

# Environmental Policy

## Purpose

Urban Utilities is a service provider of drinking water, recycled water and sewerage services to over 1.4 million customers in the local government areas of Brisbane, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and Somerset. Urban Utilities ensures that the drinking water it provides is safe and clean and that wastewater is treated to environmental standards.

In support of its purpose - *enrich quality of life* - Urban Utilities recognises the need to be an *environmental leader* - both now and into the future.

We recognise the important relationship between the health and well-being of the communities we serve and the health and well-being of the environment in which we operate.

We actively seek to challenge ourselves, and industry thinking to develop lasting solutions to the environmental issues that come with supporting our fast growing communities.

As an organisation that thinks about the future and acts accordingly - we are actively identifying opportunities to maximise the potential of our resources, and exploring cost-effective, environmentally friendly alternatives to the way we operate in order to enhance our region's environmental quality, while respecting cultural, social and economic values.

## Scope

This policy applies to all Urban Utilities employees and contractors and covers Urban Utilities' operations, products and services.

## Related legislation

In regard to environmental management, Urban Utilities is subject to over 70 pieces of Commonwealth and State legislation. The primary legislation that establishes the organisation's rights and responsibilities are the:

- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
- Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld)
- Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (Qld)

## Policy statement

Urban Utilities is committed to the highest standards of environmental leadership, and will achieve this commitment through:

- aligning with the Commonwealth Government endorsed United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals,

- prudent planning consistent with the *State Planning Policy*, in particular the environment and heritage state interests and principles,
- operating in a manner that complies with legislation, regulatory licences and accords,
- implementing innovative environmental solutions,
- pursuing opportunities to improve environmental outcomes, and
- establishing and maintaining an Environmental Management System (EMS) aligned with the requirements of *ISO1400:2015 – Environmental management systems – Requirements with guidance for use*.

In fulfilling its commitment to environmental leadership, Urban Utilities will:

- investigate and implement leading edge environmental initiatives that deliver improved environmental outcomes that benefit its stakeholders and the communities it serves,
- identify, quantify and prioritise environmental requirements, impacts and risks associated with the organisation's whole-of-life-cycle activities,
- develop and implement targeted objectives, actions, programs and initiatives that manage and respond to our environmental management priorities at both an operational and strategic level,
- endeavour to achieve the highest value beneficial reuse of liquid and solid waste and sustainable use of natural resources and built environment,
- review and check environmental performance against regulatory and other requirements in a timely and appropriate manner,
- establish mechanisms that enable improvement of environmental performance and outcomes,
- communicate and report environmental management commitments and performance to the community and stakeholders,
- establish clear environmental management roles and responsibilities, supported by competent and accountable personnel, and
- ensure our employees, suppliers and contractors are aware of their environmental responsibilities through training and education programs.

Through the implementation of this policy, Urban Utilities demonstrates its commitment to be a benchmark, champion and leader of environmental management.

### Related Documents

- Urban Utilities Corporate Plan
- Urban Utilities Operational Plan
- Urban Utilities Water Netserv Plan – Part A
- *State Planning Policy* - Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning