



MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Water



Water is critical to NCIG’s operations, and we are committed to using it responsibly. We recognise that water is a valuable natural resource, particularly during times of drought, and are focused on reducing our usage whilst minimising impacts to our surrounding water bodies.

NCIG has the potential to impact local waterways and water quality from its operational activities, which include coal handling, use and storage of chemicals, water usage, ground disturbance and erosion. We manage our activities carefully to minimise our impact on water quality in the harbour and in surrounding environments.

NCIG utilises water for a number of processes onsite and we strive to reduce our reliance on potable water. We have two primary sources that supply all of our operational needs and that we use preferentially over potable water sources. Our Raw Water System, which predominantly captures stormwater from rainfall runoff across our site, is pumped or gravity fed into our site water storage ponds for re-use. When this water is unavailable, locally treated recycled wastewater is supplied to our site via an underground pipeline from an Advanced Water Treatment Facility at Steel River. This approach reduces our reliance on potable water and is particularly impactful for the community in times of drought and water scarcity.

GOVERNANCE

The NCIG Board oversees strategic and sustainability-related decisions, including water, and reviews monthly sustainability reports from management covering performance metrics, incidents, and compliance.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) is responsible for strategy implementation and risk management, with the Sustainability and Operational Capability Teams managing day-to-day water use and performance. Risks are reviewed annually, and Risk Control Action Plans (RCAPs) are put in place to manage materially high risks.

METRICS & TARGETS

The ELT establishes goals every three years aligned with strategy and budget cycles. Performance is tracked using relevant legislated, industry, and global sustainability metrics. For water, we monitor potable water consumption, captured water consumption, recycled water consumption, captured water as a proportion of total consumption, water usage intensity, the reduction in potable water use and annual rainfall.

COMMITMENT

We optimise our air, water and waste management.

GOAL

To minimise reliance on the drinking water network, particularly during times of high-water stress (drought).

FY27 TARGET

To achieve 80% of total water consumed on site from non-drinking sources (captured and recycled).



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SYSTEMS AND PROGRAMS

Water Management Plan

NCIG strives to achieve best practice for environmental management, including water management. For this reason NCIG has developed an Operation Water Management Plan (OWMP). The OWMP documents the ways in which we plan, implement and monitor our activities to mitigate impacts on water and sustainably control water usage. It outlines the way we manage the activities that have the potential to impact on receiving waters, reduce water usage and reuse water resources. It also describes the system that identifies and assesses water management risks including statutory and approval requirements, the controls and procedures that manage these risks, and measures to review the system including its effectiveness. Critical to our approach is business leadership involvement, particularly at the planning and review stage to ensure that clear objectives and targets are established, and adequate resources are provided to achieve these. All employees and contractors are responsible for actively adhering to the requirements of our OWMP, which can be found in the Policies and Reports section of our website.

Water Capture and Reuse

NCIG recycles the water used on site wherever possible. All water that is captured onsite is redirected through a sophisticated network of pipes, drains and pumps to a series of settling ponds for treatment and eventual reuse. The water is collected and re-used in our raw water system, which is utilised for onsite dust suppression, equipment and machinery washdown and fire water support systems.

Recycled Water

NCIG has implemented the use of recycled water from a local wastewater treatment facility into our site raw water process system. An extensive water assessment process was undertaken prior to determining that the wastewater is a suitable supplementary water source for our industrial application. The system delivers significant potable water savings for NCIG and the local community, and reduces the risk of potential business interruption during drought conditions when potable water restrictions may be imposed.

Potable Water Consumption

NCIG utilises water for several processes onsite, the main one being dust suppression. Stormwater captured in onsite holding ponds from rainfall and recycled water is used preferentially for process water purposes over potable water. This source of water represents on average approximately 75% of our total water usage. There are however times of the year when our stored water levels are low and potable water is sourced to supplement the terminal's raw water supply system.

Water Discharge Management

NCIG has invested extensively in the design and operation of its water management system to manage water quality following heavy rainfall. NCIG's water management system has been designed to contain a one in 100-year two-hour ARI storm event. This ensures that the majority of rainfall received on site is safely captured and reused. NCIG has also established a water monitoring program through its OWMP which closely monitors water quality across the operation as well as the quality of any water discharged from site. NCIG has implemented a series of water quality improvement initiatives across the site which have been very successful in improving water quality impacts.

TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

The importance of sustainable water usage and management of water quality at NCIG is communicated through our site induction and general environmental awareness training for our employees and contractors. Water quality and reuse initiatives are also communicated to NCIG's workforce through quarterly communications sessions.

REPORTING

We publicly report our water performance in our annual Sustainability Report and in our bi-annual ESG scorecards on our website.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2023 - Business Hunter Awards

NCIG won the Hunter Water Love Water Award at the 2023 Hunter Business Awards in recognition of its Recycled Water Project. The investment of more than \$1 million into the project is expected to save at least 275 megalitres of household water annually in the local Hunter network.