



**Our Australian Rice Industry**

Growing Rice to Feed the World



# Rice Industry Environment Policy

The rice industry cares about and depends upon a healthy environment. Sun, soil, air and water are fundamental resources that support our agriculture, society and economy.

The Australian Rice Industry is committed to a better environment for current and future generations. We continue to seek improvement in the ecology of the region and management of our natural resources. We aim to achieve this through developing an improved understanding of our environmental challenges, innovative solutions to the challenges for our industry, strong partnerships and appropriate changes in our practices at all levels including on-farm, in the region and total catchment.

## Policy Principles:

The environmental policy is a statement of commitment agreed to by the membership of the Ricegrowers' Association of Australia (RGA) to improve performance in all areas of environmental management and stewardship in our region.

In particular, the Australian rice industry acknowledges that it is through an effective environmental policy and vigilant implementation of that policy that it will:

1. Continue to thrive because of (not in spite of) its environmental efforts
2. Provide safe and high quality food and other products and introduce new products
3. Leave a legacy of a healthy environment including productive soils, clean air, diverse and robust natural habitats, rivers and watersheds

## Policy Statement:

The policy statement has been divided into five focal areas:

1. **Natural resource management and stewardship:** Manage with diligence our demand and impact on the quality and distribution of natural resources such as water and soil. This will be achieved through improved management linked to other initiatives such as Land and Water Management Plan's (LWMP's) and fostering partnerships, research and extension.
2. **Environmental impact reduction and remedial action:** We will minimise impacts through understanding the risks and consequences of actions. This will be done through the monitoring of activities and outcomes against agreed benchmarks. The main activities that we will focus on are Salinity, Chemical use, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Energy use and Waste.
3. **Farm-level management and planning:** We will encourage sustainable management systems on-farm, building on existing systems such as LWMP's.
4. **Natural and Cultural Heritage:** We aim to understand the natural and cultural history and assets of the region and to preserve or restore wherever possible. This will be achieved through the integration of heritage issues in planning and management at regional, industry and farm level.
5. **Institutional Capacity and Support:** Establish appropriate organisational structure and capacity (including skills) communication systems to support environmental change process in rice industry. Support training and education that builds individual capacity for change. Ensure leaders of community and industry are well informed and can make informed decisions regarding the environment. Develop and support appropriate partnerships and alliances that serve the environmental improvement process. Ensure that improvements are monitored, encouraged and rewarded and that innovative ideas are integrated in product development and marketing.

**RICEGROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC**

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