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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

GREENHOUSE GASES & AIR

SOIL & LANDSCAPES

BIODIVERSITY

WATER

MATERIALS & RESOURCES



ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

HUMAN HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION ANIMAL WELLBEING RIGHTS, EQUITY & DIVERSITY LIVELIHOODS

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PEOPLE, ANIMALS & COMMUNITY

FAIR TRADING

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

Communicating the Australian agricultural industry's sustainability status and goals to markets and to the community.

P17. Unconscionable conduct is eliminated from supply chains via transparency and accountability.

P1. Net anthropogenic GHG emissions are limited to minimise climate change.

P2. Adverse impacts to air quality are avoided or minimised.

P3. Soil health and functionality are protected and enhanced.

P4. Landscape degradation is avoided or minimised.

P5. Biodiverse ecological communities are protected and enhanced.

P6. Water resources are used responsibly and equitably.

P7. Finite resources are safeguarded in circular economic systems.

P8. Safe agricultural outputs are produced for public consumption.

P9. Safe working environments are provided for employees.

P10. Fair access to a decent livelihood is provided within the industry.

P11. Discrimination is not tolerated in an inclusive industry.

P12. Farmed animals are given the best care for whole of life.

P13. Society benefits from the agricultural industry's positive contribution.

P14. Biosecurity threats are assessed, mitigated and managed in systems of continuous improvement.

P15. Industry participants behave ethically and lawfully.

P16. Resilience is enhanced by assessment, mitigation and management of risks.

Theme	Categories	Principles (desired outcome or IDEAL STATE)	Criteria (conditions to be met to comply with a Principle)
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP	GREENHOUSE GASES & AIR	<p>P1. Net anthropogenic GHG emissions are limited to minimise climate change</p> <p>P2. Adverse impacts to air quality are avoided or minimised</p>	<p>C1. GHG emissions are reduced throughout lifecycle</p> <p>C2. Carbon emissions are sequestered throughout lifecycle</p> <p>C3. Where necessary (if C1 & C2 are impractical), GHG emissions are offset throughout lifecycle by purchasing recognised credits or participating in recognised projects</p> <p>C4. Plant, equipment and machinery are appropriately maintained and operated to maximise efficiency</p> <p>C5. Activities which generate particulate matter are conducted within regulatory guidelines</p>
	SOIL & LANDSCAPES	<p>P3. Soil health and functionality are protected and enhanced</p> <p>P4. Landscape degradation is avoided or minimised</p>	<p>C6. Soils are managed to provide ecosystem services, including sustainable agricultural production</p> <p>C7. Land under productive agricultural management delivers beneficial environmental services</p> <p>C8. Natural waterways are preserved and improved</p>
	BIODIVERSITY	<p>P5. Biodiverse ecological communities are protected and enhanced</p>	<p>C9. Farms support a diverse range of beneficial flora and fauna species</p> <p>C10. Farm-related ecosystems are functioning and thriving</p>
	WATER	<p>P6. Water resources are used responsibly and equitably</p>	<p>C11. Water is used efficiently in agricultural systems</p> <p>C12. Adverse impacts to surface water and groundwater quality are prevented</p>
	MATERIALS & RESOURCES	<p>P7. Finite resources are safeguarded in circular economic systems</p>	<p>C13. The use of inputs and resources that cannot be reused or recycled is minimised</p> <p>C14. Renewable sources of inputs are prioritised</p> <p>C15. Residues and waste are reused or recycled</p>

Theme	Categories	Principles (desired outcome or IDEAL STATE)	Criteria (conditions to be met to comply with a Principle)
PEOPLE, ANIMALS & COMMUNITY	HUMAN HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING	<p>P8. Safe agricultural outputs are produced for public consumption</p> <p>P9. Safe working environments are provided for employees</p>	<p>C16. Food and fibre is produced, packaged and distributed to world-leading standards of safety</p> <p>C17. Food produced by the industry is healthy and nutritional</p> <p>C18. Producers practice good antimicrobial stewardship</p> <p>C19. Occupational health and safety are upheld in the working environment</p> <p>C20. Labour rights are respected and compliance with relevant legislation is demonstrated</p> <p>C21. Physical health and mental wellbeing are valued and actively supported</p>
	LIVELIHOODS	<p>P10. Fair access to a decent livelihood is provided within the industry</p>	<p>C22. Profitability and competitiveness are encouraged</p> <p>C23. A rewarding and enriching work environment is provided</p>
	RIGHTS, EQUITY & DIVERSITY	<p>P11. Discrimination is not tolerated in an inclusive industry</p>	<p>C24. Human rights are respected unequivocally</p> <p>C25. Workplace diversity is valued and actively supported</p>
	ANIMAL WELLBEING	<p>P12. Farmed animals are given the best care for whole of life</p>	<p>C26. Best practice on-farm husbandry is demonstrated</p> <p>C27. Safe transportation of animals is demonstrated</p> <p>C28. Humane end of life for farmed animals is ensured</p>
	SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION	<p>P13. Society benefits from the agricultural industry's positive contribution</p>	<p>C29. Industry contributes to local community economic growth and social capital</p> <p>C30. Indigenous culture is recognised, valued and actively supported</p> <p>C31. Community trust in the industry is upheld</p>

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ECONOMIC RESILIENCE	BIOSECURITY	P14. Biosecurity threats are assessed, mitigated and effectively managed in systems of continuous improvement	<p>C32. Farms have systems in place to monitor risk, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats</p> <p>C33. Industry has systems in place to monitor risk, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats</p> <p>C34. Government has systems in place to monitor risk, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats</p>
	GOOD GOVERNANCE	<p>P15. All industry participants behave ethically and lawfully</p> <p>P16. Resilience is protected and enhanced by assessment, mitigation and management of risks</p>	<p>C35. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations is demonstrated</p> <p>C36. Fair access to participate equally in markets is ensured</p> <p>C37. Zero tolerance for bribery or corruption is demonstrated</p> <p>C38. Government and industry develop and extend overarching national scenario planning for industry risks</p> <p>C39. Industry participants develop, implement and regularly review risk management plans</p> <p>C40. Innovation and infrastructure are well-resourced and supported by government and industry, and can be equitably accessed by industry participants</p>
	FAIR TRADING	P17. Unconscionable conduct is eliminated from the supply chain via demonstrated transparency and accountability	<p>C41. Product provenance information is readily available (i.e. traceability)</p> <p>C42. Information asymmetry in the supply chain is eliminated where perverse outcomes are a risk</p> <p>C43. Carbon footprint accounting is harmonised</p>

Why these terms? Why this structure?



This framework builds on significant work already underway, reflecting the rapidly maturing sustainability schemes already operating in Australia and globally, and mapping existing industry-level sustainability goals into a catalogue of overarching sustainability principles and criteria for the Australian agricultural industry.

By *developing a common set of sustainability principles for the agricultural sector* that can be used over time to align sectoral and supply chain language towards a *common understanding of sustainability deliverables*, the AASF communicates the overall status of Australian agricultural sustainability.

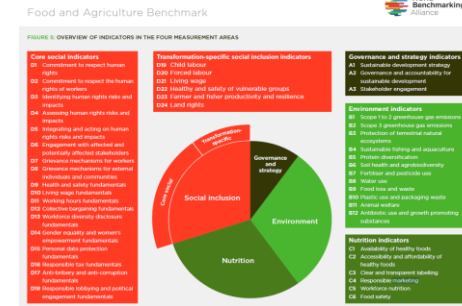
To reflect the different needs of heterogeneous stakeholders, this framework uses an **ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance reporting) structure** and **sustainability framework language** to direct users to material principles and criteria.

Some of the many frameworks, schemes and programs which have been considered are noted here. In particular the AASF seeks to strongly reflect the SAFA, SDGs, GRI and SAI, as well as leading Australian industry sustainability frameworks.

For more detail on the alignment of the AASF principles with global and domestic frameworks, related schemes and initiatives, [download this spreadsheet](#).



World Benchmarking Alliance for Food & Agriculture



Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture Systems - SAFA



THE AUSTRALIAN BEEF Sustainability Framework

THE AUSTRALIAN BEEF SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK IS MADE UP OF:

- 4 THEMES
- 10 PRIORITY AREAS
- 23 PRIORITIES
- 49 INDICATORS

Animal welfare

The wellbeing and health of animals is of paramount importance to producers and the entire beef value chain. Each year, industry invests in research, development, and adoption programs to ensure high standards of animal welfare and to continually identify and develop ways to do things better.

Economic resilience

Economic health is intrinsically linked to the overall performance and capability of any business, and thus an important measure of sustainability. Australia is one of the largest exporters and most efficient producers of beef in the world, however it is important to understand how profitability delivers resilience against environmental shocks such as drought.

Environmental stewardship

As a major land steward, the beef industry shares a close and important relationship with the environment in which it operates, and prospers through maintaining a thriving ecosystem and healthy soil, vegetation, water, and air.

People and the community

A safe, healthy, and capable workforce, together with prosperous and resilient regional communities, is essential to the sustainability of beef production. The AASF reports how the industry promotes a safe, healthy, and growing workforce, and how it provides