



Introduction

This document outlines a proposal to develop an compact that Australian organisations can sign in order to pledge their support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In choosing to support the pledge, organisations will be required to:

1. Commit their support for the national implementation of the SDGs
2. Align their activities with the SDGs
3. Demonstrate to leaders from business, academia, civil society and government the dedication of young people to the SDGs

The pledge will be formally presented at the Australian Sustainable Development Goals Summit, which will take place on 7 September 2016 in Sydney.

The criteria for organisations to sign the pledge:

- Must be youth led or youth focused
- Must have a legal status under Australian law (ABN)
- Must have a strong track-record in supporting and empowering youth
- Must have an active program in one or more thematic areas of the [2030 Agenda](#)
- Must be non-partisan (referring to public support for a specific Australian political party)
- Must have a positive public image

*Youth is defined as any person between the ages of 15 - 40 years.





Australian Youth Pledge for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

On 1 January 2016, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into effect. The 17 SDGs and their 169 targets were agreed to by 193 governments in September 2015 at the United Nations. The goals constitute a shared global framework of development priorities to 2030 and aim to bring an end to extreme poverty, promote prosperity and wellbeing for all, protect the environment, address climate change, and encourage good governance and peace.

The SDGs are ambitious and require action beyond 'business as usual'. Achieving the goals will require all stakeholders to play their part – governments, civil society, business, academia and youth – and to collaborate extensively.

Poverty and inequality, weak governance, conflict and instability, lack of infrastructure and the depletion of our natural resources contribute to long term and often irreversible problems and undermine the efforts of communities and societies to grow and prosper. Young people will have a vital role to play in addressing these critical global challenges and achieving the SDGs.

These challenges are relevant to all countries of the world, including Australia. As both a regional and global leader, Australia has a critical role in driving sustainable development. While Australia is an advanced country, we still face major challenges, including gender equity, domestic violence, homelessness, the rise of non-communicable diseases, environmental degradation, climate change, closing the gap experienced by Indigenous Australians amongst other issues.

Youth have the opportunity to play a central role in tackling the sustainable development challenges of the 21st century. Gifted with imagination, energy and optimism, young people should be considered the key drivers of sustainable development. They have the opportunity to tackle some of the biggest challenges of the 21st century by spearheading the sustainable development movement at the local, national and global level. This pledge recognises the role of Australian youth in this important global agenda.





We the undersigned:

- Recognise the enormous social, economic and environmental challenges facing the world;
- Recognise that future development must take place in a way that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable;
- Recognise that the SDGs establishes an agenda for the achievement of sustainable development by 2030;
- Stress the unique qualities possessed by youth that make them important stakeholders in achieving the SDGs, namely, creativity, enthusiasm and optimism;
- Stress the vitally important role that youth can play in achieving a sustainable future through advocacy, monitoring and implementation;
- Commit to the achievement of the SDGs;
- Undertake to align our priorities and activities with the SDGs and their targets; and
- Undertake to hold government, academia, business and civil society accountable in ensuring that concrete action is taken to achieve the SDGs.





Signed

