Towards Sustainable Mining

Water Stewardship Protocol

Minerals Council of Australia

TSM

WATER STEWARDSHIP FRAMEWORK

Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) members endorse the following recognition statements and commitments taken from the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) Position Statement on Water Stewardship[1].

In doing so, MCA members recognise that:

1. Water is a precious shared resource with high social, cultural, environmental and economic value. Access to water has been recognised as a right; integral to wellbeing and livelihoods and the spiritual and cultural practices of many communities. It is also essential to the healthy functioning of ecosystems and the services they provide.
2. Water is a vital input for all mining and metals operations – required for the health and wellbeing of employees and at every stage of an operation's life cycle including closure. The dependency and impact on a shared resource creates material risk for the mining and metals sector that requires effective and transparent management.
3. Water challenges are increasing around the world. Earth's freshwater resources are finite and under pressure from industrialisation, urbanisation, climate change and the needs of a growing global population.
4. These challenges are shared across countries, industry sectors and society. In order to meet demand, a change is needed in the way water is used, managed, shared and valued. This will require collaboration and concerted action from all parties, including government, civil society, business and local communities.
5. Through the Sustainable Development Goals, world leaders have publicly acknowledged the urgency of using and managing water sustainably. The business sector can play a significant role in supporting this approach including through ensuring access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for employees in the workplace. There is further opportunity for the business sector to support government initiatives through leveraging capital or expertise to improve community WASH and other water related outcomes.
6. Water-related risks and impacts are predominantly experienced by people and ecosystems at the local/catchment level. Therefore, companies need to look beyond traditional operations-based water management to the dynamics and interactions of various water users in the wider catchment. Effective water management requires a holistic understanding of hydrology and land use, as well as broader political, economic, social and ecological dynamics that influence water availability and quality.
7. The mining and metals industry has an important role to play in the sustainable management of water resources where companies are active. Proactive and holistic water management strategies can create substantial competitive advantage through reducing water-related risk, identifying opportunities, attracting investment and building trust through improved transparency.

MCA members commit to:

Apply strong and transparent corporate water governance

1. Publicly disclose the company's approach to water stewardship.
2. Allocate clear responsibilities and accountabilities for water – from board and corporate to site levels.
3. Integrate water considerations in business planning – including company strategy, life of asset and investment planning.
4. Publicly report company water performance, material risks, opportunities and management response using consistent industry metrics and recognised approaches.

[1] ICMM Position Statement on Water Stewardship (2017)

Manage water at operations effectively

1. Maintain a water balance and understand how it relates to the cumulative impact of other users.
2. Set context-relevant water targets or objectives for sites with material water-related risks.
3. Proactively manage water quantity and quality to reduce potential socio-environmental impacts and realise opportunities.
4. Ensure all employees have access to clean drinking water, gender-appropriate sanitation facilities and hygiene at their workplace.

Collaborate to achieve responsible and sustainable water use

1. Identify, evaluate, and respond to catchment-level water-related risks and opportunities.
2. Identify and engage proactively and inclusively with stakeholders that may influence or be affected by a site's water use and discharge.
3. Actively engage on external water governance issues, with governments, local authorities and other stakeholders, to support predictable, consistent and effective regulation that underpins integrated water resource management.
4. Support water stewardship initiatives that promote better water use, effective catchment management and contribute to improved water security and sanitation.

WATER STEWARDSHIP PERFORMANCE PROTOCOL

A Tool for Assessing Water Stewardship Performance

Purpose

The purpose of the assessment protocol is to provide guidance to facilities in completing their evaluation of water stewardship performance against TSM indicators. The assessment protocol sets out the general expectations for water stewardship as part of the TSM initiative. This protocol supports implementation of the Water Stewardship Framework.

As with any assessment of a management system, professional judgment is required in assessing the degree of implementation of a system indicator and the quality of management processes and intervention. Application of this protocol will, therefore, require a level of expertise in auditing and systems assessment and knowledge of and experience in the practice of water stewardship performance. This assessment protocol provides an indicator of the level of implementation of water stewardship practices. It is not, of itself, a guarantee of the effectiveness of water stewardship performance.

Where operational water management relates to tailings management, the users of this protocol should be aware that there are potential linkages between this protocol and the Tailings Management Protocol.

TSM's Guiding Principles commit MCA members to comply with all laws and regulations in each country where we operate. This protocol is intended to guide the development of water stewardship practices beyond legal compliance.

Performance Indicators

The Water Stewardship Protocol contains four indicators:

1. Water Governance
2. Operational Water Management
3. Catchment-scale Planning
4. Water Reporting and Performance

INDICATOR 1: WATER GOVERNANCE

Purpose

To confirm that commitment and accountabilities are in place and communicated to relevant Communities of Interest (COI) to support water stewardship.

Assessment Criteria

Level	Criteria
C	The facility does not meet all Level B criteria.
B	1. Demonstrated commitment to water stewardship is evident. Commitments may not be consistent with the intent of the Water Stewardship Framework. 2. Accountabilities for water stewardship are assigned, but responsibilities may not be defined. 3. Processes are in place to track and correct non-compliance with water-related regulatory requirements and commitments.
A	1. Demonstrated senior management commitment to water stewardship that is consistent with the Water Stewardship Framework. 2. Commitments to water stewardship have been communicated to relevant employees, contractors and water-related, facility-level COI. 3. Roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for operational water management and catchment-scale planning are defined.
AA	1. Assessment of water risks and opportunities is integrated into annual business planning and/or budgeting processes. 2. Internal audit is conducted to determine: a. The degree of consistency of facility water stewardship practices with the Water Stewardship Framework b. Whether commitments to water stewardship have been communicated to relevant employees, contractors and water-related facility-level COI c. Whether roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for operational water management and catchment-scale planning are defined.
AAA	1. External audit is conducted to determine: a. The degree of consistency of facility water stewardship practices with the Water Stewardship Framework b. Whether commitments to water stewardship have been communicated to relevant employees, contractors and water-related facility-level COI c. Whether roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for operational water management and catchment-scale planning are defined.

INDICATOR 2: OPERATIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT

Purpose

To confirm that water-related plans and management systems are implemented at the facility level. This indicator includes both water quality and quantity.

Assessment Criteria

Level	Criteria
C	The facility does not meet all Level B criteria.
B	1. Identification and assessment of facility-level risks related to surface water and groundwater have been conducted. 2. Processes to monitor the facility's water performance have been established. 3. Records of facility-level water quality and water quantity data are maintained.
A	1. A systematic approach to operational water management has been established and implemented, including: a. A site-wide water balance has been prepared for the facility. The water balance is updated on a pre-defined frequency and incorporates monitoring data b. A water monitoring program addressing surface water and groundwater, including both water quality and water quantity parameters and informed by identified risks, is being implemented c. Controls based on identified risks have been established and are being implemented as planned d. Response and contingency plans for water-related risks and incidents have been established e. Relevant employees and contractors are provided with training in accordance with their roles and responsibilities.
AA	1. Water balances are updated on a pre-defined frequency, incorporating monitoring data and a range of climate conditions, including potential variability from climate change, if relevant to the operational phase. 2. There is a process in place to identify opportunities to improve water performance and is being implemented as planned and monitored for effectiveness. 3. Control measures are in place for water-related risks and they are being monitored for effectiveness. 4. Monitoring data are stored and trends are analysed on a pre-defined frequency to inform continual improvement and/or decision-making processes. 5. Groundwater is modelled with an appropriate level of detail and physical scale as informed by identified risks. 6. An internal audit is conducted to determine whether the operational water management practices meet the requirements of Level A.

Level	Criteria
AAA	1. Long-term water management considerations are incorporated into current water management decision-making processes and closure plans. 2. Where opportunities to minimise long-term water management activities beyond the life of mine have been identified, they are being incorporated into long-term investment decisions and/or closure plans. 3. An external audit is conducted to determine whether the operational water management practices meet the requirements of Level A and AA. 4. An evaluation of effectiveness is conducted, and a tracking process is in place for identified opportunities for improvement.

INDICATOR 3: CATCHMENT-SCALE PLANNING

Purpose

To confirm that the facility supports engagement with other water users and COI in the catchment and participates in catchment-scale planning and governance fora where they exist. This indicator focuses on catchment planning beyond the operational footprint of the facility.

Assessment Criteria

Level	Criteria
C	The facility does not meet all Level B criteria.
B	1. A relevant catchment boundary has been identified by the facility. 2. Relevant water-related COI have been identified. 3. Responsibility for involvement in catchment-scale planning has been designated.
A	1. Engagement has taken place to better understand how relevant COI in the catchment use water resources by seeking information on factors including water-related local practices, beliefs, customs and traditional knowledge. 2. The facility participates, either directly or indirectly, in catchment governance fora or groups where they exist. 3. An assessment of how operational water management practices contribute to cumulative effects in its catchment.
AA	1. Through engagement with relevant COI, water-related risks and opportunities in the catchment have been identified and prioritised. 2. The facility communicates with relevant COI to help them understand how operational water management practices address priority catchment-related risks. 3. For priority risks beyond the control of the facility, the facility participates in catchment governance fora, where they exist, to evaluate and develop collaborative response options.
AAA	1. Following Levels A and AA engagement activities, at least one of the following initiatives is occurring in the facility's catchment: a. Setting catchment-scale goals, including those contained in land use plans where they exist b. Developing a catchment plan c. Tracking of catchment goals and engaging with water-related COI on progress d. Collaborative monitoring at the catchment scale.

INDICATOR 4: WATER PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING

Purpose

To confirm that water-related objectives or targets have been established to measure performance and that reporting is in place to inform decision-making and communicate performance publicly.

Assessment Criteria

Level	Criteria
C	The facility does not meet all Level B criteria.
B	1. Water performance objective(s) or target(s) are established for relevant water risks and/or opportunities.
A	1. Progress of actions to achieve objective(s) or target(s) is regularly tracked and reported to facility-level senior management. 2. Public reporting on water includes performance relative to established objectives and targets.
AA	1. Water-related objectives or targets have been met in the reporting year, or corrective actions have been identified and are being implemented. 2. A system or process is in place for the independent verification of the accuracy of public reporting on water.
AAA	1. COI feedback on water reporting is actively sought. 2. Results from the independent verification of public reporting on water performance are publicly available. 3. Public reporting includes facility-level water data.

APPENDIX 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Protocol-specific Guidance

1. How is water stewardship defined?

As there is no universal definition of the term 'water stewardship', individual companies should consider how they define the term to ensure their definition fits within the context of their facility and catchment. Below are two examples of definitions:

- 'Water stewardship is "the use of water that is socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial achieved through a stakeholder-inclusive process that involves site and catchment-based actions".' – Alliance for Water Stewardship (also adopted by the ICMM)
- 'Water stewardship is about business understanding the risks they face from water scarcity and pollution and taking action to help ensure water is managed sustainably as a shared, public resource.' – World Wildlife Fund

2. What are relevant employees, contractors and facility-level COI?

Relevant employees and contractors are those who have direct or indirect responsibilities related to water management. Examples of those with direct responsibility would include the manager responsible for water treatment, water treatment operators and those with responsibility for environmental monitoring activities. An example of a position with indirect responsibilities is supply chain personnel because they may order critical control parts, pipes, and so on for water management and treatment infrastructure, but they do not work directly on water management activities.

COI include all individuals and groups who have an interest in, or believe they may be affected by, decisions regarding the management of operations. Facility COI may include

- Indigenous peoples
- Community members
- Local landholders and neighbours
- Under-represented groups
- Neighbours
- Local environmental organisations and other NGOs
- Local governments and institutions

Examples of water relevant facility-level COI are other water users or water rights holders in the catchment and those who express an interest in water-related issues in the catchment (e.g. catchment groups).

3. How should regional water stewardship approaches be reflected where there are multiple facilities in a single catchment?

Where a company operates multiple facilities within a single catchment, the company may choose to adopt a regional approach to water stewardship. This approach could include collaboration between different companies. In these cases, the division of roles and responsibilities between facility-level personnel and regional personnel should be clear and supporting systems should be developed and implemented at the appropriate level. Water stewardship targets may be set for the region, rather than each individual facility, and public reporting of performance can be aggregated for the region.

4. What is meant by 'water performance'?

Water performance is decided at the facility level based on water-related risks and includes both water quality and quantity.

5. What is the intended scope of the independent verification of public reporting on water performance, and can this be included in the external audit required in Level AAA of indicator 2?

The verification scope would include the accuracy, replicability and completeness of water performance data and information, including performance relative to established objectives and/or targets. The verification can consider not only how the indicators are determined but also the management and reporting systems used to ensure the indicators are consistently determined and reported over time. This requirement could be addressed through the external audit required in Level AAA of Indicator 2 if the scope of the audit explicitly includes accuracy, replicability and completeness of water performance data and information.

6. What is meant by 'site-wide water balance'?

A site-wide water balance can be used to capture historical water movements for reporting or as a predictive tool for impact assessment. Water balances can be used to forecast site water inflows, outflows and changes in water inventory and water management infrastructure over the life of the facility, including closure. A water balance allows for a range of scenarios to be modelled, including 'normal' hydrological conditions, less-frequent wet and dry hydrological conditions, feasible upset conditions and conditions climate change has brought about (e.g. higher water inflows, restricted discharge, reduced storage capacity, droughts). The magnitude of the wet and dry hydrological conditions modelled will be defined on a risk basis. A water balance can also be used as the basis to develop a water quality model to forecast water quality over time.

A site-wide water balance is used to support planning and the associated evolution of water management infrastructure and to demonstrate how the operations can manage water in the short and long term to minimise the potential impact to the environment or other water users in the catchment.

In Australia, companies may use advanced reports the Bureau of Meteorology produces to inform water balances as a part of pre-wet-season assessments.

The MCA's Water Accounting Framework can be used to support understanding of site-wide water balances, but it is not a predictive tool.

7. What is meant by 'Monitoring data are stored, and trends are analysed on a pre-defined frequency to enable integrated decision-making'?

Data relating to water quality and volumes are stored in a database that can be used to analyse the variables (which may include both environmental and operational data). A database could be a dedicated environmental management database, a generic database, or a spreadsheet tool. It is at the discretion of the facility personnel responsible for water management to determine what type of database best serves their needs. Likewise, facility personnel responsible for water management should determine which types of analysis are most relevant to inform their water management decision-making processes. Integrating the data and analysis into decision-making requires the facility to be able to show that the results of the analysis are being considered by personnel with decision making for water-related responsibilities.

8. What is meant by 'groundwater is modelled with an appropriate level of detail and physical scale as informed by identified risks?'

This means that the facility has considered potential risks to groundwater – including risks arising from water withdrawal (e.g. dewatering and over-abstraction), seepage into mine workings, or infiltration of mine-affected water (e.g. acid rock drainage and tailings seepage) into groundwater systems – and has developed a conceptual and/or numerical model at a scale and to a level of detail that allows for assessment of the potential risk and mitigation options.

9. Are improvement projects identified to mitigate risk assessed the same as projects that were identified as proactive opportunities?

At some companies, the definition of risk includes opportunity. Therefore, if a company can demonstrate implementation of mitigation measures and of (improvement) opportunities, they would be assessed at Level AA. However, if only risks (i.e. threats) have been addressed, then the company would be assessed as Level A.

10. What does long-term mean with respect to water management considerations?

Long-term water management considerations are those that extend beyond the operational phase of the facility and need to be considered with respect to closure planning. During the operational phase of the facility, such long-term water management considerations should be focused on to find opportunities to reduce closure liabilities and long-term treatment costs and to increase the long-term climate resiliency of the final closure configuration.

11. What is meant by 'catchment'?

'Catchment' refers to the area of land from which all surface runoff and subsurface waters flow through a sequence of streams, rivers, aquifers and lakes into the sea or another outlet at a single river mouth, estuary or delta; and the area downstream affected by the facility's discharge. Catchments, as defined here, include associated groundwater areas and may include portions of water bodies (e.g. lakes or rivers). Catchments are also referred to as watersheds, basins (or sub-basins). For the purposes of TSM, the terms are interchangeable.

Additional detailed guidance is provided in the ICMM's *A Practical Guide to Catchment-Based Water Management for the Mining and Metals Industry* (2015) and the Alliance for Water Stewardship.

12. What is intended by catchment-scale planning?

The ICMM provides detailed guidance on catchment-scale planning in A Practical Guide to Catchment-Based Water Management for the Mining and Metals Industry. This includes the following description:

A catchment-based approach to managing water resources looks at activities and issues in the catchment as a whole, rather than considering different aspects separately. It requires a diverse range of processes to be considered, including the hydrology and land use, as well as broader political, economic, social and ecological dynamics that influence water availability and quality. A catchment-based approach encourages organizations to consider holistically how competing demands on water resources from a range of stakeholders (domestic water users, industry, regulators, politicians) can create pressures and lead to conflict if not appropriately managed. It also requires that people from different sectors be brought together to identify issues and agree priorities for action, and ultimately build local partnerships to put these actions in place.

In many parts of Australia, there are statutory water resource and planning frameworks that allocate and manage water resources in a catchment by competing uses. Companies accessing water under these frameworks are not required to complete catchment scale planning to achieve the associated score.

13. How can a remote facility with no other water users in the catchment support the types of collaborative initiatives identified in Indicator 3 Level AAA?

Where a facility is considered remote and there are no other identified water users in the catchment, that facility can achieve Level AAA in Indicator 3 by demonstrating that an understanding of the catchment informs operational water management practices and goals.

14. What does catchment-scale monitoring include?

Monitoring at the catchment-scale is defined based on the attributes of each catchment, defined through engagement with water-related COI and other users. It could include cumulative effects monitoring where there are multiple users, monitoring and assessment of minimum instream flow requirements and collaborative monitoring programs.

15. What is the difference between objectives and targets?

For the purpose of this protocol, objectives are intended to be qualitative goals whereas targets are intended to be quantitative goals.

16. How can the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for operational water management and catchment-scale planning be defined?

Companies are responsible for undertaking operational management at the facility level, but they may contribute to catchment-scale planning that the government undertakes or that they cooperatively undertake with other major water users. Where these arrangements are in place with government or other major water users, companies are not required to undertake unique catchment-scale planning.

17. How can water quality be measured?

Water quality categories have been chosen to correlate with what the public may consider to be high-quality (Category 1) and low-quality water (Category 3) and with the 'level of treatment effort' required to achieve a standard fit for human consumption.

The MCA's Water Accounting Framework for the Minerals Industry provides more information on how water quality categories can be determined.

18. Do public reporting requirements required by regulation satisfy routine public reporting?

The reporting requirements for project approvals (e.g. the annual compliance report required by licenses and regulatory approvals) may assist in satisfying the requirement to carry out routine public reporting on performance. Reporting may be aligned with or may go beyond these requirements.

19. How is a facility defined for reporting purposes?

Flexibility is provided in determining what constitutes a facility for the purposes of meeting TSM reporting requirements. Where appropriate, companies may wish to take an aggregated approach to individual activities (e.g. due to close proximity or connected operations). The definition of facility should be consistent across all TSM protocols.

20. How can a facility operating in a very large catchment satisfy Level AA and AAA requirements for catchment scale monitoring and collaboration?

Where it is impractical to contribute to catchment scale planning because of a large catchment scale, a sub-catchment of a scale relevant to the facility and material to surrounding environment and stakeholders can be focused on.

Useful References

1. ICMM: A Practical Guide to Catchment-Based Water Management
2. ICMM: Water Reporting: Good practice guide (2nd Edition)
3. MCA: Water Accounting Framework

APPENDIX 2: WATER STEWARDSHIP

SELF ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Facility Name:		**Company Name:**	
Assessed By:		**Date Submitted:**	

Supporting Documentation / Evidence:	
NAME OF DOCUMENT	**LOCATION**

Interviewees:			
NAME	**POSITION**	**NAME**	**POSITION**

INDICATOR 1: WATER GOVERNANCE

	QUESTION	Y	N	NA	DESCRIPTION & EVIDENCE
Level B	1. Is there a demonstrated senior management commitment to water stewardship in place (consistent or not with the intent of the Water Stewardship Framework)?				
	2. Have accountabilities for water stewardship been assigned?				
	3. Are there processes in place to track and correct non-compliances with water-related regulatory requirements and commitments?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level B questions, continue to the Level A questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level B questions, assess the facility as a Level C.				
Level A	1. Is there a demonstrated senior management commitment to water stewardship that is consistent with the intent of the Water Stewardship Framework?				
	2. Has the commitment to water stewardship been communicated to relevant employees, contractors and water related, facility-level COI?				
	3. Are roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for operational water management and catchment-scale planning defined?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level A questions, continue to the Level AA questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level A questions, assess the facility as a Level B.				

	QUESTION	Y	N	NA	DESCRIPTION & EVIDENCE
Level AA	1. Has an assessment of water risks and opportunities been integrated into annual business planning and/or budgeting processes?				
	2. Has an internal audit been conducted in the last three (3) years to determine:				
	a. The degree of consistency of facility water stewardship practices with the Water Stewardship Framework?				
	b. Whether commitments to water stewardship have been communicated to relevant employees, contractors, and water-related facility-level COI?				
	c. Whether roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for operational water management and catchment-scale planning are defined?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level AA questions, continue to the Level AAA questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level AA questions, assess the facility as a Level A.				
Level AAA	1. Has an external audit been conducted in the last three (3) years to determine:				
	a. The degree of consistency of facility water stewardship practices with the Water Stewardship Framework?				
	b. Whether commitments to water stewardship have been communicated to relevant employees, contractors, and water-related facility-level COI?				
	c. Whether roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for operational water management and catchment-scale planning are defined?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level AAA questions, assess the facility as a Level AAA. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level AAA questions, assess the facility as a Level AA.				
	ASSESSED LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE FOR INDICATOR 1				**Level: _____**

INDICATOR 2: PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

	QUESTION	Y	N	NA	DESCRIPTION & EVIDENCE
Level B	1. Have facility-level risks related to surface water and groundwater been identified and assessed?				
	2. Are processes established to monitor the facility's water performance?				
	3. Are records of facility-level water quality and water quantity data maintained?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level B questions, continue to the Level A questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level B questions, assess the facility as a Level C.				
Level A	1. Has a systematic approach to operational water management been established and implemented?				
	a. Has a site-wide water balance been prepared for the facility?				
	Has a pre-defined frequency been established for updating the water balance?				
	Do updates to the water balance incorporate monitoring data?				
	b. Is there a water monitoring program that addresses both surface water and groundwater?				
	Has the selection of water quality and quantity parameters for the monitoring program been informed by identified risks?				
	c. Have controls been established based on identified risks and are those controls being implemented?				

	QUESTION	Y	N	NA	DESCRIPTION & EVIDENCE
Level A	d. Have response and contingency plans been established for water-related risks and incidents?				
	e. Have relevant employees and contractors been provided with training that is in accordance with their roles and responsibilities?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level A questions, continue to the Level AA questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level A questions, assess the facility as a Level B.				
Level AA	1. Are water balances updated on a pre-defined frequency, incorporating monitoring data and a range of climate conditions including potential variability from climate change, if relevant to the operational phase?				
	2. Is there a process in place to identify opportunities to improve water performance and is it being implemented, as planned, and monitored for effectiveness?				
	3. Are control measures in place for water-related risks and are they being monitored for effectiveness?				
	4. Is monitoring data stored and are trends analysed on a pre-defined frequency to inform continual improvement and/or decision-making processes?				
	5. Is groundwater modelled with an appropriate level of detail and physical scale as informed by identified risks?				
	6. Has an internal audit been conducted in the last 3 years to determine whether the operational water management practices meet the requirements of Level A?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level AA questions, continue to the Level AAA questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level AA questions, assess the facility as a Level A.				

	QUESTION	Y	N	NA	DESCRIPTION & EVIDENCE
Level AAA	1. Have long-term water management considerations been incorporated into current water management decision-making processes and closure plans?				
	2. If the opportunities to minimise long-term water management activities beyond the life of mine have been identified, are they being incorporated into long-term investment decisions and/or closure plans?				
	3. Has an external audit been conducted in the last three years to determine whether the operational water management practices meet the requirements of Level A and AA?				
	4. Did that audit include an evaluation of the effectiveness of implementation, and is there a process in place to track whether opportunities for improvement identified have been acted upon?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level AAA questions, assess the facility as a Level AAA. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level AAA questions, assess the facility as a Level AA.				
	ASSESSED LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE FOR INDICATOR 2				**Level: _____**

INDICATOR 3: CATCHMENT-SCALE PLANNING

	QUESTION	Y	N	NA	DESCRIPTION & EVIDENCE
Level B	1. Has a relevant catchment boundary been identified by the facility?				
	2. Have relevant water-related communities of interest (COI) been identified?				
	3. Has responsibility for involvement in catchment-scale planning been designated?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level B questions, continue to the Level A questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level B questions, assess the facility as a Level C.				
Level A	1. Has engagement taken place in the catchment to better understand how relevant water-related COI use water resources by seeking information on factors including water-related local practices, beliefs, customs and traditional knowledge?				
	2. Does the facility participate, either directly or indirectly, in catchment governance fora or groups where they exist?				
	3. Has an assessment of how operational water management practices contribute to cumulative effects in its catchment been undertaken?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level A questions, continue to the Level AA questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level A questions, assess the facility as a Level B.				

	QUESTION	Y	N	NA	DESCRIPTION & EVIDENCE
Level AA	1. Has the facility engaged with relevant water-related COI to identify and prioritise water-related risks and opportunities in the catchment?				
	2. Does the facility communicate with relevant water-related COI to help them understand how operational water management practices address the priority catchment-related risks?				
	3. Where they exist, does the facility participate in catchment governance fora to evaluate and develop collaborative response options for priority risks beyond the control of the facility?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level AA questions, continue to the Level AAA questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level AA questions, assess the facility as a Level A.				
Level AAA	1. Are one or more of the following initiatives occurring in the facility's catchment? a. Setting catchment-scale goals, including those contained in land use plans where they exist b. Developing a catchment plan c. Tracking of catchment goals and engagement with water-related COI on progress d. Collaborative monitoring at the catchment scale				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level AAA questions, assess the facility as a Level AAA. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level AAA questions, assess the facility as a Level AA.				
	ASSESSED LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE FOR INDICATOR 3				**Level: _____**

INDICATOR 4: WATER PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING

	QUESTION	Y	N	NA	DESCRIPTION & EVIDENCE
Level B	1. Have water performance objective(s) or target(s) been established for relevant water risks and/or opportunities?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level B questions, continue to the Level A questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level B questions, assess the facility as a Level C.				
Level A	1. Is progress on actions to achieve objective(s) or target(s) regularly tracked and reported to facility-level senior management?				
	2. Does public reporting on water include performance relative to established objectives and targets?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level A questions, continue to the Level AA questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level A questions, assess the facility as a Level B.				
Level AA	1. Were water-related objectives or targets met in the reporting year? If no, were corrective actions been identified and are they being implemented?				
	2. Is a system or process in place for the independent verification of the accuracy of public reporting on water?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level AA questions, continue to the Level AAA questions. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level AA questions, assess the facility as a Level A.				
Level AAA	1. Is COI feedback on water reporting actively sought?				
	2. Are the results of the independent verification of the public reporting on water performance publicly available?				
	3. Does public reporting include facility-level water data?				
	If you have answered "Yes" to all the Level AAA questions, assess the facility as a Level AAA. If you have not answered "Yes" to all the Level AAA questions, assess the facility as a Level AA.				
	ASSESSED LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE FOR INDICATOR 4				**Level: _____**