



ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY POLICY

Sustainable Utilities

OVERVIEW

The Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) has been established to manage Rottnest Island according to the *Rottnest Island Authority Act (the Act)*. This includes the supply of utilities such as electricity, gas, potable water and sewage treatment.

The RIA is committed to maintaining a sustainable power, gas and water supply while protecting the natural environment and cultural heritage, and minimising environmental impacts including pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Electricity is generated on the Island through an integrated power generation system including a 600 kW wind turbine, a solar farm and a power generation plant with low-load diesel and standard diesel generators.

Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) is supplied through bottled LPG and reticulated LPG to some areas. LPG is used by the RIA to fuel a range of appliances in guest and resident accommodation, and by commercial operators in their facilities.

Rottnest Island has a limited supply of fresh potable water that requires careful conservation to meet current and future demand. Water is produced by a seawater reverse osmosis (desalination) plant which receives salt water from bores located in Longreach Bay and ground water bores from Wadjemup.

All wastewater is fed via gravitational sewers and sewage pump stations to the Island's waste water treatment plant (WWTP), which is currently being upgraded. The upgrade will allow the use of a membrane bioreactor to provide up to 500 kL/day of high quality recycled water that can be used for unrestricted irrigation on the oval and golf course. Excess recycled water will also be stored during winter to be used over summer when demand is greater than production. The recycled water system will be operated on a separate system to the potable water supply to eliminate any risks of cross contamination.

The Island's facilities and maintenance contractor manages the Island's utility services on behalf of the RIA.

OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the policy are to ensure Rottnest Island's utilities:

1. Are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable;
2. Meet Ministerial and operating license conditions;
3. Are designed and operated to assist in the reduction of Rottnest Island's environmental footprint; and
4. Are recognised as an example of best practice management in Australia.

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 that:

- The Island's utilities infrastructure and service delivery networks provide a reliable, safe and compliant service through a risk management approach, regular monitoring and continuous improvement;

- The long-term operating costs for the supply of utilities on the Island is reduced, adopting a best practice approach;
- The Island's reliance on groundwater is reduced through minimal irrigation landscaping and the use of recycled water for gardens and recreational green spaces;
- Renewable energy sources are maximized and non-renewables minimized to the practical extent compatible with financial, environmental and social outcomes;
- Natural resource consumption is reduced through demand management as far as reasonably practicable to minimize the Island's environmental footprint;
- Energy and water efficiency technologies and practices are implemented, stakeholders are engaged and educated, to reduce the demand on utilities, ensure compliance, and stakeholder satisfaction as far as practicable.



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