned by the General Environmental Duty (GED)
- Minister for Water Letter of Expectations released in March 2018

Any changes made to this document are to be reflected in and aligned to:

- Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy 2017-22
- Climate Change Strategy 2017-2022,
- Reconciliation Action Plan, and the
- Procurement Policy

## Policy Statement

Westernport Water operates within a unique natural environment and we understand that the sustainability of our communities relies on a resilient and healthy environment. We will protect the environment by minimising our environmental impact and seeking opportunities to enhance environmental outcomes wherever possible.

Westernport Water will:

- meet the requirements specified in AS14001:2015 Environment Management and align our business with an effective, continuously improving EMS that will assist us to manage the impacts of our activities on the environment;
- minimise impacts of our activities on the environment by preventing pollution through strong and comprehensive environmental management procedures. Where pollution prevention is not possible we will avoid, reduce and control pollution through best practice design and planning;
- continue to operate our assets within our given licence conditions, striving to reduce the impact of our treated wastewater discharges over time;
- ensure staff, contractors and suppliers working for and on behalf of Westernport Water strive for excellence in environmental management;
- meet the organisation’s applicable environmental legal requirements and other obligations, including the new General Environmental Duty (GED) of the *Environment Protection Act (2017)* (as amended by the Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018) which requires duty holders including our organisation to prevent harm to the environment;
- respond to climate change by implementing actions to mitigate our climate change impact by reducing emissions and planning and adapting to a changing climate seeking carbon offsets with net positive environment and social outcomes;
- inform our community on this environmental policy, our environmental initiatives and our environmental performance to ensure continuous improvement and to meet our customer and stakeholder’s expectations;
- work with stakeholders and partners on sustainable solutions to regional environmental issues, including the Traditional Owners, the Bunurong Land Council to promote and preserve the cultural heritage and natural resources of area; and
- utilise the waste hierarchy to ensure we make sustainable business decisions and maximize the efficient use of natural resources in our day to day activities.

## **Review Date**

This policy is to be reviewed every three years and approved by the Board. The Policy will continue until replaced by a later version or rescinded.

## **Responsible Officer**

Policy Owner – General Manager, Assets and Operations

Responsible Policy Officer – Manager Environment & Product Quality