

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

**Demonstrating the economic,
environmental and social
sustainability of Australian
agriculture**



Australian
Agricultural
Sustainability
Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

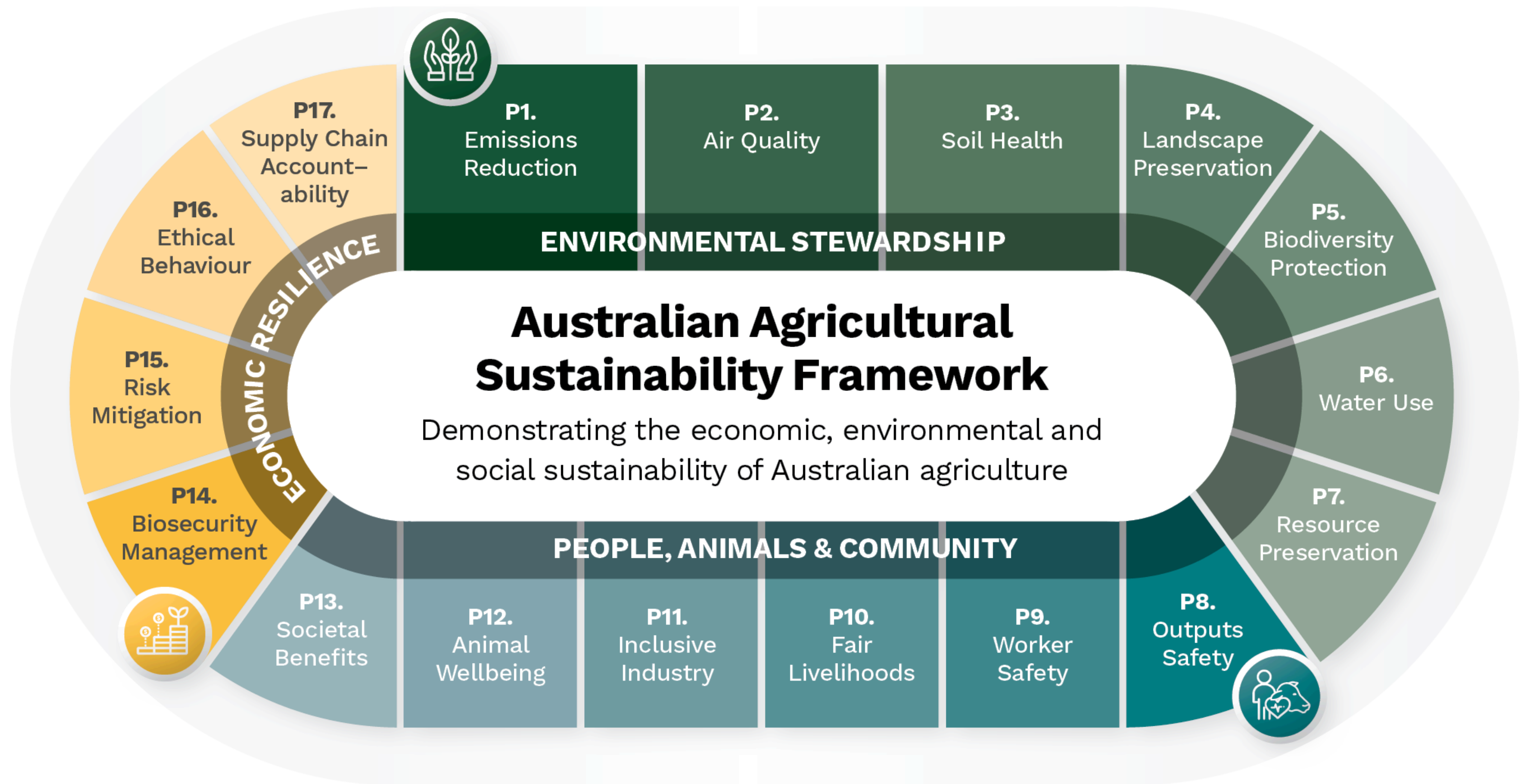
Why these terms? Why this structure?

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. This two-way lens helps stakeholders in supply chains, finance and the community to understand the priorities of Australian producers, and helps producers identify where their sustainability focus can be directed.

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. Just some of the many frameworks, schemes and programs which have been considered are noted here, including the Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture systems (SAFA), Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Global Farm Metric, Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and Sustainable Agriculture Initiative, as well as Australian farm industry sustainability frameworks. The following pages demonstrate how the AASF principles align with many of the existing Australian and international sustainability initiatives.





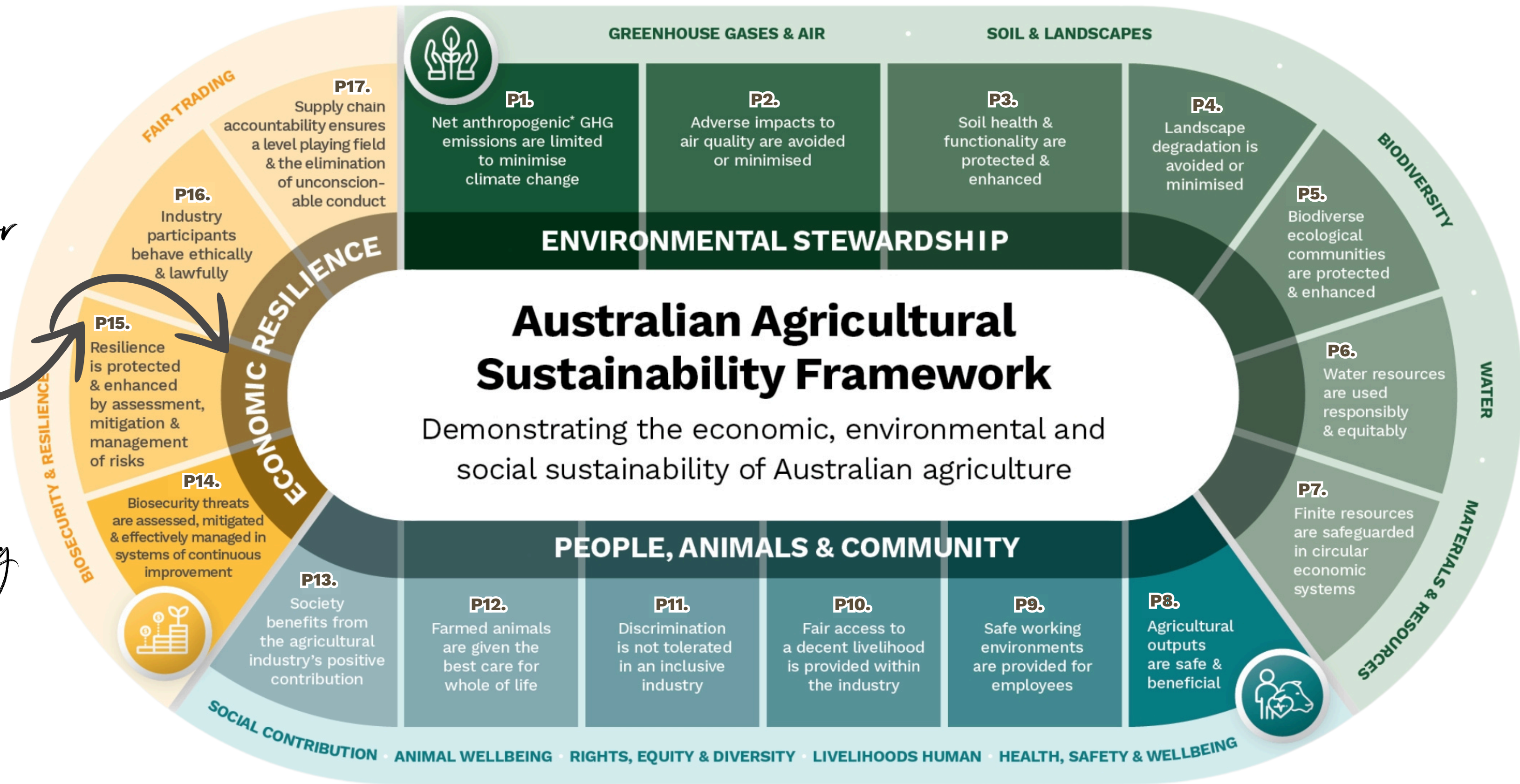
National
Farmers
Federation

Australian
Agricultural
Sustainability
Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

* Click on a Principle or Theme to be taken to the corresponding page



Or scroll through for all Themes, Principles and Criteria




National
Farmers
Federation

Australian
Agricultural
Sustainability
Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

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

* ‘Anthropogenic’ meaning that which originates from human activity – e.g., emissions from farmed livestock are under human management



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

AASF criteria for this principle:

C1. GHG emissions are reduced throughout lifecycle

C2. Carbon emissions are sequestered wherever possible throughout production lifecycle

C3. Where necessary (if C1 & C2 are impractical), GHG emissions are offset throughout lifecycle by purchasing recognised credits or participating in recognised projects

AgCarE	Carbon Results
Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority Area 6.1: Manage climate change risk
Behind Australian Grain	Priority Area: Carbon Footprint – Minimise the industry’s carbon footprint
Cotton MyBMP	Sustainable Natural Landscape: Carbon sequestration and emissions are considered and managed across the whole of farm
Dairy Sustainability Framework	Commitment 4, Goal 10: Reduce GHG emissions intensity
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.1 Emissions: This topic addresses emissions into air, including greenhouse gas (GHG), ozone-depleting substances (ODS), and nitrogen oxides (NOX) and sulfur oxides (SOX), among other significant air emissions
Horticulture Sustainability Framework	R.13: Horticultural plants capture carbon; production systems minimise greenhouse gas emissions
ISO13065:2015 Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy	Principle 5.2.1: GHG - Reduce anthropogenic GHG emissions
ISO26000: Social Responsibility	Climate Change mitigation & adaptation
Montreal Process	Criterion 5: Maintenance of Forest Contributions to Global Carbon Cycles
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials	Principle 3: Biomaterial shall contribute to climate change mitigation by significantly reducing lifecycle GHG emissions as compared to fossil fuels
SAFA (FAO)	E1: The enterprise’s actions contain greenhouse gases to the extent possible and do not release quantities of ozone-depleting substances and air pollutants that would be detrimental to the health of ecosystems, plants, animals or humans
Sheep Sustainability Framework	3.2: Environment - Responsible environmental practices; 4.1: Climate Change - Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle: Climate - An agricultural sector that minimises greenhouse gases and air pollution, acts as a significant greenhouse gas sink, enables adaptations to a changing climate and supports the resiliency of farmers and farming communities
UN SDG 13 – Climate Action	Take urgent action to combat climate change & its impacts

GREENHOUSE GASES & AIR

* return to framework



National Farmers Federation

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



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

AASF criteria for this principle:

C4. Plant, equipment and machinery are appropriately maintained and operated to maximise efficiency

C5. Activities which generate particulate matter are conducted within regulatory guidelines

Australian Government Regulation	National Clean Air Agreement; Product Emissions Standards Act 2017; Product Emissions Standards Rules 2017; National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure; National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Measure; Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000 and fuel quality standards
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.1 Emissions: This topic addresses emissions into air, including greenhouse gas (GHG), ozone-depleting substances (ODS), and nitrogen oxides (NOX) and sulfur oxides (SOX), among other significant air emissions
ISO13065:2015 Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy	Principle 5.2.4: Air - Promote good air quality
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials	Principle 10: Air pollution from biomaterial feedstock production operations shall be minimized along the supply chain
SAFA (FAO)	E1: The enterprise’s actions contain greenhouse gases to the extent possible and do not release quantities of ozone-depleting substances and air pollutants that would be detrimental to the health of ecosystems, plants, animals or humans
Sheep Sustainability Framework	3.2: Environment - Responsible environmental practices
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle: Climate - An agricultural sector that minimises greenhouse gases and air pollution, acts as a significant greenhouse gas sink, enables adaptations to a changing climate and supports the resiliency of farmers and farming communities
State-based Environmental Protection Authorities	Example - NSW EPA

* return to framework





AASF – P3. Soil health and functionality are protected and enhanced

AASF criteria for this principle:

C6. Soils are managed to provide ecosystem services, including sustainable agricultural production

AgCarE	Soil health
Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority Area 5.1 “Minimise nutrient & sediment loss”
Australian Certified Organic	4.1 Soil fertility and health management (e.g., 4.1.3; 4.1.8; 4.1.10-12)
Behind Australian Grain	Priority Area: Soil Health – “Proactively improve the health of our soils”
Cotton MyBMP	Soil health: Soil structure is assessed, maintained and improved, Erosion risks are monitored and managed, crop nutrient requirements are managed efficiently and effectively
Dairy Sustainability Framework	Commitment 4, Goal 8: “Improve land management”
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.5 Soil Health: Impacts on soil health, including soil erosion, reduction in soil fertility, salinisation, and waterlogging
Horticulture Sustainability Framework	R.6: Soil health and productive capacity is maintained or improved
ISO13065:2015 Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy	Principle 5.2.3: Soil - Protect soil quality & productivity
Montreal Process	Criterion 4: Conservation & Maintenance of Soil & Water, Indicator 4.2 Soil
National Soil Strategy	Objectives: “Prioritise soil health, Empower soil innovation & stewards, Strengthen soil knowledge & capability”
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials	Principle 8: Biomaterials feedstock production operations shall implement practices that seek to reverse soil degradation and/or maintain soil health
Smartcane BMP	Module 1 - Soil health & Nutrient Management
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle, Land & Soil: An agricultural sector that ensures land use is appropriate given the characteristics of the terrain, maintains soil fertility and health, prevents damage and provides benefits to the surrounding environment, and ensures the land acts a significant greenhouse gas sink
UN SDG 15 – Life on Land	Protect, restore & promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, & halt & reverse land degradation & halt biodiversity loss

SOIL & LANDSCAPE

* *return to framework*



National
Farmers
Federation

Australian
Agricultural
Sustainability
Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



AASF – P4. Landscape degradation is avoided or minimised

AASF criteria for this principle:

C7. Land under productive agricultural management delivers beneficial environmental services

C8. Natural waterways are preserved and improved

AgCarE	Formal vegetation/biodiversity assessment
Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority Area 5.2 Balance of tree and grass cover”
Behind Australian Grain	Priority Area: Conservation – “Increase biodiversity & stewardship on farms”
Cotton MyBMP	Sustainable Cotton Landscapes & Communities: natural resources are identified & recorded, maintain groundcover, maintain or improve native vegetation connectivity in cotton landscapes, etc
Dairy Sustainability Framework	Commitment 4, Goal 8: “Improve land management”
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.4 Natural ecosystem conversion: This topic covers impacts related to natural ecosystem conversion, including impacts related to discrete incidents of land clearance as well as severe degradation or introduction of management practices that lead to substantial and sustained change in natural ecosystems
Horticulture Sustainability Framework	R.5: Best practice land management is used in horticultural production
ISO26000: Social Responsibility	Environment: Issue 4 - Protection of the Environment, Biodiversity and restoration of natural habitats
Montreal Process	Criterion 1: Conservation of Biological Diversity (indicator 1.1.c Fragmentation of Forests); Criteria 3: Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health & Vitality
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials	Principle 7: Biomaterial feedstock production and operations shall avoid negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, and conservation values
SAFA (FAO)	E3: No land is lost due to surface sealing or mismanagement of arable lands and pastures, and soil fertility is preserved and enhanced
Sheep Sustainability Framework	3.1: Environment - Improve natural resource management
Smartcane BMP	Module 6 – Natural Systems Management
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle, Land & Soil: An agricultural sector that ensures land use is appropriate given the characteristics of the terrain, maintains soil fertility and health, prevents damage and provides benefits to the surrounding environment, and ensures the land acts a significant greenhouse gas sink
Sustainable Winegrowing Australia	Priority: Landcare & biodiversity
UN SDG 15 – Life on Land	Protect, restore & promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, & halt & reverse land degradation & halt biodiversity loss

SOIL & LANDSCAPE

* *return to framework*



National
Farmers
Federation

Australian
Agricultural
Sustainability
Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



AASF – P5. Biodiverse ecological communities are protected and enhanced

AASF criteria for this principle:

C9. Farms support a diverse range of beneficial flora and fauna species

C10. Farm-related ecosystems are functioning and thriving

AgCarE	Formal vegetation/biodiversity assessment
Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority Area 5.2 “Balance of tree & grass cover”
Australian Certified Organic	4.6.1 Management, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and environmental aspects on organic farming operations shall be a priority of certified operators
Behind Australian Grain	Priority Area: Conservation– “Increase biodiversity stewardship on farms”
Cotton MyBMP	Sustainable Natural Landscape, Maintain and improve the diversity of native plants and animals in the cotton landscapes
Dairy Sustainability Framework	Commitment 4, Goal 8: “Improve land management”
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.3 Biodiversity: This topic covers impacts on biodiversity, including on plant and animal species, and genetic diversity
Horticulture Sustainability Framework	R.9: Biodiversity is managed sustainably
ISO13065:2015 Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy	Principle 5.2.5: Biodiversity - Promote positive & reduce negative impacts on biodiversity
ISO26000: Social Responsibility	Issue: Protection of the Environment, biodiversity & restoration of natural habitats”
Montreal Process	Criterion 1: Conservation of biological Diversity, Indicators 1.1 Ecosystem diversity, 1.2 Species Diversity, 1.3 Genetic Diversity
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials	Principle 7: Biomaterial feedstock production and operations shall avoid negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, and conservation values
Sheep Sustainability Framework	3.3: Environment - Encourage biodiversity
Smartcane BMP	Module 6 – Natural Systems Management
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle, Nature: “An agricultural sector that maintains and enhances the biodiversity of the area as well as surrounding ecosystems, promotes the health of pollinators, ensures diversity of genetic material (commercial and wild) and hinders invasive species”
Sustainable Winegrowing Australia	Priority: Biodiversity
UN SDG 15 – Life on Land	Protect, restore & promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, & halt & reverse land degradation & halt biodiversity loss

BIODIVERSITY

* *return to framework*



National Farmers Federation

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



AASF – P6. Water resources are used responsibly and equitably

AASF criteria for this principle:

C11. Water is used efficiently in agricultural systems

C12. Adverse impacts to surface water and groundwater quality are prevented

AgCarE	Water quality & management
Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority Area 6.3 Efficient use of water
Behind Australian Grain	Priority Area: Water Use– Improve water use efficiency in rainfed grain production
Cotton MyBMP	Water Management: Information is recorded each season to help make better WHOLE FARM irrigation decisions, Information is used each season to help make better FIELD irrigation decisions, Practices are used for efficient management of storage and distribution systems etc
Dairy Sustainability Framework	Commitment 4, Goal 9: Increase water use efficiency
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.7 Water and effluents: Recognized by the United Nations as a human right, access to freshwater is essential for human life and well-being. The amount of water withdrawn and consumed by an organization and the quality of its discharges can have impacts on ecosystems and people
Horticulture Sustainability Framework	R.1: Reliable, viable access to sustainable water resources; P.2: Responsible and efficient use of allocated water to optimise production per unit of water; P.3: Objective measures guide more efficient water use
ISO13065:2015 Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy	Principle 5.2.2: Water - Conserve & protect water resources
Montreal Process	Criterion 4, Conservation & Maintenance of Soil & Water, Indicator 4.3 Water
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials	Principle 9: Biomaterial feedstock production operations shall maintain or enhance the quality and quantity of surface and ground water resources, and respect prior formal or customary water rights
SAFA (FAO)	E2: Freshwater withdrawal and use do not hinder the functioning of natural water cycles, activities do not contribute to water pollution that would impair the health of humans, plants and animal communities
Smartcane BMP	Module 2 - Irrigation & Drainage Management
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle, Water: An agricultural sector that ensures water resources are optimally managed; water balance is maintained for the catchment, water runoff and pollution is minimised, water is managed for economic benefit, and equitable access to water is assured for all users (human and wildlife)
Sustainable Winegrowing Australia	Priority: Valuing Water
UN SDG 15 – Life on Land	Protect, restore & promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, & halt & reverse land degradation & halt biodiversity loss
UN SDG 6 – Clean Water & Sanitation	Ensure availability & sustainable management of water & sanitation for all

* return to framework

WATER



AASF – P7. Finite resources are safeguarded in circular economic systems

AASF criteria for this principle:

C13. The use of inputs and resources that cannot be reused or recycled is minimised

C14. Renewable sources of inputs are prioritised

C15. Residues, by-products and waste are reused or recycled

AgCarE	Waste Management
Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority Area 7.1 Minimise Waste; Soil waste to landfill from processing
Cotton MyBMP	Energy & Input Efficiency: Monitoring farm energy usage
Dairy Sustainability Framework	Commitment 4, Goal 11: Reduce Waste
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.8 Waste: This topic covers impacts from waste, including products originally intended for human consumption as food
Horticulture Sustainability Framework	R.14: Energy is used efficiently, with an increased proportion from renewable sources; W.3: Packaging is minimised, recyclable, compostable or reuseable; W.4: Reduce, reuse or recycle on-farm waste and input supply packaging
ISO13065:2015 Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy	Principle 5.2.6: Energy Efficiency - Promote efficient use of energy resources Principle 5.2.7: Waste - Promote responsible management of waste
ISO26000: Social Responsibility	Issue: Prevention of pollution & sustainable resource use
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials	Principle 11: Use of Technology, Inputs & Management of Waste - The use of technologies in biomaterial feedstock production operations shall seek to maximize production efficiency and social and environmental performance, and minimize the risk of damages to the environment and people
SAFA (FAO)	E5: Damage to ecosystems and contribution to resource scarcity resulting from non-renewable material extraction, non-renewable energy use and waste disposal are minimised through economical and efficient use, consequent reuse and recycling/recovery and safe disposal
Sustainable Winegrowing Australia	Priority: Zero Waste / Priority: Energy
UN SDG 12 –Responsible consumption & production	Ensure sustainable consumption & production patterns
UN SDG 6.3 - Clean Water & Sanitation	Improve water quality by halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
UN SDG 7 – Affordable & Clean Energy	Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable & modern energy for all

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

* return to framework



National Farmers Federation

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

THEME	CATEGORY	PRINCIPLE	CRITERIA
<div>  <div> PEOPLE, ANIMALS & COMMUNITY </div> </div>	Human Health, Safety & Wellbeing	P8. Agricultural outputs are safe and beneficial	C16. Food and fibre is produced, packaged and distributed to world-leading standards of safety
			C17. Food produced by the industry is healthy and nutritional
			C18. Producers practice good antimicrobial stewardship
		P9. Safe working environments are provided for employees	C19. Occupational health and safety are upheld in the working environment
			C20. Labour rights are respected and compliance with relevant legislation is demonstrated
			C21. Physical health and mental wellbeing are valued and actively supported
	Livelihoods	P10. Fair access to a decent livelihood is provided within the industry	C22. Profitability and competitiveness are encouraged
	Rights, Equity & Diversity	P11. Discrimination is not tolerated in an inclusive industry	C23. Participants are provided both a living wage and a rewarding, enriching work environment
			C24. Human rights are unequivocally respected
	Animal Wellbeing	P12. Farmed animals are given the best care for whole of life	C25. Workplace diversity is valued and actively supported
			C26. Best practice on-farm husbandry is demonstrated
			C27. Safe transportation of animals is demonstrated
	Social Contribution	P13. Society benefits from the agricultural industry's positive contribution	C28. Humane end of life for farmed animals is ensured
			C29. Industry contributes to local community economic growth and social capital
			C30. Indigenous culture is recognised, respected, valued and actively supported
			C31. Community trust in the industry is upheld



AASF – P8. Agricultural outputs are safe and beneficial

AASF criteria for this principle:

C16. Food and fibre is produced, packaged and distributed to world-leading standards of safety

C17. Food produced by the industry is healthy and nutritional

C18. Producers practice good antimicrobial stewardship

Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority Area 4.2 “Product Integrity” & 8.2 “Food Safety”
Cotton MyBMP	Fibre Quality: Uncontaminated cotton is delivered to the gin, Practices prepare the crop for harvest to ensure clean white cotton, Practices were implemented for planting and during crop growth to preserve the high fibre quality of Australian varieties
Dairy Sustainability Framework	Goal 5: “All dairy products and ingredients sold are safe”
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.10 Food Safety: This topic addresses an organization’s efforts to prevent contamination and ensure safety of food, including through adherence to food safety regulations and voluntary codes
Horticulture Sustainability Framework	N.3: Australian-grown horticultural produce is trusted as safe and traceable
ISO26000: Social Responsibility	Issue: protecting consumers’ health & safety
SAFA (FAO)	S5: The work environment is safe, hygienic and healthy and caters to the satisfaction of human needs, such as clean water, food, accommodation and sanitary installations
Sheep Sustainability Framework	9.2: Market Access - Guarantee product integrity and safety
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle, Health & Safety: An agricultural sector that supports the health and safety of farmers, farm workers and their families, and nearby communities
Sustainable Winegrowing Australia	Priority: Landcare & biodiversity
UN SDG 3 – Good Health & Wellbeing	Ensure healthy lives & promote wellbeing for all ages

* return to framework





AASF – P9. Safe working environments are provided for employees

AASF criteria for this principle:

C19. Occupational health and safety are upheld in the working environment

C20. Labour rights are respected and compliance with relevant legislation is demonstrated

C21. Physical health and mental wellbeing are valued and actively supported

* return to framework

AgCarE	Workplace health and safety
Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority Area 9: “Build Workplace Capacity” & Priority Area 10: “Ensure health, safety & wellbeing of people in the industry”
Cotton MyBMP	WHS & HR: Contractors are managed appropriately, A commitment to work health and safety is shown, A safe working environment is provided
Dairy Sustainability Framework	Commitment 1, Goal 3: “Provide a safe work environment for all dairy workers”. Goal 4: “Provide a productive & rewarding work environment for all dairy workers”
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.19 Occupational health and safety: This topic covers impacts related to workers' health and safety
Horticulture Sustainability Framework	P.4: Provide ethical, fair and safe work conditions. Creating a culture of pro-actively meeting employment and duty of care obligations and standards of sustainable, ethical employment and procurement that mitigate risks of modern slavery; P.6: Zero Harm
ISO13065:2015 Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy	Principle 5.3.1: Rights - Respect human rights. Principle 5.3.2: Labour Rights - Respect labour rights
ISO26000: Social Responsibility	Issue: Labour Standards
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials	Principle 4: Biomaterial feedstock production operations shall not violate human rights or labour rights andshall promote decent work and the well-being of workers
SAFA (FAO)	S5: The work environment is safe, hygienic and healthy and caters to the satisfaction of human needs, such as clean water, food, accommodation and sanitary installations
Sheep Sustainability Framework	5.1: Health and safety - Improve industry safety culture
Smartcane BMP	Module 7 – Workplace health & safety
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle, Health & Safety: An agricultural sector that supports the health and safety of farmers, farm workers and their families, and nearby communities
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle, Working & Living Conditions: An agricultural sector that ensures human rights are respected, by providing a pleasant working environment, free from forced or the worst forms of child labour, any type of discrimination and disciplinary practices, work is appropriately compensated and managed
Sustainable Winegrowing Australia	Priority: People & Business
UN SDG 3 – Good Health & Wellbeing	Ensure healthy lives & promote wellbeing for all ages

HUMAN HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING



National Farmers Federation

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



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

AASF criteria for this principle:

C22. Profitability and competitiveness are encouraged

C23. Participants are provided both a living wage and a rewarding, enriching work environment

AgCarE	Labour Conditions
Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority Area 3: “Enhance profitability & productivity.” Priority Area 9: “Build workplace capacity”
Cotton MyBMP	WHS & HR: Wages and Conditions - conditions and employee entitlements are in accordance with the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)
Dairy Sustainability Framework	Commitment 1, Goal 1: “Increase the competitiveness & profitability of the dairy industry”
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.16 Forced or compulsory labour; Topic 13.17 Child labour; Topic 13.20 Employment practices; Topic 13.21 Living income and living wage
Montreal Process	Criterion 6, Maintenance & Enhancement of Long-term Multiple Socio-economic Benefits, Indicator 6.3:Employment & Community Needs
SAFA (FAO)	S1: The enterprise provides assets, capabilities and activities that increase the livelihood security of all personnel and the local community in which it operates
Sheep Sustainability Framework	6.1: Capacity building - support and grow workforce
Smartcane BMP	Module 5 – Farm Business Management
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Livelihoods: An agricultural sector that ensures farm livelihoods support a thriving agricultural economy, by providing a living wage to workers and ensuring availability of living income and financial investment options for farmers
Sustainable Winegrowing Australia	Priority: People & Business
UN SDG 1 – No Poverty	Promote sustained, inclusive & sustainable economic growth, full & productive
UN SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

* return to framework



AASF – P11.
Discrimination is not tolerated in an inclusive industry

AASF criteria for this principle:

C24. Human rights are respected unequivocally

C25. Workplace diversity is valued and actively supported

Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority Area 9.2: “Diversity in the workforce”
Australian Certified Organic	4.6.13 Operators shall provide their employees and contractors equal opportunity and treatment and shall not act in a discriminatory way
Behind Australian Grain	Priority Area: Capacity & Leadership
Cotton MyBMP	WHS & HR: Workplace rights – a process is in place to ensure the fair treatment of employees
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.14 Rights of Indigenous people: This topic covers impacts on the rights of Indigenous peoples; Topic 13.15 Non-discrimination and equal opportunity: This topic covers impacts from discrimination and an organisation’s practices related to equal opportunity
ISO13065:2015 Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy	Principle 5.3.2: Labour Rights -Respect labour rights (Criteria 5.3.2.4 - Working Conditions)
ISO26000: Social Responsibility	Human Rights, Discrimination & Vulnerable Groups
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials	Principle 4: Biomaterial feedstock production operations shall not violate human rights or labour rights and shall promote decent work and the well-being of workers
SAFA (FAO)	S4: The enterprise pursues a strict equity and non-discrimination policy and pro-actively supports vulnerable groups
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Working & Living Conditions: “An agricultural sector that ensures human rights are respected, by providing a pleasant working environment, free from forced or the worst forms of child labour, any type of discrimination and disciplinary practices, work is appropriately compensated and managed, and access to suitable sanitary, housing and transportation infrastructures and services for farmers, farm workers and their families”
UN SDG 4 – Quality Education	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
UN SDG 5 – Gender Equality	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

* *return to framework*

RIGHTS, EQUITY & DIVERSITY



National Farmers Federation

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



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

AASF criteria for this principle:

C26. Best practice on-farm husbandry is demonstrated

C27. Safe transportation of animals is demonstrated

C28. Humane end of life for farmed animals is ensured

AgCarE	Beef Modules incl. animal husbandry and management; breeding
Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Goal 5: “All dairy products and ingredients sold are safe”
Australian Certified Organic	5.1.1 All practical measures shall be maintained to ensure livestock health and welfare remains a priority of the certified operation ... as part of a welfare and health management program
Dairy Sustainability Framework	Commitment 3, Goal 7: “Provide best care for all animals for whole of life”
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.11 Animal Health & Welfare: Animal health management focuses on controlling potential impacts on health and preventing disease
SAFA (FAO)	E6: Animals are kept in such conditions that they can express their natural behaviour and are free from hunger, thirst, discomfort, pain, disease and other distress
Sheep Sustainability Framework	1.2: Animal care and handling - Implement best practice sheep management; 2.1: Animal health - Prevent and manage disease
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle, Animal Welfare: A sector that ensures welfare of livestock by adhering to the Five Freedoms and promotes animal health and natural behaviour

* return to framework



AASF – P13. Society benefits from the agricultural industry’s positive contribution

AASF criteria for this principle:

C29. Industry contributes to local community economic growth and social capital

C30. Indigenous culture is recognised, respected, valued and actively supported

C31. Community trust in the industry is upheld

AgCarE	Local Community
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.12 Local Communities: This topic covers socioeconomic, cultural, health, and human rights impacts on local communities. Topic 13.22 Economic inclusion: This topic covers ways that organizations can contribute to economic inclusion, which can include supporting small or medium-sized suppliers, their productivity and access to markets
Horticulture Sustainability Framework	N.2: Community health and wellbeing is improved through increased greenspace, plants and cut flowers in homes, cities and towns
ISO26000: Social Responsibility	Commitment 3, Goal 7: “Provide best care for all animals for whole of life”
Montreal Process	Criterion 6, Maintenance & Enhancement of Long-term Multiple Socio-economic Benefits, Indicator 6.4: Recreation & Tourism, 6.5 Cultural, Social & Spiritual Needs & Values
SAFA (FAO)	C4: Through production, employment, procurement, marketing and investments in infrastructure, the enterprise contributes to sustainable local value creation
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle, Communities: An agricultural sector that supports resilient farming communities, by contributing to the local economy, ensuring land conversion does not result in forced resettlement, fair use of shared resources, respecting traditional land use and land rights, building trust throughout the value chain and supporting next generation farming
UN SDG 1 – No Poverty	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
UN SDG 8 – Decent Work & Economic Growth	Promote sustained, inclusive & sustainable economic growth, full & productive employment & decent work for all

* return to framework

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION




National Farmers Federation

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

THEME	CATEGORY	PRINCIPLE	CRITERIA
 <div>ECONOMIC RESILIENCE</div>	Biosecurity & Resilience	P14. Biosecurity threats are assessed, mitigated and effectively managed in systems of continuous improvement	C32. Farms have systems in place to monitor risk, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats
			C33. Industry has systems in place to monitor risk, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats
			C34. Government has systems in place to monitor risk, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats
		P15. Resilience is protected and enhanced by assessment, mitigation and management of risks	C35. Government and industry develop and extend overarching national scenario planning for industry risks
			C36. Industry participants develop, implement and regularly review risk management plans
			C37. Innovation and infrastructure are well-resourced and supported by government and industry, and can be equitably accessed by industry participants
	Fair Trading	P16. Industry participants behave ethically and lawfully	C38. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations is demonstrated
			C39. Fair access to participate equally in markets is ensured
			C40. Zero tolerance for bribery or corruption is demonstrated
		P17. Supply chain accountability ensures a level playing field and the elimination of unconscionable conduct	C41. Product provenance information is readily available via robust traceability
			C42. Information asymmetry in the supply chain is eliminated where perverse outcomes are a risk
			C43. Sustainability accounting is harmonised to ensure fair and just assessments of baselines and progress across the industry



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

AASF criteria for this principle:

C32. Farms have systems in place to monitor risk, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats

C33. Industry has systems in place to monitor risk, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats

C34. Government has systems in place to monitor risk, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats

AgCarE	Planning & management systems
Australian Beef Sustainability Framework	Priority 2.2: Minimise Biosecurity Risk (indicator: The percentage of Australian cattle properties covered by a documented biosecurity plan)
Australian Certified Organic	4.5.1 Organic production requires proactive management of significant diseases, pests and weeds under normal circumstances
Cotton MyBMP	Biosecurity: People are made aware of biosecurity, All crops and farm inputs are monitored, Manage movement and cleanliness of vehicles, machinery and equipment
Dairy Sustainability Framework	Commitment 3, Goal 7: “Provide best care for all animals for whole of life”- All farmers have a documented biosecurity plan
Horticulture Sustainability Framework	P.3: Responsible management of pests, weeds, diseases and agricultural inputs; R.15: Proactively manage biosecurity risks from pest and disease incursions into regions and Australia
ISO26000: Social Responsibility	Issue: Protection of the environment, biodiversity & natural habitats
Montreal Process	Criterion 3, Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health & Vitality, Indicator 3.a: Area & percent of forests affected by biotic process & agents (e.g. disease, insects, invasive alien species) beyond reference conditions
Smartcane BMP	Module 3 – Managing weeds, pests and diseases
UN SDG 15 – Life on Land	Protect, restore & promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

* return to framework





AASF – P15. Resilience is protected and enhanced by assessment, mitigation and management of risks

AASF criteria for this principle:

C35. Government and industry develop and extend overarching national scenario planning for industry risks

C36. Industry participants develop, implement and regularly review risk management plans

C37. Innovation and infrastructure are well-resourced and supported by government and industry, and can be equitably accessed by industry participants

Horticulture Sustainability Framework	P.1: Vibrant, productive, profitable enterprises; R.11: Australian horticulture understands and manages the risks of climate change and extreme weather variability and builds resilience to natural disasters
ISO13065:2015 Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy	Principle 5.4.1.2: Financial Risk Management - The economic operator provides information on financial risk management
Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials	Principle 2: Sustainable biomaterial operations shall be planned, implemented, and continuously improved through an open, transparent, and consultative impact assessment and management process and an economic viability analysis
SAFA (FAO)	C2: The enterprise’s production, supply and marketing are resilient in the face of environmental variability, economic volatility and social change
Smartcane BMP	Module 5 – Farm Business Management
UN SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

* *return to framework*



AASF – P16. Industry participants behave ethically and lawfully

AASF criteria for this principle:

C35. Government and industry develop and extend overarching national scenario planning for industry risks

C36. Industry participants develop, implement and regularly review risk management plans

C37. Innovation and infrastructure are well-resourced and supported by government and industry, and can be equitably accessed by industry participants

AgCarE	Legal Compliance; Labour Conditions
GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.13 Land and Resource Rights; Topic 13.26 Anti-corruption
ISO13065:2015 Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy	Principle 5.3.3: Respect land use rights. Principle 5.3.4: Respect water use rights
ISO26000: Social Responsibility	Issue: Fair operating practices: anti-corruption, responsible political involvement, etc
Montreal Process	Criterion 7, Legal, Institutional, and Economic Framework for Forest Conservation & Sustainable Management
SAFA (FAO)	S2: Fair trading practices provide suppliers and buyers with prices that reflect the true cost of the entire process of sustaining a regenerative ecological system, including support for right livelihood for primary producers, their families and employees. S3: The enterprise provides regular employment that is fully compliant with national law and international agreements on contractual arrangements, labour and social security
Smartcane BMP	Module 5 – Farm Business Management
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Principle, Legal Compliance: An agricultural sector that ensures legal requirements are well understood and complied with, including local, regional, national legislation as well as international conventions
UN SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

* *return to framework*





AASF – P17. Supply chain accountability ensures a level playing field and the elimination of unconscionable conduct

AASF criteria for this principle:

C41. Product provenance information is readily available (i.e. traceability)

C42. Information asymmetry in the supply chain is eliminated where perverse outcomes are a risk

C43. Sustainability accounting is harmonised to ensure fair and just assessments of baselines and progress across the industry

GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022	Topic 13.23 Supply chain traceability; Topic 13.25 Anti-competitive behaviour
Montreal Process	Criterion 7, Legal, Institutional, and Economic Framework for Forest Conservation & Sustainable Management
SAFA (FAO)	S2: Fair trading practices provide suppliers and buyers with prices that reflect the true cost of the entire process of sustaining a regenerative ecological system, including support for right livelihood for primary producers, their families and employees. S3: The enterprise provides regular employment that is fully compliant with national law and international agreements on contractual arrangements, labour and social security
Sustainable Agriculture Initiative	Module 5 – Farm Business Management
UN SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities	Reduce inequality within & among countries
UN SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

* *return to framework*



CONTACT:

Warwick Ragg
General Manager NRM
National Farmers Federation
wragg@nff.org.au

Angela Schuster
Project Manager
Australian Agricultural
Sustainability Framework
aschuster@nff.org.au



**Australian
Agricultural
Sustainability
Framework**



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry