



Sustainability

OVERVIEW

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

The control and management of the Island is vested in the RIA for the purpose of enabling it to:

- a) Provide and operate recreational and holiday facilities on the Island;
- b) Protect the flora and fauna of the Island; and
- c) Maintain and protect the natural environment and the man-made resources of the Island, and to the extent that the Authority's resources allow, repair its natural environment.

To achieve the purposes of the *Act*, the RIA works in collaboration with the Rottnest Island Chamber of Commerce, commercial operators, volunteer organisations, facilities and maintenance contractors, and other government agencies to provide a range of services and activities. The mechanism by which this is governed includes leasing, permits, licensing, various agreements and commercial contract arrangements.

The range of operations, services and activities undertaken on Rottnest Island are many and various comprising:

- providing and operating a range of holiday accommodation and facilities;
- providing retail, hospitality and visitor services;
- providing various recreational services and experiences including tours, adventure activities and hire products such as bicycles;
- management of the Island's A-class reserve including natural, cultural and built heritage environments;
- maintaining the Island's built assets such as commercial buildings and infrastructure such as roads and paths, boating facilities and airport;
- supplying utilities including power, gas, water as well as wastewater and solid waste management;
- providing various community services such as public transport, walk trails, interpretation, education, guiding, fire and emergency services and hosting community volunteers and community events; and
- facilitating and hosting other government operations such as police, department of fisheries, and health services.

The RIA is committed to striving to achieve sustainability in line with its vision that *Rottnest Island is an internationally recognised, sustainable, must-see tourism destination*. The Sustainability Policy (the Policy) defines the commitment to sustainability as a basis for externally-audited EarthCheck sustainability certification.

OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the policy are to:

1. To guide the activities, products and services provided by RIA, Rottnest Island Chamber of Commerce, commercial operators, volunteer organisations, facilities and maintenance contractors, and other government agencies towards environmentally, socially and economically sustainable outcomes;
2. Articulate the RIA's commitment to improving sustainability to staff, island businesses, suppliers, contractors, partners, visitors and the destination community; and
3. Commit the RIA and its partners and visitors to achieve sustainability.

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.

POLICY STATEMENTS

It is the policy of the RIA to:

- Comply with all relevant legislation and regulations;
- Continually improve sustainability performance through the development of objectives and targets, development of a sustainability action plan, non-conformance action, and annual reporting on performance;
- Strive to achieve international best practice in sustainability and leadership in the tourism industry through EarthCheck and adherence to the Pacific Asia Travel Association Code for Sustainable Tourism;

- Communicate the RIA's commitment to sustainability to our guests, visitors, suppliers, contractors, business community and other partners and to work with them to develop a whole-of-Island approach to improving sustainability;
- Implement a Sustainable Utilities Policy to provide compliant and reliable utilities that maximise efficiencies and minimise non-renewable resource use with long-term strategies to address future needs;
- Implement a Social Sustainability Policy to engender a positive social environment by supporting the well-being of visitors, residents, volunteers and workers, promoting awareness, engaging stakeholders, and providing best in-class customer service;
- Implement an Environmental Policy to protect the island's flora and fauna, ensure conservation of the island's unique biodiversity, natural and built cultural heritage, reduce environmental risks, achieve compliance, and promote pollution prevention;
- Encourage the procurement of local and responsibly sourced, sustainable products and services by implementing a Sustainable Procurement Policy;
- Ensure sustainable development on Rottnest Island through the implementation of a Development Planning Policy and guidelines.