

## Consultation paper: grain industry sustainability indicators

### Developing an Australian grain industry sustainability framework

The Australian grain industry sustainability framework, Behind Australian Grain, encompassing the whole value chain, has been developed to strengthen our industry’s sustainability and assist in ensuring we continue to meet the changing expectations and needs of our consumers, the community, investors and governments for the decade to 2030.

A joint initiative of Australia’s grain industry organisations, Behind Australian Grain has been endorsed by GrainGrowers Limited, Grains Research and Development Corporation, Grain Producers Australia, Grain Trade Australia and the Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre.

The framework has been designed as a starting point for the progression of the industry’s approach to sustainability and will be refined on a regular basis, informed by stakeholder and community input.

**The Australian grain industry sustainability framework is built on three pillars and 13 goals across those pillars. These have been developed after extensive consultation.**

|                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PILLAR 1:<br/>RESPONSIBLE<br/>STEWARDSHIP</b>             | Goal: Proactively improve the health of our soils.                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                              | Goal: Industry engaged in incentivised environmental stewardship programs.                                                                                                                               |
|                                                              | Goal: Reduce our industry’s carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions.                                                                                                                               |
|                                                              | Goal: Future-proof the industry from climate related risks through investment and development of adaption tools. This includes ongoing improvements to water use efficiency in rainfed grain production. |
|                                                              | Goal: Redesign, reduce and/or develop alternative chemical use whilst ensuring productivity, safety and environmental outcomes.                                                                          |
|                                                              | Goal: Ensure a world-leading whole of industry approach to managing biosecurity risks.                                                                                                                   |
| <b>PILLAR 2:<br/>BUILDING<br/>CAPACITY AND<br/>WELLBEING</b> | Goal: Zero workplace fatalities throughout the value chain (on-farm and post-farm gate).                                                                                                                 |
|                                                              | Goal: Contribute to closing the gap between regional and broader community safety and wellbeing indices.                                                                                                 |
|                                                              | Goal: Increased leadership capacity, diversity and skills development to enhance sustainability, industry capacity, and livelihood.                                                                      |
| <b>PILLAR 3:<br/>CONSUMER<br/>CONFIDENCE</b>                 | Goal: Continue to deliver safe products via robust supply chain assurance mechanisms and strong industry governance systems.                                                                             |
|                                                              | Goal: Proactively address our customers’ evolving food safety expectations and health needs.                                                                                                             |
|                                                              | Goal: Increased awareness and trust in how grain products are produced.                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                              | Goal: Support innovations which enhance our supply chain’s ability to meet tomorrow’s demands and safety needs of our consumers and the community.                                                       |

### Seeking stakeholder feedback on draft sustainability indicators

With draft indicators identified, we’re now conducting targeted consultation with key stakeholders inside and outside the industry.

Because this is early in the process and we are still shaping the indicators and data sources, our aim in this consultation is to seek your advice and incorporate this into chosen indicators as much as possible.

At the end of the consultation process, we will send to you a summary of indicators we have chosen. Later, we will be in touch with you again to consult on draft targets for chosen indicators.

**Draft indicators are on the following pages. The feedback we are seeking from you is:**

- 1. Are these indicators the right ones to be measuring?**
- 2. Are there other indicators – with readily available, robust and replicable data sources – that we should consider instead of, or in addition to, these draft indicators?**

## DRAFT INDICATORS. PILLAR 1: RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

### Goal: Proactively improve the health of our soils.

Boundary: Farm.

*Indicator*

Awareness: % of farmers soil testing

Targeted practice change: increased ground cover

Outcome: change in soil carbon, nutrients, biota, erosion, acidity, salinity, structure

*Soil and environmental stewardship indicators are a starting point for discussion. Many stakeholders are already doing much work in both of these areas. A national approach needed to agree core indicators, data sources and methodologies to avoid duplication, and leverage existing work.*

### Goal: Industry engaged in incentivised environmental stewardship programs.

Boundary: Farm.

*Indicator*

Awareness: % of farmers including environmental management in their farm plan

Extent: Area of farm natural systems managed for environmental outcomes

Condition: Change in farm natural systems' condition / composition

Increase in farmers reporting to environmental management schemes and taking up incentivisation

*We aim to work with government, other agriculture sectors, and other relevant stakeholders to identify core indicators and data sources by March 2020.*

### Goal: Reduce our industry's carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions.

Boundary: Farm (including manufactured inputs) + transport; storage, handling and logistics.

*Indicator*

Reduction in GHG emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e, and CO<sub>2</sub>e / tonne of product)

*Data source*

via GRDC project (farm)  
Post farm gate - TBC

Increase in carbon sequestration (CO<sub>2</sub>e, and CO<sub>2</sub>e / tonne of product)

via GRDC project (farm)  
Post farm gate - TBC

Increase in chemical, energy or fertiliser efficiency

via GRDC project (farm)

### Goal: Future-proof the industry from climate related risks through investment and development of adaption tools. This includes ongoing improvements to water use efficiency in rainfed grain production.

Boundary: Farm; transport; storage, handling and logistics.

*Indicator*

Increased water use efficiency (metric TBC)

*Data source*

GRDC, pending

Increased proportion of cultivation with precision agriculture (%)

ABS

Increased proportion of cultivation with zero tillage (%)

ABS

Increased farm cash income (\$)

ABARES Farm Performance Survey

Increased farm business profit (\$)

ABARES Farm Performance Survey

Increased rate of return, excluding capital appreciation (%)

ABARES Farm Performance Survey

Increased proportion of grain farmers using Farm Management Deposits (%)

FMD Statistics

### Goal: Redesign, reduce and/or develop alternative chemical use whilst ensuring productivity, safety and environmental outcomes.

Boundary: Farm; storage.

*Indicator*

Increased Integrated Pest Management adoption (%)

*Data source*

GRDC grower survey

Increased Integrated Weed Management adoption (%)

GRDC grower survey

Decreased environmental impact from chemicals (metric TBC)

TBC

### Goal: Continue to ensure a world-leading whole of industry approach to managing biosecurity risks.

Boundary: Farm; transport; storage, handling and logistics; import and export.

*Indicator*

Proportion of grain growers with a biosecurity plan (%)

*Data source*

Plant Health Australia survey, TBC

Proportion of grain growers who control weeds, pests & disease (%)

Plant Health Australia survey, TBC

Proportion of grain growers who restrict access to property (%)

Plant Health Australia survey, TBC

## DRAFT INDICATORS. PILLAR 2: BUILDING CAPACITY AND WELLBEING

**Goal: Zero workplace fatalities throughout the value chain (on farm and post farm gate).** Boundary: Farm; transport; storage, handling and logistics.

| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Data source</i>               |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Fatalities       | Rural Safety and Health Alliance |

**Goal: Contribute to closing the gap between regional and broader community safety and wellbeing indices.**

Boundary: Farm; transport; storage, handling and logistics.

| <i>Indicator</i>                                                     | <i>Data source</i>               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Reduced serious injury claims                                        | Rural Safety and Health Alliance |
| Increased physical health (mean % reporting good health)             | Regional Wellbeing Survey        |
| Improved mental health (mean 6-30)                                   | Regional Wellbeing Survey        |
| Increased individual wellbeing (mean 0-100 global life satisfaction) | Regional Wellbeing Survey        |
| Improved physical capital - Access to Telecommunications (mean 1-7)  | Regional Wellbeing Survey        |
| Increased community involvement (mean 1-7)                           | Regional Wellbeing Survey        |

**Goal: Increased leadership capacity, diversity and skills development to enhance sustainability, industry capacity, and livelihood.** Boundary: Farm; transport; storage, handling and logistics.

| <i>Indicator</i>                                                                                   | <i>Data source</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Post-school qualifications (%)                                                                     | Census             |
| Diversity of gender, age, indigenous, cultural background (%)                                      | Census             |
| Increased proportion of women on representative organisations and company leadership positions (%) | Pending            |

### DRAFT INDICATORS. PILLAR 3: CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

**Goal: Continue to deliver safe products via robust supply chain assurance mechanisms and strong industry governance systems.** Boundary: Farm (including agronomy); transport; storage, handling and logistics.

| <i>Indicator</i>                                             | <i>Data source</i>          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| NRS compliance rates: bulk exports (%)                       | NRS Residue Testing Dataset |
| NRS compliance rates: container exports (%)                  | NRS Residue Testing Dataset |
| NRS compliance rates: domestic trade (%)                     | NRS Residue Testing Dataset |
| Increased compliance to GTA Code of Practice                 | Pending, via GTA survey     |
| Increased number of companies using GTA Food Safety Database | Pending, via GTA data       |
| Product recalls in Australia (bakery)                        | Product Safety Australia    |

**Goal: Proactively address our consumers' evolving food safety expectations and health needs.** Boundary: Farm; transport; storage, handling and logistics; trade and markets; customer.

| <i>Indicator</i>                                                                                            | <i>Data source</i>                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Increased proportion of the community agrees grains provide important nutrition in the Australian diet* (%) | CSIRO community trust survey                                       |
| Average Australian whole grain consumption meets recommended Daily Target Intake (grams/day)                | No data currently: government or industry consumer research needed |
| Average Australian Total Grain Food Consumption (grams/day)                                                 | No data currently: government or industry consumer research needed |

\* This survey question includes 'vegetables and grain'

**Goal: Increased awareness and trust in how grain products are produced.** Boundary: Farm; transport; storage, handling and logistics; trade and markets; customer; consumer.

| <i>Indicator</i>                                                                                                            | <i>Data source</i>           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Increased proportion of the community trust grain farmers to act responsibly (%)                                            | CSIRO community trust survey |
| Increased proportion of eligible manufacturers registered to the Whole Grain Ingredient Content Claims Code of Practice (%) | GLNC database                |
| Increased proportion of eligible products registered to the Whole Grain Ingredient Content Claims Code of Practice (%)      | GLNC database                |

**Goal: Support innovations which enhance our supply chain's ability to meet tomorrow's demands and safety needs of our consumers and the community are produced.** Boundary: Farm; transport; storage, handling and logistics; trade and markets; customer.

| <i>Indicator</i>                                                 | <i>Data source</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Increase in GRDC R&D investment (% , seven-year rolling average) | GRDC               |
| Increase in climate-adjusted productivity (index)                | ABARES, pending    |

## Background to the indicators

### Purpose

Specific, ambitious sustainability targets are being set for the Australian grain industry to:

- Demonstrate and improve performance on the priorities considered important to our stakeholders.
- Have a clear target to make otherwise vague challenges concrete and achievable.
- Motivate and empower Australian grain industry members to work individually and collectively to achieve the targets.
- Help create profitable outcomes.
- Demonstrate responsiveness to external stakeholders on the topics that impact the industry's success and build trust.
- Create a more productive, efficient, profitable and responsive Australian grain industry that will thrive for future generations.

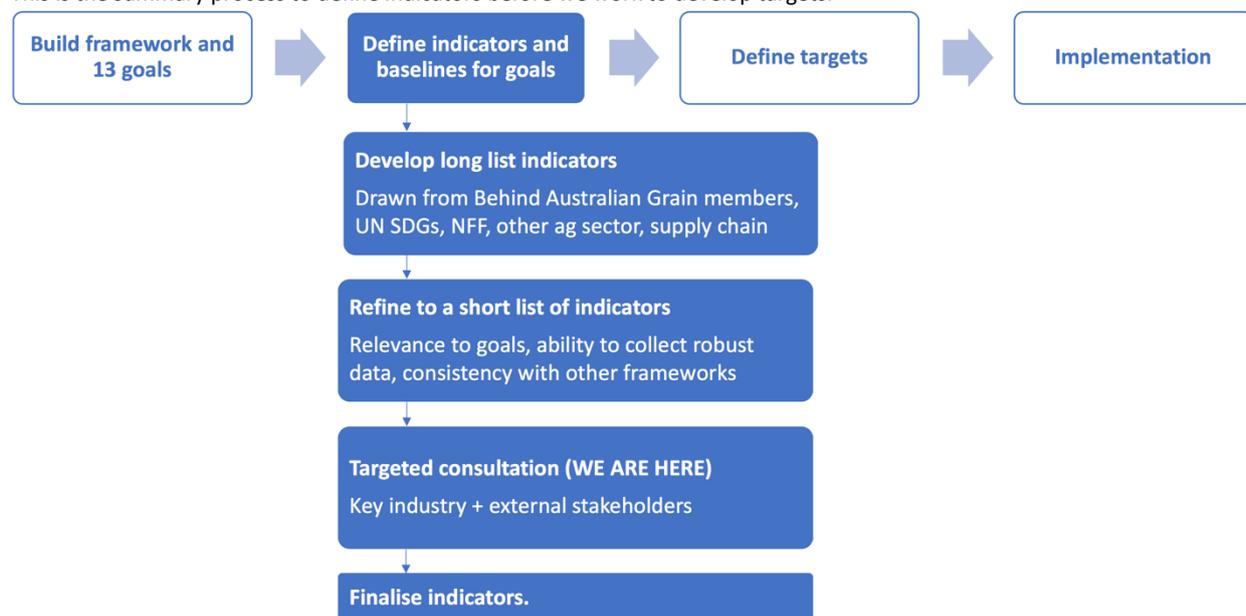
Before targets can be set, we need to choose indicators: measures of progress that can be used by grain value chain participants to drive change in areas of importance, and that external stakeholders would expect to see to make decisions on the Australian grain industry. Broader consultation on targets is planned later in 2020.

### Scope

Value chain boundary: The physical value chain boundary to which targets apply to, and measures will be collected on, varies for each goal. Value chain boundaries for each goal are noted on the draft indicator pages.

### Process for setting indicators

This is the summary process to define indicators before we work to develop targets.



### Indicator principles

Principles that have guided the assessment and selection of indicators are:

- **Relevant:** Excess indicators will be avoided: indicators will measure the most important change needed to meet goals. Indicators and measure will be meaningful to stakeholder decision-making, especially farmers and businesses.
- **Robust:** The underlying data source and methodology will be sufficiently reliable to base decisions on.
- **Replicable:** Data can be efficiently and accurately collected and collated on an annual basis, or more frequently if possible. Existing (or proxy) data is used where possible.
- **Collaborative:** Indicators will be as consistent as possible with those in other agriculture sectors, the NFF 2030 Roadmap, and relevant Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Flexible:** Draft indicators are a starting point. We are seeking your feedback now, and they may be further refined over time, informed by stakeholder input.