



Australian Government

MSS017003 Identify and respond to external sustainability factors for an organisation

Release: 1

MSS017003 Identify and respond to external sustainability factors for an organisation

Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSS017003A Identify and respond to external sustainability factors for an organisation.

Application

This unit of competency covers the recognition of external sustainability related factors which are relevant to the organisation and then developing an appropriate response. It may be applied to an entire organisation, part of a large organisation, or part or all of a value chain.

A manager or senior technologist who has a significant sustainability responsibility work role would typically undertake the scanning of factors which influence an organisation and its environment, identifying those which relate to sustainability and require a response or where a response would benefit the organisation and then developing or organising an appropriate response. The organisation's environment, for the purpose of this unit, is considered to include the ecology it impacts, the economic impacts on the organisation and the social impacts of the organisation.

Skills covered by this unit may be applied individually or in a team context.

This unit will lead to the identification of sustainability responses by the organisation in response to external factors.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Sustainable operations

Unit Sector

Not applicable

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

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| 1 | Monitor external environment for sustainability related factors | 1.1 Monitor relevant government legislation and regulation.
1.2 Monitor relevant government initiatives and programs.
1.3 Monitor customer expectations.
1.4 Monitor market trends and competitor actions.
1.5 Monitor expectations of communities impacted by organisation.
1.6 Identify factors which are relevant to the organisation.
1.7 Rank factors by significance. |
| 2 | Develop alternative responses to external factors | 2.1 Agree which factor or factors should be responded to now.
2.2 Determine minimum response required.
2.3 Compare impact of factors with organisation's strategic direction.
2.4 Develop alternative responses which fit organisations strategic direction.
2.5 Analyse sustainability impacts for each practical response.
2.6 Consult relevant stakeholders.
2.7 Rank possible responses. |
| 3 | Communicate with relevant stakeholders | 3.1 Identify relevant stakeholders.
3.2 Determine stakeholder information needs and wants.
3.3 Analyse data which may be appropriate to communicate with stakeholders.
3.4 Prepare and disseminate information to stakeholders, as |

- appropriate.
- 3.5 Negotiate solutions with stakeholders, as required.
- 4 **Prepare response for factor or factors**
- 4.1 Agree on response to be progressed now.
- 4.2 Prepare business case for response.
- 4.3 Agree possible future action for other factors.
- 5 **Communicate required responses**
- 5.1 Identify what communications are required and to whom.
- 5.2 Prepare appropriate reports and recommendations.
- 5.3 Pitch reports and recommendations, as appropriate.
- 5.4 Brief appropriate persons as required by determined responses.
- 5.5 Finalise appropriate recording.

Foundation Skills

This section describes those required skills (language, literacy and numeracy) that are essential to performance.

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Range of Conditions

This field allows for different work environments and conditions that may affect performance. Essential operating conditions that may be present (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) are included.

Sustainability incorporates all of

- survival of the ecology/physical environment (to manage the impact of the business to ensure the survival of the physical environment)
- economic viability (efficiency, cost and waste reduction and competitiveness to support survival of the business)
- social sustainability (to manage the impact of the business to ensure its continued survival within the community and the survival of the community).

Factors external to the organisation include one or more of

- government (at any level) legislation or regulation
- government (at any level) direct action programs or similar
- government (at any level) incentives or similar
- customer expectations
- community expectations
- market trends
- competitor actions
- other factors.

Sustainability issues of particular relevance include one or more of

- particular sensitivities of the local ecology (e.g. endangered species, sensitive local flora/fauna, material scarcity, water availability)
- general ecology issues and regulations (e.g. climate change and carbon footprint, pollution control measures)
- particular local social issues (e.g. distortions to the housing market, disruption to local lifestyles)
- general social issues (e.g. corporate citizenship, use or/deterioration to infrastructure)
- particular local economic issues (e.g. cost of capital, profit margins, competition)
- general economic issues (e.g. state of the economy, stage of the business cycle).

Significance of impact includes one or more of

- permanent loss or degradation
- loss or degradation which inhibits use by the following generation
- temporary degradation requiring remediation
- temporary degradation which is self-remediating

- speed of change/degradation/loss.

Sustainability impacts which cannot be prevented require mitigation and amelioration techniques which include one or more of

- capture and storage (e.g. scrubbing) and similar ‘end of pipe’ solutions
- dilution/dispersion and similar techniques which reduce concentration but not amount
- other approaches which meet the sustainability requirements.

Unit Mapping Information

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSS017003A Identify and respond to external sustainability factors for an organisation.

Links

MSA Training Package Implementation Guides - <http://mskills.org.au/training-packages/info/>