Background

The Australian Sustainable Finance Institute (ASFI) was established following an unprecedented collaborative effort across the Australian financial system to develop the Australian Sustainable Finance Roadmap (the Roadmap). Released in November 2020, the Roadmap sets out a plan to realign the Australian financial system by 2030, to support a more resilient, sustainable and prosperous future for all Australians, and contribute to resilience of the financial system in a period of significant change, elevating risks and a rapidly shifting global context. With strong support from Australia’s biggest asset managers and asset owners, banks, insurers and other financial services providers, the Roadmap was developed with involvement from 90 organisations across the financial services sector, civil society, academia, financial regulators and government.

Established in July 2021 off the back of growing industry support for sustainable finance in Australia, and an increasing willingness from Australian financial institutions to collaborate to drive the transition, ASFI is a highly credible organisation with strong governance and organisational capacity to move quickly to capitalise on the opportunity that exists in Australia. ASFI brings together asset owners and asset managers, banks, insurers and financial services companies with a presence in Australia to realign the financial system so that more money flows to activities that create a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive Australia. With a focus on climate, but work spanning climate, environment and social impact, ASFI works with its members, government, financial sector regulators, universities and the financial sector to drive leadership, policy, regulation, tools and frameworks that support the shift required in the financial system.
Objectives

To realign the Australian financial services system so that more money flows to activities that will create a sustainable, resilient and inclusive Australia. We do this by coordinating, facilitating and driving implementation of the Australian Sustainable Finance Roadmap.

Our vision for where Australia has a financial system:

- That is sustainable, resilient and stable and can withstand systemic risks and other shocks and strains.
- Meets the present and long-term needs of all Australian’s, the environment and the economy.
- Where financial decisions are informed by and consider sustainability risks, impacts and opportunities.
- That enhances financial inclusion, wellbeing and informed choice, and
- Where capital flows to support Australia to meet sustainable development goals, including facilitating an orderly transition to a net-zero, a resource-efficient and social inclusive economy.