



ahslea

AUSTRALIAN HIDE, SKIN
& LEATHER EXPORTERS
ASSOCIATION

Sustainability Framework

Land and Biodiversity

Key points

- **Farmland is being used to engage in innovative wastewater recycling techniques**
- **Collaboration with universities on conservation, wildlife, and carbon health projects**
- **Exploring biodiversity conversation projects**

Best practice

Land management, biodiversity, soil health and quality, groundcover and tree cover have all been identified as priorities by agricultural and leather stakeholders. Deforestation is identified as an important issue by several stakeholders; however, deforestation and especially reforestation are **closely related to enhancing land, soil health and biodiversity and are therefore usually merged with these issues**. While the leather industry has no direct control of deforestation in the supply chain, the industry must work with suppliers to improve traceability to meet customer expectations and EU regulatory requirements.

What the Australian industry is currently doing

- Rural sites employ innovative wastewater recycling by cultivating crops on owned farmland. This approach has presented various opportunities including:

- leveraging wastewater recycling techniques; utilising self-produced fertilisers for better crop growth; showcasing above-average yields through sustainable practices; and exploring on-selling prospects for crops and fertiliser to diversify revenue.
- Daily monitoring system implemented to closely track salinity levels in crops, ensuring optimal growth conditions and minimising potential risks.
- Collaboration with universities on wildlife projects and monitoring soil and carbon health.
- Planting of 50k native trees to create a tree corridor, showcasing commitment to environmental initiatives and biodiversity conservation.
- Undertaking sustainable intensification farming by rotating monocultures for optimal crop yield, while using reduced fertiliser and conventional methods.

Sustainability Framework key industry commitment

- We are committed to working with our suppliers to eliminate deforestation in our supply chain.
- We are committed to achieving a net positive impact on biodiversity from our rural operations commencing with benchmarking in 2024 and reporting on activities supporting biodiversity onwards.

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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