



NBSAP Taskforce  
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water  
CANBERRA, ACT 2601

By email: [nbssecretariat@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:nbssecretariat@dcceew.gov.au)

15 October 2025

Dear NBSAP Taskforce,

### **Submission: Implementing Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on how to achieve Australia's ambitious biodiversity targets.

The Regenerative Food and Farming Alliance (RFFA) is a collective of organisations, farmers and individuals working across the Australian food and farming landscape, focused on regenerating land and accelerating the transition to a food and farming system that nourishes the health of both people and the planet. Our primary focus is on delivering a food and farming system that supports regional communities, repairs and restores farming landscapes, and provides fair and equitable access to high-quality food for all.

Together, we have engaged with over 10,000 farmers and farming enterprises and collectively have over 90,000 individual supporters from across the country, all of who are invested in supporting a better farming future for Australia.

We welcome the Federal Government's commitment to tackle the drivers of biodiversity decline and put nature on a path to recovery, and we remain hopeful that this process will see real outcomes delivered.

### **What is needed**

We know that building resilient landscapes and food systems is essential for the long-term prosperity of Australia, and Australian farmers have the potential to transform our landscapes.

Australia needs a food and farming system that is actively restoring landscapes, sequestering carbon, renewing the soil and water cycles, rebuilding social connections for the benefit of all Australians, supporting profitable food-producing businesses, thriving and resilient people and regional communities and producing nutritious food.

We believe that these challenges can be tackled together, and policy solutions must address the root cause of the problem.

We want to see government policy that:

- Supports farmers to lead the transition to regenerative farming at scale
- Implements and appropriately resources programs that prioritise soil and landscape restoration
- Invests in regional Australia, supporting local farming businesses and communities to thrive

### **Targets and enablers for change**

Agriculture can be a crucial driver to positively address climate change in Australia. Through regenerative food, fibre and landscape management, we can increase the health of Australian farming landscapes and the health of the people it supports by drawing down carbon, improving soil health and increasing biodiversity.

One of the key barriers to achieving the targets is the lack of recognition regarding the important role farmers and other land managers play in achieving the aspirations set out in the strategy. As custodians and managers of over 55% of Australia's land mass, these stakeholders must have a seat at the table when working on strategy implementation. It will not be possible to reduce invasive species, restore landscapes, mitigate climate risk, or see our ecosystems repair if we do not have large-scale collective buy-in from those who are producing our food and fibre.

The current methods of farmer and landholder engagement are falling short, and in many cases, we are seeing a continued decline in the ecological health of Australian agricultural landscapes. We need to do things differently, and we strongly encourage the department to think outside the box if we are going to achieve any of the targets. Regenerating farmland should be seen as a core part of the farming business, rather than an optional extra.

We know that regenerative agriculture offers a solution to many of the challenges the strategy is trying to address, and we strongly urge the Government to consider supporting initiatives that would see a faster uptake of ecologically sustainable farming practices as part of this strategy.

Some initiatives we believe could be rolled out to support this include investing in comprehensive farmer development programs, supporting bioregional coordination, funding demonstration and education networks and enabling risk mitigation during the transition.

In relation to monitoring and reporting on progress, we understand there are a number of tools currently in development to address concerns around access, data consistency and issues around collection. We would urge the government to consider tools that focus on outcomes rather than compliance, and avoid duplication, as many of our member farmers have indicated that this is a significant barrier to uptake.

We would encourage any monitoring program to include Ecological Outcomes Verification (EOV), which is an outcome-based monitoring protocol currently deployed on over 6 million acres

globally. EOV evaluates both leading and lagging indicators to give users a holistic assessment of ecosystem function. The Australian Holistic Management Cooperative is currently rolling out EOV across sites in Australia, and the program has shown how monitoring can lead to an increase in ecosystem function.

We thank you again for the opportunity to provide a submission to this consultation. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these recommendations further and contribute our expertise to the implementation of the strategy.

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