

# Hunter unites to create Australia's first regional report on transition toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Nearly halfway toward the 2030 deadline for the UN's *global goals*, on environment, justice and wellbeing, an Australian-first initiative has launched in the Hunter region. Led by the *Hunter Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Taskforce*, the University of Newcastle has been engaged to assess SDG Indicators of progress for the Hunter.

The Hunter Region SDG Taskforce is a group of motivated businesses, not-for-profits and government bodies who are focused on collaborating to achieve the UN SDGs. Established in 2020, the Taskforce was conceived to foster accountability and drive education and collaboration. Its aim is to accelerate actions to achieve the SDGs, making the region more liveable, more economically and environmentally sustainable, and more supportive of those facing social challenges.

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

This project represents an example of SDG Goal 17 (Partnerships for the goals) in action. It is the first of its kind in Australia to apply the UN SDGs at a regional level. Indeed, it is one of the first regional applications anywhere in the world, as other assessments tend to focus on the national or city level.

The effort is a collaboration among 18 funding partners (listed below) as well as the wider members of the Taskforce. The group aims for the Hunter to provide an example of regional localisation of the SDGs, which can be copied elsewhere in Australia and globally. Results of the work are expected to be made available in September 2022.

## KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR THE TASKFORCE IN 2022 ARE:

- Facilitating a **collaborative forum** on the Hunter's contributions to achieving the SDGs
- Creating a comprehensive **narrative, data collection system** and reporting dashboard
- Engaging and informing **priority contributors/stakeholders**
- Submitting a **Voluntary Local Review** to the UN
- Capturing **SDG-related activities**, reporting progress and sharing outcomes publicly.

## TRACKING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE HUNTER

Through *CIFAL* (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) at the University of Newcastle, the project will deliver a baseline and trends in SDG indicators for the Hunter region. This baseline aims to:

- Identify SDGs targets, indicators and data sources that are meaningful for the region
- Collate data and provide a summary plus a commentary on trends and future actions.



For more information, or if you would like to get involved, please contact Jonathan Wood, Senior Project Officer, Sustainability Advantage. Office of Energy and Climate Change, NSW Treasury [jonathan.wood@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jonathan.wood@environment.nsw.gov.au)