



# WARAKIRRI POLICY

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY POLICY NUMBER K04

### BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Warakirri Environmental Policy is to define its vision for maximising shareholder value from producing grain in rain-fed cropping systems while at the same time recognising and managing the impacts of its activities on both on-site and off-site natural resources. In addition, Warakirri aims to contribute to regional and catchment-wide biodiversity objectives.

The policy is the responsibility of all staff and the Directors of the Warakirri Agricultural Trusts. The policy will be reviewed annually and is a publicly available document.

The Warakirri properties produce cereals, grain legumes, oilseeds and cotton for domestic and international markets. They are geographically diversified, and therefore the relative importance of environmental impacts will vary according to the location of the farms.

Warakirri recognises the following impacts (potential and actual, but the list is not exhaustive) that are related to its current farming activities:

#### **On-Site Impacts**

- Those stemming from the need to store and use fertilisers, pesticides and fuels
- Those related to the operation and maintenance of machinery
- Soil erosion
- Biodiversity decline (vegetation, natural wildlife, riparian zones and soil biodiversity)
- Soil Health
- Resistance of Weeds and Insects to Herbicides

#### **Off-Site Impacts**

- Movement of pesticides and nutrients in run-off and/or soil loss
- Movement of pollen carrying herbicide resistant genes
- Movement of resistant insect populations
- Rising water tables and its impact on salinity locally
- Risks to the health and well-being of farm-staff and local communities during spraying, stubble burning, and arising from the transport of grain from farms

## **Sustainable Development Principles**

Warakirri will endeavor to minimise these impacts and will progressively develop action plans and monitoring protocols that focus on managing the most important of these impacts. High in priorities is to further develop and refine processes and systems that demonstrate that Warakirri's commitment to efficient grain production is not at the expense of the underlying land resource, and the local environment (catchment).

To this end, it is seeking to more efficiently capture, analyse and review data that, over the medium (3 year) term, will highlight environmental impacts that have been successfully addressed and prioritise those still needing attention. This will be achieved by undertaking Environmental Risk Assessments of operational systems at appropriate intervals.

Safe and effective application of herbicides is another area of high priority because of Warakirri's commitment to minimum tillage practices with their heavy reliance on chemical application. The continued development of spraying protocols will ensure that:

1. there is minimal hazard to the environment (e.g. off-target damage),
2. the right chemical and rate are consistently applied and,
3. application details are captured and stored efficiently, and that these can be retrieved subsequently for QA purposes.

Warakirri's environmental objectives are achieved and reviewed through the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) approach that seeks to adopt recognised standards.. As part of the EMS approach, legislative requirements will be identified, environmental impacts will be assessed and prioritised and progress towards minimizing these impacts will be monitored with the objective for continued improvement. Paddock operations will be recorded and stored in Paddock Action Manager (PAM) software database. Capturing data for paddock operations such as sowing, harvesting, soil testing, nutrient applications, chemical applications and inventory is important for the following reasons:

1. For reference in the short term for management purposes (e.g. for determining urea topdressing rates after an application at sowing).
2. For reference in the short to medium term for Quality Assurance and Environmental Management purposes.
3. For reference over the longer term for the purpose of measuring the sustainability of practices (e.g. nutrient removal in crop and its replacement as fertiliser).

Through time, a record of farm history and performance is expected to enhance the value of a property at the time of its eventual sale.

It is clearly in the interest of investors that Warakirri farms in a manner that, does not undermine the long term productivity of its land, contributes to the achievement of catchment targets, and does not threaten the health and well being of its employees or local communities. Warakirri is committed to allocating resources to identify and manage all environmental risks. Potential adverse impacts on our people and our environment will be the main focus but sometimes these will flow over to adversely affect financial performance as well. Hence, Warakirri will progressively develop tools that identify the most important of these risks and will subsequently formulate action plans and monitoring protocols that focus on actively managing these risks.

## **Procedure**

Properties will conduct an EMS Risk review by scoring the potential risks of each operation undertaken on their property using the EMS Risk Review Register. As the review is completed the database will be automatically updated.

Annual Health and Safety Inspections will include a review of existing EMS risks and record any newly identified EMS risks. These will be prioritised and addressed as per the hazard rectification process.

All paddock operations will be recorded and stored in Paddock Action Manager (PAM) software database. As part of the Monthly Reporting by each property to Melbourne Office a backup file will be created on PAM Enterprise.

Farm Managers will confirm all known EMS risks are being addressed and operations are not in breach of environmental legislation on a monthly basis through the monthly reporting process.

Directors will confirm all known EMS risks are being addressed and operations are not in breach of environmental legislation on a quarterly basis through the quarterly reporting process.

End

