



# Innovative Research Universities



## Sustainable Universities and Communities

For more than 20 years, Australia's Innovative Research Universities have been collaborating for inclusive education, research with impact, and a stronger voice in public policy.

These shared values are no better exemplified than in our joint commitment across the IRU to sustainability for our students, campuses, communities, and the country.



**Professor Simon Biggs**  
Chair, Innovative Research Universities  
Vice-Chancellor and President,  
James Cook University

The *IRU Sustainable Universities and Communities* report brings together operational and strategic best practice at IRU member universities.

It highlights our success in a number of case studies and provides a data-informed record of the progress we have made.

As this report demonstrates, we work best in partnership, and our universities are uniquely placed to collaborate at the local, regional, national and global levels.



26 buildings on IRU campuses were Green Star or LEED-compliant green buildings, or equivalent, in mid-2024.



IRU universities produced 9,164 megawatt hours in renewable energy (wind, solar etc.) in 2022.



161 electric vehicle chargers were available on IRU campuses in mid-2024.



IRU universities owned a fleet of 216 electric and hybrid vehicles in mid-2024.



In 2024, all IRU universities that participated in the **Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings** were among top 200 universities in the world.



In the **QS Sustainability Rankings 2024**, 5 out of 7 IRU universities were ranked as among the top 200 universities in the world.

On individual Sustainable Development Goals, participating IRU universities were in the **top 10 in the world in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings (2024)** for

- Gender Equality
- Zero Hunger
- Reducing Inequalities
- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Good Health and Wellbeing
- Partnership for the Goals.

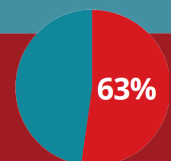


In 2022,



171,258 students, including 108,682 female students, were enrolled at IRU universities

In 2023,



IRU universities employed 16,805 staff, including 10,656 female staff