

University sector consultation towards Australia's Voluntary National Review on Agenda 2030 and the SDGs

13 December 2017, Melbourne

Context

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Aim of this session

- Australia's first National Voluntary Review (VNR) in 2018
- Important opportunity to showcase the university sector's contribution
- Aim of today: to provide content towards a **short statement summarising universities' contributions**

Key points of statement

1. The sector makes a significant contribution through its “business as usual” core activities
2. Many universities are going “beyond business as usual” to enhance their contribution
3. There is considerable scope to scale up contributions
4. Enabling actions will allow more contributions

Who is here

- **Universities:** Curtin, Deakin, Griffith, Macquarie, Melbourne, Monash, RMIT, UTS, Wollongong (including from research, teaching, central operations and governance)
- **Networks:** Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS), Principle for Responsible Education in Management (PRME), Future Earth Australia, Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network, SDSN Youth
- **University-related organisations:** Australian Academy of Science, Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE), Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA), Universities Australia, the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), ClimateWorks Australia
- **Government departments:** Foreign Affairs and Trade; Education and Training; Industry, Science and Innovation

Agenda

1. Setting the scene
2. Discussion: How the sector already contributes to the SDGs

(Morning tea)

3. Discussion: How the sector can make a greater contribution going forward
4. Discussion: “The last word”
5. Wrap up and next steps

(Lunch)

Setting the scene

- *Overview of the VNR* – **Sarah Goulding** (Assistant Secretary, Global Development Branch, DFAT)
- *Overview of the role of universities in achieving the SDGs* – **Professor John Thwaites** (Chair, SDSN Australia/Pacific)

How the sector already contributes to the SDGs

Discussion:

1. How does the sector contribute to the SDGs as part of its “business as usual” core activities?

- Research
- Education
- Operations
- Community leadership



How the sector already contributes to the SDGs

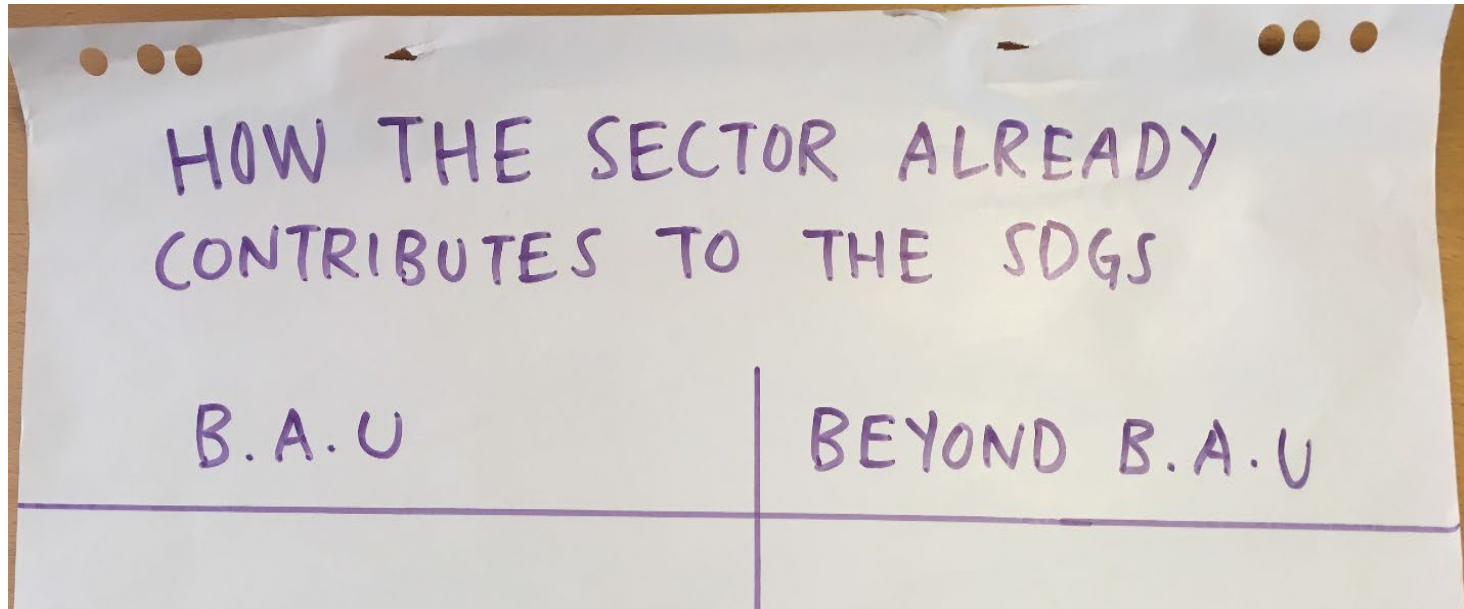
Discussion:

2. How is the sector going beyond “business as usual” to explicitly support SDG implementation?



How the sector already contributes to the SDGs

Outputs:



HOW THE SECTOR ALREADY CONTRIBUTES TO THE SDGS

| B.A.U | BEYOND B.A.U |
|-------|--------------|
| | |

How the sector already contributes to the SDGs

Discussion:

1. How does the sector contribute to the SDGs as part of its “business as usual” core activities?
 2. How is the sector going beyond “business as usual” to explicitly support SDG implementation?
- Research
 - Education
 - Operations
 - Community leadership

How the sector can make a greater contribution

Discussion:

- **What** are the opportunities for the sector to increase its contribution to SDG implementation?
- **How** to enable increased contributions?
- **Who** should lead?

| OPPORTUNITIES (WHAT) | ENABLERS (HOW) | LEAD (WHO) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | | |

“The last word”

Discussion:

- What one or two statements about the universities and the SDGs would you like to see in the VNR?

Proposed next steps on Outcomes Statement

1. Dec 17: SDSN Aus/Pac to draft statement
 2. Mid-Jan 18: Review/comment by participants
 3. Late-Jan 18: Make public
- Propose to acknowledge all contributing organisations, with the caveat that it is not necessarily endorsed by all of the participants or their organisations.

Additional opportunities

- University case studies for VNR
 - Opportunity to submit additional case studies before end of January (SDSN Aus/Pac facilitating)
- Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee inquiry into the UN SDGs
 - Report by 29 November 2018; submissions close 29 March 2018
- Australian SDG Summit 2018
 - Cross-sector dialogue on SDGs, co-hosted by ACFID, ACOSS, GCNA, SDSN, UNAA
 - 13 March 2018 in Melbourne (EOIs opening soon)

**Thank you and
Season's Greetings!!**

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