



Cellular
Agriculture
Australia

Year in Review

2025



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Cover page:

*Courtesy to Queensland University of Technology,
Cauldron Farm, and Vow*

OUR VISION

**Sustainable,
accessible and
ethical food for all.**

OUR MISSION

**We are building the
ecosystem to position
Australia as a leader
in cellular agriculture
and to enable its
impact potential.**

From the CEO

This year marked a milestone for Cellular Agriculture Australia – we turned five. It's a moment to reflect, not nostalgically, but with a clear-eyed view of how far the sector has come and what is now needed to accelerate its potential, particularly from us.

Sector reflections: from potential to progress

Five years ago, the conversation about cellular agriculture centred on potential – the belief that there could be a better way to produce food. Today, the narrative has shifted from niche products to a system-level opportunity to complement and strengthen our agrifood system. We've seen progress on multiple fronts and, importantly, entry points into national and global markets, evidenced by the approval of Vow's first product for sale in Australia – a genuine world first.

Momentum has continued. FSANZ accepted the first international cultivated meat dossier from Gourmey (now Parima), alongside the first precision-fermented dairy protein dossier from Eden Brew. Nourish Ingredients secured approval in the United States and expanded into the Netherlands. The QUT Pioneer BioPilot facility launched in Mackay, supporting scale-up pathways. Magic Valley and Eclipse Ingredients advanced their commercialisation journeys with new government funding and investment, while FaBA's co-investment program has been extended through mid-2028.

Government signals have been equally telling. Food security is now a national priority, reflected in the forthcoming Feeding Australia policy and growing appetite to develop resilient production systems. 'Biomanufacturing' is increasingly recognised as strategic, with over \$1.1B committed to biofuels, a bioenergy feedstock strategy underway, and the National Reconstruction Fund positioned to support investment in future-facing industries.

These shifts aren't just good for the sector – they create the exact mandate and opportunity our advocacy work is designed to meet.

What's next: CAA and Food Frontier join forces

As the ecosystem shaping Australia's food future evolves, the need for a unified voice to represent Australia's emerging food production technologies and ingredient innovations has become increasingly clear. With that, I'm excited to share that from April, Food Frontier will merge into CAA, creating a single, unified organisation.

CAA and Food Frontier share a vision: to build a resilient and sustainable food future for Australia. Collectively, we have focused on accelerating the commercialisation and adoption of emerging food production technologies and ingredient innovation – including cultivated, fermented and plant-protein applications – and their integration across the food system.

I'm personally excited by what lies ahead for CAA as Australia's leading independent not-for-profit dedicated to advancing future food technologies and demonstrating how they can add value to and complement Australia's agrifood system. I have been humbled and proud of the process we have gone through as individuals and organisations over the past 6 months. I also want to acknowledge and congratulate the Food Frontier team, past and present, for everything they have done in support of Australia's food future over the past 8 years.

With additional resources and capabilities, CAA will step into a more proactive leadership role and expand its scope. The next phase of growth for the ecosystem isn't a given, and it's critical that we have laser focus on the most promising opportunities across cultivated, fermented and plant-protein innovations.

It's not easy, and that's the point.

It's also important to note that this past year has also been tough as we navigate the challenges of working in a largely pre-commercial environment, where it isn't always easy to see progress. But we remain deeply committed, and in a stronger position than ever because of the sustained effort over time.

If it wasn't hard, we wouldn't be needed. And if success were guaranteed, I wouldn't be here. But I am, we are, and we're ready to lean in harder to get to the point where we are no longer needed – our ultimate goal.

Bring on 2026.



Sam Perkins

CEO

Below: QUT Pioneer BioPilot, a food-grade precision fermentation pilot facility



About us

Cellular Agriculture Australia (CAA) is the leading advocacy organisation dedicated to advancing Australia's cellular agriculture sector.

We believe that cellular agriculture has the potential to play a critical role in diversifying food production, strengthening food security and helping to meet growing global demand for protein and other products, sustainably.

We operate as a philanthropically-funded, registered non-profit charity with DGR status.

Our work focuses on accelerating the desirability, viability and feasibility of new ingredients produced using cellular agriculture technologies and food biomanufacturing processes.

We do this by unlocking government support that enables industry innovation, accelerating the path to market through fit-for-purpose regulation, and building familiarity and trust in the technologies.

Our priorities in 2025 spanned two focus areas: *Policy & Advocacy* and *Communication & Awareness*, outlined below.

	Long-term target outcomes	Enablers to support commercialisation
POLICY & ADVOCACY	Research & infrastructure The policy and public funding mechanisms are in place allowing Australia's cellular agriculture sector to translate research and commercialise at scale.	Access to blend of public and private funding and investment mechanisms. Access to pilot and commercial infrastructure. Access to research in specialist areas that are common to a range of companies.
	Regulation Australia's regulatory framework that is attractive, clear, consistent and easily accessible, thus removing barriers to establishment and scale.	Access to a regulatory framework that is conducive to new and emerging food technologies & products. Fit-for-purpose import and export requirements to enable access to and from international markets.
COMMUNICATION & AWARENESS	Familiarity & trust There is widespread familiarity and trust of cellular agriculture technologies, the industry, and the products produced.	Access to research linked to consumer preferences and acceptance criteria. A consistent approach to building widespread familiarity and trust.
	Accountability & impact Australia's cellular agriculture industry is accurately and consistently measuring and communicating its performance across social, environmental and economic indicators.	A consistent approach to the measurement, reporting and communication on impact and ESG related thematic areas.

CAA's Team 2025

Staff



Dr Dr Sam Perkins
Chief Executive Officer



Joanne Tunna
Chief Operating Officer



Kim Tonnet
Head of Regulatory Affairs



Victoria Taylor
Head of Sector Building & Advocacy



Jessica Freitag
Advocacy & Communications Coordinator

Board of directors



Paul Oosting
Chairperson



Elaine Siu
Director



Chloe Dempsey
Director



Dr Carin Basirun
Secretary (Administration)



Dr Bianca Le
Founder (Former Director)

Advisory committee



Dr James Ryall



Dr Anna Barlow



Glen Neal

CAA's year at a glance

January

Kim Tonnet joined the CAA team as our Head of Regulatory Affairs.

April

Engaged Nicholas Chilton, government relations advisor at Venture Affairs, as a key advisor to our Policy & Advocacy work.

August

Co-hosted **Made & Grown - The Future of Food**, a one-day conference in Canberra focused on food biotechnology and biomanufacturing.

CAA celebrated its fifth anniversary, following its founding by Dr Bianca Lê in August 2020.

October

Published a white paper - **Made & Grown - The future of food biotechnology & biomanufacturing in Australia**.

CAA-funded social science research, **Consumer trust facilitates acceptance of cultivated meat**, was accepted for publication in *Food Quality & Preference*.

December

Recognised as 'Best Cellular Agriculture Ecosystem Builder 2026' in the APAC Insider Australian Enterprise Awards.

June

Entered into a strategic partnership with the **APAC Society for Cellular Agriculture**, following ongoing participation in their APAC Regulatory Coordination Forum.

The first cultivated meat product, Vow's quail, sold under the brand Forged, was approved and launched for sale in Australian foodservice.

March

CAA-funded social science research, **Fact-based environmental messaging did not influence Australians' attitudes and intentions towards cultivated seafood**, was accepted for publication in *Food Quality & Preference*.

September

Made a **joint submission** to the National Food Security Strategy discussion paper in collaboration with ANU Agrifood Innovation Institute and ANU National Security College.

Attended Singapore International Agri-Food Week as a part of the Australian 'Build Your Biofuture' consortium, where CAA's Jo Tunna spoke on a panel at Agri-Food Tech Expo Asia.



Cellular Agriculture Australia is playing a critical role in advancing the policy and advocacy efforts shaping the future of food in Australia. Their work brings together a diverse mix of voices to align on policy, regulation, and shared priorities. Through collaborative white papers, regulatory resources, and cross-sector working groups, CAA is helping our ecosystem define the strategic direction that will underpin the sector's success.



Eva Borge
Head of Business Development,
Cauldron Ferm

Highlights: Research & Infrastructure

In 2025, we doubled down on our advocacy efforts, recognising that unlocking government funding and targeted policy support for R&D and scale-up infrastructure is essential to the sector's growth.

Key outcome: Increased awareness and recognition of cellular agriculture and food biomanufacturing in the future of our food system among government and political stakeholders

Over 2025, our engagement with government and political stakeholders expanded and matured. Alongside strengthening and expanding our core relationships, there has been a clear uplift in the knowledge and understanding of cellular agriculture and food biomanufacturing, along with the value that it can add to Australia.

Several key shifts that enabled this progress are outlined in the following sections.

Evolved narrative

Our core narratives are increasingly framed around *food biotechnologies* and *biomanufacturing*, positioning them as a strategic imperative for national priorities, including building sovereign manufacturing capability and advancing our bioeconomy.

We position emerging food biotechnologies and the high-value ingredients they can produce as a leading and underappreciated opportunity to strengthen Australia's food security, economic prosperity, and long-term national resilience by de-risking supply chains and diversifying food production.

Clarified policy asks

We developed specific asks in areas deemed high priority for the sector. Key asks in 2025 included:

- Explicit eligibility for existing policy mechanisms.
- The development of a national bioeconomy strategy with a focus on food as a key vertical.
- Endorsement and implementation of CAA's proposal for a Co-Pilot Manufacturing Scheme (CPMS), which proposes that the Government support the development of new and/or underwrite subsidised access to existing Australian research and commercial-scale infrastructure.
- Conduct a sector assessment to identify and clarify viable public finance instruments for funding commercial-scale infrastructure.

Commencement of political advocacy

2025 marked our first formal step into political lobbying, partnering with government relations advisors Venture Affairs to support more proactive, targeted engagement.

This included preparing proposals and correspondence for key Ministers' offices, and conducting targeted briefings to advance supportive policies and elevate the sector's strategic profile. We engaged with representatives from Federal and state political offices across five states.

93% Increase in meetings and engagements with targeted government representatives and politicians, compared to 2024.

55 Government departmental and agency representatives attended events hosted by CAA.

47% Increase in government employees and politicians who repeatedly read our newsletter, compared to 2024.

Key outcome: The specific recognition and referencing of cellular agriculture/novel foods in government policy documents & discussion papers

In 2025, we made **five policy submissions** to government consultations advocating on behalf of the cellular agriculture sector - several of which resulted in explicit recognition of the industry and its challenges. Key references in post-consultation reports include:

- 'Cellular agriculture' and 'biomanufacturing' in the context of food were explicitly cited in the *NRI Roadmap Issues Paper* as a key industry requiring NCRIS-funded research translation hubs.
- 'Support for novel foods' and a recommendation for a National Food Plan were included in the *Food For Thought* report prepared following the *Inquiry into Food & Beverage Manufacturing in Australia*.
- Our concerns regarding the unsuitability of the Cooperative Research Centre eligibility requirements were noted in the report released following the *Strategic Examination of R&D Discussion Paper* consultation.

Below: Cauldron Ferm's precision fermentation manufacturing facility



CAA is an independent non-profit that is ideally positioned to represent the sector's collective interests - from the earliest stages of research, process development, scale-up, consumer advocacy and commercialisation.

CAA is a highly valued partner as they lead the way in championing the collective needs of the cellular agriculture sector with government and key stakeholders.

The sector urgently needs a diverse mix of funding, including public investment, to establish first-of-its-kind scale-up infrastructure - which is why CAA's dedicated advocacy and government engagement efforts are critical.



Leon Scott

Director Research Infrastructure Operations, Queensland University of Technology

Highlights: Made & Grown

91% Average event attendee satisfaction.

>115 Delegates (event at capacity), including policymakers, regulators, researchers, venture capital, & start-ups.

45% Of delegates representing government departments & agencies.

On 21 August 2025, CAA co-hosted **'Made & Grown - The Future of Food'**, a one-day conference, in partnership with the Australian National University (ANU) Agrifood Innovation Institute (AFII) and ANU National Security College (NSC) in Canberra.

Designed as a catalyst for action, Made & Grown aimed to accelerate momentum in food biomanufacturing and strengthen collaboration between government and key stakeholders. The program deliberately extended beyond cellular agriculture, highlighting shared challenges and opportunities across food biotechnology and biomanufacturing.

Key achievements

Strong government engagement: Nearly half of the delegates (45%) were government representatives from eight federal departments and multiple agencies. The event also featured the Chair of the National Reconstruction Fund (NRF), Martijn Wilder AM, who signalled the urgent need to build a credible evidence base linked to the sector's value proposition.

Positioning food biotechnologies as essential to Australia's future: By uniting "Made" (biomanufactured foods) and "Grown" (crops enhanced through synthetic biology) pathways, the event delivered a clear narrative: food biotechnologies and biomanufacturing are central to Australia's food and national security. This strongly resonated with the audience and expanded CAA's strategic connections with AFII, NSC, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) and others beyond the core cellular agriculture ecosystem, leading to a co-authored whitepaper.

Showcasing that the future of food is here: The event hosted Australia's largest public tasting of cellular agriculture products. Nourish Ingredients and Magic Valley ran side-by-side tasting stations, and Vow products featured in the main catered menu - demonstrating tangible sector progress and maturity.



Below: Panel at Made & Grown featuring Martijn Wilder AM, Chair of the NRF (Pictured far right).

Boosting momentum across the ecosystem:

Made & Grown sparked new and ongoing dialogue with government and industry stakeholders, particularly around the opportunity to establish precision fermentation infrastructure in far north Queensland. This momentum will help shape the next wave of action to advance the Australian ecosystem.

A platform for further advocacy: Made & Grown white paper

We published a white paper, **'Made & Grown - The future of food biotechnology & biomanufacturing in Australia'**, in collaboration with AFII, NSC, and ASPI, which synthesised and built on the insights and ideas of Made & Grown.

The report positions food biotechnology and biomanufacturing as a strategic imperative for national resilience, outlining 25 policy recommendations to accelerate the commercialisation and adoption of emerging food biotechnologies. It delves deep into the current challenges and opportunities facing the sector across four key priority areas: policy settings, research & technical innovation, regulation, and infrastructure.

Critically, the report was circulated across numerous government departments and used to initiate briefings and sustain continued engagement with key government stakeholders. Going forward, this white paper will continue to guide CAA's ongoing advocacy to the Australian Government.



The *Made and Grown* conference effectively convened the emerging biotechnology and biomanufacturing ecosystem around a shared agenda, translating what is often framed as an abstract "future industry" into a concrete, investable opportunity.

Three things really stood out for me. First, the program struck the right balance between start-ups, government, researchers, funders and opinion leaders. Second, it successfully built a genuine "coalition of the willing" to accelerate the ecosystem. Finally, the event provided a complete picture of the opportunity - clarifying what steps are required and showcasing real companies already operating in the space.



Michelle van der Walt
Food Sector Development Director, University of Melbourne



Above: Magic Valley's cultivated pork dumplings served at Made & Grown

Highlights: Regulation

Key outcome: A more favourable regulatory environment for Australia's cultivated meat industry is implemented and tested

2025 marked a milestone year for the regulation of ingredients produced using cellular agriculture technologies, with the first cell-cultivated products now approved and on sale in Australia.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) announced the final approval for Vow's cultivated quail, making Australia the first country in the Southern Hemisphere – and the fourth globally – to authorise the sale of cultivated meat for human consumption.

At the time of writing, Vow's Forged range, including its quail parfait, foie gras, and tallow products, was available in 13 restaurants across Australia's East Coast as well as direct-to-consumer through their online store.

Through CAA's advocacy leadership and this approval process, several positive changes to the ANZ regulatory framework for cultivated foods were formalised.

We explore these changes in detail in [this article](#). In summary, they include:

✓ **Dedicated regulatory pathway:** FSANZ introduced new Standards for cell-cultured foods, becoming only the second jurisdiction after the U.S. to establish a tailored pathway for cultivated food products.

✓ **Greater flexibility and consistency in labelling requirements:** FSANZ expanded its labelling requirements to permit both "cell-cultured" and "cell-cultivated" terminology, and adopted CAA's recommendation for consistent use of the chosen term across the food name and ingredients list.

✓ **Reduced regulatory burden for cell line suppliers:** FSANZ confirmed that cell line producers will not be required to maintain documented food safety programs, revising its initial proposal to regulate them as food businesses. This change followed targeted industry consultation led by FSANZ in 2025, with CAA playing an active role in advocating for this position.

A continuing focus of CAA's regulatory advocacy is linked to streamlining FSANZ's approval process and shortening assessment timelines. Vow's application took more than two years to complete, presenting a barrier to entry and diminishing Australia's competitiveness relative to jurisdictions such as the U.S. and Singapore. Encouragingly, in October 2025, international company Parima (formerly Gourmey) lodged its application for cultivated duck.



Above: Forged Parfait by Vow

This application marks the first test case of the new Standards for cell-cultured foods. FSANZ has indicated this second assessment will take less than a year, with lower associated fees – signalling a positive shift toward faster, more efficient approvals.

Ensuring a future-fit framework

Throughout 2025, CAA continued to advance its advocacy efforts to ensure Australia's regulatory system keeps pace with innovation.

A key focus was modernising regulations for precision-fermented ingredients, which remain outdated and challenging to navigate. Under current interpretations, pure proteins produced via precision fermentation may be classified as genetically modified foods (triggering overt labelling) despite containing no significant modified DNA, whereas non-protein ingredients and additives are regarded and labelled differently. This is likely to have substantial implications for consumer acceptance. CAA has engaged extensively with FSANZ through meetings and submissions, and will continue to advocate for an updated regulatory approach in 2026.

CAA also expanded its Industry Working Group (IWG) on Regulation, now including New Zealand representation. Convened quarterly, the IWG's 2025 priorities included making submissions to relevant regulatory consultations and progressing the development of new or updated biosecurity requirements.

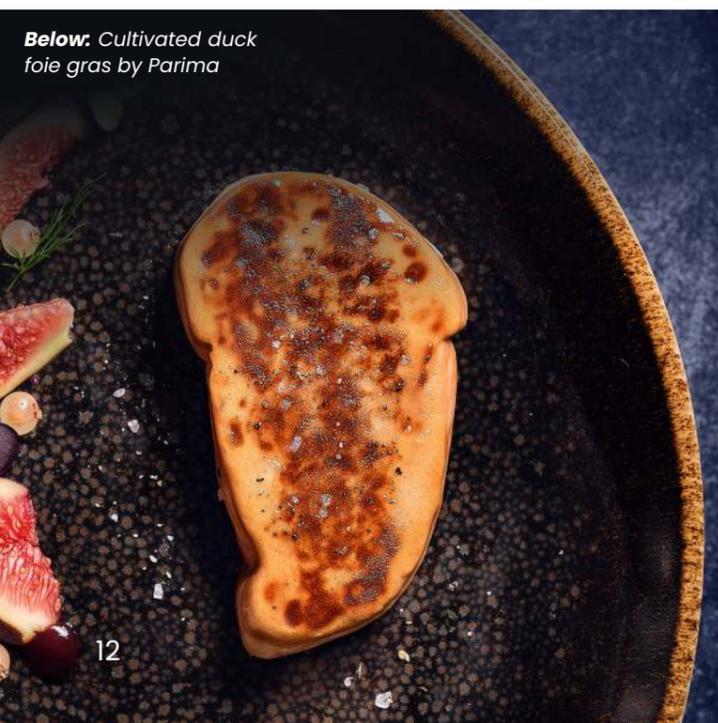
Across multiple submissions, we emphasised the importance of regulatory agility and adequate resourcing for regulators, noting that long timelines and high cost-recovery fees create barriers for startups.

We also continued to participate in the [APAC Regulatory Coordination Forum](#), which [published a review article](#) critically evaluating whether whole-food animal toxicological studies are appropriate for risk assessments of cultivated foods.

Global trade of future foods workshop

Looking ahead, the ability to swiftly navigate global trade and export of ingredients produced through cell cultivation and precision fermentation will be essential to the industry's success.

In collaboration with GFI APAC, we brought together industry representatives with DISR, FSANZ and DFAT in Canberra to discuss the opportunities and challenges of international trade for cellular agriculture products. The session explored how Australia could position itself as an early leader in shaping global standards to streamline trade for these innovative products.



Below: Cultivated duck foie gras by Parima

Highlights: Familiarity & Trust

Below: CAA's Jessica Freitag tastes Magic Valley's cultivated lamb meatball



Understanding and positively shaping public perceptions of cellular agriculture is essential to fostering acceptance and market demand for this emerging sector. Despite its importance, it remains a relatively neglected research area, and there is minimal data specific to the Australian population.

This year, we continued to work with researchers at Deakin University to conduct research into the Australian consumer landscape, resulting in the publication of two open-access peer-reviewed studies.

Key outcome: Increased the availability of Australian-specific, peer-reviewed social science research in cellular agriculture

Consumer trust facilitates acceptance of cultivated meat

A CAA-funded research paper by A/Prof Gie Liem and Phelia Harrison has been [published in Food Quality & Preference](#). The survey of 1,540 participants studied the relationships between consumer trust, perceived benefits, and perceived risks in the acceptance of cultivated meat products.

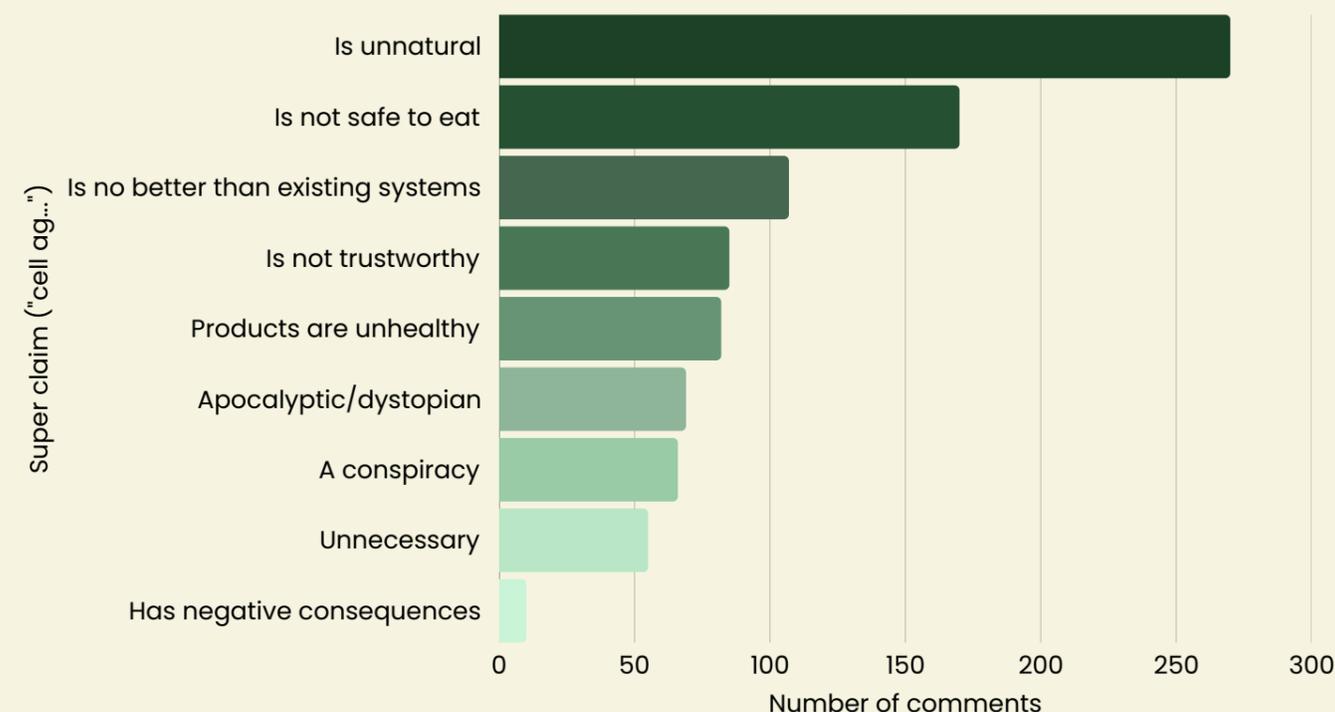
Key findings:

- Trust alone is insufficient for the acceptance of cultivated meat; perceived risks and benefits must also be addressed.
- Perceived benefits drive cultivated meat acceptance more than risks deter it; messaging should highlight these benefits.
- Effective communication strategies must address trust, benefits, and risks; focusing on one factor won't boost acceptance.

Refreshed researcher database

In late 2025, we refreshed its [researcher database](#), which now features more than **110 researchers** and details on open collaboration opportunities, including potential research partners, guest lecturers, and technical consultants - making it the most comprehensive database of the cellular agriculture research ecosystem in Australia. Please [get in touch](#) if you have suggested additions to the database.

Figure 1. Taxonomy of cellular agriculture contrarian claims - Prevalence of super claims



Australia's first consumer research on cultivated seafood

Research funded through CAA's 2022 Seed Grant Program and undertaken by Dr Adam Cardilini and Sarah Cook was [published in Food Quality and Preference](#) - representing Australia's first consumer study on cultivated seafood. Surveying over 1,000 participants, the study found that fact-based environmental messaging did not increase support for cultivated seafood, but did reduce perceptions of wild-caught seafood. The findings suggest that low consumer familiarity limits the effectiveness of environmental framing, highlighting the need to first establish the environmental benefits of cultivated seafood as a recognised and integral benefit.

Developing a taxonomy of cellular agriculture contrarian claims

Dr Adam Cardilini and Sarah Cook have completed an investigation into the landscape of misinformation and contrarian claims surrounding cultivated meat and precision-fermented ingredients.

The study identified 55 distinct claims (categorised into 9 'super claims' - see [Figure 1](#) above). Claims centred on "unnaturalness" were the most common, followed by claims related to health and safety. Notably:

- **22 of the 55 claims** were empirical, requiring fact-based responses.
- **33 claims** were values-based, demanding a different, more nuanced engagement approach.

This comprehensive taxonomy will equip the industry with the tools to better understand cellular agriculture discourse and develop targeted responses to counter misinformation and disinformation.

The research outputs will be made available in 2026.

Highlights: MarComms

In 2025, our communications efforts focused on two core objectives:

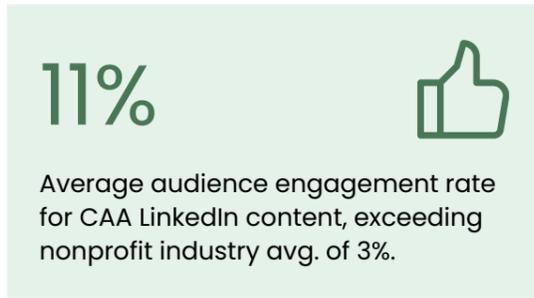
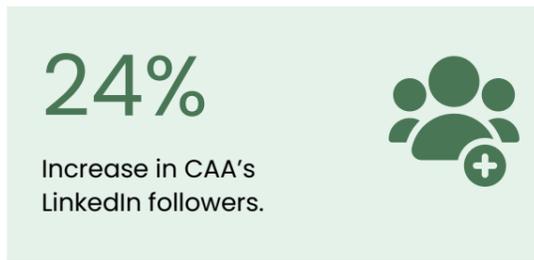
- Strengthening CAA's reputation as a credible, independent thought leader, and
- Sustaining a growing and highly engaged audience across our key channels.

Below, we outline several notable developments and achievements that supported progress toward these goals.

Evolving our messaging

Over the past year, we substantially refined our external messaging to strengthen alignment with government priorities and deliver greater clarity and cut-through in how we position the sector.

As previously noted, a key strategic shift involved the nesting of cellular agriculture within the broader concepts of *food biomanufacturing* and the *bioeconomy*.



While our focus on precision fermentation and cell cultivation technologies remains unchanged, this repositioning has enabled us to more effectively communicate the sector's relevance to national economic, industrial and manufacturing priorities.

This shift has also enabled an evolution in how we articulate the value proposition of cellular agriculture - placing stronger emphasis on its potential to build sovereign manufacturing capability that enhances national security and agrifood supply chain resilience, and the value-add opportunity for regional and national economies.

We also broadened our emphasis on the diverse ingredient applications of biomanufactured foods. Through our article **'The evolution of cellular agriculture - from niche to necessity,'** we highlight that the most immediate and transformative impact of the sector is likely to come from ingredients that enhance the foods Australians already eat. This narrative helps reposition external perceptions of cellular agriculture, aligning it with the sector's current reality as a B2B ingredient-focused industry and expanding understanding of its potential impact.



Below: CAA's Kim Tonnet moderating the panel 'Specialisation & the B2B supply chain' at Made & Grown



Public speaking

In 2025, we prioritised expanding our visibility and strengthening our networks through targeted public speaking opportunities.

Throughout the year, CAA featured across a diverse range of industry events and media platforms, helping to deepen understanding of food biomanufacturing and elevate Australia's role in this emerging field. Key highlights included speaking at the AIFST25 Convention, the 2025 NZ Aotearoa Cell Ag Symposium, agriCULTURED in Tasmania, as well as several interviews on national radio.

A major highlight was joining the Australian *Build Your Biofuture* consortium at Singapore International Agri-Food Week, where we showcased Australia's biomanufacturing slipstream to the Asia-Pacific region. As part of this delegation, CAA's Joanne Tunna spoke at Agri-Food Tech Expo Asia on CAA's role in convening and advocating for Australia's growing precision fermentation sector.



CAA's Focus in 2026

CAA and Food Frontier to join forces

In late 2025, we embarked on a series of discussions with mission-aligned nonprofit Food Frontier, Australia's independent think tank supporting emerging proteins, to explore the value of a consolidated model.

We are excited to announce that we have formally agreed to join forces. Food Frontier will integrate into CAA in 2026, bringing our people, strategies, and programs together under CAA's established executive and governance structure. Our decision to integrate reflects the growing need for a unified approach to supporting an evolving ecosystem and its expanded policy and government engagement needs.

Going forward, we will focus on emerging food production technologies and ingredient innovation – including cultivated, fermented and plant-protein applications – and their integration across the food system.

CAA will continue to lead on regulatory and policy advocacy for cellular agriculture and food biomanufacturing, including through hybrid and blended product applications. Our expanded strategy will also include advocating for the diversification of domestic plant protein ingredient supply chains.

We look forward to introducing a unified voice that will offer clearer policy signals, strengthened partnership opportunities, and greater resources to deliver outcomes for the ecosystem – including the industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers CAA and Food Frontier have worked with to date.

As long-term collaborators since CAA's inception, we are committed to navigating this transition with respect to Food Frontier's eight-year legacy. In late 2026, we will undertake consultation with the ecosystem to inform and strengthen our external positioning. We intend to introduce a refreshed identity that better captures the scope, ambition, and mission of our combined organisation – and we look forward to bringing our partners on this journey.

Integration rollout

With a formal agreement now in place, we're moving into implementation, with full integration in April 2026.

While Food Frontier is integrating into CAA, Food Frontier's website, social channels, and contact information will remain online through 2026, after which we'll consider how best to provide key historical resources to the sector for the long term.

As a part of the integration, Food Frontier's Executive Director (Hannah Andersen) and Operations Coordinator (Hamish Toohey) will join CAA. They bring complementary skills and historical knowledge of Food Frontier's work and will ensure the organisation's relationships, assets, and IP can be leveraged. In addition, long-standing Food Frontier board member and current Executive Chair, David Bucca, will join the CAA Board of Directors. Please see the integrated organisational structure on p 21 for more details.

CAA is also in the process of further expanding the team with new hires, including a Director of Policy and Advocacy and a Communications Manager.

Programmatic focus for 2026

Our unified programmatic focus will continue to span two core focus areas: *Policy & advocacy*, and *Communication & awareness*. Our priorities for 2026-27 are outlined broadly below.

Long-term target outcomes

Policy & advocacy: Securing funding for critical R&D and infrastructure



The policy and public funding mechanisms are in place to enable Australia's ecosystem for emerging food production technologies and ingredient innovation to translate research into commercialisation at scale.

Policy & advocacy: Market access and fit-for-purpose food safety regulation



Australia's regulatory framework is attractive, clear, consistent and easily accessible, thus removing barriers to establishment and scale.

Communication, awareness & adoption



There is widespread familiarity and trust in emerging food technologies and products, and increased understanding of how to drive consumer adoption.

2026-27 Priorities

Positioning emerging food production technologies and ingredient innovation as government priorities for support and investment in key government policies, strategies and funding mechanisms.

Unlocking government funding to support targeted R&D, improved access to existing scale-up infrastructure and the development of new fit-for-purpose infrastructure.

Ensuring regulations and licensing conditions surrounding novel foods and ingredients are fit-for-purpose and future-proof to support the sector at scale.

Building a harmonised regulatory regime throughout APAC to facilitate business development and trade.

Ensuring companies have access to the information they need to effectively and efficiently develop regulatory applications.

Contributing to the foundation of Australian social science research.

Developing and disseminating communications tools and assets to support CAA and the sector to position itself positively and mitigate the risk of mis/disinformation.



Below: CAA's CEO Sam Perkins, moderating a panel at Food Frontier's AP25 conference

Below, we share details of two critical areas of work that we will be commencing in 2026.

National strategy and economic modelling

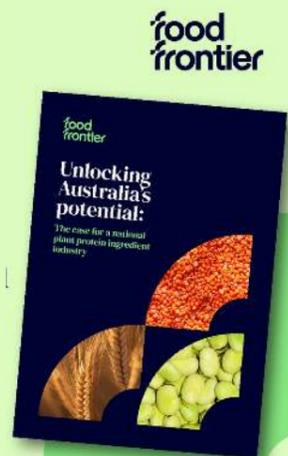
Repeated feedback from various facets of government has highlighted a key gap in the sector's case for public investment – the lack of a robust evidence base that quantifies the opportunity, particularly downstream economic benefits. Addressing this gap is the most immediate priority for the cellular agriculture and food biomanufacturing sector. To secure meaningful public and private investment, the sector must articulate a unified, evidence-based national strategy that clearly defines the scale of the opportunity and the investment required to realise it.

To support this, CAA will commission economic modelling in 2026 to inform a comprehensive national policy strategy. This strategy will underpin CAA's broader 2026–27 policy and advocacy agenda and will be developed in collaboration with leading industry and research partners.

Expansion beyond cellular agriculture

A key tenet of the integration will be the continuation of Food Frontier's advocacy for the diversification of domestic plant protein ingredient supply chains. The recommendations in Food Frontier's report '**Unlocking Australia's potential: The case for a national plant protein ingredient industry**' will form the basis for our approach to mobilising government and industry stakeholders.

Unlocking Australia's potential: The case for a national plant protein ingredient industry



We will also continue Food Frontier's support for the recently announced ARC Fellowship to lead national foodservice decarbonisation, in partnership with Compass Group, the University of Queensland and v2food. This project will develop a research base to inform strategies to expand the adoption of sustainable ingredients in foodservice.

Given this expansion of our remit, we are looking forward to engaging with a broader range of ecosystem stakeholders to better understand where and how we can position ourselves to maximise impact. We welcome conversations with others across the ecosystem as we shape this next phase.



Deepening regional collaboration with GFI APAC

In parallel with the above, we have deepened our collaboration with our existing strategic partner, The Good Food Institute APAC (GFI APAC). We have established clear alignment on our joint objectives for 2026 and on the respective leadership and support roles each organisation will play within the Australian context.

Within our *Policy & advocacy* agenda, CAA will lead engagement with Australian Government departments and ministerial offices, while GFI APAC will lead engagement outside of Australia and with multilateral bodies. CAA will maintain its leadership role in advocating for improvements to Australia's regulatory system, with GFI APAC providing important regional support through its work with CODEX and other international forums. In communications, CAA will seek to align with several GFI APAC-led initiatives, including its approach to audience engagement and risk monitoring.

We look forward to strengthening this partnership even further in 2026, combining our respective strengths and ensuring our efforts are complementary to maximise collective impact.

Meet the new team

Staff



Dr Sam Perkins
Chief Executive Officer



Joanne Tunna
Chief Program Officer



Hannah Andersen
Executive Director, Operations & People



Kim Tonnet
Head of Regulatory Affairs



Jessica Freitag
Policy & Advocacy Coordinator



Hamish Toohey
Operations Coordinator

Governance



Paul Oosting
Chairperson



Chloe Dempsey
Director



David Bucca
Director



Elaine Siu
Director



Dr Carin Basirun
Secretary (Administration)



Dr Bianca Le
Founder (Former Director)

Advisory committee



Dr James Ryall



Dr Anna Barlow



Glen Neal

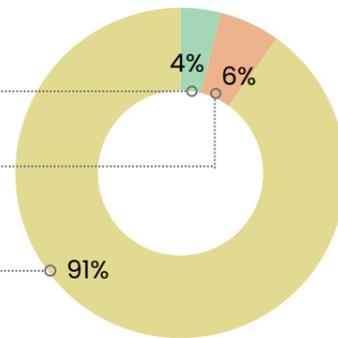
Financial overview

Although we operate on a June - July financial year, we have selected to report on the 2025 calendar year as it best represents the activities outlined in this annual report.

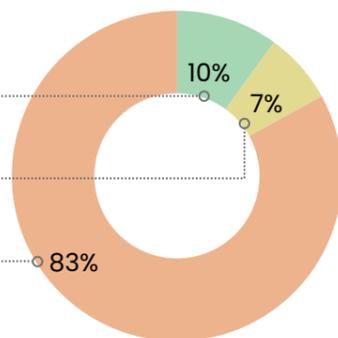
Statement of activities for the year ended

January - December 2025

Revenue	S AUD
Individual donations	22,230
Earned income	33,047
Foundation grants	546,414
Total	600,766



Expenses	S AUD
Administration	40,611
Fundraising	28,029
Programs	332,322
Total	400,963



Note that for the 2025/26 financial year, we will meet the medium-sized charity threshold (annual revenue of AUD 500,000 or more), which increases our formal reporting requirements with the ACNC. Going forward, future Year in Review publications will be programmatic-focused, with our financial reports made accessible via the ACNC.

Acknowledgments

We sincerely thank our incredible community of supporters for their contributions throughout 2025. Their support has been pivotal in driving our efforts toward advancing the cellular agriculture and broader biomanufacturing sector in Australia.

We would also like to acknowledge our 2025 corporate partners - these three organisations share a profound understanding that collective progress benefits all, and we extend our sincere gratitude for their support.

There are several notable contributions we wish to acknowledge for their collaboration, services and expertise:

- Venture Affairs, for providing extensive government relations advice and expertise to inform our government engagement efforts.
- Our Industry Working Group (Regulation) members for providing technical input to further our work in Regulation.
- Jennifer Morton, Wasamon Nutakul, Maanasa Ravikumar, Patricia Neves, Jason Whitfield, Phil Morle, Kylie Porter, and Nicholas Chilton for review and input into our report, *Made & Grown - The future of food biotechnology & biomanufacturing in Australia*.

We wish to give special mention to our 2025 funders, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous:

Coefficient Giving

(formerly Open Philanthropy)

ANIMAL CHARITY EVALUATORS

Stray Dog INSTITUTE



Support our work

CAA is a philanthropically funded not-for-profit. Propel our mission by making a tax-deductible donation.



Your contribution will help fund our operations and core programs, including our efforts across policy, advocacy, communications, and awareness-raising.



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Agriculture
Australia



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[cellular-agriculture-australia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cellular-agriculture-australia)



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