



2024-25 Annual Report





Michael Anderson
President SAI Platform

President's Message

Dear Member,

Thank you for your ongoing engagement with SAI Platform Australia, I hope you'll agree that it has been another year of great events, initiatives and learning opportunities that support you in your efforts to progress sustainability within your organisations. Peer-to-peer knowledge sharing remains a valuable part of SAI Platform Australia and I thank all members for their contributions throughout the year. It is a pleasure to present the 2024/25 Annual Report.

With increasing interest in the role sustainable agriculture can play in tackling global issues, SAI Platform Australia has continued to grow our membership and have an outsized impact in driving the conversations and collaborations that matter. This annual report highlights just how much we have packed in to the past 12 months.

We ended the year with a successful field trip to Southern Queensland that created new relationships across the industry, and with a healthy increase in membership enquiries. This saw participation from many member organisations and we were pleased to invite representatives from potential new member organisations to be part of this two-day trip. Our annual field trips are a major membership benefit through exposure to leading on-farm practices, research and industry expertise as well as the opportunity for meaningful conversations. This year's event had a record number of member organisations participate.

SAI Australia's investment in the Sustainable Sourcing in Food and Fibre MicroCertificate has seen 70 learners participate in the course since its development by the Platform and the University of Melbourne. With overwhelmingly positive feedback we intend to refresh the course in 25/26 and review the delivery mechanism.

Our 2024 AGM and second Forum on Decarbonizing the Supply Chain were held in Canberra in October. This forum was another great success with a range of informative presentations from members and invited speakers. We had sessions on what members from the production sectors are doing to reduce emissions, government representatives gave an update on policy and programs supporting decarbonization, and supply chain participants provided an overview of what they're doing to address emissions reduction. The Forum also gave rise to the initial scoping of a Supply Shed Initiative for members. We were pleased to have Robert Erhard, SAI Platform President, and Hans Jöhr, founder of Global SAI Platform, join our AGM dinner (online from Switzerland) who shared their views and insights about what's happening to support and encourage sustainable food production across the world. It was great opportunity to tap into their extensive knowledge and global insights.



I'd like to acknowledge the Committee of Management who lend valuable insights, expertise and guidance to our work. This year, committee members have included Heidi Smith (Treasurer), Jessica Loughland (Vice President), Jacob Betros, Bill Pardy, Jack Holden and Helen Dornom, with my sincere thanks to each of them for their valuable contributions. At the end of 2024, Helen Dornom retired after 21 years with Dairy Australia and a total of 40 years across the dairy industry. We are grateful for Helen's valuable input to SAI Platform Australia over many years including serving on the Committee of Management for 12 years. Jack Holden was President for five years and before that Treasurer for a further five years. Both Jack and Helen have been great guides for me in the past two years of my presidency. In recognition of their service and contribution, both Helen and Jack have been made Honorary Individual Supporters of the Platform and we look forward to their continued participation continuing to work with them. Special thanks must also go to Selwyn Heilbron (Secretary and Co-ordinator) and Carolyn Munckton (Communications and Membership Services) for their tireless (and patient) support.

It was a pleasure to represent the Chapter at the Global SAI Platform's annual event in May and provide an Australian perspective to the Crops and Regenerative Agriculture Community of Practice. It was a great opportunity to highlight the areas of focus and progress in Australia while also building stronger links to the Global Platform. I look forward to sharing more of what I learnt and experienced with you in coming months.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MA' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Michael Anderson, President SAI Platform

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, pre-competitive, 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.

During 2024/25 we intensified our initiatives, holding regular online and targeted in-person events. All of these initiatives are done 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 final year of our 2021–24 Strategy and developed our Strategy for the next three years. The SAI Platform Strategy Plan for 2025-28 outlines a comprehensive approach to advancing sustainability in the agricultural sector. The vision is to create a sustainable, thriving, and resilient agricultural sector that protects the earth's resources, human rights, and animal welfare.

The strategy focuses on four interlinked priorities: Learning, Doing, Contributing, and Developing. The key focus area is the transformation of the production system through



reduced-emissions, regenerative, and nature-positive production across the supply chain, while considering food security and Australia's role as a global food and fibre provider. Members are now implementing, trialing, and engaging directly with an increasing range of farmers, sustainability organisations and service providers with the Platform providing a space for members to interact and learn. Our members are currently developing a pilot of the Global SAI Platform's Regenerating Together programme and this follows on from the collaborative project our members undertook in 2023/24 in commissioning a State of Play review of regenerative agriculture in Australia and internationally.

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 Plan in 2021/24 had 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 – like those that can be used in assessing the practical realities of the emerging trend towards regenerative agriculture at scale.

We also 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. In also contributing to policy debates, the Platform is in a unique position to inform public policy debates as the public interest develops around sustainable agriculture in Australia, especially in relation to our key focus areas.

During 2024/25, the Platform continued to provide additional benefits to our members:

- We implemented the final year of our 2021–24 Strategy focussing on action in key sustainability themes identified by members themselves as being of material significance to their organisations. 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.
- We held a Field Trip in May 2025 to Southern Queensland, drilling down into the key focus areas in our new Strategy Plan of reduced-emissions, regenerative, and nature-positive production across the supply chain, while considering food security and Australia's role as a global food and fibre provider. These trips provide a unique opportunity for members to learn about the latest scientific and technical developments in the sustainability space, and learn from each other about the sustainability issues they face and practical solutions thereto.
- In our key peer-learning activities, we continued to offer online sessions where members and other experts present the latest developments in our key themes. We held events every 4–6 weeks including member-only Roundtables, and sessions with presentations by technical and policy experts from around the world. A list of the presentations given is provided below. 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.
- Over the year to June 2025 we have had 174 individual participants (95 in the previous year) from 23 organisations in 9 face-to-face or online SAI Platform sessions.
- In our ‘New People’ theme, we continued to work with Melbourne University to deliver the online MicroCertificate short course on Sustainable Sourcing of Food and Fibre. To-date 70 early and mid-career professionals have enrolled in the course over six intakes, with good feedback resulting. We have been able to offer member organisations a 2-for-1 course fee benefit and this has proved to be an excellent training resource and a vehicle for sharing and promoting the SAI Platform Australia and members’ sustainable sourcing initiatives.

- We continued to focus on communicating with members and the broader food, fibre and fisheries production industries, through our Members' Update e-newsletter and Sustainability Bites e-news. Interest and engagement with our LinkedIn profile contains to grow as we share information about our guest speaker sessions, field trip activities and details about the Micro Certificate in Sustainable Sourcing in Food and Fibre, which is driving visitors to find out more about this course.
- 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 initiatives in 2024-25 focused on their new regenerative agriculture Regenerating Together programme and our Annual General Meeting featured a roundtable session with current SAI Platform President Robert Erhard and SAI Platform founder Hans Jöhr. We are exploring ways of achieving even closer engagement with the Global Platform and easier access to their tools and further support. Finally, our President, Mick Anderson, had the unique opportunity to learn about the Platform's initiatives and from the world's leading sustainability professionals by participating in the SAI Annual Event held in May 2025.

Finally, I want to thank members for their active participation in the Platform's activities during 2024/25 and look forward to your continued insights and engagement next year.

Yours sincerely,



Selwyn Heilbron



SAI Platform Australia – Vision and Strategic Priorities

In 2024 we developed a new strategy Plan for 2025–28.

Our vision

“A sustainable, thriving and resilient agricultural sector that stewards the earth’s resources, human rights and animal welfare.”

The Chapter will achieve its 20th year of operation during the strategy period 2025-28. It has evolved significantly since it was established. It has cemented its unique role as a knowledge-sharing Platform spanning the entire agriculture, food, fibre and fisheries supply chain from input supply to retailing.

The Australian Chapter’s membership was expanded in recent times including Australian subsidiaries of Global Platform members. Membership will be further expanded through a targeted membership drive aimed at both Australian and multinational companies, including more subsidiaries of Global Platform members.

Changing environment

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

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

Today, there is universal recognition of the need for Australian agriculture, food, fibre and fishing to be sustainable, and to demonstrate its credentials to customers and consumers, and the national peak farming 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 SAI Platform Australia needs to move with the times and continue to 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 and the most efficient use of secretarial resources.

Priorities

The new Strategy has four interlinked strategic priorities:



- **LEARNING** – providing a safe space for high-level exchange of sustainability knowledge and experience both between members and between members and external experts, governments and other relevant stakeholders.

- **DOING** – facilitating practical initiatives that advance sustainability in a measurable and materially significant manner, through helping members cope with the proliferating tools, metrics, and opportunities available, especially with identifying opportunities that entail collaboration across the supply chain.
- **CONTRIBUTING** – providing information and input, without lobbying, into scientific and policy developments especially from a supply chain perspective, which the Chapter is uniquely well-placed to do.
- **DEVELOPING** – providing educational and other offerings for early-career and other specialists to underpin the development of the next generation of sustainability professionals within members organisations and more broadly support the addressing of key capability gaps.

The Chapter will have one area of focus, albeit an extremely broad one comprising many facets: the transformation of the production system through interrelated activities of reduced-emissions, regenerative and nature-positive production across the supply chain. This focus area will acknowledge the need to take into account food security and Australia's role as a key world food and fibre provider.



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.saipatformaust.org/about-us/team>.

Finances

The Platform was in a sound financial position at 30 June 2024 albeit with a deficit almost entirely due to a commissioned project undertaken in the previous year being paid for during the year 2023/24 reporting year. The Platform's Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet are contained below. Note the financial year end is 30 June and statements for 2024/25 will be circulated for the 2025 AGM.

Full Members during 2024–25

- Goodman Fielder
- Meat & Livestock Australia
- Grains Research & Development Corporation
- Dairy Australia
- Bayer Crop Science
- Fonterra Australia
- Inghams Enterprises
- Nufarm Ltd
- Tassal Ltd
- Cotton Research & Development Corporation
- GrainGrowers*
- CBH Group*
- Nestle*
- PepsiCo
- Nutrien Ag Solutions
- Greenham
- Woolworths Group
- GrainCorp

*New members

Supporters Group Members 2024–25

- University of Melbourne

Individual Supporters 2024–25

- J Holden
- H Dornom
- R Dickmann

Appendix 1: List of papers and presentations

SAI Platform meetings and other events 2024–25

July 2024	Introduction to the Carbon Farming Outreach Program and Training Package	Paul Ryan, Director, Emissions Reduction Division, Land and Transport Branch, Soils and Vegetation Section, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Ross Nievandt, Director of the CFOP Training Package, University of Melbourne
August 2024	Establishment of a Community of Practice for the Science Based Targets initiative	Roundtable for SAI members with presentations from Fonterra (with approved SBTi Targets) and GrainCorp (developing targets for validation)
October 2024	Annual General Meeting Roundtable with Global SAI Platform	Robert M Erhard, President of Global SAI Platform Hans Jöhr, Founder of Global SAI Platform
	Forum on Decarbonizing the Supply Chain	
	Overview on decarbonization – science and policy	Professor Richard Eckard, University of Melbourne, Science Leader, Net Zero Emissions Agriculture CRC
	What is the latest science on practical action to decarbonize agriculture?	
	What is the latest Government policy for decarbonization?	Heather McGilvray, Director Climate Strategy, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
	Policy implementation of decarbonization – what are the actions being taken, practical outcomes, challenges and opportunities	
	<i>Government action</i>	Cheryl Elfenbein, Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry Penny Reyenga, Acting Manager Agriculture and Livestock Emissions Reduction, Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water Paul Ryan, Manager, Soils and Vegetation, Carbon Farming Outreach Program, Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water
	<i>Industry action:</i>	Katie McRobert, Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute Sarah Hyland, General Manager, Major Projects, GrainGrowers

October 2024	Action by supply chain participants Production advisory perspective	Bill Pardy, Sustainable Markets Manager, Nutrien Ag Solutions
	<i>Meat perspective</i>	Phil Senn, General Manager, Sustainability & Environment, Inghams Enterprises Laura Grubb, Sustainability & Engagement Specialist, Greenham
	<i>Grain processing perspective</i>	Michael Anderson, General Manager – Sustainability, GrainCorp
	<i>Food manufacturing perspective</i>	Rose Gooding, Sustainability Lead, Goodman Fielder Kirsty Barber, Manager Sustainability, Australian Food and Grocery Council
February 2025	Briefing on Federal Voluntary Emissions Estimation and Reporting Standards	Penny Reyenga, Assistant Director, Emissions Reduction Division, Land and Transport Branch Agriculture & Land Team, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Cheryl Elfenbein, Assistant Director, Emissions Research & Innovation Policy, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, & Forestry
March 2025	Trialling the Global Platform Regenerating Together programme in Australia	Member discussion
	Nature Positive developments in the global beef supply chain	Jacob Betros, MLA
May 2025	Developing a supply shed: on-farm emissions metrics	Will Onus, Ruminati

May 2025

Field trip to Southern Queensland

Professor Ben Hayes, Research Director, Zero Net Emissions Agriculture CRC: research programs focused on reducing carbon emissions

Milou Dekkers, QASP Senior Manager, introduction to Queensland Agriculture Science Precinct, University of Queensland

Professor David Rowlings, introduction to the N2O Research site which hosts collaborative projects between University of Queensland (agronomy) and Queensland University of Technology (sensor technologies)

Visit to Rugby Farm, one of Australia's largest horticulture producers that grow 14000 acres of vegetable crops across Qld annually

Ryan Adams, Director Sustainability North America, Nutrien Ag Solutions, overview of Nutrien Ag's Sustainability program in North America

Dinner Panel Conversation: "Driving adoption on-farm & in the production of food & fibre for regenerative agriculture / low emissions / nature positive outcomes."

Richard Heath, CEO, Zero Net Emissions Agriculture CRC

Professor Eve McDonald-Madden, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation, University of Queensland

Luke Hooke, Sustainability Policy and Program Design Manager, Nutrien Ag Solutions

Andrew Walker, Head of Relationship Management/Deputy State Manager QLD, Rabobank

Charles Starkings presentation on Nutrien Ag Solutions' Nitrogen Inhibitor Technologies

Visit Mort & Co's Grassdale feedlot property, which is one of Australia's largest feedlots

Visit Tyunga Farms, owned by the Roellgen family. Johannes Roellgen was awarded the Bayer Cotton Grower of the Year award in 2023

Dan Skerman, Nutrien Ag Solutions agronomist and cotton grower – experience in using the Regenerating Together tools

Financial Report 2023–24

Income and Expenditure Statement

SAI Platform (Aust) Inc.
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Revenue		
Membership Fees Renewals	107,534	91,400
Project Receipt	-	25,000
Field Trip Receipts	4,486	1,909
Total Revenue	112,019	118,309
Total Income	112,019	118,309
Gross Surplus	112,019	118,309
Other Income		
Credit Card Surcharge collected	487	207
Total Other Income	487	207
Expenditure		
Amortisation – Website Design	399	479
Audit Fees	-	2,500
Commissioned Project Expenses	30,000	-
Contractor Expenses	81,456	93,976
Field Trip Expenditures	10,036	3,691
Marketing Expenses & Website Maintenance	4,796	1,659
Other Expenses	12,473	12,646
Professional Fees	5,785	5,668
Total Expenditure	144,944	120,618
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) Before Income Tax Adjustments	(32,438)	(2,102)
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) Before Income Tax	(32,438)	(2,102)
Net Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) After Income Tax	(32,438)	(2,102)

	2024	2023
1. Other Expenses		
Bank Fees	10	8
General Insurance	2,775	2,508
Meeting Costs- Travel	1,447	2,244
Meeting Costs- Accommodation	1,099	966
Meeting Costs- Catering	3,853	3,989
Meeting Costs- Room Hire	-	790
Registration Fees	48	61
Printing and Stationery	-	77
Software Subscriptions	919	1,790
Stripe Fees	492	212
Travelling Expenses	1,829	-
Total Other Expenses	12,473	12,646
2. Contractor Expenses		
Contractor- Coordinator	54,399	65,850
Contractor- Communications	27,057	28,126
Total Contractor Expenses	81,456	93,976

Financial Report 2023–24

Assets and Liabilities Statement

SAI Platform (Aust) Inc.
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	26,696	60,748
Trade and Other Receivables	9,900	700
GST Receivable	2,669	626
Total Current Assets	39,265	62,074
Non-Current Assets		
Computer Software and Equipment	2,205	2,604
Total Non-Current Assets	2,205	2,604
Total Assets	41,470	64,678
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Bank Debit Cards	56	-
Trade and Other Payables	5,471	5,097
Prepayment of Membership Fees	20,900	12,100
Total Current Liabilities	26,427	17,197
Other Current Liabilities	-	-
Total Liabilities	26,427	17,197
Net Assets	15,043	47,481
Member's Funds		
Capital Reserve	15,043	47,481
Total Member's Funds	15,043	47,481



Contact us

To discuss SAI Platform Australia membership,
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SAIPlatformAustralia



Sustainable Agriculture Initiative
Platform Australia

