



RANZCO

The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Ophthalmologists

Environment

Approved by:	Board	Last review:	3 August 2012
Approval date:	3 August 2012	Version:	1

1. Purpose and scope

RANZCO recognises the need to create sustainable work practices to ensure our organization minimizes its direct and indirect impact upon the environment. To support our commitment RANZCO has established the following guidelines within the College and across the profession;

- Conserve natural resources by adopting pollution prevention practices
- Ensure responsible and efficient use of energy
- Reduce our greenhouse gas emissions

2. Definition

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth) defines the environment as inclusive of:

- a. ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities;
- b. natural and physical resources;
- c. the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas;
- d. heritage values of places; and
- e. the social, economic and cultural aspects of a thing mentioned in points a, b, c or d. ^[1]

RANZCO ensures compliance with all relevant national and international legislations by monitoring all our practices and operations are environmentally friendly and at least adhere to minimum requirements. RANZCO fulfills its obligatory duties and also seeks to promote initiatives that integrate sustainable development practices within our international operations.

As guiding principles RANZCO recognizes that:

- The Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved without addressing the key environmental challenges confronting states.
- Environmental impacts of development programs should be assessed during all projects phase cycles. Continuous environmental evaluations are established to ensure RANZCO verify its commitment towards sustainable practices.
- Effective approaches to environment and development require a strong understanding of the importance of human rights, poverty-reduction strategies and other linked issues.

In short,

- RANZCO accepts and recognises concerns for the environment and how RANZCO operations may impact the environment.
- RANZCO is committed to continual improvements in managing operations in a manner that prevents or minimises the impact on the environment.

3. Policy

3.1. Conserve natural resources by adopting pollution prevention practices

It is RANZCO's aim to reduce its use of energy, water, non-recyclable office materials, chemicals (harsh cleaning products) where operationally and economically feasible. We strive to employ waste minimization initiatives and to continuously improve upon the practices utilized to mitigate our impact upon the environment. Such initiatives include our vastly improved recycling methods, which have prevented the proliferation of litter within staff offices.

3.2. Ensure responsible and efficient use of energy

Energy efficiency is a way of managing and restraining the growth in energy consumption. Something is more energy efficient if it delivers more services for the same energy input, or the same services for less energy input.^[2]

RANZCO endorses and advocates upon practices that ensure the conservation of energy, where feasible and we have previously implemented procedures to achieve such objectives. An example of our ongoing commitment to the environment was our recent lighting installation, where all previous lights were replaced by energy efficient and environmentally responsible LED lights.

3.3. Reducing Greenhouse gas emissions

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change defines 'greenhouse gases' to mean

“those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation.”^[3]

These gases can be emitted through transport, land clearance, the use of fossil fuels, in the processing of manufactured goods, materials, wood, roads, buildings and services.

RANZCO takes steps to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions which is connected with reducing its demand on forests, energy, water and the burning of fossil fuels by way of implementing and maintaining the following:

- Complying with applicable regulations and standards with a commitment to reviewing its compliance with local and national environmental legislation.
- **Using materials and energy efficiently to conserve natural resources :**
 - Purchasing recycled and energy efficient products.
 - Recycling – paper & cardboard, ink toners and IT equipment
 - Replacing all conventional light fittings with LED energy efficient lighting
- **Minimising the emissions that contribute to climate change:**
 - Regular servicing of office and building equipment to maintain energy efficiency.
 - Air-conditioning automatically switched off during non working hours
 - Reducing national and international travel
 - Select suppliers and contractors who follow sound environmental practices

- Supply resources and training that encourage staff to behave in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Set annual performance targets to reduce energy and resource consumption and recycle appropriate products.

References

1. Australian Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Available from
< <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2012C00248> >
2. International Energy Agency, *Energy Efficiency*, accessed 12/07/2012. Available from
< <http://www.iea.org/topics/energyefficiency/> >
3. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Article 1.5, 1997. Available from
< http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/background/items/2536.php >