MANAGEMENT APPROACH
Water

COMMITMENT

We optimise our air, water and waste management.

GOAL

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

FY24 TARGET

To achieve a 50% reduction in potable water use.

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 wetlands.

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.

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Potable water consumption

NCIG utilises water for several processes onsite, the main one being dust suppression. Stormwater captured in onsite holding ponds from rainfall is used preferentially for process water purposes over potable water. This source of water represents on average approximately 50% 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.

Recycled water project

In 2021 we commenced a feasibility study for a project that involves the introduction of recycled water from a local wastewater treatment facility into our site raw water process system. As a result of an extensive water assessment process, it was determined that the water is well-suited as a supplementary water source for industrial application. We are currently working on a that is project is expected to deliver significant potable water savings for NCIG and the community, and potentially reduce the risk of business interruption during drought conditions when potable water restrictions can be imposed.

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 discharges from site. The water quality monitoring program includes a reference site in the Hunter River which is the receiving water body for site discharge water. 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.

MANAGEMENT

Day-to-day management of our water performance is overseen by NCIG's Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) team. Performance and progress against our water efficiency goals and FY24 target is overseen by our Executive Leadership Team and by the NCIG Board.

MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

We measure our progress by monitoring and reporting our performance statistics through our monthly business scorecard, which is overseen by the Executive Leadership Team. The scorecard tracks potable water consumption (ML), captured water consumption (ML), recycled water consumption (ML), captured water as a proportion of total consumption (%) and water usage intensity (ML/Mtpa).

REPORTING

We report our performance and progress regarding water usage and discharges in our annual Sustainability Report, which is available on our website. We also publish the results of our water quality monitoring program on our website.