

Sustainability Impact Report 2022



SDG 1: No poverty

Financial assistance

- ✓ **1,500+** students supported with over **\$4.3 million** in scholarships, bursaries and prizes (over 90% with equity hardship element)
- ✓ **15** regional dedicated scholarships and bursaries to over **120 students**
- ✓ **20+ years** of supporting the community with local startup assistance

Startup assistance

- ✓ The Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast, since inception:
 - Assisted **200+** resident members
 - Created over **\$60 million** in economic value
 - **200+ jobs** created



SDG 2: Zero hunger

Student hunger interventions

- ✓ **107,000+** food items funded by SSAF
- ✓ UniSC Student Guild foodbank provides access to **free food** for students Monday-Friday, except holidays

Facilities

- ✓ **75+** student and staff kitchens and tearooms across all UniSC campuses and study sites



SDG 3: Good health and well-being

Physical and mental health

- ✓ UniSC conducts research on **physical and mental health** through its research and teaching centres:
 - Sunshine Coast Health Institute
 - UniSC Thompson Institute
 - Centre for Bioinnovation
 - Centre for Human Factors and Sociotechnical Systems
 - Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research

- ✓ UniSC is part of the **Manna Institute**, a virtual mental health institute, focusing on the mental health of Australia's ageing population
- ✓ Final year students provide dietary advice through the **UniSC Nutrition and Dietetics Clinic**, including:
 - Healthy eating
 - Pregnancy nutrition
 - Disease management nutrition
- ✓ UniSC staff have access to the **Employee Assistance Program**, which provides free and confidential counselling services
- ✓ UniSC Student Services and Engagement team provides students with information needed to access **free sexual and reproductive healthcare services** offered by Queensland Health and regional health clinics
- ✓ UniSC Student Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been **co-designed with students** to support their health and wellbeing needs
- ✓ **UniSC clinical trials** were conducted to test:
 - New influenza vaccine
 - Needle-free COVID 19 vaccinations
 - Foot-PAD (peripheral artery disease) study
 - Dengue fever vaccine
 - Cytomegalovirus vaccine
 - Antimalarial drug trial



Shared sports facilities

- ✓ UniSC **Free Social Sports program** provides free access to shared sports facilities through a variety of sporting programs for students and staff during semester teaching weeks
- ✓ Multi-functional sports stadium that seats **3,000 spectators**
- ✓ **Four outdoor fields** for community use and university sporting teams
- ✓ **Olympic-standard** swimming pool, home to the UniSC Spartans
- ✓ Home to the national **Para Sports Hub**
- ✓ UniSC Student Guild runs **free yoga classes**
- ✓ UniSC campuses and study sites are **smoke-free**

Off campus

- ✓ **Lunchbox Lectures**, informative sessions open to the public, included sessions on aged care issues, including:
 - Pain management
 - Wound care
 - Fall prevention
 - Social isolation
 - End-of-life and palliative care
 - Dementia
- ✓ **216 healthcare providers** hosted UniSC students for work integrated learning placements
- ✓ UniSC athletes won **15 medals** at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, including the para swimming categories



SDG 4: Quality education

Student composition

- ✓ More than **3,000 graduates in 2022**
- ✓ **3.7%** students enrolled at UniSC are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- ✓ **41.1%** students enrolled at UniSC are first in family to attend university
- ✓ **13.2%** students enrolled at UniSC have a disability

Access assistance

- ✓ UniSC provides **scholarships** across a range of areas including:
 - Asylum seeker scholarship
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarships
 - New Colombo Plan scholarship
- ✓ **1,500+** students supported with more than **\$4.3 million** in scholarships, bursaries and prizes

Indigenous Services

- ✓ UniSC provides **cultural spaces** for connecting, meeting, studying and learning are located at multiple study sites:
 - UniSC Sunshine Coast Buranga Centre, Dhu Mur'ang
 - UniSC Fraser Coast Buallum Jarl-Bah
 - UniSC Caboolture Buranga Centre
 - UniSC Moreton Bay MB.A

Community learning

- ✓ **35+ educational events and courses** open to the local community
 - Lounge Bar Lectures
 - Lunch and Learn
 - Short courses on health and ageing, languages including Auslan, education, writing and public speaking
- ✓ UniSC runs programs for students during **school holiday periods**:
 - eDiscovery Program for primary school-aged children
 - FashCamp for high school students
- ✓ **Uni Skills for You** is a free introductory course for adults looking to refresh their study skills or needing an introduction to university
- ✓ UniSC's **Life Below Water: Conservation, Current Issues and Possible Solutions**, a free online course featuring global leaders in marine and animal research, is offered through **FutureLearn**

Staff excellence

- ✓ UniSC's Senior Lecturer in Outdoor and Environmental Education, **Dr Glyn Thomas**, was presented with a Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning for fostering authentic, positive learning experiences in the outdoors.



SDG 5: Gender equality



Policies and procedures

- ✓ UniSC is committed to creating a **safe and inclusive** environment for everyone as demonstrated in our policies:
 - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Governing Policy
 - Anti-Discrimination and Freedom from Bullying and Harassment Governing Policy
 - Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment and Respectful Relationships (Students) Governing Policy
- ✓ Supporter of **Respect.Now.Always** and **White Ribbon** campaigns

Gender balance of students

- ✓ **69%** students enrolled are **female**
- ✓ **15+** female-specific scholarships and bursaries awarded to 25 students
- ✓ **66%** female staff (FTE)

Principles and guidelines

- ✓ UniSC **gender principles** for achieving gender equity at events
- ✓ UniSC developed the **Designing Inclusive Events** guide
- ✓ UniSC **Diversity Pledge**
- ✓ **Gender affirmation** guidelines

Staff advancement

- ✓ **Five** senior female staff members participated in the **Women Attaining Leadership** program
- ✓ Grants up to **\$10k** provided to support an individual's research activity upon return to work following parental leave through the research investment scheme
- ✓ **Senior Women's Forum** launched

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation



Recycled water

- ✓ **47%** water from recycled sources at UniSC Sunshine Coast
- ✓ **22%** water from recycled sources at UniSC Moreton Bay
- ✓ Over **30,000kL** recycled rainwater used across UniSC
- ✓ UniSC was the **first university in Australia** to supplement 'make-up' water for the 50-metre Olympic swimming pool with treated onsite lake water

Wise water consumption

- ✓ All UniSC campuses are **Water Refill campuses** providing free drinking water refill stations
- ✓ The University does not sell any single use plastic water bottles either directly or through its vendors
- ✓ Environmentally friendly and non-toxic e-water cleaning solutions are used in the cleaning regime at UniSC to replace the use of commercial cleaning chemicals
- ✓ UniSC Campus Master Plan embeds specific requirements that promote **conscious water usage**:
 - Use drought-tolerant native and endemic plants on campus
 - Integrated water management process to capture and treat wastewater, stormwater and rainwater

Engagement

- ✓ Sustainability tours are conducted for local businesses, schools and the wider community highlighting sustainability initiatives that promote conscious water usage on campus



SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy



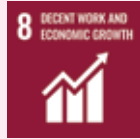
Renewable energy

- ✓ UniSC has approximately **6,500 solar panels** that power a "water battery" used to provide air conditioning across the Sunshine Coast campus
- ✓ Renewable energy produced on-site supplies **32% of our energy use** at UniSC Sunshine Coast
- ✓ **2,857,993kWh** solar energy used at UniSC Sunshine Coast
- ✓ **2,658 tonnes CO₂-e** (emissions) avoided through on-site consumption of solar energy

Energy efficiency

- ✓ Infrastructure enhancements increase efficiency:
 - HVAC plant room improvements
 - Expansion of the chilled water infrastructure
 - Upgrades of refrigeration equipment
 - LED lighting changeovers along roadways and in seven buildings
 - Purchase and use of pool blankets

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth



Policies, agreements and guidelines

- ✓ UniSC has an **Anti-Discrimination and Freedom from Bullying and Harassment** Governing policy
- ✓ UniSC has an **Enterprise Agreement** pursuant to section 172 of the Fair Work Act 2009 and negotiated between the National Tertiary Education Industry Union (NTEU) and the ASU Together branch
- ✓ UniSC has a **flexible working arrangement** and working from home guidelines

Student opportunities

- ✓ UniSC degrees have the opportunity for Work Integrated Learning (internship, placement, practicum and field experience)
 - **5,000+** students
 - **9,000+** placements
 - **900+** partners



SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure



Research

- ✓ **\$34.6m** in research income

Infrastructure

- ✓ Broke ground on **three new buildings** at UniSC Moreton Bay:
 - Embodied carbon design
 - **1900+** cubic metres of gross- and cross-laminated timber
 - Timber regrows in 45 minutes (gross laminated timber) or 6 minutes (cross-laminated timber)

Events

- ✓ UniSC Innovation Centre hosted **Forward Fest**, bringing together **1,500+** innovators, business leaders, government officials and UniSC students and academics to share ideas:
 - Commercialising seaweed research
 - Suicide prevention
 - Social impact measurement

- ✓ UniSC co-hosted the **Techstars Sustainability Startup Weekend**
- ✓ Three UniSC students were on the winning team that developed the concept for **ASI (website/app)** to assess businesses on accessibility, inclusivity and the ability to cater for sensory needs
- ✓ UniSC teams won national awards for developing app concepts at **GovHack**:
 - Flood Freight Assist maps freight routes with flood plain information
 - Australian Freight Road Planner maps Bureau of Meteorology rainfall data with freight route data

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities



Students

- ✓ **41.1%** students enrolled at UniSC are first in family to attend university
- ✓ **13.2%** students enrolled at UniSC have a disability
- ✓ **14** Indigenous-specific scholarships and bursaries awarded to **285 students**

Policies, charters and plans

- ✓ The Admissions, Enrolments and Graduation Academic Policy notes UniSC's commitment to **"enabling participation and to fostering fair and attainable opportunities for applicants from all backgrounds"**
- ✓ UniSC has an **Anti-Discrimination and Freedom from Bullying and Harassment** governing policy
- ✓ UniSC has a governing policy on **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** and developed a Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2021-2023. The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee promote the principles of the governing policy and plan.
- ✓ UniSC is proud of its **Reconciliation Charter** and the Vice-Chancellor and President's Indigenous Advisory Committee. It has created the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Career Development Strategy 2021-2024**.

- ✓ The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2021-2024 demonstrates our ongoing commitment to creating an equitable, accessible, and inclusive environment for all students, staff and the wider university community

Access

- ✓ UniSC's **AccessAbility Services** ensures equal access to all aspects of university life
- ✓ UniSC hosted the inaugural **Sunshine Coast Sports Symposium**, showcasing parasports and efforts to facilitate equitable access to all levels of sports

Awards

- ✓ UniSC Fraser Coast Engagement Officer, **Les Raveneaus**, won a Fraser Coast NAIDOC Lifetime Community Achievement Award for his work to bring people and organisations from all backgrounds together to celebrate heritage and traditions



SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities



Community facilities

- ✓ **5 Library locations** open to the community
- ✓ Art Gallery boasting the **largest collection** in the Sunshine Coast Region

Sustainable transportation

- ✓ **Four electric vehicle charging stations** across UniSC campus
- ✓ **20+** bike storage areas across all campuses
- ✓ **Three free UniSC Express Shuttle services** for staff and students
- ✓ Bus stops in walking distance of every campus
- ✓ Train station and cycleway across the street at UniSC Moreton Bay
- ✓ UniSC has adopted a new policy to purchase EV and hybrid fleet vehicles

Events

- ✓ **Sustainability Week** was held across UniSC campuses with engagement activities designed to provide students, staff and the community information on a range of sustainability issues
 - Documentary screenings and panel discussions on issues such as sustainable fashion, food, conservation and climate change
 - **Market Day** events
 - Native tree and shrub planting

Research

- ✓ **Bioclimatic and Sociotechnical Cities (BASC) Lab** is focussed on urban design, planning, heat, urban vegetation, health and other issues to create sustainable communities and cities

SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production



Circular economy

- ✓ **54% waste diverted from landfill** through composting and recycling streams:
 - Paper/Cardboard
 - Comingled recycling
 - eWaste
 - Polystyrene
 - Metal
 - Clear soft plastics
 - Batteries
 - Lighting
- ✓ **Over 5,500 containers** recycled with 100% of funds earned through Containers for Change donated to charity

- ✓ **Composting of organic waste** through the University's on-site composting apparatus (OSCA) at UniSC Sunshine Coast
- ✓ **100% Carbon neutral** A3 and A4 paper supplied for all departmental and School printing

Policies and plans

- ✓ UniSC has a **Sustainability Operational Policy** and an **Operational Waste Management Plan** to develop circular economy principles and guide the measurement of waste sent to landfill, recycled and composted

SDG 13: Climate action



Emissions avoided

- ✓ **2,658 tonnes CO₂-e** (emissions) avoided through the use of on-site solar energy and chilled water at UniSC Sunshine Coast

Planning

- ✓ UniSC's **Carbon Management Plan (CMP)** is being revised to include an expanded Scope 3 boundary

Engagement

- ✓ UniSC researchers study whether the science on coastal climate change risks, impacts, adaptation and impact reduction should be paused so action can be taken; findings have been promoted:
 - News articles
 - Podcasts
 - Radio
 - Online
 - WION Climate Summit presentation
- ✓ Active member of **Noosa Biosphere, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**



SDG 14: Life below water



- ✓ More than **1,600 people** enrolled in the UniSC Life Below Water conservation short course
- ✓ UniSC raised over **\$320,000** for three projects, including Sea Turtle conservation (prevent soft shell disease) through **Giving Day**
- ✓ UniSC flood historian, **Dr Margaret Cook**, won the Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Environmental History Network's inaugural Public Environmental History Prize for identifying the emotional dimensions of river and flood management

- ✓ Two UniSC authors, **Professor David Schoeman and Professor Patrick Nunn**, contributed to the latest UN IPCC WGII report which documents thousands of impacts to ocean and coastal ecosystems caused by global warming, sea-level rise and ocean acidification
- ✓ The **Campus Master Plan (CMP)** has been updated to expand the University's commitment to harvesting rain, storm and waste water, enhancing irrigation systems managing floods and protecting existing drains across campus
- ✓ UniSC, as part of its **Water Refill Initiative** that flows from the CMP, is committed to reducing plastic waste on its campuses by banning the sale of single-use plastic water bottles
- ✓ The **Waste Management Technical Operations Guideline** and **Hazardous Waste Disposal Process** are designed to prevent hazardous waste and pollutants from entering the environment at University campuses and study sites and sets out guidance for management of spills



SDG 15: Life on land



Campus setting

- ✓ **Over 70 nest boxes** across UniSC Sunshine Coast providing homes for possums, gliders and a range of birds
- ✓ **200+ trees planted**
- ✓ UniSC Sunshine Coast campus is a **Land for Wildlife** member with its flora and fauna reserve and works directly to maintain and extend existing ecosystems and the biodiversity of flora and fauna that ecosystem supports

Policy

- ✓ UniSC has a **Catering Operational Policy** that preferences food that is sustainably sourced, farmed or caught

Research and collaboration

- ✓ UniSC authors released articles on **forestry**:
 - 15 essential advances for science to help restore the world's forested landscapes
 - Monitoring the recovery of tree diversity in Costa Rica
 - Applying a community capacity curve framework to reforestation in the Philippines
 - Assessing landscape restoration potential
 - Studying how certified community forests impact restoration and human wellbeing in Tanzania
- ✓ **UniSC is collaborating with EOMAP, UQ and Noosa Council** on a project to combine satellite imagery of QLD's sea floor and drone surveys of its shore and dunes to map out the Sunshine Coast's shifting sands
- ✓ UniSC representatives collaborated with Sunshine Coast Council local government and other members of the local community to develop a draft of the **Sippy Downs University Town Master Plan**, which maintains shared land ecosystems and built infrastructure between Sippy Downs and UniSC Sunshine Coast



SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions



Representation

- ✓ Representation on the **University Council** from students, academic and professional staff
- ✓ A **Student Ombudsman** is in place to ensure students receive fair and equitable treatment across all aspects of the student experience, particularly regarding the resolution of grievances and complaints

Policy and reporting

- ✓ UniSC has a **Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom** governing policy
- ✓ UniSC publishes an **annual report** with financial data

Engagement

- ✓ UniSC representatives have been serving on the **Sunshine Coast 2032** community lead group to provide advice to local, regional and state government and **2032 Olympic** organisers regarding shared land and facilities that can be used for the Brisbane Olympic Games
- ✓ UniSC academics and researchers released **articles in The Conversation** around a range of issues:
 - Anti-police sentiment
 - 'Spycraft'
 - Corporate use of facial recognition software
 - Virtual child sexual abuse
 - Governmental information sharing regarding natural hazards