

# Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

## Sustainability is our Story

The Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework (AASF) is an industry initiative, led by the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), with support from the Australian Government. It provides a common language to describe sustainability in Australian agriculture and supports the industry to demonstrate its sustainability story, domestically and internationally.

The AASF sets out a unified approach across the agricultural value chain, enabling farmers, supply chains, investors and policymakers to align their efforts and share trusted information about sustainability. It does not replace existing frameworks or schemes. Instead, it connects them, acting as a foundation for alignment, communication and continual improvement.



## Why the AASF matters

The AASF helps the industry respond to four major drivers of change:

- > **Trade and market access.** By aligning with global frameworks like the SDGs and TNFD, the AASF helps demonstrate Australia's sustainability credentials in international markets.
- > **Increasing ESG demand within supply chains.** The AASF provides a cross-sectoral nationally consistent framework that reduces duplication and eases ESG reporting burden for farmers and supply chain actors.
- > **The need for principles-based, outcome-focused solutions.** The AASF promotes Australia's principles-based approach to sustainability, focusing on real-world outcomes rather than prescriptive rules.
- > **Finance sector's expectations.** The AASF enables agriculture to meet emerging requirements for sustainable finance and supports investment in nature-positive agriculture.

## The AASF

**Does not** create an alternative sustainability scheme, compliance program or certification scheme.

**Does not** seek to replace or direct existing commodity-based frameworks and schemes.

**Does** seek to create outcomes-based Principles and Criteria supported by broad, verified Indicators, for the benefit of the Australian agricultural industry.

**Brings** coherence, confidence and clarity to agricultural sustainability efforts.

### Industry-led, collaborative development

The development of the AASF is supported by a Community of Practice (CoP) encompassing interests from across the industry, the supply chain, research fields, governments and environmental organisations.

With a growing population in excess of 400 members, the AASF CoP brings together stakeholders to connect, collaborate and contribute to Australian agriculture's collective sustainability narrative. Importantly, the AASF CoP enables cross-sectoral coordination on shared challenges.

# AASF Data Ecosystem – from anarchy to order

## The current sustainability data ecosystem is anarchic

Currently, sustainability data in Australian agriculture is fragmented and inconsistent. Stakeholders face confusion over what to measure, how to measure it and where to report it. This "anarchy" as identified by CSIRO, hinders credibility, adds burden to farmers and slows investment.

## The AASF Data Ecosystem provides the solution

A shared data ecosystem developed under the AASF will enable sustainability information to flow consistently and credibly through value chains, from producers to processors, retailers and global markets, while also supporting the information needs of policymakers and other stakeholders beyond the farm gate.

## What is it?

A data ecosystem is **NOT** a database, platform or exchange. It is a **network** of:

- **People** – farmers, supply chain actors, analysts, regulators and communities.
- **Structures** – governance bodies, standards, partnerships and trust mechanisms.
- **Technology and tools** – systems for collecting, managing, sharing and verifying data.

## What it does:

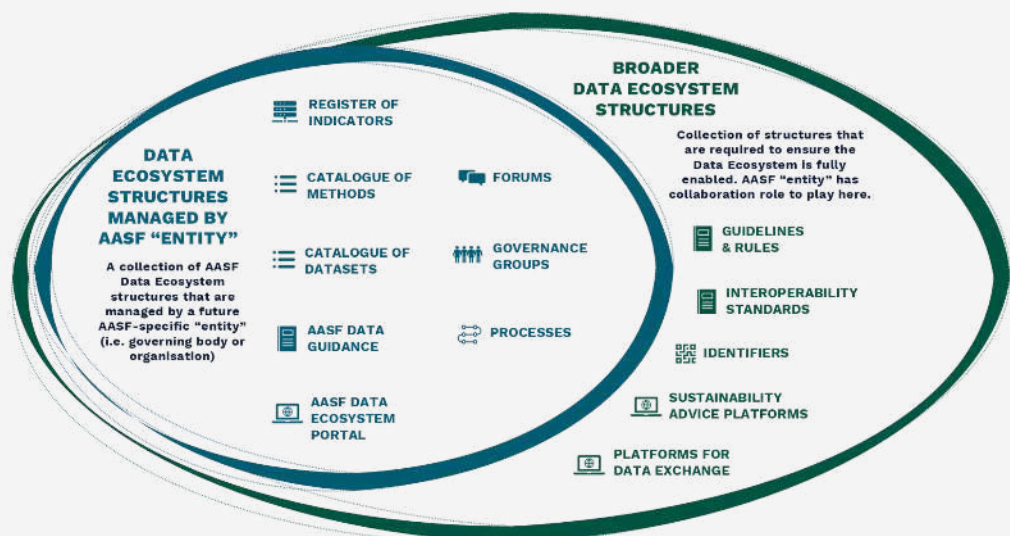
- **Connects existing systems** – not replacing data tools but improving interoperability.
- **Provides clear answers to: "What data?"** – helping all stakeholders know what sustainability information is most important, and how it can be used.
- **Builds trust** – ensures data is accurate, permissioned, secure and reflects Australia's unique production systems.
- **Reduces duplication** – supports harmonised reporting to reduce burden and increase value for farmers.

### Current State

Data Fiefdoms & Anarchic Processes
Inefficiencies & gaps in data supply
Lack of confidence to invest
Competing requests and minimal RoI
Multiple descriptions and stories about aspects of Australian agricultural sustainability practices
Individual stakeholders left to themselves to decide: What data to collect What data to ask for How to use the data Which standards to apply Who to provide the data to

### Future State

Coordinated & Interoperable Data Activities
Comprehensive data availability
Clear strategies and ability to plan for changes
Lines of sight across the data value chain and RoI to all involved
Consistent language and narratives to describe Australian agricultural sustainability practices
Collective agreement(s) on: What data to collect, and how What data can be asked for How data can be used Which standards can be applied How data owners can control the provision and re-use of their data



**Trustworthy sustainability reporting starts with a trusted data ecosystem.**