Understanding Sustainability

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Definitions of Sustainability

Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable - to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987

*If we keep doing what we’re doing, then we can keep doing what we’re doing.*
The Great Acceleration

Source: “Global Change and the Earth System” (2004), by Steffen et al.
Resulting Earth System Changes

Source: “Global Change and the Earth System” (2004), by Steffen et al.
Resiliency and Sustainability
4 Pillars of Sustainability

- **Economic Health**: Financial Prosperity
- **Environmental Responsibility**: Ecological Balance
- **Social Equity**: Cohesion, Inclusion, Engagement and Justice
- **Cultural Vitality**: Creativity, Diversity, Heritage and Innovation
CityPlan 2030
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Australia

Social Equity
A connected, accessible and pedestrian-friendly community

Cultural Vitality
A culturally rich and diverse City, with a strong identity, history and ‘sense of place’

Environmental Sustainability
A leader in environmental sustainability

Economic Prosperity
A dynamic and thriving centre for business and services

Community Well-being