

Hunter Ecology

Business Ethics and Professional Conduct Policy

Compliance with this Business Ethics and Professional Conduct Policy is central to sound environmental and ecological practice and to the credibility of the profession we work in, Hunter Ecology holds the values of this policy as a core component of its philosophy. Hunter Ecology is committed to practice in accordance with this Business Ethics and Professional Conduct Policy.

This Policy commits Hunter Ecology staff to:

PROMOTE ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- a) Advocate the integrity of the natural environment and the health, safety and welfare of the human community and future generations as being central to ecological/environmental practice;
- b) Advocate the protection of environmental values and the mitigation of environmental harm, based on objective scientific and technical knowledge;
- c) Advocate and undertake environmental practice in accordance with principles of environmental stewardship, resilience and sustainability, with a view to achieving no net loss of environmental values and preferably a net gain, and to an appropriate standard.

DEMONSTRATE INTEGRITY

- a) Be honest and trustworthy, avoid misrepresentation or obfuscation, distinguish between fact and opinion, and state opinions which are honestly held;
- b) Respect obligations of confidentiality and privacy;
- c) Be objective, seek peer review and other quality assurance of work as appropriate, and accept as well as give honest and fair criticism when required;
- d) Avoid or manage conflicts of interest, and make all relevant parties aware when there is such a conflict.

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REPRESENT AND PROMOTE THE PROFESSION

- a) Promote and provide leadership in the adoption of high standards of ecological/environmental practice;
- b) Contribute to the development and maintenance of knowledge about ecological/environmental practice and standards of professional competence;
- c) Support others in their development as ecological/environmental practitioners;
- d) Do not advertise or represent services, or those of another, in a manner that may bring discredit to the profession.

PRACTICE COMPETENTLY

- a) Provide services at an appropriate standard as required to achieve or foster optimal ecological/environmental outcomes;
- b) Only practice and offer services in functional areas and specialisations in which one is appropriately qualified, experienced and competent;
- c) Comply with all applicable governing laws and statutory requirements, and actively discourage non-compliance by others;
- d) Promote the involvement of all stakeholders and the community in decisions and processes that may impact on ecological/environmental values;
- e) Respect the contribution of other professionals and collaborate in multi-disciplinary approaches;
- f) Be diligent in practice, providing accurate, up-to date, objective, impartial and unbiased advice;

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- g) Acknowledge data sourced from others, and be accountable for data collected, analyses performed and conclusions drawn or plans developed as part of an assignment;
- h) Be prepared to explain work and conclusions drawn, and provide the evidence on which the work is based;
- i) Continuously update and develop skills through relevant professional development as a basis for competent practice.

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