

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



making our future

RESEARCH
IMPACT

STRATEGY **2023 - 2026**





With respect for Aboriginal cultural protocol and out of recognition that its campuses occupy their traditional lands, Western Sydney University acknowledges the Darug, Eora, Dharawal (also referred to as Tharawal) and Wiradjuri peoples and thanks them for their support of its work in their lands (Greater Western Sydney and beyond).

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Front cover: **Professor Sebastian Pfautsch**, from the School of Social Sciences, was the winner of the Vice Chancellor’s Excellence in Sustainability Impact Award 2023. His research investigates how climate-responsive planning and design can help mitigate the impacts of heat on humans, the built environment, and urban ecosystems.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR AND VICE PRESIDENT, RESEARCH, ENTERPRISE AND INTERNATIONAL

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice President, Research, Enterprise and International, I am pleased to present Western Sydney University's (WSU) 'Research Impact Strategy 2023-2026 – Making Our Future'.

This document aligns with the 'Research, Enterprise, and International Strategic Plan 2021-2026' and WSU 'Sustaining Success 2021-2026 Strategic Plan'.

Traditionally, university quality metrics focus on academic performance and knowledge utilisation. This includes scientific publications, citation scores, awarded grants, and higher degree student completions. There is increasing global recognition of the importance of societal impact (impact of research in the real world), as an indicator of the innovation dividend, which has generated the concept of an 'impact agenda'. The impact agenda emphasises the many benefits of public funding of research.

The phrase 'Making Our Future' relates to the empowerment of researchers and higher degree research (HDR) students at WSU to focus on real-world impact as a key component of research success. Western's

stellar performance in the 2022- and 2023-Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings (ranked world number 1 for two consecutive years), and in the Australian Research Council's 2018 Engagement and Impact Assessment (EIA), are a testament to the excellence and real-world impact of the University's research. WSU continues to build and nurture a culture that stimulates, facilitates, and celebrates research impact. Enriched by this environment, researchers are empowered to proactively plan for the impact of their research through co-design and co-creation with potential beneficiaries.

Since 2015, Western has supported researchers on their impact journey through a range of initiatives including education and training; and showcasing of impactful research. Following the inaugural EIA in 2018, the ARC announced in August 2022 that the EIA would not proceed as planned in 2024. Furthermore, the 'Review of the ARC Act 2001' report has since recommended the ERA and EI exercises be discontinued. Nonetheless, the Universities Accord clearly articulates that delivering new knowledge, innovation and capability by supporting a system of university research that boosts collaboration between universities and industry to drive greater commercial returns, is a key area of the Review. In alignment with the University's Mission Statement that states 'Our research will have impact,' Western continues to

pursue its commitment to encouraging and supporting impactful research and in developing a shared understanding of best practice in relation to research impact. Commencing from 2023, the University will undertake an internal assessment of impact and engagement on an annual basis.

This is a great opportunity, particularly for our early- and mid-career researchers, to maximise the impact of their research by working with senior colleagues, Research Theme Champions, Discipline Leads, Research Services, Business Services, and the Library, as well as developing relationships with external collaborators across industry, businesses, government, community groups, policy makers, and the public. Through the provision of education, infrastructure and resources, WSU will strengthen the University's knowledge mobilisation and research translation expertise, paving the way for WSU's growth and international reputation as a community-oriented institution driven by impactful research.

Professor Deborah Sweeney
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and
Vice-President (Research,
Enterprise and International)

1. Introduction and Background

Nationally, and internationally, the imperative for universities to demonstrate the impact of research beyond academia is burgeoning.

Funding bodies, including governments, are increasingly seeking evidence of return on research investments. Impact is regarded as a critical component of the societal and economic role of universities.

Given the need for accountability in publicly funded research, grant applications frequently require the articulation of a track record of impact in addition to a National Interest Statement.

Additionally, the Australian Universities Accord, argues that, for Australia to strengthen its higher education research, and ensure greater use by the government, industry and community, improvements in the measurement of the quality and impact of Australian research are essential.

Western Sydney University is an institution driven by research impact. As articulated in the **Sustaining Success 2021-2026 Strategic Plan**, “the University’s research is of the highest quality and has regional, national and global impact”. Furthermore, the **Research, Enterprise and International 2021-2026 Strategic Plan** emphasises that:

→ Western creates global impact through our commitment to excellence, our continued outward focus and our strategic alliances as we address escalating and complex societal, environmental, health, policy, and economic challenges globally, including those which foster inequality and social exclusion.

Western’s Impact Strategy 2023 - 2026 will

further drive and continue to empower our researchers (including HDR candidates) to undertake world-class, interdisciplinary, collaborative research to improve the lives of people and communities across the globe, beginning locally in Western Sydney.

The pathways to research impact are numerous, non-linear, and will vary between disciplines and within projects. In addition, impact develops over time. In some disciplines, research produces knowledge and new knowledge processes rather than immediate, demonstrable impact.

Such knowledge may produce social, environmental, and economic impact in the longer term, and it is often appropriate to countenance that potential. However, it is critical that researchers do not confuse impact with publications or citations, which are scholarly outputs and outcomes respectively.

The onus is on researchers to shape their own pathway to impact as relevant to their discipline, with consideration for the contribution of their research to society, economy, environment, culture, and health or well-being.

We are committed to collaborations with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and international Indigenous peoples to contribute to local community, economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being.

Ensuring impactful research and positive societal outcomes is a critical part of Western’s agenda irrespective of external/government requirements.

In its efforts to drive social transformation and support a more just and equitable world, Western is committed to undertaking research that contributes to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.1 OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

(Adapted from **ARC Research Impact Principles and Framework**)

- **Research impact** is the contribution that research makes to the economy, society, environment, or culture, beyond the contribution to academic research.
- **Research engagement** is the interaction between researchers and research end-users outside of academia, for the mutually beneficial transfer of knowledge, technologies, methods, or resources. (See *Appendix 1: ARC Engagement Indicators*)
- **Research collaboration** is engaging with other researchers and research organisations for mutual support and contribution to the conduct of research.
- **Knowledge exchange** is deliberately embedding knowledge for use in a context beyond the researcher’s own sphere.
- A **research end-user** is an individual, community, or organisation external to academia that will directly use or directly benefit from the output, outcome or result of the research.
- A **stakeholder** is anybody (an individual, community, or organisation) who has an interest in the outcome of research, perhaps because it will be of benefit to them, or because they are involved in translating the research into a real-world product, service, or process. Similar terms include ‘partners’ and ‘interested/affected parties’.
- **Research uptake and adoption** is the application of research outputs by users, resulting in positive/beneficial outcomes. This may involve complex processes over time, whereby research outputs (e.g. knowledge, technologies,

Western's Impact Strategy 2023 - 2026 will further drive and continue to empower our researchers (including HDR candidates) to undertake world-class, interdisciplinary, collaborative research to improve the lives of people and communities across the globe, beginning locally in Western Sydney.

intellectual property) are adapted, built upon, operationally applied and benefits realised. Evidence of engagement, uptake, and adoption may include licenses, incorporation into policies or standards, use of tools, etc. that facilitate or enable impact.

1.2 TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) UNIVERSITY IMPACT RANKINGS

The prestigious THE Impact Rankings measure knowledge transfer and impact as an indicator of an institution's quality. The rankings are based on universities' teaching, research, outreach, and stewardship; and assess participating universities' social, ecological, and economic impact and commitment to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs).

Western Sydney University has participated in this initiative since its inception in 2019 and has progressed from being the highest ranked Australian university (11th in the world) in 2019, to cementing its reputation as the world's top university by achieving a ranking of number one worldwide in 2022, scoring 99.1 out of 100 for our social, ecological, and economic impact. Building on this success, the University has again ranked number one worldwide in 2023, increasing the overall score to 99.4.

The Impact Working Group will work in conjunction with the Rankings Working Party to ensure that submission to the THE Impact Rankings assessment, will include reference to the excellent and impactful research undertaken at Western wherever possible.

2. Purpose of the Research Impact Strategy

This strategy guides purposeful realisation of research impact through provision of optimal support for our researchers to effectively engage with representatives from communities, government, and industry; to undertake world-class research; and to objectively evaluate case studies of realised impact.

This strategy will:

- Empower and equip our researchers, HDR candidates and undergraduate summer and winter scholars — through education, mentorship, and provision of resources — to address persistent and emerging societal issues through world-class interdisciplinary and collaborative research.
- Ensure our research, education, knowledge sharing, and consulting activities are responsive, inclusive, and co-produced with government, industry, and community partners who represent key issues, so that these activities translate into local and global policy, practice, and solutions.
- Facilitate regular assessments (annual) of the impact of Western research.

3. Guiding Principles

Our research will have impact and our communities will thrive, guided by our commitment to research excellence and our adherence to the principles outlined in the University’s Sustaining Success strategic plan: sustainability, equity, transformation, and connectedness. The vast majority of our research will address the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3.1 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IS REFLECTED IN:

- applying state-of-the-art expertise to address society’s intractable problems,
- adhering to national codes of practice across all facets of the research lifecycle,
- embracing innovation and entrepreneurship, and
- tailoring coalitions with researchers, students, industry, government, and communities worldwide.

3.2 SUSTAINABILITY IS REFLECTED IN:

- acknowledging the importance of integrating sustainable practices into research projects,
- our emphasis on the ‘10R’ philosophy (reduce, reuse, reject, rethink, redistribute, repair, restore, refuse, recycle, and recover) in the planning, conduct, and delivery of projects, and
- contributing to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

3.3 EQUITY IS REFLECTED IN:

- listening to communities and engaging local Indigenous knowledge perspectives,
- developing solutions which address inequities without framing these as deficits,
- contributing to a fairer and more equitable society locally, nationally, and globally, and
- our inclusive development of the next generation of research leaders.

3.4 TRANSFORMATION IS REFLECTED IN:

- contributing to research sector policy and debate regarding research impact,
- building WSU’s culture and infrastructure to support the pursuit of research impact, and
- allocating resources to promote partnerships activities (support via Enterprise) and to plan, identify, evaluate, and evidence research impact (support via Research Services).

3.5 CONNECTEDNESS IS REFLECTED IN:

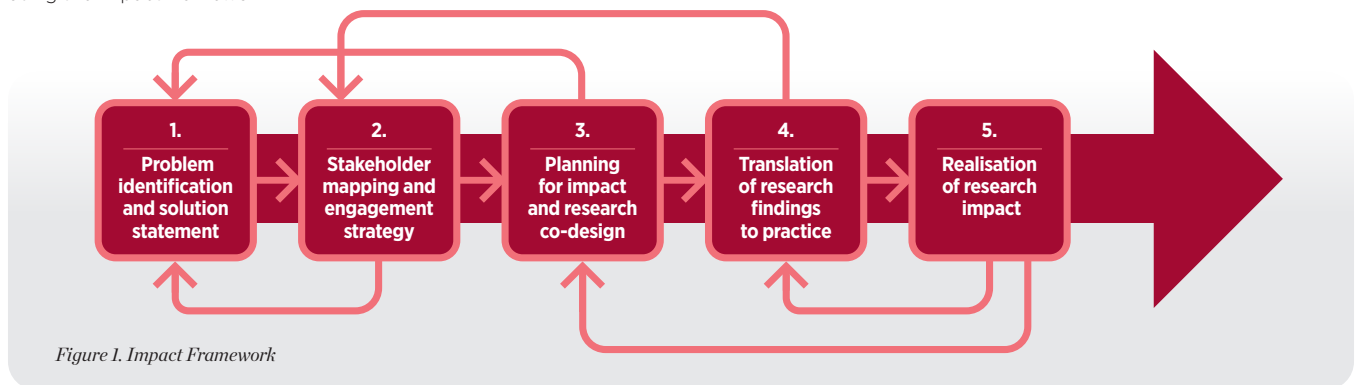
- engaging with the challenges and goals facing Greater Western Sydney as a member of the community we serve,
- empowering key groups representing the community, business, industry, and government at all levels to co-design and co-conduct research, and co-create impact, and
- involving end-users during all stages of research.

4. WSU Research Impact Framework

The Western Impact Framework prescribes a non-linear pathway for integration of impact into the various stages of the research process, ideally from conceptualisation of research, and informing formulation of research aims, review of the existing literature, research design, data collection and analysis, to creation of research outputs and achievement of research outcomes.

Nonetheless, planning for impact can be incorporated and adjusted at any stage of the research process.

The impact framework includes five key action areas (non-linear) that are critical to realising impact (Figure 1). Appendix 2 lists suggested questions for researchers to consider when using the impact framework.



5. The Impact Continuum

Realisation of impact (co-created with non-academic partners and interested/affected parties) occurs on a sliding scale ranging from weak (influence), moderate (adoption), to strongest (change).

Figure 2 summarizes the degree of research impact that can be achieved, illustrating several examples from an end-user's perspective.

Although the aim is to achieve the strongest impact, whereby the beneficiaries modify their activities, practices, behaviours, beliefs, mindset, and understandings, attaining change is dependent on several factors. For example, the significance, reach, and timing of research will influence the rate for achieving the various degrees of impact.

Potential Impact
End users become aware of research, either ad hoc or through informal channels.
End-users scrolling past a social media post on LinkedIn feed.

Emerging Impact
Targeted/formal/industry-specific channels, indicating engagement with end-users and targeted dissemination.
End-users walking past a research poster at a (scientific) conference.

Moderate Impact
End-users adopt or apply research in an evaluative, preliminary or tentative way.
Cited in policy documents as a basis for decision making.
IP licensed for R&D purposes.

Strong Impact
End-users formally endorse or incorporate research.
Incorporated into policy, guidelines, procedures, standards, legislation, regulations, strategies, educational curricula, training programs.
New service/product entering commercialisation.

Stronger Impact
End-users apply results, outcomes, methodologies, technologies, and/or recommendations from the research.
Implemented new programs, policies, practices, methods, tools.
New or improved services/products enter the market.

Strongest Impact
End-users modified their activities, practices, behaviours, beliefs, mindset, or understandings, or somehow benefited from the new or improved services/products. Demonstrated, confirmed, or quantifiable benefit.
Services or products were used or purchased by consumers.

Figure 2: Degree of Research Impact (Adapted from Write Media Services, 2018)

6. Strategic Objectives, Actions, and Measures

WSU’s Impact Strategy will foster a culture of research impact through targeted objectives in education, advocacy, and best practice.

These objectives will facilitate the provision of a supportive research environment for our staff and HDR candidates, from establishing partnership networks to the implementation of impact pathways which aim to create positive change.

In promoting a culture of impact, the following principles will be observed:

- Promote impact literacy by using common and consistent terminology.
- Respect the diversity in research disciplines/sectors in demonstrating research impact.
- Develop a set of common, cost effective and efficient parameters for data collection and reporting.
- Encourage, recognise, and reward positive behaviour in planning, monitoring, and evaluating research impact.
- Identify discipline-based impact champions to mentor researchers, particularly ECRs, MCRs, and HDR candidates.

As articulated in the University’s **Researcher Development Framework**, “A self-managed, but structured process with institutional oversight and village support, should be created to provide support throughout the researcher development lifecycle.” Together, industry engagement and research impact training opportunities are listed as one pillar of this framework and will be incorporated into tailored three-year researcher development plans.

Each of the measures listed below the three key objectives align with Measures 6 and 9 in the University’s **Sustaining Success 2021-2026** strategic plan:

- M6. Improve our research quality and impact.
- M9. Deliver positive impact for, and with, our communities and partners through social, economic, cultural and place-based transformations.

OBJECTIVE 1: EDUCATION

Through the provision of events and training material, develop capacity for planning and documenting impact pathways and elevate case studies which demonstrate the achievement of impact.

Acknowledge and continue the emphasis on early identification of impact pathways and

develop case study evaluations for annual internal benchmarking, showcasing WSU’s excellent research and providing opportunities for development of expertise both for researchers and internal assessors.

Reward and recognise impact success and achievements.

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Measure
Impact web page/s provide information and further resources to improve research impact literacy	Impact Officer	Q3 2023	M1.1
Grants Services provide training sessions / materials about impact statements in grant applications.	Research Services, Impact Officer	Q2 and Q4 each year	M1.1
Business Services provides training sessions / materials about approaches for IP and commercialisation.	Research Services, Impact Officer	Q2 and Q4 each year	M1.1
Self-paced training material is available for research staff via MyCareer Online and is extended through in-person workshops.	Impact Officer	MyCareer Online material available now. Workshops in Q4 2023	M1.1
MRes and doctoral candidates complete an impact training module as part of course orientation or researcher development.	Dean GRS	Q1 2024 each year	M1.1
Recognition of ECR and MCR achievements via the impact competition awards and commercialisation awards	Office of DVC REI/ Research Services	Research Week	M1.2
Completed evaluations and case studies of research impact are published in Future-Makers, featured in training materials, and promoted as best practice in impact discussions.	Director, Research Impact and Integrity, Impact Officer	Annually	M1.2

MEASURING EDUCATION DELIVERY

- M1.1 Attendance and uptake of impact training modules (Epigeum) increases throughout
 - 2023/2026 to a cumulative total of 600 completions
 - 2023 target: training completion by 50 researchers
 - 2024 target: training completed by an additional 150 researchers
 - 2025 target: training completed by 175 additional researchers
 - 2026 target: training completed by an additional 225 researchers
- M1.2 80% of case studies assessed internally are published in Future-Makers

OBJECTIVE 2: ADVOCACY

Advocate for the continued consideration of impact in the University's policies and processes and provide ongoing support for activities which grow and embed the research-impact mindset amongst staff and students.

WSU will encourage, reward, and recognise the efforts and achievements of researchers at all stages along their impact journey.

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Measure
Presentations on the importance of research impact are part of the agenda at staff and HDR induction and orientation sessions.	Impact Officer, Director, Research Impact and Integrity	Q3 2023, each year	M2.1
Regular events provide opportunities for publicity, networking, and celebration of impact e.g. Research Week activities, Research Impact Competition, NSW Research Impact Showcase, Universities Australia's Pitch It Clever Competition.	DVCREI Office, Director, Research Impact and Integrity, Impact Officer	As per advertised dates each year	M2.1
Impact Champions are identified and provided with regular updates to share with their peers. Impact Champions will be nominated by Schools and Institutes (as two-year appointments), based on criteria developed by the Impact Working Group. Impact Champions will receive a training package and access to information resources to provide impact leadership and advise their School/Institute researchers on all matters related to impact. They will play a critical role in enhancing the culture of impact across Schools and Institutes. Resource requirements of Impact Champions will be determined by the Impact Working Group, for approval by the DVC REI.	Director, Research Impact and Integrity, Impact Officer	Q1 2024	M2.1
Case study identification and internal evaluation continues: 9-12 case studies selected for internal assessment in 2023, increasing to 24 in 2024. Please refer to Section 7 for further information. The second round of internal impact evaluation will be conducted across 2025/26 across all the FORs (2nd cycle)	Director, Research Impact and Integrity, Impact Officer, Impact Working Group	Q3/4 2023 – Q2/4 2024	M2.2
Determine the process and nature of incentives for first-time impact studies.	Dean GRS	PVC Research, Impact Working Group	M2.2
Continue to identify impactful research that meets the UN SDGs for submission to the THE Impact Rankings	PVC Research, Impact Working Group	Q1 2024 each year	M2.2

MEASURING ADVOCACY PROGRESS

- M2.1 Number of attendees at researcher induction and HDR orientation sessions (Baseline 2022 - 60%).
 - 2026 target: Over 80% of newly recruited researchers and HDR students attend induction/orientation sessions.
- M2.2 60 % of impact cases reviewed across 2023 and 2024 (1st Cycle) will be assessed as 'High' impact (this will form the baseline measure), and 75% of impact cases assessed across 2025 and 2026 (2nd Cycle) will be assessed as 'High' impact.

OBJECTIVE 3: BEST PRACTICE

Promote best practice in the pursuit of research impact by fostering multidisciplinary knowledge exchange; safeguarding research integrity, ethics, and data privacy; protecting Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights; and developing both standardised and project-appropriate metrics/indicators of quality.

We will empower researchers to incorporate participatory approaches to impact and

co-design their research with government, industry, and community partners. Partnerships and events with external organisations (national and international) will be promoted and facilitated - e.g., Research Impact Canada Workshop, Kings College London - International School on Research Impact Assessment (ISRIA), James Martin Institute for Public Policy, and Research Impact Academy.

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Measure
Grants awarded under the Research Partnership Program have a strong focus on research impact. This will be assessed at the proposal phase and during the reporting period.	Business Services	Duration of program - ongoing initiative.	M3.1
Researchers are informed about the University's partnerships strategy and opportunities to participate in research, industry, and community networks.	Impact Officer through liaison with Business Services	Regular updates (quarterly) via the Research Services Update, Divisional newsletter and Viva Engage	M3.1
Researchers are empowered to self-evaluate and set project-appropriate targets for impact and engagement activities using the University's Research Impact Framework.	Director, Research Impact and Integrity, Impact Officer	At project conception and throughout the project lifecycle	M3.2

MEASURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST PRACTICE

- M2.1 Number of attendees at researcher induction and HDR orientation sessions (Baseline 2022 - 60%).
- M3.1 By 2026, over 70% of research partnership grants awarded will demonstrate 'Medium' to 'High' impact as assessed by the final report.
- M3.2 By 2026 over 40% of completed research projects will include evidence of impact evaluation as part of the project final report.

6.1 MEASUREMENTS SUMMARY TABLE

EDUCATION

- M1.1 Attendance and uptake of impact training modules (Epigeum) increases throughout 2023/2026 to a cumulative total of 600 completions.
 - 2023 target: training completion by 50 researchers
 - 2024 target: training completed by an additional 150 researchers.
 - 2025 target: training completed by 175 additional researchers.
 - 2026 target: training completed by an additional 225 researchers.
- M1.2 80% of case studies assessed internally are published in Future-Makers.

ADVOCACY

- M2.1 Number of attendees at researcher induction and HDR orientation sessions (Baseline 2022 - 60%).
 - 2026 target: Over 80% of newly recruited researchers and HDR students attend induction/orientation sessions.
- M2.2 60 % of impact cases reviewed across 2023 and 2024 will be assessed as 'High' impact (this will form the baseline measure), and 75% of impact cases assessed across 2025 and 2026 will be assessed as 'High' impact.

BEST PRACTICE

- M3.1 By 2026, over 70% of research partnership grants awarded will demonstrate 'Medium' to 'High' impact as assessed by the final report.
- M3.2 By 2026 over 40% of completed research projects will include evidence of impact evaluation as part of the project final report.

7. Internal Impact Assessment

The **results** of the 2018 ARC EIA show that WSU outperformed the sector in both impact and approaches to impact. An impressive 52% of WSU’s case studies were rated ‘high’ on community impact measures compared to 43% of the sector.

WSU also outperformed the sector on the translation to impact measure, receiving a ‘high’ assessment for 35% of the studies compared to the sector average of 25%.

This strategy recognises WSU’s existing capabilities in delivering impactful research

and proposes a framework to further enhance these strengths and place Western at the forefront of research impact.

As noted earlier, the ARC has discontinued the EIA in its previous form; the University will adjust as required in terms of national reporting but will pursue the impact agenda regardless by conducting annual internal assessment of impact across a selection of fields of research.

Over a two-year cycle, case studies from all FORs will be assessed using panels of internal and external assessors. The target is for 60% of the cases assessed over two years to have ‘high’ impact. Selected researchers/research teams will use the impact case study template developed for the assessment.

The Research Impact Working Group has an integral role in assessment of case studies

with selected discipline leads, subject-matter experts and industry/community partners/end-users.

The process of developing and reviewing the case studies is beneficial in terms of embedding the impact culture at Western.

Researchers will be provided support via Research Services in the development of the case studies. The case studies will showcase best practice for the pursuit of an impact pathway through partnerships and engagement, as well as demonstrating the process of impact evidencing and evaluation.

Case studies will be evaluated in October/November each year. Where case studies are evaluated as having Low or Medium impact, researchers will be able to further develop impact over time and be considered for inclusion in future evaluations.

8. Conclusion

This strategy can be adapted by Schools and Institutes as relevant to their disciplinary context. The strategy also recognises that it may be challenging for researchers to demonstrate any distinct or individual influence on policy making or other forms of impact. In such instances establishing the contributory relationship (contribution of a project /intervention to a noticeable result), rather than a causal link may be more realistic.

Through the implementation of the WSU Impact Strategy, the goal is to harness and build on our research strengths and empower researchers to work collaboratively with all interested parties to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes and co-create impact.

Processing Bats by Nicholas Wu, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment

Researchers from the Turbill Lab processing bats to understand the vulnerability of our native bats to a devastating fungal disease, white-nose syndrome. Photo was taken on the Dainggatti land with permits approved by the WSU Animal Research Authority and National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Appendix 1

Australian Research Council Engagement Indicators

From Appendix G – Examples of additional quantitative information for the engagement narrative, ***EI 2018 Assessment Handbook*** (pp.52-53).

- Mobility of researchers (i.e. researchers employed or placed outside academia, and/or research end-user employees that are employed or placed within academia)
- Patents granted, PCT applications, triadic patents
- Citations in patents to traditional research outputs
- HDR students in internships/placements
- HDR student employment destinations
- Repeat business with industry
- Start-up/spin-out companies
- Co-authorship of research outputs with research end-users
- Co-funding of research outputs with research end-users
- In-kind support from end-users
- Licencing agreements
- Confidentiality agreements
- Number of contracts for research, consulting, expert witness and testing
- Number of licences, assignments and options
- Established networks and relationships with research users
- Number of different clients with contracts worth greater than a threshold value
- Evidence of significant institutional partnerships—e.g. Sydney Health Partners; various global research consortia, OECD, World Bank, World Health Organisation,
- UN, UNESCO
- Philanthropy linked to research support and in-kind support
- Book sales
- Serving on external advisory boards
- Consultations with community groups, professional/practice organisations, government bodies
- Consultation with/advice to Government
- Expert witness in court cases
- Contributions/submissions to public enquiries on industry-research related issues
- Public lectures, seminars, open days, school visits
- Presentations to practitioner communities
- Connections to cultural institutions, seminars/workshops, internships and engagement with the public
- Support for cultural events/institutions—e.g. Writers' Festivals, Film Festivals, Vivid Sydney, etc.
- Co-designing and collaborating on performances and exhibitions
- Mentoring external research partners
- Involving users at all stages of the research, including working with user stakeholder and participatory groups
- Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)/Agreements
- Collect data around performance and the different types of public activities in which researchers generally report their work to the community or use their research capacity to further the work of community organisations
- Event participation statistics (public lectures, cultural events, exhibitions, etc.)
- Outreach activities (public lectures, policy engagements, media engagements, community events)
- Media coverage of exhibitions and new works
- Modification of traditional 'commercialisation' metrics such as 'spin-offs' to capture arts entrepreneurship such as setting up galleries, ensembles, groups and other professional practice entities
- Metrics which capture social media activity

Appendix 2

Key questions for researchers when using The Research Impact Framework (Section 4)

CONCEPTUALISING YOUR RESEARCH AND IMPACT PLANNING (SEE THIS PLANNING TOOLKIT)

- What is your research trying to address and what is unique about your research?
- What is your vision about the difference your research will make to the real world (be realistic)?
- Have you considered developing **SMART Impact Goals** that involve end-users from the project conceptual stages? (i.e. goals that are Specific, Measurable, Agreed upon, Realistic, and Time-based)

ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

- Who would be interested in your research: direct beneficiaries; decision-makers; partners; other? Why?
- Have you conducted an analysis of interested/affected parties? (**Identifying stakeholders**)
 - What opportunities could your project bring to these parties?
 - How could they be involved in your project? Consider: project co-design; resources, influence, critical friends, knowledge, opportunities; impact co-creation, etc.
- When and how will you engage with and

empower (where relevant) those who are affected by your research? How will you sustain these relationships at all stages of the research and beyond?

- How will you ensure that you respect and protect Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights throughout the project?

EVIDENCING IMPACT

(COLLECTING RESEARCH IMPACT EVIDENCE)

- What are your plans to capture evidence of impact throughout the project? Consider:
 - Testimonials; articles and commentary in the media
 - Visitor numbers; feedback (qualitative and quantitative); and numerical data such as savings, income, jobs created, and years of life added.
 - Recording baseline data to enable before and after comparisons
 - Use of impact management tools such as Impact Tracker
- How will you resource engagement, knowledge exchange activities (such as funding for events, meetings, travel, social media marketing), and impact evaluation?
- Impact evaluation (evidencing reach and significance): When and how will you evaluate impact? Consider evaluating
 - Evaluating from the early stages of the project (baseline metrics)

- Throughout the research lifecycle as and when metrics change
- At project conclusion
- Beyond project conclusion (such as at 12 months, 2yrs etc.)

TRANSLATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

(HOW TO DO EFFECTIVE KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE)

- Have you reviewed the **knowledge-to-action framework**?
- What aspects did you and your partners consider when planning for **knowledge translation and exchange**?

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

(COMMUNICATING RESEARCH AND ITS IMPACT)

- How will you develop your impact narrative/statement/story?
- How will you communicate and showcase the impact of your research to your target audience?



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