

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



UNLOCKING IMPACT

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT
2022



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**WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY**



IN THE WORLD*



*Times Higher Education ranked Western Sydney University #1 worldwide in 2022 based on its commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

In 2022, 1,406 universities participated in the THE Impact Rankings.

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2022

FOREWORD

Western Sydney University acknowledges the peoples of the Darug, Tharawal, Eora and Wiradjuri nations. We acknowledge that the teaching, learning and research undertaken across our campuses continues the teaching, learning and research that has occurred on these lands for tens of thousands of years.

Universities provide vital access to life-changing education opportunities for people but also social and economic uplift for whole regions and communities. They build awareness of privilege, facilitate progressive coalitions and a culture of allyship. They address the grand challenges of our times and are a force for public good.

The world gradually opened its borders in 2022 after two years of lockdown to a new global landscape. Worldwide there was geopolitical instability, war, food and energy insecurity, increasing climate disasters, high inflation and the threat of economic recession. Extreme poverty increased for the first time in a generation wiping out 25 years of progress. In Australia our Federal Government changed, commitments to net zero transitions and carbon management increased, and New South Wales experienced its second year of devastating flooding as costs of living rose.

As an institution deeply committed to the region of western Sydney we are determined to make positive change for the greater good. Our 8th annual sustainability report 'Unlocking Impact' details not just our world rankings success in the THE Impact Rankings but our enduring work across Curriculum, Operations, Research and Engagement on this vital agenda. Over 2022 we reactivated our campuses, reconnected

with each other, and reached out to our local, national and international partners.

We also celebrated our success in the prestigious Times Higher Education Impact Ranking, placing first in the world out of more than 1,400 global institutions. This work does not stop with a ranking however, and we continued our efforts by implementing a new set of graduate attributes to foster our students' impact in the world after university, committed to research priority areas that extend past single disciplines to deliver collaborative impact on equity and climate, and took steps to becoming carbon neutral across all our campuses. We will continue to bring together our best researchers and educators, as well as our students, to work collaboratively towards ensuring the generations to come have a healthy sustainable future. Together we can unlock possibilities and create impact for a healthy, resilient future for western Sydney and beyond.



Professor Barney Glover AO
Vice-Chancellor and President



OUR GLOBAL SDG RANKINGS

1ST OVERALL

THE Impact Rankings 2022

1ST FOR SDG 6

Clean Water and Sanitation

2ND FOR SDG 12

Responsible Consumption and Production

3RD IN THE WORLD FOR SDG 5

Gender Equality

4TH IN THE WORLD FOR SDG 10

Reduced Inequalities

5TH IN THE WORLD FOR SDG 17

Partnerships for the Goals

9TH IN THE WORLD FOR SDG 14

Life Below Water

10TH IN THE WORLD FOR SDG 15

Life on Land

15TH IN THE WORLD FOR SDG 3

Good Health and Wellbeing

15TH IN THE WORLD FOR SDG 11

Sustainable Cities and Communities



UNI IN THE WORLD

THE SDGs IN NUMBERS

OUR DASHBOARD

2022 AT A GLANCE:



1st

in the global Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings for our work and progress on the SDGs.



3,214

students graduated from health professions (medicine, nursing and midwifery, and health sciences) across all levels of study, up 30% (1,017 graduates) from the previous year.



20,000

primary and secondary students participated in aspirational school engagement programs aimed at making higher education accessible to all, critically important to support our regions future.



45%

of our senior academic staff, and more than half of our current commencing students and graduates, are women.



252

publications on local and global research that is relevant to clean water and sanitation, well above the world median (33 publications).



150

permanent positions (full-time equivalent) for casual academic staff, ensuring secure employment and rewarding teaching and research roles at the University, in the biggest-ever casualisation conversion scheme in the sector.



5,955

students are first in family to start their first degree this year (57%), higher than the sector average. In 2022 we had 829 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled. More than 10% of our student population are from developing countries.



91%

of our total waste produced on campus was recycled, with only 9% of waste ending up in landfill, using innovative waste management practices over the past decade and joining the single use plastics ban in all our campus retailers.



100%

of our total energy used for campus electricity was from renewable resources (Green Power Accredited), 12 months ahead of our targeted schedule.



89

submissions through our *Sustainability and Resilience 2030* Decadal Strategy (SRDS) Engagement Platform from all areas of the University.

AIM OF THE GOALS

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning for all.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

SDG 6: Ensure sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

SDG 8: Promote inclusive and productive employment and decent work for all.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

SDG 17: Strengthen implementation and revitalise the global partnerships.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

OUR SUCCESS

2022 AT A GLANCE:

PLANET



117 hectares

Biodiversity Stewardship site on the Hawkesbury campus championing action towards Western's ambitious path of a climate positive organisation.

PEOPLE



400

participants (online and in person) at the national PowerShift Conference - the biggest youth climate movement event in Australia - with this year's conference sponsored by Western.

PROSPERITY



\$15 million

investment in the NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub for a university consortium delivering innovative technologies to accelerate the goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

PEACE



18 years

of being recognised as an Employer of Choice for Gender Equality reflecting Western's long-standing and on-going commitment as a global leader.

PARTNERSHIPS



10 years

of powerful partnerships acknowledged by a national award for RCE Greater Western Sydney leadership in delivering collaborative sustainability initiatives for a decade.

ADDRESSING OUR SRDS PRIORITIES

We are committed to the **planet** by embracing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges and regenerative systems.



We are committed to **people** by supporting and enacting resilient cities and climate action in our region.



We are committed to **prosperity** by enacting ethical economic transitions and artificial intelligence.



We are committed to **peace** by promoting just food systems, environmental justice and social inclusion.



We are committed to **partnerships** to mobilise the means required to implement this agenda.



CROSS-CUTTING THEME

All our SRDS activities are underpinned by education, aiming to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development and lifelong learning.

PRICELESS KNOWLEDGE CARING FOR COUNTRY

This year's Yarramundi Lecture shared a vision for how we can actively embrace Indigenous knowledge. This is vital to the University's longstanding commitment to Indigenous people's aspirations across education, research and as future leaders.

– Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Indigenous Leadership

YARRAMUNDI LECTURE

Western hosted its annual Yarramundi Lecture, which explored this year's NAIDOC theme 'Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!' with prominent Indigenous people, and attracted a diverse audience of students, staff and community members. The lecture series was created by the University to celebrate Indigenous history, culture and achievements and is a significant part of the University's commitment to its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

IGNITE TRAINEES

The Ignite Indigenous Traineeship Program, delivered by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership, provided a vocational pathway for Indigenous participants to gain paid experience in University operations. Eight trainees were employed as professional staff members, acquiring a unique business skillset from host Schools, Divisions and Institutes within the University over 12 months - each making a significant contribution to the workplace.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Western is working towards creating a more culturally competent learning environment for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, including through our graduate attributes. The School of Nursing and Midwifery supported First Nations students and ensures that staff handle matters relating to their health, wellbeing and culture in a culturally competent way. The Allied Health Clinical Educator Training has developed an online Indigenous module to support Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and Allied Health Placement supervisors to engage with Indigenous patients and culture, and support Indigenous students on placement. The School of Law launched 'First Nations Peoples' Access to Justice' clinical subjects and a pilot 'Indigenised Contracts' curriculum to decolonise the legal curriculum and embed Indigenous knowledge. Mapping Royal Commission recommendations has led to student projects on reducing Indigenous incarceration and deaths, and teaching resources for Black Lives Matter were created to improve Indigenous content teaching.

SCIENCE AND THE ART OF MYRTLE RUST

The Myrtle Rust fungus, first detected in Australia in 2010, is silently killing our seedlings, saplings and established trees. Hundreds of Australian species in the *Myrtaceae* family are susceptible including bottlebrushes, eucalyptus and tea trees with 16 species set to become extinct within a generation. The exhibition convened by the School of Science was held at the Australian Botanical Gardens in 2022 and featured work by 11 Aboriginal artists from Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative. The works in this exhibition are each artist's response to a call to protect Country from the devastating effects of Myrtle Rust.

"Complimenting this exhibition is a sonification and generative music piece made from Myrtle Rust genomic data and real time sonification of critically endangered Australian native plants, and a science symposium 'Spare a thought for the trees' discussing the impact of Myrtle Rust in Australia." – Dr Mark Temple, School of Science



Target 8.6: Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.



THE DHARAWAL PHARMACOPEIA: A PRICELESS GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE

First Nations Elder Auntie Fran Bodkin has developed a catalogue of the medicinal properties of native plants found across Dharawal Country. In March 2022 Auntie Fran gifted the Dharawal Pharmacopeia to Western Sydney University (whose Campbelltown campus is located on Dharawal Country) at a public ceremony to commemorate this. The Dharawal Pharmacopeia is for the purposes of research, education and community engagement and a priceless gift for students of Western to learn about the vital importance of native plant species and their traditional and contemporary medicinal uses. The Dharawal Pharmacopeia will ensure that this knowledge is recognised and respected by western science and protected under western law.



Target 3.b: Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Target 15.1: Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.



There are feasible and effective adaptation options but there is also a need for increased ambition in both adaptation and mitigation. This demands urgent attention from policymakers and the public.

Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2022)

IMPACTS, ADAPTATION AND VULNERABILITY: IPCC REPORT 2022

The most recent IPCC report confirms that nature and people have suffered widespread adverse impacts due to human-induced climate change, with vulnerable systems and people being disproportionately affected. The assessment highlights the importance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C to achieve a sustainable, equitable and fair world.

FUTURE EARTH AUSTRALIA: NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR JUST ADAPTATION

The National Strategy for Just Adaptation was launched by the Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Senator Jenny McAllister, at Parliament House in September 2022. The report delivered by Future Earth Australia was compiled from over two years of collaboration and research, including more than 35 authors from diverse backgrounds and 13 university, government and private partners. Western's Professor Juan Salazar and Associate Professor Jessica Weir were part of the national expert working group.

The strategy seeks to broaden the national adaptation and resilience agenda, and embed principles of justice and equity across Australian climate action. The strategy brings together Indigenous knowledges, adaptation science, the humanities and social sciences, offering a counter-narrative to previous policy approaches to adaptation, moving from a focus on strictly technical elements to encompassing social, political, and behavioural strategies and larger systems change.



Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

AMBITIOUS HORIZONS POLICY AND PRACTICE

“It was an immensely proud moment in the University’s history to see our sector-leading efforts drive important social transformation recognised through our ranking, and we urge the sector to take responsibility for these goals. – Professor Deborah Sweeney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Enterprise & International

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP WITH IMPACT FOR ADVANCING THE SDGs

Western hosted two global forums in 2022 with Indonesian and Indian thought leaders to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), expand partnerships and strengthen bilateral relationships. In July, an SDG panel discussion with thought leaders in Jakarta was convened. The discussion focused on the role of higher education partnerships and collaborations with corporate, government, education and NGO organisations, in addressing global poverty, improving access to health and education, and building strong institutional partnerships by 2030. Esteemed speakers who contributed to the panel discussion included Her Royal Highness, Crown Princess GKR Mangkubumi.

In November, Western signed agreements with seven Indian State Agriculture Universities, part of the agricultural education, research and extension system headed by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) - the largest network of agricultural research and education institutes in the world.

“We now have 23 partnership agreements between State and Central Agricultural Universities and Western Sydney University which enables research and capacity-building at scale. In addition to dual Masters and PhDs with scholarships, the partnerships are leading research in climate smart farming systems in India and Australia.” – Dr. Rakesh Chandra Agrawal, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education), ICAR.

THE AUSTRALIA-INDIA POLICY AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN WATER AND FOOD SECURITY

The Australia India Water Centre hosted the Policy and Technical Exchange Program in May and June to share experiences, build capacity in policy and technical aspects, and to strengthen knowledge exchange and collaboration in water resources management between both countries. Funded by the Federal Department of Education through the Australia India Institute, the program engaged over 150 individuals including government officials, academics and technical experts. The workshops covered groundwater sustainability, soil and water management for food security, wastewater reuse, and water informatics for sustainable water futures.



SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION UNLOCKING A BETTER FUTURE

“Our students today are the leaders of tomorrow. We are working to equip all of our students with sustainability capabilities, including the necessary skills, knowledge and mindsets to enable them to be truly capable leaders committed to a more sustainable and just world.”
– Professor Simon Barrie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic

TOURISM: REDEFINING SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

“We have offered tourism at the University for 30 years. We have grown and expanded our specialisations in both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, all underpinned by sustainability principles. Our Major in Sustainability, Tourism and Environment was co-designed with Dr Jason Reynolds from the School of Science. This is an exciting collaboration that will help to ensure the future sustainability of this key economic sector.” – Dr Garth Lean, School of Social Sciences

The natural environment is a key component of leisure, recreation and tourism experiences, especially in Australia. However, the impact of non-sustainable activities can be significant. To tackle this issue, the unique cross-School Major in Sustainability, Tourism and Environment blends subjects from the social and environmental sciences, equipping students with the skills and knowledge to pursue sustainable careers in ecotourism, leisure and recreation. From identifying and assessing environmental impacts, to managing visitor economy and conservation, our program also addresses critical global issues such as climate change, poverty, inequality and pollution.

BUSINESS: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

“Climate change is a business problem. As such it is critical that our students learn and apply environmental management concepts within a business context.”
– Professor Yi-Chen Lan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Development and Provost, Vietnam Campus

Offered at our Vietnam and Parramatta City campuses, students undertaking Western's Master of Business Administration explore a range of practices and strategies that underpin a sustainable business operation, learning why environmental sustainability is the world's most challenging and complex issue. Using real-world case studies and emerging environmental management initiatives, such as the circular economy, natural capital accounting, and environmental and social profit and loss, students investigate first hand approaches and tools to analyse environmental management practices, determine environmental risks, and develop associated mitigation strategies.

PHYSIOTHERAPY: WORKING TOWARDS CULTURAL INCLUSION AND SAFETY

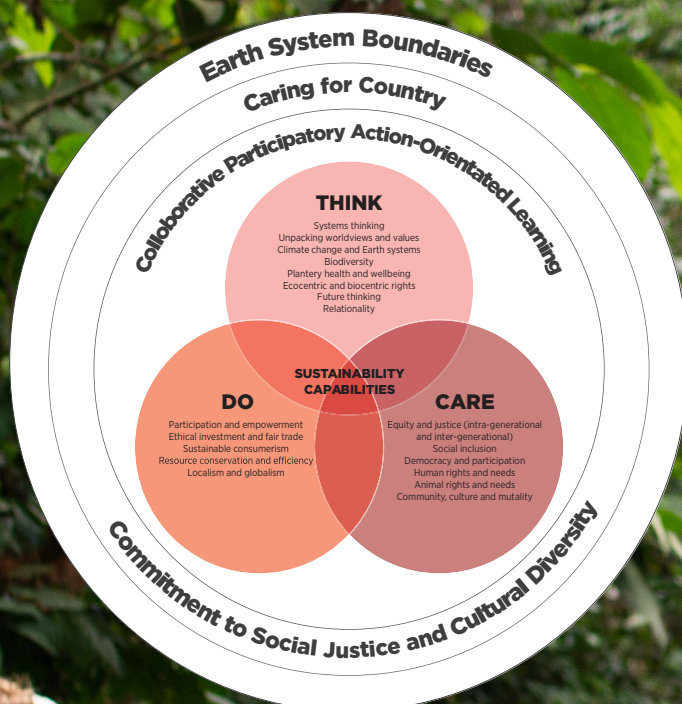
“Our curriculum aligns with Western's commitment to SDG 10 and SDG 3 by developing students who embrace cultural and linguistic diversity and have an ongoing commitment to deliver quality healthcare services to people from vulnerable communities. Cultural safety principles are integrated into subjects early in the program and built upon throughout subsequent physiotherapy-specific subjects, including requiring our students to demonstrate these principles and apply them in clinical settings” – Physiotherapy Teaching Team, School of Health Sciences

The physiotherapy program offers a dynamic curriculum that draws upon industry partnerships and research to prepare students for the culturally diverse landscape of Western Sydney. For example, the Physiotherapy program has commenced a partnership with the Rural Health School in Lismore and provided Physiotherapy students with the opportunity to undertake Indigenous health modules and develop a deeper understanding of Indigenous culture as part of culturally safe and responsive health care practice.



Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development.

OUR APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY CAPABILITIES AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Our graduates must be able to *‘contribute to a sustainable, diverse and socially-just world.’*

NEW GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES FOR A CHANGING WORLD

The University has revised its graduate attributes to include a new focus on sustainability and Indigenous knowledges. The new sustainability graduate attribute aims to develop graduates who are capable of contributing to a sustainable, diverse and socially-just world. Western’s approach to sustainability education is focused on developing student capabilities that go beyond disciplinary knowledge. The sustainability graduate attribute is designed to enable students to envision better futures and take action to create them. This approach acknowledges the significance of understanding and connecting to a Caring for Country perspective, which is closely aligned with Western’s Indigenous graduate attribute. By fostering a deep understanding of sustainability issues, Western aims to produce graduates who can make meaningful contributions to a more sustainable future.

OUR NEW GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

- Enact the principles of intellectual enquiry.
- Apply knowledge and skills to curate and communicate ideas truthfully, with purpose and impact.
- Demonstrate a commitment to life-long learning.
- Actively collaborate in partnership, with respect and reciprocity.
- Act ethically and responsibly with and for Indigenous Australian peoples and communities.
- Contribute to a sustainable, diverse and socially-just world.



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to see how Sustainable Futures, an undergraduate subject at Western, is unpacking solutions for a sustainable future and is approaching this graduate attribute.

“Universities are a really powerful hub for young people to come together.” – Alex Fuller, AYCC

21C: FESTIVAL OF ACTION

“We’ve been really grateful to partner with Western Sydney University on this event...to understand issues in our world, in our politics, in our communities, and how we can create change in a whole diverse range of ways...opening up those spaces to social change movements and youth movements.” – Alex Fuller, National Director, Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC)

Organised by a coalition of students and staff who started off as co-creators of transdisciplinary curricula, Festival of Action (FOA) is a campus-based festival experience to support the realisation of social and climate action at Western and in the greater western Sydney region in partnership with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. The team have developed an events-based approach to sustain our relationships and actions, create possibilities for questioning what really matters, and act in ways that realise climate and social justice. FOA is a mechanism for community organising on campus, sustaining transdisciplinary curriculum collectives, and breaking down hierarchies between students and staff.

The FOA ran twice in 2022 – outside the Parramatta South library in July and at the Australian Youth Climate Coalition’s PowerShift conference in Meanjin Brisbane in September. The Parramatta FOA was a one-day event that brought together over 400 like-minded students, staff and external partners who co-developed stalls with interactive exhibits to foster important conversations and opportunities for people to get involved in local forms of climate action. Disciplinary curriculum moved from the confines of the classroom into communal University space, facilitating transdisciplinary encounters. Activist (or other-than-activist) identities were discussed and challenged in the dialogues and material experiences generated by the interactive stalls produced on the day.

“We have established an ongoing and substantial partnership with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. Their work aligns with University goals for student belonging and developing a strong sense of place and community for learning and positive student experiences at Western. AYCC, the University and 21C project shared goals to support students to take action in the western Sydney region. – Future Thinkers 21C Team



Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

FUTURE THINKERS

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

SCIENCE: VIRTUAL PROGRAM ON LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION

The Australia-India Land and Water Conservation Virtual Program was co-created and co-delivered by Western (School of Science and Sustainability Education and Partnerships) and Indian educators, leveraging the global RCE network. Funded by the New Colombo Plan, the virtual mobility program guided students to take a deeper look at the SDGs through farming practices, urban water challenges and conservation systems in Australia and India contexts. It addressed varying domains of agriculture from soil and geological formation of continents, to varying scales of subsistence farming supporting rural livelihoods and the role of culture, spirituality, history and traditional practices. The program was awarded as an international Acknowledged Flagship Project by the global RCE network, as well as a University Teaching and Learning Award for Partnerships for its success.

"This virtual program allowed for us as a group to exchange different stories and experiences we have all faced. It gave us perspectives from different degrees and backgrounds whilst working together. But even with our different perspectives we all had sustainability as our top priority."
– Student group reflection



NEW COLOMBO PLAN
Connect to Australia's future - study in the region

COMMUNICATION ARTS: AWARD-WINNING MEDIA STUDENTS

'Hello my name is Mother Nature', directed by Darcy Carroll and produced by Pamela Manos, Tuesday Rovere, and Emily Sutcliffe - Western Sydney University undergraduate students - won the Audience Choice Award at the 2022 'Made in the West' Film Festival. The short film highlighting its impact on communication and environmentalism through various genres and styles. The award-winning short film was created by the student team as part of their subject 'Narrative: Fictional Screen Media' which focuses on environmental sustainability.

"This subject new offering by the School of Humanities and Communication Arts encourages students to explore themes related to nature, the environment and sustainability, and express them through different forms of screen media. It provides an opportunity for students to develop their creative and technical skills while engaging with important issues concerning the environment and society."
– Dr Maryella Hatfield, School of Communication Arts and Humanities



Scan the QR code to watch 'Hello my name is Mother Nature' created by and featuring our students.

THE COLLEGE: SHORT TERM ENGLISH AND THE SDGs

Offered by The College, 'The SDGs and Australian Culture and Careers' is an innovative short academic course designed for international university students across Asia interested in learning about sustainability and the SDGs. The foundations of the course were designed to develop students' academic literacies (spoken and written English) through collaborative learning approaches, while encouraging them to consider their role as responsible 21st century global citizens. The course has been delivered both online and face-to-face at the Sydney Olympic Park campus for the last two years, and attracted almost 90 students from Japan and Taiwan.

"From my experiences teaching this program and discussing the world's problems with students, I'm impressed to discover that young people really care deeply about the future of the world for both the environment and the people. I have seen that the program both reinforces awareness of the world's problems and inspires students by showing them that young people really can take action, make a difference, and help to make our world now and our future world a better place."
– Kerry Ede-Clendinnen, The College



STEWARDSHIP AND IMPACT

CLIMATE RESILIENT

CAMPUSES



Building upon our previous work and strategies, we are committed to low carbon Green Star accredited buildings, Green Power electricity supply contracts, and are working towards achieving accredited carbon neutrality for the University. – Bill Parasiris, Vice-President, Infrastructure and Commercial



ACHIEVING A TARGET OF NET ZERO TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Western is working towards carbon neutral certification for its business operations by Climate Active – a partnership between the Australian Government and Australian businesses to drive voluntary action on climate change. Joining the United Nations-led ‘Race to Zero’ in 2021, Western pledged to fast-track its efforts towards carbon neutrality to address climate change. As a result, ambitious targets were set to become carbon neutral by 2023.

The University’s efforts to reduce emissions include switching to 100 per cent renewable electricity supply, improving building and facility energy efficiency, promoting sustainable transport options, and reducing waste generation and disposal. The University offset its remaining emissions by investing in verified carbon projects that support social and environmental benefits, including natural area conservation and restoration, wind farms and biogas both in Australia and overseas.

Western recognises that there is still more work to be done and is committed to reducing its carbon footprint as it strives to reach the next climate target to be climate positive in 2029.

NATURE POSITIVE

“Nature positive is seen as a significant piece of the climate change puzzle.” – Dr Lyn Anderson, Environmental Sustainability

In 2022, Australia agreed to meet the global goal to protect and conserve 30% of the terrestrial landscape by 2030. Western has always recognised the significance of natural ecosystems and has taken positive steps to protect and restore these areas on its campuses. Restoration works have been undertaken at Vineyard Creek, on Parramatta South and on the Hawkesbury campus. In addition, 5,000 Indigenous plants were planted in the Hawkesbury campus paddock areas, which will provide links between remnant patches for wildlife. A feral animal control program has been developed and implemented across the campuses, with a focus on bushland areas.

This on-going program was designed to reduce the threat of invasive species on native wildlife.

BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP

“The twin crises of nature destruction and climate change are inextricably linked.” – Pricewaterhouse Coopers Australia, A nature-positive Australia (2022)

Monitoring of the Hawkesbury campus’ 117 hectare Biodiversity Stewardship site has commenced, with Dr Adrian Renshaw observing the endangered Cumberland Plain Land Snail (*Meridolum corneovirens*) to ensure weed management and rubbish removal do not impact their numbers. Other monitoring programs are being developed and will form part of an integrated learning experience for our students.



Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

2022 AT A GLANCE:

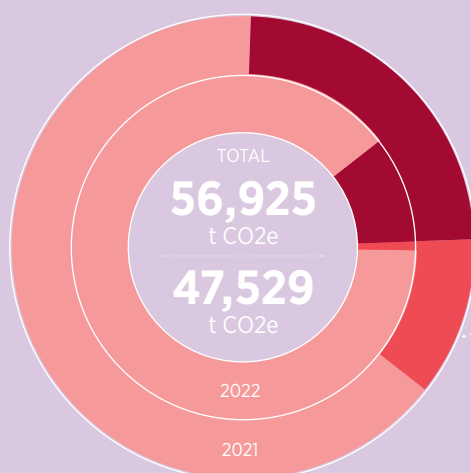
OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Western measures and reports our energy consumption and resulting emissions to a range of bodies annually. In 2022 Western established our renewable accredited GreenPower which led to a reduction in Scope 2 emissions. As our campuses reactivated in 2022, Scope 3 emissions for the University's purchased goods and services, travel and transport, and professional services increased and make up the majority of our carbon footprint.

| | 2021 | 2022 |
|----------------|------|------|
| SCOPE 1 | 11% | 10% |
| SCOPE 2 | 24% | 1% |
| SCOPE 3 | 89% | 65% |

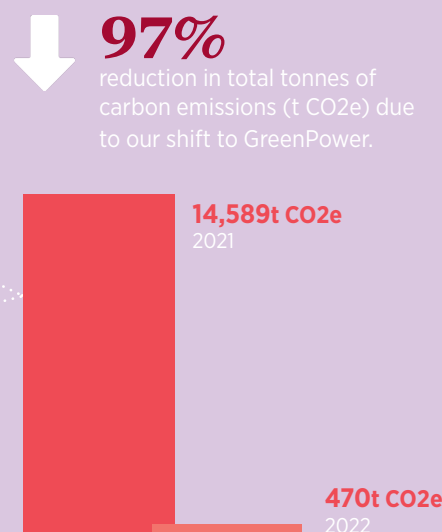
- SCOPE 1** Direct emissions released into the atmosphere
- SCOPE 2** Indirect emissions from consumption of power used by the Institution
- SCOPE 3** Indirect emissions produced in the consumption or use of a company's goods or services

TOTAL EMISSIONS COMPARISON (2021-22)



* Energy emissions are measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (t CO2e)

ENERGY EMISSIONS (2021-22)

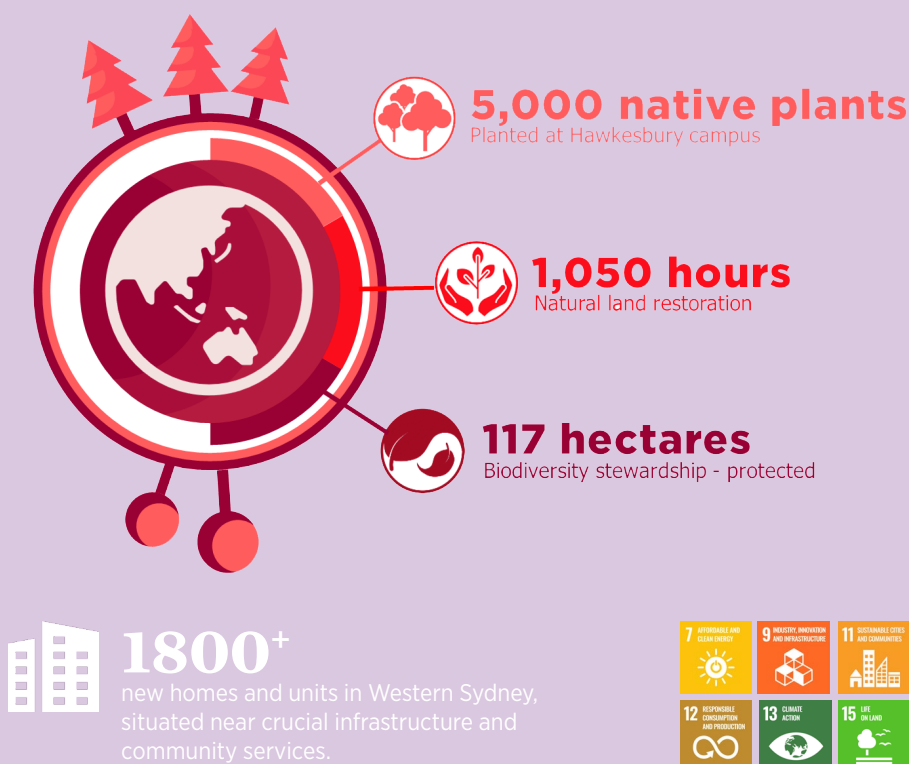


OUR BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP

Western's campuses are home to remnant habitat for some of the most vulnerable and endangered fauna and flora in NSW.

OUR PRECINCTS: AFFORDABLE HOUSING THAT'S CLOSE TO EVERYTHING

Western is striving to build connected, accessible and affordable housing in the region. In Western's Westmead precinct we've successfully completed over 915 housing units. Strategically situated near crucial infrastructure, these homes offer convenient access to essential services and employment opportunities where 60% of these affordable housing units are targeted for key workers in Western Sydney. Our Campbelltown precinct 'Macarthur Heights' is another recent residential development that has contributed 966 new homes to date. All of these homes are close to the CBD infrastructure, jobs and education to grow the city.



LIVING LABS

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE LOCAL WATER CYCLE

The Hawkesbury Water Recycling Scheme is a long standing living lab on the Hawkesbury campus, demonstrating local water cycle management, adaptation to climate change risks, and circular economy in practice. – Dr Roger Attwater, Environmental Sustainability

The Hawkesbury Water Recycling Scheme comprises reclaimed water supplied from Sydney Water Corporation's Richmond Recycled Water Plant and harvesting of stormwater for use across the Hawkesbury campus, primarily used for agricultural production as well as irrigation for campus gardens and sporting fields. Aspects of the local water cycle and environmental health have has a long-term research agenda with the School of Science, and more recently in curriculum as a case study for the subject 'Water in the Landscape' by Professor Basant Maheshwari. Collaborative research with Sydney Water into the performance of the constructed wetlands is led by Dr Michelle Ryan, contributing our understanding of the dynamics of nutrient reduction and potential contribution to emerging nutrient offset arrangements. The scheme is also an active part of the peri-urban showcase on Hawkesbury campus used for visiting students, international delegations and agency collaboration to showcase a sustainable water future.

WESTERN'S IMPACT RANKINGS



1st

in the world for SDG 6 in recognition of our research, outreach and stewardship for clean water and sanitation.

VALUING WATER RESOURCES



20 years

commitment to water reuse and research under the Hawkesbury Recycling Scheme to demonstrate active approaches to water management.



500 ML

of treated recycled water is supplied from Sydney Water for reuse on Hawkesbury campus each year.



250 ML

of stormwater is harvested for reuse on Hawkesbury campus through constructed wetlands each year.

* ML = megalitres

WATER TARGETS

| | |
|------|---|
| 2022 | 100% garden irrigation from stormwater on Hawkesbury campus |
| 2025 | 60% water use from non-potable sources on all campuses |



ENACTING SUSTAINABILITY WALKING OUR TALK

“Utilising Indigenous businesses and services is one way a large institution like Western can contribute to bolstering Indigenous Australian economies. – Professor Susan Page, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership”

PROCUREMENT: INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

Western's *Indigenous Strategy 2020-2025* recognises the importance of community engagement and promoting the university as a place that works with and for Indigenous Australian communities, which includes an increased procurement of goods and services from Indigenous businesses. In 2022, the University initiated a project to develop a University Procurement Plan for Indigenous goods and services to increase the number of Indigenous businesses that the University contracts. Gathered as part of this plan was the University's prior procurement of goods and services.



COMMERCIAL ESTATE: INDIGENOUS PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES

- **Djinjama:** Cultural design and research business engaged for Indigenous design and advisory services on Hawkesbury Placemaking Strategy and Werrington campus redevelopment with Stockland
- **Greenshoot Consulting:** Engaged for early planning and visioning of Indigenous Centre of Excellence project, and advice on Indigenous interpretation strategy for Bankstown City campus.
- **Koskela:** Collaborates with First Nations artists and makers, engaged to make hand-woven light pendants for the building.
- **Kaunitz Yeung Architecture:** Design consultant for First Peoples Walk project, employs Indigenous architects, engaged Yerrabingin for landscape design.

FINANCE: STRENGTHENING RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS

Western is committed to ensuring and enhancing the impact of our investments. This year the University was ranked joint first in its approach to responsible investment. Key activities included:

- Positioning its investments for a low carbon future, including endowments, towards net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in partnership with Mercer.
- Reviewing investments for any potential exposure to modern slavery and our commitment to protecting human rights.
- Investing in the Mercer Sustainable Plus International Shares Fund that targets sustainability themes, such as renewable energy, waste management, health and social services, and sustainable consumer goods.

PROCUREMENT



19

new Supply Nation verified and accredited Indigenous vendors engaged by Western*

INVESTMENT IMPACT



1st

in Australia* for our approach to responsible investment in Mercer's peer-benchmarking, up from 5th in 2021.



52%

of our investments target sustainability themes, like renewables and health.

* Review calculated from 2018 - 2022

* Ranked joint first - based on Mercer's peer-benchmarking methodology and assessment.

RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS UNLOCKING NEW POSSIBILITIES

“The SDG themes of social justice, inclusive education, addressing inequality, and environmental stewardship are core to Western’s mission, and are a key focus for our own research, teaching, stewardship and engagement with our local and global communities.”
– Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research

NEW URBAN TRANSFORMATION CENTRE

“Tackling complex urban challenges requires the involvement, commitment and co-ordination of multiple organisations, stakeholders and end-users. We are mobilising partnerships across Australia and the globe, drawing on world-class researchers and working on innovative and transferable solutions to create long-lasting, sustainable communities and resilient urban economies.” – Professor Greg Morrison, Urban Transformations Research Centre

The newly launched Urban Transformations Research Centre at Western is aimed at leading research on urban transformations and supporting the sustainable growth of western Sydney. The Centre will focus on co-designed research that engages industry, government and communities to address the complex challenges posed by the contemporary urban environment. The Centre is affiliated with the Institute for Culture and Society, and the Schools of Engineering, Design and Built Environment and the Social Sciences, and will be harnessing research capabilities across the University.



ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH NETWORK

“This network supports humanities- and communications-related creative practices and research that addresses the proliferating and intersecting crises of our planet. It acknowledges and builds on the School’s significant contribution to the environmental humanities over decades, and diverse disciplines and knowledges: communications, design, history, Indigenous studies, linguistics, literary studies, music and poetics.” – Dr James Gourley, School of Humanities and Communication Arts

The Environmental Humanities Research Network was recently established to address the environmental crises through humanities-related research and creative practices. The network has organised inclusive reading groups, visiting scholars and practitioners, and events to engage and work across the School. In December, a ‘Show and Tell’ event gathered HDR students, casual and ongoing academic staff to foster links and generate new knowledge to aid society’s response to the climate crisis.



CENTRE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING

“This year our Centre has been successful in receiving a large number of grants to advance our sustainability work. We are very proud.” – Distinguished Professor Vivian Tam, Centre for Infrastructure Engineering

The Centre for Infrastructure Engineering aims to develop innovative solutions that address sustainable materials, resilient structures and modern construction technologies. Professor Vivian Tam and her team were awarded an ARC Future Fellowship grant to become world leaders in recycled concrete research and address sustainability and resilience challenges of the 21st century. The Fire Resilience Infrastructure, Assets and Safety Advancements team also received funding to improve fire safety in Australia, addressing the devastating impact of bushfires on property, wildlife and the environment. Three other innovative projects in the fields of smart infrastructure, fire simulation, and high-performance building systems were also each funded by industry and ARC grants.



PRIORITY RESEARCH

The Research Theme Program at Western has developed two priority areas that link all four Research Themes and their respective Research Champions together. The priority areas for 2022 (and 2023) are Equity and Inclusion and Zero Carbon. The Equity and Inclusion Priority Area focuses on promoting respect, fairness and diversity in our workplaces and support systems, and extending these values to all forms of life, human and non-human.

The Zero Carbon Priority Area aims to transition to a zero-carbon economy and society, protecting the ecological systems that people, plants, animals and cultures rely on. Working collaboratively, the Research Theme Champions are able to bundle their resources and energy to progress work that cuts across disciplines to advance these impact areas.

OUR RESEARCH THEMES

- **Education and Work:** Equity, Participation and Opportunity
- **Environment and Sustainability:** Climate, Agriculture and Liveability
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Translation, Integration and Innovation
- **Urban Living Futures and Society:** People, Culture, Economy and the Built Environment

WESTERN'S SDG RESEARCH IMPACT



2.7

the world average field-weighted citation impact (FWCI) for SDG 6.



1st

in the world for SDG 6 in recognition of our research, outreach and stewardship for clean water and sanitation.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION: SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

"The Social Justice Network provides people with an opportunity to learn about and contribute to the incredible array of social justice work undertaken at our University. We are deeply committed to finding solutions to global and regional injustices and are drawing on the fantastic work already happening, particularly through drawing on the valuable research our scholars undertake."

—Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership

Western is committed to promoting social justice initiatives in the community. Launched in 2022, the Social Justice Network brings together the important work being done by the University and across the western Sydney community to address global and regional injustices to drive change. The focus of the network is on raising awareness of social justice issues and providing access for those who want to get involved and make a difference.



WESTERN'S SDG IMPACT



3rd

in the world for SDG 5 in recognition of our research, outreach and stewardship for gender equality.



4th

in the world for SDG 10 in recognition of our research, outreach and stewardship for reduced inequalities.

HIE: THE CUMBERLAND PLAIN CONSERVATION PLAN RESEARCH STRATEGY

Developed by a team from Western, led by the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (HIE), in collaboration with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan Research Strategy aims to deliver high-quality research on strategically important topics to support the effective delivery of the Conservation Plan. Research delivered under the strategy will greatly improve knowledge about western Sydney's threatened species and ecosystems and our ability to manage them, especially in the face of climate change and rapid development. The strategy also recognises the need to integrate Aboriginal knowledge and practices into conservation approaches in partnership with Aboriginal people including traditional custodians in western Sydney.

The strategy was informed by consulting with Aboriginal, community, conservation, government, University and industry groups to ensure that research investment will deliver the new knowledge needed by the stakeholders who are working to conserve and restore the plants and animals of the Cumberland Plain.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- Supporting Aboriginal connections
- Engaging with peoples and cultures
- Conserving threatened species and ecosystems
- Restoring and reconstructing ecosystems

The Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan aims to solve challenging issues and barriers to create a greener, more sustainable western Sydney with a long-term commitment. With significant funding, the department is collaborating with Western to develop a 35-year research strategy and deliver the first 4 years of research.

The Department of Planning and Environment (2022)



Target 15.1: Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

WESTERN SYDNEY MATTERS LOCAL IMPACT



Western's research demonstrates our strong commitment to tackling our grand sustainability challenges. – Associate Professor Neil Perry, Environment and Sustainability Research Theme Champion



CER: PEDAGOGIES OF HOPE

"We are using our research to understand how young children respond to their experience of bushfire recovery and continue learning about planetary wellbeing. The project is significant as there has been no prior research on young children's learning, curriculum or pedagogies for bushfire recovery." – Research team, Centre of Education Research (CER)

Through creative responses of young children to the 2019-2020 catastrophic bushfires in Australia, the project engaged children under 5 years old in emergent, collaborative, co-constructed and creative learning experiences to help them make sense of the devastation caused by the bushfires and to internalise the regenerative potential of the Australian bush. The researchers explored the nature of emergent curriculum and pedagogies developed in collaboration with the children to enable them to learn about and understand planetary wellbeing. Children participated in inquiry-based learning experiences where they explored questions related to the recovery of trees and plants, animals and complex interconnected ecosystems. The artwork is featured throughout this report.

ICS: CLIMATE MATTERS TO WESTERN SYDNEY

"Climate change is a top concern for western Sydney residents." – Dr Stephen Healy, Institute of Culture and Society

Undertaken by a research team from Western's Institute of Culture and Society (ICS), the Climate Matters project highlights the practices of environmental sustainability and climate action among 100 households across the local government areas of western Sydney, comprising a diverse range of age, gender and ethnic groups. The findings demonstrate that western Sydney's residents are proactive agents, adept at responding to changing and uncertain futures, in the face of climate change, weather-related events and the pandemic. Sustainable practices such as energy efficiency, conservation, growing and foraging food, managing water use, gardening, and contributing to local ecosystems are important both in households and in the community, including privately-owned green spaces.

SCIENCE: INSPIRING CONSERVATION OUTCOMES FOR INVERTEBRATES

"Christmas beetles are an iconic feature of the Australian summer. However, in the last ten years there have been many anecdotal accounts of people seeing fewer Christmas beetles." – Dr Kate Umbers, School of Science

In the aftermath of the 2019-20 bushfires a group of scientists, led by Dr Kate Umbers, came together to raise awareness and campaign for Australian invertebrates' conservation. The 'Christmas Beetle Count' community science project aimed to gather observations of Christmas beetles to determine their current distribution, compare it to historic records, and identify potential causes of decline. Community members were encouraged to upload their photos to a central database. To date there has been 35 Christmas beetle species identified, with more than 600 individuals contributing data.



Target 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

ENGAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

“As a leading advocate of western Sydney, we are embedded in a region experiencing the sustainability and resilience challenges of the 21st century, including rapid urban growth, urban heat and entrenched inequalities. – Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor Engagement and Advancement”

SCHOOLS ENGAGEMENT: ACADEMY U SDG HACK-A-THON

The Academy U program at Western provides opportunities for invited high school students across the region to participate in University courses whilst still at school. In August, 100 students from 9 local high schools undertook a ‘Sustainable Futures Hack-A-Thon’ focused on the SDGs. School teams worked together to address sustainable futures problem for the region. The winning McAuley team pitched an idea centred around re-purposing a number of existing community green spaces to improve accessibility for use by individuals with a disability or mobility issues.

As a result of the students interest in the SDGs, an Alpha Playlist was co-developed - ‘Me and the SDGs’ - to provide a broader context of the global goals and the relevance of sustainability across all disciplines of study. A pilot was launched in Term 4.

“The most informative section of the event was the presentation on sustainability.”

This is because it contributed to my understanding of the various aspects of sustainability and how schools, businesses, universities and individuals can contribute.” – Student feedback

LAUNCH PAD: INNOVATING TOWARDS NET ZERO

Launch Pad hosted its third Venture Makers Innovation Challenge in September, with a focus on accelerating towards net zero in response to the current climate crisis. The challenge allowed students, academics, industry professionals and researchers to develop and pitch innovative ideas while working in teams to propose solutions for accelerating to net zero with a human-centric approach that benefits society. A total of 68 students participated, including teams from Western’s Vietnam campus. The winning student team pitching their idea on window blinds that can replace solar panels, with an ambitious vision to allow every level of population to have access to solar energy on every scale to embrace the 2050 net zero target.

BIENNALE OF SYDNEY: A GLOSSARY OF WATER

As part of the 23rd Biennale of Sydney (BoS) in 2022, Western and BoS signed a MoU to develop a wide range of collaborations. One of these was the book ‘A Glossary of Water’ co-edited by José Roca and Juan Salazar, titled rivus, which explores and expands critical topics such as rights of nature, sustainability, food security, consumption, pollution, biodiversity, extinction and ancestral technologies. This publication presented as an artist book, a scholarly reference and a beautiful object sheds light on an important and urgent subject, and highlights the deep connections that Australia has to its waterways. The book follows the logic of a glossary, using approximately 80 terms as headings. It was printed sustainably on excess paper stock from previous book projects, rather than recycled paper, giving the profile of the publication the look and feel of the sediment of the river. This publication offers an important and timely exploration of a pressing issue, creative media and environmental sustainability.



Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

REGENERATING LITHGOW

In response to the bushfire recovery, the Lithgow Transformation Hub delivered a number of activities under their 'Regenerating Lithgow – People, Place and Planet' initiative. The Hub brings together elements of citizen science, creative practice and industry development, and has run a mix of education, skill-building, mentoring and creative activities to build on the resilience of the community. This includes sustainable practices, climate action, social justice and community engagement to drive positive change in the region.

KEY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



90

community and business members engaged in panel discussions and workshops at the New Economy Symposium to develop new approaches to traditional industries in Lithgow.



6

youth-focused workshops to provide skills, including media and film making, urban heat, arts, and permaculture and social enterprises.



2

Painted River events, with one day at the Wet Lab of the Hub with high school students and the other day as a community event held at Lake Wallace.



AWARD-WINNING PARTNERSHIP: A DECADE OF CONNECTIVITY DELIVERING IMPACT

The RCE Greater Western Sydney (RCE-GWS) network, acknowledged by the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies in Sustainability, was awarded as the Winner for Powerful Partnerships in the sector's prestigious Green Gown Awards. RCE-GWS is a collaborative, regional, multi-stakeholder educational network delivering place-based, partner-led programs and initiatives for 10 years. The network has 26 regional partners that have delivered 36 initiatives and 45 community events to local and global school students, teachers, community members and University staff and students. Projects have included large-scale biodiversity restoration and climate action engagement projects; ESD capacity building for school teachers through professional development workshops; sustainability awareness school-based initiatives linked to key learning areas of NSW school cross-curriculum priorities; and international youth leadership and empowerment across the Asia-Pacific region. Our collective and connected work to address our regional challenges was identified as a network to deliver local and regional impact.



WESTERN'S IMPACT RANKINGS



5th

in the world for SDG 17 in recognition of our research, outreach and stewardship through partnerships.

10 YEARS OF IMPACT



78,000

trees were planted across western Sydney by corporate volunteers, community volunteers and University and school students.



27,829

global youth and non-youth (community, parents, teachers) engaged in SDG peer-to-peer projects and initiatives.



13,954

primary and secondary school students across the state, predominately in western Sydney, in sustainability workshops.



316

school teachers and community members upskilled through formal professional development and citizen science activities.



32

seed-funded projects for grassroots initiatives, from installing vegetable gardens at Kingswood High School to a climate café for Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains residents.



Target 17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

RCE GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY CONNECTED THROUGH RIVERS

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Waterkeeper Alliance are dedicated to working together to protect our local waterways. Through citizen science, education, research and partnerships, we are raising awareness and fostering connection with our local community.

– Dr Michelle Ryan, School of Science and HNWA Waterkeeper

The lifeblood of Darug Ngurra (Country) is water – physically and spiritually it binds together all living things. Caring for Ngurra has sustained generations of Darug people and is vital to all that now rely on the health of its water. The Hawkesbury-Nepean Waterkeeper Alliance (HNWA) recognises the importance of First Nations' cultural values of the river and advocates for caring for Ngurra that ensures Country is managed in a holistic and culturally respectful way – now and in the future.

HNWA RIVER REPORT CARD

Combining scientific, social and cultural data collected by both scientists and citizen scientists, the report card highlights broad river health indicators such as species of the river, 21st century pollutants, swimability and riparian health. Co-funded by Western Sydney University, LandcareNSW and a Sydney Water Community Grant, the report card was launched at the second regional Waterkeeper forum. The report card is a crucial step towards increasing public awareness and understanding of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River and

promoting community involvement in its care and restoration. By taking a different approach to water monitoring and involving citizens in data collection, the report card provides a valuable tool for stakeholders to track progress and prioritise actions for the river's health, and has been used as best practice.

YELLOWMUNDEE CULTURAL WALK AND TALK

In May, HNWA partnered with Local Land Services to host a Yellowmundee Cultural Walk and Talk on Darug Ngurra, led by Uncle Lex Dadd and Uncle Chris Tobin, two local Darug educators. The event was attended by a small group of invited guests, including local river advocates, council members, agencies, and Western academic staff and students, with the aim of learning about cultural connections to waterways and Caring for the Ngurra. The activities involved a smoking ceremony, a handprint sign-in to Country, and a discussion on water values then and now. The event was funded as part of the Sydney Water Community Grant and in celebration of the River Report Card.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM: RIGHTS OF NATURE

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Water Alliance hosted an interactive online session called 'A Slow Weave: River Talks' in November, focusing on Earth-centred governance and the Rights of Nature. The event aimed to understand more about the global movement that recognises the living world as legal beings, such as rivers, forests and entire ecosystems. The workshop, led by the Australian Earth Laws Alliance, showcased examples from the movement and explored how new ways of recognising and protecting rivers could be achieved in Australia by honouring First Nations Peoples' laws and cultural practices. The event provided a platform to explore innovative legal changes and new ways forward for governance in Australia.



Target 6.6: Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.



SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT



Our Decadal Strategy, Sustainability and Resilience 2030, details the reasons why, as a leading anchor educational institution deeply embedded in Greater Western Sydney, we must envision a more resilient, sustainable and prosperous future. – Jen Dollin, Sustainability Education and Partnerships



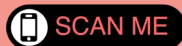
SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM

To bring Western's *Sustainability and Resilience 2030* Decadal Strategy to life a digital engagement platform has been created as an interactive visualisation of the strategy. Launched in November 2022, the online platform's goal is to increase awareness and socialisation of the key initiatives and work being carried out to support the University's sustainability commitments, linked to the nine interconnected priorities. The platform offers opportunities for enhanced collaboration and connection between students, staff and the community in the areas of curriculum, operations, research and engagement (CORE) initiatives under one cohesive digital umbrella.



89

entries on the digital engagement platform from across all areas of the University since its launch.



Scan the QR code to view and share your own activities on the SRDS Digital Engagement Platform.

PULSE CHECK

The strategic priority statements outlined in the *Sustainability and Resilience 2030* has over 50 long-term actions and commitments to achieve by 2030 to meet the strategies vision. This 'Pulse Check' tracks and presents our on-going progress under curriculum, operations, research and engagement (CORE) over the last two years, since the official launch and commencement of the Decadal Strategy in September 2020. Western is currently exceeding its anticipated progress towards its strategic actions over the next decade.

GRAPHICS

Photos: Courtesy of Sally Tsoutas (2023), Western Sydney University photographer, unless otherwise indicated.

Icons: Flaticon (2023). [online] Available at: <https://www.flaticon.com/>

SDG Icons: United Nations Sustainable Development (2016). [online] Available at: https://www.un.org_news_communications-material

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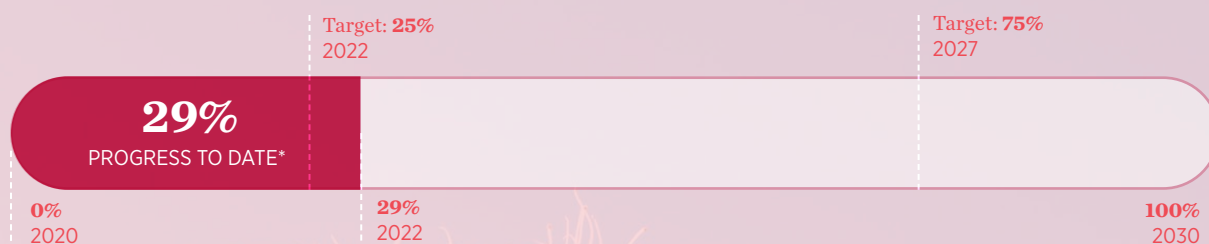
Designed by: Brittany Vermeulen, Sustainability Education and Partnerships

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A small quantity of report have been printed by a local, small family-run business on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper, using print products and printing services at a higher environmental level than the industry standard.

2020-2022 PULSE CHECK

PROGRESSING OUR *SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE 2030* STRATEGIC ACTIONS



Target: Total progress towards targeted and on-going strategic actions and key metrics of the *Sustainability and Resilience 2030* Decadal Strategy for curriculum, operations, research and engagement.

* ANALYSIS BASED ON ESTIMATED AVERAGE WEIGHTED SCORE FOR 52 ON-GOING STRATEGIC ACTIONS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY AS OF DECEMBER 2022.

WORKING TOWARDS GENDER EQUITY



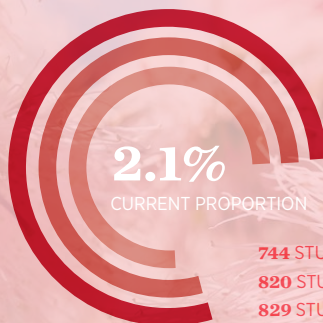
2022

45%

OF SENIOR ACADEMIC STAFF
ARE FEMALE

Target: Equal representation (50%) of females in senior academic roles by 2026.

INCREASING REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS



Target: Proportion (3%) of all enrolled domestic students are Indigenous and all completing students are Indigenous by 2025.

744 STUDENTS ENROLLED 2020
820 STUDENTS ENROLLED 2021
829 STUDENTS ENROLLED 2022

EXPANDING CLIMATE AMBITIONS

Target: Implement 'Green Power' (100%) sourced from renewable electricity supply on campus by 2022.

2%
2020

100%
2022



We aspire to achieve carbon neutrality accreditation by **2023** and be carbon positive by **2029**

SUPPORTING RESEARCHER CAPACITY AND IMPACT

Under the Research Theme Program, we invest in our research teams and projects through seed funding to support their capacity to engage with the community, create local impact, and contribute towards sustainability.



*BETWEEN 2020-2022

FOSTERING LIFELONG LEARNERS

We are expanding our curriculum for our communities and current undergraduate students, including new sustainability microcredentials and Curiosity Pods, to help learners develop the skills needed to face a disrupted future of work and society.



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