



Inspiring positive change

Sydney Opera House
and the Global Goals



The Global Goals

In 2015, the United Nations defined 17 goals, known as the Global Goals, to address the world's most pressing challenges by 2030, including poverty, inequality, climate, education and justice. The Global Goals provide a to-do list for the world and a roadmap to achieve a more sustainable and prosperous future for all. They have been widely adopted by leading global and Australian companies and government organisations.



The Sydney Opera House stands on Tubowgule, Gadigal country. We acknowledge the Gadigal, traditional custodians of this place, also known as Bennelong Point. First Nations readers are advised that this document may contain the names and images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are now deceased.

Cover Photo: Sydney Opera House. Photo by Hamilton Lund.

A Message from the CEO

The Sydney Opera House's mission is to inspire and strengthen the community in everything we do.

Since opening, the Opera House has championed environmental sustainability, creativity, diversity, cultural rights and respect for heritage. Now, almost 50 years on, we remain committed to these ideals and values. They are perfectly encapsulated in the Global Goals.

These goals can only be achieved through coordinated global action. In the following pages, you can find out more about what we have done and plan to do, as set out in our most recent Reconciliation, Environment and Accessibility Action Plans.

I am immensely proud of the progress we have made and would like to thank the NSW Government, our corporate partners and many donors (regardless of the size of the donations) for helping to make these important community and sustainability initiatives possible.

We remain committed to doing all that we can to inspire and bring about change, with you.

Louise Herron AM
Chief Executive Officer
October 2019

Our Commitments

With the launch of new community and environment action plans, the Opera House aims to be a catalyst for change, aligned with nine of the Global Goals.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



The Opera House will promote quality education and learning opportunities.

Targets: 4.5, 4.7

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



The Opera House will champion diversity and human rights in its workforce and business operations.

Targets: 8.4, 8.5

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



The Opera House will improve inclusion and accessibility on and off stage.

Target: 10.2

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



The Opera House will safeguard and revitalise cultural practices, heritage and sustainability.

Targets: 11.2, 11.4, 11.6, 11.7

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



The Opera House will reduce our waste generation and promote the efficient use of resources.

Targets: 12.5, 12.7

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



The Opera House will promote sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the marine environment.

Target: 14.1

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The Opera House will deepen and enrich our relationships with partners.

Targets: 17.16, 17.17

13 CLIMATE ACTION



The Opera House will implement a pathway to become Climate Positive by 2023.

Targets: 13.1, 13.3

15 LIFE ON LAND



The Opera House will promote sustainable management of natural resources and protection of habitats and biodiversity.

Target: 15.5



THE GLOBAL GOALS

Reconciliation



Allukmo Dancers perform at Dance Rites 2018.
Photo by Anna Kucera.

The Opera House's **Reconciliation Action Plan** supports global efforts to promote cultural awareness, equality and opportunity for all, and commits to initiatives that will enable our vision for reconciliation – to foster and celebrate a shared sense of belonging for all Australians.

Aligned Global Goals



Goals 2020–22

- Undertake research and consultation to deepen understanding and valuing of First Nations cultures, rights and experiences to reach **historical acceptance**.
- Celebrate First Nations cultures through presentation of First Nations works and stories to foster appreciation and embed **respectful race relations**.
- Build **equality and equity** through employment and retention programs, capacity-building projects in our First Nations programming, and encouraging cultural competence in all staff.
- Demonstrate **institutional integrity** by publicly and actively supporting and championing reconciliation to our local and international communities, partners and visitors.
- Embed and reflect First Nations cultures and heritage onsite and online as part of shared national **unity**.

View the Reconciliation Action Plan online to find out more sydneyoperahouse.com/reconciliation



Opera House staff welcome First Nations work experience students in 2018.

Achievements 2017–19

- 350 staff participated in cultural awareness, engagement and/or competency events, training and workshops in 2018.
- More than 8,000 people attended Australia's national First Nations dance competition, Dance Rites, in 2018. The event provides a platform for intergenerational exchange of knowledge, empowers communities and revitalises cultural practices.
- 160 students participated in career pathways programs which grow, retain and develop First Nations staff and ensure a culturally inclusive workplace.
- EnergyAustralia enabled seven Opera House staff to attend the 2019 Garma Festival of Traditional Cultures to deepen their understanding of First Nations cultures and build community relationships.
- The nightly First Nations sails lighting, Badu Gili, was launched in 2017 with the support of the Opera House's Idealist donors and the Australia Council for the Arts. The free experience celebrates the contemporary vibrancy of Australia's First Nations and has been viewed by 325,000 visitors onsite, and 1.7 million people online.

Environment



The Opera House sails were lit to celebrate carbon-neutral certification in 2018.

The Opera House's **Environment Action Plan** supports global efforts to safeguard our natural environment. The Opera House will hold itself to the highest standard in conserving resources, minimising waste, enhancing the natural environment and inspiring change in the community.

Aligned Global Goals



Goals 2020-23

- Achieve a **6 Star Green Star** Performance Rating from the Green Building Council Australia.
- Become **single-use plastic free** across our venues and restaurants.
- Implement a pathway to become **climate positive**, including preparing for and adapting to a changing climate.
- Achieve **Sustainable Event Management Certification** in line with International Standard (ISO) 20121 for our events, performances and festivals.
- **Recycle** a minimum of 85% of all operational waste.
- Ensure **new partnerships** are strategically aligned with the Global Goals.

View the Environmental Action Plan online to find out more
[sydneyoperahouse.com/environment](https://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/environment)



The NSW Minister of the Arts the Hon Don Harwin MLC (centre) announces the Opera House's carbon neutrality in 2018 with Jess Padman from EnergyAustralia, Opera House CEO Louise Herron, and staff sustainability champions (SEALs). Photo by Tim Da Rin.

Achievements 2017-19

- Carbon-neutral certification was achieved in 2018 through energy, waste and building efficiency projects and EnergyAustralia's support to invest in renewable energy and carbon offset projects.
- The Opera House achieved a 5 Star Green Star rating from the Green Building Council of Australia in 2018, recognising "Australian excellence" in building performance.
- An industry-leading seven-year Power Purchase Agreement with Flow Power was signed in 2019 to invest the Opera House's \$2.4 million annual electricity spend in NSW wind and solar power.
- A modular artificial reef was installed at Bennelong Point in 2019. The pioneering research project, led by the University of Technology Sydney and funded by the NSW Government's Environmental Trust, seeks to increase biodiversity in Sydney Harbour and raise awareness of marine conservation.
- A plan to eliminate single-use plastics has removed 90,000 plastic bags and 2.2 million straws from the site annually. A reusable drinkware trial during key 2018 and 2019 events prevented the use of more than 30,000 single use plastic cups.

Accessibility



The **Accessibility Action Plan** is underpinned by the philosophy that the Opera House belongs to everyone. Our focus on inclusion and equality, in close consultation with people with disability, is fundamental to the Opera House's support of the Global Goals.

Aligned Global Goals



Goals 2020-23

- Significantly **improve building accessibility** as part of the Opera House's Stage 1 Renewal capital works program.
- Develop **new community engagement opportunities** as part of the Access Program, including: recording studio residencies; performing arts workshops and creative experiences for seniors, people with dementia and migrant and refugee communities.
- Enhance access and inclusion provisions in our **recruitment** processes, introduce new workplace support for existing employees with disability and develop employment opportunities for future employees with disability.

View the Accessibility Action Plan online to find out more sydneyoperahouse.com/accessibility



Inclusion champion Max Burt with Ian Cashen Executive Director Building, Safety and Security using the new Joan Sutherland Theatre lift for the first time in 2018. Photo by Daniel Boud.

Achievements 2016-19

- Major accessibility upgrades to the Joan Sutherland Theatre were completed in 2018, including a new accessible passageway and lift, increased compliant seating, new accessible toilets and an assisted hearing loop system.
- 12 musicians on the autism spectrum participated in a Club Weld x Vivid LIVE residency, working with mentors to produce original music using atmospheric sounds from the building.
- Staff received introductory Auslan and accessible customer service training and attended a Bamboozle Theatre masterclass in planning and presenting theatre for people with multiple and complex disabilities.
- The 2016-18 Access Program presented more than 150 performances and workshops including audio-described, live-captioned, Auslan-interpreted, autism-friendly and multi-sensory performances and featured the perspectives of artists with disabilities.
- A partnership with Create NSW, the Department of Family and Community Services and Accessible Arts, enabled a Creatability Intern to work alongside the Opera House's customer service and programming teams.
- Event Partner Westpac enabled 31 All About Women sessions to be Auslan-interpreted or captioned in 2018 and 2019.



The Sydney Opera House exists because
a few brave people dared to think differently
They made the impossible possible, and inspired a nation

And so we stand as a proud testament
to the power of dreaming in public
To the transformative potential of art and ideas

We expand horizons, shift perspectives and stir emotions
If you're ready for the extraordinary, we're ready for you

sydneyoperahouse.com/globalgoals

