



ahslea

AUSTRALIAN HIDE, SKIN
& LEATHER EXPORTERS
ASSOCIATION

Sustainability Framework

An overview

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Why we have prepared a Sustainability Framework

In a significant step towards a sustainable future, the Australian Hide, Skin, and Leather Exporters Association (AHSLEA) has developed a comprehensive sustainability framework for the industry. This framework confirms the industry's commitment to economic, social, and environmental responsibility.

Overseas and domestic markets now demand transparency around matters such as environmental performance, suppliers, societal contribution, and workplace conditions as a prerequisite for market access. Increasingly regulations are reinforcing this trend. Consumers are also increasingly seeking transparency. By preparing and implementing this framework, the industry aims to ensure long-term sustainability by responding to market access and consumer concerns.

The Australian hide, skin and leather industry is not alone here. Similar frameworks have been prepared by the Australian beef, dairy and sheep industries in response to changing consumer and market preferences.

The framework is a guide for the industry and its members to support continual improvement in the performance and transparency of the industry.

In summary:

- What:** The Australian hide, skin, and leather industry has created a sustainability framework.
- Why:** To improve the long-term sustainability of the industry by meeting market requirements and consumer demands for transparency on economic, social and environmental aspects of the industry.
- How:** By mapping what a sustainable industry looks like, with specific targets and improvements in performance required over the medium term.



How we prepared the Sustainability Framework

AHSLEA assembled an Industry Steering Group comprising members across the industry to craft a comprehensive framework.

The process involved thorough collaboration with key stakeholders, an extensive review of existing frameworks in the agriculture sector, and a detailed assessment of industry practices and benchmarks.

Stakeholder input, including from Australian processors and tanneries, was crucial in developing the framework. Their insights helped clarify industry strengths, challenges, and opportunities for future action.

Framework in summary

The Australian Hide, Skin, and Leather Sustainability Framework (AHSLSF) efficiently communicates its sustainability impacts and performance to key stakeholders, including customers and regulators.

Its overarching vision is succinctly captured in the phrase: 'Producing quality, sustainable leather.'

Core principles – Seven foundational principles will guide the implementation of the Sustainability Framework:

- 1. Responsibility:**
Taking accountability for sustainability and collaborating to reduce negative impacts.
- 2. Dialogue:**
Engaging in ongoing discussions for knowledge exchange and best practices.
- 3. Partnership:**
Collaborating with stakeholders to develop solutions and communicate performance.
- 4. Transparency:**
Transparent reporting of industry risks, performance, and progress.
- 5. Adaptability:**
Adapting to evolving regulations, reporting needs, and stakeholder expectations.
- 6. Innovation and continual improvement:**
Cultivating a culture of learning, refining practices in line with advancements.
- 7. Long-term vision:**
Guiding actions with foresight, engaging with stakeholders proactively.



Scope and boundary

The framework serves to enhance sustainability in the Australian hide, skin, and leather industry. It focuses on managing and evaluating industry-wide sustainability performance for sheep and cattle hide, skin, and leather production. While it doesn't audit or enforce individual businesses, it establishes standards for data collection and reporting. It includes topics such as chemical management, water usage, labour rights, and environmental practices.

Themes - The Sustainability Framework revolves around four key commitments:

1.



Environmental impact: Addressing GHG emissions, chemical management, water usage, and waste.

2.



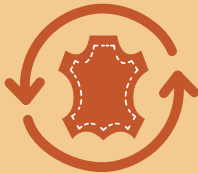
People and community: Prioritising health and safety, talent development, labour rights, and community contributions.

3.



Economic resilience: Ensuring market access, profitability, and climate resilience.

4.



Value chain innovation: Enhancing traceability, animal welfare, biodiversity, reducing deforestation and increasing collaboration across the value chain.

Governance and reporting

The Sustainability Framework is overseen by AHSLEA's Sustainability Steering Committee, with decisions to support the framework made by the AHSLEA Board.

The Steering Committee, representing various regions, prioritises issues related to Australian hide, skin and leather production. To ensure transparency and accountability, the industry pledges to report its progress against the framework annually.



The Australian Hide Skin & Leather Exporters Association (AHSLEA) is the national membership body representing the interests of the major exporters of Australian cattle and calf hides, sheep and lamb skins, kangaroo skins and goat skins. It is also a member of the International Council of Hides, Skins and Leather Traders Association (ICHSLTA), which promotes, develops and protects the international trade in raw hides, skins and leathers.

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