



The Hon. Scott Morrison, MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
Canberra ACT 2600

Cc: Mr. Philip Gaetjens
Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Dear Prime Minister,

As we start planning for Australia's recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the signatories of this letter ask that the Australian Government considers building on the achievements that Australia has made against the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and use these as a framework for policy design to ensure that we recover stronger and united to establish a better future for all.

The SDGs outline a path to 2030 that leaves no one behind, and creates a sustainable world through the development of new markets and opportunities for governments, companies, workers and communities. There is already widespread support of the SDGs across Australia, including from the business community, for the future that these global goals define. Creating a fairer, more resilient and cleaner economy does not require the reinvention of frameworks or agreements. Instead, we are in a unique position to use the SDGs as the basis for a socially just and green recovery, one that further strengthens Australia's ability to meet the SDGs.

Together the 17 goals of the SDGs provide us with an internationally agreed framework, which also works at national, regional, and local levels, alongside and reinforcing existing plans and commitments. They enable Government to work cross-departmentally and with stakeholders to create programmes and policies that are coherent with the needs of our economy, society, and environment both domestically and internationally.

We therefore recommend that the Government:

- 1. Use the SDGs to unite all sectors behind a plan to build a stronger and more resilient economy.** It is clear that many aspects of our lives will change permanently. Some industries may never be the same again. We must use this challenging situation as an opportunity to work together with our global and national partners alike, to build a stronger and more resilient economy with the SDGs at its heart.
- 2. Use the SDGs to prioritise the most vulnerable in our society and level-up regional and societal inequalities.** COVID-19 has exposed the depth of inequalities and risks exposing a larger group of people to income deprivation and its consequences. We welcome the Government's commitment to provide income relief to many Australians and urge an ongoing focus to reduce widening social inequalities. The SDGs provide a framework which can help us prioritise health and wellbeing, alongside prosperity and GDP, as a measure of the nation's success. We need to ensure that our recovery from the pandemic leaves no one behind and puts the health and wellbeing of current and future generations first.
- 3. Use the SDGs to build coherent policies for a healthy planet and to aid the transition to net zero.** We must balance social and economic needs with the needs of our planet, protecting and managing nature, and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. These goals do not have to be in conflict. The SDGs provide a way to create co-benefits on the path to net zero by 2050 and enable a framework for coordinated and holistic policy design.



We recognise that the scale of recovery will pose many challenges for the Government but the COVID-19 crisis has shown that businesses, government, and civil society can and will work together to create lasting and positive change. We believe the SDGs should be used to establish the level of ambition for Australia's pandemic-recovery and to create intergenerational value that ensures all people in our country live a good life, prospering on a healthy planet now and in the future.

We want to build a future that benefits all Australians with the Government and are ready to support you in this endeavour.

Yours faithfully,

Kylie Porter
Executive Director
Global Compact Network Australia

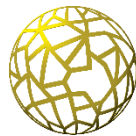


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