



**SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN**  
2023\_V2.2

CUMULUS





Visitor Centre  
TASMANIA PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

VO

Cumulus respectfully acknowledges the First Peoples of Australia, their Elders past and present, who were and are the keepers of their cultural and spiritual knowledge and traditions, and the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work.





## About the Artwork

"The artwork I have created for Cumulus is inspired by local Country, our community connections and the layers of knowledge we hold and share collectively in order to sustain our cultural practices. The line work represents our journey and the journey of Cumulus Studio in navigating community, culture and cultural protocol.

The circular motifs represent the community, coming together to learn and share collectively; it is also reminiscent of the natural flow and connectedness of Country and all things belonging to Country, including us, the people.

The colour palette is inspired by the colour palette in use for the Reconciliation Plan and lends itself to the natural earthy tones of Lutruwita/Tasmania."

### **Caleb Nichols-Mansell**

Artist/Founder

Blackspace Creative Arts and Cultural Hub

*(previous)* Dove Lake Shelter  
Image by Angie Blair (Feb 2023)



## About the Artist

Caleb Nichols-Mansell is an early career mixed media artist and the Founder of Blackspace Creative Arts and Cultural Hub. He is a proud Tasmanian Aboriginal man with deep connections to country, community, culture, and spirit which all inform his practice and process as an artist and leader.

Currently living on the north-west coast of Tasmania with his partner, Caleb was born and raised in Launceston with his large and extended family. Caleb went to school first at Mowbray Heights Primary and then later at Brooks High School. After this he completed his first year of post-secondary education at Newstead College before moving on to the University of Tasmania where he studied and later worked for several years.

Caleb has an extensive portfolio in graphic design and digital art and has been commissioned by a number of leading institutes and organisations both within the state and nationally. Stepping outside of his comfort zone, he is beginning to experiment with large scale festival and public art installations as well as site responsive works which will be developed over the coming year.

Delving into and shining light on the politics of identity, land, and cultural heritage his artwork aims to generate conversation and evoke deep thinking whilst providing viewers with an intimate look at what it means to be Tasmanian Aboriginal man in modern day Tasmania.



## **Sustainability is not just about doing less harm, it's also about doing more good.**

At the heart of every project, our studio aspires to deliver the most sustainable outcome based on the brief and context.

For our team, sustainable design is more than just being environmentally conscious but rather the approach that underpins the values of our studio is one that considers the ongoing cultural and social sustainability for each project. This ambition drives our present and future work.





## Our Sustainability Purpose

We collaborate to create clever and enduring architecture for people to experience a meaningful connection with place.

As signatories to Architect's Declare, we recognise there is a climate emergency, and the need to act is now. The construction industry contributes to 40% of the world's carbon footprint<sup>1</sup>, and 35% of the world's landfill consists of construction and demolition waste<sup>2</sup>. Architects are at the precipice of change and have a responsibility to act, in the way we think, design, and build.

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://architecture2030.org/why-the-building-sector/>

<sup>2</sup> Source: Pathways to circular construction: An integrated management of construction and demolition waste for resource recovery - Seyed Hamidreza Ghaffar, Matthew Burman, Nuhu Braimah.

# Pillars of Sustainability

## Environmental

We aim to reduce the carbon footprint of our office operations and projects and improve the health and wellbeing of those who occupy them.

## Social

We design with a focus on the social impact of our projects and seek out purpose-driven opportunities to make positive impacts in the communities we work in.

## Cultural

We exist on the lands of the oldest living culture and aim to preserve, respect, and learn from Indigenous Australians. We acknowledge all cultures in Australia's past and their stories.

*(right)* Dove Lake Shelter  
Image by Angie Blair (Jan 2023)



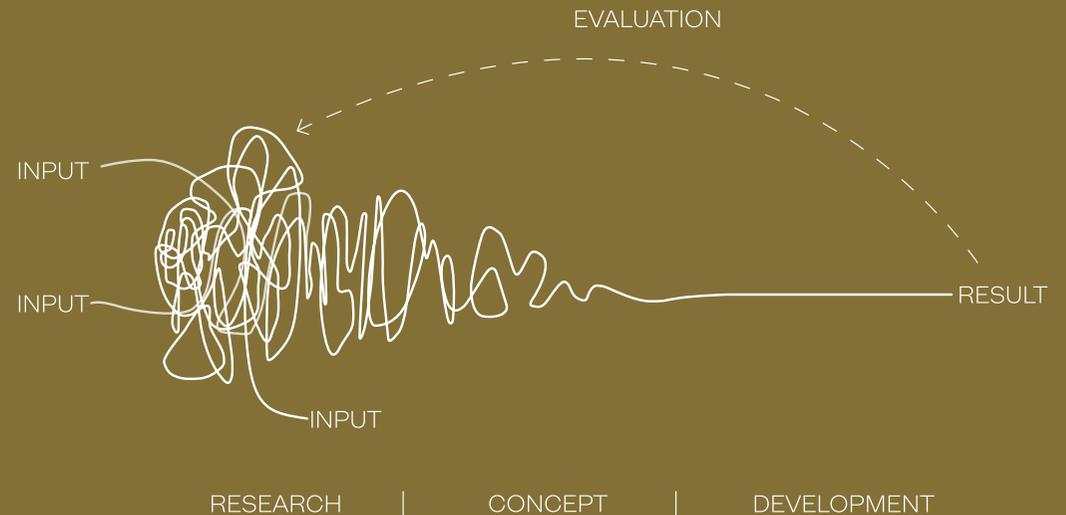
# Design Process

noun

From the Latin word for 'heap' or 'pile.'

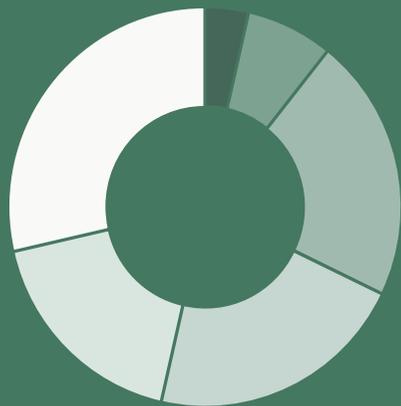
Cumulus believe that through working together a critical mass of ideas can be accumulated quickly - forming idea clouds. These can take on any size or form and be manipulated to suit conditions.

Our national practice promotes creative design solutions where different minds, experiences and office locations collaborate to create more robust design outcomes.



# Survey

A Team Survey was undertaken in November 2022 to gauge the sustainability aspiration, and expectation of staff within the practice and projects. The survey feedback indicates staff aim to deeply embed ESD practice into our work and operations.



■ 5 ■ 6 ■ 7 ■ 8 ■ 9 ■ 10

92%

Would like to see sustainability progress **deeply** within Cumulus

6%

Would like to see sustainability progress **partially** within Cumulus

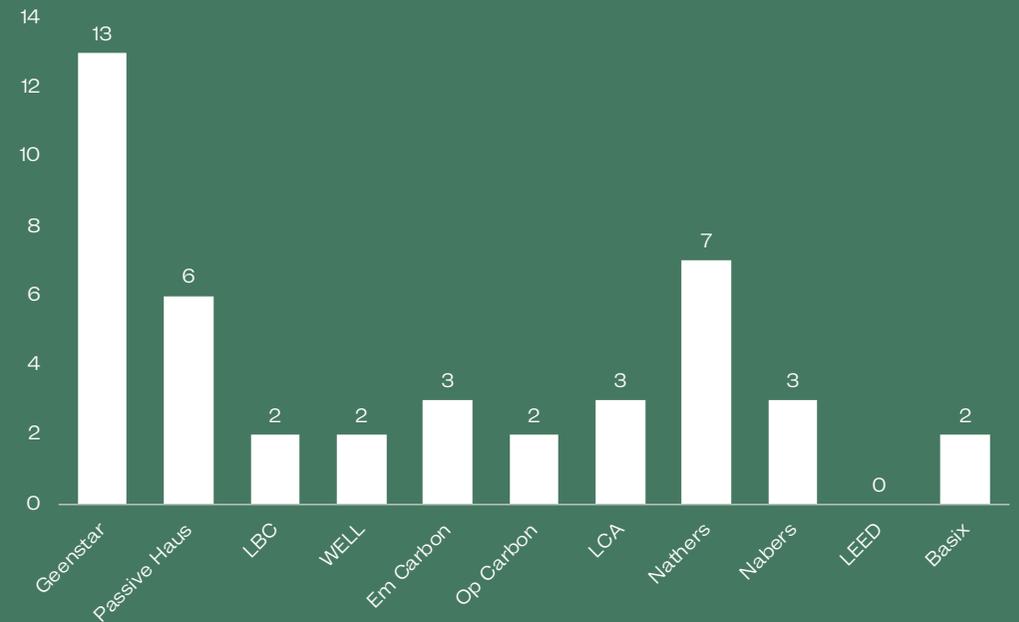


Fig 2. Team experience working within following measurement tools

Fig 1. Where does ESD sit in your design practice between 1-10





## Our Aspiration

Our studio aspires towards a more sustainable practice. In addition to our existing frameworks and processes, we have established the following commitments to fulfil our aspiration;

## COMMITMENTS



FULLY **EMBED SUSTAINABILITY** INTO OUR DESIGN PROCESS, DECISION MAKING AND OFFICE OPERATIONS



**ADVOCATE** TO CREATE CHANGE AND RAISE AWARENESS TO CREATE A CULTURAL SHIFT TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY, BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY



**INVEST IN RESEARCH,** TRAINING, AND EXPERTISE TO EDUCATE STAFF AND COLLABORATORS



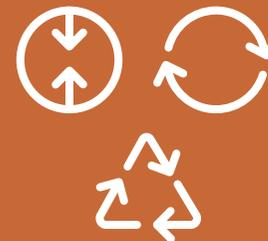
**ESTABLISH BASELINES,** PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND SUSTAINABILITY GOALS AT EACH PROJECT INCEPTION



**MEASURE** TARGETS, TRACK, AND REPORT PROGRESS



**REDUCE** OPERATIONAL AND EMBODIED CARBON



**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.**



**SHARE** WHAT WE LEARN WITH OUR INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY ALONG THE WAY.



## Fully **embed sustainability** into our design process, decision making and office operations

Designing sustainably is not a separate consideration, but an integrated approach to our design process, architectural response and how we operate within our offices. We started with a carbon audit in 2020 of our office operations. We found the largest sources of carbon emissions and made changes across all Cumulus office locations to reduce our carbon footprint and offset the remaining.

We created this SAP and operational procedures to continuously measure and map our progress to the targets we set. Our targets will continue to evolve as the practice does. Recently we become a B Corp certified company, part of a global community of businesses that meet high standards of social and environmental impact.



## **Advocate** to create change and raise awareness to bring about a cultural shift towards sustainability.

We aim to lead by example, by collaborating with like-minded clients, consultants, and industry peers, to create a community of people who aim to make a difference.



## **Measure** targets, track and report progress meaningfully

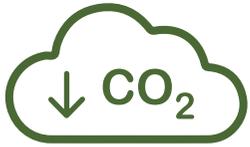
Data is imperative in understanding the performance of our buildings and operations. We aim to measure embodied carbon throughout the design process, conduct post occupancy evaluations and report these to our staff and clients.

shade inspired by  
*Jacaranda arborea flowers*



## **Invest in research**, training and expertise to educate staff and collaborators

Knowledge is power, and we aim to educate our staff with a best practice approach to sustainable design and a carbon positive future.



## Reduce embodied and operational carbon

We are committed to reducing operational and embodied carbon in our projects. We aim to measure embodied carbon in our projects and use this as a design tool for all facets of the building, including structure, materials, fixtures and finishes. We aim to reduce operational carbon by designing more energy efficient buildings, advocating renewable energy sources and green power.



Establish a sustainability strategy using **baselines** and performance targets at each project inception and follow this strategy throughout the design process

As a starting point, we aim to achieve a minimum 7 star NatHERS rating on all residential projects and 20% increase in operational efficiency above DTS for all non-residential projects. We will continue to aim high as targets within our industry progress and change.



## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

As an ethos, we aim to retain or reuse as many resources and products as possible and recycle what we cannot.

We aim to reduce our building footprints, and create more robust spaces which will reduce the quantity of materials in our buildings. Design consideration is given to panel sizes, and end of building disassembly.

We will ask our consultants and collaborators to work with us to achieve this.

shade inspired by  
*Banksia menziesii* (Firewood Banksia) flowers



## Share what we learn with our industry and community along the way

We will share our journey towards a sustainable practice within the built environment to attract like-minded collaborators and to educate others on our findings.





## Our Approach

We tackle the complex field of sustainability through the following approach:

Strategy

Practice

Projects

Office Operations

*(previous)* Dove Lake Shelter  
Image by Angie Blair (Jan 2023)

*(next)* Pumphouse Point-Currant  
Image by Brooke Holm (Oct 2022)



# Strategy

## Frameworks

Create and embed an overarching framework for sustainability. Cumulus is a Certified B Corporation. We have achieved carbon neutrality in our office operations via Trace, achieved ISO 14001:2015 EMS certification, and are signatories to Architect's Declare. The employment of a Sustainability Lead to oversee the EMS Working Group has been a critical step in ensuring all frameworks are implemented by the whole Cumulus team.



## Communication and Marketing

Ensure our website, social media presence and submissions are clearly showcasing our progress and aspirations for sustainability in our practice. Make meaningful connections with industry collaborators to learn and share.

## Baselines

Establish a coherent set of baseline targets for all project typologies across the office.

## Practice

Environmental Management Systems (EMS) working group Create and embed sustainability into the practice through the EMS working group, comprised of representatives from each studio, and promote employee accountability.

### Staff

Ensure all new and existing staff are aware and support the studio's aspirations in this space. Support all staff to gain knowledge in sustainability via the creation of manuals, checklists, education, training, and administrative support.

### Collaborators

Define clear scopes of work for all consultants and build working consultant teams with collaborators who share our vision. Ensure project briefings with consultants are thorough and clearly define the EMS aspirations for the project.

### Future

Support staff to reflect, think big and creatively about the future. Consider regenerative design, circular economy, and lifecycle assessments in future project opportunities.

*(right)* Shots from our Melbourne studio  
Image by Shannyn Higgins (Nov 2022)



## Projects

At the beginning of each project the first question we ask is:

“What is the most sustainable outcome for this project?”

Standards are a minimum level of compliance, we aspire for best practice outcomes.

Create a sustainability strategy for each project.

Raise awareness of our sustainability goals with clients and collaborators.

Ensure sustainability is embedded into each step of the design process from project inception to project handover.

*(right)* Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre  
Image by Angie Blair (Feb 2023)



## Office Operations

Continue to be carbon neutral in our office operations across all locations. Ensure our offices minimise waste, i.e. water, paper, energy, emissions, travel, etc.

Continue to question the systems we use, always seeking more efficient and environmentally-responsible ways of operating

*(right)* Shots from our Melbourne studio  
Image by Shannyn Higgins (Nov 2022)





Our Sustainability Action Plan will evolve as we continue on our journey towards a more sustainable practice. We will track our progress, review and update this document, reporting on how we have met our commitments, at the beginning and mid point of each year.

www.cumulus.studio  
@cumulus\_studio

ADELAIDE

adelaide@cumulus.studio  
+61(3) 6231 4841

Suite 1/47 Waymouth Street  
Adelaide, SA 5000

HOBART

hobart@cumulus.studio  
+61(3) 6231 4841

Level 2, 147 Macquarie St  
Hobart, TAS 7000

LAUNCESTON

launceston@cumulus.studio  
+61(3) 6333 0930

Suite 2, 33 George St  
Launceston, TAS 7250

MELBOURNE

melbourne@cumulus.studio  
+61(3) 6231 4841

Level 3, 370 Lt Bourke St,  
Melbourne, VIC 3000

SYDNEY

sydney@cumulus.studio  
+61(3) 6231 4841

Level 4, 15 Foster Street,  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010