



Council Policy 5.1

Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council Environmental Policy

Strategic Plan Objective

To achieve the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council Plan for the Future in accordance with the revised 10 Year Strategic Plan 2017-2027 and the Sustainability Strategy 2022/2023 - 2026/2027.

Purpose

To provide guiding principles of environmental management at the EMRC and meet compliance obligations under the ISO14001:2015 standards.

Legislation and Standards

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Contaminated Sites Act 2003

Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Policy Statement

Commitment

Our Environmental Management System (EMS), aligned with ISO14001, provides the framework that guides our decisions, shapes our responsibilities, and ensures we operate with integrity and accountability.

Environmental Policy Objectives

The EMRC recognises the critical role our facilities plays in safeguarding the environment and supporting our local community. To meet these responsibilities, The EMRC commits to:

1. Compliance with Legal and Other Requirements

Comply with all applicable environmental laws, regulations, license conditions, and other requirements relevant to our operations. Compliance is a baseline expectation and a shared responsibility across all levels of the organisation.

2. Environmental Protection and Pollution Prevention

Prevent pollution by minimising emissions, managing leachate and landfill gas and ensuring waste materials are handled, stored, and disposed of in a manner that protects the environment.

3. Continual Improvement of Environmental Performance

Continually improve our EMS and environmental performance by identifying risks and opportunities, setting measurable objectives, investing in new technologies where feasible, and regularly reviewing our results to maximise positive environmental outcomes.



4. Transparency and Community Responsibility

Communicate openly with regulators, stakeholders, and our local community. We aim to build trust through transparency, responsible operations, and proactive engagement.

5. Employee Involvement and Environmental Culture

Provide the training, tools, and resources needed to ensure all employees understand their environmental responsibilities and are empowered to contribute to our environmental goals.

Additionally, we will ensure that contractors receive the necessary inductions and support to fully understand and adhere to our environmental objectives, enabling them to contribute effectively to our sustainability efforts.

Responsibilities

The EMRC expects every employee, contractor, and partner to uphold these commitments and support the effective operation of our EMS. Through collective effort and a shared dedication to responsible and sustainable landfill management, the EMRC will mitigate potential risks to protect our environment today for future generations.

Financial Considerations

Funding for environmental management activities are included in the annual budgets related to the Red Hill Waste Management Facility and the Hazelmere Resource Recovery Park.

Adopted/Reviewed

- 23 April 1998
- 22 July 1999
- 02 May 2002
- 20 May 2004
- 23 February 2006
- 18 September 2008
- 24 September 2009
- 23 September 2010
- 18 September 2014
- 24 August 2017
- 06 December 2018
- 24 June 2021
- 27 June 2024
- 26 February 2026

Next Review

Following the Local Government Elections in 2029

Responsible Unit

Environmental and Waste Compliance Team