

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework Update

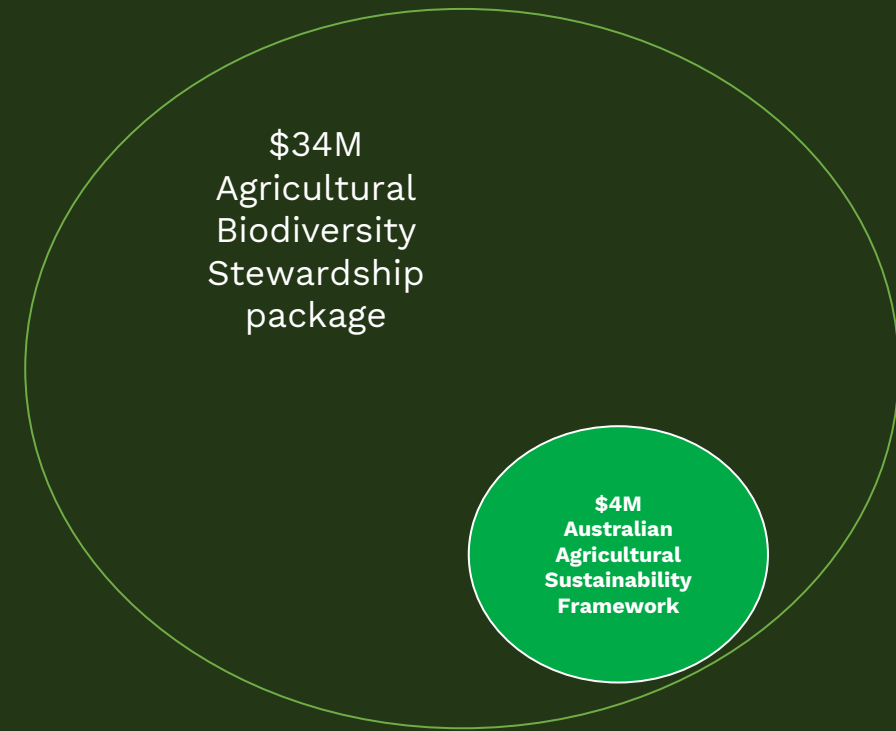
Warwick Ragg
National Farmers' Federation

About AASF

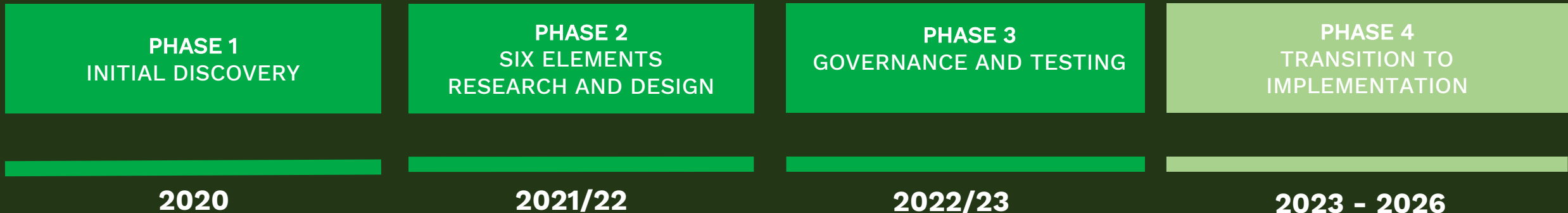
NFF is developing AASF with a \$4M grant from the Australian Government from 2020 until 2023.

It is part of Australian Government's \$34M investment in sustainability, on-farm biodiversity, and Natural Capital.

AASF is still new and a work in progress.

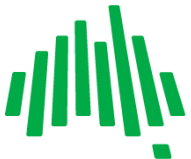


We are here



The Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

- AASF articulates the sustainability of Australian agriculture on a national basis.
- It differs from commodity-specific Industry Sustainability Frameworks (IFWs) which demonstrate on-farm best practices for that commodity.
- AASF strengthens our Australian sustainability narrative and supports the detailed reporting provided by commodity-specific sustainability frameworks. Likewise, the AASF is strengthened by the efforts and progress made by the commodity-specific sustainability frameworks.
- AASF is made up of:
 - i. A Forum –the Community of Practice (COP) which supports the shared learning, collegiality, trust, and evolution of the AASF and IFWs to meet emerging issues.
 - ii. A Framework – aligned to national and international sustainability requirements, supporting Australia’s sustainability credentials on a national, cross-commodity basis.



E**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP****GREENHOUSE GASES & AIR****SOIL & LANDSCAPES****BIODIVERSITY****WATER****G****ECONOMIC RESILIENCE****G****HUMAN HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING**

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

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

GOOD GOVERNANCE

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.

PEOPLE, ANIMALS & COMMUNITY**FAIR TRADING****BIOSECURITY****SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION****ANIMAL WELLBEING****RIGHTS, EQUITY & DIVERSITY****LIVELIHOODS****S**

Building on existing work

- There are countless sustainability schemes, programs and frameworks operating in Australia and globally.
- The purpose of AASF is not to replicate existing efforts, but rather to build on them to support Australian industry, farmers and government by;
 - Mapping existing industry-level sustainability goals into basic sustainability principles and criteria for the Australian agricultural industry.
 - Provide an Australian level framework which enables industry and government to respond on a national basis, rather than a commodity basis
- To reflect the different needs of diverse stakeholders, the AASF uses an **ESG structure** and **sustainability framework language** to clearly direct users to material principles and criteria.
- The AASF seeks to strongly reflect the TNFD, SAFA, SDGs and SAI, as well as leading Australian industry sustainability frameworks.

World Benchmarking Alliance for Food & Agriculture

Sustainable Development Goals

Environmental Integrity

- E1: Atmosphere
- E2: Water
- E3: Land
- E4: Biodiversity
- E5: Materials and Energy
- E6: Animal Welfare

Good Governance

- G1: Corporate Ethics
- G2: Accountability
- G3: Participation
- G4: Rule of Law
- G5: Holistic Management

Economic Resilience

- C1: Investment
- C2: Vulnerability
- C3: Product Quality & Information
- C4: Local Economy

Social Well-being

- S1: Decent Livelihood
- S2: Fair Trading Practices
- S3: Labour Rights
- S4: Equity
- S5: Human Health & Safety
- S6: Cultural Diversity

THE AUSTRALIAN BEEF Sustainability Framework

4 Goals, 10 Objectives, 23 Initiatives, 49 Measures

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 continuously 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 that an important measure of sustainability.

Australia is one of the major export and most efficient producers of beef in the world. It has a reputation to maintain from its rich history, culture and identity.

Environmental stewardship

As a major beef exporter, the beef industry shares a clear and important relationship with the environment in which it operates, and prospers through maintaining a thriving, sustainable and healthy soil, vegetation, water, and air.

People and the community

A safe, healthy, and capable workforce, together with progressive and resilient regional communities, is essential to the sustainability of beef production.

The AASF supports beef the industry promote safe, healthy and thriving conditions and to provide...



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

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Australian Beef Sustainability Framework

Priority Area 1: “Enhance animal wellbeing” & Priority Area 2: “Promote animal health”.

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Dairy Sustainability Framework

Commitment 3, Goal 7: “Provide best care for all animals for whole of life”

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GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022

Topic 13.11 Animal Health & Welfare

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SAFA (FAO)

Animal Welfare, Animal Health & Freedom from Stress

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Sheep Sustainability Framework

1. Animal care and handling; 2. Animal health

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Sustainable Agriculture Initiative

Principle, Animal Welfare: “A sector that ensures welfare of livestock by adhering to the Five Freedoms¹, and promotes animal health and natural behaviour.”

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Note: this list includes examples of AASF principle & criteria alignment / relationship to Australian and international sustainability initiatives – it is not a complete list. Exclusion from this list does not reflect lack of alignment.

AASF Value Proposition

- AASF is the first country-specific tool to articulate the sustainability of the agriculture sector on a national basis.
- It has been developed by industry, government, and commercial partners.
- AASF helps to prepare the sector for a whole range of emerging international and domestic requirements and issues which impact across agriculture.
- It communicates our sustainability credentials in a nationally consistent manner

AASF – Australian Agriculture – we are stronger, working together, for a sustainable future.



**National
Farmers
Federation**

AASF Current Activities

There are three primary activities, supported by communications

- Community of Practice to facilitate commodity Frameworks and Schemes working with AASF on consistency of national reporting on sustainability. (Schuster)
- Preparation of version 4 of AASF to reflect stakeholder feedback during 2022. (AFI)
- Development of a proposal to operationalise AASF which will consider governance and structures. The focus of our CoP today. (AFI)
- Completion of a design for how AASF might be piloted in supply chains and in finance. (KPMG)
- International engagement and consultation to further evaluate and understand how AASF can be most effective in supporting Australia's sustainability narrative.
- Ongoing communications and engagement with industry and government domestically.

AASF Moving Forward

NFF is consulting with DAFF, and a pre-budget submission has been prepared, seeking further funding of AASF for the next four years.

The focus areas proposed include:

- Further development of the Forum – via the Community of Practice
- The business case for operationalising AASF – resolving operating structure's, governance and entity type
- Materiality assessment for AASF – building on the alignment mapping completed by AFI
- Potential domestic pilots of AASF working with IFWs, supply chain companies and finance
- Continue international engagement and testing
- Communication and awareness