



Industry Sustainability Member Benchmarking Survey

INTRODUCTION

AHSLEA conducted its first sustainability benchmark survey of its members between 17 October and 1 November 2024.

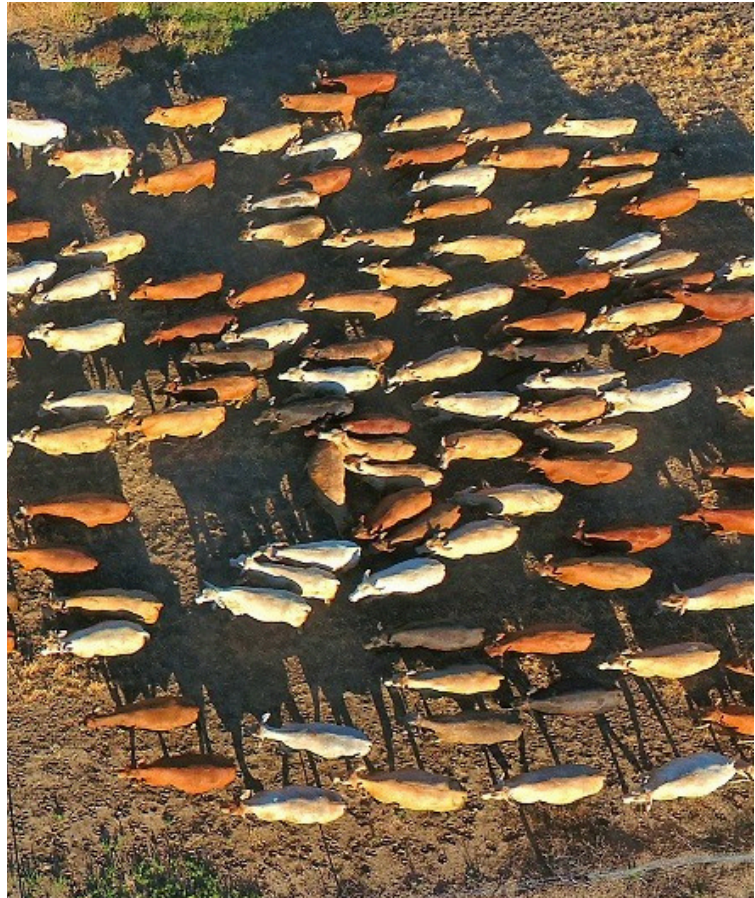
The survey was open to all members and comprised of 35 questions based on the [AHSELA Sustainability Framework](#).

Between 14 to 22 of the 41 members responded to the survey depending on the question.

Where a member was responsible for more than one facility they answered on behalf of all facilities.

PURPOSE OF FIRST SUSTAINABILITY BENCHMARK SURVEY

- To gauge the level of data collection in place with members on various sustainability indicators.
- To determine the appetite to supply information on sustainability indicators.
- To deliver an overall picture of sustainability matters being addressed by the Australian hides and skins industry.



APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

AHSLEA has developed a comprehensive sustainability framework for the industry. This framework outlines the industry's commitment to economic, social, and environmental responsibility.

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

Benchmarking Survey Summary

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



Addressing GHG emissions, chemical management, water usage, and waste.

- Just over 40% of members who responded to the survey measure greenhouse gas emissions with a further 23% with plans to do so.
- Onsite use of solar panels was the most rated action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Just over 60% have programs to reduce chemical use.
- Over three quarters of respondents have in place measures to treat or reuse wastewater and about half have targets to do so.
- Three quarters have identified major waste streams and 60% have a waste reduction program in place.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE



Ensuring market access, profitability, and climate resilience.

- Half of respondents were successful in accessing a new overseas market in the past year.
- There is increasing pressure on margins: 43% saying they have declined in the past year.
- 72% said their number of customers remained about the same.



AHSLEA'S sustainability framework was developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, involved an extensive review of existing frameworks in the agriculture sector, and a detailed assessment of industry practices and benchmarks.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY



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

- 60% of respondents have either reduced or maintained their Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (40% indicated LTIs were not applicable to their facility)
- A range of workplace metrics are tracked, however data was provided by only a small number of respondents.

VALUE CHAIN INNOVATION



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

- Tracing of hides or skins from farm through to first customers varies across the industry, with 20% to 60% of respondents noted having gaps in tracing at different parts of the value chain.
- A range of biodiversity programs are practiced by members, primarily around tree planting.
- Members are actively collaborating across the industry and with key stakeholders.

