



# Environmental Policy

Image: Exercise Kowari, Northern Australia

## Vision

*Defence will be a leader in sustainable environmental management to support the ADF capability to defend Australia and its national interests.*

The Defence Environmental Vision is underpinned by four pillars: Compliance, Efficiency, Trust and Accountability.

These pillars underpin Defence activities, guide decisions and align behaviours when managing environmental challenges and opportunities.

**Compliance:** Defence complies with its legislative and regulatory obligations regardless of where it operates and complies with the spirit and intent of state and territory environmental management legislation where it does not conflict with Commonwealth legislation.

**Efficiency:** Defence applies efficient and innovative environmental resource management in the delivery of Defence capability and environmental outcomes.

**Trust:** Defence conducts its activities in an environmentally responsible manner that enhances its reputation and fosters the confidence of the community, industry and regulators.

**Accountability:** Defence takes ownership of, and responsibility for, environmental outcomes when performing its activities.

## Context

The Defence mission is to defend Australia and its national interests. Environmental management is a critical enabler to Defence capability and directly supports this mission.

As a custodian of the environment in which it operates, Defence has invested significant resources over many years, building environmental management capability and capacity to support the Defence mission and meet its environmental obligations.

**Dennis Richardson**

Secretary  
June 2016

Future environmental management requires Defence to capitalise on the knowledge and experience that has been gained to date. Defence will focus on environmental management and sustainability activities that generate the greatest return for Defence capability and the environment, its people and partners, specifically integrating with broader Defence policies and initiatives.

## Strategic aims

Defence has five strategic aims to realise the vision. These strategic aims will ensure Defence applies appropriate resources and effort toward environmental management, relative to risks and constraints.

**Strategic aim 1:** Defence will deliver a sustainable estate across Defence maritime, land and aerospace areas, activities and operations.

**Strategic aim 2:** Defence will understand and manage its environmental impacts.

**Strategic aim 3:** Defence will minimise future pollution risks and manage existing contamination risks.

**Strategic aim 4:** Defence will improve the efficiency of its resource consumption and strengthen resource security.

**Strategic aim 5:** Defence will recognise and manage the Defence estate heritage values.

## Implementation Framework

The Defence Environmental Policy is supported by the Defence Environmental Strategy and the Defence Environmental Plan. The Defence Environmental Strategy articulates how Defence will achieve its environmental vision. The Defence Environmental Plan outlines specific actions, timeframes and responsibilities for implementing the strategy and reporting on achievements.

**MD Binskin, AC**

Air Chief Marshal  
Chief of the Defence Force  
June 2016

