



WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK



INTRODUCTION

Sustainable procurement is the strategic use of an organisation’s purchasing power to create long-term environmental, social, and economic value. At Western, this means embedding ethical, inclusive, and sustainable practices throughout the procurement lifecycle, ensuring our purchasing decisions contribute meaningfully to a fairer, more inclusive, and climate-resilient future.

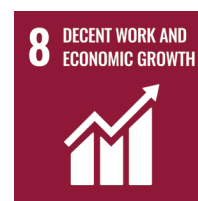
This Framework guides the University’s procurement activities to deliver measurable outcomes, strengthen compliance with regulatory and institutional obligations, and embed sustainability as business-as-usual practice.

INTEGRATION WITH WESTERN’S STRATEGY

This Framework aligns with the University’s strategic plan, WESTERN 2030, particularly priority 7, Securing Sustainability and complements our policies by embedding sustainability principles into procurement. It promotes accountability, transparency, and measurable impact, supporting the University’s Nature Positive pledge and broader environmental, social, and cultural goals.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PRIORITIES

All procurement decisions impact people, the environment, and local economies. This Framework ensures University’s procurement activities contribute to a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable society. It explicitly supports progress toward the UN SDGs, particularly in areas of sustainable materials, ethical sourcing, inclusive engagement, emissions reduction and the elimination of modern slavery and exploitation in supply chains.



DRIVER	ALIGNMENT
Strategic Priorities	Aligned with the University’s strategic plan, WESTERN 2030. Supports sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical leadership goals.
University Policies	Aligned with the Procurement Policy, Modern Slavery Prevention Policy, Environmental Sustainability Policy, Complaint Management Policy, and Whistleblowing Policy.
Legislation & Standards	Aligned with the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (both NSW and Cth), NSW Government Procurement Policy Framework, and the NSW Guide to Environmentally Sustainable Procurement.
Global Standards	Reflects ISO 20400, ISO 14001, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Institutional Initiatives	Climate Positive and Nature Positive Goals, Emissions Reduction Strategy, Sustainability and Resilience 2030 Decadal Strategy, Modern Slavery Strategy.

APPLYING THE FRAMEWORK

The Framework applies proportionately based on procurement thresholds, embedding sustainability consistently across all levels of procurement activity:

THRESHOLD	APPROACH	METHOD	PLANNING TOOL
Up to \$150K	Recommended	It is strongly recommended that sustainable procurement considerations are applied during supplier identification and selection processes.	N/A
\$150K–\$250K	Proportionate	Evaluation criteria must allocate 5% to Sustainable Procurement considerations.	Sustainable Procurement Consideration Plan
Greater than \$250K	Strategic	Evaluation criteria must allocate up to 10% to Sustainable Procurement considerations and include performance standards and risk mitigation in contracts	Sustainable Procurement Consideration Plan

PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES UNDER 150K

For purchases under AU \$150,000, staff are encouraged to seek opportunities to engage certified Indigenous businesses when practical. Procurement will provide support and guidance to identify suitable suppliers and ensure compliance with University procurement principles.

FOCUS AREAS AND MEASURING IMPACT

To ensure consistent implementation and measurable progress, five key focus areas have been established. These define priority sustainability and social outcomes, guiding supplier engagement, procurement decisions, and alignment with the University's ESG commitments and strategic objectives. They also provide a clear framework for measuring and reporting impact, reinforcing accountability and transparency.

The framework and its focus areas will be reviewed and refined over time as the University's sustainable procurement capability matures. Achievable performance measures and targets will be introduced progressively to drive continuous improvement and ensure alignment with the University's long-term sustainability goals.

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

Standard Sustainable Procurement clauses are incorporated into supplier contracts, ensuring alignment with the Framework. These can be reviewed and enhanced in partnership with the Office of General Counsel if there is a requirement to address heightened risks or more specific requirements. These clauses will be regularly reviewed and updated as risks and requirements evolve.

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

Implementation and oversight of the Framework is led by the Procurement Team. Key responsibilities include:

- Monitoring progress through internal reviews and reporting.
- Engaging stakeholders and providing guidance to operational areas.
- Reviewing the Framework regularly to maintain alignment with evolving best practices and regulatory changes.

Operational areas are responsible for ensuring procurement activities up to AU \$150,000 are conducted in alignment with this Framework and the Procurement Policy, and that decisions uphold the University's Sustainable Procurement commitments.

FOCUS AREA	MEASUREMENT
Environmental Sustainability	Ethical sourcing of raw materials, use of recycled and renewable materials, certifications (FSC, Fair Trade), resource and water efficiency, circular economy practices, ISO 14001 compliance, biodiversity protection.
Emission Reduction	Supplier Scope 3 emissions disclosure, science-based targets, net-zero commitments, low-emission transport and logistics practices.
Diverse Engagement	Demonstrable engagement with Indigenous owned businesses, employment of Indigenous people, certifications (Supply Nation, B-Corp, Social Traders), women-led, local suppliers, SMEs.
Modern Slavery	Demonstrable adherence to ILO Standards, risk assessments and transparency, whistleblower protections, support for vulnerable workers.
Social Impact	Workforce diversity and inclusion, equal opportunity and ethical employment practices, support and/or engagement in community development initiatives and fair wages.

APPENDIX: DEFINITIONS

Circular Economy

An economic model focused on reducing waste by keeping products, materials, and resources in use for as long as possible through reuse, recycling, and regeneration.

ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance)

A framework for assessing an organisation's performance and impacts in sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical governance.

Environmental Sustainability

Practices that protect and preserve natural resources and ecosystems for current and future generations.

Ethical Sourcing

Procuring goods and services in a responsible and sustainable manner, ensuring fair labour practices, human rights, and environmental standards are upheld throughout the supply chain.

ILO (International Labour Standards)

A UN agency that sets internationally agreed labour standards to promote fair, safe, and decent work, covering areas such as forced labour, child labour, discrimination, and freedom of association.

ISO 20400

An international standard that provides guidance on integrating environmental, social, and economic sustainability into procurement policies and practices, helping organisations manage risks, create long-term value, and align purchasing decisions with broader sustainability goals.

ISO 14001

An international standard for environmental management systems, helping organisations improve environmental performance.

Modern Slavery

Serious exploitation of people through coercion, threats, or deception, including forced labour, human trafficking, and debt bondage.

Net-Zero

Achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases emitted and those removed from the atmosphere.

Raw Materials

Basic, unprocessed materials used in the production of goods, such as timber, minerals, or cotton.

Social Impact

The positive and measurable change created for people, communities, and society through business operations and procurement decisions.

SME (Small and Medium Enterprises)

Businesses with a small to medium workforce and turnover, as defined by national guidelines.

Scope 3 Emissions

All indirect greenhouse gas emissions from activities in an organisation's upstream and downstream value chain, such as supplier operations, product use, and disposal.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)

A set of 17 global goals adopted in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and promote peace and prosperity for all by 2030.

United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

A global standard outlining how businesses should prevent, address, and remedy human rights impacts linked to their operations, supply chains, and business relationships.

ETHICAL AND INCLUSIVE SUPPLIER CERTIFICATIONS:

- **B-Corp:** Certification for businesses meeting high standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency.
- **Fair Trade:** A certification and movement that supports better prices, working conditions, and sustainability for producers in developing countries.
- **FSC (Forest Stewardship Council):** An international certification that ensures timber and paper products come from responsibly managed forests.
- **Social Traders:** Certification for Australian social enterprises that trade to deliver social impact.
- **Supply Nation:** Certification for Indigenous-owned businesses in Australia.

CONTACT US

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