



# **Environmental sustainability policy**

Approved by the board  
17 February 2016

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| Details of document amendment no.10 |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Page 4 section 1                    | Deleted sentence – ‘Orion’s policy is to work towards environmental sustainability in our operations.’<br>New wording - ‘our principal objective, which is to operate as a successful business and to be financially sustainable. The following principles guide us toward achieving environmentally sustainable out comes.’ |
| Page 4 section 2                    | Wording simplified   |
| Page 4 section 2                    | Deleted sentence – ‘however Orion’s principal objective is to operate as a successful business and as such we need to be financially sustainable.’   |
| Page 4 section 3                    | Removed ‘pollutant’ added ‘contaminant’  |
| Page 4 section 4                    | Deleted ‘We aim to use natural resources in a sustainable way.’<br>Deleted ‘minimise harmful effects on the environment.’<br>New wording ‘manage the adverse environmental impacts of our activities.’<br>New wording ‘to manage resources in a more integrated manner to improve environmental outcomes.’                   |
| Page 5 section 5                    | Lay out change   |
| Page 5 section 7                    | Change of name from ‘Risk reduction’ to ‘Risk assessment and management’<br>Lay out change<br>Deleted sentence ‘We aim for continuous improvement in our environmental management performance.’  |
| Page 5 section 9                    | New wording ‘We will ensure that our employees are aware of environmental risks, significant ones in particular, within their area of work and the relevant operating procedures to manage them.’  |
| Page 5 section 10                   | New wording ‘We will commit financial and management resources to provide our employees with the awareness and training to operate in line with these principles.’   |
| Page 5 new section 11 - Review      | We will work toward the timely creation of sustainable management procedures that will be reviewed on a regular basis. The results of these audits will be made available to stakeholders.<br>We aim for continuous improvement in our environmental management performance.   |

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## 1. Introduction

Orion New Zealand Limited owns and operates the electricity distribution network in central Canterbury. Our network covers a diverse area including Christchurch, farming communities and the high country area. We transport electricity to more than 190,000 homes and businesses.

Orion is committed to being environmentally and socially responsible in its operations. This commitment is aligned with our principal objective, which is to operate as a successful business and to be financially sustainable. The following principles guide us toward achieving environmentally sustainable outcomes.

## 2. Stakeholder consultation

We will seek to understand stakeholder views to enable us to make a fully informed decision and where practicable accommodate them

We will proactively meet our commitments under current law.

## 3. Protection of the biosphere

We will take all practicable steps in our operations to prevent and minimise the release of any contaminant that may cause environmental damage.

## 4. Sustainable use of natural resources

In planning, building and operating our network we will take all practicable steps to manage the adverse environmental impacts of our activities.

We will seek partnerships with stakeholders that share similar environmental values to manage resources in a more integrated manner to improve environmental outcomes.

We will actively facilitate the connection of renewable energy sources to our electricity distribution network.

## 5. Reduction and disposal of waste

we will take all practicable steps to:

- minimise waste material, especially hazardous waste, and wherever practicable recycle materials in our operations
- dispose of waste material through safe and responsible methods
- purchase long-life network assets and assets that can be re-used within our community.

## 6. Wise use of energy

We will take all practicable steps to use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources to meet our needs.

We will invest in improved energy efficiency and conservation in our operations.

In planning, building and operating our electricity distribution network we will use good industry practice to minimise network losses.

We will actively work with stakeholders to improve the energy efficiency of our community as we recognise the importance of warm and dry homes to improve health and social outcomes.

## 7. Risk assessment and management

We will identify the risks to the environment that our operations pose and, based on those risks, prioritise our efforts to reduce or manage those accordingly by:

- taking practicable steps to employ safe technologies and operating procedures
- we will proactively prepare for unexpected environmental incidents through emergency response training, procedures and equipment.

## **8. Restoration of the environment**

Where we have directly caused harm to the environment through operating other than in accordance with good industry practice we will take all practicable steps to restore the environment to its previous unharmed state.

## **9. Disclosure**

We will ensure that our employees are aware of environmental risks, significant ones in particular, within their area of work and the relevant operating procedures to manage them.

We will annually disclose to the public our overall performance against environmental targets and any incidents that have caused significant environmental harm.

## **10. Commitment of management resources**

We will commit financial and management resources to provide our employees with the awareness and training to operate in line with these principles.

## **11. Review**

We will work toward the timely creation of sustainable management procedures that will be reviewed on a regular basis. The results of these audits will be made available to stakeholders.

We aim for continuous improvement in our environmental management performance.