



Australian business leaders show support for the Sustainable Development Goals

[7 September 2016, Sydney] Today, over thirty leaders from the Australian business community have come together behind a public CEO Statement of Support for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs – agreed by all 193 United Nations member states and applicable to all countries – are a new global agenda laying out a roadmap over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and protect the planet.

“While governments hold primary responsibility for the SDGs, the private sector is indispensable to achieving the goals,” said Alice Cope, Executive Manager of the [Global Compact Network Australia](#) – the Australian business-led network of the UN Global Compact, the world’s largest corporate sustainability initiative – which led the development of the CEO Statement.

“Today, with this Statement, this incredible list of CEOs showing support for the SDGs demonstrates the private sector’s willingness to contribute to realising a sustainable future for Australia and the world.”

“There are a range of ways the private sector can contribute to the SDGs – through responsible business operations, new business models, investment, innovation and technology, and collaboration,” said Ms Cope.

“We are seeing companies embrace the SDGs both in recognition of the critical role they have in contributing to the agenda but also the upside to their businesses in doing so. The SDGs provide a framework for both risk management and opportunity. Businesses that are able to offer solutions to the local and global sustainability challenges represented by the goals will build resilience, find new markets and position themselves competitively for the future,” said Ms Cope.

“For a number of months, the Global Compact Network Australia through its Sustainable Development Leadership Group, which we launched last year in partnership with DFAT, has been supporting companies in mapping their activities against the SDGs and incorporating the goals into thinking and strategies. The level of interest and engagement from the Australian business community has been outstanding.”

The issues covered by the SDGs include poverty and inequality, education, health, gender equality, water, climate change, biodiversity, clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, responsible consumption and production, sustainable cities, peace and governance.

“The scope of the SDGs is broad, and businesses will find relevant points in the agenda that they can connect with and contribute to,” said Ms Cope. “The SDGs also provide a framework to align business strategies with national and global priorities, and so provide a shared agenda around which business, government, civil society and academia can come together.”

The CEO Statement is being launched on the occasion of the inaugural Australian SDGs Summit, which will, for the first time since the SDGs came into effect, bring together Australian leaders and decision-makers from government, business, civil society, academia and youth organisations to advance Australian action to achieve the SDGs.

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Notes to writer:

- The SDGs are also referred to as the '2030 Agenda' or 'Global Goals'
- The SDGs were agreed by all 193 Member States of the United Nations in September 2015 and came into effect on 1 January 2016

About the Global Compact Network Australia

The UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. It is both a practical framework for action and a platform for demonstrating corporate commitment and leadership.

In Australia, the business-led Global Compact Network Australia brings together signatories to the UN Global Compact, including a number of Australia's leading companies, non-profits and universities, to advance corporate sustainability and the private sector's contribution to sustainable development. The GCNA does this through a platform for dialogue, learning and influence, providing a meeting point where organisations can build best practice around sustainability, explore sustainability challenges and connect with networks and experts.

As the UN's corporate sustainability initiative, the UN Global Compact is a key platform for business engagement in the UN agenda including in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2015, the GCNA entered into a significant partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade aimed at engaging the private sector in sustainable development.

www.unglobalcompact.org.au

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Companies signing the CEO Statement of Support

1. ANZ Bank
2. Australia Post
3. Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility
4. BHP Billiton
5. Brambles
6. Coffey International
7. Commonwealth Bank of Australia
8. Control Risks
9. CourtHeath Consulting
10. EY
11. IKEA
12. International SOS
13. Intrepid Travel
14. Futureye
15. Konica Minolta
16. KPMG
17. Melbourne Water
18. National Australia Bank
19. Nestlé
20. Office EQ
21. Oil Search
22. Optus
23. Paper Force
24. PwC
25. Rio Tinto
26. SMEC
27. Solaris Paper
28. Stockland
29. Telstra
30. Visy Industries
31. Wesfarmers
32. Westpac
33. Yarra Valley Water



CEO Quotes

The following quotes have been provided by CEOs signing the Statement.

Shayne Elliott, Chief Executive Officer, ANZ Bank:

“It makes good business sense to support the SDGs. Companies that are actively engaged with the sustainable development agenda not only contribute to better lives for people, but also improve the performance of their own business. It’s about good risk management and maximising the opportunities presented by a more sustainable economy.”

Ahmed Fahour, Managing Director & Group CEO, Australia Post:

“At Australia Post, we have been a member of the UN Global Compact Network Australia since 2010. We’re committed to advancing the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals because we simply see it as the right thing to do for our workforce, our customers, the communities we serve and the environment.”

“We’ve demonstrated our commitment to acting in the interests of Australian communities, everywhere, for over 200 years. But I’m conscious that there’s always more we can do. The SDGs give us a valuable roadmap for working towards a fairer, cleaner, more inclusive Australia - and a better world.”

Leeora Black, Managing Director, Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility:

“ACCSR recognises that the Sustainable Development Goals are an excellent tool to facilitate collaboration around changing business approaches to the core themes promoted by the program. Consistent with our vision to contribute to a world where business creates positive social, economic, and environmental value for the benefit of all its stakeholders, we look to the Global Goals as a means to re-focus business on the wicked problems we, as a society, are faced with.”

Tom Gorman, CEO, Brambles:

“Brambles’ mapped our Better Business, Better Planet and Better Communities sustainability framework to the SDGs and we found that the heart of our business, the principles of the circular economy directly aligns with SDG 12 - Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production. We achieve SDG-12 by promoting the sharing and reuse of assets among multiple parties in global supply chains. Brambles’ sharing and reusing operating model creates more efficient supply chains by reducing costs for customers, maximising the use of our materials which decreases demand on natural resources”. At Brambles’ we call this ‘Sustainable Value’ and it’s what we create for our stakeholders, everyday”.

Ron Chu, CEO, Coffey International:

“Coffey, as part of the Tetra Tech group of companies, aims to bring industry-leading scientific solutions to the world’s most complex challenges as a global leader in sustainable international development.”



Ian Narev, Managing Director & CEO, Commonwealth Bank of Australia:

“The future of our bank and the future of Australia are inextricably linked.”

“In the past the industry didn’t always apply the sustainability test at a product level – now it is an on-going lens for improving the product.”

Pauline Bernard, Director, CourtHeath Consulting:

“Encouraging governments to consider ethical sourcing when making procurement decisions and developing associated policies is an integral part of what we do at CourtHeath Consulting. The SDGs enable a robust and globally recognised framework for businesses to track and report on their sustainable practices and to promote them to government buyers – this provides a benchmark that government agencies can use in their purchasing decisions, supporting the creation of sustainable markets.”

Tony Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, EY Oceania:

“EY’s purpose is to help build a better working world. The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals align incredibly well with this intention, and we’re proud to place our support behind them. Through our professional services, we hope to assist companies and governments on this mission, whilst also considering how our own operations align to each of the 17 Goals.”

Katherine Teh-White, Managing Director, Futureye:

“Since Futureye was founded in 2002, the company has focussed on achieving sustainable solutions that incorporate shared value for organisations, governments and communities in line with the concepts that have now been incorporated into the SDGs. Futureye’s success is therefore founded on the ideas that the SDGs contain, and we believe that incorporating the goals into business can create profitable and beneficial outcomes for everyone.”

David Hood, Managing Director, IKEA Australia:

“We’re fully in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 that align with our People & Planet Positive strategy. The challenges facing our people and our planet require innovative thinking and bold actions. It’s important that we all work together, not in isolation, to solve these issues. In supporting the Sustainable Development Goals, we’re helping lead the way in showing other businesses how they can embrace positive and sustainable changes.”

Arnaud Vaissié, Chairman & CEO, International SOS:

“Our SDG activities demonstrate a commitment to maintaining globally sustainable operations. Our philosophy for corporate citizenship focuses on ‘Healthcare and Education’ to look after the wellbeing of our employees and the communities around which we work and allowing us to obtain our social license to operate. It also extends to ethical conduct in our dealings with suppliers, clients and other stakeholders.”

Darrell Wade, CEO and Co-Founder, Intrepid Group

“Intrepid was born out of the principle of having a purpose beyond profit, and we firmly believe that tourism can play a significant role in advancing sustainable development goals - not only raising awareness of our planet through eco-tourism, but when we choose to focus on real and practical business-based solutions we can help to empower vulnerable communities and alleviate poverty.”



David Cooke, Chairman & Managing Director, Konica Minolta Australia:

“As individuals, we have a moral propensity to do what is right; as businesses, we have a clear responsibility to ensure our operations do no harm and positively contribute to social, environmental and economic development. The SDGs provide a platform for all companies to take targeted actions in a way that is both strategic and meaningful.”

Gary Wingrove, Chief Executive Officer, KPMG Australia:

“The emergence of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has begun the process of redefining our moral and ethical boundaries. The SDGs embody a universal plan for tackling inequality, with the goal of ending extreme poverty and hunger by 2030. Businesses are well placed to find opportunities for positive impact, and with the SDGs the opportunity now is significant.

“Businesses, such as KPMG Australia, need to understand the challenges of the SDGs so they can guide their people to find the solutions that will end poverty and create a low carbon economy. The private sector's role in implementing the SDGs is pivotal as the Goals will not be fulfilled if businesses don't play their part.”

Michael Wandmaker, Managing Director, Melbourne Water:

“Melbourne Water's vision is to enhance life and liveability. Creating the world's most liveable cities is a collaborative effort.

“The UN Sustainable Development Goals provide us, our stakeholders and our community with a common framework and targets to deliver improved community wellbeing and a better natural environment. We are proud to support the Sustainable Development Goals”

Trevor Clayton, Chief Executive Officer, Nestlé Australia:

“At Nestlé, we have long held the belief that for our business to prosper in the longer term, it must deliver value to both our shareholders, and the communities in which we operate. Our growth over the past 150 years has been based on having a positive impact on society; we are therefore fully committed towards supporting the principles of the UNGC and the SDGs.”

Greg Welsh, Chief Executive Officer, Office EQ:

“On my very first visit to overseas suppliers my driver told me to ignore the beggars at my window who had their hand or eye missing from an industrial accident. From that moment the thought of saving 20 cents on a component because it was made in a factory with no regard to staff and no social net appalled me. We have chosen not to do business with many suppliers until they improve work conditions. We can impact people's lives through our supply chain choices because it costs us only a fraction extra to get a product we are proud to sell. I believe we have a responsibility to use our market power to do this.”

Peter Botten, Managing Director, Oil Search:

“By playing a vital role in the economic and social development of PNG, Oil Search has formed strong relationships with communities and government, which are an essential element for successful oil and gas operations. Our sustainable development programmes help to maintain a stable operating environment, while improving development outcomes for the people of PNG.”



Paul O' Sullivan, Chairman, Optus:

“The key opportunity arising from the Sustainable Development Goals is that they provide a common purpose around which multi-sectoral collaboration can be forged. This has been the basis of many Optus founding partnerships for the community and the environment, such as the Australian Business and Community Network and the Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience and Safer Communities”.

Larry Jackson, Managing Director, Paper Force:

“The SDGs provide us with a common framework that ensures we can align our Global Business Processes and Supply Chain with an integrated, verifiable and recognised social, civil society and humanistic approach to our activities.”

Luke Sayers, Chief Executive Officer, PwC Australia:

“The Sustainable Development Goals highlight social, economic and environmental challenges not only as a risk to be managed, but as an opportunity for smart businesses to become market leaders.”

Jean-Sébastien Jacques, Chief Executive Officer, Rio Tinto:

“The Sustainable Development Goals provide an important framework that helps us show how our work with communities and other stakeholders produces tangible long-term benefits on the ground. Making a meaningful contribution to the communities where we work is vital to maintaining our licence to operate. Strong partnerships are also key and the SDGs can be a catalyst for more effective collaboration between business, government and communities around sustainable development.”

Andy Goodwin, Managing Director & CEO, SMEC:

“As a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact, SMEC is proud to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into our business globally and locally. The SDGs offer SMEC a shared language to discuss our commitments and contributions with our stakeholders and business partners around the world.

“We encourage our industry partners to join SMEC in applying the SDGs, as we work together to ensure global stability and improve social outcomes for all people around the world through sustainable development.”

Terry Hughes, Chief Executive Officer, Solaris Paper:

“Solaris Paper is proud to be part of the SDG initiative which allows our company to demonstrate its commitment to those key considerations that embrace economic prosperity, social responsibility and sustainable manufacturing from renewable resources.”

Mark Steinert, Managing Director & CEO, Stockland:

“As one of Australia’s largest real estate owners, managers and developers, we have significant opportunities to contribute to positive social and environmental outcomes in the communities where we operate. Through the development and operation of our assets, we actively contribute to a number of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, including the promotion of health and wellbeing, supporting biodiversity and striving to create communities and assets that are safe, inclusive and resilient.”



Andrew Penn, Chief Executive Officer, Telstra:

"We welcome the introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals and are optimistic about the role technology can play in delivering this ambitious agenda."

Anthony Pratt, Executive Chairman, Visy Industries:

"Visy's well-known corporate slogan is 'For a better world'. But that better world must start in our own backyard, in our own business. Only when our business is in good shape can its influence for good flow outwards, beyond our immediate communities, and beyond Australia..."

"As so many of the old business models face 'creative disruption', the sustainable development goals offer a realistic framework for that vital connection to the wider world."

Pat McCafferty, Managing Director, Yarra Valley Water:

"Water is a vital part of the social fabric in every community and through the delivery of essential water and sanitation services, our activities support many of the SDGs. We are using the priorities set out by the SDGs as a lens to review and enrich our strategy to ensure we can maximise the value we provide to our community. The more we have explored the SDGs, the more we have come to the realisation that the broad suite of Goals extends across all of our operations and our role in the community, and it has challenged us to think differently about our impacts and the imperative to provide leadership."