

Ports Australia: Developing an Integrated Sustainability Policy for Your Port

Presented by The Hon Mike Gallacher, CEO

Ports Australia, an introduction to us and our work in sustainability

Ports Australia is Australia's **peak body** representing the nation's ports sector. We represent:

- ☐ Ports
- ☐ Stevedores/various terminal operators
- ☐ Companies who provide services to ports
- ☐ Most recently, a number of ports from across the South Pacific region



Ports Australia, an introduction to us and our work in sustainability

In the past, we've produced a **Sustainability Report** (pictured right) and a **Sustainability Hub** (below) which showcased the projects our ports have undertaken.

Sustainability Hub

You can explore sustainability projects from around the country below.

Both the report and the projects below are organised according to the The World Ports Sustainability Program (WPSP) themes:



Environment Climate and Energy

[Read more](#)



Resilient Infrastructure

[Read more](#)



Governance and Ethics

[Read more](#)



Corporate Citizenship

[Read more](#)



Health Safety and Security

[Read more](#)



Ports and a Sustainable Australia

Since then, we've realised that sustainability projects are nothing without a **strong sustainability strategy**.



Our Port Sustainability Strategy Development Guide

Sustainability planning is essential to:

- ☐ Business success
- ☐ Ensuring we have a physical environment to operate within over the long term
- ☐ Supporting and being supported by those we operate and interact with

A port's contribution to the world is not merely economic.
They're also community members and environmental partners.

LEADING PRACTICE:

Port Sustainability Strategy Development Guide

Approaches and Future Opportunities

June 2020

"Ports see sustainability planning as essential to ensure the long-term health of the environments in which they operate, as well as with the community they serve and interact with. Ensuring sustainability can be delivered within the context of a port is possible through holistic planning, combining a range of focus areas which encompass the business's sustainability vision."

-Stewart Lammin, Ports Australia Chair to the Board of Directors & Flinders Port Holdings CEO



Our Port Sustainability Strategy Development Guide

We endeavoured to create a Guide to sustainability planning which would:

- ❑ provide Australian ports with assistance as they prepare their sustainability strategies or evolve the work they've already undertaken;
- ❑ outline a strategic, robust and systematic approach that has been industry applied; and
- ❑ be adaptable to suit the unique nature of every port business.

We consulted our Sustainability Working Group and Sprott Planning & Environment to ensure its quality was backed by expertise in the field.

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Our Port Sustainability Strategy Development Guide

We identified **four key steps** to developing a sustainability strategy:

1. Identifying the current status of your efforts towards sustainability
2. Identifying the important issues for your stakeholders
3. Mapping a pathway forward
4. Communicating the strategy and continuously reporting.

Much of this process relies on close consultation with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**.

Each step is adaptable and should be 'right sized' to any port business, operation and culture.

01

What is the 'Current Status'?

Purpose: Identifying 'the current position'

Method: Complete a **Strategic Gap Analysis** to establish a baseline and identify achievements to date, create a sustainability vision and corporate positioning, consider initial opportunities and initial testing against the SDGs.

02

What issues do stakeholders think are important?

Purpose: Identifying 'the most important issues'

Method: Complete a **Materiality Assessment** through engagement with internal and external stakeholders to identify the important 'material issues' to address.

03

Mapping a forward pathway

Purpose: Determining 'actions'

Method: Building the **Sustainability Strategy** based on information from the foundation steps; mapping out key themes, key strategies / focus areas, targets and actions. The work should address short term (0-2 years) 'quick wins' and longer term (5 years+) 'aspirational' actions.

04

Communicating the strategy and reporting

Purpose: 'Communication' & 'Reporting'

Method: Preparing a communications plan to **deliver the Sustainability Strategy** to internal and external stakeholders, and determine a future sustainability reporting framework.

Our Port Sustainability Strategy Development Guide

It's critical to **learn from what's already been done**. We examined strategies from across Australia and the world.



“A good sustainability policy or strategy is one that's integrated, where all the parts of what you're doing in your port come together... the main value added of the Ports Australia Strategy Development Guide Document is that it offers a structured approach to ports and it also takes into account diversity... because not every port will be in the same stage of development when it comes to applying the sustainable development goals’ – Patrick Verhoeven, International Association of Ports and Harbors Managing Director

Head to our website to find the Guide:
<https://www.portsaustralia.com.au/>