



**Professor Stephen Garton AM**  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

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Members of the STARS Steering Committee

The University of Sydney is pleased to present our inaugural submission to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS).

As Australia's first university, the University of Sydney has a tradition of developing leadership for good – shaping change to improve the lives of our immediate campus community and neighbours, as well as the local, national and international communities we serve. Recent seismic events such as the Australian bushfires of 2019–20 and the COVID-19 pandemic underpin the need for comprehensive research universities to drive progress towards more sustainable outcomes.

Our efforts have already attracted attention – we are second globally in the Times Higher Education Impact ranking based on our success in delivering the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals – but we recognise our duty to do more.

At the heart of our efforts is our Sustainability Strategy, launched in 2020 as a revitalised institutional commitment across our research, education and operations to deliver sustainable solutions to the interconnected problems facing our shared future. Our strategy is built upon three pillars.

- Pillar 1: Enriching lives through research and education
- Pillar 2: Enabling resilient places and a responsible footprint
- Pillar 3: Empowering good governance and coordination.

These pillars are underpinned by a foundation of 'Caring for Country', which recognises our work must observe multiple knowledge systems – including those of our First Nations communities – that will continue to build long-term sustainability.

Our Sustainability Strategy was informed by extensive consultation across our staff and student community, drawing both on their passion for our University to become more sustainable and their academic and professional expertise. Our STARS submission reflects some of what we have already achieved. We look forward to achieving even more in the years to come, including through working with our peer universities in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

Our sustainability team is the primary contact for any questions or feedback you may have. They can be reached at [university.sustainability@sydney.edu.au](mailto:university.sustainability@sydney.edu.au).

Yours sincerely

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