

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 20 July 2021
DIALOGUE TITLE	Transforming our food and land use systems – global trends and Australia's opportunity
CONVENED BY	ClimateWorks Australia
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/33490/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Australia

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

301

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

- Our Dialogue was organised as an open invitation webinar, promoted to a diverse audience of stakeholders in Australia and internationally in order to amplify the significance of the UNFSS and to build momentum around the urgent need for food and land use system transformation. - Our Dialogue was facilitated by an expert moderator (Professor John Thwaites AM, co-chair of the Leadership Council - UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and former Deputy Premier of Victoria) to ensure respect, trust-building and recognition of complexity in the discussion. - Our panel featured diverse voices across farmer and climate advocacy, climate analysis and research, and sustainable financial investment (ClimateWorks Australia, Farmers for Climate Action and Pollination Group); and we facilitated participant Q and A and commentary to embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

- Commit to the Summit: Our Dialogue promoted the purpose and significance of the UNFSS, and encouraged participants to contribute via Q and A and commentary to have their voices reflected in the UNFSS Dialogue Process. - Be respectful: We convened a cross-sectoral panel with an expert moderator and participant Q and A to support respectful debate. Our moderator facilitated discussion to draw out divergent points of view, as well as to promote understanding of shared challenges and motivations. - Recognize complexity: We promoted a systemic approach in our Dialogue by convening discussion around macro-level systemic change, including key challenges, opportunities and headwinds emerging at the global-level, and discussing their significance and impact in the Australian context, as well as Australia's contribution to global efforts. - Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: We embraced multi-stakeholder inclusivity in our Dialogue by involving diverse panellists and opening participation to our broad audience of stakeholders from government, business, finance, agriculture industry groups, environment groups, public health and nutrition, advocacy organisations and the scientific community. - Complement the work of others: We highlighted 2021 as a super year for food and land use systems transformation, alongside COP26 and the CBD COP15. Our Dialogue reflected synergies with the Land Use Futures program, a partnership between ClimateWorks Australia, Deakin University and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and part of the global Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU). It also brought together the work of advocacy organisations such as Farmers for Climate Action in bringing farmers' voices to the decision-making table, and the role of large-scale financial investment in realising nature-positive solutions, from the perspective of Pollination Group. - Build trust: We created a safe space through expert moderation, with sufficient time for addressing the most challenging and thought-provoking questions via our participant Q and A.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

- It is critical to ensure difficult conversations are not shied away from. By facilitating discussion around divergent points of view and avoiding simplified answers or solutions, these Dialogues provide an important opportunity to unpack challenges and to find and build alignment between diverse stakeholder groups towards the sustainable transitions that are urgently required.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

Yes

No

- We did not exactly follow the method in the Reference Manual, although we had some similarities in our approach. We had a Convenor - ClimateWorks Australia, responsible for conceptualising, planning and organising the dialogue, and a Curator - our moderator, who hosted the event and facilitated panel discussion. We did not have smaller break out groups as this was an open-invitation event. ClimateWorks Australia's Land Use Futures program regularly convenes cross-sectoral stakeholders in co-design and collaborative work focused on food and land use system transformative pathways, and we treated this Dialogue as an opportunity to open up this work and discussion to a much broader, public audience. - The results of our approach were a very high turnout of over 300 participants who actively engaged through multiple avenues. This included asking questions of the panellists and reacting to discussion, and providing commentary and responses to one another in the chat function. At the start of the Dialogue participants had the opportunity to introduce themselves through the chat function and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners of the lands from which they were joining, or if they were joining internationally.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The focus of our Dialogue was the nexus between climate outcomes and sustainable food and land use system transformation, with discussion on Australia's role in global efforts and the unique regional challenges we face.

Our Dialogue focused on Action Tracks 2 and 3, convening discussion on nature-positive transitions and sustainable consumption through focusing on synergies and shared challenges from the perspectives of:

- The Land Use Futures systems change program, a partnership between ClimateWorks Australia, Deakin University and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and part of the global Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU);
- The work of advocacy organisations such as Farmers for Climate Action in bringing farmers' voices to the decision-making table and discussing both the shared and divergent challenges and approaches farmers are taking; and
- The role of large-scale financial investment in realising nature-positive solutions, and current trends and headwinds in financial risk and opportunities, represented by Pollination Group.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

- Australia faces unique challenges and opportunities in supporting food systems transformation, given our export-oriented agricultural industry (70% by value of product), our highly-variable climate and geography (the most arid continent, and vulnerable to climate impacts) and our agricultural industry profile, with nearly 50% of Australia's land mass managed by farmers, encompassing 85,000 farm businesses supporting 250,000 jobs.
- We heard in a message from Paul Polman, co-chair of the Food and Land Use Coalition, that what happens in Australia matters to the world: as an agriculture powerhouse, we must address our emissions profile as well as harnessing our farmers' pioneering approaches to more sustainable agricultural practices.
- To raise ambition and accelerate positive trends towards a sustainable food and land use future, a combination of coordinated public policy, market solutions, strong institutions and measurement and valuation of nature is needed.
- The food and land use system offers a critical opportunity to achieve multiple goals, or potential for a win-win-win scenario: alongside climate and emissions reduction outcomes, nature-based solutions offer the ability to achieve broader environmental goals (including healthy soils, sustainable water use, protection and restoration of biodiversity) as well as supporting regional livelihoods and healthy diets.
- Increased international scrutiny of 'clean and green' credentials in commodity markets must be a priority focus for Australia, alongside the financial sector's moves to increasingly assess nature-related risks as well as climate-related risks.
- Climate volatility and high on-farm costs mean Australian farmers need to have either high levels of equity or off-farm income in order to survive, or to support their transition to more sustainable practices. This need for diversification and financial backing should be supported by both the public and private sectors. For instance, natural capital is becoming a highly valuable and sought-after asset class in its own right, and new opportunities for farmers to create revenue streams through both nature protection and restoration is critical in supporting a future sustainable system.
- Investment change is happening at pace and at scale, with almost daily announcements of global investors developing products and funds for natural capital investment. The focus on climate and climate risk has grown significantly in the last 12 to 18 months, and there is a rapid shift amongst leaders to focus on nature and nature-risk, meaning attention is turning to how nature is measured, valued, accounted for and disclosed.
- Australia has a big opportunity to be a 'solution provider' in nature-based investment given our highly unique biodiversity, but we are also exposed in terms of high extinction rates. We must act urgently to enable a convergence between climate action and nature-positive contributions.
- Regardless of the motivating factors for individual farmers (whether profit-driven, environmentally concerned or supporting the intergenerational nature of the industry), the end-goals are often aligned, for instance, more carbon in the soil means higher soil moisture, supporting outcomes for the climate and for productivity.
- While there was broad consensus on the need to align with more sustainable land and food systems, there are divergences around how to achieve this transformation including what role markets, regulation and particular on-farm solutions should play.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/6

The need for a global nature-positive target by 2030: although there is no silver-bullet, the climate movement's playbook is being applied to nature-related challenges, including calls for a global COP, and standardised and rigorous investment frameworks.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/6

The need for coordinated action across stakeholders and at different scales to achieve multiple goals, and to realise win-win scenarios, where outcomes across climate and emissions reduction are achieved alongside nature and broader environmental goals, as well as supporting regional livelihoods and healthy diets.

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- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/6

The need for new knowledge and understanding as critical enabler of change: beyond identifying the problems and challenges, we need both sophisticated research and analysis to understand future scenarios and pathways (such as the Land Use Futures program LUTO modelling, part of the global FABLE initiative), as well as frameworks for the measurement and valuation of natural capital, including via the Taskforce for Nature Related Financial Disclosures.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/6

The need for the public and private sectors, including financial institutions, to support diversification of farm businesses and to enable new revenue streams, including via natural capital valuation, in order to support both financial and environmental sustainability and to recognise the positive role of farmers in the solutions to climate change.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/6

Climate volatility and high on-farm costs mean Australian farmers need to have either high levels of equity or off-farm income in order to survive, or to support their transition to more sustainable practices. This need for diversification and financial backing should be supported by both the public and private sectors. For instance, natural capital is becoming a highly valuable and sought-after asset class in its own right, and new opportunities for farmers to create revenue streams through both nature protection and restoration is critical in supporting a future sustainable system.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/6

The need for farmers to have a voice at the policy table, particularly in fine-tuning the decisions and actions taken within sustainable pathways, and ensuring farmers are supported to produce sustainable products, through consumer demand, and through public and private institutional initiatives, as well as supported in the implementation of policies.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Consumers play a powerful role in farmers' choices, and the pressure on farmers to produce sustainable products is increasingly difficult. In our Dialogue, divergence emerged around consumer willingness to pay, with the view that consumers are demanding ever-lower prices (for instance, in the 1960s, expenditure on food was 16% of income, now down to 6%) contrasted with the view that consumers are increasingly concerned with product provenance, and prepared to pay a premium for quality, sustainable and locally produced food. In the Australian context, this also relates to a particular cultural value around supporting local farmers. Further, participants noted similarities around this topic in the New Zealand context, where some farmers are resisting the consequences of government climate policy on the cost of production (acknowledging that Australia and New Zealand have some of the lowest levels of agricultural subsidies), and in the European context, where there is a challenge to square the demand for ever-cheaper food with a demand for a sustainable agriculture sector.
- Divergence emerged around the role of regulation, with discussion around the fact that resistance to over-regulation is not limited to large scale farming enterprises, but exists in small-to-medium businesses as well. Divergent views around the appropriate level of regulation, access to natural resources and instruments for supporting and enabling positive change were discussed, and supported by participant commentary including the fact that farmers often feel dictated to and misunderstood in regulatory discussions, versus the view that self-regulation has not been effective in shifting behaviour.
- The role of climate change policy and how it translates to sustainable food and agriculture policies, including impacts on farming businesses, provoked divergent views with participants commenting that farmers are rarely seen as part of the solution, and views that most policy treats farmers as unaware of broader environmental issues and/or opposed to supporting solutions.
- The role of financial markets and government subsidies sparked debate, including how to approach these instruments in combination and at what scale, for example, combining private natural capital markets with ecosystem service subsidies, at a state-level prior to a federal approach, and at different paces for large scale enterprises versus small-to-medium farm businesses.
- The debate on chemical use versus regenerative practices was raised in the Dialogue, with diverse views around the ongoing role of chemicals (e.g. to support minimum or no-tillage) as well as the application of suitable regenerative practices at large scales, including increasing soil carbon, maintaining ground cover and restoring biodiversity. This highlighted a theme of divergence around the role of various solutions (both on-ground practices and regulatory and policy responses) to achieve sustainable food and land use systems.
- The issue of 'just transitions' was raised, given the complexity of farming systems, with panellists and participants acknowledging the diversity of challenges faced by sub-sectors (e.g. horticulture vs. livestock). There was discussion on the need to develop 'basic principles' to ensure a just transition, with farmers and representative bodies closely involved in decision-making, as well as the need for 'skin in the game' to build alignment and support where increased regulation is required.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **ClimateWorks Australia - Land Use Futures Program**
<https://www.climateworksaustralia.org/project/land-use-futures/>