



**Australian Beef**  
Sustainability  
Framework

# Annual Update Indicator Summary 2022

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# ★ Highlights



## Animal husbandry

Producers using pain relief for animal husbandry procedures has increased to 35%.



## Greenhouse gas emissions and capture

The Australian beef industry has continued to reduce its net CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions since 2005, recording a reduction of 58.21% in 2019.



## Forests, woodlands and grasslands

Native vegetation regrowth has seen the area of forest on Australian grazing properties increase from 12.94% in 2004 to 15.32% in 2020.



## Processing and stock handling practices

Australian cattle producers continue to demonstrate a high degree of good agricultural practice, with the National Residue Survey recording a 99.6% compliance.



## Biodiversity

7.6 million hectares of cattle-producing land – an area larger in size than Ireland – set aside for conservation or protection purposes.



## Soil health

79.6% of NRM regions achieved healthy groundcover thresholds, further protecting our soils and ecosystem services.



## Food Waste

2.39 million tonnes of food waste was recovered along the supply chain in 2021, diverting this from landfill.



## Biosecurity

Australia's robust traceability systems have ensured Australia remains free from exotic diseases, and increases responsiveness to biosecurity threats.



## Climate change resilience

Climate adjusted farm productivity has increased, showing producers are adapting to climate change impacts.

# Challenges



## Natural disaster

Parts of Australia suffered severe droughts, fires, and floods, displacing many and requiring urgent change in grazing schedules, creating challenges for rebuilding.



## Lingering COVID impacts

Global disruptions have placed pressure on supply chains, creating labour shortages, delays and increasing costs.



## Biosecurity

Outbreaks of diseases in neighbouring countries have thrown the industry's biosecurity measures into the spotlight.



## Accurate Data

Sourcing reliable and robust data has been a key challenge for the industry to verify its continuous improvement towards sustainability.



## Resourcing for adoption

Limited resources and capacity are available to meet the demand for carbon neutral training and required adoption rates.

# About the ABSF

## AUSTRALIAN BEEF SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

The Australian Beef Sustainability Framework (ABSF) reduces risks and leverages opportunities by managing what is most important to stakeholders inside and outside the Australian beef industry. It shows our intent to be accountable and to accurately tell the Australian beef story.

It aims to:

- Promote industry transparency and progress to customers and the community
- Inform industry investment for continuous improvement in areas most important to our industry and stakeholders
- Help protect and grow access to financial capital
- Foster constructive relationships with external stakeholders to work collaboratively with the industry.

The ABSF does not:

- Establish or endorse measurement systems at an individual business level
- Provide an accreditation or certification system
- Endorse prescriptive management practices
- Create additional work for individual businesses.

## SUSTAINABILITY

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Sustainability is the production of beef in a manner that is socially, environmentally, and economically responsible. We do this through the care of natural resources, people and the community, the health and welfare of animals, and the drive for continuous improvement.

## VISION

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A thriving Australian beef industry that strives to continuously improve the wellbeing of people, animals and the environment.

# ABSF Data 2022 Report Card

Each indicator's historical data has been analysed to determine if it is significantly trending between 2017 and the most recently available data. A 75% confidence interval has been applied to determine if there is an improvement or decline, or if the data has remained steady.

● = Improvement

● = Decline

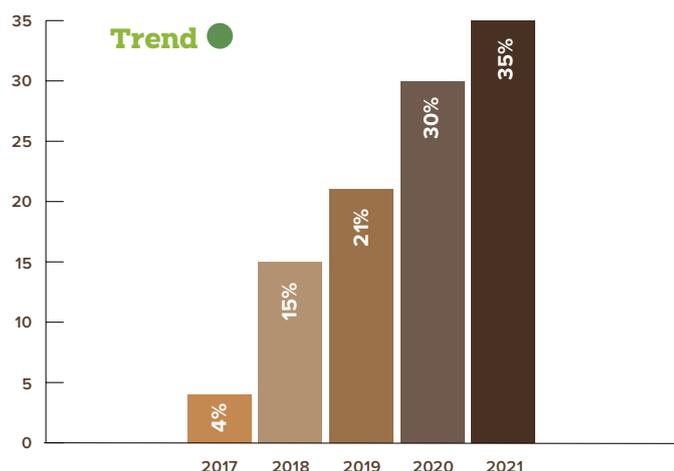
● = Steady

N/A = Data is unable to be trended, or is a new indicator

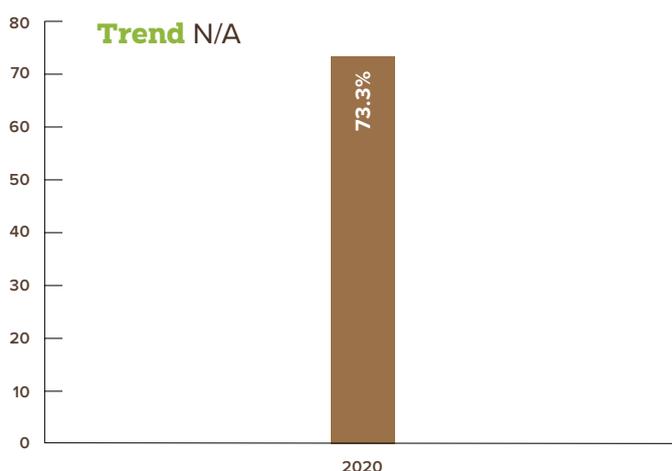
## Best Animal Care

### Animal Husbandry

1.1 Percentage of industry using pain relief for invasive husbandry practices

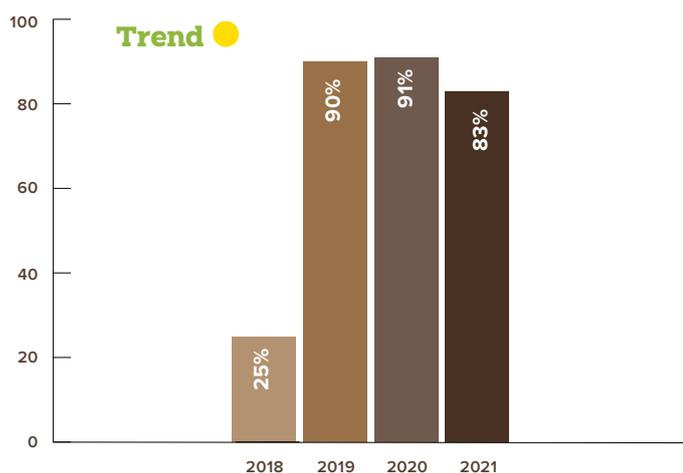


1.2 Percentage of polled calves born in seedstock herds



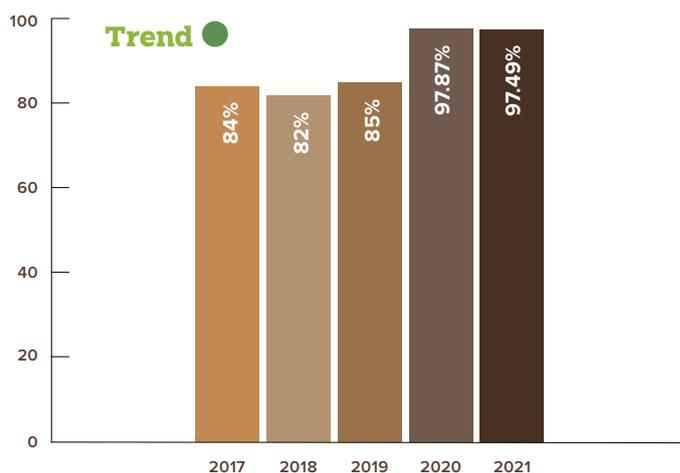
### Biosecurity

2.1 Percentage of cattle properties covered by a documented biosecurity plan



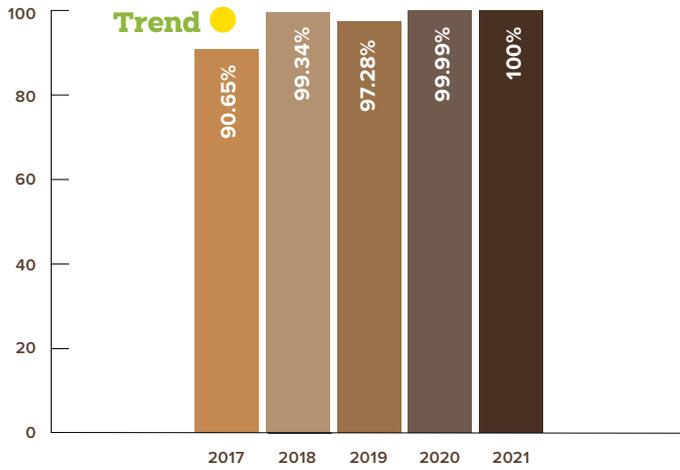
### Processing Practices

3.1 Percentage of cattle processed through an establishment accredited under the Australian Livestock Processing Industry Animal Welfare Certification System (AAWCS)



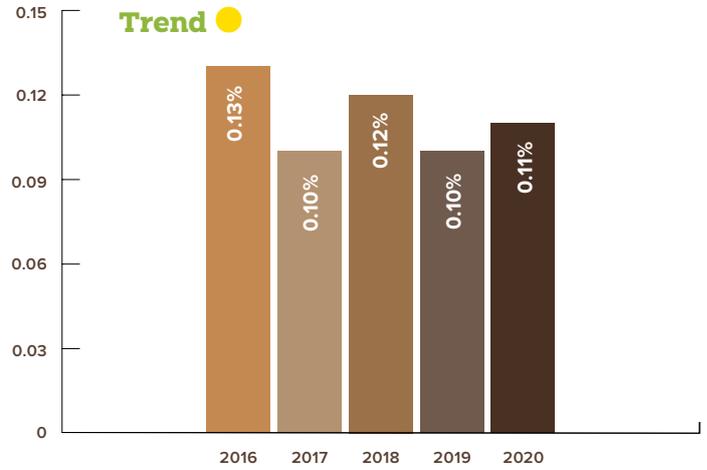
## Processing Practices

3.2 Percentage of cattle processed in compliance with the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS)



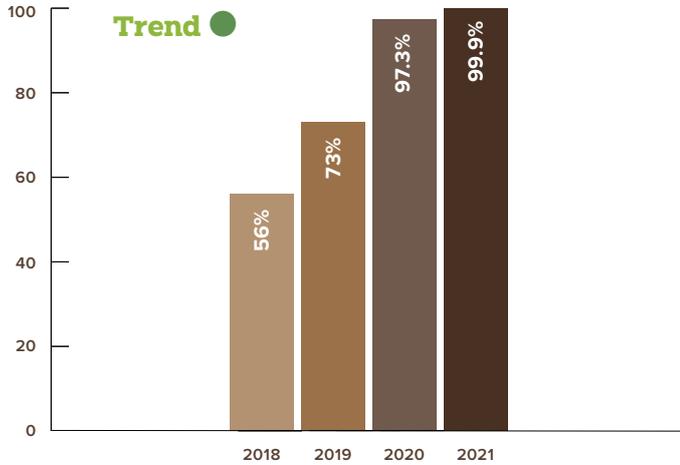
## Livestock Transport

4.1 The total mortality rate of cattle exported on sea voyages

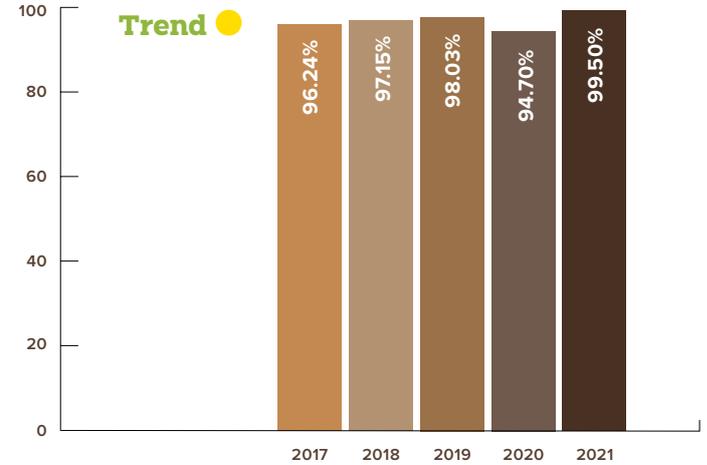


## Health & Welfare

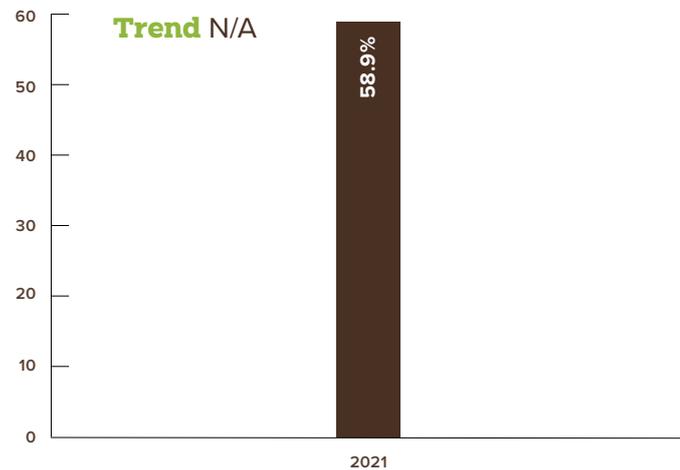
5.1 The percentage awareness of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for Cattle



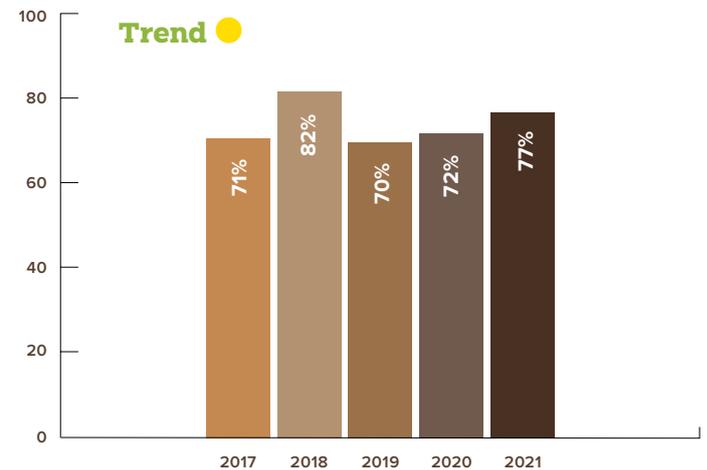
5.2 The percentage compliance with National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) Animal Welfare requirements



5.3 Percentage of feedlot capacity with access to shade

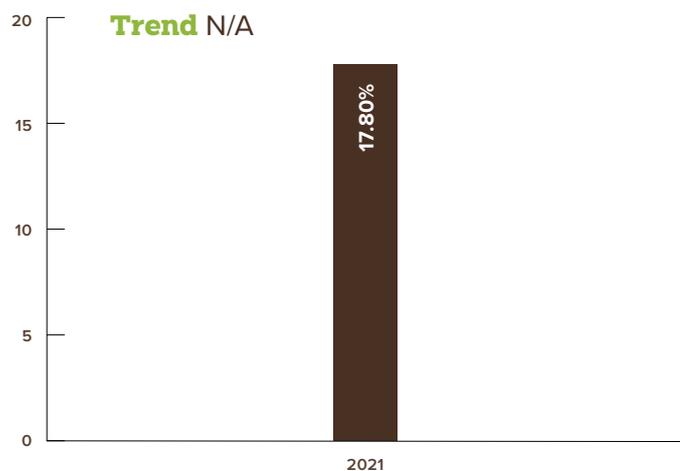


5.4 Vaccination rates for clostridial diseases



## Health & Welfare

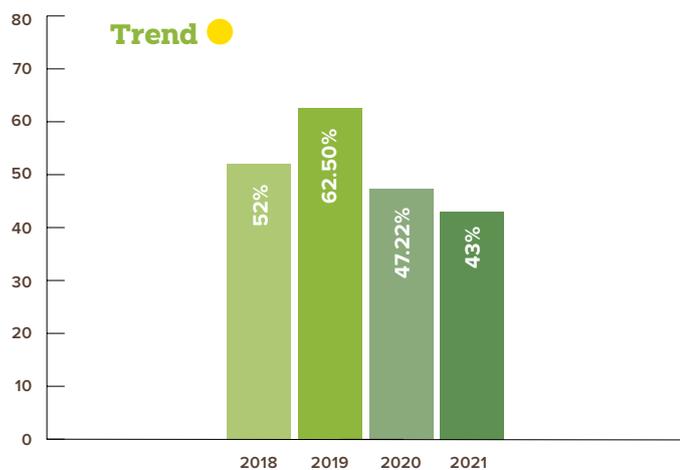
5.5 Percentage of producers undertaking low stress stock handling



## Environmental Stewardship

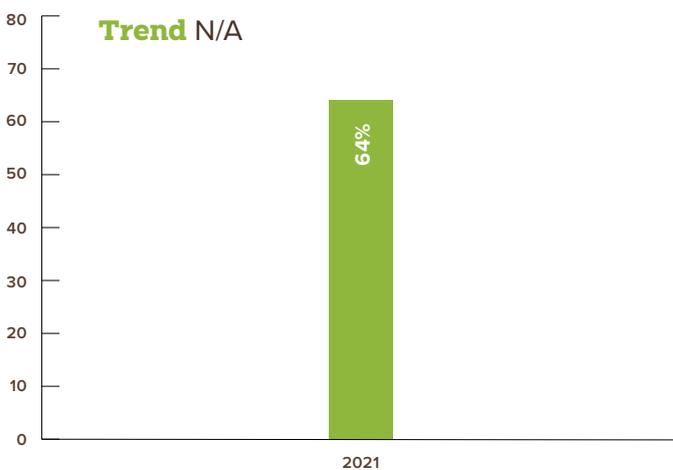
### Biodiversity

6.1 Percentage of cattle producing land managed for biodiversity outcomes through active management



### Soil Health

7.1 Percentage of cattle producers adopting practices to improve soil water retention



### Soil Health

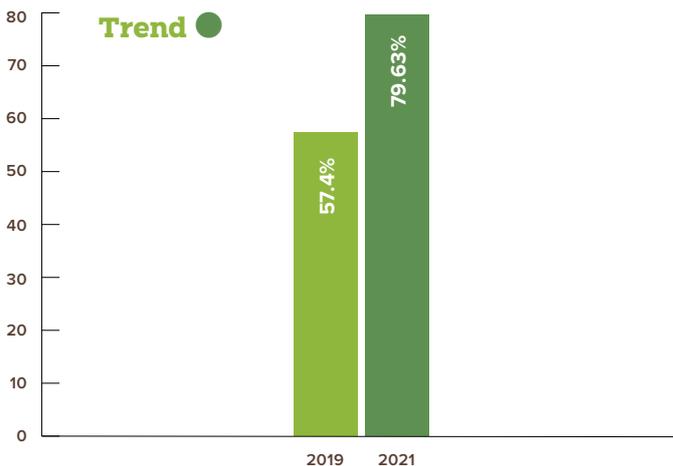
7.2 Levels of soil carbon sequestration

Trend N/A

No national data exists at this point in time.  
The industry is continuing to investigate methods to accurately report this.

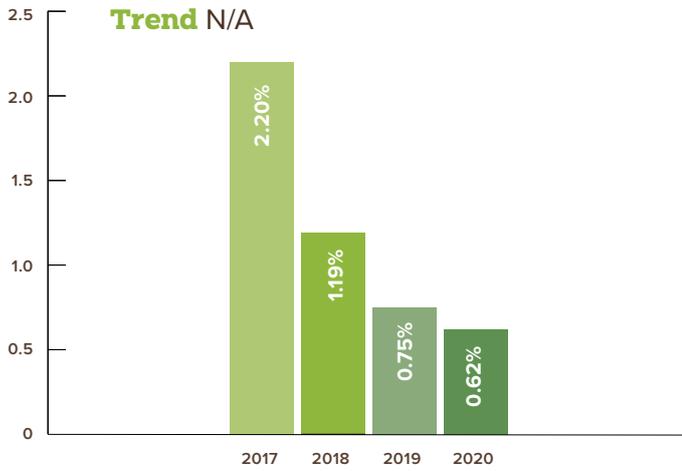
### Groundcover

8.1 Percentage of regions achieving healthy groundcover thresholds

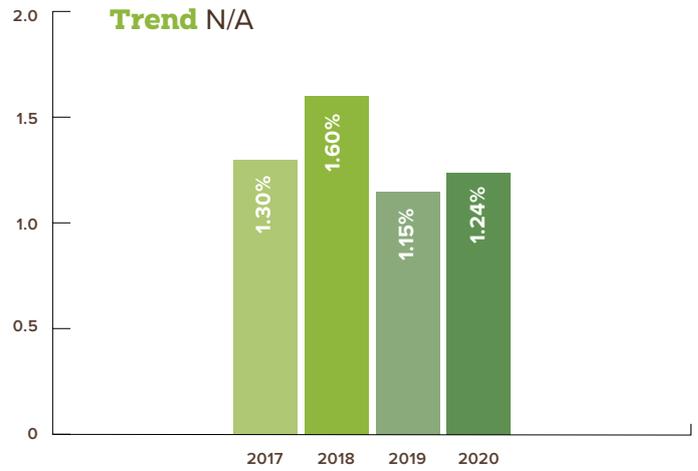


## Balance of Tree and Grass Cover

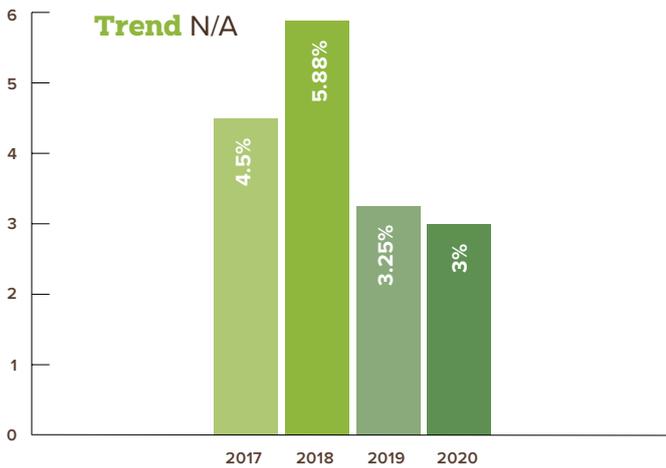
9.1 Percentage of national forest cover gain



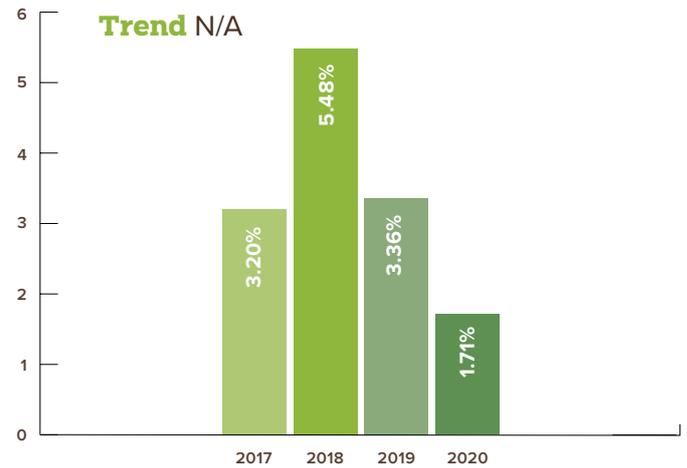
9.2 Percentage of national forest cover loss



9.3 Percentage of national woodland cover gain

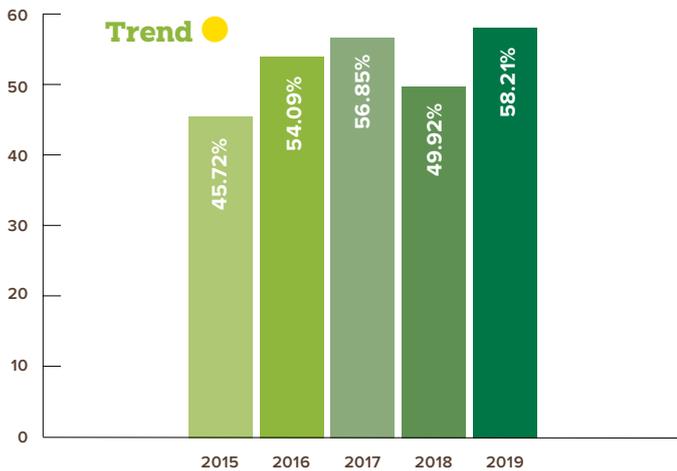


9.4 Percentage of national woodland cover loss

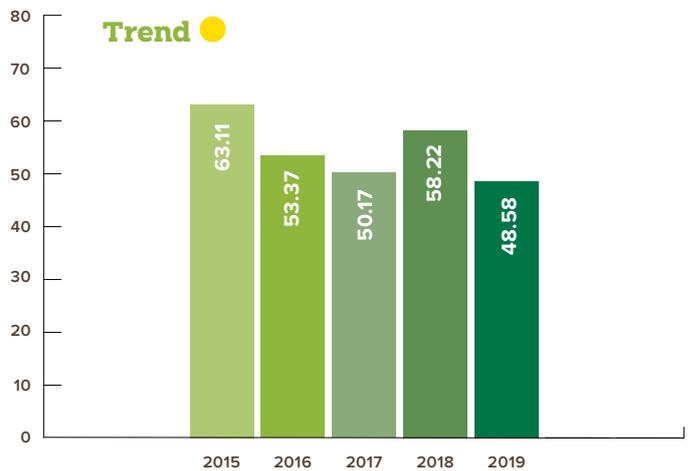


## GHG Emissions and Carbon Capture

10.1 Percentage total CO<sub>2</sub>e reduced by beef industry from a 2005 baseline

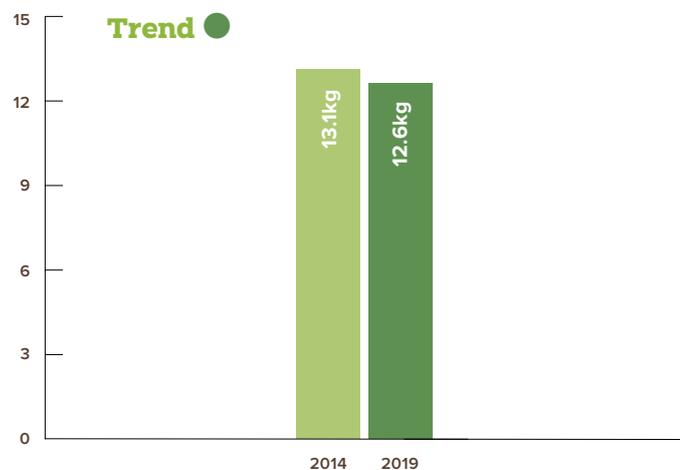


10.2 Net emissions: Mt of CO<sub>2</sub>e emitted by the beef industry

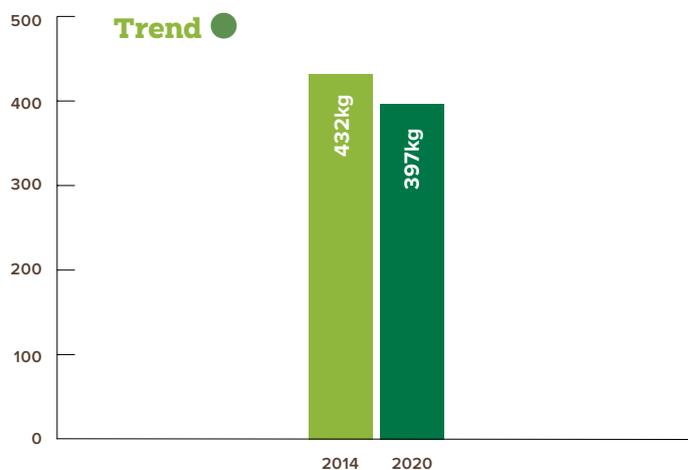


## GHG Emissions and Carbon Capture

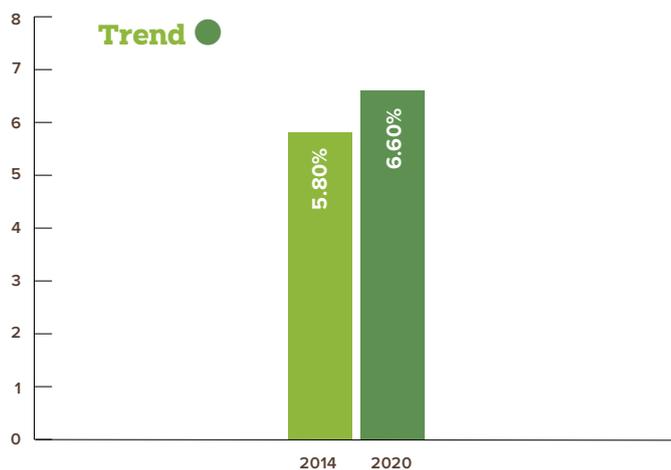
10.3 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e emitted per kg liveweight when raising beef



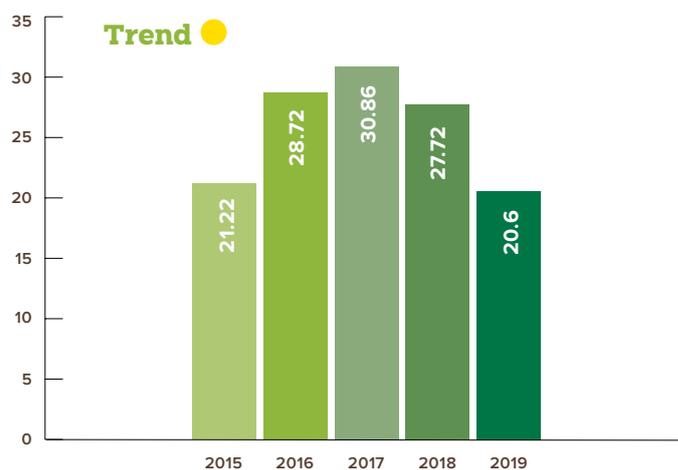
10.4 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e emitted per tonne HSCW when processing beef



10.5 Percentage CO<sub>2</sub>e captured and reused in processing

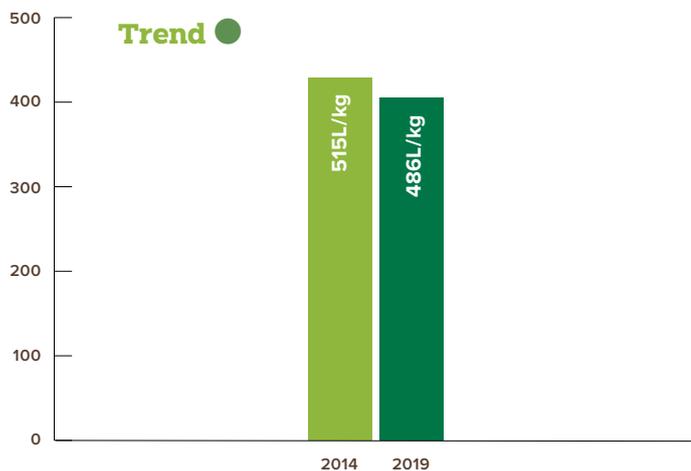


10.6 Carbon sequestered in on-farm vegetation (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e)

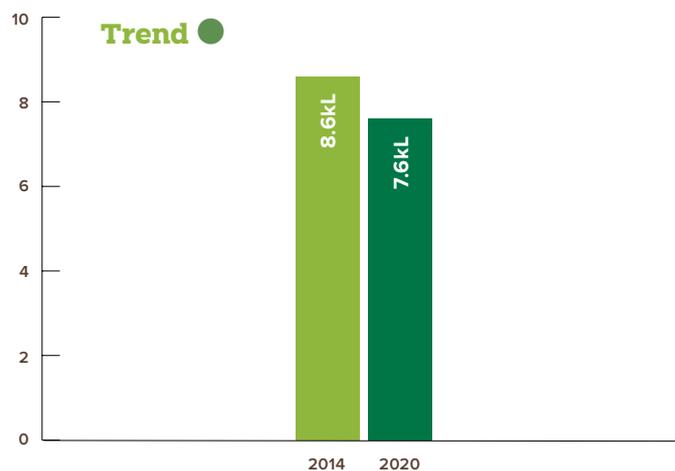


## Water

11.1 Litres of water used per kilogram of liveweight for raising cattle

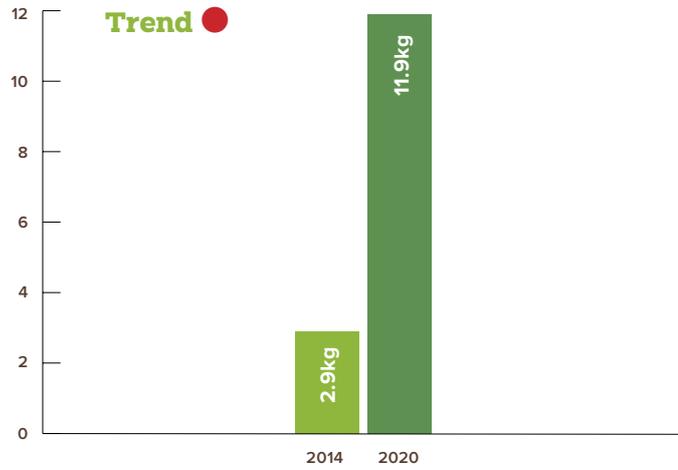


11.2 Kilolitres of water use per tonne HSCW when processing beef

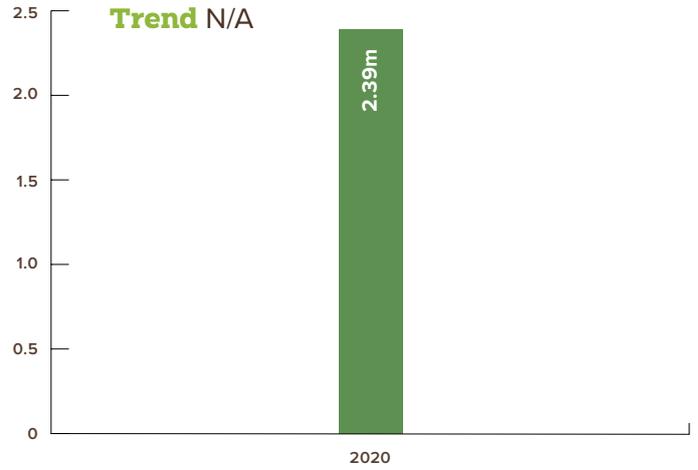


 **Waste**

12.1 Kilograms of solid waste per tonne HSCW when processing beef



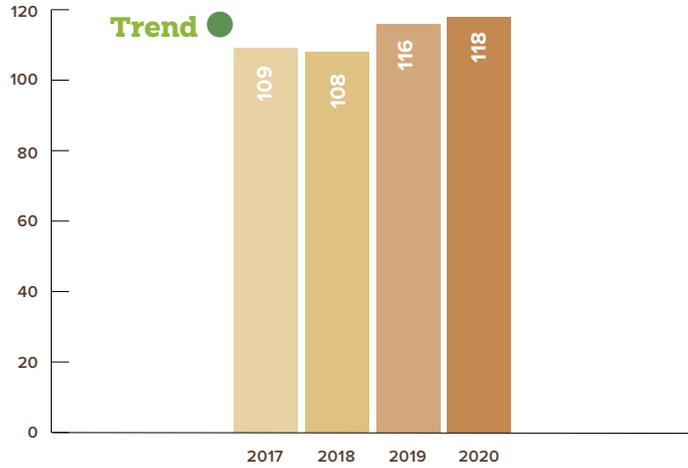
12.2 Tonnes of food waste recovered along the supply chain



 **Economic Resilience**

 **Climate Change Resilience**

13.1 Climate adjusted average annual growth rate in Total Factor Productivity - Baseline of 100 (1989)



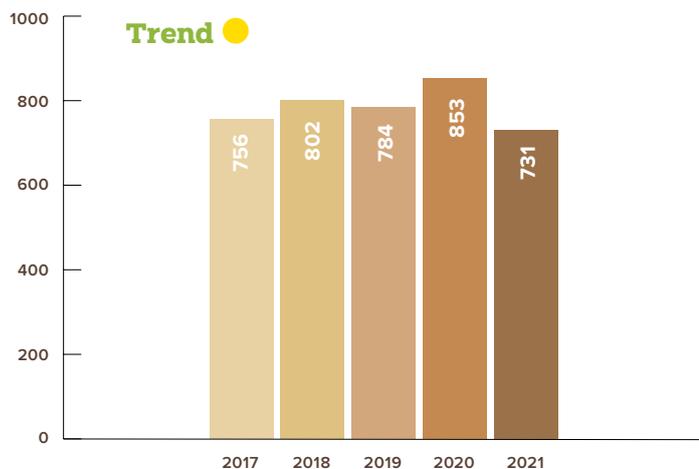
 **Productivity**

14.1 Total Factor Productivity - Baseline of 100 (1978)



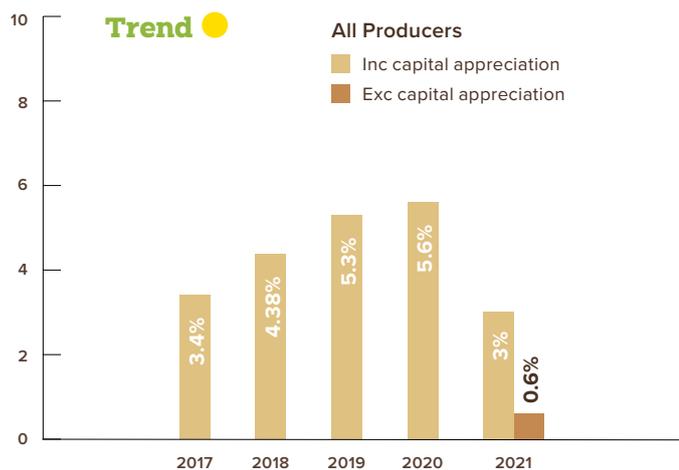
## Productivity

14.2 Cost of beef produced on Australian farms c/kg AUD



## Profitability

15.1 Farm business profit at full equity (expressed as rate of return - five year rolling average)

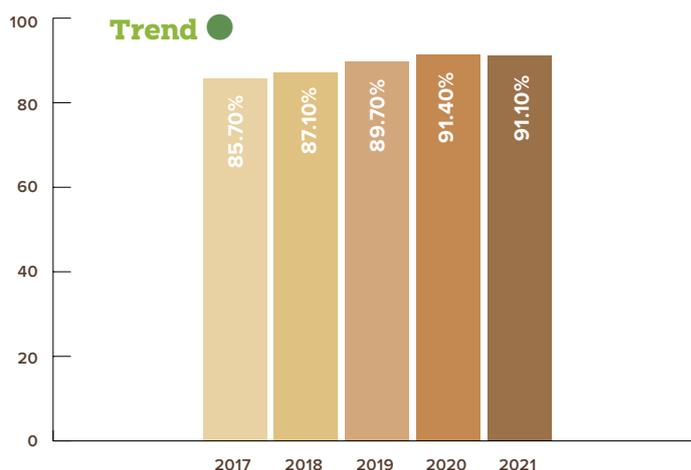


## Market Access

16.1 Costs of technical trade barriers



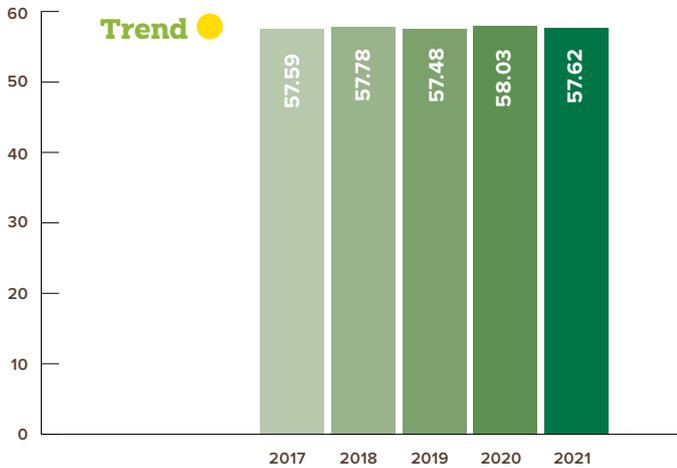
16.2 % value share of Australian beef and live cattle exports covered by one or more preferential trade agreements



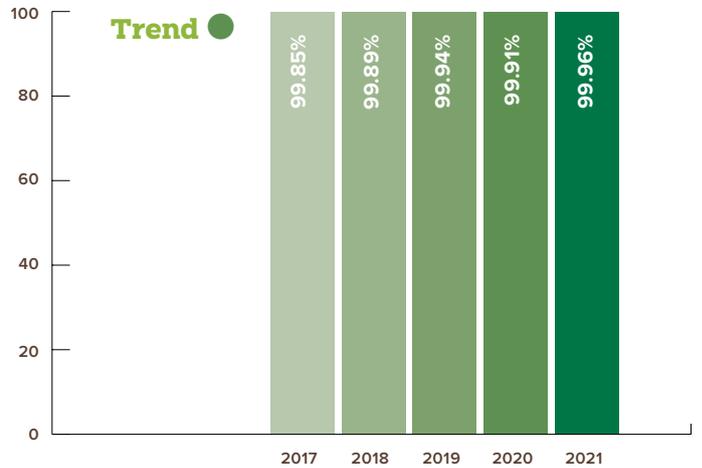
# People & Community

## Food Safety & Quality

17.1 National Average MSA Index



17.2 Overall compliance with the National Residue Survey Australian and International Standards for Cattle



## Nutrition

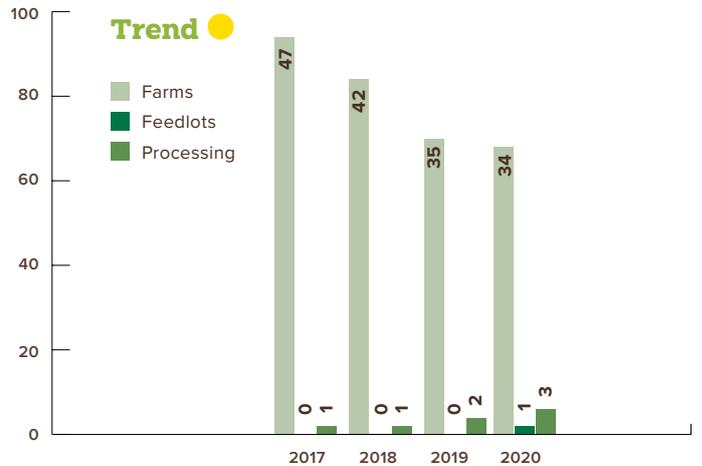
Nutritional Profile

Nutrition Information*	per 150g serve*
<b>Good Source<sup>^</sup></b>	
Protein	<b>34.3g</b>
Iron	<b>3.1mg</b>
Zinc	<b>6.7mg</b>
Vitamin B12	<b>1.4µg</b>
<b>Source<sup>^</sup></b>	
Omega-3 fatty acids	<b>48.2mg</b>
Riboflavin (B2)	<b>0.29mg</b>
Niacin (B3)	<b>7.5mg</b>
Pantothenic acid (B5)	<b>0.54mg</b>
Vitamin B6	<b>0.21mg</b>
Magnesium	<b>38mg</b>
Phosphorus	<b>328mg</b>
Selenium	<b>16µg</b>

\* Average nutrition information per 150g serve raw weight of four major beef cuts.  
<sup>^</sup> Foods that are a 'good source of protein' have more than 10g per serve; 'good sources' of essential nutrients have 25% or more and 'sources', 10% or more of the recommended daily intake (RDI) as defined for labeling purposes in the Australian Food Standards (1.2.7).

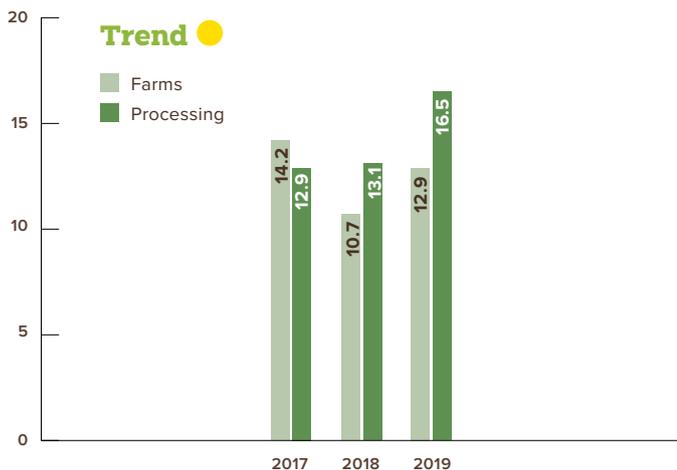
## Work, Health & Safety

18.1 Notifiable fatalities (5 year totals)

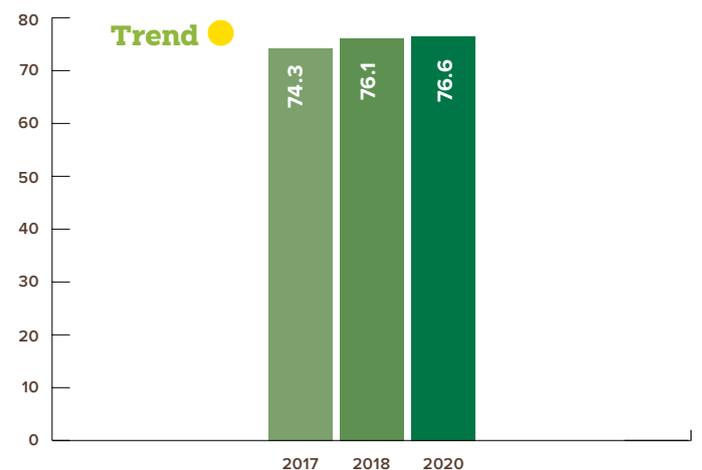


## Work, Health & Safety

18.2 Loss time Injury Frequency Rate

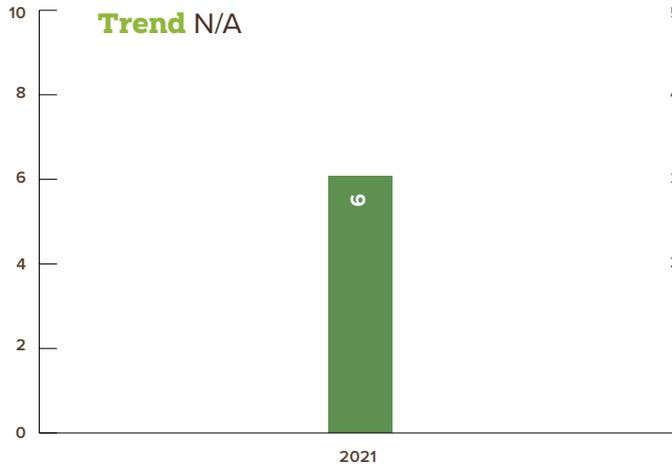


18.3 Global Life Satisfaction Index (Out of 100)



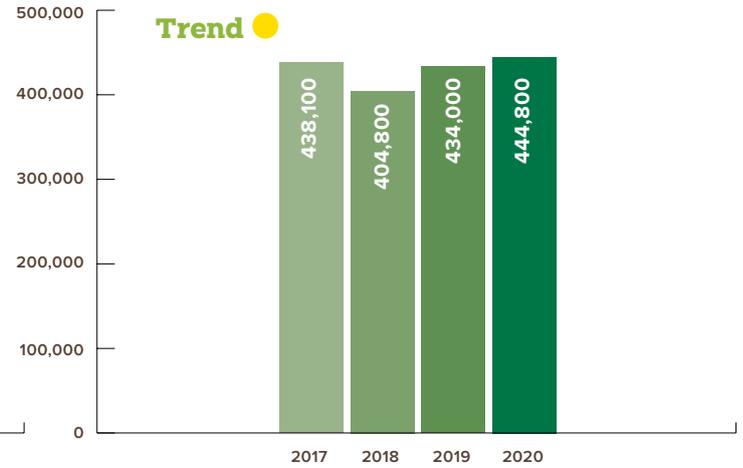
## Labour Practices

19.1 Fair Work Ombudsmen Compliance Notice Issued



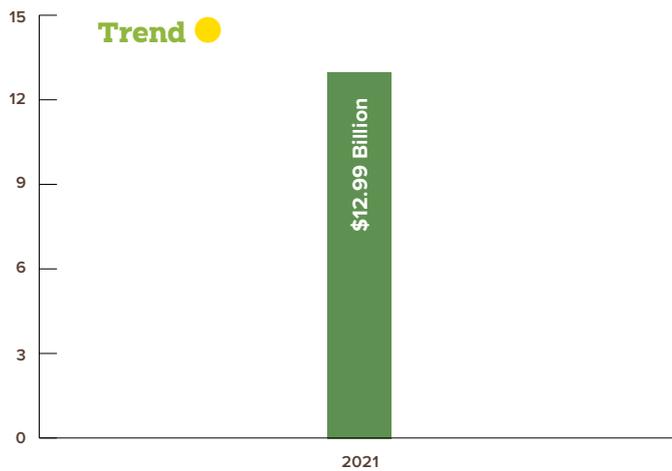
## Community Contribution

20.1 Total FTE as a result from industry

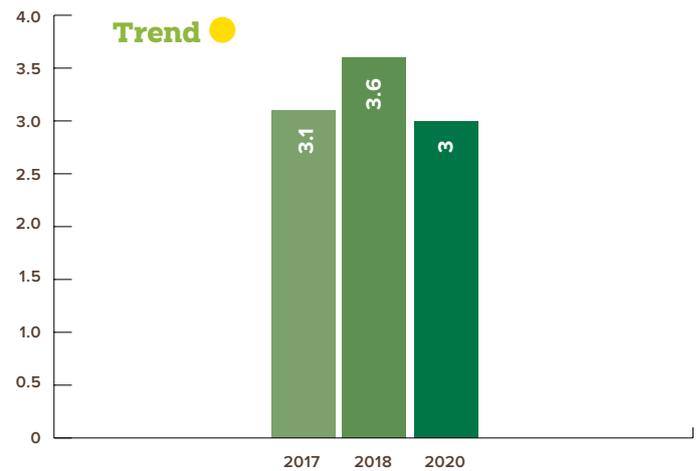


## Community Contribution

20.2 Total GDP to rural/regional communities from Australian beef supply chain



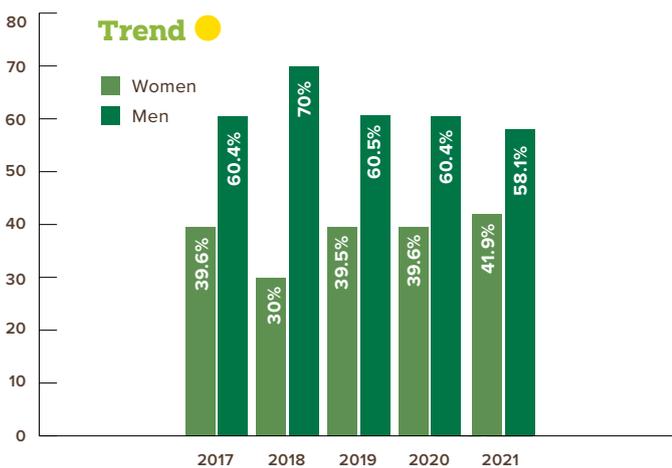
20.3 Getting involved in the community index (Out of 7)



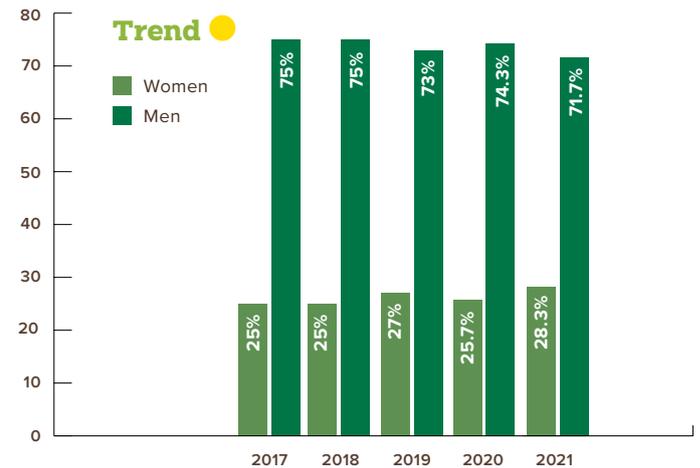
## Diversity

21.1 Percentage of women and men in the workforce

### Farms



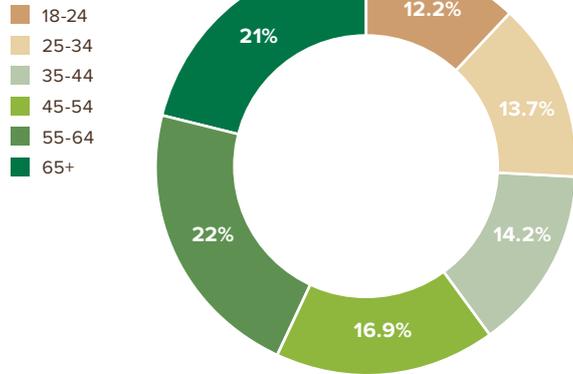
### Processors



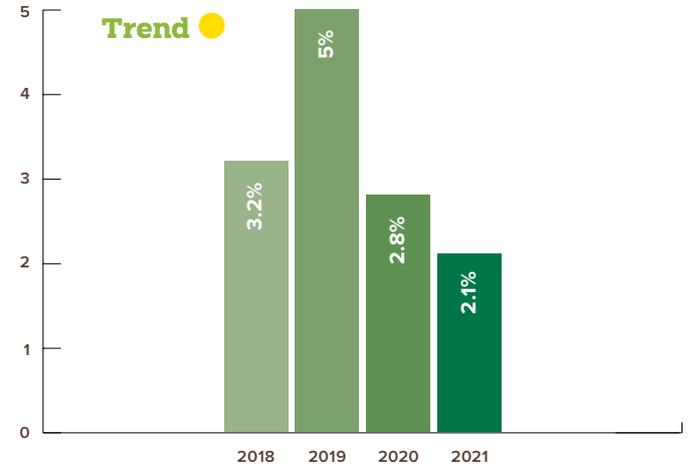
## Diversity

21.2 Age breakdown of the workforce in 2021

Trend N/A

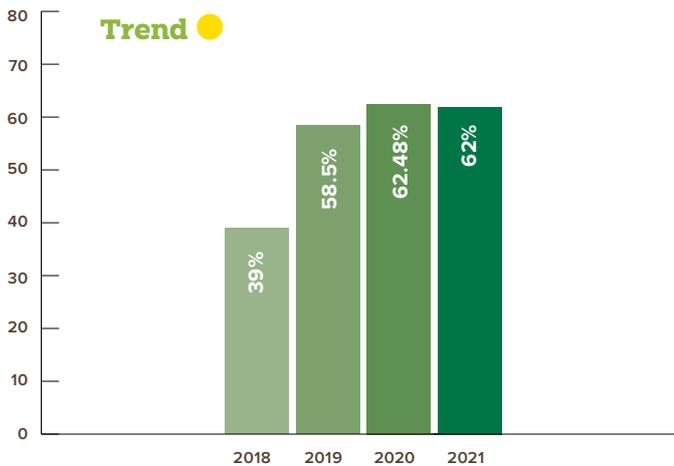


21.3 Percentage of Indigenous employment

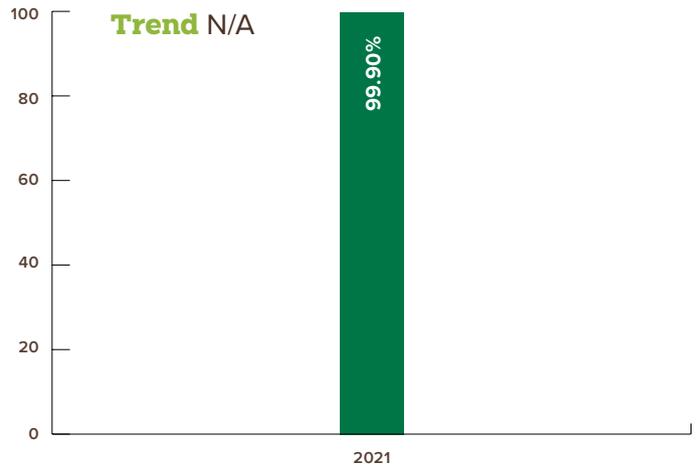


## Antimicrobial Stewardship

22.1 The percentage of feedlots covered by an antimicrobial stewardship plan

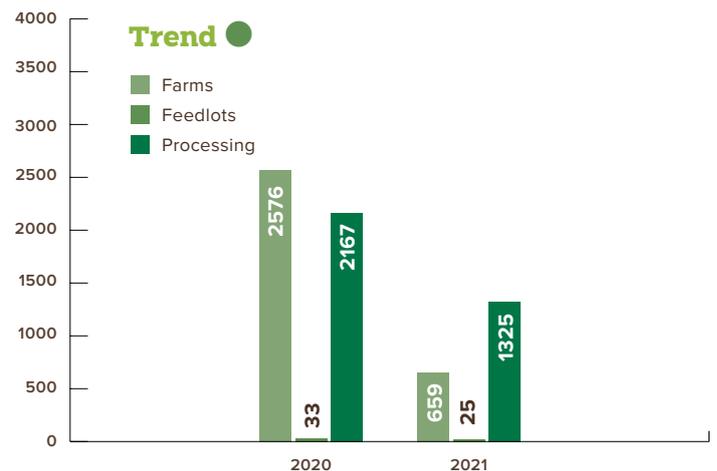
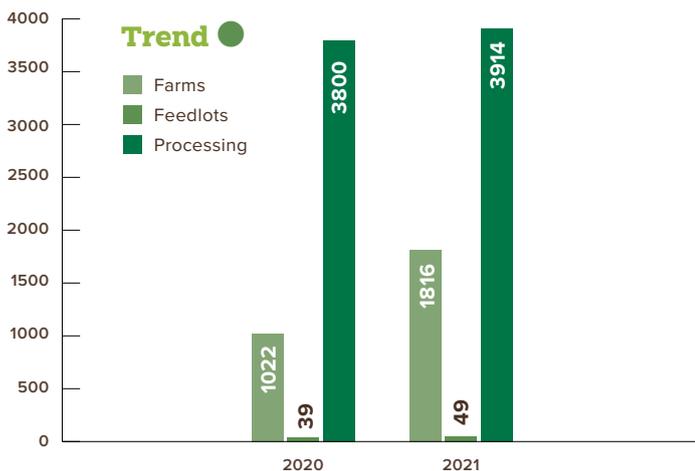


22.2 Percentage of compliance with antibiotic Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)



## Capacity Building

23.1 Number of traineeships and apprenticeships enrolled (below) and completed (right)

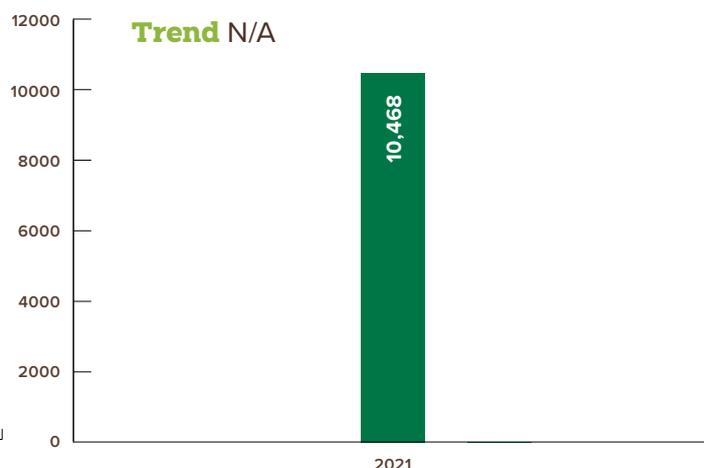


## Capacity Building

23.2 Percentage of industry workforce with a higher education qualification



23.3 Number of participants undertaking MLA, LiveCorp, AMPC, or Peak Industry Council training



For further information regarding data sources and explanations, please refer to the Australian Beef Sustainability Framework 2022 Annual Update - available at:

[www.sustainableaustralianbeef.com.au](http://www.sustainableaustralianbeef.com.au)



**Australian Beef**  
*Sustainability*  
*Framework*

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