



**Australian Beef**  
Sustainability  
Framework



# United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Alignment To The Australian Beef Sustainability Framework

Transparency • Inclusivity • Credibility • Practicality • Relevance



RMAC

# Background

The Australian Beef Sustainability Framework (ABSF) defines what sustainable beef production is within Australia's unique conditions, and tracks industry performance against a series of indicators annually. The indicators are continually refined through consultation with both stakeholders and technical experts.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent the world's plan of action for social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and economic development.

Increasingly, it is the expectation of communities, investors, and other stakeholders that industries, including those in agriculture, collate and communicate

clear evidence of their sustainability. Understanding how the ABSF aligns with the SDGs will help the Australian beef industry meet these evolving expectations.

The 2019 Annual Update included mapping of the ABSF to the SDGs, which was undertaken by STR Consulting (available as Appendix 1 to this report). This is represented by the coloured graphic below. More detail on the links to the SDGs can be seen here.



# Mapping of the ABSF to the SDGs - 2019

As identified in 2019, the ABSF addresses SDGs 2 (zero hunger), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land), and 17 (partnerships for the goals).

More recently, the ABSF Steering Group has been investigating ways to enhance reporting through alignment with the SDGs, led by AgriFutures Australia (available as Appendix 2 to this report). This report identified Australia's rural industries may not be promoting their strong credentials in a language that trade partners understand.

The need to respond to international pressure, particularly from the European Union (EU), and more recently Asia, to push beyond Australia's 'clean and green' image, and measure and report against internationally recognised sustainability metrics, has become increasingly urgent. Maturing our approach to global sustainability benchmarking is vital to keeping pace with trade competitors and avoiding the erosion of market access.

The EU is setting new benchmarks in sustainability reporting. If Australia is to maintain access to this and other markets, awareness needs to be raised among agricultural export businesses of the value of aligning with international sustainability benchmarks, such as the SDGs or the EU's proposed Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). The CSRD's reporting standards are still being developed but the intent is to require large, public-interest companies in the EU to publish information on their environmental impacts as well as on social and human rights matters. These benchmarks are aimed at demonstrating responsiveness to changing consumer expectations. They will also seek to empower, and make credible, sustainability-linked investment.

Australia's rural industries have a significant opportunity to respond to growing global expectations around sustainability reporting. In time this may become standard practice however, for now, it presents an opportunity to ensure our industry keeps pace with trade partners and avoids ceding market access to competitors.



# Sustainable Development Goals

**The SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. The 17 Goals were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which set out a 15-year plan to achieve the SDGs. These goals primarily relate to the activity of nation states, with progress reporting the responsibility of relevant governments.**

Currently, progress is being made in many areas, but is not advancing at the speed or scale required to meet the targets by the 2030 deadline. World leaders at the SDG Summit in September 2019 called for a Decade of Action and delivery for sustainable development, and pledged to mobilise financing, enhance national implementation and strengthen institutions to achieve the SDGs and leave no one behind. Implementation and success will rely on countries' own sustainable development policies, plans and programs.

Under each SDG sit a number of targets with associated indicators. The list of targets and indicators which fall under the nine SDGs that the ABSF aligns to is available as Appendix 3 to this report and is imperative to understanding the task and opportunities of mapping to these targets. It is important to note that due to the dynamic nature of the SDGs, the indicators and metrics are not static, and updates may be made quarterly. This is not dissimilar to the ABSF and the agile approach to sustainability reporting it has adopted.

While industries are not legally obliged to report against the SDGs, governments may rely on the contribution of data by certain industries to inform a country's aggregate SDG progress. For example, in the past the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has requested data from the fisheries sector via the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) on the status of Australian fish stocks to help determine Australia's progress toward indicator 14.4.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels. Additionally, departments may call on industries to validate or check a declaration of aggregate contribution toward SDGs in government reporting. For example, the cotton industry, as represented by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC), was asked in 2018 by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to validate the accuracy of statements regarding water use and carbon efficiency in the industry under SDG 2 (AgriFutures Australia, 2020).

## WHAT IS INDUSTRY DOING

For many rural industries, the SDGs present an opportunity to maintain social licence to operate while, at the same time, developing a more sustainable and resilient industry that is connected to society. The SDGs also have the potential to support industries in meeting requirements and regulations when seeking financial opportunities and investment in an era where shared values are a desirable characteristic sought out by banks, insurers and investors (AgriFutures Australia, 2020). *This is particularly true for listed companies with respect to ESG ratings and investor participation initiatives.*

# Rationale For Mapping SDGs to ABSF



## MAINTAINING MARKET ACCESS

International markets increasingly expect beef imports meet sustainability standards. A key example of this requirement growing in importance is the EU's announcement it will restrict the import of food not considered sustainably produced.

Staying competitive in international markets means speaking a common language understood by global stakeholders and clearly validating the Australian industry's claims to sustainability in comparison to competitors.

Being proactive in our efforts to communicate sustainability using a globally recognised vocabulary will help Australian beef maintain market access and support programs that seek to further grow access to new and existing customers. This is critical to relative premiums and the long-term prosperity of the industry.

In the EU's CSRD, which takes effect in 2023, there will be mandates on sustainability reporting for 49,000 companies. Many of the impacts on which they will report will occur within their supply chains (e.g. biodiversity), and potentially outside of their supply chain.



## LEADING THE WAY

The beef industry now has a unique opportunity to further improve and enhance its global reputation by leading the Australian initiative to map SDGs as a consolidated narrative for its priorities. While other industries have developed, or are developing, their own goals and targets, they are yet to be mapped to the international language of SDGs.



## INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

Agriculture plays a central role in Australia's national identity and is of strategic importance to its economy. Key areas of focus identified through the SDGs for the industry are international competitiveness, Asia's re-emergence, evolving consumer preferences, resource scarcity and climate variability and change (Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences, 2018).

It is clear the importance of sustainability on the international agenda of social, environmental and economic priorities is evolving rapidly, and Australia now has a valuable opportunity to align its rural industries with the SDG framework. In doing so, we can play an active role in the global sustainability narrative via a universally accessible language. Furthermore, given the pace at which the world is adopting this social, environmental, and economic lens, it is crucial Australia does not risk being left behind in this conversation (AgriFutures Australia, 2020).



## MEETING CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

Turning the ABSF into something customers can easily understand is difficult. A member of the Consultative Committee remarked that "translating the numbers in the ABSF to meaningful things for consumers to talk about the change being achieved is difficult in the absence of targets or goals".

The Australian red meat industry has set a target to be carbon neutral by 2030, sending a clear signal to government, global markets, and consumers that the livestock industry is proactively addressing emissions and taking action to improve long-term productivity. The aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030 has captured the attention of international stakeholders because it is translatable to SDG targets:

- 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning; and
- 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.



## PROTECTING ACCESS TO CAPITAL

Compliance with requirements for sustainability reporting criteria is increasingly demanded by global buyers and suppliers in international trade markets. During the recent Materiality Review undertaken by the ABSF, financial institutions responded positively to the ABSF however noted they need more specific commitments for investor assessments. Critical for ESG risk assessments is the requirement for a policy, tracked goals and monitored practices. There are investors who increasingly see the beef industry as a risky area to invest. Showing a commitment to achieving a specific goal will help to positively impact risk assessments and protect access to capital.

Evidence shows investing in the SDGs makes economic sense, with estimates showing that achieving the SDGs could unlock \$US12 trillion in market opportunities and create 380 million new jobs, and that action on climate change would result in savings of about \$US26 trillion by 2030 (*Business and Sustainable Development Commission, 2017; Better Business Better World; Report of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, 2018*).



## GUIDING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN THE INDUSTRY

Specific and measurable goals will provide guidance and focus to industry investment and activity as goals help give direction to actions that foster continuous improvement. This will also help to prevent fragmentation and unite the industry to tackle the issues that matter most to customers, consumers, and the community.

If rural industries were to be driven by an industry-wide narrative such as the SDGs, producers would ideally be more encouraged through performance measures – such as ecosystem services payments – to continue to undertake environmental stewardship and deliver wider biodiversity outcomes and other 2030 Agenda priorities to continue to meet public demand. (KPMG Internal Analysis, 2020).



## SUSTAINABILITY STEERING GROUP (SSG) 2021 – 2024 WORKPLAN

Since June 2018, the SSG has increased two-way discussions with RMAC, seeking direction and providing recommendations on how to guide the ABSF forward. In January 2019, RMAC responded to these recommendations and directed the SSG to take a more proactive role in driving implementation through a 10-Step Workplan.

It was in this process that RMAC approved that the SDGs represent the world's plan for action on sustainability, and the SSG should take another step to show how the SDGs and their targets map across the ABSF's 24 priorities. This would translate the SDGs to the same language as the ABSF, allowing for a common, global language to be understood by business leaders and governments to build trust and support collaboration.

This approach was reiterated when RMAC approved the SSG 2021 – 2024 Workplan in December 2021, with the activity to undertaken alignment with international goals by June, 2022.



## RISK AVERSION

The SDGs are a global benchmark and there is a risk that Australia's rural industries may compromise market access if closer attention is not paid to world trends in implementing the associated targets (AgriFutures Australia, 2020). Currently, Australia is ranked 37th in the world, down from 26th in 2017, and behind many other developed countries including New Zealand, Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

If Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) fail to take ownership of reporting on sustainability, the sector runs the risk the sustainability narrative is imposed or run by external parties, such as government or commercial operators (AgriFutures Australia, 2020). That is to say, the risks of implementing sector-wide sustainability activities and the challenges this may involve, are far outweighed by the risk of not acting at all.

Maintaining control over rural industries' sustainability story through the SDG framework unlocks opportunities for the sector to share with stakeholders, investors, and consumers the work already being done to make the industry more sustainable and resilient. It also increases transparency regarding challenges, risks and the steps taken to address SDGs via an alignment to business priorities and strategies.

A mapping activity of how the SDGs align to the ABSF would not alter the current commitment to accountability or force changes to current practices.

# Method

**In completing the UN SDGs' alignment to the ABSF, there were a number of considerations undertaken. The ABSF priorities and indicators are used as the main reference point with UN SDG targets and indicators assessed for their alignment with those priorities and indicators.**

- Each UN SDG Indicator was assessed to see if it aligned entirely, or partially, with an existing ABSF indicator.
  - Where the UN SDG Indicator aligned clearly, it received a score of 1
  - Where the UN SDG Indicator aligned partially, it received a score of 0.75
- Each UN SDG Target was assessed to determine if it was explicitly aligned to an ABSF priority, or if an aspect of the Target implies that it aligns with an ABSF priority.
  - Where the UN SDG Target aligned clearly, it received a score of 0.5
  - Where the UN SDG Target had implied alignment, it received a score of 0.25
- Where the UN SDG did not align to the ABSF at all, it received a score of 0
- Priorities where the UN SDG do not seek to address were not considered.

In undertaking this work, no consideration was given to UN SDGs where the purposes did not align with the priorities of the ABSF. It was not considered an operation of the ABSF to align to the UN SDGs, as there were often limited perceptions to the UN SDGS (e.g. focus on developing countries, operating at a policy level, matters Australia has resolved and not of material importance). Most importantly, the UN SDGs do not focus on animals or livestock, which is consistently of high material importance within the ABSF.

There are SDGs where there would be expected alignment, but the UN has provided a different scope to what Australia and the beef industry is achieving (e.g. SDG 3 (good health and well-being)).

# Alignment



## ANIMAL WELFARE

The UN SDGs do not focus on animals or livestock, therefore there was very little alignment to the ABSF priorities or indicators. The UN SDGs do address 'biosecurity', however in the form of pests and weeds rather than disease.



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

This theme is where the UN SDGs aligned the most to the ABSF. As a minimum, every priority was inferred or explicitly addressed by the UN SDG Targets, with a further nine indicators aligning to ABSF indicators. The majority of the indicator alignment was evident through the 'balance of tree and grass cover' and 'efficient use of water'. The UN SDG Indicators also aligned relatively well with 'managing climate change risk'.



## ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

No ABSF indicators were explicitly or partially met by the UN SDGs. The majority of priorities were aligned in some manner, except for 'product integrity' which the UN SDGs did not address.



## PEOPLE & COMMUNITY

The UN SDGs fared well in this theme, however, did omit both 'food safety' and 'antimicrobial stewardship' entirely from their targets and indicators. The majority of diversity and wellbeing indicators focused on developing countries and poverty, so only achieved alignment through the UN SDG Targets.

# Recommendations

1. The ABSF should clearly outline under each priority which SDG aligns to it. This is to be high level and a visual representation. Those seeking further information can access this report, and other reports referenced in this document.
2. The ABSF should consider the goals and indicators being prioritised under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) response, including the Voluntary National Review. DFAT has developed an online database for UN SDG indicators for national reporting. Indicators have been classified as either: reported online; exploring data sources; not reported; or, not applicable. The ABSF should assess preferred indicators against the DFAT database.
3. Undertake regular indicator/target review due to the dynamic nature of the SDGs.

For consistency in annual reporting, the ABSF can report visually against the UN SDG as follows:



This alignment exercise has found that the ABSF is contributing to 12 UN SDGs, an increase of three from the previous mapping exercise completed in 2019.

## ALIGNMENT MATRIX



Theme	Priority	Indicator	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals			
			Overall Priority	Indicator	Evidence	Score
Animal Welfare	Competent Livestock Handling	1.1a The percentage awareness of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for Cattle		Not applicable		~*
		1.1b The percentage compliance with National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) Animal Welfare Requirements		Not applicable		~*
		1.1c Percentage awareness of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for Saleyards and Depots		Not applicable		~*
	Safe Livestock Transport	1.2a Number of powered vehicles and trailing equipment which operate under TruckSafe Animal Welfare		Not applicable		~*
		1.2b The percentage of reportable incidents of shipboard mortalities		Not applicable		~*
	Animal Husbandry Techniques	1.3a The percentage of producers breeding livestock to be naturally polled		Not applicable		~*
		1.3b Percentage of industry regularly using pain relief when undertaking aversive husbandry practices		Not applicable		~*
	Humane Processing	1.4a The percentage of cattle slaughtered through an establishment accredited under the Australian Livestock Processing Industry Animal Welfare Certification Systems (AAWCS)		Not applicable		~*
		1.4b The percentage compliance with Exporter Supply Chain Assurance Systems (ESCAS)		Not applicable		~*
	Maintain Healthy Livestock	2.1a Vaccination rates for clostridial diseases		Not applicable		~*
	Minimise Biosecurity Risk	2.2a The percentage of Australian cattle properties covered by a documented biosecurity plan	25%	Inferred	15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species	0.25
		2.2b Australia continues to be free from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Official Diseases		Inferred	15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species	0.25



Theme	Priority	Indicator	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals			
			Overall Priority	Indicator	Evidence	Score
Economic Resilience	Profitability Across Value Chain	3.1a Farm business profit at full equity (expressed as a rate of return to total capital)	50%	Priority	2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	0.5
					8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries	
					10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	
	Farm, Feedlot and Processor Productivity and Cost of Production	3.2a Total farm productivity	17%	Priority	2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	0.5
					8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors	
					3.2b Cost of beef produced on Australian farms	
		3.2c Average cost of cattle processing per head		Omitted		0
Barriers to Trade	4.1a Market Access Index	50%	Priority	2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round	0.5	
				17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda		



			United Nations Sustainable Development Goals			
Theme	Priority	Indicator	Overall Priority	Indicator	Evidence	Score
Economic Resilience	Barriers to Trade	4.1b Cost of technical trade barriers	50%	Priority	2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round	0.5
					17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda	
	Product Integrity	4.2a Percentage of Australian consumers who agree in relation to Australian beef - safe, flavoursome, quality	0%	Omitted		0



			United Nations Sustainable Development Goals			
Theme	Priority	Indicator	Overall Priority	Indicator	Evidence	Score
Environmental Stewardship	Minimise Nutrient and Sediment Loss	5.1a Number of days per year soil covered by vegetation	50%	Priority	12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	0.5
		5.1b Soil Health			12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	0.5
		5.1c Water Quality			6.6 Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	0.5
		12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources				
		14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution				
	Balance of Tree and Grass Cover	5.2a(i) Percentage cattle producing land set aside for conservation or protection purposes	88%	Explicit	15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type	1
			15.1 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains, and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements			
			15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species			
			12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources			



Theme	Priority	Indicator	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals			
			Overall Priority	Indicator	Evidence	Score
Environmental Stewardship	Balance of Tree and Grass Cover	5.2b(i) Percentage national forest cover gain	88%	Explicit	15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	1
					15.1 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains, and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	
					15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	
	5.2b(ii) Percentage national forest cover loss	Explicit		12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	1	
				15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area		
				15.1 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains, and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements		
	5.2b(iii) Percentage national woodland cover gain	Explicit		15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	1	
				12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources		
				15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area		
5.2b(iii) Percentage national woodland cover gain	Explicit	15.1 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains, and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	1			
		15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally				
		12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources				



			United Nations Sustainable Development Goals			
Theme	Priority	Indicator	Overall Priority	Indicator	Evidence	Score
Environmental Stewardship	Balance of Tree and Grass Cover	5.2b(iv) Percentage national woodland cover loss	88%	Explicit	15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type	1
					15.1 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains, and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	
	15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species					
	12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources					
		5.2b(v) Percentage of regions achieving healthy ground cover thresholds		Priority	12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	0.5
	Manage Climate Change Risk	6.1a kg CO <sub>2</sub> e emitted per kg liveweight when raising beef	65%	Partial	9.4.1 CO <sub>2</sub> emission per unit of value added	0.75
		6.1b kg CO <sub>2</sub> e emitted per tonne Hot Standard Carcase Weight when processing beef			9.4.1 CO <sub>2</sub> emission per unit of value added	0.75
		6.1c Carbon captured and re-used in processing			7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	0.5
		6.1d Carbon sequestration			12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	0.25
		6.1e Percentage total CO <sub>2</sub> e reduced by beef industry from 2005 baseline			Explicit	13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year 9.4.1 CO <sub>2</sub> emission per unit of value added
Climate Change Adaptation and Preparedness	6.2a Producer confidence in having the information, tools, technologies and resources (both business and biophysical) to be able to adapt to change over time	50%	Priority	2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality	0.5	
				13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries		
				13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning		



Theme	Priority	Indicator	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals			
			Overall Priority	Indicator	Evidence	Score
Environmental Stewardship	Efficient Use of Water	6.3a Litres of water used per kilogram of liveweight for raising cattle	100%	Explicit	6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time 6.4 Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	1
		6.3b Kilotres of water used per tonne Hot Standard Carcase Weight when processing beef			6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time 6.4 Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	
	Solid Waste to Landfill from Processing	7.1a Kilograms of solid waste per tonne Hot Standard Carcase Weight when processing beef	50%	Priority	9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	0.5



Theme	Priority	Indicator	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals			
			Overall Priority	Indicator	Evidence	Score
People & Community	Beef is eaten as part of a healthy balanced diet	8.1a Percentage of consumers in Australia who consider beef part of a healthy balanced diet	50%	Priority	2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons	0.5
	Food Safety	8.2a The percentage of product exported that a market found unacceptable in terms of food safety-related indicators	0%	Omitted		0
	Antimicrobial Stewardship	8.3a The percentage of feedlots covered by an antibiotic stewardship plan	0%	Omitted		0



			United Nations Sustainable Development Goals			
Theme	Priority	Indicator	Overall Priority	Indicator	Evidence	Score
People & Community	Education & Training	9.1a Number of traineeships and apprenticeships enrolled and completed	25%	Inferred	13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	0.25
		9.1b Percentage of industry participants with a higher education qualification		Inferred	13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	0.25
	Diversity in the workforce	9.2a The percentage of women and men in the workforce	50%	Priority	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	0.5
					5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	
		10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status				
	9.2b The age breakdown of the workforce	Priority	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	0.5		
			10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status			
	9.2c The percentage of Indigenous representation in the workforce	Priority	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	0.5		
	Health and Safety of People in the Industry	10.1a Notifiable fatalities	100%	Explicit	8.8.1 Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status	1
					8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	
Wellbeing of people in the industry	10.2a Global Life Satisfaction Index	50%	Priority	8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	0.5	

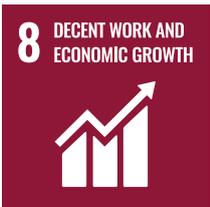
## EVALUATION -

### Is there a link between an aspect of the UN SDGs and the ABSF criteria/principles

Answer Options	Score	Definition
Explicit	1	The inclusion of the indicator is clearly evident in the UN SDGs as a minimum. The priority may also be met
Partial	0.75	The inclusion of the indicator is inferred in the UN SDGs. The priority may also be met
Priority	0.5	The priority is explicitly included in the UN SDGs
Inferred	0.25	There is an aspect of the UN SDGs that implies the priority is included
Omitted	0	The scheme does not address the condition
Not applicable	~*	The condition is not applicable to the scheme

Given the importance of reporting to the UN SDGs, the alignment has been reversed to assist in clarifying where the ABSF can be used to report towards an SDG.

United Nation SDG	ABSF Alignment
 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>ABSF Priority: Profitability Across Value Chain</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Farm, Feedlot and Processor Productivity and Cost of Production</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Barriers to Trade</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Climate Change Adaptation and Preparedness</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Beef is Eaten as Part of a Healthy Balanced Diet</p>
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>ABSF Priority: Diversity in the Workforce</p>
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>ABSF Indicator: 6.3a - Litres of water used per kilogram of liveweight for raising cattle</p> <p>ABSF Indicator: 6.3b - Kilotitres of water used per tonne Hot Standard Carcase Weight when processing beef</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Minimise Nutrient and Sediment Loss</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Efficient Use of Water</p>

United Nation SDG	ABSF Alignment
 <p><b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>ABSF Priority: Manage Climate Change Risk</p>
 <p><b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>ABSF Indicator: 10.1a - Notifiable fatalities</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Profitability Across Value Chain</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Farm, Feedlot and Processor Productivity and Cost of Production</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Diversity in the Workforce</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Health and Safety of People in the Industry</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Wellbeing of People in the Industry</p>
 <p><b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>ABSF Indicator: 6.1e – Percentage total CO<sub>2</sub>e reduced by beef industry from 2005 baseline</p> <p>ABSF Indicator: 6.1a – kg CO<sub>2</sub>e emitted per kg liveweight when raising beef</p> <p>ABSF Indicator: 6.1b – Percentage total CO<sub>2</sub>e reduced by beef industry from 2005 baseline</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Manage Climate Change Risk</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Solid Waste to Landfill from Processing</p>
 <p><b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>ABSF Priority: Profitability Across Value Chain</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Diversity in the Workforce</p>
 <p><b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	
 <p><b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>ABSF Priority: Minimise Nutrient and Sediment Loss</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Balance of Tree and Grass Cover</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Manage Climate Change Risk</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Solid Waste to Landfill from Processing</p>

United Nation SDG	ABSF Alignment
	<p>ABSF Indicator: 6.1e – Percentage total CO<sub>2</sub>e reduced by beef industry from 2005 baseline</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Manage Climate Change Risk</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Climate Change Adaptation and Preparedness</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Education and Training</p>
	<p>ABSF Priority: Minimise Nutrient and Sediment Loss</p>
	<p>ABSF Indicator: 5.2a(i) – Percentage cattle-producing land set aside for conservation or protection purposes</p> <p>ABSF Indicator: 5.2a(iii) – Percentage cattle-producing land managed for environmental outcomes through active management</p> <p>ABSF Indicator: 5.2b(i) – Percentage of national forest cover gain</p> <p>ABSF Indicator: 5.2b(ii) – Percentage of national forest cover loss</p> <p>ABSF Indicator: 5.2b(iii) – Percentage of national woodland cover gain</p> <p>ABSF Indicator: 5.2b(iv) – Percentage of national woodland cover loss</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Minimise Biosecurity Risk</p> <p>ABSF Priority: Balance of Tree and Grass Cover</p>
	
	<p>ABSF Priority: Barriers to Trade</p>

# Appendix 1

## 2019 Mapping of ABSF to UN SDGs

Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



**2 ZERO HUNGER**

**Goal:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

**Target:** *By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality*

**ECONOMIC**

- Profitability
- Productivity
- Product integrity
- Market access
- Economic contribution

**ENVIRONMENT**

- Ground cover
- Soil
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Emissions
- Waste
- Sequestration

Linking productivity to resource efficiency

Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

**Goal:** Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

**Targets:**

- By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.
- By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

**ENVIRONMENT**

- Ground cover
- Soil
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Emissions
- Waste
- Sequestration

### Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



**Goal: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

**Target: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries**



### Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



**Goal: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.**

**Targets:**



- *By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally*
- *By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world*

## Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



**Goal: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

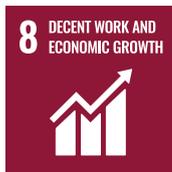
**Targets:**

- *By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.*
- *By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.*



Food waste

## Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



**Goal: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all**

**Targets:**

- *Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment*



Fair work

### Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



**Goal: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources**

**Target:**

- *By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution*

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



- Soil
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Emissions
- Waste

Water quality

### Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



**Goal: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

**Target:**

- *By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency*



- Profitability
- Productivity
- Product integrity
- Market access
- Economic contribution



- Ground cover
- Soil
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Emissions
- Waste
- Sequestration

## Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

**Goal: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

**Targets:**

- *Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries.....*
- *Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships*



- Livestock health and welfare
- Husbandry
- Transport
- Biosecurity



- Profitability
- Productivity
- Product integrity
- Market access
- Economic contribution



- Ground cover
- Soil
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Emissions
- Waste
- Sequestration



- Nutrition
- Capacity building
- Diversity
- Work health and safety
- Social impact

## Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

**Goal: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

**Targets:**

- *Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle*



- Livestock health and welfare
- Husbandry
- Transport
- Biosecurity



- Profitability
- Productivity
- Product integrity
- Market access
- Economic contribution



- Ground cover
- Soil
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Emissions
- Waste
- Sequestration



- Nutrition
- Capacity building
- Diversity
- Work health and safety
- Social impact

# Appendix 2

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Telling Australia's rural industries story 2020 AgriFutures Australia

Available at:

<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/product/united-nations-sustainable-development-goals-telling-australias-rural-industries-story/>

# Appendix 3

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Targets and Indicators

Most recent version available at:

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>





**Australian Beef**  
*Sustainability  
Framework*

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