Times Higher Education Impact Ranking – Western's commitment to the UN SDGs

Professor Kevin Dunn
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WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

#1

UNI IN THE WORLD

FOR COMMITMENT TO UNITED NATIONS'
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2022

THE Impact Rankings 2022: Western's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Career Advisers and Teachers Day Session, 7th March 2023

Presentation by:

Professor Kevin Dunn, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research

Career Advisers and Teachers Day Session

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Outline

Outcome.

Underlying credentials:

- Strategy.
- Teaching programs.
- Operation.
- Research.

What it means for GWS.

What it means for our students.

Outcome

1st in world overall.

Score of 99.1 / 100.

Of 1406 universities.

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

PROFESSIONAL CAMPUS JOBS EVENTS RANKINGS

Rank	Name	Best scores by rank	Overall
1	Western Sydney University, Australia	6 90.0 · 12 93.3 · 5 80.3 · 17 99.0 — SDG Descriptions	99.1
2	Arizona State University (Tempe), United States — Explore	11 94.6 · 14 97.9 · 15 97.7 · 17 93.3 — SDG Descriptions	98.5
3	Western University, Canada	1 93.5 · 2 89.8 · 9 97.5 · 17 95.4 — SDG Descriptions	97.8
=4	King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia — Explore	9 99.8 · 4 89.9 · 10 93.6 · 17 93.8 — SDG Descriptions	97.5

THE Impact (SDG) Rankings 2022

7 in top 10. 5 in top 5.

1st in world for SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation

2nd in world for SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production

3rd in world for SDG5: Gender Equality

4th in World for SDG10: Reduced Inequalities

5th in world for SDG17: Partnership for the Goals

9th in world for SDG14: Life below Water

10th in world for SDG15: Life on Land

15th in world for SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing

15th in world for SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Value	Your Rank
SDG1: No Poverty	=54
SDG2: Zero Hunger	54
SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing	15
SDG4: Quality Education	=37
SDG5: Gender Equality	3
SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation	1
SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy	=23
SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	98
SDG9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	201–300
SDG10: Reduced Inequalities	4
SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	=15
SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production	2
SDG13: Climate Action	23
SDG14: Life below Water	9
SDG15: Life on Land	=10
SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	=21
SDG17: Partnership for the Goals	5

Underlying credentials: Strategy

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Underlying credentials: Teaching & Learning

THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2022 #1 IN THE WORLD

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STUDY SUSTAINABILITY

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

At Western students from all disciplines, both undergraduate and postgraduate, can undertake a degree specialisations (minors or majors) or key units that support transformative teaching for sustainability literacies and the SDGs.

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

** List from 2020 Sustainability Report (undergoing refresh currently)*

SUSTAINABILITY STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

- → **Global Sustainability** (All programs)
- → **Social Ecology** (All programs)
- → **Geography and Urban Studies** (Bachelor of Social Science/Arts/Tourism Management)
- → **Climate Change** (Bachelor of Science/Medical Science)
- → **Environmental Engineering** (Bachelor of Engineering/ Master of Engineering)
- → **Environmental Health** (Bachelor of Science)
- → **Global Climate Change** (Bachelor of Business)
- → **Heritage and Tourism** (Bachelor of Tourism Management/Community Welfare/Social Science)
- → **Human Rights, Protection and Developmen**t (Bachelor of Social Sciences)
- → **Peace and Development** (Bachelor of Social Sciences/ Arts/Tourism Management)
- → **Responsible Design and Sustainability** (Bachelor of Design and Technology/Industrial Design)
- → **Sustainable Business** (Masters of Business Administration)
- → **Sustainable Development** (Bachelor of Business)
- → **Sustainable Futures** (Bachelor of Design and Technology)
- → **Sustainable Environmental Futures** (Bachelor of Science)
- → **Sustainable Property Development** (Master of Property Investment and Development)
- → **Water and the Environment** (Bachelor of Engineering)

Sustainability micro-credential: think, care, do.

Available to Western students for the next intake.

Underlying credentials: Teaching & Learning

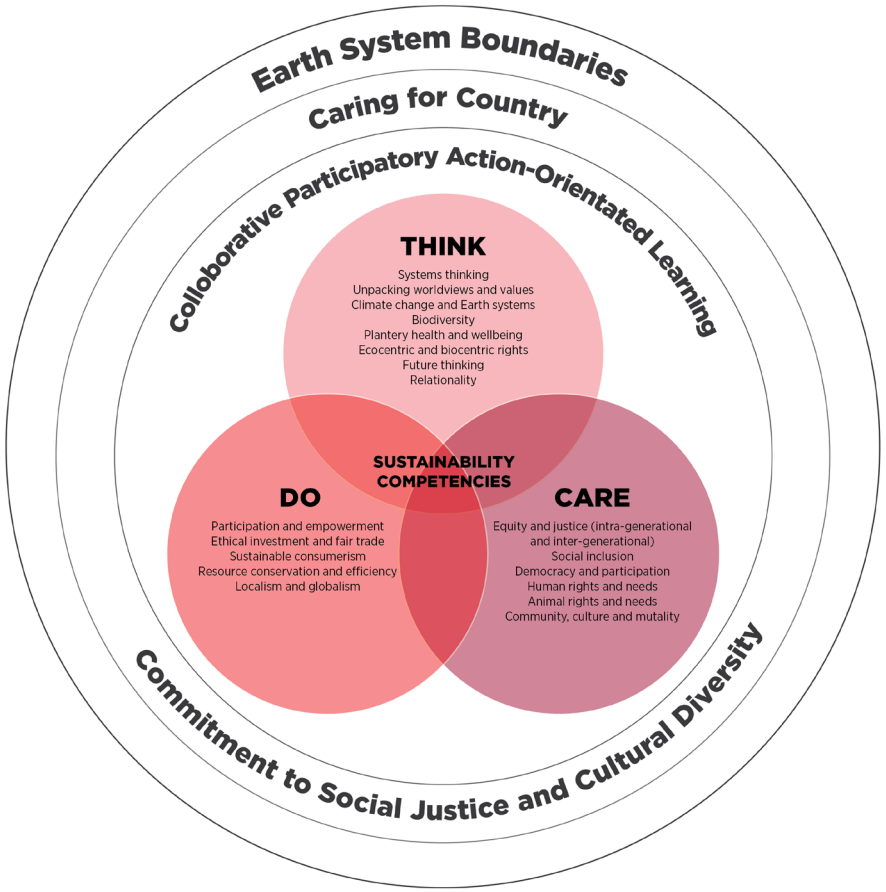
Developing sustainability literate graduates (Grad attribute)

•Education about the SDGs
Education that is transmissive content driven, learning *about* the SDGs.

•Education to the SDGs
Education that contributes to the SDGs (or a singular SDG) such as a maternal health or innovation program.

• Education for Sustainability
Transformative education that develops lifelong learning for a more sustainable future….
A more difficult challenge.

Sustainability Competencies and EfS Content for Western's Sustainability Graduate Attribute



Underlying credentials: Operations

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Sustainability Annual Reports.

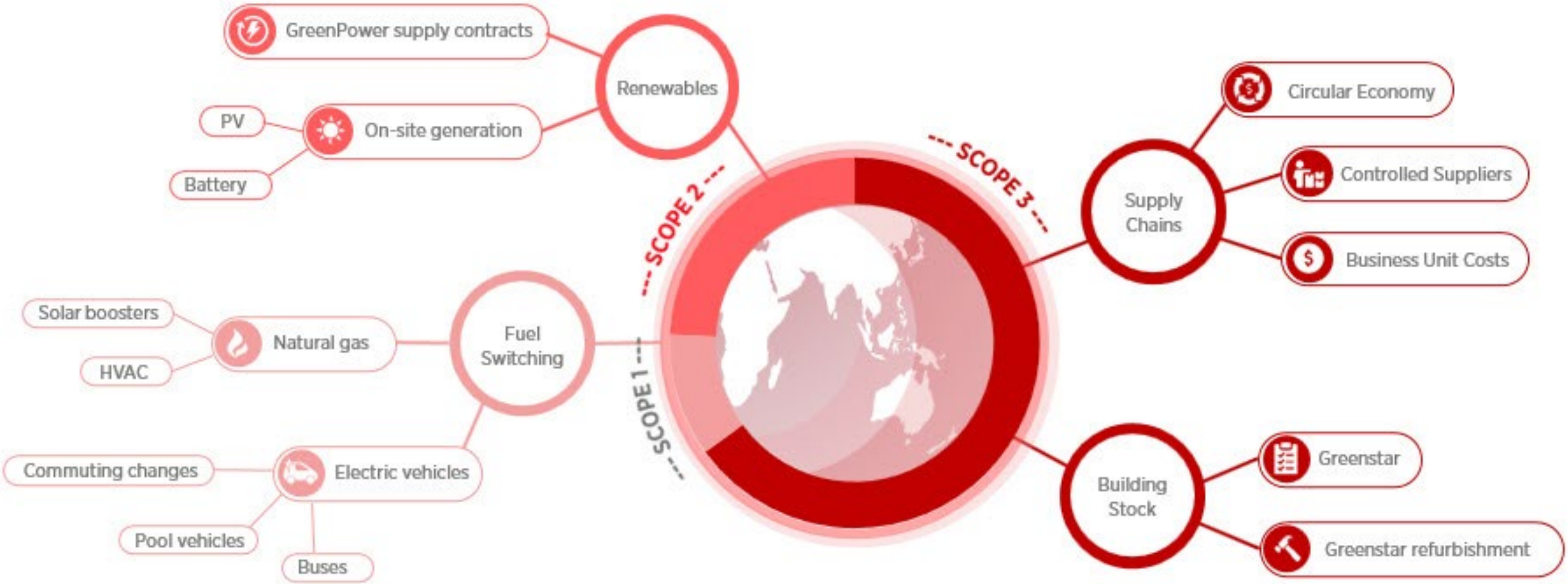
Tracking our commitments to the UN-led “Race to Zero for Colleges and Universities”:

- Carbon Neutral 2023
- Climate Positive 2029

Initiatives underway towards these targets include:

- Carbon footprint assessment (Scopes 1,2 and 3) and carbon offsetting 2022, (with submission to Climate Active in December 2022 - awaiting accreditation response).
- Initial carbon offset portfolio in countries with teaching and learning associations, eg biodiversity conservation and social co-benefits in Indonesia.
- Developing 5 Year Carbon Transition Plan, and Carbon Farming portfolio underway.
- Campus electricity supplies with 100% renewables from accredited GreenPower, July 2022
- Role-out of EV charging infrastructure, solar carparks and rooftop PV.
- Continued transition to Green Star accredited CBD campuses and buildings.

CARBON TRANSITION



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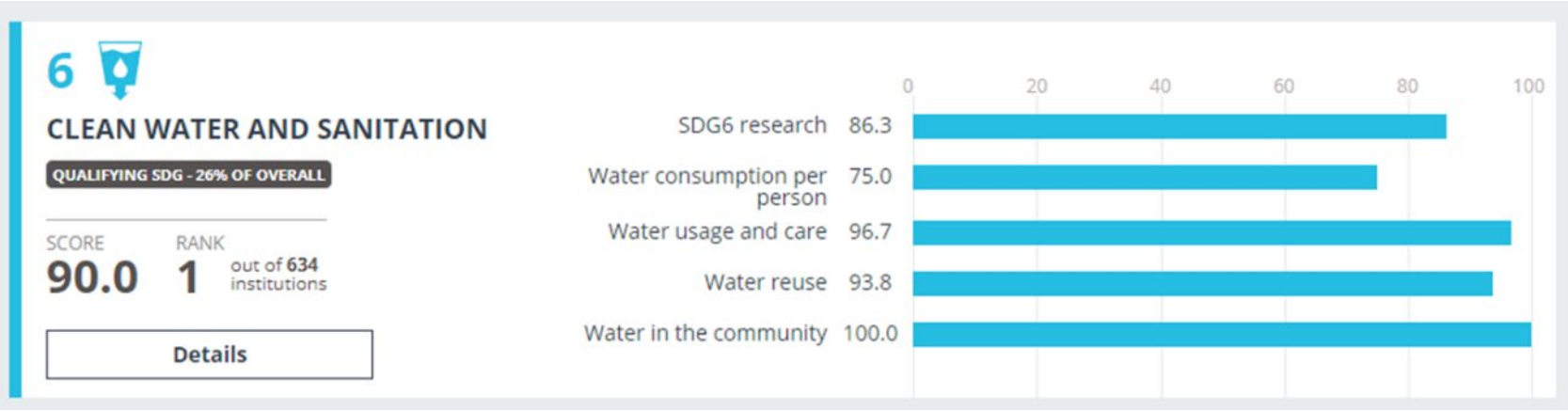
1st Worldwide For SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation



Cleaning up microplastics in the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system

Research Team Leader: Dr Michelle Ryan (School of Science)

Researchers and students collaborate with Streamwatch and Greater Sydney Landcare community volunteers.

Hands-on workshop to assess microplastics present in the Hawkesbury-Nepean River.

“Current research into microplastics is focused on the oceans, but there is a global need to explore the impacts of this emerging pollutant on freshwater systems”.

THE Impact (SDG) Rankings 2022

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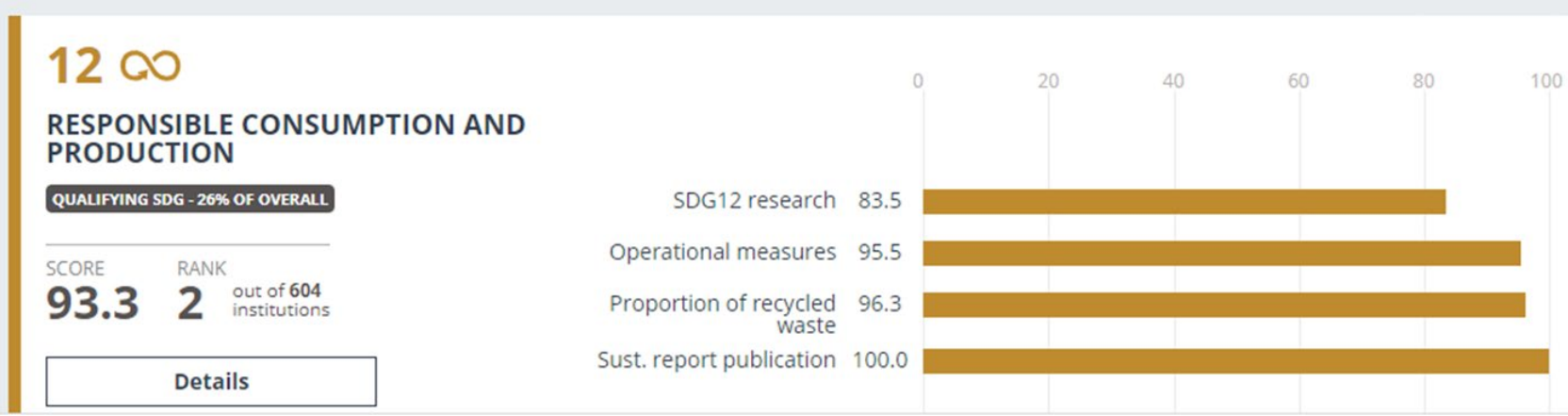
2nd Worldwide For SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production



Microbes, Sustainable Farming and Food Security for the Planet

Research Team Leader: Professor Brajesh Singh

The millions of microbes living on plants can help ensure the future of farming.

Microbial engineering tools can sustainably increase agricultural output to enhance food security.

“According to the experiments conducted in the greenhouse some of the microbes increased the productivity of wheat, lettuce and cotton by 35%”.

THE Impact (SDG) Rankings 2022

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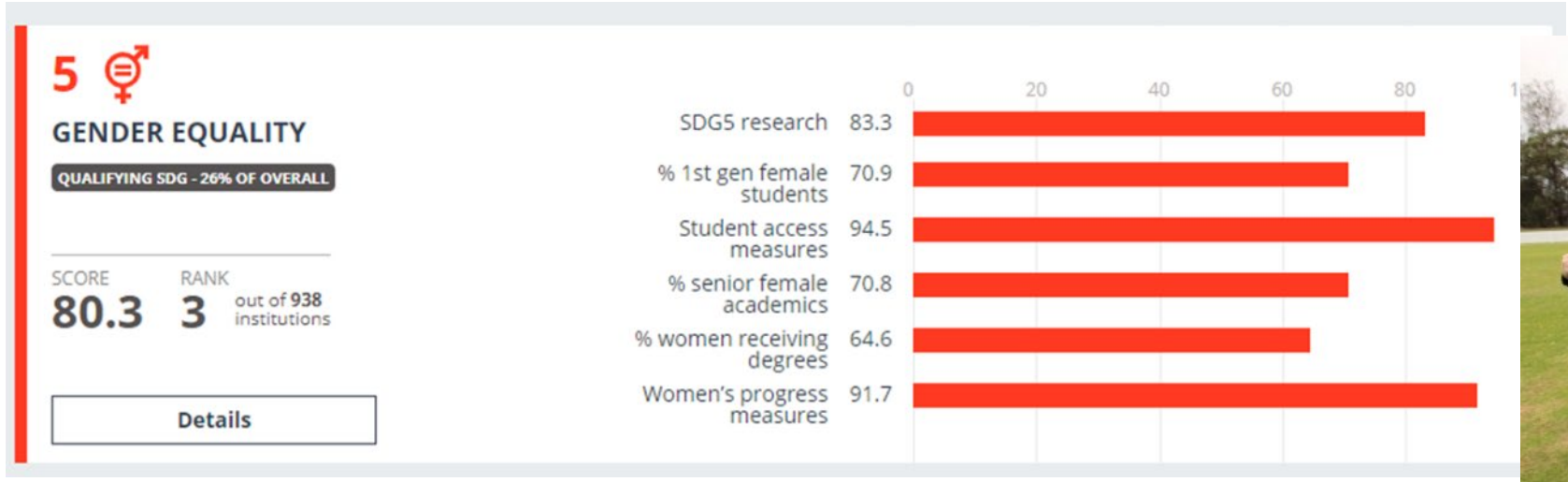
3rd Worldwide for SDG5: Gender Equity



Tackling Inclusivity: Access to team sports for all

Research Team Leader: Dr Jennifer Cheng

Sport is associated with 'Australianness'. Muslim women are keen to participate in sports, and this will enhance belonging.

The Muslim women's Australian Rules football (AFL) team were founded in 2011.

"Accommodating religious dress requirements can make sports more accessible and codes need to create inclusive policies so Muslim women can participate".

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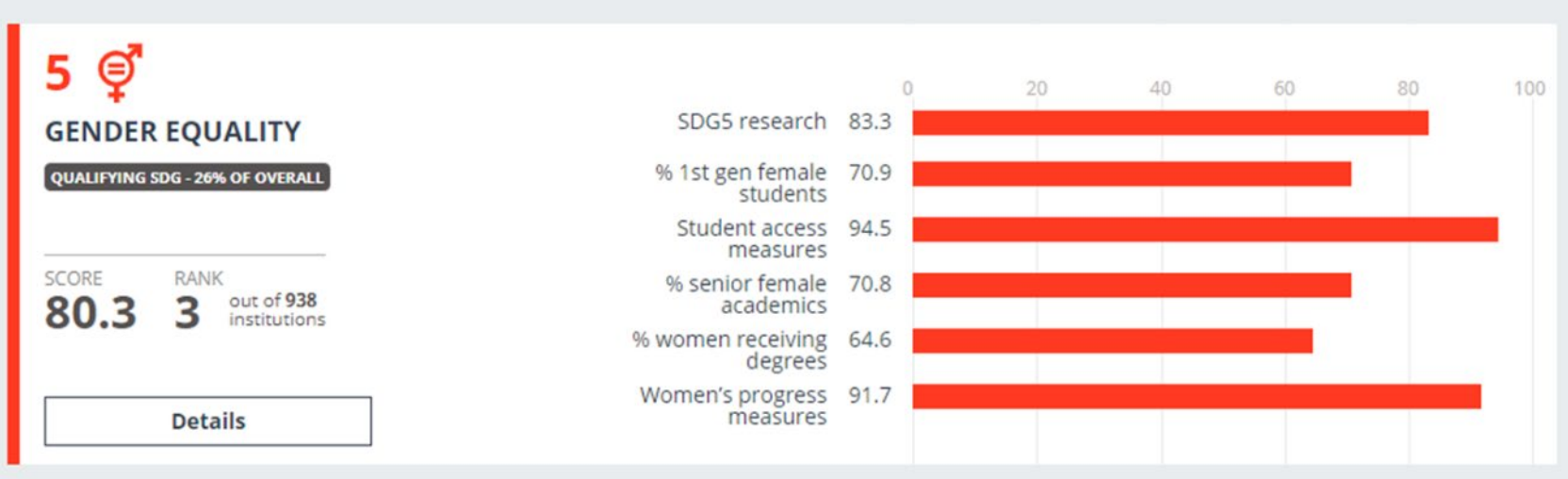
3rd Worldwide for SDG5: Gender Equity



Exposing Housing Insecurity

Research Team Leader: Associate Professor Emma Power

Single, older women, renting on low income and with no support

Living in constant fear of eviction, relying on charities for food.

First-hand accounts from these women being used to lobby for change in tenancy laws.

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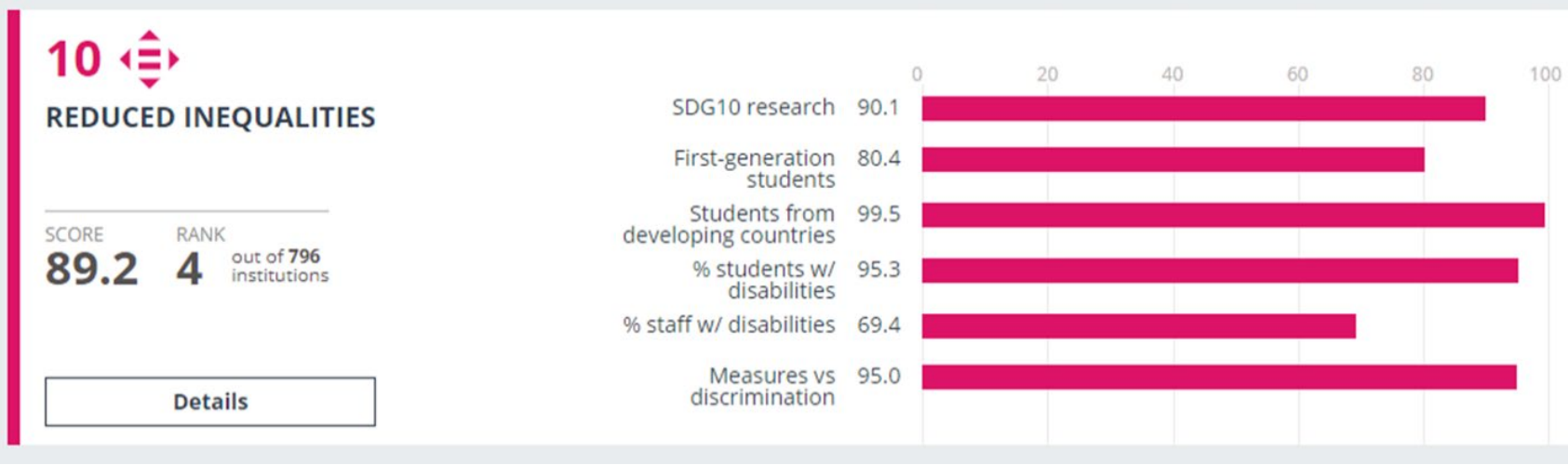
4th Worldwide for SDG10: Reduced Inequalities



Life after school for young people with disabilities

Research Team Leader: Dr Lise Mogensen

More than four million people in Australia have some form of disability. “The unemployment rate for working-age Australians with disabilities (9.4%) is almost twice that of those without (4.9%)”.

Young people with intellectual disabilities face obstacles in the transition from school, to employment and housing. The service gaps have been identified.

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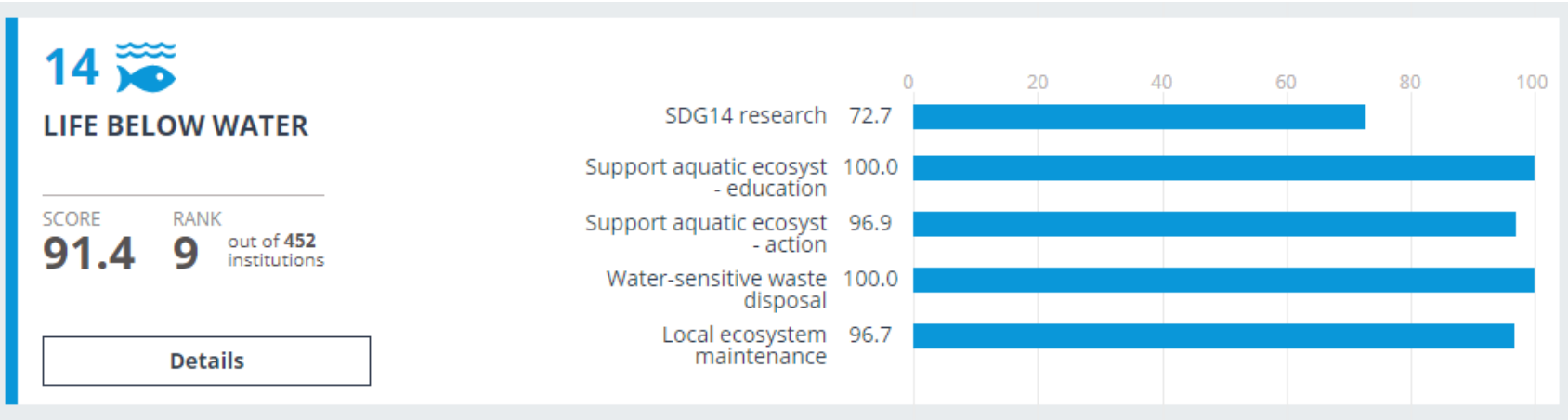
9th Worldwide for SDG14: Life Below Water



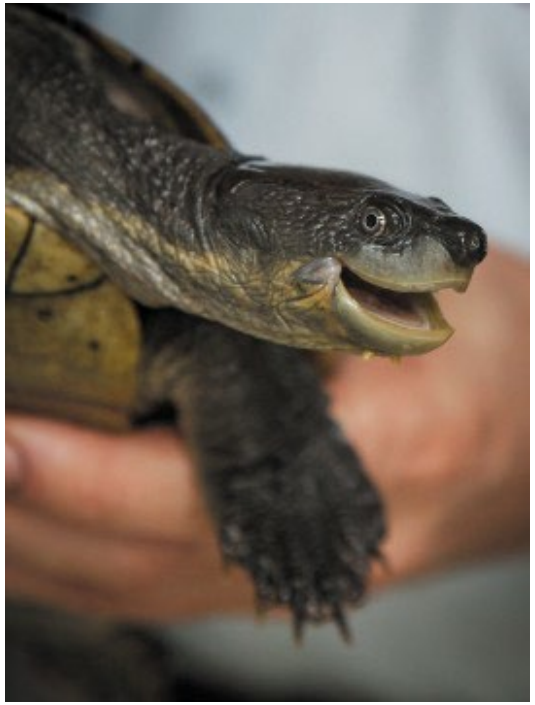
Turtle species rescued from the brink

Research Team Leader: Associate Professor Ricky Spencer

WSU prevented the extinction of a rare turtle species: the Bellinger River Snapping Turtle.

In a purpose-built quarantine facility at Western Sydney University the species recovered, then re-released once the unknown disease had run its course.

“We lead a desperate and massive rescue mission, scouting upstream to find pools where the condition was not yet evident, and rescuing healthy turtles. My next job is to save 1 million turtles!”



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10th Worldwide for SDG15: Life on Land

Learning the tactics of Indigenous burning for better land management

Research Team Leader: Dr Jessica Weir

Collaborating with Indigenous people to understand the benefits of controlled burning of bushland.

'Cool burns' have a range of ecological and cultural benefits for natural hazard management.

"These fires don't destroy tree canopies, wildlife have time to escape, and by reducing fuel loads they can also protect lives and property from destructive 'hot burn' bushfires".

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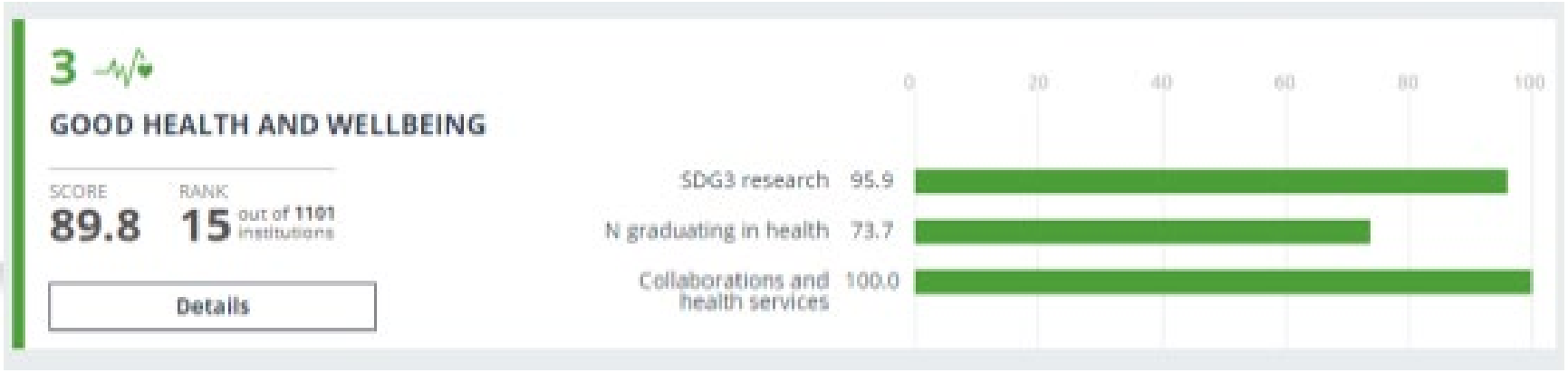
15th Worldwide SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing



Boosting Diabetes Prevention

Research Team Leader: Prof David Simmons

The Le Taeao Afua (the new dawn) community intervention programs to improve the health of Australian Samoans with diabetes in south-western Sydney.

Outcome: community interventions tailored to fit the Australian-Samoan lifestyle leading to significant reductions in average blood glucose levels.

20 trained church volunteers who delivered more than 100 workshops and activities.

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15th Worldwide for SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Building custodianship of Antarctica

Research Team Leader: Prof Juan Francisco Salazar

Five ‘Antarctic cities’ are discovering a shared identity and purpose to protect Antarctica.

Christchurch (New Zealand), Puntas Arenas (Chile), Ushuaia (Argentina), Cape Town (South Africa) and Hobart (Australia) unite. “Together, they might become true custodians of this fragile region”.

“The cities’ youth are being recruited to lead the initiative”.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PRIORITY STATEMENTS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowledges
Embrace Indigenous knowledges for pathways to sustainability and Caring for Country.

Regenerative Systems
Value biodiversity linking human wellbeing to environmental health.

Resilient Cities
Enable urban resilience and adaptive capacity in our region.

Climate Action
Step up efforts to support climate action in our region.

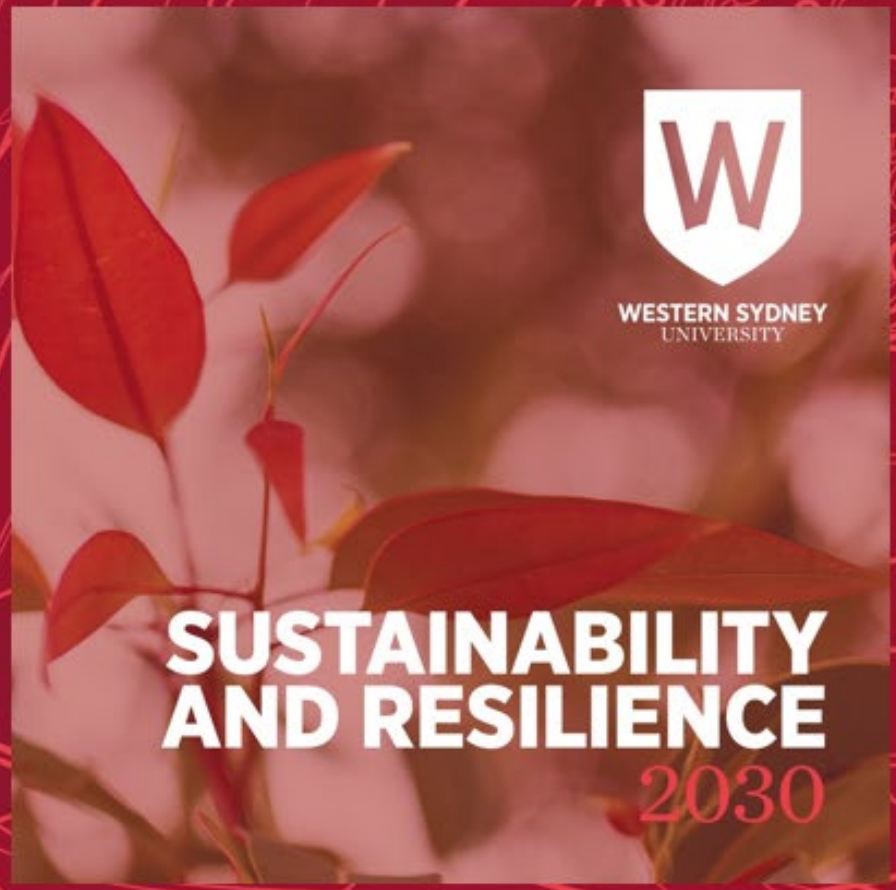
Partnerships
Collaborate with regional, national and international organisations across all sectors to deliver impact across these priority statements.

Justice
Activate environmental justice and social inclusion to tackle inequality in our region.

Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture
Promote agroecological principles for just food systems.

Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Harness the benefits of AI and automation in planning for sustainability.

Economic Transitions
Enact new visions for economic transitions through ethical economic and ecological relationships.



Overview: https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/sustainable-development/decadal-strategy
Digital Engagement Platform: https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/sustainable-development/decadal-strategy/engage

Species: Tasmanian Blue Gum *(Eucalyptus globulus)*

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