

Position Description



Government Relations Adviser

Business Unit: Water Solutions & Market Strategy

Reporting to: Manager Government Relations & Corporate Affairs

Position Purpose

To assist in the development and execution of WaterNSW corporate strategies and associated corporate objectives by proactively building relationships with political stakeholders and decision makers through the provision of accurate, quality advice, enhancing the reputation of the organisation through effective issues management, contributing to the development of internal positions on policies related to water management, infrastructure, planning and other areas and by providing internal support to others in securing policy outcomes.

Key Accountabilities

1. **Safety:** ensure all activities are undertaken with the safety of our people as the number one priority and always role model safe behaviour.
2. **Values:** behave and make decisions in accordance with the WaterNSW Values at all times.
3. Understand the market environment through regular interaction with and coordination of both:
 - Governments up to Ministerial adviser level, other water market participants and thought shapers in and around the water market;
 - Other teams within WaterNSW.
4. Maintain a current and comprehensive understanding of the political and reform dynamics in the water market and knowledge of the issues impacting WaterNSW, its customers and stakeholders;
5. Maintain strong, deep relationships with State Governments to Ministerial adviser level so that WaterNSW is regarded as a highly credible contributor to water management and market reform and, from that credibility, has a strong, effective and influential voice in Government decision- making.
6. Plays a key role in coordinating, consolidating and delivering advice on critical issues to key stakeholders within Government, interpreting and synthesising complex issues to provide concise, accurate and timely advice.
7. Effectively manages sensitive issues on a daily basis to maintain WaterNSW's reputation as a high-performing, effective and solution-oriented organisation.

8. Provide support for others in the company for whom achievement of strategic objectives relies in part on influencing political decision-makers.
9. Contribute to the articulation of WaterNSW positions on key policy matters, and assists in their development – including through the development of submission, discussion papers and related materials.

Key Challenges

- Achieving WaterNSW's reform objectives and strengthening its reputation among key stakeholders at a time of substantial change and development in the NSW water market and, potentially, associated evolution of the role of WaterNSW.
- Through influencing and not reporting relationship:
 - achieving substantial improvement in safety performance and maintaining high levels of customer service, efficiency and effectiveness during a period of significant change;
 - transforming employee's thinking paradigm to one that is focused on commerciality, efficiency, prioritising value add activity and eliminating waste; and
 - developing and inculcating the new WaterNSW culture.

Significant Internal Relationships

Stakeholder	Purpose of Relationship
Level 3 managers across the business	Providing support for others in the company for whom achievement of strategic objectives relies in part on influencing policy and regulatory decision-makers.

Significant External Relationships

Stakeholder	Purpose of Relationship
Water portfolios in State and Federal Governments to Ministerial adviser level	Build WaterNSW influence among policy and regulatory decision-makers (up to Ministerial Adviser level) through ensuring that WaterNSW is and is seen as a trusted adviser to those stakeholders.

Delegations, Financial Accountabilities & Freedom to Act

As defined in the WaterNSW Financial Delegations as varied from time to time.

WaterNSW Leadership & Performance Competencies

People	Level	
Communicating with Influence	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generates interest in complex ideas and concepts Builds support by taking the time to educate and consult others Uses storytelling effectively to meaningfully convey key messages
Customer	Level	
Collaboration & Engagement With Customers and Stakeholders	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively builds relationships internally and externally to positively impact the business Actively engages with customers and stakeholders to understand concerns and leverage opportunities for adding value Initiates and maintains extensive networks to enable the achievement of business objectives
Business	Level	
Analysis & Problem Solving	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takes a broad view when analysing complex and ambiguous situations Recognises patterns and draws linkages between data and/or situations Develops long term solutions that address the root cause of problems and prevent recurrences Selects and uses problem solving tools appropriate to the problem and the context Evaluates the effectiveness of implemented solutions
Business Acumen	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses a detailed understanding of the business functions and customer requirements to identify and act on opportunities and make trade offs where necessary Considers how activities in own team and business unit impact on the operations of other teams and business units Clearly defines performance metrics for individual and team to drive strategic direction and operational performance.

Mandatory Candidate Requirements

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or higher from a tertiary institution.
- Current NSW Drivers Licence

Knowledge:

- Government and Cabinet processes

Experience:

- Experience in Government either as a Ministerial adviser to a portfolio Minister or as a bureaucrat at agency leadership level whose accountabilities included direct Ministerial advising
- Proven experience in effective issues and reputation management, and delivering solutions to complex policy matters
- Excellent writing and communications skills

Favourable Candidate Requirements

- Experience working in water policy or a related field.

Pre-Employment Checks Required

- Identification
- Qualifications
- Drivers Licence
- Pre-employment Medical
- Police Check