

ANZSOM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

1. Introduction

ANZSOM recognises that climate change is real and is affecting many weather and climate extremes across the globe.¹ According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other leading organisations,² it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Strong, rapid and sustained changes in human decisions, actions and behaviours are required to limit human induced climate change.

ANZSOM is committed to giving further consideration to its individual, collective and systemic practices in order to respond to the challenges posed by climate change to the environment.

In mounting a response to the challenges of climate change and its impacts on the environment, ANZSOM is also committed to effectively listening to and learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' ways of knowing, being and doing. ANZSOM acknowledges and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' connection to country and the ongoing protection and custodianship of the lands and waters of this continent for thousands of years.

In addition, ANZSOM will engage with partners, such as the Royal Australasian College of Physicians³ to advocate more broadly for action on climate change, particularly in relation to the impacts on health and workers.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy and its procedures is to guide ANZSOM in:

- responding to the challenges of climate change;
- integrating a philosophy of sustainability in its activities and standards;
- embedding and promoting sound environmental practices in all operations, services and products; and
- fostering responsible, sustainable and climate-conscious decisions and behaviours at an organisational level, including among management, staff, volunteers, members, the people we work with, stakeholders and suppliers.

¹ IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press.

² Including the IPCC, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

³ Royal Australasian College of Physician – Our work on climate change and health

<https://www.racp.edu.au/advocacy/policy-and-advocacy-priorities/climate-change-and-health>

This policy will better enable ANZSOM to apply a sustainability lens to its activities and operations. As the causes of climate change and its impacts on the environment are widely understood by the IPCC and the world's leading scientists and organisations, it is the aim of ANZSOM to consider, find and implement meaningful ways to minimise its impact on the environment and contribute to solutions that seek to limit climate change.

3. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the definition of:

sustainability encompasses sustainability of the environment, ecology, people and economy; and

social justice lens encompasses considering the impacts of climate change on different or vulnerable sectors of the community

4. Policy

ANZSOM is committed to minimising its impact on the environment, fostering sustainability, repairing past harms and seeking improved future outcomes by:

- acknowledging and learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' ways of knowing, being and doing in caring for country;
- fostering an organisational culture of sustainability, where responsibility to the environment, climate, climate system and ecosystems is understood and put into practice;
- supporting and allowing management, staff, volunteers, our members we serve, the people we work with to:
 - better understand the interrelationship between their roles or activities and climate change impacts; and
 - engage meaningfully with their emotional responses to climate change and its impacts;
- applying a social justice lens when considering the impacts of climate change;
- identifying, analysing, evaluating, prioritising and addressing the physical, transitional, adaptation and liability risks associated with climate change and establishing General Council. Committee and management-level commitments for climate risk oversight, monitoring and reporting;
- avoiding the use of products and practices that contribute to climate change, while promoting and favouring the use of products and practices that are at a minimum climate-neutral or, as a preference, have positive impacts on the environment;
- enhancing awareness within ANZSOM and among our members, the people we work with, stakeholders, suppliers and the wider community about our actions in seeking to operate in an environmentally responsible manner;
- using reasonable endeavours to conduct audits and self-assessments of ANZSOM's compliance with this policy, in order to continually improve our environmental management systems and responses to climate change; and

maintaining an open and honest dialogue with our members, the people we work with, suppliers and the wider community about ANZSOM's performance against this policy.

DATE OF ADOPTION: February 2023

DATE OF REVIEW:

ANZSOM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROCEDURES

1. Responsibilities

- 1.1 It is the responsibility of **the General Council** to establish and maintain policies and procedures and to bring these procedures to the Environmental Sustainability policy into effect.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of **the President, other executive officers and the ANZSOM Secretariat** to ensure the implementation and ongoing observation of these procedures to the Environmental Sustainability policy.

2. Processes

- 2.1 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' perspectives on climate change, including through:
 - inviting elders or representatives to share their wisdom at training sessions, functions or events;
 - promoting relevant resources to build awareness throughout the organisation; and
 - encouraging staff and volunteers to attend relevant education.
- 2.2 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to develop guidelines for staff and volunteers to adopt sound environmental work practices that incorporate:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' perspectives;
 - a social justice lens that considers the impacts of climate change on different or vulnerable sectors of the community; and
 - the latest in research on the causes, impacts and solutions to climate change.
- 2.3 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to support policy implementation through:
 - provision of appropriate and relevant training; and
 - provision of appropriate time, funds or resources.
- 2.4 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that General Council members, other volunteers and the Secretariat are:
 - appropriately inducted and trained in their responsibilities for climate risk oversight, monitoring and reporting; and
 - cognisant of their ongoing responsibilities to identify, analyse, evaluate, prioritise and address the physical, transitional, adaptation and liability risks associated with climate change.
- 2.5 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to ensure its:
 - banking and finance providers do not invest in fossil fuel industries; and
 - investments are not in fossil fuel industries.

- 2.6 In relation to practical approaches to optimising the environmental sustainability of our activities, ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to:
- conserve energy, including by improving energy efficiency;
 - ensure that its operations, events, services and products are efficient in their use of energy and protective of the environment;
 - avoid the unnecessary purchase of materials;
 - reuse and recycle materials, purchase recycled materials and use recyclable packaging or other similar materials;
 - prevent air, water or other pollution and dispose of waste safely and responsibly;
 - ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to monitor, consider and reduce supply chain emissions.
 - give preference to renewable over non-renewable energy sources when feasible;
- 2.7 ANZSOM will consider any carbon-offsetting opportunities that may be available.
- 2.8 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to utilise its particular knowledge and experience to contribute to environmentally sustainable techniques, technology, knowledge and methods.
- 2.9 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to meet or exceed all applicable government requirements and voluntary requirements generally observed in its field.
- 2.10 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to conduct audits and self-assessments of its compliance with the Environmental Sustainability policy and these procedures in order to continually improve its environmental management system.
- 2.11 ANZSOM and its management will maintain an open and honest dialogue with staff, volunteers, stakeholders and the community about the environmental sustainability performance of its operations, services and products.
- 2.12 ANZSOM will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that staff, volunteers and suppliers are informed of and expected to follow (as the context requires) the Environmental Sustainability policy and these procedures and to report any environmental concerns to management. Management will use reasonable endeavours to consider any reported concerns and take appropriate action as it sees fit.

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