GEOG13013 *Sustainable Regions and Cities*
Term 2 - 2026

Profile information current as at 12/11/2026 10:50 am

All details in this unit profile for GEOG13013 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student).The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview
This unit will explore the immense economic, social and environmental transformation of regional Australia. It is roughly organized into three parts. During Part I, we will examine what rural and regional Australia is defined by policies and scholarships. We will also examine how sustainability is defined and measured in relation to regional development. Part II we'll use multi-disciplinary perspectives to examine the key drivers and processes of rural and regional development in Australia (globalization, economic restructuring, demographic transition, and environmental change including natural disasters etc.). This involves not only an understanding of the wider changes, but also an appreciation of how these changes are experienced differently by places and people in terms of sustainability. Finally, during Part III we will examine sustainable development at three scales: region, regional city and community through case studies. We will pay particular attentions to sustainable planning and look at different ways regions, cities and communities achieve sustainability. The unit will conclude by considering what is necessary to meet the ongoing challenges to create regions and cities that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

Details
Career Level: *Undergraduate*
Unit Level: *Level 3*
Credit Points: *6*
Student Contribution Band: *8*
Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: *0.125*

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites
There are no requisites for this unit.
Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework).

Offerings For Term 2 - 2026
- Online

Attendance Requirements
All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website
This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

Regional Campuses
Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

Metropolitan Campuses
Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. Written Assessment—Sustainable Report (Written Assessment)
Weighting: 50%
2. Written Assessment— Term Paper (Written Assessment)
Weighting: 50%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the University's Grades and Results Policy for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the CQUniversity Policy site.
You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Academic Progression Policy and Procedure
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the CQUniversity Policy site.

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Student feedback and UC self-reflection.

Feedback
Students felt feedback was too generic and needed clearer links to assessment criteria.

Recommendation
All students to receive timely, individualised feedback that contains specific, actionable comments explicitly linked to the assessment criteria and key areas for improvement.

Feedback from UC self-assessment.

Feedback
Students lacked guidance on appropriate use of generative AI tools.

Recommendation
The Unit Coordinator will incorporate explicit guidance on the acceptable use of generative AI tools in the unit's assessment into tutorial sessions, clarifying expectations and reducing the risk of inappropriate use.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Articulate the geography of scales and apply these to sustainable regions and cities
2. Identify, analyze and evaluate key trends of change, challenges and opportunities of sustainability in regional Australia
3. Deploy, under guidance, established frameworks and techniques of sustainability to urban and regional development in Australia
4. Communicate geographical issues, ideas and arguments using appropriate written, cartographic and graphic forms.

N/A

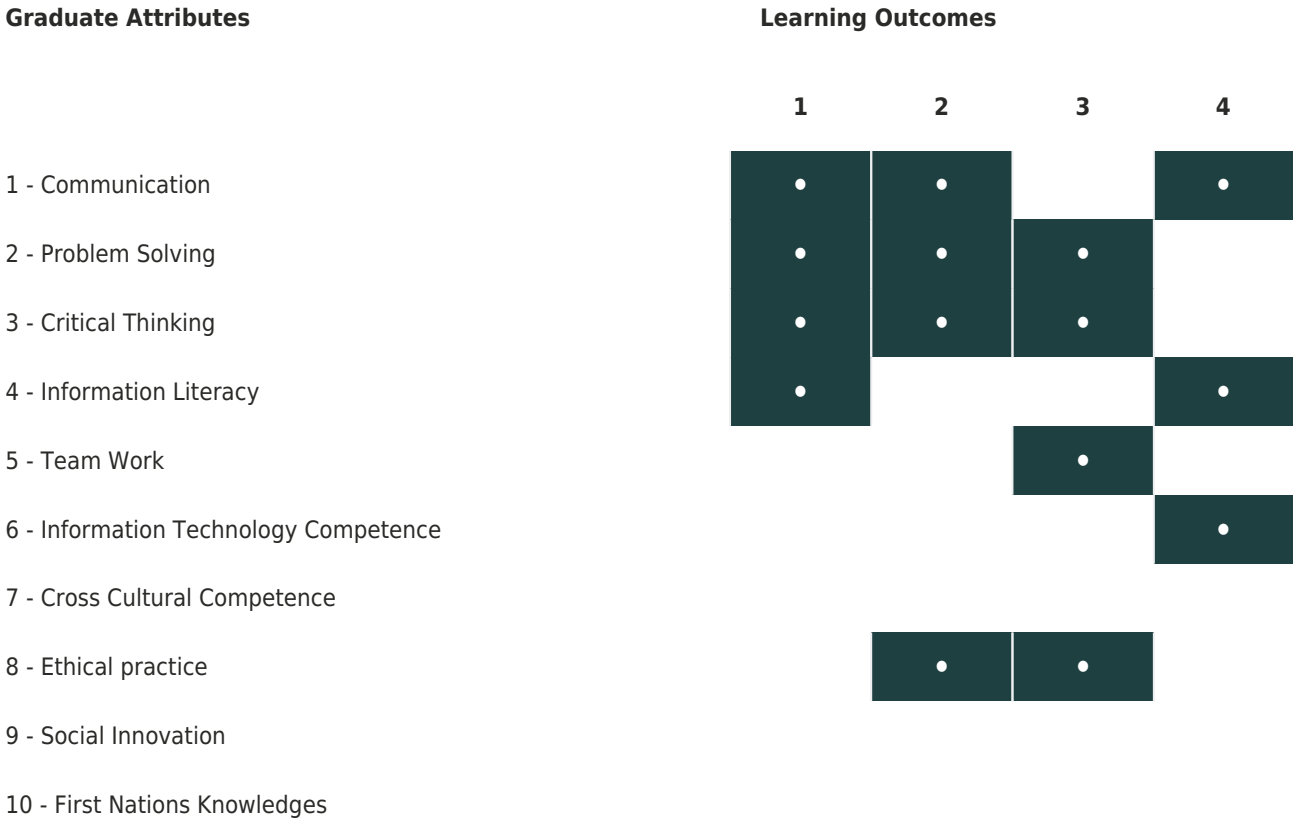
Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

— N/A Level • Introductory Level • Intermediate Level • Graduate Level ◦ Professional Level ◦ Advanced Level

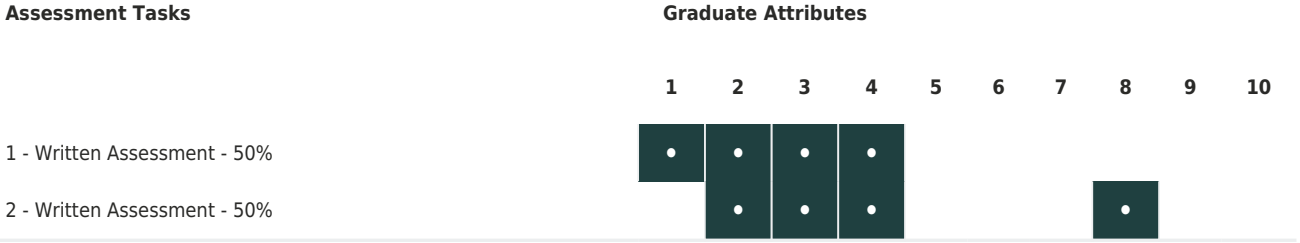
Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Written Assessment - 50%	•	•	•	•
2 - Written Assessment - 50%	•	•	•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes



Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: Harvard (author-date)
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Jiaping Wu Unit Coordinator
j.wu@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 13 Jul 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Unit Introduction - What Is Sustainability?	There is no textbook for this unit. Weekly study materials will be made available on the unit's Moodle site.	

Week 2 - 20 Jul 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Place Matters: Define Cities and Regions		

Week 3 - 27 Jul 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Sustainability: Frameworks, Principles and Tools		

Week 4 - 03 Aug 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Measuring Sustainability and Sustainability Development Goals		

Week 5 - 10 Aug 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Australia's Regional Settlement System		

Week 6 - 17 Aug 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
How Do Regions Develop and Change?		

Vacation Week - 24 Aug 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Vacation week		

Week 7 - 31 Aug 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
A Changing Regional Environment: Natural Disasters		Written Assessment—Sustainable Report Due: Week 7 Friday (4 Sept 2026) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 8 - 07 Sep 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Whose Regions? Population, Health and Liveability in Australia Regions		

Week 9 - 14 Sep 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Planning As A Sustainability Instrument: Sustainable Planning in Queensland		

Week 10 - 21 Sep 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Sustainability by Planning: A Case Study		

Week 11 - 28 Sep 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Sustainability by Urban Design: A Case Study		

Week 12 - 05 Oct 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Toward Urban and Regional Sustainability		Written Assessment— Term Paper Due: Week 12 Friday (9 Oct 2026) 11:45 pm AEST

Exam Week - 12 Oct 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Vacation/Exam Week - 19 Oct 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 Written Assessment

Assessment Title
Written Assessment—Sustainable Report

Task Description
The assessment task entails writing a report that delves into the sustainability challenges of a chosen region or topic. You must select a region, regional city, industry, or organization in Australia for study. The report should focus on the sustainability challenges encountered by the chosen region or topic. It is important to note that the same region or topic will be studied for Assessment 2. Therefore, it is crucial to review the instructions for Assessment 2 before making your choice. The report should be a minimum of 2,500 words in length.
Detailed instructions and resources for writing the report are provided on the unit's Moodle site.
Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence agents (Gen AI):
Within this assessment, the use of Microsoft Copilot, Chat GPT or other Gen AI agents is as follows: Gen AI content is used to generate ideas and general structures only.

Assessment Due Date
Week 7 Friday (4 Sept 2026) 11:45 pm AEST
Online submission

Return Date to Students
Week 9 Friday (18 Sept 2026)
Assessments will be marked and returned in two weeks after submission

Weighting
50%

Assessment Criteria
Your report will be evaluated based on the thoroughness of the research conducted and the effectiveness of written communication. The assessment criteria include:

- Extent of Research: Evaluating the depth and breadth of research conducted on the selected region or topic.
- Understanding of Sustainability: Demonstrating a comprehensive grasp of the sustainability challenges relevant to the chosen region or topic.
- Integration of Learning Activities: Demonstrating the ability to synthesise knowledge acquired from unit learning activities.
- Written Communication Proficiency: Assessing the clarity, coherence, and effectiveness in articulating ideas and presenting findings through writing.

An assessment rubric is available on the unit's Moodle site.

Referencing Style
Harvard (author-date)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Online submission

Learning Outcomes Assessed
- Articulate the geography of scales and apply these to sustainable regions and cities
- Identify, analyze and evaluate key trends of change, challenges and opportunities of sustainability in regional Australia
- Deploy, under guidance, established frameworks and techniques of sustainability to urban and regional development in Australia
- Communicate geographical issues, ideas and arguments using appropriate written, cartographic and graphic forms.

Graduate Attributes
- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy

2 Written Assessment

Assessment Title
Written Assessment— Term Paper

Task Description
Following the insights garnered from your sustainability reports, this assessment requires you to: a) Investigate an existing plan relevant to the region or topic previously examined in Assessment 1. b) Create a paper evaluating the identified plan. This paper should present an assessment of the plan's alignment with sustainable development principles and its contribution to the sustainable development of the region or topic. It should discuss the plan's strengths, weaknesses, and potential areas for improvement in promoting sustainable development. This analysis should also include whether and how the sustainability challenges identified in the initial assessment were addressed by the plan.
The paper should be at least 3,000 words long. Detailed instructions and guidelines are provided on the unit's Moodle site.
Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence agents (Gen AI):
Within this assessment, the use of Microsoft Copilot, Chat GPT or other Gen AI agents is as follows: Gen AI content is used to generate ideas and general structures only.

Assessment Due Date
Week 12 Friday (9 Oct 2026) 11:45 pm AEST
Online submission

Return Date to Students
Vacation/Exam Week Friday (23 Oct 2026)
The papers will be marked and returned at the end of the term.

Weighting
50%

Assessment Criteria
Your paper will be evaluated based on the overall quality of the research and the effectiveness of written communication. The evaluation criteria include:
- Understanding the nature of a sustainability plan.
- Quality of research and evaluation of the chosen plan.
- Applying sustainability assessment tools and frameworks to evaluate the plan.
- Quality of written communication, including clarity, coherence, and effectiveness in articulating ideas and presenting findings.

An assessment rubric is available on the unit's Moodle site.

Referencing Style
Harvard (author-date)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Online submission

Learning Outcomes Assessed
- Articulate the geography of scales and apply these to sustainable regions and cities
- Identify, analyze and evaluate key trends of change, challenges and opportunities of sustainability in regional Australia

- Deploy, under guidance, established frameworks and techniques of sustainability to urban and regional development in Australia
- Communicate geographical issues, ideas and arguments using appropriate written, cartographic and graphic forms.

Graduate Attributes
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Ethical practice

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure. This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?
A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?
A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?
For academic advice and guidance, the Academic Learning Centre (ALC) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?

Be Honest
If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own

Seek Help
If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)

Produce Original Work
Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem