



ahslea

AUSTRALIAN HIDE, SKIN
& LEATHER EXPORTERS
ASSOCIATION

Sustainability Framework

Water Management

Key points

- **Urban sites adhere to strict no-drainage policies, all water must be treated**
- **Rural sites are leveraging wastewater recycling techniques**
- **Effective chromium liquid treatment largely in place**
- **Rainwater collection a feature at most facilities**
- **Parts of the industry exploring heat exchange techniques**

Best practice

Water management is achieved through two main approaches: **sourcing water** from sustainable sources and in a sustainable manner, and **reduction in water consumption**, especially through water use efficiency. In many ways, **water management is closely related to waste and wastewater management.**

What the Australian industry is currently doing

- Urban sites implement a strict no-drainage policy, with all effluent streams undergoing proper treatment and segregation.
- At rural sites, all water designated for irrigation is treated.
- Effective treatment of chromium liquids is carried out.
- Rainwater collection systems, capable of storing significant amounts of water (up to 20 megalitres).
- Wastewater from ice machines is captured and reused for the short-term preservation of fresh hides, reducing water waste.
- Effluent liquid is utilised for hosing internal walls of the equalisation tank, reducing the need for potable water usage.
- Some sites report low water consumption per hide.
- Heat exchange techniques are employed by co-locating inflow and outflow water pipes.

Sustainability Framework key industry commitment

- We aim to minimise water consumption while increasing recovery and reuse rates starting with a benchmarking survey in 2024 and targets for reducing overall water consumption from 2025 and the treatment or reuse of all wastewater.

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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