



The Thin Green Line

Addressing agriculture's grounded role in global economies

Katie McRobert
AFI Executive Director





The Thin Blue Line

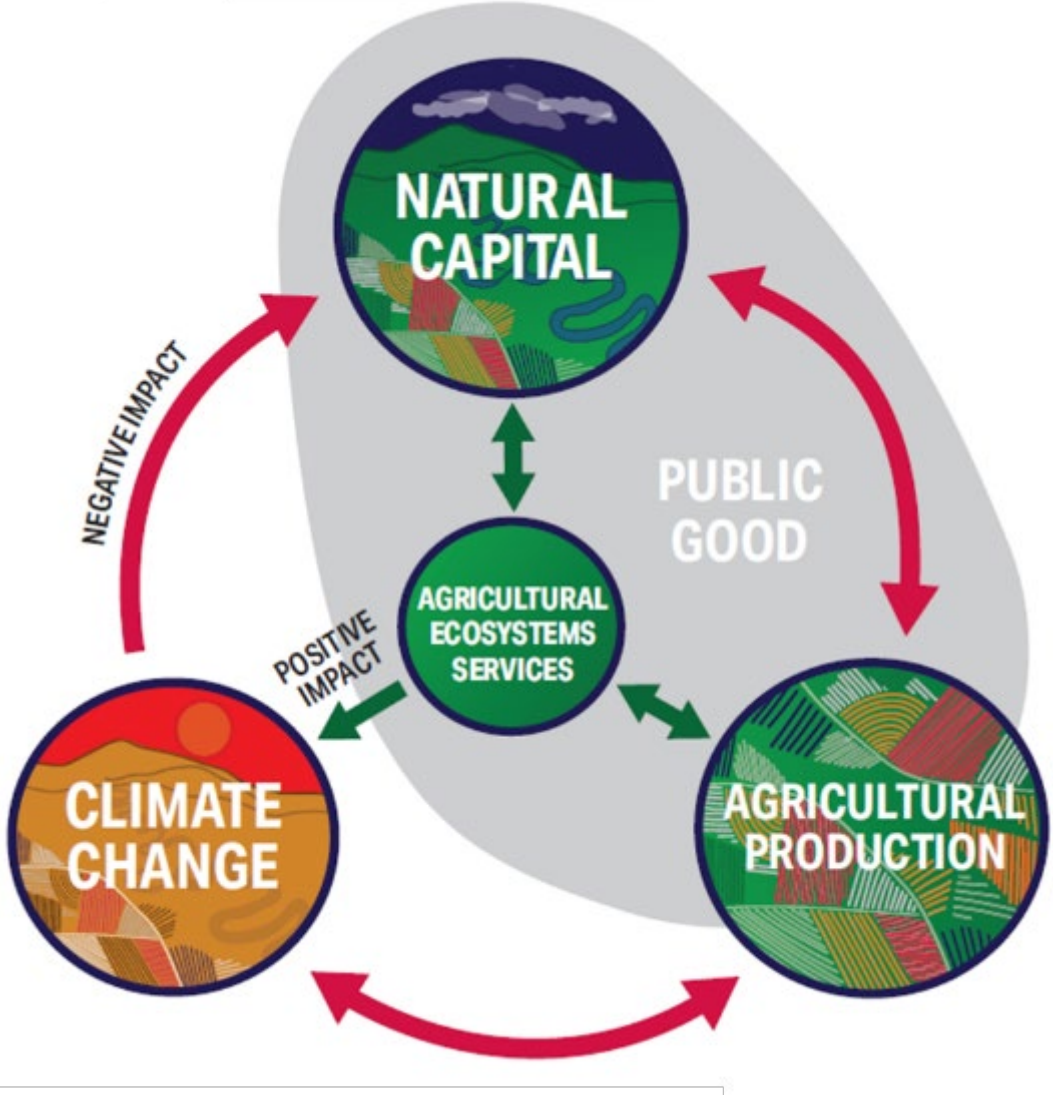




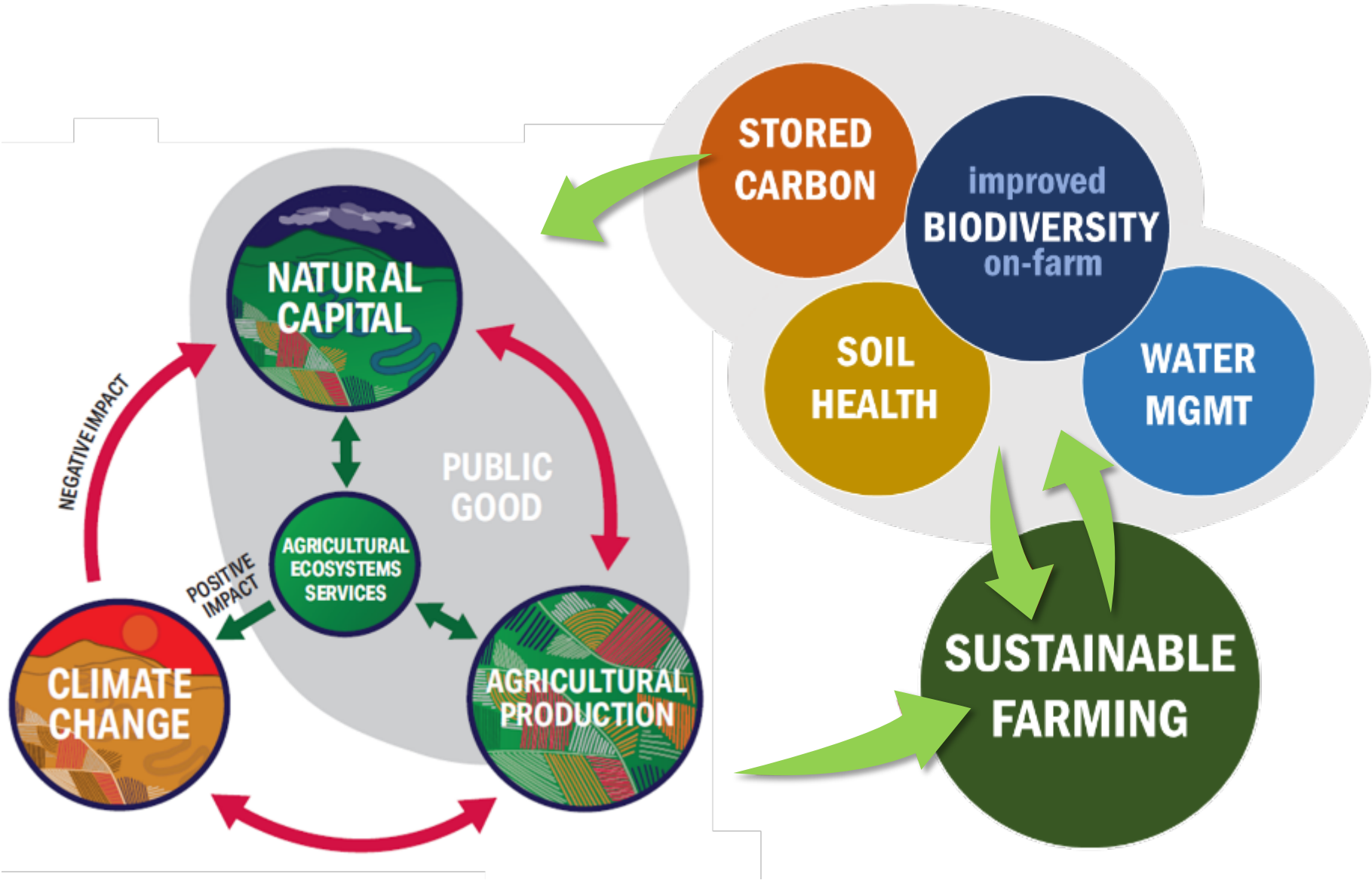
The Thin Green Line



The Thin Green Line



The Thin Green Line



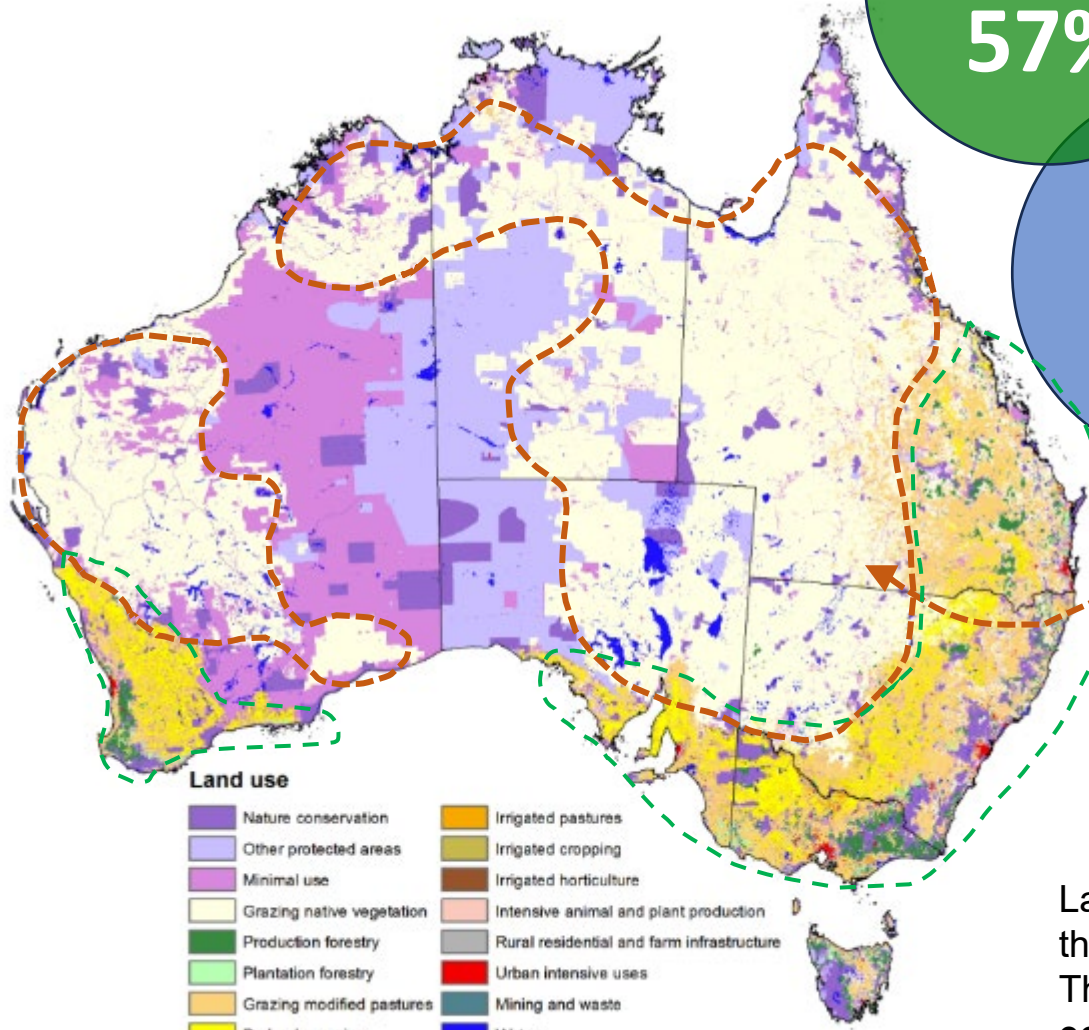
STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES



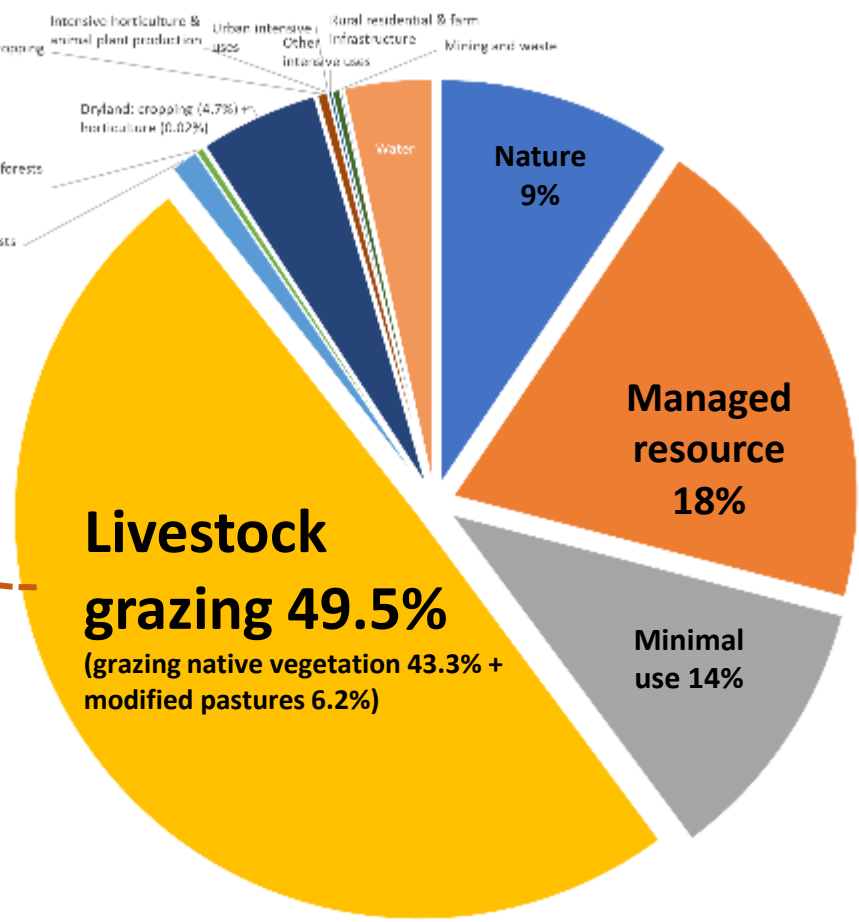
How Australia uses land:

Indigenous estate = 438m ha
57% (a)

Agricultural use = 426m ha
55% (b)

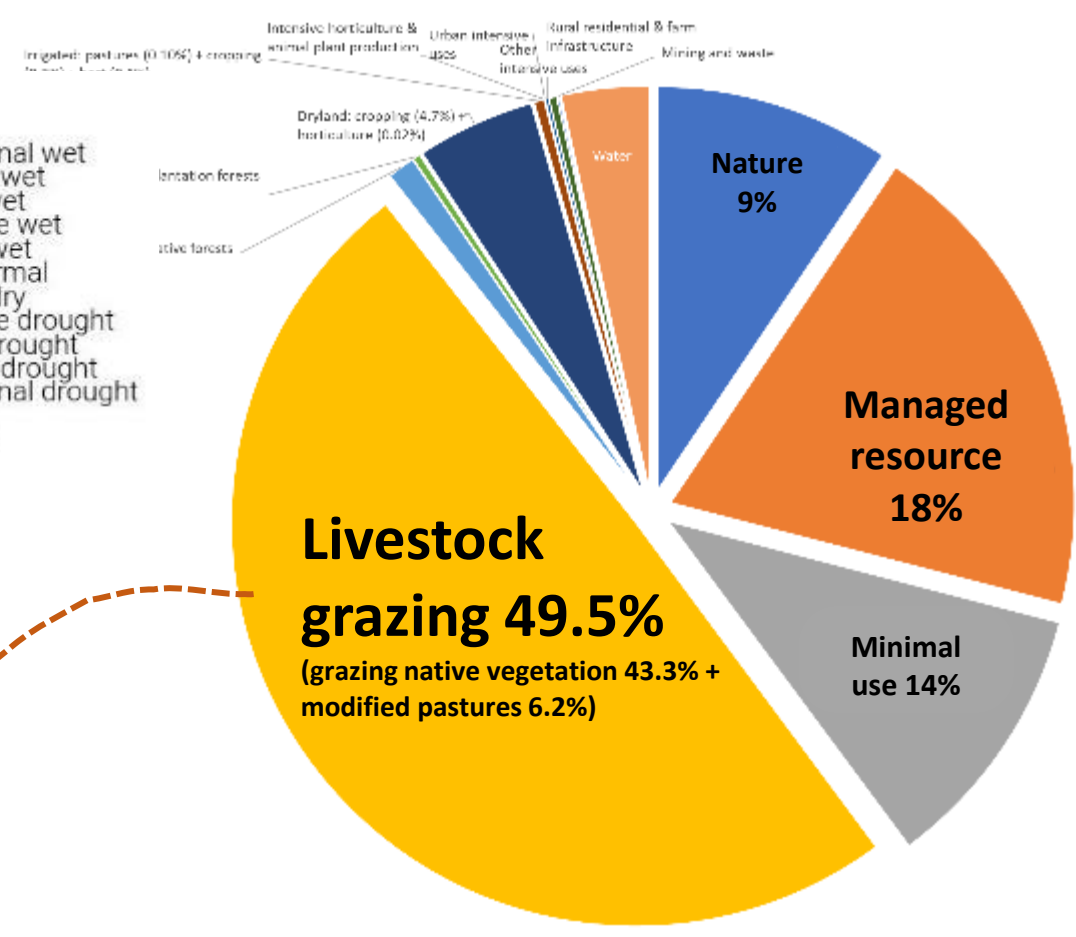
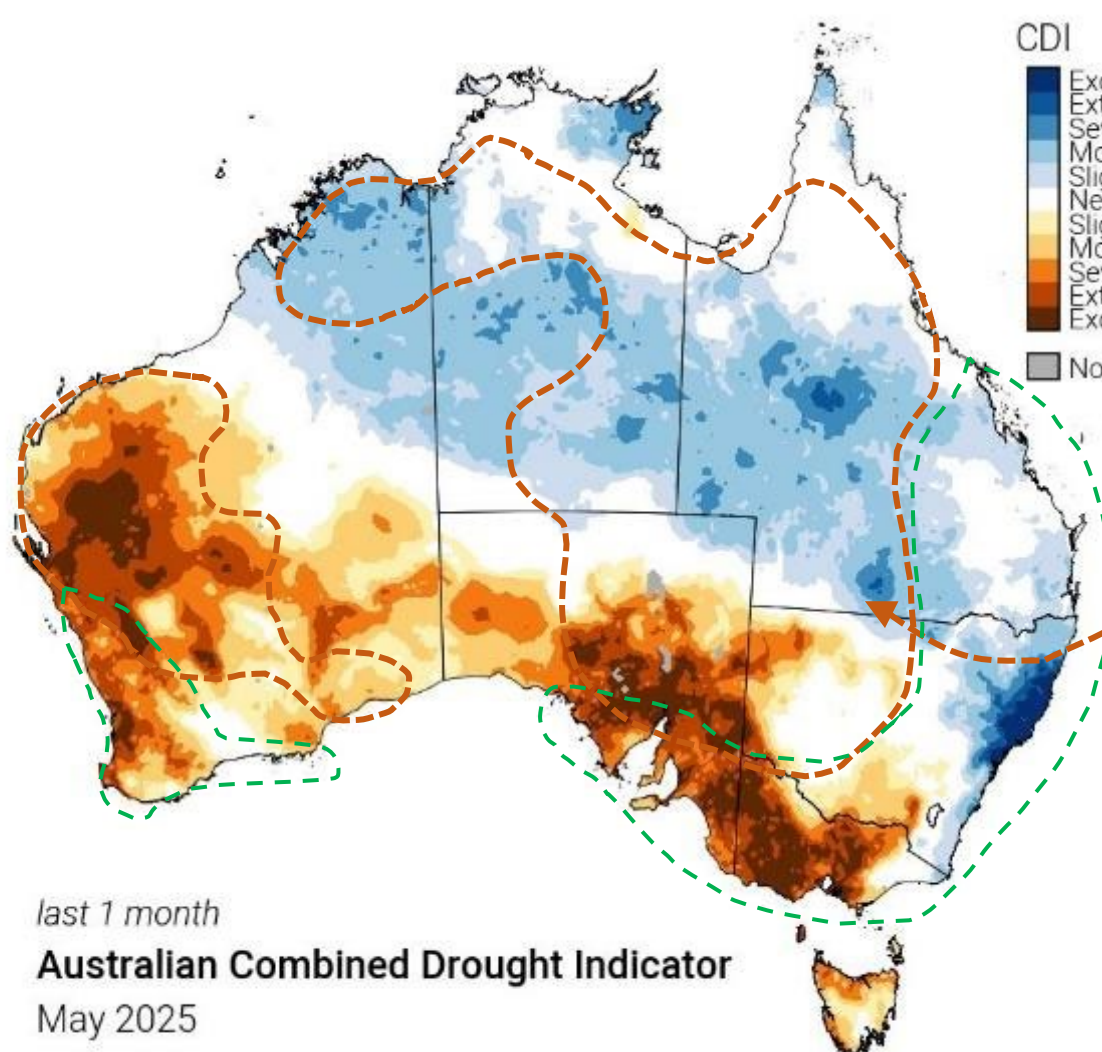


- Land use**
- Nature conservation
 - Other protected areas
 - Minimal use
 - Grazing native vegetation
 - Production forestry
 - Plantation forestry
 - Grazing modified pastures
 - Dryland cropping
 - Dryland horticulture
 - Irrigated pastures
 - Irrigated cropping
 - Irrigated horticulture
 - Intensive animal and plant production
 - Rural residential and farm infrastructure
 - Urban intensive uses
 - Mining and waste
 - Water



Land uses have a major effect on Australia's natural resources through their impacts on water, soil, nutrients, plants and animals. There is a **strong link between changing patterns of land use and economic and social conditions**, particularly in regional Australia.

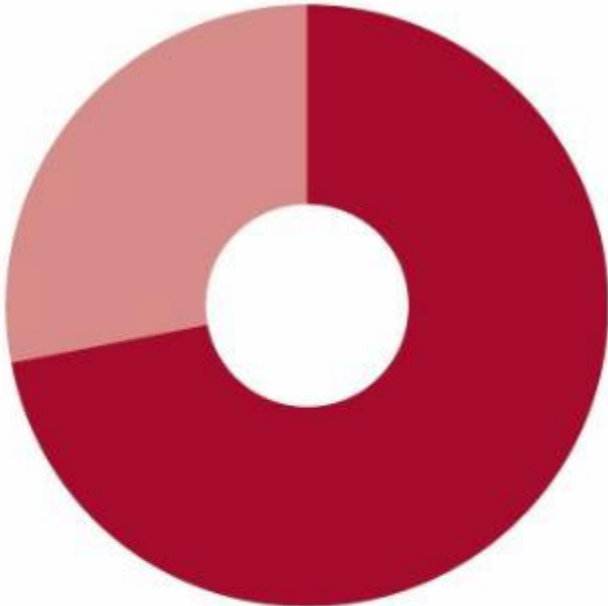
How Australia uses land:



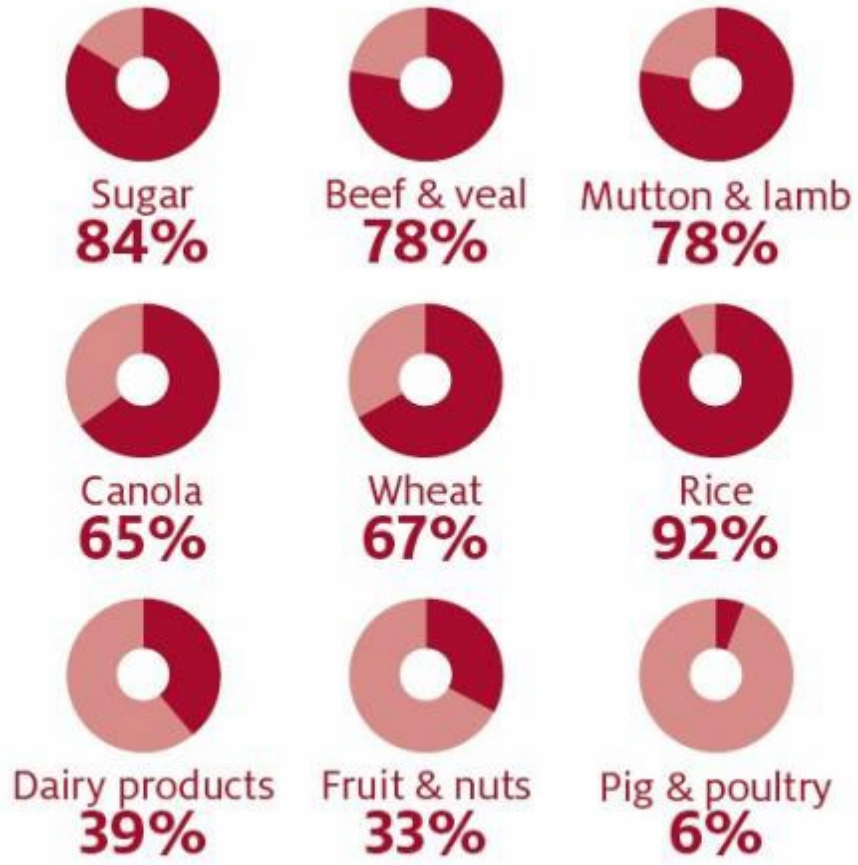
last 1 month
Australian Combined Drought Indicator
 May 2025



The Thin Green Line

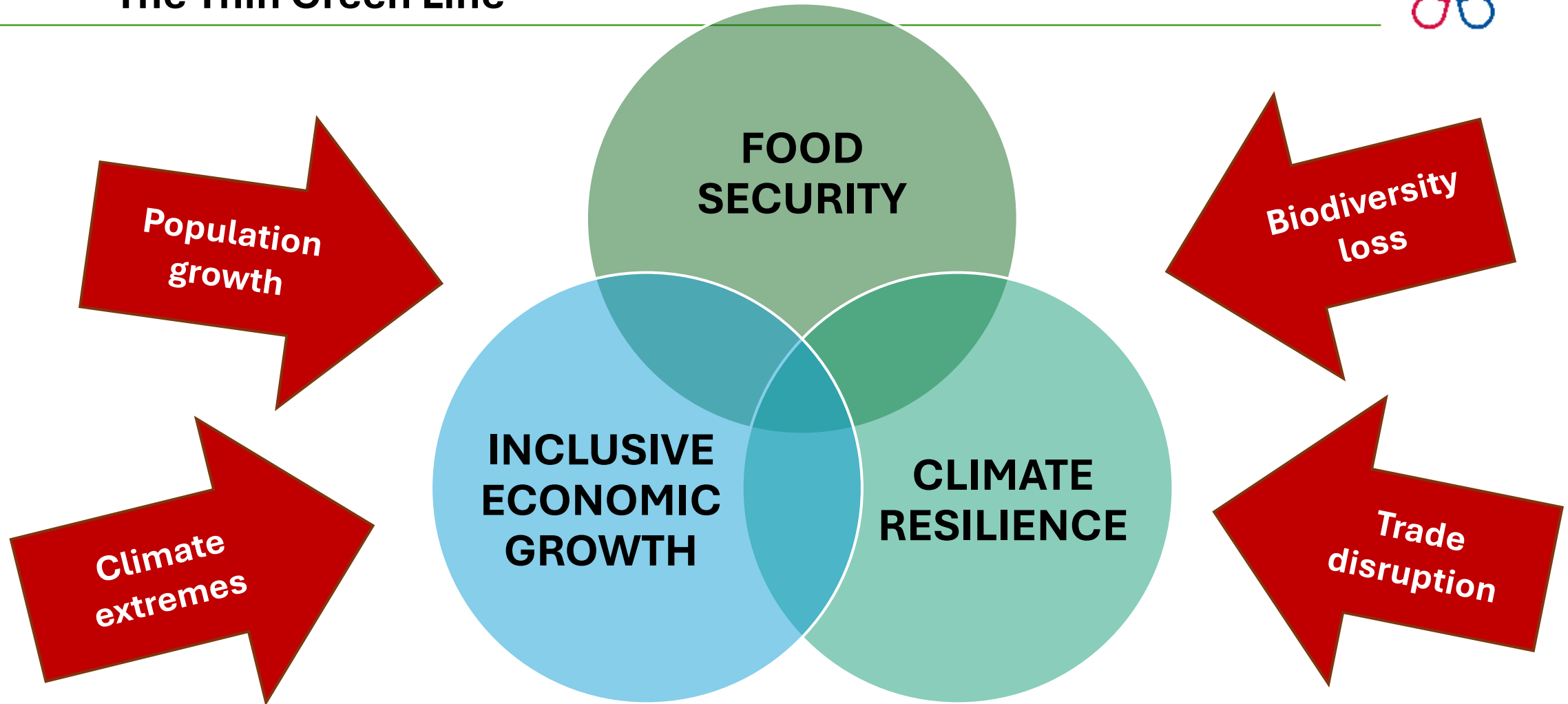


the value **72%**
of agricultural production is exported
^



Source: ABARES 2023

The Thin Green Line



Sustainable supply chains are critical for trusted trade & agricultural resilience

The Thin Green Line

- Shared values: the role of frameworks
- Collaborative research & capacity building
- Industry ownership through RD&E investment
- Place-based ecosystem management

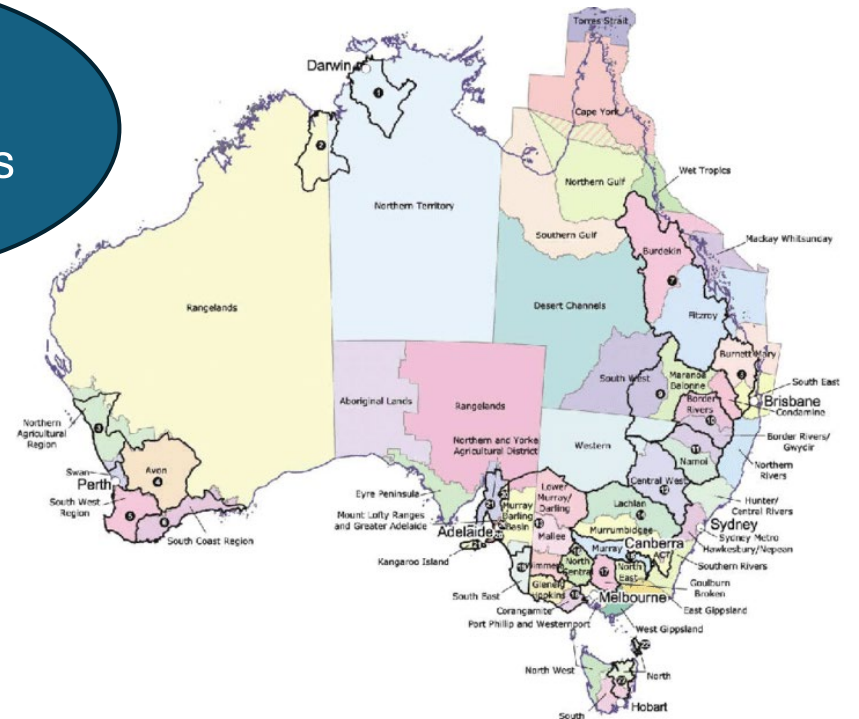
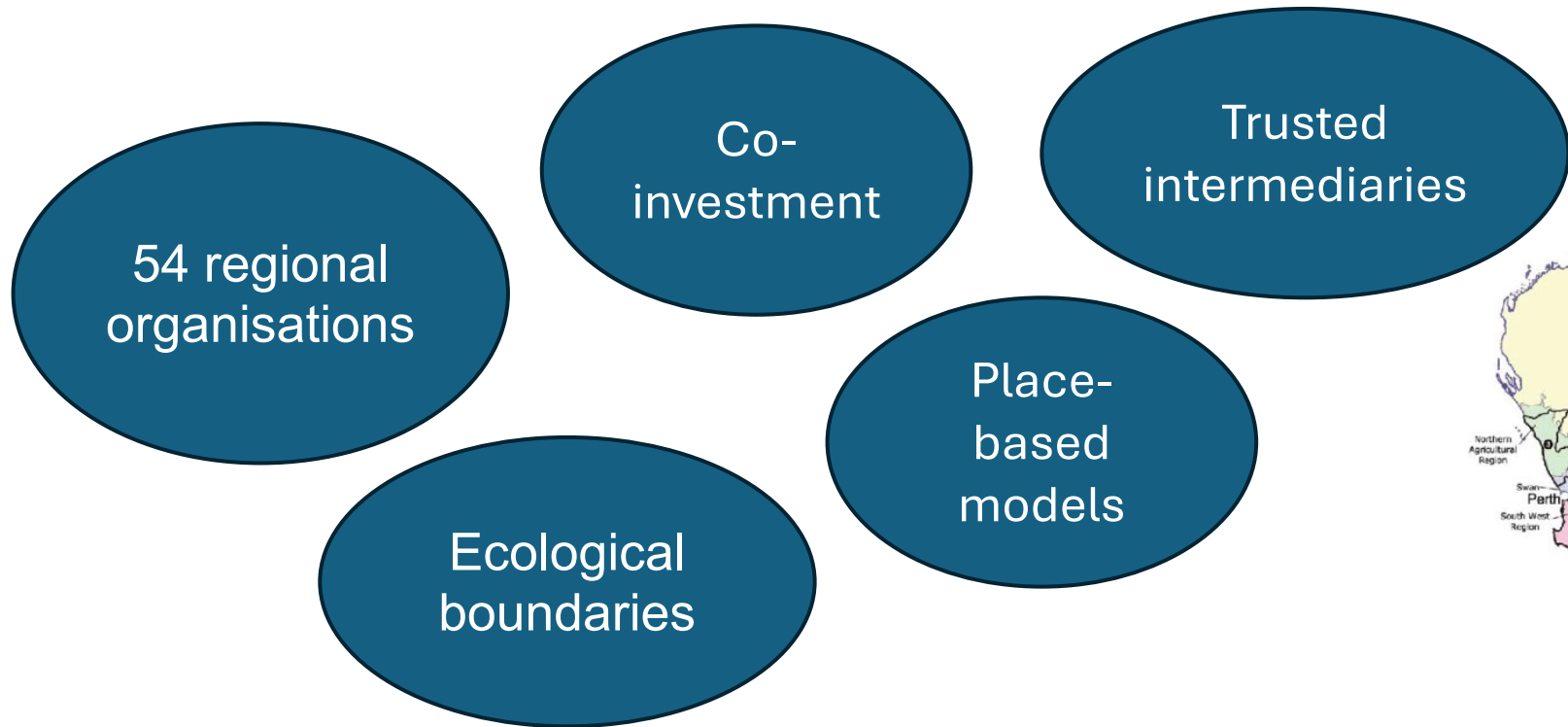


Performance through collaboration

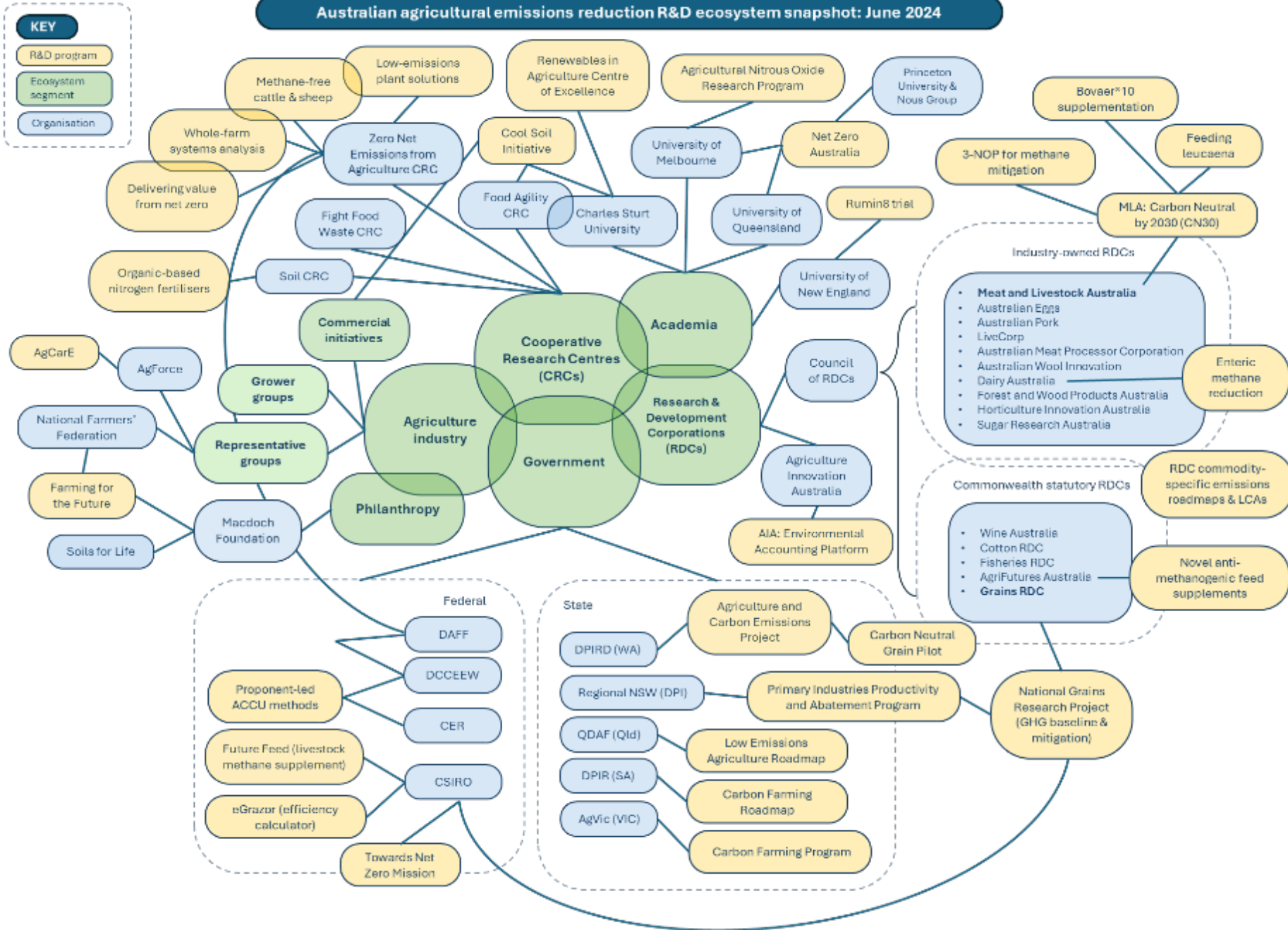


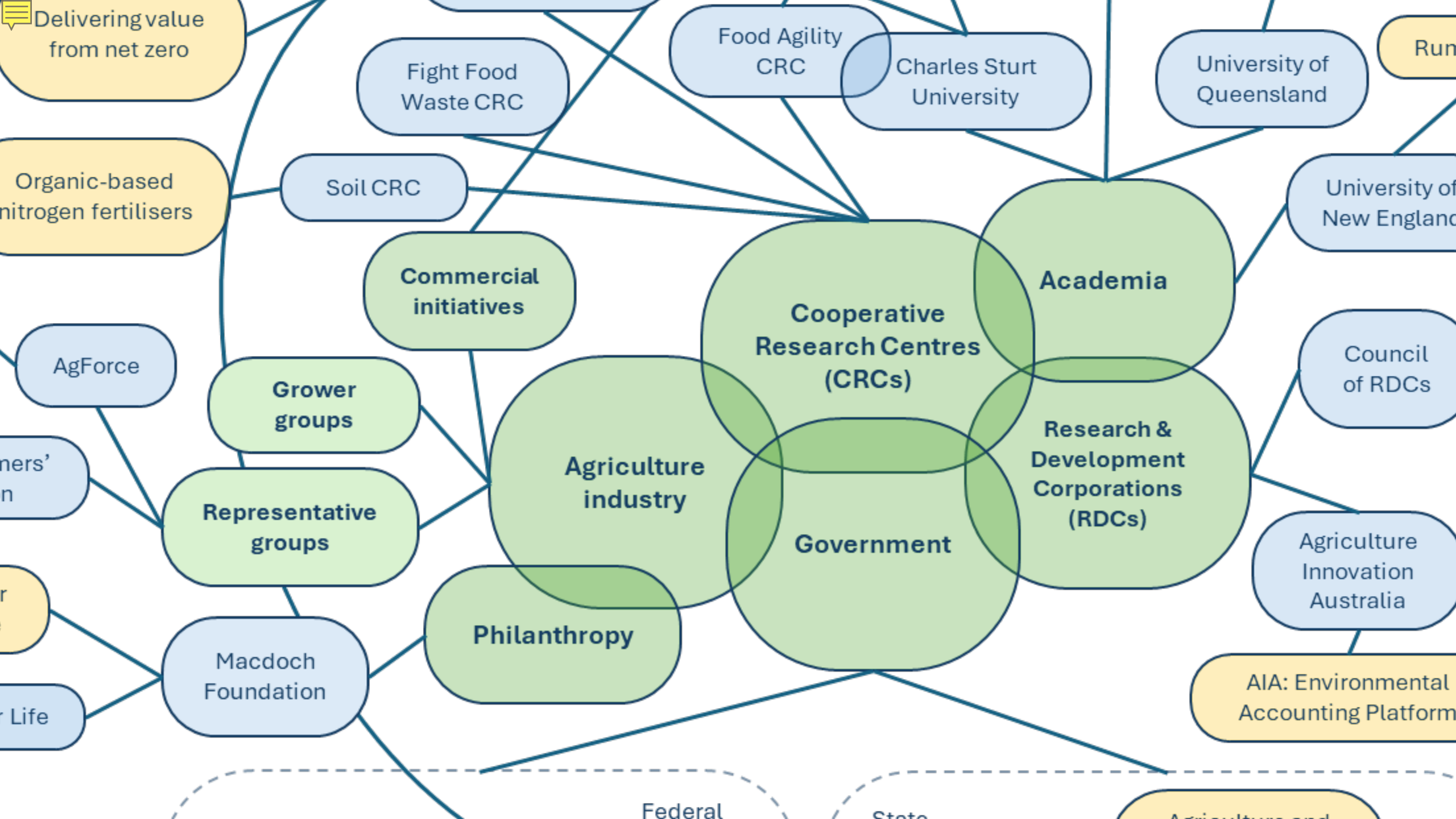
The Thin Green Line

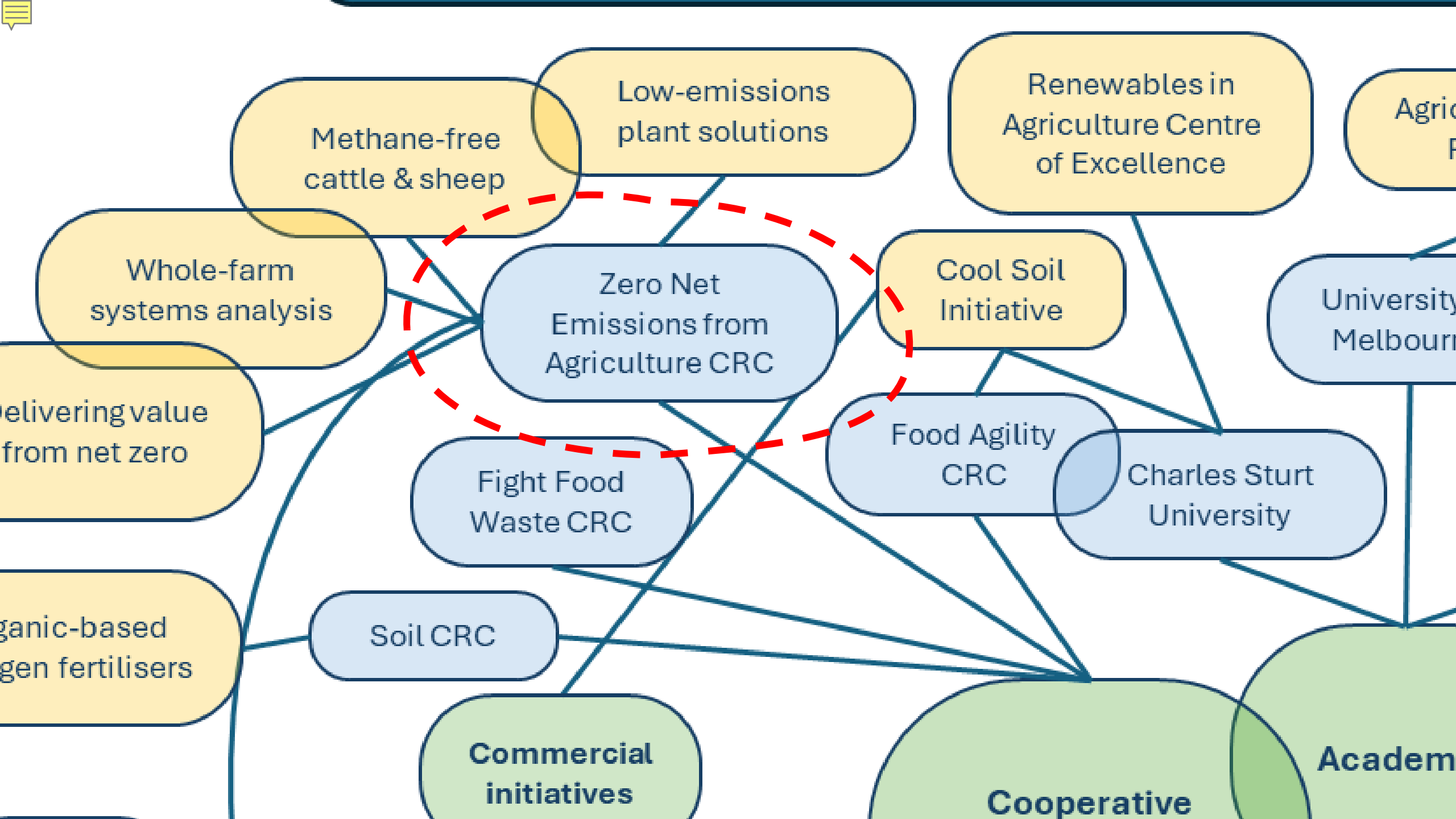
- Shared values: the role of frameworks
- Collaborative research & capacity building
- Industry ownership through RD&E investment
- **Place-based ecosystem management**

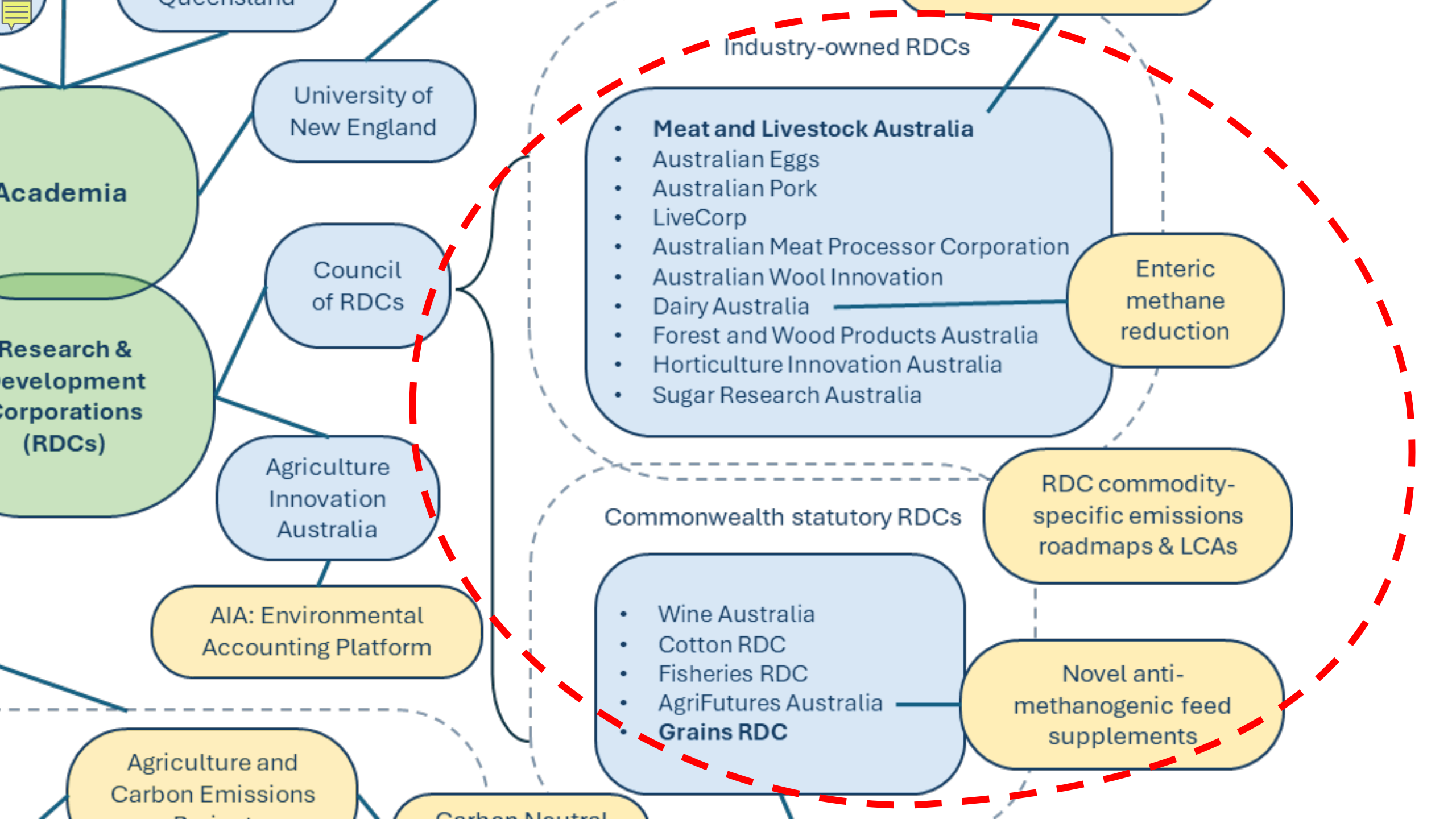


Australian agricultural emissions reduction R&D ecosystem snapshot: June 2024









Academia

Research & Development Corporations (RDCs)

University of New England

Council of RDCs

Agriculture Innovation Australia

AIA: Environmental Accounting Platform

Industry-owned RDCs

- **Meat and Livestock Australia**
- Australian Eggs
- Australian Pork
- LiveCorp
- Australian Meat Processor Corporation
- Australian Wool Innovation
- Dairy Australia
- Forest and Wood Products Australia
- Horticulture Innovation Australia
- Sugar Research Australia

Enteric methane reduction

Commonwealth statutory RDCs

- Wine Australia
- Cotton RDC
- Fisheries RDC
- AgriFutures Australia
- **Grains RDC**

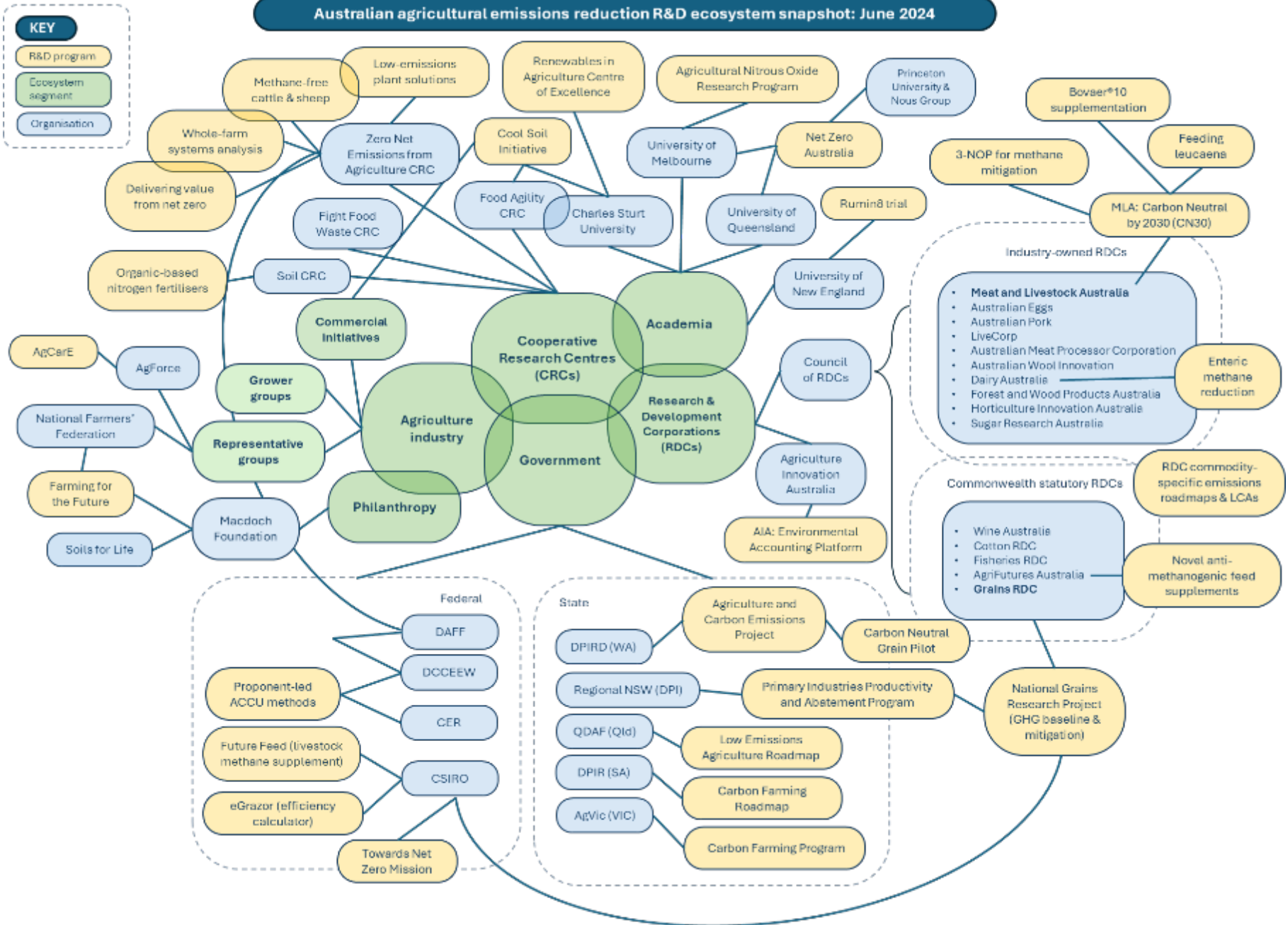
RDC commodity-specific emissions roadmaps & LCAs

Novel anti-methanogenic feed supplements

Agriculture and Carbon Emissions

Carbon Neutral

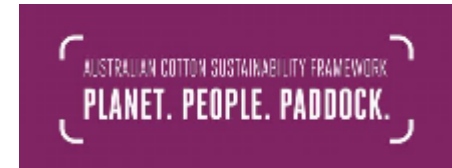
Australian agricultural emissions reduction R&D ecosystem snapshot: June 2024



The Thin Green Line

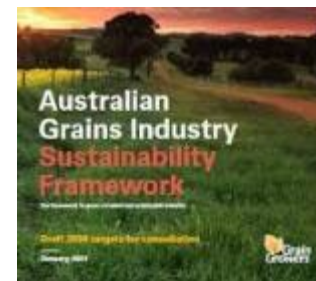
• Shared values: the role of frameworks

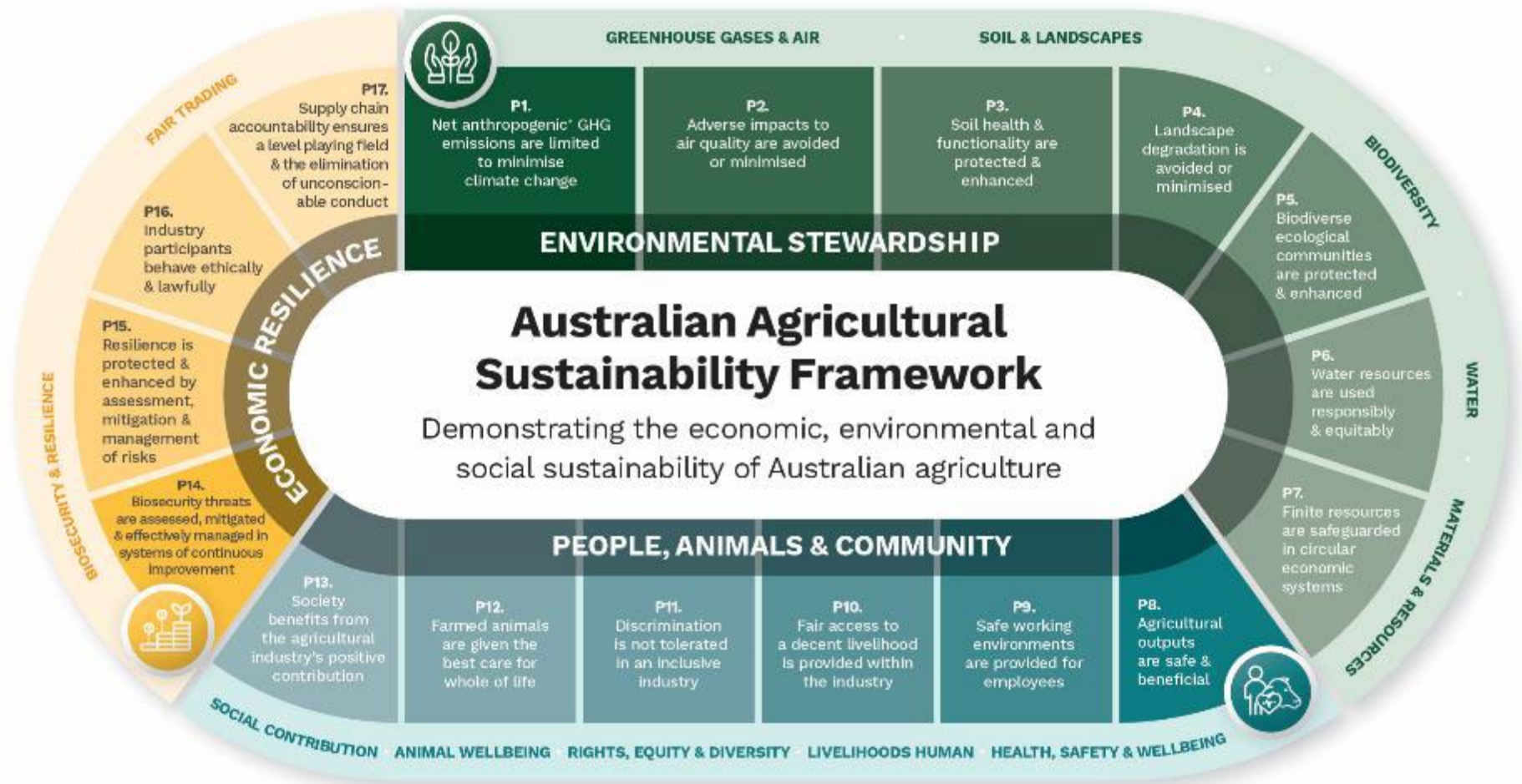
- Collaborative research & capacity building
- Industry ownership through RD&E investment
- Place-based ecosystem management



Principles for Achieving Food Security Through Sustainable Agri-food Systems in the APEC Region

- 1 Promote sustainable, resilient agri-food systems that support food security, environmental stewardship, maintain livelihoods, and result in social benefits for current and future generations.
- 2 Promote policies that are responsive to the inherent uniqueness of circumstances in which they are applied to advance sustainability and resilience in differing agri-food systems.
- 3 Promote the transition of APEC agri-food systems towards sustainability and resilience through policy and regulatory decision making that reflect applicable international agreements and accepted standards.
- 4 Promote the role of the multilateral trading system and transparent, predictable, open, and fair markets in regional and global food security.







P17.
Supply chain
ability ensures
el playing field
ne elimination
f unconscion-
able conduct

LIENCE



GREENHOUSE GASES & AIR

SOIL & LANDSCAPES

P1.
Net anthropogenic* GHG
emissions are limited
to minimise
climate change

P2.
Adverse impacts to
air quality are avoided
or minimised

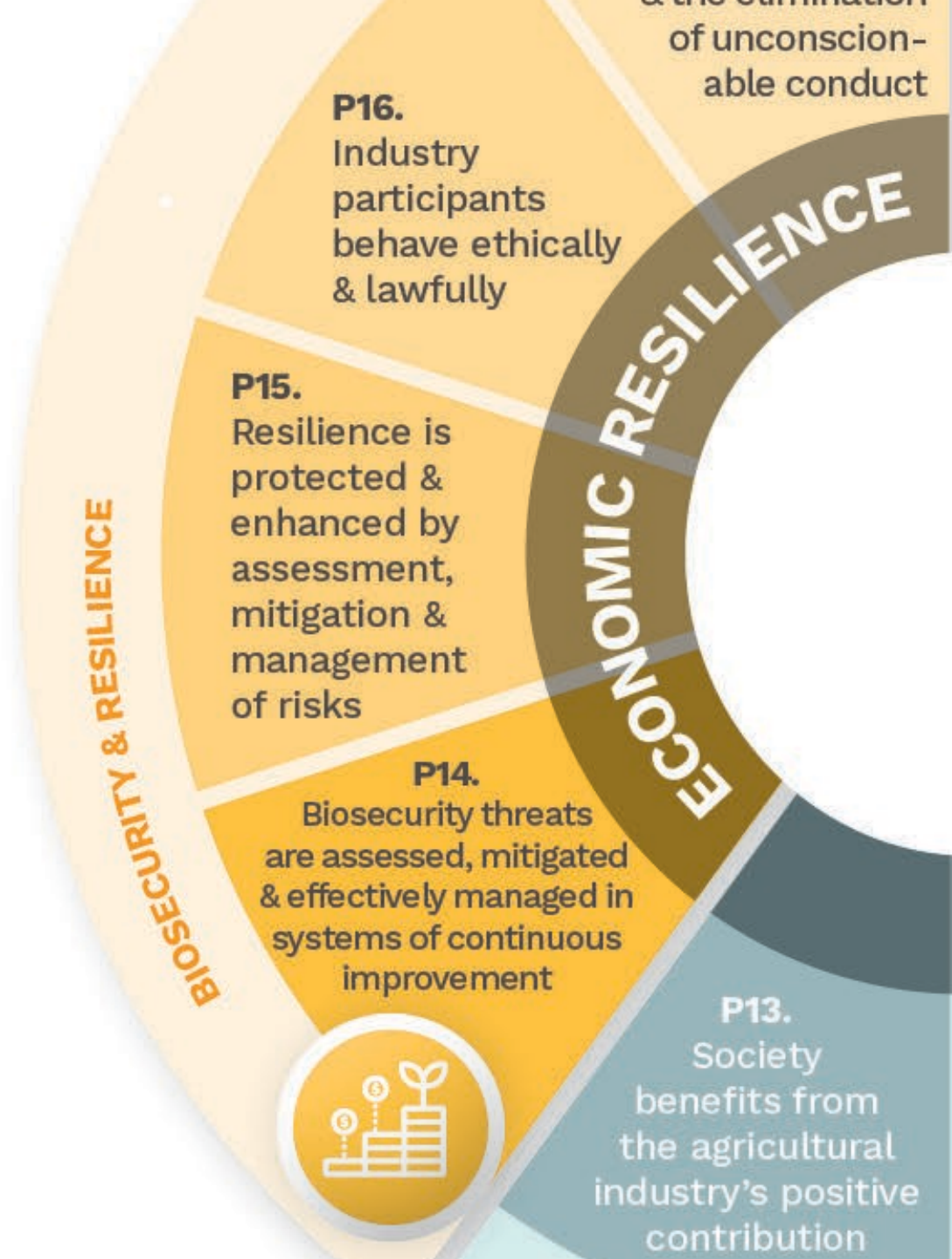
P3.
Soil health &
functionality are
protected &
enhanced

Land
degr
avo
mi

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

Demonstrating the economic, environmental and



climate change

ENVIRONMENTAL STE

Australian Agri Sustainability Fr

Demonstrating the economic, social sustainability of Austr

PEOPLE, ANIMALS &

P12. Farmed animals are given the best care for whole of life

P11. Discrimination is not tolerated in an inclusive industry

Fair a
a decen
is provi
the i

Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework

Demonstrating the economic, environmental and social sustainability of Australian agriculture

PEOPLE, ANIMALS & COMMUNITY

P12.
Farmed animals are given the best care for whole of life

P11.
Discrimination is not tolerated in an inclusive industry

P10.
Fair access to a decent livelihood is provided within the industry

P9.
Safe working environments are provided for employees

P8.
Agricultural outputs are safe & beneficial



ANIMAL WELLBEING • RIGHTS, EQUITY & DIVERSITY • LIVELIHOODS HUMAN • HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING



Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

Principles for Achieving Food Security Through Sustainable Agri-food Systems in the APEC Region

1

Promote sustainable, resilient agri-food systems that **support food security, environmental stewardship, maintain livelihoods, and result in social benefits** for current and future generations.

2

Promote policies that are responsive to the inherent **uniqueness of circumstances** to which they are applied to advance sustainability and resilience in differing agri-food systems.

3

Promote the transition of APEC agri-food systems towards sustainability and resilience through policy and regulatory decision-making that reflect **applicable international agreements and accepted standards**.

4

Promote the role of the multilateral trading system and **transparent, predictable, open, and fair markets** in regional and global food security.

The Thin Green Line

"We need agricultural policies that keep markets open for trade and encourage technology and innovation, which is essential for sustainable growth. So together, we can come behind a common set of principles and take action to build these more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems."

"When environmental measures are poorly designed, they can increase costs, destabilize markets, and affect global food security, potentially undermining efforts to mitigate climate change."

"The key is to avoid being overly prescriptive. If we implement excessively rigid measures in the name of sustainability, we risk limiting the flexibility farmers need in each country, region, and individual farm to address their specific economic and environmental challenges."



Free trade

Avoiding perverse outcomes

Shared principles

Sharing knowledge

Many paths, one goal



The Thin Green Line

