Championing the UN Sustainable Development Goals
Some ways we’re advancing the SDGs

In January 2016, the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into effect. The SDGs provide a blueprint to put the world on a sustainable path to 2030 and address pressing economic, social and environmental challenges.

Governments, businesses and people everywhere have an important role in achieving these goals, and we’re excited to play a domestic leadership role in championing them.

In 2016, we were one of the first Australian organisations to embrace the SDGs. Since then, our approach has evolved from initially prioritising six goals to identifying a number of specific SDGs that intersect with each stage of our operations and value chain.

**Achieving gender equality**

In 2017 we appointed our first female Group CEO & Managing Director. We also achieved a zero gender pay gap.

To support victims of domestic and family violence we introduced free PO boxes and mail redirection services. We also upgraded our employee policy for domestic and family violence leave from 5 days to 10 days.

**Collaborating to advance the circular economy**

We’re transitioning to a circular economy by providing logistics to underpin the movement of materials so individuals and businesses have more opportunities to reuse, repurpose and recycle items.

We also convene the Revamp Network to provide a collaborative cross-sector forum for stakeholders to find new and innovative solutions to responsible production and consumption of goods.

For example, in partnership with Nespresso, a special mailing satchel was developed for consumers to return their used coffee pods by mail, so these can be diverted from landfill.

**Creating value through partnerships**

We’re tackling complex social issues through partnerships that also secure our long-term commercial success.

Inclusive Australia is a social movement in partnership with The National Australia Day Council, Scanlon Foundation, PwC, The Shannon Company and Monash University’s BehaviourWorks, aimed at changing ingrained behaviours and attitudes towards people viewed as different.

In conjunction with Infoxchange and through the Australian Digital Inclusion Alliance, we have been harnessing the collective skills, knowledge and capabilities of organisations across the country to reduce the digital divide.

We’re working collaboratively to ensure vulnerable groups like older, rural and low income people are not left behind as more services move online.
Reducing motorcycle related accidents

We’re working to remove the risks to our people from riding motorcycles. Our ongoing safety program is educating our posties about safe driving techniques.

We’re also moving towards safer modes of transport, by replacing motorcycles with electronic delivery vehicles. These vehicles will provide greater protection, more visibility and stronger stability, while also allowing posties to increase the delivery of small parcels. They will also help us reduce our carbon emissions.

Energy efficiency and solar installations

Our national energy efficiency program drives costs savings and avoidance of $10m every year. This includes installing Australia’s largest single rooftop solar power installation at our Sydney Parcels Facility.

The system will deliver $800,000 in savings in the first year and a 2,260 tonne reduction in greenhouse gas emissions — enough to power 40 Australia Post retail outlets or 440 average Sydney homes.

Delivering a better future through social procurement

We leverage our procurement spend to create jobs and opportunities for people who may have struggled to find or sustain work.

Our social procurement strategy promotes local economic development whilst driving better business outcomes. Last year we spent $5.6 million with the 35 social enterprises and Indigenous businesses in our supply chain, up from $1.7 million in the previous year.

Innovating through trusted digital services

We’ve got a long history of innovating in the face of disruption. Today we continue that legacy through powering eCommerce and new digital services. We’re helping entrepreneurs start up and scale, and established businesses link to new markets.

In 2017 we delivered the Australia Post Regional Pitchfest, a program to support the growth of entrepreneurship and innovation in regional Australia.

We’re helping to make it easier for Australians to use government services, with clever new digital applications. Our new Digital iD™ gives Australians more choice and control over how to prove their identity online. We’ve also been successful in creating the first online Police Check in Western Australia.
What are the SDGs?
The SDGs provide a collective blueprint and common language for governments, businesses and the broader community.

These 17 Global Goals — covering global priorities as diverse as poverty alleviation, gender equality, climate action and decent work — present a global strategy for individual and collective action to achieve sustainable development.

Why are these Global Goals important to Australia Post?
As Australia, and the world, faces unprecedented challenges and levels of change, our power to make a positive difference becomes more important than ever.

The SDGs cut across all areas of our operations and value chain. Addressing them is critical to seeing our customers, communities and our own organisation prosper and become more inclusive.