



Sustainable Procurement Plan



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Foreword



Sustainability is a priority across RMIT's business, from learning & teaching to research to operational activities, as outlined in our Sustainability Policy. As Australia's largest tertiary institution, we also have a significant impact through our operational footprint and supply chain. The procurement of products and services is required to support our five international campuses and world-leading research and teaching.

We recognise we have a responsibility to minimise our impacts and to manage resources for long term value. This is important to the University in aligning with our core values as well as meeting student and staff expectations. We also have an opportunity to use our buying power to drive improved practices in the supply chain and support our strategic objective of shaping the world.

This plan outlines how RMIT will integrate sustainability considerations into its procurement practices, including processes, responsibilities and governance. This document covers the high-level objectives of sustainable procurement, articulates the business case, outlines key risks and opportunities in RMIT's supply chain, and identifies key strategies and an implementation plan. The appendices also provide an overview of the analysis that informed this plan.

Our approach to sustainable procurement is aligned with the international standard, *ISO 20400:2017 Sustainable procurement – guidance* (ISO 20400). The standard defines sustainable procurement as "procurement that has the most positive environmental, social and economic impacts possible over the entire life cycle.

RMIT is a signatory to the UN Global Compact and is committed to applying its Ten Principles that establish fundamental responsibilities of business in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. This Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is applied in RMIT's procurement through the application of minimum requirements of suppliers regarding their own ethical practices, while sustainable procurement considers the environmental, social and economic impacts of the goods and services purchased by RMIT and embedding this into the procurement process to achieve improved outcomes.

Overview



Achieve best value for the University and the community and environment in which it operates by embedding sustainability principles and practices into procurement.

Key principles

We will do this by considering the following principles:

- Minimising risk to the environment, our stakeholders, and persons in our supply chain
- Driving social and environmental improvement in the supply chain and supporting innovative approaches
- Considering the life cycle of all purchases to manage resources for long term value
- Supporting diversity and inclusion in the supply chain by engaging diverse and social enterprises.

Strategies

The following key strategies have been identified to support the achievement of RMIT's sustainable procurement objectives, including minimising the identified risks and maximising opportunities.

- Embed sustainability principles into all procurement decisions and activities through integration into standard policy, process, plans and templates alongside other considerations
- Integrate sustainability considerations into specifications and weighted evaluation criteria of tenders where relevant
- Prioritise sustainability in procurement-managed tenders, contracts and supplier relationships in line with the risk and opportunity identified in the associated industry and the category plan
- Establish and communicate minimum ethical and responsible management standards that all suppliers will be held to
- Assess the current performance of major suppliers and promote improvements in line with UN Global Compact Principles
- Manage risk in lower expenditure tiers by applying CSR Screening to purchases under \$150,000 and reducing spend that is non-compliant with policy
- Enable staff to implement procedures and deliver sustainability outcomes through training and ongoing development in the Procurement team and business units
- Embed sustainability into governance structures, sign-offs and KPIs
- Track and measure progress in implementing this plan and its outcomes.

Responsibilities

- Executive Director Property Services & Chief Procurement Officer – primary responsibility and accountability for sustainable procurement progress and performance and advocates the importance of sustainable procurement at the senior executive level and across business units
- Senior Manager Governance, Systems and Process – drives implementation within the Procurement Team and supports peers to apply the policy and process
- Chief Operating Officer – sponsors and advocates the importance of sustainable procurement at the senior executive level and across business units.

A full version of the plan can be request, email sustainability@rmit.edu.au



Context



As the ISO 20400 states, “Sustainable procurement represents an opportunity to provide more value to the organization by improving productivity, assessing value and performance, enabling communication between purchasers, suppliers and all stakeholders, and by encouraging innovation.’

Value for money (VFM) is a key principle of good procurement. The Victorian Government Procurement Board (VGPB) defines it as “the achievement of a desired procurement outcome at the best possible price—not necessarily the lowest price— based on a balanced judgement of financial and non-financial factors relevant to the procurement”. The VGPB also notes that VFM takes into account the total cost of procurement from planning to disposal and everything in between, commonly known as Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).

Sustainable procurement brings a number of benefits including:

Risk management

A report by INSEAD quantified the payback of avoiding impacts from bad supplier practices (and the resulting reputational/brand damage) and disruptions as up to 85 times the cost of implementing sustainable procurement initiatives. Similarly, McKinsey reports that the value at stake from sustainability concerns can be as high as 70% of earnings.

Cost reduction

A report by World Economic Forum found that sustainable procurement can result in supply chain cost reduction of 9-16% from reduced energy costs, reduced consumption & waste, supplier innovation and reduced social and environmental compliance costs.

Alignment with organisational values

Sustainable procurement aligns with RMIT’s values of passion, impact, inclusion, agility, courage and imagination, and ensures we practice in our operations what we preach in our strategy. It supports the strategic direction of shaping the world by supporting sustainable development and the goal of managing resources for long term value.

Attracting and engaging students and staff

Minimising negative impacts and unethical practices in purchasing and maximising positive environmental and social outcomes aligned with societal values and expectations, especially those of the millennial generation which makes up the majority of University-age students. Numerous studies show millennials are willing to pay more and are more loyal to brands and organisations that they view as socially responsible. Sustainability initiatives and values alignment similarly improve staff engagement and retention.

Improved supplier relationships

Research by HEC found 55% of organisations who apply sustainable procurement report it has resulted in stronger, more reliable and longer-lasting supplier relationships.

Legislative compliance

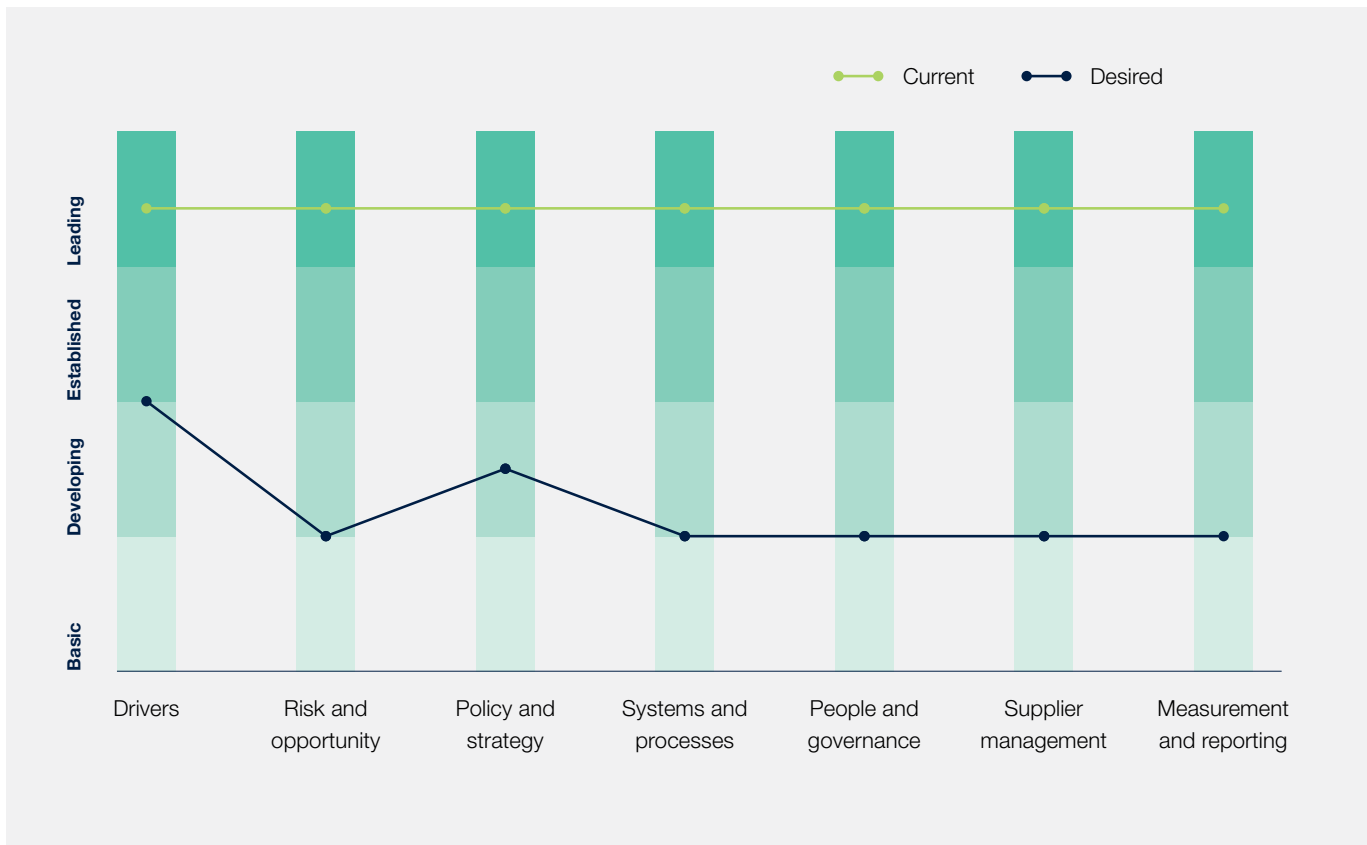
Under the proposed Australian ‘Modern slavery in supply chains’ legislation, RMIT may be required to publish annual statements outlining its actions to address human rights through policy, procedures and due diligence.

RMIT sustainable procurement maturity baseline

The international standard for sustainable procurement, ISO 20400, provides a framework and principles for implementing sustainability across procurement policies, procedures, systems, training, governance and reporting. RMIT has rated itself against EY's sustainable procurement maturity model, based closely on the ISO 20400 guidance.

RMIT is currently in the very initial stages of implementing sustainable procurement, reflected in a 'Basic' rating. Overall, its desired position is to achieve alignment with ISO 20400 (level 3, 'Established').

Figure 1: RMIT sustainable procurement performance baseline



Key risks and opportunities

RMIT's supply chain is varied and complex, comprised of suppliers that service our campus facilities, learning technology and on-site infrastructure services. We procure stationery and office supplies, catering, information and communications technology, campus services and travel services. The majority of our supply chain expenditure is in the area of building infrastructure, consulting services, equipment, facilities management and ITS software.

The following key risks, impacts and opportunities are relevant to these purchases:

- Risks of modern slavery and labour exploitation in the manufacture of goods, especially low value and consumable items including apparel and promotional items, the extraction of raw materials such as construction materials, agriculture and fishing, and the provision of services, including cleaning and some construction labour.
- Impacts to the environment in the extraction of raw materials, especially fossil fuels, building materials, wood fibre for office supplies and cleaning consumables, agriculture and fishing for food production, and plastic, metals, glass et cetera in disposable consumable items, as well as in the manufacturing of various products and waste generation
- Impact of carbon emissions in the purchase of electricity, influenced by energy efficiency of building design, plant and equipment
- Risks to the health and safety of workers in the supply chain including extraction of raw materials, manufacturing, transport of energy and gas and chemicals for lab use, and waste management and recovery
- Risks of corruption and unethical business practices in the provision of services, especially financial services, professional services, security services, energy utilities and property developers.
- Risks to RMIT's reputation with stakeholders due to potential impacts in goods or services purchased, especially of highly visible and brand-associated items such as promotional and marketing goods and major development projects, as well as activist campaigns that create student pressure regarding particular suppliers
- Opportunities to create improved social outcomes such as training, employment and economic empowerment by purchasing from diverse (e.g. Indigenous-owned) and social enterprises and others with social certifications such as Fairtrade and B Corp, including in construction services, maintenance, campus store, office supplies, cleaning and catering services,
- Opportunities to create student learning opportunities by developing industry placement agreements with key suppliers, especially in building development and design and utilities
- Opportunities to use buying power to influence supplier practices and support innovation, especially in building infrastructure and construction services, renewable energy generation, campus store, cleaning services and catering
- Opportunities to specify products with reduced environmental impacts, such as recycled content in consumables especially office and cleaning supplies and in building materials, low toxicity materials in cleaning, printing, building materials, furniture, fittings and equipment, energy efficiency in plant, equipment and IT hardware, and certified sustainable food ingredients in catering

Category risk, exposure and opportunity ratings

Risks in RMIT's supply chain have been assessed and rated by procurement category on the following three factors, a more detailed overview of each category is available in appendix 2.

Supply chain risk: Each category has been rated based on severity and frequency of incidents in the relevant industry, both in Australia and in countries where goods and materials are likely to be sourced from. This rating looks at what risks and impacts are inherent in the life cycle of a purchase, including raw material extraction, processing, manufacturing, transport and packaging, use and disposal of any goods, and in the delivery of a service. It is tailored to the types of products and services being procured by RMIT, but not to the supplier.

- **Environment:** This includes greenhouse gas emissions, air and water pollution, land use and contamination, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable resource use.
- **Health and safety:** This includes injury, illness, disability and fatality of workers, users and community members.
- **Human rights:** This includes labour exploitation ranging from poor working conditions, underpayment of wages and deceptive recruitment practices to forms of modern slavery such as forced labour, debt bondage, human trafficking, and child labour. It also includes other human rights for workers such as freedom from discrimination, equal opportunity, freedom to associate, freedom of movement and freedom from harassment and bullying, as well as rights for the community such as access to traditional land, waters and resources.
- **Corruption:** This includes fraud, embezzlement, bribery, extortion, conflict of interest, abuse of power, collusion, and other ethical business issues.

Business exposure: Each category has been rated for the potential for RMIT's own business and reputation being impacted by issues occurring in the supply chain. This includes:

- Is the risk within RMIT's direct influence, i.e. tier 1, or further down the supply chain?
- Is the purchase visible to the public or associated with RMIT's brand?
- Is the risk the focus of an activism campaign or otherwise likely to receive particular attention?

Opportunity: Each category has been rated for opportunities to achieve improved environmental or social outcomes. This includes:

- Availability of alternative products and services, especially with an ecolabel or certification (e.g. Fairtrade, FSC), or other environmental or socially preferable attribute
- Availability of diverse or social enterprises, such as Indigenous owned businesses or enterprises that train and provide employment to disadvantaged people
- RMIT's ability to influence changes with existing suppliers, such as through buying power with smaller suppliers, highly competitive categories, and industries with broad industry initiatives that suppliers may be willing to join
- Opportunity to create industry placements for RMIT students with suppliers.

Considering the three aspects together allows us to prioritise categories that are highest in all three for attention in future procurements and current contracts.

Table 1: Category assessment overall results

Spend category	Priority	Supply chain risk	Business exposure	Opportunity	Overall Screening Risk
Building Infrastructure	Y	H*	H	H	High
Utilities	Y	H	H	M-H	High
Consumables incl Campus store	Y	H*	H	M-H	High
Promotional items & gifts	Y	H*	H	M	High
Lab supplies and industrial gas	Y	H*	L-M	L	High
Cleaning & Consumables	Y	M-H*	H	H	High
Security	Y	M-H*	H	L	High
Office supplies	Y	M-H	M-H	H	High
Catering	Y	M-H*	M-H	H	High
Waste		M-H	M	L-M	M-H
Fleet		M-H	M	L-M	M-H
Furniture, fittings & equipment		M-H*	L-M	M	M-H
IT Hardware (client computing & mobiles)		M-H*	L-M	L	M-H
Travel		M-H	L	M	M-H
Professional Services		M	M-H	M	M-H
Financial Services		M	M-H	L-M	M-H
Printing services		M	M	M-H	M
Removals and storage		M	L-M	L	M
Printing equipment		M	L	L-M	M
Freight		M	L	L	M
IT Infrastructure		M	L	L	M
Events Management (excl. catering)		L-M	M-H	M	M
Marketing services (data analytics)		L-M	M-H	L-M	M
Maintenance services		L-M	M	M-H	L-M
Professional, Teaching & Learning		L-M	M	L-M	L-M
Facilities Management (fees)		L-M	L-M	L	L-M
Recruitment		L	M	L	L-M
Leases		L	L-M	L	L-M
Non Influenceable		L	L-M	L	L-M
IT Applications		L	L	L	L

Legend

- High risk
- Medium—high risk
- Medium risk
- Low—medium risk
- Low risk
- High opportunity
- Medium—high opportunity
- Medium opportunity
- Low—medium opportunity
- Low opportunity

Table 2: Supply chain risk detail: environmental, social and governance risks

Spend category	Environment	Health & Safety	Human Rights	Corruption
Building Infrastructure	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
Utilities	High	Medium	Medium	Low
Consumables incl Campus store	Medium	Medium	High	Low
Promotional items & gifts	Medium	Low	High	Low
Lab supplies and industrial gas	High	Medium	High	Low
Cleaning & Consumables	Low	Low	Medium	Low
Security	Low	Low	Medium	Low
Office supplies	Medium	Low	Medium	Low
Catering	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Waste	Medium	Low	Low	Medium
Fleet	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
Furniture, fittings & equipment	Medium	Low	Medium	Low
IT Hardware (client computing & mobiles)	Low	Low	High	Low
Travel	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Professional Services	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Financial Services	Low	Low	Low	High
Printing services	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Removals and storage	Low	Medium	Low	Low
Printing equipment	Low	Low	Low	Low
Freight	Low	Low	Low	Low
IT Infrastructure	Low	Low	Low	Low
Events Management (excl. catering)	Low	Low	Low	Low
Marketing services (data analytics)	Low	Low	Low	Low
Maintenance services	Low	Low	Low	Low
Professional, Teaching & Learning	Low	Low	Low	Low
Facilities Management (fees)	Low	Low	Low	Low
Recruitment	Low	Low	Low	Low
Leases	Low	Low	Low	Low
Non Influenceable	Low	Low	Low	Low
IT Applications	Low	Low	Low	Low

Legend



Low

High



Appendix B – Priority Categories

The priority categories for management focus are below with descriptions of the risk, business exposure and opportunity factors.

Building Infrastructure

Environment	Safety	Human rights	Corruption	Business exposure	Opportunity
H	M-H	M-H	H	H	H

Supply chain risk: The construction industry is one of the sectors in Australia most vulnerable to modern slavery. One reason is its demand for low-skilled, manual, low-wage work, as well as complex subcontracting and labour broker relationships, which increase the risk of forced overtime, underpayment and poor working conditions. Trades, where a majority of workers are covered by unions, pose a lower risk as labour conditions have generally been addressed by the unions. However, trades and activities on site that are less skilled and have more migrant workers, such as gyprock plastering and tiling, have higher risk and have had a number of incidents found in Australia. Another challenge is the procurement of building materials and products which often have long and complex supply chains stretching across multiple high-risk countries and many stakeholders. For example, bricks, granite, timber, gravel, steel, glass, cement, and rubber have been identified as being produced using forced or child labour in such countries as India, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, and North Korea, as well as in areas of Africa and Central America.

The environmental impact of materials used in construction can be high due to the extraction of raw materials and manufacture, including very high contribution to greenhouse gas emissions in steel and cement manufacture and risk of illegal timber sourcing contributing to deforestation. The ongoing operation of development may also cause significant environmental impacts, especially through energy and water use. There is a high risk of safety incidents in construction and development; although fatalities are rare in the Australian construction industry, the risk of safety incidents is high in the manufacture of materials and also in use of non-conforming (to the National Construction Code) materials such as cladding. The construction industry also has had a number of incidents of corruption globally, which can be a reputational risk for purchasers when engaging a multinational developer.

Business exposure: Construction of new buildings is an activity very closely associated with RMIT's brand, and therefore any impacts or incidents that occur would impact RMIT's reputation with the student community, regulators, employees, and other stakeholders, leading to other financial and operational risks such as approvals, finance and social licence for future developments. Labour exploitation or safety incidents that occur on RMIT's property would be viewed as within its direct control, as would the selection of materials that may originate from unethical or unsustainable sources. Additionally, there is a risk of disruption of a project and additional cost if critical subcontractors or materials had significant labour, safety, environmental or corruption issue (in Australia or overseas) that led to shutdown or reduced ability to deliver.

Opportunities: There are significant opportunities to reduce environmental, safety, labour and corruption risks as well as improve social and environmental outcomes of construction through setting strong standards of construction partners as well as material selection. Principal contractors should be assessed to ensure they have appropriate policies and practices in place to prevent third-party contractors, such as labour providers, from using people in modern slavery conditions, and any gaps identified in their practices required to be addressed as part of the contract or development agreement and ongoing management.

There is opportunity to apply strict standards to the selection of materials in development design and specification, including not purchasing stone, bricks, blocks, tiles or pavers from any countries identified in the US Department of Labor's List of Goods unless they are able to provide third-party certification or a compliant audit with ethical frameworks such as the Ethical Trading Initiative Base Code. The selection of other materials and products in development design and specification should also consider options that reduce risk and impacts, such as FSC or PEFC timber, low carbon or recycled content concrete, GreenTag products, energy and water efficient fittings and equipment, and use of other stewardship systems which address responsible management (labour, safety, corruption) in addition to environment, such as Fair Stone, TFT Responsible Stone Programme and Responsible Steel.

There is also opportunity to build the capability of primary contractors in this category by requiring that they join the Supply Chain Sustainability School and complete required learning modules, and also encourage their sub-contractors to do the same. This category has good potential to establish industry partnerships to provide placement opportunities for students in the building, construction and architecture/design industries. There are additionally many opportunities to utilise social enterprise and Indigenous-owned trades and service providers and to require the primary contractor to establish a plan of how they will support employment and training of disadvantaged groups through a project.

Some useful resources for more detail on modern slavery risk in the construction sector are found below:

- www.lexisnexis.de/whitepaper/hidden-in-plain-site.pdf
- www.apres.bre.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Ethical-Design-Guide.pdf
- www.supplychainschool.org.au/about/news/121/New-report-Modern-Slavery-in-Australian-property-construction-and-infrastructure-supply-chains

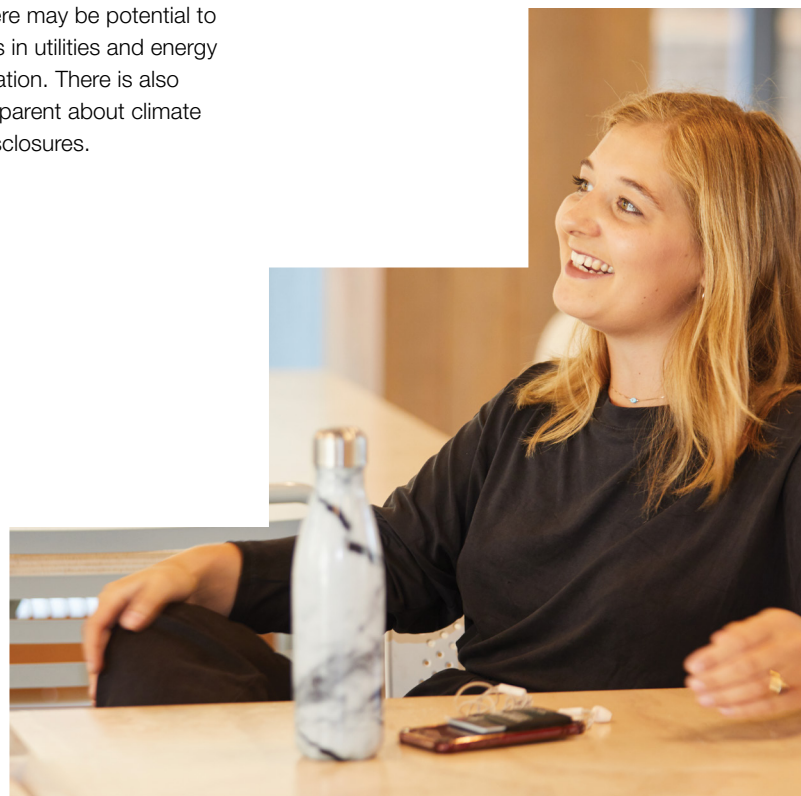
Utilities

Environment	Safety	Human rights	Corruption	Business exposure	Opportunity
H	M-H	M-H	M-H	H	M-H

Supply chain risk: This category is one of the highest rated environmental risks in RMIT’s supply chain due to its contribution to climate change as well as water pollution, air pollution and land use in extraction, production and transport of fossil fuels and electricity. Power supply is also a high risk for corruption due to bribery of government officials to gain leases, approvals, permits and subsidies, both in Australia and overseas, and the potential for unethical practices in consumer sales. There are also moderate to high risks of safety incidents especially in gas explosions but also electrocution and oil production and power generation. Human rights risks are relatively low and more focused on the impacts on local communities of land use for gas production or pipeline construction and impacts to water resources.

Business exposure: Although electricity, gas and water use are not highly visible to stakeholders, the exposure rating is still considered high because RMIT is a large user and there is potential that it could be pressured by a campaign targeting its campuses. Such a campaign could be negative, targeting RMIT as a customer of a particular energy provider who employs highly polluting power plants of fracking, or positive, advocating a higher percentage of renewable energy use.

Opportunities: RMIT has already invested in energy efficiency and renewable energy use through Sustainable Urban Precincts Program upgrades, the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project and solar panels. Continuing to increase renewable energy use is an opportunity for RMIT through further small scale solar and other renewable energy generation investment and buying renewable energy certificates. There may be potential to establish industry engagement programs for placement opportunities in utilities and energy development including on-campus installation and large scale generation. There is also potential to preferentially source from energy suppliers who are transparent about climate risk and responding to the Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures.



Consumables (incl campus store, promotional items & gifts)

Environment	Safety	Human rights	Corruption	Business exposure	Opportunity
M-H	M-H	H	L-M	H	M-H

Supply chain risk: This category contains the highest risk of modern slavery and labour abuse in RMIT's supply chain. Low value, high demand products such as apparel, promotional items, stationery, plastics and other disposable products, have a high risk of modern slavery and labour abuses in factories and through the sourcing of raw materials such as cotton, wood fibre and minerals from unethical sources. This may include forced and child labour in cotton picking, textile, garment and other goods manufacture, and illegal logging. These products also have a moderate to high environmental impact from raw material extraction of cotton, metals and wood fibres and from plastics, coatings and other materials that may cause pollution during manufacturing. Single-use products and promotional items are a litter risk and are large contributors to waste and landfill. Paper and book products have moderate to high risks for deforestation related to wood fibre. Health and safety risks are also moderate to high in the manufacture of low-value goods, especially as these are often made in poorly regulated countries and factories without mature management controls.

Business exposure: Products found in the campus store, promotional items and gifts are closely associated with RMIT's brand (often marked with RMIT branding) and are highly visible to students, staff and members of the public. These would be a prime target for a campaign or media attention and potential issues in these categories pose a high risk to the business.

Opportunities: RMIT has an opportunity to preferentially stock and supply products that achieve improved environmental or social outcomes, including stationery, books, paper, apparel and promotional items from diverse and social enterprises (including Indigenous-owned, disability and B Corps), products with ecolabels or labour certifications, second-hand goods and items made from recycled content. RMIT could also source more environmentally friendly promotional merchandise, including natural, recycled, low toxicity, and reusable products, or products that support more sustainable behaviours (such as reusable coffee cups). Offering such products also supports RMIT in demonstrating its commitment to sustainability to all stakeholders. RMIT may also consider stocking relevant products by former and current RMIT students, to support those businesses and provide inspiration to others.

There is a strong opportunity to influence merchandise purchasing at RMIT by setting strict ethical standards and due diligence of suppliers of apparel, promotional products, and internal theming, including a requirement for auditing. RMIT may consider requiring suppliers of any products to provide evidence of factories having passed ethical audits such as SMETA, SA8000 or other equivalent frameworks.

Lab supplies and industrial gas

Environment	Safety	Human rights	Corruption	Business exposure	Opportunity
H	M-H	M-H	L-M	L-M	L

Supply chain risk: This category has moderate to high risks of human rights abuse in the manufacture of personal protective equipment (e.g. lab coats, disposable masks and safety glasses) and glass and plastic consumables. For any such low-value consumables, there are risks of forced and child labour (modern slavery) and poor safety conditions in factories and unethical sources of raw materials such as cotton, wood fibre and minerals. There are also high environmental risks associated with the resource use and waste generation of consumable, disposable products. Single-use plastics like pipettes, tips and other lab consumables are a large contributor to landfill and potentially litter. Chemicals and gases have high environmental impacts in the extraction and refining of petrochemicals, high risk of safety incidents in these stages, and risk of corruption in the chemical industry. There are also moderate to high safety risks for transporting gas canisters and possible explosion risks. Health and safety risks are also a consideration for equipment and chemicals used in the labs, including from products that do not meet standards.

Business exposure: Lab supplies are not as likely to be associated with RMIT's brand; however, these products are highly visible to RMIT students and faculty. Therefore some reputations risk is present and any issues in their manufacture or sourcing could cause reputational and brand damage to RMIT.

Opportunities: The opportunity to source alternative ethical lab supplies and chemicals is currently quite low due to limited availability. One exception is readily available paper and stationery products that have attributes such as recycled content, carbon neutral, low toxicity and biobased inks. To make some improvements in this area RMIT can focus efforts on committing to reducing single-use plastics where possible, and investigating opportunities to provide repurposed/recycled/second-hand lab supplies where appropriate. RMIT should also ensure all suppliers in this category have strong management systems in place including environmental (ISO 14001 EMS), safety (AS/NZS 4801 OHSMS), quality (ISO 9001 QMS) and labour audits (e.g. SMETA or SA8000).

Cleaning & consumables

Environment	Safety	Human rights	Corruption	Business exposure	Opportunity
M	L-M	M-H	L-M	H	H

Supply chain risk: There are moderate to high risks of human rights abuses in this category, including cleaning staff and manufacturing of consumables such as paper and chemicals. Labour exploitation has been found to be a problem in the cleaning industry, including underpayment, forced overtime, bullying and discrimination. There are moderate environmental impacts associated with the manufacture of cleaning chemicals, water pollution from their use and improper disposal, and deforestation and waste generation from cleaning consumables. There are also potential health risks associated with the vapours of cleaning chemicals to cleaning staff, university employees and students.

Business exposure: Cleaners are highly visible to RMIT students, staff and guests. They may wear a logo that is associated with RMIT’s brand on their uniform, and their labour conditions may be viewed as under direct control of RMIT by stakeholders. There have been past campaigns and protests by cleaners and their advocates against the contracting company, which could cause disruption to students, staff and guests and result in media coverage and lasting reputational damage.

Opportunities: There are significant opportunities to reduce environmental impacts through the use of low toxicity chemicals, reusable and recycled content consumables and ‘green cleaning’ methods. RMIT can meaningfully improve social outcomes by using suppliers that train and employ disadvantaged people, and it also has the opportunity and ability to influence existing suppliers by integrating environmental and social commitments into contract KPIs. RMIT could also investigate joining the Cleaning Accountability Framework initiative to drive improved labour practices with its own suppliers and across the industry.



Security

Environment	Safety	Human rights	Corruption	Business exposure	Opportunity
M	M	M-H	M	H	L

Supply chain risk: There are moderate to high risks related to security companies’ interaction with and potential mistreatment of the community surrounding or using a site they protect, including discrimination, bullying and harassment, and of people they may be guarding, such as offshore detention camps. There are inherent risks in the provision of security services, including the safety of security guards, bribery, corruption and criminal activities. Some security services may subcontract staff from less reputable labour-hire companies that underpay staff, require overtime or do not provide appropriate training. There are also environmental impacts in audio-visual security equipment.

Business exposure: Security staff members are closely associated with RMIT by stakeholders, they could be wearing the RMIT logo on their uniform and viewed as acting on behalf of RMIT, so any improper behaviour would directly reflect on RMIT. There is also currently campaigns against certain security providers contracted at Australian detention centres which has led to protests against their other customers.

Opportunities: RMIT has an opportunity to prioritise ethical standards in the selection of its security provider, including preferencing security companies with a policy and commitments on human rights and strong training of staff on respecting human rights and cultural diversity. A single contract across sites could provide sufficient buying power to signal the market or gain commitment from the successful bidder to implement training and policies over the life of the contract. A strong consideration of past performance of the security provider through media review is also recommended.



Office supplies

Environment	Safety	Human rights	Corruption	Business exposure	Opportunity
M-H	L-M	M-H	L-M	M-H	H

Supply chain risk: There are moderate to high environmental risks such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable resource use associated with wood fibres in paper products, other stationery and printing services. There are also environmental impacts including pollution related to the manufacture of paper, plastic and metal products. Stationery and paper have a moderate to high risk of modern slavery and labour abuses in factories and in the sourcing of raw materials from illegal sources.

Business exposure: There is high visibility by RMIT's own employees of products in this category. At some companies, this has led employees to feel the organisation does not 'walk the talk' around sustainability when it purchases paper, other stationery or printing services not viewed as environmentally friendly. Thus it is a higher risk to the business if these issues are not addressed.

Opportunities: Products with preferred environmental attributes are abundant in this category, including FSC and PEFC certification, recycled content, carbon neutral, low toxicity and bio-based. Diverse and social enterprises are also available to provide stationery products or printing services. RMIT could consider establishing a commitment to purchase only FSC, PEFC and 100% recycled content paper products, which are readily available and ensure deforestation is avoided. It also may consider working with stationery suppliers to increase 'eco range' and social/diverse enterprise products in what they provide to RMIT, including through the online catalogue products. These products can then also be promoted to staff through communications with business units and behaviour change strategies. Similar to lab supplies and consumables, suppliers should be requested to provide evidence of factories having passed ethical audits such as SMETA, SA8000 or other equivalent frameworks.

Catering

Environment	Safety	Human rights	Corruption	Business exposure	Opportunity
M-H	L-M	M	L-M	M-H	H

Supply chain risk: There are moderate to high risks of environmental impact in this category from agriculture (including greenhouse, water use, water pollution, deforestation and biodiversity), and medium risks of labour abuses especially in migrant farmworkers, fishing, commodities from high risk countries such as coffee, tea, cocoa and sugar, and food processing. Corruption risk is moderate in this category, especially in large scale agriculture and intermediary vendors and wholesalers. There are also safety incidents associated with agriculture and fishing globally, but lower risk in Australian manufacturing and catering services. Consumables, disposable items and linens related to catering all have high environmental impacts in their largely agricultural & forestry supply chains, as well as moderate labour risks in agriculture (including cotton and palm oil) and manufacture.

Business exposure: Catering services are highly visible to RMIT students, employees and guests, and events, where catering is provided, will be associated with RMIT's brand. Therefore any revelation of labour exploitation or environmental impact related to an RMIT supplier would have a significant impact on RMIT's reputation and potentially high media attention.

Opportunities: There are significant opportunities to set commitments around certain high impact or unethical food products, including banning seafood that is 'threatened' on the IUCN Red List, caged poultry and eggs and sow stall pork. Other commitments would be more difficult and possibly a longer-term goal, such as certified sustainable palm oil (RSPO) and fish (MSC or ASC). RMIT is already a Fair Trade University, and there are similar opportunities to increase the amount of products from smaller boutique and sustainable producers, Indigenous suppliers and social enterprises. For catering supplies and disposable items there are opportunities to select suppliers who use recycled content or plant-based and compostable catering consumables.



Furniture, fittings & equipment

Environment	Safety	Human rights	Corruption	Business exposure	Opportunity
M-H	M	M-H	L-M	L-M	M

Supply chain risk: Furniture fittings and equipment have a moderate to high environmental risk due to logging associated with timber-based products, pollution from manufacturing of textiles, paints and varnishes, and manufacturing and raw material extraction risks of metal and plastics associated with equipment. There are also moderate to high risks of human rights abuses in the manufacture of these items, especially the manufacture of components such as textiles and smaller electronic parts and the raw material extraction of cotton, wood fibre and minerals. Risks of safety incidents are moderate due to similar considerations, and corruption lower relative to other categories.

Business exposure: There is a low to moderate business exposure risk for RMIT with regards to furniture, fittings and equipment. While these products are visible to students, staff and guest these products are less likely to be directly associated with RMIT’s brand or become a target for an activist campaign.

Opportunities: There is a medium opportunity to set strong requirements of suppliers that manage the design and sourcing of furniture, fittings and equipment, including material selection requirements and assessment and auditing of manufacturers. There are additional opportunities to utilise social enterprises and Indigenous-owned furniture suppliers who apply similar environmental standards.

Waste

Environment	Safety	Human rights	Corruption	Business exposure	Opportunity
M-H	M	L-M	M-H	M	L-M

Supply chain risk: There are medium to high risks in the category of waste management due to the potential for litter and water and air pollution from landfill or improper disposal. There is currently an increased risk of corruption, illegal disposal, unsafe stockpiling and lack of recovery of recyclable materials due to the China National Sword policy, and this is expected to continue for the foreseeable future due to a lack of a market for these materials. Similar risks apply to e-waste, batteries and other speciality recycling streams that may not be appropriately disposed or recovered. There is also a risk to the health of waste staff members and the general public from improper handling and disposal of waste including hazardous materials.

Business exposure: Waste collection and disposal is relatively less visible to stakeholders. However, due to the current situation with waste in Australia not being able to be recycled and potentially stockpiled or sent to landfill, it is possible media or activists (like the recent War on Waste television series) could focus on a large generator of waste such as universities to show the waste impact.

Opportunities: RMIT has had a strong focus on improving recycling at the university, so careful attention should be paid to waste management providers collecting this material to understand its destination and confirm it is appropriately recovered. This includes both commingled recycling and other types such as e-waste and batteries. There is an opportunity in selecting a waste vendor to preference those that can provide improved separation, processing and recovery of waste materials. There are also opportunities to engage social enterprises or set requirements for suppliers to increase training and employment of disadvantaged people.



