

1 **Title: Knowledge co-production for identifying sustainability indicators and**
2 **prioritising solutions for food and land system transformation in Australia.**
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36 **Author contributions**

37 Study conception and design was performed by Michalis Hadjikakou, Carla Archibald, Romy L.
38 Zyngier, Brett A. Bryan, Mark Elliot. Material preparation, data collection and analysis were performed
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40 and analysis was provided by Lei Gao, Mark Lawrence, Lauren Bennett, Timothy Reeves, Matthew
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45 **Abstract**

46 The sustainable transformation of food and land systems requires the rapid implementation and
47 scaling up of a broad suite of solutions to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
48 Decision-making frameworks are needed to identify suitable indicators and prioritise solutions
49 at national scales. Using a knowledge co-production framework, we convened 150 stakeholders
50 from 100+ organisations to identify 18 nationally relevant indicators that aligned with critical
51 SDGs describing a sustainable food and land system for Australia, in addition to 78 key
52 solutions (supply- and demand-side) to enable progress against these indicators. We then asked
53 subject matter experts to code the impact of each solution on each indicator using an adapted
54 interaction mapping method accounting for uncertainty. The solution category ‘Protecting and
55 restoring nature’, which included solutions targeting conservation and restoration, showed the
56 highest potential for capturing synergies and avoiding trade-offs across multiple indicators.
57 This category exhibited 34.6% of total major synergies, supporting the achievement of clean
58 water and sanitation (SDG6), economic growth (SDG12), life under water (SDG14), and life
59 on land (SDG15). The solution category ‘Carbon sequestration’, which included technological
60 and biological carbon dioxide removal solutions, had the highest number of trade-offs with
61 individual sustainability indicators (42.3%), particularly those relating to zero hunger (SDG2),
62 wellbeing (SDG3), SDG6, SDG14 and SDG15. Our framework can be used to inform future
63 research investment, support the prioritisation of solutions for quantitative modelling, and
64 inform discussions with stakeholders and policymakers for transforming national-scale food
65 and land systems in alignment with the SDGs.

66 **Keywords**

67 Sustainable Development Goals; synergies; trade-offs; regenerative agriculture; sustainable
68 intensification; conservation

69

70 **Introduction**

71 Food and land systems are key to food security and well-being and are increasingly regarded
72 as a key driver of environmental impacts and a major contributor to global environmental
73 change (Hoek et al., 2021; Willett et al., 2019). Land-use change, biodiversity loss, freshwater
74 use, atmospheric greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) use
75 have all surged due to agricultural expansion and intensification (Campbell et al., 2017; Foley
76 et al., 2011; IPCC, 2019; Sukhdev, 2018). Global demand for agricultural goods is expected to
77 increase further with population, income growth, and dietary shifts (Crist et al., 2017; FAO,
78 2018; Pereira et al., 2020; Willett et al., 2019). Recent studies therefore warn against the
79 continuation of a business-as-usual trajectory of agricultural and land-use management, calling
80 for a system transformation to ensure a sustainable trajectory for humanity (Clark et al., 2020;
81 Fanzo, 2021; FOLU, 2019, 2021; Hebinck et al., 2021; Oliver et al., 2018; Rockström et al.,
82 2020; Springmann et al., 2018; Steiner et al., 2020; Webb et al., 2020; Willett et al., 2019).

83 While a food and land system transformation has been defined and modelled at the global level
84 (FOLU, 2019, 2021; Searchinger et al., 2018; Steiner et al., 2020; Willett et al., 2019), there is
85 an urgent need to elaborate on what this would entail at the national level, particularly given
86 the diverse starting points and roles of different countries and regions in a globalised agri-food
87 system and to manage for the power dynamics and imbalances that exist within it (Allen &
88 Wilson, 2008; Howard, 2021; Pereira et al., 2020; Steiner et al., 2020). The pathway towards
89 food and land system transformation at the national level is not clearly defined (Béné, Prager,
90 et al., 2019; Sukhdev et al., 2016), and there is a need for national scale frameworks to prioritise
91 solutions that can deliver the best outcomes to meet United Nations Sustainable Development
92 Goals (SDGs) (UN, 2015) that consider the complexity of the underpinning socio-ecological,
93 socio-technical and political-economic systems (Fesenfeld et al., 2022; FOLU, 2021; Oliver et
94 al., 2018; Pereira et al., 2020). Concurrently achieving all SDGs within the 2030 timeframe
95 presents many challenges and requires managing the tensions between development, the
96 environment, and the inherent trade-offs between SDGs (Bryan et al., 2019; Griggs et al., 2017;
97 Orbons et al., 2024; Pradhan et al., 2017).

98 Progressing the global sustainability agenda requires successful national-scale implementation
99 of solutions (Gao & Bryan, 2017). There are many competing narratives as to what constitutes
100 a sustainable food and land system and what the optimal mix of solutions is for achieving a
101 sustainable transformation (Béné, Oosterveer, et al., 2019; CSIRO, 2023; McRobert et al.,

102 2022; Mosnier et al., 2022; NFF, 2019; Roe et al., 2021; Searchinger et al., 2018; Springmann
103 et al., 2018). Several studies have highlighted the need to move beyond a focus on productivity
104 or single-paradigm approaches (Allen & Wilson, 2008; Dornelles et al., 2022; Faulkner, 1944;
105 Howard, 2023; Howard, 2021; Lindgren et al., 2018; Sukhdev, 2018), suggesting a shift to a
106 systems approach in defining and measuring sustainability to account for regional variations at
107 the national and sub-national scale (Fanzo et al., 2021; Hebinck et al., 2021). Global scale
108 frameworks have been developed for establishing and monitoring progress towards indicators
109 (e.g. Fanzo et al., 2021; Hebinck et al., 2021; Jones et al., 2016; Stefanovic et al., 2020; Willett
110 et al., 2019), for supporting decision-making and the implementation of solutions for system
111 transformation (Béné, Oosterveer, et al., 2019; Silva et al., 2022; TEEB, 2018). Australian-
112 specific sustainability frameworks identifying indicators and roadmaps for sustainable food
113 and agriculture system have been developed (CSIRO, 2023; McRobert et al., 2022), but lack
114 focus on which solutions should be prioritised and their potential synergies and trade-offs,
115 which are critical for supporting strong governance, decision-making and negotiations between
116 stakeholders (Hebinck et al., 2021; Oliver et al., 2018).

117 The sustainable transformation of food and land systems requires the rapid implementation and
118 scaling up of a broad suite of behaviour-oriented (demand-side) and technology-driven
119 (supply-side) solutions as well as alternative paradigms such as agroecology (Béné, Oosterveer,
120 et al., 2019; Gordon et al., 2023; Herrero et al., 2020; Rööös et al., 2017; Wezel et al., 2009;
121 Wezel et al., 2014; Wezel & Soldat, 2009). However, solution prioritisation depends heavily
122 on indicators selected for assessing system sustainability (Garnett, 2014). The diverse views
123 on choice and weighting of indicators diverge even more at regional and national scales
124 (Bennett et al., 2021). To manage for this at the national and sub-national scale, to capture the
125 local specificity of food and land systems, local contexts and stakeholders should guide the
126 development of locally relevant indicators and solutions (Bandari et al., 2022; Béné,
127 Oosterveer, et al., 2019; Moallemi et al., 2021; Moallemi et al., 2020; Szetey et al., 2021).

128 Frameworks are required to prioritise solutions and focus the development of integrated models
129 for scenario analysis, to inform policy and highlight knowledge and technology gaps (Nilsson
130 et al., 2018; Nilsson et al., 2016). However, to adequately capture the complexity of sustainable
131 transformations and support effective adoption, frameworks must account for the diversity of
132 stakeholders across the food and land system from land-use practitioners and civil society to
133 national governments and private sector and navigate the competing dimensions of food and

134 land system sustainability and the complex interdependencies (and trade-offs) between SDGs
135 (Béné, Prager, et al., 2019; Oliver et al., 2018; Pereira et al., 2020).

136 System level transformations require transdisciplinary collaboration across a broad range of
137 stakeholders. This enables more diverse views and values, minimises the risk of unforeseeable
138 consequences and/or trade-offs, to more comprehensively reflect available knowledge and
139 conceptualise novel sustainability innovations (Mauser et al., 2013; Moallemi et al., 2020;
140 Nielsen et al., 2020; Pereira et al., 2020; Schneider et al., 2021). Iterative and collaborative
141 processes that integrate knowledge and stakeholders from diverse domains are known as *co-*
142 *production* or co-creation (Mauser et al., 2013; Reed et al., 2022; Wyborn et al., 2019) and
143 result in context-specific knowledge which can be used to underpin the development of locally
144 contextualised sustainability pathways (Chambers et al., 2021; Mauser et al., 2013; Norström
145 et al., 2020). The value of co-produced knowledge is well established in the field of
146 sustainability science (Jassanoff, 2004; Moallemi et al., 2021; Moallemi et al., 2020) leading
147 to mutually reinforcing and reciprocal outcomes that represent more inclusive, legitimised,
148 impactful, and systemic change for local contexts (Jassanoff, 2004; Norström et al., 2020;
149 Schneider et al., 2021; Wyborn et al., 2019). As such, adopting co-production methods can
150 improve the integration of environmental, social, economic, political and cultural factors into
151 conceptualising system sustainability, and support navigating synergies and trade-offs in a just,
152 transparent, and efficient manner (Béné, Prager, et al., 2019; Chambers et al., 2021; Moallemi
153 et al., 2021; Moallemi et al., 2022).

154 In this study, we bring together a diverse range of stakeholders to co-produce an extensive suite
155 of nationally relevant SDG-aligned sustainability indicators and solutions for the Australian
156 food and land sector. We then apply an adapted interaction mapping method (Nilsson et al.,
157 2016) to rapidly assess the relationship between nationally relevant solutions and indicators,
158 and global SDGs. We demonstrate the value of this framework for identifying ‘win-win’
159 sustainability solutions that can progress multiple indicators and SDGs at the same time, and
160 identify solutions with trade-offs (i.e., solution-indicator interactions with negative causal
161 relationships) (Allen et al., 2019; Griggs et al., 2017; Hopkins et al., 2021). Our approach also
162 identifies solutions with impacts that lack consensus and gaps in indicators and SDGs where
163 few solutions are currently known or available for the local context, highlighting priorities for
164 future research and investment. This study is a targeted contribution to the broader body of
165 work required to enable the sustainable transformation of the Australian food and land system.

166 **Methods**

167 *Study area: the Australian food and land system*

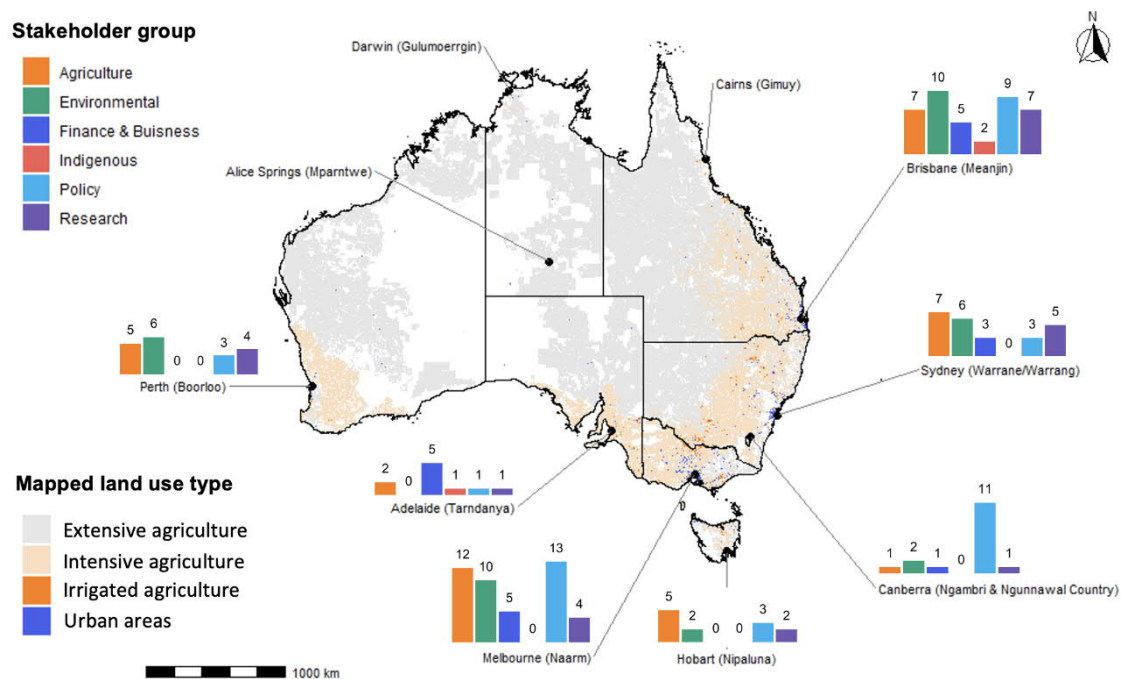
168 Australia is a significant global food and fibre producer, particularly for key commodities such
169 as beef, sheep and wool, dairy, wheat, wine, and cotton (DFAT, 2020) (Figure 1). The economic
170 and social importance of agriculture is juxtaposed by its significant negative impacts on the
171 environment, most notably on biodiversity, water availability and quality, and greenhouse gas
172 emissions (Turner et al., 2018). Australian agriculture is export-oriented, with 72% of the total
173 annual value of agricultural production going to exports. This accounted for 12% of goods and
174 services exports and 1.9% of Australia's GDP in 2021. Agriculture currently accounts for 55%
175 of Australian land use (excluding timber production), 74% of extracted water (ABARES, 2022;
176 ABS, 2020-21), and 17.5% of GHG emissions (DCCEEW, 2023).

177 There are several sustainability narratives promoted for the future of Australian agriculture,
178 which reflect elements of the global food system transformation (Béné, Oosterveer, et al., 2019;
179 Grundy et al., 2016). These range from encouraging technologies and farming practices that
180 can reduce resource use, GHG emissions and depletion of soils (Turner et al., 2016), stricter
181 conservation and carbon sequestration priorities and funded initiatives (Bryan et al., 2014;
182 Bryan, Runting, et al., 2016), and facilitating shifts towards sustainable diets and food waste
183 reduction (Geyik et al., 2022; Springmann et al., 2018; Willett et al., 2019). At the same time,
184 there are a number of potentially conflicting socio-economic priorities such as calls for
185 continued growth in the value and volume of exports (NFF, 2019), concerns around food
186 system resilience and nutrition security due to the rising costs of fresh produce (Ridoutt et al.,
187 2017), and concerns around farmer welfare and vitality in regional areas (NFF, 2019).

188 *Theory of change*

189 Several narratives and pathways for the sustainable transformation of the Australian food and
190 land system have been described (Béné, Oosterveer, et al., 2019; Bryan, Nolan, et al., 2016;
191 CSIRO, 2023; Gao & Bryan, 2017; Grundy et al., 2016; NFF, 2019). Successful transformation
192 requires buy-in from stakeholders across a system, achievable through a co-production
193 methodology. We adopt the framing of Scoones et al. (2020) to conceptualise the system
194 transformation required, shifting from its current unsustainable state to the desired state using
195 the SDGs as the framework for achieving the sustainable transformation of the Australian food
196 and land system. Our study makes a targeted contribution to this broader theory of change by

197 improving our locally specific knowledge of solutions and sustainability indicators for the
 198 transformation of the Australian food and land system. Likewise, this approach builds our
 199 understanding of the solution-indicator relationships to guide decision making. We propose
 200 that the expected value of information (EVOI) of solution-indicator relationships derived from
 201 co-production processes, where the expected increase in the value of information is associated
 202 with obtaining more information relevant to the decision process (Dakins, 1999), can support
 203 a rapid and well-informed sustainability transformation for Australia.

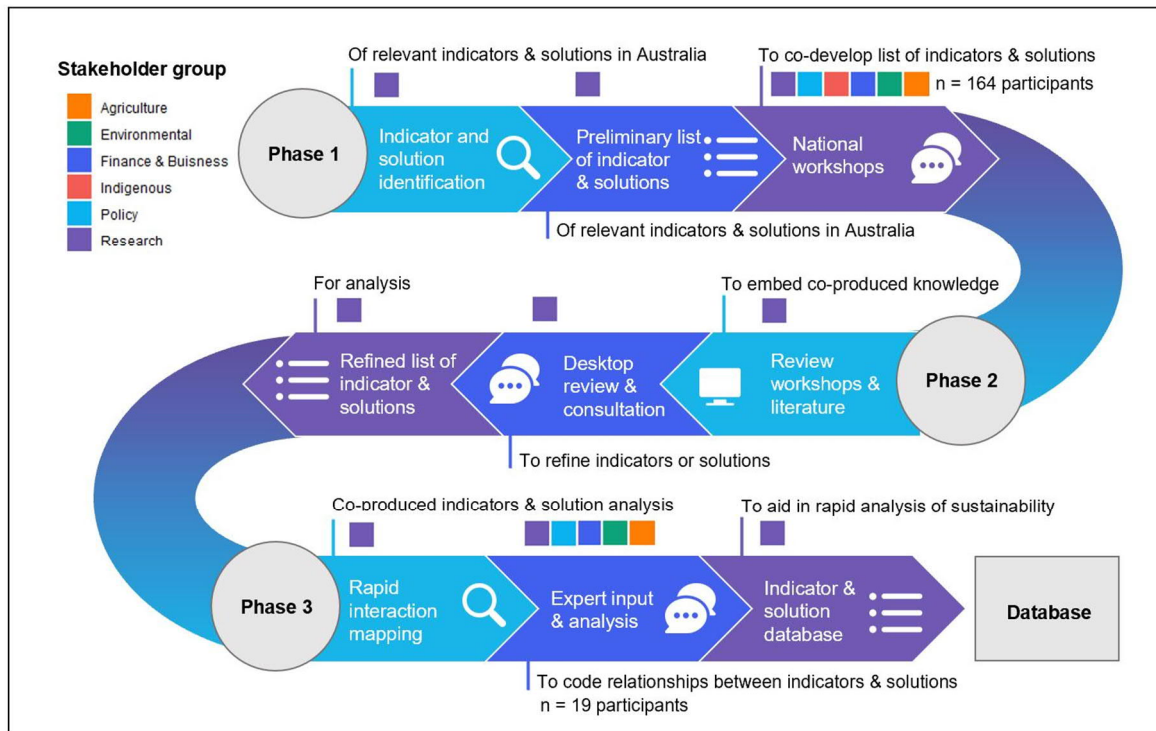


204
 205 **Figure 1.** Agricultural land use map for Australia, displaying areas under extensive grazing,
 206 intensive grazing, cropping and horticulture as well as urban areas, with State and territory
 207 administrative boundaries overlaid. The bar graphs display the number of individuals
 208 involved in this project within each stakeholder groups for each major city co-production
 209 workshop. Land use data for Australia is taken from the Australian Land Use Map 2010.
 210 Stakeholder data was collected during workshops in Phase 1 of this study.

211 ***A knowledge co-production framework for identifying indicators and prioritising solutions***

212 The knowledge co-production framework for identifying indicators and prioritising solutions
 213 applied in this study (Figure 2) is characterised by three distinct phases: Phase 1 development
 214 of an indicators and solutions database with stakeholders; Phase 2 refinement of the solutions
 215 and indicators database; and Phase 3 mapping of solutions-indicator interactions using an

216 adapted interaction mapping method (Nilsson et al., 2016) to determine win-win solutions,
 217 trade-offs, and gaps in current availability of solutions to support the achievement of different
 218 indicators and SDGs.



219

220 **Figure 2.** Visual representation of the process used to develop the knowledge co-production
 221 framework for identifying indicators and prioritising solutions. Coloured squares represent
 222 stakeholder engagement. Along the pathway light blue represents processes, deep blue
 223 represents inputs and purple represents outputs and goals. Icons are designed by [Freepik](#) from
 224 Flaticon. The number of participants engaged during national workshops (Phase 1) and expert
 225 analysis (Phase 3) are indicated (n=).

226 *Phase 1: Developing a preliminary list of indicators and solutions.*

227 We undertook a review of academic and grey literature to identify an extensive preliminary list
 228 of supply-side (i.e., practice change/technological) and demand-side (i.e., behaviour change)
 229 solutions, focusing on major reports by the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) (2019),
 230 Project Drawdown (2019), World Resources Institute (2018); Beyond Zero Emissions (2014);
 231 and the EAT-Lancet Commission (2019). Candidate supply-side solutions included land use
 232 and management practices spanning sustainable intensification, agroecological, and
 233 conservation and circular economy paradigms, breakthrough technologies, alternative proteins,

234 nature-based solutions, energy decarbonisation, and carbon sequestration. Candidate demand-
235 side solutions included reducing food and fibre waste and loss and dietary shifts. Supply-side
236 solutions included spanned the agricultural production stage as well as key upstream industries
237 that supply goods and services to agricultural producers such as water, fertilisers, pesticides,
238 animal feeds, and energy (electricity and fuel) (Gao & Bryan, 2017). Supply chain solutions,
239 although critically important to the sustainable transformation of the food and land system
240 (Ahumada & Villalobos, 2009; FAO, 2018; FOLU, 2021; Poore & Nemecek, 2018; Steiner et
241 al., 2020) were outside the scope of this study.

242 A preliminary list of indicators was developed in parallel following the same approach to
243 capture the diversity of economic, socio-cultural, and environmental criteria relevant to the
244 Australian food and land system. These indicators drew on well-established international
245 frameworks such as the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) agri-food (2018),
246 the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) (2014) and FOLU (2019).

247 In 2019, we conducted a series of stakeholder engagement workshops convening 164
248 stakeholders from 100+ organisations over seven workshops in capital cities across Australia.
249 Workshop participants included a mix of agricultural industry representatives, federal and state
250 government, finance and investment, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples,
251 landowners, natural resource managers, research/advisory and development organisations, and
252 sustainable agriculture consultants (Figure 1). We aimed for an even gender representation but
253 did not request participants to self-identify gender during the participation process. Across all
254 workshops, policy makers from state and federal government agencies made up 26.2% of
255 participants, agricultural representatives and landholder 23.8%, environmental organisations
256 and natural resource managers 21.9%, researchers 14.6%, finance and business 11.6%, and
257 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples 1.8% (Figure 1).

258 Workshop participants were presented with the preliminary solutions in the first session, and
259 the preliminary indicators in the following session. In both sessions they were invited to review
260 the lists independently and provide feedback using sticky notes against a feedback matrix
261 capturing what they liked, wanted to add, wanted to remove, or had questions or comments
262 about. Sticky notes were analysed using Nvivo13 (2020, R1) (Lumivero, 2020) to produce
263 word clouds highlighting priority indicators and solutions as identified by stakeholders (Figure
264 S1 Supplementary Information). We synthesised these workshop outputs to form a preliminary

265 database of co-produced solutions and indicators (see Supplementary Information for further
266 details on the co-production workshop process).

267 *Phase 2: Refinement of indicators and solutions*

268 We refined the solutions and indicators database using ad-hoc expert consultation and further
269 literature reviews. The indicators were mapped to relevant SDGs and described (Table 1).
270 Indicators were arranged under the SDGs Wedding Cake framework (Sukhdev & Rockström,
271 2016) as a way of conceptualising how healthy and sustainable food directly or indirectly
272 connects all SDGs by encompassing the social, economic, and ecological aspects of the
273 SDGs (Table 1). Drawing on established frameworks such as FOLU (2019) and outputs from
274 the workshops, 19 high-level solution categories were established to enable grouping of like
275 solutions for the Australian context (Table 2).

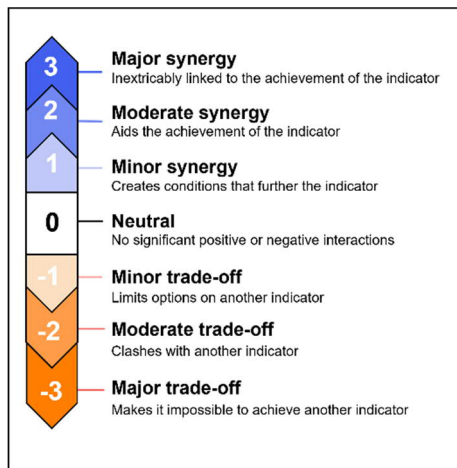
276 Each solution was mapped to the appropriate category from the FOLU ‘10 critical transitions’
277 framework (FOLU, 2019). Adopting the FOLU framework cuts through ideological or
278 paradigmatic approaches to land management and land use and enables solutions from across
279 multiple paradigms to be included simultaneously in the database. For each solution, we
280 finalised the framing in terms of actual land-use or practice change that can be modelled, for
281 example, virtual fencing is not identified as a standalone solution - rather as an enabling
282 technology for managing grazing pressure (a practice defined with a specific bundle of
283 assumptions). Each solution was then allocated to a high-level solution category with similar
284 solutions, for example Protect and restore nature (Table 2).

285 *Phase 3: Mapping solution-indicator interactions and SDGs*

286 To ensure alignment with global goals, the final list of selected indicators was mapped to 9
287 relevant SDGs: Zero hunger (SDG2); Good health and wellbeing (SDG3); Clean water and
288 sanitation (SDG 6); Affordable and clean energy (SDG7); Decent work and economic growth
289 (SDG8); Responsible consumption and production (SDG12) Climate change (SDG13); Life
290 under water (SDG14); and Life on land (SDG15).

291 We then applied a team coding approach of an adapted interaction mapping method using a 7-
292 point scale (Nilsson et al., 2016) to encode the strength and direction of each solution-indicator
293 interaction (Figure 3). We defined a synergy as a positive causal relationship between a solution
294 and indicator, with three levels of interaction, and a trade-off as a negative causal relationship

295 between a solution and an indicator, with three levels of interactions (Allen et al., 2019;
296 Hopkins et al., 2021; Nilsson et al., 2018). Levels of synergy and trade-off are defined in Figure
297 3 (Nilsson et al., 2018; Nilsson et al., 2016). To simplify the mapping process and to ensure
298 consistency, coders were asked to focus on the direct co-benefits/trade-offs rather than the
299 secondary or indirect co-benefits /trade-offs of each solution-indicator interaction. It was
300 outside the scope of this research to consider the multiple non-linear, irreversible and
301 cumulative processes that may exist between solution-indicator relationships.



302

303 **Figure 3.** Rapid interaction mapping coding classes: adapted 7-point scale (Nilsson et al.,
304 2016).

305 The relationship between a solution and each indicator is inherently complex. For example, the
306 impact of solutions can vary by context (e.g., spatial location, scale and temporal dimensions),
307 by the specific way in which the solution is designed and implemented, and by the people or
308 organisations adopting these solutions. To manage for this complexity three teams of expert
309 coders (herein referred to as coders), a subsection of stakeholders and researcher from Phase
310 1, coded every interaction between the 78 solution and 18 sustainability indicators. The first
311 team was made up of a food system researcher and a conservation scientist, the second team
312 was made up of two practitioners with expertise in climate and food systems and, the third team
313 was a single practitioner with expertise in climate and food systems. Coding teams may have
314 their own biases due to their knowledge base and expertise. To overcome these potential
315 sources of uncertainty all coding teams initially reviewed the same sub-sample of solution-
316 indicator interactions and intercoder reliability was assessed using the Fleiss' Kappa statistic
317 (Fleiss, 1971) through the *raters* package in R (Quatto & Ripamonti, 2022; Team, 2020).
318 Disagreements were discussed to reach an agreement across all sub-sample solution-indicator

319 interactions prior to progressing to screening all interactions. We aimed for agreement as the
320 intent of the study was to enable the use of the rapid coding method to prioritise solutions based
321 on a consensus relationship between solutions and indicators.

322 For each solution-indicator interaction an average rating was determined. Results were
323 interrogated by individual solution, solution category, indicator and by SDG to determine the
324 likely performance of a solution in achieving a sustainable transformation of the Australian
325 food and land system that aligns with global goals (Supplementary Information 3). To represent
326 empirical uncertainty at a solution-indicator level, for each solution-indicator interaction, we
327 calculated the difference between the maximum and minimum level assignment on the 7-point
328 scale (Figure 3) across the three coders. The average level of (dis)agreement between coders is
329 expressed as the difference in levels (e.g., 0, 1, 2 and 3 levels) between coders on the strength
330 and direction of the solution-indicator interaction. Strong consensus was defined as between 0
331 and 1 levels of (dis)agreement between coders, weak consensus was defined as between 3 and
332 4 levels of (dis)agreement between coders. For relationships where coding teams greatly
333 disagreed (by a level of 3 or 4, for example neutral vs. major synergy), expert input was gained
334 to reach a consensus on the solution-indicator interactions to add additional layer of rigour to
335 the interaction codes (Hill et al., 2005; Hill et al., 1997). We sought expert input through a
336 multidisciplinary team of 13 scientists with expertise across environmental science, climate,
337 food and agricultural systems, ecosystem and forest science, public health and nutrition,
338 systems modelling, energy, and sustainability who provided additional ratings for solution-
339 indicator relationships with weak consensus.

340 **Results**

341 *Co-production and mapping of the solutions and indicator database*

342 Phase 1 (database development) workshop series resulted in: a total of 496 comments on
343 solutions and 478 comments on indicators (add, modify, remove, like); 86 substantive
344 comments on wording of or gaps in preliminary solutions were considered; 375 comments and
345 questions on indicators; 24 wording changes to existing solutions suggested; and 7 new
346 solutions (Figure 4). Phase 2, refinement of the framework, resulted in 18 co-produced
347 sustainability indicators that mapped to 9 SDG domains (Table 1), and 78 co-produced
348 sustainability solutions categorised into 19 broader solution categories and mapped to the
349 FOLU ‘critical transition’ categories (FOLU, 2019) to support the sustainable transformation

350 of the Australian food and land system (Table 2). Supplementary Information 1 provides
351 detailed descriptions, examples, and references for each solution.



352

353 **Figure 4.** Workshop participants co-producing the solutions and indicators database: A)
354 Participants in Sydney, 9th April 2019; B) Participants in Canberra, 10th April 2019; C)
355 Participants in Melbourne, 26th March 2019; D) Participants in Hobart, 8th May 2019; E)
356 Participants in Brisbane, 4th April 2019.

357 In Phase 3 (mapping solution-indicator interactions), a total of 1440 solution-indicator
358 interaction pairs were mapped. Across all solutions-indicators assessed a Fleiss' Kappa value
359 of 0.6 indicated 'moderate' inter-rater agreement. This level of agreement was deemed
360 acceptable due to the complexity of the mapping process (Cohen, 1960; Fleiss & Cohen, 1973;
361 McHugh, 2012). There were nine solution-indicator interactions where strong disagreement
362 occurred between coding teams (difference of 4 levels) and 57 solution-indicator interactions
363 where disagreement occurred (difference of 3 levels). Detailed results for the Kappa analysis
364 are located in Supplementary Information 2.

365 Here we focus on results from Phase 3, summarised by solution category to explore locally
366 relevant solutions to meet (or hinder) the achievement of sustainability indicators nationally,

367 and more broadly contribute to global SDGs (Figure 5). We highlight solution categories with
368 strong consensus between coders (between 0 and 1 levels of (dis)agreement) and those that
369 show most promise for achieving multiple indicators. Key trade-offs and gaps that require
370 consideration to meet sustainability goals will be highlighted. Figure 5 provides a summary of
371 the spread of synergies and trade-offs for solutions across indicators, mapped to SDGs. Of the
372 total solutions identified, 39.7% were found to have major synergies with the achievement of
373 SDGs, and 16.7% to have associated trade-offs. See Supplementary Information 2: Extended
374 results for detailed results for all synergies and trade-offs.

375 ***Priority ‘win-win’ solutions***

376 The solution categories ‘Protecting and restoring nature’, ‘Circular economy and energy
377 decarbonisation’ and ‘Increased crop productivity’ displayed synergies across diverse
378 sustainability indicators. These solution categories cumulatively represented 59.6% of major
379 synergies and 30.2% of moderate synergies, across 10 and 15 indicators, respectively. In total,
380 ‘Increased crop productivity’ had the greatest number of synergies (minor, moderate and
381 major) across indicators, representing 10.9% of total coded synergies. ‘Increased crop
382 productivity’ also had the highest number of minor synergies (11.4%) between 8 solutions and
383 16 indicators mapping to 7 SDGs, however coders had strong disagreement over these
384 interactions. This solution category was also found to create the conditions to deliver the
385 highest number of socio-economic and health co-benefits (Table 3).

386 The solution category ‘Protecting and restoring nature’ had the highest number of major
387 synergies (34.6%, Table 3) towards achieving 7 sustainability indicators mapping to SDG6,
388 SDG12, SDG14, and SDG15, with strong consensus between coders. Within this solution
389 category, SDG15 and SDG6 had the highest number of individual solutions coded as major
390 synergies, with 50.0% and 27.8% of solutions respectively. These solutions included
391 conservation and restoration activities such as expanding protected areas and improving their
392 management and connectivity, minimising runoff, fire risk management, wetland conservation
393 and the rehabilitation of floodplains, waterways, and riparian areas. Interestingly, no major
394 synergies and only 18.8% of total synergies for this solution category were linked to the
395 achievement of SDG13.

396 The solution category ‘Circular economy and energy decarbonisation’ had the second highest
397 number of major synergies (17.3%, Table 3) towards achieving 5 indicators mapping to SDG7,
398 SDG12 and SDG13, with strong consensus between coders. These solutions were on-farm

399 practice changes that would see shifts in fertiliser and feedstock requirements and energy
400 production and use. A higher number of moderate and minor synergies were coded for this
401 solution category: 28.9% of total synergies were moderate with over half of these moderate
402 synergies aiding the achievement of SDG12; and 57.9% of total synergies were minor
403 synergies creating the conditions for achieving all 9 SDGs. Proportionally, more minor
404 synergies creating the conditions for the achievement of SDG8 and SDG12 were identified,
405 suggesting economic and resource use efficiency co-benefits associated with this solution
406 category. Only 1 solution-indicator interaction (on-farm energy efficiency) for this solution
407 category was found to contribute towards the achievement of human and ecosystem health.

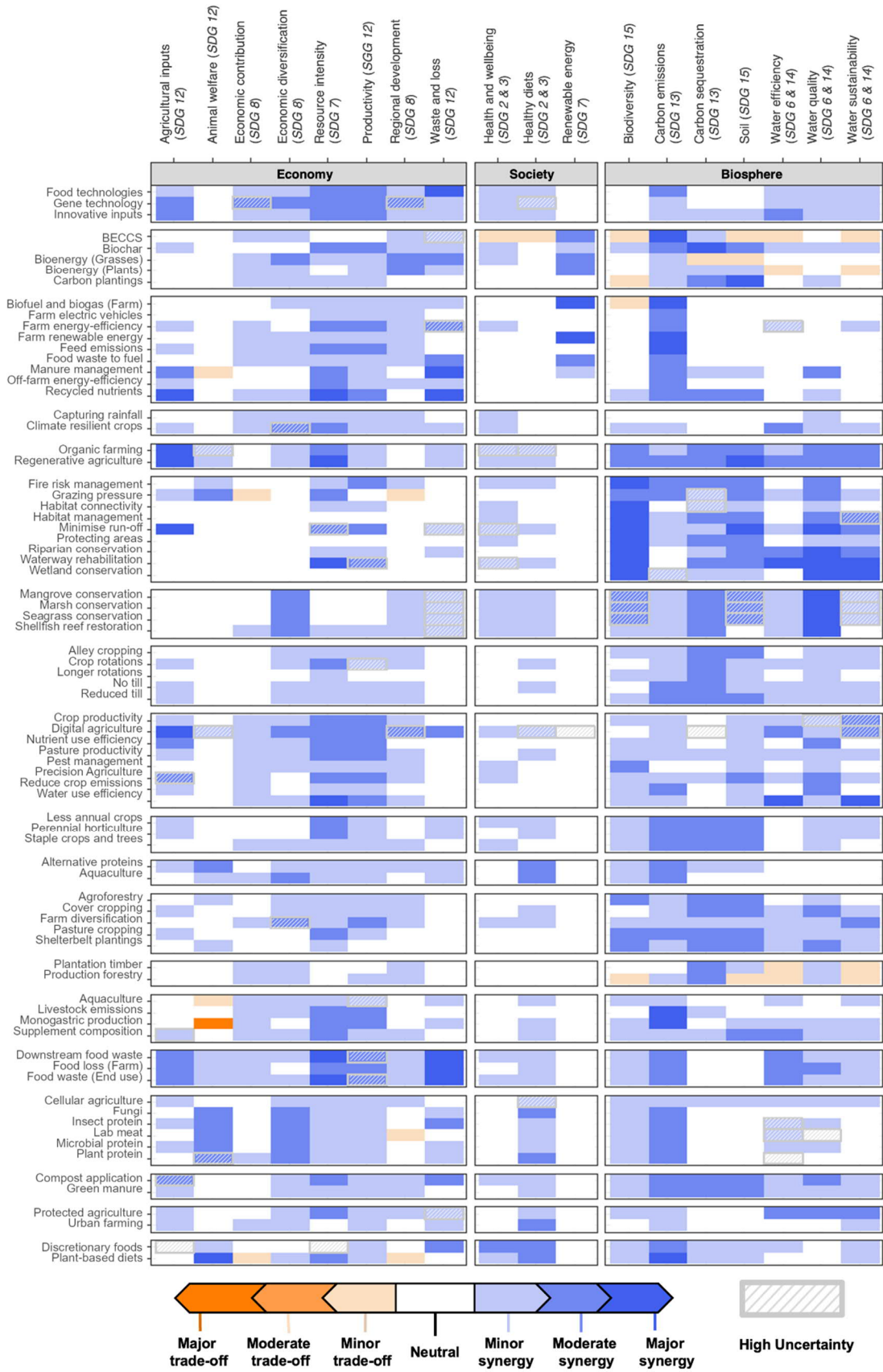
408 ***Key trade-offs***

409 There were 13 solutions in total that worked in both synergy and trade-off with various
410 sustainability indicators. Only 1.9% of all solution-indicator interactions were identified as
411 trade-offs limiting options on another indicator, with 76.9% of total trade-offs limiting the
412 achievement of SDG15, SDG6 and SDG8 (Table 4). Within these SDGs, indicators
413 'Biodiversity', 'Soil', 'Water sustainability', 'Water efficiency' and 'Regional development'
414 cumulatively accounted for 69.2% of total trade-offs. Only 1 moderate trade-off was identified
415 (Table 3): 'Shifting to monogastric production' clashed with the achievement of the 'Animal
416 welfare' indicator, however this solution was also coded with major synergies for achieving
417 emission reductions and moderate synergies with the efficient use of natural resources and
418 improving productivity.

419

420 Despite major synergies for reducing carbon emissions and improving soil health, the solution
421 category 'Carbon sequestration' had the highest number (44.0% of total, Table 3) of minor
422 trade-offs. Solutions for bioenergy feedstock production, carbon plantations and carbon capture
423 and storage were perceived to limit the achievement of human and ecosystem health and
424 sustainability indicators. The solution 'Bioenergy carbon capture and storage (BECCS)'
425 exhibited the greatest number of minor trade-offs (24.0%) limiting the achievement of human
426 and ecosystem health and sustainability indicators. No trade-offs were coded for SDG6 and
427 SDG7 (Table 4), and no major trade-offs were identified among solution-indicator interactions
428 (impossible to achieve other indicators) (Table 3).

429



430

431 **Figure 5.** Interaction matrix for 78 solutions (left side column, individual solutions; right side

432 column solution categories) and 18 individual indicators mapped to 9 SDGs and the 3 SDG

433 wedding cake categories: society, economy, biosphere (top row). Each solution-indicator
434 interaction is assessed using the adapted 7-point scale (Nilsson et al. 2016) (bottom row) by
435 the degree to which each solution-indicator interaction achieves each indicator/SDG (rows)
436 and is likely to affect the achievement of other SDGs (columns). The colours represent the 7-
437 point scale (bottom row), from major trade-off (darkest orange) to neutral (white) to major
438 synergy (darkest blue); i.e. the darkest row/column intersections are those with the strongest
439 influence (either positive or negative) for achieving an indicator/SDG (column
440 label). Solution-indicator interactions that were assessed as having 3 levels of uncertainty are
441 highlighted in a hatched pattern.

442

443 *Identifying indicators and SDGs with limited solutions with major synergies*

444 The indicator ‘Renewable energy’ was coded with <1% of total synergies and <1% of synergies
445 across all levels of interaction. Very few major synergies were coded for achieving indicators
446 ‘Carbon sequestration’, ‘Animal welfare’, ‘Water efficiency’, and ‘Soil health’. No solutions
447 were coded with major synergies for the achievement of SDG2, SDG3 and SDG8. Table 4
448 provides a summary of the spread of synergies and trade-offs across SDGs to demonstrate
449 coverage and gaps. These gaps and under-representation in delivering indicators and SDGs
450 need careful consideration - they may be a product of methodological limitations or may
451 highlight key challenges within the system or opportunities for innovation.

452 **Discussion**

453 We have developed a framework that draws on a diverse group of stakeholders and
454 transdisciplinary experts to identify the strength and directionality of relationships across an
455 extensive suite of solutions and locally-relevant national-scale indicators. Through this co-
456 production process ‘Protecting and restoring nature’, ‘Circular economy and energy
457 decarbonisation’ and ‘Increase crop productivity’ emerged as priority ‘win-win’ solution
458 categories with the highest potential for capturing synergies and avoiding trade-offs. The
459 solution category ‘Carbon sequestration’ emerged with the highest number of trade-offs for the
460 achievement of human and ecosystem health and sustainability indicators and gaps were
461 identified for achieving ‘Renewable energy’, ‘Carbon sequestration’, ‘Animal welfare’, ‘Water
462 efficiency’, and ‘Soil health’ sustainability indicators. These findings and their likely
463 implications are discussed below.

464 *Solutions and indicators for food and land system sustainability*

465 To maximise synergies across multiple indicators, we found that solution categories ‘Protecting
466 and restoring nature’, ‘Circular economy and energy decarbonisation’ and ‘Increase crop
467 productivity’ hold the greatest number of individuals solutions (with strong consensus)
468 inextricably linked to meeting the greatest number of indicators at the national scale, and for
469 achieving multiple SDGs. We considered these as ‘win-win’ solutions with very few co-
470 occurring minor trade-offs and suggest prioritising these solution types for inclusion in future
471 modelling efforts will support the identification of robust pathways towards a sustainable
472 Australian food and land use system. We suggest that the greatest opportunity for innovation
473 lies in the gap identified in the current set of solutions for achieving SDG7 at a national level.
474 Identifying and/or developing new solutions to meet this gap could be considered a priority for
475 future research to support Australia in achieving these SDGs.

476 Solution-indicator interactions are complex (Bandari et al., 2022; Griggs et al., 2017; Grundy
477 et al., 2016; Nilsson et al., 2018; Nilsson et al., 2016; Pradhan et al., 2017; van Soest et al.,
478 2019), thus we suggest that solutions or solution categories with conflict between major
479 synergies and trade-offs such as ‘Carbon sequestration’, ‘Shifting towards healthy and
480 sustainable diets’, ‘Novel sources of protein’ and ‘Livestock productivity’ are also important
481 to feature in future work as they provide the greatest insights into the key sustainability
482 challenges (Hebinck et al., 2021; Zurek et al., 2021). Quantifying the impacts of priority
483 solutions where conflict between synergies and trade-offs occur will provide critical insights
484 into the magnitude of effect across various SDG domain. Quantifying and modelling these
485 impacts will enable us to explore challenging questions such as ‘do the carbon sequestration
486 benefits of a solution outweigh the biodiversity impacts’, or ‘how comfortable are we (as a
487 society) to increase livestock productivity with certain solutions that compromise on animal
488 welfare’. The achievement of so-called ‘win-win’ solutions will be enabled or accompanied by
489 difficult societal choices or trade-offs (necessary burden shifting), and this must be clearly
490 communicated (Béné, Oosterveer, et al., 2019).

491 *Harnessing synergies and overcoming trade-offs and gaps*

492 Identifying priority solutions is not as simple as identifying major synergies. Our results draw
493 attention to the paradigmatic dichotomy of producing less or producing better (Gerber et al.,
494 2013; Steinfeld & Gerber, 2010), and the importance of looking beyond the scope of a single
495 indicator to evaluate a solution. Our results suggest that despite the broad range of important

496 co-benefits to people and ecosystems derived from ‘Protecting and restoring nature’ solutions
497 (Keith et al., 2021; Miralles-Wilhelm, 2021; Seddon et al., 2020), these solutions were not
498 viewed by experts as major contributors at scale to the achievement of climate change
499 mitigation for the Australian food and land system, and should not be viewed as a substitute
500 for the rapid decarbonisation of the entire economy (Seddon et al., 2021). As such, priority
501 solutions must also be contextualised by the sustainability goals co-produced by stakeholders
502 (Bandari et al., 2022; Moallemi et al., 2021; Szetey et al., 2021) and informed by the intended
503 scale of application (Gao & Bryan, 2017; Nilsson et al., 2016).

504

505 Triggering and accelerating change across the food and land system requires identifying points
506 in the system where targeted solutions can enable positive feedback loops and activate positive
507 tipping points (Fesenfeld et al., 2022; FOLU, 2021; Pereira et al., 2020). FOLU (2021)
508 proposed a framework for identifying early signs of positive tipping points and suggest
509 solutions and sequencing that hold the greatest potential for triggering these positive feedback
510 loops. Like FOLU (2021), our results indicate that the solution category ‘Protecting and
511 restoring nature’ holds many solutions that may underpin the transformation required. We
512 suggest that our rapid approach to identifying ‘win-win’ solutions (and trade-offs) supports
513 early identification of solutions that may trigger such positive tipping points. Sukhdev and
514 Rockström (2016) demonstrated the hierarchy of SDGs for the food system, arguing that
515 solutions that support conserving the biosphere (SDGs 6, 13, 14 and 15) underpin the success
516 of achieving all other SDGs. As such, prioritising solution categories ‘Conserving land’ (8
517 solutions) and ‘Conserving oceans’ (4 solutions), solutions with multiple synergistic solution-
518 indicator relationships and no identified trade-offs across biosphere SDGs (Figure 5), may
519 support the sustainability transformation required for Australia.

520

521 Each solution is subject to complicated power relationships, temporal dimensions, multiple
522 cascading effects and/or feedbacks and requires different options for institutional and societal
523 innovation (Fesenfeld et al., 2022; FOLU, 2019, 2021; Howard, 2021; Pereira et al., 2020;
524 Steiner et al., 2020). FOLU (2019) identified key actor groups and their roles in the
525 transformation of the food and land system: government, business, farmers, investors, financial
526 institutions, participants in multilateral processes and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and civil
527 society. There are underlying actions required by these specific actors to enable transformations
528 across different solution domains with many complex interacting relationships. For example,
529 solutions in the ‘critical transition’ domain ‘protect and restore nature’ require government to

530 establish and enforce policy, regulation, and incentive schemes while business and suppliers
531 must establish transparent supply chains to enable these solutions to be realised successfully.
532 Whereas solutions in the ‘critical transition’ domain ‘scale productive and regenerative
533 agriculture’ require government and business to establish and scale payments for ecosystem
534 services and improve training and access to technologies. Likewise, business and investors
535 should invest in sustainable supply chains and deploy innovation financing (FOLU, 2019,
536 2021). While land managers and farmers are responsible for the implementation of many of
537 the solutions identified in this study, the pace and scale of uptake and implementation will be
538 largely determined by national and local policy, regulation, financing, and consumer demand.
539 The role of each actor group in enabling these key transformations should be the focus of future
540 research.

541

542 Highly optimistic global pathways often entail several assumptions (e.g., BECCS,
543 afforestation) that may be at odds with the local sustainability context (Stoy et al., 2018).
544 Without careful consideration and prioritisation of research and actions to attend these trade-
545 offs, or without systematic oversight across the complexity of solution-indicator interactions,
546 we run the risk of encountering unintended or unanticipated consequences of implementing
547 solutions (Zurek et al., 2021) to achieve myopic or singular indicators. Our analysis identified
548 key trade-offs for solution category ‘Carbon sequestration’ across multiple indicators and
549 SDGs, indicating that solutions identified within these categories may have several risks and/or
550 limitations, and require further exploration and deliberation with key stakeholders across
551 sectors before they are considered for modelling and implementation. The solution ‘BECCS’,
552 a Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) technology, had the highest number of trade-offs, spread
553 across several indicators. Studies have quantified these trade-offs demonstrating that although
554 BECCS provides the opportunity for ambitious levels of carbon sequestration there are risks to
555 ecosystem services, threats to biodiversity and social and economic implications of displaced
556 food production (e.g. Cobo et al., 2022; Stoy et al., 2018; Withey et al., 2019) which are highly
557 context and site specific (Donnison et al., 2020). Compared to other studies (De Neve & Sachs,
558 2020; Ioannou et al., 2023; Mainali et al., 2018; Nilsson et al., 2016; Pradhan et al., 2017; Stoy
559 et al., 2018), few trade-offs were identified. However, majority of these studies focused on
560 synergies and trade-offs between SDG pairs rather than solutions to achieve them. Exploring
561 Exploring this space for a suite of land management and land use practice solutions against
562 SDGs revealed fewer trade-offs for the Australian context, however due to the qualitative

563 nature of this study the magnitude of these trade-offs remains to be determined which will play
564 an integral role in decisions making and policy agenda setting.

565 The greatest challenges and opportunities for the Australian context lie in the gap identified for
566 achieving the 'Renewable energy' indicator. Many on-farm renewable energy opportunities
567 exist, however policy and funding schemes are required to support and enable innovation in
568 this space (Chel & Kaushik, 2011), likewise for the transition to renewable energy across the
569 food and land sector for Australia (NFF, 2019). Limited infrastructure in rural areas is a barrier
570 to the adoption of renewable energy and electrification solutions (e.g. Karakaya &
571 Sriwannawit, 2015). This finding may also reflect the exclusion of transportation and
572 refrigeration of goods/products (i.e. supply chain solutions from farm to fork) from the scope
573 of this study, where further opportunities for decarbonisation exist through the adoption of
574 renewable energy solutions (AEC, 2022). It has been estimated that food system is responsible
575 for ~18 Gt CO₂e/yr, amounting to 34% of global anthropogenic GHG emissions. On average,
576 71% (55-77%) of emissions in the food system come from agricultural production, suggesting
577 that significant efforts are required in this domain (Crippa et al., 2021). However, solutions to
578 reduce supply chain inefficiencies also offer great opportunity for decarbonisation and should
579 be considered in future studies as they can make an important contribution to delivering system
580 transformation (Poore & Nemecek, 2018; Steiner et al., 2020). Very few solutions were
581 identified that are inextricably linked to the achievement of SDG2, SDG3 and SDG8.
582 Achieving these SDGs with the current set of identified solutions for the Australian food and
583 land system occurs primarily as a co-benefit. This is likely the product of solutions focusing
584 on land use and practice change at the national scale, presenting an opportunity for innovation
585 to include solutions that directly improve human health and wellbeing and regional livelihoods.

586 *The intrinsic value of knowledge co-production for the food and land system*

587 The complexity and uncertainty of transformation can be further intensified by adopting
588 disciplinary silo approaches for designing pathways based on formalised methodologies that
589 are less sensitive to cultural values, human preferences, and social complexities. Designing
590 pathways for the food and land system requires transdisciplinary approaches that bridge
591 scientific findings with stakeholder knowledge of local contexts and enable knowledge co-
592 production. Given the large complexity and non-linearity in the dynamics of the food and land
593 system and interaction with other systems, it is not possible to forecast the entire suite of
594 potentially transformative sustainability solutions required to achieve the SDGs (Tàbara et al.,

595 2018). The co-production frameworks such as the one presented in this study serve as a
596 foundational tool for embedding knowledge from stakeholders from across a system in
597 establishing indicators to measure sustainability and uncovering solutions to achieve them
598 (Moallemi et al., 2021).

599 Sustainability goals that are prioritised in a co-creative process draw on the plurality of
600 different visions for the future, local specificities, and cultural narratives that various
601 stakeholders present (Chabay et al., 2021; Jasanoff & Kim, 2015; Szetey et al., 2021).
602 Likewise, a set of solutions for achieving goals needs to be co-developed. Stakeholders will
603 more likely support planned solutions if there is a perceived a link to their social identities
604 (Chabay et al., 2021) and reflects local knowledge (Manzo & Perkins, 2006). Constructive
605 dialogues with diverse stakeholder groups about solutions can help in a just, equitable and
606 publicly supported implementations that are widely supported (Chabay et al., 2021).
607 Stakeholders can understand the surrounding cultural and political context and define what
608 ‘critical’ solutions will be convincing and actionable on the ground.

609 Our framework is an attempt to provide a structured, systematic and meaningful approach
610 identifying locally relevant indicators and solutions to enable locally-specific and system
611 appropriate modelling that explores national scale contributions to global SDGs. To this end,
612 this framework could be used by a broad range of stakeholders seeking to establish the greatest
613 opportunities for climate change mitigation and simultaneously meeting environmental and
614 socio-economic goals, and identifying the key trade-offs and gaps that must be navigated. We
615 suggest that this framework is a useful, transdisciplinary tool that can be successfully applied
616 at the national and sub-national level for identifying and prioritising key solutions to achieve
617 locally relevant and contextualised solutions for sustainable transformation of the food and
618 land use system.

619 *Limitations and future research*

620 We identify three key limitations. The first is methodological, where the co-production (Phase
621 1) of the solutions and indicators database are subject to participant bias. Despite best efforts
622 for representation across sectors and management of power dynamics between different actor
623 types (Bandari et al., 2022; Moallemi et al., 2021; Szetey et al., 2021), we cannot be certain
624 that an even representation of stakeholders and opinions was achieved during Phase 1. Barriers
625 and challenges to knowledge inclusion, exchange and transmission may have created some

626 biases in our results (Schiller-Merkens & Machin, 2023). During Phase 3, the coding of
627 synergies and trade-offs was undertaken by a small subset of stakeholders and researchers, as
628 such it is limited in its representation of the diverse perspectives and knowledge of the large
629 number of participants and stakeholder types involved in the co-production process in Phase 1.
630 Likewise, bias and varying degrees of confidence in the encoding of synergies and trade-offs
631 (Bandari et al., 2022), lack of research or content knowledge for some solution-indicator areas,
632 and varied hypotheses between coders in terms of their assumed strengths in solution-indicator
633 interactions or indirect impacts (Phase 3) also had an impact on the results. At the individual
634 solution level, some solutions were grouped together to reduce the number of coded
635 relationships. For example, the solution ‘Regenerative agriculture’ was used in this study to
636 describe multiple practices that underpin a regenerative or agroecological approach to land
637 management. This reductionist method results in the nuances of various land management
638 practices that can be applied within the regenerative approach being overlooked, and the co-
639 benefits potentially being under- or over-estimated by coders.

640 The second limitation is absence of quantified impacts associated with each solution-indicator
641 interaction. This limitation constrains the use of the framework to prioritisation of solutions
642 rather than implementation, as the magnitude of impact (both positive and negative) and
643 feasibility of implementing solutions or achieving against an indicator remain unknown. In
644 contrast, the absence of these details ensures a rapid and low-cost approach for prioritising
645 solutions for future modelling exercises. Quantitative modelling of impacts (or technical
646 potential) often entails a significant level of abstraction and is usually only possible for a subset
647 of the total number of solutions considered in qualitative narratives. It is important for the
648 qualitative mapping process to encompass all solutions. Although it is likely (but not certain)
649 that experts would have implicitly incorporated feasibility considerations during the coding
650 process, we suggest that additional screening is required based on an appropriate feasibility
651 framework (e.g., Brutschin et al., 2021; Nielsen et al., 2020) to account for the technological,
652 economic, behavioural, cultural, and social feasibility be modelled for the Australian context
653 and to determine the availability of quality data. Despite these limitations we have developed
654 a framework that allows for the successful integration of stakeholder co-produced and
655 transdisciplinary expert knowledge to identify the strength and directionality of relationships
656 across an extensive suite of solutions and indicators which would otherwise be unachievable
657 through quantitative modelling.

658 The third is the absence of any consideration of temporal dimensions (and feedbacks)
659 associated with each solution. We did not explicitly consider the multiple non-linear,
660 irreversible and cumulative processes which could be used to support the identification of
661 conditions for positive tipping points (Fazey et al., 2018; Fesenfeld et al., 2022; FOLU, 2021;
662 Pahl-Wostl, 2009; Tàbara et al., 2018). It could be suggested that ‘win-win’ solutions with no
663 identified trade-offs may in fact enable the conditions for positive tipping points to occur and
664 should be considered for further research in exploratory modelling exercises. One such
665 example is the solution ‘Regenerative Agriculture’, a bundle of solutions that exist within an
666 alternative paradigm of socio-ecological dynamics, has been recognised by some for their
667 transformative potential for food production and ecosystem repair (Gordon et al., 2023; Massy,
668 2013).

669 Future work could include the translation of the co-produced indicators into specific
670 measurable targets that would enable monitoring progress towards the co-produced indicators
671 of a sustainable food and land system for Australia. The next phase of research should bring
672 together the same diversity of stakeholders to undertake a participatory visioning and
673 backcasting process, underpinned by the indicators and solutions database, to explore possible
674 pathways for achieving a single desired future for the Australian food and land system and
675 articulating the steps required to realise the desired future (Bibri & Krogstie, 2019; Ebolor,
676 2023; Kanter et al., 2016; Quist & Vergragt, 2006). This should include examining the key
677 drivers and mechanisms for transformative change, the risks, uncertainties and alternative
678 pathways to achieving transformation (Fazey et al., 2018), and illuminate opportunities to
679 harness positive feedbacks and balance negative feedbacks (Fesenfeld et al., 2022). The
680 insights gained during this process could be analysed using the quantitative modelling tools
681 underpinned by the research presented here to support stakeholder discussions and provide
682 tools for decision and policy makers. This would successfully situate the findings of this
683 targeted research in a broader co-production process that mobilises local knowledge from
684 multi-level interactions to inform system transformation (Pahl-Wostl, 2009).

685 *Policy insights*

686 The sustainable transformation of the Australian food and land system requires appropriate
687 governance, policy and market mechanisms and sufficient investment and funding to ensure
688 the pace and scale of change required is achieved to meet SDGs within the 2030 timeframe.
689 Rapid transformation can only occur if we recognise the interlinkages across different

690 systems. Each system is inherently complex and interrelated with much political debate
691 surrounding the need and approach. As such, any system transformation must be underpinned
692 by early and systematic interventions that promote synergies while minimising trade-offs and
693 spill overs across different economic sectors and systems (Moallemi et al., 2020; Soergel et
694 al., 2021).

695 While this work is intended to prioritise solutions for data assembly and model development,
696 qualitative insights can be gained by policy and decision makers. For example, policies that
697 incentivise sequestration must account for the potential trade-offs with food and water security,
698 energy, soil health, biodiversity, and socio-economic impacts to communities (CCA, 2023;
699 Stoy et al., 2018). Likewise, our framework could support the rapid identification of positive
700 tipping points for the sustainable transformation of food and land systems (Fesenfeld et al.,
701 2022; FOLU, 2021; Steiner et al., 2020), and also provide the foundation for targeted research
702 contextualised by local knowledge and advancing policy based on best practice science.

703 **Conclusion**

704 Co-production frameworks such as the one presented in this paper can be a first but important
705 step towards engaging stakeholders in thinking and planning for sustainable food and land
706 systems. Co-produced knowledge is also a critical early step in ensuring pathways for
707 transformation are positioned for successful adoption among stakeholders. This study has
708 provided a systematic overview of the likely synergies and trade-offs across a carefully selected
709 suite of sustainability solutions for achieving national-scale sustainability indicators specific to
710 the Australian food and land system that can scale to meet SDGs. It has advanced our
711 understanding of likely ‘win-win’ solutions, identifying ‘Protecting and restoring nature’,
712 ‘Circular economy and energy decarbonisation’ and ‘Increase crop productivity’ as priority
713 solution categories for capturing synergies and minimising trade-offs. Likewise, it has
714 highlighted some key gaps and trade-offs that exist in meeting sustainability indicators for the
715 Australian food and land system. The solution category ‘Carbon sequestration’ emerged with
716 the highest number of minor trade-offs with individual sustainability indicators ‘Water
717 efficiency’, ‘Water sustainability’, ‘Biodiversity’, and ‘Soil health’, and a key gap was
718 identified in solutions available for achieving the indicator ‘Renewable energy’. Our findings
719 can directly inform data assembly and quantitative modelling for sustainable food and land
720 systems for the Australian context and facilitate future stakeholder and stakeholder dialogues
721 by transparently reporting on key trade-offs, gaps, and ‘win-win’ solutions.

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1138 **Table 1.** Co-produced solutions database. Solutions are grouped by solution category and are also mapped to FOLU critical transitions (FOLU,
 1139 2019).

Category	FOLU critical transition	Solution
Boost fibre production	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Production forestry (timber, high-value timber)
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Increase use of plantation timber in buildings and materials (demand shift)
Breakthrough technologies	Harnessing the digital revolution	Food processing and safety technologies to reduce food loss and waste
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Gene technology
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Innovative agricultural inputs, (e.g. botanicals, enhanced efficiency fertilizers, holobiontics, macrobials, micro-irrigation/fertigation, microbial, nanoenhancers, nanofertilizers, nanopesticides, soil additives)
Carbon sequestration	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Biochar
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Bioenergy from perennial grasses and coppiced woody plants for feedstock (including BECCS)
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Bioenergy from crop residue (non-BECCS)
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Bioenergy from woody perennials (non-BECCS)
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Carbon plantings (monoculture species)
Circular economy & energy decarbonisation	Building local loops and linkages	On farm biofuel and/or biogas production/use
	Building local loops and linkages	Food waste to fuel
	Building local loops and linkages	Improve manure management (compost and bioenergy) in intensive systems (e.g. dairy; pigs and poultry)
	Building local loops and linkages	Recycled organic nutrients from urban waste streams (compost from green waste; bio-solids)
	Building local loops and linkages	Renewable energy generation (and storage) on farm for electricity.
	Building local loops and linkages	Energy-efficiency (off-farm): supply chain
	Building local loops and linkages	Energy-efficiency (on-farm): irrigation practices, food storage/refrigeration, other
	Building local loops and linkages	On farm electric vehicles
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Modify feed composition to reduce emissions (e.g. supplement/replace feedstock with red algae)
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Increase capacity to capture major rainfall events, e.g. larger head-water storages

Climate change adaptation	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Climate resilient crop varieties (i.e. yields and irrigation requirements resilient to climate change impacts)
Conservation agriculture	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Organic farming
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Regenerative agriculture (e.g. ecological grazing; no-till; agroforestry; pasture cropping; silvopasture; syntropic agriculture)
Crop management practices	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Alley cropping: production trees planted in alleys among row crops (agroforestry)
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Conservation cropping: use of no-till practices (including chemical no-till)
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Reduced till
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Conservation cropping: crop rotation
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Longer rotations / delay harvest of plantations
Crop prioritisation/selection	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Replacing annual crops with perennial crops
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Increased perennial horticulture
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Production of trees that produce staple crops (starch, protein, oils) and fibre, to replace some annual cropping with trees providing bio-sequestration
Diversifying sources of animal protein	Investing in diversified sources of protein	Novel alternative proteins - aquaculture
	Investing in diversified sources of protein	Novel alternative proteins - fungi
	Investing in diversified sources of protein	Novel alternative proteins - insect derived protein fed on food waste
	Investing in diversified sources of protein	Novel alternative proteins -lab meat
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Shift from ruminant to monogastric production (off-land)
	Investing in diversified sources of protein	Novel alternative proteins - microbial protein
	Investing in diversified sources of protein	Cellular agriculture
	Investing in diversified sources of protein	Novel alternative proteins - plant protein
	Investing in diversified sources of protein	Increase consumption of alternative protein sources, e.g. natives, feral animals
Farm management practices	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Conservation cropping: cover crops enabling more efficient use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Pasture cropping
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Shelterbelt plantings (Woody perennials (native / non-native) for shelter, fibre, water quality, land rehabilitation, fodder bank, and/or habitat)
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Silvopasture: production trees in a pasture / livestock system (agroforestry)
Increased crop productivity	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Reduce GHG emissions from crops (nitrous oxide emissions from crops, e.g. with nitrification inhibitors)

	Harnessing the digital revolution	Digital agriculture
	Harnessing the digital revolution	Increase crop productivity, e.g. biotechnology, gene mapping/editing, enhanced management practices
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Integrated pest management (resulting in decreased use of pesticides)
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Increased irrigation and water use efficiency
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Increase nutrient use efficiency, e.g. enhanced nutrient management strategies, slow release fertilisers to cut N and P losses from cropping and grazing enterprises
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Increase pasture productivity, e.g. high-yielding forage grasses
	Harnessing the digital revolution	Precision Agriculture: Reduce input requirements and chemical residue and increase output through precision application, enabled by new digital tech (e.g. sensors, AI and machine learning, automation and drones)
Increased livestock productivity	A healthy and productive ocean	More efficient aquaculture
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Reduce GHG emissions from livestock, e.g. via feed supplements, breeding, pasture techniques, biological controls
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Modify feed composition, e.g. reduce grains fed to livestock
Nutrient enrichment	Building local loops and linkages	Compost application
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Green manure
Other non-land	Building local loops and linkages	Urban and peri-urban farming
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Protected agriculture (e.g. hydroponics, vertical farming)
Protecting and restoring nature	Protecting and restoring nature	Improve connectivity between protected areas and non-protected areas
	Protecting and restoring nature	Fire risk management for ecological outcomes (carbon stocks, biodiversity, traditional knowledge)
	Protecting and restoring nature	Waterway and floodplain rehabilitation (including flow regimes)
	Scaling productive and regenerative agriculture	Manage "total grazing pressure", i.e. reduction of cumulative grazing pressure from kangaroos, ferals and livestock.
	Protecting and restoring nature	Improved ecological management of protected areas and non-protected areas
	Protecting and restoring nature	Expand protected areas
	Protecting and restoring nature	Protect and manage riparian zones, e.g. fence out or control stock from dams, wetlands & waterways
		Minimise run-off of sediments, chemicals and nutrients
	Protecting and restoring nature	Wetland creation / rehabilitation / protection
	Reducing food loss and waste	Reduce food waste at end use (food service, households, retail)

Reduced food & fibre loss and waste	Reducing food loss and waste	Reduce food losses on farm, e.g. due to market conditions, quality standards, labor challenges, pest infestations or weather
	Reducing food loss and waste	Reduce food waste in downstream value chain (processing / manufacturing, transport)
Securing a healthy and productive ocean	Securing a healthy and productive ocean	Mangrove rehabilitation / protection
	Securing a healthy and productive ocean	Seagrass rehabilitation / protection
	Securing a healthy and productive ocean	Shellfish reef restoration
	Securing a healthy and productive ocean	Tidal marshes restoration / protection
Shift towards healthy and sustainable diets	Promoting healthy diets	Shift to more plant-based diets
	Promoting healthy diets	Reduced discretionary foods (sugar / grain consumption) to healthy levels.

1140

1141 **Table 2.** Co-produced indicators database. Indicators have been aligned to the appropriate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), described, and
 1142 situated within the SDGs Wedding Cake framework (Sukhdev & Rockström, 2016)*.

SDGs Wedding cake category	SDG	Indicator	Description
Economy	SDG8 Decent work and economic growth	Total economic contribution	The food and land use system is contributing to the national GDP/trade balance
	SDG8 Decent work and economic growth	Economic diversification and resilience	The food and land use economy is increasingly diversified and resilient
	SDG8 Decent work and economic growth	Regional community economic development	Farmers, foresters, and land managers have good livelihoods, underpinning thriving regional economies and communities
	SDG12 Responsible consumption and production	Productivity	The food and land use system is efficient and productive
	SDG12 Responsible consumption and production	Natural resource intensity	The food and land use system is efficient in its use of natural resources

	SDG12 Responsible consumption and production	Waste and Loss	Loss and waste of food and fibre is minimised, and unavoidable waste is reused
	SDG12 Responsible consumption and production	Agricultural inputs	Nutrient inputs are sourced sustainably and used efficiently
	SDG12 Responsible consumption and production	Humane treatment of animals	Australian agriculture ensures humane treatment of animals
Society	SDG2 Zero hunger & 3. Good health and wellbeing	Healthy diets	The food and land use system increasingly contributes to secure, accessible and healthy diets
	SDG3 Good health and wellbeing	Health and wellbeing	Regional communities have good health and wellbeing
	SDG7 Affordable and clean energy	Renewable energy	The food and land use system contributes to decarbonisation of other sectors by exporting renewable energy
Biosphere	SDG13 Climate action	Emissions	Emissions from the food and land use system are reduced
	SDG13 Climate action	Sequestration	The food and land use sector puts carbon back in the landscape through biomass and soils
	SDG6 Clean water and Sanitation	Water efficiency	Water use is efficient and adaptive
	SDG6 Clean water and Sanitation	Water quality	Water quality is maintained or improved
	SDG14 Oceans & 6.	Water sustainability	Water use is within sustainable limits and water returned to the environment is sufficient to support biodiversity
	SDG15 Life on land	Biodiversity	Biodiversity is increasing
	SDG15 Life on land	Soil	Soil health and function is improving

1143 *The SDGs Wedding Cake (Stockholm Resilience Centre, 2016) is a way of conceptualising how healthy and sustainable food directly or
1144 indirectly connects all SDGs by viewing the social, economic, and ecological aspects of the SDGs.

1145

1146 **Table 3** Tabular summary of solutions-indicator interactions for each solution category. Percentage values (%) represent the proportion of
 1147 solutions coded under each 7-point scale category, this table aims to reflect the spread of synergies and trade-offs across solution categories and
 1148 highlight priority solution categories and categories with trade-offs. Where there are no solution-interactions coded, cells are left blank.

	Major trade-off %	Moderate trade-off %	Minor trade-off %	No interaction %	Minor synergy %	Moderate synergy %	Major synergy %
Solution category							
Boost fibre production			24.0	3.0	2.1	0.9	
Breakthrough technologies				2.3	5.1	5.6	1.9
Carbon sequestration			44.0	5.7	6.0	5.2	5.8
Circular economy & energy decarbonisation			8.0	16.2	7.5	8.6	17.3
Climate change adaptation				2.8	3.2	1.3	
Conservation agriculture				1.1	2.6	5.2	7.7
Crop management practices				6.8	7.9	4.3	
Crop prioritisation/selection				3.6	4.3	4.7	
Diversifying sources of animal protein				2.7	2.8	2.6	
Farm management practices				6.2	7.0	7.8	
Increased crop productivity				9.4	11.7	10.8	7.7

Increased livestock productivity	100.0	4.0	5.2	6.0	3.0	3.8
Novel sources of protein		4.0	8.4	7.9	7.8	
Nutrient enrichment			1.4	3.4	4.3	
Other non-land			2.8	2.8	2.2	
Protecting and restoring nature		8.0	14.2	6.8	11.2	34.6
Reduced food & fibre loss and waste			2.0	4.5	6.0	9.6
Securing a healthy and productive ocean			4.1	5.8	6.0	7.7
Shift towards healthy and sustainable diets		8.0	2.1	2.6	2.59	3.8
Total	0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1149

1150 **Table 4.** Tabular summary of solution-indicator interactions across Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Percentage values (%) represent the
 1151 proportion of solutions coded under each 7-point scale category. Where there are no solution-interactions coded, cells are left blank.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)	Major trade-off %	Moderate trade-off %	Minor trade-off %	No interaction %	Minor synergy %	Moderate synergy %	Major synergy %
SDG 2: Zero Hunger and/or SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being			8.0	14.8	11.8	3.4	
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and/or SDG 14: Life Below Water			32.0	14.2	18.8	14.2	25.0
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy				12.5	0.4	1.7	3.8
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth			20.0	16.4	22.0	8.6	
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production		100.0	8.0	27.8	26.3	31.5	34.6
SDG 13: Climate action			4.0	6.4	9.8	25.4	15.4
SDG 15: Life on Land			28.0	8.0	10.9	15.1	21.2
Total	0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1152

