



Oct 9, 2025

AATP Working Group

Attachments  AATP Working Group

Meeting records  Transcript

Summary

Harley Thomas initiated the first monthly working group call for the Australian Agricultural Traceability Protocol (AATP) and AR Trace projects, emphasizing the AATP as a protocol, not a platform, aimed at developing open-source solutions for traceability and sustainability data in Australian agriculture. Harley Thomas also highlighted the AATP's approach to supply chain data challenges, contrasting it with centralized platform models and showcasing three proof-of-concept projects: deforestation-free beef to the EU, cherries to China, and deforestation-free canola to the US for biofuels. Harley Thomas outlined future steps including formalizing the proof-of-concept projects on the AATP website by the end of October, and developing tools and guidelines for solution providers, and also clarified to Rose Elphick-Darling that the AATP does not require data sharing from entities like MLA or ISC regarding NLIS data.

Details

- **AATP and AR Trace Projects Overview** Harley Thomas initiated the first monthly working group call for the Australian Agricultural Traceability Protocol (AATP) and AR Trace projects, highlighting their shift towards becoming more publicly accessible and open. They emphasized that the AATP is a protocol, not a platform, and aims to develop open-source solutions for traceability and sustainability data in Australian agriculture. The project encourages broad participation from all stakeholders, including solution providers, industry

representatives, retailers, and logistics, ensuring all contributions are collaborative and non-commercial ([00:01:55](#)).

- **Working Group Principles and Operations** Harley Thomas outlined the working group principles, stating that all activities and decisions related to the AATP will be conducted openly and documented publicly, with decisions made by consensus where possible. They explained that project specifications and issues are tracked on GitHub, serving as a single source of truth, and meeting notes will be published on the AATP website to ensure transparency ([00:02:56](#)). Rose Elphick-Darling expressed humble agreement with the emphasis on "protocol, not platform" ([00:04:43](#)).
- **Addressing Supply Chain Data Challenges** Harley Thomas discussed the AATP's approach to increasingly complex supply chains and the demand for trusted data, contrasting it with centralized platform models that have proven ineffective ([00:04:43](#)). They drew parallels to the internet's decentralized model, explaining that the AATP aims to enable seamless linking of traceability and sustainability data across various disparate systems through a common protocol, similar to how web links function ([00:06:30](#)). This allows users to discover more information about a product without needing to know the specific IT or farm management system used in its production ([00:08:28](#)) ([00:10:32](#)).
- **Proof of Concept Demonstrations** Harley Thomas highlighted three proof-of-concept projects demonstrating the AATP's capabilities: deforestation-free beef to the EU, cherries to China, and deforestation-free canola to the US for biofuels. These projects leveraged existing identification methods like NLIS IDs and GS1 identifiers, showcasing the protocol's ability to link data across multi-tiered supply chains and different solution providers ([00:14:39](#)). They also addressed complex issues like co-mingling in grain exports, with all findings to be published on the AATP website ([00:15:38](#)).
- **Future Steps and NLIS Data Discussion** Harley Thomas outlined future steps, including formalizing the work done in the AATP proof-of-concept projects on the AATP website by the end of October, and developing tools and guidelines for solution providers to adopt the AATP ([00:16:40](#)). Rose Elphick-Darling raised a concern about NLIS data, specifically the difficulty in tracing back to the farm of origin due to privacy concerns ([00:18:44](#)). Harley Thomas clarified that the AATP does not require data sharing from entities like MLA or ISC but instead provides a standardized way to redirect users to relevant farm management systems or

solution providers, allowing them to seek information directly from the source based on established permissions ([00:20:06](#)).

Suggested next steps

- ☐ Harley Thomas will formalize the work from the Atrace proof-of-concepts, including guidance on co-mingling, and publish it on the AATP website by the end of October.
- ☐ Harley Thomas will develop tools and guidelines for other IT and solution providers to adopt the AATP.
- ☐ Harley Thomas will publish the minutes from this meeting publicly on the AATP website.
- ☐ Tim Baker and Rose Elphick-Darling will help reach out to different people in the industry who would benefit from being involved in this conversation.

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