



# Our management approach to water stewardship

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*Access to water is a fundamental human right and a vital resource for Gold Fields' mining and ore processing activities. We share water with the communities and other industries near our operations, making responsible water stewardship crucial for our licence to operate. This is particularly important as three of the countries where we operate – Australia, South Africa and Chile – are water stressed. Furthermore, climate change impacts our operations and communities through severe rainfall, shifts in rainfall patterns and prolonged droughts.*

Gold Fields is committed to sustainable water management to ensure the availability and quality of water for our operations, host communities and ecosystems. Effective water stewardship is critical for maintaining our social licence to operate and achieving our long-term business objectives. We focus on minimising water use, preventing pollution and enhancing water efficiency across all our operations.

Our main stakeholders in water stewardship are:

- **Host communities**, who expect environmental resilience and the mitigation of adverse environmental impacts, as well as social investments like water stewardship projects to ensure sustainable water use
- **Governments**, who expect compliance with all relevant legislation and regulations
- **Capital providers**, who expect progress on our key ESG priorities
- **Other industries in our catchments**, who expect who expect collaboration on water management initiatives, sustainable resource usage and shared responsibility in maintaining water quality and availability

We incentivise our management teams with environmental, social and governance (ESG) targets, including a 2030 target to reduce freshwater withdrawal by 45% from the 2018 baseline of 14.5GL to 10GL, and recycling or reusing 80% of total water used.

We engage with these stakeholders through regular consultations, collaborative initiatives and transparent reporting to address water-related challenges and opportunities.

## OUR COMMITMENTS TO WATER STEWARDSHIP

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Beyond our water-related 2030 ESG commitments, the main policies supporting water stewardship include our:

- [Water Stewardship Policy Statement](#) (last updated 2022)
- [Sustainable Development Policy](#) (last updated 2024)
- [Environmental Policy Statement](#) (last updated 2024)
- [Climate Change Policy Statement](#) (last updated 2024)

As a member of the ICMM, we are required to implement and publicly report and assure our performance against its Mining Principles and Performance Expectations, particularly [Principle 6 – Environmental performance](#) and its related Performance Expectations. We are also aligned to the ICMM Water Stewardship Maturity Framework.

As a member of the **World Gold Council**, we are required to implement and publicly report and assure our performance against its [Responsible Gold Mining Principles](#), particularly Principle 10 – Water, energy and climate change.



We also benchmark our water use by participating in the CDP Water programme, which indicates a company's commitment to water transparency through a water score.

## OUR WATER STEWARDSHIP IMPACT

Our water stewardship efforts aim to minimise negative impacts on water resources and maximise positive contributions to water sustainability.

Negative impacts on Gold Fields	Negative impacts on others	Positive impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Operational disruptions due to insufficient water supply or poor water quality</li><li>Risk of legal penalties or fines should we not comply with regulations</li><li>Reputational damage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Disrupted or contaminated host community water supply</li><li>Local ecosystem pollution or harm</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved water efficiency</li><li>Enhanced community relations</li><li>Environmental protection</li><li>Competitive advantage</li></ul>

## OUR WATER STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Our approach is guided by the Group's 2030 Water Stewardship Framework. All operations have updated water stewardship strategies to 2030, supported by three-year tactical plans. We focus on proactive water management and efficiency while enhancing engagement with catchment stakeholders to create enduring value beyond mining. It consists of the following pillars:

- Climate adaptation and preparedness:** identifying and understanding our vulnerability to drought and flooding
- Water efficiency:** continuously monitoring and optimising water use across all operations
- Protecting water quality:** minimising pollution discharge into natural environments
- Catchment management:** managing the impact of our operations on host and collaborating with stakeholders to address common challenges and identify opportunities

### Effectiveness of management actions

We measure the effectiveness of our water stewardship actions through:

- Regularly assessing water quality to ensure compliance with environmental standards
- Collecting and incorporating feedback from stakeholders
- Tracking water use intensity and efficiency improvements



## HOW WE MEASURE OUR PERFORMANCE

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Key metrics in measuring water stewardship include:

- Reducing freshwater usage (2030 ESG target: 45% reduction against a 2018 baseline)
- Percentage of total water recycled or reused (2030 ESG target: 80%)
- Total water withdrawal
- Total water consumption

Our water stewardship metrics are rigorously audited internally and externally to ensure transparency and accountability.

## WHERE WE REPORT ON OUR PERFORMANCE

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Reporting and disclosures on our water stewardship approach and performance are shared in our:

- [Integrated Annual Report](#)
- [Climate Change Report](#)
- [Report to Stakeholders](#)
- [Sustainability databook](#)