

UNSW Societal Impact Framework



The **UNSW Societal Impact Framework** is our shared, anchoring purpose, and commitment to improve life on Earth.

It connects us to the most pressing challenges of our times and the areas in which UNSW can have unique and significant impact. By concentrating our efforts in four **Impact Focus Areas** that reflect public issues, we will strengthen our leadership as a local and global driver of positive societal change.

Impact Focus Areas

The four Impact Focus Areas all intersect and are not siloed

Accelerate the transition to a sustainable society

such as our ability to advance decarbonisation; support renewable energy transition; restore biodiversity; drive sustainable innovations and new technologies; and apply Indigenous knowledges to land use and management.

Advance economic and social prosperity

for example, our capacity to reduce inequality; advance new technologies, products or services; support economic growth; improve quality of life; support individual and community wellbeing; promote human rights; foster Indigenous empowerment and self-governance; and increase access to education for all.

Enable healthy lives

this includes how we can improve and support physical and mental wellbeing; improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; prevent and treat diseases; inform health policy; and ensure equitable access to healthcare.

Foster societal resilience, security and cohesion

for example, our ability to foster social, environmental and civic responsibility; address food and water security issues; strengthen and promote global democracy and democratic practices; foster trust in the digital age; advance and apply AI, machine learning, and quantum computing to improve society; and empower Indigenous communities through enabling self-determination (ensuring they are involved in decisions affecting them).

At its core, the Societal Impact Framework embeds Indigenous peoples' ways of knowing, being and doing to improve society across all our Impact Focus Areas. Through this we demonstrate a significant commitment to **Incorporate Indigenous Knowledges**, and to leadership and advocacy for Indigenous rights, aspirations, self-governance, education, and community-led outcomes. Indigenous knowledges provide a unique and holistic insight into land management and environmental resilience, health, community wellbeing, and more. Indigenous peoples have an immense understanding and knowledge that has the potential to change our approaches, enhance innovation, and drive advancements that benefit society.

Cross-cutting Themes

As with Incorporating Indigenous Knowledges, the Cross-cutting Themes are applied to all our Impact Focus Areas.

Equity and Inclusion

We embrace equity and foster inclusion in all aspects of society, and we will progress the ongoing work needed to resolve structural and systemic inequalities.

Social Justice

We will ensure the human rights and dignity of all peoples are respected, protected, and promoted.

Trustworthiness

In an age of misinformation, we aim to help build people's capacity to make informed decisions about information sources.

