

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE (ESG) STATEMENT



Monash University is committed to ethical and sustainable practice, where fairness, integrity, transparency and respectfulness are core to our decision making and work. We aspire to be exemplary among universities in developing and embedding good environmental, social and governance practices across our activities worldwide.¹

We recognise that the following principles underpin this Statement:

Upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom in delivering excellent education and research in meeting the challenges of the age.

Advancing Indigenous self-determination in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and in recognition of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.²

Maintaining the trust of our community through lawful and ethical conduct in every aspect of University life.³

ENVIRONMENTAL

ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

(Carbon emissions; Climate change transition planning, incl. mitigation; Climate adaptation and resilience)

We recognise our obligation to help preserve a liveable climate by reducing emissions. We will offset our Scope 1 Australian campus emissions from 2030 until their elimination in 2040.⁴ We are committed to a transparent, accountable transition to net zero Scope 3 emissions as soon as practicable, relying on the best available science. We will encourage research, education and student and staff participation in climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience activities.

NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

(Nature, conservation and biodiversity)

We recognise that our wellbeing is inextricably bound to the health of our natural environment and Country, and that Country holds intrinsic value independent of human use. We will nurture biodiversity and embed ecological connectivity to enhance campus environments. We will empower students and staff to be co-stewards of those environments, grounding our approach in Indigenous custodianship and care for Country, enabling ecosystems to flourish alongside human activity.

ACTIVATING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

(Waste reduction, resource recovery and efficiency; Circular economy principles in operations and construction practices)

We will embed circular economy practices in our campuses, promoting efficient resource use, waste minimisation, resource recovery, and sustainable transport, building design, and procurement. We will empower students and staff to be co-creators of circular solutions across education, research, and operations.

SOCIAL

FOSTERING WELLBEING

(Health and safety; Student wellbeing, experience and support; Staff wellbeing, experience and support)

We are committed to creating inclusive and supportive environments for our communities where everyone can thrive, fostering a participatory culture of kindness and respect and safeguarding health, safety and wellbeing.

UPHOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS

(Equity, diversity and inclusion; Socially responsible procurement; Modern slavery in supply chain)

We will uphold human rights and recognise that this requires helping to redress the underlying causes of disadvantage and inequality. We will treat all members of our community with dignity and respect. Our commitment to ethical practice will extend across our operations and procurement.

SERVING COMMUNITIES

(Anchor institutions; Social cohesion)

We will contribute to the intellectual, social, cultural and economic fabric of the broader communities we serve. We will create meaningful partnerships and pathways for participation that value local knowledge and help shape thriving, inclusive communities.

GOVERNANCE

SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT

(Principles for responsible investment)

We will aim to achieve net zero emissions across our investments as soon as practicable while meeting our fiduciary responsibilities to current and future generations. We will avoid, wherever practicable, investments that are inconsistent with our values and purpose. We will demonstrate transparent governance, disclosure and accountability throughout our responsible investment transition, guided by internationally recognised standards.

RESPONSIBLE PARTNERSHIPS

(Principles for responsible partnerships)

We will establish rigorous due diligence and oversight for institutional partnerships, ensuring that our collaborations align with our values, respect Indigenous self-determination, and accord with our purpose and strategy. We will equip our people with tools and guidance to make informed, principled decisions and ensure our collaborations contribute to positive impact.

FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

(Diversity of thought; Public debate)

We recognise that open inquiry and the free exchange of ideas are fundamental to our purpose as a university. We will encourage diverse perspectives through respectful dialogue and scholarly debate, and foster the safe participation of all students, staff, and other members of our community. Our commitment extends beyond the University to encouraging and contributing to public dialogue and debate.

Plans, metrics and progress against each commitment will be made publicly available, supported by regular, transparent reporting on our performance and engagement with students and staff. We will align our approach with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring the University's performance is framed against globally recognised and comparable measures of sustainable impact. This Statement will be reviewed regularly at defined intervals (not less than yearly) to ensure its ongoing alignment with University strategy and evolving sustainability standards, practices and obligations. Implementation and review of this Statement resides with the Vice-Chancellor and President, with oversight by University Council.

NOTES

- 1 Monash University here includes the international campuses and wholly-owned entities within the Monash Group, to the extent legally applicable, practicable and relevant.
- 2 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf
- 3 References to "our community" here include students and staff as core members, as well as alumni, governing body members, visitors and emeritus and affiliate staff.
- 4 Monash eliminated Scope 2 emissions in its Australian campuses in 2025.

