



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parliamentary Inquiry into Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)

The Natural Resources Committee has begun an inquiry into Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) initiatives, with a focus on South Australia's primary producers.

Preamble

Business operations and networks have grown more complex and interconnected and the public expect that local industries will implement sustainable practices and be accountable for their actions. Failing to meet these expectations means a company or industry's chance to '[compete successfully](#)' in the market can be limited. South Australia's primary producers are not exempt from this expectation.

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) is a sustainability [framework](#) that contains standards on how an industry or business can consider its operations' impact on nature (*environment*), handle its relationships with its employees, suppliers, customers, and the communities where it operates (*social*), and manage its practices and processes in relation to its leaders and shareholders (*governance*). Examples of [environmental issues](#) that might impact an industry's sustainability journey includes, but are not limited to, climate change, environmental pollution and waste management. [Social issues](#) could involve workplace health and safety and workplace relations within the company and its supply chain. [governance-related issues](#) may include transparency and management/directorship structure and accountability.

ESG integration into the primary sectors management and operations across Australia has gained momentum. Given the [lack of consideration](#) of Australia's unique production context in global sustainability initiatives, each industry has its own sustainability framework or initiatives that are commodity-specific. The Natural Resources Committee would like to learn more about the development of ESG frameworks and initiatives in the South Australian context through this enquiry and has called for submissions under the following terms of reference.

Terms of Reference

1. What is Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)?
2. What is/are the process/es employed or undergone by entities to craft ESG frameworks?
3. What is the current status of ESG initiatives in South Australia, interstate and internationally relative to:
 - 3.a. entities using the framework;
 - 3.b. reporting standards; and
 - 3.c. measuring impacts
4. What are the pressures and opportunities for primary producers in SA regarding ESG?
5. What does an ESG leader in primary production in SA look like and what are the pathways to get there?
6. Any other relevant matter.

How can I get involved?

The Committee is keen to hear from individuals and organisations with an interest in the inquiry topic. The Committee is now accepting written submissions addressing the inquiry's terms of reference. Submissions should be addressed to the Parliamentary Officer, Natural Resources Committee, and emailed to nrc.assembly@parliament.sa.gov.au or posted to GPO Box 572, ADELAIDE SA 5001. Submissions close Friday 23 February 2024.

Public hearings may be held at a later date. You can stay up to date with the Committee's activities by checking the Parliament website (www.parliament.sa.gov.au/en/Committees/Committees-Detail) or by following the Parliament of South Australia on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.