



Australia's Beef Land Management and Biodiversity Commitment

The Australian beef industry exports over 70% of its beef. Increasingly our international markets and their companies are aligning Environment, Sustainable, and Governance (ESG) reporting to meet shareholder and consumer interest in demonstrating sustainable food production, and global commitments to the Paris Agreement.

Over 6000 global companies have aligned with the [Science Based Target Initiative \(SBTi\)](#). SBTi is a European-driven not-for-profit organisation that requires companies to set public reporting targets for reduced emissions, zero deforestation, and demonstrated improvements to biodiversity within their supply shed. Importantly, these global companies will be required to report their progress against their targets by 2024 via mandatory public disclosures.

The Australian landscape is one of the driest in the world and has some of the oldest soils in the world. Given our incredibly old landscape which has evolved over the last 50 million years, our landscape, its plants, animals, and ecological systems are incredibly unique.

Whilst we haven't always got it right, we have learned and evolved our practices as science and research and development improve. Australian producers have a strong history of innovating and developing land management practices to suit the environment. Given the unique nature of the Australian landscape, we must provide regionally specific indicators for global reporting that recognises the inherent ecological differences.

An Australian beef industry meeting was held in Rockhampton on the 7th and 8th November 2023. The goal of this meeting was to seek a commitment that a clear evidence-based definition of deforestation and biodiversity for the Australian landscape is required. The group of 50 industry leaders from across the value chain, including leading producers, corporate agricultural companies, peak industry bodies, government, state farming organisations, processors, retailers, and finance industry representatives discussed a national approach to international reporting requirements. This provides greater transparency and traceability to our customers and gives confidence to consumers and shareholders in the scientific validity of land management practices in Australian beef production systems.

There has been extensive environmental research undertaken across Australia's diverse bioregions – resulting in an Australian Government-funded national Natural Resource Management reporting system. Our vision is to use this information to develop a reporting framework that protects and enhances our uniquely Australian environment, and grow efficient and resilient beef businesses and thriving rural communities.

The commitments are:

1. Develop a national definition on deforestation for the [Australian context](#) – to be globally accepted for use in the supply chain and by financial institutions.
2. Develop a voluntary and market-driven minimum sustainability standard on environmental stewardship to be used in the traceability system to inform consumers.

The Advisory Board of the Land Management and Biodiversity Commitment welcomes all businesses and organisations related to Agriculture to commit to the actions established.