

Appendix J – Ecologically Sustainable Development and Environmental Performance

The following information about environmental management in DVA is provided in accordance with section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

During 2008–09, DVA continued to undertake a wide range of sustainability initiatives, such as:

- ▶ using E10 fuels in vehicles
- ▶ using gas powered vehicles
- ▶ purchasing 'green energy'
- ▶ recycling waste paper products, glass, plastic, toner cartridges and obsolete mobile phones
- ▶ purchasing energy and water-efficient appliances, ecologically friendly paper and office supplies. This includes supplying handtowels and office envelopes made solely from recycled paper. DVA also purchased consumables and stationery made from recycled or recyclable materials, including recycled paper and plastic products.
- ▶ programming building management systems to optimise energy performance at peak periods, and setting building lights to switch off outside office hours
- ▶ arranging for automatic power down of photocopiers, printers and computers after periods of inactivity
- ▶ replacing the fleet of desktop computing equipment with more energy-efficient equipment
- ▶ encouraging the use of non-disposable cups, cutlery and crockery.

During the year, environmental considerations were incorporated into all building and fitout works. These included:

- ▶ restoring and reusing serviceable furniture, thereby using less raw materials
- ▶ where possible, purchasing furniture made from environmentally friendly or recycled materials
- ▶ use of low VOC paints and other building materials
- ▶ installing energy-efficient lighting
- ▶ implementing water efficient plumbing.

The Department also continued to ensure that suppliers are aware of our environmental commitments and practices by including DVA requirements in standard contracting templates to ensure continuous improvement in environmental compliance.

Staff again took part in a range of annual activities that promote awareness of environmental issues, such as:

- ▶ Earth Hour 2009
- ▶ Ride to Work Day
- ▶ World Environment Day.