

Environmental Social Governance

Queensland cattle producers

Sustainability reporting in the beef supply chain

- Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) reporting shows how a business manages its risks.
- ESG reporting is now used by businesses in the beef supply chain domestically and internationally.
- Providing ESG data will be an important part of maintaining market access for your cattle.

What is ESG?

Businesses are adopting Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting frameworks to show how they manage risks and opportunities related to environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and governance.

ESG reporting shows how a business impacts the environment, how it manages relationships with employees, customers or suppliers, or within their leadership. Management of these risks is important to investors and financiers.

ESG targets often include how a business sources its products. For food businesses, meeting the targets will become a shared responsibility with all the primary producers who supply food into their supply chain.

Businesses that buy Queensland beef are already committed to meeting ESG targets. These businesses will need to engage with suppliers all the way back to the farm to meet their targets.

Opportunities for meeting ESG requirements

Market diversity reduces trade risks and enables each Queensland cattle product to be sold into its highest value market.

Cattle producers who can demonstrate they are managing ESG risks will ensure their market options remain broad, including access to high value markets and major retail and fast food chains. Market options may decrease for producers who cannot meet ESG requirements.

Strong ESG credentials will also position cattle producers to participate in emerging natural capital and environmental markets.

'Although government, big multi-nationals and corporates may be the ones who have signed up to these lofty goals, any entity in their supply chain has, by association, now signed up to the goal too – ESG has become the world's biggest team sport!'

– Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers.

ESG examples – deforestation free beef and net zero emissions

- **Beef and hide exports to Europe** - The European Union will implement deforestation-free requirements from December 2026. Integrity Systems Company provides cattle producers with guidance on how to comply with these new requirements via the [Livestock Production Assurance \(LPA\) program](#). For more information scan the QR code below.
- **Food retailers** - both within Australia and in export markets have made commitments under the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) to work with their supply chains to ensure the food they source comes from supply chains that are managing ESG risks. Producers can expect more information about the needs of their supply chains to emerge over time.
- **Scope 3 emissions** - The Australian Government has legislated an emissions reduction target and committed Australia to reaching net zero emissions by 2050. Major processors and retailers are required to report 'scope 3' emissions that will include emissions from their cattle suppliers. Some businesses have also adopted net zero targets voluntarily. Producers can establish their baseline emissions now, contact [DPI's Carbon Outreach Program](#) for more information or scan the QR code below.

Why ESG matters to the cattle industry: insights from leaders

'Australian cattle producers are stewards of over 50% of Australia's landmass; Cattle Australia sees real benefit for cattle levy payers to be a part of ESG frameworks that advance and showcase the profitability, productivity, and sustainability of the cattle industry for generations to come' - Cattle Australia

'Queensland's growers and graziers pride themselves on care for the environment, striving to improve land for future generations. Through this, most of our state's natural wealth remains conserved on working farms.' - AgForce
For more information on [AgForce's ESG Policy Principles](#) scan the QR code below.

'We're focused on better environmental outcomes, best practice animal welfare, thriving people and communities, and safe and nutritious foods. Making sure that every part of the journey from paddock to plate is safe, responsible, and sustainable isn't only important to us, our industry and the future – it's the right thing to do.' - Teys Australia

'We run 12,000 cattle across our two stations in Queensland. Ideally, if we can use management practices that enhance the natural capital, maximise soil carbon sequestration and boost our productivity at the same time - that's a win-win and we think we've found the practices to make that happen.' – Russell Pastoral (Champion Station, Blackall and Jimbour Station, Jimbour)

'Whether it's growing more with less, managing soil health or supporting biodiversity, we're focussed on helping our clients adopt practical sustainability strategies that make sense for their business.' - Rabobank Australia

DPI has developed this fact sheet as general advice with support from industry and the supply chain. Please contact your supply chain partners directly for further information about ESG requirements that apply to you.

For more information about ESG scan the QR code.

