

# Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as tool for Intensive Agriculture Strategies

## IA Symposium – Reimagining Approvals – Strategic Approaches to support Impact Assessment

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# The presentation will cover 4 key points :

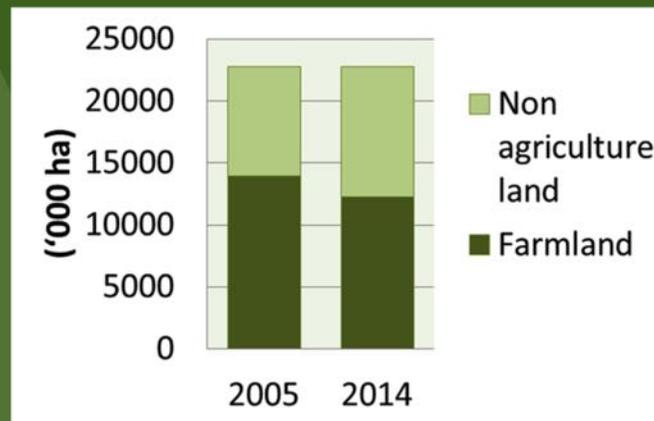
Research and strategic justification for government intervention

Defining sustainable intensification for Victoria

Using a co-design, participatory approach

Implementation of model in an animal industries/ planning context and measuring outcomes (ESIA) and monitoring risks

# Pressure on natural resources



In 2014-15, agriculture accounted for 60% of Australia's water use

Extensive literature review including international frameworks and strategies to determine and their scope for rationale for intervention



- Building the evidence base
- Leveraging the leaders
- Measuring what matters

VISION – GROWTH – BALANCE



# Sustainable Intensive Production

– GROWTH IN BALANCE

Danish Agriculture & Food Council



**‘Explores 3 future food system scenarios, from climate conscience ‘flexitarian diets’, vegan, insects as protein and artificial meat - an exploration of ideological positions**

Gut feelings and possible tomorrows:  
(where) does animal farming fit?

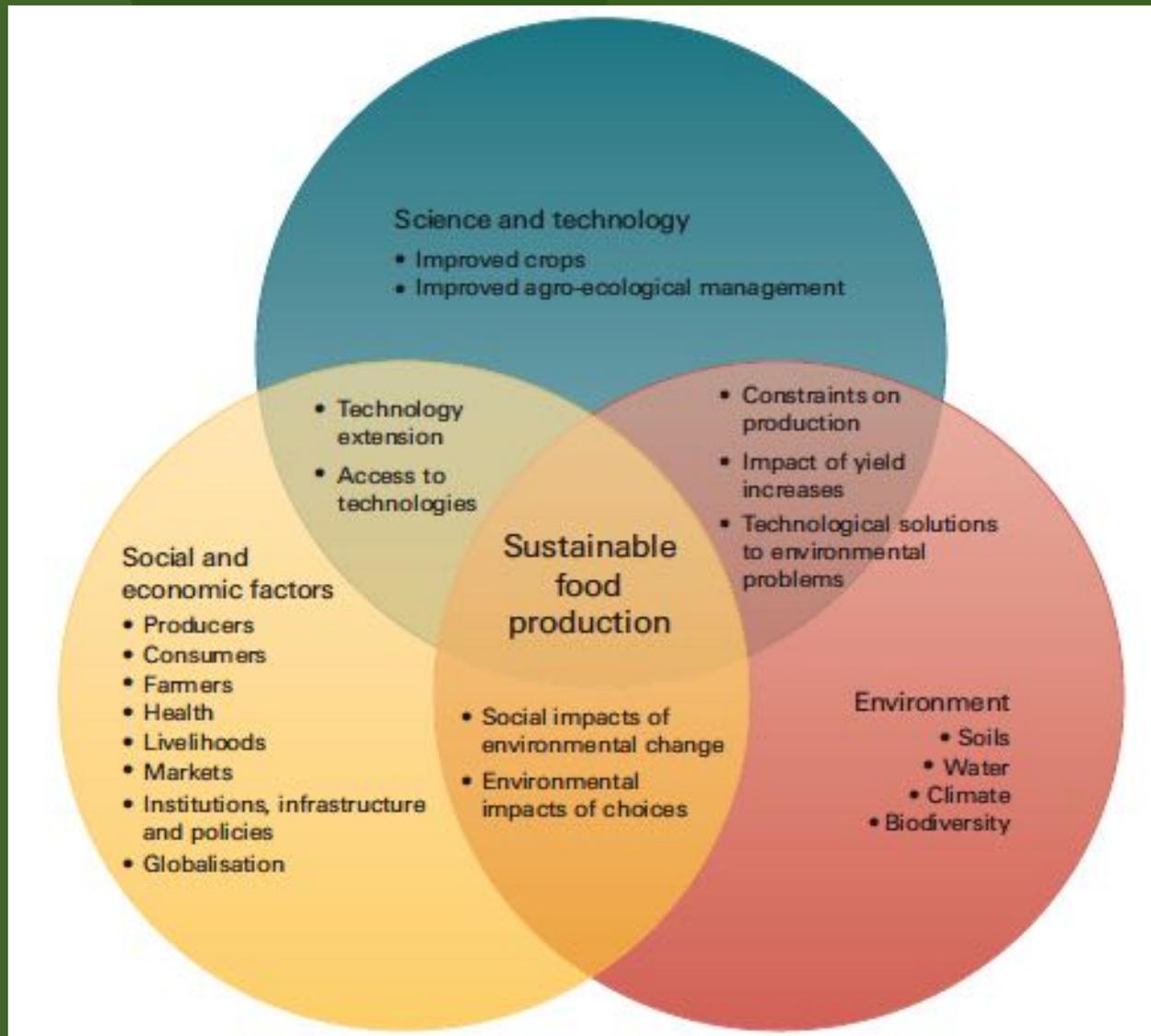


Tara Garnett

## **The Royal Society**

***- Reaping the benefits: Science and the sustainable justification of global agriculture (2009)***

***'The global community faces an important choice: expand the area of agricultural land to increase gross production, or increase yields on existing agricultural land'***



# WHO IS THE GLOBAL, SOCIALLY-CONSCIOUS CONSUMER?

YOUNGER

63%

under the age of 40

GREEN

66%

think companies should support the environment



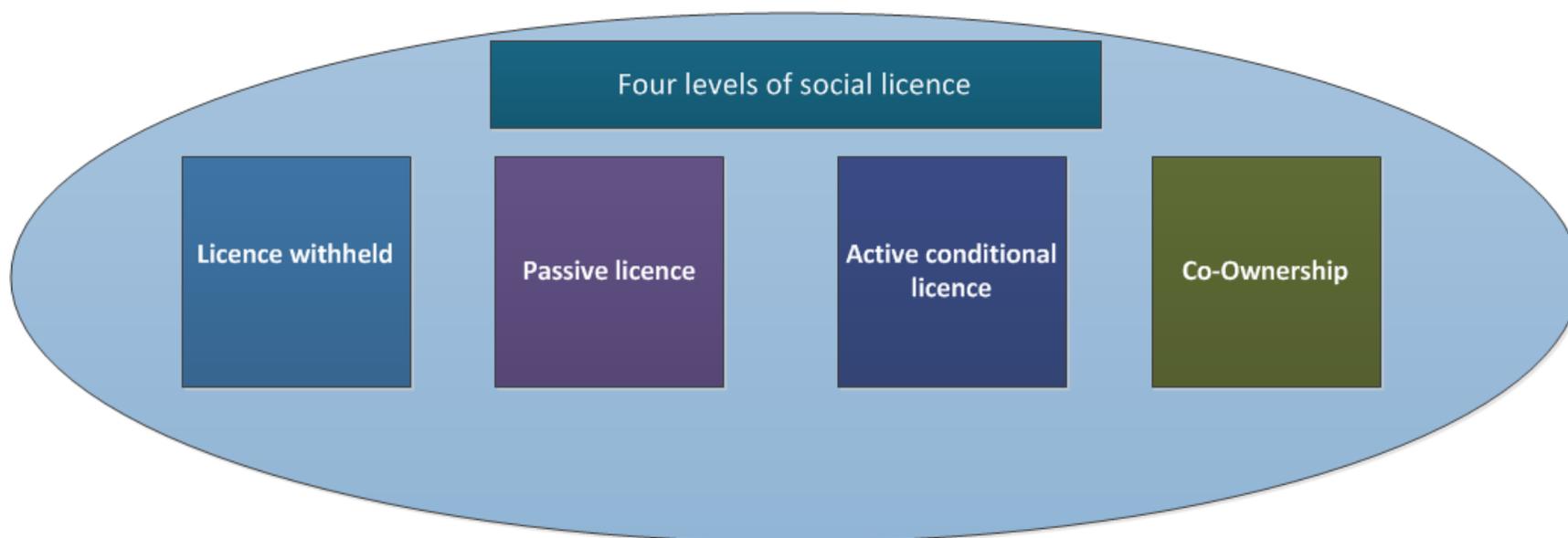
Willing to pay more for socially-responsible products/services



**SOW STALL FREE  
FOR BETTER WELFARE**

# Social Licence to Operate

**Social Licence to Operate** implies that operations are accepted/not opposed by the community. A workable social licence implies that there is not sufficient opposition to cause substantive problems such as additional regulation, planning disapprovals, loss of markets or direct disruption of operations. *Social licence may be more or less fragile, depending on how ad hoc it is cultivated and other factors.*



Source: Parbery, P (unpublished), adapted from Thomson and Boutilier 2012 as cited in Barr (2012 unpublished)  
\*Thomson, I and Boutilier, R (2012) 'What is Social Licence?'. On Common Ground Consultants, Vancouver  
Barr, N (2012 unpublished) '*Social authorisation*' or '*The Social Licence to Operate*'. Unpublished literature review, Department of Environment and Primary Industries. Victorian Government, Melbourne.

# Sustainable Food Systems spectrum – looking for balance



# VISION STATEMENTS

## – Should be short, simple and clear!

**Nike:** “To bring inspiration and innovation to every athlete\* in the world” (\*If you have a body, you are an athlete)

**Amazon:** “Be the earth’s most customer centric company; to build a place where people can come to find and discover anything they might want to buy online.”

**Henry Ford (1909):** “I’m going to democratize the automobile.”

**Microsoft:** “A computer on every desk and in every home.”

**World Vision:** “For every child, life in all its fullness; Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.”

**Charity: water:** “We can end the water crisis in our lifetime by ensuring that every person on the planet has access to life’s most basic need — clean drinking water.”

**Creative Commons:** “Our vision is nothing less than realizing the full potential of the Internet — universal access to research and education, full participation in culture — to drive a new era of development, growth, and productivity.”

# VISION STATEMENTS

– Should be short, simple and clear!

**Sustainable intensification of agriculture is increasing productivity from the same area of land...**

**while reducing environmental impacts, maintaining social licence to operate and maximising value of key agricultural assets...**

**including land, soil, water, energy and infrastructure, across agriculture industries for Victoria.**

**Source: Definition developed from a range of sources including Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, CSIRO, Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre (PICCC)**

# Principles



Good governance and a culture of improvement and promoting best practice



Environmental responsibility



Access to knowledge skills , innovation and technology



Creating economic viability (including value from waste)



Promoting and regulating the humane treatment of animals



Engaged and thriving communities

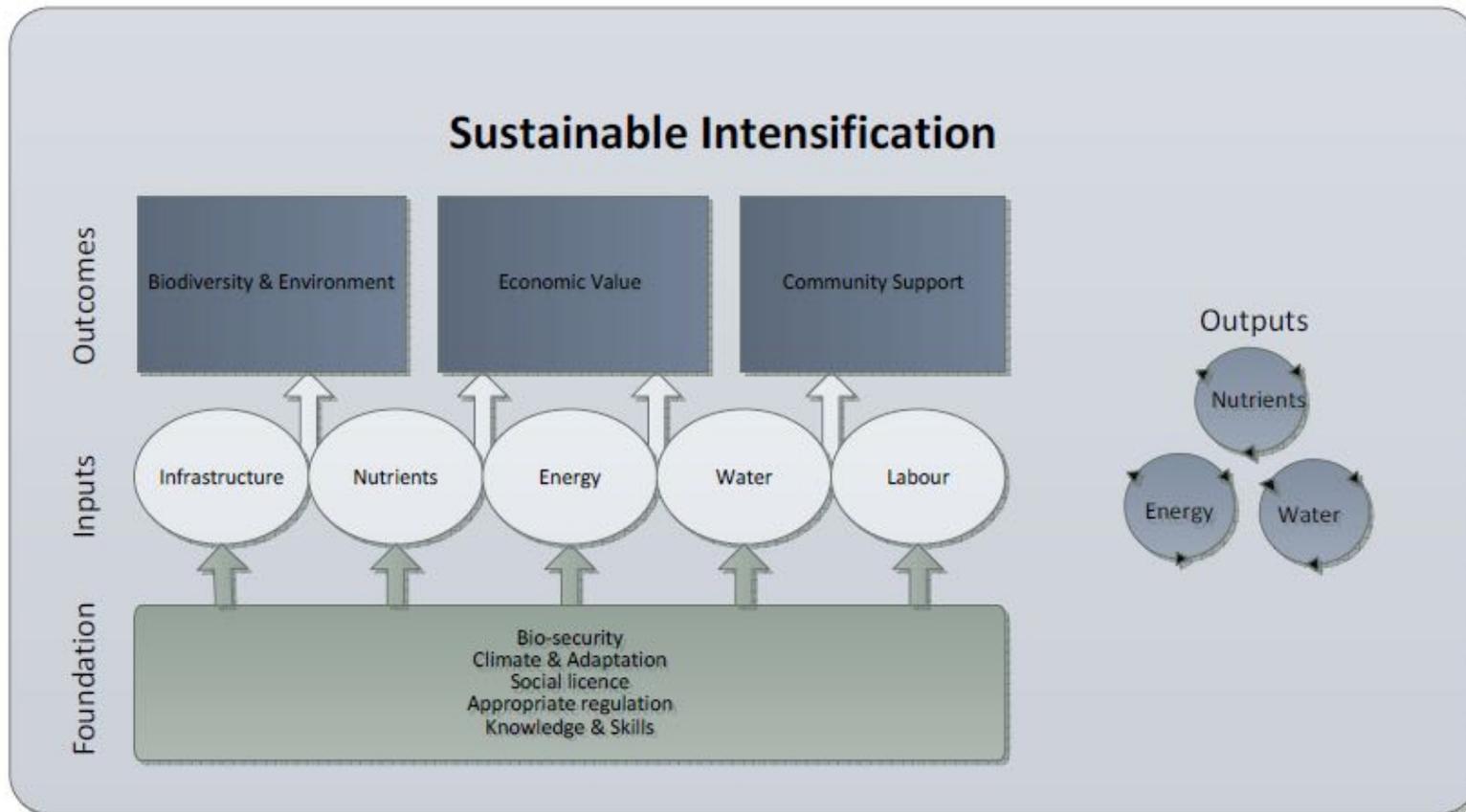


Support research to enable a sound evidence base for decisions

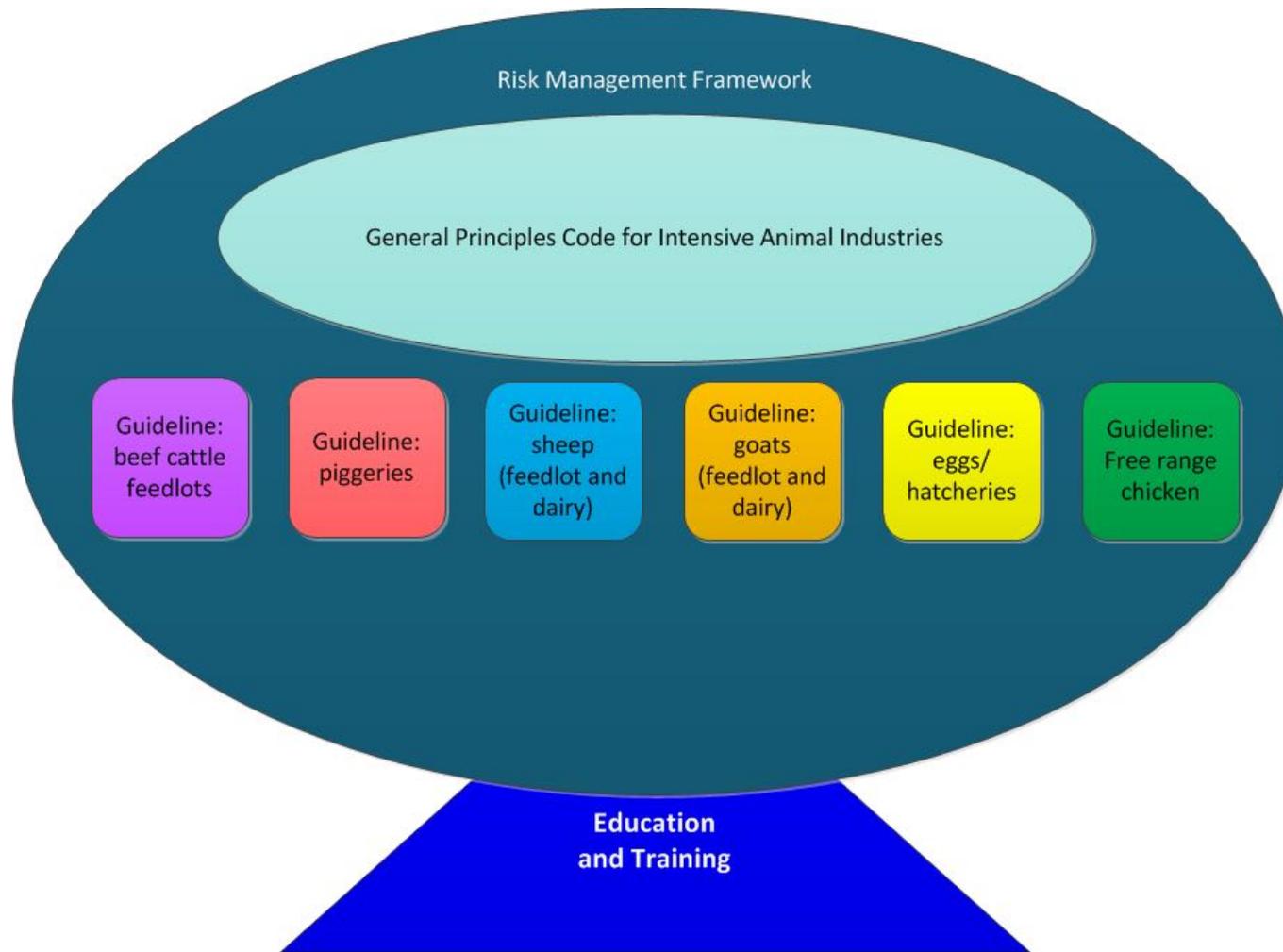


Support the creation of linkages between water, soil, energy, waste, climate, biodiversity and agriculture strategies

# Sustainable intensification – key elements



# Code Reform Framework



# General Principles Code – key elements

## Impact Assessment

The following matters must be considered in assessing impacts and mitigating factors affecting the environment and community amenity:

- The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impacts;
- The cumulative nature of the impacts;

The transboundary nature of the impacts;

- The risks to human and animal health or the environment namely, due to accidents; (signpost to Food Regs, OH&S, etc)

- The magnitude and spatial extent of the impacts, in terms of geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected;

- The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be impacted due to:

- Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
- Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;
- Intensive land-use

- The impacts on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status

# Types of Effects

- Physical and socio-economic
- Direct and indirect
- Short-term and long-term
- Local and strategic (including regional, national and international)
- Adverse and beneficial
- Reversible and irreversible
- Quantitative and qualitative
- Distribution by group and or/area
- Actual or perceived
- Relative to other developments

# The Code Framework

Mitigating adverse effects at approvals and through ongoing management

## Factors affecting amenity & environment

- Location & size
- Design & construction
- Traffic infrastructure
- Organic waste – effluent, manure, litter, compost, etc
- Topography & landscape

## Natural resources affected

- Surface water
- Ground water
- Soil quality
- Air quality

## Unacceptable effects of not addressing factors

- Dust
- Noise
- Odour
- Unacceptable nutrient loads
- Light pollution
- Undesirable visual amenity impacts

## Code Framework

Acts to prevent unacceptable effects on the environment and community amenity

Mandatory Code

Identifies factors  
Approaches  
Objectives

Standards

Technical guides

Approved measures  
Alternative measures

Risk Management Framework

Assessment  
Pathway  
Mitigation strategy  
Implementation  
Review

# THANK YOU.

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