



# POLICY - ENVIRONMENT

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Hunter Water acknowledges the Traditional Countries of the Awabakal, Darkinjung, Geawegal, Wonnarua and Worimi peoples and the Countries on which we operate and beyond where our water flows.

We recognise and respect the cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection to the lands and waters of our Traditional Custodians and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.





## 1. Overview

### 1.1. Purpose of the Policy

Hunter Water will deliver our services in a manner that minimises our environmental footprint and produces positive environmental outcomes to our community. We are committed to delivering sustainable, resilient and valued services to our community. We will integrate sustainability principles into the way we plan and operate our business.

### 1.2. Scope of the Policy

Hunter Water Corporation is a State-Owned Corporation and the water and wastewater service provider for over six hundred thousand people in the lower Hunter Region. Our services include the supply of drinking water, collection and treatment of wastewater, the provision of recycled water and stormwater services. Planning, construction, operation and maintenance activities are undertaken across the asset life cycle. Management of large areas of land and natural assets is also an important Corporate responsibility.

This policy governs Hunter Water's approach to managing its impacts on the environment and its responsibilities to the community for Hunter Water activities, operations and services that relate to the environment. This policy applies to all of Hunter Water's People.

## 2. Policy Statement

This policy aligns with Hunter Water's value of 'Wellbeing', 'Trust' and 'Learning'.



Caring about the wellbeing of our communities and our local environment including our land and waterways ensures that we are working towards improved environmental outcomes. We are seeking to ensure we have sustainability at the core of our decision-making to improve environmental and community outcomes.



Honest and open communication with our stakeholders, customers and communities on our environmental goals and performance will help direct our environmental management actions and build trust with our stakeholders. Utilising community and customer feedback will help direct and prioritise our environmental management and community-based activities.



We have a thirst for learning and continual improvement. Collaboration and sharing of information internally and externally will enhance our own learnings within our environmental interactions and enable learning across our region to improve local environmental outcomes.

### **Hunter Water will achieve its commitments to our community and the environment by:**

- Improving liveability outcomes for our community.
- We will listen to our customers and the community to ensure they are at the heart of everything we do.
- Protecting ecosystem health and biodiversity by reducing our impacts on land and waterways.
- Protecting, restoring and enhancing our natural and heritage assets.
- Being resilient to extreme events with a strong focus on how we can adapt to the challenges of climate change into the future.
- Conserving resources and reducing waste by actively participating in the circular economy.



- Achieving net-zero emissions for scope 1 and scope 2 emissions by 2035 subject to customer support.
- Achieving an 80 per cent net reduction in scope 1 and scope 2 emissions by 2030, compared to 2005 levels, subject to customer support.
- Understanding our scope 3 emissions footprint and how we can reduce these emissions over time via our procurement decisions and engaging with our supply chain.
- Being a valued contributor to our stakeholders. We will promote sustainability and environmental awareness in the community.
- Balancing our communities' economic, social and environmental needs. We will strive to deliver the best outcomes to our customers, both now and for future generations.

**We will further meet our goals, commitments and the needs of our community and stakeholders by:**

- Fulfilling the requirements of the Operating Licence.
- Complying with applicable environmental legislation and other relevant requirements.
- Communicating this policy to all Our People and relevant stakeholders.
- Making Our People accountable for the implementation of this policy.
- Encouraging innovation and sustainable solutions to allow continual improvement.
- Adopting an option and transparent approach to sharing information about our performance.

### 3. Application of Policy

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 Hunter Water's 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.

### 4. 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. Hunter Water's Environmental Management Plan and Sustainability Strategy provide more detail in relation to how this policy statement is applied.



## 5. Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
<b>Circular economy</b>	Looking beyond the current take-make-dispose extractive industrial model, a circular economy aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources and designing waste out of the system.
<b>ISO</b>	International Standards Organisation
<b>Net zero emissions</b>	Net zero emissions refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas that is produced and the amount that's removed from the atmosphere. It can be achieved through a combination of emission reduction and emission removal.
<b>Scope 1 emissions</b>	Scope 1 emissions cover emissions that an organisation emits or controls directly. At Hunter Water scope 1 emissions are generated by fugitive emissions from wastewater treatment facilities and from fuels used by our fleet of vehicles.
<b>Scope 2 emissions</b>	Scope 2 emissions cover emissions that a company causes indirectly from electricity that is used by the business.
<b>Scope 3 emissions</b>	Scope 3 emissions includes emissions that are indirect emissions that originate within the company supply chain. It includes the embedded emissions in the products that we purchase, use and dispose of from suppliers.
<b>Operating Licence</b>	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 30 June 2027.
<b>Our People (or Hunter Water's People)</b>	For the purposes of this Policy, includes: directors, permanent employees, whether full-time or part-time, temporary or casual, consultants, individual contractors working for or on behalf of Hunter Water, employees of contractors providing services to Hunter Water, volunteers, secondees, and work experience students.
<b>Sustainability</b>	Meeting the needs of the future, without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. In the context of Hunter Water, sustainability includes consideration of social, environmental, economic and governance outcomes across the business.

Signed:

**Darren Cleary**  
Managing Director

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