



UNSW
SYDNEY

UNSW Sustainable Development Goals

2022 Report

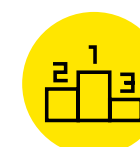
UNSW Sydney
Division of
Equity Diversity
& Inclusion



Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Bedegal (Kensington Campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) who are the traditional custodians of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

2022 Key facts



Most employable graduates

UNSW was named [AFR Most Employable University](#) at the 2022 [Top100 Future Leader Awards](#) for the third year in a row.



Winner 2022 NSW Sustainability Awards

UNSW Sydney was the winner of the 'Net Zero Action' category in the 2022 [NSW Sustainability Awards](#), presented by the Banksia Foundation.



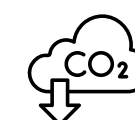
#1 & #5 QS World University Sustainability Rankings

UNSW ranked joint #5 in the world and #1 in Australia in the inaugural QS World University Sustainability Rankings.



A knowledge partnership with the UN

In 2022 UNSW's Institute for Global Development (IGD) established and led a knowledge partnership with the UNDCO in Bangkok to progress the SDGs in the Asia Pacific.



Net zero by 2050

The NSW state government [announced](#) a \$15 million NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Hub will be based at UNSW Sydney to help achieve zero emissions by 2050.



New 25% Gateway Equity Target

25% of commencing domestic undergraduates will be from low-SES or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds by 2027.



#2 in Australia for contribution to scientific research

UNSW ranked #2 in Australia in the 2022 [Nature Index Institutions index](#).



UNSW spinouts #1 in Australia for capital raised

In [PitchBook's annual university rankings](#) UNSW spinouts ranked #1 in Australia for total capital raised and #2 for most founders and startups in 2022.

\$65 million in NHMRC Investigator Grants

UNSW led Australian universities by attracting grants for 36 world-leading projects in 2022 [National Health and Medical Research Council](#) funding.

\$17m for 41 ARC Discovery Projects

UNSW received \$17 million in [Australian Research Council \(ARC\)](#) Discovery Project grants.

2023 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings



=18 in the world

UNSW [jumped 37 places](#) to equal #18 globally in the 2023 [Times Higher Education \(THE\) Impact Rankings](#).



#1 in Australia for SDG 9



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Introduction

UNSW takes seriously our responsibility for positive societal impact.



**Professor
Attila Brungs**

**Vice-
Chancellor
and President
UNSW SYDNEY**

Our vision to improve lives in Australia and around the world is at the heart of all that we do. It reflects our founding purpose and guides our aspirations for the future: for transformative education, innovative research and commitment to a just society.

Our commitment to advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) is a fundamental pillar in fulfilling this responsibility.

Hence, I am pleased to introduce the *UNSW Sustainable Development Goals 2022 Report*, our second annual report of UNSW's progress towards the SDGs.

The report illustrates the genuine ambition for positive change that permeates our University. This ambition connects disciplines, it fosters collaboration, it builds fruitful partnerships and it drives practical, real-world solutions for some of the most pressing sustainability and development challenges facing communities across the globe.

UNSW is fortunate to have deep credentials in highly relevant disciplines including climate science, renewable energy, sustainable industry, circular economies and regional development, as well as an institutional mindset towards partnering with organisations that seek positive societal impact.

Through education, research, innovation, collaboration and respectful thought leadership, we seek to embed 'SDG Thinking' throughout the UNSW community, and to instil this ethos in graduates who will go on to be change makers in communities around the world for decades to come.

In publishing this report, we seek to be transparent in our efforts, to hold ourselves accountable for our performance, and to meet the global community's rightful expectations of one of the world's top universities.

As we near our 75th anniversary, I proudly reaffirm UNSW's efforts to advancing the SDGs and to being a catalyst for a sustainable, more equitable future for all.

The UN SDGs are an urgent call for action to address the world's most pressing challenges – by all member countries as a global partnership.

Universities have a significant role to play in ensuring that call to action is heeded.

Sustainable Development is a key theme in UNSW's 2025 Strategy. Our vision is to tackle real-world problems through partnerships that bring together our students, staff, alumni and the broader community, aligning our efforts with UNSW's expertise and research strengths and the SDGs.

Our teaching, research, internal operations, and external leadership continue to make significant contributions to diverse social and environmental challenges.

In 2022, I was appointed to the position of Chair of the UNSW SDGs Steering Committee. The role of the Steering Committee is to foster cross-disciplinary collaboration across the University to enable and amplify this important work. The committee focuses on four pillars which reflect the University's extensive and wide-ranging activities, including our: research and enterprise; education and student experience; operations and governance; and external leadership and engagement.

Now more than ever, we are seeing both individuals and teams from across the community driving and engaging with the range

of UNSW initiatives that further the SDGs – including thought-provoking events during Diversity Fest, such as Intersectionality in Research and a student hackathon, and increased engagement with the UN in the Asia Pacific.

This year, we consulted and collaborated with stakeholders from across the University to examine opportunities to further embed the SDGs into our curriculum and course design, working closely with the UNSW DVC Education and Student Experience team.

In building this momentum, we were delighted to achieve our best performance to date in the 2023 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, securing joint 18th in the world, an increase from joint 55th.

UNSW is continually refining our approach to measuring and understanding our impacts in terms of sustainable social, environmental, and economic development. It is important to understand our contributions both in terms of our own goals, and in relation to external benchmarks.

We are pleased to share this report which demonstrates our achievements in 2022 and look forward to continued engagement with our community to further progress the SDGs.



**Professor
Rita Henderson**

**Deputy Dean
(Societal Impact
and Translation),
Faculty of
Engineering and
Chair of the UNSW
SDGs Steering
Committee
UNSW SYDNEY**



No Poverty

Over 3 million Australians, including 761,000 children, live below the poverty line. UNSW is committed to research, education, support and partnerships that tackle poverty, inequality, wellbeing and justice.



RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Poverty and Inequality Partnership COVID research and reports

2022 was the final year of the first five-year phase of the Poverty and Inequality Partnership between UNSW researchers and the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS). The partnership produced six research reports that helped to build understanding of the initial effects of the COVID pandemic on poverty and inequality, especially on income support, rental housing and homelessness, and wealth inequality and built pressure for action.

Sustainable solutions for disadvantaged communities

Humanitarian Engineering is embedded throughout the UNSW Engineering Faculty, with real-world research being undertaken to develop appropriate and sustainable solutions to problems for disadvantaged communities. Badal Pokharel, a PhD candidate in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, received a \$3,000 UNSW Humanitarian Engineering competitive small grant for her ongoing research titled 'Recognition, assessment and analysis of landslides in the central Nepal Himalayas'.

Increasing awareness of homelessness

To celebrate Housing Law being taught at UNSW for a decade, and raise awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness, particularly for UNSW students experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, Law & Justice held a film screening alongside a series of panel events that presented recent research on homelessness.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Bridging the GAPP for students from low-SES backgrounds

The Gateway Admission Pathway and Program (GAPP) aims to enable more students from educationally underrepresented schools, diverse and low-socioeconomic status (low-SES) backgrounds to access UNSW. It supports the University's Gateway Equity Target which sets out that 25% of commencing domestic undergraduate students are from a low-SES background or socio-educationally disadvantaged schools by 2027. The GAPP program is open to more than 370 Gateway partner schools, and includes online, in-school and on-campus components. In 2022 there were 4875 student engagements through the Year 10 – 12 educational outreach programs, an increase of 50% from 2021. The Gateway Equity access rate was 19.5% in 2022, a substantial increase from 17.3% in 2021.

Financial support for students

UNSW offers a variety of financial aid and financial assistance to students. Student Support Advisors assist students with practical advice and skills to assist financial management and literacy, and overcome financial hardship. Student Support Grants are available to those experiencing financial hardship for essential living costs, study or medical expenses, phone or utility bills and bond, and UNSW offers payment plans for tuition fees, alongside government assistance programs for students.

Advocating for student welfare

The Welfare Collective is a student-run group who are passionate about ensuring an accessible and affordable uni experience regardless of socioeconomic status. They have campaigned on issues like increased funding for Youth Allowance, and run a free breakfast stall on campus.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Supporting the financially vulnerable

UNSW Business School's Tax and Business Advisory Clinic operates as a work-integrated-learning space, with students and volunteer tax agents providing independent, free and confidential tax advice for individuals and small business owners in severe financial distress. In 2022 the Clinic was awarded three major grants totalling almost \$700,000 including an Ecstra Foundation Grant of \$350,000.

Social Policy Research Centre

UNSW's Social Policy Research Centre makes a positive impact through independent and leading research that tackles critical social issues. 2022 marked its 42nd year. The Centre aims to improve the lives of individuals and communities, especially those experiencing disadvantage or marginalisation, through collaborative research projects that span a wide range of issues from the NDIS to housing support, violence, and poverty.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Kingsford Legal Centre

Kingsford Legal Centre (KLC) is a long-running community legal centre providing free legal advice, casework and legal education to the local community. KLC also provides clinical legal education to its students and in 2022 delivered 2057 legal advices, as well as recovering or waiving \$527,514 for its clients.

6

Grant occurrences

440

Publications (2018-2022)



AWARD

The UNSW Business School Tax and Business Advisory Clinic was a finalist in the Australian Financial Review (AFR) 2022 Higher Education Awards.



Zero Hunger

Over 735 million people in the world are facing hunger, according to the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization. UNSW is committed to Zero Hunger by driving investment in research innovation in food production, providing education for agrifood industry professionals and supporting UNSW students experiencing food insecurity.

RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Barking aerial drones herd farm animals

Researchers from the School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications published a [paper](#) on a novel robotic animal herding system comprising a network of autonomous barking drones that would improve efficiencies in herding large numbers of farm animals.

Agrivoltaic cropping

Researchers from UNSW School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering and Tindo Solar have developed a line of semi-transparent modules, specialised for [agrivoltaic cropping](#), which will use nanoparticles tuned to capture different parts of the light spectrum. The specialised cropping modules aim to significantly increase both energy yields of agrivoltaic projects and the success of the crops beneath them.

Addressing disadvantage through humanitarian engineering

Multidisciplinary [humanitarian engineering](#) research at UNSW addresses chronic needs of poverty and lack of resources in line with the SDGs as well as acute needs associated with natural disasters and human displacement. PhD food and health researcher, [Indrawati Tanurdjaja](#) from UNSW School of Chemical Engineering received a Humanitarian Engineering Grant to focus on improving food and nutrition security for young children in Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) region, using red sorghum (tempeh).

The challenges of flooding on farms

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr [Elisabeth Vogel](#) from the UNSW Water Research Centre focuses on past and future changes in climate and hydrological extremes and downstream impacts, such as on food production and water resources. Her [2022 opinion piece](#) highlights the challenges and adaptive approaches by Australian farmers to flooding as weather extremes worsen, and the impact on supplies and prices.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

12,520+ meals provided by Arc's Food Hub

With one in four university students skipping meals due to financial hardship, Arc's Food Hub provides groceries to UNSW students, and received 40,000 visits in 2022. Over 90% of [Food Hub](#) services were provided to international students and Arc averages 250-350 students per session.

Australia's first synthetic biology accelerator program

The synthetic biology (SynBio) industry has proven its potential to help solve some of the world's biggest problems in food, agriculture, health and medicine. In 2022, [UNSW Founders](#) expanded its flagship 10x Accelerator program to include Australia's first synthetic biology cohort, providing SynBio startups with access to education, networks and infrastructure to accelerate product development and commercialisation.

Benefits of Bourke community garden

Supported by the UNSW Global Water Institute, a [professional placement](#) enabled Landscape Architecture students from the UNSW School of Built Environment to spend 10 weeks on Ngemba-Baakindji Country in the New South Wales town of Bourke in 2022. The community-led, interdisciplinary project explored ways to improve nutritional, educational and social outcomes for Aboriginal people in Bourke through the Bourke community garden.

International Food Day

International Food Day raises awareness of ongoing efforts to eliminate global food insecurity and malnutrition, which increased after the COVID-19 pandemic hit. In 2022, the [Postgraduate Council](#) marked International Food Day with a competition that drew upon the diverse UNSW community to prepare different cultural food using sustainable and nutritious recipes.



EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Food and Water for Life project

The Food and Water for Life project is a collaboration between the Dharriwaa Elders Group, Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service, The George Institute for Global Health and the UNSW Yuwaya Ngarra-li team that aims to enable community-led sustainable food and water initiatives, run by and employing Aboriginal people. In 2022 the project included [Meal of the Month](#) at the Walgett IGA, sharing low-cost healthy recipes and ingredients.

Solutions to food security

UNSW food security expert Professor [Johannes le Coutre](#) from the School of Chemical Engineering, says for the world to [achieve food security](#), there needs to be a balance between the health of the population, the economy and the environment. His broad research agenda on cellular agriculture aims to strengthen food security and to alleviate the agricultural burden on the environment.

Climate Change Research Centre (CCRC)

UNSW's CCRC was quoted in 82 news articles, 40 radio and podcast interviews and 19 TV interviews in 2022. Future changes in temperature and rainfall, as well as increases in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, have the potential to influence [food production](#). The CCRC supports work done by the NSW Department of Primary Industries in modelling these effects

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

The Producers and Urban Growers

UNSW offers space on campus for [The Producers](#), an Arc volunteer-based group dedicated to planting, maintaining and harvesting veggies and maintaining the community run 'Urban Garden', and [Urban Growers](#), a staff and student group focused on creating and maintaining new green food-growing spaces that are also used for learning.

11

Grant occurrences

397

Publications (2018-2022)



GOALS

Creating a high-quality food environment

The [Good Food Project](#) is working towards changes in the food environment across UNSW campuses. By the end of 2022, they aim for half of the foods for sale to be 'everyday foods', and each retailer will aim to have at least one 'value meal' in the \$5 to \$10 price range, comprising everyday foods.



AWARD

AIFST Fellow

Associate Professor Jayashree Arcot was elected as a [Fellow](#) of the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology in 2022 for her outstanding contribution to research and development, technology transfer, and development of the food industry.



Good Health and Well-being



COVID-19 has forced us to examine our global community and consider the central importance of health for our social, educational and economic security, and has highlighted the fact that threats to health are not experienced equally by all.

RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

ARC Research Hub for Connected Sensors for Health

The Australian Research Council (ARC) Research Hub for Connected Sensors for Health was opened at UNSW in 2022. A collaboration between universities and industry involved in cutting-edge research on wearable medical devices will position Australia at the forefront of connected health, with new products made locally in Australia.

Improving STI testing

New data released in 2022 by the Kirby Institute at UNSW not only revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic reduced testing and diagnoses of sexually transmissible infections (STI) in Australia, it also showed that most STIs in Australia remain undiagnosed and untreated, highlighting a need to increase STI testing across the country.

Improving patient comfort

Master of Biomedical Engineering students from UNSW designed and built a prototype SmartAssistive device to help medical staff ensure that patients do not suffer pressure injuries. Their innovation

won the first place 'Early Stage' prize as well as the Dean of Engineering Award and People's Choice Award in the Peter Farrell Cup.

MedConnect on preventing death through unhealthy diets

MedConnect is a digital series hosted by UNSW Medicine & Health, to discuss some of the biggest challenges facing healthcare. One of them is that 20,000 Australians die a preventable death each year caused by an unhealthy diet. In 2022, it hosted 'Food on the front line of health' looking at the power of nutrition to revolutionise health and wellbeing.

ARC funding

UNSW ranked first in the nation for Future Fellowships from the ARC with 14 awards worth \$13.1 million, including \$1.1 million to Associate Professor Joanne Bryant (Centre for Social Research in Health) for 'Reimagining strengths approaches to drug and alcohol care for young people'.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Transformation of the Village Green

The Village Green at UNSW Kensington campus reopened to the UNSW community in October 2022 following a two-year redevelopment, transforming it into a vibrant and connected outdoor space where students, staff and the community can come together to play, exercise, socialise and relax. The new facility includes a wellness precinct and takes a holistic approach to student wellbeing and mental health.

SEXtember

UNSW celebrates SEXtember annually: a festival of celebrating, questioning and exploring every aspect of sex, intimacy and relationships, including a focus on sexual health and safety.

In 2022 the theme was pleasure, love and respect. SEXtember is part of UNSW's commitment to create a safe and respectful culture for all people, and normalising conversations around consent and sexual health.

UNSW Lifestyle Clinic

The UNSW Lifestyle Clinic is staffed by Accredited Exercise Physiologists providing physical activity, lifestyle and health programs for the prevention and management of chronic disease, injury and disability. Run by the School of Health Sciences within UNSW Medicine & Health, and used as a teaching clinic, it provides a suite of health services to the community.

The Big Anxiety

UNSW researchers collaborated with health services and the local community to curate an arts festival called The Big Anxiety, in Warwick, Queensland, to bring hope to people dealing with the devastating impact of youth suicide in the town. It leveraged arts-based interventions to transform trauma.

Project Mind addresses mental health inequity

The inaugural Project Mind program ran in 2022. It is an initiative born out of the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The eight-week student professional development program sees students participate in workshops aimed at developing a better understanding of UNSW's complex environment and identifying gaps in student care and mental health, culminating in a pitch night.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Improving pandemic responses

Associate Professor James Wood from UNSW Medicine & Health was awarded a \$1 million NHMRC Partnership Project grant for an integrated modelling and public health surveillance project that aims to improve control of epidemic and pandemic respiratory infections in Australia.

Reducing crashes in tunnels

Austrroads commissioned UNSW Research Centre for Integrated Transport Innovation (rCITI) to investigate and evaluate the application of low-cost perceptual countermeasure (PCM) treatments in road tunnel environments to improve driver speed behaviour, alertness and lane discipline, and ideally reduce crash risk.

2022 AUSTSWIM Award of Excellence

UNSW's Learn to Swim Program won the AUSTSWIM 2022 State and National Awards for Community Education

Program of the year. The eight-week program has taught 670 international students from over 46 different countries how to swim.

Eliminating hepatitis C by 2030

Australia has committed to eliminating hepatitis C by 2030. UNSW held a seminar for World Hepatitis Day in 2022, with a panel discussion on the key requirements that are needed to facilitate hepatitis C elimination and finding, testing, and treating people living with hepatitis C in Australia.

Julia Gillard on creating a healthier and fairer society

Former Prime Minister Julia Gillard joined journalist Tegan Taylor for the 2022 David Cooper Lecture to explore how to leverage science and make advances in health available to everyone. Ms Gillard is Chair of the Wellcome Trust, a not-for-profit global organisation that supports science to solve urgent health challenges equitably.

CPHCE Annual Forum

The Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity (CPHCE) at UNSW, promotes better, fairer health care in the community through research and its translation into health policy and practice. In 2022 CPHCE held its Annual Forum on the theme of Refugee and Immigrant Health.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

UNSW Good Food Charter

UNSW approved the Good Food Charter in 2022. It arose from the UNSW Good Food Project and encompasses a set of principles to enable and encourage the UNSW community to select healthier food and drink options, and retailers and catering services to provide them.

Green grounds support a healthy and active community

Evidence shows that an outlook on trees and other green spaces can significantly improve mood and that green spaces support a healthy and active lifestyle. UNSW has more than 120,000 square metres of landscaped gardens and areas, contributing to wellbeing in the community.

Welcoming staff back to campus

After two years of disruption caused by COVID-19, UNSW ran a Welcome Back to Campus program in 2022, providing an opportunity for staff to return to work on campus and reconnect with their colleagues face-to-face, with free coffee vouchers, discounted food and beverages, live music and wellbeing initiatives such as health checks.

384
Grant occurrences

13,748
Publications (2018-2022)



GOALS

UNSW has committed \$1bn to health precinct development until 2030, collaborating with government, industry and academia.



AWARDS

UNSW was awarded \$122.6m, placing it second in the Go8 and nationally for new National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding announced across all schemes.

—
Scientia Professor Perminder Sachdev was awarded the 2022 Ryman Prize for his research into healthy brain ageing and prevention and early diagnosis of dementia.



UNSW campuses have been smoke-free since 2014



Quality Education

Many of the injustices that the SDGs target result from a lack of education. UNESCO data from 2022 shows that 250 million young people between the ages of 6 and 18 worldwide are out of school. The UNSW Vision is to improve lives globally, through innovative research, transformative education and commitment to a just society.

RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

NSW Equity Consortium

A sector-first collaboration, UNSW has forged the [NSW Equity Consortium](#): a five-year partnership with Macquarie University, UTS and five Greater Western Sydney high schools. The partnership seeks to expand students' educational opportunities by delivering 'Imagined Futures', a literacy-focused outreach program for students in Years 7 to 9 designed to support students make informed decisions which shape post-school options. Co-designed with teachers, the program is embedded in students' regular English lessons and delivered in partnership with University Ambassadors.

Relationships impact learning at uni

Peter Felten, Professor of History and Executive Director of the [Center for Engaged Learning](#), presented a free lecture on [relationships, learning, and belonging at university](#) as part of the Scientia Education Academy series. His research showed that the quality of student-staff and student-student interactions influence motivation, learning, belonging, and achievement for all university students, and are particularly significant for students from groups that have been excluded from or marginalised in higher education.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Nura Gili Indigenous Youth Leaders Program

UNSW launched a new high school program to give Indigenous students the opportunity to gain leadership skills and experience at UNSW. The Nura Gili Indigenous [Youth Leaders Program](#) takes a multi-faculty approach to expose students to all study areas and provide a deeper understanding on what a degree can do for students and their community. Students address real-life scenarios

that impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities today, engaging with workshops and problem-solving activities.

Gateway Equity Target

Announced in 2022 as an extension of UNSW's Strategy 2025, the Gateway Equity Target sets out that [25% of commencing domestic undergraduate students are from a low-socioeconomic background](#) and/or socio-educationally disadvantaged school (Gateway partner school) by 2027. The target also builds on the success of the Gateway Admission Pathway and Program (GAPP) for widening access, which recognises the centrality of educational disadvantage to the underrepresentation the University seeks to address.

Science Student Sustainability Awards 2022

In 2022 the Faculty of Science introduced Student Sustainability Awards to recognise the achievements of students in courses with an SDG alignment and acknowledge outstanding SDG-aligned contributions whether through class performance, extracurriculars, or creative contributions to the wider science community. The inaugural winners of the awards reflect UNSW's diverse community.

New Atlantis experimental sound festival

UNSW music offers one of the most wide-ranging [ensemble programs](#) in tertiary education in Australia. Ensembles are directed by highly regarded professional musicians and educators, active in the musical styles of the ensemble that they direct, which range from classical to jazz, electro-acoustic and world music. In 2022, UNSW hosted [New Atlantis](#), a festival of new and experimental sound, that featured new works from UNSW students alongside artists from the sonic arts community.

UNSW encourages lifelong learning

[Lifelong learning](#) allows people to enter, adapt and return to today's rapidly evolving workforce. To encourage the benefits of lifelong learning, eligible



UNSW staff can save 50% on tuition fees for courses and degrees at UNSW through the [Employee Education Discount](#) scheme.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Reclaiming Aboriginal language

Reclaiming language is key to Aboriginal cultural identity and wellbeing. A [partnership](#) between the [Gujaga Foundation](#) and UNSW used archival resources to describe the Dharawal language of the La Perouse Aboriginal community and undertake language projects in collaboration with Dharawal language knowledge holders and Dharawal Elders. The partnership widens use of the Aboriginal language across Dharawal Country and supports the community's rich cultural heritage.

National Science Week events

UNSW hosted a range of in-person and digital events to celebrate [National Science Week](#) in August 2022, ranging from panels on what new scientific discoveries can teach us about the pursuit of pleasure to how RNA technology could help fight hard-to-treat cancers.

Educational partnerships

Partnerships with Australian and international universities, schools, teachers, principals, professional organisations and the wider community are central to UNSW's School of Education. Designed to be mutually beneficial, these [partnerships](#) support pre-service teachers but also offer professional learning opportunities for those in education alongside consultancy and/or action research in the UNSW School of Education's areas of expertise.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

UNSW's SDG Toolkit

UNSW's SDG Toolkit is a platform that allows UNSW educators to integrate sustainable thinking into courses and curriculum. The integration of the SDGs into the University's teaching is an important component of UNSW's commitment to a sustainable future, and the SDG Toolkit is designed to be non-prescriptive, flexible, interdisciplinary and adaptable into many educational contexts.

Inclusive Education Showcase

In 2022, the third annual [Inclusive Education Showcase](#) saw UNSW educators and other groups present inclusive educational practices. The showcase featured 'Diversified', a student-led group of neurodivergent students, educators, and allies, alongside the Autism Friendly Campus project, how to leverage Virtual Reality (VR) video, and a collaboration between UNSW Art & Design and artists at Sydney based disability provider The Junction Works.

Project funding for sustainable solutions

The UNSW Science Sustainable Working Group ([SSWG](#)) introduced project funding of up to \$2500 for teaching staff to undertake an SDG-focused undergraduate course project in 2022. Applicants were encouraged to be creative and devise a project that allows students to learn about an SDG and consider holistic ways to solve the issues facing our societies and Earth's ecosystems. First round funding was awarded to Dr Tay Koo from the School of Aviation and Dr Ben Pace from the School of Materials Science and Engineering.

24
Grant occurrences

766
Publications (2018-2022)



Start@Uni supports first-year regional and culturally and linguistically diverse students entering university. It was one of four projects to share in \$1.75 million from the state government's [Collaboration & Innovation Fund](#).



GOALS

Ahead of low-SES target

UNSW's Gateway Admission Pathway and Program (GAPP) introduced 711 students from low-SES and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds into the undergraduate community in 2022, an increase of 75% from the year prior. UNSW was ahead of the planned low-SES target of 15% by 2025, reaching 11.8% in 2022.



AWARDS

36 educators received UNSW teaching awards or Fellowship of the Scientia Education Academy

Associate Professor Isabelle Jalbert (School of Optometry and Vision Science) was awarded a citation for outstanding achievement at the Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT)



Gender Equality

UNSW delivers numerous mentoring and other targeted supports to encourage women's applications, acceptance, entry, and participation at the University. The University is also committed to delivering collaborative and globally leading research targeted at preventing gendered violence and promoting human rights.

RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Fighting financial abuse

The [GVRN x CBA partnership](#) is a collaborative research series between UNSW's Gendered Violence Research Network (GVRN) and the Commonwealth Bank (CBA) to deepen understanding of economic and financial abuse within the context of domestic and family violence. The project has published '[state of knowledge](#)' reports to identify knowledge gaps in current research on economic and financial abuse.

Five WWBA small grants winners

Five research projects at UNSW ranging from women's health care to diversity and flexible working in the construction industry were awarded funds under the 2022 [Women's Wellbeing Academy \(WWBA\) Small Grants Program](#).

Protecting human rights of women migrants

Dr Joyce Wu from the School of Social Sciences at UNSW Arts, Design & Architecture, was one of the leads for an [international research consortium](#) on gender and development that [found](#) developed nations must uphold the human rights and fair work conditions of women migrants working in the garment and domestic sectors. In 2022 she collaborated with the consortium on a case study of best practice.

Women receive less pre-hospital stroke care than men

A population-based cohort study, published in the [Medical Journal of Australia](#) by researchers from The George Institute for Global Health and UNSW Medicine & Health found ambulance staff were more likely to miss a time-critical stroke diagnosis in women under the age of 70 years than they did in men, potentially leading to worse functional outcomes. The study concluded that improved stroke recognition by ambulance staff and greater awareness among all health professionals could give women the best opportunity for recovery.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Gendered Violence Strategy and Action Plan

'Stop. Empower. Support.' is the [UNSW Gendered Violence Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025](#). UNSW introduced the strategy to achieve a safe and respectful campus and workplace for all students and staff and to frame its ongoing action to prevent and respond to gendered violence, including sexual misconduct.

How many more women?

In the wake of [#MeToo](#), women are [speaking up against gender-based violence](#). [How Many More Women?](#) was a UNSW-hosted Sydney Writer's Festival event featuring lawyers Jennifer Robinson and Keina Yoshida. They examined the laws around the world that silence women, and the changes we need to make to ensure that women's freedoms are no longer threatened by the legal system that is supposed to protect them.

Do robots need a gender?

Professor Mari Velonaki of UNSW's Creative Robotics Lab [says](#) robots still have male and female stereotypes, but this may change as designers respond to new thinking on gender. More women students and researchers in robotics are also having an impact on perceptions around gender in robotics.

Women in Maths and Science Champions

The UNSW [Women in Maths and Science Champions Program](#) is a 12-month career development program to support research students and early-career scientists, who identify as women, to become science professionals. The Program was created to address the gender imbalance and challenge the stereotypes that often hold young girls back when considering STEM as a career option.

Intersectionality in Research

UNSW Women in Research Network (WiRN) hosted [Intersectionality in](#)

[Research](#) as part of Diversity Fest 2022. The live event discussed the experiences of women in research whose intersectionality as members of multiple minority groups or diverse backgrounds has led to compounding exposure to discrimination.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Speaking Out

Grace Tame, 2021 Australian of the Year, spoke at and joined a [panel discussion](#) with Associate Professor Kyllie Cripps, Scientia Associate Professor Michael Salter and Associate Professor Emma A. Jane at the UNSW Centre for Ideas. It explored reframing the way we understand child sexual abuse and encouraging survivors to feel equipped to tell their stories.

NUW Alliance prioritises women, infrastructure and sustainability

The NUW Alliance comprises the University of Newcastle, the University of Wollongong, UNSW and Western Sydney University. In 2022 the NUW Alliance launched its [Six Cities Region Vision](#), encompassing Newcastle, Wollongong and Greater Sydney and with three strategic priorities: Women, Infrastructure and Sustainability.

Arezo Women's Sports Leadership Program

UNSW collaborated with Football United, Creating Chances, and Afghan-Australian Community and Settlement Support to host a unique three-day [leadership program](#) for emerging female leaders in sport from Afghan-Australian and newly arrived refugee communities.

Funding to empower women in construction

UNSW researchers in the School of Built Environment were awarded

\$2.3 million in [grant funding](#) under the Federal Government's Women's Leadership and Development Program for a project that aims to attract, retain and empower women in construction, traditionally a male-dominated industry.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

SAGE Athena Swan

UNSW is one of 45 institutions participating in the [Science in Australia Gender Equity \(SAGE\) Athena Swan](#) program. SAGE Athena Swan funded research by UNSW's Social Policy Research Centre into the outcomes of a new support program called Career Coaching for Carers (3C). 3C assists academic women to overcome the disadvantage many experience from being disproportionately impacted by the intensification of care loads during the pandemic.

Women in Leadership Program

By the end of 2022, more than 400 women had completed UNSW's annual Women in Leadership Program. It empowers professional and academic women to strive for career progression, lead or activate leadership in their existing role.

Career Advancement Fund

UNSW established a [Career Advancement Fund](#) of up to \$10,000 to assist both continuing and fixed-term full-time and fractional female academics to re-establish and advance their careers during or following a period of maternity/adoption leave.

Active Women's Strategy Awards

In 2020, UNSW was the first university in Australia to launch a specific strategy for women's sport. And, in 2022, the inaugural Active Women's Strategy Awards were held, including the [announcement](#) of new Active Women's Coaching & Officiating grants.

21
Grant
occurrences

1224
Publications
(2018-2022)



GOALS

SAGE Athena Swan Action Plan

UNSW leadership targets by 2025 - 40% female academic staff at levels D and E and 50% female professional staff at level 10 and above.



AWARDS

Digital Transport

In 2022 [Professor Flora Salim](#) was appointed Cisco Chair in Digital Transport in the School of Computer Science at UNSW. She was also honoured for her pioneering work in computing and machine learning by Women in AI, a global advocacy group.

Ada Lovelace Medal for Outstanding Engineer

Janet Salem, co-founder of climate tech startup FootprintLab, was awarded the [2022 UNSW Women in Engineering Ada Lovelace Medal for Outstanding Engineer](#).

Rhodes scholar

Dr Sarah Haynes, a Doctor of Medicine and Bachelor of Medical Studies graduate from UNSW Medicine & Health, was the NSW Rhodes Scholar Elect for 2023.



Clean Water and Sanitation

The University's consistently high ranking in SDG 6 reflects UNSW's contributions to clean water and sanitation through campus operations, research and outreach, and other active initiatives.



RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Green walls are effective on greywater

A project from a research team at the UNSW Water Research Centre and the Water Research Laboratory (WRL) at UNSW's Manly Vale campus tested how green wall systems can treat greywater, retain water and contribute positively to mitigate local microclimate conditions. The project is the first in a planned Research Innovation Showcase Precinct (RISP), and found nature-based green wall systems were able to remove xenobiotic organic compounds that can pose a health risk.

Safety study of 546 Australian dams

Researchers from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UNSW collaborated on a dam safety study titled 'The Impact of Climate Change on Operational Probable Maximum Precipitation Estimates', published in *Water Resources Research*. Their calculations show operational 'Probable Maximum Precipitation' (PMP) estimates for 546 large dams across Australia are expected to increase an average of 14.5% and 38%.

Award winning research papers

Dr [Laura Montano](#) received the 2022 ANCOLD Young Professional [Best Paper Award](#) at the 2022 [Australian Committee on Large Dams \(ANCOLD\)](#) the co-authored paper 'Remote sensing technologies for dam design and prototype monitoring'. PhD Candidate Hiruni Kammanankada won the [Young Professional Presentation Award](#) at the 40th Hydrology and Water Resources Symposium (HWRS2022), for the 'Application of tube fishways to weirs' which she co-authored.

ARC Grant for water treatment

Dr Kefeng Zhang and Dr Veljko Prodanovic lead UNSW's Water Green-Urban-Management (WaterGUM) research group, focusing on urban water management and advanced pollutant removal processes. They are part of an [ARC Discovery Project](#) grant-winning team led by Professor Ana Deletic at QUT which is developing innovative and sustainable urban water treatment systems using passive plant-soil-based systems, known as biofilters.



EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible

World Water Day is celebrated annually on 22 March and in 2022 the theme was Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible. Fourth year and postgraduate engineering students from UNSW embarked on a 3-day field trip to [Wellington, NSW](#), to get hands-on experience in groundwater investigations and managing groundwater sustainably.

Ethics and engineering

The Global Water Institute and the Faculty of Engineering presented a panel discussion on [ethics and engineering for the public good](#), exploring how ethical thinking is required to help engineers and technical professionals navigate the realities of their projects and contribute to a sustainable and just society.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Funding for Indigenous River Rangers Program

In 2022 the Dharriwaa Elders Group (DEG) in Walgett secured funding from the National Indigenous Australians Agency Indigenous River Rangers Program to build a sustainable ranger team. Academics from UNSW will partner with the Ngarrangarra-li Walaaybaa (Look After Home Country) Rangers and Walgett River Rangers on training for water management, quality, ecological monitoring, and legal frameworks from a First Nations perspective.

Maintaining local waterways with communities

In a project funded by Sydney Water, UNSW partnered with Riverwood Community Centre in Canterbury Bankstown and Georges Riverkeeper through the Georges River Combined Councils' Committee for research into maintaining the health of local waterways. [The project](#) develops a

community engagement model to build community knowledge of local stormwater management systems, such as wetlands, and water quality testing.

Showcasing Global Water Institute expertise

UNSW was invited to showcase water science and engineering at the [Cook Islands Science Expo in 2022](#). Associate Professors Fiona Johnson and Kristen Splinter were joined by Anna Blacka from the UNSW Water Research Laboratory, based in the Cook Islands. UNSW's Water Research Laboratory also attended the [The Aitutaki Science Expo](#) in the Cook Islands. Both expos promote awareness about the connectedness of Traditional Knowledge and practices with science.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Reducing campus water, gas and energy demands

Several water-saving [measures](#) were implemented across our campuses, including additional irrigation water meters, cooling tower metering and benchmarking, rectification works in student accommodation, and toilet flushing controls.

Village Green aquifer upgrade

The redevelopment of the [Village Green](#) on UNSW's Kensington campus was completed in 2022 and included the installation of one of the [world's largest percolation tanks](#). An essential part of the campus stormwater and infiltration system, documented in the [UNSW Stormwater Master Plan Strategy 2025](#), the new tank captures campus stormwater underground, contributes to recharging the Botany Aquifer, and provides a substantial source of sustainable water on campus. The project saw Global Water Institute colleagues collaborate with Estate Management to create a video for use in the postgraduate course 'Urban Hydrology and Stormwater Management'.

11

Grant occurrences

937

Publications (2018-2022)



GOALS

Reduce campus water intensity by 5% under the Energy and Water Action Plan



AWARDS

Professor Rose Amal awarded James Cook Medal

Scientia Professor Rose Amal from UNSW Engineering was awarded the [James Cook Medal](#) from the Royal Society of NSW in recognition of her extensive contributions to science and human welfare in and for the Southern Hemisphere.

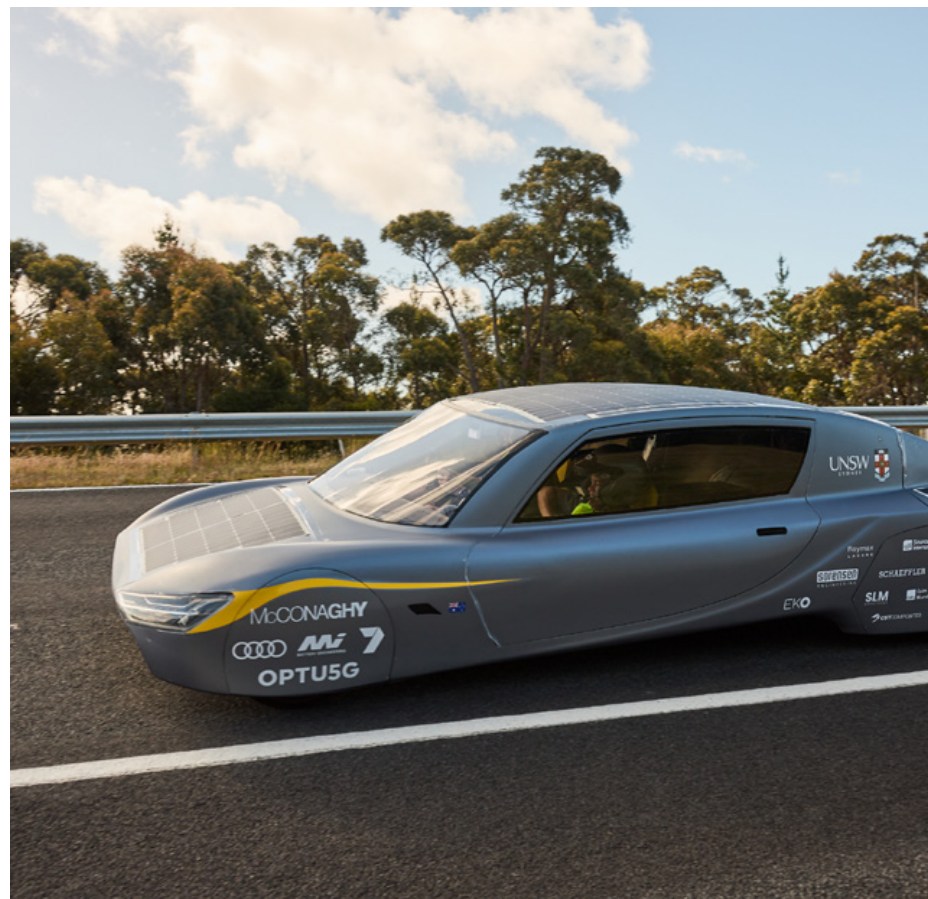


Free drinking water stations are available on campus.



Affordable and Clean Energy

UNSW is committed to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and, over the last 30 years, has carved a formidable reputation as one of the world's leading research and technology hubs for energy innovation.



RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Powering 90% of all solar modules

Globally, over 90% of all solar modules produced today are based on UNSW technology. Part of the Torch Innovation Precinct at UNSW, the Solar Industrial Research Facility (SIRF) hosts a world-class manufacturing facility that enables the development of UNSW's silicon solar cell technologies. UNSW also funds educational programs to develop solar systems in Fiji in partnership with the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Next generation photovoltaics

UNSW is a solar technology pioneer and Professor Renate Egan has been leading UNSW's activity in the Australian Centre for Advanced Photovoltaics, a collaboration between six universities and the CSIRO. In 2022 its researchers were working on ultra-low-cost and high efficiency next generation photovoltaics.

SunDrive performance-boosting technology

UNSW spinout SunDrive is developing a performance-boosting copper plating technology to replace silver as the solar cell electrode. In 2022, Photovoltaics Engineers Dr Jack Colwell and Dr Daniel Chen exhibited their technology at the inaugural UNSW Research Translation Expo in preparation for market entry.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

UNSW Guinness World Record

The first Sunswift vehicle was produced at UNSW in 1996. In 2022, UNSW's Sunswift 7 solar-powered electric vehicle (EV), designed and built by students, claimed the Guinness World Record for the 'Fastest EV over 1000 km on a single charge'. It travelled 1000 km on a single charge in 11 hours 52.08 minutes (an average speed of nearly 85 km/h).

SDGs in the UNSW Challenging Program

UNSW's Challenging Program aims to integrate 'SDG thinking' through each of its pillars. Its 'mini solar' vertical integrated project has shone a light on designing and creating millimetre-sized sustainable, solar energy harvesting devices that can provide continuous power for small devices like medical implants and IoT sensors.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

\$45 million funding boost for ACAP

In 2022, cutting-edge solar photovoltaic (PV) research at the Australian Centre for Advanced Photovoltaics (ACAP), headquartered at UNSW, received a \$45 million funding boost from the Australian government that will extend operations until 2030. ACAP is a federally funded initiative by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), led by UNSW's School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering (SPREE), with research groups from CSIRO, Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, University of Sydney, and Monash University.

Shaping the national EV strategy

In 2022, Postdoctoral Researcher Gail Broadbent from UNSW School

of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences, published a paper on 'Accelerating electric vehicle uptake: Modelling public policy options on prices and infrastructure' in response to Australia's first National Electric Vehicle Summit.

Solar and battery savings estimates

In 2022, a new national version of the SunSPOT solar calculator was developed by the Australian PV Institute (APVI) and UNSW. It allows households, small businesses and councils to obtain independent solar and battery savings estimates.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Environmental Sustainability Plan 2022-2024

Clean electrification is a key component of UNSW's pathway to net zero emissions. In 2022 an Electrification Strategy and funding was approved.

Solar on campus

A new 131kW solar PV system was installed at the Paddington campus in 2022 and there are now 14 PV systems at UNSW's main Sydney campuses with installed capacity of 1.37MW.

76

Grant occurrences

3383

Publications (2018-2022)



AWARDS

Millennium Technology Prize

In 2022, Scientia Professor Martin Green was the first Australian to win the prestigious Millennium Technology Prize for his leadership in the development of the Passivated Emitter and Rear Cell (PERC). The PERC solar cell is the world's most commercially viable and efficient silicon solar cell technology and accounted for over 91% of worldwide production in 2021.



Professor Martin Green



Solar photovoltaic cells developed from UNSW research continue to play a critical role in the global transition to renewable energy



GOALS

UNSW's calendar year emissions were 46% lower than baseline in 2022, with a goal to reach 50% by 2030.



#1 DEGREE

The UNSW Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) – which includes a Photovoltaics and Solar Energy specialisation – is the #1 ranked degree in Australia for Engineering and Technology.



Decent Work and Economic Growth

UNSW is committed to promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. We harness research to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits, offer programs that deliver workforce ready graduates, are an employer of choice, and partner with others to create new job opportunities and reduce modern slavery.

RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Companies failing to act on Modern Slavery

A report, *Broken Promises: Two years of corporate reporting under Australia's Modern Slavery Act*, found that three years after the Act came into play, companies are still failing to identify obvious modern slavery risks in their supply chains or take action to address them. Published by a coalition of human rights organisations and academics, including UNSW's [Australian Human Rights Institute](#), the authors called for a more robust law requiring decisive action by companies and penalties for those who fail to take it.

Building sustainable HR practices

Professor Karin Sanders from the School of Management & Governance at UNSW Business School [published](#) a paper, [Strategic human resource management in the era of environmental disruptions](#), examining how workplaces should respond to environmental disruptions, such as natural disasters. She argued that with the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters and other environmental disruptions (economic, ecological or political), workplaces need to be looking to implement sustainable HR practices to support employees when disaster strikes.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

UNSW Career Discovery Mentoring Program

The [Career Discovery Mentoring Program](#) connects UNSW students with established industry professionals, giving them the opportunity to focus on career development and navigate the transition from study to work. The Program is accredited by UNSW Advantage for recognition on the Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement.

Partnering with industry and community for WIL

UNSW has established strong partnerships with industry and community for [Work Integrated Learning](#) (WIL) opportunities across many faculties, and even internationally, that integrate theory and practice while strengthening students' work readiness, skills and employability. In [2022 Science students](#) were able to start earning course credit for WIL.

UNSW Founders biggest year ever

UNSW Founders is Australia's most comprehensive university entrepreneurship support program and 2022 was their [biggest ever year](#). It culminated in *The Australian* ranking UNSW first for producing venture-backed entrepreneurs, a testament to the quality of the program and the hard work of the students, faculty, and staff involved.

Mentem by UNSW wins Australian Good Design Award

UNSW's workplace learning business, Mentem by UNSW, won a [Best in Class award](#) for Service Design: Public Sector Services category for the development and design of the 'Digital Skills Program – Building the Department of Regional NSW's future-ready workforce'.



14

Grant occurrences

814

Publications (2018-2022)



GOALS

#1 for VC-funded entrepreneurs

The Australian's '2022 Research Magazine' ranked UNSW number one in Australia for producing venture-capital (VC) funded entrepreneurs, recording 105 VC-funded startups per 100,000 graduates over the past decade.



AWARDS

UNSW Graduates most employable

UNSW was named [AFR Most Employable University](#) at the 2022 Top100 Future Leader Awards. Taking out the award for the third year in a row, UNSW had a record 42 students named.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Which countries are being hit hardest by inflation?

Fariborz Moshirian, Director of the UNSW's Institute of Global Finance, was interviewed by the [ABC](#) about inflationary pressure around the world, its impact on the living standards across different nations, and how Australia compares.

22nd EMG Workshop

The Economic Measurement Initiative from UNSW's Centre for Applied Economic Research hosted its 22nd annual international [EMG workshop](#) in 2022, connecting academics, statistical agency researchers, government policy makers and industry representatives to improve understanding of economic measurement and the potential impact on policy.

Should wages be tied to inflation?

In a 2022 [opinion piece](#), UNSW Business School's Associate Professor Mark Humphrey-Jenner presented an argument for why the minimum wage should not be tied to inflation. While cost of living pressures had increased, he argued several solutions can help to mitigate the demand and need for wages to be linked to inflation.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

A new Flexible Work Policy

As part of a commitment to developing a high-performing workplace culture that supports the needs of a diverse workforce, UNSW [released](#) its new [Flexible Work Policy](#), which better reflects the changing nature of work in 2022.

Prioritising staff wellbeing

UNSW staff and their immediate family are entitled to free and confidential counselling, coaching and wellbeing services under the UNSW [Employee Assistance Program](#) (EAP). Provided by Benestar, services are delivered in a range of formats and staff also have access to an online library of health and wellbeing resources.

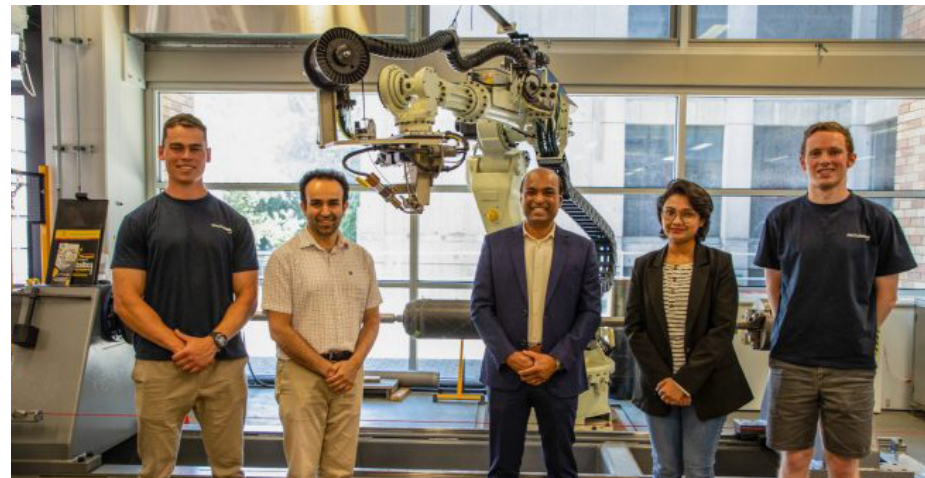
Supporting staff through EA negotiations

In 2022, UNSW commenced negotiations for new [Enterprise Agreements](#) (EA) for academic and professional staff. During the negotiations, in response to cost of living increases, an administrative continuation of the current EA pay increase of 1% for eligible staff was approved alongside a one-off payment of up to \$1,000 plus superannuation.



Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

UNSW has a long-held tradition of sustained innovation. From tackling the effects of climate change, to supporting society's most vulnerable, or developing lifesaving medical treatments and breakthrough technologies. Our scholars, researchers and entrepreneurs are committed to expanding, sharing and applying knowledge that will ignite positive change.



RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

\$70 million grant for next-gen composites

UNSW Engineering's Professor Gangadhara Prusty led a consortium of university and industry partners to secure a \$70 million grant under the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) program for the Sovereign Manufacturing Automation for Composites Cooperative Research Centre (SoMAC CRC) to advance Australia's next-generation manufacturing industry.

Groundbreaking Research Translation Expo

As one of Australia's leading research-intensive universities, research translation is a priority for UNSW in order to improve lives around the world. 2022 saw UNSW's inaugural [Research Translation Expo](#) presented by the UNSW Knowledge Exchange and showcasing over 100 innovative projects from each of the University's seven faculties.

Transitioning to Connected and Autonomous Vehicles

PhD candidates from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering published a research paper titled '[Recalibration](#)

of the BPR function for the strategic modelling of connected and autonomous vehicles'. It highlights the potential benefits from recalibrating existing models and reinforces the need to think beyond our current transport planning approaches when different technologies are coming.

Improving EV batteries

Associate Professor Neeraj Sharma co-authored a paper in *Nature Materials*, outlining how an international team of scientists developed long-life electrode material for solid-state batteries that are ideal for EVs.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Encouraging a new wave of entrepreneurs

UNSW's [New Wave](#) program, part of the broader UNSW Founders entrepreneurship initiative, empowers female founders by providing them with the right professional network and industry experts while helping them up-skill to launch their own startups. [The Peter Farrell Cup](#), UNSW's startup idea-to-pitch competition, celebrated its 22nd year in 2022.

Parramatta Engineering Innovation Hub

The state-of-the-art [Parramatta Engineering Innovation Hub](#) opened in 2022 for students participating in the Bachelor of Engineering Advanced (Honours) program, jointly delivered by UNSW and WSU. It presents new opportunities for UNSW both in delivering the Engineering Program and in having a footprint in Western Sydney that contributes to the [EducateAT Parramatta Alliance](#).

Get SMaRT@UNSW

The UNSW Centre for Sustainable Materials Research and Technology (SMaRT@UNSW) is the home of microrecycling science, MICROfactorie™ technologies, the NESP Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub and the ARC Microrecycling Research Hub. It's also the umbrella for ongoing projects like green tiles, hospital waste recycling and green steel. In 2022 PhD student, Negin Sarmadi, presented on [UNSW Science Day](#) about how e-waste is a new source of valuable materials.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Talking about nuclear technology

Part of [UNSW X National Science Week 2022](#), a panel of leading nuclear experts from UNSW looked at why we need to talk about nuclear technology. They examined the future of nuclear technology, where Australia fits and how we can talk about nuclear technology in a way that is inclusive and realistic.

First 3D printed house

A team led by Dr Ali Kashani from the Centre for Infrastructure Engineering and Safety, in partnership with Contour 3D, developed a 3D printing mortar containing recycled materials that was used to 'print' the first 3D printed house in the Southern

Hemisphere. The 60 sqm, 3 metre high poolside cabana contained living and dining areas, a bathroom and bar, and debuted on TV show on [The Block](#) for Channel 9 in 2022.

Putting the nation at the forefront of the hydrogen economy

The [Australian Research Council \(ARC\) Training Centre for The Global Hydrogen Economy \(GlobH2E\)](#) opened at UNSW in 2022. [The Centre](#) places the nation at the forefront of the hydrogen economy by bringing together global research institutions, industry partners, government agencies and hydrogen startups to form a multidisciplinary and international consortium.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Landmark innovation partnership

UNSW was one of 11 universities that signed a historic five-year partnership in 2022 with the NSW Government to help boost innovation, attract investment and strengthen collaboration. The Memorandum of Understanding) was a first for NSW and Australia, and includes a pipeline of over 100 current and potential strategic opportunities across big data, artificial intelligence, cyber security, clinical innovation, clean energy, advanced manufacturing and regional development.

Canberra Innovation Campus

In 2022 [final approval](#) was underway for UNSW's Canberra City campus. Designed to be a world-class research, education and innovation campus, it is located in the middle of Canberra's research and innovation corridor. It will help fuel the city's reputation as Australia's education and innovation capital and leverage the ACT's research, technology and government ecosystem while creating over 2000 local jobs.

463
Grant
occurrences

1478
Publications
(2018-2022)



GOALS

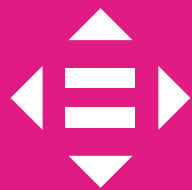
\$8.5m strategic
funding for
the Research
Infrastructure
Scheme.



STARTUP SUCCESS

#1 in Australia for
spinout capital raised
at US\$5.6 billion

#2 of Australian
universities for most
founders and startups in
[PitchBook's rankings](#).



Reduced Inequalities

The UNSW Strategy in Action 2025 commits to shape and progress a just society by mobilising our community's expertise to lead debate, sustainability, address global challenges and foster equity, diversity and inclusion.



RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Decriminalising minor infringement fines

Through the [Two River Pathway to Change](#) program, part of UNSW's [Yuwaya Ngarra-li](#) community-led partnership with the Dharriwaa Elders Group in Walgett, the community has been able to take a decriminalising approach to the large number of fines for small infringements caused by over-policing in Walgett. Individuals are supported to have their fines written or worked off, with authorities held to account.

GeneEQUAL

The [GeneEQUAL](#) program, run by UNSW's School of Education, is designed to enable the development and delivery of a world-leading respectful and inclusive genomic model of care for people with intellectual disability and has involved research and health literacy in schools. In 2022 GeneEQUAL researchers published a systematic review in Genetics in

Medicine: The opinions and experiences of people with intellectual disability regarding genetic testing and genetic medicine.

DII Inclusive Research Guidelines

In 2022, the Disability Innovation Institute (DII) released [Doing Research Inclusively: Co-Production in Action](#) building on its previous guidelines and providing practical strategies for every step of the co-design process in research.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

UNSW scholarships and grants

UNSW offers a broad range of [scholarships](#) to support disadvantaged groups to access UNSW, including equity scholarships for students from low-SES backgrounds, the Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships program, as well as the [Sanctuary Scholarship](#) for People Seeking Asylum and Refugees with Temporary Protection and the Welcome Scholarship for Students from Refugee Backgrounds. A \$1000 Gateway

Grant was offered to every student who enrolled through the Gateway Admission Pathway, with an additional \$5000 Gateway Award granted to students from low-SES backgrounds.

Nura Gili

[Nura Gili](#) is a home on campus for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and researchers. Nura Gili also promotes student success, tutoring, workshops and events.

Diversity Fest 2022

Celebrating its fourth year in 2022, [Diversity Fest](#) embraces the diversity of the UNSW community in all its forms and ignites broader conversations about how we can foster a more inclusive society. The program contained over 40 free events, including performances, workshops, panel discussions, hackathons and film screenings – covering topics such as cultural and linguistic diversity, disability inclusion, gender diversity, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, mental health and more.

Respect Week 2022

Held annually, [Respect Week](#) is a student focused week of activities led by Arc that tackles discrimination, celebrates diversity, and acknowledges that we all have prejudices to overcome. It is part of the [Be A Better Human](#) campaign, encouraging healthy discussions, removing stigma and fostering an inclusive culture.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Centre for Social Impact

The [Centre for Social Impact](#) is a collaboration of four Australian [universities](#) (UNSW, Swinburne, UWA and Flinders) who provide [education](#), [tools](#) and [research](#) to help catalyse social change for a better world. Home to almost 150 researchers and academics in 2022, [social impact scholarships](#) totalling more than \$160,000 were awarded to students undertaking postgraduate social impact degree courses.

Experts in refugee protection

Held by UNSW, the [2022 Kaldor Centre Conference](#) 'Turning points: New

directions in refugee protection', brought together experts from around the world to shed light on changing global dynamics and analyse what they mean for the future of international protection, refugee law and the lives of people seeking safety.

UNSW's Biomedical Sciences Centre in Wagga Wagga

In 2022, the federal government committed \$21 million to [UNSW's Biomedical Sciences Centre in Wagga Wagga](#), as part of a \$95.4 million investment in the Murray-Darling Medical Schools Network (MDMSN). Training medical students in rural Australia is underpinned by a desire to have a positive impact on medical service provision in the regions.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

In 2022 UNSW released its [Disability Inclusion Action Plan \(DIAP\) 2022-2025](#), which applies to University policy, practice and delivery of services. It outlines a framework to ensure the built, digital and communicative environments are accessible for all, ensuring full, effective access and participation is possible across the University.

Kaldor Centre

The Andrew & Renata [Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law](#) at UNSW provides a bridge between scholarship, policy and practice. Its annual conference is open to anyone interested in finding legal, sustainable and humane solutions for displaced people around the world.

Diversity & inclusion training

As part of an ongoing commitment to supporting inclusion at the University, the Division of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) ran a range of [inclusive training](#) in 2022, including leading LGBTQIA+ Ally training and collaborating with Parents at Work, the Australian Network on Disability for Disability Confidence training and the SBS Inclusion Program which spotlights gender, culture and disability.



GOALS

Gateway Equity Target

[25% of commencing domestic undergraduate students](#) are from a low-socioeconomic background and/or socio-educationally disadvantaged school (Gateway partner school) by 2027.



AWARDS

\$2.7 million to improve refugee mental health

Professor Angela Nickerson from the School of Psychology, UNSW Science, was awarded a \$2,756,790 National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Investigator Grant for advancing refugee mental health. The research aims to improve access to and the effectiveness of psychological treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in refugees.

Gold AWEI status

UNSW [earned Gold Employer status](#) in the Australian Workplace Equality Index (AWEI) for the third year in a row, an acknowledgement of the University's students and staff being best practice leaders in LGBTQIA+ workplace inclusion.

74
Grant occurrences

1209
Publications
(2018-2022)



Sustainable Cities and Communities

At UNSW, we recognise that we are uniquely positioned to contribute to solving global environmental challenges and social issues through teaching, research, thought leadership and demonstrating leading practices on our campuses.



RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Collaborative global research in human geography

Environment & Society academics in the Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture UNSW are known for their research strength in human geography. Active members of geographical societies and groups in Australia and around the world, in 2022 they had collaborative research projects ongoing in Africa, North America, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific.

Social housing standards for comfort and health

A research team from UNSW School of Built Environment, funded by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, monitored under- and overheating in social housing in New South Wales. Their study found low-income households can endure temperatures in their homes close to 40°C during summer and as little as 5°C during winter, with low-quality housing impacting residents' health and quality of life.

Public housing cuts crime and re-incarceration for ex-prisoners

UNSW researchers led a study for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) that showed stable

housing is one of the biggest challenges facing prison leavers. Ex-prisoners who receive public housing have significantly better criminal justice outcomes than those who receive private rental assistance only. Access to public housing flattens the curve on recidivism, and is a potentially powerful lever in arresting the imprisonment–homelessness cycle.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Accommodation scholarships

UNSW offers a variety of equity scholarships that assist with accommodation costs for undergraduate or postgraduate students studying at UNSW. Seventy scholarships were awarded in 2022. Worth up to \$25,000 per annum, they are targeted at students from rural, regional or remote areas and Indigenous students. Students who come to UNSW through the Gateway Admission Pathway are also prioritised for UNSW Equity and Accommodation Scholarships.

Sustainable futures through UNSW degrees

In 2022, the Science Sustainability Working Group (SSWG) was involved in Year 10 and 11 Experience Day, the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) and Explore UNSW Science Day, offering opportunities to discuss the importance of developing sustainable societies and how UNSW degrees can develop skills for sustainability and carbon management careers.

Most students and staff use sustainable travel modes

Estate Management administered the 2022 Travel Survey for the UNSW Kensington campus, which revealed that at least 85% of students and staff arrive on campus by sustainable travel modes. The data collected supports potential improvements to public transport, active travel including walking and cycling, traffic and parking management, sustainability initiatives and long-term campus planning.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Retrofitting existing buildings for efficiency

The Energy Efficiency Training and Information project from UNSW School of Built Environment, tackles the operational energy consumption challenge for existing buildings, aiming to retrofit them to adapt to global climate change. Almost 80% of the buildings of 2050 already exist today, and the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources funded project showcases

12 case studies from nine building types to explore opportunities to reduce energy consumption.

Gifting energy to your neighbours

Connect Energy is a project that envisioned new systems that allow neighbours who have access to clean off-grid electricity to share it with those who don't, helping all city-dwellers gain more electricity independence. It emerged from the 2022 Massive Action Sydney Design Sprint, involving over 140 staff and students from across the faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture.

Building smart spaces in regional NSW

In 2022, UNSW joined the Department of Regional NSW's \$2.2 million 'Smart Regional Spaces: Ready, Set, Go!' initiative. The new partnership extends the NSW Government's smart cities movement into rural and regional NSW to help regional councils become 'smart spaces', through custom-designed training, digital tools and strategy development support.

The Cities Institute

In 2022, UNSW launched the Cities Institute to develop new, long-term and integrated visions and roadmaps for cities, drive impactful cross-disciplinary research from across UNSW to inform policy design and implementation and provide a research-driven education program. It draws on UNSW's trademark disciplinary depth, breadth and excellence across the built environment, design, economics, climate change, engineering and energy, health, social sciences and justice.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Reporting on environmental sustainability

UNSW marked World Environment Day with the release of the Environmental Sustainability Report 2022, the first progress report of the Environmental Sustainability Plan 2022-24. The report highlights our achievements so far, including installing a new solar PV system, new recycling systems and responsible investment strategies, while heeding what still needs to be done.

SkyParks collaboration on campus

UNSW collaborated with Randwick and Waverley councils on a pilot 'SkyParks' project to research cooling and greening at the SquareHouse terraces on UNSW's Kensington campus. Part of the Greening Our City initiative led by Arts, Design & Architecture, a balcony was transformed into an inviting and adaptable learning space to help advance research into cost-effective methods for the greening cooling of under-utilised urban spaces.

53

Grant occurrences

1689

Publications (2018-2022)



GOALS

Reducing general waste

In 2022, general waste volumes at UNSW were 30% lower than the 2018 baseline and 82% of this general waste was diverted from landfill.



AWARDS

Eureka Prize winner

SMaRT@UNSW Director, Professor Veena Sahajwalla was named the 2022 winner of the Celestino Eureka Prize for Promoting Understanding of Science.



FUNDING

\$4.9 million for fire protection

UNSW Engineering Professor Guan Heng Yeo received \$4.9 million from the The Australian Research Council (ARC) Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP).

Responsible Consumption and Production

UNSW demonstrates its commitment to SDG 12 through: research and thought leadership that addresses responsible consumption and production; courses that focus on sustainability; and implementing sustainable procurement practices and systems to reduce, segregate and recycle our own waste.

RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Leading the fight for sustainable renewables

Some of the most important clean energy technologies, such as lithium-ion batteries, still have damaging consequences for human rights and the environment. UNSW academic and PhD candidate [Andy Symington](#) had his research on this topic featured in 'thrive' a new video and podcast series from the UNSW Centre for Ideas.

Making bioplastic from bananas

UNSW School of Chemical Engineering Food and Health Group researchers Associate Professor Jayashree Arcot and Alia Rahmi collaborated with colleagues from Universitas Halu Oleo, Kendari, Indonesia to [publish their findings](#) on a low energy and solvent free technique for the development of nanocellulose based bioplastic from banana pseudostem juice. It has a lower impact on the environment compared to other production methods.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Sustainable recovery and recycling

PhD student Negin Sarmadi presented 'E-waste is a new source of valuable materials' on Experience Day and UNSW Science Day in 2022. It showcased some ongoing projects from [SMaRT@UNSW](#) to students, including green tiles, hospital waste recycling and green steel, and the valuable elements inside electronic waste boards such as gold, silver, copper, and lead, available for recovery and recycling.

International Repair Day workshop

Inspired by the global Right to Repair movement, a [free workshop](#) was hosted the UNSW Allens Hub for Technology,

Law and Innovation, the Michael Crouch Innovation Centre (MCIC), the UNSW Environment and Society Group and the UNSW Science and Society Research group. A panel discussion and audience Q&A looked at how a right to repair might be incorporated into intellectual property and consumer law, and was followed by practical demonstrations of repairing bicycles, textiles and personal electronics.

Reducing e-waste though eReuse

[Arc's eReuse](#) program aims to reduce e-waste while helping bridge the digital divide, through collecting and repurposing old devices and e-waste. Donations of laptops and other devices are recycled and given new life by volunteers who also receive opportunities to develop or further refine their computer refurbishment skills. The refurbished devices are given to those in the community who need them, promoting sustainability.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

\$277 million including Trailblazer funding for recycling and clean energy

SMaRT@UNSW, in partnership with with the University of Newcastle, was awarded \$50 million under the Australian Government's [Trailblazer Universities Program](#) for Recycling and Clean Energy (TRaCE) in 2022. It was matched by \$50 million cash and \$47 million in kind from UNSW and the University of Newcastle, and over 20 industry partners have expressed support for the initiative and committed more than \$130 million. It is working to commercialise projects that will help Australia and the world transition to sustainable recycling and clean energy solutions and systems.

Sustainable applications of chemistry

Dr [Martina Lessio](#) is a Scientia Lecturer in the [School of Chemistry](#) and head of the Computational research group. Her [work](#) on the use of computational tools



to study molecules and materials that can be used for sustainability applications, including removing heavy metals from water, and techniques to preserve cultural heritage, were featured as part of the [Science Early-Career Researcher \(ECR\) SDGs interview series](#) in 2022.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Improving sustainability in science

The Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) program requires laboratory groups to complete sustainable actions and reflect on their environmental impacts. By 2022, 22 laboratory groups were participating from across Engineering, Science, Medicine & Health, the Children's Cancer Institute and the RNA institute.

Furniture reuse program

UNSW's successful furniture reuse program was started in 2019 and aims

to stop waste, and combat the fact that nationally, furniture disposal makes up 30% of Australia's landfill. In 2022, UNSW diverted 84% of surplus furniture from landfill via the furniture reuse program.

Free stationery reuse centre

The [Stationery Reuse Centre](#) is a volunteer-based sustainability program that provides free recycled stationery to all UNSW students. The Stationery Reuse Centre relies on donations and is an eco-friendly one-stop-shop for pens, pencils, highlighters, rulers, notebooks and more.

Food waste recycling on campus

Based on an independent audit of UNSW general waste, around 50% can potentially be recycled into compost via a food and compostable bin program. In 2022, [new food and compostable packaging waste bins](#) were introduced to staff kitchen areas across the Kensington campus. It's the next step in expanding the ongoing food waste program established in 2018 by Estate Management.

21
Grant
occurrences

775
Publications
(2018-2022)



GOALS

Sustainable Labs

UNSW expanded the internationally recognised Laboratory Efficiency Framework (LEAF) accreditation program across the University, with 22 laboratory teams participating and 18 accredited.



AWARDS

Transforming waste wins awards

SMaRT@UNSW Director, Professor Veena Sahajwalla [won](#) the ATSE Clunies Ross Innovation Award winner for her globally recognised waste transformation technologies, including SMaRT's patented Green Steel™ and MICROfactorie™ Technologies.



Climate Action

UNSW demonstrates its commitment to SDG 13 through research that builds knowledge and capacity to meet climate change and support the integration of climate change measures into policies and planning. We offer courses and education programs on climate change risks, opportunities and impacts.



RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Founding member of CLEx

UNSW is a founding member of the [Australian Research Council \(ARC\) Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes \(CLEx\)](#). Aiming to transform our understanding of events such as heatwaves, droughts and storms, CLEx helps plan for climate change, and provides data, tools, advisory services, and education for local, national and international governments.

Resilient Futures Collective

Operating as both a creativity incubator and a multidisciplinary research capability, the [Resilient Futures Collective \(RFC\)](#) draws on the expertise of core specialists from all UNSW Faculties active in understanding and mitigating the cascading and cumulative impacts of natural hazards and related disturbances.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

UNSW SRC Environment Collective

The [UNSW SRC Environment Collective](#) is a student group fighting for climate justice. They collaborate with other groups on and off campus for large-scale climate action and promote education around the climate crisis in the UNSW community.

Earth Day Student Statement

UNSW is a member of and hosts the secretariat of the International Universities Climate Alliance (IUCA). As part of the IUCA Earth Day program, over 500 international youth delegates gathered to explore what more can and should be done by universities to reduce emissions, protect our vulnerable communities and regenerate fragile natural ecosystems. A [student statement](#) was then presented at the Times Higher Education World Academic Summit during a panel hosted by New York University and IUCA.



Climate Change Network

[Climate Change Network \(CCN\)](#) is a network of staff and students at UNSW who are interested in connecting with others to address climate change. In 2022, events included a CCN collaboration with the University of Newcastle's Associate Professor Rob Eisenberg, Founder of Vote Earth Now, to host a screening and discussion of *The Power of Activism*. A lunch meeting series 'Sustainability / Climate / Connection Lunch' for students and academics was also held.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

University-led research responding to climate change

In 2022, students, staff and researchers from UNSW joined industry specialists at the COP27 and Beyond research showcase in Sydney. Part of Australia's Global Climate Summit – [Impact X](#) – the showcase highlighted Australia's significant university-led research contribution to the global response to climate change and was hosted by the UNSW-led IUCA.

Generational perspectives on climate action

The [2022 UNSW Sydney Gandhi Oration](#) featured Jean Hinchliffe from School Strikes 4 Climate and UNSW Law & Justice alumnus and Midnight Oil singer Peter Garrett exploring citizen action from their generational perspectives. The annual event is run by The UNSW Centre for Ideas.

A plan for net zero transport by 2050

Australia has no clear strategy to decarbonise transport. But in 2022, 18 transport and energy experts, including

Associate Professor Donna Green from UNSW, created [FACTS: A Framework for an Australian Clean Transport Strategy](#). It is an independent [science-based summary](#) of what is now possible in cleaning up land, sea and air transport as well as what will become possible in coming decades.

World's largest coastal imaging network

A [beach monitoring system](#) pioneered by the UNSW Water Research Laboratory has created the world's largest coastal imaging network, which provides local Australian councils with a cost-effective solution to unlock unprecedented information about coastal zones. Collectively, the data provides real-time metrics on beach health and climate risks.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

UNSW Environmental Sustainability Plan 2022-2024

UNSW launched its [Environmental Sustainability Plan 2022-2024](#), which addresses three key themes: climate action, living campuses, and resource efficiency. It also promotes the shift to low-emissions and fossil-free investment strategies.

Recycling polystyrene and soft plastics

Dedicated [waste collection](#) for polystyrene products, commonly found in packaging, coffee cup lids, medical supplies, electrical consumer goods, and insulation panels, was introduced on campus by Estate Management and led to 529 cubic metres (enough to fill 53 skip bins) of polystyrene being recycled in the first six months of the program. And, in 2022, soft plastics recycling was introduced.

48

Grant occurrences

1346

Publications (2018-2022)



GOALS

Net zero operational emissions

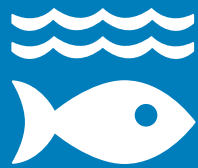
UNSW has achieved net zero operational (scope 1 and 2) emissions since 2020 through investment in energy efficiency, onsite and offsite renewable energy and carbon offsets.



AWARDS

Winner 2022 NSW Sustainability Awards

UNSW was the winner of the 'Net Zero Action' category in the 2022 [NSW Sustainability Awards](#), presented by the Banksia Foundation. The award was in recognition of UNSW's efforts to 100% renewable electricity through a landmark Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).



Life Below Water

UNSW is committed to conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



AWARD

#35 in the world

UNSW ranked #35 in the world for Earth & Marine Sciences in the 2022 QS World University Rankings by Subject.



RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Saving under-sea kelp forests

In 2022, marine scientists from UNSW working to revive kelp forest ecosystems completed the [first comprehensive review of kelp forest restoration efforts](#) around the world. The [research](#), published in Biological Reviews, brings together the lessons of 260 kelp forest restoration projects across 16 countries to shape best practices.

Evidence-based decisions in aquaculture

An aquaculture project led by the UNSW Water Research Laboratory (WRL), 'Supporting Increased Aquaculture

Production Through Reduced Harvest Closures', received over \$1.5 million [funding](#) from the Australian and NSW Governments to support recovery and resilience-building in primary industry sectors after storms and floods. The project explores evidence-based decision making on the closure of productive oyster harvest areas following sewage overflow events.

Ocean warming

Researchers from the ARC [Australian Centre for Excellence in Antarctic Science](#) (ACEAS) at UNSW were involved in a comprehensive international [study](#) published in [Nature Reviews](#) that found that ocean warming has accelerated dramatically since the 1950s and highlight the importance of the urgent actions needed to mitigate and respond to climate change.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Centre for Marine Science and Innovation

UNSW's multidisciplinary [Centre for Marine Science and Innovation](#) (CMSI) provides the research and evidence that underpins environmental decision-making to ensure sustainable use of marine, coastal and estuarine ecosystems. It offers dynamic research, teaching and collaboration through a mix of ecological and biological sciences, physical and biological oceanography, environmental impact assessment, as well as coastal geomorphology and engineering.

Operation Posidonia

[Operation Posidonia](#) was a hybrid event hosted by Associate Professor Brendan Burns as part of the Inclusive Sciences Series in 2022. It explored the collaborative research project between First Nation Gamay Rangers and UNSW ecologists to restore endangered Posidonia seagrass beds in Gamay Botany Bay, as part of the wider 'Operation Posidonia' project.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Marine heatwaves presentations at the AMSA Conference

Professor Moninya Roughan, Dr Michael Hemming and Daniel Lee from the [Coastal and Regional Oceanography Lab](#) presented their work at the Australian Marine Society Association (AMSA) conference in Cairns in 2022. Their presentations ranged from looking at the impact of marine heatwaves on key fishing grounds to marine stingers, the drifting dynamics of Bluebottles, glider data, and the development and use of FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable) temperature data products.

Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting

UNSW hosts the Secretariat for the [Global Ocean Accounts Partnership](#) (GOAP), to support the growing momentum globally to better measure and value the ocean's contribution to society and the [economy](#), going 'Beyond GDP'. The GOAP hosted the third [Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting](#) in 2022 attracting over 400 people from 65 countries.

United Nations Ocean Conference

UNSW was [represented](#) by PhD students Jordan Gacutan, Charlotte Page and Aaron Eger at the [United Nations Ocean Conference](#) (UNOC), co-hosted in Lisbon by the governments of Portugal and Kenya, to address ocean challenges.

\$4.5 million for SIMS Project Restore

Project Restore, led by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) focuses on Sydney Harbour as part of the Seabirds to Seascapes initiative, and [received](#) \$4.5 million from the NSW Environmental Trust.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Sustainable, ethical and locally sourced procurement

The [UNSW Supplier Charter](#) outlines the University's commitment to meet sustainable procurement practices, including ensuring that products harvested from aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems are ethically, sustainably and/or locally sourced.

Pledge for Plastic Free July

During [Plastic Free July](#) in 2022, UNSW invited people to pledge to dine plastic free and single use free on campus. The first 2000 people to take the pledge received a reusable Huskee cup and beverage voucher. Given that plastic food packaging often ends up discarded in the ocean, this University initiative worked to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution.

15

Grant occurrences

640

Publications (2018-2022)



GOALS

Healthy oceans a GWI key priority

Healthy oceans and resilient coastlines is a [key priority](#) for UNSW's Global Water Institute (GWI), as they focus on identifying and adapting to anthropogenic threats including storm surge, sea level rise and pollution at the intersection of marine and freshwater environments.



AWARDS

James Cook Medal winner

Professor John Church, of the Climate Change Research Centre, was awarded the [James Cook Medal for 2022](#), the most prestigious award offered by the Royal Society of NSW, for his significant contributions to understanding sea level change.

Life on Land

UNSW is committed to protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and halting and reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss, through the work of the Centre for Ecosystem Science, our environmental science based courses and degrees, the sustainable planning and operation of our campuses and our collaboration on external advisory panels.



RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Saving the platypus

In 2022, researchers from UNSW confirmed the likely disappearance of platypuses from Sydney's Royal National Park, after an oil spill in the 1970s, based on results of [environmental DNA](#) (eDNA). They then teamed up with WWF Australia, Taronga Zoo and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service on a [program to re-introduce](#) 10 platypuses to the area. Meanwhile, a [genetic study](#) by UNSW scientists found large dams restrict platypus movement, with significant implications for their conservation.

Using AI to reduce animal smuggling

Wildlife trafficking is cruel and inhumane, but the number of [live animals](#) seized at borders by the Australian Government

has tripled since 2017. UNSW [researchers](#) were involved in a study published in 2022, showing the potential for new artificial intelligence technology to detect illegal wildlife in luggage or mail at international frontlines such as airports and mail centres.

Climate change causing African wild dogs to give birth later

Dr Neil Jordan from the Centre for Ecosystem Science at [UNSW](#) was [involved in international research](#) that found climate change is causing endangered African wild dogs in Botswana's Okavango delta to give birth three weeks later than they did three decades ago. In 30 years, the average daily temperature increased by 1.6°C, corresponding with a reduction in the breeding window that potentially threatens their survival.

Improving seed germination in dryland ecosystems

Dryland ecosystems account for 40% of land on earth but are often degraded. A study [published in the Journal of Applied Ecology](#) by PhD candidate Frederick Dadzie found that combining native seeds (wattle and spinifex) with indigenous microbes improved germination rates for direct seeding.

40 years of the Eastern Australian Waterbird Survey

UNSW's [Centre for Ecosystem Science](#) runs one of the largest and longest running wildlife surveys in the world, the [Eastern Australian Waterbird Survey](#), which completed its [40th aerial survey](#) in 2022. Covering a third of the continent, it provides an annual health check of freshwater ecosystems and is run in collaboration with the NSW, the Queensland, South Australian and Victorian governments and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Air Bee and Bee

In Spring 2022, [Bee Hotels](#) were installed near gardens on the UNSW Kensington campus. The community was also invited to [The Producers Bee Hotel Crafternoon](#), where they could make and paint their own bee hotel as part of O-Week 'Grow Wild' 2022.

BEES ranked #2 in Australia

UNSW School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES), ranked #2 in Australia for research output in Earth & Environmental Sciences for 2022 according to the [Nature Index Institutions Index](#).

Bush Tucker Trail Revitalisation Project

In 2022, staff and students planted native and bushfood plants across the UNSW campus, as part of the [Bush Tucker Trail Revitalisation Project](#), which highlights the ecological significance, Aboriginal heritage and value of the fauna, including in food and traditional medicine.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

A new ecosystem typology

A global cross-disciplinary team of hundreds of scientists led by UNSW researchers developed the [first comprehensive classification](#) of the world's ecosystems across land, rivers and wetlands, and seas, to enable more coordinated and effective biodiversity

conservation. A study on the science behind it was published in [Nature](#) in 2022 and collaborators included the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management and the [PLuS Alliance](#).

Funding for blue carbon restoration

Associate Professor Will Glamore from the Water Research Laboratory, was one of five projects to receive [funding](#) in 2022 as part of the federal government's focus on blue carbon restoration. His project, Blue Heart, on the Sunshine Coast, restores former farming land to coastal wetlands with benefits for carbon sequestration, biodiversity, flood mitigation, recreation and First Nations engagement.

Indigenous leadership crucial to protecting biodiversity

A 2022 [opinion piece](#) from researchers at UNSW argued that without Indigenous leadership, attempts to stop the tide of destruction against nature will fail. Indigenous peoples protect an estimated [80% of global biodiversity](#), but issues of power and inclusion mean their ability to exercise this stewardship is being actively eroded [across the world](#).

For the Love of Birds

Part of the Jack Beale Public Lecture Series, and presented for UNSW X National Science Week 2022, [For the Love of Birds](#) was a panel discussion featuring scientists and authors talking about birdwatching, what birds mean to us and what we can do to protect them.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

UNSW takes the Nature Positive Pledge

Ahead of COP15, UNSW made a [Nature Positive Pledge](#) in 2022, making it a founding member of Nature Positive Universities. An initiative between the UN Environment Programme and the University of Oxford, and affiliated with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the pledge commits to start a nature positive journey to enhance biodiversity on campus and reducing the impacts of UNSW's operations and supply chain.

Conservation at Fowlers Gap

In 2022 UNSW [announced](#) plans to restore Fowlers Gap Arid Zone Research Station, in the far west outback of NSW, into a dedicated site for conservation and restoration. In consultation with First Nations people, the site will undertake vital arid ecology research. The 39,000-hectare property had operated as a sheep station for 150 years and a research hub for half a century.



AWARDS

Professor David Eldridge won the [NSW Premier's Prize for Innovation in NSW Public Sector Science and Engineering in 2022](#) for his research into the functioning of arid and semi-arid ecosystems.





Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Our courses, research and governance work towards promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

The Asia Law and Policy Forum

The Asia Law and Policy Forum at UNSW Law & Justice is a network of researchers who foster and support research on law and politics in Asia. Dr Mario Gomez of the [International Centre for Ethnic Studies](#) and Professor Melissa Crouch collaborated on a two-year project called *Reimagining Vulnerability in the Light of COVID 19 in Sri Lanka* that received \$420,000 funding under a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) [Sri Lanka grant scheme](#).

Centre of Research Excellence

\$2.5 million in [National Health and Medical Research Council](#) (NHMRC) funding was awarded to UNSW for a [Centre of Research Excellence](#) (CRE) to investigate violence in the community. Led by Professor Tony Butler, researchers will focus on investigating the profiling, prediction and prevention of violence.

Seed funding for human rights research projects

Three projects from associates of UNSW's Australian Human Rights Institute were awarded [seed funding grants](#) of \$10,000 each to support human rights research. Dr Andrew Dansie leads a project looking at the right to clean air in Pacific low- and middle-income countries. Dr Yulisha Byrow will examine the impact of family separation on mental health and resettlement outcomes of refugees and asylum seekers in Australia. And Dr Meghan Ambrens will address implicit bias in the healthcare of older people.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

75 years of Australian peacekeeping missions

On the 75th anniversary of Australians serving in peacekeeping missions, UNSW Canberra hosted the annual [University Lecture](#). It was delivered by international consultant, author and speaker Jennifer Wittwer, who discussed gender-responsive leadership in peacekeeping and deployments as an essential component of mission success.

Faculty of Law & Justice graduate joins Walgett Youth Justice Team

Originally from Walgett, Indigenous woman Zoe Sands [graduated](#) from the Faculty of Law & Justice in 2022. Having worked with Yuwaya Ngarra-li, a community-led partnership between the Dharriwaa Elders Group and UNSW, she returned to Walgett where she joined the partnership's Youth Justice Team as a Project Officer. Her professional skills and qualifications alongside her genuine insight into the experience of young Aboriginal people living in Walgett presents a unique opportunity for the community to break down barriers.

Development Studies at UNSW

[Development Studies](#), offered through UNSW School of Social Sciences, takes a unique interdisciplinary approach to investigating and providing solutions for the dynamic issues facing our world today. Students investigate critical problems involving development, poverty, inequality and environmental sustainability, and the geopolitical, economic, social, ethical, and cultural contexts in which development takes place.

Addressing Diverse Linguistic Needs at the International Criminal Court

UNSW hosted a [presentation](#) based on the findings of an ethnographic project about language challenges at the multilingual International Criminal Court (ICC). It explored how the ICC approaches both the extreme diversity of its languages and the increasing homogeneity of the language used in its day-to-day communications.

Free events on justice and ethics

Philosopher [A. C. Grayling](#) shared solutions to the big challenges of climate change, technology and justice in an event presented by the UNSW Centre for Ideas as part of [UNSW Alumni's Learn to Lead](#) program, supported by the Byron Writers Festival. While the Global Water Institute and Faculty of Engineering hosted a panel discussion on [Ethics and Engineering for the public good](#).

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Leading epidemiological criminology

A study published in the [Journal of Medical Internet Research](#) in 2022 analysed epidemiological criminology research from the last 70 years, and found that UNSW has the second most published research output globally, proportionally, to the country's incarcerated population.

Thought provoking event programming

As the Education Partner of Sydney Festival, the UNSW Centre for Ideas Director Ann Mossop chaired [Australia's](#)

[Turning Point](#), a critical discussion on national identity and the Uluru Statement. The Centre for Ideas also presented ['2022: Reckoning with Power and Privilege'](#) named after *The Conversation's* latest collection of essays from leading thinkers. ['Expendable Australians'](#), looking at what it means to have an Australian passport, was part of UNSW x Festival of Dangerous Ideas. While ['Legal Hour: Advancing justice in a warming world'](#) was presented as part of UNSW x National Science Week.

Tensions and war undermine climate action

Ahead of COP27 in Egypt, researchers from UNSW published an article that examined the link between geopolitics and [climate action](#), including impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which saw fossil fuel prices spike and old coal plants temporarily reopen, and renewed tensions between the United States and China, casting a shadow over climate cooperation between the world's top two carbon emitters.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

Think Safe – Be Safe – Home Safe

UNSW introduced a new safety motto: [Think Safe – Be Safe – Home Safe](#). It is backed up by the Stay Safe at UNSW app, the Speak up for Safety card (used either as a digital or real plastic card), and the Safety Roadmap website – a valuable portal that contains Health and Safety strategy, consultation and feedback channels.

EDI Strategy

The Division of Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) launched its [2022-2025 Strategy](#) to progress social justice. Its goals will be delivered through the Division's four pillars: Access, Equity and Inclusion; Sustainable Development; the UNSW Institute for Global Development; and the UNSW Disability Innovation Institute. EDI works to shape and progress a just society under UNSW's Strategy 2025 Vision for Social Impact.

UNSW Workplace Giving Program

The UNSW community can support its life-changing work through the [Workplace Giving Program](#). Since 2015, staff can opt in to make a pre-tax donation via payroll every fortnight. Staff can also donate to a selection of Australian and international charities or to UNSW programs and more than \$600,000 has been donated to support causes across the University, including Indigenous projects, student scholarships and ground-breaking research. In 2022, UNSW committed to match dollar for dollar every donation made towards UNSW causes.

49

Grant
occurrences

1250

Publications
(2018-2022)

GOALS

Free legal help

[Kingsford Legal Centre](#) has over 80 experienced solicitor volunteers who provided over 5000 hours of legal help to our clients in 2022.



AWARDS

The Australian Human Rights Commission Law Award

UNSW Scientia Professor Jane McAdam, Director of the UNSW's Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, received the prestigious [Australian Human Rights Commission Law Award](#).

The Global Australian Award for Social Impact

Frances Voon, Executive Manager of the Kaldor Centre, received [The Global Australian Award for Social Impact](#) for her leadership in advancing refugee rights.



Partnerships for the Goals

UNSW is committed to creating global partnerships for sustainable development.

RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Indigenous community-led partnerships

Yuwaya Ngarra-li is an ongoing community-led partnership between the Dharriwaa Elders Group in Walgett and UNSW. It aims to improve the wellbeing, social, built and physical environment and life pathways of Aboriginal people by collaborating on evidence-based initiatives, research and capacity building. In 2022, a [webinar](#) reflected on the impact of the Dharriwaa Elders Group-UNSW partnership on community-led research, government data and Indigenous Data Governance.

IGD Pacific Seminar Series

The Institute for Global Development (IGD) Pacific Seminar Series saw Dr Adam Craig from UNSW School of Population Health present '[Can citizens be mobilised to support disease surveillance in the Pacific?](#)': a case study of the use of citizen science to enhance mosquito surveillance. Associate Professor Susana Vaz Nery from UNSW's Kirby Institute presented on '[Optimising strategies for control and elimination of neglected tropical diseases \(NTDs\)](#)'. And Dr Andrew Dansie from UNSW Humanitarian Engineering presented on '[Pasifika Air Quality and Environmental Health](#)'.

EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE

SDG Challenge

UNSW Founders hosted the inaugural [SDG Challenge](#): a one-day event that uses the Goals to solve three real problems. Inter-faculty competitors tackled the Taronga Zoo Challenge, looking at plastic use; the Sydney Opera House Challenge to creatively urge people to take local action; and the Randwick City Council Challenge to examine food waste.

UNSW Business School promotes SDG research

UNSW Business School, in collaboration with GWI, held a [seminar](#) for academics and research students to promote the importance of societal impact and encourage research on issues that are delaying progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Underpinning the event was the ethos that research students should learn about the SDG framework as early as possible and be trained to collaborate with other disciplines.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Building Asia Pacific institutional relationships

In 2022, UNSW continued to build institutional relationships with regional academia and the UN to strengthen strategic and knowledge partnerships that help address sustainable development challenges in the Asia Pacific. Institutions in Australia, Thailand, Timor Leste, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Fiji are involved and the IGD and GWI held [workshops in 2022 in Fiji](#). The Fijian Government [commended](#) UNSW for their partnership and unwavering support for Fiji and the Pacific region.

Developing local and global alliances

[UNSW Alliances](#) contributes to the University's recognition as Australia's global university through research and education activities that create evidence-based sustainable solutions. Its ongoing strategic partnerships provide opportunities for UNSW staff, students and external stakeholders.

Massive Action Sydney

[Massive Action Sydney \(MAS\)](#) is a collaboration between Massive Change Network and UNSW Arts, Design & Architecture Innovation Hub, and part of a multidisciplinary global movement that draws on our collective power to design a better future now. It is a multi-partner alliance across major international cities



promoting deep collaborations to solve problems and explore, reimagine and redesign solutions to critical challenges within Climate, Health and Power.

UNSW meets with the UN on SDGs

UNSW's Institute for Global Development (IGD) facilitated an [introductory](#) meeting between development leaders and experts from UNSW and the regional United Nations (UN) Development Coordination Office in Bangkok. Topics discussed included environmental and humanitarian engineering, public health, climate science, global food and water security, population migration and displacement, alongside opportunities for collaboration to contribute to the SDGs and social impact in the Asia-Pacific region.

Partnerships for widening participation

Our educational [outreach](#) programs reach students from across NSW, including students living in low-SES areas, attending one of more than 370 Gateway partner schools or students engaged through our NGO partners.

OPERATIONS & GOVERNANCE

UNSW SDGs Steering Committee

The UNSW SDGs [Steering Committee](#) is a sub-committee of UNSW's EDI Board. Meetings focus on UNSW's engagement with SDGs through Education and Student Experience, Research and Enterprise, Operations, and External Leadership. The Steering Committee and Faculty groups collaborate to build a culture of innovation and partnership within and outside the University to progress the SDGs.

Sustainability Matters

In 2022, the Division of EDI launched Sustainability Matters, a strategic communications plan to drive and support integrated pan-UNSW engagement with the SDGs. It aligns activities and investment in the SDGs to UNSW's work in Social Impact, one of three pillars in UNSW's 2025+ Strategy.

25
Grant
occurrences

20,918*
Publications
(2018-2022)

*Source: 2023
THE Impact Rankings



AWARDS

Collaborating on Elder housing

Wiradjuri building designer and Masters of Architecture graduate Samantha Rich worked closely with the Dharriwaa Elders Group. She was awarded the Andrew Taylor Memorial Prize and listed on the Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture Dean's List for 2022.



GOALS

International research collaborations

In 2022, UNSW [researchers](#) received joint funding with international collaborators from 73 countries to work on 2057 research projects. International collaborations increased by 1.2% to achieve 7415 joint publications across 185 countries, making up 58.2% of UNSW's total publications.

UNSW is a member of the International Universities Climate Alliance.

Methodology

This report is a ‘snapshot’ of UNSW’s contributions to advancing the 17 SDGs in 2022.

Items were selected for inclusion based on a desktop review of UNSW news articles and websites, as well as being sourced from staff working in relevant fields or partnerships (particularly staff connected to the University’s SDGs Steering Committee).

Many of the entries are relevant to multiple SDGs, as work on Sustainable Development is by its nature intersectional and usually contributes to multiple goals or targets. We have endeavoured to select the most relevant SDG for each entry, and some entries appear more than once. The entries are divided into the four broad pillars by which UNSW understands our contributions to the goals: Education and Student Experience; Operations and Governance; Research and Enterprise; and External Leadership.

Publication numbers

Publication numbers are based on Scopus SDG datasets in SciVal and cover UNSW outputs 2018-22.

Elsevier’s data science teams built improved search queries for 16 SDGs and augmented them with a machine learning (ML) model to improve the completeness of the mapped documents to the SDG. Each SDG from 1–16 can be added as a research area. Note: there are three different Elsevier mapping schemes: 2020, 2022 and 2023.

This mapping was used as part of the 2022 THE Impact Rankings approach to scoring research outputs. SDG 17 is calculated as the sum of all SDG-related publications in a given time period (with duplicates removed). SciVal does not offer SDG 17 as a research area, but the total for the current THE Impact Rankings can be found on the website. Note: this only reflects the latest THE data and is limited to the years included in the Impact Rankings.

UNSW’s revised Open Access Policy was endorsed in December 2021. In 2022, the policy and associated outreach and publishing agreements helped researchers and UNSW to increase the total proportion of publications that are openly available to everyone, including policymakers and the public, and not behind a paywall. This aligns to SDG 16 on access to information, and the belief that quality information underpins all the goals (Figure 2).

Research grant funding SDG alignment

The 2020-21 report included our first grants mapping effort to better understand our progress against the SDGs. Building on that foundation, this year’s analysis approach has been refined. We have expanded our methodology to identify the top two SDGs associated with each grant, recognising that research often encompasses multiple sustainability objectives.

We determined the top two UN SDGs for each of the 717 research grants for 2022 by examining the keywords used in the grant descriptions and the number of keywords related to each SDG, their relevance and impact. This approach ensures a more accurate and comprehensive alignment of grants with sustainability goals.

After coding the keywords and identifying the top two SDGs for each grant, we implemented a ranking system to present our findings. We rank the SDGs based on two primary criteria: the number of research grants covering each SDG and the total grant amounts awarded. It’s important to acknowledge that there is a degree of double-counting due to the dual SDG assignment for each grant (Figure 1).

Several limitations must be acknowledged

- Certain grants lacked detailed descriptions, making it challenging to map them against more than one SDG. In such cases, mapping was based on research faculty information to determine the most relevant SDG.
- Additionally, as non-experts in all research areas, our interpretation of the provided information played a role in determining the impact of keywords and the selection of the top two SDGs, introducing a degree of subjectivity.
- It is important to note that many grants cover multiple SDGs, and while selecting two SDGs offers a more comprehensive view, those not chosen as the top two may inaccurately suggest insufficient coverage of those SDGs.

For more details on our SDGs progress, see these UNSW reports

- [2022 Environmental Sustainability Report](#)
- [2022-2024 Environmental Sustainability Plan](#)
- [2022 Annual Report](#)
- [IGD Accelerating the Asia Pacific Towards the SDGs](#)
- [UNSW Business School PRME reporting](#)
- [Workplace Gender Equality Agency](#)
- [Australian Workplace Equality Index](#)
- [SAGE Athena Swan](#)
- [Sustainability Matters publications & reports page](#)

Figure 1. Total grant occurrences for each SDG

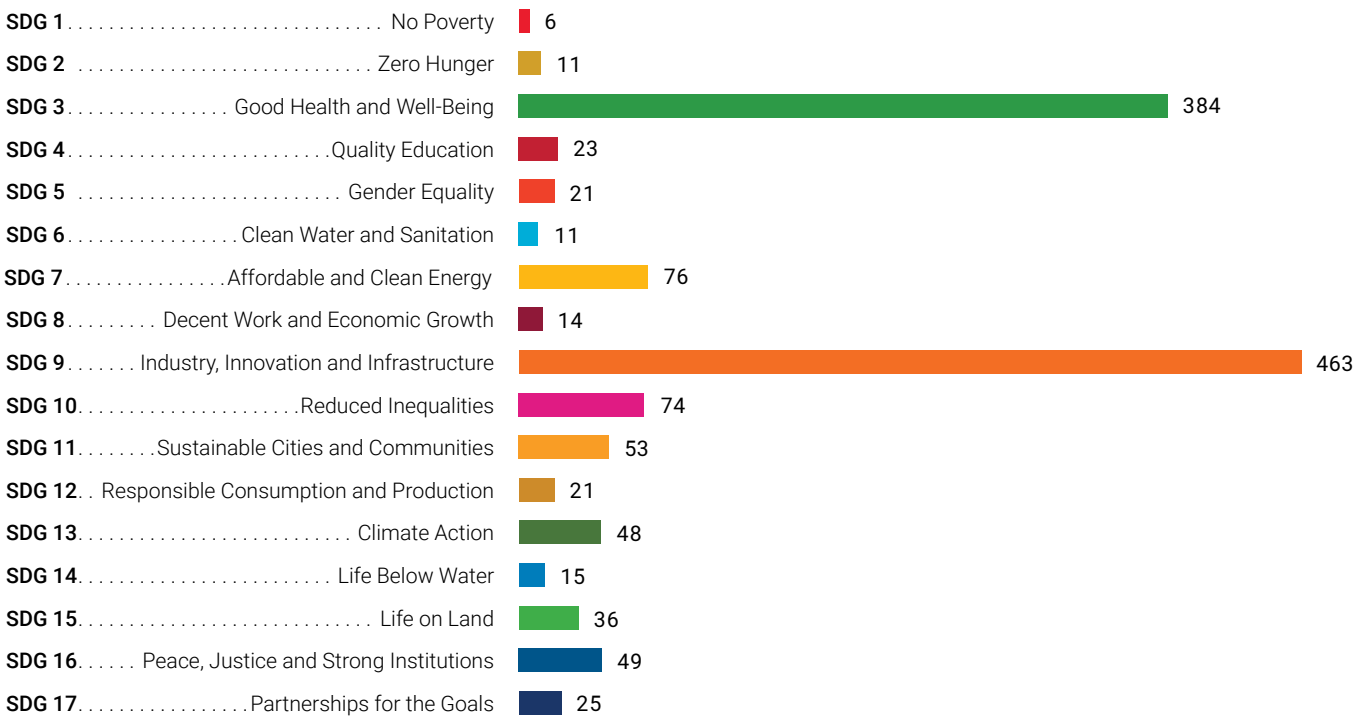
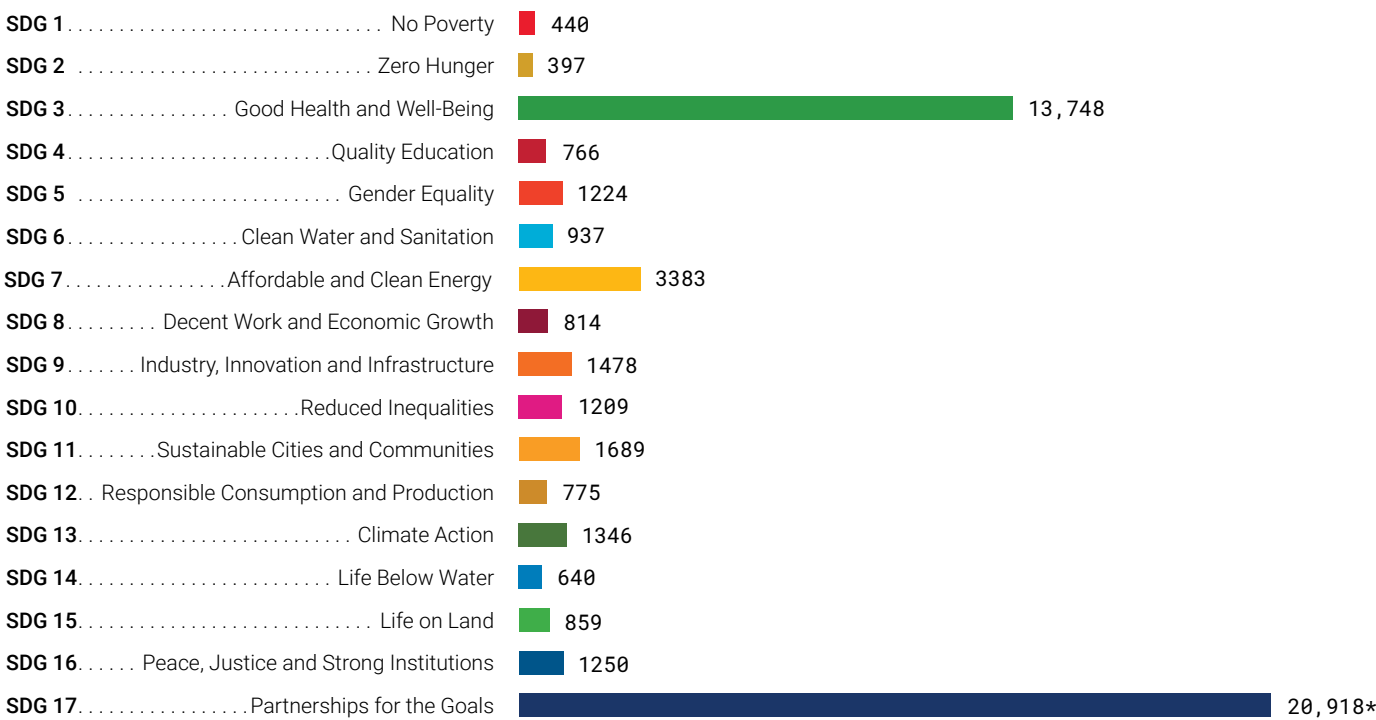


Figure 2. Publication numbers



* Source is 2023 THE Impact Rankings

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The UNSW SDG Steering Committee:
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And all in the UNSW community driving progress on the SDGs.