



# Environmental Sustainability Policy

## OVERVIEW

The Sydney Opera House embodies beauty, inspiration and the liberating power of art and ideas. The Opera House's mission is twofold:

- We will treasure and renew the Opera House for future generations of artists, audiences and visitors; and
- Everything we do will engage and inspire people through its excellence, ambition and breadth. We will strengthen our central role in Australia's life and identity.

In 2007, the Sydney Opera House was formally recognised as a 'masterpiece of human creative genius' as part of its UNESCO World Heritage listing. Nature was Jorn Utzon's inspiration, from the 'snow' and 'ice' tiles that cover the sails to innovative elements of what is now recognised as sustainable design, such as the seawater air-cooling system.

The use of the building has changed dramatically since it first opened forty years ago. Today it is Australia's premier tourist attraction, drawing more than eight million people a year to Tubowgulle, or Bennelong Point, part of the traditional Gadigal land.

The Opera House is one of the world's busiest performing arts centres, presenting 1700 performances attended by 1.4 million people. More than 300,000 people take a guided tour of the building and more than 2.3 million food and beverage and retail transactions take place across 11 theatre bars, six restaurants and two retail stores.

As part of our mission, we must ensure that the Opera House's legacy as a pioneering green building translates into a meaningful commitment to environmental sustainability as we embark upon a Decade of Renewal.

## WHAT SUSTAINABILITY MEANS TO US

We believe that to realise an ongoing contribution to our culture, economy and community, we must live responsibly within our environment. We are committed to conserving natural resources; minimising waste and pollution; and enhancing the natural environment. We are striving for best practice in environmental and social sustainability.

## AIMS

To be a leader in environmental and social sustainability in line with the Opera House's status as a symbol of modern Australia and purpose as a source of inspiration.

To embed sustainability in the delivery of the strategic goals of our diverse business, while conserving and enhancing our World Heritage Values.

To influence broader environmental outcomes in partnership with stakeholders.

To engage our staff, partners and community on key sustainability issues and inspire them to take action, individually and collectively.

## COMMITMENT

This Policy provides a framework to implement measures to improve our environmental performance. We will:

- set, communicate and deliver environmental sustainability objectives, targets and an implementation plan every three years;
- establish clear accountabilities;
- monitor and assess performance against targets, benchmarks and standards;
- report on our performance publicly and transparently every year;
- review our environmental performance at the upper management level annually;
- communicate our commitments to staff and stakeholders;
- work with our supply chain to source products and services responsibly; and
- establish practices to achieve the requirements of environmental legislation, government policies and industry standards.

We commit to continually improving towards achieving these goals.

Chief Executive  
January 2015

