



SAI Platform Australia **Annual Report 2021/22**





President's Message

Dear Member

It is a pleasure to provide you with the 2021/22 Annual Report.

This report summarises the activity of the Platform over the last year. Again, our collective operating environments have increased expectation on sustainability performance in food and fibre. Our customers, communities, and investors and especially the people we work with all want to be associated with organisations that make it better every day. I find collaboration with peers is one of the few ways we can quickly increase our capacity to meet these expectations and SAI Platform continues to provide this opportunity.

I'd like to acknowledge my colleagues on the SAI Committee of Management whose insights and expertise, despite their busy schedules, are genuinely valued. This year's Committee included Heidi Hansen (Treasurer), Mick Anderson (Vice President), Helen Dornom, Christine Kelly, Carlie Porteous and Edwina Clowes, and also Selwyn as our Secretary and Co-ordinator and Carolyn Munckton as our communications expert.

I encourage you to reflect on the SAI Platform activities and always welcome your insights as to how we can provide a better experience for you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Holden'.

Jack Holden, President SAI Platform

Photo acknowledgements (left to right):

Front cover: Glasshouse (© Nufarm); PET bottles (© Visy); SAI field trip, Dookey Winery (C Munckton); Salmon (© Tassal); SAI field trip dinner (C Munckton); Bread (© GRDC).

Pages 2–3: SAI field trip, Tahbilk Winery (C Munckton).

Page 5: SAI field trip, Tahbilk Winery (C Munckton); Wheat (© GRDC); Logging truck (© Visy).

Page 6: SAI field trip, Tahbilk Winery (C Munckton).

Page 8: Crop spraying (© GRDC); Sunflowers (© GRDC).

Back cover: Goats (© Meat and Livestock Australia Limited 2019–2020); Dairy cows (© Dairy Australia); SAI field trip, Tahbilk Winery (C Munckton); SAI field trip dinner (C Munckton).



Co-ordinator's Note

The SAI (Sustainable Agriculture Initiative) Platform has a unique value proposition that differentiates it from other sustainability and industry organisations. It provides a 'safe-haven' where members can address key sustainability issues in an open, trusted environment with peers. The Platform's cross-value chain membership; independence; a focus on achieving tangible sustainability outcomes; and capacity to inform on policy interests are features of the group.

With the world seemingly heading towards a more normal post-Covid reality, the Australian SAI Chapter has started to resume in-person engagement. During the lockdowns, the Australian chapter offered a range of events that enabled group participation to remain high. Meeting online had positive advantages for the Chapter as we were better able to leverage knowledge events and communications to achieve all of our strategic priorities. These are to facilitate learning among members, promote sustainable practices among members, farmers and other stakeholders and build partnerships and alliances to implement sustainable practices along the supply chain.

This past year represented the first in our 2021–24 Strategy, which reflects the fact that the operating environment for SAI is shifting significantly. SAI Platform needed to adapt to give a stronger value proposition for members, by moving from thinking to acting. Members are now implementing, trialing and engaging directly with an increasing range of sustainability originations and service providers with the Platform providing a pre-competitive space for members to interact and learn.

To be valued, a SAI membership needs to give access to tools and people that can accelerate sustainability in our food systems. To do this, our Strategy Plan has two focus areas: A Better Toolkit, and New People. A Better Toolkit entails amplifying existing tools like those available from the Global SAI Platform and providing access to new tools – for example those that can be used in assessing the practical realities of the emerging trend towards regenerative agriculture at scale.

A focus on New People reflects the difficulty of recruiting experienced sustainability specialists and the simultaneous increasing interest in 'sustainable ag and food' as a career choice. We give members a new audience to share their strategies and experiences through webinars, events and social media, and give professional development opportunities for early careers professionals. A key element of this is through our existing partnership with the University of Melbourne, augmented by exploring wider opportunities based on our networks. In also contributing to policy debates, the Platform is in a unique position to contribute significantly as the public interest develops around sustainable agriculture in Australia, especially in relation to our key themes of focus for the group.



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Co-ordinator's note continued

During 2021/22, the Platform continued to provide additional benefits to our members:

- We began implementing our 2021–24 Strategy focussing on action in key sustainability themes identified by members themselves as being of material significance to their organisations – regenerative agriculture, climate and water impacts, customer assurance of sustainability practices, and eco-system services and economic sustainability.
- In the new Strategy we recognised the importance for members of regular engagement, communications, and the need for the Platform to provide effective account management and increased communications impact. With an end of restrictions on movement, we held our first Field Trip for some years in March 2022 focussing on two of our key themes – climate and water impacts and early-career professionals. Platform members and guests headed to Victoria's Goulburn Valley to explore emissions reduction on-the-ground and through presentations from experts and leaders in their fields. Over the two days, we found numerous tools for reducing carbon emissions and a number of insights were generated on achieving the net zero ambition for participants from across the food and agriculture supply chain. We also spent a day at the University of Melbourne's Dookie campus,

visiting its facilities and hearing from researchers and academics about their emissions reduction initiatives, as well as engaging with PhD candidates and recent graduates about their achievements in the field.

- In our key peer-learning activities, we continued to rely primarily on virtual internal sessions where members and other experts presented the latest developments in our key themes. We held events every 4–6 weeks including our Field Trip (above), joint sessions with the Global SAI Platform, member-only Roundtables, and sessions with presentations by Global SAI Platform, technical and policy experts. A list of the presentations given is on page 7. Most sessions are conducted on a confidential "Chatham House" rules basis, and when recorded only members are given access to the recording and copies of the presentations. This provides a unique and valuable resource for members. In our regenerative agriculture theme activities, a rolling Review paper has been produced to summarise the developments and insights generated by our sessions and investigations, and this too represents a valuable resource for members only.
- Over the year we had 94 individual participants from 27 organisations in eight face-to-face or online SAI Platform sessions.

- In our early career professionals theme, we have been working with the University of Melbourne to develop a online short course (Micro Certificate) on Sustainable Sourcing of Food and Fibre. This will benefit members by providing a training resource and a vehicle for projecting members' sustainable sourcing initiatives through case studies.
- We strengthened our relationship with Global SAI Platform, which among other things, provides our local members with access to a truly global suite of sustainable farming and collaborative project tools. Our joint events and initiatives ramped up in 2021–22 and included sessions of the Global Platform's Farm Sustainability Assessment system and its new regenerative agriculture module. We are exploring ways of achieving even closer engagement with the Global Platform and easier access to their tools and further support

Finally, I want to thank you for your active participation in the Platform's activities during 2021/22 and look forward to your continued insights and active participation in 2022/23.



Selwyn Heilbron

SAI Platform Australia – Vision and Strategic Priorities

In 2020/21 we developed a new Strategy Plan for 2021–24.

The Vision of the Platform is to:

“Implement secure and thriving agricultural supply chains and protect the earth’s resources through widespread adoption of sustainable practices that deliver value to our members, farmers, farming communities and consumers.”

This Vision reflects that of the Global SAI Platform.

The Platform aims to contribute to this goal by being a highly valued two-way gateway for the Australian food and beverage sector on sustainable agriculture.

The Platform has a unique value proposition that differentiates it from other sustainability and industry organisations. This comprises:

- Its cross-value chain membership
- Its independence
- Its focus on achieving tangible sustainability outcomes
- Its capacity to inform policy debates (although not as a lobbyist to advance particular interests).

SAI Platform Australia’s Plan has three strategic priorities:

1. Facilitate sustainability learning among members
2. Promote sustainability practices among farmers, members and other stakeholders
3. Build partnerships and alliances to implement sustainable practices along the supply chain.

Changing environment

Since the Australian Platform was established in 2007, the sustainability agenda has evolved considerably:

- There was limited acceptance of the need for sustainable agriculture in Australia
- None of the founding members had full-time sustainability resourcing
- Representative farm organisations did not recognise the need for a sustainability agenda.

Today, there is universal recognition of the need for Australian agriculture, food, fibre and fisheries to be sustainable, and to demonstrate its credentials to customers and consumers, and the peak farm organisation in Australia has fully recognised the need for sustainable agriculture.

The key issue has moved from the ‘why’ sustainable agriculture is necessary to the ‘how’ it can be implemented through practice change. The above strategic priorities remain appropriate at a high level, but the SAI Platform Australia needs to move with the times and create value for its members in this evolved environment.

The Value Proposition

The SAI Platform Australia will continue to have membership spanning the value chain, offering a safe space for learning and implementing improved sustainability practices.

However, it also needs to provide the following:

- An enhanced level of focus for the Platform’s activities on themes that are important to members’ organisations – to make the best possible use of the resources available to the Platform and maximise the benefits for members
- Access to tools that will help change practices that otherwise would not be available, both through internally generated collaborative projects and through a much closer relationship with the Global SAI Platform
- Leadership in the development of sustainability policy options through closer engagement with policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders, through both internal and commissioned analysis
- Targeted communications appropriate to the post-COVID environment and the most efficient use of secretarial resources.



Key Focus Areas

The Platform's Plan is to focus its strategy on a number of key themes. These are based on:

- The areas in which the Platform has a comparative advantage in the sustainability space
- Members' organisations learning priorities as indicated to the Platform
- The potential for achieving material practice change
- The relevance of these to the broader supply chain.

Based on the above criteria, the Platform's key themes on which it will focus at least initially are:

- **Water and climate** – the Platform will build upon its collaborative project done initially with CSIRO and then with Deloitte in developing a Climate Risk assessment tool. It will leverage this work with the Global SAI Platform to enhance supply chain sustainability outcomes.
- **Regenerative agriculture** – the Platform will build on its field visit and well attended session on this area to build tools enabling better definition, objective assessment of the availability, scalability and certification of regenerative agriculture.
- **Customer assurance of sustainability practices** – the Platform will build upon its report on the use of digital agriculture for customer sustainability assurance and session on digital monitoring of aquaculture operations to help build members' capabilities and policy understanding in this area.
- **Eco-system services and economic sustainability** – the Platform will continue its thought leadership in the development of eco-system services policy to give members advance access to potential practice changes along the supply chain that will benefit their organisation.

Future themes will be added based on the abovementioned criteria and the resources available to the Platform.

Governance

The Platform is a registered Incorporated Association under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. The Association has a set of Rules that have been approved under the above Act. Its affairs are managed by a Committee of Management, which meets most months by teleconference. The Committee comprises the elected Office bearers of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and two additional committee members, all of whom are elected by members. We thank the continuing Committee members for their support. The Committee is profiled on the Platform's website <http://www.saiplatformaust.org/about-us/team>).

Finances

The Platform was in a sound financial position at 30 June 2021 with stable revenue and reduced expenditure on meeting costs and travel owing to pandemic restrictions. The Platform's Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet are contained on page 8.

Full Members during 2021–22

Goodman Fielder
Meat & Livestock Australia
Grains Research & Development Corporation
Dairy Australia
Visy Group
Sunrice
Bayer Crop Science
Fonterra Australia
Inghams Enterprises
Nufarm Ltd
Tassal Ltd
Cotton Research & Development Corporation

Supporters Group Members during 2021–22

The University of Melbourne

Individual Supporters during 2021–22

J Seddon
R Dickmann



Presentations at SAI Platform meetings and other events 2021–22

	Presentations/papers	Presented/produced by
July 2021	Global SAI Platform regenerative agriculture initiative	Nick Betts, Regenerative Agriculture Director, Global SAI Platform
September 2021	Eco-system services policy developments and implications	Warwick Ragg, National Farmers Federation Simon Cameron, NSW Biodiversity and Conservation Trust
October 2021	Industry solutions Global SAI Platform Farm Sustainability Assessment system and Sustainable Dairy Partnership	Joe Rushton, FSA Director, Global SAI Platform
February 2022	Climate Literacy Roundtable of members	Platform Members
March 2022	<i>Australian Chapter Field Trip</i>	
	Tahbilk Wines Carbon Neutral Initiative	Lachie Thomas, Environment & Vineyard Research Analyst at Tahbilk Wines
	Carbon neutrality in agriculture panel	Mark Wooton, Deputy Chair Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council and Principal of Jigsaw Farms Professor Richard Eckard, University of Melbourne
	The Victorian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub,	Tim Reeves, Enterprise Professor in Sustainable Agriculture, University of Melbourne
	High Performance Soils CRC	Michael Crawford, CEO
	Fonterra's red seaweed trials as a feed ingredient to reduce methane emissions.	Jack Holden, General Manager Sustainability, Fonterra Australia
	Ingham's sustainability journey and focus on using Science Based Tools to reduce carbon emissions.	Boram Kean, Group Sustainability Manager, Inghams
April 2022	Warakirri's Australian agricultural operations and investments	Ben James, CEO of Aurora Dairies which is part of Warakirri Asset Management group
	Regenerative agriculture initiative update	Nick Betts, Regenerative Agriculture Director, Global SAI Platform
	Regenerative agriculture by cane farmers	Michael Waring, Regenerative Cane Farmers Forum
May 2022	Regenerative agriculture review paper	SAI Australia Secretariat

Financial Report 2020–21

(Note the financial year end is 30 June 2021 and statements for 2021/22 will be circulated for the 2022 AGM)

Income and Expenditure Statement

SAI Platform (Aust) Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
Income		
Revenue	115,000	119,000
Total Income	115,000	119,000
Gross Surplus	115,000	119,000
Other Income		
Credit Card Surcharge collected	193	53
Total Other Income	193	53
Expenditure		
Amortisation – Website Design	726	934
Audit Fees	–	1,564
Bank Fees	–	–
Commissioned Project Expenses	15,000	15,000
Contractor Expenses	73,583	82,150
Marketing Expenses & Website Maintenance	1,998	9,992
Professional Fees	5,515	5,516
Other Expenses	3,489	12,123
Total Expenditure	100,310	127,279
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Income Tax Adjustments	14,882	(8,227)
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) Before Income Tax	14,882	(8,227)
Net Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) After Income Tax	14,882	(8,227)
1. Other Expenses		
General Insurance	2,678	1,509
Registration & Subscriptions	615	605
Stripe Merchant Fees	196	54
Meeting Costs – Travel	–	3,204
Travel – National	–	3,642
Meeting Costs – Catering	–	943
Meeting Costs – Room Hire	–	2,167
Total Other Expenses	3,489	12,123
2. Contractor Expenses		
Contractor – Coordinator	68,250	69,300
Contractor – Communications	5,333	12,850
Total Contractor Expenses	73,583	82,150

Assets and Liabilities Statement

SAI Platform (Aust) Inc. as at 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	44,537	39,532
Trade and Other Receivables	3	17,600	–
GST Receivable		1,475	3,441
Total Current Assets		63,612	42,974
Non-Current Assets			
Computer Software and Equipment	4	3,667	4,393
Total Non-Current Assets		3,667	4,393
Total Assets		67,278	47,367
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Bank Debit Cards		69	–
Trade and Other Payables	5	5,115	155
Total Current Liabilities		5,184	155
Total Liabilities		5,184	155
Net Assets		62,094	47,212
Member's Funds			
Capital Reserve		62,094	47,212
Total Member's Funds		62,094	47,212





AUSTRALIA

Contact us

To discuss SAI Platform Australia membership, contact
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SAIPlatformAustralia



SAI Platform (Australia)

