



ahslea

AUSTRALIAN HIDE, SKIN
& LEATHER EXPORTERS
ASSOCIATION

Sustainability Framework

Waste Management

Key points

- **Comprehensive waste recycling processes generally in place, including reuse, upcycling and repurposing of waste**
- **Industry is exploring other waste minimising opportunities with a focus on plastic and packaging waste**
- **Larger operations can recycle their chrome waste**

Best practice

Waste management in the agricultural sector and leather industry is generally improved in two ways: **reducing the amount of waste** resulting from processes and activities, through re-designs or circularity, and **managing the disposal of solid waste and liquid wastewater**. Managing wastewater disposal can limit or eliminate the pollutants in wastewater going back into the environment, through effluent treatment and circularity. **Managing solid waste** can limit the GHG emissions caused by waste degradation and improve input efficiency.

What the Australian industry is currently doing

- Organic waste is being used as fertiliser.
- Comprehensive waste recycling processes in place, recycling almost all waste, including heads, ear tags, cuttings, and trimmings.
- Reuse and donation of wooden pallets where possible.
- Replacing disposable bulk bags with reusable plastic containers for collagen transportation.
- Innovative upcycling of re-trimming waste results in the creation of 'leatherboard' or wall insulation, particularly viable in NSW due to specific waste regulations.
- Fleshings are transformed into tallow for bio-diesel production.
- Implementation of full chemical re-use and recycling practices for chrome and salt at some sites.
- At certain locations, the Direct Chrome Liquor Recycling process recovers used chrome liquor, allowing for continual re-use of trivalent chromium with minimal traces in the resulting effluent.

Sustainability Framework key industry commitment

- We are committed to reducing waste to landfill and increasing circular economy innovation within the industry. An initial benchmarking survey will be completed in 2024 with reduction targets including those for single-use plastics set from 2025.

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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