

## Ricegrowers Limited TA SunRice

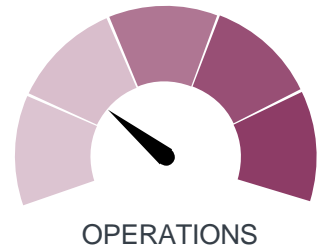
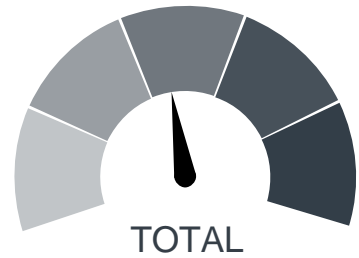
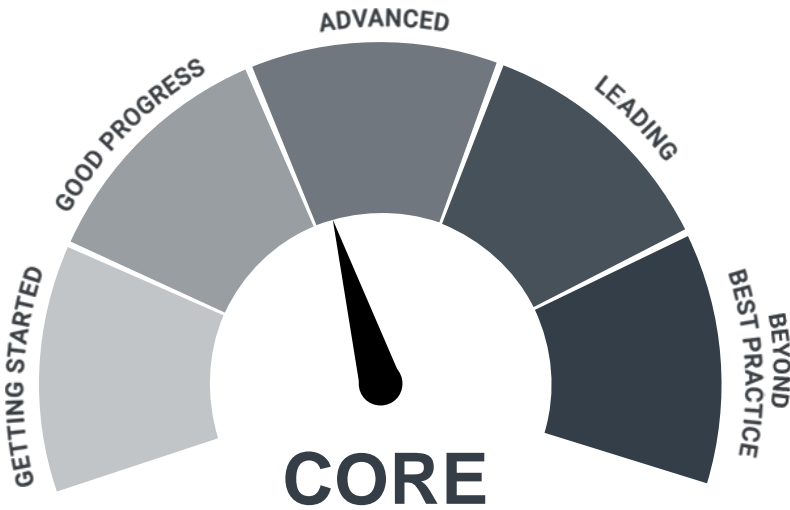
Website  
www.sunrice.com.au

Primary Industry Sector  
Food & Beverage

Packaging Supply Chain Position  
Manufacturer

ABN  
55007481156

### DASHBOARD



### SUMMARY

For the 2019 APCO Annual Report, *Ricegrowers Limited TA SunRice* has achieved Level 3 (Advanced) for the core criteria. All seven core criteria were answered and six out of six recommended criteria were answered.

### INDICATORS

This Annual Report shows the organisation's performance against the APCO Packaging Sustainability Framework.

**CORE:** All core criteria.

**RECOMMENDED:** All answered recommended criteria.

**TOTAL:** Sum of all core and answered recommended criteria.

**LEADERSHIP:** All criteria that defines leadership on packaging sustainability.

**OUTCOMES:** All criteria that lead to direct improvement in packaging sustainability.

**OPERATIONS:** All criteria related to business operations for improving packaging sustainability.

## Ricegrowers Limited TA SunRice

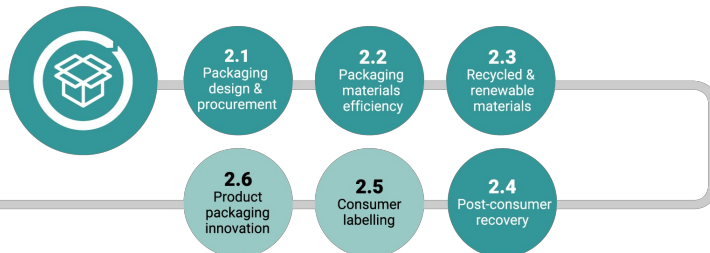
### REPORTING FRAMEWORK

#### OVERVIEW

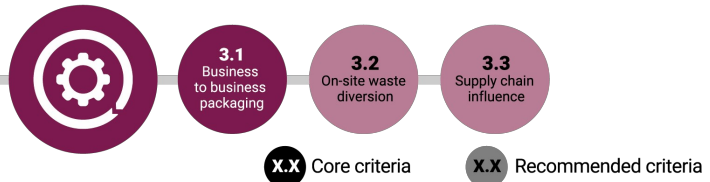
##### 1. LEADERSHIP



##### 2. OUTCOMES



##### 3. OPERATIONS



**X.X** Core criteria

**X.X** Recommended criteria

#### LEVEL DESCRIPTION

##### LEVEL 0

##### NOT YET STARTED

The organisation does not have a plan and has not started investigating options for action under the relevant criteria.

##### LEVEL 1

##### GETTING STARTED

The organisation is developing a plan or is investigating options for action under that criteria (e.g. agreeing on goals and targets).

##### LEVEL 2

##### GOOD PROGRESS

There are documented procedures in place (e.g. to implement the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines) or some progress has been achieved, data tracking shows up to 20% of products have achieved the desired outcome.

##### LEVEL 3

##### ADVANCED

The organisation has specific, measurable targets in place, or data tracking shows that >20% of products have achieved the desired outcome.

##### LEVEL 4

##### LEADING

The organisation has more rigorous procedures in place, or an ambitious target has been met e.g. >50% of products have achieved the desired outcome.

##### LEVEL 5

##### BEYOND BEST PRACTICE

The organisation has more rigorous procedures in place, or an ambitious target has been met e.g. 100% of products have achieved the desired outcome.

### ABOUT THE APCO FRAMEWORK

The APCO Packaging Sustainability Framework (the Framework) aims to provide a consistent and transparent framework for assessing and tracking packaging sustainability across organisations. The Framework consists of thirteen independent criteria that belong to three separate categories. These categories are (i) Leadership, (ii) Packaging Outcomes and (iii) Operations. The diagram above shows the different criteria included within each of these three categories.

There are two types of criteria within the Framework:

- **Core criteria** are mandatory and must be answered by all Members when completing the Annual Reporting Tool.
- **Recommended criteria** are not mandatory, but Members are encouraged to complete as many recommended criteria as possible.

Each criteria is divided into five levels of performance ranging from 'getting started' to 'beyond best practice'. The diagram above illustrates the key differences between performance levels. Please see [www.packagingcovenant.org.au](http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au) for more information.

### ABOUT APCO

APCO is a co-regulatory, not for profit organisation that partners with government and industry to reduce the harmful impact of packaging on the Australian environment. APCO promotes sustainable design and recycling initiatives, waste to landfill reduction activities and circular economy projects. APCO Annual Reports are a key Membership obligation, providing Member organisations with a transparent method to track their packaging sustainability performance. Annual reporting also supplies APCO with valuable data and information to identify industry trends and advancements.



## Ricegrowers Limited TA SunRice

## FREE FORM QUESTIONS

Describe initiatives, processes or practices that you have implemented during your chosen reporting period that have improved packaging sustainability.

25 kg Paper Flour Bags - Paper Product and Print Colour SunRice implemented an initiative involving the paper and polyethylene lined flour bags. Preliminary scoping of the project identified several opportunities for improvement and the project was then split into two phases. Phase 1 of the project involved changing the external paper bag from a bleached paper product to an unbleached product. Phase 1 also involved reducing the number of colours used to print the outer bag artwork from 4 to 1. Phase 1 commenced roll out in November 2018. 2. Phase 2 is investigating removing the polyethylene film from the structure. If testing shows that removal of the polyethylene layer is possible then this will enable the bags to be recycled through existing curb-side collection systems thus diverting 108 tonnes bags from landfill each year. Thermal Ribbon - Date Print Area Optimisation SunRice uses thermal ribbon printers to print date codes on our packages. This project looked at opportunities relating to the way we utilised these thermal ribbons by optimising the format of the date code to be printed with the ribbon by reducing the number of characters to be printed. SunRice was able to reduce the print area to a single line code whilst maintaining the same information. This will result in 276 fewer reels of thermal ribbon being purchased annually with correspondingly less plastic waste being sent to landfill.

Describe any opportunities or constraints that affected performance within your chosen reporting period.

Not having senior management representation for promotion of sustainability initiatives in the business in previous years has now been addressed with the creation of a role dedicated to this area following the release of the inaugural SunRice Sustainability Report in November 2018. The new Head of Sustainability has been tasked with driving awareness of, as well as implementation of sustainability objectives across the SunRice Group.

## CASE STUDIES

## Case Study

Case Study SunRice is a major supplier of Rice Flour to the Australian and New Zealand markets with the product currently packaged in a paper sack comprising of 3 layers: Bleached Paper / Polyethylene Film / Unbleached Paper. A review of Rice Flour packaging specifications identified two potential opportunities. Both these opportunities would reduce impact upon the environment and also make the flour package recyclable via existing end-of-line collection streams. The project was presented to the SunRice management team and immediately endorsed. An internal project team was then tasked to investigate this opportunity and upon review, it was agreed to split the project into two phases. Phase 1 comprised two changes: 1. change the external layer from a bleached to an unbleached paper 2. reduce the number of colour printed on the bags from 4 down to 1 Both these changes were more appearance rather than performance related so our commercial team were heavily involved communicating the change to our customers. Extensive filling and transportation trials were conducted to confirm that no difference in performance was identified. Phase 2 involves investigating whether the layer of polyethylene film can be replaced with an adhesive. Feasibility trials were conducted to determine whether any impact in filling or transport performance was seen with both of these trials showing that the packs performed at parity to the current structure. Shelf life testing is currently ongoing (2019) and if the results come back positive then the changed bag structure will be involved subjected to more rigorous factory trials and on to commercialisation. When rolled out this phase alone will eliminate approximately 6 metric tonnes of polyethylene film from the SunRice system as well as making the flour bags recyclable through existing curb-side recycling systems.



## Ricegrowers Limited TA SunRice

### COMMITMENTS

The Action Plan detailed below, is a public commitment to advancing packaging sustainability outcomes as a Member of APCO. Members are encouraged to have a comprehensive internal plan with the steps they will take to fulfill their commitments.

#### Criteria 1.1 PACKAGING SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY (core)

##### 2. Good progress

**Your organisation is committed to:** Integrating your packaging sustainability strategy into business policies and processes.

#### Criteria 1.2 CLOSED-LOOP COLLABORATION (core)

##### 4. Leading

**Your organisation is committed to:** Regularly monitoring quantifiable outcomes of your closed loop collaborations, and identifying areas for further improvement within existing or new initiatives.

#### Criteria 1.3 CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT (recommended)

##### 2. Good progress

**Your organisation is committed to engaging consumers about packaging sustainability by:** (1) Applying labels that encourages active consumer engagement. (2) Designing packaging to reduce the impacts of consumption.

#### Criteria 1.4 INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP (recommended)

##### 4. Leading

**Your organisation is committed to:** (1) Investigating collaborative or industry leadership actions to improve packaging sustainability. (2) Being involved in a program or initiative to improve packaging sustainability through collaboration and leadership. (3) Being involved in multiple programs or initiatives to improve packaging sustainability through collaboration and industry leadership. (4) Actively engaging with peers and/or the community to promote packaging sustainability, and sharing sustainability knowledge for non-commercial purposes.

#### Criteria 2.1 PACKAGING DESIGN & PROCUREMENT (core)

##### 4. Leading

**Your organisation is committed to:** Reviewing at least 80% of packaging with reference to the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPG) or equivalent.



## Ricegrowers Limited TA SunRice

### COMMITMENTS

#### Criteria 2.2 PACKAGING MATERIALS EFFICIENCY (core)

##### 4. Leading

**Your organisation is committed to:** Reducing packaging weight or optimising packaging material efficiency in more than 50% of products.

#### Criteria 2.3 RECYCLED & RENEWABLE MATERIALS (core)

##### 4. Leading

**Your organisation is committed to:** Incorporating or optimising recycled and/or renewable content in more than 50% of products.

#### Criteria 2.4 POST-CONSUMER RECOVERY (core)

##### 4. Leading

**Your organisation is committed to:** Having more than 50% of primary packaging be recoverable through existing post-consumer recovery systems and achieving the highest potential environmental value.

#### Criteria 2.5 CONSUMER LABELLING (recommended)

##### 4. Leading

**Your organisation is committed to:** Labelling more than 50% of products with disposal or recovery information.

#### Criteria 2.6 PRODUCT-PACKAGING INNOVATION (recommended)

##### 2. Good progress

**Your organisation is committed to:** Evaluating and optimising up to 20% of product-packaging systems using Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) or similar.

#### Criteria 3.1 BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS PACKAGING (core)

##### 2. Good progress

**Your organisation is committed to:** Reducing consumption of single use business-to-business (B2B) packaging by up to 20% or optimising up to 20% of B2B packaging for efficiency and reuse.

## Ricegrowers Limited TA SunRice

## COMMITMENTS

## Criteria 3.2 ON-SITE WASTE DIVERSION (recommended)

## 4. Leading

**Your organisation is committed to:** Investigating opportunities to divert more than 50% of solid waste generated at facilities (factories, warehouses, offices, retail stores etc.) from landfill.

## Criteria 3.3 SUPPLY CHAIN INFLUENCE (recommended)

## 3. Advanced

**Your organisation is committed to engaging its supply chain about packaging sustainability by:** (1) Communicating goals and guidelines. (2) Providing support to suppliers to improve their understanding of goals and strategies. (3) Having processes to evaluate risks and opportunities for influence.

## SIGN OFF

Robert Gordon

Chief Executive Officer

Friday, 31 May 2019

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