

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK.

Themes, Principles and Criteria





CONTENTS

01 THE FRAMEWORK

02 ABOUT

03 THEMES

03 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

04 PEOPLE, ANIMALS & COMMUNITY

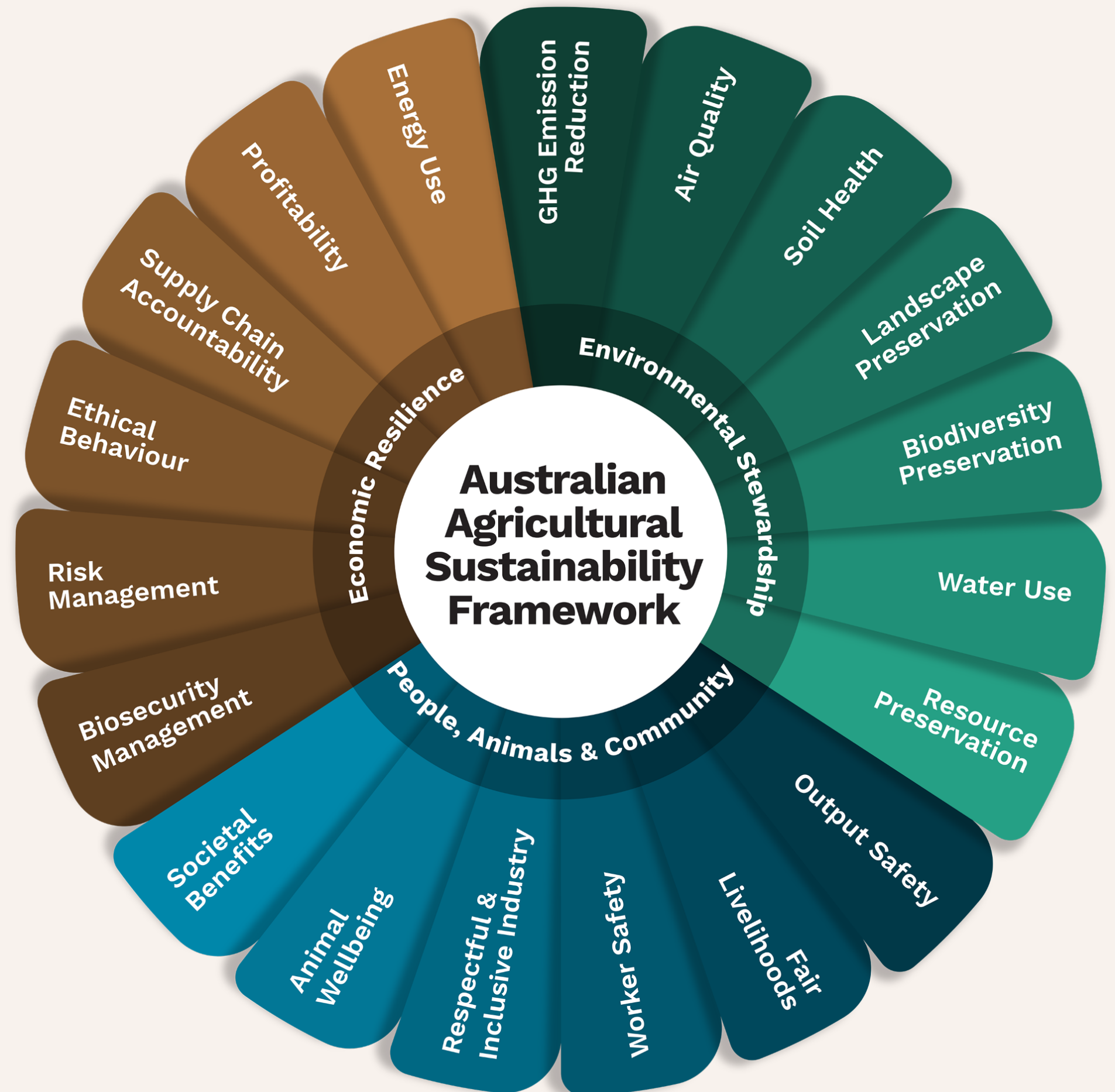
05 ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

06 CONTACT

THE FRAMEWORK

The Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework (AASF) is a national, industry-led initiative that provides a common language to describe sustainability in Australian agriculture.

The AASF translates commodity-specific goals into common principles aligned with global frameworks and standards, providing international markets and trade partners with confidence in Australia's agricultural sustainability credentials.



BACKGROUND

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.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



CATEGORY	PRINCIPLE	CRITERIA
Greenhouse Gases & Air 	P1. GHG EMISSION REDUCTION Net anthropogenic* greenhouse gas emissions are limited to mitigate climate change P2. AIR QUALITY Adverse impacts to air quality are avoided or minimised	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 C4. Plant, equipment and machinery are appropriately maintained and operated to maximise efficiency C5. Activities which generate air pollutants are conducted within regulatory guidelines and minimised where possible
Soil & Landscapes 	P3. SOIL HEALTH Soil health and functionality are protected and enhanced P4. LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION Landscape degradation is avoided or minimised	C6. Soils are managed to provide ecosystem services, including sustainable agricultural production C7. Land under productive agricultural management delivers beneficial ecosystem services C8. Natural waterways are preserved and improved
Biodiversity 	P5. BIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION 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 C11. Use of fertilisers and pesticides are optimised for agricultural production, human, animal and environmental health
Water 	6. WATER USE Water resources are used responsibly and equitably	C12. Water is used efficiently in agricultural systems C13. Adverse impacts to surface water and groundwater quality are prevented
Materials & Resources 	P7. RESOURCE PRESERVATION Finite resources are safeguarded in circular economic systems	C14. The use of inputs and resources that cannot be reused or recycled is minimised C15. Renewable sources of inputs are prioritised C16. Residues, by-products and waste are reused or recycled C17. Food loss and waste are avoided or minimised at all stages of the agricultural supply chain

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

PEOPLE, ANIMALS & COMMUNITY



CATEGORY	PRINCIPLE	CRITERIA
Human Health, Safety & Wellbeing 	P8. OUTPUT SAFETY Agricultural outputs are safe and beneficial P9. FAIR LIVELIHOODS Safe working environments are provided for all people working in the industry	C18. Food and fibre is produced, packaged and distributed to world-leading standards of safety C19. Food produced by agricultural activities is healthy and nutritional C20. Industry participants practice good antimicrobial stewardship that optimises human, animal and environmental health C21. Physical health and mental wellbeing are valued and actively supported
Livelihoods 	P10. WORKER SAFETY Fair access to a decent livelihood is provided for all people working in the industry	C22. Profitability and competitiveness are encouraged C23. Participants are provided both a living wage and a rewarding, enriching work environment C24. Participants are provided a living wage which meets workplace law requirements C25. Participants are provided a rewarding, enriching work environment
Rights, Equity & Diversity 	P11. RESPECTFUL & INCLUSIVE INDUSTRY Rights are respected and discrimination is not tolerated in an inclusive industry	C26. Human rights are unequivocally respected C27. Workplace diversity is valued and actively supported
Animal Wellbeing 	P12. ANIMAL WELLBEING Farmed animals are given the best care for whole of life	C28. Best practice on-farm husbandry is demonstrated C29. Safe transportation of animals is demonstrated C30. Humane end of life for farmed animals is ensured
Social Contribution 	P13. SOCIETAL BENEFITS Society benefits from the agricultural industry's positive contribution	C31. Agricultural activities contribute to local community economic growth and social capital C32. Indigenous cultures and knowledges are recognised, respected, valued and actively supported C33. Community trust in the industry is upheld



CATEGORY	PRINCIPLE	CRITERIA
Biosecurity & Resilience 	P14. BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT Biosecurity threats are assessed, mitigated and effectively managed in systems of continuous improvement P15. RISK MANAGEMENT Resilience is protected and enhanced by assessment, mitigation and management of risks	C34. Farms have systems in place to monitor risk, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats C35. Industry participants have systems in place to monitor risk and prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats C36. Government has systems in place to monitor risk, prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from biosecurity threats C37. Government and industry develop and extend overarching national scenario planning for industry risks C38. Industry participants develop, implement and regularly review risk management plans C39. Innovation and infrastructure are well-resourced and supported by government and industry, and can be equitably accessed by industry participants C40. The workforce shift to more digital, automated and connected agricultural technologies is supported C41. Systems are in place to monitor risk and prevent and mitigate adverse impacts from threats in the digital environment C42. Risks and opportunities presented by climate change are monitored, and plans for adaptation and resilience are regularly assessed
Fair Trading 	P16. ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR Industry participants behave ethically and lawfully P17. SUPPLY CHAIN ACCOUNTABILITY Supply chain accountability ensures a level playing field and the elimination of unconscionable conduct	C6. Soils are managed to provide ecosystem services, including sustainable agricultural production C7. Land under productive agricultural management delivers beneficial ecosystem services C8. Natural waterways are preserved and improved
Profitable Enterprise 	P5. BIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION 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 C11. Use of fertilisers and pesticides are optimised for agricultural production, human, animal and environmental health
Energy Management 	P19. ENERGY USE Energy is used responsibly and efficiently in agricultural activities	C51. Use of renewable sources of energy is maximised wherever possible C52. Energy efficiency is improved by optimising energy consumption and generation

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