

1. Purpose

Melbourne Water, owned by the Victorian Government, manages and protects our city's water supply catchments, treats and supplies drinking and recycled water, removes and treats most of Melbourne's sewage, and manages waterways and major drainage systems in the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

This aspiration and responsibility is reflected in Melbourne Water's strategic direction "Healthy People, Healthy Places, Healthy Environment", each being cornerstones of sustainability.

This Policy supports Melbourne Water's vision to enhance life and liveability across greater Melbourne and the surrounding region by creating a Healthy Environment, Healthy People and Healthy Places.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all Melbourne Water activities, staff and contractors that can impact on the environment.

3. Objectives

Melbourne Water implements environmental management by acting in a way that minimises potential impacts to the environment associated with how we do business. The harm minimisation approach is supported by our Strategic Direction and commitment to the environmental principles of the UN Global Compact.

Melbourne Water is committed to supply affordable, high-quality water, provide reliable sewerage treatment and resource recovery, manage healthy waterways, provide integrated drainage management and flood resiliency, and maintain outstanding natural community spaces. We will strive to:

- Protect the environment, prevent pollution and embed environmental sustainability into our processes
- Apply a risk based approach to how we work in reducing environmental harm and building resilience
- Maintain collaborative relationships with our customers, community and other stakeholders to protect biodiversity and establish healthy ecosystems
- Work transparently with the community, using the most up-to-date science and data to build confidence and trust in our environmental management processes
- Prepare and adapt to the challenges of climate change and urbanisation
- Comply with applicable environmental compliance obligations
- Implement, maintain and continually improve an independently certified integrated management system based on: ISO 14001, ISO 45001, ISO 9001 and ISO 22000 management system standards.

4. Principles

Environmental management at Melbourne Water is based on the Plan – Do - Check - Act methodology and is aligned to the principles of ISO 14001:2015 environmental management system standard.

5. Reporting and Monitoring

Board governance and oversight of this Policy occurs through the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee (FACC).

Implementation will be monitored and reported to FACC through a collection of reports and programs, including:

- Integrated Melbourne Water Management Review Report
- Internal IMS Assurance program (2nd line of defence)
- External Assurance program (3rd line of defence)

6. Attestation

Alignment to this Policy will be tested through the annual External Assurance program.

7. Accountability

This Policy is managed by SHEQ and governed by the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee (FACC).

8. Review

The content of this Board-approved Policy will be reviewed every two years.

9. Authorising Environment

The key compliance requirements driving the need for this Policy are listed below.

Act, Regulations and Guidance Documents
Statement of Obligations
Environment Protection Act 2017
Environment Protection Regulations 2021
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act)
Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic) (EE Act)
Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic) (FFG Act) (and the Wildlife Act 1975 (Vic))
Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) (P&E Act)
Water Act 1989 (Vic)
Water Industry Act 1994
Safe Drinking Water Act 2003

Act, Regulations and Guidance Documents
Climate Change Act 2022
Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
Essential Services Commission Act 2001
ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with guidance for use

10. Key Related Documents

Document title
Melbourne Water Strategic Direction
Public Health Policy
Quality Policy
Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy
Risk Management Policy
Drinking Water Quality Strategy
Melbourne Water Sewerage Strategy
Healthy Waterways Strategy
GOV MAN Integrated Melbourne Water

11. Document History

Date	Reviewed/ Actioned By	Version	Action
August 2024	Senior Manager Environmental Services	5	Aligned policy to the requirements of ISO 14001:2015 standard, including wording around protection of environment, pollution prevention and compliance obligations (rather than just regulatory). Responsibility for Policy changed to SHEQ. Review frequency changed from 4 years to 2 years, as requested for Board Approved Policies.
Jan 2024	Information Management	3, 4	System administration updates (no changes to document)

Date	Reviewed/ Actioned By	Version	Action
June 2022	Principal Environmental Sustainability	2	Approved by the Board. Included recommendations from CSDC May 2022 meeting, SoO clauses and final wording clarifications.
December 2021	Principal Environmental Sustainability	1	Draft for CSDC (Replacing Environmental Stewardship Policy)