

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

APRIL 2022

Delivering the 2030 Roadmap

The Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework (AASF) supports Vision 2030 through:

PILLAR 1. Customers and the Value Chain

The AASF provides better assurance of Australia's sustainability performance to markets.

It will also assist in achieving the target of 5% of new farm income being derived by farmers through payments for ecosystem services.

PILLAR 2. Growing Sustainably

AASF communicates and demonstrates Australian agriculture's sustainability at the national level.

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental



People & Community

Social



Economic Resilience

Governance



What is the AASF?

The purpose of the Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework (AASF) is to communicate the sustainability status and goals of the Australian agricultural sector to maintain or improve export and domestic market access and to the community.

The Framework is structured around three pillars which align with ESG. Under each pillar there are Categories, Principles and Criteria which describe the intent and which are informed by and align with international frameworks, initiatives and schemes. The framework can be accessed via the link: farminstitute.org.au/aasf/

Where has the AASF come from?

The Australian Government provided \$4M in funding to the National Farmers' Federation to research and design the Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework between 2020 and 2022.

It is part of the larger Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Package – a \$66.1M investment from the Australian Government to develop market arrangements and kick-start private investment in biodiversity and other sustainability opportunities.

Developing the Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

PHASE 1 2020 DISCOVERY



AFI stocktake of Australian agriculture sector best management practices, sustainability frameworks and a high-level international search concluded that best results were likely to come from an overarching framework.

PHASE 2 2021 DEVELOPMENT

Six elements of integrated work, to develop the framework.



PHASE 3 2022/23 FRAMEWORK TESTING

Phase 3 will commence in 2022 and will focus on resolving AASF governance and structural needs, piloting the framework in domestic and international contexts and communication.

2020

2021

2022

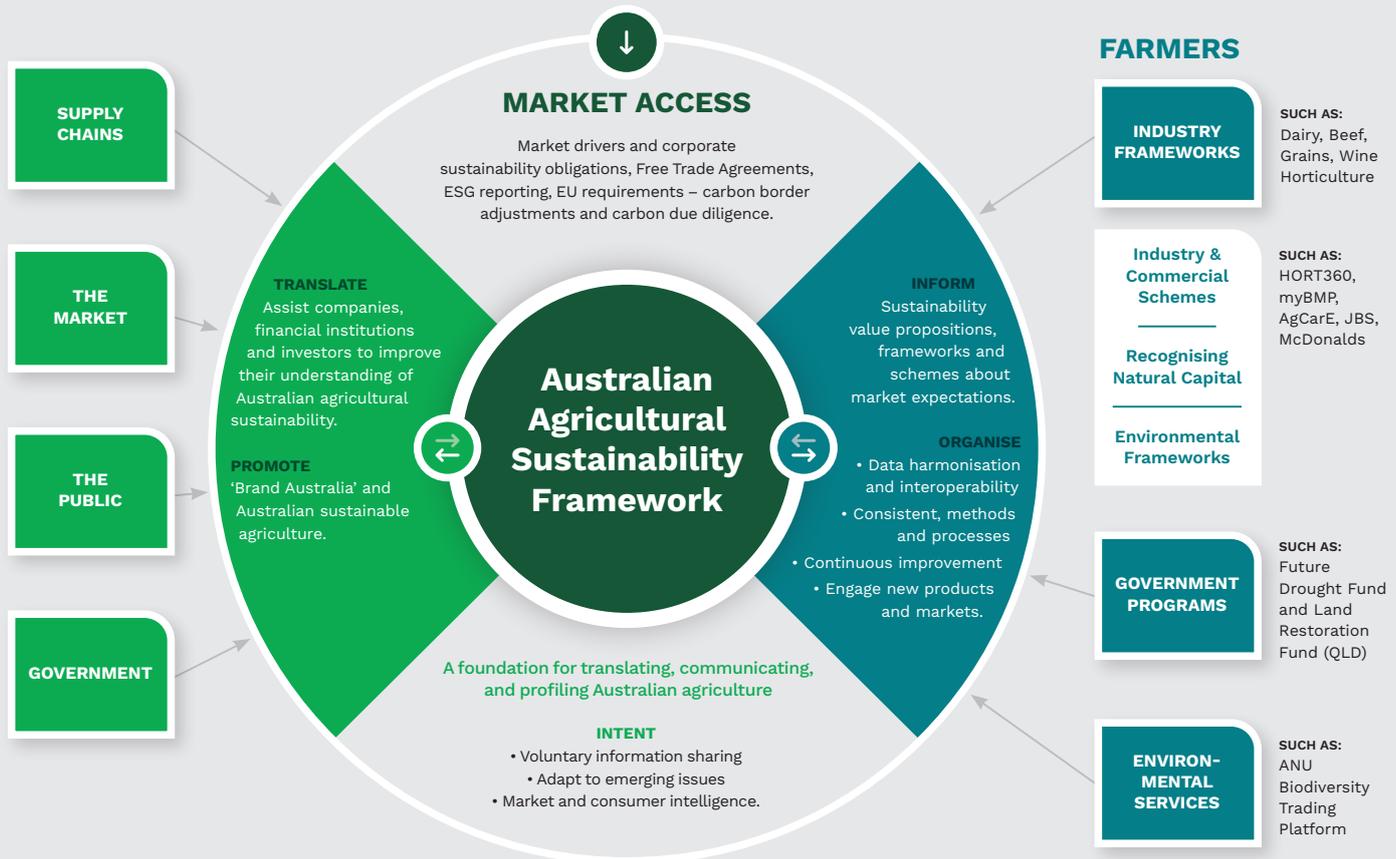
2023

What are the drivers for AASF?

AASF is designed to promote the broad sustainability characteristics of Australian agriculture. It includes three principal areas of focus:

1. better evidence base to our critical international markets;
2. increased transparency for Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) priorities of the corporate sector; especially value chain participants; and
3. greater demonstration of sustainability attributes to satisfy the increasing appetite of international capital markets on inherent risks to their investments.

Investment in Australia to achieve integrated goals of productivity, sustainability, and environmental outcomes such as in natural capital, carbon and biodiversity is accelerating. AASF can assist through better coordination and enabling integrated approaches across industry, supply chain, finance and government initiatives ensuring outcomes are robust, duplication is avoided, and the reporting burden on farmers does not grow exponentially. Opening the door to value-added income streams like premium products and environmental services.



Stakeholder Engagement & Partnerships

AASF has consulted over 20 Australian industry and environmental frameworks and schemes during its development. Additional industry, supply chain, finance and government engagement has been facilitated by NFF, the Australian Farm Institute, KPMG, CSIRO and Schuster Consulting. 600 farmers have been surveyed for their views on sustainability.

Further phases of AASF will continue to work with the existing cohort of programs and new initiatives related to natural capital, biodiversity and carbon to ensure information is shared and alignment achieved between farmer-focused programs and the AASF at national level.

This includes engaging in the development national scale data sets to inform AASF's 45 identified sustainability criteria. Programs such as Agforce's AgCarE and the MacDoch Foundation's Farming for the Future initiative will greatly assist in developing credible data sets.

Where to next for AASF?

NFF has proposed that Phase 3 activity focus on resolving questions around AASF governance and structure; continued industry engagement; a domestic pilot with supply chain companies and retail; continued international engagement and communications to raise awareness and share information.

Want to know more?

Review the AASF on the AFI website via the link farminstitute.org.au/aasf/

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