

# 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 emissions 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 Actions

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

- Achieve energy neutrality at the Māngere and Rosedale wastewater treatment plants by the end of 2025.
- Plant 1,900 hectares of native trees in the Hūnua Ranges in the next 30 years that are suited to a changing climate and will optimise carbon sequestration.
- Introduce carbon budgets and targets as a performance measure for our infrastructure projects and procurement
- Update our business processes such as design standards, facility plans, servicing strategies and business cases to consistently include climate change and carbon reduction
- Understand the impacts when deciding whether to build/not build infrastructure in areas prone to sea level rise
- 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.

## Our short term targets - 2019

- We will initiate a company-wide climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy including a work programme built on adaptive planning and integrated thinking principles
- We will develop emission reduction pathways for our operations through the Science Based Targets initiative, aiming for 45 per cent reduction by 2030.
- We will develop an infrastructure carbon reduction pathway, aiming for 40 per cent reduction in infrastructure emissions by 2025.



**Raveen Jaduram**

Chief Executive

### Relevant UN SDGs

