

# Environment Policy

---

## Purpose

To manage Melbourne Water's activities, maximising net environmental benefits to society and promoting a sustainable water future.

## Scope

This Policy is consistent with Melbourne Water's *Strategic Framework - Working together to ensure a sustainable water future* and it applies to Melbourne Water employees and contractors where appropriate.

## Definitions

Natural Environment - The natural surroundings of Melbourne Water activities including plants, animals and the habitats they exist in.

## Risk considerations

Natural Environment is a business focus area for Melbourne Water. Some environmental risks are managed through regulated requirements and some are not. Melbourne Water will address both types of risk in the performance of its role.

## Background

Melbourne Water's Environment Policy supports the *Strategic Framework*. The Framework formalises Melbourne Water's commitment to a sustainable water future and links our programs to relevant Government policy platforms such as *Melbourne 2030* and *Our Environment Our Future*.

## Community and external stakeholder consultation

There has been no community or external consultation on this policy. However significant external consultation with stakeholders has taken place on the Strategic Framework.

## Policy statement

The following goals from the Strategic Framework will be used to direct activity:

- Protect Melbourne's existing water resources through sustainable catchment management practices
- Secure water supplies for current and future generations by developing new, alternative and diverse water resources
- Increase water resource efficiency
- Improve environmental outcomes from all aspects of the business
- Respond to climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures
- Improve the health and amenity of waterways and marine environments
- Conserve and improve biodiversity and ecosystems

- Deliver safe sewage transfer, treatment and disposal
- Minimise waste disposal and maximise resource efficiency
- Embrace sustainable work practices and behaviours
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders and strengthen relationships


Strategies, performance measures and key performance indicators are detailed in Melbourne Water's three-year *Corporate Plan* which is reviewed on an annual basis. The *Water Plan* summarises outcomes and actions Melbourne Water will deliver over the pricing period. Current environmental actions and outcomes include the following:

Environmental actions and outcomes	Target date
100 % compliance with statutory and agreed environmental requirements	Continuously
Maintain certification to ISO14001:2004, the international Environmental Management Standard	Continuously
Maintain certification of the Integrated Sewage Quality Management System to ISO22000:2005	Continuously
Eliminate non-compliant wet weather sewage spills	2012
No spills due to sewerage system operational failure	Continuously
Implement Melbourne Water's biodiversity strategy	Continuously
Implement Melbourne Water's Native Vegetation Management guidelines	Continuously
Develop a Waste Management Strategy	2010
Operate water supply system within environmental requirements	Continuously
Implement the Greenhouse and Energy Strategy and:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions</li> </ul>	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet all energy needs from renewable sources</li> </ul>	2018
Construct wetlands to reduce the nitrogen load to Port Phillip Bay by 106 tonnes	2013
No offensive odour from any Melbourne Water site	2013
Capacity to supply recycled water to meet retail water company targets for potable water substitution	Continuously

Use a cumulative total of 90,000 cubic meters of Biosolids from Eastern Treatment Plant for construction fill	2013
To have 50% of rivers and creeks in good or excellent condition (as measured by the Index of River Condition)	2015
Encourage the implementation of best-practice storm water performance objectives for urban development	Continuously
Achieve 2008 Waterways Water Plan implementation targets set out in the Operating Charter for Waterways	Continuously

Performance on progress in achieving our goals, outcomes and actions is reported in Melbourne Water's *Annual Report*.

### References/Related documents

[Strategic Framework - Working together to ensure a sustainable water future](#)  (PDF 839kb)

Environment and Public Health Management System Manual

Specific procedures required to implement policy are included in management systems, strategies, plans, procedures, guidelines and other instructions

2008 Waterways Water Plan

Melbourne Water 2009 Water Plan

Sustainable management principles for water corporations (CI 93 *Water Act 1989*)

*Version 8 (August 2009)*