

Grampians
Wimmera
Mallee Water

Sustainability
Covenant



Sustainability covenant

This sustainability covenant is a voluntary agreement between the Environment Protection Authority (EPA Victoria) and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water to work together to protect the environment and to contribute to a more sustainable Victoria.

This voluntary SUSTAINABILITY COVENANT is a statutory agreement under section 49AA of the *Environment Protection Act 1970* made on the 24th day of June 2008.

Between:

Environment Protection Authority ('EPA Victoria'), a body corporate incorporated pursuant to the *Environment Protection Act 1970* (Victoria) of 40 City Road, Southbank in the State of Victoria

-and-

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation ('GWMWater'), a government-owned statutory authority established under the Water Act (1989), ABN: 35 584 588 263, of 11 McLachlan Street, Horsham, in the State of Victoria.

In which:

The parties agree to work together to integrate sustainability as a holistic approach to business management in GWMWater business strategies and encourage others to follow the leadership being shown by GWMWater and EPA Victoria.

EPA believes that this sustainability covenant is likely to be effective in increasing the resource efficiency and reducing the ecological impact of the parties and their stakeholders. As such EPA is a signatory to this sustainability covenant.

Background

For the purposes of this covenant, sustainability means being able to provide secure water and wastewater services which support customers, staff and the region and deliver social, environmental and economic outcomes. GWMWater, through their Sustainability Framework and Strategy, recognise that all parts of the business contribute to improving performance by integrating sustainability into decisions, actions and culture.

The covenant brings together the strengths of both GWMWater and EPA Victoria to work in partnership towards a sustainable state.

Life of the covenant

This covenant will expire upon the signing of the GWMWater corporate licence with EPA Victoria or 12 months from the date of signing, whichever is sooner.

Management of the covenant

The parties to the covenant will be jointly responsible for achieving the overarching commitments of the covenant. The parties will jointly liaise to agree on any specific actions relevant to the achievement of the commitment of the covenant.

Objectives of the covenant

This sustainability covenant is a public commitment by EPA Victoria and GWMWater to deliver improvements for the environment through developing and implementing a corporate licence.

The success of this partnership will help make Victoria the first place in the world where environmental improvements are routinely viewed as a business opportunity and not as a business cost.

More information

In accordance with section 49AC(b) of the Act, the parties will ensure that this covenant is readily accessible to the public and that it is published on the Internet.

In accordance with section 49AC(c) of the Act, the parties authorise the copying of all or any part of the covenant by any person who wishes to do so. The parties also authorise the use by such a person of any copies made by the person.

Parties to the covenant

GMMWater

GMMWater provides water, sewerage and trade waste services to a population of approximately 70,000 people, with activities extending across 62,000 square kilometres, or about 30% of Victoria. GMMWater also own and operate 15 major bulk water supply reservoirs and manage groundwater supplies and river diversions.

GMMWater vision: Sustainable water for regional growth and vibrant communities. GMMWater will achieve their vision by providing innovative and affordable services through partnerships with stakeholders, customers and the community.

Accountability: GMMWater will be accountable to our colleagues and the communities we serve for our decisions and actions.

Caring: GMMWater are considerate of the environment and promote sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations.

Integrity: GMMWater will be honest, just, fair and equitable in all our dealings.

Teamwork: GMMWater foster teamwork within the Authority, across Government and with the community to achieve quality outcomes.

Professionalism: GMMWater will do the best we can, always, and seek creative, innovative solutions for continuous improvement.

Respect: GMMWater respect all people, celebrate diversity and uphold dignity.

Recognition: GMMWater recognise our staff's diverse skills and are committed to providing a fulfilling work environment.

Safety: GMMWater will ensure that the health, safety and well being of our people and the community are paramount.

EPA Victoria

EPA is a statutory body that was established under an Act of the Victorian Parliament – the *Environment Protection Act 1970* – in response to community concern about pollution.

EPA's vision is *The Victorian community living sustainably.*

A community living sustainably knows the impacts of the decisions it makes and the actions it takes on the environment and:

- **efficiently** uses and renews resources
- **understands** how what is good for the environment is good for the economy and society
- **lives in a healthy environment** that provides clean air, water and land
- **meets the needs of today** without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

EPA's purpose is to protect, care for and improve our environment.

EPA's values are collaboration, innovation, integrity and respect.

EPA's objectives are to increase resource efficiency, reduce emissions impact, enhance our reputation, tackle climate change and benefit the economy.



Commitments of the covenant

This covenant aims to realise the shared objectives and visions of EPA Victoria and GMMWater.

These shared objectives will initially be implemented by:

- GMMWater and EPA Victoria developing a corporate licence by 30 June 2008. This licence will enable more efficient application of statutory licence and reporting requirements while maximising environmental and economic outcomes across the business
- parties sharing a broader agenda for environmental regulation that incorporates a suite of mandatory and voluntary performance targets aimed at continuous improvement.

In developing the corporate licence, GMMWater and EPA Victoria will explore shared strategic intent by:

- working collaboratively to provide innovative services through partnerships with customers and the community
- building GMMWater's capacity to be an environmental champion and encourage regional growth
- investigating and implementing projects and programs that go beyond regulatory compliance with service delivery and environmental standards
- investigating opportunities with potential to improve trade waste quality and reduce volume, in partnership with service providers and customers as appropriate
- reviewing energy consumption needs and greenhouse gas emission levels, particularly in relation to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, and investigate potential to reduce those needs through improved efficiencies and innovation.

Contact Information



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