

Australian Agricultural
Sustainability Framework

Community of Practice Exchange

Canberra 20-21 March 2024



National
Farmers
Federation

Australian
Agricultural
Sustainability
Framework



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

International insights

Su McCluskey

**Special Representative for Australian Agriculture –
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**



National
Farmers
Federation

Australian
Agricultural
Sustainability
Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

International Insights

Key learnings for 2023 and what this means for Australian agricultural sustainability and the AASF in 2024

20 March 2024

Su McCluskey

Special Representative for Australian Agriculture



Key learnings from 2023



Internationally, the focus is very much on climate change, agri-food systems, food security

- Strong relation with FAO, can do more with OECD. WTO will be a slow burn re trade reform, BUT
 - narrative on repurposing of subsidies is getting traction
- Clean, green, sustainable messaging from other countries is powerful e.g. Ireland
- Work with Global Forum on Farm Policy and Innovation on international collaboration on sustainability
- COP28
 - Focus on agriculture and food security
 - Importance of agriculture as a solution to climate challenges

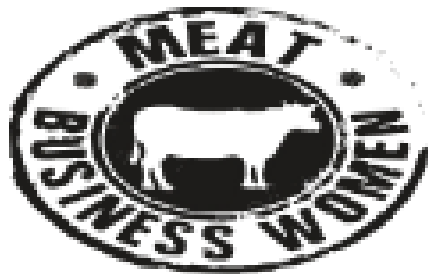




Key learnings from 2023

Domestic engagement in first half of this year will be high, building on AMIC conference last year

- Sustainability
- Food security and safety (traceability)
- Measurement and data
- Reporting
- Keeping an eye on global standards
- Future FTAs
- Building to COP31



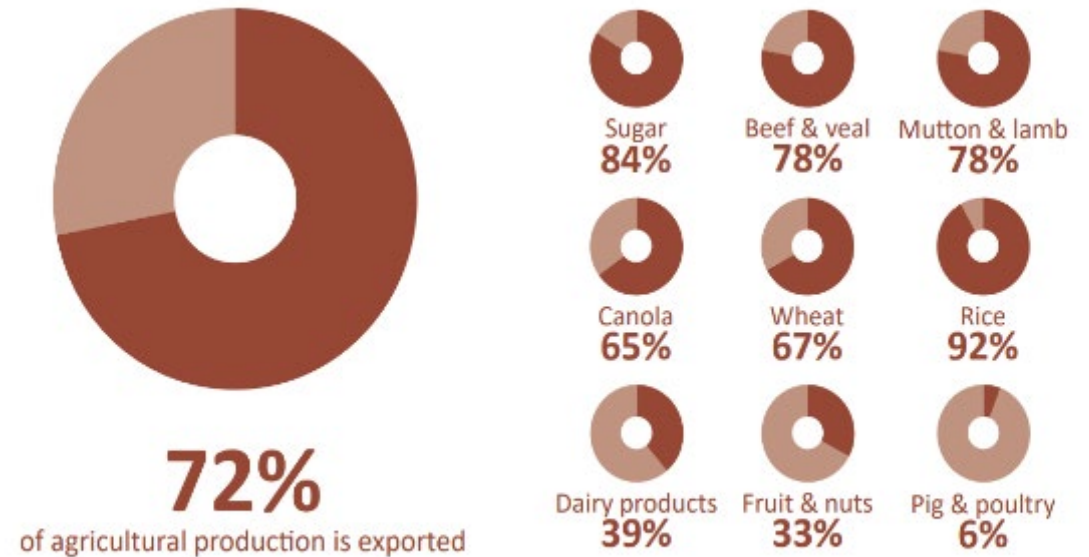
Challenges to Trade

- Social license to operate is a key driver in the EU
 - Powerful NGOs
 - Green Deal
- CAP moving to be environmentally based rather than production
- Agitation by EU farmers does not remove influence on global rules and standards
- Non-tariff barriers e.g. standards and quotas
- Subsidies in other countries e.g. India, US
- Implications of the US and China



International Perceptions of Australian Agriculture

- Reputation as a producer of clean, safe and reliable high-quality products.....but eroding
- Lack of reputation for sustainability
- For trade and market access - need to demonstrate sustainability credentials
- We must evolve and adapt to meet new and emerging ESG credentials



Note: Share of agricultural production exported by sector, 3 year average, 2017–18 to 2019–20. Source: ABARES, following method outlined in Cameron (2017)

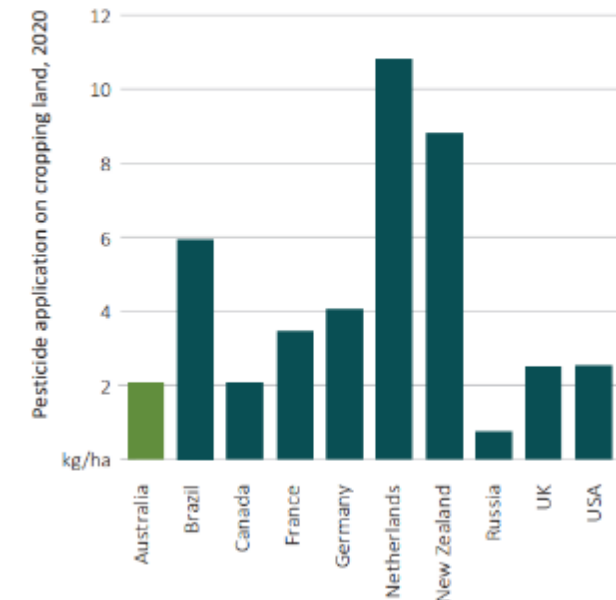
ABARES, 2023, Snapshot of Australian Agriculture 2023

Demonstrating Australian credentials

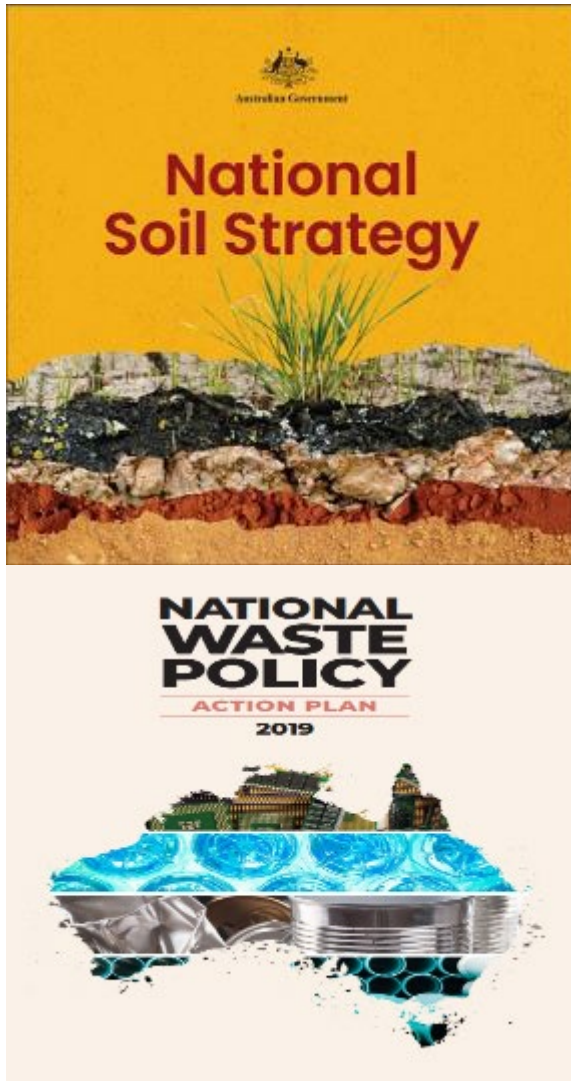
- Adjusts a range of indicators to account for no one size fits all
 - diversity of environment
 - subsidies
- Shows we have strong sustainability credentials
- Measurement is important
 - Shifting land use into nature conservation
 - No/low till
 - Stubble retention
 - Less nitrogen fertilizer use
 - Less pesticides
 - Lower stocking rates



Figure 9 Low use of pesticides could support favourable biodiversity outcomes

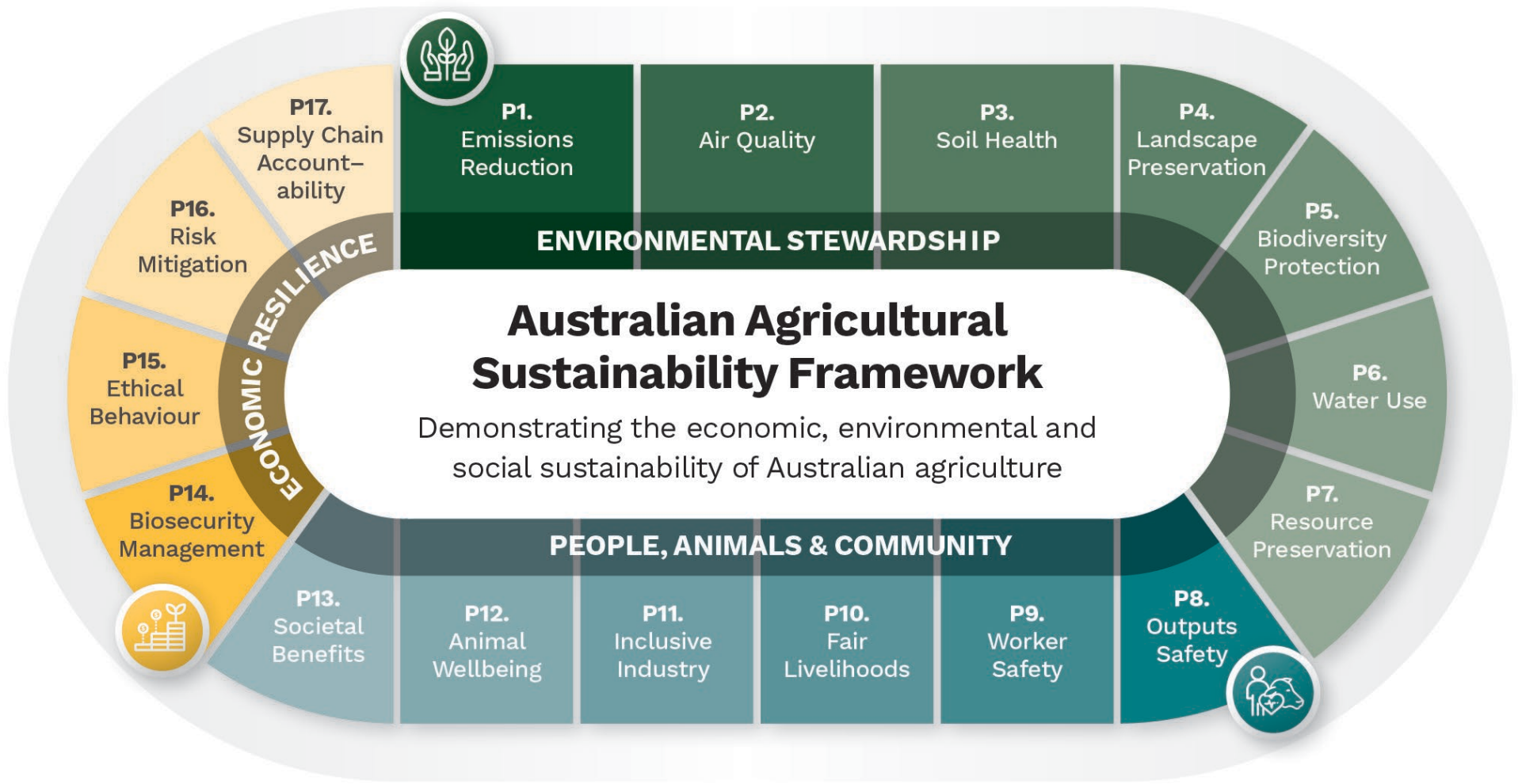


Agriculture can and must be part of the solution



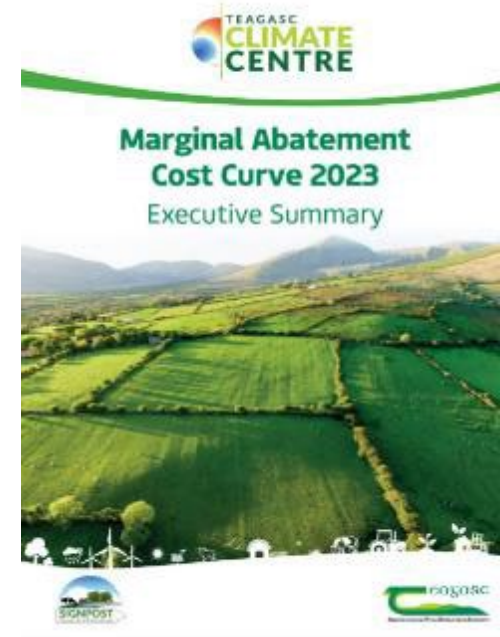
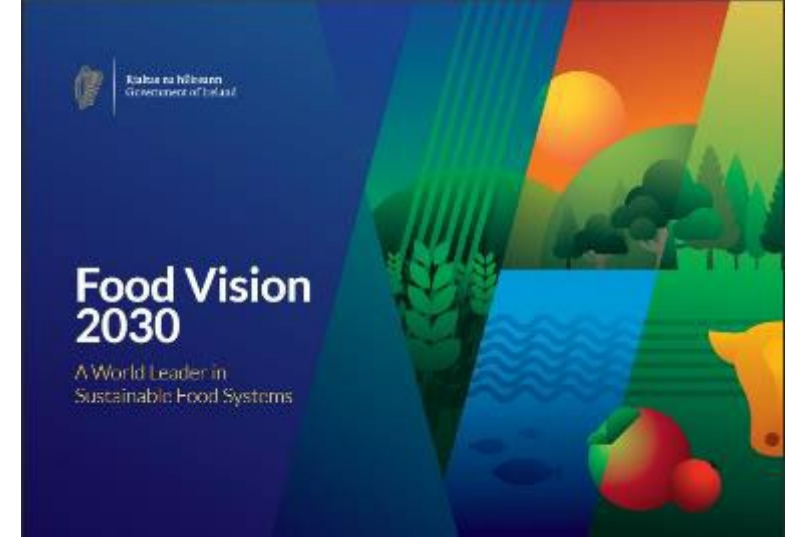
- Sustainable agri-food systems
- What we do well
 - soil health
 - water
 - biodiversity
 - waste management
- Carbon
 - measurement
 - markets
 - sequestration
 - insets vs offsets





Lessons from others

- Ireland
 - Leader in sustainable food systems
 - Quantifiable measures to reduce emissions
 - Branding - Team Ireland
- Canada
 - Measurement, monitoring and evaluation
 - National approach to R&D and marketing
- Others
 - Netherlands - benchmarking
 - New Zealand - know your number
 - Latins - R&D



Where to now

- More work on sustainability at both strategic and operational level
- Greater collaboration
- Global lens
- Promote in mainstream
 - climate-smart agriculture
 - traceability and food safety
 - healthy soils
- Externally need a Team Australia approach



THANK YOU

specialrepresentative@agriculture.gov.au
X (Twitter) @AusAgSpecialRep

