

# Sustainability Matters

29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

A fortnightly selection of topical **news and views** about economic, social and environmental issues.  
Designed especially for accountants and those who use the services of accountants.

## Sustainability Matters is;

- Compiled and published by Ray Skinner of *Sustainability Matters*, providers of specialist services relating to sustainability and business support. **Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children.**

## Submissions on NZ's Priorities in the International Climate Change Negotiations

"We're seeking submissions on New Zealand's priorities in the international climate change negotiations

"The Paris Agreement on climate change was agreed in 2015. Countries that signed up to the Agreement are now negotiating the guidelines for how to put it into practice.

"The guidelines are due to be agreed at an important meeting in December 2018 in Poland - the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24). Although the COP24 is not until December, negotiations on the guidelines are already under way.

"We would like to hear your views on the outcomes New Zealand should seek in these negotiations to help reach an outcome on the Paris Agreement guidelines that will balance all countries' needs and priorities.

"Below is some background information on some of the negotiating issues that have in the past been of interest to New Zealanders, together with some guiding questions. This does not represent the full range of negotiating issues, which can be viewed on the United Nations Climate Change website here (external link). Submitters are welcome to put forward ideas on all parts of the negotiations.

"This process is separate to consultation on the Zero Carbon Bill, which the Ministry for the Environment will begin in mid-2018. ....

"Questions for submitters;

- What outcomes should NZ prioritise in 2018's international negotiations on the Paris Agreement guidelines?
- Are there issues we should consider less important than others in this year's negotiations?
- What other information or ideas would you like New Zealand officials to consider before this year's negotiations?

**More:** [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/environment/climate-change/negotiation-and-agreements/submissions-on-new-zealands-priorities-in-the-international-climate-change-negotiations/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/environment/climate-change/negotiation-and-agreements/submissions-on-new-zealands-priorities-in-the-international-climate-change-negotiations/) plus <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

**Source:** *Carbon News*, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**NOTE!** Close day after Easter Monday i.e. Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018. ❖

## Kauri – 17 Other Species Depend on Them

"Kauri, the kings of the forest, is under serious threat by a microscopic pathogen commonly known as kauri dieback. ..There are at least 17 other plant species that depend entirely on Kauri.

**More:** [www.kauridieback.co.nz/why-save-kauri-from-kauri-dieback](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz/why-save-kauri-from-kauri-dieback)

**Source:** Trees for Survival Newsletter, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

The short discussion paper *A Plea to the Accounting Profession: Governance for Sustainability* of the Taskforce on Sustainable Development Reporting is a call to action. Published by the then Institute of Chartered Accountants of NZ on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 it continues to merit reflection. See the link from 'Notes' at [www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz/resources/books-and-other-media/](http://www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz/resources/books-and-other-media/). ❖

## Sustainability Accounting and Integrated Reporting

"*Sustainability Accounting and Integrated Reporting* deals with organisations' assessment, articulation and disclosure of their social and environmental impact on various groups in society.

"There is increasingly an understanding that financial information does not sufficiently discharge organisational accountability to members of society who are demanding an account of the social and environmental impacts of companies' and other organisations' activities. As a result, organisations report ever more social and environmental information, and there are simultaneous movements towards providing the information in an integrated fashion, showing how social and environmental activities influence each other, members of society and the financial aims of the organization.

"*Sustainability Accounting and Integrated Reporting* provides a broad and comprehensive review of the field, focusing on the interconnection between different elements of these topics, often dealt with in isolation. The book examines the accounting involved in the collection and analysis of data, control processes over the data, how information is reported to external parties, and the assurance of the information being reported. The book thereby provides an overview useful to practitioners (including sustainability managers, consultants, members of the accounting profession, and other assurance providers), academics, and students.

**More:** [www.routledge.com/Sustainability-Accounting-and-Integrated-Reporting/Villiers-Maroun/p/book/9781138091412](http://www.routledge.com/Sustainability-Accounting-and-Integrated-Reporting/Villiers-Maroun/p/book/9781138091412) 2018 170 pages

**Source:** CSEAR, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## On the Louisiana Coast, A Native Community Sinks Slowly into the Sea

"This week at *Yale Environment 360*, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Ted Jackson reports on the relocation of America's first so-called climate refugees, the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Indians of southern Louisiana. The tribe's historical homeland, Isle de Jean Charles, has shrunk nearly 99% over the last 60 years due to land subsidence, erosion, and sea level rise. But two years after receiving a \$48 million federal grant to move to higher ground, the tribe is stuck in limbo, waiting for new homes to be built as the water inches closer to their doors.

**More:** <https://e360.yale.edu/features/on-louisiana-coast-a-native-community-sinks-slowly-into-the-sea-isle-de-jean-charles>

**Source:** *Yale Environment 360*, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## Donation Opportunity!

### If You Enjoy *Sustainability Matters*

and gain stimulation and value from it consider providing a donation. This would support the costs, time and effort ☺ As a suggestion NZ\$46 would be very welcome. Invoices can be provided. GST receipts issued. Every contribution is much appreciated. Bank account details are;

Sustainability Matters

A/c No. 123 011 0249104 00

ASB Bank, Queen Street branch, Auckland.

## Our Dying Soils: The Invisible Crisis Under Our Feet

"Ana Maria dos Santos Soares, a farmer in Timor Leste's Ermera municipality, has much more free time on her hands now than she did a few years ago. Where she once spent day after day weeding in her maize fields, she now only needs to do so once in a planting season.

"We use the remaining time to plant other crops such as potato and taro, cook, feed the pigs, look after the children, and rest", says Soares in a documentary by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

"This change is thanks to a project FAO has been conducting in districts across Timor Leste since 2013 to promote an alternative farming method to burning the land, ploughing it, and weeding it regularly.

"Instead of this traditional practice, FAO encourages three strategies: First, minimising soil disturbance by inserting seeds directly into the soil; second, covering the soil with a layer of crop residue, or mulch – this is what prevents weed growth – and third, planting a variety of crops on the soil.

"Soares, who is one of several farmers involved in the FAO project, says switching to these practices has improved the quality of maize on her farm. And because the mulch retains water for several weeks, she still gets a good yield even if there is a long drought, or seeds are planted late in the season.

"She offers an analogy for the difference between traditional practices and the ones FAO advocates: 'Just like humans will burn in the sun without clothes, the ground needs to be covered with mulch.'

"Soares adds: 'If we do not keep the soil fertile, then over time our children will have problems. They will not have enough food, and will suffer.'.... [Lengthy article]

**More:** [www.eco-business.com/news/our-dying-soils-the-invisible-crisis-under-our-feet](http://www.eco-business.com/news/our-dying-soils-the-invisible-crisis-under-our-feet)

**Also see:** [www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/mar/26/land-degradation-is-undermining-human-wellbeing-un-report-warns](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/mar/26/land-degradation-is-undermining-human-wellbeing-un-report-warns), *Carbon News*, 28<sup>th</sup> March

**Source:** eco-business.com, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018. ✦

## A World of Three Zeros: The New Economics of Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Net Carbon Emissions

by Muhammad Yunus

"A winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and bestselling author of *Banker to the Poor* offers his vision of an emerging new economic system that can save humankind and the planet.

"While it might be business as usual at Wall Street, capitalism is undergoing a revolution from below. Through microfinance and a social-business model that promotes human flourishing rather than profit, Nobel Peace Prize-winner Muhammad Yunus looks to a new economic system driven both by personal and collective interests. 'The existing capitalist engine is producing more damage than solutions. It needs to be redesigned – or replaced by an entirely new engine.' In this inspiring book, Yunus outlines the key components of this new engine and how it is being built from the ground up in some of the poorest parts of the world. The world he envisions would have zero poverty, zero unemployment and zero net carbon emissions. While this might sound pie in the sky, Yunus offers a tested and realistic blueprint for how it could be achieved.

**More:** [www.goodreads.com/book/show/33785340-a-world-of-three-zeros](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/33785340-a-world-of-three-zeros) 304 pages, September 2017 plus [www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/a-world-of-three-zeroes-review-muhammad-yunus-recipe-for-social-improvement-20171027-gz9c5p.html](http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/a-world-of-three-zeroes-review-muhammad-yunus-recipe-for-social-improvement-20171027-gz9c5p.html)

**Source:** Rob Skinner and Angela Toy, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. ✦

## Investing for Wellbeing – The New Zealand Treasury Investment Statement

"The Treasury's 2018 Investment Statement He Puna Hao Pātiki published today [20<sup>th</sup> March] shows the government's balance sheet is healthy and resilient to economic shocks, says Treasury Secretary Gabriel Makhoulouf.

"The Investment Statement is an examination of the Crown's balance sheet and is required every four years under the Public Finance Act 1989. Its purpose is to describe and state the value of the Crown's portfolio of significant assets and liabilities, how this has changed from the past, and how it is expected to change in future. It also discusses the importance, progress and principles of good balance sheet management.

"Mr Makhoulouf says the Investment Statement is important for transparency because the government is managing the assets and liabilities on behalf of the people of New Zealand.

"It's about our schools and hospitals, our superannuation and accident compensation, our state highways and state-owned enterprises. And the numbers involved are huge. At the end of June 2017, the government owned \$314 billion worth of assets and owed \$197 worth of liabilities, for a net worth of \$117 billion. That's around \$24,000 per person. And the numbers are growing bigger. By 2022 assets are expected to reach \$365 billion and liabilities \$205 billion.

"But more important than the numbers themselves is how these assets and liabilities are used. They provide resources which the government can draw on for raising wellbeing, now and into the future. Managing the balance sheet well is essential for delivering public services needed today in a way that maximises value for money, and for sustainable, resilient and adaptable public finances that will support the community for generations to come', Mr Makhoulouf says. ....

"As I said in a speech two weeks ago, this is world-leading. No other country has done this before. No other country has progressed the idea of integrating living standards measures into public policy development from the conceptual to the concrete'.

**More:** [www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/media-speeches/speeches/investment-statement](http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/media-speeches/speeches/investment-statement) plus [www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/media-speeches/media/20mar18](http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/media-speeches/media/20mar18) and [www.treasury.govt.nz/government/investmentstatements/2018/is18-hphp-wellbeing.pdf](http://www.treasury.govt.nz/government/investmentstatements/2018/is18-hphp-wellbeing.pdf) 192 pages, 5.55Mb

**Source:** Treasury, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018. ✦

## Numbers Magazine: The Sustainability Issue - Autumn 2018

"This issue of *Numbers* is our biggest ever! When we let our people know we would be focusing on sustainability, the response was astounding! Many of our people wanted to tell the stories of the amazing initiatives taken by their clients to help create a brighter future for our planet and us.

"With the 100% Pure brand coming under the spotlight lately, these inspiring stories are certainly providing some reassurance, as being one of the best is very different to being an innovative leader.

"Climate change has also been receiving global attention, due to the variability of weather this summer and China's recent ban on importing recyclables and waste (where we shipped 7m tons last year), the opportunity for innovation and change is immense. ....

**More:** [https://issuu.com/numbersmag/docs/sr\\_numbers\\_-\\_autumn\\_2018\\_issue](https://issuu.com/numbersmag/docs/sr_numbers_-_autumn_2018_issue) 40 pages

**Source:** Staples Rodway, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018

**Editor:** Well worth looking at plus considering the content! ✦

## 'Smart Partnering' for Both Business and Societal Value

"Many executives see corporate social responsibility as a distraction. Yet some farsighted ones consider it an opportunity to strengthen the actual business of their companies while contributing to society as well – something especially important at a time of growing distrust of both business and government. "Smart partnering" is one way to generate value for companies and society alike. The focus of the company moves beyond enhancing its reputation and toward improving its ability to address major strategic challenges. Society's focus shifts from maintaining minimum standards or seeking funds for investment to raising employment, the quality of life, and living standards.

"One well-known company, for example, increased its penetration of hard-to-serve rural India by appointing local women to sell its products there. These 'entrepreneurs' (as they were called) received extensive training and borrowed money from their self-help groups to purchase the company's products, which they sold in their own areas. Eventually, this project employed 42,000 women who covered nearly 130,000 villages and three million households a month. To learn how companies can do good while doing well, read our December 2009 classic *Making the most of corporate social responsibility*.

**More:** [www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/leadership/making-the-most-of-corporate-social-responsibility](http://www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/leadership/making-the-most-of-corporate-social-responsibility)

**Source:** McKinsey Classics, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018

**Editor:** See the article above regarding Yunus' book. ❖

## Why India's Farmers Want to Conserve Indigenous Heirloom Rice

"India is rice country: the cereal provides daily sustenance for more than 60% of the population. Half a century ago, it was home to more than 100,000 rice varieties, encompassing a stunning diversity in taste, nutrition, pest-resistance and, crucially in this age of climate change and natural disasters, adaptability to a range of conditions.

"Today, much of this biodiversity is irretrievably lost, forced out by the quest for high-yield hybrids and varieties encouraged by government agencies. Such 'superior varieties now cover more than 80% of India's rice acreage.

"The Koraput region in the state of Odisha in India's east was historically among the world's leading areas of rice diversification. In the 1950s, an official survey found farmers here growing more than 1,700 different rice varieties. Now, more than 1,400 farmers in the region are at the heart of a movement to safeguard what remains of this genetic wealth. ....

"Many farmers reported some heirloom varieties were able to withstand cyclones better than the modern ones, while others could cope better in conditions of drought or low rainfall.

"Farmers had other reasons to prefer desi varieties. Their taller paddy stalks yielded valuable by-products: fodder for cattle, mulch for the soil, and hay for thatching the roofs of their homes, unlike the short-statured modern varieties.

"And then there is the universal motivation of taste. Scented varieties like Kolaajeera and Kolakrushna has a sweet aroma, making cooking and eating the rice a pleasurable experience....

"Meanwhile, hundreds of farmers in Koraput embody an alternative model of agricultural development. Drawing on centuries of knowledge and skills, these farmers sustain 200 rice varieties. In the process, they are reducing their dependence on external agencies, from the seed company and the pesticide seller to the government subsidy and bank loan.

"By reviving seeds, they are also reviving food, taste, ritual, nutrition, and sustainability – attributes often forgotten as a result of the obsession with yield. Attributes that make rice more than just a bundle of calories and starch.

**More:** <http://snippets.energyts.com/snippets/20180322/story3.html>

**Source:** *SnippETS*, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. ❖

## Global Opportunity Report 2017 – Dare to Think Big

"It all happened with remarkable speed. Within a year after the adoption of the new Sustainable Development agenda, businesses and governments around the world integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into their strategies. Frontrunners from all sectors and regions recognized that this new agenda changed everything.

"Now these frontrunners are readying to operationalise their new visions of the future. This is where the opportunity mindset comes in: to seize the new opportunities presented by the post-2015 world means grappling with complexity, daring to think big, and moving out of your comfort zone. ....

"Identifying your next big opportunity among a myriad of global trends is a daunting task. Addressing this challenge is the driving ambition of the *Global Opportunity Report*. Like the first and second editions, the 2017 report focuses on five global risks. The risks covered by the third edition are: cities disrupted by climate change; cyber threats; rising inequality; soil depletion; and unstable regions. Based on these risks, we mapped 15 corresponding opportunities via a thorough review process with experts and a global survey engaging 5,500 leaders.

"This year, our survey respondents overwhelmingly agree inequality is the biggest global risk we face. And, yet, the three opportunities to address this challenge were among the lowest ranked compared to the other 12. This apparent gap between the world's biggest challenges and the biggest opportunities tell us the potential benefits of addressing the most serious risks are enormous – but no one feels empowered to take on the challenge.

"The lesson of this year's *Global Opportunity Report* is that closing this gap between risk and opportunity takes new innovative partnerships that can address the challenge from multiple angles. It requires a new leadership paradigm – opportunity leadership. ....

**More:**

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/th-e-2017-global-opportunity-report.pdf> 134 pages, 5.49Mb

**Source:** [www.eco-business.com/news/our-dying-soils-the-invisible-crisis-under-our-feet](http://www.eco-business.com/news/our-dying-soils-the-invisible-crisis-under-our-feet)

**Editor:** Has numerous resources for suggested reading. Also see the 'Risk Management Landscape at page123. ❖

## Merger from Hell Just Approved

"BREAKING: Bayer and Monsanto are one step closer to controlling the food you eat from farm to plate. The nightmare Bayer-Monsanto merger just got green-lighted by the European Union.

"It's not over and we can't give up. In fact, now we need to act more urgently than ever – it's at this critical time we need your support.

"The merger still has to be approved in the United States. So we're shifting our focus there asap to stop it for good.

"Bayer's takeover of Monsanto would create a company with control of over a quarter of the world's seed and pesticide market. ...

"This decision is a huge blow – and frankly outrageous. ....

"The US still needs to approve the merger for it to go through, so we're focusing on the US Justice Department to make sure that the megamerger is shut down....

**More:** [www.commondreams.org/news/2018/03/21/alarm-sounds-after-eu-regulators-greenlight-bayer-monsanto-mergerfromhell](http://www.commondreams.org/news/2018/03/21/alarm-sounds-after-eu-regulators-greenlight-bayer-monsanto-mergerfromhell) plus [www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-21/bayer-clears-eu-hurdle-for-monsanto-deal-with-basf-sale-pledge](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-21/bayer-clears-eu-hurdle-for-monsanto-deal-with-basf-sale-pledge)

**Source:** SumOfUs, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## **Women in Environment, Conservation & Sustainability Leadership**

### **Theme: 'Planting Seeds for Success'**

"The leaders of tomorrow must be open to opportunities to demonstrate social and environmental conscientiousness. Aspiring leaders must understand the overarching impact businesses and people have on the environment. Creating possibilities out of challenges is an essential skill to master. Leaders must come together to invest in their success and sow opportunities to realise their leadership goals

"About The Event: The field of environmental management, conservation and sustainability is ripe with challenges and opportunities. Leaders have a critical role to play in the preservation, rejuvenation and governance of our natural resources. The future of society and business hinges upon those who are able to envision their leadership potential beyond the boundaries of their limitations.

"The Women in Environment, Conservation & Sustainability Leadership Summit assembles accomplished women from various backgrounds to share in the vision of environmental sustainability. Insightful case studies, interactive panels and expert commentaries will empower future leaders to actualise their ambitions. In reaching for a collective goal, this summit will create a space for emerging leaders to sow opportunities for success and reap the rewards of their endeavour

**When/Where:** 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Wellington.

#### **More:**

[http://events.liquidlearninggroup.com/Event\\_Details?Id=006F00002uZyDqQAK](http://events.liquidlearninggroup.com/Event_Details?Id=006F00002uZyDqQAK)

**Source:** NZGBC, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

**Editor:** Among the all NZ line-up of 24 presenters there are 3 males. ❖

## **First 10-star Dwellings Built in Auckland**

"Ockham Residential is the firm behind the 'Daisy' apartments. Certified with a New Zealand Green Building Council 10 Star Homestar Built Rating, the apartments are the first 10-star dwellings built in Auckland and the first 10-star apartments in all of Aotearoa. [NZ]

"The apartments were opened on Tuesday this past week [March 13]. According to Ockham Residential co-founder Mark Todd, Daisy can hopefully set a new standard for sustainable urban living. 'Daisy looks to the future of our city, enabling sustainable, low-energy urban living', he says. 'Daisy is the continued realisation of our ambition to provide homes for Aucklanders in places they want to live where connectivity, creativity and community can flourish.'....

"In lieu of private car parks, Daisy boasts 12 scooter parks, 40 bicycle spaces and two shared cars for residents to use. ...

"Daisy's 33 apartments are crammed into just 320 square metres of land. Yet Todd says they're not cramped, and that they offer good value compared to Auckland's high housing prices. 'The REINZ Median House Price in January 2018 of \$845,000 is 60% higher than Daisy's average price of \$530,000', he says.

**More:** <https://idealog.co.nz/urban/2018/03/say-hello-daisy-new-zealands-greenest-apartments> plus [www.stuff.co.nz/business/property/102213199/33unit-apartment-opens-but-not-a-single-carpark](http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/property/102213199/33unit-apartment-opens-but-not-a-single-carpark) - see large number of comments plus [www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=12012602](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12012602) and [www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=12014044](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12014044)

**Source:** NZ Herald, 15<sup>th</sup> March. ❖

## **In Britain's Playgrounds, 'Bringing in Risk' to Build Resilience**

"SHOEBURYNESSESS, England – Educators in Britain, after decades spent in a collective effort to minimise risk, are now, cautiously, getting into the business of providing it.

"Four years ago, for instance, teachers at the Richmond Avenue Primary and Nursery School looked critically around their campus and set about, as one of them put it, 'bringing in risk'.

"Out went the plastic playhouses and in came the dicey stuff: stacks of two-by-fours, crates and loose bricks. The schoolyard got a mud pit, a tire swing, log stumps and workbenches with hammers and saws.

"We thought, how can we bring that element of risk into your everyday environment?' said Leah Morris, who manages the early years program at the school in Shoeburyness in southeast Britain. 'We were looking at, O.K., so we've got a sand pit, what can we add to the sand pit to make it more risky?'

"Now, Ms. Morris says proudly, 'we have fires, we use knives, saws, different tools', all used under adult supervision. Indoors, scissors abound, and so do sharp-edged tape dispensers ('they normally only cut themselves once', she says). ...

"Outside .... a placard informs parents risks have been 'intentionally provided, so your child can develop an appreciation of risk in a controlled play environment rather than taking similar risks in an uncontrolled and unregulated wider world.'...

'Limited risks are increasingly cast by experts as an experience essential to childhood development, useful in building resilience and grit. ...

**More:** [www.nytimes.com/2018/03/10/world/europe/britain-playgrounds-risk.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/10/world/europe/britain-playgrounds-risk.html)

**Source:** Megan Holcom (Brisbane), 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018. ❖

## **NZ and Australia's SDG's Rankings**

SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017 Global Responsibilities

"[Page 12] Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be an indispensable platform for building a better world. The various concepts that lie behind this ambitious agenda will together provide the engine for progress – the need for a defined vision, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, the emphasis on accountability and measurement, and the acknowledgement that environmental, social and economic goals are interconnected.

"The very exercise of setting goals fulfils various functions. The definition clarifies what we are working towards, creating a sense of purpose around which different constituencies can cohere. This in turn leads to practical momentum and commitment. Since its launch in 2015, around 50 countries have already integrated the goals into their national strategy plans, while another 50 are currently undertaking consultation processes.

[Page 62] NZ 24<sup>th</sup>, Australia 31<sup>st</sup> behind Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Croatia, Estonia and Czech Republic which is 5<sup>th</sup>.

**More:** [www.sdgindex.org/](http://www.sdgindex.org/) plus [www.sdgindex.org/assets/files/2017/2017-SDG-Index-and-Dashboards-Report--regions.pdf](http://www.sdgindex.org/assets/files/2017/2017-SDG-Index-and-Dashboards-Report--regions.pdf) 396 pages, 20.01Mb

**Editor:** 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 via [www.eco-business.com/news/australias-failing-to-meet-the-sdgsheres-how-it-can-change-that/](http://www.eco-business.com/news/australias-failing-to-meet-the-sdgsheres-how-it-can-change-that/) . ❖

Contributions and feedback are welcomed.

Send your news items, handy hints, case studies, suggestions, comments and questions to Ray Skinner of **Sustainability Matters**.  
eMail: [ray@sustainabilitymatters.co.nz](mailto:ray@sustainabilitymatters.co.nz) Phone: +64 (09) 443 0773 Web: [www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz](http://www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz)