



WESTERN'S C.O.R.E. FRAMEWORK FOR SDG ACCELERATION

**SDSN THAILAND PUBLIC FORUM 2025
UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY FORUM: SCIENCE, EDUCATION,
AND INNOVATION FOR THE SDGS**

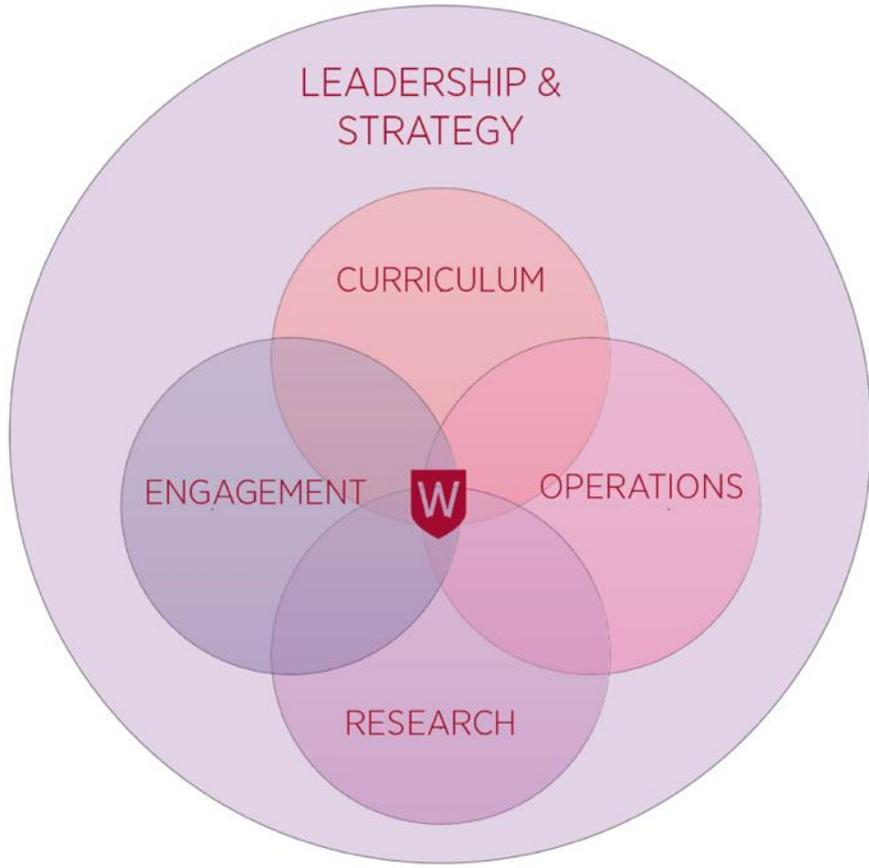
SPEAKER: MS BRITTANY VERMEULEN
Sustainability Program Manager,
Office of the PVC Learning and Teaching



Target: 4.3: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.



Sustainability: A shared responsibility at Western



WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
C.O.R.E. FRAMEWORK

7 Securing sustainability

Commitments to the world's changing and declining resources, especially those responsible for the future of our planet, are essential to the success of our university.

- 1. Our focus is on the environment, including climate change and water conservation.
- 2. We are committed to the environment through our research, teaching and community engagement.
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CHALLENGES OF 2030

Challenge	2022	2030
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	100,000 tonnes	50,000 tonnes
Reduce water consumption	10,000,000 litres	5,000,000 litres
Reduce waste to landfill	10,000 tonnes	5,000 tonnes
Reduce energy consumption	10,000,000 kWh	5,000,000 kWh
Reduce plastic consumption	10,000,000 kg	5,000,000 kg



2030

NABIN GAUTAM
Western Masters Student (Civil/Structural)

For Nabin, what matters is how the planet will cope with rising temperatures and sea level rise. He believes that students should be encouraged to think about the future of our planet and how we can make a difference.

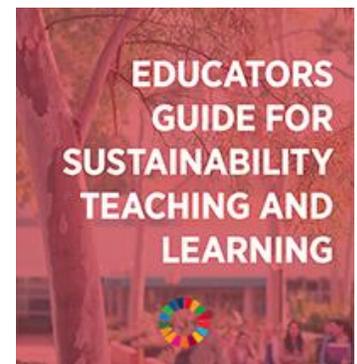
KATHERINE WARWICK
Western PhD Student (Science)

For Kat, what matters is that the environment is a priority and that policies should be based on science. She believes that students should be encouraged to think about the future of our planet and how we can make a difference.

SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES

We asked our students what matters most for our Sustainability and Resilience 2030 Decadal Strategy priorities. They ranked their top three:

1. CLIMATE ACTION: SET UP EFFORTS TO SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION IN OUR REGION.
2. INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE: EMBRACE ANTI-ORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER KNOWLEDGE FOR PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY AND CARING FOR COUNTRY.
3. FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: PROMOTE AGROECOLOGICAL PRACTICES FOR JUST FOOD SYSTEMS.



Learning and Teaching for ESD

"Our students are at the centre of everything we do. As graduates, our students will be ready to embrace the world. Every student will be empowered to excel in a rapidly changing world as global citizens, professionals and leaders."

Prof. Maryanne Dever, DVC Education and Students, Western Sydney University



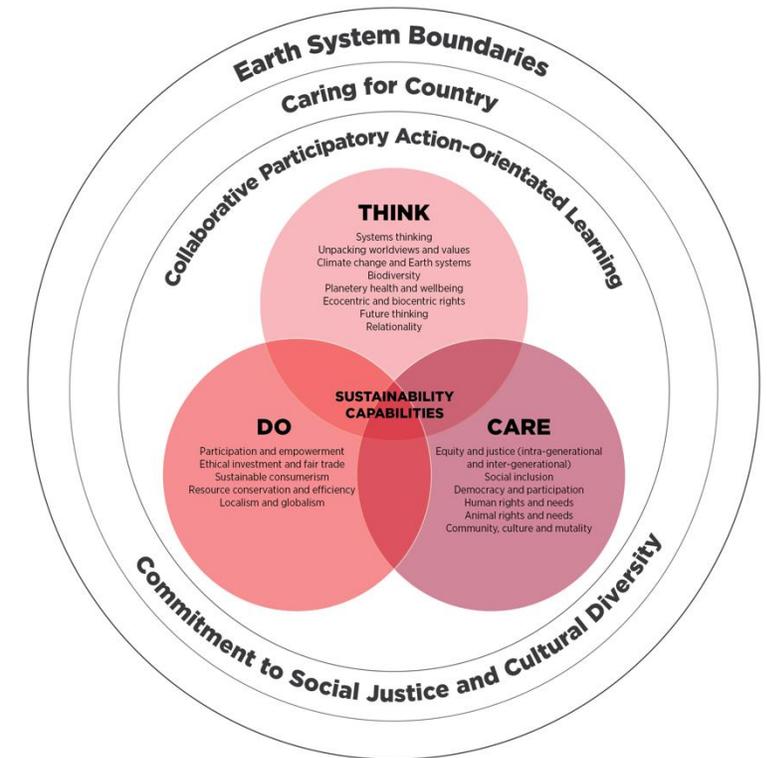
Our Sustainability Graduate Attribute fosters ALL students and graduates to **"contribute to a sustainable, diverse, and socially-just world."**

GAs provide a university-wide framework embedded in ALL programs, interpreted and defined in the context of each program.



Curation of **targeted professional learning resources** to embed our Sustainability Graduate Attribute, including:

- Defining Education for Sustainability (or ESD)
- Designing curriculum framework
- Academic professional learning and sustainability L&T guide
- Policy, practices, and procurers to embed ESD



WESTERN'S SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION
FRAMEWORK
(DOLLIN & VERMEULEN, 2022)



Student **learning for sustainability** through strategic, institution-wide initiatives, including:

- Dedicated specialisations across all programs and levels (UG and PG)
- Annual Sustainability Literacy and Knowledge Survey
- Co-curricular opportunities (e.g. student mobility, microcredentials, etc)

Research for Sustainability Impact

"We are committed to sustainable development, research excellence, and partnerships with industry and research leaders that ensures we are actively tackling the world's greatest challenges."
Prof. Deb Sweeney, Provost, Western Sydney University



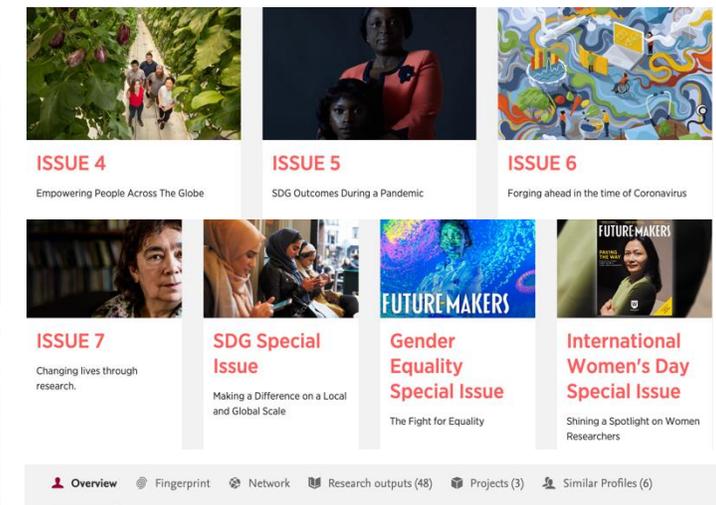
Our **Research Themes and Theme Champions** cut across schools, institutes, and centres, activating our research in community- and industry-relevant contexts since 2016:

- **Education and Work** (Equity, Participation & Opportunity)
- **Environment and Sustainability** (Climate, Agriculture & Liveability)
- **Health and Wellbeing** (Translation, Integration & Innovation)
- **Urban Living Futures and Society** (People, Culture, Economy and the Built Environment)



A **suite of researcher tools** lifting the contribution of SDG research, research impact and our researchers, including:

- SDG publication tagging and training
- Tracking SDG publication performance (quantum AND quality with FWCI)
- Redefining 'research impact' and purpose, *starting locally in Western Sydney.*
- Research translation, e.g. Thought Leadership Series, Future Makers publication
- Research to direct policy, e.g. *Western Sydney's Economic Strategy, Western Creative, SRDS 2030*



Personal profile

Expertise related to UN Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, UN member states agreed to 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. This person's work contributes towards the following SDG(s):



Related links

Google Scholar

Qualifications

Doctor of Philosophy, De Montfort University
Master of Social Work (Research)
Bachelor of Laws

Engagement and Partnerships for ESD

"RCEs act as localised hubs for learning and collaboration, translating the SDGs into local realities through integrated research, formal and informal education and community engagement. We think global and act local."

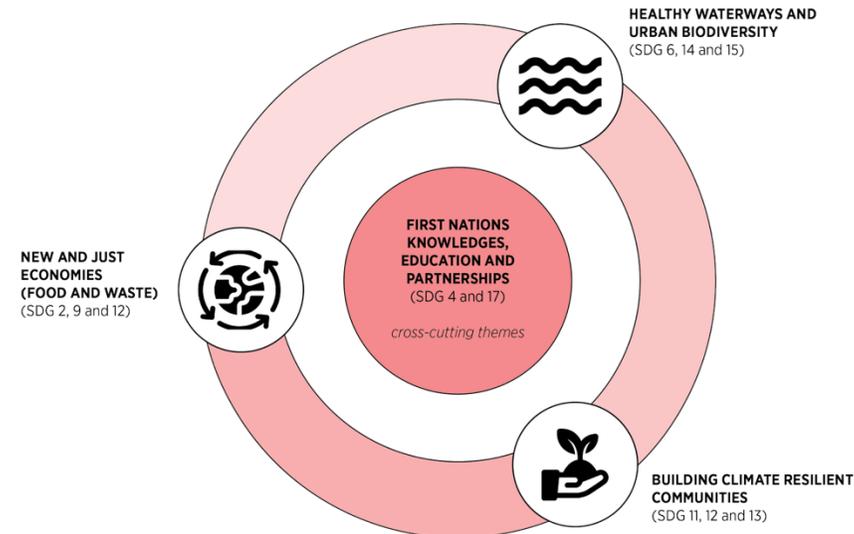
Brittany Vermeulen, RCE-GWS Convenor, Western Sydney University



Hosted by Western, **RCE Greater Western Sydney is a multi-sector ESD network** (1 of 200 around the world), acknowledged by the United Nations University. Since 2012:

- Multiple streams of SDG work
- 26 regional education partners
- 80+ ESD initiatives and projects
- 45,000+ community participants
- 1,000+ WSU student engagements through WIL, field work, projects, embedded content, mobility, and paid internships

RCE GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY AREAS OF IMPACT (2024-2025)



Updated April 2024





Community-based, collaborative research, education and engagement for impact and action

2017

Activating citizen science

Community members and WSU scientists teamed up to collect eDNA water samples (an emerging technology in conservation)

22 sites positive for platypus



2020-21

Partnership formalisation

Reformation of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Waterkeeper Alliance with six regional organisations to be a voice for the river under MoU and RCE-GWS.



2024-27

Restoration and action

Government funding (AUD \$1M) for on-ground cultural and ecological outcomes for platypus habitat across hotspots in Western Sydney.



2016

Community concern

Community concerns over platypus populations in a priority growth corridor in North-West Sydney, with proposed 33,000 new houses.

Two historic records in area

2018-19

Scientific endeavor

Establishment of Western's Hawkesbury-Nepean Platypus research project, led by Dr Michelle Ryan with a team of HDR students.

Increase to 80+ recordings (ongoing)

2021-2025+

A loveable river

Series of external education, professional development and citizen science programs (x 15), and curriculum integration into UG and PG programs.

3,000+ community members engaged in learning



WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



IN THE WORLD*



*Times Higher Education ranked
Western Sydney University #1 worldwide in 2022
based on its commitment to the United Nations'
Sustainable Development Goals