

Animal Land Children's Farm

Sustainability and Community Plan

Family owned working farm | Diggers Rest, Victoria | Operating since 1985 | Reviewed 2026

As a family owned working farm, caring for the land, our animals and our community is simply how we operate. This plan sets out what we have done, and the steps we are taking to keep improving. We hold Sustainable Tourism Accreditation through the Quality Tourism Framework.

1. Caring for the land and reducing our impact

What we have done:

- We capture rainwater across seven tanks with a combined 130,000 litre capacity, reducing our reliance on mains water for our stock and grounds.
- We divert five to six bins of food waste from landfill every week.
- We recycle more than six tonnes of cans and bottles each year.
- Our visitors help plant trees and seedlings across the farm each year.

Next steps:

- We are enrolled in the Tourism Emissions Reduction Commitment (TERC) through the Quality Tourism Framework and are completing our emissions assessment to identify measures to reduce and offset our emissions.
- We will continue to increase the share of waste we divert from landfill and expand visitor tree planting.

2. Caring for our animals

What we have done:

- We rescue and rehome animals in need, providing feed, care and a safe home. Animal welfare is our first priority.

Next steps:

- We will continue to provide sanctuary for rescued animals and maintain the high standard of care our visitors consistently recognise.

3. Supporting our community

What we have done:

- We raised a record \$53,111 for the Good Friday Appeal, growing our contribution every year since 2022.
- Through our volunteer group, Friends of Animal Land, we donated \$13,000 to local organisations including Gisborne Community Care, CareWorks Sunbury, the Sunbury Neighbourhood Food Kitchen and the Lions Club of Diggers Rest.
- We donate hundreds of admission tickets to community fundraising each year and sponsor local Diggers Rest sporting clubs.

Next steps:

- We will continue to grow our Good Friday Appeal fundraising and our community giving through Friends of Animal Land.

4. Supporting the local economy and education

What we have done:

- Most of our team of 35 lives locally, and we buy from local suppliers wherever we can.
- We welcomed 18 work experience students and six placements from Kangan Institute and Swinburne University, with two Foundation Learning campuses attending weekly for animal care studies.

Next steps:

- Our goal for the year ahead is to expand our vocational and tertiary education placements, giving more young people practical pathways into animal care and agriculture.

5. Inclusion and access

What we have done:

- We completed an accessibility assessment through the Australian Tourism Industry Council and publish an Accessibility Guide on our website.
- Our Manager completed introductory Hidden Disabilities training.

Next steps:

- We are working towards formal Hidden Disabilities Sunflower accreditation.