

Centralising environmental resilience in disaster risk reduction Agencies using the Sustainable Development Goals

Heidi Chappelow, Masters candidate – University of Newcastle

Project Aim

The aim of this project is to create a 2019-2024 Sustainability Strategy for the State Emergency Service Newcastle unit as a pilot for possible broader implementation throughout the SES.

How was the proposed Newcastle SES Climate Action Strategy developed?

A sustainable Development Goal analysis was conducted. The SES 2016-2021 Strategic plan and SES value chain were analysed in relation to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to determine:

- Synergies, connections and gaps between the SES Unit and the SDGs
- Priorities to reduce the identified gaps with the SDGs
- A Strategy which enables the SES unit to close the gaps and increase alignment with the SDGs.

What results does the SES Sustainable Development Goal analysis show?

Values: There is a high level of values crossover with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Synergies: There are many synergies between the SES and the Sustainable Development Goals. Two synergy highlights include the quality training provided to members which aligns with Goal 4 Quality Education. Secondly, the SES storm response and community resilience roles align closely with Goal 13 Climate Action.

Gaps: Lack of focus on environmental resilience is similar to other response agencies however, is not aligned with SDG Goal 13 Climate Action or SDG Goal 12 responsible consumption even though SES is a significant contributor.

Priorities: To focus the Sustainability Strategy on Goal 13 Climate Action and Goal 12 Responsible Consumption

Proposed Climate Action Strategy: 'Sustainability is everyone's business in Newcastle SES'

Aim: Through implementing the 2019-2024 Sustainability Strategy, SES Newcastle will become the leading environmentally responsible emergency unit in Australia

Objective: SES Newcastle will lead by example in responsible consumption and climate action by becoming carbon negative, enviro positive, with ethical trade practice and zero waste by 2024.

Next Steps:

Form a 'community of practice' for Emergency Agencies implementing the SDGs and the National Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The world has changed and so has Emergency Agency scope

Emergency Agencies were originally formed to respond to emergencies however, a proactive Disaster Risk Reduction approach has been found to be more cost effective. This strategy is designed to centralise a culture of sustainability and avoid inadvertently contributing to disaster risk through lack of environmental values



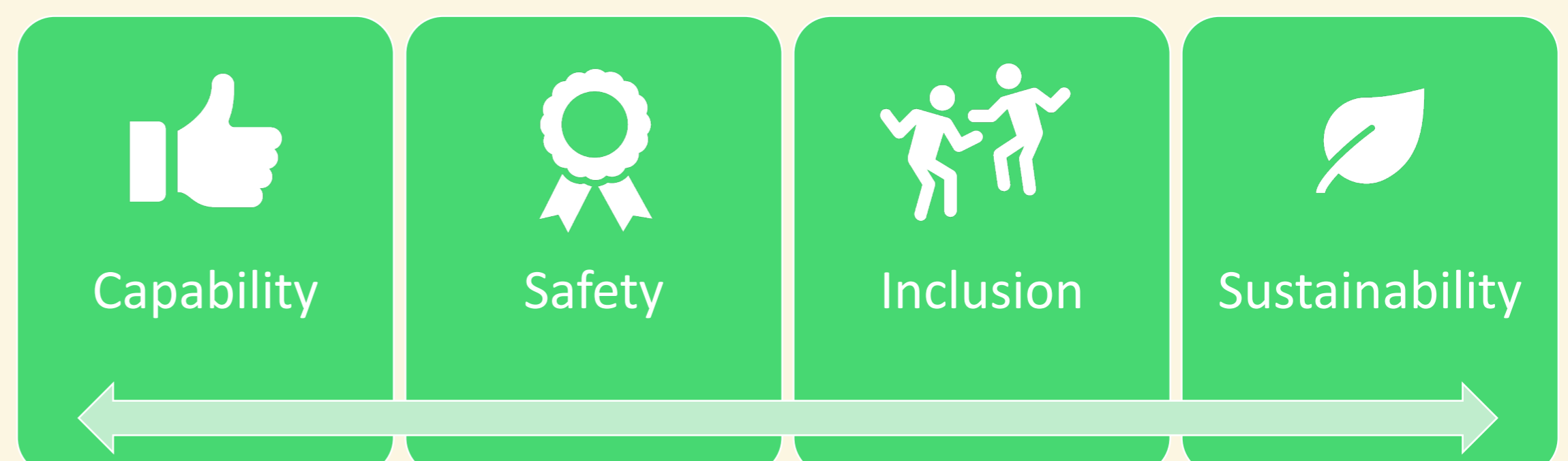
Response:
specific + known



Disaster Management:
broad + familiar

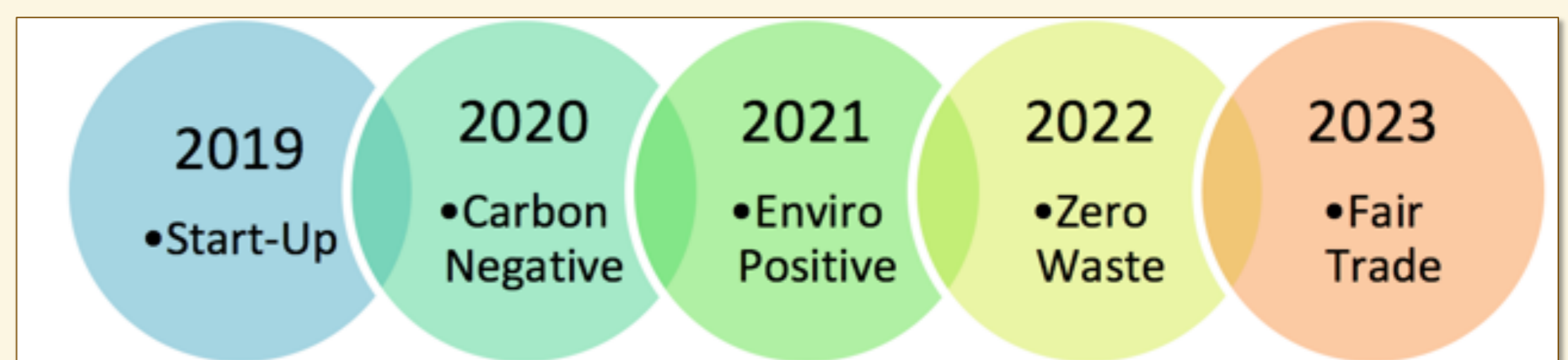


Disaster Risk Reduction: broader + new



Target delivery timeline: 100% targets mean that everyone is included

2019 Startup; 2020 Carbon Negative; 2021 Enviro Positive; 2022 Zero Waste; 2023 Fair Trade



Strategic Priorities:

Integrate Sustainable Development Goals: Develop understanding of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and integrate the SDGs into organisational strategies and procedures

Cultural Shift: Develop and centralise an SES culture of environmental responsibility alongside Capability, Safety and Inclusion

Systems and Supply: Collaboratively develop and apply sustainable work systems and supply chains

Accelerate Sustainability Partnerships: Seek partnership, support and leadership roles to accelerate the effective implementation and communication of the Sustainable Development Goals

