

# Climate Change Policy

## The Challenge of Climate Change

A changing climate brings challenges to water and wastewater service providers including increasing dry periods, increasing number of 'hot' days, increasing magnitude and frequency of rainfall events and rising sea levels.

Governments, industry and civil society are transitioning to a low greenhouse gas future, requiring rapid, far reaching and unprecedented changes to all aspects of society.

Therefore, Watercare is committed to play our part in the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and to take proactive action on the adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

## Our Objectives

- To become a low carbon organisation - aiming for net zero greenhouse gas by 2050.
- To become climate resilient - reducing our vulnerabilities to the impacts of a changing climate. This will mean continuously adapting Watercare's activities to the effects of long-term climate change and be prepared for the shocks from specific weather events.

## Our Targets

- Reduce operational emissions by 50% by 2030
- Achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- Reduce emissions from construction by 40% by 2025
- Establish climate change risk/adaptation metrics and relevant targets by 2024

## Our Actions

### To deliver on our commitment, we will:

- Through our decarbonisation roadmap, establish initiatives under the following emission reduction value streams
  - Low carbon water
  - Low carbon wastewater
  - Low carbon purchasing
  - Low carbon waste / biosolids
  - Carbon removals
  - Low carbon fleet
  - Low carbon infrastructure
  - Low carbon financial support.
- Report annually on our greenhouse gas performance, have the results independently audited, and continuously improve our greenhouse gas reporting process and systems.
- Update our business processes such as design standards, facility plans, servicing strategies and business cases to consistently include climate change adaptation/resilience and carbon reduction
- Understand the impacts when deciding to build/not build infrastructure in areas prone to sea level rise and flooding to reduce the risks for future generations through the infrastructure we provide.
- Improve the resilience of our current sources, treatment and conveyance assets so that they are fit for purpose for a changing climate
- Address climate change impacts not only on our physical assets but also on community, cultural and natural ecosystems.
- Be aware of our critical dependences on third party suppliers and will work to clearly identify, understand, and manage their potential impacts on our services.
- Actively consider alternative sources of water supply and work to drive down per capita water demand.
- Implement the joint Watercare and Healthy Waters Climate Action Plan.



Dave Chambers - Chief Executive

### Relevant UN SDGs



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