

Transport  
for NSW

# Transport Sustainability Plan 2021







## Acknowledgement of Country

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters, pay our respects to Elders past and present and know that modern New South Wales is an overlay on Aboriginal land.

Many of the transport routes we use today, from rail lines, to roads, to waterways, follow songlines that Aboriginal people have followed for tens of thousands of years.

As an organisation that works across and connects many Aboriginal countries within New South Wales, we have a responsibility to listen, learn and walk alongside Aboriginal peoples to ensure our activities support their aspirations and ongoing connection to their lands, waters, cultures, languages and traditions.

We are committed to delivering positive educational, economic and social outcomes with Aboriginal peoples and meaningful engagement through our Aboriginal Engagement Framework 'Ngiyani Winangaybuwan Bunmay' (Pronunciation: gner-nee wina-nay-born buun may).



## Transport Sustainability Plan 2021

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At Transport for New South Wales, our sustainability vision is to create a NSW where every journey is people and planet positive.

Sustainability has always been part of what we do, but we are now consolidating our successes to collectively amplify our impact and bring our vision to life for our people, customers and communities.

This Sustainability Plan is designed to mainstream sustainability –making it integral to how we think and act. It’s about making sustainability simple, consistent, transparent, tangible and accessible to all. It’s about focussing our energy and resources on getting the most effective and efficient outcomes. It’s about inspiring and empowering our people and partners to continuously find innovative solutions. And it’s about promoting the world-class outcomes that we achieve, for others to share and replicate.

In ensuring that our transport network is people and planet positive, we will be environmentally and socially responsible in the way we work, embed economic sustainability in decision making and work to make sure our transport system is resilient to future shocks and stresses.

This Transport Sustainability Plan addresses a range of legislative requirements and is informed by key strategic and regulatory drivers.

# Sustainability vision

## Every journey is people and planet positive

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)

Transport Administration Act 1988 (NSW)

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)

NSW Climate Change Policy Framework

NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041

NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy 2021

NSW Government Resource Efficiency Policy 2019

NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement 2019

Transport Environment and Sustainability Policy

Transport Environment and Sustainability Management Framework

Future Transport Strategy

Future Energy Strategy

Future Energy Action Plan

Other plans, policies and legislation (see Appendix 1)



## Transport Sustainability Plan 2021

Focus areas

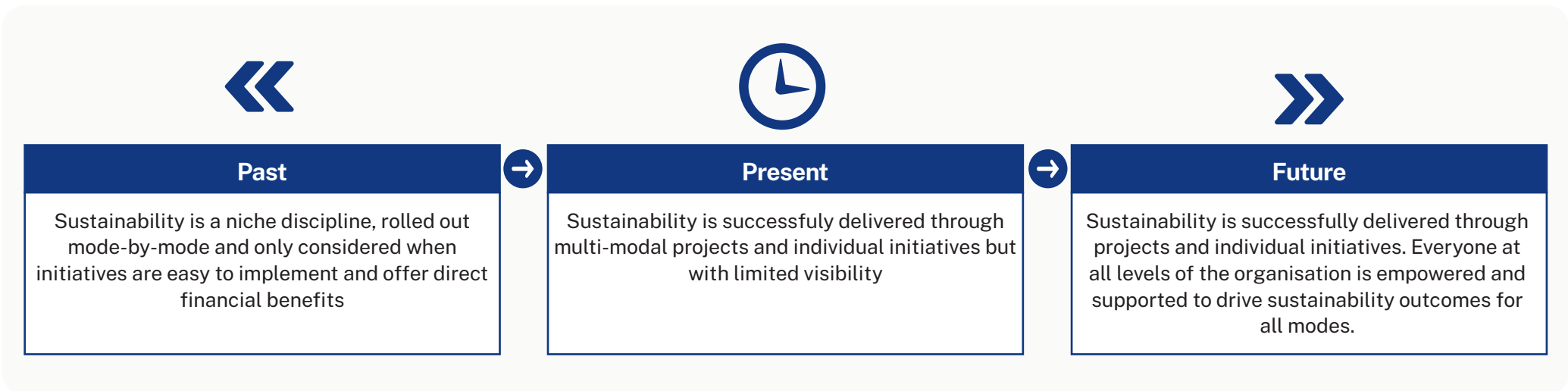
Goals

Sustainability Report

Tools and guidelines

# Integrated sustainability

Transport for NSW (Transport) has been undergoing major organisational change to become an integrated organisation that creates great places and end-to-end journeys by delivering whole of transport systems, processes, and structures for NSW. As part of that process, previously separate entities in the Transport group were brought together as one organisation. It was clear we needed a uniform approach to sustainability that was embedded across all our modes of transport.



In 2020, Transport undertook a collaborative process to bring consistency to Transport's Sustainability approach by creating a common framework for the organisation, and to define our continuous improvement journey in integrated sustainability.

This integrated, transparent and mode-agnostic approach to sustainability has led us to the development of eight focus areas, where we will concentrate our attention and resources. The eight focus areas address the most important sustainability aspects associated with the activities of Transport.

We are embedding them into our processes to ensure optimum sustainability outcomes for infrastructure, services and the communities that we serve. Each focus area is supported by sustainability goals.

# Sustainability focus areas and goals



## 1. Respond to climate change

- Net zero emissions by 2050
- Consider climate change risks in all decisions



## 2. Protect and enhance biodiversity

- No net loss of biodiversity



## 3. Improve environmental outcomes

- Develop a circular economy for Transport by designing waste and pollution out and keeping products and materials in use
- Reduce environmental impacts of projects and operations



## 4. Procure responsibly

- All suppliers meet the standards in the TfNSW Supplier Sustainability Charter
- Social and environmental outcomes included in all procurement decisions
- Go beyond minimum compliance targets in Aboriginal Procurement Policy



## 5. Partner with communities

- Always leave a positive legacy for communities as a result of projects
- Enable, apply and report on community engagement



## 6. Respect culture and heritage

- Aboriginal culture is integrated and preserved
- Acknowledging and incorporating culture through stories, examples, and best practice



## 7. Align spend and impact

- All decisions consider value created from sustainability alongside financial analysis
- Reduce whole of life costs for the transport network



## 8. Empower customers to make sustainable choices

- Use customer journeys to inform, engage and inspire more sustainable practices and demonstrate Transport's progress

# Our eight sustainability focus areas and goals

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## 1. Respond to climate change

We recognise that climate change poses significant risks to our business, infrastructure assets, and the communities that we serve. We acknowledge that the transport network makes a significant contribution to NSW's carbon emissions and aim to lead the transport industry in transitioning to a low carbon future.

We have detailed our commitment to rapidly reducing carbon emissions in the Future Energy Strategy and the Future Energy Action Plan. We will assess climate change risks to our network and design and deliver a Transport network that is resilient to sudden shocks and long term stresses, and responsive to climate change.

### Goals

- ✓ Consider climate change risks in all decisions
- ✓ Net zero emissions by 2050



## 2. Protect and enhance biodiversity

Transport is committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in all of our activities. We do this through designing our projects and activities to avoid impacts on biodiversity first, using our biodiversity management guidelines to guide mitigation, and then, if necessary, offset any unavoidable impacts. We work with our project partners to improve the environments that Transport manages and we contribute to the work of local government and communities to protect and enhance roadside reserves.

### Goals

- ✓ No net loss of biodiversity





### 3. Improve environmental outcomes

With a significant infrastructure network and project pipeline across New South Wales, we are committed to reducing the environmental impacts of our network, projects and operations. Transport's Environment and Sustainability Management Framework provides an aligned and consistent approach to meeting environmental and sustainability requirements. A suite of environmental procedures, guidelines and training materials accompany the Framework and are integrated into local management systems and contracts. These materials ensure legal requirements and stakeholder expectations are met, supporting our people and contractors to undertake our activities in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Transport manages millions of tonnes of resources on our infrastructure project sites each year and resource efficiency is critical to providing environmentally sustainable outcomes. A key part of this is the development of the circular economy, which means designing waste and pollution out, keeping products and material in use, and prioritising the use of sustainable materials.

#### Goals

- ✓ Develop a circular economy for Transport by designing waste and pollution out and keeping products and materials in use
- ✓ Reduce environmental impacts of projects and operations



#### 4. Procure responsibly

Transport purchases significant volumes of goods, services and materials. We are committed to using our purchasing power to drive sustainable and ethical supply chains that ensure economic, social and environmental benefits. This includes applying rigorous environmental and sustainability standards in tenders for the sustainable design, construction and delivery of transport infrastructure, and social procurement targets that drive employment of disadvantaged people and engagement of local businesses and disability enterprises. Transport also applies the NSW Government's Aboriginal Procurement Policy to support Aboriginal employment and investment in Aboriginal businesses. We are working to ensure that we conduct due diligence in our procurement processes and set procurement standards and targets for those we work with throughout the supply chain.

##### Goals

- ✓ All suppliers meet the standards in the Transport Supplier Sustainability Charter
- ✓ Go beyond minimum compliance targets in the Aboriginal Procurement Policy
- ✓ Social and environmental outcomes are included in all procurement decisions



#### 5. Partner with communities

Transport is committed to meaningful community collaboration and engagement to ensure we leave a positive and sustainable legacy. We want to enable local communities to articulate their concerns and actively engage with us through effective consultation and outreach. This helps us to identify the needs of the community and to deliver integrated place-based designs and investment that creates vibrant, strong and socially connected communities with improved quality of life, health, economic and social wellbeing. Ultimately this will ensure Transport and the communities we operate within align on our objectives and create a more sustainable New South Wales.

##### Goals

- ✓ Always leave a positive legacy for communities as a result of projects
- ✓ Enable, apply and report on community engagement projects



## 6. Respect culture and heritage

Transport is committed to the preservation of First Nations culture throughout projects and across the operation of our network by ensuring that Aboriginal cultural and spiritual connections to the land, waters and seas is honoured and respected. Transport has a detailed Reconciliation Action Plan and a dedicated Aboriginal Engagement Team. We are committed to a genuine and sustainable contribution to reconciliation both within Transport and NSW communities and will partner with Aboriginal people and communities in our projects to ensure sustainable co-design and designing with country.

Where the construction of new infrastructure has the potential to impact on the historic environment either directly or indirectly, Transport prioritises avoiding impacts where possible. When addressing unavoidable impacts we aim to mitigate impacts on affected heritage values and to positively balance our heritage and cultural legacies and our activities.

### Goals

- ✓ Aboriginal culture is acknowledged, integrated and preserved
- ✓ Acknowledging and incorporating culture through stories, examples, and best practice



## 7. Align spend and impact

Transport is making decisions that look beyond cost to ensure we are getting the best outcomes for the people of New South Wales. We will prioritise our expenditure on reducing overall life-cycle impacts from development, procurement, design, construction, operation, maintenance, refurbishment and recycling of assets, including the consequences for environment, society and health. Value-for-money maximises social, economic and environmental benefits for the whole community, and is not focused only on price. In taking this approach, we will ensure that the value of the natural environment is included in all transport network decisions.

### Goals

- ✓ All decisions consider value created from sustainability alongside financial analysis
- ✓ Reduce whole of life costs for the transport network



## 8. Empower customers to make sustainable choices

We want to accommodate future growth and changes in the transport network by utilising advances in technology to enhance the way customers understand, use and access services. Transport for NSW is committed to promoting healthy, vibrant, diverse and thriving communities, where walking, cycling and public transport are the preferred modes of sustainable transport. Encouraging people to reduce their private car use by choosing alternative transport options will drive greater sustainability outcomes as well as providing the additional benefit of improving safety outcomes on our roads. We will communicate these benefits to our customers to inspire them to make more sustainable changes in their own lives. By empowering our customers to make informed and sustainable decisions about transport mode usage, we will create a more sustainable New South Wales.

### Goals

- ✓ Use customer journeys to inform, engage and inspire more sustainable practices and demonstrate Transport's progress



# Alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 and include 17 goals and 169 targets that act as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Each of the UN SDGs are considered equally important. The 17 goals are integrated, recognising that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

We recognise that we have a key role in addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and, through this Sustainability Plan, have aligned how the 17 UN SDGs are relevant to our organisation.





# Key sustainability initiatives

## Pathway to net zero and green transport

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### We will reduce up to 90% of carbon emissions from public transport operations

Transport's pathway to net zero is described in the Future Energy Strategy and Future Energy Action Plan.

We will reduce up to 90% of carbon emissions from public transport operations by:

- Switching to net zero electricity for trains (about 45% of Transport Cluster emissions) by 2025
- Transitioning the NSW Bus Fleet to Zero Emissions buses powered by net zero energy (about 45% of Transport Cluster emissions), which will also improve air quality and reduce noise.

During 2021/22 we will develop a greenhouse gas and energy tracking system for Transport with the aim of accurately identifying the source of the remaining 10% of emissions associated with our public transport operations, and identifying strategies to reduce those emissions.

We will lead the transformation of the transport sector to net zero emissions.

#### **Actions**

We will:

- Support the NSW Electric Vehicle (EV) strategy by enabling rebates, the phased removal of stamp duty for EVs, and the use of transit lanes for EVs
- Work with DPIE to build a world-class electric vehicle charging network in Greater Sydney and regional NSW
- Work with heavy and light freight operators and industry to identify opportunities to transition to net zero for last mile delivery
- Transport will achieve 50% EV procurement for its passenger vehicle fleet by 2026.



# Key sustainability initiatives

## Implementing a circular economy

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A circular economy values resources by keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible. Maximising the use and value of resources brings major economic, social and environmental benefits. It contributes to innovation, growth and job creation, while reducing our impact on the environment.

Transport's pathway to a circular economy is driven by the NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement. We will embed circular economy consideration in decision making by:

- Strengthening the current procurement processes for recycled materials
- Leveraging our purchasing power to enhance markets for recycled materials and the associated supply chain, and to incentivise innovation in sustainable resources
- Embedding sustainable practices throughout the project life-cycle to design out waste and pollution
- Fostering behaviour change through education and engagement.

### Actions

We will:

- Align our Sustainability templates to our eight Sustainability focus areas and embed circular economy principles
- Implement Baseline Sustainability Requirements with consistent targets for recycled content and waste
- Score commitments which exceed the Baseline Sustainability Requirements in the tender assessment process to encourage innovation and enhanced performance
- Update our procurement processes to require Tenderers to submit a sustainability management plan prior to contract award
- Introduce incentive payments for exceeding sustainability commitments in targeted contracts
- Consider contractors' sustainability performance in future tender assessments
- Strengthen collaborations with councils and associations
- Continue research into technical specifications for the use of recycled content in transport infrastructure
- Continue the uptake of Environmental Product Declarations for products used
- Investigate the potential for a Material Passport Database (MPD) which will enable Transport assets to act as Material Banks for future projects and to help calculate embodied greenhouse emissions
- Capture wider benefits of sustainability by embedding socio-economic externalities into decision making.

## Key sustainability initiatives

# Sustainability reporting and data

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## Sustainability reporting is key to becoming a sustainable organisation

Sustainability reporting is key to becoming a sustainable organisation. In coming together as one organisation, reporting systems and practices need to be merged across the delivery of road, maritime, rail, light rail, and maintenance projects. We need to establish the systems and processes required for consistent Transport wide reporting on waste, water, biodiversity, resources, energy and emissions, and environmental compliance.

During 2021/22 we will release our first Transport Sustainability Report, which will provide an overview of our progress in achieving sustainability across all focus areas. The report will highlight Transport's sustainability-related impacts and achievements between July 1 2020 and June 30 2021 and provide insights into Transport's extensive network, projects and organisation-wide sustainability activities and initiatives.

Transport is committed to reporting on sustainability on an annual basis. In developing the first report, data gaps and opportunities for improvement have been identified which will help develop a more robust and consistent reporting process and methodology.

### **Actions**

We will:

- Publish a Sustainability Report through an interactive portal on our website
- Establish systems and processes, including centralised data collection for consistent Transport wide sustainability reporting
- Undertake annual reporting to meet NSW Government Resource Efficiency Policy and other policies, as required
- Share sustainability learnings in the transport sector, where appropriate
- Use innovative technology to improve access to our environmental and sustainability information for the community and stakeholders.

# Key sustainability initiatives

## Engaging and empowering our people

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Supporting our people in making sustainable decisions requires baseline knowledge of the eight sustainable focus areas and an understanding of the value and importance of sustainability.

We will encourage our people to make decisions that appropriately balance environmental, social and economic outcomes by considering relevant issues such as:



Impact on the delivery of other organisational priorities



Work health and safety



Managing projects in remote locations



Benefits to the community



Impact on employees and external resources



Impact on infrastructure delivery schedules

### Actions

We will:

- Develop a series of sustainability training modules and harmonised sustainability metrics to mainstream sustainability across Transport
- Benchmark our sustainability culture and set targets for future organisational improvement
- Develop integrated mode-agnostic sustainability tools for all areas of Transport
- Empower our people to identify sustainability innovations through our Transport Bright Ideas program and feedback mechanisms on the Sustainability Portal.



## Key sustainability initiatives

# Continuous improvement and ambition

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Achieving the actions and goals outlined in this plan will result in significant positive outcomes for Transport and for the people of NSW. However, our sustainability outcomes and ambition are not limited to the contents of this plan. Transport will continuously set ourselves more and more ambitious sustainability goals and targets, even as we approach success on previous ambitions.

Transport will continue to research, innovate and collaborate to ensure that we are at the forefront of emerging science, technology and transformation.

### **Actions**

We will:

- Collaborate with and build relationships with other agencies and industry to leverage best practice sustainability outcomes
- Promote the world-class outcomes that we achieve, for others to share and replicate
- Review peer-reviewed science and cutting-edge research into emerging technologies and sustainable design, and apply an evidence-based lens to decision-making in sustainability.



# Strategic and regulatory drivers

## Appendix 1

| Drivers  |  |
|--|--|
| Key legislation  | International agreements   |
| <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)</i>    | United Nations Sustainable Development Goals   |
| <i>Transport Administration Act 1988 (NSW)</i>                 | Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015          |
| <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)</i> | <b>Other plans, policies and legislation</b>   |
| <b>Transport for NSW policies and plans</b>                    | <i>Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)</i>   |
| Transport for NSW Environment and Sustainability Policy        | <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)</i>  |
| Future Transport 2056  | NSW Climate Change Policy Framework 2016   |
| Transport Environment and Sustainability Management Framework  | NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041  |
| Future Energy Strategy and Future Energy Action Plan           | NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy (2021)   |
| Transport for NSW 2018 NSW Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2023    | NSW Government Resource Efficiency Policy 2019   |
| Transport for NSW 2019 NSW Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Plan    | NSW Aboriginal Procurement Policy 2021   |
| Aboriginal Engagement Framework - Ngiyani Winangaybuwan Bunmay | Greater Sydney Commission 2018 The Greater Sydney Region Plan A Metropolis of Three Cities |
| Transport Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2019-2021           | Infrastructure NSW Gateway Review Process  |
|  | NSW Treasury Gateway Review System   |
|  | NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement 2019   |

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