



Sustainable  
Development  
Goals

Sustainable  
Development  
Solutions

**Dates:** 6–7 May 2015

**Venue:** The Hall, Level 3,  
National Australia Bank Building,  
700 Bourke Street, Docklands

National workshop on

# Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in Australia

## Overview and program

In September 2015 the United Nations General Assembly is expected to approve a final set of universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 that will promote economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Starting in 2016, these SDGs will apply to all countries, including Australia. Last July a UN working group released a proposal for the SDGs that included 17 goals and almost 170 targets. Governments are currently going through intense negotiations to finalise the form, wording, and method of tracking progress of the proposed goals.

With just a few short months remaining before negotiations conclude and the SDGs become part of our global and national reality, key questions for government, business and the community in Australia to consider now are: **What are the opportunities for Australia in implementing the SDGs? How will Australia implement the SDGs and monitor their progress? How will the different sectors in Australia contribute to the implementation and achievement of the SDGs?**

This is the third in a series of annual workshops organised by the Monash Sustainability Institute to support Australian leadership in the development and implementation of the SDGs. Workshop outcomes will be provided directly to the Australian Government and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, which is supporting the United Nations in the development of the SDGs.

The workshop will bring together leaders and experts from government, business, civil society and academia to develop concrete proposals for how Australia can address priority SDGs implementation issues, namely:

1. **Identify the opportunities for Australia implementing the SDGs.**
2. **Identify the most relevant SDGs and targets for Australia.**
3. **Map out how Australia could measure and report on progress in achieving the SDGs, including what data and indicators will be needed.**
4. **Identify how different sectors in Australia – including federal, state and local government, business, civil society, and academia – could contribute to the implementation and achievement of the SDGs.**

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Day 1: Wednesday 6 May 2015

8:30–9:00	<b>Registration (tea &amp; coffee)</b>
9:00–10:15	<p><b>Session 1: Welcome and overview</b></p> <p>This session will provide an introduction to the UN's SDGs process and their importance in the international context, summarise engagement relating to the SDGs in Australia so far, and lay out the aims of the workshop.</p> <p><b>Chair: John Thwaites</b></p> <p><b>John Thwaites</b> (Chair, Monash Sustainability Institute) – <i>Welcome and aims of the workshop</i></p> <p><b>Sir Bob Watson</b> (Workshop Chair &amp; Sir Louis Matheson Fellow, Monash University) – <i>Sustainable Development Goals for Australia: The process so far</i></p> <p><b>Haleh Homaei</b> (Advisor to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste On Post-2015 Development Agenda) – <i>Update on the UN SDG negotiations</i></p> <p><b>Jeffrey Sachs</b> (Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network) – <i>2015: a key year for international sustainable development</i> [via video]</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
10:15–10:45	<b>Morning Tea</b>
10:45–12:30	<p><b>Session 2: SDG opportunities for Australia</b></p> <p>This session will examine how the SDGs are relevant for Australia and what the opportunities for Australia from implementing them are.</p> <p><b>Chair: Sir Bob Watson</b></p> <p><b>Keynote:</b></p> <p><b>Kushla Munro</b> (Assistant Secretary, Global Development Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) – <i>Australia's lead negotiator will speak to Australia's global priorities for the post-2015 development agenda and discuss the role governments, private sector, universities, non-governmental agencies and others play in its delivery.</i></p> <p><b>Panel: How are the SDGs relevant for Australia and what are the opportunities for Australia implementing them?</b></p> <p><b>Sam Mostyn</b> (Non-Executive Director, Transurban, Virgin Australia and CitiBank Australia; President, Australian Council for International Development)</p> <p><b>Howard Bamsey</b> (Adjunct Professor, Australian National University, Former Ambassador for the Environment and Director General of the Global Green Growth Institute)</p> <p><b>Helen Szoke</b> (CEO, Oxfam Australia)</p> <p><b>Adam Fennessy</b> (Secretary, Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Vox Pop and discussion: What are the SDG opportunities for Australia?</b></p>
12:30–13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30–15:45	<p><b>Session 3: Monitoring progress on the SDGs in Australia</b></p> <p>This session will examine what systems we can build on in Australia to monitor and evaluate progress against the SDGs, and what are key indicators we would want to measure in Australia in order for us to consider the SDGs a success.</p> <p><b>Chair: Sir Bob Watson</b></p> <p><b>Keynotes</b></p> <p><b>Gemma Van Halderen</b> (First Assistant Statistician, Population, Education and Data Integration Division, ABS) – <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics: Data for the SDGs</i></p> <p><b>Professor Mike Salvaris</b> (ANDI) – <i>The Australian National Development Index (ANDI) project</i></p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>

Day 1 (cont.)

	<p><b>Breakout group activity: What are the priority targets for Australia within each of the proposed OWG SDGs, and what are the most relevant measurable things for Australia?</b></p> <p><b>Lead: Dave Griggs</b></p> <p><b>Group 1: OWG 4 (education), OWG 5 (gender equality), OWG 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies)</b> – led by Katherine Teh-White (Managing Director, Futureye)</p> <p><b>Group 2: OWG 13 (climate change), OWG 14 (oceans), OWG 15 (terrestrial ecosystems)</b> – led by Will Steffen (Adjunct Professor, ANU)</p> <p><b>Group 3: OWG 2 (food security), OWG 6 (water), OWG 7 (energy)</b> – led by Tony Kelly (Former Managing Director, Yarra Valley Water)</p> <p><b>Group 4: OWG 1 (poverty), OWG 3 (health), OWG 10 (inequality)</b> – led by Wren Green (Director, Council for International Development, NZ)</p> <p><b>Group 5: OWG 8 (economic growth), OWG 12 (consumption and production)</b> – led by Frank Jotzo (Director, Centre for Climate Economics &amp; Policy, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU)</p> <p><b>Group 6: OWG 9 (infrastructure), OWG 11 (cities)</b> – led by Rosemary Bissett (National Australia Bank)</p> <p><b>Group 7: OWG 17 (means of implementation)</b> – led by Haleh Homaei (Advisor to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste On Post-2015 Development Agenda)</p> <p><b>Group report back and discussion</b></p>
15:45–16:00	Afternoon Tea
16:00–17:30	<p><b>Session 4: The role of business in implementing and achieving the SDGs</b></p> <p>This session will explore why sustainable development is important for business, how business can play a central role in implementing the SDGs both at home and abroad, and tools and guidance being developed to support business engagement with the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Chair: John Thwaites</b></p> <p><b>Panel: The role of business in implementing and achieving the SDGs</b></p> <p><b>Alice Cope</b> (Executive Manager, UN Global Compact Network Australia)</p> <p><b>James Porteous</b> (Senior Advisor Sustainability, MMG Limited)</p> <p><b>Mark Joiner</b> (Professorial Fellow, Monash University; former Executive Director, Finance, National Australia Bank)</p> <p><b>Geoff Manchester</b> (Director &amp; Co-Founder, Intrepid Travel)</p> <p><b>Robyn Leeson</b> (Technical Advisory Committee, Global Reporting Initiative)</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
17:30–19:00	Workshop reception

Day 2: Thursday, 7 May 2015

9:00–10:30	<p><b>Session 5: Sector opportunities and responsibilities for implementing SDGs</b></p> <p>This session will begin to address the opportunities and responsibilities for implementing and monitoring the SDGs in Australia. How will different sectors contribute to achieving them?</p> <p><b>Chair: John Thwaites</b></p>
	<p><b>Keynote</b></p> <p><b>The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP</b> (Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Immigration) – <i>The relevance and implementation of the SDGs in Australia</i></p>

Day 2 (cont.)

	<p><b>Panel: Sector opportunities and responsibilities for implementing SDGs</b></p> <p><b>Stan Krpan</b> (CEO, Sustainability Victoria) – <i>State government perspective</i></p> <p><b>Tracey Slatter</b> (CEO, City of Port Phillip) – <i>Local government perspective</i></p> <p><b>Tim Costello</b> (CEO World Vision) – <i>NGO perspective</i></p> <p><b>Sam Loni</b> (Global Coordinator, Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth) – <i>Youth perspective</i></p> <p><b>Harold Mitchell</b> (Founder, Mitchell &amp; Partners; Former Executive Chairman, Aegis Media ANZ; Founder, Harold Mitchell Foundation) – <i>Business perspective</i></p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
10:30–10:45	<b>Morning Tea</b>
10:45–12:30	<p><b>Session 6: Sector opportunities and responsibilities for implementing SDGs – Breakout groups</b></p> <p>This session will continue to address the opportunities and responsibilities for implementing and monitoring the SDGs in Australia. How will different sectors contribute to achieving them?</p> <p><b>Chair: Sir Bob Watson</b></p> <p><b>Activity:</b></p> <p><b>Federal government</b> – led by Howard Bamsey (Adjunct Professor, Australian National University, Former Ambassador for the Environment and Director General of the Global Green Growth Institute)</p> <p><b>Subnational governments (state and local)</b> – led by Mike Hill (Co-Director, WestWyck eco-village)</p> <p><b>Business</b> – led by Susan Staples (KPMG)</p> <p><b>NGOs</b> – led by Beth Sargent (Head of Policy, ACFID)</p> <p><b>Academia/Higher Education</b> – led by Barbara Norman (Director, Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF), University of Canberra)</p> <p><b>Report back and discussion</b></p>
12:30–13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30–15:30	<p><b>Session 7: Transitioning to SDGs in Australia – The next steps</b></p> <p>This session will identify the macro policies, processes, mechanisms, institutions and partnerships that Australia needs in order to move ahead with implementing and monitoring the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Chair: Sir Bob Watson</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Panel: What are the concrete next steps that we need to take over the next few months to move ahead with implementing and monitoring the SDGs in Australia?</b></p> <p><b>Gemma Van Halderen</b> (First Assistant Statistician, Population, Education and Data Integration Division, ABS) – <i>Indices, monitoring, reporting and evaluation</i></p> <p><b>Rebekah Brown</b> (Director, Monash Sustainability Institute) – <i>Transitions and processes</i></p> <p><b>Mark Stafford-Smith</b> (CSIRO; Chair, Future Earth Science Committee) – <i>Science, technology and innovation</i></p> <p><b>Bill Shannon</b> (The Shannon Company) – <i>Getting stakeholders and the public on board</i></p> <p><b>John Thwaites</b> (Chair, Monash Sustainability Institute) – <i>What are other countries doing</i></p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Workshop statement and recommendations – led by Sir Bob Watson</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Summary and next steps – Sir Bob Watson, John Thwaites and Dave Griggs</b></p>
15:30–16:00	<b>Close and afternoon tea</b>