From Reporting to Real World Decarbonisation

How Research Partnerships Strengthen Credible Net Zero Pathways

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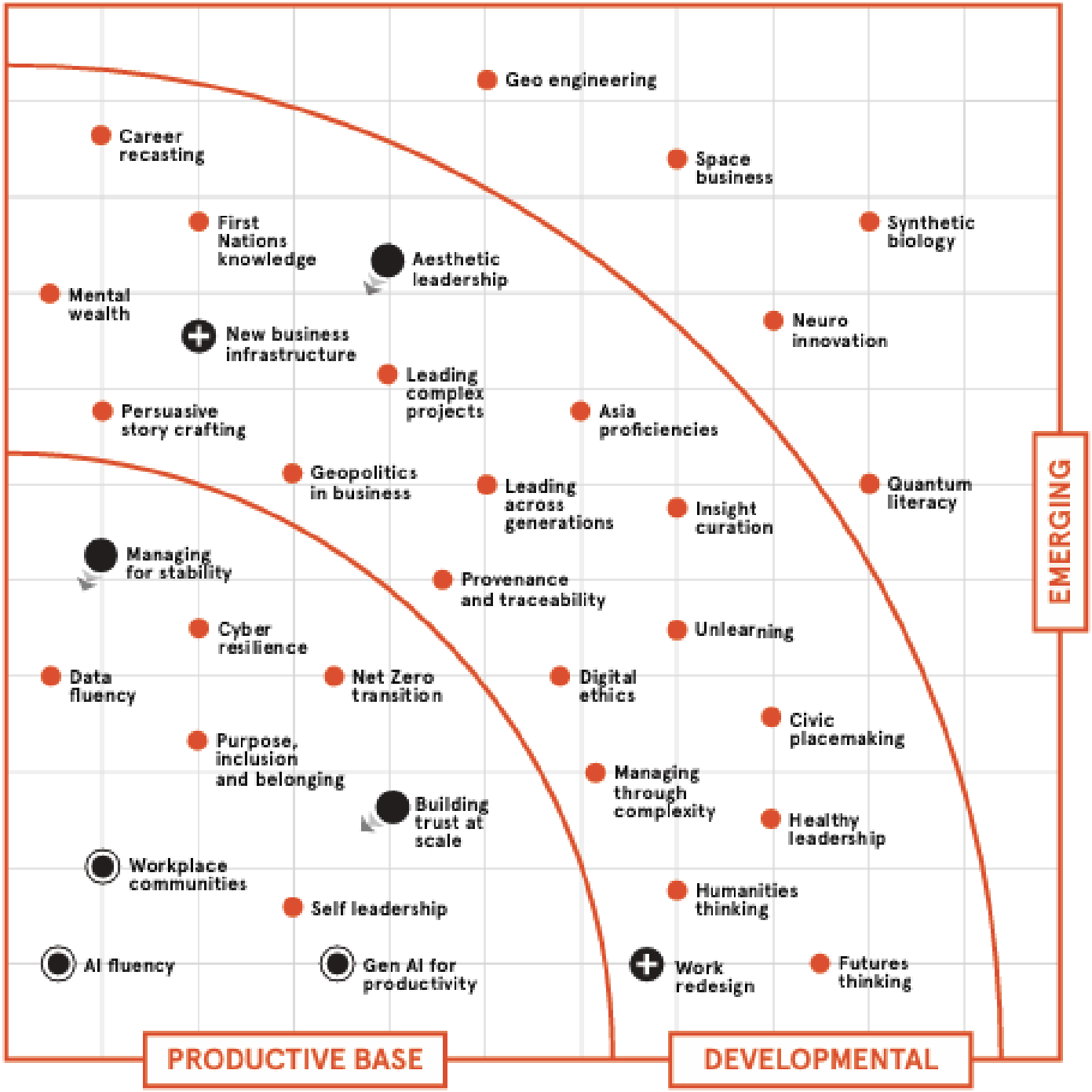
The 2026 Skills Horizon

What skills do leaders need in a decade of disorientation?



Today

+ The University of Sydney's reporting
+ Case studies
+ Net Zero Institute

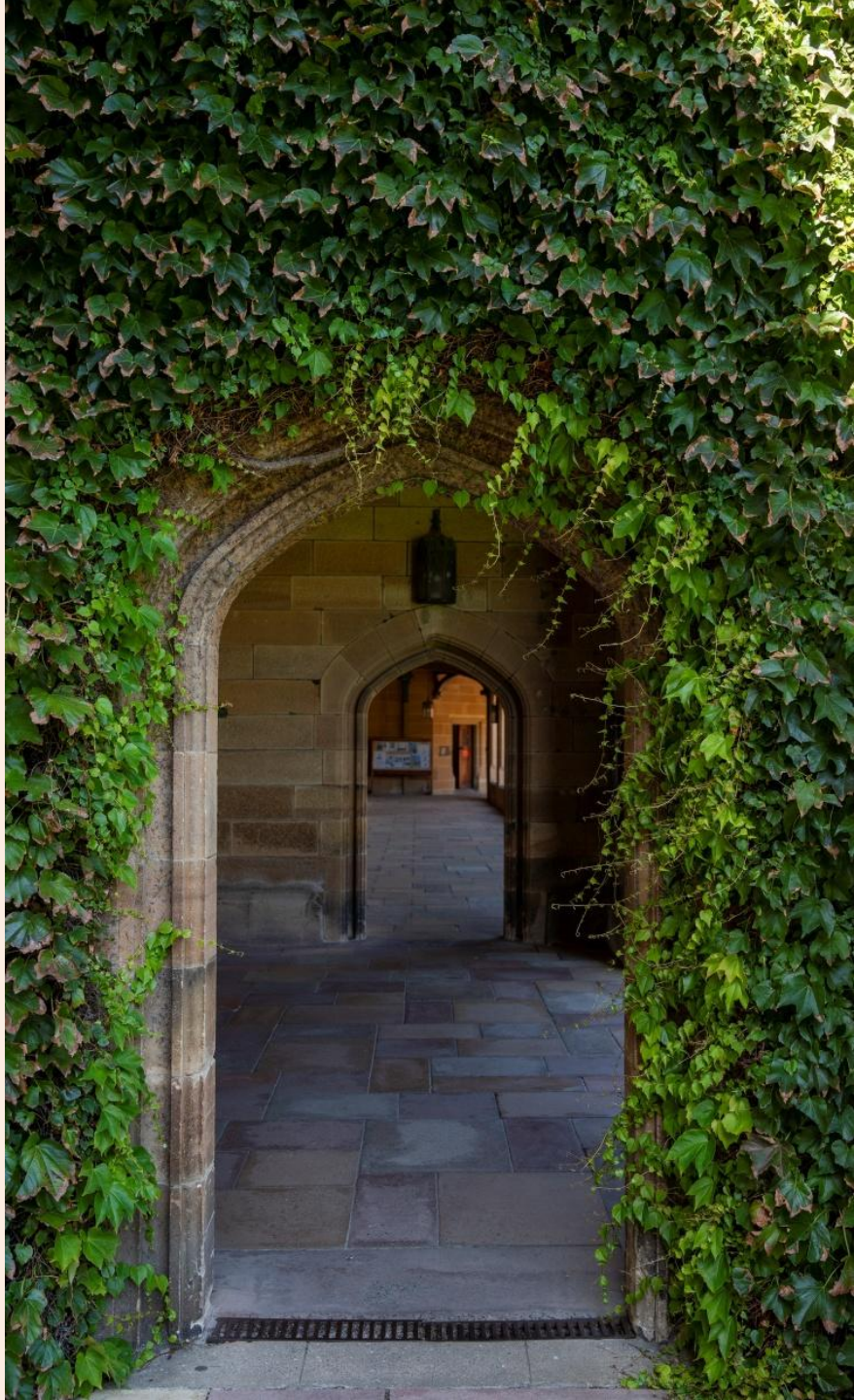
The University of Sydney

Australia’s first university plays many roles

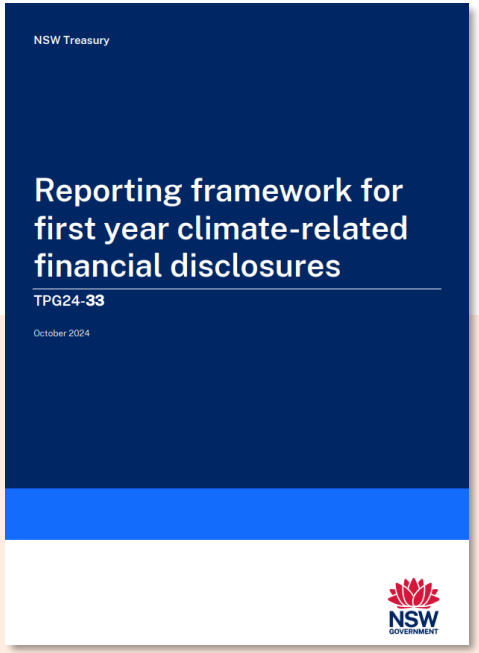
Education provider

Research institution

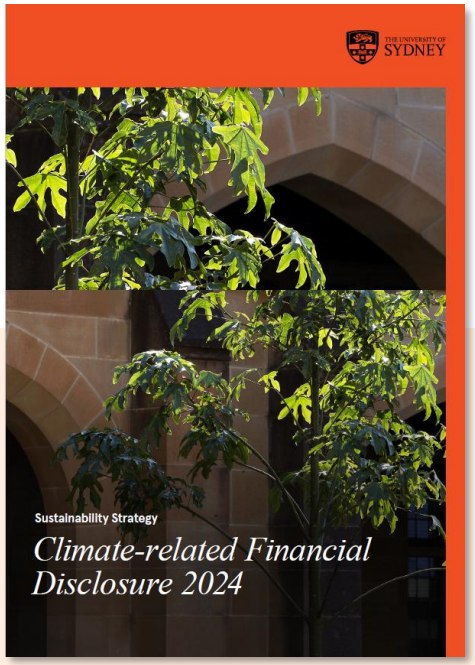
- Property manager
- Food and retail provider
- Infrastructure developer
- Agricultural landholder
- Healthcare provider
- Financial Manager
- Investor



First year of mandatory compliance



Climate disclosures are mandatory for all NSW entities under TPG24-33, marking a system-wide shift toward transparent climate risk reporting.



The University released a standalone voluntary disclosure in 2024, showing leadership and building readiness.

The **University subsequently reported under TPG24-33 in its 2025 Annual Report**.

2025 Climate-related *Financial Disclosure*

The University of Sydney's *physical risks*

Droughts and dry periods

Climate extremes and dry areas will worsen, increasing dust, respiratory issues, blocked air conditioners, crop failures, and agricultural costs.

Extreme heat

Rising temperatures cause more heatwaves, impacting health, productivity, energy costs, and agricultural crop quality.

Extreme rain/flooding

Extreme rain and floods increase asset damage, insurance premiums, site closures, and crop yield loss.

Bushfires

Bushfires damage assets, increase insurance premiums, reduce biodiversity, and threaten human safety and air quality.

Severe weather

Extreme winds cause asset damage, health risks, agricultural yield reduction, and operational disruptions. Storms will intensify.

Insights from disclosure –

Risks and Opportunities

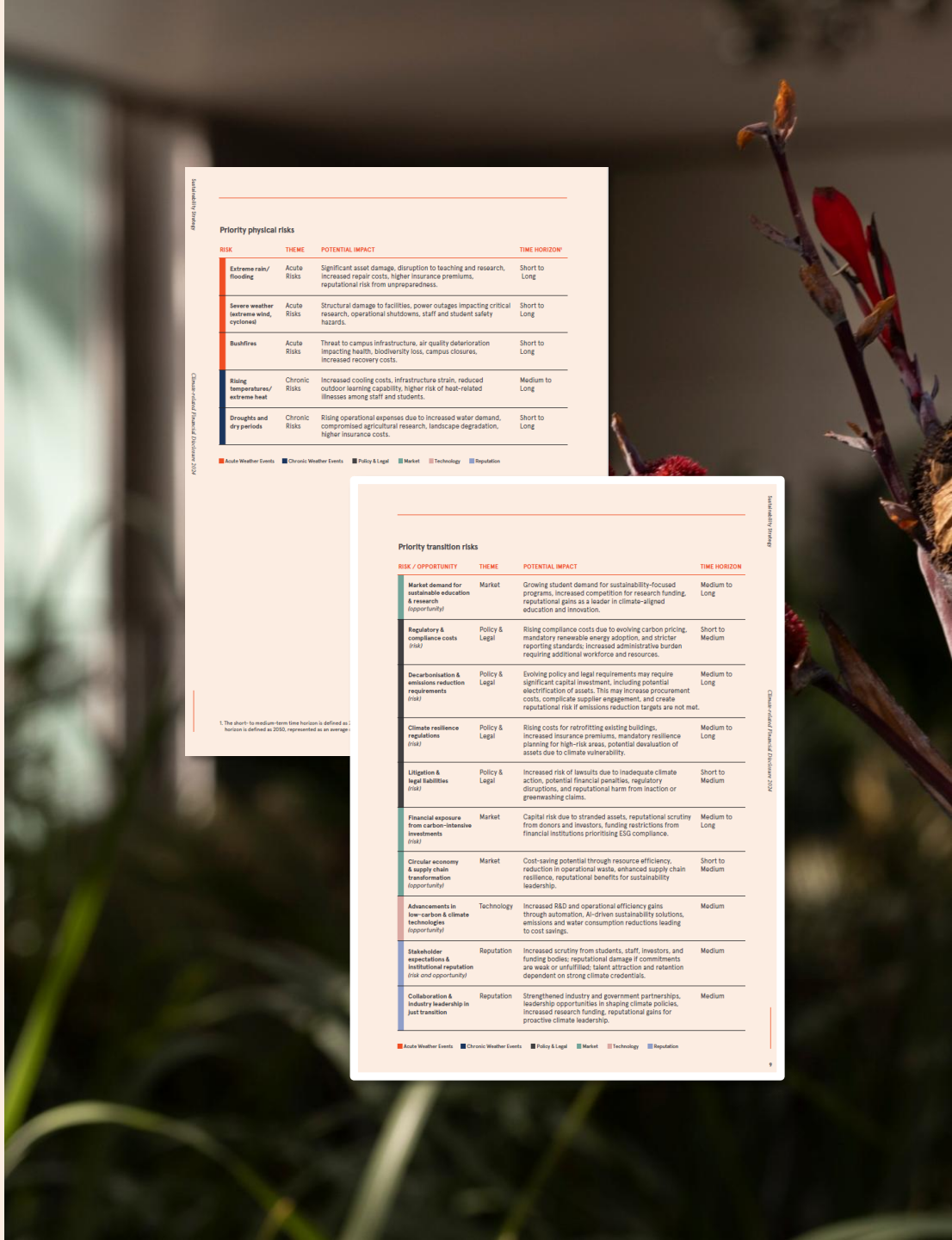
University campuses will be **increasingly exposed to climate-related hazards**

Shift in **demand for climate-related research** and **education**

Opportunities in development of **technology to support climate transition**

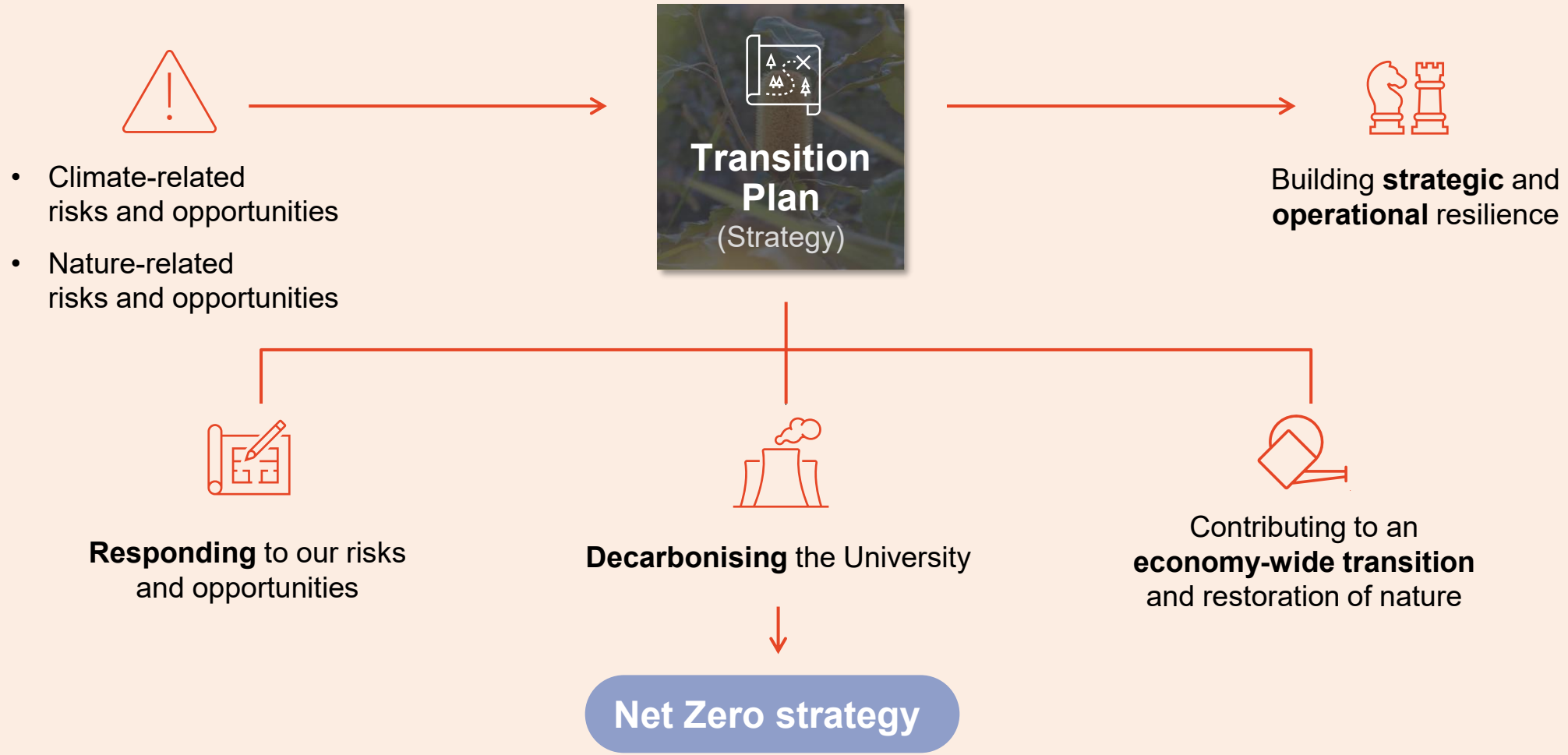
Rising expectations and reputational risk if climate commitments are weak or unmet

Policy shifts driving capital upgrades and **decarbonisation** of infrastructure



Leveraging compliance for strategy:

Making Reporting a Strategic Engine



Pillar 1 of the Sustainability Strategy:
Capacity building, and elevating climate governance in executive forums

- Built climate capability across the University through a 2-day climate literacy course linked to our resilience strategy.
- Developed purpose-built climate governance training to support our Executive and Senate.
- Delivered tailored sessions grounded in the University's real risks and opportunities−shifting leaders from compliance thinking to strategic decision-making, and strengthening alignment across sustainability, finance, risk, strategy and operations.

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Net *Zero*

In this self-paced sprint, learn how to account, report and act on your business' carbon emissions and make the transition to net zero.

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Net Zero

Receive a University of Sydney digital badge.

Dr Gordon Weiss
Decarbonisation expert

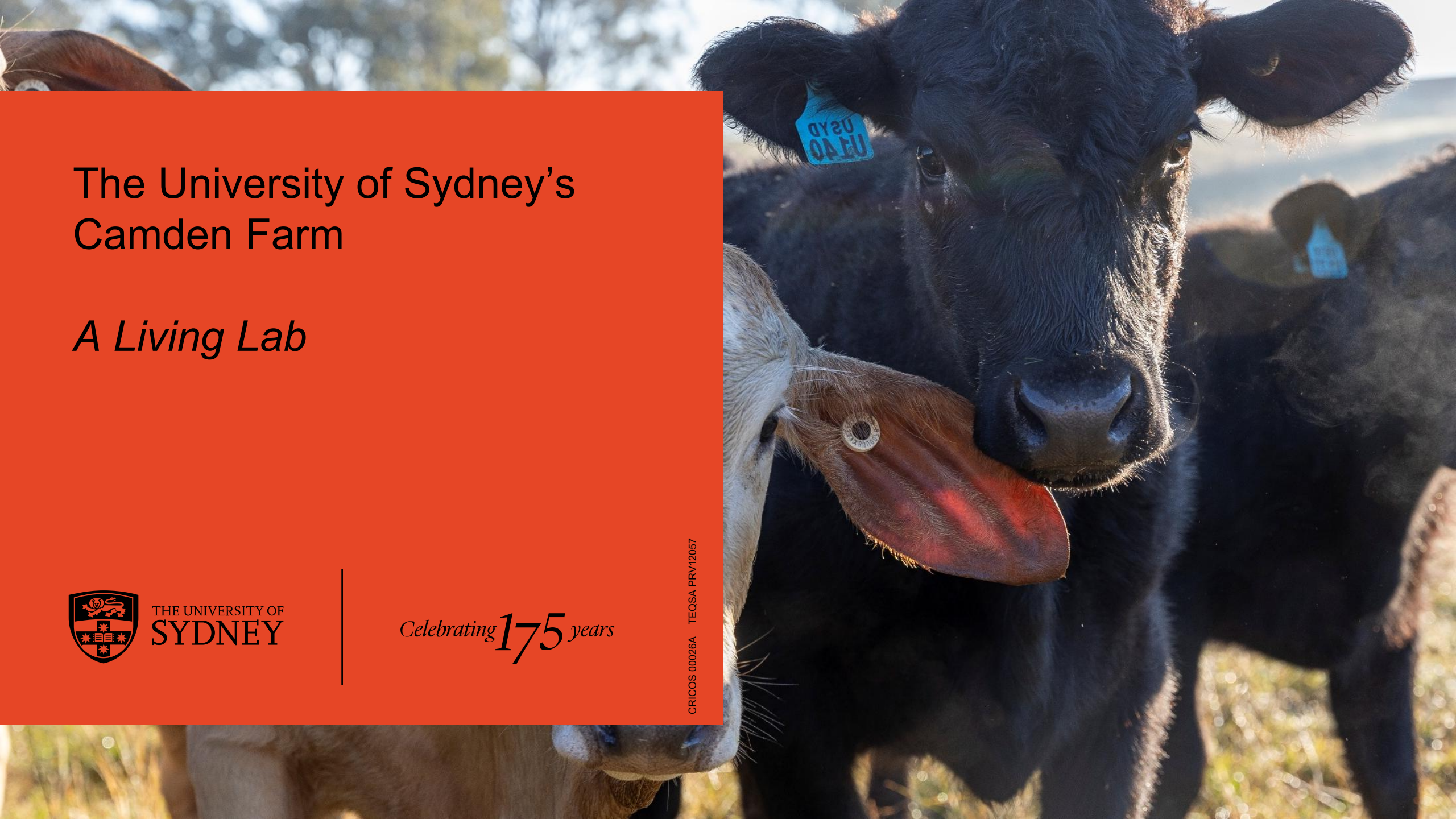
Prof Deanna D'Alessandro
Director, Net Zero Institute

The University of Sydney's Camden Farm

A Living Lab

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Celebrating 175 years



Case Study

Visualising our impacts and dependencies at Camden Farm (using a LEAP assessment)

This project responds to three key sustainability priorities

University Scope 1 emissions integrity by defining and measuring currently unquantified agricultural emissions

Nature risk management through action on material LEAP assessment risks

Living Lab activation by connecting research expertise with operational sustainability priorities

Living Lab on a page

1. **Quantified nutrient loads** in dairy effluent dam water
2. Estimated **wastewater-related emissions** (GHG Protocol-aligned)
3. **Determined potential emissions reduction impact** of introducing solid waste separator
4. **Assessed improvements** to water quality and compliance outcomes
5. Produced **replicable methodology** for wastewater emissions reporting

Looking forward

Industry collaboration with ALBON to improve water circularity on farm

Embedding in education through Masters of Sustainability capstone projects

State of Nature Metrics: The U21 Nature Positive Coalition

Net Zero Institute

Accelerating Australia's path to Net Zero
through innovative partnerships,
backed by world-class research

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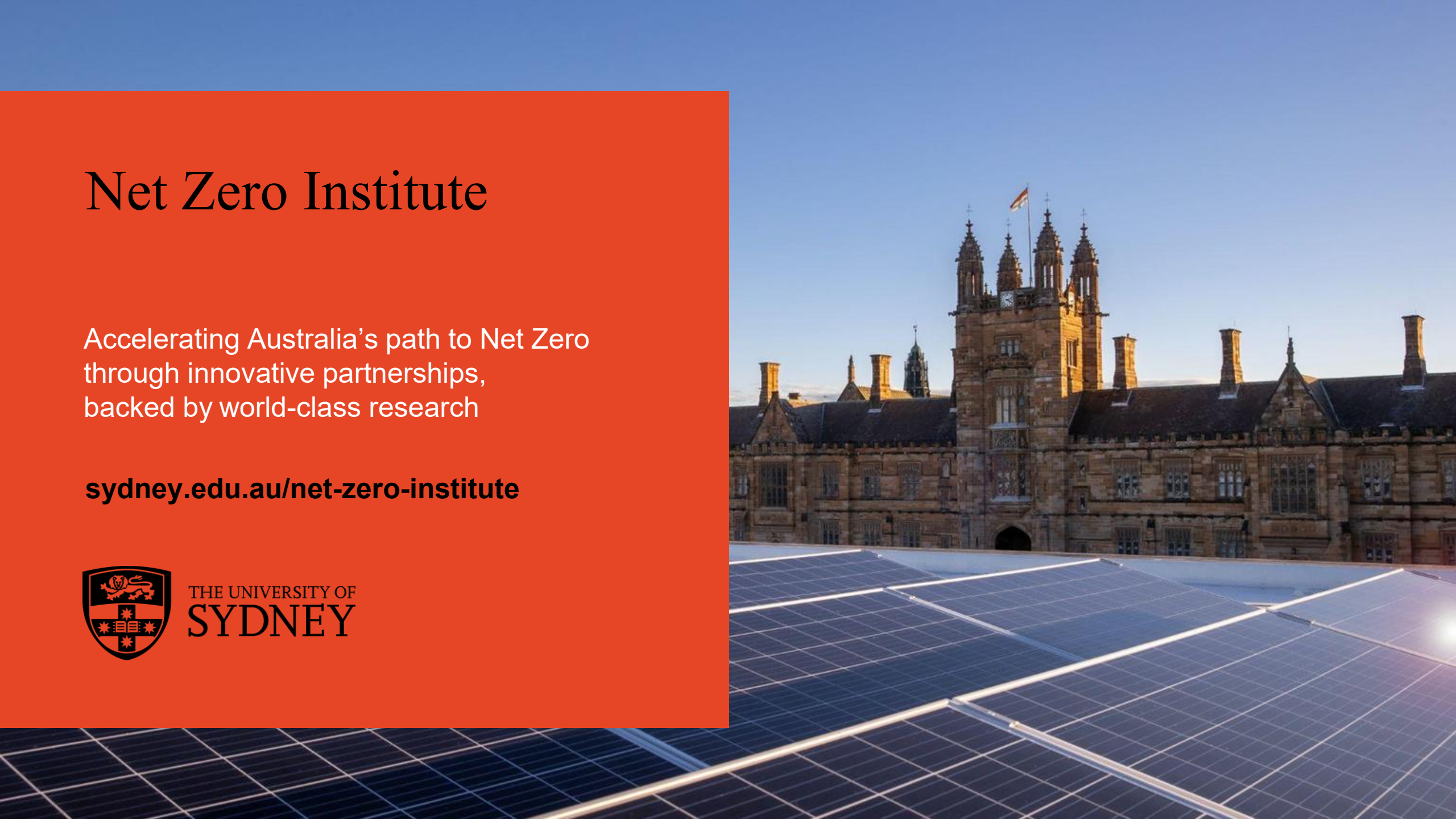

Net Zero *Institute*

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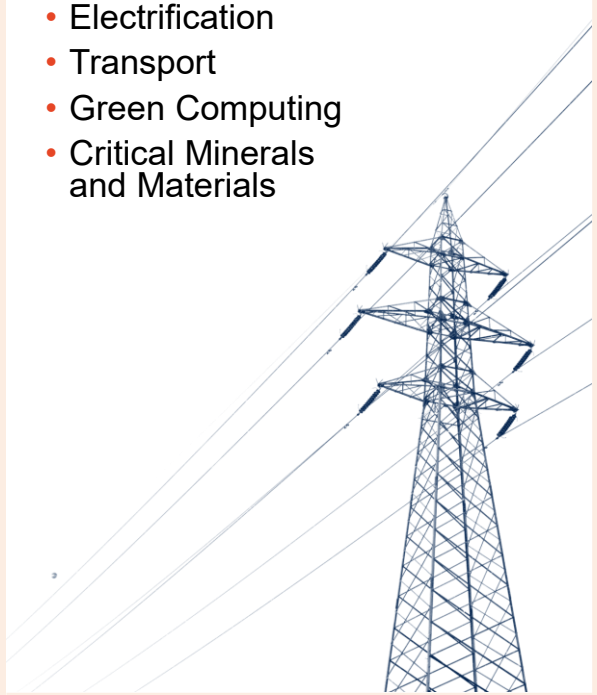
FOUR MULTIDISCIPLINARY THEMES

Demand Reduction

PILLARS

- Electrification
- Transport
- Green Computing
- Critical Minerals and Materials



Zero emissions energy and industry

PILLARS

- Renewables and Energy Storage
- Powerfuels
- CO_2 Conversion and Utilisation

Hard to Abate Sectors

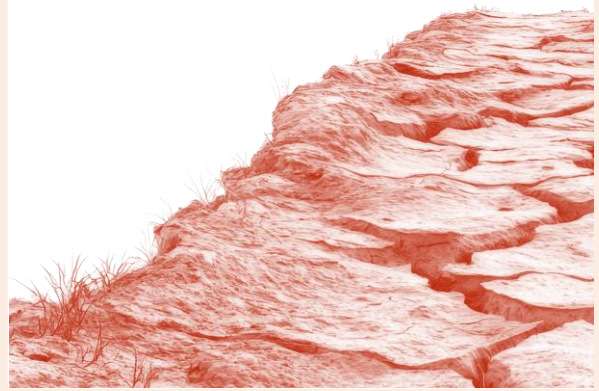
PILLARS

- Net Zero Agriculture
- Direct Air Capture (DAC)

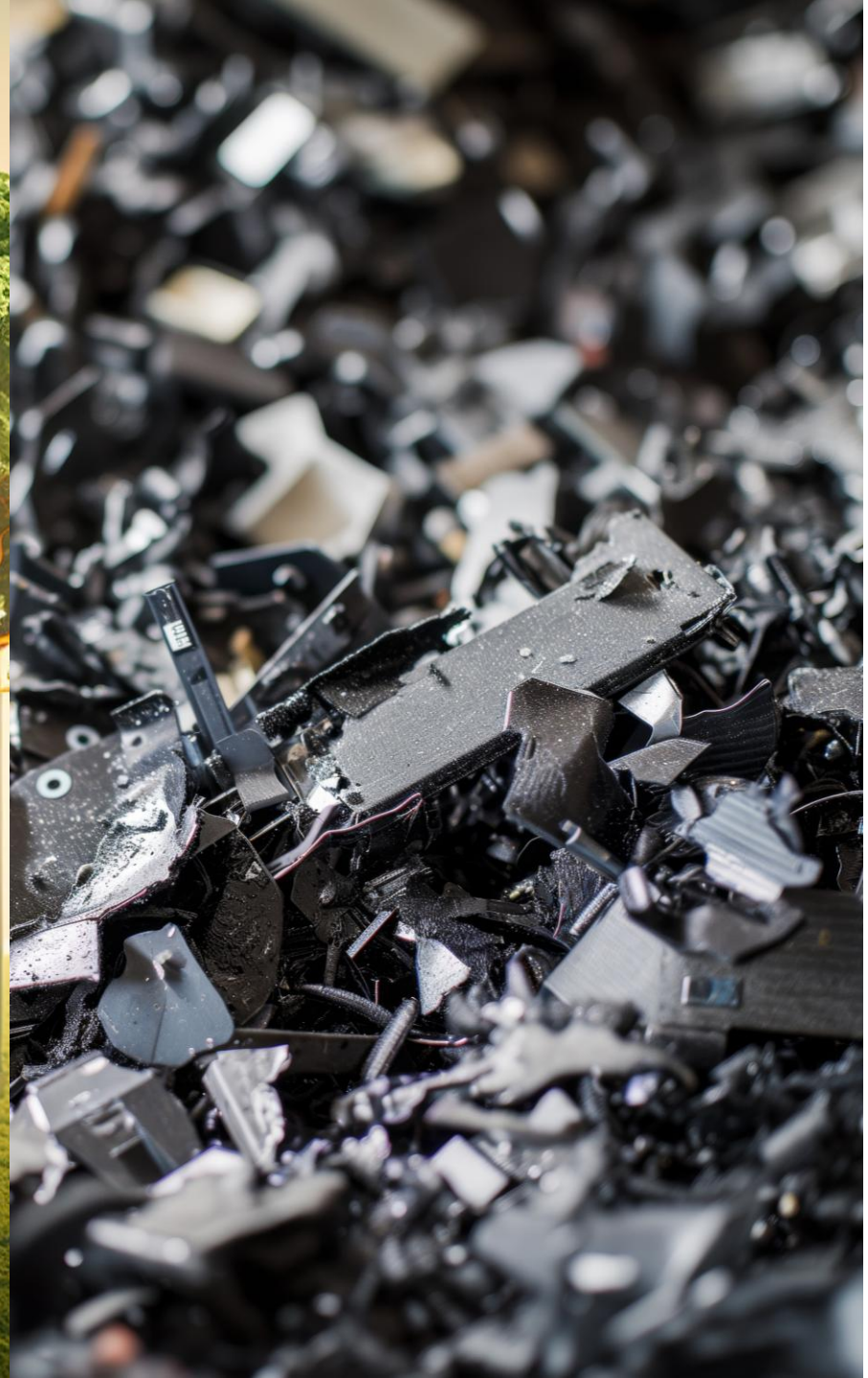
Climate Change Risk

PILLARS

- Project Risk and Reliance
- Water Security
- Decarbonising Healthcare systems



Financing the Transition | Circularity | Built Environment



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Takeaways

1. Living Labs integrate sustainability across operations, research and education
2. Strategic value grounded in science
3. Credible transition plans that are fit-for-purpose for the University
4. University RD&D accelerates capability, innovation and applied research
5. Our door is open

With thanks

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