



Statement of support for the Defence Environmental Policy and 2016-2036 Strategy

As custodians of our environment, it is vital that we maintain the trust granted to us by the Australian community to ensure the environment we manage can sustain our activities into the future.

The environmental vision '*Defence will be a leader in sustainable environmental management to support the ADF capability to defend Australia and its national interests*' reflects the critical role of the environment to ADF capability.

Defence's bases and ranges belong to the Australian people. Australians can rightly expect Defence to balance its environmental responsibilities with the need to deliver military capability for the Government.

We have invested significant resources over many years building environmental management capability and capacity to support the Defence mission and meet our obligations. However, in recognising the work done to date, we must also acknowledge that there is still more to do.

The new *Defence Environmental Policy and 2016-2036 Environmental Strategy* enable us to capitalise on our existing knowledge and experience. They link with Defence and broader Australian government policy and initiatives including the Defence White Paper, and aim to create a shared focus on the five environmental strategic aims, which are:

1. Delivering a sustainable estate across our activities and operations;
2. Understanding and managing our environmental footprint;
3. Minimising pollution and managing existing contamination risks;
4. Improving efficiency of resource consumption and strengthening resource security; and
5. Recognising and managing estate heritage values.

We operate in an uncertain and constantly changing strategic context. Over the life of these documents, we will face a range of challenges and opportunities, some of which may require an environmental management response.

Implementing the new policy and strategy will assist us to adapt to emerging challenges, including likely impacts of climate change and to address existing challenges such as managing legacy contamination.

The policy and strategy form an environmental management framework that supports Government policy as well as Defence's strategic direction and our commitment to responsible environmental stewardship.

All Defence personnel are accountable for their actions in relation to the environment and it is essential that each of us makes environmental management part of our core business. We encourage all Defence personnel to become familiar with this policy and strategy and to take action to support Defence's environmental vision of becoming a leader in environmental management.

Dennis Richardson
Secretary

MD Binskin, AC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force