

# SAI Platform Australia

  

## 2025/26 Annual Report





## President's Message

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I am proud to be associated with an organisation that for nearly 20 years has been driving the agenda for sustainable agriculture, food, fibre and fisheries production in Australia and providing a collegial environment for sustainability leaders to learn, share and collaborate. SAI Platform Australia continues to grow membership; with our members valuing and participating in events, field trips and virtual forums. It is an honour to present this report to members which highlights the range and depth of activities delivered throughout the 2025/26 year.

This year's major collaborative project has focused on understanding and exploring how the Supply Shed model could support carbon emission reductions across the agriculture supply chain. This project helps to replace the question of "who pays" with an investigation of how supply chain participants can collaborate to invest in and benefit from emission reductions along the supply chain. Consultants Pollination were engaged to conduct desktop research and interviews with stakeholders across industry, corporates, research bodies, technical providers and government, and to collate market intelligence on how supply shed initiatives are being used and likely use in the future. This research included how accounting standards and guidance were evolving to support these initiatives, how supply sheds are used for insetting, and what new models were emerging to share and scale financing of impact at the supply shed level.

The Supply Shed model became the focus for the 2025 Annual Forum and the day's presentations and panel discussions provided valuable insights to inform thought leadership and well as building industry-wide momentum for the understanding and integration of supply shed models. Held in October 2025 in Canberra, the Forum brought together many SAI members, government officials, finance providers and researchers to share experiences, learn from emerging initiatives, and discuss opportunities for collaboration when it comes to driving environmental outcomes in supply chains and through supply shed approaches. We are now progressing the implementation of the findings, including in discussions with potential collaborating organisations.

The strength and value of SAI Platform Australia's field trips led to member feedback for an additional field trip to be scheduled in 2026. Following the highly successful trip to Southern Queensland in May 2025 we delivered a mini field trip to Victoria at the end of April with another planned for NSW later in the year. The Victoria mini field trip visited two innovative farming operations and GrainCorp's bulk handling facility at Geelong Port. Fiona Conroy and Cam Nicholson's 400 ha mixed farming enterprise at St Leonards on the Bellarine Peninsula has, for more than 30 years, been on the journey to increase productivity and improve soil health and biodiversity all while building close relationships with suppliers and buyers and making animal welfare a priority. At Pavilion Farms and Pavilion Biogas at Anakie, owner Michael Vukadinovic outlined the journey from starting out as a broiler chicken growing operation and his determination to turn the chicken manure waste into something productive. He and his science team described the R&D they've done to increase the recovery of nitrogen and reduce emissions from the manure supply to produce energy and organic fertiliser. It was great to also host the group at GrainCorp's bulk handling facility at the Geelong Port, which provided a backdrop for a broader conversation about agricultural inputs and exports. The timing was perfect because there was ship being loaded and urea being handled, which is a product top of mind currently for the ag sector.

We have started to review options for the provision of future education following the completion of an agreement to deliver the six-week online MicroCertificate in Sustainable Sourcing in Food and Fibre with the University of Melbourne. The challenge is to identify what members want and need in the future, whether the Platform is best placed to provide it and, if so, the possible delivery options.

In late June, I'll be representing the Australian Chapter at the SAI Platform Annual Event in Saskatoon, Canada. These events are a unique opportunity to connect and learn from international sustainability practitioners focused on improving agricultural, food and fibre production to ensure we meeting consumer needs and care for the land, water and biodiversity ecosystems. This year's program is putting a spotlight on practical, farmer-led solutions, real on-the-ground results, and scalable approaches to regenerative agriculture that demonstrate how sustainability can strengthen supply chains, support resilient farm businesses and rural communities, and deliver long-term value for all stakeholders.

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 Jess Mitchell (Vice President), Heidi Smith (Treasurer), Bill Pardy, Alister Hawksford, and Rebecca Hurst joined the Committee after the 2025 AGM. They were joined by our Honorary Supporters Group Members Helen Dornom and Jack Holden. I'm grateful for their considerable contributions.

We are fortunate to have the continued supported of our Secretariate: Selwyn Heilbron (Secretary and Co-ordinator) and Carolyn Munckton (Communications and Membership Services) for their consistent and considerable efforts keeping the organisation functioning smoothly and contributing to moving the Platform in a great direction. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



**Michael Anderson**  
President, SAI Platform Australia



## Co-ordinator's Note

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The SAI (Sustainable Agriculture Initiative) Platform plays a vital role in providing an avenue for members to discuss and address key sustainability issues in an open, pre-competitive, trusted environment with their peers. As an independent non-profit organisation with cross-value chain membership it is unique and for nearly 20 years has been able to support members to drive change for tangible sustainability outcomes and play a role in informing policy.

This year was the first year of our new 2026-28 Strategy Plan and saw the Platform delve deeply into understanding the Supply Shed model that was introduced at the 2024 Annual Forum. The Supply Shed model is not simple, but the potential could be significant, and members have embraced the opportunity to learn more about and consider how they might get involved and adapt it for their industry or business.

The new Strategy Plan outlines a comprehensive approach to advancing sustainability in the agricultural sector to support our vision of creating a sustainable, thriving, and resilient agricultural sector that protects the earth's resources, human rights, and animal welfare.

This year's Supply Shed project had a number of elements: the research and consultancy piece conducted by Pollination, the 2025 Forum in Canberra focused on how supply shed models can drive systemic change by enabling collective action, improving measurement and reporting, and fostering shared responsibility among stakeholders, and we had a number of online meetings to support the discussion.

We continued to deepen our connection with the Global SAI Platform and were pleased that Dionys Forster, Director General, could join us online to present online at our 2025 AGM dinner. Our members are working on a pilot of the Global SAI Platform's Regenerating Together programme to test its application in Australian landscape and farming systems. Our President, Michael Anderson, will be attending the Global Annual Event in Saskatoon, Canada at the end of June 2026 to connect and engage with the global members and the Platform's core team.

The MicroCertificate in Sustainable Sourcing in Food and Fibre partnership with the University of Melbourne is now complete, but through discussions and a survey of members we plan to identify "what's next" in terms of the provision of targeted specialist sustainability education services to meet the needs of member organisations.

### **During 2025/26, the Platform provided these benefits to our members:**

- We implemented the first year of the 2026-28 Strategy Plan focusing on action in key sustainability themes identified by members as being of material significance to their organisations.

- We continued our regular engagement and communications with members and external interested parties through our *Members' Update* and *Sustainability Bites* e-newsletters and other regular emails from the Secretariate to keep members informed and updated.
- We held a Mini Field Trip in May 2026 to Victoria that provided the opportunity to learn from and engage with innovative primary producers who are focused on positive sustainability outcomes for their operations.
- We have also established working groups that enable those members especially interested in particular aspects of our Strategy focus areas or Platform initiatives to contribute and direct the evolution of those areas. These include groups on the Microcert/education services offered by the Platform, engagement with collaborating organisations, development of the supply shed concept, and planning for the Platform's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026/27.
- In our key peer-learning activities, we continued to offer online sessions where members and other experts presented 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 on pages 8-9. 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 2026 we have had 175 individual participants attend face-to-face or online SAI Platform events.

Finally, I want to thank members for their involvement and active engagement with the Platform's activities during 2025/26 and look forward to supporting your sustainability work next year.

Yours sincerely,



**Selwyn Heilbron**



# SAI Platform Australia – Vision and Strategic Priorities

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This year was the first year of our new 2026-28 Strategy Plan.

## Our vision

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

In 2027 the Platform will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in Australia. Much has changed since then when we were formed after a spark conversation with the Founder of the Global Platform, Nestle’s Head of Agriculture Hans Johr. The approaches and practices for sustainable agriculture, food and fibre production have evolved significantly since SAI Platform Australia was incorporated. Now the need for sustainable agriculture is widely accepted and the challenge is to determine the best ways to achieve this. Back in 2007, none of the founding member businesses had full-time sustainability staff members and many representative industry organisations were yet to wholly embrace the need for sustainable primary production.

The Australian Chapter’s membership has expanded in the past few years and now includes Australian subsidiaries of Global Platform members. We continue aiming for a larger membership to facilitate increased connection and collaboration. Our uniqueness stems from the cross-industry and supply chain nature of our membership.

SAI Platform Australia’s position as a leader in the field and its ability to encourage and facilitate change outweighs its size. There is universal acceptance that Australian agriculture, food, fibre and fisheries industries need to be sustainable for production and market access reasons. The key issue has moved from the ‘why’ sustainable agriculture is necessary to the ‘how’ it can be implemented through practice change and SAI Platform Australia continues to encourage and facilitate this change. We continue to move with the times to create value and opportunities for members.



## 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

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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 2025.

The Platform's Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet are below. Note the financial year end is 30 June and statements for 2025/26 will be circulated for the 2026 AGM.

### Full Members during 2025–26

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  
Mondalez  
Nestle  
PepsiCo  
Nutrien Ag Solutions  
Greenham  
Woolworths Group  
GrainCorp

### Supporters Group Members 2025–26

University of Melbourne

### Individual Supporters 2025–26

J Holden (Honorary)  
H Dornom (Honorary)  
R Dickmann

# Appendix 1: List of papers and presentations

## SAI Platform meetings and other events 2025–26

July 2025	Update on a pilot of the Global SAI Platform Regenerating Together Programme in Australia	Dr Jacqueline Williams, Southern Cross University, outlined GRDC-funded project Regenerative Agriculture: understanding the intent, practices, the benefits and disbenefits.
October 2025	Annual General Meeting Dinner Presentation	Dionys Forster, Director General, Global SAI Platform Strategy
	Annual Forum – Practical Approaches to Developing Supply Sheds	
	What is a supply shed and why is it important? Update from AFGC Scope 3 Emissions work	Pollination consultants Jack Holden, Red Ridge Advisory
	Panel: Trends and examples from supply chain participants and industry <i>Moderated by Pollination</i>	Jessica Mitchell, Greenham Rose Gooding, Goodman Fielder Ian Olmstead, Dairy Australia Rebecca Hurst, Graingrowers
	Market opportunities	Rabobank and NAB
	Panel: Policy trends affecting supply sheds <i>Moderated by Pollination</i>	Heather McGilvray, Assistant Secretary, Climate Policy, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry Penny Reyenga, Assistant Director at Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Alison Kelly, Farm Emissions Specialist at Agriculture Victoria Professor Marit Kragt, Program 4 Lead for the Zero Net Emissions Agriculture CRC
Current models and case studies of action in supply shed	Pollination and Nutrien Ag Solutions	

January 2026	Practice Group on Supply Sheds and Final Report from Pollination	Pollination consultants
February 2026	Nature Related Financial Disclosures – insights from an early adopter	Sally Townsend, Head of Sustainability, Blackmores Group
March 2026	Mandatory Climate Disclosures – exploring inputs and approaches to scenario analysis	Andrew Maclean and Ashley Nicholson, Agriculture Team, Bureau of Meteorology Jack Holden, Research for Australian Dairy Products Federation
April 2026	Mini Field Trip to Victoria (one day)	Knewleave Farm, Bellarine Peninsula GrainCorp bulk handling terminal, Geelong Port Pavilion Farms / Pavilion Biogas, Anakie
May 2026	Members Roundtable – Mandatory Climate Disclosures	Members Roundtable sharing insights and experiences preparing for mandatory climate disclosures.

# Financial Report 2024–25

## Income and Expenditure Statement

SAI Platform (Aust) Inc.  
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024		2025	2024
<b>Income</b>			<b>1. Other Expenses</b>		
Revenue			Bank Fees	22	10
Membership Fees Renewals	138,333	107,534	Client Gifts	345	
Project Receipt		-	General Insurance	2,870	2,775
Field Trip Receipts	7,800	4,486	Meeting Costs- Travel	3,084	1,447
Total Revenue	146,133	112,019	Meeting Costs- Accommodation, Room Hire & Catering	6,314	4,952
Total Income	146,133	112,019			
Gross Surplus	146,133	112,019	Registration Fees	45	48
Other Income			Office Expenses	91	-
Credit Card Surcharge collected	729	487	Software Subscriptions	1,391	919
Total Other Income	729	487	Stripe Fees	905	492
<b>Expenditure</b>			Travelling Expenses	1,672	1,829
Amortisation – Website Design	335	399	Total Other Expenses		12,473
Audit Fees		-	<b>2. Contractor Expenses</b>		
Commissioned Project Expenses		30,000	Contractor- Coordinator	66,900	54,399
Contractor Expenses	90,900	81,456	Contractor- Communications	24,000	27,057
Field Trip Expenditures	12,700	10,036	Total Contractor Expenses	90,900	81,456
Marketing Expenses & Website Maintenance	2,695	4,796			
Other Expenses	16,737	12,473			
Professional Fees	5,716	5,785			
Total Expenditure	129,083	144,944			
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) Before Income Tax Adjustments	17,779	(32,438)			
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) Before Income Tax	17,779	(32,438)			
Net Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) After Income Tax	17,779	(32,438)			

# Appendix 2: Financial Report 2024–25

## Assets and Liabilities Statement

SAI Platform (Aust) Inc.  
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
<b>Assets.</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	70,944	26,696
Trade and Other Receivables	5,500	9,900
GST Receivable	3,536	2,669
Total Current Assets	79,980	39,265
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Computer Software and Equipment	1,870	2,205
Total Non-Current Assets	1,870	2,205
Total Assets	81,850	41,470
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank Debit Cards		56
Trade and Other Payables	10,528	5,471
Prepayment of Membership Fees	38,500	20,900
Total Current Liabilities	49,028	26,427
Other Current Liabilities	-	-
Total Liabilities	49,028	26,427
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>32,822</b>	<b>15,043</b>
<b>Member's Funds</b>		
Capital Reserve	32,822	15,043
Total Member's Funds	32,822	15,043

# Contact us

To discuss SAI Platform Australia membership, contact Selwyn Heilbron, Co-ordinator

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