



ROTTNEST IS

ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY POLICY

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Policy Type: STRATEGIC

1. OVERVIEW

The Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) has been established to manage Rottnest Island according to the Rottnest Island Authority Act (the Act).

The Social Sustainability Policy (the Policy) describes the RIA's approach to maintaining a positive social environment within the Rottnest Island Reserve.

The Policy supports the RIA's overarching Sustainability Policy, Sustainability Action Plan and is consistent with the strategic direction of Rottnest Island.

The Island's harmonious social environment is one of its main attractions to visitors and therefore needs to be preserved and actively supported. The social environment contributes to the Island's economic viability.

2. OBJECTIVES

The Policy is required to support the functions of the RIA as stipulated in the *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987 (the Act)* and be consistent with the prevailing Rottnest Island Management Plan (RIMP).

In particular, the key objectives of the Policy are to:

- Engender a positive social environment on the Island consistent with being recognised as a sustainable tourism destination;
- Maintain a safe, secure and hospitable environment for visitors, residents and workers to support their wellbeing during their stay on the Island; and
- Achieve high levels of community education, customer service and stakeholder involvement for the long-term benefit of the Island.

3. SCOPE

This Policy and any associated procedures and forms are applicable to all operations of the RIA and its partners, including contractors, lessees, licensees, and other government agencies.

4. DEFINITIONS

Social sustainability - Occurs when the formal and informal processes; systems; structures; and relationships actively support the capacity of current and future generations to create healthy and liveable communities. Socially sustainable communities are equitable, diverse, connected and democratic and provide a good quality of life. (Source: Western Australia Council of Social Services)

Sustainability - Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Values – Items of worth appreciated by the community. In relation to Rottnest Island, the main items of worth comprise environmental, cultural heritage and social values.

RIMP – refers to the prevailing Rottnest Island Management Plan, which is a five year management plan for the Island. Its requirements and elements are stipulated the *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987*.

5. POLICY STATEMENT/S

It is the policy of the RIA that in relation to Rottnest Island that:

- 5.1 *The Island will be made accessible to the local community as well as tourists visiting the State of Western Australia;*
- 5.2 *The Island will be promoted as a destination for people of all age groups including families;*
- 5.3 *A safe, secure and welcoming environment for visitors, residents and workers on the Island will be maintained;*
- 5.4 *Visitors will be provided with high levels of customer service consistent with the Island's social environment;*
- 5.5 *Forums will be provided for consulting the Island's various stakeholders including visitors, the business community and residents;*
- 5.6 *The Island will be a focus for Aboriginal reconciliation within the State;*
- 5.7 *Legislation, policies and practices will be maintained to manage the balance between conservation and access to the Islands significant natural and cultural heritage sites;*
- 5.8 *The Island's laws, policies and guidelines will be applied fairly to all visitors, workers and residents as required;*
- 5.9 *Relevant volunteer groups will be invited and hosted to enable their assistance with the development, conservation and provision for services on the Island that are consistent with the Island's strategic direction and values;*
- 5.10 *Researchers will be invited to conduct research into the Island's natural, cultural heritage and social values that will assist in their conservation and interpretation;*
- 5.11 *Visitors and residents will be made aware about the Island's natural cultural heritage and social values, and their access to natural and heritage sites will not be impeded subject to site protection, conservation and safety requirements;*
- 5.12 *The RIA supports the United Nations World Tourism Organisation Global Code of Ethics for Tourism; and*
- 5.13 *The RIA Board may apply discretion in the application of this Policy.*

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Executive Director** - ensures that this policy is implemented to the extent that the RIA's resources will allow and allocates responsibility for leading the implementation of the various Policy elements.
- **Director, Environment, Heritage and Parks (EHP)** - is responsible for the regular review and maintenance of this Policy.

7. STATUTORY COMPLIANCE and RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION

The policy reflects the requirements of:

- *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987*
- *Rottnest Island Management Plan 2014-2019*
- *Rottnest Island Sustainability Action Plan*
- *Rottnest Island Sustainability Policy*

8. EFFECTIVE DATE

The policy first became effective 18 March 2014.

9. REVIEW DATE

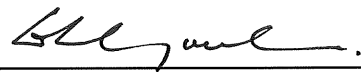
The policy is to be reviewed every two years.

10. CUSTODIAN

Director, Environment, Heritage and Parks.

11. POLICY AUTHORISATION

This policy details the Rottnest Island Authority’s policy for the management of social sustainability on Rottnest Island.

Signed:  Date: 14-12-2018.

John Langoulat, Chairman

12. POLICY REVISION

Rev	Revision Description	Revision by	Issue Date	Page
1.0	Policy to be revised annually as part of EarthCheck audit requirements – change only to Item 9 to reflect annual review requirements.	L Bickers	19/5/15	3
2.0	Policy revised: Reference to United Nations World Tourism Organisation Global Code of Ethics included to policy statements.	J. Tedesco	1/8/16	3
3.0	Policy reviewed: Updated based on Sustainability Action Plan.	Director– Environment, Heritage and Parks	21/11/2018	3

