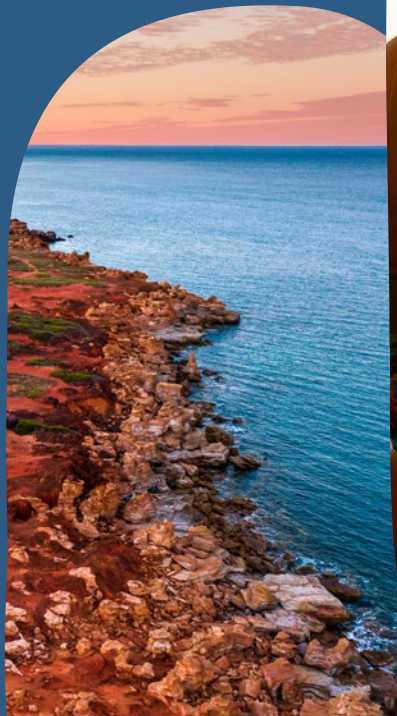




Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities

Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy 2024-2027



Acknowledgement of Country



Department of Communities (Communities) acknowledges traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters, and community.

We pay our respects to all members of WA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

We commit to the responsibilities that Communities has in working with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to Close the Gap.





About this document



This document outlines the Department of Communities' (Communities) Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy 2024-2027 (the Strategy).

The United Nations Brundtland Commission defines sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Climate action and sustainability are about more than protecting the environment. They are also about supporting sustainable and resilient communities, and ensuring that every individual has access to the resources they need.

Social and environmental issues are deeply interconnected. We must therefore work holistically, to together create a truly sustainable and equitable future.

The Strategy identifies nine focus areas relating to **climate, community, and governance**. For each focus area we have identified two to four targets or strategic directions that will guide our work and ensure we achieve our goals. Each focus area has been aligned with the

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Western Australian Climate Policy and the forthcoming Western Australian Climate Change Act to ensure we are contributing to global efforts to tackle climate change and social inequality. This is an evolving space and our targets will update as required.

In the final pages of the Strategy there is a table, which lists each target in detail, along with its links to existing state and national policy, the organisations we are collaborating with, and our proposed first steps.

We all have a role to play in ensuring that we make a positive impact and that our actions are sustainable. We encourage our people, partners, and customers to contribute, collaborate, challenge, and push us to be more ambitious.

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A message from our Director General



It is with great pleasure that I release the Department of Communities' (Communities) first Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy 2024-2027 (the Strategy). Social and environmental issues are deeply interconnected, and the Strategy is a reflection of our holistic approach across environmental, social and governance issues. By identifying the ways in which we can have the greatest positive impact, the Strategy will enable Communities to accelerate the transition to a climate positive future, while building safe and inclusive teams and communities.

The firsthand impacts of climate change are being felt worldwide, and the South West of Western Australia is experiencing some of the most dramatic changes. Communities plays a significant role in the Government of Western Australia's climate adaptation and mitigation response.

Communities delivers vital human services across WA through people, place, and home. Through our eleven portfolios and the strategic priorities of the Western Australian Government, the Department of Communities delivers:

- services to keep children safe
- social and public housing
- community services, including in emergencies

- strategies to address homelessness
- programs to prevent family and domestic violence
- stewardship for disability services
- advocacy for women's interests, youth, seniors and ageing, carers, and volunteering.

We need to undertake all these tasks in a manner that carefully considers our impacts on the natural environment, whether we are improving social outcomes for the people we serve and supply, or assets that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The Western Australian Government is committed to adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing emissions from state government operations. The Western Australian Climate Policy (the policy), released in 2020, has a target of net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050, while a whole of Government target of 80% emissions reduction by 2030 has also been set.

Communities is taking a proactive approach to achieve the commitments of the policy through both our operations and assets. This includes a focus on climate action; energy; water; resilience and adaptation and waste and circularity.

* Includes office accommodation, crisis accommodation, community facilities and other end uses.

The Strategy outlines our commitment through a range of actions including:

- meeting the Government of Western Australia's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets
- collaborating with industry and academia to research and construct net-zero, resilient and liveable dwellings
- ensuring that all our new buildings* we construct from 2025 are all-electric and energy efficient.

The Strategy will not only guide Communities in contributing to the Government of Western Australia's climate adaptation and mitigation measures, it will continue our vital work in making a positive difference to the lives of the Western Australians we serve.

 **Mike Rowe,**
Director General

“The Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy sets out our commitment to the natural environment as we deliver our vital services enabling individual, family, and community wellbeing.”



Creating resilient communities and better lives as part of a climate positive future



Communities brings together vital services and functions that enable individual, family, and community wellbeing. We are committed to building better lives together through people, place, and home.

We want to ensure that our operations and assets are sustainable, resilient to the predicted impacts of climate change, and improve liveability and affordability for the people and communities we serve.

The Strategy sets out our ambition and identifies the targets that will guide our work. The environment and our communities are always evolving, and for this reason, we believe it is important for our Strategy to continually be revised and improved in response to the changing landscape.

Western Australia is experiencing some of the most dramatic climate changes in the world. We are seeing

higher average temperatures, a steady decline in rainfall in the South West, and changing weather patterns.

More extreme weather events, such as cyclones, heat waves, fires, floods, and droughts are expected to impact our communities. These changes can cause biodiversity loss, damage people's homes and the buildings we use for work and leisure, impact our health and wellbeing, and place pressure on essential services and infrastructure.

Communities plays a proactive role in working with WA's most disadvantaged people. There is a direct relationship between climate change and social inequality, and many of those we serve are likely to be disproportionately affected.

The scale and breadth of our services creates a huge opportunity to address these challenges. We strive to support vibrant, liveable, safe, and fair communities, which goes hand-in-hand with operating sustainably and building for a climate resilient future.

The Western Australian Government has outlined its commitment to adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change and has set a target to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 as per the WA Climate Policy.

Communities has an active role to play in achieving this ambition. We are taking action to address the impacts of climate change, and adapting our operations and assets to become more sustainable. We aim to meet or exceed the WA Government's commitments to greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

While this is the first time we have summarised our intentions and actions into a single strategy, we have been actively addressing climate change risk and supporting our communities through our work for some time. Highlights include:

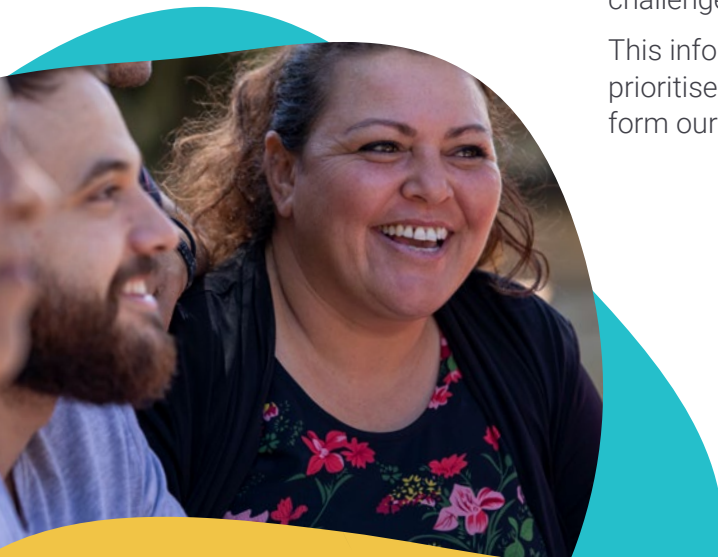
- public housing designed to NatHERS 7-star standards since August 2022
- commitment to build public housing to Liveable Housing Australia Silver Standards where practical since 2018
- public housing properties being constructed with Waterwise fixtures and fittings since 2021
- Communities' fleet being upgraded to include electric vehicles
- active research of sustainable and net-zero housing construction, waste reduction, and recycling
- new, sustainable offices in Boorloo (Perth) and Walyalup (Fremantle), with minimum 4-star NABERS

- rating, paper-lite operations, waste recycling, fleet charging stations
- 500 PV systems being installed on public housing properties, through the Smart Energy for Social Housing program
- implementing WA Government policy that supports action against climate change and social inequality.

We believe that Communities can and must make an important contribution to WA's efforts to address climate change and support our diverse communities. We are proud to have a passionate and engaged team of people, as well as a coalition of vital partner organisations that are striving to create change and build a better future. We each have a role to play in delivering the Strategy and achieving our goals. Only by working together can we make a difference.



We listened and collaborated to design a strategy that serves our people and our communities



What we did

To develop the Strategy we undertook a detailed analysis, beginning with external benchmarking against global standards, as well as other government departments.

From the outset we were committed to genuine engagement and co-design process with our people and partners who see and experience the impacts of climate change and social inequality first hand.

We asked all staff to complete a survey, seeking their views, and conducted 39 in-depth interviews with internal and external stakeholders to understand our risks and opportunities. We also held workshops to generate new ideas and challenge our thinking.

This information was used to prioritise our final focus areas and form our Strategy.

What we found

One hundred per cent of external stakeholders and 92% of our people rated involvement in sustainability as critical or very important, signaling the urgency for action. A number of key themes emerged including:

- the strong link between climate change and community wellbeing
- the huge opportunity to address the impacts of climate change and emissions by ensuring housing stock is resilient, sustainable, and energy and water-efficient
- the need and desire to listen and work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to continue delivering equitable services that create opportunities
- that diversity, equity, and inclusion must guide how we care for our people and serve our unique, vibrant communities
- the need for strong governance.

These themes are reflected throughout the Strategy and will continue to guide our progress.

What next?

The Strategy is designed to be a live and ever-evolving document, reflecting the diverse needs of our people and communities, responding to our changing environment, and always guided by the latest science. It will also respond to changing government commitments and legislation as they are released.

Just as our people, partners, and customers were a critical part of the design process, they will also play an important and ongoing role in driving the Strategy forward and helping us to achieve our goals.

Throughout this document you will find strategic targets that set out our intentions and our proposed first steps. We are committed to tangible action and holding ourselves accountable through regular monitoring, reporting, and ongoing engagement and will review and revise key actions as required.

Our Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy



Energy

Improve energy efficiency and switch to renewables. Support our tenants to do the same to reduce their energy bills.

Resilience and Adaptation

Minimise climate-related risks to our communities and the Department.

Water

Improve water efficiency in our offices and tenant housing, and support our team and tenants to be Waterwise.

Waste and Circularity

Reduce waste to landfill by minimising generation, and increasing re-use and recycling.

Closing the Gap

Empower self-determination, and provide fair, equitable and culturally appropriate opportunities and housing.

Safety and Wellbeing

Support the health, safety and wellbeing of people across our Department and communities.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Provide equitable opportunities and accessible, inclusive environments for our diverse team and communities.

Governance and Transparency

Act with integrity, promote shared accountability, and transparently report on environmental and social outcomes

Legislative/Policy Environment

Energy

Federal

Government of Australia Climate Change Act
Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings

State

Western Australian Climate Policy
Western Australian Climate Change Bill
Sectoral Emissions Reduction Strategy
Emissions Reduction Framework (draft)

Resilience and Adaptation

State

Climate Adaptation Strategy
Climate Change Risk Management Framework

Water

State

Kep Katitjin-Gabi Kaadadjan
(Waterwise 2)

Waste and Circularity

State

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy

International

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
Conference of the Parties 21 Paris 2015
Conference of the Parties 15 Kunming-Montreal
Global Biodiversity Framework

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Closing the Gap

Federal

National Agreement on Closing the Gap
Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Strategy 2022-2032

State

Safety and Wellbeing

Federal

Model Work Health and Safety Act
Work Health and Safety Act

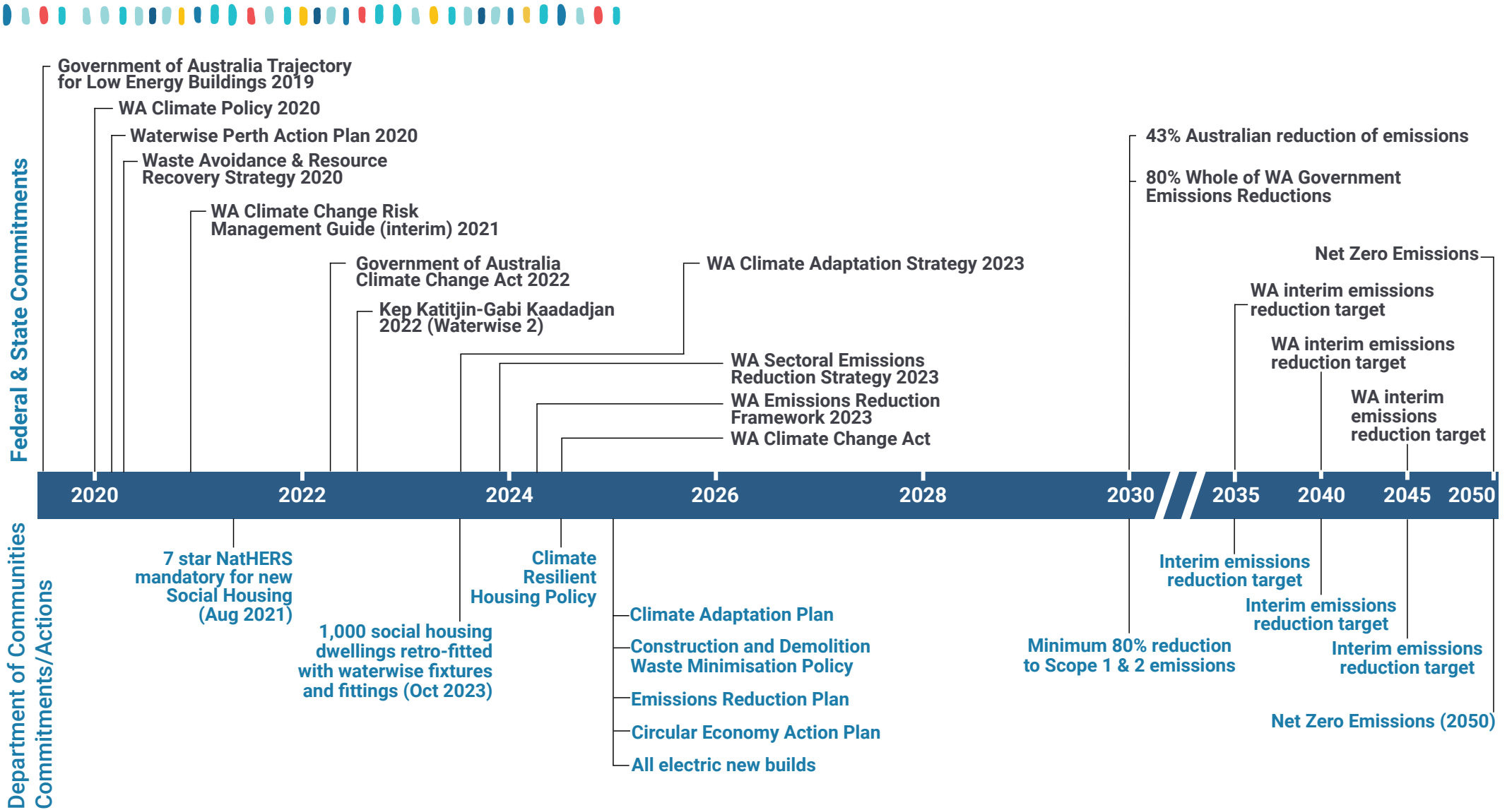
State

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Federal

Equal Opportunity Act
Equal Opportunity Act
State Disability Strategy
WA Strategy to Respond to the Abuse of Older People 2019-2029
At Risk Youth Strategy Beyond 2020
All Paths Lead to Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030

Climate Action Timeline



This timeline shows where we are in our journey. In the short term, we expect the Western Australian Climate Change Act to come in to the operating environment and the release of the Sectoral Emissions Reduction Strategy. Communities plans to respond to these as outlined in these actions.

Climate Action

(CA)



Climate change is impacting the people and communities we serve, especially the most disadvantaged. It can be harmful to health and wellbeing, damage homes, and places increased pressure on essential services. We are playing our part to accelerate the transition to a resilient, climate-positive future and contributing to global and national net-zero ambitions.

We commit to:

- **CA1, Strategic Direction:** Collaborate with industry and academia by 2030, to research how best to construct net-zero, resilient and liveable dwellings, that reduce utility bills and promote tenant wellbeing.
- **CA2, Target:** Audit work environments by 2026 to determine how best to mitigate the impacts of climate change, including minimising health risks to employees.
- **CA3, Target:** Develop an emission reduction target and implementation plan by 2025 in line with the Government of Western Australia's Sectoral Emissions Reduction Strategy to meet the targets set by the Western Australian Climate Policy and draft Climate Change Act.

Supporting these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



We will meet the State Government's target of an 80% reduction to whole of government emissions for scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030, while recognising the challenges in the availability of electric vehicles in regional and remote areas of the State.

What are scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions?

Scope 1 emissions are the direct emissions from sources Communities owns, such as fuel for our owned vehicle fleet or the natural gas in our owned buildings.

Scope 2 emissions are the indirect emissions from the energy we purchase, like to power our offices.

Scope 3 emissions are the indirect emissions that occur in our value chain, and are not produced by Communities itself. This includes waste, water, tenant gas and electricity, travel and any goods and services we purchase such as office equipment.

Contributing to global goals by aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. Together they form a global plan to end poverty, protect the planet, and improve the lives and opportunities of everyone.

Governments, businesses, and organisations worldwide have signed up to the SDGs and committed to delivering them by 2030.

Aligning our work to the SDG framework means we can measure and track our progress and be confident that we are contributing to international efforts to stop climate change and create global equality.

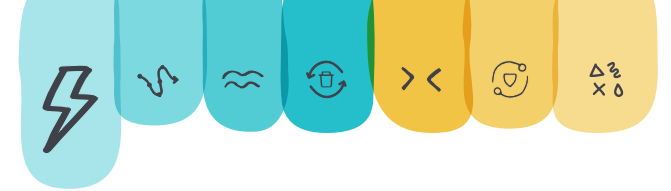
Western Australian Climate Policy Actions

- Aiming to achieve a 7-Star NatHERS rating for new single and grouped dwellings constructed under the Housing Stimulus Package.
- Improving energy and water efficiency of 1,500 existing dwellings being refurbished.
- Delivering rooftop solar systems to approximately 500 social housing dwellings.



Successful outcomes

- As of October 2023, 864 public housing dwellings have achieved a 7 star or higher NatHERS rating.
- Energy and water efficient fixtures and fittings now mandatory in refurbishments.
- As of October 2023, rooftop solar systems have been installed to 281 social housing dwellings.



Energy

(E)



By reducing energy use and switching to renewables, we can support our tenants to access energy that is sustainable and affordable.

We commit to:

- **E1, Target:** Ensuring that all new buildings we construct from 2025 are all-electric and energy efficient.**
- **E2, Target:** Replacing existing fixtures and fittings with efficient electric options at the end of useful life, aiming for all-electric appliances, fixtures and fittings across all buildings owned by Department of Communities by 2040.
- **E3, Strategic Direction:** Research opportunities for offices and facilities to be more energy efficient and renewable-powered by 2030.

*Source:

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, Australian Energy Statistics, Table O, April 2022 (Table O5.1)

** If the locality of the new construction cannot support additional electrical load to the local grid and renewable energy supplies and batteries cannot provide a viable solution, then gas fittings may be considered. The power supplier (Horizon Power or Synergy) must confirm that this is the case before proceeding.

Supporting these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



Benefits of all-electric homes

As WA decarbonises its electricity supply the health and cost benefits of using energy efficient electric appliances in buildings greatly increases.

Heat pump hot water systems are over four times more efficient than storage or instantaneous hot water systems, while reverse-cycle split system air conditioners are the most energy efficient space heating and cooling options for houses.



Kep Katitjin-Gabi Kaadadjan

The Waterwise Perth Action Plan 2 aims to grow waterwise communities in Boorloo (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) to address climate change.

Communities is actioning the following actions under the Plan:

No. 4 – Retrofit of Department of Communities public housing to water-efficient fixtures and fittings and empower tenants to be waterwise.

No. 26 – Deliver Boorloo and Bindjareb’s transition to a waterwise community, by undertaking science research and adoption priorities through a dedicated Western Australian hub of Water Sensitive Cities Australia.

No. 34 – Embed waterwise outcomes in government-led urban development in Boorloo and Bindjareb.

No. 35 – Showcase waterwise developments to evaluate, share and inspire adoption in the private sector.

Water

(W)



Water is a precious and increasingly scarce resource. We aim to improve water efficiency in our offices and tenant housing, and support our team and tenants to be waterwise.

We commit to:

- **W1, Target:** Collaborate with Water Corporation to ensure that by 2035, no public housing tenant’s water bills are adversely impacted by inefficient water fixtures and fittings, while ensuring that all new buildings meet Waterwise criteria.
- **W2, Target:** Provide educational materials to all tenants and relevant staff, to promote behavioural change to reduce water consumption by 2024.
- **W3, Target:** Incorporate Waterwise-equivalent fixture and fittings replacements into maintenance and refurbishment processes of all Department of Communities assets by 2025.



Supporting these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



Our successes

To date, Action No. 4 under Kep Katitjin-Gabi Kaadadjan has seen approximately 1,000 homes retrofitted with waterwise fixtures and fittings, resulting in 407 million litres of water saved, while reducing our tenants’ bills by an average of \$250 per annum per household.

Under Action 35, our Common Ground homeless accommodation project has been designed to meet waterwise standards and Green Star Building water efficiency requirements.

Resilience and Adaptation

(R&A)

While everyone will be affected by climate change, some populations are more vulnerable to negative health impacts. A range of factors contribute to a person's climate vulnerability, including their age, level of wealth, access to services, and the state of their local infrastructure and surrounding environment.

Vulnerability is not static, and changes over time. However, certain groups in WA have been identified as particularly vulnerable, including those with pre-existing medical conditions and disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and outdoor workers, among others.*

We are planning for a resilient future, by supporting our communities to minimise the risks and mitigate the impacts of climate change. In some cases the Communities may be required to lead this process, in others another agency or group will lead.

We commit to:

- **R&A1, Target:** Collaborate across government, the not-for-profit sector and industry to investigate opportunities to develop a community resilience plan framework to support communities to develop adaptation and mitigation measures and responses to climate change and other disaster events.
- **R&A2, Target:** Implement the WA State Climate Change Risk Management Framework into business procedures by 2024, outlining climate change risk mitigation and adaptation measures for assets.
- **R&A3, Target:** Leverage the Remote Communities Fund to support more sustainable and resilient dwellings in remote communities.
- **R&A4, Target:** Prepare a Climate Adaptation Plan for Department of Communities' assets to meet the requirements of the Western Australian Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Department of Communities Landscape Design Brief

Communities is committed to achieving good landscape design through maximising opportunities for physical and visual connection to landscape, recognising that engagement with landscape is essential to our health and wellbeing.

We are preparing a landscape design brief that promotes sustainable practices that encourages preservation of local vegetation and landscape features. The brief will facilitate the creation of resilient environments that increase biodiversity in urban areas while reducing the heat island effect.

Supporting these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



*Source

<https://www.health.wa.gov.au/-/media/Corp/Documents/Improving-health/Climate-health/Climate-Health-WA-Inquiry-Final-Report.pdf>



Western Australian Climate Adaptation Strategy

The strategy has the objective of "building a more resilient WA" and aims to implement adaptation measures to mitigate the known and predicted impacts of climate change.

Action 35 in the Climate Adaptation Strategy required the Department of Communities to deliver the Remote Communities Fund to support improved and more climate resilience and co-designed sustainable and culturally appropriate housing in remote communities.

Waste and Circularity

(W&C)



In 2021, 2.5 million tonnes* of waste went to landfill in WA. In a circular economy, this waste has value and is repaired and recycled so it can remain in use. We will increase retrofitting, reuse, and recycling to minimise the waste that goes to landfill from our operations and construction.

We commit to:

- **W&C1, Strategic Direction:** Continue to meet our commitments under the State Government's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy.
- **W&C2, Strategic Direction:** Continue to collaborate with industry and research partners such as Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre to develop a waste and circularity strategy for construction, refurbishment and demolition projects and incorporate waste minimisation practices and procedures into the revised Head Maintenance Contract.
- **W&C3, Target:** Reduce waste to landfill in all offices across WA by 80% by 2030, in line with State policy, where recycling facilities are present.

Supporting these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



Our successes

Since 2021, our building partners have been required to follow the Waste Authority/Master Builders Association WA's Smart Waste Guidelines to minimise waste during construction.

During *Sustainable July 2023*, a 387 kilogram reduction of waste was achieved at our Wayalup (Fremantle) office.

*Source

https://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/images/resources/files/2022/08/Waste_and_recycling_in_Western_Australia_2020-21.pdf

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy Action 3.9

To improve the uptake of recovered material the Department of Communities will:

- collaborate with research institutions and industry to identify reliable supply chains for products with recycled construction and demolition waste content and establish targets for recycled material content in construction projects
- assess opportunities to include a weighting or pricing benefit for tenderers incorporating recycled material content and/or waste minimisation strategies in construction projects
- undertake an analysis of the Maintenance Technical Specifications to identify opportunities of reducing waste from maintenance and refurbishment activities.



Communities



Build safe and inclusive teams and communities

In serving the varied and vibrant communities of WA, one size does not fit all. So we listen to diverse voices and strive to offer inclusive services, equitable opportunities, and healthy, safe spaces for all.

This includes providing culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, healthy and climate-resilient housing, and accessible essential services.

Taking care of communities also includes facilitating a culture of wellbeing, equity and inclusion within our own organisation.



Closing the Gap

(CG)



We are committed to delivering the National Agreement on Closing the Gap by providing equitable and culturally appropriate opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and effective solutions for housing and essential services. We are listening and acknowledge that the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be central to the decisions and actions we take.

We commit to:

- **CG1, Strategic Direction:** Work collaboratively with other government departments, and in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities across WA, to deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-led outcomes on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap that provide culturally responsive, local solutions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- **CG2, Target:** Strengthen the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities in co-designing and delivering place-based approaches to the supply of culturally appropriate, quality housing to remote communities by 2025, in order to better meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

- **CG3, Strategic Direction:** Continue to improve the cultural capability of our workplace by embedding a cultural narrative into new office fit-outs and refurbishments. This will create a culturally safe environment, which promotes knowledge and respect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' communities and cultures, and the skills and attitudes to work effectively with them.

Supporting these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



Delivering on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap

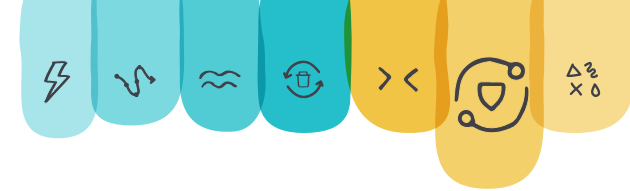
The National Agreement on Closing the Gap is about making sure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the opportunity to achieve life outcomes equal to all Australians. A key priority is transforming government organisations like ours, to create equitable solutions that support people's needs and aspirations.

Supporting The Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Empowerment Strategy sets out how the Western Australian Government will work towards a future in which all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are empowered to choose their own futures from a secure foundation.

Our strategic focus on Closing the Gap supports the four key priority reform areas:

1. formal partnerships and shared decision making
2. building the community-controlled sector
3. transforming government organisations
4. shared access to data and information at a regional level.



Safety and Wellbeing

(S&W)



The places where we live and work have a significant impact on our health and wellbeing. We provide safe, secure, and positive living environments for the communities we serve, and healthy work environments for our people. We are taking action to mitigate climate change, while also adapting to its effects, by creating cool, resilient, safe, and efficient spaces.

We commit to:

- **S&W1, Target:** Continue to investigate ways to develop homes that support health and wellbeing of occupants through a range of measures.
- **S&W2, Target:** Continue to provide working environments that are safe and healthy for staff, through our Health and Safety Team, Employee Assistance Program and the Asset Compliance and Advisory Group, which monitors and oversees safety compliance for issues such as asbestos management, electrical safety devices and fire safety.

Supporting these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

Heat and Homes

Communities is collaborating with the Western Australian Council of Social Services, (WACOSS) Department of Health, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and others to support the preparation of the WACOSS Heat and Vulnerability Mapping Project.

This project aims to map regions across WA impacted by high heat against vulnerable populations affected by heat events. Targeted strategies and actions will then be developed and resources identified to enable communities to better prepare for high-heat related events to mitigate negative consequences to people's health and wellbeing.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

(DE&I)

We are lucky to serve the diverse and vibrant communities of Western Australia, with people of different ages, genders, abilities, backgrounds and beliefs. Due to this diversity we strive to offer secure, safe and inclusive services for our communities, and a workplace where everyone belongs.

We commit to:

- **DE&I1, Strategic Direction:** Continue to improve services and facilities for those who are homeless, elderly, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, gender diverse, experiencing family and domestic violence, or identify as living with a disability.
- **DE&I2, Target:** Complete or contract an additional 4,000 dwellings to our public housing portfolio by 2027, to provide safe and secure housing for disadvantaged Western Australians.
- **DE&I3, Target:** Ensure all social housing dwellings constructed by the Communities are built to a minimum Liveable Silver Housing Design standard where site conditions permit.

- **DE&I4, Strategic Direction:** Continue to provide a safe and secure environment for all our staff, by promoting inclusivity and ensuring that no staff member is restricted in achieving their goals based on cultural background, gender identity, religion, age, or ability.

Supporting these United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



Creating accessible homes through the Silver Liveable Housing Design standard*

Liveable Housing Australia has created a set of design guidelines that ensure homes are accessible, flexible, and adaptable. It aims to reduce or avoid costs associated with retrofitting a home to improve access in the future.

For us this means protecting the safety, security, and wellbeing of tenants by ensuring public housing can easily be adapted as needs change, perhaps due to a growing family, ageing, or changes in ability.

*Source

<https://liveablehousingaustralia.org.au/lha-silver/>

Governance

(G)

We are committed to delivering positive social and environmental action, but we recognise that commitments alone are not enough. Our plan must be underpinned by good governance, measurable targets, and reporting to track our progress.

We commit to:

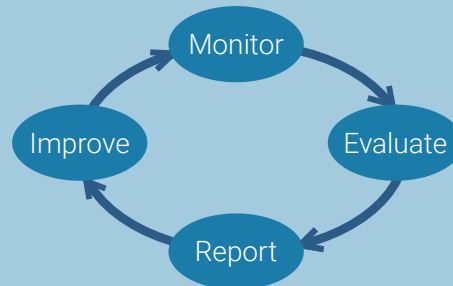
- **G1, Target:** Create a tracked register of projects and programs that achieve Environmental, Social, and Governance outcomes. These will be included in our Annual Report by 2024. The register will identify, where appropriate, which of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal targets are being met.
- **G2, Target:** Undertake a climate change risk assessment on all infrastructure projects over \$2 million at project inception phase and include the assessment results in business case preparation by 2024.
- **G3, Target:** Establish an agreed set of sustainability rating tools, recognised either nationally and/or internationally to apply to each infrastructure project by 2024.

Supporting United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



MERI

Communities will establish an annual review process to monitor, evaluate, report and develop improvement actions where required on the targets and strategic directions identified in the Strategy.



Governance Structure for Reporting on Climate Action and Sustainability

Government of Australia
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Government of Western Australia
Ministerial Taskforce on Climate Action and Environment

Portfolio Oversight Group on Climate Action and Environment

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Senior Officers Group on Climate Action and Environment

Department of Communities

Director General

Communities Leadership Team

Deputy Director General Housing and Homelessness

Chief Sustainability Officer
Aboriginal Outcomes
Construction
Maintenance
Service Delivery
People Division
Finance Division

Climate Action and Sustainability Working Group

Mapping our targets against state and national priorities and making them a reality

	Targets and strategic directions	Existing commitments	External collaborators	Proposed first steps
Climate Action (CA)	<p>CA1, Strategic Direction: Collaborate with industry and academia by 2030, to research how best to construct net-zero, resilient and liveable dwellings, that reduce utility bills and promote tenant wellbeing.</p>	<p>Federal: 43% emissions reduction by 2030, net-zero by 2050</p> <p>State: 80% whole of government emissions reduction by 2030, net-zero by 2050</p> <p>Western Australian Climate Policy (DWER), Draft Sectoral Emissions Reduction Plan (DWER), Climate Adaptation Strategy (DWER)</p>	<p>Department of Premier and Cabinet</p> <p>Department of Water and Environmental Regulation</p> <p>Department of Planning Lands and Heritage</p> <p>Energy Policy WA</p> <p>Water Corporation</p> <p>Synergy</p> <p>Horizon Power</p> <p>Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre</p>	<p>Develop Climate Resilient Housing Policy to apply to new construction, refurbishments, maintenance programs and spot purchases.</p>
	<p>CA2, Target: Audit work environments by 2026, to determine how best to mitigate the impacts of climate change, including minimising health risks to employees.</p>		<p>Department of Finance</p>	<p>Undertake audit of existing offices (114).</p>
	<p>CA3, Target: Develop an emission reduction target and implementation plan by 2025 in line with the Government of Western Australia's Sectoral Emissions Reduction Strategy to meet the targets set by the Western Australian Climate Policy and draft Climate Change Act.</p>	<p>Federal: 43% emissions reduction by 2030, net-zero 2050</p> <p>State: 80% whole of government emissions reduction by 2030, net-zero by 2050</p> <p>Western Australian Climate Policy (DWER)</p> <p>Draft Sectoral Emissions Reduction Plan (DWER)</p> <p>Climate Adaptation Strategy (DWER)</p>	<p>Department of Finance</p> <p>Energy Policy WA</p> <p>Synergy</p> <p>Horizon Power</p> <p>Western Power</p>	<p>Liaise with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to develop Emissions Reduction Plan and Emissions Reduction Target.</p> <p>Lifecycle assessments for all new builds by 2024.</p> <p>Collaborate across government as whole of government renewable power purchase is developed.</p>

	Targets and strategic directions	Existing commitments	External collaborators	Proposed first steps
Energy (E)	E1, Target: Ensure that all new buildings we construct from 2025 are all-electric and energy efficient.	Western Australian Climate Policy (DWER) Draft Sectoral Emissions Reduction Plan (DWER) Climate Adaptation Strategy (DWER)	Builders	Develop Climate Resilient Housing Policy. Develop a Emissions Reduction Plan. Create scope of works, schedule of rates and technical specifications for solar panel PV systems.
	E2, Target: Replacing existing fixtures and fittings with efficient electric options at the end of useful life, aiming for all-electric appliances, fixtures and fittings across all buildings owned by Department of Communities by 2040.	Western Australian Climate Policy (DWER) Draft Sectoral Emissions Reduction Plan (DWER) Climate Adaptation Strategy (DWER)		Develop Climate Resilient Housing Policy. Create scope of works, schedule of rates and technical specifications for electrification process. Undertake full cost analysis.
	E3, Strategic Direction: Research opportunities for offices and facilities to be more energy efficient and renewable-powered by 2030.	Western Australian Climate Policy (DWER) Draft Sectoral Emissions Reduction Plan – Buildings (DWER)	Department of Finance Energy Policy WA Synergy Horizon Power Western Power	Undertake audit of existing offices. Determine costs of implementation.
Water (W)	W1, Target: Collaborate with Water Corporation to ensure that by 2035, no public housing tenant's water bills are adversely impacted by inefficient water fixtures and fittings, while ensuring that all new buildings meet waterwise criteria.	Waterwise Public Housing Program – Water Corporation Kep Katitjin-Gabi Kaadadjan (Waterwise 2) (DWER)	Water Corporation	Continue implementing the Waterwise Public Housing Program.
	W2, Target: Provide educational materials to all tenants and relevant staff, to promote behavioural change to reduce water consumption by 2024.	Waterwise Public Housing Program – Water Corporation Kep Katitjin-Gabi Kaadadjan (Waterwise 2) (DWER)	Water Corporation	Continue Housing Service Officer Training. Waterwise information (behaviour change) to be included in Tenant Welcome Pack and to be posted to all tenants. Develop a Tenant Sustainable Living Guide.
	W3, Target: Incorporate waterwise-equivalent fixture and fittings replacements into maintenance and refurbishment processes of all of Department of Communities assets by 2025.	Waterwise Public Housing Program – Water Corporation Kep Katitjin-Gabi Kaadadjan (Waterwise 2) (DWER)	Water Corporation	Develop Climate Resilient Housing Policy. Finalise scope of works, schedule of rates, and technical specifications for waterwise fixtures and fittings.

	Targets and strategic directions	Existing commitments	External collaborators	Proposed first steps
Resilience and Adaptation (R&A)	R&A1, Target: Collaborate across government, the not-for-profit sector and industry to investigate opportunities to develop a community resilience plan framework to support communities to develop adaptation and mitigation measures and responses to climate change and other disaster events.	Western Australian Climate Policy (DWER) Climate Adaptation Strategy (DWER)	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Department of Health Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Liaise with Department of Fire and Emergency Services; Department of Health; and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to discuss the development of a Community Resilience Plan framework.
	R&A2, Target: Implement the WA State Climate Change Risk Management Framework into business procedures by 2024, outlining climate change risk mitigation and adaptation measures for assets.	Climate Change Risk Management Framework (interim) (DWER/Treasury) – mandatory implementation required Western Australian Climate Policy (DWER)	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Department of Treasury	Implement the Climate Change Risk Management Framework. Undertake a high-level climate change risk assessment for the Department of Communities.
	R&A3, Target: Leverage the Remote Communities Fund to support more sustainable and resilient dwellings in remote communities.	National Agreement on Closing the Gap Remote Communities Fund Climate Adaptation Strategy (DWER)	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations Energy Policy WA Horizon Power	Continue implementing the actions of the Remote Communities Fund.
	R&A4, Target: Prepare a Climate Adaptation Plan to meet the requirements of the Western Australian Climate Adaptation Strategy.	Climate Adaptation Strategy (DWER)	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	Liaise with Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to develop framework for adaptation plan.
	W&C1, Strategic Direction: Continue to meet our commitments under the State Government's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy.	Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy – DWER Mandatory requirement	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Waste Authority Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre Building industry	Develop a Circular Economy Action Plan. Develop Waste Minimisation in Construction and Demolition policy.
Waste and Circularity (W&C)	W&C2, Strategic Direction: Collaborate with industry and research partners to undertake a supply chain assessment for circular economy opportunities within the residential development sector, with learnings to be applied to all new developments by 2028.	Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy (DWER) – mandatory requirement	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Waste Authority Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre Building industry	Develop Waste Minimisation in Construction and Demolition policy.
	W&C3, Target: Reduce waste to landfill in all offices across WA by 80% by 2030, in line with State policy, where recycling facilities are present.	Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy (DWER) – mandatory requirement	Staff Property managers	Staff waste awareness campaign.

	Targets and strategic directions	Existing commitments	External collaborators	Proposed first steps
Closing the Gap (CG)	CG1, Strategic Direction: Work collaboratively with other government departments, and in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities across WA, to deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-led outcomes on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap that provide culturally responsive, local solutions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	Target 120 Early Years Initiative Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Strategy 2022-2032 Closing the Gap Housing Sector Strengthening Plan (SSP)	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community groups Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations Department of Health Department of Education Department of Justice	Develop responses to Closing the Gap 2022. Launch first Closing the Gap report. Complete Reconciliation Action Plan. Complete CIR Dashboard.
	CG2, Target: Strengthen the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities in co-designing and delivering place-based approaches to the supply of culturally appropriate, quality housing to remote communities by 2025, in order to better meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	Remote Communities Fund	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations Horizon Power Water Corporation	Develop place-based design framework. Remote Communities sustainability checklist. Review of Head Maintenance Contracts to consider measures to empower communities to undertake their own maintenance programs where possible. WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Housing Organisation 10 Year Strategy.
	CG3, Strategic Direction: Continue to improve the cultural capability of our workplace by embedding a cultural narrative into new office fit-outs and refurbishments. This will create a culturally safe environment, which promotes knowledge and respect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' communities and cultures, and the skills and attitudes to work effectively with them.	Cultural Narrative Strategy Guidelines for Office Fit-outs		Continue implementing existing strategy and policy.
Safety and Wellbeing (S&W)	S&W1, Target: Continue to investigate ways to develop homes that improve health and wellbeing of occupants, through a range of measures.	Climate Adaptation Strategy (DWER) Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation CSIRO Curtin University Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre Department of Health	Develop an audit template to assess how homes can support improvements in tenant wellbeing and resilience to the predicted impacts of climate change.
	S&W2, Target: Continue to provide working environments that are safe and healthy for staff, through our Health and Safety Team, Employee Assistance Program and the Asset Compliance and Advisory Group, which monitors and oversees safety compliance for issues such as asbestos management, electrical safety devices and fire safety.			Design the requirements and scope for undertaking an office audit.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I)	Targets and strategic directions	Existing commitments	External collaborators	Proposed first steps
	<p>DE&I1, Strategic Direction: Continue to improve services and facilities for those who are homeless, elderly, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, gender diverse, experiencing family and domestic violence, or identify as living with a disability.</p>	<p>All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020–2030</p> <p>WA Strategy to Respond to the Abuse of Older People 2019-2029</p> <p>Path to Safety: WA's Strategy to Reduce Family and Domestic Violence 2020-30</p> <p>State Disability Strategy Action Plan 2020-2030</p> <p>At Risk Youth Strategy</p> <p>Beyond 2020 – WA Youth Action Plan</p>	<p>Community housing organisations</p> <p>Service providers</p>	<p>Implement requirements of existing strategies.</p>
	<p>DE&I2, Target: Complete or contract an additional 4,000 dwellings to our public housing portfolio by 2027, to provide safe and secure housing for disadvantaged Western Australians.</p>	<p>WA Housing Strategy 2020-2030</p>	<p>Building industry</p>	<p>Implement requirements of existing strategies.</p>
	<p>DE&I3, Target: Ensure all social housing dwellings constructed by the Department of Communities are built to a minimum Liveable Silver Housing Design standard where site conditions permit.</p>		<p>Service providers</p>	<p>Include in technical specifications and design briefs.</p>
	<p>DE&I4, Strategic Direction: Continue to provide a safe and secure environment for all our staff, by promoting inclusivity and ensuring that no staff member is restricted in achieving their goals based on cultural background, gender identity, religion, age, or ability.</p>	<p>Ngulluk Marr</p> <p>Guidelines for Office Accommodation Fit-outs</p>		<p>Continue to promote existing support networks and training opportunities.</p> <p>Continue ensuring Communities' Guidelines for Office Accommodation Fit-outs are applied to all fit-outs and refurbishments to provide offices that are inclusive and accessible for all.</p>

Targets and strategic directions	Existing commitments	External collaborators	Proposed first steps
<p>G1, Target: Create a tracked register of projects and programs that achieve Environmental, Social, and Governance outcomes. These will be included in our Annual Report by 2024. The register will identify, where appropriate, which of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal targets are being met.</p>		<p>Western Australian Treasury Corporation</p>	<p>Development of ESG register. Business case documentation to be modified to include reporting on ESG and UN SDGs.</p>
<p>G2, Target: Undertake a climate change risk assessment on all infrastructure projects over \$2 million at project inception phase and include the assessment results in business case preparation by 2024.</p>	<p>Climate Change Risk Management Framework (DWER)</p>	<p>Department of Water and Environmental Regulation</p>	<p>Requirements incorporated into Risk Management Framework.</p>
<p>G3, Target: Establish an agreed set of sustainability rating tools, recognised either nationally and/or internationally to apply to each infrastructure project by 2024.</p>			<p>Develop a policy statement for use of rating tools.</p>

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