

# Annual Report and Action Plan

Company Name: **Ricegrowers Limited**

Trading As: **SunRice**

ABN: **55007481156**

## About APCO

Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) is a co-regulatory not-for-profit organisation leading the development of a circular economy for packaging in Australia. APCO's vision is a packaging value chain that collaborates to keep packaging materials out of landfill and retains the maximum value of the materials, energy and labour within the local economy.

Each year, APCO Brand Owner Members are required to submit an APCO Annual Report and an APCO Action Plan. This document is the Annual Report and Action Plan output for the organisation listed above. This document provides the overall performance level of the organisation, as well as any commitments they have made to work towards on their packaging sustainability journey. This document may also include additional information provided by the Member in their report.

## Overall Performance **Advanced**

The chart below indicates the overall performance level of this organisation listed above in the 2024 APCO Annual Report. The organisation's reporting period was **January, 2023 - December, 2023**



### Understanding APCO Annual Reporting performance levels:

- 1 Getting Started:** You are at the start of your packaging sustainability journey.
- 2 Good Progress:** You have made some first steps on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 3 Advanced:** You have taken tangible action on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 4 Leading:** You have made significant progress on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 5 Beyond Best Practice:** You have received the highest performance level and have made significant progress on your packaging sustainability journey.

### Contact

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## Additional Information

The information below indicates additional information that the organisation included in their APCO Annual Report.

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

In 2023, SunRice Group established a cross-functional Packaging Working Group to support packaging teams across the Group to meet our packaging commitments and regulatory requirements. A sub-committee of the Packaging Working Group is focused on the development of a dashboard to improve and streamline packaging reporting.

We have focused on embedding packaging requirements in our business processes, including criteria in our procurement processes (such as RFQs) that explicitly state our requirements to meet the National Packaging Targets. We have significantly invested in upgrading key packaging lines and commenced trials to enable CEFLEX-compliant monoplactic soft plastic packaging, enabling us to work towards the National Packaging Targets.

The SunRice Group continues to be a proud supporter of the National Plastics Recycling Scheme.

**Please use the space below to provide examples or case studies of exemplary packaging sustainability conducted by your organisation.**

- Refresh of packaging supplier contracts, with all suppliers now able to supply CEFLEX-compliant monoplactic packaging.
- A large-scale review of our packaging in PREP.
- The Rice Cake product lines being redesigned to be more material efficient and remove problematic single use plastic.
- An additional 52 SKUs redesigned for recyclability and material efficiency, reducing over 40 tonnes from landfill for the reporting period.
- IBCs now being recycled on CopRice sites.

## APCO Action Plan Commitments

For each of the Packaging Sustainability Framework criteria listed below, a description is provided along with the commitments made by the organisation in their APCO Action Plan.

Criteria 1:

### **Governance & Strategy:**

This criteria considers actions to integrate packaging sustainability into business strategies.

- Develop a strategy that includes goals (objectives) and targets for packaging sustainability that addresses the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs) or equivalent.
- Include a commitment to achieving the 2025 National Packaging Targets in our strategy.
- Have our executive or board of directors review our strategy and have the strategy integrated within our business processes.

- Regularly communicate and promote packaging sustainability objectives and targets within our organisation.
- Regularly engage or communicate with our external stakeholders about the environmental impacts of our packaging.
- Actively participate in initiatives to promote packaging sustainability outside of our organisation.

## Criteria 2:

**Design & Procurement:**

This criteria considers actions taken to ensure that sustainability principles are considered in the design or procurement of both new and existing packaging through use of the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs).

- Review **100%** of our packaging against the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (or equivalent).
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding reviews of packaging using the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (or equivalent).
- Incorporate the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (or equivalent) into procurement processes.
- Consider the following Sustainable Packaging Principles in our packaging reviews:
  - Design for recovery
  - Optimise material efficiency
  - Design to reduce product waste
  - Eliminate hazardous materials
  - Use of renewable materials
  - Use recycled materials
  - Design to minimise litter
  - Design for transport efficiency
  - Provide consumer information on environmental sustainability
- **6%** of our packaging to be optimised for material efficiency.

## Criteria 3:

**Recycled Content:**

This criteria considers actions taken to increase or optimise the amount of recycled material used by your organisation.

- Use recycled content in:
  - Primary packaging that we use to sell our products
  - Secondary packaging that we use to sell our products
  - Other items which we purchase (e.g. office stationary and suppliers etc.)
- **40%** of our packaging to be made using some level of recycled material
- Improve the accuracy of our data regarding use of recycled materials.

## Criteria 4:

**Recoverability:**

This criteria considers actions taken to improve the recovery of packaging at end-of-life and increase use of reusable packaging.

- 36% of our packaging to be designed to have all packaging components be recoverable at end-of-life.
- Use PREP to assess the recyclability of our packaging through kerbside collection in Australia and/or New Zealand.
- Participate in a close-loop recovery program/alternative collection system.

Criteria 5:

#### Disposal Labelling:

This criteria considers the extent to which packaging has been labelled to help consumers determine what to do with packaging at end-of-life.

- 41% of our packaging to have on-pack labelling to inform correct disposal.

Criteria 6:

#### On-site Waste:

This criteria considers progress in increasing the amount of on-site solid waste being diverted from landfill.

- Have recycling programs for the following materials:
  - Paper/cardboard
  - Rigid plastics
  - Timber
  - Glass
  - Metals
  - CHEP Timber pallet program
- Aim for 78% of our on-site waste to be diverted from landfill.

Criteria 7:

#### Problematic Materials:

This criteria considers the extent to which organisations are actively phasing out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging and preventing/reducing litter.

- Help reduce litter by:
  - Participating in Business Clean Up Day
- Phase-out the following problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic items:
  - Rigid plastic packaging with carbon black