



Environment and Climate Change Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Gippsland Water is committed to demonstrating leadership and empowering our staff to responsibly manage the environmental and climate change impacts of its operations.

Gippsland Water acknowledges the potential impacts that a changing climate may have on its services, and assets and customers.

Gippsland Water is dedicated to operating within the following sustainable management principles. Gippsland Water will:

- Ensure natural resources in Gippsland Water's care are managed for the benefit of present and future generations;
- Consider the conservation of biological diversity and ecological health in the management of natural resources;
- Meet the challenges of a changing climate through both mitigation and adaptation;
- Focus on minimising energy use and greenhouse gas emissions to reduce environmental impacts of operations;
- Engage with customers, the community and stakeholders to achieve sustainable water and waste management practices, by integrating long and short-term economic, environmental, and social considerations into decision making processes; and
- Take action to prevent pollution and mitigate environmental damage in all circumstances.

This means Gippsland Water will:

- Operate in accordance with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations, licences, permits and approvals, including voluntary standards and commitments undertaken;
- Work with suppliers and contractors to manage the environmental impacts of the goods and services they provide to Gippsland Water; and
- Achieve sustainable outcomes from Gippsland Water's operational activities, by driving continual improvement through the Environment Management System.

This policy is a guide for Gippsland Water staff and its contractors to effectively manage environment and climate change impacts. It will aid in reducing risks to human health, prevent degradation and pollution of the environment, and foster economic development. To achieve this, environmental objectives, targets and activities will be incorporated into an Environment and Climate Change Strategic Plan that will be refreshed annually.