

# Land Management Commitment

*January 2024 progress update*

## What is the Land Management Commitment?

The Australian beef industry exports over 70% of its beef production. Increasingly, our international markets and their companies are aligning Environment, Social, 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. Evolving over the past 50 million years, our landscape, its plants, animals and ecological systems, are incredibly unique.

While we haven't always gotten 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 within Australia.

## What are the commitments?

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.

## Rockhampton Industry Roundtable

An Australian beef industry meeting was held in Rockhampton, Queensland, on November 7 and 8, 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 supply 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 transparency and traceability to our customers and gives confidence to consumers and stakeholders in the scientific validity of land management practices in Australian beef production systems.

## What happened in January?

For previous months, please go to:

[Commitment to our environment - Cattle Australia - Land Management Commitment](#)

In January, the Advisory Board held two meetings, one on the 10<sup>th</sup> and one on the 31<sup>st</sup>. These meetings included important discussions around the governance, communications, funding, risk register and webinar planning.

On January 18, Cattle Australia held a webinar for producers and supply chain representatives to give them the opportunity to ask questions about the Land Management Commitment, with 230 participants registering for the event and 156 joining. Due to the significant interest, Cattle Australia developed a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) to support interested parties.

Cattle Australia has decided to hold another webinar in February for those that could not attend in January, and to provide updates. This webinar will be held on February 15 from 2-3.30pm AEDT and registrations are available via the Cattle Australia website.

Cattle Australia created an [Expressions of Interest page](#) for interested stakeholders to register their interest in being updated on the progress of the Land Management Commitment.

Cattle Australia also developed a [Commitment Register page](#) for stakeholders to pledge their commitment to the Land Management commitment, ensuring we have strong industry support for this work and its intended outcomes.

Due to the significant previous work in this space by a range of stakeholders, Cattle Australia created a Scoping Considerations form to enable feedback on the intricacies of this work, suggested impacts of this work not being completed, investment previously made and the extensiveness of the interest in this work. The scoping considerations were completed via written submissions and virtual meetings by several businesses including State Farming Organisations, RDCs, Corporate beef producers and industry consultants.

## What are the next steps?

- Hold a second webinar for interested producers to learn more about the Land Management Commitment and ask questions - 15 February at 2-3.30pm AEDT.
- Publish the Expression of Interest for Redefining Deforestation proposal and request submissions.
- Publish the Request for Proposal for Redefining Deforestation proposal and request submissions.